Panel 1 (PSA panel submission #38)

Young people, values and political participation

Values play a crucial role in young people’s electoral and non-electoral forms of political participation. Values influence political attitudes, identification, orientation, engagement, repertoires of actions and goals.

Since the 1990s, there has been a growing body of work based on Inglehart’s argument that in post-modern societies, there has been a value change, a shift from materialist to post-materialist values, e.g. freedom of expression. This is said to be primarily due to more economic stability, physical security and cultural change in post-industrial societies. However, neoliberalism, the global financial crises, the Great Recession and subsequent austerity measures enacted by governments have especially affected young people; they have been a disruptive force leading to precarity rather than stability. In parallel, levels of educational attainment, connectivity, globalisation and environmental awareness have increased, as well as populist political discourse.

Proposals for this PSA Young People’s Politics SG panel could address a variety of issues specifically about values and young people’s political participation:

- How we can define, conceptualise and measure values?
- What is the usefulness of surveys that enquire into values (European Social Survey, and the World Values Survey)?
- How does political socialisation affect values and political actions?
- What is the role of the mainstream media and social media in forming values?
- What is the impact of values on membership of collective political structures, such as political parties, trade unions and student unions?
- What shifts in values can be observed in current cohorts of young people?
- What makes certain values dominant and others minority?
- Why do some young people adopt far-right, extremist or radical values and actions?
- Why have environmentalism and ecological values risen in recent years?
- What impact do values have on electoral and nonelectoral political participation?
- How do values affect Do-It-Ourselves (DIO) political participation?
- How can political sociology bring new conceptualisations beyond materialist/postmaterialist values?

To submit a paper to this panel please send proposals of around 200 words and short biography by midday on 7 October 2019 to Sarah Pickard: sarah.pickard@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr and PSA Young People’s Politics SG: (youngpeoplespolitics@outlook.com)

For more information about the PSA Young People’s Politics specialist group (YPPSG) go to: https://www.psa.ac.uk/specialist-groups/young-peoples-politics Follow the PSA YPP SG on Twitter: https://twitter.com/psayoungpol