

Youth: its classification, governance and experience

In the course of the 20th century, youth came to be regarded as a generational cohort of people that share a particular lifestyle, command consumer power and harbour a political potential. Social scientists played a major role in the “invention” of youth particularly after the Second World War. Their knowledge was (and still is) used by both state authorities to educate, support or police adolescents and by the young themselves, who learned to conduct themselves as members of one generation. A master project in this field of research may focus on youth policy since the 1950s in view to the changing perception of young people, or it may concentrate on youth milieus, subcultures or lifestyle tribes with the question how scholarly or public knowledge about youth shaped their experience. In other words, how did the young develop a generational consciousness? Sources will have been generated at national level by state or charitable bodies and at local level by city councils, for instance in the course of the administration of youth centres. Youth media (magazines, broadcasting, movies) provide another possible opening for a study, as does the social scientific literature on youth. Recent historiography on the topic allows to define a feasible case study and to develop fruitful research questions. For an introduction to the topic see the textbook of Melanie Tebbutt, *Making Youth: A History of Youth in Modern Britain*, Basingstoke: Palgrave 2016, and Bart van der Steen, Knud Andresen, eds., *A European Youth Revolt: European Perspectives on Youth Protests and Social Movements in the 1980s*, Basingstoke: Palgrave 2016.

Theses may be written in English or Norwegian, and local projects making use of Norwegian sources are strongly encouraged.