Youth cultures, leisure and space
Practices and representations between public and private places

Guest editors

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Call

Public space has always been a core context for youth leisure activities and inter-peer social interaction, in particular for youth cultures: youth gangs, spectacular subcultures, countercultures and new tribes often became socially visible precisely because they existed in public places. In parallel, for other youth sectors, leisure space consisted in semi-public or even private premises based on preferences and possibilities considering material, classed, gendered and racialised restrictions or divides (McRobbie and Garber 1976; Massey 1994; Lincoln 2012; Farrugia, Wood 2017). In both cases the spatial dimension turned out to be a key factor in understanding leisure practices in youth cultures.

Not by chance, space had been at the core of the subcultural analysis in the Chicago School tradition from the 1920s to the 1960s. However, it was later quite neglected in the investigation of youth cultures by the Birmingham School: significantly, although the studies on girls' cultures paid some attention to private spaces, in the 2000 pages of the CCCS Selected Working Papers (Gray et al. 2007) none of the contributions focusses on this topic. Only during the 1990s' did several works once again reflect upon the spatial dimension of youth cultures (Straw 1991; Skelton, Valentine 1998; Stahl 1999), focussing in particular on urban contexts. And subsequently many new studies about young people and spatiality have been carried out, paying increasingly attention to young people's practices both in urban and rural areas (Bennett, 2000; Malone, 2002; Chatterton, Holland 2003; Lashua, Kelly, 2008; Haartsen, Strijker, 2010; Harinen, Honkasalo, Ronkainen, Suurpää 2012; Abbott-Chapman, Robertson 2013; Pryor, Outley 2014; Sørensen, Pless 2017; Tolonen 2017; Molnár 2014; Ravn et al. 2017; Ferrero Camoletto, Genova 2019; Way 2019; Awuh, Spijkers 2020; Juvonen, Romakkaniemi 2020; Rönnlund, 2020).

The literature mentioned above shows that, during recent decades, two main processes have shaped the present spatialisation of leisure among youth cultures: the first is the progressive shift from public to private space – whether intended as individual (personal rooms in parents' homes) or collective (shopping malls or clubs); the second is the growing

role of digital places within the social networks and leisure activities of young people. Everyday places are still a core factor in forming the possibilities and realities of young people's ways of living and thinking: both public, semi-public and private space are lived as grounds, background and constitutive elements for the social lives of young people and their leisure activities, while digital places often cross the boundaries of these different realms. But, how are these different places currently used and represented in youth cultures? How do they interact?

During the past two years, profound and unexpected changes have occurred in the spatial dimension of youth leisure, and the topic has become more relevant than ever. Restrictions to spatiality and sociability as well as spatial mobility and live interaction – caused by the Covid-19 pandemic – have radically altered the possibilities and practical ways of using space. This concerned both public and private space, and has made most evident not only the fundamental role of physical and social places in everyday lives, but also the key role played by digital places of interaction. Youth has been one sector of the population upon which these processes have had the strongest impact. But what effects can be observed among youth cultures?

We welcome contributions related to any of the following themes, or others related to the topic of the call, with specific focus on youth cultures:

- Leisure between private and public space
- Places for sport and physical activity: street, gym, home
- Shopping and its places
- Activism and space between leisure and citizenship
- Gendered, classed and racialised divides in leisure spaces
- Leisure in urban and rural spaces
- Leisure and dangerous places
- Mobility and locality in leisure
- Leisure places and Covid-19

Types of contributions
We would like to encourage a variety of types of contributions, including conceptual papers, original research papers and applied case studies.

Abstract submission
Abstracts are asked to be mailed by 31 January 2023
both to carlo.genova@unito.it and tarja.tolonen@helsinki.fi .
Please add as a subject of the email: Abstract Special Issue IJSL Youth cultures, leisure and space.

Full paper – Submission guidelines

If you have been notified by the Guest Editors regarding the acceptance of your abstract, please use this link to help you prepare your full submission:
https://www.springer.com/journal/41978/submission-guidelines

Timeline

– Call for Abstracts: deadline 31 January 2023
– Successful contributors notified: 01 April 2023
– Full paper deadline submitted online: 31 January 2024
– Review and feedback from editors: May 2024
– Deadline for final version papers: 31 October 2024
– Publication of special issue: January 2025.

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