



Name: **Ksenia Kuzmina**
Address: **Universitätsstr. 25, D-33615 Bielefeld**
Phone: **052110667267**
E-mail: **ksenia.kuzmina@uni-bielefeld.de**

PhD Project:

The well-being of young people: capabilities and insecurity of young Russians

The transition from socialist state to a market economy caused inequalities and social stratification in most Former Soviet Union countries, but especially in Russia (Simonia 2003), which became a country with high regional differentiation (Mikhalev 1998). The economic and social changes in Russia have led to insecure and individualized situations in a period of life when young people should define their position through the process of overcoming of the contextual barriers. As Martha Nussbaum points out in *Women and Human Development* (2000), unequal social and political circumstances lead to unequal human capabilities and unequal chances to have the life people have reason to value. I assume that the choices of young people in Russia are strongly shaped by the socio-economical and political transformation which distributed unequally the chances of young people to prosper or at least to have equal opportunities in education, leisure activities, mobility, and medical care. Moreover, the place of residence, namely large cities, small towns, or rural areas, defines economic opportunities (Ovtscharova, Popova 2005), as well as educational opportunities, diversity of leisure activities and choice of social services and medical care.

Working in the framework of the Capability Approach *the general question* of my dissertation is:

What life chances do the young Russians at the age of 15-18 have in their lives under the conditions of the socio-economic and socio-political transformation in the Russian Federation?

To reply on this question *16 problem-centred interviews* have been conducted with adolescents at the age of 15-18 in the Northwest of Russia, namely in the Leningrad and Novgorod regions and in Saint Petersburg. The problem-centred interview (PCI) is a theory-generating method (Witzel 2000) and “bridges the individual constructions of meaning on the one hand and the influence of societal conditions on the other hand” (Scheibelhofer 2005, p.19).

Curriculum Vitae:

Educational Background

Since 04/2009 PhD Student, Research School “Education and Capabilities”, Bielefeld University, Germany

10/2007-03/2009 PhD Student, “Social structure, social institutes and processes”, Faculty of Sociology, Saint Petersburg State University, Saint Petersburg, Russia

09/2002-05/2007 Diploma Degree (with honour) “Specialist in Social Work”, Saint Petersburg State University, Saint Petersburg, Russia

01/2006-03/2006 Finnish-Russian Exchange Programme FIRST, Exchange-student, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kuopio, Finland

Work Experiences

WS 2011/2012 Lecturer, Bielefeld University. Seminar: *Work-Life Balance from an International Perspective*. With S. Gerwert and A. Potsi

SS 2011 Invited Lecturer, Hildesheim University. Seminar: *Work-life Balance as a challenge for family policy*. With S. Gerwert and A. Potsi

WS 2010/2011 Lecturer, Bielefeld University. Seminar: *Familienpolitik International: Do we really need a family friendly policy?* With S. Gerwert and A. Potsi

2007-2008 Researcher, Russian-Finnish project “EMPATHOS Russia” Preventive work with families and Children

Publications and Presentations:

Publications:

Kuzmina, K. (2011, forthcoming): Capability set: the case of young Russians. In: Hawa, B., & Weidtmann, N. (eds.) *The capability approach on social order*, LIT Verlag, Münster.

Kuzmina K. (2011): Enhancing the Capabilities of Young Russians. *Social Work & Society*, Vol. 9.

Kuzmina, K. (2008): Finnish experience of the family policy: an opportunity of application in Russia. In: Samoylova, V. & Borodkina, O. (eds.) *Theory and practice of preventive social work*. Skifia-Print: Saint-Petersburg, 92-121. /In Russian/

Kuzmina, K. (2008): Transformations of the model of family and its needs in social security in the conditions of socio-demographic and socioeconomic changes. *The journal of Social policy studies*, 6 (2), 201-216. /In Russian/

Conferences:

Kuzmina, K. (2011, September): Capabilities of young people: case of Russians. Paper presented at the ECER Conference, Berlin, Germany.

Kuzmina, K. (2011, September): List of the Central human capabilities of Martha Nussbaum from the perspective of young Russians. Paper presented at the Annual HDCA Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands.

Kuzmina, K. (2011, April): Capabilities of Young Russians: Insecurity and Regional Differences. Paper presented at the Conference "Children's Capabilities and Human Development: Researching Inside and Outside of Schools", University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

Kuzmina, K. (2011, February): Der Wohlstand von Jugendlichen: Handlungsbefähigungen und Unsicherheit der jungen Russen. Empirisches Referat in der Arbeitsgruppe 10 „Kindheits- und Jugendforschung“, ZSM, Magdeburg, Deutschland/Germany.

Kuzmina, K. (2010, June): Capabilities and Insecurity of Young Russians. Paper submitted at the Summer School "The Capabilities Approach on Social Order", with Prof. Martha C. Nussbaum, PhD at FORUM SCIENTIARUM, Tübingen University, Germany.

Kuzmina, K. (2010, August): Enhancing the Capabilities of Young Russians. Paper presented at the Pre-Conference of the International Social Work & Society Academy (TISSA), Tallinn, Estonia.

Further Information:

- Member of Human Development and Capability Approach Association
- 3rd Prize at The PhD Challenge within the framework of the PhD Talent Career Fair, 23-24 June, 2011, Paris, France (team "The Capables" composed of Shiao En Grace Chng, Simone Antje Gerwert, Johanna Maria Gold, Ksenia Kuzmina, Sittipan Yotyotdying)
- Research interests: Capability Approach, child and youth well-being, regional inequalities, social justice, qualitative methods in the Capability Approach, social and family policy