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PhD Project:

PERSONAL GOALS AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING OF ROMA MIGRANT GIRLS

Children are socialized into prescribed roles that reflect societal expectations. (Kagitcibasi, 2007) The roles characteristic for most Roma girls often include gender inequality and a premature disruption of education (due to diverse traditional practices, e.g., early marriage). However, it is unclear how these practices affect their well-being and if they differ from their German peers in that aspect.

According to Self-determination theory (Ryan & Deci, 1985, 1991) if the societal values and demands are fully internalized, they become congruent with the persons' Self and have no harmful effects on the well-being. Still, these values need to be in accordance to the three basic needs of autonomy, competence and relatedness which are differently defined in families with different cultural backgrounds.

The main assumption of this research is that there is an association between the intergenerational transfer of dominant socio-cultural values (family environment, parenting style), the choice of personal goals and well-being.

DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY: Following a quasi experimental (correlational) design, a battery of self-report scales would be distributed to approximately 300 adolescent girls (12 to 16 years old) of Roma and non-Roma (German) background. Several semi-structural interviews would be conducted with the aim of an improved interpretation of the quantitative data.

CURRICULUM VITAE:

EDUCATION

2010 European Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

2008 M.A. in Psychology
University of Novi Sad, Serbia

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010 (March – October) Psychologist at the Centre for Social Work (Serbia)

2009 (July – August) Internship at "Save the Children Germany", Berlin

2009 (June - September) Volunteer work :
"Südost Europa Kultur e.V", Berlin

2007- 2009 Advisory work and counselling:
"Centre for Trauma", Novi Sad, Serbia

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- Bosnjak, B. (2011, November). *Personal Goals and Subjective Well-Being of Roma Migrant Girls*. Poster presentation of the ongoing PhD project at the International Conference „Schools as Gate-keepers“ in Dortmund, Germany.
- Bosnjak, B. (2011, July). *Virginity, Early Marriage and Well-being of Roma Girls –The Children’s Rights Perspective*. Paper presented at the III Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators, University of York, England
- Bosnjak, B. (2008, February). *Latent Structure of the Stages of Change Scale*. Paper presented at the XIV Empirical Research in Psychology Science Conference, Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, Serbia.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/pers_publ/publ/PersonDetail.jsp?personId=21907816

Memberships:

- Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA)
- International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)

Research Interests:

- Cross-cultural research
- Self-determination Theory