

Young

Nordic Journal of Youth Research

ARTICLE

Copyright © 2006
SAGE Publications
(London, Thousand Oaks CA
and New Delhi)
www.sagepublications.com
Vol 14(4): 309–322
10.1177/1103308806068546

The state of youth in contemporary Greece

SOTIRIS CHTOURIS

University of the Aegean, Greece

ANASTASIA ZISSI

University of the Aegean, Greece

EFSTRATIOS PAPANIS

University of the Aegean, Greece

KONSTANTINOS RONTOS

University of the Aegean, Greece

Abstract

The present study examines the state of youth in contemporary Greece to better understand how Greek young people organize their lives in various important life domains, such as living conditions, education and career, employment, relationships and use of leisure time. It also examines their values, social priorities and worries, while assessing their participation in social life and the wider political scene. The empirical findings demonstrate that young people in Greece develop their social capital and their socialization process in the framework of the nuclear family. In contrast, outside the boundaries of the Greek family, young people demonstrate an alienation from community and public institutions.

Keywords

contemporary Greece, social capital, young people

In contemporary societies, it has been reported that young people are likely to be exposed to several social problems and risks such as educational failure, unemployment, under-employment, poverty and erosion of family and social support networks (Furlong and Cartmel, 1997; Hamburg, 1990; IARD, 2001). In Greece, the state of youth, in relation to the demographic, social, economic and cultural aspects of their life, is rather discouraging. More specifically, demographic data on Greek youth show that the population of young people aged 15–29 has been continuously declining through the decades 1951–2001; in 2001 this group represented a mere 22 per cent of the total population, whereas in 1951 the corresponding figure was close to 28 per cent (National Statistical Service of Greece, 1951–2001). In relation to the social and economic situation of modern Greek youth, official data show that the unemployment rate, in spite of considerable fluctuations from year to year, is particularly high among young people compared to older age groups. Thus, in 2002 the unemployment rate for the group of 15–19 years old was estimated at 30 per cent, for the group of 20–24 years old at 24.9 per cent and, finally, for the group of 25–29 years old at 16 per cent (National Statistical Service of Greece, 1988–2002). These unemployment rates represent the double and sometimes the triple of the average national unemployment figures, thus revealing the major difficulties that young people have to face during the transitional phase from education to labour market. Consequently, this problematic phase of transition increasingly makes young people financially dependent on their parents, long after their adolescent years. Indeed, the Greek family constitutes a major source of support and protection for young people compared to public structures or institutions (Chtouris, 1992; Flaquer, 2002).

Young people in Greece do not only face difficulties in their transition to working life. They also have been found to be vulnerable to mental health difficulties (Madianos et al., 1993), a range of health threatening behaviours such as unsafe driving (Chliaoutakis et al., 2002), excessive alcohol consumption (Madianos et al., 1995; Rontos and Rontos, 1996), use of illegal substances (Kokkevi et al., 2000), smoking, unhealthy eating habits and lack of physical exercise (Steptoe et al., 2002).

It is worth noticing that, despite the significant role that young people could play in our society, the body of research in this particular field is rather limited. For a basic understanding of Greek youth's life organization the study examines different important domains, such as living conditions, education, employment and career, personal relationships and leisure time. In this context it also assesses and analyses their value system and social priorities, as well as, their concerns and aspirations, in the framework of their participation in Greece's sociopolitical structures and institutions.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the above, the present investigation is based on the social capital theory. We consider it as a useful theoretical and practical tool, as it establishes a link between the individual's life world with the community and society in general (Furstenberg and Hughes, 1995). Social capital is defined as a resource that consists of relations generated by family bonds, social networks and the community (Coleman, 1988, 1990) with attributes such as trust, cooperation, reciprocity, social participation and a strong sense of community identity (Putnam, 1993, 1995, 2000). This resource allow young people to develop their activities, to promote their aspirations, to find and maintain employment and to secure their smooth integration in the desired community.

In Greece, to the best of the authors' knowledge, no such research has been carried out aiming at identifying the social capital of young people. Attempts have

been made by a number of Greek researchers to measure social capital (Christoforou, 2003; Lyberaki and Paraskevopoulos, 2002; Paraskevopoulos, 2001) mainly using indicators such as group membership. Even though such attempts are important, they are not free of methodological limitations, such as the absence of current valid longitudinal and comparative statistical data and more importantly, the absence of any kind of measurement of the social capital as it is generated in the context of family, kin relations or via informal social networks. We also note the lack of clarity concerning the nature of such groups (i.e. no clear distinction between volunteer and non-volunteer groups) as well as their corresponding qualities (i.e. quality of interactions within the groups).

Furthermore, the social capital theory has been subjected to criticism due to its ethnocentric and a-historic character (Elder et al., 1993). This criticism is even more relevant to the Greek context given the traumatic experience of the Greek civil war (1944–1948) and the authoritative regimes that followed (Mavrogordatos, 1988). Therefore, the Greek reality requires a more socio-historical perspective to measure social capital indicators more adequately and comprehensively. This might also be valid for most southern Europe nations where, during the last century, the democratic regimes have been fragile and often abolished by dictatorships. Such a measurement would need to move from the over-reliance on group membership indicators to more qualitative ones. In addition, recent demographic, social and cultural transformations, such as the shift from a mostly agrarian society to a modern urban one (Leontidou, 1990), need to be considered.

METHODOLOGY

Structured face-to-face interviews by employing a cross-sectional research design were carried out in 2003, in a random sample of 353 young people from both urban and semi-urban areas of Greece with a range from 15 to 29 years of age. An instrument of 25 closed-ended questions was constructed by the present research team as a guide for conducting in-person interviews. All variables used were either ordinal or nominal. A two-stage sampling method was employed; at the first stage, a number of cities or towns were selected by a systematic sampling technique, and at the second stage a quota sampling method was employed using age, gender and employment status as control variables.

In addition, a range of sources such as official documents, research publications, European reports and statistical data from both the National Statistics Service of Greece and the Greek Ministry of Labour were used. A series of tables containing the descriptive statistics are presented. Cramer's V was also used for data analysis. To examine the reliability of our findings, comparisons were conducted with larger survey data from IARD (2001) and the European Social Survey (2003).

RESULTS

As mentioned above, empirical data were obtained for the following aspects of young people's life: living conditions, income, employment, education and career, cultural and social practices, use of leisure time, relationships and support networks. The role

312 Young 14(4)

of socio-demographic variables, such as gender, age and education, was also examined.

Living conditions and income level

Housing arrangements and income are two important aspects of young people's life. The European literature demonstrates that in Scandinavian countries, the United Kingdom and central European countries have the lowest percentages of young people, aged 20–29, still living with their parents, in contrast to what is happening in the Mediterranean countries. Moreover, young people in Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom are more likely to become engaged and have their first baby at an earlier age than those living in central European and Mediterranean countries (Eurostat, 2002).

Our study confirms that a large number of respondents (66%) still live with their family, whereas only a very small percentage is married (3%) and living in their own household. Other living arrangements involve living alone (19.5%) or with a companion (10%). Living in the family home results in negative social and economic consequences, such as an economic burden on the family, a delay in reaching social adulthood and independence, confusion as regards self-identity, a delay in entering the labour market and, finally, a delay in forming one's own family. However, this phenomenon of living in the family home, a significant number of years after reaching biological adulthood, could reflect serious structural constraints.

Regarding income level, 75 per cent of Greek young respondents declared a monthly income up to 700, whereas almost half of them (48%) declared a monthly income up to 500, which might be considered as the minimum income. The European Panel Survey mentions that in Greece 14 per cent of young people have an income lower than the 40 per cent of the national average income. This percentage places Greece, along with Italy and Spain, in the group of countries that have the largest proportion of young people at risk of poverty (Eurostat, 1997).

As far as income sources are concerned, the literature demonstrates that young people in the Mediterranean countries rely heavily on their families, in contrast to young people in Scandinavian countries who are strongly supported by the state. In most mid-European countries, young people rely on both their personal job earnings and, partly, on their parents' income (IARD, 2001).

Our research supports this finding, namely more than half of our sample (58%) declared that their income is financed exclusively by their family, whereas 23 per cent stated that they had a stable income from a regular job and, finally, only 0.8 per cent declared that they are supported by welfare benefits. Therefore, the family's financial assistance plays the most important role given that a welfare policy for the young is almost non-existent.

Education, employment and career

The most significant developmental tasks for the young involve completing compulsory education, gaining training qualifications and finding a good job. The way in which young people will carry out these tasks largely determines their acquisition of a personal, vocational and social identity and their future prospects in general (Heaven, 1995).

Table 1 Unemployed, labour force and rate of unemployment in Greece by gender, 2002

Age groups	Unemployed		Labour force		Unemployment rate (%)	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
15–19	8756	12,419	41,440	29,182	21	42
20–24	37,448	59,938	206,045	185,211	18	32
25–29	35,328	55,567	320,871	246,257	11	22
15–29	81,532	127,924	568,356	460,650	14	27
Total	161,717	258,390	2,604,226	1,764,785	6	14

Source: National Statistical Service of Greece, Labour Force Survey of 2002, Athens

Given the remarkable changes in employment opportunities over the last decades, young people increasingly recognize educational and training qualifications as the most important means for a well-paid and relatively regular job. Indeed, education does affect access to the labour market: data show that better-educated young people are more likely to find employment, whereas the less-educated youths are more likely either to be unemployed or to be under-employed (Eurostat, 1998).

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) indicators demonstrate that education attendance level of Greek young people aged 15–21 is higher than the OECD average (OECD, 2001). This might reflect the general tendency of young people in Greece to participate, to a large extent, in educational processes. In 2002 young people represented a relatively small proportion of Greek labour force (24%), whereas unemployment rates remained at 20 per cent (National Statistical Service of Greece, 2002).

This trend is more pronounced among Greek young women since their employment participation is only 22 per cent and their unemployment rate reaches 27 per cent. Greek young women, aged 15–19, face a higher risk of unemployment (42%). Unemployment rate is also very high for the next age groups, 20–24 and 25–29 (32% and 22% respectively). As can be seen in Table 1, young women's unemployment rates are in fact double the amount of their male counterparts in the corresponding age groups.

These official figures are particularly discouraging. They clearly demonstrate the difficulties that young people experience entering the labour market. Lengthy periods of studies, lengthy military service duties, reduced female employment and absence of training opportunities are among the decisive factors explaining the difficulties in entering the labour market.

However, the above negative picture does not concern only Greek youth but it also reflects the situation of young people in the majority of the EU-countries; both activity and employment rates among young Europeans have declined over the last two decades while the unemployment rates have increased. According to IARD (2001), Mediterranean countries, with the exception of Portugal, display the highest rates of youth unemployment, whereas Scandinavian and central European countries, with the exception of Finland, display lower overall rates of unemployment. It is

worth noting that gender differences in unemployment rates are more pronounced in southern European countries (Eurostat, 2002).

In the course of our study, young respondents were asked to assess the importance of education, work and career in their lives. Not surprisingly, more than half (52%) regarded this domain as the highest priority in their lives even though only a small proportion (17%) was employed. When asked about their perception of the best possible job-seeking strategies, a large proportion (55%) acknowledged the role of the social networks, such as family and friends, whereas 23 per cent of the respondents mentioned the importance of educational qualifications. It is somewhat disappointing that there is a belief, relatively common among the ages 15-24, that it is possible to find a job only through traditional means of political affiliation. However, these beliefs peter out among young people aged 25-29 - they believe that education of a good quality is the necessary prerequisite for the successful job-seeking strategy. These findings support evidence that shows that job-search strategies are significantly related to socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender and social class) as well as to the types of attributions (internal versus external) (Feather and O' Brien, 1987; Furnham, 1984; Heaven, 1995).

It is of importance to note that references to state organizations and institutions, such as the Organization of Greek Manpower (OGM) that provides mediation and placement in the job market, were rare. These public institutions are characterized by low visibility among young people. There is a lack of information concerning the existence of training and entrepreneurship programmes among Greek young people despite the fact that such programmes are extensively developed all over Greece.

Once again, our findings demonstrate the paramount importance of the family's social capital in contrast to the minor role played by public institutions. Greek young people seem to lack any kind of benefit having to do with the social capital linked to public and community institutions, whereas they benefit almost exclusively from the social capital generated within the context of the family.

Relationships and supportive networks

Supportive family networks and good friends constitute the social capital for the young people (Hartup and Stevens, 1999). Intimate relationships embody trust, respect, reciprocity, commitment, mutual understanding, support, involvement and equality. Numerous studies indicate the strong connection that exists between having supportive relationships and enjoying feelings of well-being, social adjustment and positive self-esteem (Stroebe and Stroebe, 1995). In this context, Greek young respondents were asked to assess their family relations and social networks as sources of practical and emotional support.

The results demonstrate that a large proportion of the sample (59%) receives significant help and support from family and, to a lesser degree, from their friends. Overall, they assessed solidarity among family members as very important to them. In contrast, there was a noted absence of any reference to the supportive role of the public sector in their responses. This assessment coincides with their poor evaluation in relation to public services destined for their use (see Table 2). These findings further support the family orientation of Greek young people's social capital.

Table 2 Sources of help offered to young people ($N = 353$)

Level of help	Source of help					
	Family	Friends	Church	State	Experts	Press
No help	8.8	12.2	86.7	92.6	62.0	89.5
Not enough help	6.8	11.9	6.2	4.8	26.9	7.4
Quite enough help	23.5	50.4	2.5	0.8	7.4	0.6
A lot of help	59.5	24.1	3.1	0.3	2.3	1.1
No opinion	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: University of the Aegean, Survey on Youth in Greece

Social and cultural practices of young people

This section deals with youth participation in formal, political and social associations or clubs, voluntary work and use of leisure time. A high degree of group membership and participation in youth associations and trade unions have been found to correlate strongly with better levels of social and professional integration (Heaven, 2001).

In the course of our study, it emerged that the majority of Greek young respondents reported low participation in youth associations and voluntary groups with the exception of a small amount of post-graduate students (5%) (see Table 3). As can be seen in Table 4, this kind of social withdrawal was also reflected in their perception concerning their contribution to solving social problems. In particular, they felt efficient in solving family issues as well as problems with friends. On the contrary, young respondents' low perceived contribution in successfully solving educational ($\chi^2(3) = 196.302, p = 0.0$), social ($\chi^2(3) = 433.767, p = 0.0$), local problems ($\chi^2(3) = 700.767, p = 0.0$) and issues of general policy ($\chi^2(3) = 743.744, p = 0.0$) was of high statistical significance.

When they were asked about their use of leisure time, it was reported that they spend a fair amount of their free time with friends and family, listening to music and watching television. A limited interest in structured leisure activities was documented, for example having a regular hobby or doing regular physical exercise. Only those who had completed post-graduate studies were found to spend statistically significant more time on reading books compared to other groups with different educational profiles (Cramer's $V = 0.175, p = 0.0$).

In sum, our findings support existing research conducted by the Greek General Secretary of Youth in 1997, which revealed low levels of youth participation in associations, clubs or trade unions, a low interest in voluntary work and a marked distrust towards politicians. In addition, it was found that young people felt a lack of confidence regarding opportunities for personal intervention and participation concerning political and social issues compared to other life domains, such as family and peer groups where they felt much more secure and confident.

Social capital generated in the context of family and friends does not seem to have

Table 3 Use of leisure time (N = 353)

Level of time spent	Use of leisure time										
	With friends	With family- relatives	Watching TV	Listening music	Hobbies- interests	Sports	Clubs- associations	Cinema- theater	Reading books	Internet	Reading magazines
No time spent at all	11.3	62.9	67.4	55.5	80.5	82.4	92.4	90.1	85.6	81.0	89.5
Little time	10.2	7.4	14.7	19.3	7.4	7.1	0.8	4.2	4.5	11.0	7.4
Quite enough time	15.3	21.8	13.3	19.0	6.8	5.1	2.5	3.4	5.1	2.5	1.4
A lot of time	62.0	6.8	3.4	5.1	4.2	4.2	3.1	1.1	3.7	4.2	0.6
No opinion	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chi-Square	267.3	298.2	358.2	199.5	592.4	635.0	871.5	814.4	704.9	609.4	803.6
(p)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)

Source: University of the Aegean, Survey on Youth in Greece

Table 4 Perceived levels of intervention ($N = 353$)

Perceived levels of intervention	Educational	Family problem	Friends' problem	Social problem	Local problem	Environmental problem	General policy problem
A great deal	11.9	45.3	26.3	5.7	0.8	3.7	3.1
A fair deal	7.6	28.9	41.1	6.2	4.0	4.0	3.4
Moderate deal	23.2	11.0	11.6	14.2	8.2	11.3	4.5
Not at all	54.7	12.2	18.4	71.4	84.4	78.5	86.4
No opinion	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chi-Square	196.3	113.8	69.7	433.8	700.8	571.0	743.7
(p)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)

Source: University of the Aegean, Survey on Youth in Greece

a reference to a homogeneous and concrete community social capital. This evidence is of critical importance and is further corroborated by Chtouris' research on the issue of social exclusion, which was carried out in Athens in 1993. According to that research, a significant factor in social exclusion was: '... the contradictory relation between the strongly introverted nature of family on the one hand and the social alienation of the population at the local level on the other hand together with the lack of social and political transparency' (Chtouris, 1993: 60).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Despite limitations in the research design of the study, such as its cross-sectional nature, some important observations can be put forward concerning issues of youth in Greece. The key points of the present research are summarized below:

- 1 There is a continuous decline of both active and employed population in the age groups of 15–30 years, attributable mainly to the wider social, demographic and cultural transformation of contemporary Greek society. Furthermore, it is evident that major difficulties exist in the transition from school and education to working life. During this phase both family and social networks provide emotional and practical support to the young. This picture bears similarities with the reality in other Mediterranean countries (with the exception of Portugal) (IARD, 2001).
- 2 Education is one of the highest priorities for young people in Greece. Indeed, education is viewed by Greek young respondents as the most important means for social and professional integration.
- 3 Family proves to be of almost equal importance for Greek young people. Their social capital consists of family, relatives and friends. However, these sources seem to serve different functions; while the family plays an instrumental role,

friends and peers play a more social one. Public sector institutions seem to play a minor role; there seems to be a huge gap between one's personal life world and the public space and this may be due to distrust towards official public institutions (European Social Survey, 2003). It is quite discouraging that young people have not yet discovered those ways and strategies that would link their individual world to the society and the political reality they live in. The Greek welfare state is a familistic one, similar to other southern European countries. In other words, it is the traditional nuclear family that constitutes the major protective mechanism for youth in Greece mainly through the provision of regular financial assistance, housing facility and consistent emotional support for lengthy periods of time (Maratou-Alibranti, 1999). These findings support theoretical approaches which argue that a distinctive Mediterranean type of welfare state exists (Arts and Gelissen, 2002).

What are the consequences of living with the family for such a long time? In fact, we know very little about the effects of this phenomenon on the formation of an independent personality and, more generally, on the way a young person organizes his/her life. However, one can safely assume that this lengthy period of living with the family of origin might result in serious delays in the transition to a financially independent and socially integrated adult life. How do young people perceive themselves and how do they construct their biographies? What are the factors and conditions that mostly influence these internal processes?

These important questions require answers to obtain a deeper understanding of Greek young people, particularly in the context of transformation processes that took part in contemporary Greek society. Additionally, the role of family, as a core social institution, needs to be explored more given that Greek families often face major financial difficulties which may in turn affect their social life, their health and other life domains. These are key areas for future research.

4 Then again, social and welfare infrastructure is almost non-existent (Matsaganis, 1999). It is only recently that specific but fledgling policies targeted specifically to 'young people' have started to be implemented in Greece. Consequently, all this reservation among Greek young people towards politicians and state institutions is hardly surprising. Greek youth appear cautious and detached when they confront public issues expecting no assistance from the public sector or any formal institution. This attitude of Greek youngsters is also reflected in their low levels of participation in associations or clubs. They express no particular interest in politics, they are not involved in voluntary work and do not feel confident or able to influence larger social, political and environmental problems. It is a cliché but still very real to say that youth has always been viewed as a valuable resource, an important agent of social change and innovation. However, our data, together with other official European reports indicate that young people in Southern European countries face such a huge pressure to secure a job that other important aspects of their lives are under-developed. The structural conditions of the Greek youth have not been investigated and, furthermore, have not been linked to the way young people reach their social and vocational destinations. This gap between one's personal 'own world', on one hand, and the public sector, on the other, needs to be filled by strengthening social and

welfare policies for the young. What are the precise repercussions that are caused by a welfare system that does not support young people in the formation of their own personal strategies when building their own career pathways? This is a critical research issue worthy of examination to understand better the attributes and the factors that determine the state of youth in contemporary Greece.

- 5 Gender and education seems to play a central role in relation to certain life domains. In particular, the unemployment rate of Greek young women is significantly higher than the corresponding one among young men. Concerning the level of education, post-graduate students were more likely to find a job by themselves while secondary-school graduates were more likely to find a job through their own familial and social networks.

Young people in Greece develop their socialization process in the framework of the nuclear family, and this might be the result of the insufficient institutional organization of contemporary Greek society. Greek young people due to their introversion, inordinately exaggerate the objective difficulties and risks all youth face, especially when they are about to start their integration process in the labour market. Within the framework of the social capital of young people's family and life world, the young tend to undertake important initiatives mainly in the field of their education aiming at securing a good job that might confer a high social status and cultural capital (Robbins, 2000). On the contrary, outside the boundaries of the Greek family, young people demonstrate an alienation from community and public institutions.

We might consider this type of socio-political withdrawal as the end result of under-development or the twists and turns of political transformation in modern Greece. The phenomenon of under-development is accompanied simultaneously by the weak presence of the welfare state. The Greek state not only tolerates but also actively promotes social self-regulation practices in all sectors of the public realm, namely education, health and housing (Chtouris, 1993).

It seems that in Greece, both family practices and employment strategies of the young are influenced more by a series of cultural factors, and to a lesser degree by subjective rational choices. The social capital theory can only partially interpret such controversial and historic processes since it tends to consider the bonds that constitute the social capital as a continuum, namely from individual to family and further on to community and society in general.

Further research is needed to examine the functional and symbolic ties that the young individual establishes with the family and kinship and also to identify those factors that influence young people's every day life and choices. A community's 'cultural past' keeps playing a dominant role in the configuration of society's present situation since no new dynamic conditions have been created for the social integration of the young. In contrast to some observations that emphasize both individualization of the risk and reflexivity (Lash, 1994) and in response to the pressure exercised on young people for more labour flexibility and more geographical and professional mobility, the case of Greek youth demonstrates a new form of family solidarity. Martin Buhmann (1989) observes that the passage from youth to adulthood is not a personal matter, especially in post-industrial societies. On the contrary, it is a collective and family affair, even if, in the present case, it remains a complex and long-term process.

Acknowledgements

The General Secretariat of Youth and the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs funded this research to promote knowledge on the perspectives and problems that young people confront nowadays. It was conducted within the framework of the EU funded project, called 'Youth'.

References

- Arts, William and Gelissen, John (2002) 'Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism or More? A State-of-the-Art Report', *Journal of European Social Policy* 12(2): 137-58.
- Buhmann, Martin (1989) *The Script of Life in Modern Society: Entry into Adulthood in a Changing World*. Chicago, IL: Chicago University Press.
- Chliaoutakis, Joannes, Demakos, Petros, Tzamalouka, Bakou and Koumak Darviri (2002) 'Aggressive Behaviour while Driving as Predictor of Self-reported Car Crashes', *Journal of Safety Research* 33(4): 431-43.
- Christoforou, Asimina (2003) 'Social Capital and Economic Growth: The Case of Greece', paper presented at the 1st LSE PhD Symposium on Modern Greece: Current Social Science Research on Greece, London School of Economics, June.
- Chtouris, Sotiris (1992) *Complex Processes of Social Exclusion and the Role of the Family in Social Protection*. Athens: Praxis.
- Chtouris, Sotiris (1993) *Institutions and Adjustments of Social Policy*. Athens: Praxis.
- Coleman, James S. (1988) 'Social capital in the creation of human capital', *American Journal of Sociology* 94(Suppl): 95-120.
- Coleman, James S. (1990) *The Foundation of Social Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Elder, Glenn, Modell, John and Park, Ross D. (1993) *Children in Time and Place: Developmental and Historical Insights*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- European Social Survey (2003) URL (consulted May 2006): <http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org>
- Eurostat (1997) *Youth in the European Union: From Education to Working Life*. Luxembourg: European Communities.
- Eurostat (1998) *From School to Working Life: Facts on Youth Unemployment*. Luxembourg: European Communities.
- Eurostat (2002) *The Life of Women and Men in Europe*. Luxembourg: European Communities.
- Feather, Norman and O'Brien, Geoff (1987) 'Looking for Employment: An Expectancy-Valence Analysis of Job-Seeking Behaviour among Young People', *British Journal of Psychology* 78(2): 251-72.
- Flaquer, Lluís (2002) 'Family Policy and the Maintenance of the Traditional Family in Spain', in Alan Carling, Simon Duncan and Rosalind Edwards (eds) *Analysing Families. Morality and Rationality in Policy and Practice*, pp. 84-92. London: Routledge.
- Furlong, Andy and Cartmel, Fred (1997) *Young People and Social Change: Individualization and Risk in Late Modernity*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Furnham, Andrian (1984) 'Getting a Job: School-Leavers' Perceptions of Employment Prospects', *British Journal of Educational Psychology* 54(1): 293-305.
- Furstenberg, Frank R. and Hughes, Mary Elizabeth (1995) 'Social Sapital and Successful Development among Risk Youth', *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 57(3): 580-92.
- Greek General Secretary of Youth (1997) *Research on Political and Social Participation of Greek Young People*. Athens: Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs.
- Hamburg, David (1990) 'Preparing for life: the critical transition of adolescence', in Rolf Muuss (ed.) *Adolescent Behaviour and Society: A Book of Readings*, pp. 11-21. New York: McGraw-Hill.

- Hartup, Willard and Stevens, Nan (1999) 'Friendships and Adaptation across the Life Span', *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 8(3): 76-9.
- Heaven, Patrick (1995) 'Job-Search Strategies among Teenagers: Attributions, Work Beliefs and Gender', *Journal of Adolescence* 18: 217-28.
- Heaven, Patrick (2001) *The Social Psychology of Adolescence*. London: Palgrave.
- IARD (Investment Adviser Registration Depository) (2001) *Study on the State of Young People and Youth Policy in Europe. Final Report, vol. 1: Executive Summary and Comparative Reports*. Milano: IARD.
- Kokkevi, Anna, Terzidou, Marina, Politikou, Kyriaki and Stefanis, Costas (2000) 'Substance Use among High School Students in Greece: Outburst of Illicit Drug Use in a Society Under Change', *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 58(1-2): 181-88.
- Lash, Scott (1994) 'Reflexivity and its Doubles: Structure, Aesthetics, Community', in Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens and Scott Lash (eds) *Reflexive Modernization: Politics, Tradition and Aesthetics in the Modern Social Order*, pp. 110-73. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Leontidou, Lila (1990) *The Mediterranean City in Transition: Social Change and Urban Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lyberaki, Antigone and Paraskevopoulos, Christos J. (2002) 'Social Capital Measurement in Greece', paper presented at the OECD-ONS International Conference on Social Capital Measurement, London, September.
- Madianos, Michael G., Madianou-Gefou, Dimitra and Stefanis, Costas N. (1993) 'Depressive Symptoms and Suicidal Behavior among General Population Adolescents and Young Adults across Greece', *European Psychiatry* 8(3): 139-46.
- Madianos, Michael G., Madianou-Gefou, Dimitra and Stefanis, Costas N. (1995) 'Patterns of Alcohol Consumption and Related Problems in the General Population of Greece', *Addiction* 90(1): 73-85.
- Maratou-Alibranti, Laura (1999) 'Inter-Generational Relations in the Modern Era: Theories, Trends and Practices', *Greek Review of Social Research* 98-99(1): 49-76.
- Matsaganis, Manos (1999) 'Support of Low Incomes and the Poverty Trap', *Greek Review of Social Research* 100(??): 65-78.
- Mavrogordatos, George T. (1988) *Between Pityokamptes and Prokroustes: Professional Associations in Contemporary Greece*. Athens: Odysseus (in Greek).
- National Statistics Service of Greece. Population Census (1951-2001). Athens: National Statistics Service of Greece.
- National Statistics Service of Greece. Labour Force Research (1988-2002). Athens: National Statistics Service of Greece.
- National Statistics Service of Greece. Labour Force Research (2002). Athens: National Statistics Service of Greece.
- OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) (2001) *Education at a Glance: Annual Report*. Paris: Direction De L'Education.
- Paraskevopoulos, Christos (2001) *Interpreting Convergence in the European Union - Patterns of Collective Action, Social Learning and Europeanization*. London: Palgrave.
- Putnam, Robert (1993) *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Putnam, Robert (1995) 'Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital', *Journal of Democracy* 6(1): 65-78.
- Putnam, Robert (2000) *Bowling Alone. The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
- Robbins, Derek (2000) *Pierre Bourdieu: A Critical Introduction*. London: Sage.
- Rontos, John and Rontos, Kostas (1996) 'Alcohol Consumption Trends in Greece 1961-2000: A Statistical Approach', *Tetradia Psychiatrikis* 54(2): 119-30.
- Stepoe, Andrew, Wardle, Jane, Cui, Wei Wei, Bellisle, France, Zotti, Anna-Maria, Baranyai, Reka and Sanderman, Robert (2002) 'Trends in Smoking, Diet, Physical Exercise and Attitudes

toward Health in European University Students from 13 Countries, 1990–2000', *Preventive Medicine* 35(2): 97–104.

Stroebe, Wolfgang and Stroebe, Margaret S. (1995) *Social Psychology and Health*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

SOTIRIS CHTOURIS is the Head of the Sociology Department at the University of the Aegean. His scientific expertise and research interests involve Urban Sociology and Social Reconstruction, Social Differentiation and Inequality with an emphasis on the issues of Poverty and Social Exclusion, Cultural Networks and Cultural Change, Cultural Models and Technological Culture, Research Methodology in Social Sciences, Information Technology and Social Sciences and, more specifically, the use of Geographic Information Systems in the social and cultural analysis of urban space. *Address:* University of the Aegean, Department of Sociology, 2 Sarandaporou Street, 81 100 Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece. [e-mail: Htouris@aegean.gr]

ANASTASIA ZISSI is Assistant Professor of Social Psychology in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Aegean. She conducted her PhD thesis at the School of Psychology, University of Birmingham, UK. Her research interests are in the areas of Social Psychology of Health, Community Psychology, Mental Health, Prevention and Psychosocial Rehabilitation. She has published a number of research papers in well-known journals, such as *Psychological Medicine*, *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*. She is the author of a book titled 'Reintegration of People with Mental Health Difficulties: Empirical Evidence, New approaches and Future Perspectives'-Athens: Gutenberg (in Greek). *Address:* Department of Sociology, 25 Mitropoleos Street, 81 100 Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece. [e-mail: A.Zissi@soc.aegean.gr]

EFSTRATIOS PAPANIS teaches Research Methods and Statistics at the Department of Sociology at the University of the Aegean. His scientific interests involve research on self-esteem, dependent behaviour and social networks of young people. He is also a member of the Department's Social, Cultural and Digital Laboratory where he is conducting research on employment and social capital in the North Aegean region. He also works as a psychologist at the Learning Institute for Adults. *Address:* Department of Sociology, 1 Alkaiou Street, 81 100 Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece. [e-mail: papanis@soc.aegean.gr]

KONSTANTINOS RONTOS is Assistant Professor of Statistics and Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences at the Department of Sociology at the University of the Aegean. He used to be a Director at the National Statistical Service of Greece. He studied Economics and Econometrics, Regional Statistics and Demography at the University of Athens, as well as, at the Panteion University (Athens) and the London School of Economics. He is the author of numerous books, monographs and articles in the fields of Statistics, Demography, Statistical Systems and Regional Science. *Address:* Aegean University, Department of Sociology, 1 Alkaiou Street, 81 100 Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece. [e-mail: k.rontos@soc.aegean.gr]