



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

Description of the funded research project
1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty
Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value
Research Equipment

Technical Specifications

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Title of the research project:

Transitions, Emigration and Politics:
Understanding Youth in Crisis

Principal Investigator: Prof. Alexandra
Koronaïou

Reader-friendly title: TEmPo

Scientific Area: Social Sciences

Institution and Country: Panteion
University, Greece

Host Institution: Panteion University

Collaborating Institution(s): Manchester
Metropolitan University, The University of
Manchester, University of Paris 13, Center for
research on local affairs (CERAL)

Project webpage (if applicable): Under
Construction



Budget: 156.861 ευρώ

Duration: 12/12/2019-11/12/2022

Research Project Synopsis

The economic crisis that stroke Greece in 2010 had significant consequences on large parts of the Greek society and more particularly influenced young people through high unemployment rates, hostile work conditions, emigration abroad and disdain from politics. The subject of this research project is to study the Greek youth, especially those aged between 15-34 years old many of whom entered adulthood during the crisis. Three are the main goals on which this research proposal is based upon. The first is to examine the impact of the crisis (material and emotional) on young people and their families, paying special attention on how young people themselves experience the crisis and more particularly which are the consequences of the crisis on their transition to adulthood. The second goal is to examine the background of young people's emigration either for further studies or/and work, as well as the impact of such a decision on their personal lives (family formation). The third goal is to study young people's attitudes towards politics, politicians and political parties, if they feel alienated from politics or if they search for alternative forms of socio-political engagement, not included in mainstream politics. The main purpose is to search for the meanings, personal experiences and the social-psychological burden of the crisis and of emigration. In order to accomplish this, 80 semi-structured interviews with young people are going to be conducted in Greece and abroad (the UK and France), 20 inter-generational interviews with young people's parents and 4-7 focus groups with young people in Greece and abroad. Taking into consideration the importance of the Internet, especially for young people an Internet ethnography will also take place, which, it is assumed, will offer the opportunity to collect additional qualitative evidence in social environments in which young people meet electronically and discuss their problems.

Please describe in short (max. 300 words) your funded research project.

Notice: Please do not provide confidential information about your project, since the synopsis will be published in HFRI website.

Project originality

The main purpose of the research is to look for the meanings, the experiences and the social-psychological burden of the crisis, the pressure for emigration and the emigrant situation. For this purpose the qualitative approach was considered the most appropriate method. Besides, as it has been argued every science which studies social relations is a science of the human behaviour and strives to understand it. Based on this effort of understanding, social scientists try to explain human behaviour interpretatively, since behind every 'human activity' there is a person found and the meanings human beings attribute to it. Having that in mind a triangulation of research methods will be followed. This will take place through the triangulation in qualitative research which is the use of different methods (methodological triangulation) in order to respond to the main research questions. In this proposal the main qualitative methods will be semi-structured in-depth interviews, focus groups, intergenerational interviews and Internet ethnography which will be then analysed using the classical thematic content analysis. Another aspect that should be underlined is the proposal's methodological decision to include young people's views in the research design or what could be called co-creation or co-production. From this perspective the research will try to give young people the opportunity to participate in the final formation of the scientific questions and research tools used.

Please describe in short (max. 300 words) the scientific originality of your research project.

Expected results & Research Project Impact

Scientifically, this research has as a main goal to offer new research findings of a qualitative character with regard to the study of young people, and delve in the way young people confront the current economic, social and political situation, as well as delve in their emotions and their thoughts about the future. With regard to the main axis of this research, i.e. young people's emigration, it will be the first large scale qualitative study with the intention to go deeper than the existing quantitative studies and examine thoroughly young people's views, perceptions and emotions. Through the use of the method of triangulation new insights on the place and status of young people in Greek society could be offered and this could also spark the interest for further studies on young people. Additionally, the qualitative approach could provide a fresh perspective and re-structure future quantitative approaches especially with regard to the research questions. Finally, the comparative aspect with previous experiences of emigration derived from the intergenerational interviews and the use of biographical and archival material will offer the opportunity to find some initial trends of similarities and differences in these emigration patterns. Societally, through the understanding and explanation of young people's situation it is assumed that there is an opportunity to explain and perhaps confront social issues like young people's emigration, social exclusion and alienation from politics. On the one hand, young people will have the opportunity to openly express their views and ideas in a way that is not provided in quantitative studies and on the other, there is an opportunity through the appropriate use of the research findings to design and implement youth policies, which seems to be of high importance in contemporary Greek society incorporating young people's voices. In the long run such scientifically informed policies could also have an economic impact especially regarding the reversal of young people's emigration.

Please describe in short (max. 300 words) the expected results (TRL included, if available) and the scientific, social and/or artistic impact of your research project.

The importance of this funding

The financing of the project by ELIDEK is particularly important for two main reasons. On the one hand it gives the possibility of continuing the study of youth which our research team has started from 2011 onwards while at the same time it gives the opportunity to study an object which although has occupied the public sphere and the scientific community it has not been studied in combination under the suggested methodology. On the other hand, it gives the opportunity to Greek researchers themselves to work on a large research project in Greece and to gain or enhance their experience.

Please describe in short (max. 150 words) what the H.F.R.I. funding of your research project means to you.



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