**Comparing the Perspectives of Israeli and German Youth**

The discipline of youth studies has examined the early twenty-first century based on the understanding that young people will play a primary role in shaping the world in the coming decades, with the potential to bring about changes in economics, culture, politics, and society (Woodman & Wyn, 2014).

Throughout history, many revolutions and changes have originated from the youth population; this phenomenon is expected to continue in the coming years. For example, the United Nations suggested (Baldwin, 2007) that young people are important players in changing perspectives and action regarding sustainability. Grasso (2018) found that young people tend to participate more than their elders in confrontational political actions, while Ellis (2004) also found that they are more involved in less structured forms of activism such as donations or recycling. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the topics that are meaningful to young people. Specifically, the last months have made clear the need to significantly adjust our way of life in response to both climate change and the social changes caused by COVID-19. Young people may lead the way in enacting social change, especially with respect to the environment—for example, by influencing recycling systems and nature conservation (Paloniemi & Vainio, 2011).

Several researchers have compared perspectives on a variety of topics in different countries. For example, Urry and Larsen (2011) claimed that people look at the world through the filters of ideas, skills, expectations, cultural background, and demographics such as age and gender, while Garg (2013) claimed that past events affect how people living in a certain country construe their perceptions of risk. Therefore, young people in different countries may have different individual backgrounds and experiences that shape their perspectives. However, Grasso (2018) showed that on the whole, patterns of youth participation in politics are relatively similar across Europe.

The purpose of the proposed research is to compare the perspectives of the youth population in Israel to those of the youth population in Germany. We will perform in Israel in 2022 a survey similar to the survey “Future? Ask the Youth!” performed in Germany in 2019, then compare the difference in attitudes between the two populations surveyed. In addition, it would be interesting to perform a similar survey in Germany in 2022 in order to investigate the effects of COVID-19 and the climate disasters of 2021 on the perspectives of young people.

We will analyze the data by means of regression and mediation models using SPSS and process on SPSS. Specifically, we will analyze demographic data, including country of origin, as a mediating factor that affects young people’s views on sustainability, social issues, and politics.

References

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