

The changes that have characterized Western societies in recent decades have contributed to creating a world in continuous and rapid evolution in which generations constantly modify living conditions, needs and motivations. In particular, it was the young population which showed the most visible demographic, economic, social and cultural trends compared to the past.

In the first three areas, many studies have highlighted the impact on the new generations; in the fourth, that is, the cultural aspects, the analyses have often stopped at the description of the phenomena, but attempts to reflect critically on youth culture, as an effect of structural or social changes, are rather lacking and it is to these last aspects that the call intends to respond. This initial consideration reaffirms the complexity of our contemporary societies and in particular the difficulty of reading the youth phenomena. In fact, despite appearances, young people are not a homogeneous and indistinct group but rather a group characterized by a strong internal variability, often invisible to adult eyes

From a method point of view, to talk about the evolutionary processes of culture and youth identities in a heuristically significant way, it is appropriate to keep in mind the need for a comparison on two levels:

- the external plane, that is, the one that places young people in front of the adult world in an inter-group comparative perspective (that is, between different age groups);
 - and the internal plane, that is, the one that takes into consideration the youth universe in an infra-group comparative perspective (that is, between groups that are culturally different but of homogeneous age).
- This comparison can be played on multiple paradigms; the most significant are those of values, language, systems of meaning, the image of the future, generation gaps.

Just to give an example, an interesting question, to which the issue would like to provide an answer, is: Do young people say the same things differently as adults – and it is therefore a question of form and language – or do young people say things that are really different from adults – and is it therefore also a question of substance?

Another example refers to the dichotomy that opposes homologation (young people are increasingly similar to each other, as stated by fashion, forms of expression, globalized consumption, planetary culture) to segmentation (the growing differentiation no longer depends on the traditional structural and socio-demographic characteristics, but on cultural fractures that have produced new affiliations: the so-called juvenile tribes).

Call for papers n. 2, 2023

*You ng people beyond the
stereotypes*

edited by Carlo Buzzi

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Considering the objective of intercepting the various ways of being young today, the points of attention, analysis and critical reflection included in this call can be, among others:

- generational differences: social boundaries of the “young” category within the logic of the transformation of inter-generational relations;
- the loss of certainty towards progress and science;
- digital sub-cultures;
- values in continuity or discontinuity with the past with particular reference to environmental issues;
- gender inequalities;
- the recognition of minority rights; - the state of well-being, in relation to health and the various forms of dependence;
- the languages used.

Potential authors of this issue of Welfare & Ergonomics are invited to submit an abstract of about 3,000 characters (spaces included) by April 12, 2023. And, if accepted, by July 31, 2023, the contribution in full according to the following subdivision:

- theoretical contributions (subject to peer review) of no more than 25,000 characters (including spaces);
- empirical research (subject and peer reviewed) of no more than 25,000 characters (including spaces);
- practical experiences (not reviewed) not exceeding 15,000 characters (including spaces).

For the purposes of evaluation, the abstract must be divided into:

- introduction to the subject matter;
- scientific frame within which to place the contribution, reconstruction of the national and international debate;
- methodological framework adopted and the hypotheses formulated;
- the most important and innovative outcomes;
- essential bibliographic references.

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