



The Changing Lifestyles and Values of the Young Persisting Temporary Unemployed in Different Labour Markets of Finland

**Seminar on Youth Employment Support
Innovation and Creativity**

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Helena Helve

Professor, University of Tampere

Director WORK-Preca Research Project, Academy of Finland

helena.helve@uta.fi

helena.helve@helsinki.fi



Data from earlier studies

- **The World View of Young People. A Longitudinal Study of Finnish Youth Living in a Suburb of Metropolitan Helsinki (Helve,1993)**
- **Youth and Life Management. Research Perspectives (Helve & Bynner eds., 1996)**
- **Youth, Citizenship and Empowerment (Helve & Wallace, 2001)**
- **Arvot, muutos ja nuoret [Values, Change and Youth] (Helve, 2002)**
- **Contemporary Youth Research: Local Expressions and Global Connections (Helve & Holm eds., 2005)**
- **Youth and Social Capital (Helve & Bynner eds., 2007)**

- **Lähteenmaa, 1995, 2000; Suutari,2002; Paju, 1999; Helve et al., 1997; Päivärinta, 1996, also see Julkunen & Nätti, 1997, Tuhkunen, 2007; Soininen, 2002; Paunikallio, 1997; Miettinen & Manninen, 2006; Wilska ,2005 Sell, 2004; Kakkonen & Parviainen, 2006; Miettinen & Manninen, 2006; Wilska & Lehto, Lyly-Yrjänäinen & Sutela, 2005**

THE CHANGING LIFE-STYLES AND VALUES OF THE YOUNG PERSISTING TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYED IN THE DIFFERENT LABOUR MARKETS OF FINLAND WORK-Preca

**WORK AND WELL-BEING 2008-2011
Academy of Finland**

- **Director: Helena Helve**
- **Researchers: Jaana
Lähteenmaa (post doc)**
- **Marjaana Kojo and Anna Sell
(doc. Students)**

**[www.aka.fi/Tiedostot/Tiedostot/VALTA/
Hankekuvaus_Helve3.pdf](http://www.aka.fi/Tiedostot/Tiedostot/VALTA/Hankekuvaus_Helve3.pdf)**

www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/workpreca





Focus on

- From school to work transitions (cf. Bynner and Roberts 1991)
- Impact of recessions in 1990s and 2009 (Helve 1993 and 2002; Finnish Youth barometers from 194 to 2009)



Background...

- This research is concentrated on a short-term employment from the viewpoint of changing life-styles, values and future orientation of young adults
- The aim is to study the issues of short-term employment and transition periods of YP, which seems to be longer and more complicated than before
- The nature of this employment is not comparable to traditional part-time or temporary employment



Key-words

- Young Adults (18-29-year olds)
- Values and life-styles
- World views
- Future expectations
- Well-being/life management
- Changing labour-markets
- Precariat (*la précarisation*)



Research Questions:

- **How short-term employment and unemployment manifest themselves in young people's lifestyles, values and world views?**
- **What is the spectrum of the life situations, lifestyles and values of the young people working in periodic employment relationships?**
- **Is the meaning of work getting new tones or loosing the traditional ones among the “new unemployed” (e.g. Helve 2002) ?**



Research methods

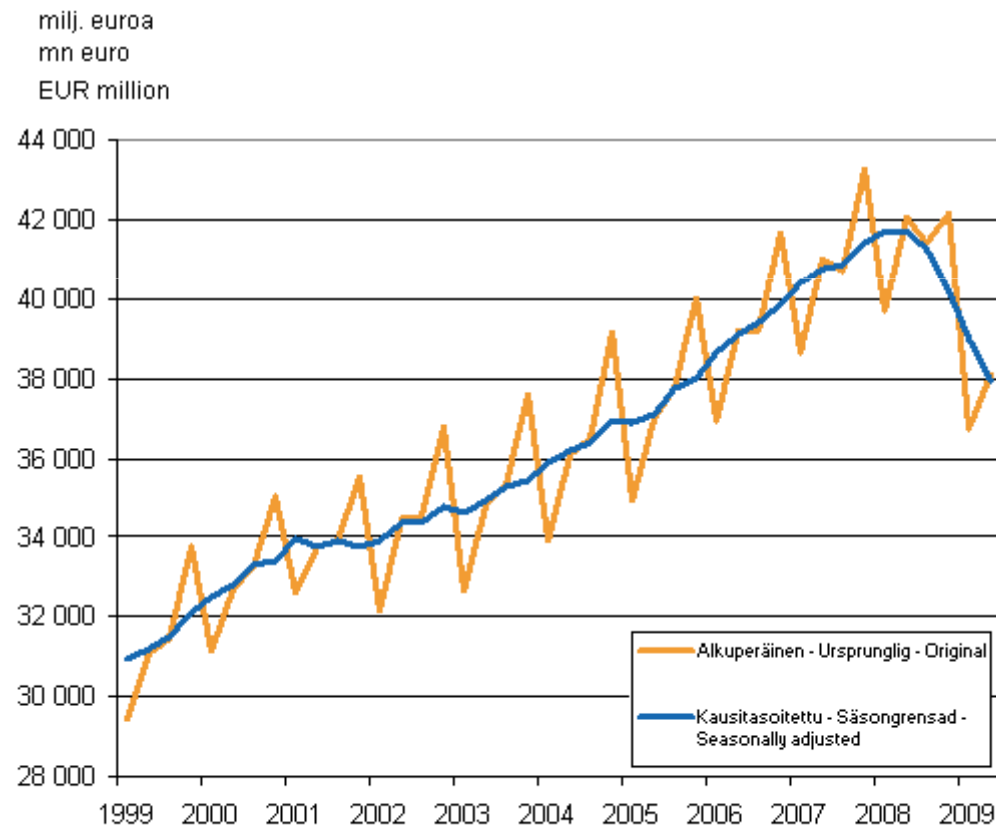
- Mixed methods (triangulation):
 - Interviews
 - Observations
 - Mediadiscourses
 - Statistics
 - Comparative methods



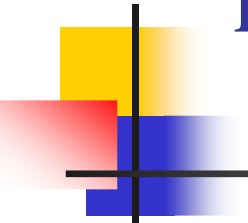
Sub-studies

- **Sub-study 1. *Short-term unemployment, lifestyles and the changing meaning of work* (Anna Sell): *Well-Educated YP* in permanently short-term jobs and employment (artists, free-lancer journalists, researchers, electronic and new-media specialists, communications professionals etc.) Interviews in Helsinki; Public Discourse, Ethnographic material**
- **Sub-study 2. Future orientation and life-expectations of young *long time unemployed* (Marjaana Kojo): *low educated* groups and/or no vocational education; Interviews in South Finland**
- **Sub-study 3. Persisting *short-term unemployment* experienced by young people in different labour markets in Finland (Jaana Lähteenmaa and Helena Helve): *Vocational education, skilled workers* in tourism, Interviews in Lapland, Internet Discussion, On-line survey**

Finland: Gross domestic product by quarter at reference year 2000 prices GNP growth over 1999-2009



Distribution of the Finnish Gross National Product and youth unemployment rates



■ Year	mill. euro/inhabitant	15-29 unempl (%)	
■ 1990	89,7	18 000	9,4
■ 1995	95,9	18 777	29,9
■ 1997	107,6	20 929	25,3
■ 2000	132,2	25 541	21,6
■ 2005	157,1	29 946	18,8
■ 2008	184,7	34 769	22,5


- (Finnish Statistics: kansantalouden tilinpito 1999-2008)



Background information

- **After the great recession (in the 1990 ´s) the unemployment rates have stayed relatively high especially among youth**
- **Permanently short-term employment/project contracts**
- **YP outside unemployment compensation system - training places, educational programmes - hidden unemployment**
- **Changing meaning of employment/ unemployment**
- **Gender differences – women in temporarily based jobs**
- **Weakening of the employment situation affected young people with little education and work experience**
- **Unemployment and marginalisation are socially hereditary (cf. Carle and Julkunen 1997)**
- **Mostly young Finns under 25 in education**

Unemployment rates and labour force participation of 15 – 24-year olds in European Union Countries in 1997 and 2009(%)



	% of labour force	1997	2009
		unemployed %	
Finland	8,1	27,4	18,8
France	8,4	28,9	22,3
Belgium	8,8	22,9	21,3
Greece	9,1	31,0	24,2
Sweden	9,2	21,1	24,2
Italy	10,4	33,5	24,9
Luxembourg	10,8	9,1	19,1
Germany	11,0	9,9	10,5
Spain	12,4	41,9	33,6
Portugal	12,8	16,7	19,6
Austria	14,7	6,0	9,0
Great Britain	14,9	15,5	17,9
Netherlands	15,3	11,5	6,0
Denmark	17,1	10,6	8,9
Ireland	17,2	18,2	21,5

(Euro Statistics 2009; Helsingin Sanomat 19.3.1999, A 14.)



Problems in transitions to work

- Unemployment is inherited?
- Working temporally
- Not flexible job markets
- Difficultien in getting the first job
- Risks and uncertainty
- Short-term employment
- Lack of resources
- Precarious jobs
- Lack of training opportunities
- Lack of decent work
- Social exlusion of NEETS
- Longer transition periods

Generation of Disappointment?



- In EU 96 milj. 15-24 year olds
- NEETS 1/3
- Not in
 - - education
 - - employment
 - -training



Professional young people: lost of the perspective of life-course?

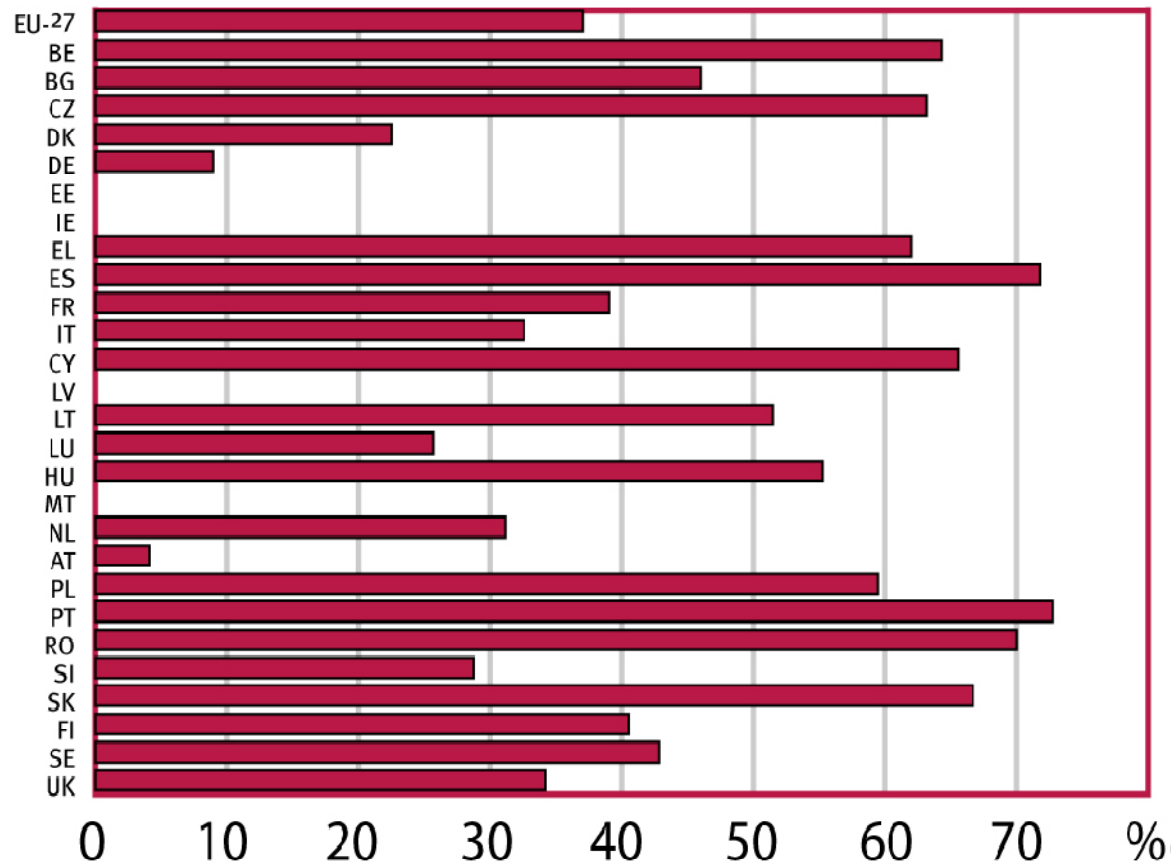
- Anna: I don't know, I am quite satisfied here. I like this kind of seasonal (temporarily HH) jobs even if it is unsure if I get a job after this. I like to be in this Mountain (a skiing resort in Lapland HH). When the other ones are during summers in south, I like to be here. I haven't done anything else than these mountain jobs (in Lapland HH). Here it is own magic. I am coming back here. ..I believe that I will find always some work even here it is lots of unemployed people... I think that they have not really tried to find work...also I know unemployed people who live with the unemployment money ... I don't like that we pay our taxes for these people. I am annoyed about their attitudes ...I found this job myself from the website of an employment office



New Precarious Work-life

- non-standard
- part-time employment
- fixed-term work
- (projects)
- temporary work
- poorly paid
- insecure
- unprotected
- no standard employment relationship
- demands of flexibility
- gendered nature

Percentage of people aged 15-24 that have a temporary job because they could not find permanent job, 2007



Source: Eurostat – Labour Force Survey

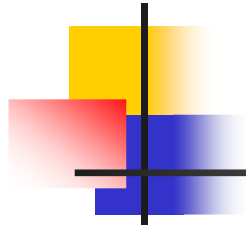
Note: BE, BG, DE, EL, ES, LT, LU, NL, AT, UK: unreliable or uncertain data due to small sample size

Values... (Helve, 2002)



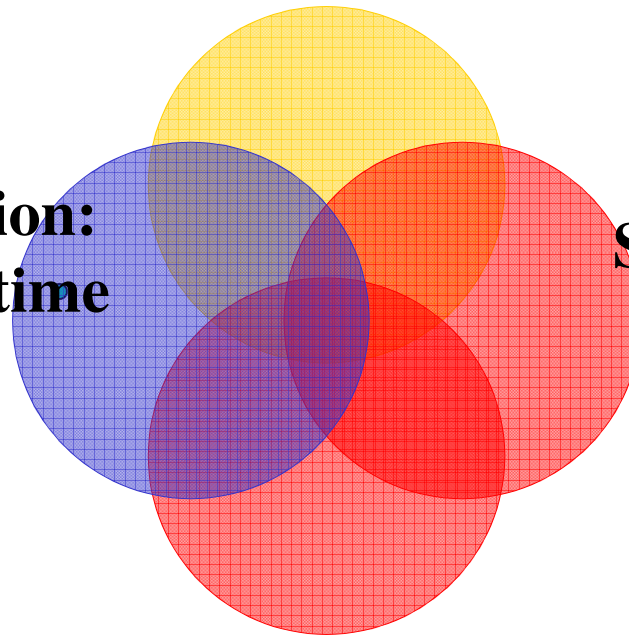
- Post-materialistic values
 - - quality of life, health
 - - friends, social relationships
 - - work, interesting content, flexibility
 - - education, improving the opportunities
 - - leisure time, hobbies

World View: Changes



**Affective dimension:
extended present**

**Cognitive dimension:
transformation of time
and space**



**Social dimension:
pluralisation of
identities**

**Behavioral dimension:
virtual life**

“Being unemployed is not so bad if income is secured”

	Fully agree	Agree to a large extent	Disagree to a large extent	Completely disagree	Cannot say
■ The unemployed					
■ 1994	17%	30%	29%	21%	3%
■ 1997	25%	22%	30%	21%	3%
■ 2000	17%	33%	27%	23%	0%
■ 2007	36%	34%	22%	7%	0%
■ 2009	15%	32%	37%	15%	0%

■ Nuorisobarometri 2007



Conclusions...

- **Different living conditions of young people – different kind of YP**
- **Several kinds of transitions**
- **Temporary unemployed - not long term planning**
- **Leisure time activities very important**
- **Freedom to live in own way**
- **Weak signals: changing world views and values**
- **New lifestyles, relationships and ethics**
- **Dual connection to the world views: 1) Individual -past, present and future, cyclic time 2) Collective institutionalized linear time dimensions**
- **Future is unpredictable and flexible to change**
- **Flexible and temporary world views accept temporary jobs and lifestyles**
- **No rush to adulthood – prolonged youth**



Discussion: What is needed?

- **Public support**
- **Individualised and tailored career paths**
- **Voluntary work**
- **Rebuild employment structures**
- **Combine training and education**
- **Targeted and holistic forms of assistance**
- **Multi-professionalism**
- **Social quarantees**

THANK YOU!

- *To get back to one's youth one has merely repeat ones follies*
(Oscar Wilde)

