Monthly Seminar

Anthropology of Children and Youth Network

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

Friday 16 November 2012 13.00-14.30
VU University Amsterdam, Metropolitan Building, room Z-113

Transforming youth and child social services: a European comparison

Caroline Vink,
senior expert Netherlands Youth Institute

Over the coming years the Dutch child and youth social services will be decentralised and transformed. Dutch municipalities will become responsible for all policies concerning children and young people, including child protection and mental health care. The reason behind this decentralisation is that the system is too complex and fragmented, leading to high costs and ineffective services. The demand of specialised child and youth care services also increases by approximately 10% every year. The decentralisation is not only a system change, but should also lead to a transformation in perspectives on child and youth policies. At the Netherlands Youth Institute we have studied the systems and services of many European countries to assess what lessons can be learned to shift the at risk focus to more preventive services and better outcomes for children and families.

The Anthropology of Children and Youth Network (based at VU University, Amsterdam) brings together academics and practitioners engaged in research and work with children. Through monthly seminars, the Network promotes child-oriented theory, methodology, and research ethics. Besides, it serves as a platform for (interdisciplinary) academic research and it enhances dialogue with practitioners through joint research projects, publications and conferences.

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