



WHAT WORKS? YOUTH TRANSITIONS FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Prof. Päivi Honkatukia

International partners: HEM Business School – Institut des Hautes Etudes de Management in Morocco and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) in Tunisia.

Youth unemployment rates in the Middle East and North Africa are higher than in any other region in the world, and the education system does not respond effectively to the needs on the job market. The young people face multiple problems when they try to move from education to working life and towards adulthood. Therefore many young people aspire to migrate either to study or work outside the region.

The What works? -project aims to understand young people's livelihood strategies and the uncertainties in their lives at the crossroads of global tendencies, expectations and local structural settings. The project examines the factors that currently sustain patterns of marginalisation and hinder youth transitions to productive and decent work or meaningful life. Further, it strives to find out what could be done to overcome these factors. In doing so, three areas of research are addressed: youth initiatives of social entrepreneurship; young people's job seeking strategies; and young people's aspirations to migrate abroad for the purposes of education and employment. Upon analysis, the project reconsiders theoretical approaches to youth transition into adulthood in the region.

The project team includes researchers with a long record of researching youth transitions in the region. The team from Morocco elaborates participatory laboratories for young people's social entrepreneurship and innovation, and the Finnish team involves researchers who have studied youth conditions in Egypt and Tunisia and a statistician who analyses the extensive survey data sets from the region.



MAIN PUBLICATIONS

- Henri Onodera, Bruno Lefort, Sofia Laine and Karim Maïche (2018) Dynamics of engagement among youth in Arab Mediterranean countries. *The Journal of North African Studies* (FNAS). Article ID: FNAS 1547197
- Laine, Sofia & Myllylä, Martta (2018) "Political chronotopes of youth engagement: Towards more inclusive and enabling environments". In Sánchez, J. and Sánchez-Montijano, E. (eds). *Youth at the margins: Perspectives on Arab Mediterranean youth*. London: Routledge.
- Laine, Sofia & Suurpää, Leena & Ltifi, Afifa (2018), "Respectful resistance. Young musicians and the unfinished revolution in Tunisia", in E. Oinas, L. Suurpää, and H. Onodera (eds.) *What Politics? Youth political engagement in Africa*. Leiden: Brill.
- Maïche, Karim & Onodera, Henri & Lefort, Bruno & Laine, Sofia & Myllylä, Martta (2017) *SAHWA Policy Report: Breaking the triple marginalisation of youth? Mapping the future prospects of youth inclusion in Arab Mediterranean countries*. 9.2.2017.
- Oinas, Elina & Onodera, Henri & Suurpää, Leena (eds) (2018) *What politics? Youth and political engagement in Africa*. Leiden & Boston: Brill.



CONTACT:

paivi.honkatukia@tuni.fi, +358(0)50 318 6743

WWW.AKA.FI/DEVELOP

