PROJJECT 2018 in progress

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**Title**

 **International Research Collaboration on Gender, Youth and Mobilities**

This EPU project will explore the possibility for establishing a solid, interdisciplinary research collaboration on young adulthood from an integrative perspective of gender and mobilities, with the aim of identifying internationally viable research themes. Our proposal involves five social scientists from Sociology, Educational Science and Communication Studies based at the **Universities of Salzburg** and **Hong Kong.**

**Outcomes: feasibility study and academic network**

Given our general common interest in gender, youth, and spatial and social mobilities, we aim to tease out a research agenda pertinent to the issue of (1) ‘marriageability’, (2) prolonged co-residence with parents, and (3) the ‘employability’ of former international students who have returned to China/Austria. Based on this, we will map the state of the art, which will serve as a sound basis for prospective research projects in China and Austria, strengthening and widening the existing international and interdisciplinary collaboration between the two universities. The activities during the EPU project phase will enable the partners to connect, exchange on these selected themes and develop a coherent, internationally competitive research program. We want to utilize our EPU results to acquire funding for international projects in the mid-term.

**Strategy: two-plus-three**

* •  We draw on key findings and knowledge from two ongoing dissertations, one on marriage and gender in China and the other one on the prolonged residence of young adults in their parental homes in Hong Kong.
* •  Three senior researchers expand the scope of these dissertations, utilizing their own fields of expertise including gender, migration/mobilities, youth, life course, transitions, and criminology.
* •  Jointly, all five researchers develop encompassing research agendas.

To this end, our EPU core activities will consist of two face-to-face work visits, one in Austria and the other in Hong Kong. During the visit (7-10 days), we will discuss future research activities. In Salzburg, we are planning to organize a workshop with colleagues and stakeholders to obtain feedback to our research plans.

**Rationale and sustainability**

Current debates around “young adulthood” have largely remained either male-dominated or gender- blind. They also tend to neglect the spatial dimension in young people’s life, failing to take into account both a non-western, global perspective and the meaning of (im)mobilities. Our feasibility study aims at identifying international research agendas, which have the potential to both challenge existing knowledge and add substantially to it. In the medium term, we plan to investigate the vibrant, differentiated realities of young adulthood in China and Austria under two intersecting dimensions: gender, and social and spatial mobilities (migration and short-term mobility). In order to seek out a perspective for this kind of creative research, it is necessary for us to engage in an intensive dialogue. In addition, the EPU project would allow us to explore the possibilities for future joint teaching and training activities between PLUS and HKU.