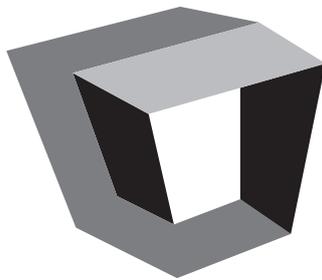


FSD2461

**Finnish Female Student Interviews
2008-2009**

Dataset guide



FINNISH SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVE

Bibliographic citation to this dataset guide:

Finnish Female Student Interviews 2008-2009 [data guide]. Finnish Social Science Data Archive [producer and distributor], 2018.

The dataset guide is based on data version 1.0 (8.10.2009).

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Finnish Social Science Data Archive
<http://www.fsd.uta.fi/en/>

To the reader

This dataset guide is part of the dataset FSD2461 archived at the FSD (Finnish Social Science Data Archive). The guide begins with information on data content, structure and collection. There is also a list of publications wholly or in part based on the data, according to publication information received by the FSD. The data guide may contain attached files, for instance, interview questions or themes, participation invitation, transcription guidelines, or stimulation material used in the study. In case of textual data, there is also a data example, demonstrating, for instance, the level of transcription.

If necessary, the documents mentioned above have been anonymised. When the dataset is downloaded for use, all the documents included in the guide are also delivered as separate files. The data and its creators shall be cited in all publications and presentations for which the data have been used. The bibliographic citation may be in the form suggested by the archive or in the form required by the publication

The data and its creators shall be cited in all publications and presentations for which the data have been used. The bibliographic citation may be in the form suggested by the archive or in the form required by the publication.

Mary, Aurelie (University of Tampere): Finnish Female Student Interviews 2008-2009 [dataset]. Version 1.0 (2009-10-08). Finnish Social Science Data Archive [distributor]. <http://urn.fi/urn:nbn:fi:fsd:T-FSD2461>

The user shall notify the archive of all publications where she or he has used the data. The original data creators and the archive bear no responsibility for any results or interpretations arising from the reuse of the data.

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Chapter 1

Study description

1.1 Titles

Titles and data version: Finnish Female Student Interviews 2008-2009

Titles and data version in Finnish: Suomalaisten naisopiskelijoiden haastattelut 2008-2009

The dataset guide is based on data version 1.0 (8.10.2009).

1.2 Subject description

Authoring entity

Mary, Aurelie (University of Tampere. Department of Sociology and Social Psychology)

Copyright statement for the data

According to the agreement between FSD and the depositor.

Depositor

Mary, Aurelie (University of Tampere. Department of Sociology and Social Psychology)

Date of deposit

24.9.2009

Keywords

educational background; employment; family life; generation gap; generations (age); hobbies; life styles; living standards; students; transition to adulthood; undergraduates; women's employ-

1. Study description

ment; youth employment

Topic Classification

Fields of Science Classification: social sciences

CESSDA Classification: employment; higher and further education; transition to adulthood

Series description

The data belong to the series:

Individual datasets

Individual datasets that do not belong to any series.

Abstract

This interview data is a comparative analysis on young adults' social and economic situation in Finland and in France. The research concentrates on young people in their twenties, experiencing transition from university to working life.

In the first part of the interview the research subjects were asked about their education e.g. what they were studying, how far along were the studies, why they had decided whatever they were studying, how educated was the rest of their family and what they thought of the Finnish university system. The next set of questions were about employment, for example what kind of work they wanted to do, what kind of working experience they had, how they see the job market and working life and how they feel about entering working life. After this the subjects were asked about their living arrangements, where they lived, how they financed their living and whether they wished to own their own houses at some point. The next questions were about family, whether the interviewees placed more stress on family or their careers, if they wanted to marry and/or have children and how they would manage to balance a career and the role of motherhood. The last set of questions was about the transition from youth to adulthood. The interviewees were asked about their conceptions of adulthood, how the transition from university to the working world will be for them and whether they were happy with their life in general.

The second part of the interview was done with the same themes and questions as the first, only this time the interviewees were asked to answer the questions with the regard on their friends and close relations.

The third part of the interview was done with the same themes and questions as the first and second, this time the interviewees were asked to answer the questions from their own perspectives on their parents at the same age.

In the last part of the interview the interviewees were asked to describe their future situations, whether they felt that being a woman was a hindrance or an aid in the transition to working/adult life and whether they viewed their generation as unique or special.

1.3 Structure and collection of the data

Country: Finland

Geographic coverage: Finland

Analysis or observation unit type: Individual

Universe: Female Finnish students aged from twenty to thirty about to finish their studies and starting working life.

Collection date: 8.10.2008 – 12.12.2008

Data collector(s): Mary, Aurelie (University of Tampere. Department of Sociology and Social Psychology)

Mode of data collection: Face-to-face interview

Type of research instrument: Interview scheme and/or themes

Time method of the data collection: Cross-section

Sampling procedure: Non-probability: Availability

Non-probability: Respondent-assisted

Several participants have been recruited via the e-mail lists of the Departments of the University of Tampere. An announcement explaining the need for research informants has been forwarded to a variety of departments e-mail lists and several young women who were interested in the research responded. Several informants were also contacted and found via the international hospitality service network Couch Surfing (an international non-profit organisation). In addition, the snowball process was used, mostly asking fellow students if they knew any female students who might agree to take part in the research.

Data Files: 11 rtf-files in English, approximately 350 pages.

1.4 Use of data

Data appraisal

The Finnish material has been archived in its entirety, the French material is unavailable.

Any references to full or first names, cities, towns or specific places or companies, locations or organizations that might identify a place or a person have been removed.

Related publications

Mary Aurélie (2012). *The Illusion of the Prolongation of Youth. Transition to Adulthood among Finnish and French Female University Students*. Tampere: Tampere University Press. NTS/NTV publications 130. Acta Electronica Universitatis Tamperensis 1242. urn:isbn:978-951-44-8927-3

Updated list of publications in the study description at

1. Study description

https://services.fsd.uta.fi/catalogue/FSD2461?lang=en&study_language=en

Location of the data collection

Finnish Social Science Data Archive

Restrictions

The dataset is (B) available for research, teaching and study.

Appendix A

Interview questions

FSD2461 SUOMALAISTEN NAISOPISKELIJOIDEN HAASTATTELUT 2008-2009

FSD2461 FINNISH FEMALE STUDENT INTERVIEWS 2008-2009

Tämä dokumentti on osa yllä mainittua Yhteiskuntatieteelliseen tietoaarkistoon arkistoitua tutkimusaineistoa.

Dokumenttia hyödyntävien tulee viitata siihen asianmukaisesti lähdeviitteellä.

Lisätiedot: <http://www.fsd.uta.fi/>

This document forms a part of the above mentioned dataset, archived at the Finnish Social Science Data Archive.

If the document is used or referred to in any way, the source must be acknowledged by means of an appropriate bibliographic citation.

More information: <http://www.fsd.uta.fi/>

Detta dokument utgör en del av den ovannämnda datamängden, arkiverad på Finlands samhällsvetenskapliga dataarkiv.

Om dokument är utnyttjat eller refererat till måste källan anges i form av bibliografisk referens.

Mer information: <http://www.fsd.uta.fi/>

INTERVIEWS: PROCESS & QUESTIONS

Study conducted in Tampere, Finland – autumn-winter 2008-09

INTRODUCTORY PHASE

- Personal intro and hospitality
- The purpose of the interview:

“This interview is conducted for the purpose of a PhD research in sociology. I'm doing a comparative analysis on young adults' social and economic situation in Finland and in France. The research concentrates on young people in their twenties, experiencing transition from university to working life. I also study the social and economic changes that occurred in the last 10-20 years, in comparison to the conditions that existed in the 1960s-1970s, and I analyse how these changes influence young adults' living arrangements.

Since this study concerns young people, it seemed important to allow some young people to express their opinion on the current socio-economic situation. Statistics offer useful information on young people's living conditions, but they don't explain why some issues are occurring. The main goal of my research is to explain the youth's situation from young people's own points of view. That's why I decided to do interviews.

This interview should last for about 1h30.

- Explanations about the recording and the research ethics (inform & consent):

“The interview should be recorded so that we can transcribe it later on. I hope this is Ok with you? The data will only be used for scientific purposes. I will use some quotes when writing my PhD thesis, in papers for conferences, articles written to journals, and also in a common book on youth transition to adulthood that we plan to write with some colleagues from the department of sociology. The same material will be used again later when the PhD thesis will be rewritten in a publishable form. Of course, I won't reveal the name of any participant, nor very personal information: I will use fictitious names so as to keep your anonymity. Also, all the information given will be kept confidentially and no one else than me and Jenni will be able to access it.”

“If you wish to get more information about my research or the results of the study, please, don't hesitate to contact me!”

- Explanations on the interview plan:

“The interview will go as such:

The 1st part will concern your own views on your social and economic situation. The 2nd part will focus on your opinions on young adults' situation around you; young adults that you know, about your age. And the 3rd part will be about your perspectives on your parents' situation when they were about your age, and when they started professional life.”

I – PRESENT AND FUTURE: PERSONAL SITUATION

a) Education

1 – “To start with, can I ask you what you are studying? I know you mentioned it in the email, but just to get a bit more precisions?”

- “So now you are writing your master thesis?”

2 – “Why did you choose to study this subject?”

- “Are you satisfied with your choice?”

3 – “And *why* did you choose to go to university? [Motivations]

- “Is there someone in your family who studied at university?” [Who?]

- “By the way, how old are you?”

4 – “And what do you think about the Finnish university system in general?”

[Efficient? Disappointed? Lack of guidance and advising?]

- “Do you think you’ll find a job related to your level of study? And related to the subject you studied?”

b) The labour market

1 – “Do you have ideas about the job you’d like to do? Why this job?”

2 – “Do you have some working experiences already? Could you talk about that a bit?”

3 – “How do you view the world of work?”

[labour market; working life in general]

4 – “How do you view the beginning of your working life?” [easy? Difficult? Why?] (chances evaluation on the labour market)

- [“How do you feel about entering working life?”] [How do you feel about the situation?] [afraid? Confident? Feelings of insecurity?]

5 – “Are you in a hurry to finish your studies and to enter working life?”

6 – “Do you feel pressure to develop and lead a successful professional career? [and where does the pressure come from?]

c) Living arrangements

1 – “Can I ask you where do you live at the moment?”

[→ Student accommodation?

- At parents’ place?**
- With your partner?**
- Shared accommodation with friends?**
- On your own? → is this your own flat?]**

2 – “How do you finance your rent and other living expenses?”

[“Where do you get most of your money from?”]

[→ parents?

- grant/study allowances?**
- student loan?**
- housing allowances?**
- Part-time or full-time job?]**

3 – “Later on, would you like to buy your own flat, or house?” [if no, reasons?]

d) Family

1 – “What is your priority between finding a job and starting a family?” Why?

[“Does your professional career seem more important at the present time, rather than starting a family?”]

2 – “Would you like to get married later? Or just live with your partner?”

Why?” [Against marriage institution?]

3 – “And would you like to have children?”

[If no, why?]

4 – “Do you think you’ll be able to develop a professional career and have a family and children at the same time? How?” [perheenäiti]

(Women’s dual-role)

[State’s aid? Maternity leaves? Child care services ? Day-care centres?]

e) Hobbies and personal interests

1 – “Do you have any personal interest or hobbies that are important to you? Or are you involved in associations? Like what?”

(Social capital)

[Leisure activities (music, theatre...)? Sports? Travelling? Going out with friends? Social or political activism? Voluntary work? Charity associations? etc...]

2 – “Do you dedicate a lot of time to these?”

[“How do you organise you time, between your studies, work, private life and personal activities?”]

3 – “And how do you think you’ll manage to combine your personal activities with your future working life, and family life?”

f) Transition

1 – “According to you, what is “being an adult”?”

[What does “being an adult” mean?”]

2 – “And do you feel ‘adult’?” Why?

3 – “What do you think will be the most difficult in your transition from university to working life?”

4 – “And in general, are you satisfied with your life at the moment?”

(Emotional well-being)

[Happy or not? Why?]

II – YOUTHS’ CURRENT SITUATION

“Now I’m going to ask you questions concerning your views on young people’s situation in general”.

a) Education

1 – “According to the statistics, the number of students has largely increased in the last 20 years. In your opinion, what makes young people go to university? Or the young people that you know, like your friends?”

[motivations for studying]

2 – “Do you know young people around you who went directly to work?”

[- What type of education or training did they get?]

[- Did they find a job quickly after finishing school?]

[- How was their integration on the labour market? And how is it going for them now?]

b) The labour market

1 – “How do you view your peers’ integration on the labour market?”

[“And how do you perceive their chances and possibilities of finding a job?”]

[Easy? Difficult?]

2 – “Do you think that they feel pressured to lead a successful professional career?”

[from their family, peers, or society?]

c) Living arrangements

1 – “Where do most of the young people that you know live at the moment?”

[→ Student accommodation?

- At parents’ place?

- With their partner?

- Shared accommodation with friends?

- On their own? → is this your own flat?]

2 – “How do they finance their rent and other living expenses?”

[“Where do they get most of their money from?”]

[→ parents?

- **grant/study allowances?**
- **student loan?**
- **housing allowances?**
- **Part-time or full-time job?]**

d) Family

1 – “What is the relationship status of the young people that you know?”

[Single? Married? Cohabiting ?]

2 – “Do you have many friends that are living together with a partner (married or cohabiting)? And do they have children, or will they get some soon?”

3 – “Does that have an effect on you?”

- **“Does it put pressure on you to start a family?”**

e) Hobbies and personal interests

1 – “Do your peers or friends have any personal interests or hobbies that are important to them? Or are they involved in associations? Like what?”

(Social capital)

[Leisure activities (music, theatre...)? Sports? Travelling? Going out with friends? Social or political activism? Voluntary work? Charity associations? etc...]

- **“How do they organise their time, between studies, work, private life and personal activities?”**

[“Do they dedicate a lot of time to personal activities?”]

f) Transition

1- “Do you consider your friends as adults?”

2 – “What do you consider as the most difficult issue when university students enter working life?”

- “Do you think that those who went to vocational school experience the same difficulties, or are better off?”

- “And what is the hardest thing for the young people that you know, who entered working life recently?” [for both university and vocational students]

[finding a job? Lodging? To become independent? start a family and develop their career at the same time?...]

4 – “And are the young people that you know, or your friends, satisfied with their life in general?”

[Are they happy or not? Why?]

III – PAST

“Now I would like to talk about your points of view on the social and economical situation of your parents when they finished school and entered working life, and when they were about your age”.

“To start with, can I ask you how old are your parents?”

a) Education

1 – “Have your parents been studying?”

2 – “What did they study?”

[“What kind of professional or specialized training, or qualifications did they get?”]

b) The labour market

1 – “Did your parents managed to follow or develop a professional career?”

2 – “How do you think it was for your parents to find work once they finished their studies? *Why?*”

[easier or more difficult than now? More stable and certain than now?]

3 – “Do you think that they had more possibilities and chances to succeed than you have? *Why?* »

4 – “Do you think it was better 30 years ago? *For what reasons?*”

5 – “Have you talked about all that with your parents?”

c) Living arrangements

1 – “Were your parents independent at an early age? How old were they?”

[What was their age when they left home?]

2 – “What did they do when they finished school?”

[Did they work immediately? Did your father do its military service? Travelling?
Start a family?]

3 – “Do you know if they started working early but would have rather continue studying, or doing something else?”

- “Did they have the choice and the possibility to study rather than go immediately to work when they were about your age?”

d) Family

1 – “Are your parents married? At what age did they get married, or moved in together?”

2 – “Before getting married, did they live some time on their own, or with friends, or did they cohabitate together?”

3 – “How old were they when they got their 1st child? And how many children do they have?”

4 – “Do you think that there was more pressure to leave the parental home, find a job and get married at that time?”

e) Hobbies and personal interests

1 – “Did your parents have a lot of hobbies or leisure activities when they were young? Or were they involved in associations? Like what?”

[leisure, travels, sports, political activism...]

- “Did they have lots of time to dedicate to those?”

2 – “In your opinion, do young people nowadays have more personal interests and leisure activities than young people before?”

3 – “Do you think that young people now dedicate a bigger part of their life to leisure activities, in comparison to their parents when they were young?”

[more free time than before? Change in values? Cultural trends? Consumer society and leisure society? Technological evolution (items, transport...)]

f) Transition

1 – “Do you think that your parents became ‘adults’ at an earlier age than young people today? *For which reasons?*”

2 – “Do they put pressure on you sometimes to find a job (and finish studying) or to lead a successful career? Or to start a family?”

- “Or do you get lots of support and understanding from your parents?”

3 – “In general, do you think that life for young people was easier or more difficult when your parents were young? *Why?*”

- “*Have you talked about that with them?*”

(“In your opinion, what is the main difference, or the main differences, between you and your parents, if you think about entering working life?”)

4 – “Do you think that young people were happier 30 years ago? *Why?*”

CONCLUSION

1 – “For the last part of this interview, I’d like to ask you if **you have an idea about what you’ll be doing or how will your life be in 5 or 10 years?**”

[“How do you perceive yourself and your future life?”]

2 – “Also, do you feel that being a woman can facilitate or complicate your entry into working life or life in general?”

→ With regards to:

- finding a job and developing a professional career
- living independently
- starting a family (biological pressure)
- dual-role/dual-career (professional career & family/mother)
- stop or continue personal activities”

3 – “Do you consider your generation as unique, or standing apart? *For which reasons?*”

CLOSURE

- Thank people for their help; hospitality.
- Summary of what I think I’ve learnt from the interview, give feedback and extra comments.
- Ask if they would like more info concerning my work in the future, mainly concerning the results of the study.
- State again how the data will be processed (confidentiality).
- Send an extra email to express gratitude.

Appendix B

Data example

FSD2461 SUOMALAISTEN NAISOPISKELIJOIDEN HAASTATTELUT 2008-2009

FSD2461 FINNISH FEMALE STUDENT INTERVIEWS 2008-2009

Tämä dokumentti on osa yllä mainittua Yhteiskuntatieteelliseen tietoaarkistoon arkistoitua tutkimusaineistoa.

Dokumenttia hyödyntävien tulee viitata siihen asianmukaisesti lähdeviitteellä.

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Mer information: <http://www.fsd.uta.fi/>

Date of interview: 13th of November 2008

Place of interview: Tampere

Interviewer: R

Informant: I

Gender of informant: Female

Age of informant: 25

----- Part I -----

R: Can I ask what you're studying, cause you mentioned French but, are you /I: Yes/ doing something else?

I: I'm studying French, but it's almost finished now, so I only have to make my masters...

R: The thesis, you can say in Finnish, yeah...

I: Gradu, yeah, and...and then I'm studying Administrative Sciences as my...sivuaine

A: Minor subject, yeah.

I: Yeah. And then also Spanish and History. So I only have to do now the Administrative Science things, and then my gradu, and then I'll be ready.

R: You're studying different subjects, like quite different fields.

I: Yes. I don't want to be a teacher, or traduct/...

A: Translate?

I: Translator, yeah, /R: Yeah/ so, so, I decided to choose really a different way to finish my studies now, so...I like studying the administration things.

R: So you plan to have a job mostly related to that?

I: Yes.

R: And do you know in what field exactly, or?

I: I could be working in an organization, or in the community...kunta...

A: Mmm...yeah, it's community /R: yeah/

I: Yeah, or in the some, like, non governmental...how do you say it?

R: Oh, is it NGOs?

I: NGOs, yeah, or something like that. And now I'm thinking of...getting my työharjoittelu...(internship)/A: mm./ done in some embassy in some country, but I don't know if I'm qualified enough. That's my goal now.

R: Because you speak different languages /I: Yes/ so you could work abroad also?

I: Mmm.

R: Do you plan actually to work abroad?

I: I would like to try, for a while, yeah. But I'm not planning to stay abroad for a very long time, I like living in Finland too. And then, I lived in France and I could go back because it was nice, and I've also lived in Spain, so I could go there too, or closer to Finland somewhere.

R: Oh, were you an Erasmus in France?

I: Yeah, I was in [a city in France].

R: Oh, (laughs) that was a bit/ I: different/ R: different place from France

I: Yeah

R: And why did you choose to study French when you started, you know you're studies?

I: When I started in 2003 there was a big hype about the French language in the European Union, like how it's so useful and it's going to get bigger and bigger and people are really going to need French speaking people in the European Union, then it changed and I was thinking about becoming a teacher but now everything's changed again, but in the beginning I thought I would work for E...e...EU...Äh...

R: Yeah, EU, yeah... You can say some words also in French sometimes /A: Yeah/

I: It's hard to speak English now

R: Don't worry, just take your time and say it in whatever language, we can communicate

/A: we're multilingual/ Yeah! (everybody laughs).

R: And did you go to university straight after lukio (high school)?

I: Yes, but I was in lukio for four years, because I started my French studies the second year so it took three years, so I stayed there for four years, so I had time to figure it out and I've also liked languages my whole life, and I think, when I lived in Spain I was really young, so it got stuck somewhere here (points to her head) and I wanted to use it afterwards again, so... It wasn't so hard to come to study languages, but then it's changed a bit now, I'd like to study something else too!

R: Yeah, and also work-wise, if you want to do something else with languages it's a bit

I: Yes, you have to find something else, on the side, and not only languages. Yeah.

R: And why did you choose to go to university, was it because it's the place to study languages?

I: Yes, it was the only place to study, and also in Tampere it's free to choose something else inside the university, so it was the freedom thing but I also tried to, I applied to some ammattikorkeakoulu (Polytechnic) to study viestintä (Communications), because it was in [urban municipality, Southern Finland] where I came from, so it was like the choice to stay there, but it didn't work out, I got on the queue, and now I'm happy it worked out like this. But yeah, I had some options, and now this is the best one I think.

R: Yeah, sometimes something doesn't work out but then something else comes

I: Yeah, and it's good it goes like that. Yeah.