

Sexualities and Diversities in the Making

Abstract

The daily practice of young people and their perspective on their sexuality and sexual identity has received little attention. In societal and scientific debates, the sexual development of adolescents is problematized or medicalized. Similarly, gender equality and the attitude of young people towards homosexuality is seen as problematic, especially in relation to multicultural diversity. Quantitative research into the sexuality of adolescents fails to attend to the dynamics of identities by defining categories of diversity beforehand, therewith reproducing existing stereotypes.

This pioneering qualitative research programme investigates how young people in the Netherlands from different backgrounds enact their sexuality and the way this enactment is affected by and has an effect on the differences and similarities they produce among themselves. It examines how different spaces in which adolescents live their lives, in particular school and social media, limit or enable their possibilities to explore, experience, protect, develop or display their sexuality and sexual identity.

This programme will produce novel insights about

- (1) the perspective of young people on their sexuality;
- (2) the way particular spaces enable or limit the diversity of sexual identities;
- (3) the entwinement of sexuality with diversity.

These insights will be disseminated to professionals and the public.

Keywords:

- *diversity*
- *sexual development adolescents*
- *spaces/practices*
- *school*
- *social media*