

Young Finnish People with Muslim Background Negotiating Their Sense of Belonging through Art

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Abstract

In my presentation I will discuss the performative participatory research project *Young Muslims and Resilience (2016-2018)*, and particularly the process of making an exhibition together with the co-researching participants (*Numur - I and Islam* will be staged in the Cultural Centre Stoa's Gallery, November 2017). I have been mainly working with female participants (age 18-35). They have multiple backgrounds and their relationship to religion differs. Generally, their various subject positions intersect (or even conflict) with each other. Anyway, their common experience is that they are subjected to certain expectations and images, both from the side of the majority population and their own ethnic and religious communities. In their artworks (such as photos, photo, video and textile installations and paintings) they deal for example with the questions such as gender and space, islamophobia, Islamic feminist and queer views, multilingualism, spirituality and transnational identities. In my presentation, I will present the background of the project and discuss the ideas the research process has awakened. I also explore the art works done by the participants and their relationship to current theoretical, popular and artis-

tic discussions. I will also ask a couple of co-researchers to participate on the presentation of my paper.

Keywords

Young Finnish people with Muslim background, Performative approach, Belonging, Islamic feminism and queer activism.