Children’s Society

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In my PhD thesis Participation and agency. Children’s Participation, Citizenship and Politics in everyday life I explore participation and agency from children’s point of view, by studying how children give meaning to their everyday spaces and perform as political actors in their everyday lives. Theoretically, I draw from Georg Simmel’s distinction between life from one’s own perspective and life produced by the society. Like John Agnew (2002), I use this approach to study ”everyday politics”.

Based on Simmel’s conception of sociation, I have developed understanding about children’s participation and agency as lines of sociation. Within these lines, children’s P/participation, C/citizenship and P/politics are understood at the same time as part of their everyday environments (participation, citizenship and politics) and their societies (Participation, Citizenship, Politics). Conceptually, I lean on the work of Nigel Thomas (participation), Lynn Staeheli (citizenship) and Kirsi Pauliina Kallio (politics). In my presentation, I will first introduce the basic idea of the lines of sociation and then focus on children’s perspectives. To conclude, I discuss how these lines help to create a broader understanding about children’s participation and agency in contemporary societies.

Keywords: agency, Participation, sociation