Anthropology of Adolescence Notes

Mead: Coming of Age in Samoa

What was your response to the book? Did you like it? Why or why not? – Not really a definite age as to when adolescence starts.

How is adolescence defined in the book?

What are the arguments about adolescence that are made in this book? – It’s a western perspective that adolescence is the stressful storm...

What was notable to you in this book? Why? – It took a lot of guts to do this on her own...

Child psychology wouldn’t focus on identity crisis... there is not as much mental confusion within adolescents in Samoa...

Ethno-psychologists would ask: what role do I have? Instead of: who am I?

Even with Mead’s research it’s hard to be certain of what the true culture was like... She was only there for 6 months and she has no firsthand accounts from the Samoans.

With seasonal changes comes cultural changes.

Ethnographic veto...

Boaz... Who?

Mead’s ethnography has many paradoxes.

We try to make generalizations... Studies won’t have impact unless the research you find creates a universal or essentially universal truth...

In Mead’s book she brings up all the discrepancies and the cases that don’t apply to her generalizations and observations.

Socialization is with peers and those in your age group... Enculturation – growing up and learning cultural practices and norms, looks at child in context of their culture and their surroundings...

Bifurcated

Comparative studies...

Adolescent Socialiazation Project

Social adolescence, not biological, is nearly universal because there is such cross-cultural...

Adolescence can still be a disctive social stage with its own activities, behaviors and expectations that do not mirror that of intence schooling immersion in per group and stress school immegsion peer group and stress.

Cognitive dissonance...

Turks in Germany

German girls are allowed be friends with boys or sleepover at friends’ houses, Turkish girls aren’t

Notion of home

Costs and benefits of keeping passports

What about boys?

Youth Cultures