

On youth civic and political ~~in~~activity

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For decades, scholars and policymakers have warned of a noticeable decline in youth political participation. All the while, anecdotal observations consistently show that young people are at the core of many current social and political movements. Although the truth about youth participation, unsurprisingly, lies somewhere in between, its promotion remains an important goal of many scholarly and educational efforts. The demographic and psychological antecedents of civic behaviour are well studied, but their contribution to promoting behaviour change is often limited. This may be due, in part, to the complexity of decision making and behaviour in the social domain, but also the specific challenges that the developmental stages of adolescence and emerging adulthood present for individuals. In the presentation, I will thus discuss developmental considerations of civic participation and highlight some general societal challenges. I will then focus on political orientations and civic identity (the representations people have about their participation and membership in the community), and present some recent advances we have made in their measurement and in understanding their contribution to youth civic and political (in)activity.