



Sparkling Science > Science linking with School School linking with Science

Research Project

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GLO-PART

Young Participation in Glo-cal Politics. Adolescent Perceptions of and Interventions in Europeanized and Globalized Politics

LEADING INSTITUTION

University of Vienna, Department of Political Science
Univ.Prof. Mag. Dr. Sieglinde Rosenberger
sieglinde.rosenberger@univie.ac.at

SCHOOLS INVOLVED

AHS Rahlgasse, Vienna
GRG Auf der Schmelz 16, Vienna
IBC Hetzendorf, Vienna



Basic Information about Sparkling Science

Sparkling Science is a research program of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF) which started in 2007 and adopts an unconventional way in the promotion of young scientists that is unique in Europe.

The specific characteristic of the program: so far 168* projects (94 of them have already been completed) scientists work side by side with young people in current scientific research projects: Sparkling Science supports big research projects and supported from 2007 until 2010 also smaller school research projects.

In the 114 big research projects (42 have already been completed) the young colleagues take an active part and work independently on parts of the research projects. As junior colleagues they introduce important suggestions into the research approach. They collaborate in the conception and conducting of investigations, conduct polls, collect data, interpret these together with the researchers and present the results at schools, universities and even at scientific conferences.

In a second initiative within the Sparkling Science program the BMWF awarded grants to smaller projects that were submitted and conducted not by the involved research institutions, but by the schools, who designed and lead the projects themselves. In these projects, too, schoolchildren worked closely together with researchers, supporting state-of-the-art research activities and contributing to the results.

Both sides of the program is/were open to a broad thematic spectrum. Research is carried out on all sorts of different topics: from mechatronics and molecular biology to migration research, from acoustics and biometrics to literature research.

* Status quo: January 2012



One Example out of 168

GLO-PART

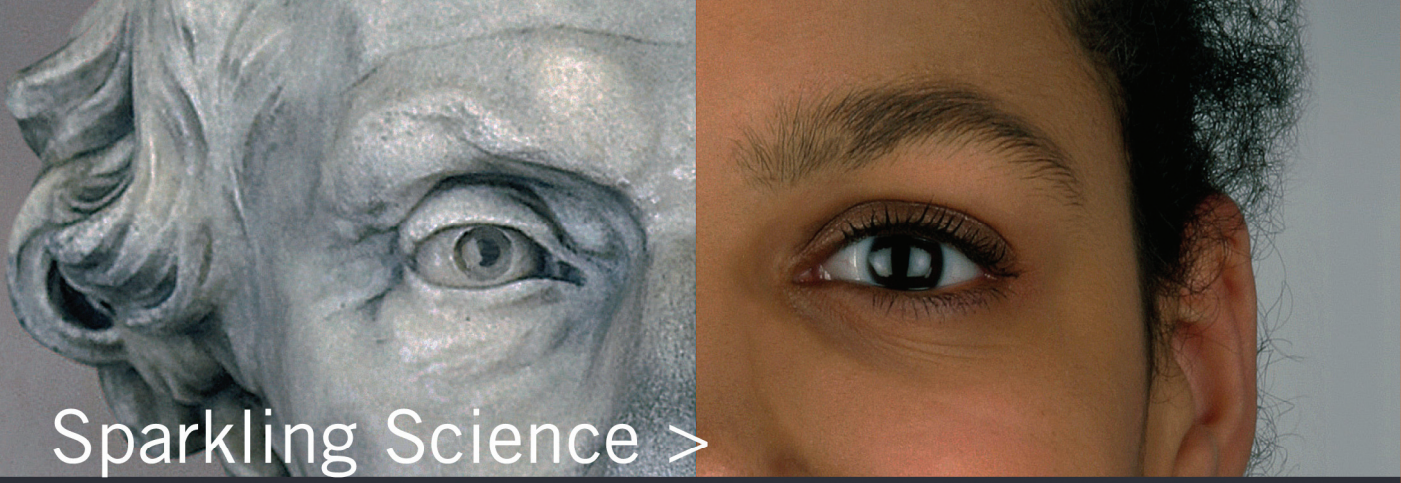
How do adolescents experience europeanized/globalized politics? Which problems, topics, and actors are perceived as “political”? Which conventional and unconventional forms of political participation are recognized and practiced by young people?

The project “GLO-PART” emanated from the point of view that political processes of Globalization and Europeanization affect the perceptions and interpretations of the political. Moreover, these specific perceptions of politics (topics, processes, levels, and actors) define the participatory opportunities for adolescents.

The project investigated youth perceptions (i. e. orientations and opinions) of politics from the perspective of inclusion/exclusion. In order to analyze the processes and politics of inclusion and exclusion we focussed on the concept of belonging, which encompasses at least two essential dimensions: One subjective – how do students conceive of their own belonging and the belonging of others – and one political – how does politics regulate belonging and how are rights and obligations distributed along the boundaries of belonging.

The project was conducted in close cooperation with three schools located in different social and regional contexts (city, small town, and countryside in Eastern, middle and Western Austria), methodologically building on peer research (students conducting focus groups and interviews with 16 to 18 year old contemporaries) in cooperation with and under guidance of experienced scholars.





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