

## **Victimisation of the capacity/opportunity for self-determination - a crucial risk for young people**

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Young people (adolescents) have always been at the focus of interest of social sciences. This also applies to criminology and, to a lesser degree, to victimology. Criminological interest in adolescents is far from being surprising, since this age (and social) group is the one from which a considerable number of delinquents, i.e. perpetrators of violent and property crimes, is recruited. Young people tend also to be victims of crime. Nevertheless, such harmful acts do not represent the most important risks to which young people are exposed. Socio-psychological explanations of risks affecting young people are mostly centred on the negative social and cultural factors which aggravate successful transition to adulthood, which is sooner or later a targeted life period of every adolescent. In our opinion, adulthood itself represents the highest risk for the young, meaning too smooth adaptation to the existing world of well conformed adult subjects or rather to a society which is based on the heterogeneity of work and the conventional family. Playing socially expected adult roles (such as that of a worker, consumer, parent), in fact, implies an extraordinary truncation of the individual's capacity for self-determination, self-government of oneself (or rather of one's own body, time, creativity and recreational tasks) and the free formation of oneself as a subject. It appears that maturing persons of both sexes are also more and more aware of this fact, since a number of relatively important signals indicate the prolongation of youth and a rejection of certain aspects of normal adulthood (or a tactical retardation of assuming the culturally prescribed image of adult person). It is interesting that victimology has not been in general interested in various forms of structural victimisation (and has also neglected certain risks connected with them), which could threaten or even disintegrate the individual's opportunities / capacities for self-determination and affect his most vital welfare, for example his time and energy. The present contribution attempts at least in rough lines (and in a pioneer way) to sketch some of the most important dimensions of this kind of victimisation, which in given capitalist societies threatens more or less a majority of people in their everyday life.

**Keywords:** young people, passage to adulthood, risk factors, victimisation risk, self-determination, social roles

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