





Young Generations and the Phenomenon of Rootlessness in the Fluid Age: Homeland Belonging Based on Lost Collective Bonds

Gülden Şahin Hatipoğlu |  0000-0003-1107-4374 |  gulden.sahin@kent.edu.tr

Istanbul Kent University, VHS, Department of Social Work and Counseling, İstanbul, Türkiye

 <https://ror.org/01w9wgg77>

Serdar Ünal |  0000-0003-2755-9456 |  serdarunal@adu.edu.tr

Aydın Adnan Menderes University, FHSS, Department of Sociology, Aydın, Türkiye

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Abstract

Modernization has caused traditional structures, and consequently, the shared values, beliefs, and symbols of traditional societies, to lose their power to support and define individuals. In traditional societies, singular identities dependent on collectivity have gained plural qualities subject to the conjuncture of our fluid age. In the endeavor to construct one's identity in a fluid, slippery, and insecure environment, the individual of today, seeking to belong, finds that the fixed values to which they once felt connected have dissolved, boundaries have expanded, lifestyles have changed, and the potential for experiencing, internalizing, and establishing oneself in space has weakened. The central axis of the study revolves around the dimensions and dynamics of the sense of belonging and rootlessness for young individuals, which require more scrutiny in today's fluid life. Within this framework, the primary aim of the research is to investigate, through quantitative and qualitative empirical data, the spatial identity preferences, perceptions of homeland, feelings of origin, states of being able to be local, and quests for belonging of young individuals whose physical ties to the geography and place (homeland) where previous generations were born and lived have weakened or severed. Within the context of the research findings, it can be said that the strong bonds once thought to exist between place and people have begun to loosen in today's fluid age. The place (homeland), which we could consider as an important parameter of lifestyle and identity, has faded in individuals' mental perceptions. Since permanence and collectivity often imply relinquishing a life of one's own and freedom, deep commitments are mostly seen as an undesirable situation. Fluid life urges individuals to experience different encounters and pushes them towards the discovery of the unknown. Therefore, any strong bond individuals establish with a place, the past, or memory is viewed as an obstacle. Hence, the sense of belonging that individuals establish with a place should be relatively avoided or consciously weakened. Ultimately, in today's fluid age, individuals rarely feel at home wherever they are, and in an era where nobody feels at home, individuals seem largely indifferent or helpless in their quest for this feeling.

Keywords

Modernism, Fluid Life, Homeland Belonging, Rootlessness, Belonging Nowhere

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