

Propositions

attached to the thesis

Grappling with Emerging Adulthood: Youth Narratives of Coming of Age in a Frontier Town, Zimbabwe

Rekopantswe Mate

International Institute of Social Studies
Erasmus University Rotterdam

1. The contradictory development typical of neoliberal globalisation does not permit ideal and predictable transitions to adulthood in which young people move from school to paid employment and to founding independent households. *This thesis.*
2. The riskiness of unsupported transitions to adulthood seen in emergent youth practices and cultures has galvanised action by governments and multilateral organisations to pay attention to young people. *This thesis.*
3. Young people's pragmatism and creativity it entails, is neutered by pervasive developmental crises making their agency limited in time and scope. *This thesis.*
4. Heteronormativity in the patrilineal settings typical of southern Africa is such that female sexual naïveté (real and performed) indexes desirability but also traps young women who cannot convert desirability into marriage, into single parenting and stigmatisation as loose women. *This thesis.*
5. Young people who have been failed by kinship of support and care use arguments about malevolent spirits and witchcraft as an oblique appeal to be embraced by estranged kin. *This thesis.*
6. Religious education is an important predictor of conformity with ideal transitions to adulthoods.
7. Youth friendly budgets can solve some of the problems young people face.
8. Parents' level of education impinges on young people's life chances.
9. Young people who are media savvy are more employable.
10. Marriage is a solution for poor young women in need of economic support.
11. Youth practices can be changed – within limits – through awareness campaigns and national youth programmes.