

Propositions – Barbara van der Ent

1. Syrian-born young people have managed to successfully rebuild their lives in Rotterdam. Considering these youngsters in relation to social contexts that are relevant to them – being family, friends, school, and society – is essential to explain the relatively rosy picture and simultaneously show the difficulties they had and still encounter. *(this thesis)*
2. Though the integration concept is insightful, it is insufficient to understand the rebuilding of young lives which also include that youngsters regain a sense of normalcy and feel their lives are back on track. *(this thesis)*
3. The discrepancy between youngsters' ambitions and educational trajectories causes for some intense frustrations. They feel insufficiently valued within the educational system and perceive it as unequal treatment and being deprived of the chances they deserve, and this should be taken seriously. *(this thesis)*
4. Understanding the consequences of social exclusion, one should also keep an eye on inclusionary experiences because these may form a buffer against exclusionary encounters. *(this thesis)*
5. A child-centered approach and creative research methods - such as games or photo elicitation - contribute to a better understanding of the perspective of youngsters with a refugee background. Tailoring methods to their capabilities and making it more fun to participate, is crucial to get insights into their experiences. *(this thesis)*
6. The crisis of the reception of asylum seekers in the Netherlands is the result of political choices. The long period of uncertainty of people who are awaiting a decision on their asylum claims and possibilities for family reunification, are detrimental for the rebuilding of their lives.
7. The number of children in the Netherlands who grow up in poverty increases, affecting many aspects of their lives such as their well-being, physical and mental health, and futures. Guaranteeing good living circumstances for all children should be given the highest priority, as this will be beneficial for these children and society in general.
8. Publishing research findings in Dutch and in more accessible and popular forms – such as blogs or newspapers articles – should be just as important as academic publishing in English, as it helps to reach other audiences and makes research knowledge more accessible to different groups who can apply this knowledge.
9. Salsa dancing leads to more happiness, and is a wonderful social and sportive activity, and therefore highly fostering well-being among its practitioners.
10. Considering the high prevalence of mental health issues amongst PhD-candidates, besides academic development more attention should be given to personal and professional development as integral part of the PhD trajectory.
11. Home is where the heart is.