



TITLE: Risky Behaviour: Managing Risk and Resilience among Tertiary Students

Author/s: Dr Charlotte Fabiansson

Affiliation/s: College of Arts, Victoria University, Melbourne Victoria

Abstract:

The paper explores university students' perception and understanding of personal and societal risks, whether real or perceived, and their resilience in managing risks. The students' perception of risks and sought risky behaviour are explored from Bourdieu's social and cultural capital discourse, Beck's risk society discourse and Rose's and O'Malley's resilience discourses. The findings are based on an internet survey of 58 Australian university students. The students identified places and situations where they were safe and places they assessed as risky. The home was a secure place for most of the students, as well as their friends' place. Places in the city and the suburbia were classified as unsafe after dark, but not necessarily during the day. The same perception was voiced in relation to public transport, however some students perceived public transport as unsafe also during the day. Risky behaviour was deliberately sought, where students were aware that they could suffer serious physical, social or mental injury. Long-term personal risks were identified, as increasing exposure to violence in the local environment, lack of employment prospects, and financial uncertainty, while the single most often mentioned societal risk was the implications of climate change.