

## **Abstract**

A growing concern in social policy over the last decade has been the increasing marginalization of less privileged youth and relatively disadvantaged social groups. Addressing the wicked problems associated with marginalization in adolescent development, such as minimizing the impact of poverty and deprivation and improving health, wellbeing and attainment for all, requires a collective interdisciplinary effort. It also requires agile research: We need to zoom in on individuals and tailor interventions to their particular characteristics and contexts, and we need to zoom out to understand the bigger picture. The aim of this symposium is to present agile research that embraces the complexity of factors and processes shaping youth development over time and in context. Marlies Maes illuminates factors that explain why youth feel lonely; looking at the societal level, the community level such as family and peers, and the individual level. Extending this research to the country level, Maartje Boer asks the timely question whether country-level social media use in 29 countries moderates the association between adolescents' social media use and mental, social, and school wellbeing. Shifting from structural to sociocultural factors, Dom Weinberg examines cross-national variations in the strength of the social gradient in adolescent mental health as a function of meritocracy, the belief that people have what they deserve. Adding historical insights, Margreet de Looze examines changes over time (2001-2017) in adolescent well-being across Europe and discusses potential drivers of change. Taking a methodological perspective, Ties Fakkkel addresses a question facing many interdisciplinary researchers, namely whether research findings are biased by selective sampling and attrition of disadvantaged groups. Together, the presentations underline the need for interdisciplinary approaches to robustly tackle critical issues for future generations. Discussant Catrin Finkenauer will highlight how interdisciplinarity provides new avenues to improve youth development to allow all adolescents to fully develop their potential.