Youth workers engage “radicalized” young Muslims

Struggles for success

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Overview

• The perspective
• The analysis
  – Of young people’s struggles and search
  – Of youth workers’ contributions
• Some issues
The perspective:
Rituals & meaning generation

- Meaningless / empty
- Failed ritual
- Meaningful

Rituals → Energy
Rituals → Symbols
Rituals → Solidarity
ENERGY

EMOTION

Rhythms & patterns of success

IN INTERACTION
‘what kind of energy are you?’
SUCCESS

WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT LOOKS LIKE

SUCCESS

WHAT IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE
Components of success-experiences

• **Boosting**
  – ‘owning the moment’

• **Elevating**
  – ‘getting somewhere’

• **Grounding**
  – ‘belonging somewhere’

• **Tensions**

• **Fatalism => initiative**
The context:
Debilitating rituals

- Depleting rituals
- Undermining rituals
- Over / Under energized
- Experiencing failure
- Distance
- Entrenchment
- Distracting rituals

Experiencing success
- Boosting
- Elevating
- Grounding
“Radical” interactions

Thrill-seeking
Energy for energy’s sake

Ideal-driven marvel
‘There must be a better way’

Revolution-prone
‘Actions speak louder than words’
Constructive rituals with “radicalized” young Muslims

• “maintaining casual contact”
• “standing beside them”
• “exploring life opportunities”
• “challenging ideologies”
Debilitating vs. Constructive rituals

- Invigorative rituals
- Confirmaive rituals
- Restorative rituals
- Depleting rituals
- Distracting rituals
- Experiencing Success
- Over / Under energized
- Boosting
- Grounding
- Ideal-driven marvel
- Experiencing dissatisfaction
- Entrenchment
- Thrill-seeking
- Revolution-prone
- Distance
- Undermining rituals

Debilita0ng vs. Construc=ve rituals
Youth workers’ contributions. Types of constructive rituals

- **Restorative**
  - Calming/disciplining
  - Reflection
- **Invigorative**
  - Encouraging
  - Offering perspective
- **Confirmative**
  - Complimenting
  - Celebrating

- **Boosting**
- **Elevating**
- **Grounding**
Analyzing youth workers’ contributions prominence and directness

- **Determining course:** Boosting morale, corrective action
- **Merging with their activity:** Being ‘one of the guys’
- **Operating in the fringes:** organizing informality
- **Subtle adjustments:** Asking instead of answering
Normative issues

• Entrenchment and disengagement
  – Who started?

• Productive vs. unproductive
  – According to whom?

• Operating in tensions