

University of Athens, Faculty of Communication & Media Studies

To the General Secretary of Youth

FINAL REPORT
of the research project

**Youth Politics in Television.
Towards an etho-political sensibility?**

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CONTENTS

Introduction

1. <i>The controversy over the reform</i>	
1. (a) The story on the reform.	7
1 (b). The students' mobilizations.	8
1 (c). The students' public identity in the media and the emotional climate of the days	9
2. <i>The Greek Press ' coverage of the controversy</i>	13
2 (a) Content Analysis of Greek Newspapers	13
2. (b) The 'moralisation' of the reform and the silences of public debate	26
2.(c). Public Debate in 'Mavro Kouti', December 16 th 1998.	28
3. <i>Contemporary Youth and Political Identity</i>	31
4. <i>The television debate as public sphere</i>	34
4.(a). Conceptual Issues	34
4 (b). Analytical Issues	35
5. <i>The television debate</i>	39
5.(a). Establishing the premises of public debate	39
5. (b). The argumentative landscape of the debate	42
5.(c). Universal and Particular meanings in the debate	45
5.(c).i 'Universal'-'particular' antagonisms over the application of the reform	46
5.(c).ii 'Universal'-'particular' antagonisms over the meaning of life and politics	52
5.(d).The ambivalent dynamics of televised debate	62
6. <i>Conclusion.</i>	69
6.(a). The political in television	69
6.(b). Youth and Politics	74
Appendix	83
Endnotes	84

ABSTRACT

The aim of this piece of research is to study key features of the public discourse of young Greeks. In so doing, it aspires to formulate some propositions as to how young Greeks translate everyday concerns into public participation, how they engage in politics. To this end, the empirical focus of this study is the media representations of the 1998-9 mobilisations of Greek high school students around the 'Arsenis' reform. The controversy around the reform sparked off a major conflict between the Ministry and students, who were not only 'drawn' into the public arena, but were also put in the spotlight by the massive media attention that the ongoing 'battles' attracted. After providing the public context in which the media presentation of youth politics took place, in a Content Analysis of Greek press media, the study performs a systematic Discourse Analysis of the culminating 'moment' of this mediated confrontation, the television debate between the Minister of Education and student representatives.

The analysis claims that features of the public discourse of the students, as it appears in television, throws into relief how young Greeks make the move from latent public practices, what has been called 'life' politics, into the public arena of political participation proper; how they use reflexive resources not only in 'projects of the self, in organizing their individual lifestyles, but also in collective projects, articulating these individualised resources with politics and social critique.