



Sparkling Science >

Science linking with School

School linking with Science

Research Project

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Peer Violence – Teenagers' Perception of Youth Violence

Teenagers' perception toward youth violence and violence interventions and its dependency on gender and migration background

LEADING INSTITUTION

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SCHOOLS INVOLVED

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SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

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Basic Information about Sparkling Science

Sparkling Science is a research program of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF) which started in 2007 and adopts an unconventional way in the promotion of young scientists that is unique in Europe.

The specific characteristic of the program: so far 168* projects (94 of them have already been completed) scientists work side by side with young people in current scientific research projects: Sparkling Science supports big research projects and supported from 2007 until 2010 also smaller school research projects.

In the 114 big research projects (42 have already been completed) the young colleagues take an active part and work independently on parts of the research projects. As junior colleagues they introduce important suggestions into the research approach. They collaborate in the conception and conducting of investigations, conduct polls, collect data, interpret these together with the researchers and present the results at schools, universities and even at scientific conferences.

In a second initiative within the Sparkling Science program the BMWF awarded grants to smaller projects that were submitted and conducted not by the involved research institutions, but by the schools, who designed and lead the projects themselves. In these projects, too, schoolchildren worked closely together with researchers, supporting state-of-the-art research activities and contributing to the results.

Both sides of the program is/were open to a broad thematic spectrum. Research is carried out on all sorts of different topics: from mechatronics and molecular biology to migration research, from acoustics and biometrics to literature research.

* Status quo: January 2012



One Example out of 168

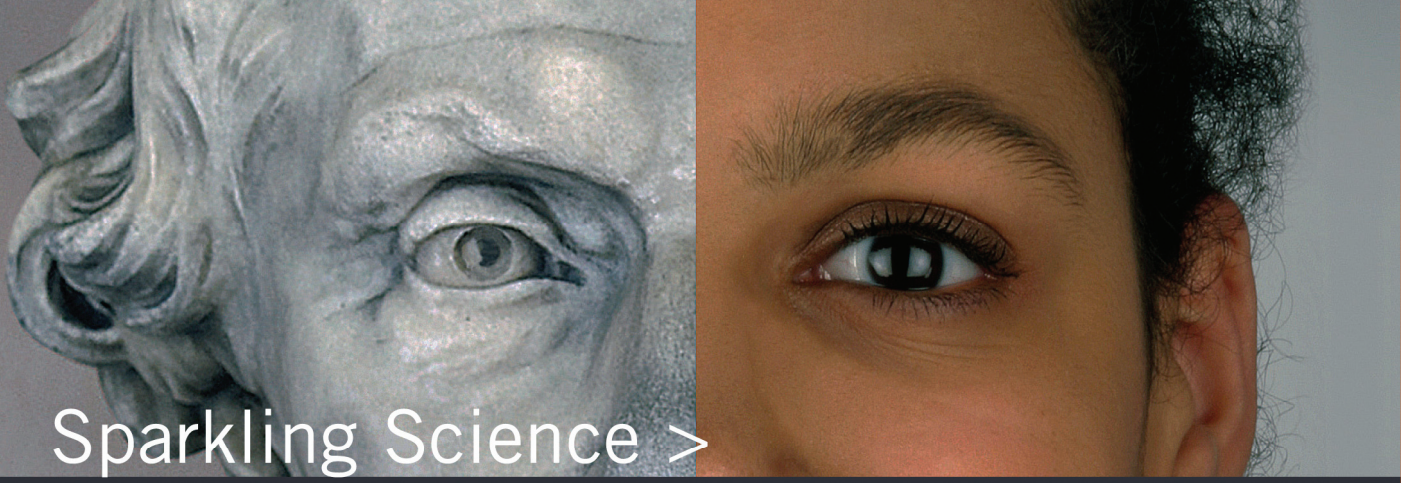
Peer Violence – Teenagers' Perception of Youth Violence

However, a survey about peer violence faces two main challenges. First, different contexts of daily violence have to be considered. Second, questionnaires about violence tend to trigger socially desired answers. Therefore, the use of the vignette method (also called fractional survey) is an innovative way to tackle these problems. The vignette method adopts descriptions of hypothetical situations with different context elements, e.g. different forms of violence and characteristics of involved persons. Thus, young respondents are confronted with rather specific, highly contextualized forms of violence and violent behavior instead of abstract concepts and aspects of violence (as typical for standard questionnaires).

The proposed study starts with a qualitative vignette study which aims at the determination of appropriate violent settings for the quantitative vignette study. For that purpose we conduct focus group discussions with young people on different kinds of violent settings. For the quantitative vignette study we conduct a survey of 1.600 teenage students, in which they will be systematically asked about a wide range of violent scenarios. Based on these findings we finally develop realistic scenarios of violence which can be used in violence preventive programs for training purposes. The aim is to sensitize teenagers' behavior and attitude toward violence and promote a reflective way of dealing with violence and violent behavior among youngsters.

The project will be realized together with students and teachers of co-operating schools. The co-operation should result in an intensive engagement of students in the topic of violence during teaching lessons, e.g. writing essays, designing posters, reporting violent observation, and guided interviews with other pupils or moderated classroom-discussions. In addition, we will hold workshops on a voluntary basis for discussing special topics on youth violence in more depth. Interested students may also support the implementation of the qualitative and quantitative vignette study. Furthermore, the progress of the study will be presented to and discussed with students and teachers on a regular basis.





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BMWF^a

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