

〔要旨〕

近年における若者研究の動向

—包括的アプローチの現状と課題

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本稿では、近年の若者研究を「移行の長期化」という観点から整理し、その現状と課題を明らかにする。近年の若者研究では、移行の長期化を教育制度、労働市場、家族といった多様な側面から包括的に検討することがコンセンサスになりつつある。そこでまず移行の長期化と包括的アプローチについて確認する。次に、移行の長期化の全体像を理解する上で特に重要とされるいくつかの移行——学校から仕事への移行、社会保障を通じた自立、親からの自立、社会的ネットワークの形成——に注目しつつ先行研究を整理した後、若者支援政策の検証を行った研究を概観する。一連のサーベイによって明らかになる近年の若者研究の現状と課題は以下の通りである。まず近年の研究の最も重要な成果は、若者を自立へ導くためには既存の社会関係を再編成し、若者の自立を再定義する必要があるという共通認識に至ったことである。しかしその一方で、若者の「正社員化」に焦点化することによって社会関係の再編成と自立の再定義という問題を先送りするような研究も現れつつある。このような状況下で引き起こされうる問題の矮小化をいかにして防ぐかという点が今後の課題となるだろう。

Recent Studies on Young People in Japan: Current Status and Issues of the Holistic Approach

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This article reviews the recent studies on young people in Japan with a focus on “the extension of the transitions” and shows the current state and the issues of the relevant literature. In recent years, there has been a consensus that young people should be examined in terms of the extended transitions holistically from various viewpoints such as education, labor market, and family. Taking this trend into account, the article begins with an examination of the extension of the transitions and the holistic approach in reference to Jones and Wallace (1992). Next, it looks at the researches associated with some of the transitions which are believed to be essential to an understanding of the whole picture of the youth transition, such as the school-to-work transition, independence through social security system, independence from parents, and establishing social networks. Furthermore, it overviews the studies which examine the governmental policies aimed at young people. A series of surveys reveals the current state and the issues of the recent studies on young people as follows. First, due to the holistic approach, a common understanding has been established that fundamental restructuring of social relationships and redefinition of youth independence are necessary so that more young people can become independent. At the same time, however, there is a growing trend in which a narrow focus on the invention of comprehensive policies to encourage young people to become regular workers can delay the efforts to reform social relationships and redefine youth independence. Therefore, more attention should be paid to a possible outcome that fundamental problems highlighted

by the holistic approach will be overlooked in situations that youth policies of that kind are overly emphasized.