

How do we explore and present outcomes and significance of youth work? : *Counter-documentation of youth work as story-telling in Japan*

Transformative Youth Work International Conference
4-6th September 2018

Maki Hiratsuka, Hosei University, Japan, mhira@hosei.ac.jp

Akio Inui, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan

Fumiyuki Nakatsuka, Education Support Centre NIRE, Japan

Misako Yokoe, Kyoto City Youth Service Foundation, Japan,

Yoshinari Minamide, Gifu University, Japan

Miki Hara, University of Shiga Prefecture, Japan

Our Youth Work



Café

residential



Dance



farming



sports



Brief background surrounding youth work in Japan

- Few youth work/service provisions funded by (local) governments
- No qualification/degrees of youth workers
- Poor common recognition of youth work
- Government focuses on short periods targeted employability approach

Comparison of social institutions/conditions to develop youth work(ers) among 4 countries

(Numbers like 2016 are the year we visited.)

	Finland	UK	Denmark	Japan
Colleges of training Youth workers (social pedagogues)	HUMAK (2016)	YMCA George Williams College (2017)	University College Copenhagen (2016)	Little to no (A small programme offered by a university)
Professional organization of youth workers (social pedagogues)	Allianssi (2016)	National Youth Agency, Youthlink Scotland (2017)	SL (2016) (National Union of Social Pedagogues)	No specific one for workers (A small one for those who join the work)
Trade union of youth workers (social pedagogues)	JHL (2016) Not just for youth workers	Community and Youth Workers Union (2015)	SL (2016) (National Union of Social Pedagogues)	No specific union (Few workers join general ones.)
Supervisory authorities for youth work (social pedagogues)	Youth Department of Helsinki city (2015,2016)	Community Learning Development Standards Council (2017)	Socialtilsynet (2016)	No existence

Outline of our research project

Visions

: Improving conditions where youth workers can develop themselves as professionals.

: Improving conditions where values and significance of youth work as profession are recognized in society.

That is just what is necessary but underdeveloped in Japan.

-

Outline of our research project

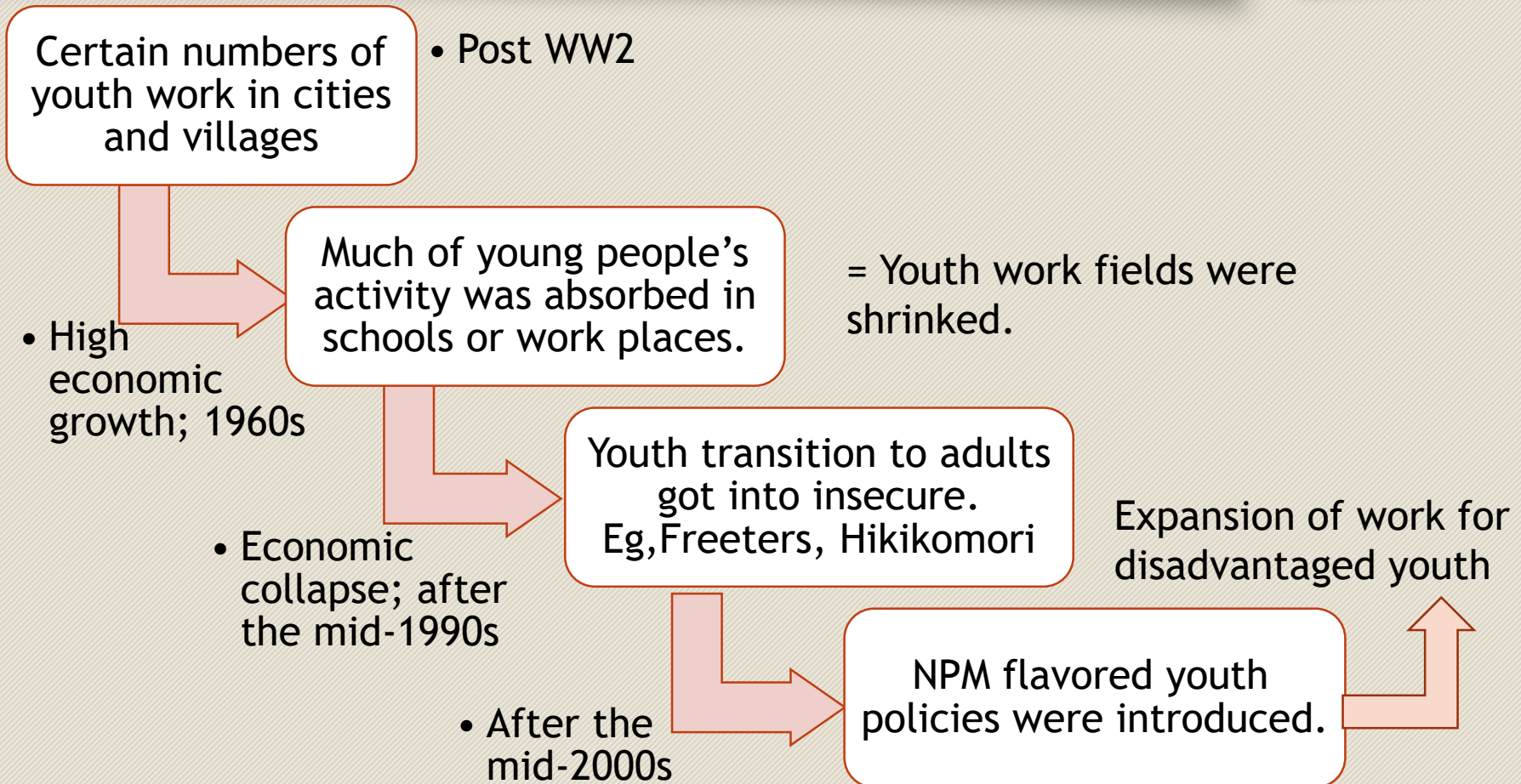
Focus

Publishing ‘social media of counter documentation’, by which youth workers can develop themselves and also values and significance of youth work can be recognized in society .

Because

‘Documentation’ is critical for understanding youth work, and now is a political issue among social professions including youth work.

Backgrounds; Peculiar history in Japan



Backgrounds; Characters of current Japanese youth policies

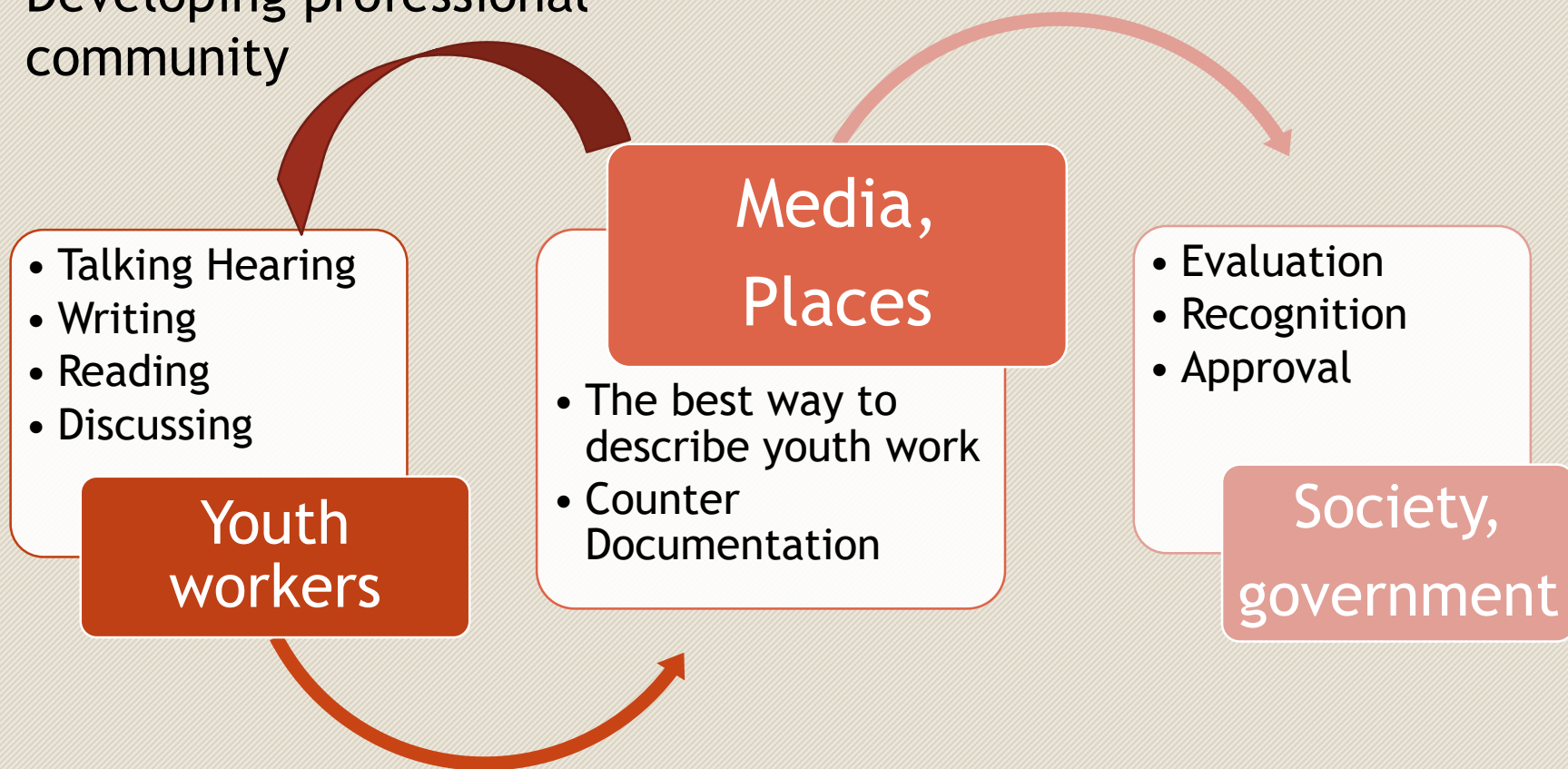
- ‘Employability’ agenda
- Target Approach
- Individualised services and training
- Short periods

Backgrounds; Documentation as a political issue

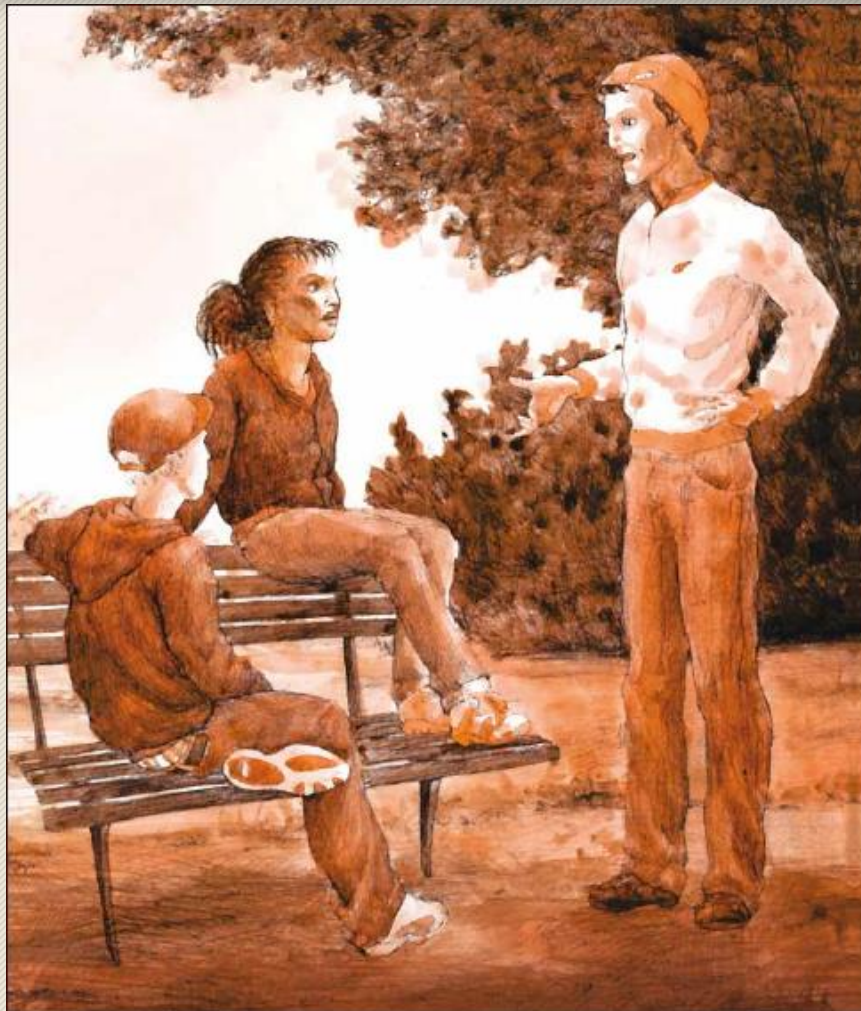
- Youth workers and managers are forced to produce numerous evaluative documents - mostly either numerical or clinical in nature.
- What kinds of the document are best in order to describe and present both the professionalism and significance of youth work to the wider society, as well as to youth workers themselves?

Our strategy; Counter documentation model

Developing professional
community



Process 1 Inspired by 'This is Youth Work' by IDYW in the UK



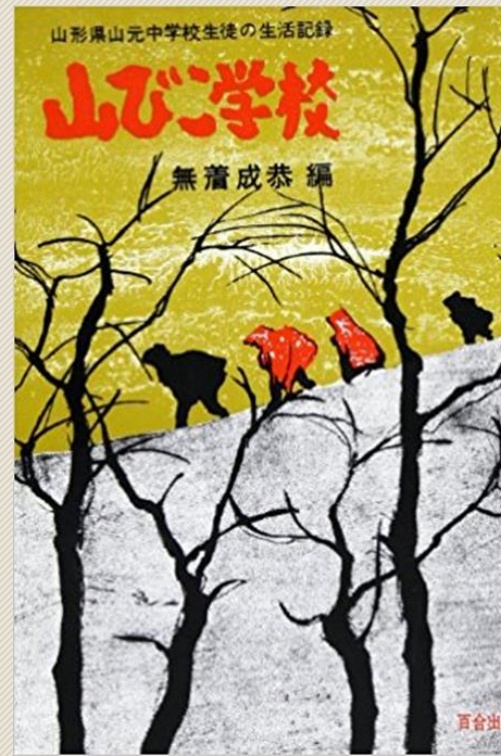
In Defence of Youth Work

This is Youth Work: Stories from Practice



Process 2 Reflection of Japanese educators' tradition

The culture among school teachers of writing their own practices and reading/discussing their documents with colleagues.



Process 3 Learning from ‘Storytelling W.S.’ by IDYW in the UK



Storytelling Workshop for our team, facilitated by Bernard (Sept.2015 at Leamington Spa)



Reproduced Storytelling Workshop for our colleagues Sept. 2015, Tokyo

Process 4 A trial of describing and discussing our youth work stories.

- A story of a primary school age girl who has difficult family conditions and a youth worker by Fumiyuki Nakatsuka
- A story of a young male group who are ex-members of a youth centre and a youth worker who has been working there by Misako Yokoe

Introduced at 'The Evaluation of Youth Work' session on 5th of this conference

What's next?

Process 5 Publishing

Planning to publish e-journal for presenting our youth work stories as counter-documentation and organize wider discussion about 'What is youth work' in our society.

Table of Contents

- *Describing Youth Work Practices*
 - *Our own youth work stories*
 - *Story-Telling from the UK*
- *Discussion of the significance of writing and reading practices for youth workers*

Thank you for your attention!
Welcome for your comment.

mhira@hosei.ac.jp

Maki Hiratsuka