

Multinational Qualitative Study Children's Understanding of Well-Being in Global and Local Contexts

Example from Istanbul, Turkey.

Abdullah (Karatay), Basak (Akkan), Emre (Erdogan), Pinar (Uyan-Semerci), Serra (Müderrisoglu) belong to the research team in Istanbul. We work at different Universities in Istanbul. Başak and Serra work at Bogazici University situated over picturesque Bosphorus. Pinar and Emre work at Bilgi University at magnificent Golden horn, part of the old town of Istanbul. Abdullah works at Uskudar University in the culturally and historically appealing district of Uskudar. We are a multidisciplinary research team that come from different disciplines. Pinar and Emre are political scientists, Serra is a psychologist, Abdullah has expertise in social work and Basak has expertise in the area of social policy. The fact that we all belong to different areas of study makes it fun to think, work and research together.

So far, our team has done research at different locations like neighbourhoods, schools and households both in Istanbul and other cities of Turkey. We have carried out research with kids from the ages of 8-17. We did our best to understand children views' through creative research means like photography, drawings, and picture story-telling. It has been an incredible experience working with kids, getting their perspective on ideas of happiness, the good life, self-perceptions, and important things in life. It is a life changing experience, we would say. Sometimes as adults, no matter that we have children or not, we have memorized ideas about how children feel, think, live, what they expect and so on. Listening to kids through research challenges our conceptions about a good life for a child, and encourages us to question our ideas.

We are a very lucky research team that we did have a chance to have children from different backgrounds and genders participate in our research and that they shared their views with us. Thank you for participating!