

## PREMIS

The Literary Research Seminar of the English Department at Åbo Akademi University

16-18, Wednesday 20 March in Panorama, Arken

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#### “Doing It For Themselves”: Culture For, About & By Arctic Youth



This presentation will describe a project for which we are currently seeking funding. The project addresses an urgent need to enhance arctic millennials' feelings of well-being and their desire to stay and develop the region by focusing on their capacity to participate in the production and consumption ('presumption') of cultural artefacts (literature, film, music and public social media). The post-Internet generation's regional identity is formed simultaneously on- and off-line, but their levels of participation in each differ markedly. Participatory culture did not originate online, but the internet has expanded possibilities for participation. In

local societies, age, class and gender can form obstacles, whereas global, online communities provide opportunities for young people to participate as equals. Their willingness to participate would benefit regional development. The aim of Doing it for Themselves is to examine culture for, about and by Arctic youth alongside informants aged 15-25yrs, to determine what enables them to feel a positive sense of regional identity as well as being global citizens.

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