

**Why to explore young women’s expectations?**
In the complex, aging society where fertility is getting lower, it is important to find out how young women combine work and family life and how work- and family policies steer their decisions (Fuwa 2014; Leboutte & Socias 2015). However research on young women’s expectations concerning work and family reconciliation is that the education comes first, work and family, gender and career development. The educational background and life situation.

**What kind of expectations do young, Finnish women have related to education, working life and transition to parenthood? How do their expectations concerning work and family reconcile differ between women with different educational background and life situation.**

**Conclusions**
- Education trend was dominant in all sub-groups of young women
- The unemployed women reported feelings of uncertainty about finding a job and coping with work pressures
- Family life with children was seen ambivalently
- The choice to stay childless was related to career, ideological and health issues and seeing life with children as unfamiliar
- Unemployed and higher educated women were overrepresented among those who were not going to have children in the future
- Concern about work-family reconciliation was strongly visible in young women’s expectations and solutions

**Methods**
The data collection methods included qualitative interviews with Finnish women aged 18-27 years, both individual (N=30) and focus group interviews (N=5). In the individual interviews, I utilised so called time-line and social network method(Supplement 2000). In the focus group interviews, I used vignette materials (Törnroen 2017). For analysing and categorising the interview data I will use narrative analysis and Atlas-ti-program.

**Preliminary findings**
**Young women’s education trend**
Education was seen as significant and a way to working life in all sub-groups of young women. With help of education they were aiming at meaningful work and sufficient living. Low valuation of work lead to continuing the educational path. Education was seen as a new possibility for the satisfying life.

**Uncertainty related to working life**
The narratives of future working life included worries: temporary work, position of the women in labour market and hardness of work. On average, unemployed women felt more uncertainty in getting a job, coping with the future studies and work, and concerns of future lifespan in general. They desired individualised working paths.

**Transition to parenthood in women’s narratives**
Education did not seem to effect on young women’s expectations related to family forming. Instead the age of women and the status of partnership affected on their expectations. Expectations concerning motherhood were in general positive, but motherhood was also regarded as demanding. Family life with children was related to challenges in wellbeing, use of time and economic security. The choice to stay childless was related to career, ideological and health issues and seeing life with children as unfamiliar. Unemployed and higher educated women were overrepresented among those who were not going to have children in the future.

**Research questions**
1. What kind of expectations do young, Finnish women have related to education, working life and transition to parenthood? How do they narrate their expectations and solutions concerning their future life?
2. How do these narratives differ between women with various educational backgrounds and life situations?

**Key literature**