

...is research with, not for or about people (*methodology*)

- Members of marginalized groups are invited to be co-researchers
- Co-researchers and professional researchers come together to establish a research forum to explore questions of practical interest for the co-researchers
- In the research forum, the power-balance is to be negotiated: the professional researchers must distribute their power to all partners in the research process
- The co-researchers should participate in the whole decision-making process (i. e. research questions, design, methods of data collection, analysis)



UNACCOMPANIED MINOR REFUGEES IN Brandenburg



FH;P

Fachhochschule Potsdam
University of
Applied Sciences

...has lots to offer (*potentials*)

- It offers a differentiated access to the life world and the subjectivity of marginalized citizens
- It's an invitation to reflect everyday experiences by bringing in a scientific point of view
- It aims at social self-clarification and thus may open up new ways for marginalized citizens to act
- Professional researchers can gain deep insights due to the direct relationships which are established

Collaborative citizen science with marginalized groups...

...is sometimes difficult (*pitfalls*)

- You must find a common language: Translation might not be satisfying as it may irritate relationships
- Academic language itself can be a barrier and must be reconsidered
- The relationships and the continuity of meetings are very important. Both time and trust are essential
- Inclusion may cause exclusion. Who might join the research forum? Who might not? And why?

...can be very illuminating (*results*)

- We aim to reconstruct the subjective perspectives of unaccompanied minor refugees within their current situation and life in Brandenburg (Germany)
- Together we focus on the question: What does it mean to be new in Germany?
- The stimulation of processes of self-understanding is needed here: It is crucial to address the minors as experts of their own life thereby enabling them to take a step back and to rethink their personal experiences
- Results often expand the discourse: i. e. the minors are "normal" teenagers after all, having ordinary teenage problems, seeing their future in Germany