



**Preserving the Youth Culture in Venice**

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1 INTRODUCTION

Being young in any community of the world has its own set of opportunities and challenges associated with it, however the disadvantages of living within a poorly managed tourist community may outweigh the advantages due to three main factors: a high cost of living, skewed job markets, and a crowded atmosphere. (Direct n.d.) [[1]](#footnote-2) Living and working in touristic areas is becoming increasingly difficult due to the rising cost of living (Russo 2006).[[2]](#footnote-3) Job opportunities are not scarce as there are many tourist-related employment opportunities; however there is a lack of variety in the jobs offered outside of the tourist industry. Studies show that within well-established tourist cities worldwide, including the Bahamas Islands, two Austrian towns, and two Greek islands, traditional occupations were abandoned by residents for the more profitable tourism-related jobs, therefore limiting the job market (Haralambopoulos and Pizam 2006).[[3]](#footnote-4) The deciding factor on whether a young adult will stay within the area is dependent on the career path the individual chooses to take. Some young adults are finding it difficult to continue living in the areas where they maintain jobs due to the cost of housing, and consequently take up residency outside of the city and commute (Mosto 20008)[[4]](#footnote-5). Others travel abroad to take advantage of the more diverse job markets and better educational opportunities available there. A world study shows that 82.4 percent of youth migration decisions were correlated with work or educational reasons (Reason - Immigration Now 2006).[[5]](#footnote-6)

Russo, a professor of tourism at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, claims, “With young households pushed out of the center by inaccessible housing prices and lack of specialized jobs, the population in the historical center [of Venice] declined from 170,000 to 70,000 in about half a century, and is still decreasing at about 0.5% per year” (Russo 2006). These tourist related factors could be an explanation for the significant decline in the younger generation of Venice, the extent of which would need to be determined. The quality of life for young Venetians has also decreased. Services for Venetian residents have become very high in cost but very low in quality due to the growing amount of tourism within Venice (Fusco 2003).[[6]](#footnote-7) Also, the massive accumulation of tourists has caused significant amounts of congestion to the point that activities of daily life for residents are quite difficult to accomplish (Russo 2006). The increase in the tourist population has skewed the job market towards the tourist industry, posing further challenges for young Venetians who are looking for different job opportunities. Many young families who find work in Venice decide to move away from the historical part due to the increase cost of living and poor quality of life. Thus, there is a definitive re-orientation of youth demographics which could be attributed to tourism related effects.

The statistics department of the City of Venice has collected demographic data for the Venetian populace through the years and has conducted studies on the changing and emerging demographic trends in Venice which clearly highlights the diminishing youth (C. d. Venezia 2008).[[7]](#footnote-8) Some associations that exist within Venice are concerned about this issue, including the association I Giovani Veneziani and 40xVenezia. These organizations were created to collaborate with the Venetian youth in order to preserve and enhance their quality of life. The association I Giovani Veneziani has started to identify youth needs and demands, while 40xVenezia wants to make the skills and professionalism of the young generation available to the city in order to keep the youth from emigrating (40xVenezia 2008)[[8]](#footnote-9). The fact that the migration of the Venetian youth must take precedence over other issues as Venice is not only a historical site for tourists but also a municipal city for its natives has been identified(Passi 2008)[[9]](#footnote-10), and the fact that the area could be deserted by its natives if the current youth migration trends continue is a plausible threat.

 Although data on youth trends exist, this data has not yet been compiled in one source and analyzed thoroughly. A single database providing trends of the Venetian youth population would provide a valuable source of comparative and analytical study as well as a base for further studies. Comparative studies between Venetian trends and trends throughout the world or similar tourist cities have not been conducted extensively. By creating a correlation of youth population trends between Venice and tourist cities that have suffered from a diminishing youth population in the past, one can apply programs that helped that city succeed. Furthermore, although youth needs have been identified, a more structured system for gathering information as well as obtaining feedback on youth needs has yet to be established. This should be done before the creation or implementation of any program that would benefit the youth generation relating to this project. Without a research basis, any program created through this project may not match the true needs, as opposed to the perceived needs of the youth.

The goal of this project is to assess the opportunities and challenges associated with being young in Venice. We propose to create a compilation of data from existing demographic sources and reconstruct emerging Venetian youth trends over time. We will then find differences between trends in Venice and trends in Italy, as well as identify reasons for the differences between the trends. In order to gain an understanding of common views held by Venetians regarding youth in Venice, we will interview focus groups and collect further opinions from scholars. Using these opinions, we will identify some existing opportunities and challenges associated with the Venetian youth. We plan to locate different points of interests offered for the younger generation as well as identify challenges and reasons why the native youth are leaving Venice. Finally, these previously collected data and opinions will be taken into account when investigating the need for alternatives for youth facilities and programs. We plan to establish future trends based on existing data. These trends would include scenarios were existing youth programs were removed, if the situation was left as is, and if we implemented our plan of action.

# 2 BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Introduction to Background

Every year millions of tourists come to Venice to see its beautiful landscape and culture.[[10]](#footnote-11) However, as a result of this boom in the market for tourism, Venice has transformed itself from a historical populated city into a Disneyland, almost a living museum city.[[11]](#footnote-12) As the tourist industry develops the number and quality of commodities for the resident’s decreases. This transformation has caused devastating declines in the native youth population of Venice.[[12]](#footnote-13) The native youth population finds living in a city that addresses the needs of a tourist rather than the needs of a resident difficult.

One may suggest that these trends may be eminent through Italy – as a touristic country, perhaps youth are migrating out of Italy as a whole. However, on analyzing and comparing data for youth migration between Italy and Venice, it is apparent that youth are migrating into Italy, whereas they’re migrating out of Venice. Thus, to understand the youth of this city better, we have undertaken a study of the opportunities and challenges faced by the Venetian youth – all the way from birth through maturity.

## 2.2 Early Years (0-14 years old)

 Through childhood, there are several issues which govern a youth's life. Pre-school, child-care and day-care are key factors for the well being of a child. A good education system is important, as is availability of extra-curricular activities and games. Thus, at this stage, these factors would also play a role in relocation of Venetian families – both within and out of Venice.

### 2.2.1 Birth rates

Although the main cause of the decrease in the Venetian youth population is related to migration, another contributing factor is a decreased birth rate. Since 1966, the population of the historical city of Venice has diminished from 121,000 in 1966 to 62,000 at the end of 2007. By 2046 Venice’s native population will be obsolete if this trend continues. “Although the pace of decline has been slower in the past 10 years than in previous decades, it is now speeding up and threatens to strip Venice of its full-time residents even sooner.” The number of natives in Venice has decreased by 800 per year, since 1996. However, in 2005, 1,918 more people emigrated or passed away compare to venetians born in Venice (Hooper 2006)[[13]](#footnote-14). No real decline of birth rates has been observed in the past 10 years; however this is due to the increase in foreign resident births (Istat 2008)[[14]](#footnote-15).

With so many natives moving out of the city of Venice into other municipalities and countries, children of first generation Venetian parents are being born into other cities, making them natives of other municipalities or countries. At the same time, foreigners who can afford the higher cost of living and are establishing families in Venice. As a result, these non-Venetian children are essentially replacing the Venetian children. Slowly the fascinating culture of Venice will be lost if this trend continues to develop.

### 2.2.2 Daycare Programs

 The lack of daycare facilities is a notable obstacle for young working Venetian families. As reported in the July 2008 Venice consensus, the target population of children who would be in need of childcare programs (newborn up to nine years of age) is 21,244 [[15]](#footnote-16). Even though there is an obvious need for childcare programs in Venice, there is a lack of facilities and programs currently in action.4 The deficit of daycare programs has left Venetians without a range of options for the method of care of their children. Hiring a babysitter is an option but not very practicable.4 This takes into account that the price range for hiring a babysitter is rather expensive, as well as the limited space in the city due to overcrowding from tourists. This limits the babysitter’s ability to entertain the child outside of the home. Family units such as single mothers or families with two working parents struggle in finding alternative childcare, and have already started taking actions regarding this topic.



Figure : Population decline of youth as of 2008

Several Venetian mothers have begun the strenuous task of petitioning for more daycare facilities. By joining demonstration groups such as Venice Reborn, they try to grab the attention of the government in hopes that officials will answer their declarations. Venice Reborn has organized a parade of parents and children to petition daycare. Parades are held at City Hall in farther attempts to draw the attention of their government to this severe issue.4 One father declares that “the city government is the owner of two thirds of the real estate in Venice,” which is space that the government is unwilling to grant to specialized programs such as daycare programs.4 Whenever Venice Reborn and similar petition groups request the government for space to establish daycare facilities, rarely is it ever granted, and if so, it is excessively priced.

### 2.2.3 Grade School

With a national adult literacy rate of 98.4 percent in Italy, as compared to a world average of 79.7 percent, and a legal right for free education for children between the ages of six and fifteen,[[16]](#footnote-17) education plays an important role in any Italian child’s life. There are at least 35 primary schools available throughout Venice,[[17]](#footnote-18) making education easily accessible to students. A majority of Venetian schools are bilingual as teachers obliged to undergo at least two years of training at SSIS (Scuole di Specializzazione all’Insegnamento Secondario). All teachers must pass a state examination in order to teach at a state school. (Italian University 2008)[[18]](#footnote-19)

Although the Venetian schools cater to the intellectual capabilities and needs of the youth, there is a lack of integration of sports and extra-curricular activities into the school curriculum. School-sponsored activities are available after hours but are completely optional for students. Schools also maintain contact with external clubs, such as tennis clubs or rowing clubs, which offer out of school activities. However, clubs usually have surcharges and costs associated with them.[[19]](#footnote-20) This charge provides a financial burden and will limit the students’ choices for extra-curricular activities. Some schools have gymnasium facilities; however the majority of these facilities are small, plastic floored gymnasiums that do not have any other equipment apart from the basics, such as a few basketball nets. (C. d. Venezia, Sport City Area of Venice 2008)[[20]](#footnote-21) A lack of essential facilities would discourage the participation in extra-curricular activities and sports, which is an essential part of any education system.

### 2.2.4 Games

An important aspect of any childhood is the times spent away from the classrooms playing games. There is a unique atmosphere to a child’s play time in Venice, Italy. Much like other urban cities, kids utilize public space such as walkways, parks, and plazas for entertainment purposes. Young children in Venice, specifically those in their elementary years, can amuse themselves easily. Giovanni Purisol, an elementary school teacher who has observed Venetian children for over 17 years, remarks that when children play, “[they] don’t need objects, nor do they need anything structured, elaborate, or costly: in fact, they often don’t use anything other than their voices, gestures, and movements” [[21]](#footnote-22)

Traditional Venetian games are played throughout decades, and even centuries in some cases. They are passed down through generations. Childhood games are of such great importance to the Venetian history and culture that they have been well documented with all rules and goals explained. Some games that are common to those in the United States are hide and go seek, or *alle belle statuine*, (50), jumprope, or *corda* (62), and leap frog, or *mómole* (70). Other games are unique to the Venetian culture, such as *Ponte de Rialto*, which is similar to reverse limbo (77). In this ancient game, two children sit on the ground facing eachother, and one child puts one foot out. A series of children then takes turns jumping over the foot. If the child has succeeded jumping over without falling, he gets back in line. The next round, the seated child puts his foot

Table

on top of the other child’s foot to make a higher hurdle, as pictured in figure ??. The two seated children keep alternating feet until most children have fallen and one winner remains

## 2.3 Adolescent Years (14-20 years old)

 Adolescence is an important stage in a youth's life; at this point a youth starts the transition between a child and becoming an adult. Early adolescence has many of the same concerns that childhood does – much of a youth's time is occupied with secondary schooling, games and immediate forms of entertainment. However, as the youth progresses into late adolescent years new issues are presented to the youth. A university education in their field of choice is something a many of the youth would want to do, and would be a defining factor in whether the youth stays or migrates out of Venice. This coupled with global economy shifts which allow easier access of resources (educational and otherwise) around the world are of particular interest.

### 2.3.1 Universities

 Italy has a relatively high standard for the pursuit of higher education. In fact, 49.9 percent of Italians pursue tertiary education as compared to a global average of 22.9 percent .[[22]](#footnote-23) There are three primary universities in Venice which cater to the educational needs of the Venetian youth: The *Universitá Ca’Foscari Venezia,* the *Universitá Iuav di Venezia* and the *Venice International University.* Further education after grade school is available for the Venetian youth; however the fields of study are limited to several disciplines. The *Universitá Ca’Foscari Venezia* has divisions of Economics, Humanities, Foreign Languages and Literature, and Science.[[23]](#footnote-24) The *Universitá Iuav di Venezia* is an architectural school, and degrees offered are in either architecture or urban planning[[24]](#footnote-25). The *Venice International University* offers only Social Science, Humanities, and Economics degrees[[25]](#footnote-26). As evident, there is a lack of specific disciplines, such as engineering, in the Venetian universities. This, along with the fact that globalization allows for easier access of education worldwide, is a key reason for any technically inclined youth to leave Venice.

### 2.3.2 Economy

Valene Smith, one of the founders of the study of tourism, once stated, “In the 1980s, individuals questioned whether tourism was a blessing or blight, but the issue is now essentially academic, given the value of tourism as the world’s largest industry and its role as a global employer and customer.” [[26]](#footnote-27) In tourist cities, tourism plays an important role in the city’s economy. Though these impacts are inevitable, the negative consequences of tourism can be minimized and the positive consequences can be accentuated by proper planning and management. Globalization brings out a considerable spending power, which has a significant impact on the economy .



Figure : Change in Service Locations

 One of the negative impacts of tourism is the increase in prices. The increase of demand for basic services and goods from tourists will often cause price hikes that negatively affect local residents whose income does not increase proportionately . Many areas of Venice reflect upon the economical shift that the city has experienced in recent decades. Today, there are numerous closed shops, some used for storage and others simply unused, scattered in the *campi* throughout the city. Abandoned signs show prosperous areas which were originally catered to residential needs. Figure two shows how local residential services have sharply decreased, while storage and abandoned buildings have drastically increased over the past 33 years in order to accommodate the growing tourist economy. Shops are prioritizing tourists over residents in Venice, causing a decline in the residential population. In addition, tourism development and the related rise in real estate demand may dramatically increase building costs and land values (Theobald 2005). Some commodities, such as coal, are near impossible to find, whereas computers, electronics, and other luxurious tourist merchandise are starting to grow. Fewer residential products and services available in the Venetian economy obviously takes away from the native Venetians’ quality of life.

## 2.4 Pre-adult years (21-29 years old)

 As college students graduate, they enter the pre-adult stage of life, ranging from 21 to 29 years of age. At this point, many young adults are searching for a job or more particular educational experiences. It is also a critical time in an individual’s future because it is the first time he can decide to remain in the area or take advantage of job or work opportunities elsewhere. At this stage family life, jobs, and the cost of living are some factors which influence youth, and need to be studied in light of the evidence shown by figure 3, which shows that the population under 30 has been decreasing in the last 30 years.



Figure : Population decrease from 1981 to 2001. Red is population in 1981, green 1991 and blue 2001

### 2.4.1 Jobs and Cost of Living

With an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent in Venice[[27]](#footnote-28), as compared to a national unemployment rate of 6.0 percent [[28]](#footnote-29) or a global rate of 6.1 percent [[29]](#footnote-30), the number of jobs available is not a problem in the Venetian job market. As evident, there is a sufficient amount of work that can be found in Venice. However, the breadth of fields that these jobs encompass is low. As proven by their absence on Venice’s job search website, engineering and architecture jobs are scarce.[[30]](#footnote-31) In fact, the majority of the jobs are consumer oriented. The median salary in Venice, calculated by averaging median salaries by employer type, is approximately €22,000, as compared to a national average of approximately €24,500.[[31]](#footnote-32) These salaries may reflect the income of an older age group since much of the Italian youth do not obtain a full time position upon graduation and end up in poorly paid internships with short-term contracts.[[32]](#footnote-33)

### 2.4.2 Families

The effect of tourism and the increased cost of living has also impacted Italian family structures. It is not uncommon for the young at this time of their life (up to 30 years of age) to be living with their parents instead of starting their own families. In fact in Italy, eight out of ten men between the ages of 18 and 30 still live with their parents, compared to five out of ten for England and four out of ten for the United States.[[33]](#footnote-34) One reason for this delay is because of the aforementioned increase cost of living. Many can’t afford to go to school and work at the same time. One Italian’s remarks, “I am 27 year old and I still live with my parents in Monza... I entered the world of working from less than a year. How can you think I can rent a home for a single in Milan and live in autonomy? It's simply impossible!”. The financial burden of higher education becomes unmanageable, and without an income students are forced to live at home.

Another reason why Venetians remain with their parents for so long is because out of grade school, many remain unemployed due to the lack of variety Venice’s job market has to offer. Until they find the stability of a career, they rely on the support of their family since the welfare state has little to offer. This same source states that Italian parents also benefit from the companionship of their children, making it harder for the children to gain their own independence and move out.

 The welfare services within Venice are poorly revised and have no specific provisions for dealing with single mothers. Single parental units as a family are viewed as an “incomplete family.” The welfare system discourages the act of ending a marriage because it does not support accommodations of the members involved.[[34]](#footnote-35) A case study was made by Riitta Kyllonen(1998) on the social construction of single mothers within Venice. This case study demonstrates the Venetian government’s inability to accommodate their native youth population and shows the obstacles created by the government that further impede the lives of the struggling young Venetian families.

Although no absolute database exists of the cost of living within Venice, inferences can be made. An interesting observation made by one tourist spending a year in Venice through his blog describes how standard market prices differ for Venetians and tourists,[[35]](#footnote-36) a factor which can make it hard to determine the true cost of living within Venice from a remote site. One travel agency claims that the monthly cost of living is between €500-800 for the bare basics (Renting and Food costs)[[36]](#footnote-37). The high costs of living as compared to yearly income is also hinted at by Economy Minister Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa in his efforts to pass a new tax bill, which would provide tax relief for 20 to 40 year olds who move out and start renting on their own instead of living with their parents. “We must send those we call 'big babies' out of the house. With the budget we'll help young people who don't marry and still live with their parents get out of the house" is what the minister told a Senate hearing on the 2008 draft budget. However, incentives like this would not be enough for young Italians, and cheaper living alternatives would need to be explored.6

# 3 METHODOLOGY INTRODUCTION

The goal of this project is to assess how the opportunities and challenges associated with being young in Venice affect youth population. At its core, this project is aimed to study the opportunities Venice has to offer its youth, and the Venetian youth’s response to these opportunities. We aim to assess the current state of Venetian youth life and define emerging youth trends through the city, as well as identifying key challenges posed to the youth of the city. The objectives of this project are:

1. To investigate the opinions on the quality of life of the Venetian youth
* To create a record of opinions on available opportunities needed by Venetian youth
1. To assess the opportunities available to Venetian youth
* To identify the opportunities available to the Venetian youth
	+ To identify and record existing youth facilities and points of interest throughout the city of Venice
	+ To document alternatives for facilities and programs
* To identify reasons why younger Venetians decide to remain in their native city
	+ To reconstruct Venetian youth immigration trends
1. To assess the challenges faced by Venetian youth
	* To identify reasons why the younger Venetians decide to leave their native city
		+ To reconstruct venetian youth emigration trends
2. To establish trends in the future
* Take away existing youth programs
* Leave the situation as is
* Implementation of our proposed actions

We plan to determine and record existing points of interest for young people throughout Venice. Through each objective this plan can be achieved. From these results we can establish trends in the future depending on different plans of actions. One track could be if we took away existing programs to deal with the youth issue and tracked that over a period of time. Another would be if we left what was being done to aid the issue as of now and tracked that over a period of time as well. Finally, what would be the result if we implemented our set of actions to address the youth issues in Venice?

In order to fully clarify the extent of our project, it is imperative that we define certain areas such as location, time frame, and important concepts. Our overall domain of study will be taking place in Venice, Italy, as pictured in figure 4.



Figure : Comune di Venezia

 We will specifically be studying the youth population in the historical part of Venice, which is where most of the youth problems are occurring (Passi 2008). We will also be looking at the Mestre, or the mainland, however, for youth migration trends. Finally within Venice, we will specifically be interested in the residential areas as opposed to the tourist areas.

 Our project has certain limitations in order for s to achieve our goals and objectives in the given amount of time. These limitations will help us obtain maximum benefit for our study. Our group will have time constraints regarding researching and data collection because the times for the different activities people engage in vary. Therefore, we must plan to observe the youth population during correct time period. We will have to work during the day to see young people interacting with each other and the city itself, and to interview people. The nightclubs would have to be observed at night at their peak hours. Also, in Venice, most people do not work from 12:00pm to 2:00pm, so it would be beneficial to interview natives between these hours since they would have some free time. Since schools are closed on the weekends, it would be a good time for us to observe and interact with the children. On the other hand, during the week we could observe school systems.

Venice has a different definition of "young" than the western world.  It is well known that in Italy, many live with their parents past the age of 30 (Greenspun 1998). Also, the average age that a college student graduates from college in Italy is 27.8, which is almost five years after the American college graduation rate (Panorama 2008). After looking at similar youth statistics, we decided to establish the youth age boundaries from birth to the age of 29 for the purpose of this project. Since there is a large age range associated with the youth, we have further broken up this age group into three different parts:  the early years, the adolescent years, and the young adult years.  The breakdown of the age groups also makes it easier to identify issues that are related to each specific stage of life.  The early years include the time of birth to 14 years.  The areas which we will be evaluating related to this age group are fertility rates, daycare programs, schooling systems, and traditional children games.  During the adolescent years, ages 14 to 20, universities and the economy for graduates will be examined.  The pre-adult years, ages 20 to 29, are associated with new young families, jobs, and the cost of living. When we examine youth issues, we are not referring to crime, but rather issues that are causing the youth to move out of Venice.

Now that we have introduced our objectives above, we will describe the methods we will adopt to achieve them in the following sections.

# 3.1 METHODOLOGY SECTION HEADINGS

## 3.1.2 Investigating the opinions on the quality of life of the Venetian youth

Understanding common views and opinions regarding Venetian youth lifestyles is an integral aspect of our research – without understanding what the general populace finds desirable, we will not be able to suggest any path of action. *‘Focus groups may be useful at virtually any point in a research program, but they are particularly useful for exploratory research where rather little is known about the phenomenon of interest.’(Pg. 15* (Stewart and Shamdasani 1991)*)[[37]](#footnote-38)*

Focus groups have inherent advantages and disadvantages – they allow for an easier assimilation of data from a larger pool of opinions than one-on-one interviews would allow, however they are susceptible to observer effects, and chosen ineffectually may not represent the desired makeup of the target audience. However, for an initial, exploratory study to obtain generic information regarding opinions held by the Venetian populace, focus groups represent a simple and cost-effective method to collect data as compared to a wider survey or multiple interviews.

The first step to working with a focus group is to identify its makeup. A focus group must reflect the demographic areas of interest, but the total number of members must be limited to a certain maximum (approx. 12) to allow the effective working of the moderator of the group. We are interested in the Venetian populace between the ages of 18 through 30, and thus members from this age group must be included in the focus group. Members of the populace who have not enrolled in tertiary education, college students, non working college graduates, and members of the work force are all of interest to us, and the focus group must reflect this makeup. Furthermore, opinions of youth scholars, and older members of the Venetian populace with children who fall into the 'youth’ category may be of interest to us, and should be reflected in the focus group. Thus, a makeup of at least four youths, one from each of the identified areas of interest (college students, college graduates, etc), a youth scholar, and perhaps two generic members of the Venetian populace with youth interests (such as parents) would be a minimal requirement for the focus group.

 Once the participants for the focus group have been identified based of the discussed criteria, the participants would need to be contacted to participate in the focus group. For this a mixture of email and in-person contacts can be utilized. The contact method would need to include all pertinent information, such as the topic of research, the participant’s role in the focus group and the time and place of the meeting. As focus group participation is a time-consuming activity for participants, possible incentives to participate would need to be explored – perhaps the study could be conducted over dinner, providing a basic incentive for the participants. For this, an appropriate, centralized location would need to be identified, perhaps a café near the San Marco area. In terms of the number of participants, we would want to ensure that we have within a certain minimum and maximum for effective running of the focus group; Stewart and Shamdasani(Stewart and Shamdasani 1991) suggest a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 people in the focus group. To ensure this, we may have to over-recruit participants to ensure a minimum quota is met.

 Before the focus group is conducted, a skeleton questionnaire for an interview procedure would need to be created. The questions decided upon would be structured to have the most generic questions towards the top and the more specific questions as a follow up on answers to generic questions – essentially the role of the moderator of the group would be to promote discussion on the topics of interest and make note of views held by differing members of the group. Also, more important questions would be introduced early in the interview procedure to allow for longer discussion times for these questions. The questions themselves will be formulated after collating data on youth trends, and existing opportunities and challenges.

In addition to focus groups, we could collect opinions via blogs and online discussions posted by the Venetian youth. Furthermore, papers published by scholars pertaining to the Venetian youth can be studied to see the prevailing notions on youth needs.

## 3.1.3 Assessing the opportunities of the Venetian youth

Assessing the opportunities available to the Venetian youth is a key step to understanding what draws youth to Venice. We can utilize observational studies of various facilities identified via the focus group to create an index of the most successful which, incidentally, could give us an insight into what a young person looks for. Such facilities would include recreational, educational, and occupational. This will be accomplished through frequency and time duration sampling of the aforementioned facilities.[[38]](#footnote-39) An initial study will be conducted to gain the typical traffic flow of youth within the given facility gaining the peaks within the day. From this we can set up a time period to continue the time duration and frequency studies. There will, however, be biases that need to be accounted for in the final reports – while taking these samples we need to blend into the environment as best as possible, so as not to disrupt the typical traffic flow; also these “hot spots” will draw not only residential youth, but touristic youth as well. Upon completion of these studies, a map can be created that will reflect the active youth facilities within Venice. The educational and job opportunities available to the Venetian youth could be documented in an effort to catalogue opportunities available. Furthermore, unavailable desired facilities could be documented.

## 3.1.4 Assessing the challenges of the Venetian youth

Studying the challenges posed to the Venetian youth is as important as understanding the opportunities available in order to draw a cohesive picture of what Venice offer’s its youth. Our research has shown that the most common challenges the youth face are rent prices and the job market. Although the average Venetian salary has been documented[[39]](#footnote-40), once in Venice we will be able to find out how much the average salary of the Venetian youth is. With respect to this, the true cost of living will also be observed once in Venice, and a comparison between the two will be drawn. With this data we will have a better understanding of how affordable it is for the youth to live in Venice. In terms of job offerings, we will see how many jobs are available. Job postings in the internet, newspaper want ads, store ads and ads around the city could work as multiple data sources for this. From these studies, we can map out where and what sorts of jobs are being offered in the city, and make a table of the type of jobs being offered and the amount of jobs in each category. We can use this collated data to compare Venice to other cities.



Figure

Emigration is a result of the challenges faced by a young Venetian. An example of this data collation is the chart above, which is a comparison of percent changes in Youth Population (Ages 20-29) in Venice and surrounding areas. Centro Storico is the main Venetian Islands (Shaped like a fish), Estuario are the surrounding islands (like Murano, Burano, etc), Terrafirma is Venetia Mestre (the mainland part of Venice) and Padua is a sister city to Venice. As can be observed, all the Venetian regions show a decrease in youth population through the years. However, all the main Venetian areas show an increasing trend in the decrease vs. Padua, which exhibits a decreasing rate. Even with this 'improving' rate of change, it is apparent that youth are moving out of the Venetian area, mainland or otherwise, and the migration of Venetian youth cannot be attributed to a 'Suburban effect'.

## 3.1.5 Establishing Future Youth Trends

 Based on all the studies conducted, we will document alternatives for current facilities and programs, which could allow for future endeavors in this field. Through our observational studies and focus group interviews, if it is determined that there is a lack of certain programs or facilities, or that existing facilities could be improved upon, we could try to document alternatives to the suggested facilities and programs. If possible we will create a map of areas that have available space to implement some of these facilities and formulate proposals for them.

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# Appendix

## Appendix 1: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY – Relevant Background and Methodology

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 This article talks about how so many people are moving out of Venice and to where they are moving to. They also give some reasons why people move out including price, and because is more of a touristic atmosphere

**Youth Emigration and Reasons to Stay**

**Linking Demographic and Ecological Change in Bristol Bay**

**Rachel Donkersloot Phd Candidate**

[**http://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/fish-com2/ppts/donkersloot.pdf**](https://exchange.wpi.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=71be8be74bfd4b48aadc21d36535f112&URL=http%3a%2f%2fseagrant.uaf.edu%2fconferences%2ffish-com2%2fppts%2fdonkersloot.pdf)

A power point presentation that draws connections between youth migration in Bristol Bay and the transition of the youth during and after college.  The presentation provides some good data values on this phenomenon along with graphical displays of that data.

***Reason - Immigration Now.* August 2006. http://www.reason.com/news/show/36906.html (accessed October 6, 2008).**

### Living in Venice

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 This article talks about how it is to live in Venice nowadays. It gives reasons why people don’t want to stay in Venice, and also gives estimates of prices of living cost.

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 This website gives rates for apartments and the amount of time you can rent them for. If we compare the price of an apartment and the average salary we can get an idea of how hard it is to live in Venice if you are young.

***The Venetian Dilemma.* Directed by Carole Rifkind and Richard Rifkind. 2005.**

 *The Venetian Dilemma* provides an interesting and valuable insight into the lives of everyday Venetians. Depicting Venice through multiple pairs of Venetian eyes, the documentary explores many issues, ranging from the Deputy Mayor D'Agostino's efforts to modernize the city to the apparent inefficiencies in the governments property managing scheme. A valuable source, it could shape a few aspects of our project by providing insights before we actually travel to Venice.

### Job Market

**UN Global Youth Report 2005 – globalization effects** [**http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wpayglobalization.htm**](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wpayglobalization.htm)

This excerpt from the UN Global youth report discusses global effects on the youth of the world. It addresses issues such as emergent job markets, changing levels of education etc.

**ILO report on Labour Market trends :** [**http://www-old.itcilo.org/actrav/actrav-english/telearn/global/ilo/seura/mains.htm#Migration**](http://www-old.itcilo.org/actrav/actrav-english/telearn/global/ilo/seura/mains.htm#Migration)

This article discusses changin labour and job market trends, and also talks about the resultant shift in youth demographics from the changes.

### Demographics and Data Analysis

**City of Venice, Statistics Database**

Has data on demographic trends through the past years for venice. Has a couple of studies on the trends. Useful data for the background!

***Comune di Venezia, Servizio Statistica e Ricerca***

This source comes directly from the Bureau of Census of Venice Italy.  It analyzes population data and discusses possible reasons behind recent trends.  In respect to our topic, there is a relevant chart of population trends of different age groups.  The article discusses the decline of the average family, which is one reason why the youth are moving out of Venice.

### Family

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