



# DOING TRANSITIONS DOING TRANSITIONS DOING TRANSITIONS

all dressed up for adulthood

- bodies and clothing in rites of passage towards adulthood

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# all dressed up for adulthood

- bodies and clothing in transition towards adulthood

## structure

1. **doing Jugendweihe**
  - „after all, it's not every day you grow up”
2. **ritual practices and transitions in life course**
  - an old relationship „betwixt and between”
3. **bodies and clothes of thresholds**
  - examples
4. **conclusion: doing ritual and creating borders**
  - ways in making a “difference”  
while making the adults of tomorrow



# 1. doing Jugendweihe

- „after all, it's not every day you grow up“

- how to „make“ a **transition in ageing** while doing something extraordinary like a „ritual“
- **social practice of Jugendweihe** (Youth-Consecration) and the process of preparation and implementation which is created for and with the young people „once in a lifetime“

➔ How is „difference and changing“ in and as transition of coming of age **done**?

➔ Which **practices** are included and how are they organized to a process of transformation?

➔ How are **which elements** - like materialities, social formations (also institutions), time and space **involved** in creating a transition(-ritual) as a „special difference“?



**Die coolen Jugendweihe im Jugendclubhaus 2020**

**Termine:**

Anmeldebeginn	01.06.2019 (nur online)
Allgemeiner Infoabend	20.08.2019 18 Uhr (alle Schulen im Klubhaus)
Teenie Disco	13.09.2019 (18-22 Uhr im Klubhaus)
Anmeldeschluss	15.09.2019 (klassenweise, Terminbekanntgabe)
Camp Meet	21.09 - 22.09.2019 (Anmeldung nur online)
Teenie Disco	15.11.2019 (18-22 Uhr im Klubhaus)
Teenie Disco	17.01.2020 (18-22 Uhr im Klubhaus)
Jugendweihe Fashion Day	07.03.2020 (Anmeldung nur online)
Teenie Disco	13.03.2020 (18-22 Uhr im Klubhaus)
Stellproben	25.04.2020 (18-18 Uhr im Klubhaus)

**Jugendweihen Regelschulen**  
**Jugendweihen Regelschulen**  
**Jugendweihen Herder + sonstige**  
**Jugendweihen Humboldt + sonstige**

**02.05.2020**  
**09.05.2020**  
**16.05.2020**  
**23.05.2020**

Alle Angaben und Termine richten sich nach den Teilnehmerzahlen und sind ohne Gewähr!  
 weitere Infos auf: [www.jugendweihgemeinschaft.de](http://www.jugendweihgemeinschaft.de) [info@jugendweihgemeinschaft.de](mailto:info@jugendweihgemeinschaft.de)

Nach Registrierung (ab 1.6.2019) erhalten Sie alle Infos, die Sie brauchen, auch per Email.

## 2. ritual practices and transitions in life course

*rites of transition: van Gennep (1906)*

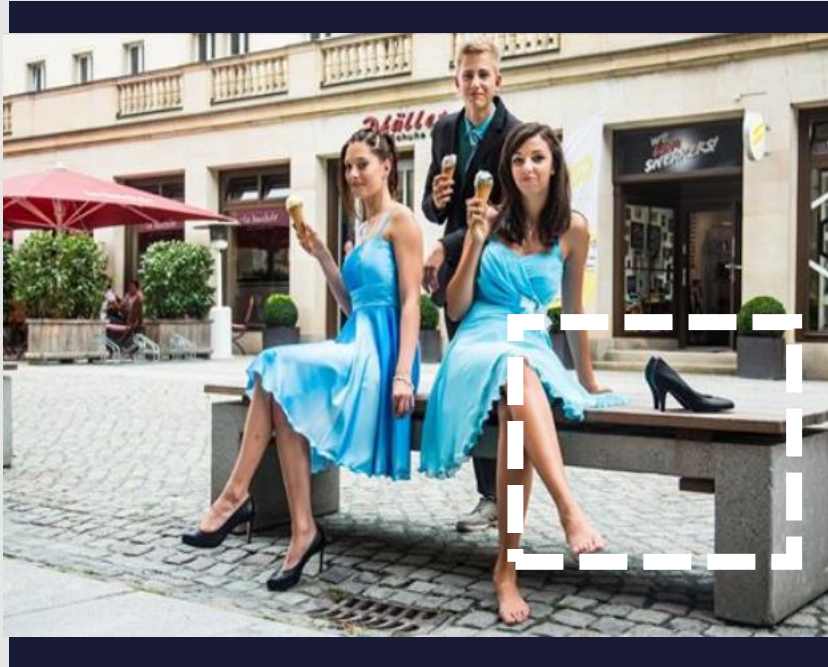
*process, liminality and performative practice: Turner (1964, 1969, 1989)*

*instituting social borders by doing transitions: Bourdieu (1982)*

### “classical” theories of ritual-transitions open up:

- transitions as process and practices of separation, transformation and affiliation
  - the relation of state and transition in processing and regulating life-course and the normative created process of passing over
- ↳
- changings as dramatic social arrangements of passing over lines and transition practices as regulation of social conflicts
  - liminal spaces and communitas while merging between separated states
- ↳
- social demarcation, f.e. rites of initiation and the (re-) producing of social borders
  - transitions (from-to) are a stepping across borders and a transformative way of doing difference

## 2. ritual practices and transitions in life course



### Dücker (2007) & Brosius et al. (2013): elements of ritual practices

"Festive and solemnity, rarity, the unusualness of a situation for which one has prepared oneself through various arrangements such as formal dress and inner attitude, are conditions of ritualistic out-of-the-ordinaryness, because this itself is only generated through the performance, is a dimension that makes the normally unavailable experience possible." (Dücker 2007: 52)

"Ritual actions always cause transitions or transformations from a starting point to a different target situation." (Dücker 2007: 52)

### Szabo (2018):

"It is precisely this body that is manipulated [...] and thereby considerably influenced physically and psychologically. [...] The pain becomes a lustful catalyst of a new unity of body and environment." (Szabo 2018: 21)

## 2. ritual practices and transitions in life course



### Schäfer (2014): transformation and reproduction of practices

"If practices have always been repetitions and variations that we share with others, the social becomes visible at the centre of the individual, and the perception of an "inner core" (as opposed to a supposedly "outer" society) must already be understood as the result of a demarcation based on specific practices." (Schäfer 2014: 146f.)

### Hirschauer/Boll (2017): un/doing differences

"Practices that show a sense of belonging, the classification processes that assign them, the polarizing measures that keep categorizations apart." (Hirschauer/Boll 2017: 9)

"A concrete case of doing difference is thus always a meaningful selection from a series of competing differentiations. Only selection creates a difference that also makes a difference. [...] what is decisive is whether in social processes [...] the difference is made by the selection." (Hirschauer/Boll 2017: 12)

## 2. bodies and clothes of thresholds

practice of dressing up for a “special day” which is limited as “once in a lifetime”

- ➡ How are body and things (f.e. clothes) take part in doing transition of coming of age?
- ➡ How do clothing and body change (something) while un/doing differences?
- ➡ How is (self)-transformation done together with others?
- ➡ Which elements are how related to each other in the process of dressing up?

becoming a „growing up & create a older, festive variation of „myself“



cheeky – fresh – exclusive

clothes for „Jugendweihe“ (youth-consecration) made by Maiwald

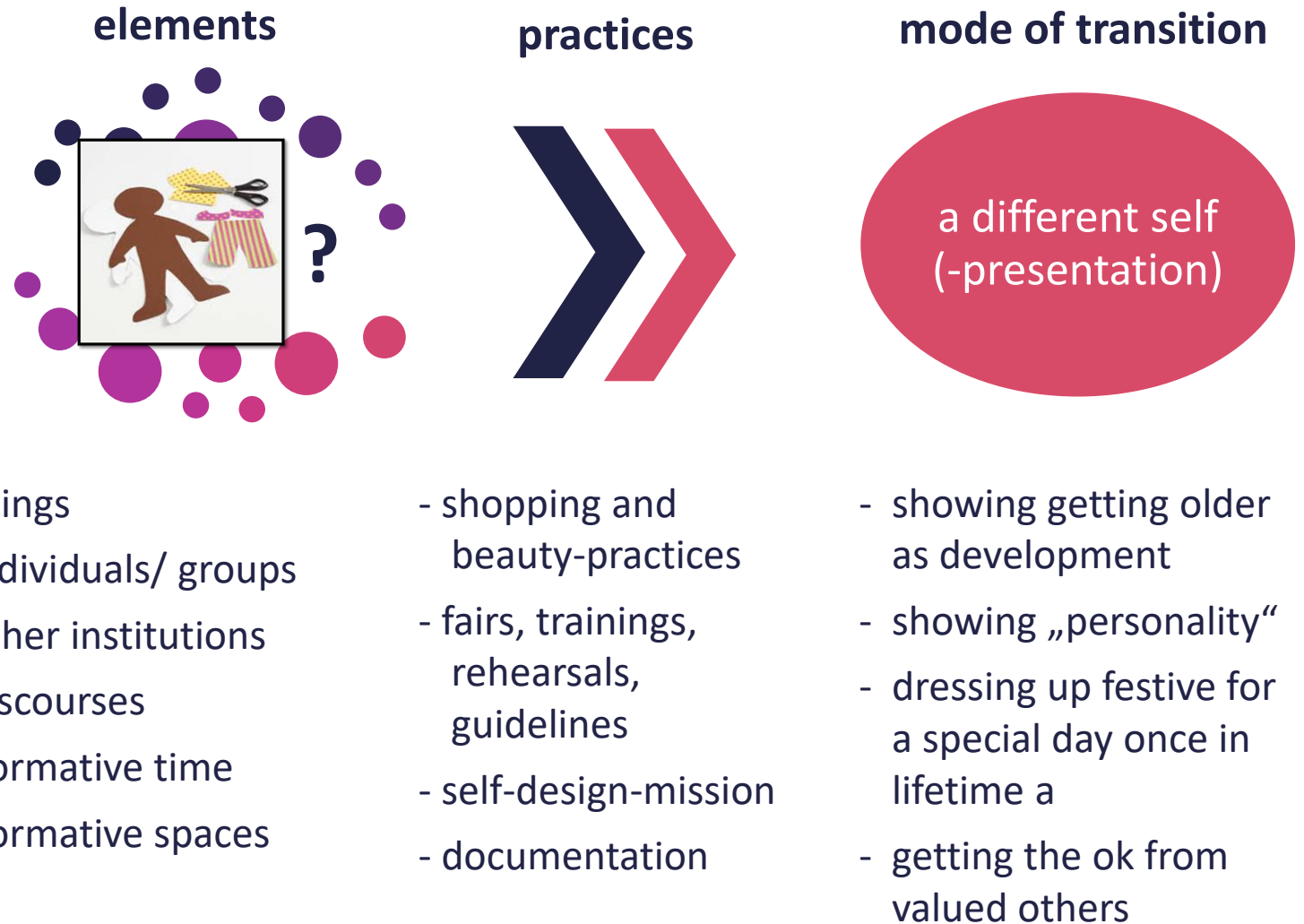
Die neue Kollektion für Jugendweihe und Konfirmation erwartet Euch ab sofort in unsere

The new collection for Youth-Consecration and Confirmation is waiting for you now!

## 2. bodies and clothes of thresholds

### 2.1 *doing difference while dressing up*

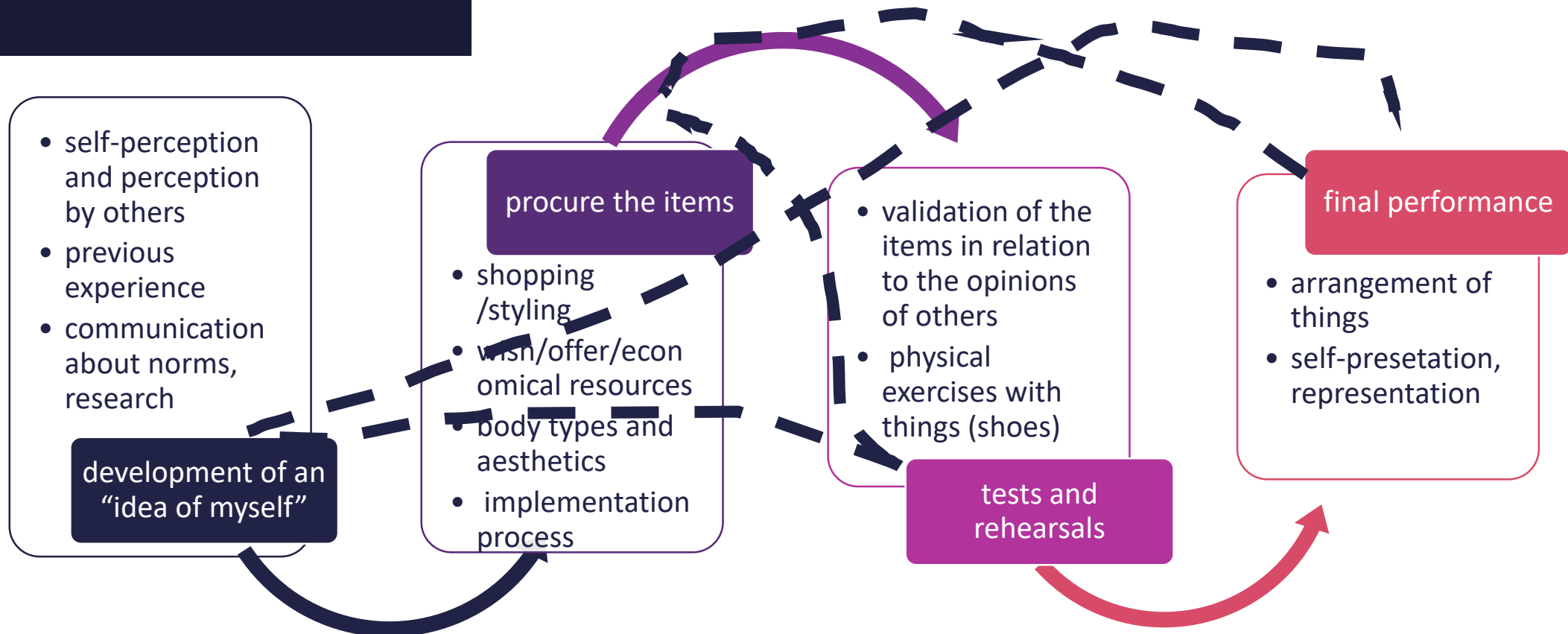
- preparations from head to toe



## 2. bodies and clothes of thresholds

### 2.2 selfpreparation as process of embodied transformation

"If someone makes something visible, he intends the transition from invisibility to visibility, possibly also from private to public." (Dücker 2007, p.53)





## 2.2 selfpreparation as practice of embodied transformation

Barbie without makeup



**“I don’t want makeup or a dress and if they cut my hair now, that's assault.”** (interview Susan)

later that day:

**“This is the best day of my entire life.”** (p.o. Susan)

## 2. bodies and clothes of thresholds



### - no jogging-suits and no everyday look but also not over the top

I: the other people in class are wearing something like you?

Mattis: yes just don't wear these shoes, they all have these

Kirsten: -yes, but some of them always have such disgusting ugly sneakers that have no idea how old they are since months [...]

Ina: -or just sweatpants what?

I: what is exaggerated?

Kirsten: well that they well well exaggerated not but that they are dressed like have suits anyway really have smokings tie fly lacquer shoes and so on.

Ina: nick for example wants to come in sweatpants

Kirsten: yes, he wants to wear a hooded sweatshirt with sweatpants but he doesn't do it anyway

Mattis: he does not do that either, he does not let his mum get away with it I think less

I: don't you think that it will come to the point that he will show up @in sweatpants@

Kirsten: -he's way too scared for that, I'll tell you right now

Ina: no generally I mean he wouldn't dare" (interview, housing group child/youth welfare)

## 2. bodies and clothes of thresholds

### 2.4 Form, style and size of a growing up body

#### Where to go shopping now for a dress of youth conceration?

- doing differences in age, gender, size, shape, price and function while going shopping in departments of a store (f.e. baby, kids, teens and in adults) or choosing a gender-marked one (f.e. Orsay)
- take a thing that you like, can effort, fit in and fulfill the normative codes of the situation you are going to wear

#### What size fit 14 years old? Sewn-in differences



sizes up to 164  
children's fashion  
and sizes



sizes 128-182  
teeny- fashion and  
sizes



german sizes 40,42  
adult fashion and  
sizes/ sizes for suits

marking gender differences by seperating  
in measurement tables

## 2. bodies and clothes of thresholds

### 2.5 *being an adult means...*

...looking for a good price and  
good quality

...do something „wrong“, but  
find a way to legitimize it

...being aware of the  
dresscodes at festivities

### How to deal with „standards“: educational aids

“Maren: of course you sometimes have to (...) maybe you also have to lower your demands a bit, when you go to the events and have the parents, where you think I couldn't have worn something that doesn't have a hole? Or if they couldn't have turned on a washing machine before.” (pedagogic management housing group 2016)

“Social Worker: Then I said, guys try this, then they were both like this at the same time and then I just looked and then we just have the sizes as it fits [I: -mhm] that was a bit difficult. then we had to mumble a little bit that we had managed it, then they both looked at each other, just Thomas standing there in front of the mirror, I won't forget. really like that (...) well, you can put it on [I laughs] and then we were already done. well, maybe it took an hour and a half in the shop1 [I: -mh]. well, the sizes, that was all, but that was really funny, they had some nice, nice complete things, so now that the suit trousers, jacket and vest were there [I: -mhm] which I would have liked to have taken (.) but that just wasn't possible [I: -mhm] I mean with me, forty-eight has now nine fifty-six and in the vest nine fifty-two [I: -mh] that wasn't allowed.” (social worker 2016)

### 3. doing ritual transition while (re-) producing borders

- *ways in making a  
“difference” while making  
the adults of tomorrow*

- **shifting everyday life**, creating special times and spaces “in between” which make a break in process or between states (of growing up)
- a **category for relational analysis** of transformations in transitions and some **modes of “transitioning”** in a (normative) symbolic and (disputable) performative way f.e. celebration, party
- **ambivalences of becoming different** while getting through a ritual transition practice
- **initiation practices as age-gender-aesthetics related body modifications** and doing of renewal and changing in cultural memberships
- **relations about materiality and social relationships target to make a transition visible und public**, also remarkable for others and found the own social relevance and also create a relationship renewal by participation
- **individual and collective transitions are linked with others** (f.e. “parents”) and other transitions (f.e. school enrolment, wedding, graduation)

## (extra)-ordinarity and the making of differences

### transformation by ritual practices :

(extra)ordinarity as relation in which transitions are done while creating of and referring to transtemporality and translocality; performative-symbolic changing

### transposition by transitions:

Doing difference while doing transformation (changings in “stated” differences) in transition from one position to another as a moving in between cultural and social memberships and while (re-)creating social relationships

### questions

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- evtl. für die Diskussion ist aber noch in Bearbeitung mit den anderen Referentinnen

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## Thank's

for your attention.



***Thank you***  
for beeing part of my  
celebration



## references

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children & parents



- ggf.  
zusätzlich

cool-cute



youths & friends

Age-Differences  
and „ice-cream“

Eating -Styles



messy-cute