DWELLING WITH THE CITY
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS PARTICIPATING RESIDENTS

This project produces new understanding of the ways in which children and young people co-exist with their living environments and negotiate the spatial limitations of their everyday lives. By ‘dwelling with’ we refer to people’s meaningful engagements with their surroundings.

STRATEGIES OF APPROPRIATING SPACE
participation by being hanging-out and public space gender and identities

WHO IS INVITED?

EVERYDAY MATERIALITY
mutuality in child - matter relations autotelic activity ‘banal geographies’ openness to non-human surroundings

WHOSE OWN?

perspectives of YOUNG DWELLERS

glocal living & learning space as an educational context

PEDAGOGY OF PLACE

The methodological palette in use in Dwelling with the City is a post-structural one. This is to say that it is multi-modal, adapted as research progresses, and strives to complement the messiness and richness of life rather than seeking to simplify it to clear-cut categories. We apply observation, photo-tells and photo-walks, collecting and arranging ‘things’ and interacting with environments. These methods are participatory in nature – while also questioning the limits and conditions of young people’s participation in research.

Dwelling with the City is a four-year research project funded by the Academy of Finland as part of its research programme The Future of Housing and Living (2011-2015). The objective of the project is to produce in-depth understanding of the ways in which young people grow co-existing with their everyday life environments. Field work for the project is conducted in three urban areas of different scales and contexts: Helsinki (population 589 000; Helsinki Metropolitan Area, 1 million) and Oulu (140 000) in the South and North of Finland respectively, as well as in San Francisco (815 000; SF Metropolitan Area, 4.2 million) in the USA.