

## Propositions

Attached to the thesis

Victimhood and Agency in the Sex trade

Experiences and Perceptions of Teenage Girls in Rural West Java

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1. The prevailing concept of child trafficking and its underpinning assumptions influence and shape current international counter-child trafficking policies. (this thesis)
2. The tendency to classify all girls below the age of eighteen who enter the sex trade as miserable, passive victims of child trafficking prevents us from seeing the possibility that girls exercise agency in the face of adversity. (this thesis)
3. The dichotomous 'victimhood versus agency' thinking implicit in much research does not capture the co-existing dimensions of vulnerability and autonomy in the lives of children exposed to the sex trade. (this thesis)
4. The recruitment of teenage girls and young women into commercial sex work needs to be analysed in relation to structural socio-cultural forces and the influence of gender, patriarchy, class and intergenerational power. (this thesis)
5. The continuity or survival of intervention programmes at community and district levels is primarily determined by the political agenda and presumptions of international donor agencies, rather than by basic and prevailing interests, experiences, needs and opinions of girls. (this thesis)
6. For many children in the sex trade, neither prostitution nor sexuality is the focus of their identity, which is based instead on being a dutiful son or daughter, belonging to a society, and fulfilling obligations to their family and community. (Montgomery, 2009)
7. Making a radical dichotomy between children and adults, when translated into policies, can and does harm children. Children move gradually towards adulthood, increasingly participating in the activities of adults and adopting, questioning, or challenging their values. (Bourdillon et al., 2010)
8. It is mostly young migrants themselves — and not anti-trafficking interventions — that terminate unacceptable forms of migrant work. (Huijsmans, 2012)
9. Intergenerational power relations may be the key to understanding youth. (Jones, 2009)
10. To make the problems faced by children and youth more visible and understandable, we — adult researchers — should be more aware that our understanding of particular social realities are influenced by and reflect our own views and values on those subjects.
11. During the writing of the thesis, most Ph.D. candidates experience so-called 'writer's block', but Ph.D. training and supervision largely ignores this problem. The best strategy is to keep writing, whatever comes to your mind: keep calm and carry on!