



2011 ATFE Biennium

## **WHO ARE THE MILLENNIALS?**

Trudy Stringer Hawkins

# WHO ARE THE MILLENNIALS?

*Generation Y Echo-Boomers  
Anti-Boomers Oh-Oh's  
Thumbs Global Generation  
Sunshine Generation*

Trudy Hawkins Stringer  
ATFE 2011 Consultation January 21, 2011  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



***A card would have  
been nice..."***

# *WHO ARE THE MILLINNIALS?*

Who are

# COMMONLY CITED CHARACTERISTICS

- ◆ Special
- ◆ Sheltered
- ◆ Confident
- ◆ Team Oriented
- ◆ Conventional
- ◆ Pressured
- ◆ Achieving
- ◆ Diverse
- ◆ Globally oriented

- ◆ *Entitled*
- ◆ *Conformist*
- ◆ *Risk averse*

- ◆ *Underdeveloped critical and reflective capacities*

Neil Howe and William Strauss. *Millennials Rising: the Next Great Generation; Cartoons by R.J. Matson*. New York: Vintage, 2000. Print.

Foley, Edward. "Theological Reflection, Theology and Technology: When Baby Boomer Theologians Teach Generations X & Y." *Theological Education* 41.1 (2005): 45-56. Print

Jason L. Frand, "The Information Age Mindset: Changes in Students and Implications for Higher Education," *Educause*, Sept. 2000. Web. 1 Sept. 2010.  
<<http://net.educause.edu/apps/er/erm00/articles005/erm0051.pdf>

# Complicating the Question

“Being a generation means that you share  
‘particular memories of the contemporary moment.’”

Huntley

## HISTORICAL

GI – 1901 – 1924

Silent – 1925 – 1942

Boomer – 1943 – 1960

Gen X – 1961 – 1981

Millennial – 1982 – 2002

## SOCIO-CULTURAL

## ECONOMIC

Neil Howe and William Strauss, *Millennials Rising: the Next Great Generation; Cartoons by R.J. Matson*. New York: Vintage, 2000. Print

Eric Hoover, "The Millennial Muddle: How Stereotyping Students Became an Industry - Students - The Chronicle of Higher Education." *Home - The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 11, 2009. Web. 17 Jan. 2011.

Huntley, Rebecca. *The World According to Y: inside the New Adult Generation*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2006. Print.

Wilson, Maureen E. "Teaching, Learning and Millennial Students." *New Directions for Student Services*. Summer 2004. Web. 1 Sept. 2010. <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ss.125/pdf>>.



# THEORIES OF DIVERSITY

## STRUCTURAL/FUNCTIONALIST

- ◆ Assimilation
- ◆ Meritocracy

## POSTMODERN PERSPECTIVE

- ◆ Broader, fluid definition: race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economics, "able"-ness, age, college generation status, religious affiliation, political affiliation
- ◆ Harmony

## CRITICAL POST MODERNISM

- ◆ Broad, fluid definition
- ◆ Critical lens:
  - Privilege
  - Power
  - Stratification

"Rethinking Diversity: The Millennial Student Project." Web. 20 Dec. 2010.  
<<http://mass.arizona.edu/millennial/aboutstudy.html>>.

# EDUCATIONAL SHIFTS

- ◆ Foley: Theoria-episteme  
Phrone-praxis
- ◆ Teaching centered – learning centered
- ◆ Sources of knowledge  
Globalization    Diversity    IT-open  
source

Daniel Aleshire, "The Future Has Arrived: Changing Theological Education in a Changing World", *The Association of Theological Schools*, Web. 31 Aug. 2010. <<http://www.ats.edu/Resources/PapersPresentations/Pages/2010BiennialMeeting.aspx>>.

Edward Foley, "Theological Reflection, Theology and Technology: When Baby Boomer Theologians Teach Generations X & Y," *Theological Education* 41.1 (2005): 45-56. Print.



# RELIGIOUS SHIFTS

- ◆ PEW: Religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices
- ◆ Loosening affiliations – religious traditions/denominations
- ◆ Emphasis on religious action over religious doctrine
- ◆ Renewed interest in ancient forms and rituals (new monasticism)

Neil Howe and William Strauss. *Millennials Rising: the Next Great Generation; Cartoons by R.J. Matson*, New York: Vintage, 2000. Print.

Rebecca Huntley, *The World According to Y: inside the New Adult Generation*, Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2006. Print

Andrew Brubacher Kaethler and Janeen Bertsche Johnson. "The Millennial Pastors Are Coming!" *AMBS*. Apr. 2009. Web. 17 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.ams.edu/new-and-publications/publications/millennial-pastors>>.

Religion Among the Millennials." *Pew Research Center*. Feb. 2010. Web. 10 Sept. 2010 <<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1494/millennials-less-religious-in-practice-but-beliefs-quite-traditional>>.

# Theological Education

- ◆ Phronesis – “practical wisdom” –art of judgment – concerning values and power
- ◆ Practice – “sources of wisdom” (Aleshire)
- ◆ Religious pluralism
- ◆ Religion and the global south
- ◆ Sources of theological knowledge

Aleshire, Daniel. "The Future Has Arrived: Changing Theological Education in a Changing World." *The Association of Theological Schools*. Web. 31 Aug. 2010. <<http://www.ats.edu/Resources/PapersPresentations/Pages/2010BiennialMeeting.aspx>>.

Foley, Edward. "Theological Reflection, Theology and Technology: When Baby Boomer Theologians Teach Generations X & Y." *Theological Education* 41.1 (2005): 45-56. Print.

# Theological Field Education

- ◆ Provide integrative locus in the curriculum
- ◆ Practice humility (not to be confused with relativism) – “humus”- complex organic substance formed by the breakdown of plant material- “the field”
- ◆ Risk – ethic of risk and ethic of control (Welch)
- ◆ Engage diversity critically
- ◆ Model mutuality – local and global

- ◆ Cultivate habits of the mind and heart  
from Killen January 20, 2011

Self-awareness

Attentiveness (Geertz “thick descriptions”)

Reserving judgment (Appreciative Inquiry)

Embracing dissonance

Abiding with ambiguity

Patricia O'Connell Killen , “Wisdom in the Plaza,” ATFE Biennial. Puerto Rico, San Juan. 20 Jan. 2011. Address.  
Sharon D. Welch, *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*, Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2000. Print.

# SAMUEL GENERATION

*“ When Eli encouraged Samuel to listen to God’s message, Eli allowed for the possibility that Samuel would hear a new, uncomfortable word from God. May God give us grace to embrace the gifts and perspectives of the coming generation...”*

Andrew Brubacher Kaethler and Janeen Bertsche Johnson, "The Millennial Pastors Are Coming!" AMBS. Apr. 2009. Web. 17 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.ambs.edu/news-and-publications/publications/millennial-pastors>>.



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- Huntley, Rebecca. *The World According to Y: inside the New Adult Generation*. Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2006. Print.
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<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZCBtsvtD8I>>.
- Welch, Sharon D. *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2000. Print.