



## Challenges and Opportunities of Young Venetians

An Interdisciplinary Qualifying Project  
Submitted to the faculty of  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
Degree of Bachelor of Science

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Date: December 12, 2008

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## **Abstract**

Young people constitute an ever dwindling share of the population of Venice. Our study established the quality of life factors most relevant to young Venetians as well as prevailing trends. It was observed that the relative importance of various factors changes drastically over time. Recreation was the most frequently discussed factor; however it was found that factors such as the social and community life and safety are of higher importance to youth when making migratory decisions. The dynamic interaction of various factors for the Venetian youth was also explored.

## Executive Summary

The goal of this project is to assess how the opportunities and challenges associated with being young in Venice affect its youth. Nine quality of life factors were determined and refined through semi-structured interviews with 15 young Venetians. Furthermore, opportunities and challenges pertaining to each of these factors were evaluated and documented. This identified issues that future Interactive Qualifying Projects can develop.

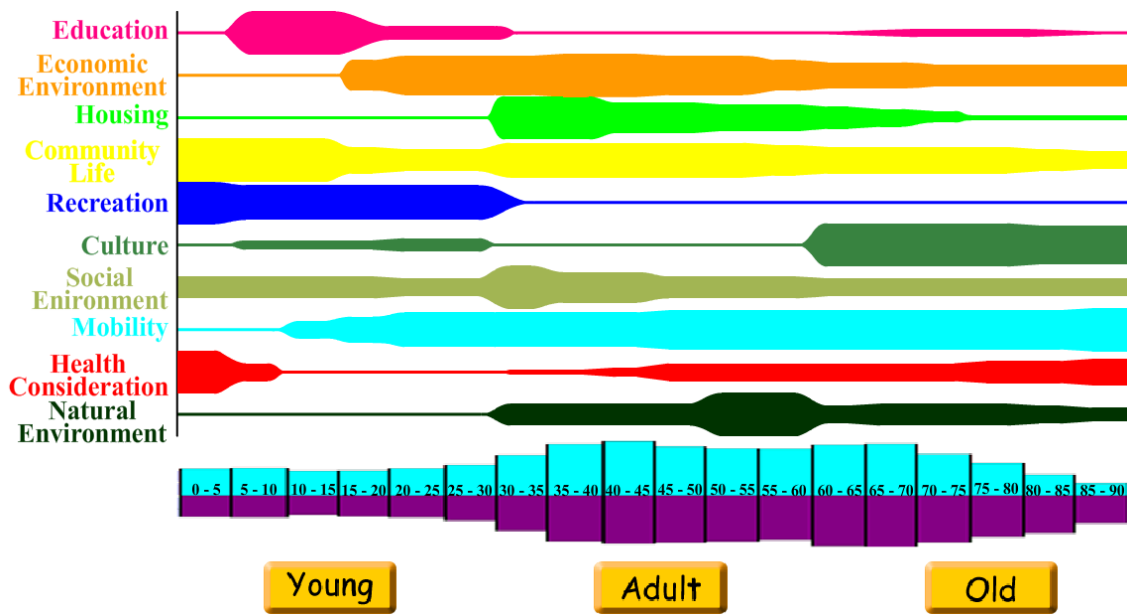
Venice's population has been decreasing steadily for the last 50 years, and the age group 20 through 30 is decreasing faster than any other. Since this age range is the transition from adolescence to adulthood, the opportunities and barriers perceived by Venetian youth influence the decision to stay or leave. Since youth around the world face similar dilemmas, the generic factors affecting their perceptions of quality of life have been studied in other cities. However, we are aware of no other study similar to ours which focuses specifically on the quality of life experienced by Venetian youth.

We informally interviewed 15 Venetians between the ages of 20 and 45 and 16 students between the ages 11 and 13 to determine quality of life factors most pertinent to the youth of Venice. All interviews were transcribed and later coded in order to analyze the quality of life factors. Comments were categorized under these factors and a frequency count of these categorized comments established their relative level of importance. This is represented in the image below; the size of a word is proportional to its importance.



On analysis of our interviews, it became apparent that a distinct combination of factors simultaneously present opportunities and pose challenges to Venetian youth. For example, Venice offers a variety of educational opportunities, especially for Venetians who choose an occupation native to Venice such as tourism. However, given that the job market is narrower than the educational opportunities offered, Venice often educates its youth to leave. A certain opportunity for an individual

could also pose a challenge for another. The slow pace of life coupled with the quiet atmosphere is attractive to Venetians seeking to start a family and settle down. This quiet life can be attributed in part to the low profile of the night life in Venice. The lack of rowdy nightclubs and parties keeps the evening noise levels in the city low. However, these same factors pose a challenge to the youth of a city looking for an active social life. The graphic below was made in collaboration with two other groups that study the quality of life factors for adults and for the elderly of Venice. The thickness of the line represents how important each quality of life factor is during a specific age bracket and it clearly shows that some factors that are important when young become less important during adulthood and vice versa .



Our group was able to determine the quality of life factors important to the youth of the city, and showed how these factors can dynamically interact with each other. Understanding the young people of Venice is an integral part of understanding the city, and an important step towards preserving the culture of the Jewel of the Adriatic.

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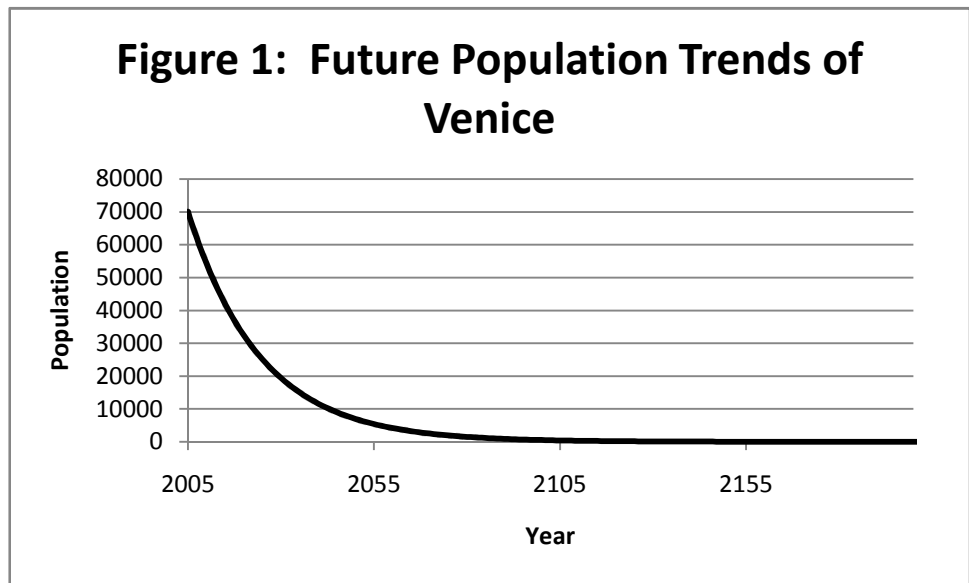
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# 1 Introduction

The quality of life and migratory trends in a tourist region are shaped by the effects of tourism. Cities that have an economy that revolves around tourism share similar opportunities and challenges regarding quality of life factors including the job market, the cost of living and a busy atmosphere.<sup>1</sup> Studies show that within well-established touristic areas including the Bahamas, two Austrian cities, and the Greek islands, traditional occupations were abandoned by residents for the more profitable tourism-related jobs, therefore limiting the job market.<sup>2</sup> In these same areas, tourists drive up the cost of living for residents because they are willing to pay a higher price for property and goods.<sup>3</sup> A global study shows that 82.4 percent of youth migration decisions were related to work or educational reasons;<sup>4</sup> the limited job market along with the high costs of living only exacerbates this. Youth migration is of particular concern because it affects the present and future population of the native community.

The highly touristic island of Venice has distinct properties that shape young Venetians' quality of life, affecting their decision to remain in Venice. Tourists increase demand for touristic services, accommodations, and goods, accounting for the reduction in residential needs. An investigator 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," a trend that is projected in Figure 1.<sup>5</sup> The urgency of this decline argues for an investigation of these quality of life factors

Figure 1: Future Population Trends of Venice

<sup>1</sup>Crouch, Geoffrey I., "Tourism, Competitiveness, and Societal Prosperity"

<sup>2</sup>Haralambopoulos, Nicholas, "Perceived Impacts of Tourism: The Case of Samos." Pg 3.

<sup>3</sup>Mosto, Francesco Da., "Is Venice Losing its Soul?"

<sup>4</sup> Roberts, Sam. "Study Foresees the Fall of an Immigration Record That Has Lasted a Century"

<sup>5</sup> Russo, Antonio Paolo, "The Case of Vicious Circle in Venice"

along with others of importance to young Venetians.

Past studies have established indicators and standards for a community's quality of life. Urban Audit, a collection of European data statistics,<sup>6</sup> and Mercer, a global consulting firm,<sup>7</sup> have both identified categories called "factors" used to rank the quality of life in major cities and countries. Similar reports on youth wellbeing, such as a study in Australia, have investigated the importance of factors specific to the younger generation.<sup>8</sup> The common factors from these reports are education, occupation, social stability, community and family life, material and subjective wellbeing, natural environment, transportation, and recreation.

Although researchers generally agree on these common indicators, the determinants most important to the youth of Venice remain to be identified. Their favorable and unfavorable views on each factor are important in understanding the state of their quality of life as are the relative importance of each factor.

This team conducted an in-depth, site-specific study to identify and evaluate these factors of quality of life. The goal of this project was to assess how the opportunities and challenges associated with being young in Venice affect its youth. Using opinions of Venetian youth collected through semi-structured interviews, the status and relative importance of each quality of life factor was determined. Relationships between specific factors were also established. One example is the tradeoff between lack of social life and a safe environment for raising a family. Another is the disparity between the wide range of educational opportunities offered in Venice compared to a job market limited largely to tourism. The evaluation of each of these categories identified issues that future project teams in Venice can develop.

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<sup>6</sup> Urban Audit

<sup>7</sup> Mercer, "Defining Quality of Life"

<sup>8</sup> 40xVenezia

## 2 Background

### 2.1 Youth Demography of Venice

The youth population of Venice is of particular concern because young people constitute an ever dwindling share of the population of Venice. Figure 2 displays the demographic makeup of Venice. As evident the youth consists of the smallest percentage of the population.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, Venice’s native youth population, specifically the age range of 20 to 30 years old, has been declining faster in recent years.<sup>10</sup> It is important to study the Venetian youth because if Venice’s population cannot replace itself, it may no longer exist.

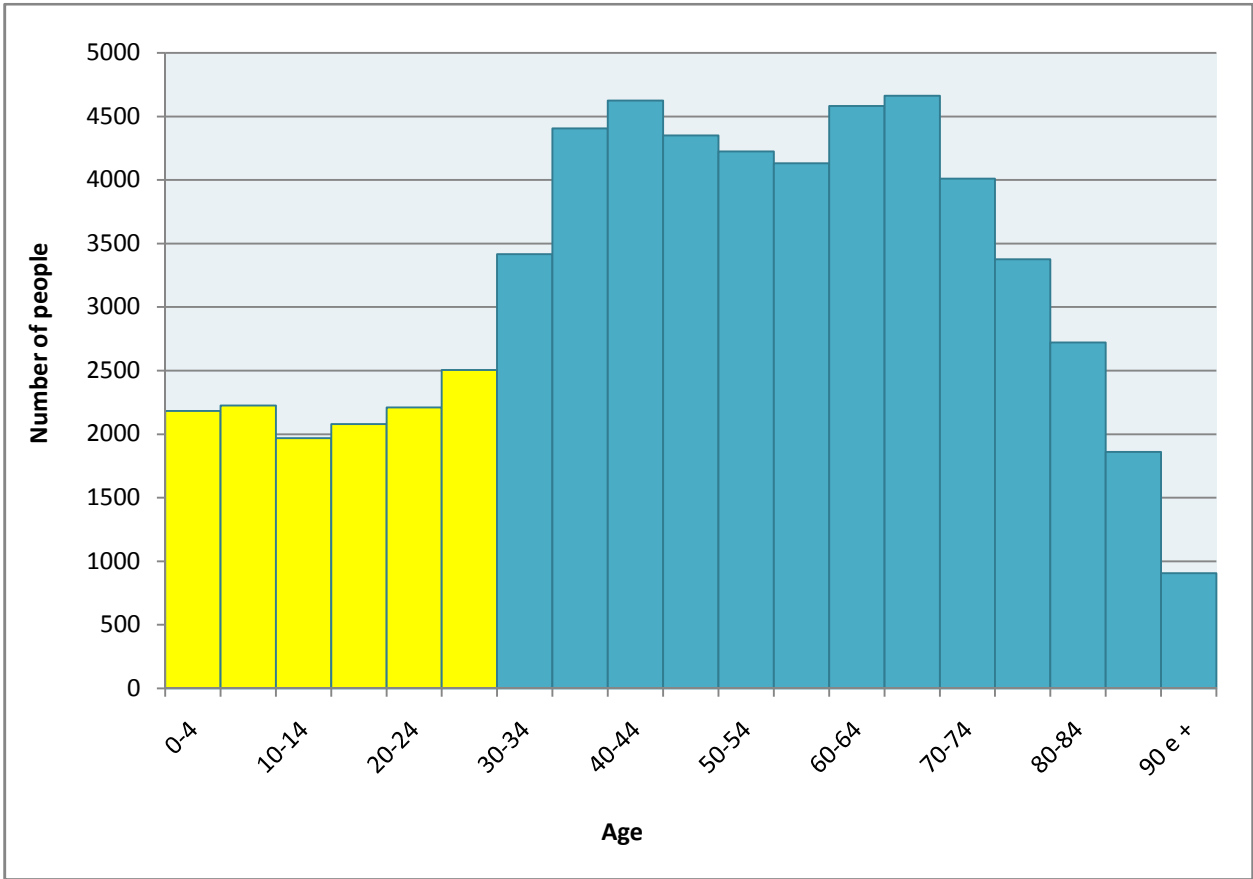


Figure 2: 2004 Age Demographic of Venetian Population

<sup>9</sup> Citta’ di Venezia

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*

## 2.2 Quality of Life Factors

The quality of life is determined through factors that contribute to one's lifetime experience.<sup>11</sup> Several companies and studies have identified specific factors which make up one's quality of life, and the importance of each factor will vary depending on the age and location of the individual. We chose to base our criteria on the studies of Mercer's Group<sup>12</sup> and two reports entitled *The Wellbeing of Young Australians*<sup>13</sup> and *Conceptualizing Irish Rural Youth Migration: A Biographical Approach*.<sup>14</sup> These studies establish the general categories of quality of life and provide a mechanism to identify key opportunities and challenges specific to the Venetian youth.

Mercer, a global consulting firm, uses ten general categories and 39 sub-categories (Ref. Figure 3) to evaluate the quality of life in 390 different cities. The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) conducted a study entitled *The Wellbeing of Young Australians*, which we adapted to study the current state of youth wellbeing in Venice. To create an evaluation for the wellbeing of the youth, ARACY utilizes eight domains broken into multiple indicators (Ref. Figure 4). A migration study conducted in rural Ireland, a single economy community like Venice, discusses reasons why youth decide to stay or leave.<sup>15</sup> Although there is no outlined table of factors, the article indicates safety, social life, community life, family life, education, occupation, and gender equality as factors which influence youth migratory decisions.

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<sup>11</sup> Mercer, *ibid*

<sup>12</sup>*Idem*

<sup>13</sup>ARACY, *The Wellbeing of Young Australians*

<sup>14</sup>Ní Laoire, Caitríona. "Conceptualising Irish Rural Youth Migration: A Biographical Approach"

<sup>15</sup> *Idem*

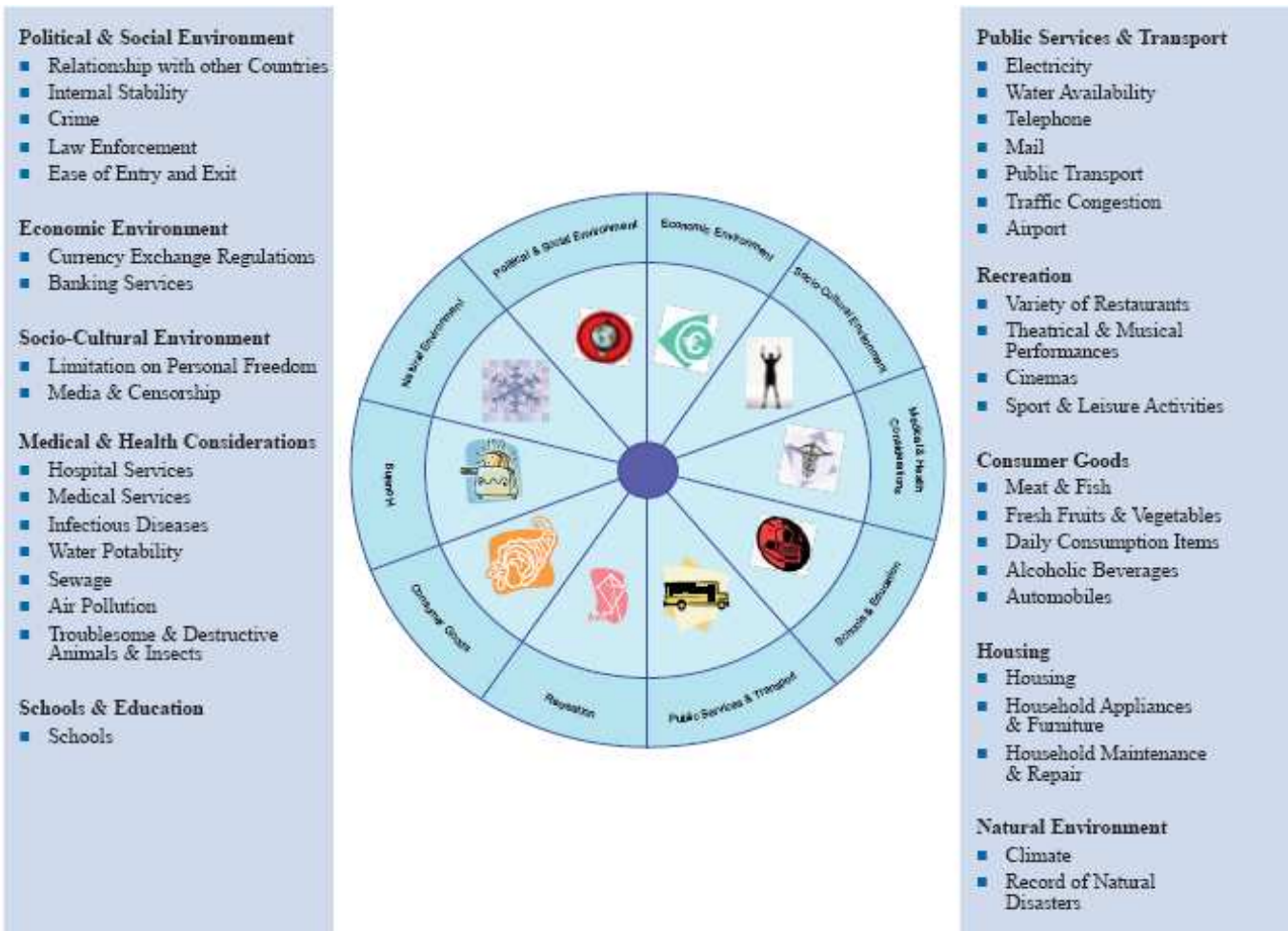


Figure 3: Mercer's Quality of Life Factors

Domain	Indicators measured
Material wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Jobless households</li> <li>Reported deprivation</li> </ul>
Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infant health</li> <li>Immunisation</li> <li>Mental health</li> <li>Accident/injury</li> <li>Child abuse and neglect</li> </ul>
Educational wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early childhood development</li> <li>School achievement</li> <li>Adult literacy</li> <li>School retention</li> <li>Transition to employment</li> </ul>
Peer and family relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family relationships</li> <li>Sense of belonging</li> </ul>
Behaviours and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overweight and obesity</li> <li>Cigarette smoking</li> <li>Harmful alcohol use</li> <li>Teenage fertility</li> <li>Crime</li> <li>Illicit drug use</li> <li>Road deaths</li> </ul>
Subjective wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-reported health</li> </ul>
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community participation</li> <li>Political interest</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Resource use</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> </ul>

Figure 4: ARACY Indicators

The twelve quality of life factors based on topics found in the Mercer, ARACY, and *Irish Rural Youth Migration* studies were combined and grouped into the list below:

- Economic Environment/ Job Security
- Political/Social Interest and Stability
- Schools and Education/ Education Wellbeing
- Community Life
- Consumer Goods/Material Wellbeing
- Family Life
- Medical and Health Considerations/Behaviors and Risk
- Natural Environment
- Socio-Cultural Environment/ Freedom
- Housing
- Transportation
- Recreation

The importance of the factors varies depending on environment and age. The magnitude of importance to the age bracket that is declining at the fastest rate in Venice was taken into consideration when deeming factors significant.

### 2.2.1 Economic Environment/ Job Security

The mainly touristic economy limits the job market in Venice.

“Venezia heavily relies on the tourist industry and its associated services (i.e. retail, leisure and entertainment) to sustain the growth of its economy.”<sup>16</sup> The lack of job variety, rather than the

<sup>16</sup> Urban Audit, *ibid*

lack of jobs itself, is of concern to young Venetians who are entering the work force. As seen in Figure 5, 76% of employed Venetians work in the service industry.<sup>17</sup> The absence of engineering and architecture jobs is evident in the City of Venice’s job search website.<sup>18</sup>

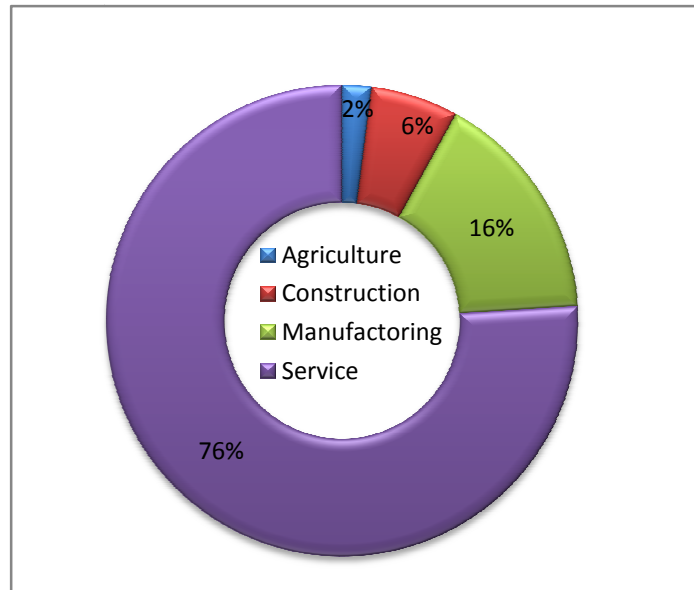


Figure 5: Job Opportunities in Venice

In Italy, female participation in the work force is directly related to the availability of daycare facilities.<sup>19</sup> In a study of positive effects of family-welfare systems, Ferrera found that government funded day care programs with longer hours encouraged women to enter the work force.<sup>20</sup> The issue of availability and cost is pertinent to Italy because although public daycare is inexpensive it has limited availability, while private daycares are more available throughout the day but have a higher cost.<sup>21</sup> The lack of daycares affects the percentage of women in the work force, as the female employment rate in Italy stands almost 13 percent below the European Union average.<sup>22</sup>

Several Venetian mothers have begun petitioning for more daycare facilities. Demonstration groups such as Venice Reborn express their concerns to government officials.<sup>23</sup> The government owns

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<sup>17</sup> Citta’ di Venezia

<sup>18</sup> Peril Lavarò

<sup>19</sup> Vuri, Daniela, “*The mismatch between employment and child care in Italy: the impact of rationing*”

<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> *ibid*

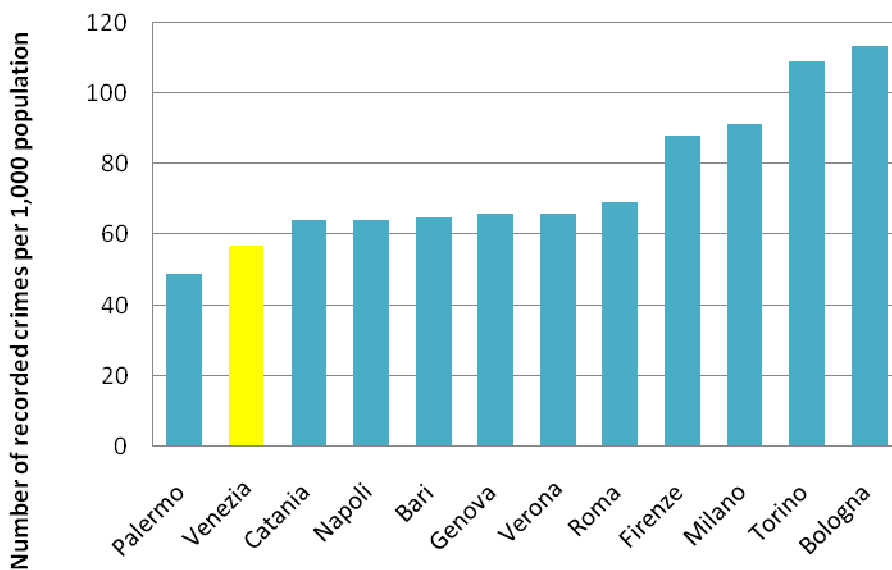
<sup>22</sup> *ibid*

<sup>23</sup> *The Venetian Dilemma*. Directed by Richard Rifkind Carole Rifkind.

two-thirds of the land in Venice, much of which is left unused.<sup>24</sup> This space is rarely granted to specialized programs such as daycares, and if so, it is excessively priced.<sup>25</sup>

### 2.2.2 Political/Social Interest and Stability

As a city in a developed first world country in the European Union, Venice’s political and social standards are adequate for the Venetian youth, and it is a relatively safe city for its citizens. As seen in Figure 6, Venice has the second lowest crime rate compared to the other 12 highest populated cities in



12 Highest Populated Italian Cities

Figure 6: 2004 Crime Rates in Major Italian Cities

Italy.<sup>26</sup> The number of recorded crimes per 1,000 residents in 2004 was 56.93.<sup>27</sup>

### 2.2.3 Schools and Education/ Education Wellbeing

The primary and secondary Venetian educational systems are regulated by the Italian government. From the ages of six to 13, children attend

primary schooling. At approximately 12 years of age, students must decide which vocational school to attend with the help of career counselors.<sup>28</sup> The major vocational schools in Venice are grammar, scientific, technical, and tourism.<sup>29</sup> Some vocational subjects such as tourism allow for students to obtain jobs upon graduation.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>24</sup> *ibid*

<sup>25</sup> *ibid*

<sup>26</sup> Urban Audit, *ibid*

<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

<sup>28</sup> Appendix B , School key informant

<sup>29</sup> Appendix B , School key informant

<sup>30</sup> *ibid*

Italian legislators have reduced grade school educational funding for the 2009 national budget to 20 million Euros, an average of 500 Euros per school, raising concerns for the struggling school facilities.<sup>31</sup> A recent ceiling collapse in a Rivoli high school killed one student and injured 40 others.<sup>32</sup> This called attention to the need to renovate deteriorating buildings. Andrea Ferrazzi, vice president and consultant for the city of Venice, blamed the lack of national government funding and action entirely for the collapse and indicated that every secondary Venetian school has called for maintenance care in the past four years.<sup>33</sup>

There are three universities located in the Comune di Venezia: the Università Ca'Foscari Venezia, the Università IUAV di Venezia, and the Venice International University. The Università Ca'Foscari Venezia has divisions of Economics, Humanities, Foreign Languages and Literature, and Science.<sup>34</sup> The Università IUAV di Venezia offers degrees in architecture and urban planning.<sup>35</sup> The Venice International University offers Social Science, Humanities, and Economics degrees, and is primarily attended by international students.<sup>36</sup>

Funding for universities has been cut as well.<sup>37</sup> Although the government claims that changes "will trim waste and put Italian schools on an equal footing with other European school systems," students recognize the affect of the budget cuts on the quality of their education.<sup>38</sup> These actions are causing Italian students to leave their native country to pursue a valuable college degree.<sup>39</sup> An Italian physics professor states "Most of my students realize that they will have to go abroad, either to the United States or elsewhere in Europe, if they want to advance their careers."<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Reuters, AP. "Students in Italy clash over education cuts."

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>33</sup>Provincia Di Venezia. "Schools Safe"

<sup>34</sup> Università Ca'Foscari Venezia

<sup>35</sup> Università Iuav di Venezia

<sup>36</sup> Venice International University

<sup>37</sup> Reuters, AP. *Ibid*

<sup>38</sup> Reuters, AP. *Ibid*

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>40</sup> Reuters, AP, *Ibid*

## 2.2.4 Consumer Goods/Material Wellbeing

Tourism negatively affects the availability and price of consumer goods. With 12 million tourists visiting Venice every year, Venice is in high demand for touristic goods and services.<sup>41</sup> Figure 7 shows

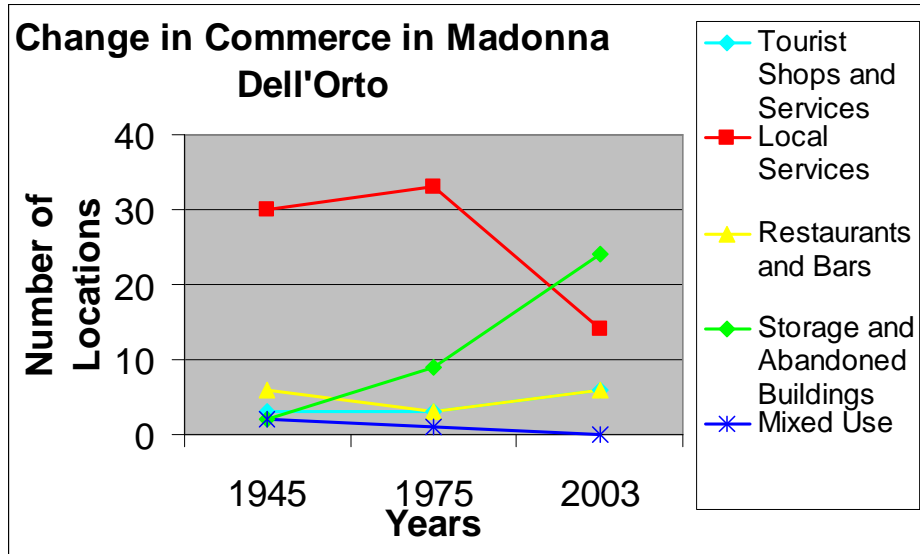


Figure 7: Retail Evolution in Madonna Dell'Orto from 1945 to 2003

that shops that cater to the residential population are shutting down as the number of abandoned buildings and tourist services are increasing.<sup>42</sup> Also, the number of supermarkets in Venice decreased by 61.67 and the number of tourist shops have increased

229.04 from the year 1976 to 2007.<sup>43</sup>

Venice is also an expensive place to live. As seen in Figure 8, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been increasing since 1999 and at a faster rate than the national average.<sup>44</sup> Food costs on average 18 percent higher in the historical center than on Mestre, located mere miles away.<sup>45</sup> The cost of living is especially important for the youth because if they cannot support themselves financially out of college, they may be forced to move outside the island.

<sup>41</sup> Miskell, Lund, Mcgee and Luther, "Life in the city of water"

<sup>42</sup> Reuters, AP, *Ibid*

<sup>43</sup> Miskell, Lund, Mcgee and Luther, *Ibid*

<sup>44</sup> Urban Audit, *Ibid*

<sup>45</sup> Miskell, Lund, Mcgee and Luther, *Ibid*

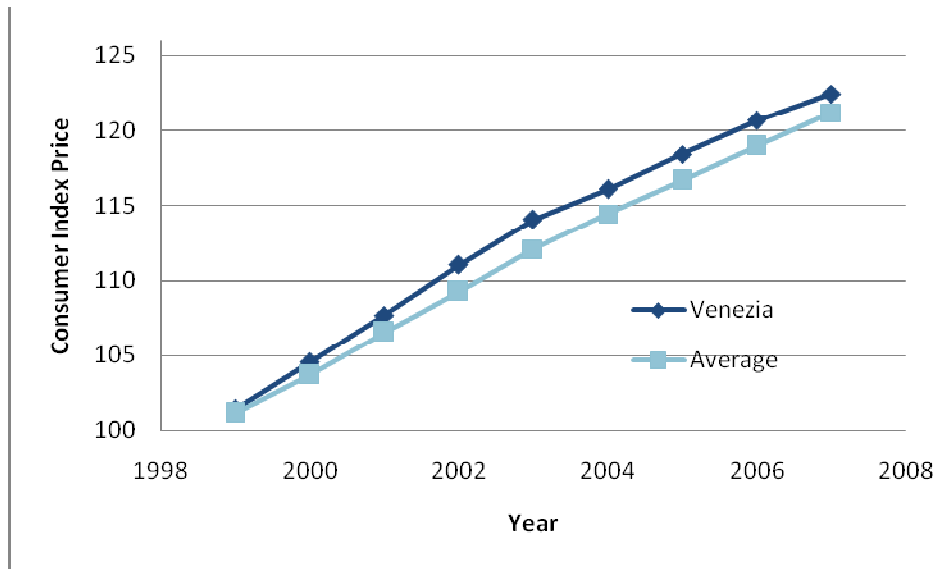


Figure 8: Consumer Price Index (Venice vs. National Average)

### 2.2.5 Family Life

A distinct characteristic for Italian families is the extended period in which children live with their families. 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.<sup>46</sup> Out of grade school, many Venetians remain unemployed and are unable to work and study simultaneously if they attend a university.<sup>47</sup> The youth of Venice requires support from their family until they can support themselves.

### 2.2.6 Housing

Tourism in Venice has affected the price and availability of living facilities as well. In 2004 the average price of an apartment in Venice was 2,272 Euros per square meter compared to Italy's average of 1,577 Euros per square meter.<sup>48</sup> The monthly price to rent an apartment in Venice is 750 Euros for a single room and 1000 Euros for a double room, 200 to 250 Euros more expensive than the same-sized apartment in Mestre.<sup>49</sup> The high cost of housing is reflected in a proposed tax bill which would provide

<sup>46</sup> Manacorda, Marco. "Mamma's Boys?"

<sup>47</sup> Manacorda *Ibid*

<sup>48</sup> Miskell, Lund, Mcgee and Luther, *Ibid*

<sup>49</sup> Casa Corner Venezia Realty Agency

financial relief for 20 to 40 year-olds.<sup>50</sup> Economy Minister Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa states that “With the budget, we'll help young people who don't marry and still live with their parents get out of the house.”<sup>51</sup>

### 2.2.7 Recreation

Venice offers in-school and extra-curricular activities. Some schools have gymnasium facilities, but the majority are small, plastic floored that do not have any other equipment apart from the basics, such as a few basketball nets.<sup>52</sup> In order to fulfill physical education requirements, students must leave the school and go to sports facilities.<sup>53</sup> Venetian children are involved in extra-curricular sports such as tennis, rowing, basketball, and soccer, which usually have associated fees.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Babington, Deepa, *‘Italian Economics Minister Causes Uproar with ‘Big Babies’ Tax proposal’*

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>52</sup> Sport City Area of Venice

<sup>53</sup> Appendix B , School key informant, *Ibid*

<sup>54</sup> Venice International University, *Ibid*

### 3 Methodology

The goal of this project is to assess the opportunities and challenges associated with being young in Venice. The objectives of this project are:

1. To investigate the quality of life of young Venetians
2. To assess the opportunities available to Venetian youth
3. To assess the challenges faced by Venetian youth
4. To establish a strong foundation for future projects based on a thorough understanding of Venetian youth's way of life

The purpose of investigating the opinions of the Venetian youth is to identify the opportunities and challenges presented to this particular demographic. By directly asking the young people of Venice about their quality of life, we created a link between their opinions and what resources are available to them. The documentation produced from this project provides preliminary information for future groups to expand upon.

Our overall domain of study is the Comune of Venice, as pictured in Figure 9:



Figure 9: Comune of Venice

We specifically studied youth in the historical part of Venice, which is where the effects of tourism are concentrated.<sup>55</sup>

We conducted semi-structured interviews during the traditional Venetian recreational hours when Venetians were not working. This allowed us to observe what young Venetians did during their free time and make note of their social settings. The key informant interviews were scheduled during business hours to observe the environment where he or she worked.

It is important to define the term “youth.” We based our classification on a similar Australian study (previously discussed in the background), in which the youth age bracket was 16 to 24 years of age.<sup>56</sup> The lower limit was determined as the beginning stages of cognitive thinking on their future plans. The upper limit was determined by the age that youth left their parental residence and entered the work force. For our project, we had to adjust the age bracket slightly higher to account for the different lifestyle. It is well known that in Italy, many live with their parents past the age of 30.<sup>57</sup> Also, the average age that a college student graduates in Italy is 27.8, which is almost five years after the American college graduation age.<sup>58</sup> Therefore, it was appropriate to extend the youth age boundary from 16 to 30.

### 3.1 Semi-Structured Interviews

To investigate the opinions of Venetian youth, we conducted small-scale semi structured interviews among young Venetians pertaining to their personal experiences and their quality of life. We informally interviewed 15 Venetians between the ages of 20 and 45 and 16 students between the ages 11 and 13 to determine quality of life factors most pertinent to the youth of Venice. The students gave us an insight of any challenges that might spark a decision to leave once they are able to. The older age range gave us a reflection of their decision to stay in their native city. Suitable interviewees lived in Venice, which included Mestre and surrounding islands, and spoke English, French, or Spanish in order to ease the language barrier.

The interviews were conducted over the course of four weeks during designated times in different locations. We interviewed from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM (typical Venetian

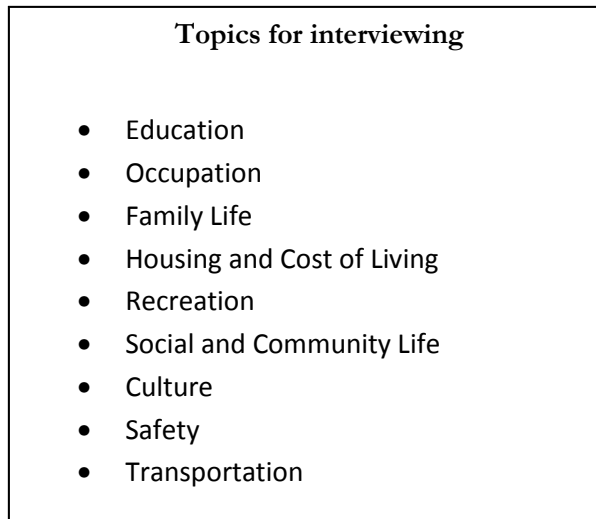
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<sup>55</sup> Passi, Marco. *Giovani Veneziani*

<sup>56</sup> Manacorda, Marco. *Ibid*

<sup>57</sup> Manacorda, Marco. *Ibid*

<sup>58</sup> Panaroma



recreational hours). We interviewed participants in cafés, bars, university campuses, and areas near school and daycare facilities. We used two methods for recruiting participants:

1. We scheduled interviews with acquaintances that fit our criteria.
2. We approached interviewees who appeared to fit our criteria and arranged an interview.

Figure 10: Topics for Interviewing

The list of topics in **Error! Reference source not**

**found.** was used as a guideline for our interviews. We tailored these topics to the quality of life factors previously determined through literature.<sup>59</sup> While these defined the initial scope of our semi-structured interviews, responses promptly led to a refinement. Some of the original topics were generalized into one word such as “education” and “occupation.” Other topics were focused in order to concentrate on something of particular concern for the Venetian youth such as “safety.” Some topics were more clearly defined. For example, “recreation” was defined as social activities which include games, sports, and nightlife. If topics did not come up during the interview they were removed from our list.

Based on these topics, we also created a list of specific questions which we referred to throughout the interview shown in appendix B. These questions weren’t necessarily probed in their original form; rather they were included in the natural flow of the conversation. Our list of topics and questions were modified throughout the interviewing period to accommodate for prevalent topics in previous interviews.

### 3.2 Coding

Coding allowed us to “fracture”<sup>60</sup> the data in order to organize our findings. We established “organizational categories” prior to the interviews because they were topics we anticipated

<sup>59</sup> See Background

<sup>60</sup> *Designing a Qualitative Study* 237

to discuss with the participants.<sup>61</sup> The quality of life factors previously discussed in **Error! Reference source not found.** served as our “research bins.”<sup>62</sup>

“Substantive categories,” or subcategories, emerged after the interviewing process.<sup>63</sup> Excerpts from each interview transcription were extracted and grouped into their corresponding subcategory. To illustrate our organization, **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** below shows an example of eight different transcript quotations grouped into the negative substantive category “Cannot afford housing.”

**Table 1: Grouping Transcriptional Citations**

<b>CON: Cannot afford housing</b>
Plans to move to Mestre, but wants to keep a similar job
“A lot of young couples move out since it’s so expensive to live here”
“ I live with my family because it is so much impossible to buy a house for a guy, it’s too expensive”
“When I was born my parents couldn’t find a house in Venice, the price in Padua is cheaper, so we moved to Padua”
“You study and you don’t work too much, and have no money to move out [of parents' homes]”
“It’s cheaper to live Mestre”
“It’s expensive to live here. You must work with tourism; if you don’t work with tourists you are done”
“It’s impossible. On your own, it’s expensive”

The complete list of organizational categories, substantive categories, and transcriptional quotations can be found in Appendix D. Table 2 below displays a summary of Appendix D. It includes the organizational categories, subcategories, and the frequency that each subcategory was mentioned.

**Table 2: Coding Chart with Organizational and Substantive Categories**

Education			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
Good for arts, language and architecture	4	Continuing education after college is better outside Venice	2

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid*

Good job without college education, schools train you to work in Venice	4		
Occupation			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
Jobs in tourism are abundant	5	Jobs unrelated to tourism are scarce	6
Easy to make money after graduation	4		
Family Life			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
Strong family bonds	1		
Good environment to be a child or to be a parent	1		
Housing and Cost of Living			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
Affordable for people who live half of the year outside Venice	1	Can't afford housing	8
		Other needs are also expensive	3
Recreation			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
Play sports	2	Nightlife is boring and repetitive	10
Recreation is better in the summer and during Carnival	2	Clubs and bars prefer tourists	2
		Space is limited	1
Social and Community Life			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
Big family	5	Same people	1
Meet new people	2		
Culture			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
Rhythm of Life	5	Dirty	2
Safety			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
No violent crimes	5	Pickpockets and drunks	2
Transportation			
Pros	Count	Cons	Count
No cars, no traffic	5	Busy in summer and Carnival	3

### 3.3 Key Informants

Key informant interviews provided us with more information to better understand the specific topics that were discussed in the semi-structured interviews.<sup>64</sup> The data from these resident experts “documents the knowledge and experiences of people using their own words.”<sup>65</sup> We identified the information we needed to acquire and formulated a list of questions for each key informant, shown in Appendix E. We interviewed Patricia, a sixth-grade school teacher to give us an insight on the structure and quality of education as well as adolescent behavior. We also interviewed Beatrice, a mother of a four year-old child and a seven year-old child to document the challenges of raising children and maintaining a household in Venice, all while working. Through key informants, we established relationships with important contacts for the benefit of future projects.

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<sup>64</sup> *Idem* 339

<sup>65</sup> Singleton, Royce A. and Straits, Bruce C., “Approaches to Social Research.”



The comments from the interviews were then grouped into organizational categories such as education and occupation. For example, a comment referring to university life would be grouped into education, whereas a comment such as “*I spend eight hours a day working*” would be grouped into occupation. Then each person’s outlook on the entire organizational category was classified as favorable (Y), non-favorable (N), or neutral (U) and organized in Table 3: <sup>66</sup>.

**Table 3: Favorable and Non-favorable Outlooks on Quality of Life Factors**

	Adelina	Adriano	Alda	Beatrice	Danilo	Francesco	Lora	Lotario	Luisella	Mario	Patricio	Savino	Sebastiano	Tadio	Tommaso
<b>Education</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	u	y	u	y	y	n	u	y	u
<b>Occupation</b>	n	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	n	Y	n	y	N	y
<b>Family life</b>	y	y	y	y	y	n	n	y	u	n	y	N	y	n	y
<b>Housing and Cost of Living</b>	n	n	y	n	n	n	n	n	n	y	n	n	N	n	y
<b>Recreation</b>	n	u	n	u	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	y	y	n
<b>Social and Community Life</b>	y	y	n	y	y	y	n	y	n	n	y	y	y	y	n
<b>Culture</b>	y	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	u	n	y
<b>Safety</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
<b>Transportation</b>	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	u	y	y	u	u	u	y	y

The coded results for each individual were then studied to observe trends. Of the 10 interviewees who are planning to stay in Venice, we found that all thought positively of the culture and pace of life, even though some did not have any occupational or family tie to the city. On the other hand, all interviewees who plan to leave Venice found that the city was too expensive to live in. A majority of these interviewees also had no family ties to the city or had no occupational opportunities in Venice. The number of favorable (shown in green), non-favorable (shown in red), and neutral views (shown in grey) of the participants is organized in a frequency graph in Figure 12: Favorable and Non-Favorable Opinions of the Venetian Youth below.

<sup>66</sup> Names of the interviewees have been changed for privacy

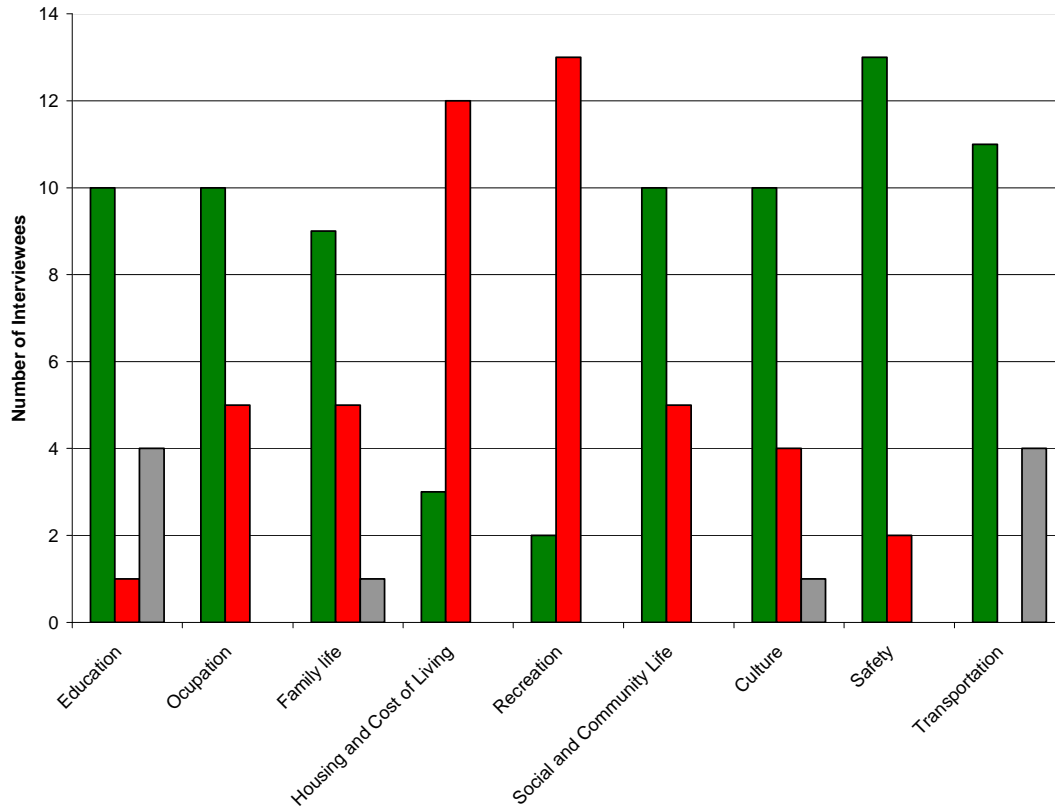


Figure 12: Favorable and Non-Favorable Opinions of the Venetian Youth

As shown in Figure 12, the majority of young Venetians we interviewed had a favorable view of education, occupation, social and community life, culture, safety, and transportation. The majority of the participants thought unfavorably about housing and cost of living and recreation.

## 4.2 Key Informants

Key information regarding topics of expertise was provided by two interviewees. We probed the interviewees on their particular topics, and the transcript of the interviews can be found in Appendix B.

The key informants (names changed) were:

- Beatrice: A working Venetian mother
- Patricia: English Teacher at a local school

Beatrice, a 42 year-old working mother, gave us valuable insights into the problems faced by working women in everyday life. Pursuing a professional career with young children can pose problems due to the lack of daycare facilities. Babysitters are an expensive option for families, averaging about €8 an hour. Her workplace offers a sponsored kindergarten, as it is a big company and receives tax breaks from the Italian government. However, no other work facilities in Venice offer daycare services. For recreation, there is not much to do within Venice itself. During the summer, the Lido is a popular location for day trips and camps.

Patricia touched upon the makeup of the educational system. We learned that students choose which secondary school they are going to attend during sixth and seventh grade. She commented on the fact that interest in the tourism school has always been high due to the touristic nature of Venice. However in recent years, more students have chosen to attend scientific and grammar schools, displaying higher interests in tertiary education.

Patricia arranged for us to talk to a class of sixth grade Venetian students, who will soon be choosing which vocation school to enter. This choice potentially shapes all their future life choices. We obtained information from the class utilizing a short survey (Ref. Appendix F) and a class discussion. We found that fifty percent of the class of 16 students is planning to attend a technical or scientific school, while the remaining is planning to attend a language, grammar, artistic or tourism school. This would imply that upon completion of their respective education paths, fifty percent of the class would be faced with bleak job prospects.

We also discussed what the class liked and disliked about Venice. A prominent factor which came up was the lack available open spaces for children. There were no spaces where children could ride bicycles or skate. Other issues centered on personal likes and dislikes, such as the 'need' for a zoo, an ice-skating rink, or a theme park. A common issue expressed by all of the students was a lack of recreational facilities.

Based on this data and range of opinions, we were able to show how the various factors interact dynamically, which represents the breadth of the issues faced by the Venetian youth.

## 5 Analysis

From the 15 interviews we conducted, we identified four prominent themes exhibited by the youth of Venice:

- Venice offers a variety of educational opportunities for its youth. However, there is a range of career paths that can be pursued only by leaving Venice.
- High costs of housing and living force many young Venetians to live with their families. However, this bolsters family relations.
- Venice's distinct environment and infrastructure affects both mobility and social interactions for young Venetians – a close knit community in which everyone knows everyone is formed. However, this can be a frustration for youth looking for new social experiences.
- The limited social life – a frustration for the young – suits Venetians starting families of their own as they begin to realize the value of Venetian culture and the slow, safe pace of Venetian life.

### 5.1 Educational and Employment Opportunities

Some educational opportunities offered in Venice prepare young residents to live on the island. However, if they choose to pursue a career path which has limited opportunities in Venice, they must make a choice to leave the island. A general trend observed through the interviews was that Venetians who plan to stay in Venice have a positive view of the job market, and those who plan to leave have a negative view of the job market.

Patricio<sup>67</sup>, a 22 year-old employee at an eyewear shop, recently graduated from a tourism vocational high school where he learned “two to three” languages. He plans to live in Venice because of the profitable tourist job market: “Tourism schools train you in a variety of tourism-related jobs.” Taddeo is a 27 year-old student at the Università Ca’Foscari Venezia who is studying several foreign languages. Although his linguistics degree would prepare him to work in the tourist industry, he plans to move away from the area because he is seeking a larger variety of job opportunities than offered in Venice. “There are no big enterprises here, nothing of value for me, [only] if you want to work for tourists.” If he worked in Venice, he would be limited in working in the tourist industry.

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<sup>67</sup> All interviewee names have been changed for privacy

Students that are interested in information technology have an opportunity to study it in Venice, but they have to move out upon graduating. Francesco, a 24 year-old computer science major, studies at Università Ca'Foscari. When asked about living in Venice he responded, "Yes, I like it [in Venice]. It is my city – I grew up here... but I will be moving out [of Venice] after college. For proper IT [information technology] jobs, there is not much here."

## 5.2 Living Situations and Cost of Housing

Because of the high cost of housing, many young Venetians choose to live with their families until they can afford to live on their own (either after tertiary education or after they earn enough money to support themselves). An apartment located on the island of Venice would cost approximately 750 Euros a month for a single room and 1,000 Euros a month for two rooms. This is significantly higher than the cost of living a few miles away on Mestre: a real estate agent from Corner Casa Venezia stated that "To find a single room apartment in Mestre would be 200 to 250 Euros cheaper."<sup>68</sup>

A 25 year-old named Sebastiano directly referenced the difference in cost of living between Venice and Mestre. Growing up in Venice he decided to pursue a job in the tourist industry; however, he wasn't able to make enough money to support himself and took up residence with his parents in San Marco. He planned to move to Mestre because the cost of living was drastically cheaper. There, he could still be able to maintain the same career and live comfortably on his own. A 27 year-old named Taddeo has lived in Piazzale di Roma his entire life with his grandfather. While attending Ca' Foscari to obtain his degree in linguistics, he remains unemployed and is forced to live with his grandfather. Once he graduates, he will be able to support himself financially and plans to move outside of Venice.

A 20 year-old linguistics student named Lotario and a 21 year-old economics student named Savino also live with their parents because they are unable to work during college. Savino has completed his first year of a five year tertiary educational program. Apart from studying, he does not have a job and therefore no source of income. He finds it cheaper to live with his parents in Dorsoduro until he can support himself. Lotario stated, "Because [we] study and [we] don't work too much, and have no money to move out... One of my friends just graduated and got a job and he earns 900 to 1000 Euro a month." Patricio, a 22 year-old enjoys living with his parents: "It's cheap, no[t] expensive, and when you come

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<sup>68</sup> Casa Corner Venezia Realty Agency

home everything is ready for you.” This confirmed the close make up of a Venetian family, but at the same time emphasized the increasing difficulty for young Venetians to support themselves.

### 5.3 Mobility and Social Interactions

Venice’s distinct environment and infrastructure affects both mobility and social interactions for young Venetians. The fact that there are no cars makes moving around an easy and safe experience for the inhabitants. Since everything is within walking distance inside of Venice, most young people we spoke to choose to walk instead of using public transportation. Mario, a 22 year-old engineer officer for a cruise company says transportation is not a problem because he walks most of the time, but during the summer he states that “you have 1,000 or 2,000 people and the public transport gets crowded, so you have to push to go in.” Lora, a 20 year-old shop manager, agreed by saying, “During the summer public transportation is very difficult, sometimes you have to wait for three or four water buses before you get in.” For these two subjects, public transportation is only a problem during the summer because of the large number of tourists. For Adriano, 42, and Alda, 26, transportation is not a problem at all. Adriano thinks moving around Venice is easy and safe, because you don’t have to cross streets with cars. For Alda, “moving around Venice is not a problem, but outside the island with the cars, it is a problem.” Most of the feedback on transportation was positive because of the safety, the lack of cars, and the proximity of daily needs, but we also had some negatives. For Adriano, mobility was a problem when his children were younger because it was “annoying to bring the baby carriages over all the bridges.”

The social life and relationships built in Venice are also a consequence of the distinct environment and infrastructure of Venice. Most of our subjects agreed that seeing the same people all the time, in the same places gets repetitive and boring. When we told Mario we were having fun the first two weeks we had been in Venice, he replied by saying “after three or four weeks you always see the same people, the same places...I don’t like it, maybe other people do, but is not for me.” Savino, a 21 year-old economics major, had a similar response. “In Venice there isn’t any entertainment. In three weeks you can see everything like bars which close by midnight during the week and a little later during the weekends.” The interviewees enjoyed having close friends, but they also seemed to have the need to meet new people. Also, a lot of interviewees have found alternate ways to enjoy the night with friends. Many of them travel to Mestre, Padua, and other towns in the vicinity of Venice.

## 5.4 Social Life, Culture, and Family Life

The limited social life – a frustration for the young – becomes less relevant as Venetians start families of their own and recognize the value of Venetian culture and the slow, safe pace of Venetian life.

A common thread through most interviews conducted with Venetian youth seemed to be the prevailing lack of recreational facilities. “Venice is boring” or “There is nothing to do” were comments that most often answered the question “What do you dislike about Venice the most?” Out of the 15 young Venetians we interviewed, only two were happy with the current state of recreational facilities. However, this trend does not seem to deter youth from staying on in this city; all the interviewees who plan to stay in Venice did not approve of the recreational facilities offered. When juxtaposed with the fact that these same interviewees appreciated the culture, pace of life, and the family life in Venice, the relative importance of these factors in the decision to stay or leave Venice became apparent.

Patricio, a twenty-two year-old Venetian talked about recreation and life in Venice. “There is not much to do here. In weekends I go out of Venice to have fun.” Yet Patricio plans to continue living in Venice. When asked why, he replied, “It’s my city, my language... all my friends are here.”

This deeper, non-tangible tie to the city is important for Venetians, and provides a sense of belonging to these long-term residents. These ties to culture and family life are often critical when deciding to stay or move out of Venice. Mario, a 22 year-old native, remains in Venice despite not having a job in Venice itself (he works aboard a cruise line for four months at a time). He stated, “When you are on board for 6 months, you get to come here and rest here... the quiet life is good.” Adriano, a 42 year-old Venice native said, “I always knew I wanted to live here. My wife and my family were here”.

The safety and close-knit culture is another aspect of Venetian life which draws youth back to the city. Three interviewees referred to Venice as “the safest place in the world.” Beatrice said that she doesn’t worry about people kidnapping her kids because the entire island would be aware of it. She counted a story of one instance when two men robbed her father’s restaurant. The night of the robbery, the entire island was aware of the path of the robbers: “They would call the police and say ‘They are here!’ ‘They are on my street now!’” The close-knit community is one reason why Venice is so safe.

Of all the interviewees, only one considered Venice to be unsafe, citing drunks and pick-pockets as a problem. However, Venice remains one of the safest cities in Italy, with a crime rate of 56.93

recorded crimes per 1000 population. Also, the Venetian pace of life is commented upon by numerous interviewees. Adriano's views are, "Everyone here takes it easy. Life is like a tide: it rises for six hours and falls for six hours. You just have to wait for it." The coupling of these factors makes Venice an ideal place to have a family.

## 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

### 6.1 Quality of life factors

Through the course of this project, we were able to collect a list of quality of life factors important to the youth of Venice (Ref. Figure 13).



Figure 13: Frequency of Quality of Life Factor in Interviews

The size of the words in Figure 13 represents its frequency in the interview responses. These quality of life factors that were deemed relevant through the word cloud can be used in future projects specific to Venetian youth.

### 6.2 Double-Edged Sword

Upon analyzing the interviews, it is apparent that there is a central theme which connects them: Venice wields a double-edged sword. There is a combination of factors present in Venice which simultaneously present opportunities and pose challenges to the residents of the city.

#### 6.2.1 Educational and Occupational Opportunities

Venice offers a variety of educational opportunities for its youth. A range of vocational and tertiary concentrations are offered. However, the breadth of the job market does not match up to the educational opportunities offered. For example, the University of Ca' Foscari offers degrees in

Information Technology (IT) even though there are few IT jobs in Venice. Thus the educational opportunities compel Venetian students to leave due to the mismatch of job opportunities.

In the past few years there has been an increase in attendance of scientific schools which is a source of concern for Venice given its lack of job opportunities in the technical and engineering fields.<sup>69</sup> Fifty percent of the 16 middle school students interviewed were planning to attend a scientific or technical school. This mismatch could be one explanation for the reason why the 24 to 29 year-old age group has been decreasing at a higher rate than the other age groups; this is the critical point at which people choose career paths. The lack of availability in the job market could be driving young Venetians away.

## 6.2.2 Recreation and Pace of Life

As became apparent through our interviews, the lack of recreational facilities and nightlife is a source of concern for the youth of Venice. A majority of the interviewees were dissatisfied with the current state of the recreation in Venice, often having to look to other cities. For example, many young adults travelled to Mestre for nightlife entertainment. However, the lack of nightlife contributes to the slow and quiet atmosphere of Venice. This is attractive to young Venetians who are planning to start a family and settle down. *"[This life] is perfect when you are a bit older, 30 or 40,"* says Tommaso, referring to family life in Venice. The same factor that affects a Venetian at one point in their life may affect them differently in the future.

An initial list of quality of life factors was collected and ranked for the youth of Venice, and it was shown how these factors can dynamically interact with each other. However, this study only sets the foundation for future contributors to improve upon.

## 6.3 Recommendations

### 6.3.1 Quality of Life Indices

A study to positively identify the quality of life factors essential to the youth of Venice should be conducted. Although an initial list of quality of life factors important to the youth was established through this project, a rigorous study would concretely establish the factors of concern. A relative analysis of the quality of life makeup for the Venetian youth in comparison to surrounding areas such as

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<sup>69</sup> Patricia, Ref. Appendix E

Mestre could be conducted. This study would allow us to observe if it would be possible to adapt youth programs from these areas for Venice.

### **6.3.2 Educational and Occupational Outlooks**

A study should be conducted to identify strategies for creating career paths for young Venetians that are matched to the educational opportunities available in Venice. Challenges such as the location of the proposed facilities, companies to support the jobs, and identifying cost benefit to the city would need to be investigated before any such program can be implemented. The repercussions of these studies would need to be explored. For example, a successful integration of an Information Technology job market in Venice could result in an influx of residents to the city, further increasing housing and living costs.

### **6.3.3 Recreational Facilities**

A study should be conducted to determine the demand for the various forms of recreational facilities within Venice. An implementation plan and cost benefit analysis should be outlined to facilitate the establishment of identified facilities. To make information more easily accessible, a website on recreational facilities and youth programs should be established.

Improving the state of recreational facilities in Venice could potentially reduce the current migratory trend observed in the Venetian youth; however an increase in recreational and social activity would simultaneously disrupt the peaceful culture of Venice. Achieving an optimal balance would require a close analysis of the interaction between the two factors. Issues such as the location would need to be taken into account. For example, facilities in student populated areas such as San Basilio would affect the balance in a different way than a facility in the heart of Castello.

### **6.3.4 Daycare Programs for Young Families**

An exploration and implementation of the daycare system would be beneficial for young families. From our discussions with young parents, we discovered that the lack of daycare facilities is a common problem faced by working Venetian families. As reported in the July 2008 Venice census, the

target population of children who would be in need of childcare programs (newborn up to nine years of age) is 21,244.<sup>70</sup> Even though there is an obvious need for childcare programs in Venice, there is a lack of facilities and programs currently in operation.<sup>71</sup> There is also a lack of collected information regarding the unstructured daycare facilities in operation, such as those run by the churches in Venice. The documentation of all existing daycare type facilities, official or otherwise, would also be extremely beneficial.

### 6.3.5 Graffiti

A study to identify and implement programs to clean up and deter graffiti in Venice should be conducted. The lack of social and recreational facilities may be causing adverse social behavior in Venice. The graffiti problem in Venice is visually detrimental to the city. Furthermore, graffiti can potentially damage the existing architecture of Venice, destroying elements of its culture. Studying the forms of graffiti could help in identifying root causes to the adverse social behavior. Although individual citizens do help, official programs need to be implemented to get rid of the graffiti and prevent re-occurrence. Possible adaptations of programs from cities such as Sacramento could be utilized here.<sup>72</sup>

This project has created a list of quality of life factors important to the young people of Venice and identified areas of future study defined by challenges faced by this demographic entity. Understanding and consequently preserving the way of life of Venetian youth is essential to Venice, as the city is in danger of losing more than the façade of its culture – it is losing its people.

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<sup>70</sup> Citta di Venezia, *Ibid*

<sup>71</sup> *The Venetian Dilemma*. Directed by Richard Rifkind Carole Rifkind. *Ibid*

<sup>72</sup> City of Sacramento, “Graffiti FAQ”

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*Peril Lavoro*. 2008. <http://portalelavoro.provincia.venezia.it/cgi-bin/WebObjects/PortaleLavoro.woa/wa/Navigation/jobSearch?rif=&tempfunction=Ingegnere%2FArchitetto&contract=WONoSelectionString&cpi=WONoSelectionString&fun=Ingegnere%2FArchitetto&subfun=&show=1&index=1&cm=1976> (accessed October 3, 2008).

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/12/us/12immig.html?ref=us>(accessed October 10, 2008)

Russo, Antonio Paolo. *The Vicious Circle*. 2006.  
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8&\_user=74021&\_rdoc=1&\_fmt=&\_orig=search&\_sort=d&view=c&\_acct=C000005878&\_version=1&\_urlVersion=0&\_userid=74021&md5=adb80b133d01a084f83f960fa82608ac#bib35 (accessed October 2, 2008).

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## **Appendices**

The following appendices are referred to throughout our paper.

## Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography

1. 40xVenezia. *40xVenezia - English*. 2008.  
[http://www.40xvenezia.it/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=64](http://www.40xvenezia.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=64) (accessed September 19, 2008).  
The 40xVenezia website was useful because this group had many of the same goals we initially had. The group consists of professional Venetians around the age of 40 that want to give an opportunity to the young professionals looking to find job prospects in Venice. This professional and recognized organization had a very clear idea of the challenges Venetians encounter, giving our project more authority and validity.
2. Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, UNICEF and The Allen Consulting Group. *The Wellbeing of Young Australians*. 2008. <http://www.aracy.org.au> (accessed November 5, 2008)  
The ARACY report is a study aimed at determining factors important to the wellbeing of youth in Australia, as well as comparing them to cities and countries through the world. This proved to be useful because a direct comparison between the youth of Australia and Venice could be drawn.
3. Babington, Deepa. *Italian Economics Minister Causes Uproar with "Big Babies" tax proposal*. October 5, 2007. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/10/05/europe/05italy.php> (accessed October 2, 2008).  
This article was useful because it talked about one of the reasons why many young Italians remain with their families for an extended period of time. The high cost of living in Italian prevents the youth from moving out.
4. Citta' di Venezia. *Comune di Venezia*. 2008.  
<http://www.comune.venezia.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5945> (accessed September 21, 2008).  
This source came 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, it contained a relevant chart of population trends of different age groups. The article discussed the decline of the average family, which is one reason why the youth is moving out of Venice.
5. Crouch, Geoffrey I. *Tourism, Competitiveness, and Social Prosperity*.  
[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B6V7S-3W197BB-2&\\_user=74021&\\_rdoc=1&\\_fmt=&\\_orig=search&\\_sort=d&view=c&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=74021&md5=fdb9269f93af1560119db34ebbf20547#toc4](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6V7S-3W197BB-2&_user=74021&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&view=c&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=74021&md5=fdb9269f93af1560119db34ebbf20547#toc4) (accessed October 5, 2008).  
This source discussed how cities that have an economy revolving around tourism share similar opportunities and challenges in specific quality of life factors, including the job market, the cost of living and a busy atmosphere. Venice is a city that revolves around tourism so the opportunities and challenges mentioned in the article were very similar to the ones we found in Venice.
6. Haralambopoulos, Nicholas, and Abraham Pizam. *Perceived Impacts of Tourism*. 2006.  
[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=MIimg&\\_imagekey=B6V7Y-3XNJH7F-1-](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MIimg&_imagekey=B6V7Y-3XNJH7F-1-)

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This source discussed how in very touristic cities traditional occupations were abandoned by residents for the more profitable tourism-related jobs, therefore limiting the job market. This is the same case in Venice, thus making this a very useful source for comparisons.

7. Manacorda, Marco. "Mamma's Boys?" *Centre Piece*, December 2005.

"Mamma's Boys" is an article that discusses facts and reasons pertaining to Italian children living with their parents for an extended amount of time. It was useful when discussing family life.

8. Maxwell, Joseph A., "*Designing a Qualitative Study*," Chapter 7, May 2008, (accessed December 2, 2008)

From this book we obtained one of our methods of coding interviews. It shows the best ways to code depending if the questions are open-ended or closed-ended. This was very useful for us because we had to do coding for both type of questions.

9. Mercer. "Defining Quality of Life", 2007,

<http://www.imercer.com/uploads/common/pdfs/definingqualityofliving.pdf>, (accessed October 20, 2008)

Mercer is a global consulting firm that used ten general categories and 39 sub-categories to evaluate the quality of life in 390 different cities. We found this useful in order to form our own quality of life factors in Venice.

10. Miskell, Lund, Mcgee and Luther, "Life in the city of water", 2008, WPI Interactive Qualitative Project (accessed December 1, 2008)

This was one of the collaborating groups that study the quality of life factors of Venetians. They studied the age group from 30 to 60, so many of their findings and data were related to our own project.

11. Mosto, Francesco Da. *Sydney Morning Herald - Is Venice Losing its Soul?* August 21, 2008.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/italy/is-venice-losing-its-soul/2008/08/21/1219262364069.html?page=2> (accessed September 20, 2008).

This newspaper article talked about how Venice is losing its soul because the young people are moving out. It gave good data values of how the population is not replacing itself.

12. Ní Laoire, Caitríona. "*Conceptualising Irish Rural Youth Migration: A Biographical Approach*", 29 March 2000 (accessed November 14, 2008)

This study conducted in Ireland showed the youth migration trends specific to a small town. This was helpful for us because the small town depended on a single income which was agriculture. Although Venice doesn't depend on agriculture, it does depend on a single income being tourism. We found many relationships between this two small cities, so it was helpful to find reasons why young people decide to emigrate.

13. Passi, Marco. *Giovani Veneziani*. June 1, 2008.  
<http://www.giovaniveneziani.com/index.lasso?page=/contenuti.lasso&cat=incontri&id=176&m=6&titolo=Contro%20la%20legge%20Zaia&anno=2008> (accessed September 16, 2008).  
 Marco Passi is one of the members from *Giovani Veneziani*, an association dedicated solely to the youth of Venice. We communicated with Marco Passi through emails before arriving in Venice and he gave us useful information and leads to follow once we reached Venice.
  
14. *Peril Lavoro*. 2008. <http://portalelavoro.provincia.venezia.it/cgi-bin/WebObjects/PortaleLavoro.woa/wa/Navigation/jobSearch?rif=&tempfunction=Ingegnere%2FArchitetto&contract=WONoSelectionString&cpi=WONoSelectionString&fun=Ingegnere%2FArchitetto&subfun=&show=1&index=1&cm=1976> (accessed October 3, 2008).  
 This is a job search website for Italy, you can select the region or province where you are looking for a job and also what kind of job you are looking for. This helped us to prove the point that there is many jobs available in Venice but not many in technical fields.
  
15. Provincia Di Venezia. "Schools Safe" 2008.  
[http://74.125.43.101/translate\\_c?hl=en&sl=it&tl=en&u=http://www.provincia.venezia.it/ecm/faces/public/guest/home/polo-est/scuole/dettaglio%3Fportal:componentId%3Ddettaglio%26portal:type%3Daction%26portal:isSecure%3Dfalse%26uicomponent%3DRemoteDetail%26op%3DviewDocument%26objectId%3Dproduction:/cms/dinamico/prima-pagina/notizie/dalla-provincia-2008/novembre/SICUREZZA%2520NELLE%2520SCUOLE&usg=ALkJrhgl88Gtm\\_20pNExaeex0yyJF5WIQA](http://74.125.43.101/translate_c?hl=en&sl=it&tl=en&u=http://www.provincia.venezia.it/ecm/faces/public/guest/home/polo-est/scuole/dettaglio%3Fportal:componentId%3Ddettaglio%26portal:type%3Daction%26portal:isSecure%3Dfalse%26uicomponent%3DRemoteDetail%26op%3DviewDocument%26objectId%3Dproduction:/cms/dinamico/prima-pagina/notizie/dalla-provincia-2008/novembre/SICUREZZA%2520NELLE%2520SCUOLE&usg=ALkJrhgl88Gtm_20pNExaeex0yyJF5WIQA) (accessed December 5, 2008)  
 In this newspaper article a consultant for the city of Venice blamed the lack of national government funding and action entirely for the collapse in the school system in Venice. Since education is one of the major factors for the quality of life of a young person this was a great article for us to investigate.
  
16. Reuters, AP. "Students in Italy clash over education cuts." *International Herald Tribune - Europe*, October 29, 2008. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/10/29/europe/rome.php>  
 This source was important to our project because it discussed how Italian legislators have reduced educational funding for the 2009 national budget to 20 million Euros (an average of 500 dollars per school), raising concerns for the struggling school facilities.
  
17. Roberts, Sam. *Study Foresees the Fall of an Immigration Record That Has Lasted a Century*. 2008. <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/12/us/12immig.html?ref=us>(accessed October 10, 2008)  
 This article discussed about a global study that shows that 82.4 percent of youth migration decisions were related to work or educational reasons. It also had some good background information of why these are the most important reasons to migrate.
  
18. Russo, Antonio Paolo. *The Vicious Circle*. 2006.  
[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B6V7Y-44HSX77-8&\\_user=74021&\\_rdoc=1&\\_fmt=&\\_orig=search&\\_sort=d&view=c&\\_acct=C000005878&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=74021&md5=adb80b133d01a084f83f960fa82608ac#bib35](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6V7Y-44HSX77-8&_user=74021&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&view=c&_acct=C000005878&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=74021&md5=adb80b133d01a084f83f960fa82608ac#bib35) (accessed October 2, 2008).

This scholarly article discussed the decline in population in Venice in the last 50 years and how if it keeps decreasing at the same rate it will become deserted by the year 2050. This type of information was helpful in order to make to validate our project.

19. Singleton, Royce A. and Straits, Bruce C., "Approaches to Social Research." 1999. Oxford University Press (accessed November 27, 2008)

Different methods of how to conduct social science research are discussed in this book. We obtained most of our methods for interviewing and coding from this book. The book gives many details of how to approach interviewees, how to ask questions and how to analyze the answers obtained.

20. *Universita Ca' Foscari Venezia*. 2008. [http://www.unive.it/nqcontent.cfm?a\\_id=7726](http://www.unive.it/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=7726) (accessed October 2, 2008).

This is the University's main website where we obtained what kind of majors they offer, and a lot of their information.

21. *Università Iuav di Venezia*. 2008. <http://www.iuav.it/English-Ve/Department/index.htm> (accessed October 2, 2008).

This is the University's main website where we obtained what kind of majors they offer, and a lot of their information.

22. Urban Audit <http://www.urbanaudit.org/help.aspx> (accessed November 28, 2008)

This source had a lot of statistical data about Venice. It stated that Venice heavily relies on the tourist industry and its associated services (i.e. retail, leisure and entertainment) to sustain the growth of its economy. It also states and gives supportive data about Venice having the second lowest crime rate compared to the other 12 highest populated cities in Italy.

23. *Venice International University*. 2008. <http://www.univiu.org/index.html> (accessed October 2, 2008).

This is the University's main website where we obtained what majors are offered, and a lot of their information.

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

The Venetian Dilemma provided 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 government's property managing scheme. A valuable source, it shaped a few aspects of our project by providing insights before we actually traveled to Venice.

25. Vuri, Daniela, "The mismatch between employment and child care in Italy: the impact of rationing". October, 2006  
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/c303492k37617648/fulltext.pdf>, (accessed October 14, 2008)

This article discussed how the Italy female participation in the work force is directly related to the availability of daycare facilities. Also it talked about a study that found

that government funded daycare programs with longer hours encouraged women to enter the work force. This was important for project because daycare programs in Venice are scarce, so this became a lead to find out if young mothers found it necessary to go outside Venice in order to have a child and work at the same time.

## Appendix B: Questions for Semi-Structured Interviews

Although our interviews were informal and we tried to make them in a conversational manner to promote discussion and steer away from yes/no answers, we came up with a list of key questions we used to guide the conversation.

### Interview Specifics

Date:

Time:

Location:

### Background Information

1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. Where do you currently live?
4. How long have you lived in Venice for?

### Education and employment

5. Do/did you attend school? Where, ~~What~~ degree(s) do you hold?
6. Were you able to obtain a job directly after graduation? What did you do upon graduating?
7. What are your views on the availability of jobs in Venice?
8. Are you happy with your current job and do you think it meets the level of education you have achieved? Why or why not?

### Living Arrangements

9. What are your current living arrangements?
10. Is it expensive to live in Venice (compared to your income)?

### Recreation

11. What do you do during your free time in Venice? (sports, bars, clubs)
12. Are there enough facilities offered for the type of recreation you enjoy?
13. Do you feel the recreational state could be improved? If yes, then how?
14. What is the name of you favorite "hang-out" place? ("hang-out" replaced by answer to question 11)

### Positives/Negatives

15. Do you plan to live in Venice in the future? Why or why not?
16. What do you like about living in Venice the most?
17. What do you dislike about living in Venice the most?

## Appendix C: Responses from Semi-Structured Interviews

In this appendix we have included all transcribed interviews from the participants. There are two different formats in this section because not all of our interviews were voice recorded, but under each interviewees name we give the age, sex, occupation, date, time and location of the interview. The interviews that were voice recorded are written exactly word by word, but for the other interviews we wrote down key points and important quotes. Also, it is important to note that all the names of the interviewees have been changed for confidentiality purposes.

### Adriano

42, male, architect

November 5, 10:40 am

Trattoria:

- Has two kids one is 7 and the other is 4
- His kids go to a private religious school
- They play basketball and soccer
- His brothers moved to Mestre, because of job opportunities
- Found a house that is still paying, bought in 1999 and will pay until 2014
- He moved out when he was married in 1986
- He is an architect
- He studied in the architect school
- No trouble to find job, because he knew people and same thing with his wife
- He started in a company in Padova, then he took the exam to be a professional architect
- The way of life, is the reason why he still in Venice
- He always went out side of Venice, he has a house outside of Venice, and his parents have another one that they go to for holidays
- Rugby is his favorite sport
- Pickpockets are not a problem and drunks are not a problem
- When he was younger he just wanted to be an architect, he studied to be a ship captain. His family went to that school so they made him go also.
- The way of life, easy relax
- One big family in Venice, life is like a small city.
- His kids go to the little square where the church gives toys to the kids.
- 6 people every year people die of boat accidents

## Mario

22, Male, engineer officer in a cruise  
November 3, 11:30 pm:  
Santa Margherita

Mario: so you guys are just studying here?

Julie: We are doing a project on what it is to be young in Venice

Julie: what about you guys

Pepi: you're working right now?

Mario: We work in a ship company

Julie: who do you guys work for?

Mario: Princess cruises

Julie: so are you here with them now?

Mario: No, we are studying now for the step up, we have an exam, actually *he has* an examination, and I'm done already

Julie: have you gone out yet?

Mario: he is a deck officer and I'm an engineer officer

Julie: we are engineers too

Mario: oh yea

Julie: we go to WPI

Julie: Wait...what kind of engineers r u?

Meggan : no he is a deck officer and an engineer officer

Meggan: do you live here in Venice

Mario: yea

Meg: is it expensive?

Mario: yea yea

Meg: does it balance out how much you make?

Mario: hmmm I can live, I can carry on with my things

Julie: is so different living here

Mario: yea the life here is a much much quieter

Akhil: Whats it like to live here, like growing up here?

Mario: I grew up here but, once I started working with the cruises we are on board for a long time. The life is complete different on board everything is much faster, here everything is so boring

Mario: is soo boring and slow

Meg: you plan to stay here for good or no?

Mario: actually.....i think so

Meg: why?

Mario: because when you are on board for 6 months, you get to come here and rest here the quiet life is good. But spending your whole life here is too boring

Julie: do you go on the cruise for 6 months and then here for 6 months

Mario: no is 4 on the boat and 2 at home and then 4 months and then 2 home

Julie: the whole island looks like a post card is so pretty

Julie: Venice is not that bad

Meg: well the weekend wasn't too bad

Mario: yea but if you do these 3 or 4 weeks it can be ok, but all your life....you always see the same people the same place.....I don't like it, maybe other people do. But is not for me (5:55)

Julie: do you have a lot of friends that want to stay here?

Mario: We can say half and half, because there are lot of friends that like to stay here because they have a girlfriend and have a job here; but then couple of people don't have a girlfriend just studying, and the way they think is that as soon as I finish my university I go away.(6:40)

Mario: Most people that have a family here and work here like to stay here

Julie: is it hard to find a job?

Mario: here in venice? It depend what you want to do. If you want to work with tourist is not so hard, but if you want something specific is no so good. (7:00)

Julie: what about engineers?

Mario: maybe Mestre, because you have more chance to find out. Maybe Trevisto, but not in Venice Venice. A lot of shops here

Meg: do tourist drive you guys crazy?

Mario: no, for us is normal to work in tourist. Maybe in the summer time u have 1000 or 2000 people and the public transport gets crowded so you have to push to go in.

Julie: We been here for two weeks and they are driving us crazy, like we want to go somewhere and they...

Akhil: Do you live in main venice?

Mario: I live in Murano

Akhil: do you guys have your own houses?

Other dude: for tonight im going to sleep in his(Mario) house

Mario: I live with my family because it is so much impossible to buy a house for a guy, is too expensive

Meg: do you have a big family

Mario: no, mom dad me and bro

Julie: we thought it was going to be dead because is Monday

Mario: but there is also a cruise ship here

Pepi: so most people that are here (in the plaza) are not from Venice?

Mario: definitely, I think we are just the three venetians in here.

Meg: do you miss Venice after u are gone for a long time?

Mario: no, hahaha, but is because you don't have enough time to think about home when im in the ship

Meg: does your family miss you?

Mario: they .....know my job is what I like to do

Julie: are you saving up money to buy ur own later

Mario: no no hahah just when we are aboard, when we are onboard we get paid, when we r not we just spend(10:57)

Akhil: do you want to have ur own house ?

Mario: maybe one day, right now is too easy to live with the family

Meg: so I'm guessing none of you have girlfriends and that's why you are not living here?

Mario: No because I finish school, 5 years ago and I got the job, and I do because I like it. I think is difficult to have a job because if you don't like it is hard.

Meg: Did you learn English here?

Mario: I learned here and more onboard

Julie: do a lot of venetians speak English?

Mario: I think because you work with tourist so you must know, if you don't know English you know Spanish, or another language

Meg: do you have family to stay here with?

Mario: yea is too expensive

Akhil: is there any sport clubs you can tell me? (18:49)

Other guy: 2 Swimming pools, water polo

Og: I played until I broke my nose (lol)

Julie: so so is there pools?

Mario: yea 2

Mario: the other pool is in fondamente nouve, and is too small

Other guy: is too small

Mario: Venice has a soccer team

Julie: So what are the most popular sports in venice?

Mario: rowing, is the standing style, like the gondola

Mario: there are rowing clubs

Pepi: do people like to row or is it just the gondola people

Meg: Do you guys do it?

Mario: when you are child is when you start. My first time and almost the last one (ahahha) it was 10 years ago when I was 11 12

Julie: do you need license to drive boat

Meg: can we drive a boat?

Mario: to drive a boat u need a license if the engine is more than 40 hp, if is less than 40hp

Mario: everything is expensive in Venice

Julie: do you guys have boats?

Mario: yea I have one

Meg: do u have a license is it more than 40hp

Mario: 25hp

Mario: is too expensive, is one of the most expensive boats u can buy

Pepi: really?

Mario: 30,000 euro

Pepi: Do they own their gondolas

Mario: sometimes is families

39:00 Pepi: so mestre is more fun than here?

Mario: No, but is just to change the place

### Sebastiano

25, male, gelato store employee

November 5, 1:00 pm

Strada Nouva

- Lives in San Mario with parents, is too expensive to live by himself
- Grew up in Venice, did not pursue college education
- Plans to move to Mestre, but wants to keep a similar job
- Venice is not safe pickpocketers and drunks
- For fun he goes to the rialto, pubs and disco bars(dogado)
- Didn't go college because had to support his living
- Job opportunities are a lot of mask and tourist shops "like this one"
- He didn't pursue college because he wanted to make money quicker, so he conformed to the tourism jobs

### Patrizio

22, male, eyewear shop employee

November 5, 1:00 pm

Strada Nouva, eyewear shop

- Works in touristic eyewear shop
- Pay starts at 1500 goes up the longer he works
- Lives in Castello
- Lives with parents
- Studied outside of Venice because parents left because too expensive to send him to school
- Tourism school in Venice
- 2-3 different languages
- Tourism schools train you in a variety of tourism related jobs
- He likes venice "is my city, my language....all my friends are here"
- He plans to live here for the immediate future-good job prospect
- Likes to the fact you can "f" Eg. His boss is a 20 year old girl!
- Works for 8 months, like most people, and then heads out with friends to Spain/Amsterdam to party
- Venice is safe

- Likes the old city
- Transportation is not an issue
- Knows about drug problems in S. Marta, near S Margherita, but “it’s not like the Bronx”

## Alda

26, Female, gelato store employee  
 November 7, Time of Interview  
 Strada Nouva

- Art Major in Academia here in Venice
- Moved from Mestre to Venice when she was 16 to go to the art school
- “Venice is very ugly”
- “I like it here because all my friends live here”
- Thinks Venice is safe
- Transportation is an issue “takes time to go places and once you go out of the island is impossible”
- Lives with boyfriend in her rented apartment
- Works in Gelato store

## Lotario and Savino

20 and 21, males, students:  
 November 10, 4:15pm  
 Near Rialto, L’ Olandale Volante 5658 San Marco

Akhil: so I guess what we are trying to figure out is, how is it to live in Venice?

Akhil: So, to start things off how old are you guys?

Lotario: 20 years old

Savino: 21, my birthday is 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, so almost

A: have you guys lived in Venice all your life?

L,S: yea

S: I lived in Padua for 8 years

A: so you spent 8 years in Padua?

S: The first 8 years

A: And then your parents moved here?

S: I was born in Venice and then moved to Padua for 8 years and then came back

A: (to L) and you have been here all your life?

L: yea

A: why did your parents go to Padua?

S: because when I was born my parents couldn't find a house in Venice, the price in Padua is cheaper, so we moved to Padua, and then in 1996, I moved to Venice

A: Both of you live with your parents?

L,S: yea

A: do most people stay with their parents? Is this common?

L: yea, because you study and you don't work too much, and have no money to move out (2:23)

A: do both of you study in Cafiscari?

L: I study languages

S: I study economics

A: what are you guys going to do after you graduate:

S: I want to go to Milano or another country to study my masters

A: what about you?

L: Erasmus

A: what's that?

L: To go to another country to study different languages, like for example I ask my university to go to in Spain next year for six months

A: After that do you plan to live here?

L: Then I'll come back and we'll see

A: Nice wow that's pretty interesting, study abroad is always interesting. I love it over here right now

L: I spent twenty years here its not fun

A: How come your moving out, the master is better abroad or is the masters not as good over here

S: the better master is in Milan

S: To study economy in Milan is the best place

A: What do you think about recreation and stuff you guys have been here for twenty years

S: In Venice there isn't any entertainment. In three weeks you can see everything like bars which close by midnight during the week and a little later during the weekends

L: During the Summer its much better

A: What do you do during the summer you had mentioned the beaches but where?

L: Down at the Lido where there is some good bars and disco clubs which are open only in the summer

S: you have to go out of Venice to find clubs

A: So do you go outside of Venice?

L: No we went out one month ago and we will go outside of Venice this weekend. But we don't have a car.

A: hahaha don't want to deal with a car huh well outside of work and college what do you do? I know you play basketball

S: We play together

A: how do you go about playing basketball?

L: We have a team and we are the lowest league in Italy

A: hahaha

S: We have a coach and like basketball over here

A: Do you have enough faculties for that? Is it easy to join up?

L: If you want to find a place to play if ur not good enough, to practice then youd go some open areas outside. To rent a place for one hour is really expensive. Also its hard to find space to practice because there is always someone playing there

S: Six teams and all the younger playing teams in Venice.

A: also coming back to education your doing economics and languages what do you plan to do after

L: I will work here in Venice cause my father has a hotel

S: I don't know what the opportunities Venice offers me

A: do you think there is enough jobs in Venice for economics

S: More opportunity to find this job outside of Venice, but if I could Id stay

A: Other people had talked about vocational schools, so where did you go to high school

S: We went to a scientific high school which is more of a normal high school and was free. There's some for accounting and waiters and naval academic.

A: Since ur planning on going into the tourism field why didn't you go to a vocational school ?

L: because when I chose to go to the scientific school I didn't have a clear idea of what I wanted to do. And then I finished high school and changed my mind. If I could go back in time I would chose a vocational school.

A: That's interesting, is it common to join a business right out off high school and not go to college? Do a lot of people go to college?

L: Not a lot of people go to college. But now a degree is necessary to find a good job.

A: what about transportation

L: we walk but if we have to take the boat we will

S: the boat is not like a car

L: we don't pay for the tickets

S: to have a boat is really expensive to have here and its hard to find a place to put the boat. Expensive to park your boat. In the winter the boats have to be put inside for five months

S: things are really close to each other

A: is venice safe?

L: It's the most safe place in the world.

A: future plans?

L: Ill stay in Venice unless I find something better. My parents are here so Im going to be here to main reason.

S: I have four more years here and things could change so Im not sure.

A: so it's a five year program

S: I love Venice so if I find a job outside Venice Ill still come back

L: My dream is to live two months outside Venice and then come back for ten months

A: what do you like most about Venice?

L: theres no cars, no traffic

S: the carnival oooo I love the carnival. The best week of my life. There's a lot young people and parties. Party in the street every hour everywhere. New Orleans is bigger but similar. There a lot of crazy people you can see crazy things. Its ten days

A: What is the one thing you don't like about Venice? What would you change?

L: not a lot of entertainment

S: make an area for the young where no one would complain about the noise. So we could party outside. Like during the Venice film festival in the Lido. Party party party for over a year. Once a month party would be nice.

A: Ill feed you guys seriously I want to

A: would you think about getting your own place right now like renting?

S: Its impossible. On your own its expensive

A: How much would it be in general?

S: in a double room its 300 each person

L: an apartment its 900 to 1000 a month for four people including

A: how much do you earn outside of college?

L: We have a friend Chinese and architect who lives in a creepy dirty apartment that's on the ground floor. They pay 250 each. Our friend who plays basketball earns about 1000 euro a month and 300 is spent on an apartment which he just moved into after living with his parents for awhile. (might be able to meet with him)

A: things distinct to Venice?

L: Don't like that when you have to find a pair of jeans you have to go outside of Venice. Because its expensive and there a lot of designer shops.

S: for young people its better to go outside of Venice to find something. For example (start pointing out clothes they are wearing that they bought in mestre)

A: do you know anyone that lived in Venice that moved out

S: theres a lot of people but we don't know well. A lot of young couples move out since its so expensive to live here

## Tadio

27, male, student

November 17, 10:00 pm

Rialto

- Lives with grandfather
- Student at the University of Venice (linguistics)
- Lives near Piazzale di Roma
- "I like to get hammered and walk around Venice"
- Likes safety of city, especially at night
- Dislikes, so will leave when graduate
- Wants to do something out of Venice, where people speak English (so outside of Italy)
- Comes to Rialto a lot, mostly Venetians
- No big enterprises, nothing of value for me. Ok if you want to work for tourists.

## Lora

20, female, eyewear manager

November 17, 11:30 am

Strada Nouva, eyewear store

- Born and lives in Dolo,, small city away from Venice, "it is also a attractive zone to tourist, because is around a river"
- "I didn't choose to work here but the agency (lavoro piu) find me a job here so I came here"
- "I'm the boss haha"
- "I studied here in Venice with Paulo in a language school, Algaroti"
- "Venice is the city where you have the most shop assistant jobs, is full of shops that want shop assistants"
- "In this shop I earn 1500 per month, but only in this shop because if you work in other shops the maximum could be 1200 and 1000"
- "Venice is too boring"
- "In Venice you don't have to park or drive, that's a positive"
- "After 9pm there is nothing outside, you don't even see people; only at the bars you can see them, but if you walk is empty"
- "Wednesday is university day in Padua, 3 euro the drinks and 8 euro for entry and a drinks"
- Do you like working in Venice, "hmmm yea, but I have to wake up at 8 and take the bus and then walk from the bus station, to here, and then the same thing when I'm done working at 7pm, and after one year is boring, but I think nobody is happy working "
- "You meet a lot of boys here, so I like it"
- "A lot of drunks and borboni (beggars), I'm afraid of them and there is no police"
- "One thing is that the disco don't want Venetian guys, only tourist...because they spend more money, so for people that live here that place is not an option"
- "[During the carnevale] there is a lot of crowd, a lot of people, and the transport is bad, and even the boats are bad you have to wait maybe one, two or three before you get on"

## Luisela

32, female, clothing store employee

November 17, 5:00pm

Strada Nouva, near the Train station

- "There is not enough money to create a skatepark"
- Not born in Venice, but again has been living in Venice for 11 years and works in Venice.
- "I worked as a interior and graphic designer, but now I work here for one year"
- "finished high school and half of the university"
- Why did you change from interior designer to working in the skating shop "Did not get a long with her boss, and is difficult to find a lot of work for designing curtains"
- "I like the history a lot, just walking around makes you feel like if you are breathing the past" (10:10)
- "I don't like that is dirty because of dogs, bird, and dirty water"

- “There is no “pretty women” there is no prostitutes, Mestre has a lot. Second of all there is no violent crimes, maybe sometimes pickpockets, but no violent crimes, so a girl can walk by herself in the street at 4 in the morning”
- “Even though the island is small there is always a lot of people because of tourist so its always a change”

## Tommaso

42, male, clothing store manager  
November 17, 6:00pm  
Clothing store, near Train station

- Not born in Venice, was born in Vicenza, 17km from here. Has kids and owns a shop
- “I move here for love” 00:21
- “My wife is a student in Academia”
- “It is perfect when you are very children and when you are a little bit older, when you are 30 and 40 is good, there is a side when you are 18 or 20 is not a perfect city for nightlife” (3:00)
- “Party time, there is no people, is not a very young city” (3:30)
- “Is a like very small town, If you walk 200m you say ciao ciao ciao” (4:40)
- “Is like a big family” talking about venice is a small town and safe
- “I like the time, everything is slow” 11:20

## Adelina and Danilo

Age undisclosed but estimated mid 20’s, male and a female, student and mask shop employee  
November 20, 11:00 pm  
Bar near San Marco

- Both born in Venice and live in Venice
- Castello
- Alesia studies in Venice
- Dario works in a shop(glass shop) at the Rialto
- Alesia studies theater
- IUAV- where she studies theater
- You must speak English cause the teach you in school 2:35
- There are no clubs its kind of boring here
- The dance clubs are for Tourist and gondoliers 4:40 (more money is spent by them)
- Alesia likes venice cause theres no cars, no traffic, I like walking 5:05
- You can go everywhere
- Im born here so I like to walk its normal(Dario)
- It’s a different kind of life, it’s a different kind of time. 5:40
- Venetians aren’t calm. People walk here have problems with tourists because they (Venetians) walk faster 6:00
- That’s because there are more tourist then people(Venetians) 6:20
- Outside of Venice there are many clubs 7:15
- Dario studied near academia
- Both went classical high school

- It's expensive to live here. You must work with tourism; if you don't work with tourists you are done. 8:20
- Alesia doesn't want to work with tourist but if she wants to stay in Venice she realizes she might be forced to do just that 9:00
- She has a licenses but cant even drive
- I use to like seeing my friends everyday but then it got boring
- If you have a lot of things to do you don't care that it's a small community
- After the war in 1950s there was 140 thousand people here now theres 67 thousand
- We had a friend that moved to barcellona to study(studying art) 12:56
- The academia in Venice isn't that good in Venice that is why their friend moved to barcellona 13:13
- Go to Santa Margarita and other places
- Ive buy beers since I was 14 17:40
- Venice is very safe it's the safier city in Italy 23:48
- In Venice we know each other we know every drunk person every homeless person were a big family 24:38
- Its very expensive to be a student here because its 250 euro for a month for housing 29:30
- Both live with their parents
- Its cheaper to live Mestre
- I was born here. I prefer this kind of life
- Since I was 14 I lived in Padua because my parents worked their but were born in Venice. But my father wanted to come back 38:40
- 36:00

## Francesco

24, male, student

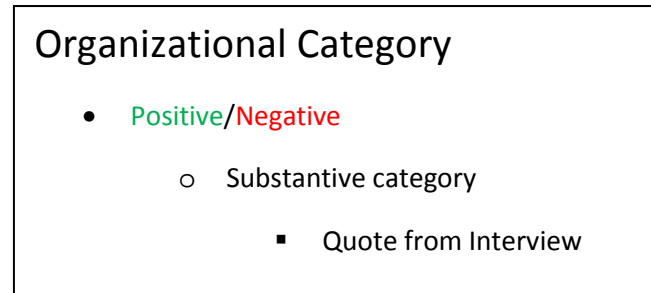
November 3, 10:30 pm

S. Margherita

- Home of interviewee: Murano Island
- Education: Pursuing Information technology degree at Ca' Foscari
- Currently lives with family as it is 'cheaper and simpler'
- Likes hanging out at S. Margharita
- Likes Venice recreation – enjoys going out at night and 'hanging out with friends'.
- Transportation is not a problem for him
- Would like to live in Venice, but plans to leave Venice once he's done with degree due to bleak job prospects.
- *"Yes, I like it [in Venice]. It is my city – I grew up here..."*
- *"I will be moving out [of Venice] after college. For proper IT jobs there is not much here."*

## Appendix D: Coding Opinions of the Venetian Youth

The list on the following pages shows the richness of the data we collected. We extracted quotes and notes from our transcript and transcription notes found in Appendix C and organized them according to the coding method discussed in Section 3.2. The list is organized as follows:



### Education

- Positive
  - Good for arts, language and architecture
    - Studied in the architect school
    - Is an Art Major in Academia here in Venice
    - Studies at the University of Venice with a linguistics degree
    - “Venice has many language schools”
  - Good job without college education, schools train you to work in Venice
    - “You can get a great job without going to college”
    - Not a lot of people go to college. Degree is not necessary to find a good job.
    - “We went to a scientific high school which is more of a normal high school and was free. There’s some for accounting and waiters and naval academy”
    - Tourism schools train you in a variety of tourism related jobs
- Negative
  - Continuing education after college is better outside Venice
    - “I want to go to Milano or another country to study my masters “
    - “The better master is in Milan”

### Occupation

- Positive
  - Jobs in tourism are abundant
    - “Venice is the city where you have the most shop assistant jobs, is full of shops that want shop assistants”
    - “I will work here in Venice cause my father has a hotel”
    - “Job opportunities are a lot of mask and tourist shops like this one”
    - “If you want to work with tourist is not so hard, but if you want something specific is no so good.”
    - Good money in tourism
  - Easy to make money after graduation

- Didn't pursue college because he wanted to make money quicker, so he conformed to the tourism jobs
- Plans to live here for the immediate future-good job prospect
- Had no trouble to finding a job and start making money after secondary school
- Get a good job without studying in college
- **Negative**
  - Jobs unrelated to tourism are scarce
    - Doesn't want to work with tourist, but if she wants to stay in Venice she realizes she might be forced to do just that
    - "I'll stay in Venice unless I find something better. I don't know what the opportunities Venice offers me"
    - "I love Venice so if I find a job outside Venice I'll still come back"
    - Wants to do something out of Venice, where people speak English (so outside of Italy)
    - "No big enterprises, nothing of value for me. Ok if you want to work for tourists, but it is not for me."
    - "More opportunity to find this job [economy] outside of Venice, but if I could I'd stay"

## Family life

- **Positive**
  - Strong family bonds
    - "My parents are here so I'm going to be here, main reason. "
  - Good environment to be a child or to be a parent
    - "It is perfect when you are very children and when you are a little bit older, when you are 30 and 40 is good, there is a side when you are 18 or 20 is not a perfect city for nightlife"
- **Negative**

## Housing and Cost of living

- **Positive**
  - Affordable for people who live half of the year outside Venice
    - "I can live, I can carry on with my things"
- **Negative**
  - Can't afford housing
    - Plans to move to Mestre, but wants to keep a similar job
    - "A lot of young couples move out since it's so expensive to live here"
    - "I live with my family because it is so much impossible to buy a house for a guy, it's too expensive"
    - "When I was born my parents couldn't find a house in Venice, the price in Padua is cheaper, so we moved to Padua"
    - "You study and you don't work too much, and have no money to move out"
    - "It's cheaper to live Mestre"
    - "It's expensive to live here. You must work with tourism; if you don't work with tourists you are done"
    - "It's impossible. On your own, it's expensive"

- Other needs are also expensive
  - “Don’t like that when you have to find a pair of jeans you have to go outside of Venice. Because it’s expensive and there a lot of designer shops.”
  - “It’s very expensive to be a student here”
  - “A coffee here is 10 cents more here than in Mestre, and it is not much but if you drink coffee everyday it is a lot”

## Recreation

- Positive

- Play sports
  - “They play basketball and have a soccer team”
  - “We play basketball”
- Recreation is better in the summer and during Carnival
  - “Down at the Lido where there is some good bars and disco clubs which are open only in the summer”
  - “The carnival, I love the carnival. The best week of my life. There’s a lot young people and parties. Party in the street every hour everywhere. New Orleans is bigger but similar. There a lot of crazy people you can see crazy things. Its ten days”

- Negative

- Nightlife is boring and repetitive
  - “There are no clubs its kind of boring here”
  - “Venice is too boring”
  - “I spent twenty years here its not fun”
  - “Not a lot of entertainment”
  - “Party time, there is no people, is not a very young city”
  - “I used to like seeing my friends everyday but then it got boring”
  - “I have to go out of Venice to find clubs”
  - “In Venice there isn’t any entertainment. In three weeks you can see everything like bars which close by midnight during the week and a little later during the weekends”
  - “Outside of Venice there are many clubs”
  - “After 9pm there is nothing outside, you don’t even see people; only at the bars you can see them, but if you walk is empty”
- Space is limited
  - “If you want to find a place to play if you’re not good enough, to practice then you go some open areas outside. To rent a place for one hour is really expensive. Also its hard to find space to practice because there is always someone playing there”
- Clubs and bars prefer tourists
  - “One thing is that the disco don’t want Venetian guys, only tourist...because they spend more money, so for people that live here that place is not an option”
  - “The dance clubs are for Tourist and gondoliers”

## Social and Community Life

- Positive

- Big family
  - “One big family in Venice, life is like a small city.”

- “In Venice we know each other we know every drunk person every homeless person were a big family”
- “Is a like very small town, If you walk 200m you say ciao, ciao, ciao”
- “There are lot of friends that like to stay here because they have a girlfriend and have a job here; but then couple of people don’t have a girlfriend just studying, and the way they think is that as soon as I finish my university I go away”
- “Most people that have a family here and work here like to stay here”
- Meet new people
  - “You meet a lot of boys here, so I like it”
  - “If you have a lot of things to do you don’t care that it’s a small community because a lot of new people come everyday”
- Negative
  - Same people
    - “You always see the same people the same place.....I don’t like it, maybe other people do. But is not for me “

## Culture

- Positive
  - Rhythm of life
    - “The way of life, easy relax “
    - “I like the history a lot, just walking around makes you feel like if you are breathing the past”
    - “Life here is a much quieter”
    - “You get to come here and rest here the quiet life is good.”
    - “I like the time, everything is slow”
- Negative
  - Dirty
    - “Venice is very ugly”
    - “I don’t like that is dirty because of dogs, birds, and dirty water”

## Safety

- Positive
  - No violent crimes
    - Pickpockets are not a problem and drunks are not a problem
    - “Like safety of city, especially at night”
    - “Venice is very safe it’s the safest city in Italy”
    - “The most safe place in the world”
    - “There is no “pretty women” there is no prostitutes, Mestre has a lot. Second of all there is no violent crimes, maybe sometimes pickpockets, but no violent crimes, so a girl can walk by herself in the street at 4 in the morning”
- Negative
  - Pickpockets and drunks
    - “A lot of drunks and borboni [beggars], I’m afraid of them and there is no police”
    - “Venice is not safe pickpocketers and drunks”

## Transportation

- Positive
  - No cars, no traffic
    - Transportation is not issue in Venice; “it takes time to go places and once you go out of the island is impossible”
    - “In Venice you don’t have to park or drive, that’s a positive”
    - “There’s no cars, no traffic”
    - “We walk but if we have to take the boat we will”
    - “I’m born here so I like to walk its normal”
- Negative
  - Busy in summer and Carnival
    - “[During the carnavale] there is a lot of crowd, a lot of people, and the transport is bad, and even the boats are bad you have to wait maybe one, two or three before you get on”
    - “To have a boat is really expensive to have here and it’s hard to find a place to put the boat. Expensive to park your boat. In the winter the boats have to be put inside for five months “
    - “Maybe in the summer time you have 1000 or 2000 people and the public transport gets crowded so you have to push to go in.”

## Appendix E: Key Informant Interviews

We had two key informants, one that works for the city of Venice and the other was a school teacher. Their interviews are shown below. Like in the previous appendix we keep the same format and their names have been changed for confidentiality reasons.

### Beatrice

42, female, City of Venice employee  
November 14, 3:00pm  
Venice city hall

- My area is the one of the three areas that we have here is the one about animals, water and...excuse me” - (Gets phone call)
- “igiene..it means like health” – (gets another phone call) 2:40
- “We have three offices one is waters, and waste, the second has to do with animals, and the third has to do with the cemeteries.”
  - There are 16 cemeteries
  - “I am response of all these offices.”
- “I went to school Ca’ Foscari. I studied industrial chemistry.”
- “I always wanted to stay in Venice. If you’re born here you don’t move, it’s not easy, or you go away very young like Fabio, but its difficult to leave when you are older.”
  - “After University you don’t go [leave Venice usually].”
  - “One of the most reasons you go is for study or for not finding a job around here.”
- “Maybe for some people who have the habits like cars it’s difficult [the quality of life] but not us its normal.”
- Lived with family till she was 25
- “It’s easier to raise kids here then outside because you move in little spaces and all your life is fifteen minutes around. One school is five minute and the other is 10 minutes [talking about kids]. Each day you walk so you don’t have problems with cars. So kids don’t have big lives, like big things, big events, and just regular things to do. Like I think in the small towns in the States it’s the same life as here.”
  - “It’s so small here you know everyone. I work in a place of 2500 persons so I know all my colleges. I’ve never tried something different then living in a close community, but I think I like it.”
- “When the kids were little they were put in kindergarten at my work. Which there were 7 or 10 kids of my colleges. It was easy for my when I work they were playing and then they had lunch and slept and then when they woke up they let me know I can come and get them.”
  - “The kindergarten was invented so the women could work.”

-“They made special profits for the companies that open these kindergartens. The government gives money to the companies that open them. There is only one in Venice because only big companies can open them.”

-“There are other types of kindergartens in Venice though.”

-Barbara and Alberto take turns picking up the kids

-“We don’t need a babysitter. Babysitters are about 8 euro an hour.”

- “We bring the kids to the Lido. There is a swimming pool, tennis court at like a sporting center.”
  - “The beach there has little houses we stay at after jobs during the summer at the Lido.”
  - “We bring food there eat there and then come back at night.”
  - “All Venetians go to the Lido for the summer since they were young they would spend three months at the beach. “
  - “I still work during the summer.”
  - “The Lido is just like Beverly hills.”
  - kids go to camp during the summer like a day camp at the Lido.
- They play basketball, soccer, volleyball, and gymnastics.
- “There are very few elevators so that makes it difficult to get around. Venice is a lot of stairs. But I live close to my work and on the first floor so not as difficult.”
- “Invented the platform elevators which are much cheaper to make.”
- “Food is the most expensive thing here. But its also true you can also buy it outside. Usually I’m really organized in some strange ways. All the meats I buy in the mountains once a month. And I stay the meat in a freezer in my building. Fish I buy on Saturdays at the markets. At the stores I buy milk and bread in the stores around (the fresh foods).”
- “When I was 25 I was sick of living at home, but not before it was easy when I lived there during school.”
- “I don’t like the tourists in Venice there are tons. We have lost many venetian things they are gone cause of the tourist shops.”
  - “If you are Venetian you know where to go and you don’t find the tourists. “
- “Venice is much safer then any other city in the world. And Ill tell you why. My father had a restaurant and late at night some druggers tried to go inside. And everyone called the police and told then where they were going.”
  - “Can not kidnap, here kids are safe.”
  - “Only real danger is the canals.”

-“Venetian little kids get lost they just go into a shop and say they are lost and within five minutes they are found.”

## Patricia

Late 30's, female, English teacher

November 20, 11:00 am

Middle School, Cannaregio

- From 11 to 13 middle school
- Primary school from 6 to 10
- Primary school is in different building
- They are near here two three elementary schools
- There are public schools and private schools here in Venice
- Private school is the school with the nuns
- The private school has the same programs as the public schools. In certain schools they go in the morning and afternoon. The other only two or three times a week in the afternoon.(all referencing religion in the school system)
- The same education in a public and private school. However richer people go to a private school.
- Secondary Schools, there are different types of secondary schools. Grammar school (classical) study greek and latin. Scientific schools they study over all maths, sciences, one or two foreign languages. Technical schools they study math and subject about technology. School for tourism and hotels they prepare the students for that field.
- They decide the second and third year in middle school which secondary school . In the third year the teachers from the secondary schools come to the middle schools and explain to the students what type of student they would become going to that school.
- In the last year the grammar school and scientific school (had more interest) because the students want to go to the universities I think.
- The tourism school is a big school in Venice because Venice is a touristic city.
- Tourism in the last year (has shown high numbers, but no different then the other years) because Venice is a touristic city and it's easier to find a job in tourism here. 4:43
- Also school of geometry where they learn to build houses. They help the engineers and architect
- They teach in school Italian, geography, history, maths, science, music, religion only for the catholic people, first language in English, second language French or Spanish in this school. Other schools however offer german. Also computer and two hours a week of physical education. 5:45
- The school is an old palace so they do not do physical education in the school they go twenty minutes from the school to santa disa. It's a sports center with many gyms and pools. The gym to climb (like a rock or wall or things you climb). Most schools are old palaces so most of this physical education is done outside of the school.

- The courses are obligated and when they have to pass the exam in the third year, they have to study every subject. They have four tests one in Italian, math, first language, and second language
- Besides the written exams there's a dialogue exam with every teacher (10) Italian, English, math and so on. It lasts 30 minutes and they talk about everything in that subject. They link the dialogue all together.
- The student stays in the same class doesn't change only for physical education. Also the computer room and art room you have to leave the class room.
- The students have to pay for books unless they're really really poor. ☹️
- There are about 25 to 26 students in a class. The maximum is 29, but the classes are pretty small. The max in this school is 25.
- The classes are very crowded because the spaces are small.
- We have six classes because each class has three hours of English, three hours per class for six classes. Two first classes, two two classes, two three classes
- They never divide the students so it's always the same 25
- Median number of students is 25 overall
- There are the projects in Venice where they store the poor people and the divorced parents and they make them live in the streets (that's why she doesn't like being a teacher she's racist against the poor people)
- 14:00 we have less teachers that help (teacher aids) because of the economic problem in Italy. The new minister cut the money for schools. Less teachers that help manage the kids with problems
- There is tax to go to school 20 to 30 euro but it's basically a free education
- Besides private schools
- No lunch break because there is no cafeteria (school specific to the one we visited)
- So they just leave at 2 when they're go home
- They do homework at home
- Some go to the gym if they do sports and practice
- They hang out with their friends
- In the afternoon the school offered chess, sing, and drama programs (once a week for two hours, also referring to last year)

## Appendix F: Sixth-Grade Class Survey

The following table, Table 4, displays the questions and responses we collected from an interview conducted with 16 sixth-graders. The most frequent responses of the questions “what activities do you do after school,” “What is your favorite thing about Venice,” and “What is your least favorite thing about Venice is” are highlighted.

Table 4: Responses from Sixth-Grade Survey

Student	What kind of school do you want to go to?	What type of job do you want to have when you are older?	What activities do you do for fun after school?	What is your favorite thing about Venice?	What is your least favorite thing about Venice?
1	Artistic	Cartoonist	Volleyball	Quiet	Rats
2	Grammar School	doctor	PSP, Judo and Football	San Marks, the museum	pigeons
3	Language School	Musician	Flute, roller blade	Tower of time	Tourist
4	Grammar School	Teacher	Piano and swim	boots	pigeons
5	Language School	Musician	Guitar	boots	I don't like
6	School for Tourism	Teacher	Dance	Canals	Pigeons
7	Technical School	Forest Ranger	swim	nothing	Il ponte di calatrava
8	Scientific school	Stylist	Dance	no cars	Pigeons!
9	Scientific school	Math Teacher	Swim	no cars	Pigeons!
10	Scientific school	Actress	dance and go out a friends	Vaporetti and S. Marco	colombi
11	School for Tourism	Teacher	Football	Water	Pigeons
12	School for Tourism	Lawyer	Swim	Bridges	Pigeons
13	Scientific school	Actress	Swim	Water	Colombi
14	Scientific school	Stylist	nothing	Bridges	Il ponte di calatrava
15	Technical School	Architect	Swim	Churches	Bridges
16	Scientific school	Aeronautic Engineer	video games	Nothing	Venice

## Appendix G: Information for Participants

Before any of our interviews we explained to the participants who we were and what the purpose of the interview was. In order to validate what we said we handed out the sheet shown below which contained our information and the purpose of the interview and the purpose of the project, in English and in Italian. The sheet also shows how to contact us and where to view the completed project once it is done.



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**Being Young in Venice**

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Purpose of Interview: To discover common factors that affect the way of life of a young Venetian.

*Proposta: Scoprire quali fattori comuni influiscono nella vita dei giovani Veneziani*

Project Purpose: The goal of this project is to assess the opportunities and challenges associated with being young in Venice. This project will result in a non-profit report used to understand the youth of Venice better.

*Scopo del progetto: è un'analisi sulle opportunità e le difficoltà nell'essere giovani a Venezia. Questo progetto avrà come risultato una tesi tesa a migliorare la comprensione di cosa significhi essere giovani a Venezia.*

An overview of the project will be available at

[http://venipedia.org/index.php/Venice\\_WikiBook:Venice\\_B08\\_IQP:Being\\_Young\\_in\\_Venice](http://venipedia.org/index.php/Venice_WikiBook:Venice_B08_IQP:Being_Young_in_Venice) upon completion. The complete report can be obtained upon request

*Un sommario del progetto sarà visibile, appena concluso, presso il sito*

*[http://venipedia.org/index.php/Venice\\_WikiBook:Venice\\_B08\\_IQP:Being\\_Young\\_in\\_Venice](http://venipedia.org/index.php/Venice_WikiBook:Venice_B08_IQP:Being_Young_in_Venice). Il testo completo verrà successivamente fornito su richiesta.*

Figure 14: Screenshot of Information for Interviewees

## Appendix H: Relative Importance of Quality of Life Factors

The screenshot of the interactive graph showed below shows how the importance of each quality of life factor changes as a young person gets older. The graph was a collaboration with two other groups that study the quality of life of Venetians after the age of 30. Each color line represents a quality of life factor and the thickness of the line represents how important these factors are at a certain age. The data is divided in five year intervals, and if any of the age buttons is clicked the graph zooms into that age group and shows links important to the age group.

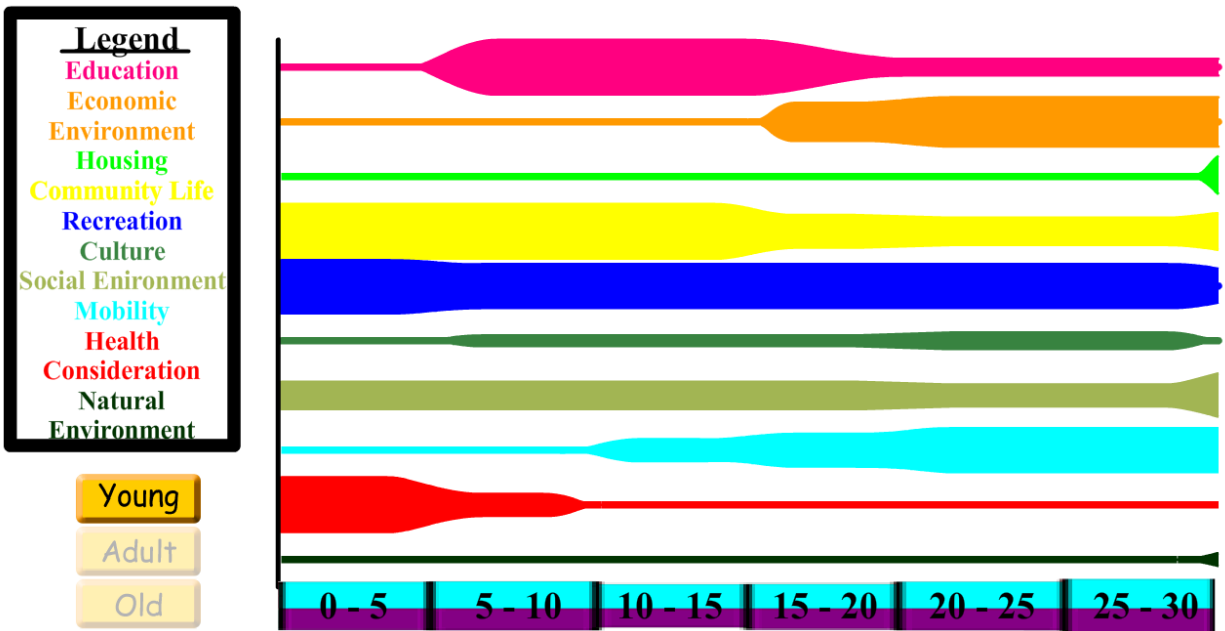
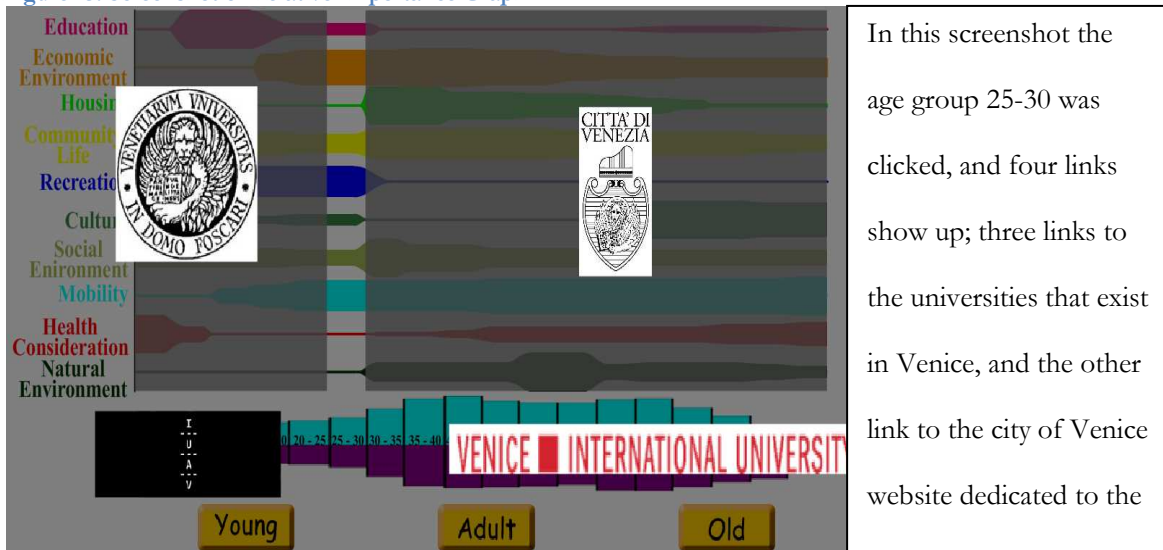


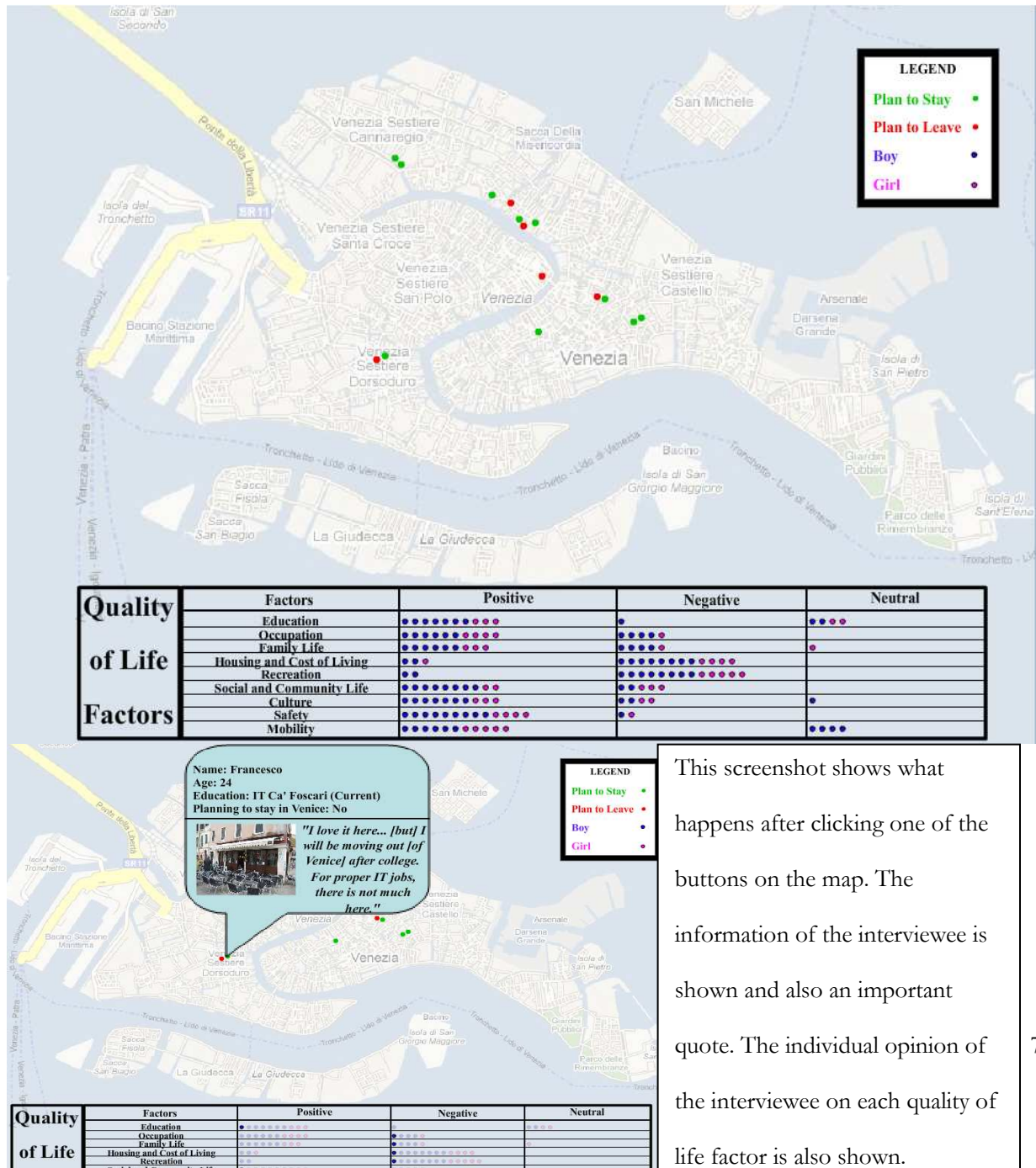
Figure 15: Screenshot of Relative Importance Graph



## Appendix I: Map of Interviews

This is a screenshot of the interactive map of all of semi-structured interviews. The position of the dots represent where the interviews took place, a green dot means the interviewee has future plans to stay in Venice and a red dot means they are planning to leave. In the bottom of the map, the legend shows the opinion of all the interviewees by quality of life factors. We obtained these opinions from the coding table showed in the previous appendix. If one of the dots on the map is clicked some information about the interviewee is shown.

Figure 16: Screenshot of Interactive Opinions Map



This screenshot shows what happens after clicking one of the buttons on the map. The information of the interviewee is shown and also an important quote. The individual opinion of the interviewee on each quality of life factor is also shown.