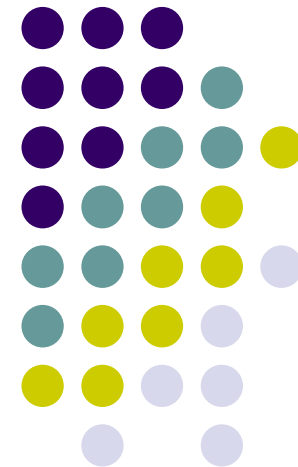
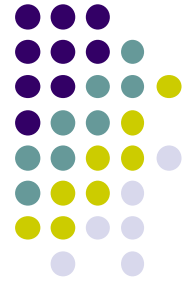


History of Youth Clubs in Iceland

Árni Guðmundsson. M.Ed
Tómstunda- og félagsmálafræðibraut MVS /
The Faculty of Sport, Leisure Studies and Social Education
Rannsóknarstofa í bernsku- og æskulýðsfræðum /
The Centre for Research in Childhood and Youth
Háskóli Íslands / University of Iceland



Toynbee Hall



(c) Árni Guðmundsson

The Icelandic Community in the beginning of the last century



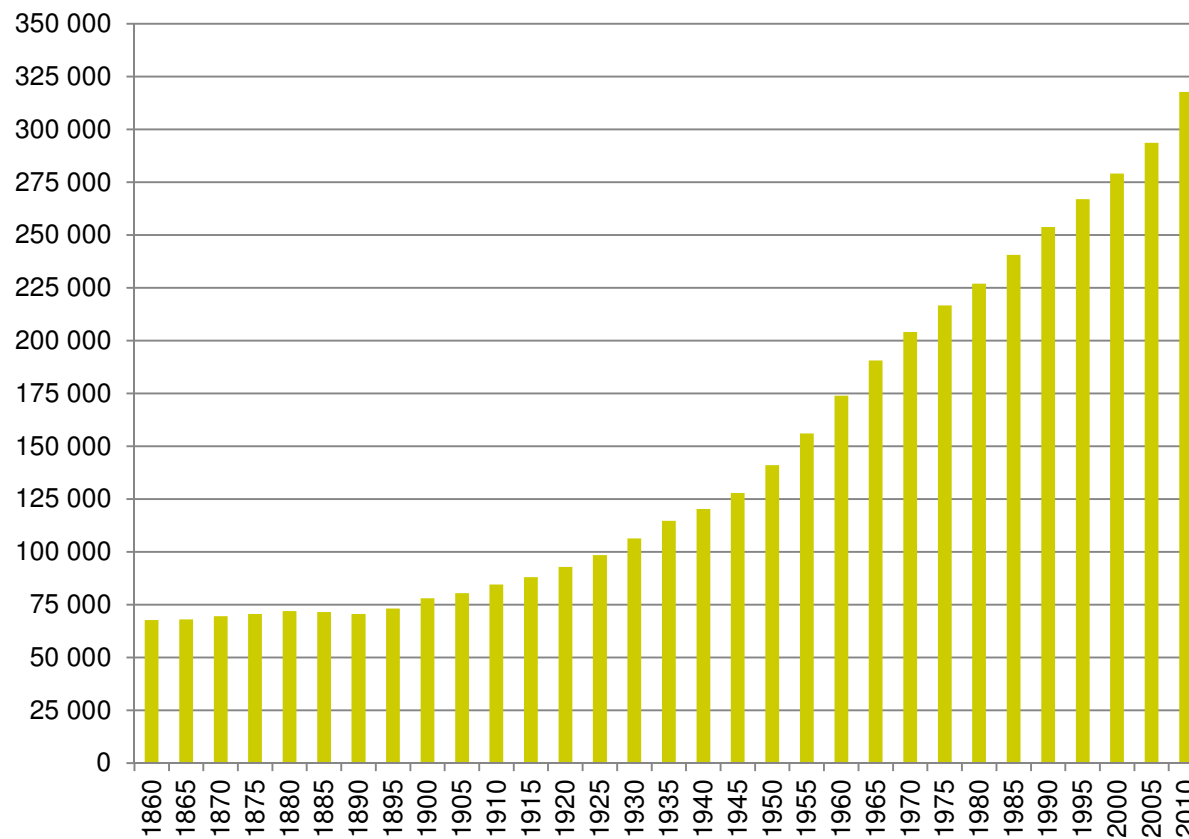
- There was no gap between childhood and adulthood and children went from being children to adults and being expected to being as productive as adult workers.
- Iceland was a nation of farmers and fishermen and a lot of young people worked alongside farmers as general workers but after decades of hard work there was a possibility of being given a small piece of the land by the farmer you worked for, and become a farmer yourself so upward mobility was somewhat facilitated(Gísli Ágúst Gunnlaugsson)
- The Icelandic “industrial revolution“ involved bringing in more advanced machinery for our main industries, fish industries (small motorboats et cetera, one hp 1901) , farming industries etc.

The Icelandic Community in the beginning of the last century (2)

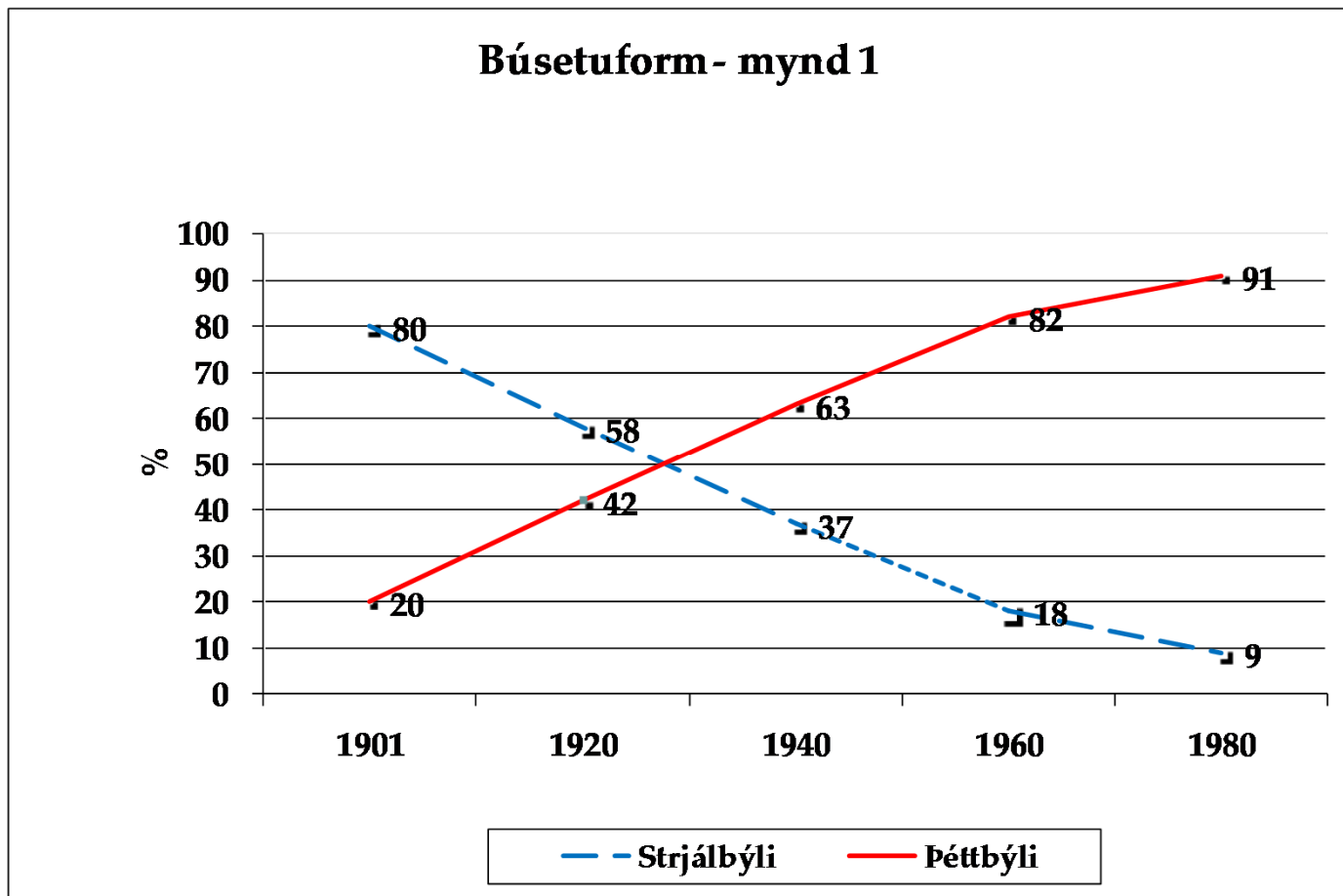


- Law on Education was set in the year 1906
- The Youth Organisations and other societies were formed at the beginning of the century and bridged the gap between the old society and the modern society in which teenagers were a new thing.
- The population moved from the country side to the city and the society changed as result farming wasn't the main industry anymore and new work roles were created and all of a sudden adolescents were not needed within the work force due to changed work roles. This created a lot of free time for adolescents and leisure time was a new phenomena.

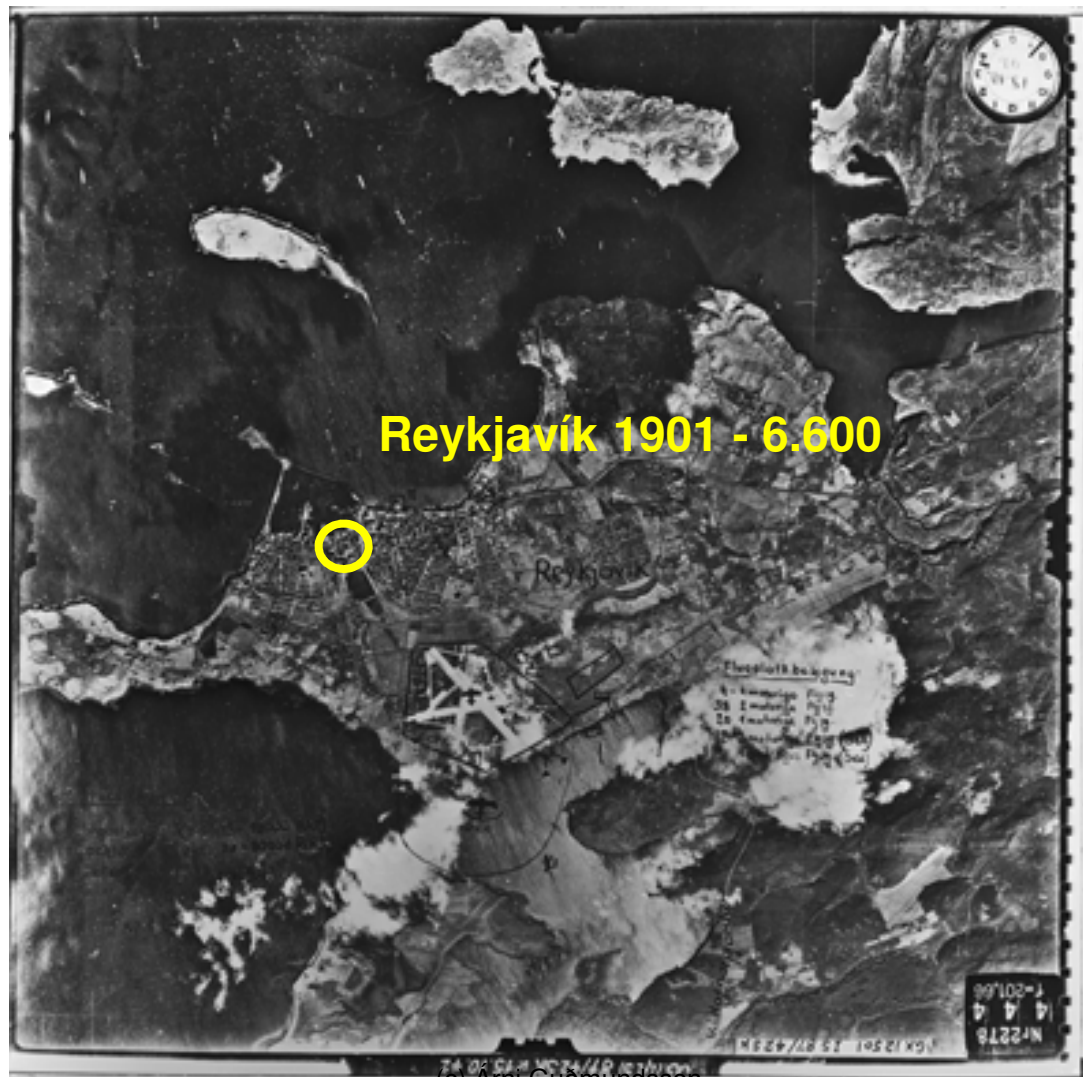
Icelanders 1860 -2010



The shift from rural living to city/town living

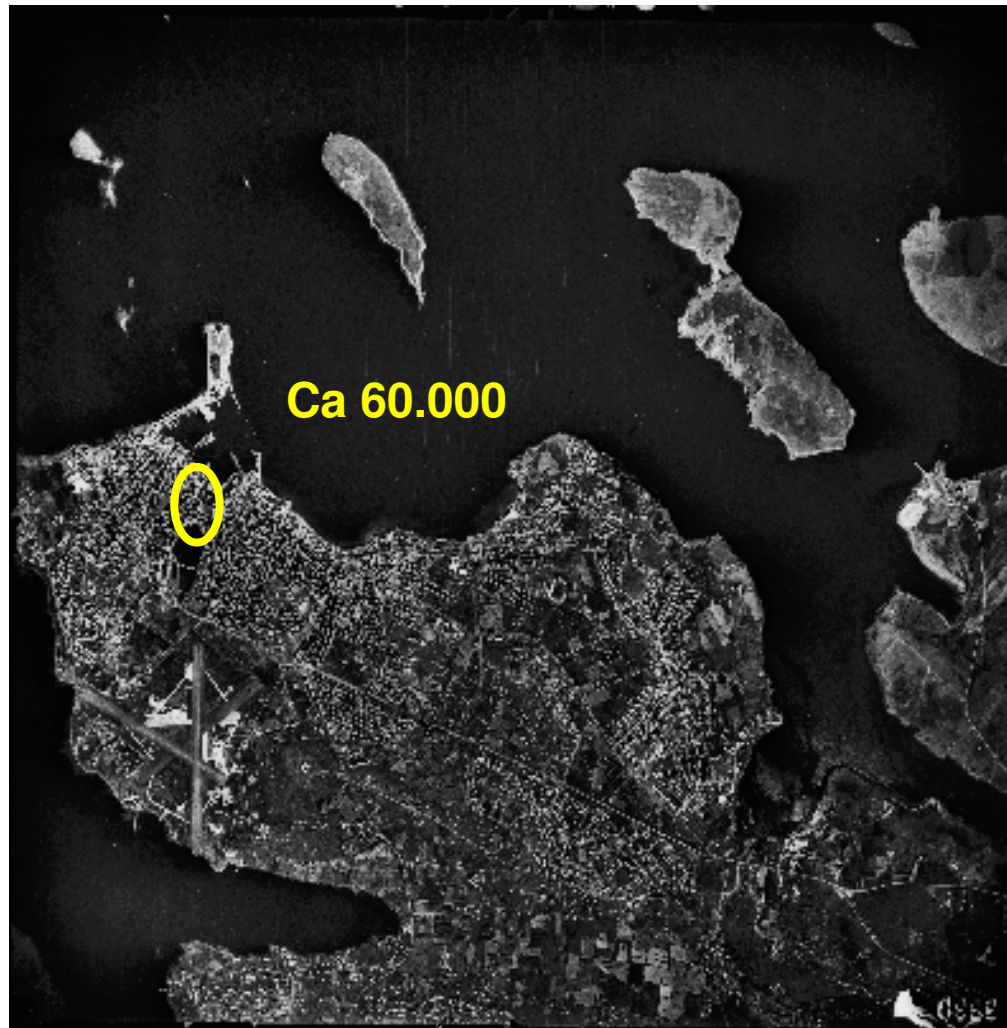


Reykjavík 1942



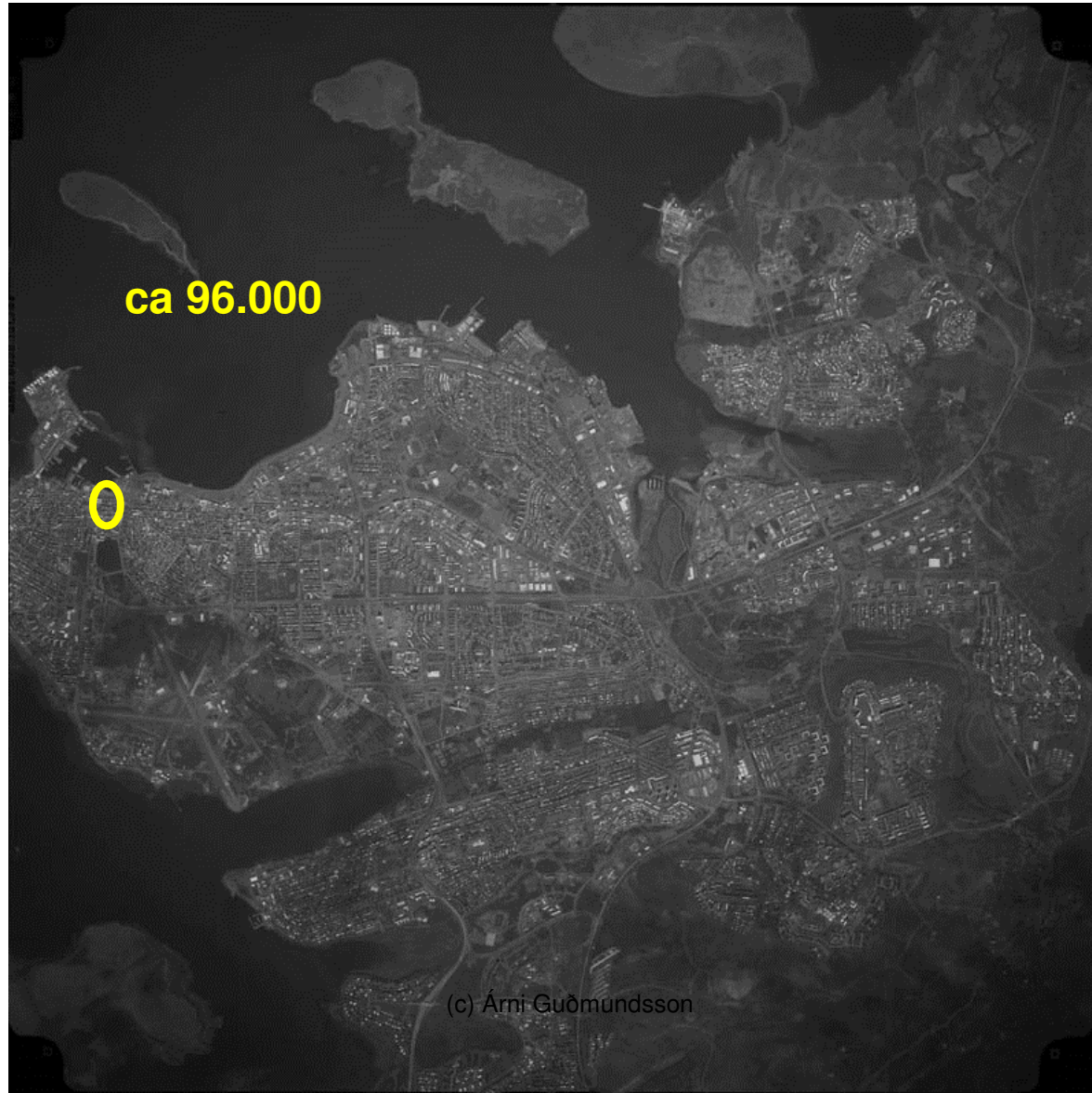
(c) Árni Guðmundsson

Reykjavík 1954



(c) Árni Guðmundsson

Reykjavík 1986



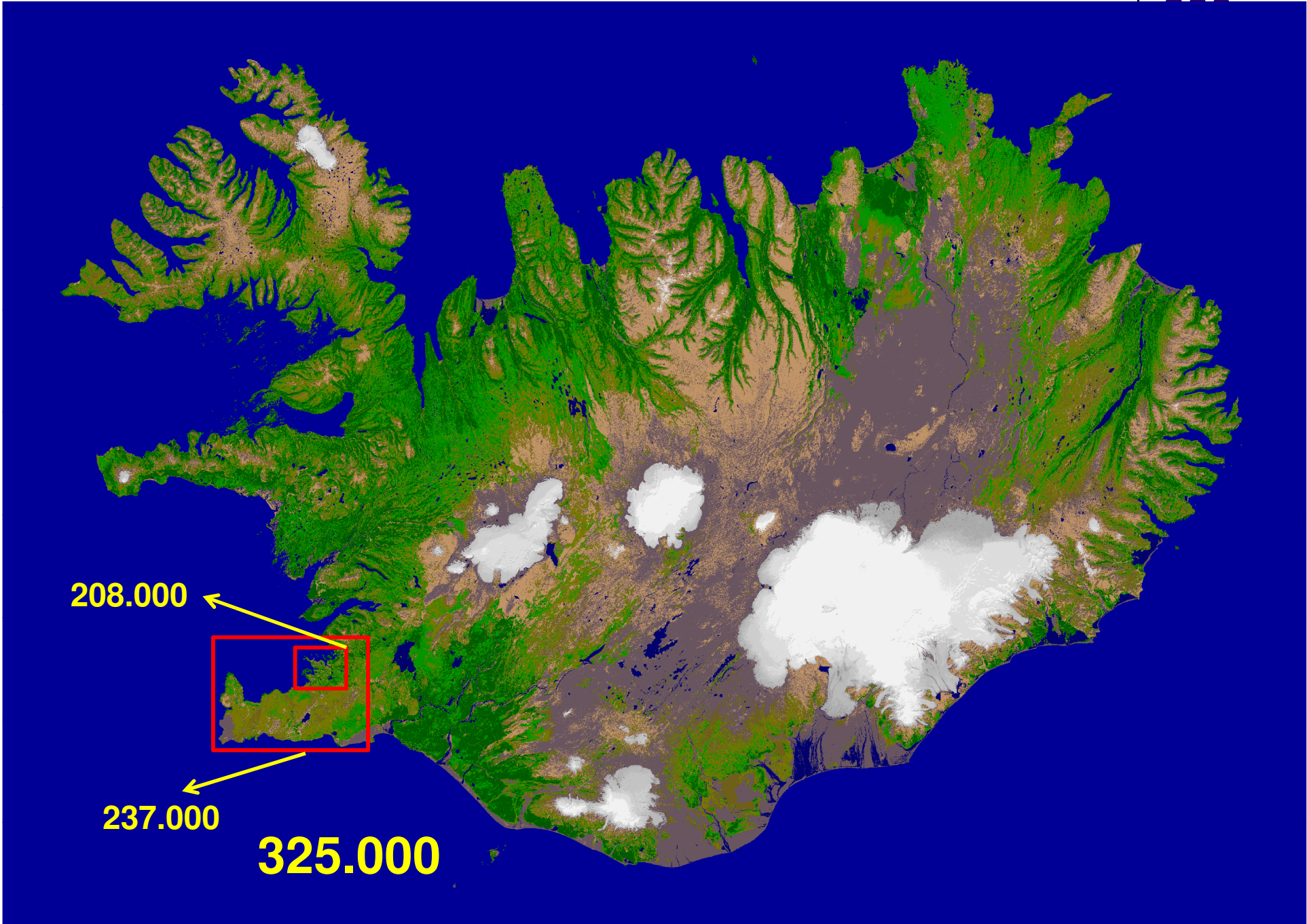
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(c) Árni Guðmundsson

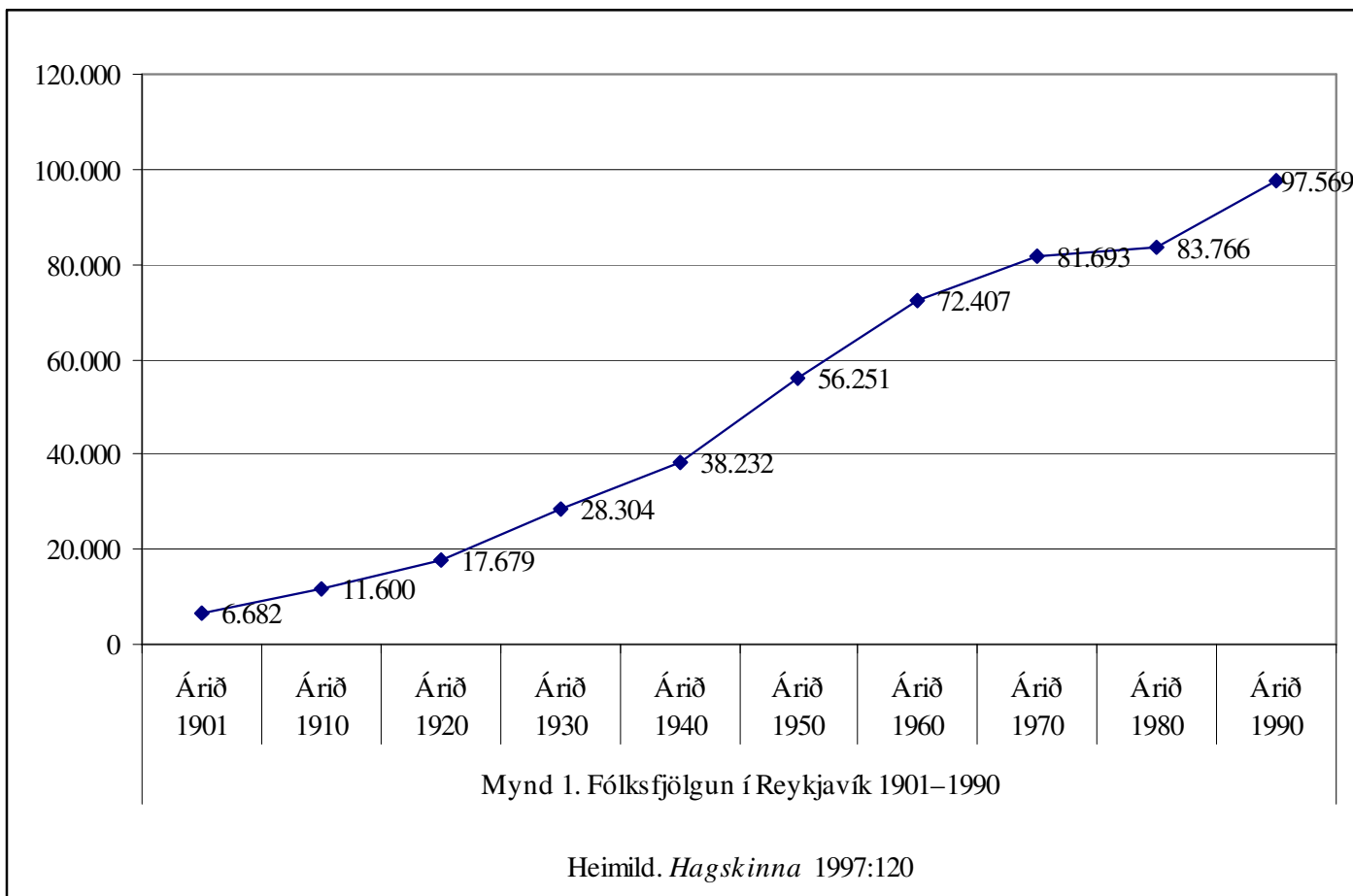
Reykjavík 2014



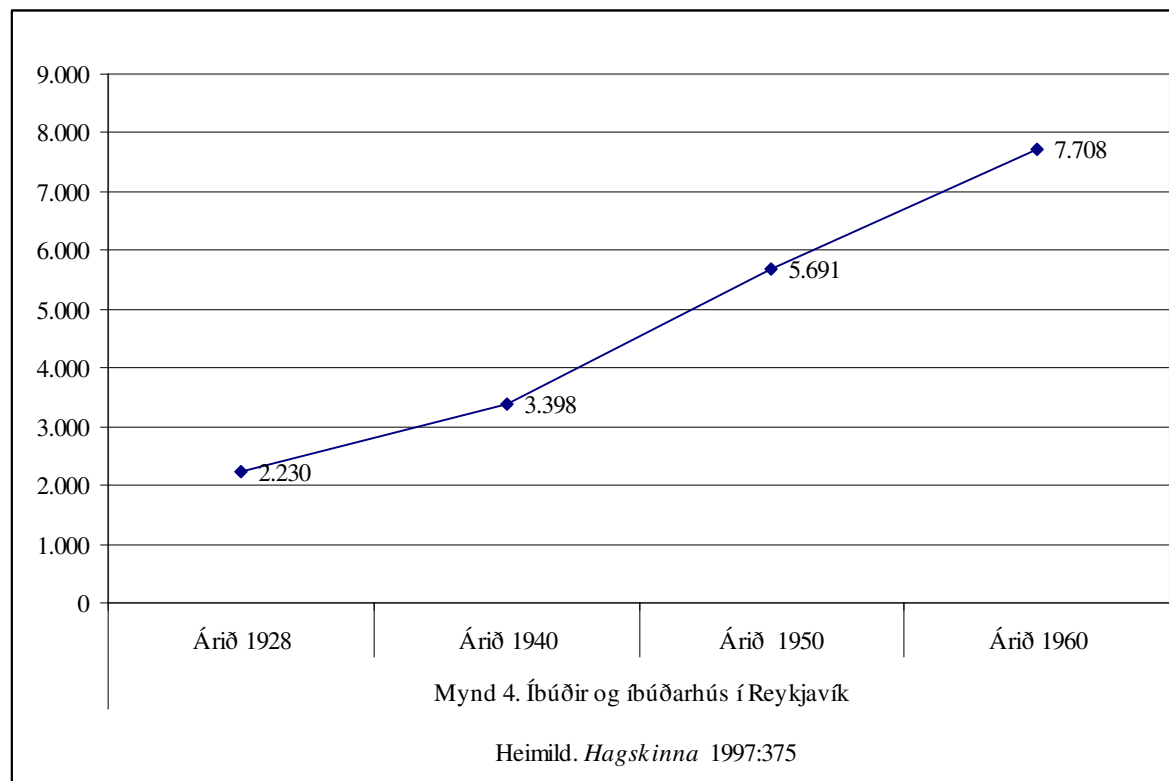




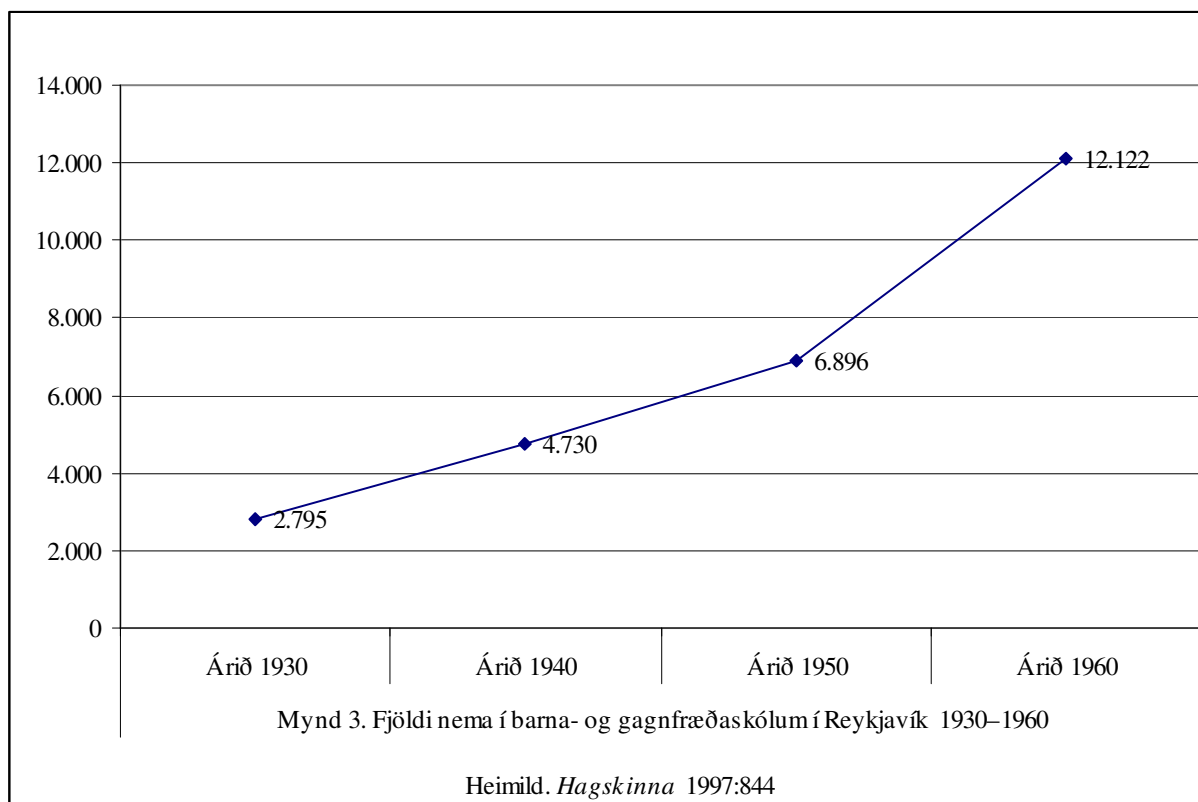
Population in Reykjavík 1901-1990



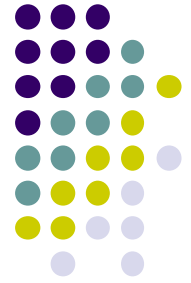
Number of apartments and houses in Reykjavík 1928-1960



Number of children in primary and secondary Schools in Reykjavík 1930-1960

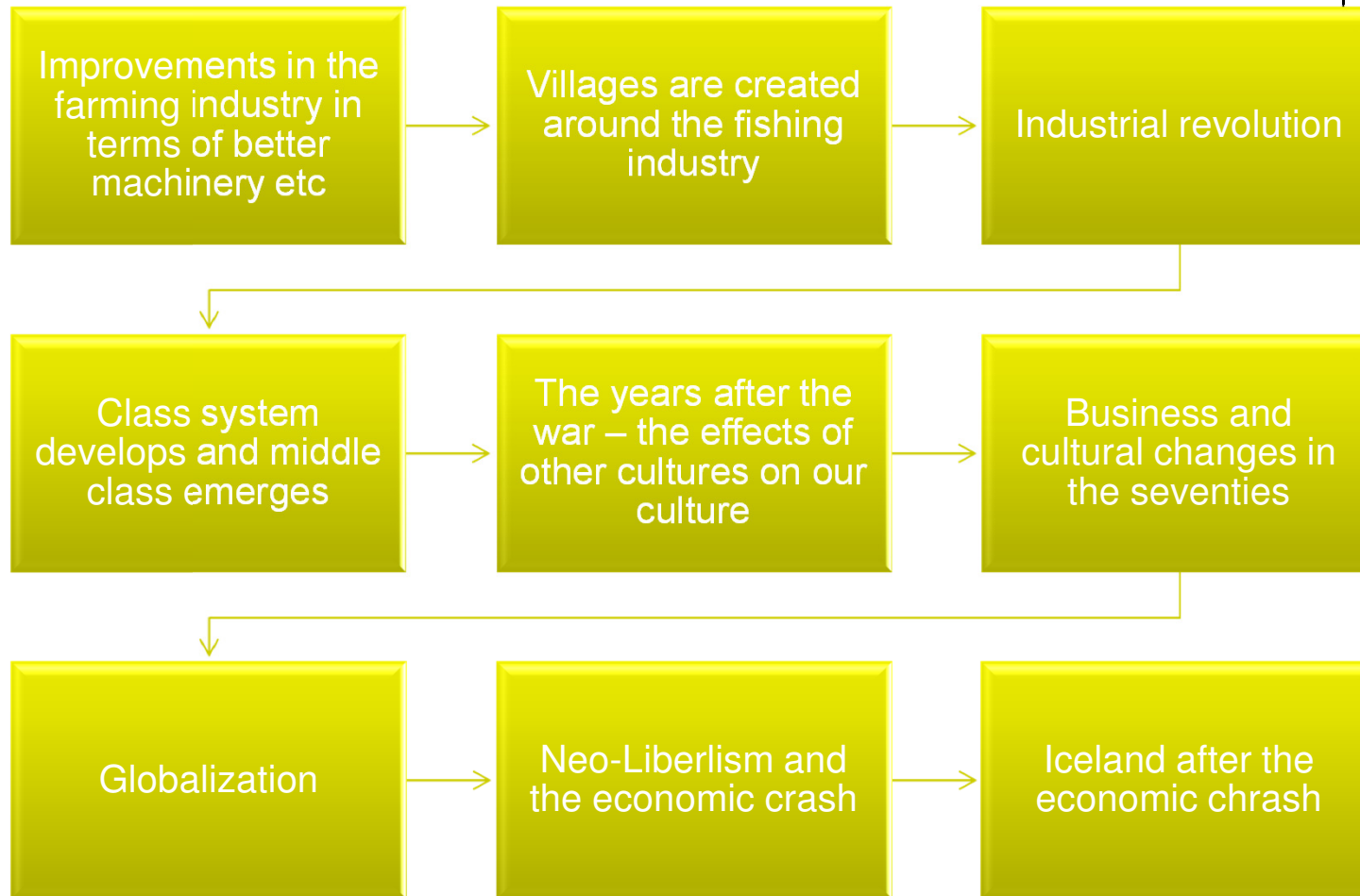


Rapid Societal Changes in Iceland



- The society changed from a farming society, that had remained unchanged for decades, to a society where the majority of the population lived in the city or towns.
- Everything changed, from occupational roles, technology, accommodation, the educational system to quality of life.

The Changes in the Icelandic Society



Generation that raises generation...



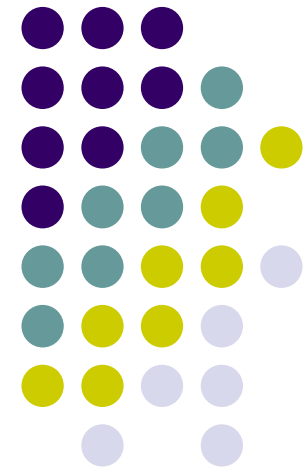
1880

2010



(c) Árni Guðmundsson

But what about the youth!



Has the youth turned “old”



- There was a discussion on the International Conference on Settlements (IFS) 1922 about how to specifically manage and support this newly coined life phase adolescence.
- Public discussion about youth in Iceland is not common until after and around 1935 and this is linked to the army occupation in Iceland 1939
- Before that time the public discussion was first and foremost about the unhealthy and not child friendly villages that were being formed.
- Parents resorted to sending the children back to the past that is send them to spend time on farms during summer holidays because this is how they spent their childhood.

Aðalsteinn Sigmundsson Teacher – The Chairman of the Youth Association of Iceland (4H - Young Farmers)



- Aðalsteinn was worried about the state of affairs for the youth and in 1939 he wrote a 24 page booklet called Children of the City. In this booklet he writes:
- *„Sometimes it seems that people have not realised that today’s youth is not being supported adequately in this modern society, and that in the future this nation will suffer as result.” (s:7)*

And Aðalsteinn continues:



- *„ And the city itself – what one could call the sociological entity – does not know, just like the individuals how to live in a city. Reykjavik is the first and only city in a country that has no city culture- and does nothing to create one - does not even try to create a society in which children can flourish. It mostly forgets that children exist unless in the instances in which the Law on Education forces it to remember”. p: 16*

Icelandic Youth Clubs



- In 1942 Jónas from Hriflu (MP) Minister of Education proposed in Parliament that a Youth Hall should be built in Reykjavík
- The newly founded Youth Society of Reykjavík (4-H) asked for a piece of land to build a youth hall.
- August Sigurðsson was appointed by the Mayor of Reykjavík and Minister of Education to prepare a report on youth Hall



Icelandic Youth Clubs (2)

- Ágúst Sigurðsson and his ideas, report from 1943
- „The Youth Hall should be a respite where young people can spend their leisure time, a place where young people can work on what interests them – from social activities, revision, reading, home economics, chess or other healthy interest- there they should be able to rest after hard day´s work and enjoy healthy pursuits. Because of how alcohol is often misused in other social contexts, I believe it is right not to allow alcohol consumption in the youth hall.“

Youth Hall



- The Youth Hall was meant to be much bigger than the Youth Clubs of today. They were going to have facilities for :
 - Theatre shows
 - Cinema screenings
 - Meetings
 - Concerts/dances/exhibitions
 - Sport matches/facilities to practice sport
 - Ice skating rank
 - Number of hobby rooms

LAGSNEFNDIN

1040

HB/ÁZ.

REYKJAVÍK, 21. ágúst, 1943.

Hér með endursendist fylgiskjal, er sent var með tillögum um æskulýðsheimili í Reykjavík fyrir tilstuðlan Ungmennafélags Íslands, en leitað hafði verið álits Skipulagsnefndar um heppilega lóð, með bréfi bæjarráðs dags. 20. júní 1942.

Með því að þetta mál hefur um lengri tíma verið í höndum Ágústar Sigurðssonar magister, f.h. bæjarráðs, og hann gerði ákveðnar tillögðu í málinu, m.a. í samráði við Einar Sveinsson og Hörð Bjarnason í athugun lóða, þá hefir orðið nokkur dráttur á svári nefndarinnar við framangreindu erindi.

Virðist málið ekki enn vera komið á þann rexpól, að unt sé að benda á ákveðinn stað, en þegar endanlega verður frá tillögum Ágústar Sigurðssonar gengið, mun nefndin að sjálfsögðu taka afstöðu til þess staðar í bænum, sem endanlega yrði bent á, sem hússtæði hins fyrirhugaða æskulýðsheimilis.

Virðingarfyllst,
f. h. Skipulagsnefndar

E. h.
Einar Sveinsson

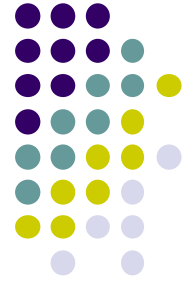
Til bæjarráðs Reykjavíkur.

(c) Árni Guðmundsson

M/19

Borgarsjórin
í Reykjavík





B.Æ.R.

- The Reykjavík Association of Youth Organisations was founded in 1948
- It was meant to be a key figure and run the Youth Hall
- It never lived up to the expectations and did not meet it's goal of uniting all the youth organisations and the project was simply too big for them.

The Child Protection Society of Reykjavík 1952



- „ A number of children and adolescents live in accommodation that does not give them space to engage in healthy leisure activities. Because of this many adolescents take to wandering the streets, sit in restaurants or cafés or spend their time in other pursuits that are not conducive to their maturity and growth. Lack of interests is one of the main reason for engaging in offending behaviour.
- *In other cultures most of the big cities have created youth clubs for teenagers. These clubs are believed to serve the same role, in terms of pedagogical input, as nurseries, after school clubs and schools and within these cultures, more and more youth clubs are being built. “*



What happened to that hall ?

- The youth Hall became a sport Hall called Laugardalshöll (opened 1964)



(c) Árni Guðmundsson

What happened to that hall? (2)



- The case had been dragging through the system for years and it became evident that a youth hall was no longer on the agenda
- It was back to square one a gain, the city was now three times bigger than when the idea first came to light in 1942
- The mayor decides to create the Youth Council of Reykjavík (shortly before election).

1. Fundus.

Ár 1956, hinn 3. janúar, var fundur haldinn í nefnd þeirri, et laugas-
stjóri Reykjavíkur hafði skipt að
"til þess að beita sér fyrir umbodum
í félags- og skemmtunarlífi áskulfar
í bænum, m.a. með því að stofna
til hollra og menntandi skemmtana
og allhuga leiddi til þess að koma
á höndunum, idgi" - eins og sagt
er í bréfi borgarstjóra til nefndar
mamma, dags. 15. des. 1953:

Fundurinn var haldinn í skrif-
stofu fróðlefulltíra Reykjavíkur,
Kafnastöti 20, og hófst kl. 17.15.
Allir nefndarmenn voru matar-
þeir eru þessir:

Ódull Ódullsen, netgásmáður
Helgi Ketni Þirksson, lækna-
stjóri
Frymja Jóhannesson, fulltími
Sra. Jón Þórunn, dómprófasker
Ragnar Jónsson, fróðstjóri
Simon Jón Þórunn, prófessor
Valborg Sigurðardóttir, skólustjóri

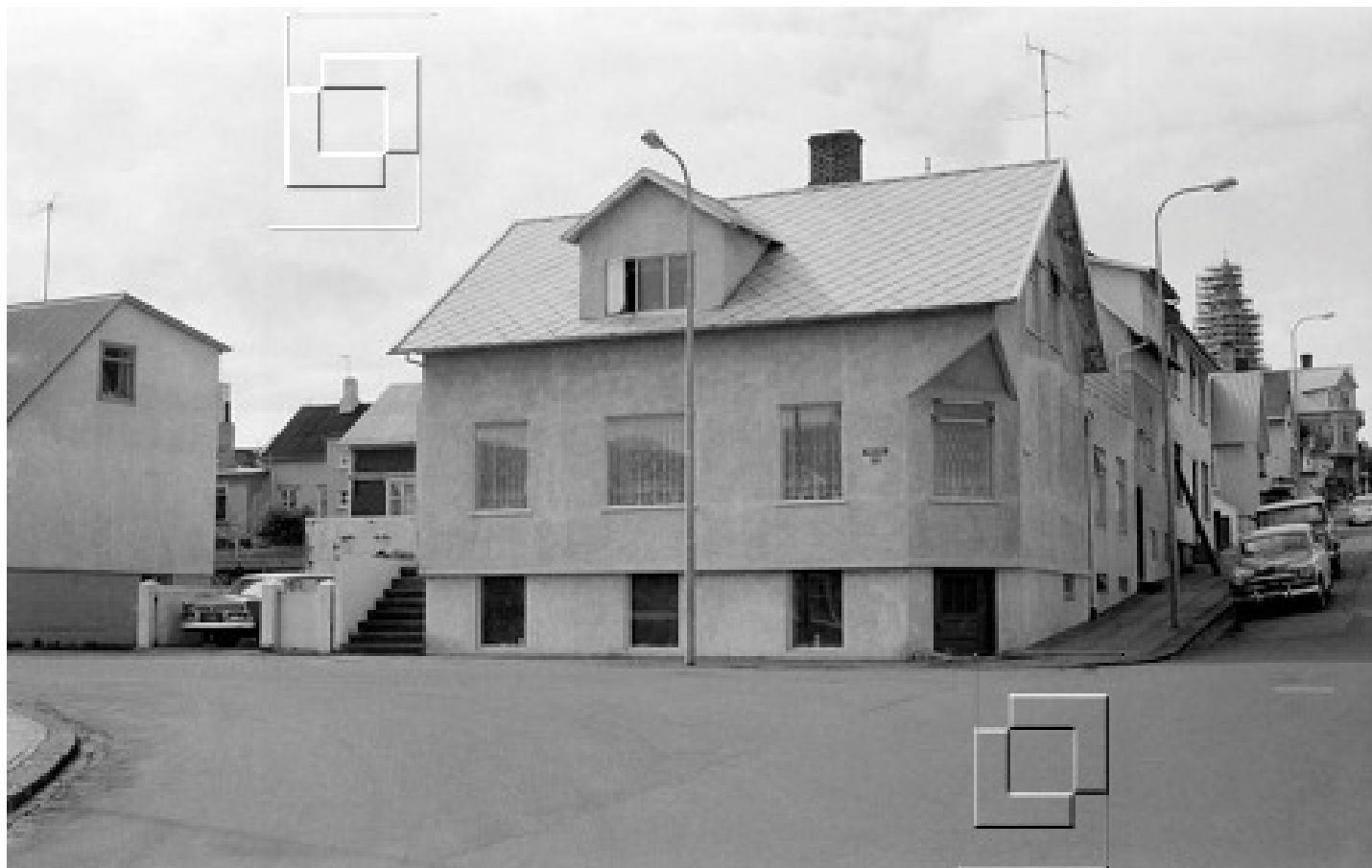
Ímfræmmer sábu fundinn þeir
Jónas Þ. Jónsson, fróðlefulltími og Magnús
Líðlaun, námsstjóri, et borgarstjóri
hafði skipt til þess að vera ráðgjafi
at nefndarinnar.

Þetta gerist:

1. Forseti nefndarinnar var kjör

(a) Arnar Guðmundsson

Tómstundaheimilið Lindargötu Reykjavík



Timeline 1 –

- 1884 Toynbee Hall, London, England
- 1912 Birkagården, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1912 Åskagaarden, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1919 Kalliola, Helsinki, Finland





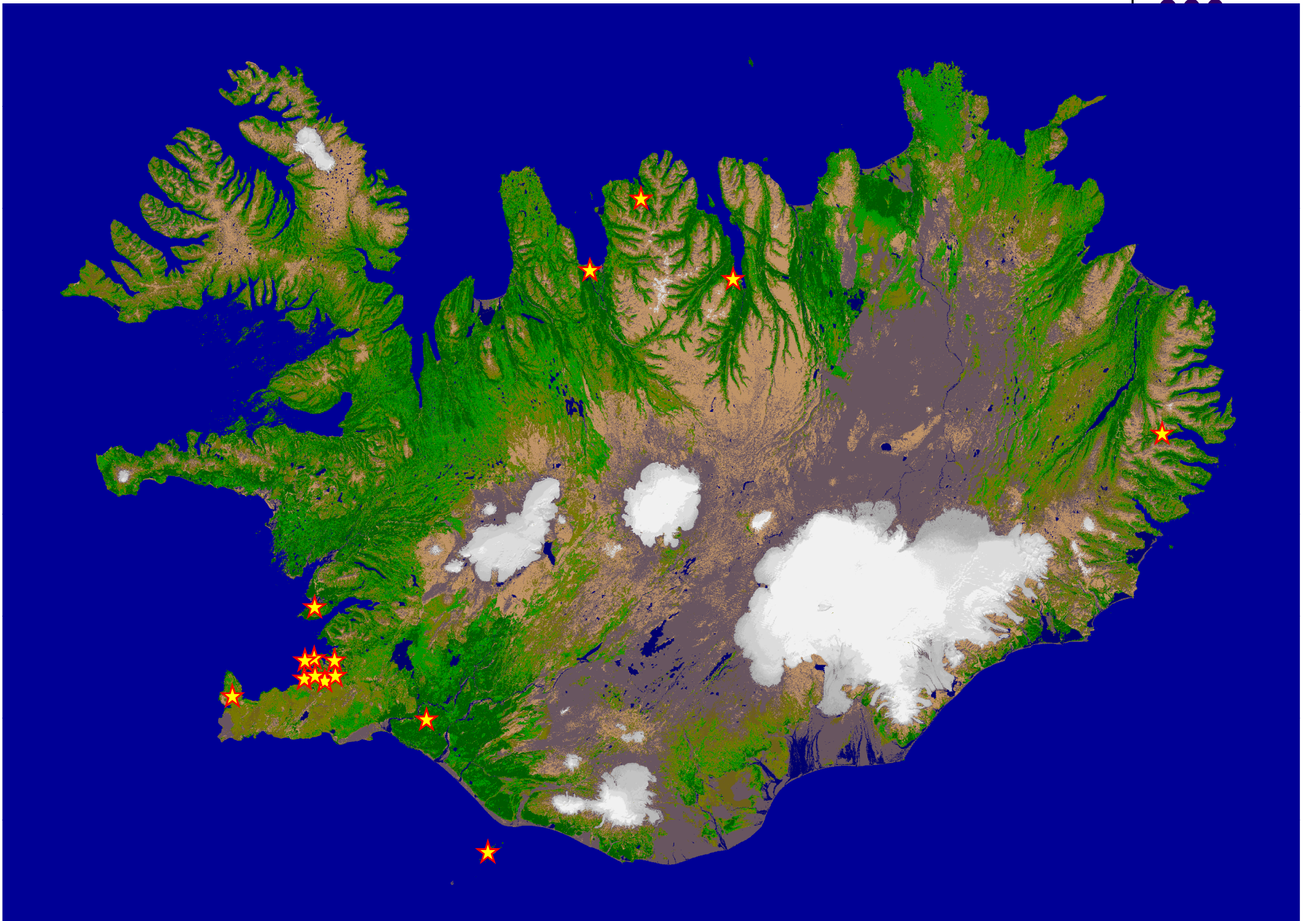
Timeline 2

- 1933 Lundby Ungdomsgård, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Around 1942 a number of Youth Clubs were opened in Denmark
- 1953 Hammarsborg ungdomsklubb, Oslo, Norway
- 1957 Tómsundaheimilið við Lindargötu, Reykjavík, Iceland



Timeline 3

- 1957 Tómsundaheimilið Lindargötu, Reykjavík
- 1962 Æskulýðsheimilið, Siglufirði
- 1966 Félagmiðstöð Álfrólsvegi 32, Kópavogi
- 1969 Æskulýðheimilið, Hafnarfirði
- 1972 Dynheimar, Akureyri
- 1975 Tryggvaskáli, Selfoss
- 1978 Félagsmiðstöð í skólum, Garðabær, Sauðárkrókur, Keflavík
- 1979 Æskulýðsheimilið Fáskrúðsfirði
- 1980 Arnadalur Akranesi. Féló Vestmannaeyjum.

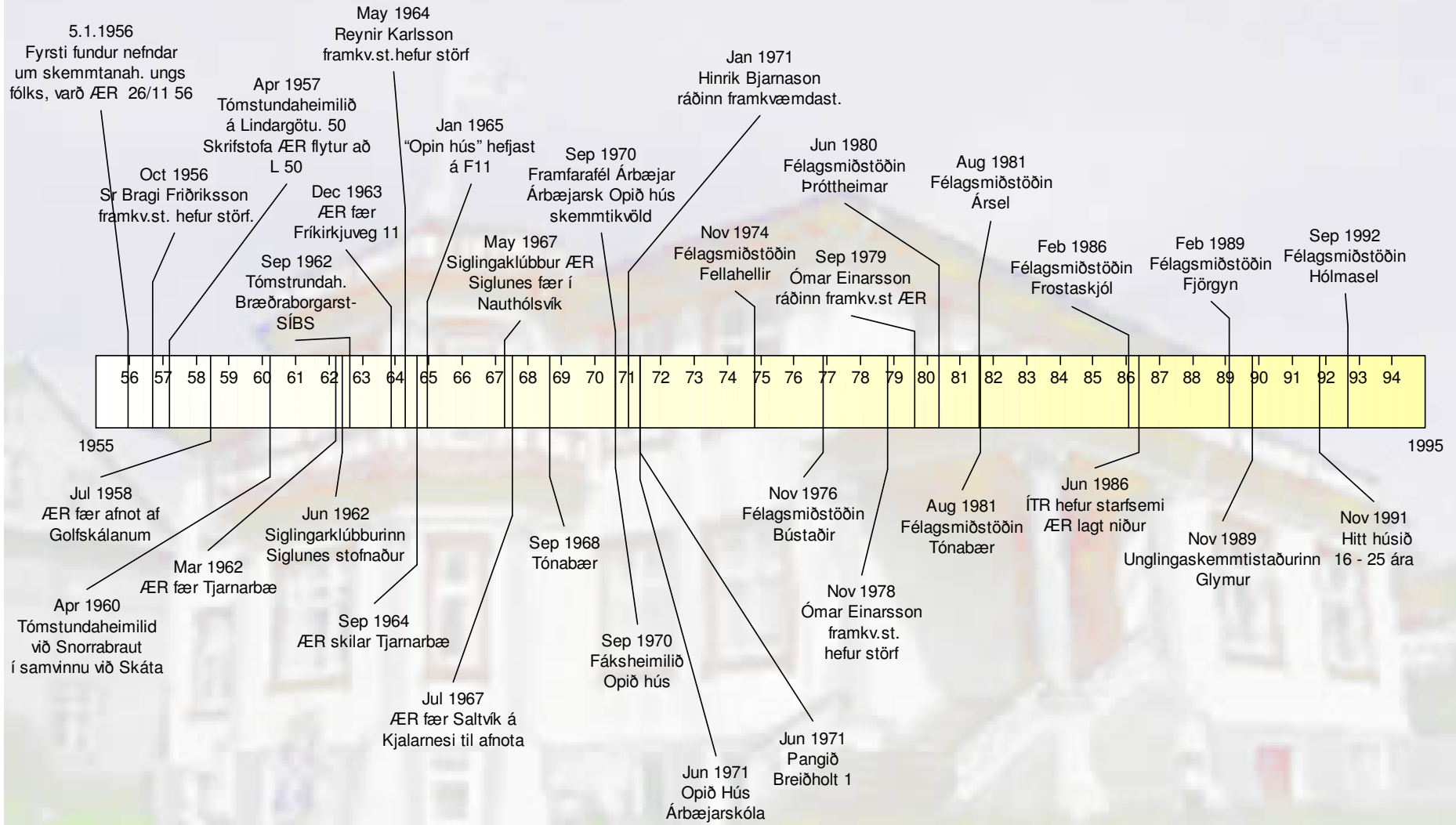


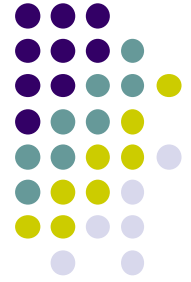
Tímeline 4



- In 1964 there were 14 Youth Councils in Iceland. (15%)
- In 1980 they had increased to 32 Youth Councils in Iceland. (45%)
- In 2006 there are 50 Youth Councils in Iceland. These numbers do not take into account the decrease in that has taken place. (75%)
- In 2014 are Youth Councils in almost all municipalities (98%)

Starfsemi ÆR og síðar ÍTR 1955–1992





To summarise

- The cultural changes and developments over the last 150 years has given each generation unique challenges when it comes to raising children as parents are continually facing challenges that did not exist when they were growing up.
- This fosters insecurity that presents in the recurrent theme that today's youth is on a downward spiral.

Foggy future ?



- The experience gained by growing up in Icelandic society could only be used partially because the society had changed so significantly and attitudes and values differed from what had been upheld when the parents were growing up.
- Can the “Duran Duran” generation, children of the “Hippy generation” use values taught to them in childhood when raising children in a society that no longer upholds these values?
- How can parents raise children in a society they and their children do not know what the cultural values are?”
- What is the role of the society/youth clubs in all of this?

Youth Clubs – the pedagogical perspective



- Educational centre in the widest meaning of that word – how to become a functioning member of the society
- What is being studied? – life skills – how to work with others within a community and cope with the diverse challenges of life.
- To improve social skills, mature as a person and improve self image which can be achieved by participating in projects and activities on offer in youth clubs.

Youth Clubs – the Sociological perspective



- Youth Clubs are amongst other things used as a tool to contain the cultural evolution (that people are unsure of how will end or what it will lead to) and shape the youth.
- A security measure to watch over today's youth and preventing them from coming to harm.
- Youth work is based on what is current in the modern society but based on professional foundation.

Youth Culture throughout the years



- The youth has always been on downward spiral and older people tend to forget what their own youth was like or cannot put themselves in the young people's shoes/understand their circumstances because of the societal changes.
- And so it happens to every youth that they themselves misunderstand the future youth when they themselves are no longer young.
- Each phase of life is unique – what you learn when young can be of limited value when you try to use it to guide your child rearing when raising the next generation.

Thank you



TIL ATHUGUNAR:

1. Markamið er að koma af stað höllum og góðum dansskemmtunum fyrir æskufólk, þar sem leitað verður eftir hinni sönnu dansgleði, með því að dansa rétt og fallega hvern dans.
2. Á skemmtunum klúbbsins munu leiðbeindur kynna ýmsa dansa og samkvæmisleiki og einnig munu ýms æskulýðsfélög kynna starfsemi sína.
3. Klúbbsgjald er kr. 50,00 (kr. 10,00 fyrir hverja skemmtun) og reiðist fyrirfram.
4. Ölvun og reykingar eru stranglega bannaðar á samkomum klúbbsins, og brot á því varðar brottrekstri.

★

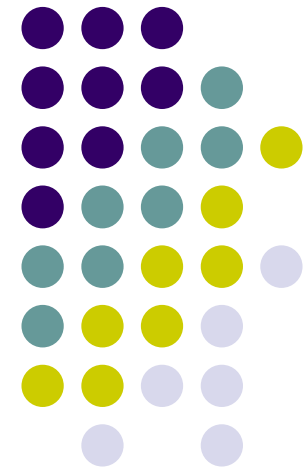
**Takmarkið er:
Prúð framkoma og heilbrigð gleði.**

**DANS- og
SKEMMTIKLÚBBUR
ÆSKUFÓLKS**



Nr. 111

(c) Árni Guðmundsson





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