THOUGHTS ON YOUTH AND ITS APPROACH TO SOCIAL REALITY

Jorge Rocha,

Professor, ITESO (Mexico)

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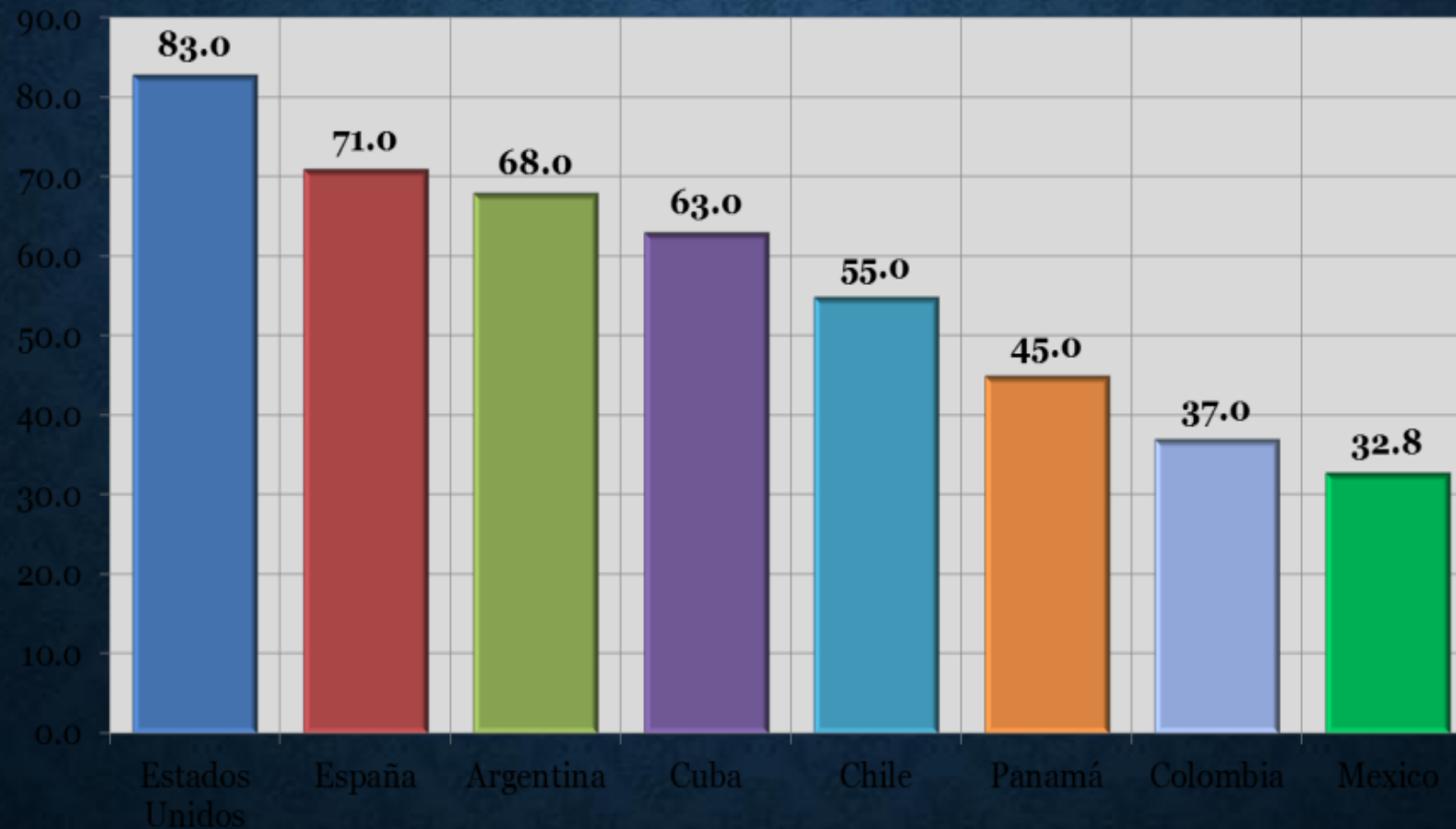
SOME BACKGROUND DATA

- The open unemployment rate in Mexico is twice as high in young people than in adults and, in young women, the problem is exacerbated. This trend is global (30% of the young people in Spain are unemployed and in Greece the worst affected sector by the crisis is youth.

- The youth sector tends to be criminalized and stigmatized by the States.

- Youth are related to violence in public space (example of hooligans, fans and bars).

SOME BACKGROUND DATA

- In general, far-reaching policies in the States are not addressed to solve the needs of young people.

- There is an extended idea that policies towards young people is promoting sports and cultural venues and/or preventing sexual activity.

- The access to higher education continues to be a severe problem around the world.

- Young people are still considered big consumers, more than future citizens.
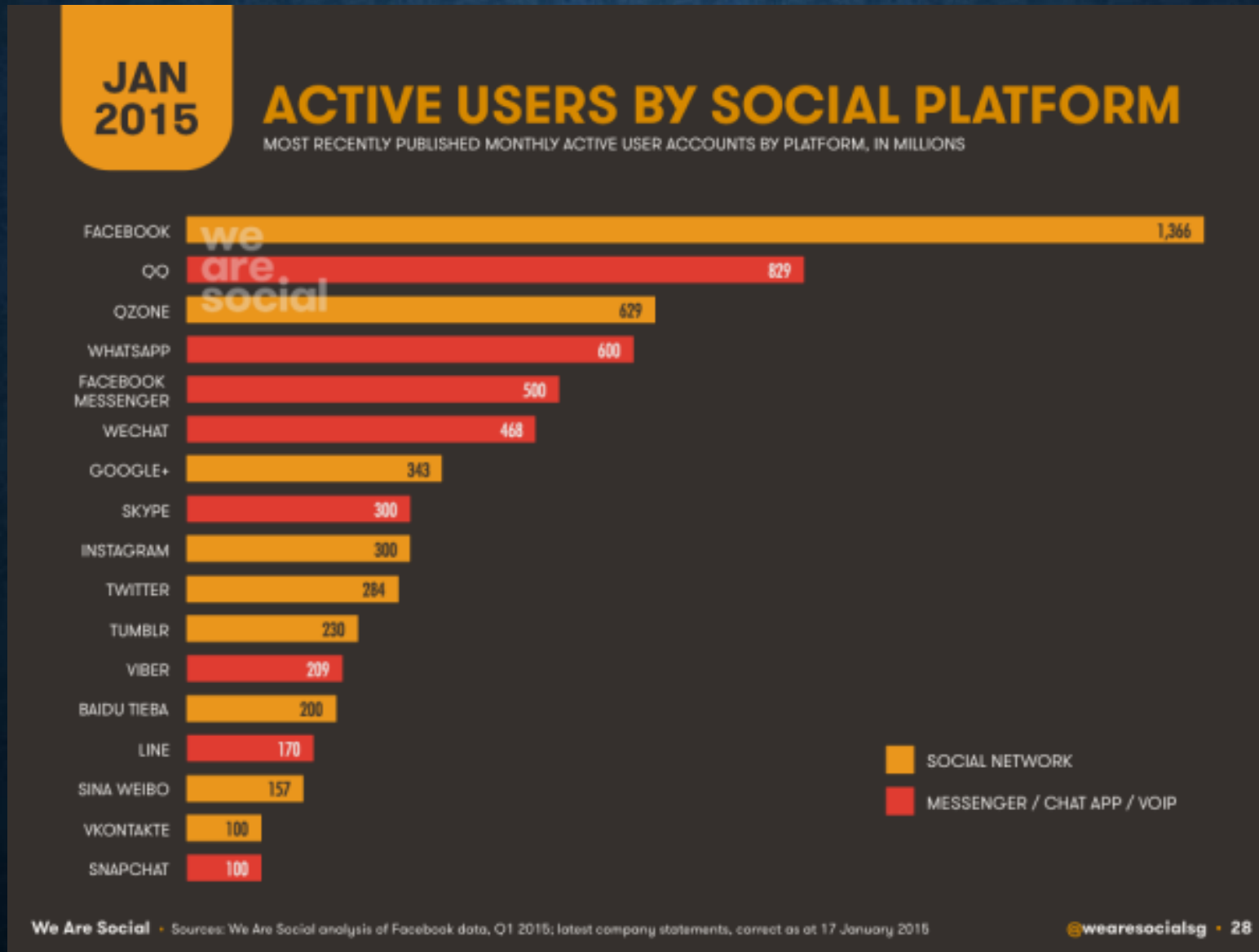
SOME BACKGROUND DATA
(ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION)

THE DIVERSITY OF 'YOUTHS'

- There are "many 'youths'" on the planet. *"Tell me from where you are speaking and I will tell you what kind of young people you are"*.

- Data from the national youth survey in Mexico show that young men and women are morally conservative and apathetic about political matters.

- However, in the main contemporary social movements (Arab spring, *Occupy Wall Street*, Indignados, #Yo Soy 132, Chilean students, Brazilian mobilizations, solidarity with the leading social sector are young men and women.

THE (FEW) CONSTANTS

- Use of technology and social networks (if you want to get to know youth, you have to be in these spaces).

- Future perspectives of modernity are fractured (education does not train professionals or persons, marriage is not forever, there are pedophiles within the Church, economic success is not definitive, the State does not solve everything, resources are not unlimited, utopias are not fulfilled). Maybe this is the point of greater generation gap.

- Uncertainty perspectives prevail.

USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS (2015)

SOME THOUGHTS

- Uncertainty about the future is offset by addiction (disorderly use and consumption of something: technology, sex, illegal drugs, legal drugs, among many other).

- In light of diversities, a particular knowledge of youth is required (local diagnostics).

- Young men and women are not "producers of trouble", they are not either objects of "assistance", maybe the door lies on the creation of SUBJECTS (with autonomy and self-esteem).

SOME THOUGHTS

- Self-referential strategies have not generated impacts either, success comes when solidarity processes are involved.

- Socio-political matters who summon young people are: participative and further democracy, environmental care, green economy, cultural projects, human rights' advocacy.

- Is this about creating scenarios for young people to come in to contact with reality? Or is it about making very solid reality-intervention projects for youth to approach?