



Growing up and global austerity: Comparing youth opportunities, aspirations and civic values around the world

LLAKES Research Conference 27th – 28th June 2016

UCL-Institute of Education, London

Sponsored by The Sociological Review Foundation

This event aims to bring together youth researchers to examine if youth opportunities and civic values are evolving in different ways in different parts of the world. It is widely acknowledged that young people have been amongst the hardest hit by the global economic crisis and the subsequent austerity measures that many states instituted. Yet we also know that the challenges that young people experience are not necessarily temporary or crisis-driven; youth opportunities, aspirations and values are also being affected by the changes that have been taking place in our social, economic and civic structures over the past three decades. Combined, these twin challenges mean that for many young people the transition to adulthood has not simply been delayed; it has been fundamentally disrupted.

Against this backdrop, and through a series of inter-disciplinary and empirical research papers, this event will address key questions such as: what does it mean to “grow up” in a time of increasing insecurity and austerity? How are youth opportunities and expectations being changed and challenged by these developments? What impact are these changing opportunities having on youth civic values? And perhaps most importantly, how do youth opportunities, aspirations, and civic values vary in different regions, cultures, and socio-economic strata?

To explore these themes, this event will bring together research papers from diverse contexts such as the UK, the US, India, East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). These countries and regions have different histories, institutional structures, and cultures, but all have youth populations that are facing considerable challenges, and all have experiences of population flows (inward or outward) that are presenting further (and wider) societal challenges. By comparing and contrasting the experiences of youth in these diverse contexts, we will also address an important question: does it make sense to speak of a global crisis for contemporary youth?

Registration is free and open to all.

To book your place, please email Richard Arnold (r.arnold@ioe.ac.uk) by June 15th.

Our Speakers

- Professor Jochen Tholen, University of Bremen
 - The frustrated generation: The exclusion of young people in Arab Mediterranean countries from decent employment and long-term life perspectives
- Dr Divya Vaid, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
 - Youth in Delhi: Opportunities, Aspirations, Participation
- Dr Kieran Mitton, Kings College London, UK
 - Young Guns in Sierra Leone and Brazil: ‘Politricks’ and the Weaponisation of Youth in the Ghetto
- Professor Cécile Van de Velde, University of Montreal, Canada
 - Global Angers? Becoming Adult in a Neo-Liberal World
- Dr. Jo-Anne Dillabough, University of Cambridge, UK
 - Urban ‘expulsions’ and the re-making of youth cultures in the securitized state: a South African and UK comparison
- Professor Andy Green and Dr Avril Keating, UCL-Institute of Education, UK
 - The Crisis for Contemporary Youth: Young People, Opportunities and Civic Values *in the UK*
- Dr. Jennifer Silva, Bucknell University, USA
 - Millennials Rising? Class, Solidarity, and Politics in the US in the wake of the Great Recession
- Dr Gema García-Albacete, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
 - From political disaffection to a party system change: The consequences of the economic crisis on young people’s political participation in Spain
- Professor Hilary Pilkington and Professor Elena Omelchenko
 - Right and wrong citizens: The reconfiguration of citizenship as patriotic duty in contemporary Russia
- Professor Ingrid Schoon, UCL-Institute of Education, UK
 - Making it against the odds: Diverse strategies and successful adaptation in school-to-work transitions in England
- Professor Moses Oketch and Dr. Golo Henseke, UCL-Institute of Education, UK
 - Cross-country analysis of youth opportunities and aspirations for TVET in sub-Saharan Africa
- Professor Sheng Ju Chan and Professor Yung-Feng Lin National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan
 - Changing Youth Career Opportunities in Taiwan: A Generational Mobility Perspective