



### "TRANSITIONS" IN FLORIDA

JEYLAN MORTIMER, VP-NORTH AMERICA

Perhaps it was fortunate that the weather in Florida was cold and cloudy and did not distract from a stimulating conference jointly sponsored by ISA Research Committees 04 (Sociology of Education) and 34 (Sociology of Youth) at the University of South Florida campus on January 13-15.

The conference focused on changing transitions in education and work from the perspective of the transitioner (for example, processes of agency and choice, identity, and reality shock); how globalization has led to the transformation of the youth and adult labor force, movements across borders and increasing diversity within and across societies; and policies and interventions that might ameliorate difficulties in transition, for example from high school to college, or from school to work. Excellent papers and discussion were held on many specific topics, including:

- Transitions from school to work in developed countries
- Transitions to citizenship and political consciousness
- Gender and education
- Youth and state policies in the global context
- Experiments to ease the high school transition process
- Precariousness and uncertainty in entry to working life
- Transitions into and out of teaching in an era of school accountability

- Educational transitions of immigrants
- How financial constraints affect the transition to college
- Educational transitions of immigrants
- Dropping out of school: The costly transition, and
- Canadian dialogues on youth transition and youth policy.

Examples of topics that generated a great deal of discussion were the usefulness of current models



of "transitions" from school to work when the passage between these institutions is increasingly prolonged, individualized and characterized by movements back and forth between sectors; destabilizing

trends in both education and work that affect socialization, identity, and aspirations for the future; and the ramifications of fiscal austerity and educational accountability, engendering "hierarchies of distrust."

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## UPDATE FROM YOUR RC34 PRESIDENT

**R**C34 remains a strong and vibrant Research Committee of the ISA. There has been a surge of membership in the current year, following a drop at the end of last year, bringing us to 174 members in good standing as of April. We are thus still one of the largest RCs in the ISA, and this size provides members with many benefits, such as more funding for members and more sessions in the midterm Forum and World Congress.

The 2012 ISA Forum is fast approaching. In my last Newsletter update, the *Call for Papers* was still out and I alerted everyone to the rules of the new submission system developed by the ISA. That new system was not without its problems, but we managed to make our way through it, processing some 180 abstract submissions for our 16 allotted sessions. Two sessions had so many submissions that they needed to be broken down into “roundtables,” an interesting innovation suggested by the ISA. This will involve special sessions where as many as five roundtables occur simultaneously among the people presenting papers that have the most in common. One benefit of this may be that more RC34 members will be able to get to know each other’s work better and perhaps collaborate in the future. In any event, I’m sure that many friendships will be

made as a result of these roundtables, and of course the Forum in general. At the same time, all sessions will be substantively focused, with a maximum of 4-5 presenters and plenty of time for questions from the audience.

As dictated by the ISA, only those who paid registration fees by April 10 will be included in the programme and allowed to present a paper, even if accepted by an RC (I did manage to help some people who missed the deadline to get included in the programme with a slightly late registration, thereby preserving the integrity of our sessions). For the World Congress, we will make sure that everyone is fully away of the ISA registration rules, and abides them if they intend to present or chair a session. Still, over 3,200 participants registered for the Forum by that deadline, but unfortunately many of the more than 6,000 abstract submitters did not, so many of those hoping to attend are apparently unable to do so. We are indeed in hard economic times. Still, it looks like the Forum will include some 670 sessions.

To keep abreast with our sessions, check the following page on the ISA website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/rc/rc.php?n=RC34>. On May 24, the timetable and locations for all of the sessions is scheduled to be fi-



nalized and made available online. As a result, the final count of presenters is about 124 for 14 regular sessions and two roundtables.

I am pleased to announce that RC34 was able to provide a total of \$2,760.00 US, distributed among five of our members, to attend the Forum. The ISA announcement of all awards can be found on the following page: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/grants.htm>

I look forward to seeing you all in Buenos Aires in early August. The ISA has kindly provided us with two local contact people there, so if you have questions beforehand and special needs while there, I’m sure they will be happy to help you. They are: Pablo Vommaro, CLACSO, [pvommaro@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:pvommaro@yahoo.com.ar) (RC34 Liaison in Argentina) and M. Eugenia Almirón, [mariaeugenia.almiron@gmail.com](mailto:mariaeugenia.almiron@gmail.com) (volunteer at the venue).

Sincerely,  
**James Côté**

SECOND ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DEMOCRATIZATION  
JUSTICE SOCIALE ET DÉMOCRATISATION  
JUSTICIA SOCIAL Y DEMOCRATIZACIÓN



AUGUST 1-4, 2012  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

## THE SECOND ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY AUGUST 1-4, 2012 | BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

The times in which we live call on sociologists to engage in research that strengthens links between our discipline and the public sphere. The Second ISA Forum is devoted to “Social Justice and Democratization” and will take place August 1-4, 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It will provide an array of opportunities for a global dialogue about transformative change.

### OBJECTIVES

The most important objective of the Forum is to provide a meeting place for the various Research Committees, Working Groups, and Thematic Groups. Organizers will be provided as much flexibility as possible in designing their respective programs within the scheduled time slots.

The second objective is to develop a

socially significant theme involving public actors and to which different areas of sociology can contribute. Social Justice and Democratization, the selected theme for the 2012 Forum, offers RCs, WGs and TGs the opportunity to learn from public actors as well as contributing to the Forum’s main theme.

The third objective is to hold the interim Research Council Business Meeting attended by the Delegates from all Research Committees.

The Vice-President of the Research Council and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) assume responsibility for preparing the scientific program. Planning and preparations are underway.

The Forum provides not only an excellent venue for the different Research Committees and groups to

hold their respective interim meetings but also an important opportunity to foster greater synergies between research committees as well as among the research committees, working groups and national associations. The discussions and dialogues should provide the basis for collaborative and comparative research projects.

The Forum promises to be a lively occasion for considering the challenges to and possibilities for promoting social justice and democratization in the 21st century.

I look forward to a second exciting Forum of Sociology!

**Margaret Abraham**

ISA Vice-President, Research Council  
ISA Forum President

## 1989 – YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL CHANGE AFTER THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

**CARMEN LECCARDI, CARLES FEIXA, SIYKA KOVACHEVA, HERWIG REITER, TATJANA SEKULIC (EDITORS)**

### SYNOPSIS

After the collapse of state socialism at the end of the 1980s, young people in Eastern Europe began to play a dramatically different role in society. Once cast as the vital, reinvigorating protagonists of the communist ideal, they emerged as promoters of democratisation and agents of a now hegemonic market system. Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, an event symbolising both the lifting of the Iron Curtain and the end of the Cold War, an international seminar was held in Budapest to discuss how the opening of Eastern European societies to Western Europe and the world had

changed the living conditions and experiences of young people growing up in the region.

This collection of essays, based on this seminar, examines the circumstances of young people in Eastern Europe before and after 1989 from a variety of angles: their transition to adulthood; their living conditions; the scope they have for social participation; the way in which they construct their identities and constitute and represent current social realities; their cultures and genders; and the interplay of continuities and discontinuities around this historic watershed.

This book, which pays particularly

close attention to the relationship between research, policy and practice, is an invaluable tool for anyone wishing to achieve a deeper understanding of young people in Eastern Europe today.

*The book is the result of our RC34 seminar held in Budapest in 2009.*





## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

As the North American representative, I have assembled some information about five upcoming conferences of interest, and information about a new data base of youth and children. The submission deadlines have passed, but some members of RC34 may wish to be informed about these meetings.

(1) ***International Sociological Association Research Committee 28 on Stratification and Mobility Summer 2012 Meeting***

**“Labor Market and Educational Transitions in Uncertain Times”**  
University of Virginia  
August 13-15, 2012

**Conference Webpage:**

<http://pages.shanti.virginia.edu/rc-28conference/>

(2) ***2012 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. “Real Utopias: Emancipatory Projects, Institutional Designs, Possible Futures.”***

Denver  
August 17-20, 2012

Programs sponsored by the ASA Sections on Children and Youth, and Aging and the Life Course will be of special interest to RC34 members.

**Conference Webpage:**

<http://www.asanet.org/AM2012/index.cfm>

(3) ***Society for Research on Child Development Themed Meeting “Transitions from Adolescence to Adulthood”***

Tampa Florida  
October 18-20, 2012

**Conference Webpage:**

[http://www.srcd.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=585&Itemid=690](http://www.srcd.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=585&Itemid=690)

(4) ***Children and Childhood Network of the Social Science History Association***

Vancouver, British Columbia  
November 1-4, 2012

For more information on the conference, please refer to the SSHA website: <http://www.ssha.org>.

(5) ***European Child Cohort Network and Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies International Conference***

**“Childhood and beyond: tracing cohorts across the lifecourse”**

PARIS, France  
October 29-31, 2012

2012 will see the final conference of the ESF-funded European Child Cohort Network (EUCCONET), combined with the third conference of the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (SLLS). It comprises keynote lectures, parallel groups and poster sessions. It will feature reports and research from the teams

following the multi-purpose child cohort studies in EUCCONET. It also offers a broader forum for research on the whole lifecourse and longitudinal methodology.

Keynote addresses will be offered by: *Marie-Aline Charles*, Director of the French child cohort ELFE, *Jane Waldfogel*, Professor of Social Work for the Prevention of Children’s and Youth Problems, Columbia University, and *Ian Deary*, Professor of Differential Psychology, University of Edinburgh, Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology.

The conference will take place in Paris, France, home of the organization of the 2011-launched Growing Up in France Study (ELFE). The conference venue is the FIAP Jean Monnet, an international accommodation and conference centre located in a quiet area on the River Gauche, Paris 14, with easy access from airports, train stations and the city.

Further details will be posted in mid January.

Membership information can be found on the SLLS website:

<http://www.longstudies.longviewuk.com/pages/membership.shtml>

***Jeylan Mortimer***

## DATABASE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*We are pleased to announce a new digital database of children and youth scholarship. The database is hosted by Mendeley, a free service that you can access at: **Mendeley Group: Sociology of Childhood.***

*Although you do not have to be a member of Mendeley to view the annotated list of texts, membership allows you to utilize the service as a citation management tool. Moreover, groups like Mendeley can be used collaboratively, rendering this bibliography as a living document that can be edited and expanded over time. It is an effective management tool for retaining classic texts, promoting members’ new publications, and ensuring that young scholars have a credible resource tool on the sociology of children and youth.*

## YOUTH IN CRISIS? LINKING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

### YOUTH AND GENERATION MIDTERM CONFERENCE 2012

#### SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2012 | MANRESA, SPAIN

The current economic and financial crisis has had a double impact on young people: firstly, they have absorbed a significant part of the unemployment and the worsening of labour market conditions. Secondly, there is emerging evidence that social expenditure cuts are impacting badly on young people in particular. This weakening of the welfare system in a period of labour market crisis leaves young people unprotected and more dependent on the family resources, which may lead to increased social inequalities.

In this context it is essential to improve the efficiency of the policies aimed at young people. A certain lack of knowledge transfer in the youth

field has been detected at a European level and some projects have been launched. The *4th Youth and Generation MidTerm Conference* stands as an opportunity to have an in depth debate on recent youth research and on the means to improve knowledge transfer in the youth field.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To get to know recent research in the youth field somehow linked to intervention.
2. To analyse the state of the art of knowledge transfer in the youth field in Europe.
3. To strengthen the links among youth researchers and to promote knowledge transfer through reinforcing the relationship between research and policy institutions.

#### LOCATION AND FEE

The conference will be held at Mòn Sant Benet resort, near to Manresa, which is a short journey from Barcelona airport. The conference fee is 409€, which includes conference fee, accommodation and food. There are some limited places for people who prefer to share a double room (fee: 265€). Unavoidably international bank transfer charges have to be born by the applicant.

#### ORGANISATION

**Youth & Generation**  
ESA Research Network

#### CONFERENCE WEBPAGE

<http://www.europeansociology.org/announcements.html>

## XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

### FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD: CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY

#### JULY 13-19, 2014 | YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

An incredibly sensitive community of academics and professionals such as the International Sociological Association, aware of the social transformations taking place in the world, cannot and should not be absent from a debate on inequality.

The great tradition of multi, inter and transdisciplinary works in which

the most complex problems of the present day world are addressed; its unique condition of being academically, scientifically, regionally, institutionally and organically plural make it ideally qualified to face the challenge of contributing to this international exchange, from which an intellectual and moral force can emerge in order to achieve drastic changes in the manners, forms of reasoning and

scopes of the decisions to be taken in the world to ensure the preservation of human life and societies.

#### **Raquel Sosa**

ISA Vice-President  
Congress Programme



## “TRANSITIONS” FROM P.1

The conference drew approximately 60 participants from about 20 different countries. We were disappointed that U.S. visas were not granted to several participants and the weather did not cooperate for some stuck in snowstorms. From the lively discussions both in sessions and at refreshment breaks, to the lunch

roundtables and discussions about a publication coming out of the conference, the organizers and participants deemed the conference a success. Organizers included Jeanne Ballantine, Kathy Borman, Gary Dworkin, Jeylan Mortimer, Scott Murphy, and Joan Spade.



## PRIZE FOR RESEARCH ON INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE MARGINALISED BY EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING AND UNEMPLOYMENT

### THE FOUNDATION P&V, BELGIUM

The Foundation P&V combats the exclusion of young people. Numerous researchers in Belgium and abroad have concluded that the lack of skills and employment qualifications are significant sources of exclusion and a cause of future social marginalisation. Early school leaving and a lack of qualifications generally result in precarious work situations and long-term unemployment, as well as ever longer transitional periods between education and employment. This is a major social problem in Europe and Belgium, particularly in certain regions and major cities and among some minority groups.

*Accordingly, the Foundation P&V has launched a far-reaching multi-annual Research/Action programme, to be implemented from 2012 to 2014 and covering various stages:*

1. The sharing of scientific knowledge and ideas on the causes of and possible solutions for the lack of suitable skills, unemployment among unqualified young people and, in

particular, long-term youth unemployment.

2. An increase in this knowledge based on expert opinions and experience, plus the identification of policies and projects able to contribute effectively to resolving the identified problems.
3. The promotion of these policies and sharing of the initiatives and projects thus determined.

#### OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Compile the most recent and relevant knowledge on the subject.
2. Identify and analyse the causes and processes of youth exclusion, define the extent of the problem and establish hypotheses.
3. Propose specific projects and solutions to be implemented and provide these with support.
4. Encourage the social integration of the young via suitable qualifications and employment.

#### PHASE I RESEARCH (2012-2013)

**Foundation P&V Prize for research on integration of young people**

***excluded by early school leaving and unemployment(closes 30 June 2012)***

1. Call for scientific contributions
2. Response form
3. Selection by a jury of the 12 best articles (each shall be published and awarded a EUR 1,500 prize)

#### ***Publication of articles and distribution/Conference (7 and 8 February 2013)***

1. Presentation work of 12 laureates
2. Identification of solutions
3. Policy questions and recommendations

#### PHASE II

#### CALL FOR PROJECTS (2013)

1. Call for specific projects
2. Project launch

#### PHASE III

#### ACTION (2014)

1. Project implementation and monitoring
2. Evaluation
3. International promotion and diffusion

For more information, visit <http://www.fondationpv.be/index.php?id=42>

**Note: The actions of the Foundation P&V are aimed mainly at young people and are designed to help put an end to all forms of exclusion. They encourage new forms of solidarity between and with young people from all over Belgium (from Flanders, Brussels and the Walloon provinces), by developing participation projects and activities under the banner of active citizenship and social integration. The Foundation P&V hopes in this way to contribute to an inclusive society in which all young people can participate fully.**

## PRESIDENT

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INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN  
ON YOUTH RESEARCH  
2012 (1/2)

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RC 34: SOCIOLOGY OF YOUTH  
International Sociological Association

WEB SITES  
<http://rc34youth.org>  
<http://isa-sociology.org/rc34.htm>

TWITTER  
<http://twitter.com/rc34youth>

## STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES

The Committee is constituted by associational principles of individual membership, formal statutes, and a General Meeting every fourth year at the World Congresses, at which a new Executive Board is elected to oversee the RC between the Congresses. The work of RC34 is built on regional Vice-Presidencies managing local RC34 activities and networking in their respective areas of the world, along with a Bureau taking care of the membership services and general, strategic affairs connected to the Presidency. An Advisory Board is appointed by the Board, as a body for special experiences and strategic competence in the field.

The aim of RC34 is to contribute to the development of theory and practice of youth sociology and youth research on an international level, uniting professional knowledge, scientific consciousness, and social commitment of its members to work on problems and issues of youth on a local, regional, and international level.

## HISTORY OF RC 34—SOCIOLOGY OF YOUTH

The International Sociological Association (ISA) was founded 1948 in close cooperation with UNESCO's Research Department. As peace, education and youth issues were in the forefront of the post war, sociopolitical legacy of this foundation, many of the first officers of ISA were also youth sociologists. In 1975, the Research Committee for the Sociology of Youth (RC34) was established as a specialized branch of ISA.

The RC34 was from the beginning not only a network for pure academic youth research, but also committed to the original heritage of social and political responsibility. This implies standing partnership with multilateral organizations aiming at conflict resolution, peace and the development of civic society. It is also the policy of RC34 to invite colleagues from other disciplines as well as practitioners in the youth fields to become members, and to serve as a global, interdisciplinary network and meeting place for youth issues in general.