On the shoulders ... and co-constructing knowledge in a research community

Ani Wierenga

Dear Members and friends of RC34, warmest greetings to you, and welcome to our first newsletter for 2015. In these pages you will find some exciting reflections of the current work of our youth research community around the globe, as well as a recognition of some of the places from where we have come. As a young scholar, one of the most important learnings for me was discovering those with whom I was in dialogue. To recognise a community – one’s conversation partners – is to begin to develop a sense of how one might take a conversation forward. In the context of those relationships, tentative offerings can become stronger, and more confident arguments can be formed. In this way RC34 has been particularly valuable for many, in both making visible the youth research community around the globe, and creating spaces for ongoing dialogue.

One of the other valuable parts of any scholarly tradition is an imperative to build on a history of ideas in order to offer a new contribution. To do this work is really – as well as requiring individual application – a recognition of how knowledge is co-constructed within a particular community. This year has already served several reminders that good research conversations and new offerings are built collaboratively, over time. Some of our much loved founding members of RC34 have left us, signalling a generational shift. Tributes to Lynne Chisholm and Ladislav Macháček are part of this newsletter, and others will follow. The passing of our dear colleagues is a reminder of the thinking they have contributed, their ideas and energy, but also equally importantly, the listening and reflecting, their roles in valuing others’ ideas and through this, opening vital youth research conversations in new places.

So when we gather next year in Vienna it might be with a sense of appreciation of both the conversation partners present, but also the valuable contributors past. These conversations have only just begun the work of naming the different situations of young people – globally – alongside the commonalities, and articulating the different hopes and challenges facing populations. This is the work in progress ... but the company is good.

In this context our Executive Board are very pleased to share, alongside this newsletter, our Call for Papers for The World Forum of Sociology. The Forum will be held in Vienna from 10-14 July 2016. The theme, appropriately, is ‘The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World’. Our full call for papers is up on IBYR, and all abstracts can be submitted on the ISA website.

In appreciation, and very much looking forward to the conversations that will follow, my warmest regards to all,

Ani
YOUTH STUDIES. FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AND DEBATES

The burgeoning field of youth studies encompasses multiple viewpoints, presenting a confusing picture to novices and experts alike. This insightful text goes to the heart of the fundamental issues and debates that characterize this developing field, giving readers a clearer understanding of its current progress and future prospects. James Côté’s lively, debate-focused overview of the underlying paradigms and theories in youth studies—drawn from the overlapping disciplines of sociology, psychology and cultural studies—functions both as an introduction to the area and as an exercise in critical thinking, putting its readers on the cutting-edge of the field.

A CRITICAL YOUTH STUDIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

In A Critical Youth Studies for the 21st Century Peter Kelly and Annelies Kamp present an edited collection that explores the challenges and opportunities faced by young people in an often dangerous 21st century. In an increasingly globalised world these challenges and opportunities include those associated with widening inequalities, precarious labour markets, the commodification of education, the hopes for democracy, and with practising an identity under these circumstances and in these spaces. The 40+ contributors to the 35 chapter collection are established and emerging scholars from the Americas, Europe, and Asia/Pacific. Drawing on contemporary critical social theories and diverse methodologies, they open up discussions about what a critical youth studies can contribute to community, policy and academic debates about these challenges and opportunities.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPEAN BULGARIA. A SOCIOLOGICAL PORTRAIT 2014

This book is a sociological portrait of young people in present-day Bulgaria—twenty-five years after the beginning of the Change and seven years after the country’s accession to the European Union. The path passed since 1989 is the result of the aspirations and efforts of several generations. Although social reality does not match the bravest expectations of the first postcommunist generation or the requirements of today’s youth, it has created a qualitatively new environment for young people making their life choices. At the crossroads to adulthood, Bulgarian youth feel free to choose from a much wider array of opportunities than their parents and grandparents, even though today the risks to youth transitions are much greater too.

Download the book
THE MORAL GEOGRAPHIES OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOOD: BEYOND JAMIE’S SCHOOL DINNERS
Jamie Oliver has been a central but always ambiguous figure in debates about young people and food in the UK, the US, Australia and New Zealand during the last 10 years. This book takes his campaign for better school meals, presented so powerfully in the TV series Jamie's School Dinners, as a starting point for examining the moral geographies of parenting, young people’s nutrition, health and well-being, and public health 'crises' such as obesity in a post GFC era of austerity. The authors show how these debates are always about the moral project of the self, the types of people we are and should aspire to be, and the roles that food can play in that ongoing project. The book critiques the moral judgements so often evident in community, policy and academic debates about these concerns.
Read more

YOUTH IN A TIME OF CRISIS
V. Ilišin; D. Bouillet; A. Gvozdanović; D. Potočnik
The research study “Youth in a Time of Crisis” presents the findings of the empiric research that was a joint project of the Institute for Social Research and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Zagreb carried out in 2012. The representative sample encompassed 1500 respondents between 14 and 27 years of age (born between 1985 and 1998) from all over Croatia. The general aim of this research is to establish and analyse some attitudes and behaviour patterns of youth in contemporary Croatian society.
Download the book

YOUNG WOMEN IN POST-YUGOSLAV SOCIETIES: RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND POLICY
M. Adamović; B. Galić; A. Gvozdanović; A. Maskalan; D. Potočnik; L. Somun Krupalija (Eds)
The main focus of the book “Young Women in Post-Yugoslav Societies: Research, Practice and Policy”, apart from the generational belongingness, is to present different discourses to explain the methods and the context of achieving gender equality through the prism of research, activist and policy oriented activity. The publication covers various anthropological, psychological, sociological, political, and legal foundations of gender equality of young women. The proceedings discussed gender relations and the ways in which they are formed within the ideal-type sections: education, labour market, family, violence against women, and culture.
Download the book
‘CADJAN – KIDUHU’. GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON YOUTH WORK
Brian Belton (Ed.) | Sense Publisher, 2014 | ISBN: 9789462097650

In this book academics, practitioners and scholars from all over the planet present relatively heterogeneous perspectives to produce something of the homogenous whole that youth work might be understood to be. This promotes the understanding that to lock down youth work in notional stasis (bolt it into a ‘carceral archipelago’) would be the antithesis of practice, which would effectively destroy it as youth work. Other writers have effectively tried to achieve just this, or perhaps identified (put a flag in) what they see (or want to be) the ‘core’ of youth work practice.

Read more

FAMILY TROUBLES? EXPLORING CHANGES AND CHALLENGES IN THE FAMILY LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

As the everyday family lives of children and young people come to be increasingly defined as matters of public policy and concern, it is important to raise the question of how we can understand the contested terrain between “normal” family troubles and troubled and troubling families. In this important, timely and thought-provoking publication, a wide range of contributors explore how “troubles” feature in “normal” families, and how the “normal” features in “troubled” families.

Read more

AFRICAN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN ANOTHER FRANCE

Using the voices of first and second-generation immigrants to describe their integration experiences, this book illustrates how racial and immigrant statuses are assigned simultaneously and inseparably for those of African-descent in France, and in turn limit employment and social cohesion, often irrespective of an individual’s qualifications or citizenship documents. First- and second-generation African youth report being, “French on the inside, African on the out,” because they hold a French mentality but are continually treated as outsiders.

Read more
The special section of this issue of the Italian Journal of Sociology of Education approaches several of the aspects involved in the analysis of “Youth work, non-formal education and youth participation” from a range of vantage points. Bridging youth studies and educational research, scholars from different countries and backgrounds allow the reader to explore, through various theoretical and methodological perspectives, the manifold issues and challenges involved in the study of the relationship between youth work, non-formal education and youth participation.

Open access to the issue
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: JACOBS FOUNDATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Jacobs Foundation is pleased to announce the inaugural call for applications for its Research Fellowship Program. The Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship Program is an internationally open, competitive fellowship program for early and mid-career researchers focusing on child and youth development. Fellowships are awarded to the most highly talented and innovative young scholars and mid-career researchers working on child and youth development. Funds from Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowships are awarded directly to the Fellow’s institution and may be used over a three-year period to partially cover the Fellow’s salary and for any activity supporting the Fellow’s research, such as assistant salaries, equipment, technical assistance, professional travel, or trainee support. Documents must be submitted online until 15 April 2015.

For further information and to submit an online application, please visit: Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowships

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

YOUNG LIVES IN GLOBAL & LOCAL CONTEXTS
(Director, Dr. Kate Tilleczek)

Position & Salary: Post-doctoral fellowship (one year with possibility for renewal).
Duties: Field work, analysis, data management of innovative (narrative, visual, and digital) longitudinal qualitative data sets, writing, publications.
Projects: Projects relating to 1) the impact of digital media on young lives across time and countries (SSHRC), 2) youth access to mental health services in Atlantic Canada (CIHR), and 3) the relationships between technology and mental health as experienced by Indigenous youth.
Qualifications: Completed PhD in social science, youth studies, applied health, or related disciplines; Experience and expertise in qualitative inquiry and analysis (longitudinal); Strong writing skills and publication record; Background in research with youth and technology and/or mental health; Experience and expertise in research ethics; Experience and expertise with NVivo and/or other qualitative analysis software; Experience and expertise in data management (including secure file transfer and storage); Experience in working effectively in research team environments and with young people; Ability to contribute and work productively in an international research team.
Closing Date: March 31, 2015
Application Instructions: Please forward cover letter, CV, writing sample, and 3 letters of reference to the attention of Dr. Kate Tilleczek at ylrl@upei.ca. For further information, contact Dr. Kate Tilleczek: 902-620-5127; ktilleczek@upei.ca; or visit our website http://katetilleczek.ca/
1ST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES
28-30 October 2014 (Baku, Azerbaijan)

A note by Howard Williamson (RC34 Organisational Secretary): The very start of my speech emphasised the point that youth policies are not always a good thing! My interest in ‘youth policy’ originated in 1979 when, as a youth worker, I saw the effects of a purposeful but divisive and negative set of policies directed at young people at the start of the Thatcher administration in the UK. I then made the point that the rhetoric around ‘youth policy’ rarely converts into any reality, either strategically or empirically. ‘Cross-sectoral’, ‘integrated’, ‘coherent’, ‘sustainable’ youth policy is nowhere to be seen. But there are models for the development and implementation of opportunity-focused youth policy, not least through the work, over 20 years, of the Council of Europe. At least they provide a framework. What remains certain about ‘youth policy’ is its uncertainty, and the precarity of its status within the twists and turns of politics and government. Youth policy ‘experts’ and youth workers need to work out how to navigate and influence that complexity and uncertainty at both national and local levels.

MORALITY, AUSTERITY AND WELFARE STATE FUTURES. YOUNG PEOPLE, WELLBEING AND INEQUALITY 16 April 2015 (University of Leeds, UK)

Co-convenors: Jo Pike, University of Leeds, UK, and Peter Kelly, RMIT, Australia
The unfolding effects the Great Recession in Europe and the US, and the emergence of sovereign debt crises and significant austerity programs in many EU/OECD economies represents a largely successful framing of responses to the downstream effects of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) as being principally about State debt levels. In this discourse those that depend most on State provided services, payments and programmes are the ones to carry the greatest burden of government austerity measures. Among the worst affected are children, young people and students as those who depend on public amenities for their social wellbeing.
3RD MAYNOOTH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH STUDIES CONFERENCE
23-24 June 2015 (Maynooth University, Ireland)

“Youth on the Move?” is the theme of this year’s Maynooth International Youth Studies Conference, to be hosted by the Centre for Youth Research and Development (CYRD) in Maynooth University, Ireland on 23rd-24th June. Like the 2009 and 2012 Maynooth conferences it is being held in association with RC34, of which Prof Maurice Devlin, Director of the CYRD, is co-Vice President for Europe. This time however the event is also being organised in association with the Research Network on Youth and Generation of the European Sociological Association (RN30), making it the first ever joint RC34-RN30 event.

As well as hinting at the fact that the European Union’s “Youth on the Move” initiative is undergoing mid-way review, the conference theme is also designed to invite reflection and comment on the multiple ways in which transformation is taking place in the individual and collective lives of young people, in youth-related policy and practice and even in the very concepts of youth and youth studies. Keynote speakers will include Prof James Côté, former President of RC34, Prof Carmen Leccardi, President of the European Sociological Association and Prof Barry Goldson, Editor-in-Chief of Youth Justice. As at previous Maynooth conferences Prof Howard Williamson, Organisational Secretary of RC34, will act as rapporteur.

Reduced conference registration fees apply for RC34 members. Details at: https://orp.maynoothcampus.com/conference2?conf=YSCASS

Members are also welcome to send requests for further information to: maurice.devlin@nuim.ie

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: “KISMIF CROSSING BORDERS OF UNDERGROUND MUSIC SCENES”
13-17 July 2015 (Porto, Portugal)

The International Conference “KISMIF Crossing Borders of Underground Music Scenes” is an event coordinated by Andy Bennett and Paula Guerra and will take place in Porto, Portugal between 15th July and 17th July 2015. The conference is associated with the research project Keep It Simple, Make It Fast! (PTDC/CS-SOC/118830/2010, http://www.punk.pt/en/). The KISMIF Conference 2015 is open to academic researchers working in all areas of sociology, anthropology, history, cultural economics, geography, urban planning, media and cultural studies and cognate disciplines, including design, illustration, musicology, popular music and visual and performing arts. Keeping the focus on underground music and its creative possibilities for resistance and DIY, KISMIF Conference extend the analysis of music scenes to consider the intersection and debate with other cultural, artistic and creative fields. The stimulating scientific program of the conference will be accompanied by a social program in the form of art and music in action providing a unique and enriching experience of underground music scenes in the city of Porto and elsewhere in the world.

Read more: http://kismif.eventqualia.net/
http://www.punk.pt/conference-2/
MEETINGS

A NETWORK OF GLOBAL SOUTH YOUTH SCHOLARS | MARCH-NOVEMBER 2015

How are young people living in the global South the same as or differ to their peers in the global North, and what strategies, policies and theories have we developed to help them succeed? This question has prompted Sharlene Swartz (Vice President for Africa and the Middle East) to convene a Consortium of Global South Youth Scholars (COGSYS). Inaugural ½ day meetings of the network will be held in 2015 in March at the University of Cambridge, UK; in June at City University of New York, USA; in July in Ife, Nigeria; in September at the World Social Sciences Forum in Durban, South Africa and in November at the Association for Moral Education Conference in Santos, Brazil. If you’re close by and interested in attending a meeting please email Sharlene Swartz at sswartz@hsrc.ac.za for more details.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE POLITICS OF OUTRAGE AND HOPE AN INVITATIONAL TWO (2) DAY CONFERENCE AND EDITED COLLECTION

7-8 December 2015 (Melbourne, Australia)

During the so called Year of the Protester (Time 2011) we witnessed many young people around the world - the Spanish Indignados, the global Occupy movement, the young people of the various and different revolutions in the Arab Spring, and those participating in, and caught up by, the riots in many cities in the UK during August 2011 - voice their anxiety, uncertainty and anger about their experience of these diverse and emerging circumstances. High levels of youth unemployment and precarious employment, student debt accompanying increased costs for higher education, housing costs that lock many out of home ownership, and the challenges for young people’s physical and mental health and well-being are re-shaping young people’s sense of self and of their chances for meaningful participation in relationships and settings that traditionally identified someone as an adult, as a citizen. This conference/collection, drawing on a range of theoretical, methodological and empirical work, will identify, explore, map and debate the challenges and opportunities, the possibilities and limitations, of the politics of outrage and hope that should accompany academic, community and political discussions about the futures that young people will inherit and make.
CALL FOR...

International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies

SPECIAL ISSUE ON ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AND FLEXI SCHOOLS: RESPONSIVE EDUCATION PROVISION FOR DISENFRANCISED YOUNG PEOPLE

Deadline: full papers due 31st May, 2015

Contributions that explore alternative educational contexts for those who experience social exclusion and marginalisation are welcomed from researchers, practitioners and families/carers. We strongly encourage abstracts from Indigenous or First Nation’s peoples as their voices are integral to decolonising practices in educational contexts. Papers can be submitted via email to Marnee Shay (Queensland University of Technology): ms.shay@qut.edu.au

See more: http://rc34youth.org/call-for-submissions-alternative-education-and-flexi-schools/

...PAPERS & SYMPOSIA

SLLS International Conference

LIFE COURSES IN CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARISON: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

18-21 October 2015, Dublin (Ireland)

We welcome conference submissions from all areas of longitudinal and life course studies: physical, psychological, social developmental and ageing processes and functioning within and across life course stages from infancy to old age; methods and findings of cohort studies; other sources of longitudinal data such as panel studies and record linkage; international comparisons; household, and income dynamics; intergenerational transfers and returns to learning; gene-environment interactions; ‘mixed’, and comparative methods; innovative methodology in design, measurement, data management, analysis and research practice (quantitative and qualitative). Proposals are sought for: symposium, individual paper and poster.

Deadline for abstract submissions - March 31st 2015. All contributors will be notified of the conference committee’s decision by May 31st 2015.

Read more: http://www.slls.org.uk/#!call-for-papers/c11p2
Ladislav Macháček was born in Communist Czechoslovakia and died in the Slovak Republic, part of the European Union. In many ways Ladislav played a part in shaping these great changes for his country and for Europe.

Ladislav was always a driving force internationally. From the 1980s onwards Ladislav was a very active member of the International Sociological Association RC34 on Youth. He helped to bring Central European perspectives to this association and for many years was editor of the International Bulletin for Youth Research, which was a significant publication for disseminating research information for at least two decades. He organised a number of international meetings in Slovakia and was Principal Investigator in a number of international projects including Orientations of Young Men and Women to Citizenship and European Identity (2001-2004), UP2Youth (2006-2009). He was a partner in ENRI-East (2008-2011) and was the regional co-ordinator for MyPlace Slovakia. Other international positions included co-operation with the Council of Europe. He managed to turn his distinctive language skills from Russian and German towards English over this period and nobody will forget his interesting style of speaking and writing.

Ladislav Macháček was very good at identifying intellectual trends and opportunities and building upon them. In his own country Ladislav made an important contribution to intellectual life and was a key actor in internationalising Slovak sociology and putting it on the world map. He enjoyed a long career, stretching from when he achieved an MA in Philosophy from Comenius University in Bratislava in 1964 and a PhD in Sociology from the Institute of Sociology of the Slovakian Academy of Sciences in 1968. Starting as a researcher in the Institute of Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Ladislav organised a number of meetings, conferences and seminars to exchange information and ideas with colleagues in Bratislava and internationally. He went on to hold senior positions in the Slovak Academy of Sciences, where much of his research was conducted. He contributed a number of important monographs to Slovak social science during this period, including “Citizen Participation and Young People” in Slovak.

Ladislav Macháček was well connected with the Slovak Ministry of Youth Affairs and had the important talent of being able to make the links between research and policy. As a result, the Slovak Republic had a progressive and enlightening youth policy that was an example to other countries. He was active in promoting co-operation between Czech and Slovak sociology after the breakup of Czechoslovakia. Ladislav was also an editor of Sociologia, the main sociological publication of the Slovak Republic between 1995 and 2004 and later of Slovenská Politologická Revue (Slovak Journal of Political Sciences) and encouraged publications of original papers by political scientists and sociologists from Slovakia and by international scholars. During the noughties he took up a position as Vice Dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of SS Cyril and Methodius in Trnava where he became Director of the Centre for European and Regional Youth Studies (CERYS). He was also a Slovak partner in a consortium that has been developing MA European Youth Studies (MA EYS). Many of us used to marvel at his many activities at home and abroad. He still managed to find time for his students at the University too, where he was a popular tutor.

Ladislav was one of the great characters of Central Europe, a patriot of Slovakia and a truly European person. He was an energetic, unyielding supporter of European youth research and youth politics. As a very effective communicator, his gentle and humorous style could liven up any meeting. His diplomatic and organisational skills helped to build bridges between East and West at a time when the traffic of people and information was very limited. We will always owe him a debt for this.

The Research Committee 34 will miss the commitment that Ladislav Macháček brought to the organisation over many years. We will miss him as a friend and intellectual too.

Claire Wallace and Lyudmila Nurse
TRIBUTE

Lynne Alison Chisholm

Lynne was President of RC34 from 1998 to 2002, and Vice-President for Europe from 1994 to 1998. She passed away peacefully on March 1, 2015, comforted by her husband of some 35 years, Dieter. Her memorial service was held on March 14, 2015, in Walddorf Germany, and was well attended by colleagues, friends, and family.

Lynne was born on March 9, 1952, in Birmingham, England. She studied in England (Hons. B.A. Sheffield), Canada (M.A., Victoria, BC), and then back in England, earning her doctorate in Sociology at the University of London (supervised by Basil Bernstein). In 2004, she took a position at the University of Innsbruck as Chair of Education of the Generations. In 2006, she founded the Research Centre Education - Generation – CV, and from 2005 to 2008 directed the Institute of Education Sciences. Her many visiting professorships took her to places like Copenhagen and Oslo. She was contracted as an expert on education and youth issues in the European Commission in Brussels and Thessaloniki. Among her legacies in her work with the European Commission was the DGXXII Citizenship study, which paved the way for debates and training around European citizenship, and the Memorandum on Lifelong Learning. Lynne was most recently on secondment to the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Hamburg. During this time she was also active as Chair of the Board of Carinthia University of Education, and as a member of various ministerial committees and expert groups including the Board of Trustees of the Science Fund FWF.

Lynne's pioneering influence on Youth Studies is unmistakable. She published some of the landmark studies that have shaped this field as well as led some pedagogical initiatives, such as acting as the Chairperson of the M.A. EYS Consortium.

Similarly, Lynne left a lasting mark on RC34, serving first as a VP for Europe (1994-98) then as President (1998-2002), and on the Advisory Board since. During her Presidency, she broadened RC34’s reach, making it more of a truly global network of youth researchers, especially through forging links with China and South Africa. Her term culminated with the World Congress in Brisbane, Australia, during which RC34 fielded a full slate of sessions, including a Presidential Session led by Lynne focusing on the Mannheim’s seminal idea of “generations.”

As Presidents of RC34 (former or current), we all remember her with fondness and admiration. She was inspiration in her intellectual acuity and tenacity—a true intellectual tour de force. Lynne carried on with the RC34 traditions established by the presidents preceding her, passing them on to those of us who followed her.

Lynne, we will always keep you in our memory,

Helena Helve (2002-06), Ngai Ngan-pun (2006-10), Jim Côté (2010-14), and Ani Wierenga (2014-18)

https://scholar.google.ca/scholar?hl=en&q=Lynne+Chisholm&btnG=&as_sdt=1%2C5&as_sdtp
http://www.youthstudies.eu/portraits/lynne/
A personal note by…

**Vinod Chandra**  
(VP for Asia, including China and Japan)

My research interest on Indian Youth in particular and Youth in Transitional Societies in general led me to join the research committee of Sociology of Youth at ISA in the year 1994. Since then my involvement in the Committee has enriched me with new issues and methodologies in Youth research. Research on inter-generational relationship, on youth unrest in campuses or youth problems are the areas where youth issues were addressed till Millennium year in India. However, in the last one and half decade youth research in India has emerged with specific youth perspective. An independent research committee at Indian Sociological Society has been created to promote this research in the field of sociology. India is a country of youth and more than forty percent population falls under the category of youth population. Optimist policy makers describe this as demographic dividend which, according to them, will continue till 2030. However, professional sociologists argue that this youth is facing many new opportunities and challenges in the current phase of social transformation in India and in South Asia region and therefore, sociological understanding of youth experience is required. A sociological enquiry of interface between youth and society is needed for social development of India and other regional countries. I make my sincere appeal to all researchers to consolidate youth research in Asia with an objective to fulfil a gap in the understanding about youth experience.
I have been conducting youth-related research since my doctoral dissertation on college students’ career decisions, which highlighted the impacts of family (especially parental occupations) and campus subcultures – vocational, academic, collegiate/social, and non-conformist (including political radicals and more aesthetically-oriented groups). I became especially interested in the development of values, how college students’ values influenced their careers, and how later occupational experiences, in turn, affected their further value development. Subsequently, my research extended to national samples of U.S. youth and adults. The first ISA conference I attended was in 1982 in Mexico City. There I met Walter Heinz, a prominent sociologist conducting research on the school-to-work transition in Germany. I don’t know if he was a member of RC34 at that time, but he introduced me to Helga Krueger and other collaborators at the University of Bremen who had a strong focus on early life course risks and transitions. As I became more aware of differences in the transition to adulthood across national contexts, I naturally gravitated to RC34.

The study of youth is thriving in my region, with much recent interest (led by Glen Elder, Jacqueline Eccles, Robert Crosnoe, and others) in the ways the Great Recession have diminished youth’s capacities to acquire adult role markers (employment, marriage, parenthood, etc.). The Youth in the Great Recession Initiative joins American scholars with others from the U.K. (Ingrid Schoon, John Bynner) and Europe (Olaf Groh-Samberg, Pia Blossfeld). The American Sociological Association has several units especially focused on young people: e.g., the sections on the Sociology of Childhood and Youth, and Aging and the Life Course. The Society for Research on Adolescence, the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood, and the American Society of Criminology all hold regular interdisciplinary conferences, with problems of youth at their fore.

At the moment, I am especially interested in the difficulties contemporary young people face given the increasing precariousness of work and the resulting transformation, erosion and disparity in their work identities. Using three-generational, longitudinal data from the Youth Development Study, I am examining intergenerational shifts in work attitudes and the transmission of achievement orientations across generations. Along with several youth-related organizations in my community (e.g., county government, public schools, foster care, workforce development, juvenile justice), I am also attempting to identify the experiences that lead youth to turn their lives around after initial rocky starts, and the implications of our research findings for youth policy.
PHOTO-GALLERY

XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY 2014 (YOKOHAMA, JAPAN)
Aim and Structure
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.
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.

History of ISA RC34 “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.

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• Join ISA/RC34 or renewal your membership online
RC34 BOARD

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