



**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**  
**INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN ON YOUTH RESEARCH (IBYR)**

issue 2/2016

## EDITORIAL



Ani Wierenga

Dear Members and friends of RC34,

As the 2016 working year draws to a close, warmest greetings to you. The pages in this issue of IBYR offer a small sample of the many sites of activity in youth research across the globe in 2016, through conferences, shared projects, writing and other opportunities.

I would like to say a word of thanks for colleagues' contributions to this research community during 2016. A little over two years ago, in Yokohama, the Executive Board identified a number of goals for our RC. For the World Forum in Vienna 2016, some of these were realised, including supporting younger scholars in programming by pairing with and drawing on those more experienced, increasing communication across language and cultural barriers, and strengthening the space for the voices of southern scholars within our programme. The many high-speed challenges of preparation, and the tough choices that had to be made in trimming the programme for the World Forum, were met with a generous spirit of inquiry, inclusive ethos, good humour (even in the summer heat of room 50) and importantly, with high quality inputs and collegiate support. Many across our membership were involved in the planning, pairing across ages and national and cultural barriers in order to do so. Themes of precarity, mass migrations, social justice, and legal justice made space for new voices, as did an inquiry into the lived experiences of young

Muslims. For context you will find a reflection from Maria Tsekoura, one of our first time attendees, from Chile, in the following pages. Reflecting on the events in Vienna I realised again how this type of research collaboration and culture – now – is actually built on deep investment – back then – over time. In these pages you can read a little more about the history project and contributing to the process crafting the stories of what, and who, sits behind this global community of youth studies.

Turning to the future: as you may be aware, The World Congress of Sociology will be in Toronto, Canada, July 15-21, 2018. Be ready for a Call for Sessions in February and March 2017. Perhaps affording an opportunity to press even more deeply into some of the priorities mentioned above, the theme is Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities.

The theme reminds, perhaps fittingly, of the lived experience of many at this time, and highlights the shared struggle to find appropriate, collective responses to questions of power, violence and social justice. More than ever, the science of the social world is vital, in what has recently come to be called a 'post-truth' era. The challenge will be to comprehend complexity and to speak it simply. For this, and much more, I am grateful to be part of a youth research community that is prepared to journey together in raising, addressing and debating, if not resolving the important questions of our time.

Thank you all for your excellent and scholarly company this year, and blessings to you,

Ani Wierenga  
RC34 President

## ABOUT

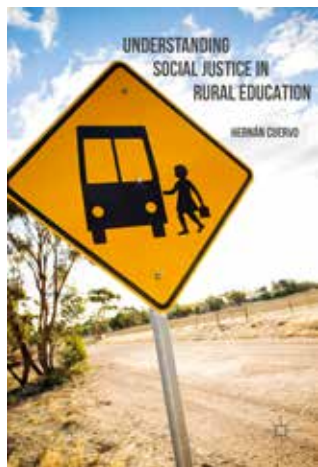
IBYR is the official newsletter of the RC34 "Sociology of youth" of the International Sociological Association.

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BOOKS



### UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN RURAL EDUCATION

Hernán Cuervo

Palgrave Macmillan, 2016 - ISBN 978-1-137-50515-6 – 978-1-137-50514-9

This book explores what social justice looks like for rural schools in Australia. The author challenges the consensus that sees the distribution of resources as the panacea for the myriad challenges faced by rural schools and argues that the solution to inequality and injustice in rural settings has to take into account other important dimensions of social justice such as recognition and association. The book brings together political and social theory with education

and youth studies, provides new insights about the complex nature of schooling in rural places, and makes a strong connection between schooling and the people and communities it serves.

[Read more](#)



### FEESMUSTFALL: STUDENT REVOLT, DECOLONISATION AND GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Susan Booysen (Ed.)

Wits University Press, 2016 – EAN: 978-1-86814-985-8 (978-1-86814-987-2; 978-1-86814-986-5)

#FeesMustFall, the student revolt that began in October 2015, was an uprising against lack of access to, and financial exclusion from, higher education in South Africa. More broadly, it radically questioned the socio-political dispensation resulting from the 1994 social pact between big business, the ruling elite and the liberation movement. [...] This book maps the contours of student discontent a year after the start of the #FeesMustFall revolt.

Student voices dissect coloniality, improper compromises by the founders of democratic South Africa, feminism, worker rights and meaningful education. In-depth assessments by prominent scholars reflect on the complexities of student activism, its impact on national and university governance, and offer provocative analyses of the power of the revolt.

[Read more](#)



## JOURNAL ISSUES



### KNOWLEDGE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAJECTORIES

Mariano Longo & Maurizio Merico (Eds)

*Italian Journal of Sociology of Education*, vol. 8, n. 3 - ISSN 2035-4983

This special issue of the Italian Journal of Sociology of Education is devoted to the presentation of case studies aimed at analysing “Knowledge workers’ educational and professional trajectories” in Southern Italy. In particular, the papers published discuss the results of the qualitative and quantitative analysis developed within the research project “Public Sphere Professions in Hard Times”, funded by the ‘Italian Ministry of Education’.

The research considered different contexts, in which the ethos of knowledge workers, their educational and professional trajectories, along with their identity construction have been analysed: in particular, the papers take into consideration the cases of social planners, call centre operators, digital media workers and “precarious” researchers.

[Open access to the issue](#)



## CONFERENCES

### MEMORIES FROM THE THIRD ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY



3<sup>rd</sup> ISA Forum of  
**SOCIOLOGY**

The Futures We Want: Global Sociology  
and the Struggles for a Better World  
July 10-14, 2016  
Vienna, Austria



This short account is aiming to put together some memories from my participation in the Third ISA Forum of Sociology that convened in Vienna- Austria on July 10-14 2016, and especially my experience with the RC34 Sociology of Youth Committee.

When I first arrived, it was a relief to discover that - despite this being a large conference - the RC34 was a smaller group consisting of regular attendees and this allowed people to communicate and get to know one another beyond their presentations.

Similar to other participants, I gave a presentation and attended a considerable number of the presentations in the daily programme. There was a fascinating range of topics and areas to be covered in these presentations and some of them offered insights on issues or geographical contexts I was not always familiar with. An interesting aspect of this conference was the arrangement of the panels, as they were composed of academics at different stages of their academic trajectory. This provided a good opportunity to bring together different approaches to similar research topics and also gave the opportunity for younger academics to present their emerging work in a welcoming atmosphere.

Overall, the participation in the panel presentations was very good and the delegates dared weather conditions and filled the rooms despite the sweltering heat in them. I could say that this was a pleasant demonstration of dedication to the proceedings of the conference!

As a first timer in a RC34 event, I could say that although the conference followed the typical conference format, I very soon felt less of an attendee and more as a participant. This was to a large extent due to the special attention and the consistency shown by the core members the RC34 to actively include newcomers in the academic discussions and in the social agenda. The social part allowed people to get to know each other better, share stories and experiences and in general feel more included. People kept attending despite the sudden outpours of rain or the extreme heat that sometimes added an extra difficulty in getting to the places of gathering. Having said this though and despite an active effort to communicate with those present, there was also during the conference moments of commemoration and paying tribute to those absent. This was a good opportunity for the newer participants to learn about the history of the committee and the important contribution of people who are no longer with us but have been instrumental in the development of the field of youth studies and the RC34 itself.

Since the place where a conference takes place tends to mark the experience, I would like to highlight that meeting in Vienna - a context representing such beauty and rich history- offered a calm and well organised environment that allowed us to focus on the proceedings of the conference. The programme was full of activities and there was no opportunity to yield to the temptation to “escape” to explore the city’s rich past and present. Nevertheless, even the daily walks back and forth from the conference to hotel, use of public transport and the interactions in the conference allowed participants to connect more with the place and its people. One even could say that sometimes the socioeconomic contexts (with their inequalities) we were talking about seemed so far away in a setting of such beauty, tranquillity and organisation.

Maria Tsekoura

(Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)



## CONFERENCES

### 'GLOBAL YOUTH FUTURES: PERSPECTIVES AND PROSPECTS'

ESA RN 30 'Youth and Generation' Midterm Conference 2017, in association with ISA RC 34 'Sociology of Youth'  
15-18 January 2017 – Ericeira, Portugal

Global events of the last few years have raised serious concerns about young people's futures. The international financial crisis and the dominant response to it – one of neoliberal austerity - have severely damaged employment prospects, welfare services and living standards for whole populations but particularly for young people. The environment has become an increasingly urgent issue, seriously endangering the health and even the lives of upcoming generations in disparate parts of the globe. Widespread regional armed conflicts are causing massive population displacements and refugee movements. Terrorist atrocities have created alarm and heightened security consciousness all over the world. However, the responses so far to these threats may be characterized as unilateral, nationalistic, neighbor-blaming, intolerant and non-supportive, creating a widespread distrust between citizens and governments and/or within multi-lateral institutions.

It is crucial for youth studies to address and document the way young people manage their lives, demonstrate resilience and overcome adversity in the face of these and other contemporary crises. But it is also essential to assess the ways in which such crises are having an impact on young people's perspectives on the future (what are their expectations, their hopes and their fears?) as well as an impact on their actual prospects (what challenges and opportunities will be presented to them?; how can young people themselves help to shape these?).

The next ESA RN 30 midterm conference, in association with ISA RC 34, will provide space for debate on these pressing global issues and respective youth responses and invites researchers to submit empirical and/or theoretical papers concerning the present and future(s) of young people, their hopes, fears and mobilisation for action.

Key note speakers: Professor Sharlene Swartz from the University of Cape Town, South Africa and Professor João Teixeira Lopes from the University of Porto, Portugal.

Organisation: ESA RN 30 Youth and Generation, in association with ISA RC 34 Sociology of Youth

Local organiser: Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-IUL), University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Av. das Forças Armadas, Ed. ISCTE, 1649-026 Lisbon, Portugal - <http://cies.iscte.pt/en/>

Contact: [nalmeidaalves@iscte.pt](mailto:nalmeidaalves@iscte.pt)



## CONFERENCES

### YOUTH, CHANGE, AND SOCIAL AGENCY

ISA RC34 and ISA RC47 conference

26-28 April 2017 – Bethlehem University, Palestine

Young people shape the futures of their society. They envision, plan, challenge practices and present new perspectives. Youth as actors face however many challenges. This international conference will explore how do youth and other actors enhance youth capabilities to pursue the change they envision within a context of social and political repression, sociopolitical instabilities. Further, it will look into ways in which youth emerge as actors and become more influential in policies, and shaping the current and future alternative of their societies; How do youth and other actors sustain their collective action and sense of agency with increase repression in societies; how would they move from the focus on the individual to a focus on a greater commitment despite all the challenges they face. Youth resiliency, especially in societies that lives in conflicts, wars, or sociopolitical instabilities, the experiences of youth and other actors with regards to enhancing youth engagement. This Bethlehem University, ISA RC34, and ISA RC47 conference will be an opportunity to enhance a mutual learning between scholars in Palestine, Arab countries, and the international community.

We particularly welcome papers on the four axes of the conference: (1) Youth as actors of change, transformation from the individual to the collective commitment; (2) How to create and sustain a commitment with a context of repression; a sub topic will be with regards to the development of tools and techniques by youth and other actors to face repressions and online repression; (3) Youth resiliency and engagement: how to move forward in time of conflict and instability. Engagement as a tool for community re building; (4) Youth in Palestine: collective action and change intersection of development and liberation.

For further information about the four main themes please check the conference page <https://bethlehem.edu/conferences/yc-conference-2016/home> and <http://www.rc34youth.org/youth-change-and-social-agency/>.

The conference will be followed with encounters with local actors on April 29th in the cities of Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Hebron. Interested participants will notably meet with organizations that support young people and foster their agency in the three cities. Program to visit organizations working with youth and collective action will be arranged during the conference.

Proposals should be submitted in English or Arabic; abstracts should not exceed 300 words and may be submitted by January 30th 2017 either through the conference website or through the following email address [youthandchange@bethlehem.edu](mailto:youthandchange@bethlehem.edu). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Abeer Musleh [Abeerm@bethlehem.edu](mailto:Abeerm@bethlehem.edu), Geoffrey Pleyers [Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be](mailto:Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be), Ani Wierenga [wierenga@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:wierenga@unimelb.edu.au) and Howard Williamson [howard.williamson@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:howard.williamson@southwales.ac.uk).

For Information about how to get to Bethlehem, accommodation and life in Bethlehem please check the conference page: <https://bethlehem.edu/conferences/yc-conference-2016/home> or contact us on [youthandchange@bethlehem.edu](mailto:youthandchange@bethlehem.edu)

Please note that Easter holiday is one week earlier than the conference: Easter celebration in Palestine is a unique cultural as well as religious experience for many. Timeline: Deadline for receiving proposals will be January 30th. People will be informed about being accepted in the conference by February 15th. Final paper to be received for the conference is 20th of April.



## CONFERENCES

### THE GENDER GAP IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

Research panel organised at the 14th IMISCOE Annual Conference

28-30 June 2017 - Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Over the past decades, international student mobility and migration (hereafter ISM) significantly increased. Interestingly, in Europe and the United States, female students are more likely to study abroad in bachelor and master programmes. This gender gap is consistent across subject areas and countries and stands in sharp contrast with academic mobility in later phases of the career, whereby this pattern is inverted. Today, this unequal gender balance of ISM in Europe and the US remains unexplained, and represents one of the major gaps in ISM-research. Whereas scholars are calling attention to the role of the state and social ideas of gender roles in gendering transnational processes and experiences of mobility, the question of how societal ideas of gender roles impact the decision of women and men to study abroad, the destinations they chose for study, their differentiated experiences of mobility, and the outcomes of their mobilities have not been addressed so far. Therefore, this research panel at the IMISCOE Annual Conference 2017 aims to gather contributions which examine and try to explain the gendered patterns of study abroad in order to advance scientific understanding of ISM. Consequently, we welcome papers that provide gender-sensitive analyses of ISM-patterns, individual decision-making processes and experiences, aiming to uncover and explain the mechanisms behind gender differences in ISM. We welcome papers that either use quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods. Whereas the main focus of the call is on gendered ISM within, towards and from Europe and the United States, we also welcome contributions from other parts of the world, in order to gain a comparative perspective.



## ... papers

Middle East - Topics & Arguments  
SPECIAL ISSUE ON "YOUTH"

*The uprisings of 2011 challenged many predominant concepts of 'youth' in the MENA region. [...] A new idol emerged in the course of the 2011 events in the MENA region: the 'young Arab protester' was acclaimed as a heroic vanguard against fossilized autocratic regimes ruled by old men. [...] In academia, this sudden public attention was echoed by a boom in research on 'youth' in the MENA region. But many of the studies and policy papers hardly involved critical theoretical reflections of the term 'youth'. Again, young people were mainly researched as members of an age cohort, defined in quantitative terms, although now with different expectations. [...] Against this backdrop, we welcome papers that address the overarching theme of the call, including those that consider, but are not limited to, the topics and questions listed in the full call for papers.*

See more: <http://www.rc34youth.org/meta-journal-net-call-for-papers-9/>

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## ... papers

Journal for Labour Market Research  
YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN EUROPE: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCE

*In the wake of the Great Recession, both individuals' risk of becoming unemployed and the duration of unemployment increased remarkably in most European countries. However, the extent to which the employment and life-course perspectives of young people, particularly in southern European countries, have been affected by the economic crisis and its aftermath has not yet been adequately examined. From an institutional perspective, another question would be which institutional arrangements protect young people from becoming unemployed or foster these young people's transition into the labour market.*

**Deadline for submission: 28 February 2017**

See more: <http://www.rc34youth.org/youth-unemployment-in-europe-causes-and-consequences/>

Along with a Bureau taking care of the membership services and general, strategic affairs connected to the Presidency, the work of RC34 is built on regional Vice-Presidencies managing local RC34 activities and networking in their respective areas of the world. In this issue IBYR meets the VP for Africa, near East and Middle East.

### A personal note by...

#### Sharlene Swartz

(VP for Africa, near East and Middle East)



Department of Sociology,  
University of Cape Town  
South Africa

Email:

[sharlene@  
theyouthinstitute.org](mailto:sharlene@theyouthinstitute.org)



Sharlene Swartz is a Research Director at the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa and an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Cape Town. She did her undergraduate studies in South Africa and has degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand (in zoology and physics!) and the University of Zululand (in philosophy and theology!). She started youth work at a church in her late teens and progressed to youth development in a local NGO where she spent 12 years pioneering life skills and anti-racist education in schools and youth groups.

Sharlene embarked on graduate studies in 2002, completing a master degree at Harvard University and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. Both focussed on the sociology of youth. She became involved in RC34 in 2006 at the ISA conference held in Durban, South Africa, and has attended regularly since. She joined the board as Vice-President for Africa and the Middle East in 2010, replacing Charles Ukeje, following David Everatt who formerly held that position.

Her expertise and current research centres on youth development in adverse contexts, interpersonal and communal notions of restitution, emancipatory qualitative research methods, and the effects of race on educational outcomes. Since 2006 she has published widely in academic journals and has authored or edited seven books including *Ikasi: the moral ecology of South Africa's township youth* (2009); *Teenage Tata: Voices of Young Fathers in South Africa* (2009); *Youth citizenship and the politics of belonging* (2013); and *Another Country: Everyday Social Restitution* (2016). She is also currently the chair of the Restitution Foundation in South Africa.

Her current focus is on building youth theory and practice from Southern contexts, and ensuring that Southern voices are heard in international contexts. Working at the interface of youth development and ideas of restitution and redress for past injustices, she is particularly concerned with articulating what she calls 'navigational capacities' for youth, that includes civic action (and sometimes protest and revolution), as well as meandering trajectories from dependence to interdependence. Recent student protests in South Africa have also helped shaped her interest in decolonising educational curricula and methods in schools and universities. Youth work in the region – Africa and the Middle East – is a growing and challenging pursuit, but one that she is delighted to be contributing to!

**THE HISTORY OF RC34:  
BRIEF UPDATE**

This is just a brief update on where things are with our History of rc34 project. The end of November was the deadline for ‘senior’ figures in rc34 to provide me with their recollections over relevant periods and indeed any additional documentation and memorabilia. In other words our living Presidents (Helena, Ngai, Jim and Ani) were asked, and committed, to reporting on their four-year periods of office. Petar-Emil Mitev, President from 1982-86, had already provided me with some fascinating material.

There are clearly some gaps to plug and Lyudmila tells me she has an archive of material for the 1990s; it is just that considerable time will be needed to sift through it.

Inevitably, it will be something of a pot pourri of documents, stories, reports, conference agendas and participants, and photographs. But at least I am gathering them together and hopefully, quite soon, I will find the time to try to make some sense of it and compose it in a useful way. We still have big decisions to make about what kind of history we want and where we want to promote it – about scholarship, friendship, politics, geography, projects and so forth. But I will do something!

And all of you can still do something, anything. Please find the time to register, as briefly as you like, some account of your engagement with rc34, roles you have played, events you have attended, connections you have made, photos you have taken. And send anything to me, however useless, irrelevant, bureaucratic or pointless it may seem. Let me be the judge of it – and, for sure, some of it may be surplus to requirements but some may prove to be nuggets of gold.

Season’s greetings to all of you. Thanks for contributions so far. And send me some surprises for the New Year. Best wishes,

Howard Williamson  
Organisational Secretary



## PHOTOGALLERY RC34 at the ISA Forum 2016 (Vienna, Austria – 10-14 July 2016)







## ABOUT US

### **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 ociology 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.

## JOIN US

- [International Sociological Association \(ISA\) Headquarters, Madrid \(via RC34 page\)](#)
- [Join ISA/RC34 or renewal your membership online](#)

## RC34 BOARD

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## IBYR editorial staff

Maurizio Merico (Editor in chief): [ibyr@unisa.it](mailto:ibyr@unisa.it)  
Stefano Perna (Visual editor): [sperna@unisa.it](mailto:sperna@unisa.it)

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