



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

issue 1/2017

## EDITORIAL



Ani Wierenga

**On preparing for the World Congress of Sociology: ‘Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities’.**  
**Toronto, Canada, July 15-21, 2018**

Are these not fascinating times on our planet? There might have never been a time when clear analyses from the social sciences were so needed, and yet in the face of complex changes it has probably never been harder to speak clearly. High speed communications and 24 hour news cycles do not leave a lot of space for debating complex causality and connection.

The following pages contain links to where members reflect more deeply on the changes, through publications, new opportunities, and up-coming events, introductions and reflections, with each item giving expression to very different voices from a global community of youth scholarship. I draw your attention to the stories from one recent event, our first co-badged youth studies conference in Palestine.

On first impressions, when I saw the theme of next year’s World Congress (Power, violence and justice), I wondered whether it might be too blunt an instrument to resonate with many of the more nuanced themes that are covered within a Sociology of Youth. My concern was that we – the sociological research community more generally – must not sensationalise or wash out the concept of violence, by either echoing news headlines, or applying and re-applying the concept of violence at a symbolic level across the ‘usual’ material.

You have both allayed my fears and proved me wrong. The global youth studies community seems to have met this challenge with its trademark mix of commitment to principles of social justice, camaraderie, curiosity and passion. After your robust response to this year’s Call for Sessions, the youth studies program for the World Congress 2018 Toronto is our most expansive yet, drawing on member expertise to provide a space for vital themes and voices. This issue of IBYR contains a synopsis of our call for papers, and that call is open online – you are invited to send abstracts until the end of September: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>.

Three years ago when our RC34 Executive Board met in Yokohama, we identified our top priorities for the term ahead. Aiming high, but not too brazenly high, we decided to work towards a modest improvement across several areas: working across generations, national boundaries and language barriers, including making more spaces for southern scholarship in our programs. The feature that has delighted me in the process of pulling together two programs (first for Vienna last year, now for Toronto next year), is the generosity of our members in creating collaborative sessions across these boundaries, and, even when it means trading other aspirations, being both flexible and adventurous. Thank you to all for this.

I wonder what will happen next? Yours in appreciation and curiosity,

Ani Wierenga  
RC34 President

## ABOUT

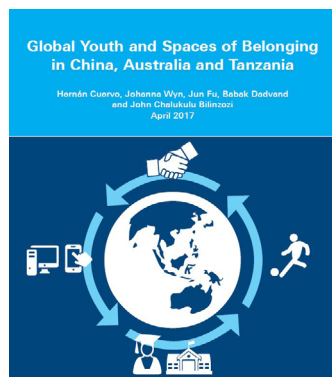
IBYR is the official newsletter of the RC34 “Sociology of youth” of the International Sociological Association.

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## BOOKS



## GLOBAL YOUTH AND SPACES OF BELONGING IN CHINA, AUSTRALIA AND TANZANIA

H. Cuervo, J. Wyn, J. Fu, B. Dadvand and J.C. Bilinzosi

Melbourne Graduate School of Education, 2017 – ISBN: 978 0 7340 5369 5 (print); 978 0 7340 5370 1 (electronic)

The three studies that inform this report contribute to this body of work by exploring three spaces of belonging for young people: online communities in China, an alternative program in a secondary school in Australia and sports organisations in Tanzania. These studies by Jun Fu, Babak Dadvand and John Chalukulu draw on their PhD research projects at the Youth Research Centre under the supervision of Professor Johanna Wyn and Dr Hernán Cuervo.

They draw on different conceptual frameworks to understand forms of belonging, the dynamics that create a sense of community and the processes that enable young people to be included in their worlds. Their analyses open up thinking about the nature of belonging in a global context where social, economic, cultural and

political developments are creating new mobilities (on a national and international scale) and ways of being, and are re-shaping young people's relationship to civic society, to institutions and connection to significant others.

Download the report: [18350-MGSE-Youth-Research-Centre-Report-Global-Belonging](#)



## YOUNG PEOPLE RE-GENERATING POLITICS IN TIMES OF CRISES

S. Pickard, J. Bessant (Eds.)

Palgrave Macmillan, 2018 – ISBN 978-3-319-58249-8

This book provides insight into the diverse ways young people from around the world are regenerating politics in innovative and multifaceted ways. The authors, who include academics and activists, challenge claims that young people are apolitical, apathetic and living up to the 'me generation' stereotype. Contributions cover a rich body of case examples of traditional and new forms of youth politics in response to situated injustices and political and socio-economic crises. Significant and optimistic, the collection presents strong evidence from across the globe that these developments are

not isolated incidences, but are in fact part of a systemic, large-scale transformation leading to a regeneration of the political landscape by young people. The book is aimed at students and scholars in the fields of politics, sociology, policy studies and youth and childhood studies.

[Read more](#)



### CONFERENCES

#### YOUTH, CHANGE, AND SOCIAL AGENCY

26-28 April 2017, Bethlehem University

Bethlehem University hosted the 1st conference about sociology of youth on the 26th - 28th of April. The conference theme “Youth, change, and social agency” is highly connected to the themes discussed in the Arab world about young people and how they could be strong actors on the ground through many challenges in which the societies are living. The conference had three main subthemes as its focus: youth as actors of change transformation from the individual to the collective commitment; engagement under repression: how to create and sustain commitment within a context of repression; youth resiliency and engagement how to move forward in time of conflict and instability.

This conference is distinctive because it is the first conference about sociology of youth that took place in Palestine, and it is held in association with RC 34 and RC 47. This conference follow up focused on enhancing the cooperation between various partners to advance the literature about Arab youth in Arabic language and the possibilities to advance this cooperation. Representatives of both RC 34 and RC 47 were present at the conference. Both Howard Williamson - RC 34 organizational secretary and treasurer- and Ana Margarida-Estevés - a researcher from Portugal and representative of RC 47- focused in their address to the conference the connection between the International and local setting work conducted in the field of youth and engagement. Speakers in the conference included Palestinian and international speakers. Keynote sessions included both Palestinian and International scholars.

Rita Giacaman, a Palestinian scholar discussed the concept of resiliency from a Palestinian perspective, Carles Feixa a previous vice president of RC34 presented about youth cultural agency in Arab Mediterranean countries with focus on the SAHWA project, Peter Alexander, who is a professor of sociology at the University of Johannesburg who focused on the Apartheid and its impact on youth in South Africa. The conference included other speakers locally and internationally their papers focused on experiences of youth in creating their own model of engagement in Palestine, youth generations and emerging as actors in Egypt, organizations and their role in building youth resiliency, youth political practices after 2011 in 5 Arab countries, and youth antimilitarism engagement in Sardinia. The conference was followed with a session with masters’ students at Bethlehem University and International researchers in which students’ research projects were discussed and commented on.

The conference progress was highly affected with the daily life of the Palestinian society, as it coincided with the hunger strike for 1500 political prisoners in the Israeli prison. The second day of the conference, could not take place as planned, yet it was changed into a day in which international participants had the chance to learn firsthand about the life in Palestine, and meet with organizations working with youth in one of the Palestinian refugee camps in Bethlehem area. The conference was also followed with a socio-political tour to the city of Jerusalem, in which participants were oriented about youth work and life in Jerusalem city in large.



### CONFERENCES

#### 25TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH NETWORK ON TRANSITIONS IN YOUTH (TIY)

13-16 September 2017, Brussels (Belgium)

The 25th annual workshop of the European Research Network on Transitions in Youth (TIY) will take place in Brussels, Belgium on 13-16 September 2017. The workshop will be hosted by the Research Centre for Economics (ECON) of the Faculty of Economics and Business (Campus Brussels) of KU Leuven, in collaboration with the Policy Research Centre on Education (Steunpunt SONO). The long-term goal of the TIY Network is to advance theoretical understanding of transitions in youth and especially of the relationships between

education/training and the labour market. With its workshop, the Network brings together social scientists interested in the transitions of young people as they progress towards adulthood. In light of its 25th anniversary, the theme for this year's workshop is: 25 Years of Transitions in Youth Research and Policy: Where Are We, Where Should We Go?

For more information on the Conference and the Call for Papers please visit : <https://feb.kuleuven.be/tiy2017/home>

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#### YOUTH RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS

Social and Political Innovation, Cooperation and Collective Action

*The Spanish Network on Youth and Society (www.juventudysociedad.net) is preparing the International Workshop: Youth responses to the crisis: Social and Political Innovation, Cooperation and Collective Action. The workshop will be celebrated in Fuenlabrada (Madrid) next 16th and 17th November 2017.*

*All youth researchers are welcomed, even if the main languages will be Spanish and Portuguese.*

*More information at: <http://juventudysociedad.net/activities/2a-circular-de-las-ii-jornadas-sobre-estudios-de-juventud/>*

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#### INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON YOUTH, THEIR LIFE WORLDS, AND EDUCATION

“Jugend - Lebenswelt - Bildung. Perspektiven für Jugendforschung in Österreich”

16-18 November 2017, University of Innsbruck (Austria)

*Keynotes by Manuela du Bois-Reymond (University of Leiden), Antje Rothemund (Council of Europe), Josef Scheipl (University of Graz), Birgit Bütow (University Salzburg) and Natalia Waechter (Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich).*

*More information at: [www.uibk.ac.at/iezw/tagung-jugendforschung](http://www.uibk.ac.at/iezw/tagung-jugendforschung)*



## CONFERENCES

### XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities

15-21 July 2018, Toronto (Canada)

RC34 Sociology of Youth

Program Coordinators:

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Howard WILLIAMSON, University of South Wales, United Kingdom  
[howard.williamson@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:howard.williamson@southwales.ac.uk)

Clarence BATAN, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, [cmbatan@ust.edu.ph](mailto:cmbatan@ust.edu.ph)

Sharlene SWARTZ, University of Cape Town, South Africa, [sswartz@hsr.ac.za](mailto:sswartz@hsr.ac.za)

Sessions:

Amplifying Silenced Voices and Revealing Invisible Populations:  
Methodological Challenges

Brics Sociology of Youth: Theoretical and Practical Contributions to  
Understanding

Critical Perspectives on Youth Wellbeing

Forms of Collectivity Among Contemporary Youth

Global Youth in the Move: Alteractivism and Post-2011 Social Mo-  
vements

Histor(ies) of RC34

Key Thinkers in Youth Sociology: Reflections on Andy Furlong's Le-  
gacy

Longitudinal Views on Youth Transitions. Reflections on the Social  
Construction of Youth: Power, Justice, Social Reproduction and Vio-  
lence

Migration, Mobilities and Borders

Power, Violence and Justice in the Labor World: The Youth at the  
Front Scene

Social Movements and Youth Culture

Social Movements, Youth Participation and New Transnational  
Forms of Citizenship

Sociology of Youth in North America

Transnational Gangs As Agents of Mediation: Experiences of Con-  
flict Resolution in Street Youth Organizations

Violences: Global Youth Encounters with Physical, Symbolic and  
Structural Violence

Young People and New Political Creativity in the Digital Age

Youth Belonging and Citizenship in 'Globalised Ethnoscapes'

Youth Work Responses to Power, Violence and Justice

Youth and Nationalism in a Globalized World

Youth and Violence: New Theoretical Interpretations

Youth in a Globalizing World

Youth in the Global South: Divergences, Absences, Universalities

Youth in the Labour Market: Navigating Gender and Race Strati-  
fication

Youth on the Move: Alter-Activism & Post-2011 Movements

Youth, Gender and Belonging

Call for abstracts open from April 25 to September 30, 2017



### CONFERENCES

#### TRANSFORMATIVE YOUTH WORK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Developing and Communicating Impact

4-6 September 2018, Plymouth Marjon University

Plymouth Marjon University are pleased to announce the hosting of an International Conference on the Impact of Youth Work, from 4-6 September 2018, in association with our partner universities in Estonia, Finland, France and Italy. The conference, supported by Erasmus+, will bring together a range of experts from across Europe and the wider world, to showcase the latest research on the Impact of Youth Work, including publication of the Erasmus+ funded two year comparative study of the Impact of Youth Work in UK, Finland, Estonia, Italy and France.

The conference is being held at our campus in Plymouth, in Devon, which is located in beautiful South West England. It is situated close to Cornwall, adjacent to the Dartmoor National Park and the historical naval port of Plymouth. The university has pioneered research in youth work and the training of youth workers for nearly 30 years and is proud to host this event.

This will be the first major International conference to specifically address the issue of outcomes and the impact of youth work. The purpose of the conference will be to both promote the Impact of Youth Work and to stimulate debate and discussion about the processes which bring this impact about. The conference is open to youth workers, youth work academics and trainers as well as policy makers.

Confirmed speakers to date are:

Hans Joachim Schild (Ex-Head of European Youth Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe) – “The History of Youth Work Impact in Europe”

Dr Dimitris Ballas, University of Sheffield – “A Human Atlas of Europe – A Continent United in Diversity”

A number of bursaries and subsidised places are available for non UK applicants.

[Read More](#)



## ... articles

AG. About Gender

Special issue on “BETWEEN CULTURES AND TRANSITIONS: GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN YOUTH STUDIES”

Edited by: Sebastiano Benasso (University of Genoa), Helena Helve (University of Tampere) and Maurizio Merico (University of Salerno)

Through the essays collected in this issue of the Journal, the aim is to make a contribution in terms of application of the gender perspective as a dimension through which to overcome the “traditional” boundaries between the strands of cultural and transitional Youth Studies. This issue of the Journal focuses, first, on the way through which the gender dimension has been approached within the Youth Studies tradition and, second, on the contribution of the gender perspective to

contemporary research on young people, youth cultures, life courses and generations.

Contributions can be both in English and Italian.

Deadline for articles proposal: October 2017

[Read more](#)

## ... papers

Annual Review of Social Work/Social Pedagogy in Austria

Call for papers on “CONSEQUENCES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WELFARE SERVICES”

Deadline for abstracts: July 15, 2017

Deadline for full papers: Dec 31, 2017

[Read more](#)

Revue Jeunes et Société

Call for papers on “GENRE, SEXUALITES ET NORMATIVITE DANS LE PASSAGE A LA VIE ADULTE”

The Revue Jeunes et Société is an international French-language peer reviewed journal (double blind), which publishes papers in French in all areas of youth studies and sociology of youth twice a year.

The journal welcomes non-thematic papers in French throughout the year: <http://rjs.inrs.ca/index.php/rjs>.

We currently have an open thematic call for papers on the topic of

“Genre, sexualités et normativité dans le passage à la vie adulte”. Proposals due September 1st 2017; full papers due February 15th 2018. [Read more](#)

We also accept [proposals for thematic issues](#).



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 VPs for Australia, New Zealand and Oceania and for South America.

## A personal note by..

### Dan Woodman

(VP for Australia,  
New Zealand and Oceania)



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I am the VP for Australia, New Zealand and Oceania. It is region of extraordinary diversity and inequality. Life for a rich young man in my home town of Melbourne is very different to life for a poor young women on one of our neighbouring Pacific Islands. The resources available to youth researchers also vary, but overall the field is extremely vibrant in this region (I would argue we are one of the world centres of youth studies, but I may be biased!).

I was drawn to the sociology of youth because I think the study of youth and young adulthood gives profound insights into social change and inequality. My work focuses on generations and the impact of insecure work and variable employment patterns on young people's relationships. It builds on an empirical study that tracks Australians through young adulthood (that I lead with Johanna Wyn and Helen Cahill, also at the University of Melbourne).

Conceptually, I've aimed to develop the sociology of generations to address some of the pressing questions of contemporary youth studies. My view is that convincing sociological accounts of young people and social change should do three things: specify the way that social conditions have changed, relative to previous generations, that will have effects for people beyond youth; identify the multiple ways that people respond to and shape these conditions; and show how the generation is not homogeneous but instead diverse, and unequal.

My approach has been to develop the concept of generations to think about how inequalities (by class, race, gender, etc.) are being made anew in changing times. In the case of class, the decades that shaped the young adulthoods of current cohorts of young people have seen rapid changes in Australian society, with unequal effects. For navigating school and the entry to work, building a career and particularly getting into the housing market, access to family resources has become progressively more important than it was for their parents' generation when they were young.

My first RC 34 meeting was at the 1st World Forum of Sociology, in Barcelona in 2008. I still remember it clearly, as I was an early career scholar and very nervous about my paper (as well as very excited to be in Barcelona!). The RC34 group who assembled for that meeting brought together a wonderful mix of intellectual rigour (I did get some tough questions) with a friendly welcome and a supportive environment. I then attended every Congress and Forum until Vienna in 2016 (my daughter was born right in the middle of the conference, which I think is a good excuse for missing it!). I look forward to being back at the World Congress next year, in Toronto. With the support of the President of RC34, Ani Wierenga, I am planning to set up an informal mentoring meeting between senior and early career scholars at the Congress. So please keep a look out for further details coming soon.

## A personal note by..

**Rosa María  
Camarena-Córdova**  
(VP for South America)



Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico  
[rcamaren2001@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:rcamaren2001@yahoo.com.mx)



My interest in research on young people emerged from the beginning of my professional career when I made aware of the enormous inequalities prevailing in Mexico in children and young people access to education. The study of this gradually led me to expand my vision towards other issues related to life conditions, opportunities and behaviors of the young. My research activity has been focused mainly on the study of young people, having as principal points of interest those related to their life trajectories, education, family, gender, work, reproductive health, indigenous condition and, more recently, public insecurity consequences over young lives. I became a member of RC34 in 1998 and have been Vice President for Latin America since 2010.

The Latin American region is composed of countries with different levels of socioeconomic development and a great cultural and social diversity, having some of them a considerable presence of indigenous population. A feature of the region has been the youth of its population. Even though demographic changes of recent decades have begun to modify this situation, nowadays between twenty and thirty percent of the inhabitants of the different countries are young people of 15 to 29 years of age.

It is a region of strong contrasts, marked by high levels of poverty, as well as deep and entrenched social inequalities. There are youth sectors with styles and conditions of life comparable to those of most advanced societies, which coexist with large segments of young people whose lives run in conditions of precariousness and exclusion. Recent studies estimate that two-thirds of the region's youth live in households affected by poverty or at risk of falling into it.

The promises and expectations of better living conditions generated by globalization and the neoliberal model have not been accomplished for young people. In fact, they seem to have accentuated and spread poverty and social, economic and political exclusion towards broader segments of the young people of the region.

## RC34 mailing list

We have a new RC34 mailing list. The new address is: [rc34@liste.unisa.it](mailto:rc34@liste.unisa.it)  
We will NOT use the previous one: [rc34@uwo.ca](mailto:rc34@uwo.ca). Please, do not send messages to the previous address.  
You will receive future news from the new one.

## Five feelings

### Reflections on my visit to Palestine and Bethlehem University in April 2017

#### Introduction

During the week I was in Palestine, in Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jerusalem – after being driven through Israel, from and back to Tel Aviv - I was bombarded and often overwhelmed by the information provided by taxi drivers, waiters, security officers, community social workers, students and academic colleagues: about different forms of ID that facilitated or limited individual movement, the status of different areas (A, B and C), car number plates signifying different possibilities (and restrictions) for travel, Palestinian villages and Israeli settlements in the distance, refugee camps that have existed for 70 years (but which do not fit any of my own stereotypes of such a description), house building prohibitions and demolitions, water (in)security, erratic electricity supplies, housing density and, above all, the ubiquitous presence of various kinds of ‘wall’, the physical, psychological and symbolic representation of separation. Although so much is visible (concrete, metal, barbed wire, closed circuit TV cameras, graffiti, images, pictures, flags), so much more is invisible, hard to see and sometimes even harder to understand. Division between and within people (by faith, nationality, ideology and more) will remain a lasting memory (within so much faith-based historical rhetoric about peace and love, humanity and co-existence), but so will solidarity, warmth, friendship and hospitality from the Palestinians I met. That my visit coincided with a general strike and days of action in support of the 1,500 Palestinian political prisoners who, shortly before, had started a hunger strike gave it an added dimension and poignancy, as I saw small glimpses of Palestinian activism and Israeli occupation beyond what a ‘tourist’, ‘traveller’ or ‘visitor’ might routinely witness.

#### 1. *Sadness*

I suppose one profound feeling was that of sadness. That is almost certainly why I had the song ‘Only Our Rivers Run Free’ running through my head throughout the week. That was the one I played at Thursday’s barbecue, along with the song ‘Hold Your Head’, written by a personal friend – youth worker and singer/songwriter Cecil Patton, who died of a stroke aged 41, a few years ago – who had himself grown up in another ‘conflict region’, Belfast in Northern Ireland:

## Five feelings

*Your blood runs red, as mine runs red  
Our tears fall just the same  
The only difference is our creed  
Our colour and our name*

The sense of sadness derives from the realities of the human condition, particularly now in places like Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Cyprus – and Palestine - where peoples with different histories, cultures, beliefs and lifeworlds cannot live in peace.

*2. Calm within the storm*

Yet it was often possible, for me at least, to almost forget where I was in the world, as I engaged in an international academic conference at Bethlehem University, enjoyed the hospitality of individuals in their private homes, walked in olive groves, or sat in restaurants. There were often few signs, there, of conflict, trouble and violence – unless you looked a little further or listened a little more.

*3. Commitment*

What I really loved about my visit was the witnessing of a sense of commitment – of course, a commitment to the Palestinian struggle (though I heard many versions and interpretations of what, more precisely, this and its end goal should be) but also a commitment to friends, to family and to community. In particular, I relished the commitment of Bethlehem University to its students and to its ‘community’ responsibilities. It is something I miss in the ‘west’, if it ever really existed in higher education, beyond my own personal commitment that derives from my other professional background as a youth worker. Indeed, I have often joked with my own Vice Chancellor and other senior management of my university that I enjoy my work there because it is ‘like doing youth work in a university’. A profound commitment not only to academic discipline and attainment but also to personal development and community engagement is something that I noticed, admire and respect. ‘Inspiring students’ is an ambiguous term, both a description and an aspiration, and both apply.

What I was not prepared for was my anger, though ‘alienation’ is probably a better word, about the Banksy hotel: the Wal-  
led Off hotel right next to the separation wall, promoted as having the ‘worst view in the world’. Of course, I wanted to see it; I had already seen newspaper articles about it. But almost as soon as I arrived there, and had taken the stock tourist

## Five feelings

photographs, I wanted to leave. I was rather sickened by the commercial exploitation positioned so close to such a human tragedy, even more so by the obviously quite privileged young people from other places having ‘fun’ using purchased stencils to add their bit of graffiti to the wall. I may have misread them and may be doing them an injustice – they just could be committed campaigners, though I doubt many, if any, were – but I was reminded of Nancy Macdonald’s wonderful line, which just happens to be from her ethnography on *The Graffiti Subculture*, when she talks about approaching her research ‘with an open mind, but not an empty one’. The saving grace of the hotel is its superb interactive museum; I just hope that those young people who had such fun climbing the ladder with their spray can also paid their 15 NIS to learn something of the history of the Palestinians and the geographical fragmentation of their country, epitomised by the wall, so that they left still with an open mind but without an empty one.

### 5. *Belief and hope*

And though, with the might of the Israeli forces, the oppression of the occupation, the inaction of the international community (despite many resolutions and condemnations, especially of the Israeli Settlements and imprisonment without trial), the situation in Palestine can feel like a ‘hope-less’ one, there is still an impressive resilience, determination, grit and spirit amongst the people I met. This should not, paradoxically, be surprising. Such circumstances usually do produce solidarity and togetherness, as internal distinctions and difference is suppressed in the face of a common enemy. History tells us this. We also know, from Clausewitz’ seminal study of war that its single purpose is to destroy the ‘capacity to resist’. In 70 years, this has patently failed. We know that there are many forms of resistance to inequality, servitude and oppression. It is not just about stone-throwing and other forms of violence; it is equally about not engaging in conversation with, or not communicating in the language of, the occupier.

At the conference and during the impromptu seminar with students held by the international visitors, there was a brief discussion of meritocracy. As long ago as 1958, Michael Young wrote a satirical book called *The Rise of the Meritocracy*, in which he point out that a real meritocracy would be a dystopia, not utopia. Precisely because there are no perfect meritocracies, those facing poverty, isolation, marginalisation and subjugation still include individuals with great talent, skills, motivation and leadership skills. It is that fact that conveys hope and maintains promise of change for the better in the future.

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The conference also focused a great deal on the idea of ‘resilience’ or ‘resiliency’. I am not sure that this was necessarily a wise idea, because I am not convinced that the term itself really has any solid academic provenance. Perhaps it was just invented, accidentally, as academics and policy makers – some years ago – started to discuss risk and protective factors in people lives (in relation to, inter alia, education, employment, health and crime); it is conceivable that the word ‘resilience’ just popped up as a counterpoint to ‘risk’. Nonetheless, it is useful to be reminded of the seminal text by Michael Rutter and David Smith, *Psycho-Social Disorders in Young People: Time Trends and Their Causes*. This comprehensive analysis of worldwide data suggests that the mental health and behavioural problems that now beset so many young people in the ‘western’ world are the product of social dislocation, not social disadvantage. It is because young people do not know where they come from nor where they are likely to fit in the future. This is clearly not the case for Palestinian youth, who are firmly ‘located’ through an acute sense of their past and a very real understanding of their present and their aspirations for the future. At the demonstration on Tuesday evening, I was struck by the generational contact and connection – children, teenagers, young adults, middle-aged and old people. Both horizontally and vertically, through family, neighbourhood, experience and identity, people are bonded and bound together. Of course, there are distinctions and I hope I am not romanticising my picture too much, but it is these features and factors that produce optimism in adversity. As Studs Terkel once wrote, ‘Hope dies last’.

### *Conclusion*

On my way to Palestine, I was called to the desk at the departure gate in Amsterdam. I was told I had been upgraded to a better seat. I was moved to Business Class. On my way home, I was called to the desk in Tel Aviv. I asked if it was a change of seat. No, they just wanted to check my passport. Was this because we had been stopped at the airport checkpoint and because I had been driven by a Palestinian driver? I suspect so; a small experience of the pervasive and efficient surveillance culture that overshadows the lives of those who live in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

I have been very privileged to have been given almost an insider view of the Palestinian predicament. I have learned a lot, though I know there is much, much more to learn. Next year is the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the state of Israel, and the start of enforced migration of the Palestinians and the colonisation of their land. This year is the 50th anniversary of what I grew up knowing as the Six-Day War, after which the Palestinian territories were occupied. Those anniversaries hold both promise for renewed efforts at resolution and the possibility of renewed conflict and confronta-



## Five feelings

There is much that I have not included in this brief memoir of my visit. Some is because it is, arguably, rather sensitive. Most is because it is either superfluous to the points and reflections I have advanced above, or more likely because, beyond being able to describe it, I have not yet had time to process it and position it in any kind of more analytical framework. That will come in time. I have already spent time reading more, in my quest for further pieces of the jigsaw or, drawing an analogy from the brilliant animated film about the first intifada, *The Wanted 18*, still searching for the missing cow.

*Howard Williamson*

Organisational Secretary

[1] On the very day this was written, Hamas – always portrayed as the more extreme of the two Palestinian political parties with a commitment to wiping out the state of Israel, the other being Fatah that leads the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank including East Jerusalem; Hamas has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007 - published a new, reportedly more moderate position with regard to its acceptance of the possibility of a transitional Palestinian state based on 1967 borders (in other words, the Occupied Territories), and maintaining that its conflict was with Israel, not with Jews or Judaism. This was reported early in the morning on May 2nd by the BBC. The on-line Guardian newspaper reports that ‘The new Hamas document essentially brings the two [Palestinian] sides closer to the same negotiating objective’. The document states that ‘Hamas advocates the liberation of all of Palestine but is ready to support the state on 1967 borders without recognizing Israel or ceding any rights’. It was announced just days before Mahmoud Abbas, the leader of Fatah, would meet Donald Trump, the President of the United States.





### PHOTOGALLERY

RC34 at the YOUTH, CHANGE, AND SOCIAL AGENCY conference in Bethlehem University (26-28 April 2017)





### 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 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.

### JOIN US

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

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