



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

Sharlene Swartz

## ABOUT

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

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We are a year away from the Forum of Sociology in Port Allegro with the theme “Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality” for which, as you will know, planning is well underway. RC34 received a fantastic response to our call for sessions, and our organising committee were hard pressed to accept sessions, combine some, and reformat others. Key to our thinking was the need for our RC to make real strides in ensuring that our sessions are well populated by work from both experienced and novice scholars; that we find new ways of overcoming language barriers; and to ensure global South scholars are not only represented on the programme but continue to improve their theoretical contributions to our global sociological discourse.

An innovation in our program is the inclusion of a mentoring session, to which we invite our senior members and members of our advisory board to attend along with those who are new to RC34 or who are scholars at the beginning of their careers. It seems we might be given an additional session and space just prior to the commencement of the formal programme and it would be great to meet together to strategise on how we can meet our objectives to be really inclusive from a language perspective and also how we can urge each other to greater theoretical heights – including theory from the South!

The end result of your submissions and our deliberations has been the list of 23 sessions (listed on page 5). You will see we have 2 theoretically focussed sessions (but all sessions should make an effort to develop our conceptual thinking), 3 sessions with a related geographical focus (Brazil, BRICS Latin America and the Caribbean), 2 on social

media, 2 on gender, 2 on geographical displacement, 3 on student movements, and 2 on relationships (friendships and gangs). With regard to the questions we noted at Toronto that need to be addressed in our deliberations – there are a number of sessions on youth transitions, work and its future, precarity and vocational education. These are likely to address the impact of the fourth industrial revolution with its new technologies and potential for changing human experiences including that of inequality and intersectionality.

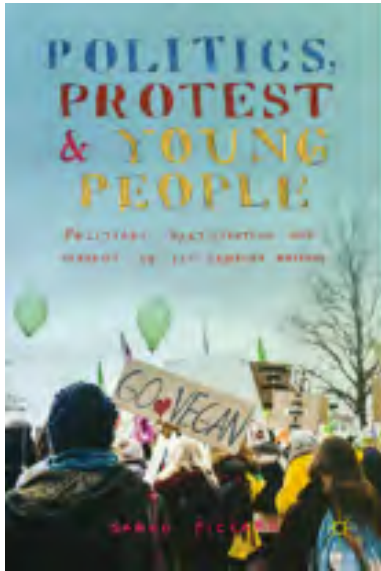
What we are not yet explicitly addressing concerns young people and mental health and young people and environmental activism. In Toronto we asked:

- What has the sociology of youth to say about the mental health challenges facing young people in an increasingly fast-paced, demanding and relentlessly unequal world?
- What role do young people have to play in the multiple and complex environmental changes impacting our world and their futures?

I am hoping that some of you will take these topics up and submit abstracts to the session I have called the “Presidential Round Table on the Silent Issues in Youth Sociology”. Let’s take this opportunity to begin to see roundtables as great places for discussing our work and not as a lesser or inferior format for conferences. I am also hoping to include an invited plenary on the same topic, and would welcome suggestions about who we might invite from amongst our RC or outside of it, who will challenge our thinking and ignite our conversations around these and other silent issues in the sociology of youth.

I look forward to hearing from you in the coming months - before submissions close at the end of September for Port Allegro!

**Sharlene Swartz**  
RC 34 President (2018-2022)



## POLITICS, PROTEST AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND DISSENT IN 21ST CENTURY BRITAIN

Sarah Pickard

Palgrave Macmillan, 2019 – ISBN 978-1-137-57788-7

Sarah Pickard offers a detailed and wide-ranging assessment of electoral and non-electoral political participation of young people in contemporary Britain, drawing on perspectives and insights from youth studies, political science and political sociology.

This comprehensive book enquires into the approaches used by the social sciences to understand young people's politics and documents youth-led evolutions in political behaviour. After unpicking key concepts including 'political participation,' 'generations,' the 'political life-cycle,' and the 'youth vote,' Pickard draws on a combination of quantitative and qualitative research to trace the dynamics operating in electoral political participation since the 1960s.

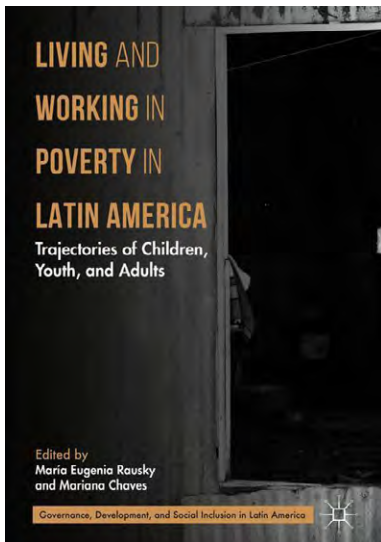
This includes the relationship between political parties, politicians and young people, youth and student wings of political parties, electoral

behaviour and the lowering of the voting age to 16. Pickard goes on to discuss personalised engagement through what she calls young people's (DIO) Do-It-Ourselves political participation in online and offline connected collectives. The book then explores young people's political dissent as part of a global youth-led wave of protest.

This holistic book will appeal to anyone with an interest in young people, politics, protest and political change.

Read more:

<https://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9781137577870>



## LIVING AND WORKING IN POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA TRAJECTORIES OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

Maria Eugenia Rausky & Mariana Chaves (Eds.)

Palgrave Macmillan, 2019 – ISBN 978-3-030-00901-4

This edited volume studies the complex interrelation of poverty, work, and different stages in the life course, and how it contributes to the permanent existence of poverty and inequality in vulnerable groups in society. Mechanisms of productions and reproduction of these relationships are identified through empirical research carried out in four Latin American countries: Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and Cuba.

This book centers on the experiences of individuals in those less favored social groups who may have suffered structural poverty for deca-

des, or who may have been simply deprived of a basic income to cover their most essential needs.

Read more:

<https://www.palgrave.com/la/book/9783030009007#aboutBook>



## Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality

Twenty years after the start of our century, the optimism of the Millennium has faded and the challenges we face for living together on a limited planet are even more urgent.

While the expansion and the deepening of democratization was taken for granted at the turn of the Millennium, democracy has been at stake in an increasing number of countries, while its key component such as diversity and equal respect for all citizens are threatened. The hope for a global democracy able to tackle global issues such as climate change, migrations and rising inequalities have faded. It has now become clear that to face global challenges, democracy needs to be re-invented within and beyond the representative system.

The environmental crisis and climate change are now a worrying reality. How can we live together on a limited planet? Land and food have become again major objects of struggles. Environmental and socio-territorial conflicts have multiplied against extractivist industries. Who are the actors who bring innovative solutions to keep our societies thriving within the planetary boundaries? How does the global environmental crisis lead us to re-think our world and our discipline?

Inequalities have considerably increased since the turn of the Millennium. We can now count twenty-six persons who own more wealth than the poorest half of humanity. This level of inequality is a major threat to democracy and to ecology. Inequalities particularly affect marginalized populations and women in their professional, public and private lives.

Intersectionality has become major theme in the ISA conferences and in our discipline over the last 20 years. Overcoming the lasting and interconnected economic, racial, colonial and gender discriminations and the violence that maintain them is another major challenge of our time. The rising consciousness of intersectionality is both a result and a trigger of the rise of subaltern actors and movements since 1992. Indigenous communities, minorities, feminists and small farmers have resisted injustice by combining practices, social struggles and alternative worldviews.

The 2020 ISA Forum will provide sociological analyses of these four global challenges paying particular attention to their interconnections and to possible solutions. We will discuss how both progressive and conservative actors and movements tackle these challenges and their conflictive perspectives. We will use this Forum to ask how our discipline has been meeting these four global challenges and it has been transformed by them. What are the contributions of the actors and epistemologies of the South? What are the new trends in global sociology that allow innovative analyses of these challenges? What are the main obstacles we face to tackle these problems? How can innovative sociological analyses contribute to grasp and to face our common problems in the Global Age?

**Geoffrey Pleyers**

*ISA Vice-President Research*



**IV ISA Forum of Sociology**  
Porto Alegre, Brazil • July 14-18, 2020 • Events Center PUCRS

**Challenges of the 21st Century:** Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality

[www.isa-sociology.org](http://www.isa-sociology.org)

ISA International Sociological Association  
SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA DE SOCIOLOGIA  
PUCRS

**ISA** **RC34** **Sociology of Youth**

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## Sessions:

- ✓ [Brasil en el campo de los estudios de juventud / Youth Studies in Brazil: Local Experiences, Problems and Approaches](#)
- ✓ [Challenges of Technology on Youth Culture and Relationships](#)
- ✓ [Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities and Intersectionality](#)
- ✓ [Gender in Youth Participation: Motivations, Practises, Experiences](#)
- ✓ [Issues of Power in Youth Research](#)
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- ✓ [Precarious Youth: Precariousness between Work and Everyday Life](#)
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- ✓ [RC34 Mentoring Meeting](#)
- ✓ [Risks and Benefits: Consequences of Social Media Use for Young People](#)
- ✓ [Social and Societal Meanings of Peer Relations and Friendships](#)
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- ✓ [Technical and Vocational Education: Young People's Experiences and Perspectives on School to Work Transitions](#)
- ✓ [Theoretical, Methodological and Political Approaches to Inequalities in Childhood and Youth Studies. Challenges and Perspectives from the Global South](#)
- ✓ [Transnational Gangs, between Resistance and Resilience](#)
- ✓ [Young People and the Future of Work](#)
- ✓ [Young People, Collective Action and Participation: Diffusion and Innovation](#)
- ✓ [Young People's Transition to Work in Developing Contexts](#)
- ✓ [Young Refugees: Integration, Inclusion and Social Cohesion](#)
- ✓ [Youth in Brics Countries: Still a Relevant Formation?](#)
- ✓ [Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean: Inequalities, Intersectionality and Social Mobilization](#)
- ✓ [Youth, Gender and Place](#)



## Young people, well-being, resilience and enterprise: critical perspectives for the Anthropocene

The University of The Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain - 5th/7th September, 2019



The Anthropocene – allowing for its problematic discursive, symbolic and material manifestations – is, first, a discourse of diverse earth systems sciences. However, if ‘humans’ – in all their historical, cultural, social, economic and political diversity – are differently implicated in the emergence and consequences of the Anthropocene, then the social sciences and humanities must critically engage with, and contribute to, debates about these planetary wide changes and their consequences.

We are looking to start on-going conversations, collaborations and networking to discuss theoretical and/or methodological contributions to discussions about children and young people’s entanglements with the Anthropocene.

This website will also act as a communication tool through which to share and update information about the international conference “Young people, Well-being, Resilience and Enterprise: Critical perspectives for the Anthropocene” that will be held in the Paraninfo of the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU) in Bilbao (Spain) in September 2019 (see Conference tab for further details).

The conference – as an initial event in this larger collaboration – is aimed at researchers interested in presenting a paper, but also for anyone who is curious about the productive intersections and entanglements between young people and Anthropocene.

More details about the conference here: <https://youngpeopleanthropocene.org/>

## Youth Studies and the Challenges of Late Capitalism in a Globalised World

Journal of Youth Studies Conference - University of Newcastle, Australia - 2nd/4th December, 2019



Youth are always at the vanguard of social change. Facing an uncertain and insecure global economy, they strategise and struggle towards achieving their ambitions, reworking aspirations, and rethinking adult futures. Young people are also at the forefront of social and creative movements, from progressive intersectional politics, environmental activism or DIY spaces through to the rise of popular and post-feminism and the popular misogyny of the ‘alt-right’. Youth studies has a proud history of creating knowledge and understanding of young people’s lives and must now engage with projects that create a future for youth as the perilous realities of late capitalism in a globalised world emerge.

The University of Newcastle and the Consortium for Youth, Generations and Culture is holding the 3rd Journal of Youth Studies Conference to debate this future agenda, bring together new knowledge, and celebrate the journal’s 21st birthday. After the passing of much-loved founding editor Andy Furlong, and at the time of the Journal’s ‘coming of age’, it has renewed its aims and scope to explore critical perspectives on the way that social, cultural, economic and political processes and institutions shape the meaning of, and narratives about, youth, and how young people in their diversity engage with these conditions.

This ambition is particularly important, now, when youth studies faces a number of critical challenges. These include coming to grips with how young people’s lives are impacted by new mobilities of capital, culture and people, and the changing inequalities and identities emerging in the context of globalisation and late capitalism. These changing conditions bring key challenges for the field, such as the conceptual shifts that may be required to understand the lives of young people across and between the Global North and South, the need to engage different intellectual traditions and broader vantage points, and new opportunities for innovative research design. There is also a need for new interdisciplinary approaches and methodological agility to understand an interconnected and increasingly stratified world.

To pursue these possibilities, we invite papers from a broad range of disciplines – sociology, education, social policy, cultural studies, political science, economics, anthropology, criminology, internet studies and social geography – to address the current state of young people’s lives and to conceptualise what it will mean to be youth in the future.

More info: <https://joys2019.tumblr.com/>



## A personal note by...

### Ali Akbar Taj Mazinani

(Vice President for MENA)



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Tehran (Iran)

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I am currently the Dean of the Social Science Faculty at Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU) in Iran. ATU is the largest public university specializing in humanities and social sciences. We have a Master's program in Youth Studies and a research group on Socio-cultural Youth Studies. ATU University welcomes academic collaborations with universities and academic institutions involved in youth studies in other countries.

Prior to completing my PhD in Social Policy (focusing on Youth Studies) in the UK in 2010 (holding an ORS Award at the University of South Wales) I was attached to the National Youth Organization of Iran as Director General of the Youth Research Office and Head of the International Affairs Department.

I have undertaken several research projects and have published a number of works on youth and social policy with various national and international institutions including the National Youth Organization, UNICEF in Iran, the Council of Europe's Youth Directorate, Social Security Research Institute, and the Tehran Municipality. Alongside doing research projects, I have translated several key books related to youth studies as well as social policy into Persian. Meanwhile, I have had the opportunity to be engaged in the policy-making processes on youth issues at the national level, and have been involved in establishing a specialized youth studies library, and a databank on youth contexts in Iran during my service at the National Youth Organization.

I have been involved in organizing several scientific events including the recent international conference on 'Social Policy in the Islamic World' (<http://spiw.atu.ac.ir>) in May 2018 which attracted widespread international attention and which included a session on Children and Youth Policy. I have actively attended several ISA events in recent years and have organized a session on "Muslim Youth, Contemporary Challenges and Future Prospects" at the 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology (Vienna, Austria). I am interested in social policy including youth policy in Muslim societies which are mainly located in the MENA region and intend to use the RC34 platform to establish a more active network of youth researchers in this region. In line with this plan, I will be chairing an international conference in Tehran on 'Society and Culture in the Muslim World' in May 2020 which will include a session on youth research in MENA countries. It will be our pleasure to meet youth researchers from the region as well as from other Muslim countries or those researchers working on Muslim youth in other parts of the world.



## A personal note by...

### Kiran Odhav

(VP for Sub-Saharan Africa)



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My involvement with youth and research has been through the university but also outside of university structures in various ways. In my own Department (Sociology, North West University, South Africa) I am currently promoting or encouraging students and their studies in various areas, such as marginal youth, step children, public service delivery protests, cannabis legislation and human trafficking.

I have worked on youth research issues on ICT, water and health, higher and secondary education and sustainability of HIV-AIDS programs. Recently I have shifted to youth, university sport and hegemony in (South) Africa and India, and on the uncertainty in sports policy in South Africa as well as Southern theory, youth and emancipation, and African spirituality. I have also been supportive of youth-related empowerment in and out of universities.

My undergraduate studies were at the University of the Witwatersrand and a Masters degree from Essex University. My interest in the area of culture led me to work with youth on and off campus (open mike sessions and other cultural activities, including an alternative world cup and other arts-based activities in rural South Africa, with international artists), and facilitating local Sunday school learning activities.

I am also the country coordinator of a BRICS sociology research network and am working on a Sociology of BRICS in ISA, and on inequalities in BRICS countries more generally. I also co-ordinate an international student exchange programme at my university, and the South African Sociological Association's Sport's working group. Further international research on youth in the global South includes the following an attempt to trace the path of African youth from pre-university studies through university studies into the world of work; as well as comparative work on youth issues in Brazil and South Africa.

As a board member for RC34 I hope to encourage sustained efforts to facilitate youth studies and programs in the global South. I am also trying to set up a voluntary BRICS youth corps with an education arm, and to construct an African Sociological Association in the hope to stimulate youth studies on the African continent - one that has the largest share of youth on the globe.





## ABOUT US

### History

The ISA was founded 1948 in close cooperation with UNESCO's Research Department. As peace education and youth issues were in the forefront of the postwar, socio-political legacy of this foundation, many of the first officers of ISA were also youth sociologists. But in 1975 the 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 organisations aiming at conflict resolution, peace and the development of civic society. It is also the policy of RC 34 to invite for membership and participation colleagues from other disciplines as well as practitioners in the youth fields, and then to serve as a global, interdisciplinary network and meeting place for youth issues in general.

### Structure

The Committee is built on associational principles of individual membership, formal statutes, a General Meeting every fourth year at the World Congresses, also electing a Board running the RC between the Congresses.

The work is built on regional Vice-Presidencies running their activities and networking in various areas of the world, and 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.

### Objectives

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.

## JOIN US

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



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