

# Looking back at the 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology

*Andreas Karsten*

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# EDITORIAL

## Looking back at the 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology

by Andreas Karsten



The 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology in June 2025 in Rabat flew by with a rich and enriching programme of 27 thematic sessions, 2 presidential sessions, 5 sessions co-hosted with other research committees – making a total of 34 sessions, which Dan and Ilaria rightly called a serendipitous number for RC34!

**214 presenters and co-presenters from 44 countries contributed to the rich programme of RC34 at the 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Forum in Rabat, Morocco.**

The richness of the programme is maybe even better illustrated by the number of people involved: 42 session hosts, 214 presenters and co-presenters, affiliated with institutions and organisations in 44

countries across the globe. The top ten of the most frequent country affiliations include countries from six of the seven continents: Asia (China: 9), Africa (Morocco: 16; South Africa: 7), North America (United States: 12), South America (Chile: 15), Europe (United Kingdom: 23; Italy: 22; Germany: 14; Spain: 10), Australia (Australia: 21).

We enjoyed seeing so many of you in Rabat, and look forward to seeing even more of you in 2027 in Gwangju at the XXI ISA World Congress.

*Andreas Karsten  
Editor*



# RC34 at the ISA Forum

## All sessions and sessions organizer(s) of RC34 at the 5<sup>th</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology

### Youth Sociology in the Digital Era (1) the BRICS

*Session Organizer(s):*

Natalia WAECHTER, University of Graz, Austria  
Chunling LI, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

Tom DWYER, University of Campinas, Brazil

### (Dis)Entangling Young People's Everyday Lives from the Anthropocene amid Escalating Disasters and Climate Change: Justice, Activism and Implications for Those Working with Young People

*Session Organizer(s):*

Maria PISANI, University of Malta, Malta  
Fiona MACDONALD, Victoria University, Australia  
Trudi COOPER, Edith Cowan University, Australia  
Tim CORNEY, Victoria University, Australia

### Young People and Emotions in Actions. the Role of Emotions in Prosocial Behaviours Among the Young Generations

*Session Organizer(s):*

Maurizio MERICO, University of Salerno, Italy  
Gennaro IORIO, University of Salerno, Italy

### Young People and Stories of/for the Anthropocene

*Session Organizer(s):*

Peter KELLY, Deakin University, Australia

### Youth in the Mediterranean Area: Facing the Anthropocene (2)

*Session Organizer(s):*

Rachid JARMOUNI, University Moulay Ismail, Morocco

Maurizio MERICO, University of Salerno, Italy

### Islands of Youth Belonging: Between Processes of Mobilities and Territories (2)

*Session Organizer(s):*

Valentina CUZZOCREA, Università di Cagliari, Italy

Anita HARRIS, Deakin University, Australia

### Examining Contemporary Youth Transitions through Qualitative Longitudinal Research (1)

*Session Organizer(s):*

Hernan CUERVO, University of Melbourne, Australia  
Ana MIRANDA, FLACSO, Argentina

### Sociological Diagnosis of the Times from a Viewpoint of Changing Youth Cultures

*Session Organizer(s):*

Izumi TSUJI, Chuo University, Japan  
Tomohiko ASANO, Tokyo Gakugei University, Japan

### Beyond the Moral Panic of Juvenile Vacuity. Exploring Ambivalences and Potentialities in Young People "Doing Nothing"

*Session Organizer(s):*

Sebastiano BENASSO, University of Genova, Italy  
Ilaria PITTI, University of Bologna, Department of Sociology and Business Law, Italy  
Caterina SATTA, University of Cagliari, Italy

### Presidential Session: Opportunities for a Global Youth Studies

*Session Organizer(s):*

Dan WOODMAN, University of Melbourne, Australia  
Abeer MUSLEH, Bethlehem University, Palestine.

### Presidential Session: Cultures, Transitions, Identities and Politics - Intersecting Approaches in Youth Studies

*Session Organizer(s):*

Dan WOODMAN, University of Melbourne, Australia

### Islands of Youth Belonging: Between Processes of Mobilities and Territories (1)

*Session Organizer(s):*

Valentina CUZZOCREA, Università di Cagliari, Italy

and University of Cagliari, Italy

Anita HARRIS, Deakin University, Australia

## **How Can Sociology of Youth Research Catalyse Radical Social Change and Intergenerational Mobility?**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Adam COOPER, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

## **Transnational Dimension of Youth Political Participation**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Airi-Alina ALLASTE, Tallinn University, Estonia  
Ewa KRZAKLEWSKA, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland

## **Young People and the Future of Work**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Hiroyuki KUBOTA, Nihon University, Japan  
Naoki IGUCHI, Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan

## **Youth Futures in the Global South (2) Resistance**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Sharlene SWARTZ, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

## **Examining Contemporary Youth Transitions through Qualitative Longitudinal Research (2)**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Ana MIRANDA, FLACSO , Argentina  
Hernan CUERVO, University of Melbourne, Australia

## **Les Jeunes Face Aux Phénomènes Urbains**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Imane ARKHIS, Université Hassan II, Morocco

## **Jeunes Ruraux: Injustices Multiformes**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Fadma AIT MOUS, Hassan II University of Casablanca, Morocco  
Zakaria KADIRI, Hassan II University of Casablanca, Morocco

## **Youth in the Mediterranean Area: Facing the Anthropocene (1)**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Maurizio MERICO, University of Salerno, Italy  
Rachid JARMOUNI, University Moulay Ismail, Morocco

## **COVID-19, Substance Use, and the Impact of Risk upon the Lives and Futures of Youth**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Sampson BLAIR, The State University of New York, USA

Patricia CLASTER, Pennsylvania Western University, USA

Sheila MAXWELL, Michigan State University, USA

Timothy Madigan, Commonwealth University, USA.

## **Sociological Understandings of Health and Well-Being Among Young People**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Chandni BASU, Sister Nivedita University Kolkata, India

Jayanathan PERUMAL GOVENDER, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

## **Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean: Policies, Youth Resistance and Impact on Inequalities and Injustices**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Ada Cora FREYTES FREY, Universidad Nacional de Avellaneda/Universidad Nacional Arturo Jauretche, Argentina

Agustina CORICA, FLACSO , Argentina

Pablo VOMMERO, Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales, Argentina

## **The Milltown Boys over 50 Years: An Ethnography Reflection on a Career in Youth Studies**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Dan WOODMAN, University of Melbourne, Australia

Ilaria PITTI, University of Bologna, Italy

## **Youth Sociology in the Digital Era (2)**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Tom DWYER, University of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil

Natalia WAECHTER, University of Graz, Austria

Chunling LI, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

## **Youth Futures in the Global South (1) Aspiration**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Sharlene SWARTZ, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa and University of Cape Town, South Africa

## **Justice, Action and Institutions: Youth Activism and the Future of Democracies -**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Nicté CASTAÑEDA CAMEY, Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico

Ada Cora FREYTES FREY, Universidad Nacional Arturo Jauretche / Universidad Nacional de Avellaneda, Argentina

Andreas KARSTEN, Youth Policy Labs, Germany

## **Transitions, Social Mobility and Inequality**

*Session Organizer(s):*

Adam COOPER, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

## **Educational Workshop: How to Teach Students about Social Polarisation?**

*(Led by RC04 Education)*

*Session Organizer(s)/Chairs:*

Agata KOMENDANT-BRODOWSKA, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw  
Anna BEITANE, University of Tartu, Estonia.

Nataliia SOKOLOVSKA, Alexander von Humboldt Institut für Internet und Gesellschaft  
Germany

Wander JAGER, University of Groningen, Netherlands

## **Ambiguous Subjects in a Global Generation. Understanding Youth from Biographical Approaches,**

### **Part I**

*(Led by RC38 Biography and Society)*

*Session Organizer(s):*

Joschka PHILIPPS, University of Bayreuth, Germany  
Gérard AMOUGOU, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon

## **International Student Mobility and Contested Knowledges**

*(Led by RC04 Education and Society)*

*Session Organizer(s):*

Rachel Brooks, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Vera SPANGLER, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

## **Political Socialization of Younger Generations: Participation, Beliefs, Attitudes and Knowledge**

*(Led by RC42 Social Psychology)*

*Session Organizer(s):*

Daniel MIRANDA, Universidad de Chile, Chile  
Janina SUPPERS, University of Waikato, New Zealand.

## **Contested Everyday Temporalities. Children and Youth in Contemporary Changing Worlds**

*(Led by RC53 Sociology of Childhood)*

*Session Organizer(s):*

Ana MIRANDA, FLACSO, Argentina.

Valeria LLOBET, CONICET / UNSAM, Argentina.

معرفة العدالة في الأنثروبوسين

KNOWING JUSTICE IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

6-11 July 2025 11-6 يوليوز 2025

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# Impressions from the 5th ISA Forum

courtesy of the shared photo album of the ISA



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courtesy of the shared photo album of the ISA



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courtesy of the shared photo album of the ISA



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courtesy of the shared photo album of the ISA



# Repercussions of the Forum

by Howard Williamson and Maurice Devlin

In November 2022, following the publication of his third book about them, Howard Williamson (rc34 Senior Scholars Liaison and formerly Organisational Secretary) hosted a lunchtime pizza for the 'Milltown Boys' to thank them for 50 years of trust. The lunchtime gathering spilled over into the pub and ran into the late hours. The Boys wanted to do it again the following year, and it has become a November tradition.

At the ISA World Forum, in July 2025, Howard used an extended session to speak not only about the Milltown Boys' research but also about the history of youth studies and the history of Research Committee 34. Colleagues paid tribute to his contribution, including Maurice Devlin (a former Vice-President of rc34). Maurice had reviewed all three of the Milltown Boys trilogy (published in 1981, 2004 and 2021) – see <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F14733250211039076> – and he noted that he felt he knew the Boys so well although he had never met any of them.

Soon afterwards, I suggested he could meet them, by joining the 2025 November meal and indeed contributing to a university seminar, also held every year, to which two of the 'Boys' have contributed for many years, alongside a retired senior police officer Howard had connected them with over a decade ago.



Maurice duly flew from Dublin to Cardiff and immersed himself in the long weekend. It cannot have been easy, yet he connected very quickly with the Boys during the meal, became immersed in conversation with them throughout the day, and matched their volume of drinking. As Maurice collected some glasses, one of the Boys wryly noted that he should be reported for working illegally as a migrant to the UK! That revealed his level of almost immediate acceptance.



At the university seminar, one of Maurice's observations was that his experiences over the weekend confirmed in his mind the possibility of academic research combining quite profound personal re-

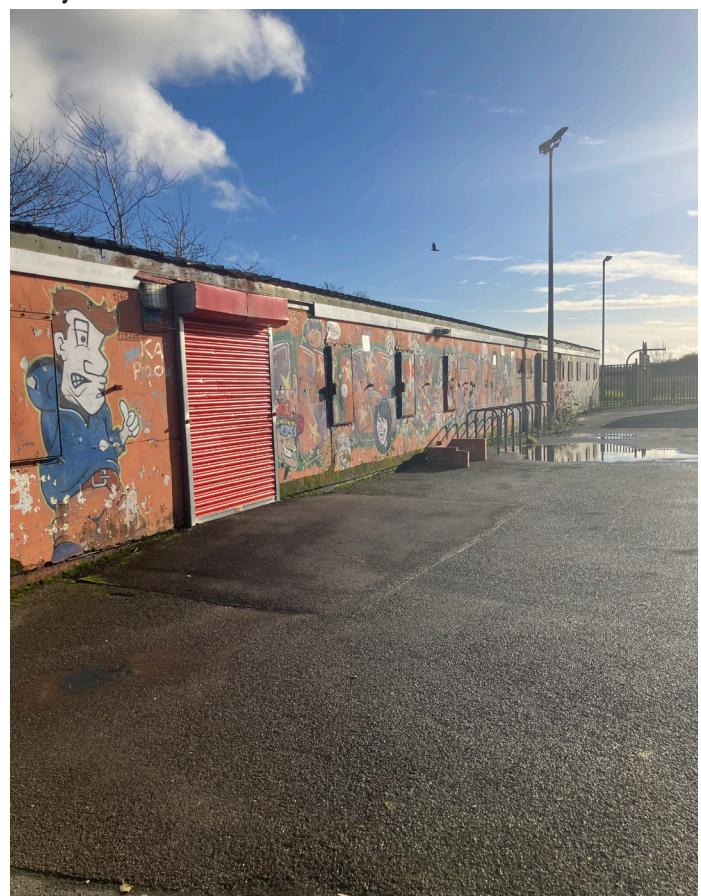


lationships and the inevitable mutuality and reciprocity that flows from that with robust academic reflection and analysis. This had been alluded to, but not elaborated, in a testimonial for Howard's second book, published when the Boys were middle-aged, as 'distant intimacy'.



At the three-hour long seminar, students asked Howard whether he would be writing a fourth book about the Boys when they are 70 (in five years' time). That is unlikely. Morbidity is kicking in with a vengeance. But ISA rc34 can still lay claim to having a ground-breaking longitudinal qualitative study going back to

1973 in its midst. To familiarise Maurice with what he was about to encounter, Howard took him to the place where it all started – the Recreation Ground in Milltown where the Boys hung out in their early teenage years. Those shared beginnings were the start of life courses that have played out in many diverse ways.



# News from the regions

## Global Youth Studies: Theories from India

Dan Woodman, RC34 President, and Vinod Chandra, Vice President for Asia, co-organised a workshop in New Delhi on December 16 bringing together Indian youth sociologists. Of India's almost 1.5 billion people, almost two thirds are aged under 35 and the country has a growing and vibrant youth studies sector, contributing new ideas to the study of youth unemployment, educational transitions, and gendered violence among other topics.

The workshop investigated the contribution that conceptual approaches developed in India can make not only for thinking about youth experiences in India but for progressing on key questions about social action, politics, social change, difference and inequality currently being discussed in the international youth studies community.





# Our board

## RC34 Board 2023-2027



Dan Woodman  
*President*



Ilaria Pitti  
*Secretary*



Natalia Wächter  
*Treasurer*



Septrin Calamba  
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Andreas Karsten  
*Newsletter Editor*



Howard Williamson  
*Senior Scholars Liaison*



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Vinod Chandra  
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Aira-Alina Allaste  
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*VP Europe*



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Abeer Musleh  
*VP Middle East*



Rachid Jarmouni  
*VP North Africa*



Sampson Blair  
*VP North America*



Bronwyn Wood  
*VP Oceania*



Adam Cooper  
*VP Sub-Saharan Africa*

# About RC34

## Our 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 work of RC34 is built on regional Vice-Presidencies managing local RC34 activities and networking in their re-

spective areas of the world, along with a Bureau taking care of the membership services and general, strategic affairs connected to the Presidency.

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 manage the Research Committee. Business meetings are also held at the ISA Forums.

## Our history

The ISA was founded 1948 in close co-operation 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.

In 1975, the Research Committee for the Sociology of Youth (RC34) was established as a specialized branch of ISA.

**“ RC34 has been, from its beginning, committed to the heritage of the social and political responsibility of research.**

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.