Youth Transitions

Global Interdisciplinary Policy Research Conference and Network

Date and Venue
20 – 21 February 2020
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Maison de la paix, 2A Chemin Eugène-Rigot, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
The Conference of Policy Research on Youth Transitions

The youth employment question has become a global policy issue on the world stage, since the global financial crisis of 2007/8 and the 2011/12 Arab uprisings. The global reach of the challenge through their disproportionate, lasting and multi-faceted impact on young women and men, point to structural changes that are at work in a globalized world making youth transitions more difficult and uncertain. The widening gap between youth aspirations and the realities they face shape youth transitions from school to work as well as their participation in political and societal spheres.

At the global level, the 2030 Development Agenda and its 17 Goals provide a platform for converging action by policy makers and multiple stakeholders across the world. Youth transitions are central across this agenda. The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, a UN-led initiative coordinated by ILO and launched in 2016, under the aegis of this Development Agenda, is forging an inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership to scale up action and impact on youth employment and the school to work dimension of youth transitions. The 2030 SDG framework and the Global initiative emphasize the critical importance of evidence-based policy making and invite the academic and research community to engage proactively.

The two days Conference on Interdisciplinary Policy Research on Youth Transitions (Geneva, 20-21 February 2020) brings together academia, researchers and think tanks, from global North and South, working on youth policies across disciplines, with policy and action partners, including government, international organizations, private sector and civil society. Various research studies, surveys and policy reports by local and international institutions, attempt to analyze specific aspects of these changes for the future of work, for inclusive and sustainable development and for political stability in different global and local contexts. The Conference will provide a forum to critically review the state of knowledge and evidence on youth transitions and to renew the policy research agenda. Key dimensions of youth transitions in particular transitions from school to work; conflict and peace; civic and political participation will be examined.

The Conference Programme includes two segments. In the first public segment(Thursday the 20th February and the morning of the 21st) through plenary and parallel panels, the latest knowledge on selected themes of highest policy relevance for youth transitions will be presented and debated. Each panel will identify gaps for further research and pathways for bridging evidence with action. The first segment of the Conference is open for interactive exchange with a broad audience.

20 February 2020 - Day 1

09:00 – 09:30 Registration (Hall P1)

09:30 – 09:45 Welcome and opening (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)
Philippe Burrin, Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
Pablo Páramo Montero, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations
Sukti Dasgupta, Chief, Employment and Labour Markets Policies, ILO

09:45 – 10:15 Session 1: Youth transitions in a changing world: New perspectives (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)
Azita Berar Awad, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

10:15 – 11:00 Session 2A: “School to work” transition: In Crisis? (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)
Panel 1
Moderator and introduction
Sukti Dasgupta, ILO
Diego Sánchez Ancochea, University of Oxford: Perspectives on Inequality in Latin America
Francesco Pastore, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”: A Perspective from EU Countries
Paula Herrera-Idárraga, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana: Youth, Gender and Informality in Colombia

11:00 – 11:30 Tea and Coffee Break (Hall P1)

11:30 – 13:00 Session 2B: “School to work” transition: In Crisis? (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)
Panel 2
Moderator and introduction
Emma Murphy, Durham University
Saâd Belghazi, Economist, Rabat: A Moroccan Perspective
Robert MacDonald, University of Huddersfield: Youth Transitions in the Deindustrialised North: The Case of the UK
Anamitra Roychowdhury, Jawaharlal Nehru University: Demographic Dividend or Disaster? Labour Market Opportunities for the Youth in India
Ruttiya Bhula-or, Chulalongkorn University: Socioeconomic Determinants of Youth NEETs and their Family

13:00 – 14:00 Stand-up Lunch (by invitation only, Hall P1)
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Moderators/Introduction</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 15:15</td>
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<td>Thematic Panel 3B: The future of work and youth participation in the digital economy: From digital divide to digital platforms, in search of inclusive paradigms</td>
<td>Filipe Calvao, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Adrián Scribano, Universidad de Buenos Aires: Digitalisation and Transformation of Young Peoples’ Work Experience in the Global South, Janine Berg, ILO: Digital Platforms and Regulations</td>
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<td>15:15 –</td>
<td>Session 4: Parallel Thematic discussions (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A and B)</td>
<td>Thematic Panel 4A: Youth and mobility: Changing agendas?</td>
<td>Elena Sánchez-Montijano, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Mexico, Emma Murphy, Durham University: Young Women and Mobility – The Case of Tunisia, Sara Mercandalli, CIRAD: Rural Youth Migrations in Sub-Saharan Africa, Natalia Popova, ILO: Policy Coherence for Improved Labour Migration with Specific Reference to West Africa</td>
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<td>16:45 –</td>
<td>Tea and Coffee Break (Hall P1)</td>
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<td>Thematic Panel 5B: Young academics’ research and visions on Africa</td>
<td>Evelyn Vezza, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Luca Tiberti, Université Laval and PEP: Climate Shocks, Transition to Adulthood and Resilience Measures, Monica Lombok-Quayefio, University of Ghana: Young People’s Access to Land in Rural Nigeria, Eyob Balcha Gebremariam, London School of Economics and Political Science: Inequalities and Young Peoples’ Civic Engagement in Ethiopia</td>
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<td>18:15 – 18:30</td>
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<td>Transition to Keynote</td>
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<td>18:30 –</td>
<td>Keynote Speech: Youth and Politics: A View from the Global South (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)</td>
<td>Asef BAYAT, Professor of Global and Transnational Studies at the Department of Sociology, University of Illinois and author of multiple publications on youth politics</td>
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<td>19:45 –</td>
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<td>Conference Dinner (Restaurant, by invitation only)</td>
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The Global Interdisciplinary Network of Policy Research on Youth Transitions

In the second segment, invited participants from the academic and research community and key partners will discuss the vision, strategy and launch of the first Global Network of Policy Research on Youth Transitions. The Network aims at reviewing and renewing the policy research agenda and interface, on a continuous basis, in the fast-changing environment.

Through cooperation amongst members supported by a hub at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, the Global Network will pursue a threefold objective:

1. connecting dispersed sources of policy research undertakings,
2. promoting further independent research and understanding of youth transitions critical for policy and action and,
3. influencing global and national policy making.

The Network aims at an inclusive and global outreach to academia, researchers and think tanks who work on youth transition issues in the global South and North, East and West.

Following the launch, the Global Network will actively welcome further contributions and expanded partnership through modalities that will be announced later.
The Conference is organized with the support of ILO, multi-stakeholder partners of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and several academic and research institutions interested in the creation, dissemination and use of policy relevant research on youth transitions.

More information and latest programme, abstracts and speakers biographies, please visit the following link: https://graduateinstitute.ch/communications/events/youth-transitions-global-interdisciplinary-policy-research-conference or scan the QR code:
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