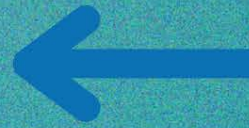


Keynote speakers:  
Geoffrey Pleyers  
Benjamin Perasović



15 - 18 / 10 / 25

ESA RN30 Mid-term Conference:

Youth and Young Adults in a  
Radically Changing World:  
Stagnation, Continuation and  
New Beginnings

Venue:  
Hotel Tourist  
Varaždin, Croatia



# ESA RN30 Mid-term Conference Youth and Young Adults in a Radically Changing World: Stagnation, Continuation and New Beginnings Programme

<b>Day 1 15/10</b>		
Departure from Zagreb to the Conference Venue		<b>18.00</b>
Welcome and introduction from the local organisers		<b>20.00</b>
Dinner		<b>20.00</b>
<b>Day 2 16/10</b>		
Breakfast		
<b>Keynote lecture: Geoffrey Pleyers</b>		<b>9.00 -10.15</b>
Coffee break 1		<b>10.15-10.45</b>
<b>Session: 1 Political Participation &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Session: 2 Work and Precarity</b>	
Lidia Lo Schiavo – Student Movements and “Mosaic Activism” in Italy	Annalisa Dordoni – The Youth Question: Job Instability, Economic Vulnerability, and Biographical Transitions	
Paula Joanna Sillat & Airi-Alina Allaste – How a Social Media Platform Influences Youth Political Participation	Elena Gobbino, Sonia Bertolini & Veronica Allegretti – New senses of work for new ways of becoming adults?	<b>10.45-12.15</b>
Marta Visioli & Veronica Riniolo – Youth Voices and New Beginnings: Rethinking Political Participation from the Margins	Lotta Haikkola – Young workers’ constructions of solidarity and responsibility in restaurant and warehouse work	
<b>Session: 3 Political Participation &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Session: 4 Education and Mobility</b>	
Anja Gvozdanović & Dragan Stanojević – Political authoritarianism among youth in Southeast Europe	Üzeyir Tireli – Inclusion and Exclusion among Ethnic Minority Students in Teacher Education	
Hilary Pilkington, Andrew Miles & Michele Lamont – ‘Every other country looks after their own, but our's don't’: Explaining support for the populist radical right among the young working class	Ewa Krzaklewska & Magdalena Klarenbach – When Mobility Meets Uncertainty: Erasmus+ and Student Pathways in a context of crises	<b>12.30-14.00</b>
Dragan Stanojević, Smiljka Tomanović & Milica Vlajić – Seeking Reliability Amidst Uncertainty: The Emergence of a New Political Generation in Serbia	Stefanie Schuddebeurs – Navigating educational systems towards an insecure future: schooling strategies of Ukrainian displaced youth in The Hague (NL)	
Lunch		<b>14.00-15.00</b>

<b>Session: 5 Political Participation &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Session: 6 Wellbeing</b>	
Augustin Derado & Kristina Dobra – Tradition, Tensions, and Transformation: Generational Engagement with Sustainability on a Croatian Island	Anne Görlich & Søren Christian Krogh – Psychologization and new forms of vulnerability among youth: a double-edged sword?	<b>15.00-16.30</b>
Davide Girardi & Cecilia Pellizzari – Clusters of Italian Youth Environmental Participation	Noemi Katznelson, Mette Lykke Nielsen & Niels Ulrik Sørensen – Well-being in a changing world	
Nikola Baketa, Jelena Matić Bojić & Marko Kovačić – Understanding, Resisting, and Relating to Politics: Youth Perspectives from Croatian Secondary Schools	Elżbieta Czerwińska-Kubisiak – Narratives of Teenage Depression and Mental Disorders in Popular Streaming Series: A Multimodal Analysis	
Coffee break 2		<b>16.30-17.00</b>
<b>Session: 7 Political Participation &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Session: 8 Wellbeing</b>	
Alice Sanarico – The Impact of Gender and Family SES on Youth Online Political Participation in Europe	Anne Berngruber, Christine Steiner & Lisa Hasenbein – Lost in Transition? Life Course Norms and Feelings of Loneliness Among Young Adults	<b>17.00-18.30</b>
Airi-Alina Allaste & Paula Joanna Sillat – International Students' Views on Political Participation	Dunja Potočnik, Sandra Antulić Majcen & Andrej Naterer – Youth Subjective Wellbeing and the Role of Support Structures During and After the Pandemic in Croatia and Slovenia	
András Déri & Luca Turda - Performative Activism: The Concept and Its Discursive Manifestation in a Hungarian Fan Community	Fien Pauwels, Bram Spruyt & Jessy Siongers – Social differences in youth volunteering in an increasingly diverse society: an intersectional approach	
Dinner		<b>19.00</b>
<b>Day 3 17/10</b>		
Breakfast		
<b>Keynote lecture: Benjamin Perasović</b>		<b>9.00 -10.15</b>
<b>Session: 9 Work and Migration</b>	<b>Session: 10 Youth Imaginaries</b>	
Daria Tolstykh – Imagined Mobility and Youth Transitions in the Arctic Periphery	Carmen Leccardi – Young People’s ‘Time Work’: A Strategic Tool to Survive Crisis and Express Creativity	<b>10.30-12.00</b>
Giuliana Parente & Zeynep Menteshoglu Tardivo – Intergenerational (Mis)alignment: Migration Backgrounds and Future Aspirations	Victoria de Leon Born, Kristinn Hegna & Kristin Beate Vasbø – Youth imaginaries of the future, self and autonomy: Two generations’ narratives of independence	
Kristin Beate Vasbø – The Voice of Youth in schools: Navigating complexity through interdisciplinary teaching in Norwegian schools	Božidar Filipović, Irena Stojković, Marija Jelić, Tatjana Mentus & Marijana Veselinović – Images of Becoming: Instagram as a Visual Record of Transitions into Adulthood	

Coffee break 3		<b>12.00-12.30</b>
<b>Session: 11 Inequalities and Youth</b>	<b>Session: 12 Identity and Belonging</b>	<b>12.30-14.00</b>
Inga Tomić-Koludrović, Mirko Petrić, Predrag Cvetičanin & Adrian Leguina – Lifestyles and Life Chances: Socio-Digital Inequalities and Life Chances of Croatian Students	Anja Norell – Intergenerational Meaning-Making on Racism in Sweden	
Noor Nassef – An Expanded Family – Dynamics of Relationships Among Youth, Parents and Police in Multiracial Suburbs in Sweden	Dino Vukušić – The role of style in shaping identity among (post)subcultural youth groups in Zagreb	
Frida Westerback & Mirja Määttä – Researching Young Adults Over Time: Ethical and Relational Dimensions of Qualitative Longitudinal Studies	Adi Rosenstock – Taiwanese Gastro-Generation: Young Adults Constructing National Identity through Everyday Food Practices in Taipei.	
Lunch		<b>14.00-15.00</b>
Trip /activity		<b>15.00-19.00</b>
Dinner		<b>19.30</b>
<b>Day 4 18/10</b>		
Breakfast		
Departure		<b>In the morning</b>

## **Annalisa Dordoni – The Youth Question: Job Instability, Economic Vulnerability, and Biographical Transitions**

This reflection investigates the economic instability and vulnerability of youth and young adults in the context of ongoing urban transformations, focusing on Italian cities undergoing rapid change due to touristification, overtourism, and the expansion of consumer-oriented services. These dynamics intersect with broader structural trends – including the fragmentation and destandardization of youth employment and the persistent mismatch between qualifications and job opportunities – contributing to the proletarianization of youth work.

At the same time, gentrification and rising living costs, especially housing, are reshaping young people's everyday experiences and access to urban space – their “right to the city,” as well as their right to decent work and reduced inequalities, as emphasised in the 2030 Agenda. These pressures affect not only employment but also biographical transitions, including autonomy, family formation, and residential choices.

Drawing on recent studies and sociological debate, this speech explores how these interconnected dimensions contribute to the emergence of a “youth question” in contemporary Italy – a question still largely overlooked by public policy and institutions. It is emblematic that the Next Generation EU programme has been rebranded in Italy as the PNRR, National Recovery and Resilience Plan, rendering youth issues invisible. Labour and housing precariousness combine to produce prolonged dependence on the family of origin, frustration, and disorientation, challenging traditional assumptions about life courses and social mobility.

Addressing the youth question requires not only a deeper understanding of the socio-economic conditions affecting younger generations, but also a critical rethinking of urban and labour policies in Italy.

## RN30 Mid-Term Conference

### *Youth and Young Adults in a Radically Changing World: Stagnation, Continuation and New Beginnings*

#### *Practical Information and Abstract Submission*

- **Conference dates and venue:** October 15-18, 2025, Zagreb (location to be specified later)
- **Participation fees:** approximately 500 € (discounts are available for ESA members, PhD students, and individuals with limited funding). The cost includes the conference fee, accommodation, food, and transfers between Zagreb and the conference venue.
- **Submission deadline: the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2025**
- **Abstracts (maximum 250 words)** should outline the aims, research questions, and theoretical framework. Empirical papers should also include details of the research design, methodology and methods, as well as research results or preliminary findings. Please submit your abstract by completing this form: <https://forms.gle/R3PYAsALwiU3d7nCA>. If the link does not work, copy and paste it into your browser. Kindly note that the first author, or at least one of the co-authors submitting an abstract, is required to present it in person.

Because of practical limitations, the conference will host a maximum of 50-60 in-person participants and attendees. Please note that those presenting an abstract are required to attend in person. We will try to arrange online streaming for those who wish to follow the event remotely. Remote participation is only available for attendees, not for presenters.

#### *Local Organizing Committee*

**Anja Gvozdanović** (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb)

**Marko Mustapić** (Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar)

**Bruno Šimac** (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb)

**Dino Vukušić** (Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar)

#### *Croatian Sociological Association*

#### *Keynote Speakers*

**Geoffrey Pleyers** (ISA President; CriDIS, University of Louvain)

**Benjamin Perasović** (Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, University of Zagreb)

#### *RN30 Scientific and Organizational Committee*

**Annalisa Dordoni** (Coordinator of RN30, University of Milano-Bicocca), **Dragan Stanojević** (Co-coordinator of RN30, University of Belgrade), **Lotta Haikkola** (Finnish Youth Research Society), **Paula Joanna Sillat** (Tallinn University), **Azad Heydarov** (University of Wrocław), **Carmen Leccardi** (University of Milano-Bicocca), **Maria Bruselius-Jensen** (Aalborg University), **Lidia Lo Schiavo** (University of Messina), **Demet Lukuslu** (Yeditepe University).

## *Call for Papers*

The contemporary era is marked by rapid and intersecting political, economic, cultural, and environmental transformations, profoundly affecting the experiences and possibilities of youth and young adults. These shifts reshape transitions to adulthood, employment prospects, educational trajectories, and democratic participation.

The ESA RN30 Youth and Generation Mid-Term Conference 2025 aims to explore how young people navigate these challenges and act as agents of change within the shifting global landscape. The conference asks: how are young people affected by these structural changes, how do they navigate and cope with them, and how do they develop new practices to engage and influence the changes?

The conference will first examine the changes of transitions into adulthood, which for some are prolonged and more uncertain as they are shaped by economic instability, precarious labour conditions, and growing intergenerational divides, especially in work and housing issues. These suspended transitions intersect with broader shifts in democratic participation and social cohesion. Exploring how youth experience and respond to these changes in transitions provides critical insights into their evolving social roles.

Second, a central focus will be on youth engagement in civic, cultural, and political life and how they take part in shaping their conditions and defining new ways to become young. Emerging forms of political activity, including new social movements, digital activism, and critical consumerism, are transforming traditional understandings of collective action. Youth are both at the forefront of efforts to uphold democratic values and resistance amidst political instability and erosion of social cohesion, while there are also increasing tendencies for young people to engage in anti-democratic movements.

Additionally, the conference will delve into youth perspectives on security and war, exploring their experiences in navigating geopolitical tensions, conflict, and global uncertainty. Young people often grapple with the personal and collective challenges of maintaining safety and resilience in complex contexts. Also, their responses, whether through advocacy or involvement in these conflicts and even in wars, reveal their critical role in reimagining security frameworks and democracy.

Moreover, youth experiences and responses to ecological crises and environmental challenges will be a crucial area of inquiry. Environmental degradation and climate change pose urgent threats, disproportionately affecting younger generations. These crises have spurred the rise of youth-led movements and innovative practices aimed at sustainability, political ecology, environmentalism, climate justice, and systemic change. Examining how young people mobilize and advocate for ecological futures highlights their role in addressing one of our time's most pressing global challenges.

Furthermore, the conference will explore the implications of technological advancements for youth, particularly regarding employment prospects, social mobility, and identity information. The transformations brought by automation, artificial intelligence, and the gig economy profoundly affect the future of work, data management and privacy as well as labour instability and social isolation. At the

same time, digital technologies influence how young people construct identities, build relationships, and engage with their communities *onlife* blurring the boundaries between the digital and physical worlds.

In addition, the role of migration, mobility, and global inequalities in shaping youth paths and everyday lives will be a key theme. Young people's experiences of migration, mobility, and disparities between the Global North and South highlight the importance of understanding the global dimensions of youth inequalities and global solidarities. These issues are further enriched by examining generational fractions and their intersections with socioeconomic inequalities and migratory backgrounds.

Finally, the cultural dimensions of youth identity, personal and social, will also be a central focus. Digital and local cultures and subcultures offer young people spaces to express themselves, form connections, and engage in collective and individual action. Conversely, digital contexts may also serve to express destabilization, frustration, and rage, reflecting broader social and political dynamics that undermine social cohesion and increasing frictions between social groups, categories, and minorities, creating networks for the reproduction of discrimination and violence.

In conclusion, papers may draw on a range of social science methods (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods) and engage with topics such as:

- Changed transitions to adulthood, job instability, flexible work practices and the paradox of mobility and socioeconomic and labour inequalities
- Generational differences and intergenerational conflicts as well as generational dialogues and solidarities
- Youth engagement in both everyday life, traditional and emerging forms of activism and participation
- Youth self-awareness as for their generational inter-and intra-generational relations
- Youth perspectives and engagement in security, war, political conflicts, and the crisis of democracy
- Responses to ecological crises and youth-led (anti) environmental movements
- The role of technology in shaping youth identities, opportunities, and social interactions
- Migration, mobility, and the migratory background experienced by young generations
- Digital and local cultures or subcultures in shaping youth experiences and expressions
- Emotions, aspirations, real utopias in youth social and political representations.

We invite colleagues to submit abstracts of up to 250 words that address the diverse and multifaceted experiences of youth and young adults across the globe, including theoretical, methodological, and epistemological reflections, as well as empirical research utilizing diverse social science methods, both quantitative and qualitative, or mixed methods. By engaging with these themes, we invite interdisciplinary studies illuminating youth studies' complexity. We also welcome comparative perspectives on youth experiences in different regions beyond Europe.

We look forward to your contributions and to fostering meaningful discussions that deepen our understanding of young people and young adults in a transforming world.