



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) <i>Philippe Burrin</i> , Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva <i>Pablo Páramo Montero</i> , Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations <i>Sukti Dasgupta</i> , 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) <i>Azita Berar Awad</i> , 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 <i>Sukti Dasgupta</i> , ILO <i>Diego Sánchez Ancochea</i> , University of Oxford: <i>Perspectives on Inequality in Latin America</i> <i>Francesco Pastore</i> , University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”: <i>A Perspective from EU Countries</i> <i>Paula Herrera-Idárraga</i> , Pontificia Universidad Javeriana: <i>Youth, Gender and Informality in Colombia</i>
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 <i>Emma Murphy</i> , Durham University <i>Saâd Belghazi</i> , Economist, Rabat: <i>A Moroccan Perspective</i> <i>Robert MacDonald</i> , University of Huddersfield: <i>Youth Transitions in the Deindustrialised North: The Case of the UK</i> <i>Anamitra Roychowdhury</i> , Jawaharlal Nehru University: <i>Demographic Dividend or Disaster? Labour Market Opportunities for the Youth in India</i> <i>Ruttiya Bhula-or</i> , Chulalongkorn University: <i>Socioeconomic Determinants of Youth NEETs and their Family</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Stand-up Lunch (by invitation only, Hall P1)

14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Parallel Thematic discussions (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A and B)	
	<p>Thematic Panel 3A Youth, future of agriculture and environmental transition: Issues for policy and research Moderator and introduction Peter Wobst, FAO</p> <p><i>Bruno Losch</i>, GovInn Centre, University of the Western Cape and CIRAD: <i>The Evolution of the Agri-food Sector and Job Creation in Sub-Saharan Africa</i></p> <p><i>Christophe Gironde</i>, Graduate Institute Geneva: <i>Access to Land in an Intergenerational Perspective – The Case of Cambodia</i></p> <p><i>Grace Mwaura</i>, African Academy of Sciences: <i>Young People and Agricultural Commercialization in Africa</i></p>	<p>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 Moderator and introduction Filipe Calvao, Graduate Institute, Geneva</p> <p><i>Adrián Scribano</i>, Universidad de Buenos Aires: <i>Digitalisation and Transformation of Young Peoples’ Work Experience in the Global South</i></p> <p><i>Janine Berg</i>, ILO: <i>Digital Platforms and Regulations</i></p>
15:15 – 16:45	Session 4: Parallel Thematic discussions (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A and B)	
	<p>Thematic Panel 4A Youth and mobility: Changing agendas? Moderator and introduction Elena Sánchez-Montijano, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Mexico</p> <p><i>Emma Murphy</i>, Durham University: <i>Young Women and Mobility – The Case of Tunisia</i></p> <p><i>Sara Mercandalli</i>, CIRAD: <i>Rural Youth Migrations in Sub-Saharan Africa</i></p> <p><i>Natalia Poppova</i>, ILO: <i>Policy Coherence for Improved Labour Migration with Specific Reference to West Africa</i></p>	<p>Thematic Panel 4B Future of education and skills: What next? Moderator and introduction Klaus Zimmermann, GLO</p> <p><i>Irina Burak</i>, Moscow State University: <i>Professional Education and Adaptation to Changing Labour Market Conditions – The Case of Russia</i></p> <p><i>Mohamed Ali Marouani</i>, Institut de recherche pour le développement: <i>Structural Change, Skills Demand and Overeducation in Tunisia</i></p> <p><i>Anthony Mann</i>, OECD: <i>Youth Education and Aspirations: Insights from PISA2018</i></p> <p><i>Dominic Richardson</i>, UNICEF INNOCENTI: <i>Education for Displaced Youth and Children</i></p>
16:45 – 17:15	Tea and Coffee Break (Hall P1)	
17:15 – 18:15	Session 5: Parallel Thematic discussions (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A and B)	
	<p>Thematic Panel 5A Youth and entrepreneurship: Moving the debate forward Moderator and introduction Susana Puerto, ILO</p> <p><i>Jane Mariara</i>, PEP: <i>Prospects and Challenges of Youth Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries – What are the Evidence and Policy Gaps?</i></p> <p><i>Jochen Kluve</i>, KfW: <i>Is Youth Entrepreneurship THE Solution?</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Mohan</i>, ITC, <i>Does Aid for Trade Work for Youth?</i></p>	<p>Thematic Panel 5B Young academics’ research and visions on Africa Moderator and introduction Evelyn Veza, Universidad Nacional de La Plata</p> <p><i>Luca Tiberti</i>, Université Laval and PEP: <i>Climate Shocks, Transition to Adulthood and Resilience Measures</i></p> <p><i>Monica Lambon-Quayefio</i>, University of Ghana: <i>Young People’s Access to Land in Rural Nigeria</i></p> <p><i>Eyob Balcha Gebremariam</i>, London School of Economics and Political Science: <i>Inequalities and Young Peoples’ Civic Engagement in Ethiopia</i></p>
18:15 – 18:30	Transition to Keynote	
18:30 – 19:45	<p>Keynote Speech: Youth and Politics: A View from the Global South (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)</p> <p>Asef BAYAT, Professor of Global and Transnational Studies at the Department of Sociology, University of Illinois and author of multiple publications on youth politics</p>	
20:00 – 22:30	Conference Dinner (Restaurant, by invitation only)	

21 February 2020 - Day 2

08:30 – 10:00 **Session 6: Youth in “conflict and peace” transitions** (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)

Moderator and introduction

Siobhan McEvoy-Levy, Butler University

Marjoke Oosterom, IDS: *The Politics of Youth Interventions in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings*

Paula Herrera-Idárraga, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana: *Impact of Conflict on Labour: the Case of Colombia*

Cillian Nolan, J-PAL: *Evidence on Youth in Transition in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings*

Paloma Lainz, UNOY: *Youth Agency in Peace Making: What Helps or Hinders*

Tarila Marclint Ebiede, Centre for Research on Peace and Development: *Non Violent Youth in Conflict Affected Society*

10:00 – 10:30 **Tea and Coffee Break** (Hall P1)

10:30–12:00 **Session 7: Youth, political participation and civic engagement: unlocking the security and development agendas** (Auditorium Ivan Pictet A)

Moderator and introduction

Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

Eduard Soler, CIDOB-Barcelona Centre for International Affairs: *Youth Politics and Policies in the MENA Region*

Tamirace Fakhoury, Lebanese American University: *Youth and Political Participation – The Case of Lebanon*

Madgerie Jameson-Charles, The University of the West Indies: *Youth Mobilising Youth to Vote in Guyana*

12:00 – 13:00 **Stand-up Lunch** (by invitation only, Hall P1)

13:00 – 17:00 **SESSIONS 8 to 10: Roundtable Discussions with Core Network Group and Invited Partners** (upon invitation only) (Room TBC)

13:00 – 14:00 **SESSION 8: Takeaways from conference discussion for the global network on youth transitions**

14:00 – 15:00 **SESSION 9: Introduction and discussion of the concept note on the global network of policy research on youth transitions**

15:00 – 17:00 **SESSION 10: Partnership for policy research**

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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