

Young people's politics in diverse societies: creating hopeful geographies?

Organisers: Elizabeth Mavroudi and Louise Holt, Loughborough University

Sponsored by the Population Geography Research Group

This session seeks to bring together current research about young people's politics in diverse societies. Recent research has highlighted the politics of young people (Dyson and Jeffrey, 2018) and that young people are political subjects. We argue that there is a need to bring more attention to young people's political subjectivities in diverse and superdiverse (Vertovec, 2007) contexts. We are intrigued by how young people imagine, construct, represent and perform their subjectivities and politics in the context of increasingly diverse and mobile societies. At a time where diversity is increasing in many societies, it is important to gather and assess the views of younger people as they negotiate lives and identities in relation to multiple, cross-cutting times, spaces and places. This is particularly pertinent to this particularly insecure and unstable moment, politically, socially, and economically, which has led to, in many contexts, an increase in populist and intolerant political contexts. We argue that there is a need to delve deeper into the outcomes of young people's politics for young people themselves, and for their peers, families, communities, and societies within and across borders and boundaries. What futures do these young people envisage, and how are they carving these out for themselves, and how is this linked to their subjectivities, belonging and perceptions of home, citizenship, diversity, marginalisation, racism, nationalism and politics? Can attention to young people's own political subjectivities and actions suggest a way towards more hopeful geographies?

We invite paper contributions which address these concerns. Papers might consider, but are not limited to, the following:

- Broader political agendas and horizons which constrain and enable youthful politics
- Diasporic political sensibilities, with multiple connections to different places
- Different versions and articulations of politics, nationalism and citizenship
- Transformative politics of youthful encounters
- Young people's politics and complex, grounded positionalities
- Links between young people's identities, actions and politics
- Spaces and networks of youth politics
- The role of social media and ICT in enabling and constraining youth politics

Please send abstracts of 250 words max to e.mavroudi@lboro.ac.uk and l.holt@lboro.ac.uk by 6th February 2019.

Cited references

Dyson, J., & Jeffrey, C. (2018). Everyday prefiguration: Youth social action in north India. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. Early view online

Vertovec, S. (2007). Super-diversity and its implications. *Ethnic and racial studies*, 30(6), 1024-1054.