



Biennial Report of Research Network 30 Youth & Generation

a. Outgoing Coordinators and board members (2015-2017)

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Board Members:

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b. Incoming Coordinators and Board Members (2017-2019)

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Vice coordinator: Carlo Genova (University of Torino, Italy) carlo.genova@unito.it

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Activities

ESA secretariat reported 106 affiliates in good standing order at the time of Athens conference, making RN30 one of the biggest RN of ESA. The following highlights key activities of the board.

Midterm conference: As within its tradition, RN30 has organised a midterm conference, entitled 'Global Youth Futures: Perspectives and Prospects'. This took place in Ericeira (near Lisbon), Portugal, on 15-18 January 2017. Local organiser was board member Nuno de Almeida Alves (ISCTE, University of Lisbon). The conference featured some elements of continuities (for example, the choice of a non urban location; an unusual length of 40 minutes for presentations and discussion; a very specific theme of research within youth research), but also some elements of novelty. For instance, for the first time, RN 30 midterm was organized in association with ISA RC 34 'Sociology of Youth'. This was the result of a growing interest in collaboration among the two research groups and a symbolic occasion to give evidence to this. Yet, it implied some organizational adjustments, for instance the conference was scheduled slightly later than it would have been, not to overlap with ISA major event in Europe in 2016 (ie. ISA Vienna Forum in July), and the number of accepted participants was raised from 40 to 50.

During the conference 41 papers were discussed. Presenters arrived to Portugal from 14 countries across Europe, plus South Africa, the US and Australia. Keynote presentations were given by Sharlene Swartz (ISA RC34, University of Cape Town) and João Teixeira Lopes (University of Porto).

ESA 2017 conference: RN 30 received 145 abstract submissions. This resulted in the organisation of 24 RN 30 sessions. Additionally, 4 sessions were organised jointly with RN 26 Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare, in reflection of the increasing cross fertilization of the two areas of research.

RN 30 board decided to accept for oral presentations all submitted papers which were considered relevant and of acceptable quality, i.e. 137, excluding the possibility to accept papers as distributed. The selection of abstracts was made by a team of 10 people as required by ESA, which comprised all 7 members of the board, who were helped by 3 RN30 affiliates: Kristoffer Chelsom Vogt (University of Bergen), Carlo Genova (University of Turin) and Dragan Stanojevic (University of Belgrade). This help was deemed very useful to cope with the high number of submitted abstracts. Sessions were organised by the coordinator and the vice coordinator. Chairs were chosen not only among board members but also among affiliates to widen participation and diversify discussions.

In addition to normal sessions, in Athens RN30 also organised a 'RN30 keynote session with Ann Nilsen: Youth, Intergenerational Solidarity and the Crises in Europe'. It featured a keynote speech by Ann Nilsen. Carmen Leccardi and Sanna Aaltonen acted as discussants; the session was chaired by Valentina Cuzzocrea.

Communication: RN 30 has communicated with its affiliates via mailing list; affiliates were suggested to contact one of the board members, Mette Pless, to distribute news/calls/vacancies of interests of youth researchers.

Inclusiveness: RN30 traditionally attracts the interest of several PhD students and early career researchers, and PhD students are encouraged to participate in all activities of the RN. PhD students received a 30 euros discount on midterm conference fees along with ESA members. All ESA subsidy for the midterm conference (2500 euros, obtained through a competitive selection internal to ESA) was put against lowering participants' fee in order to widen participation. This was added to a small left over from the previous midterm conference in Poland, which was also subsidised through ESA.

Plans: The RN30 Business Meeting in Athens was very well attended (28 people) and used, as usual, to discuss some current issues related to the RN and youth research in general with new and long standing affiliates of the RN as well as future plans. In particular, initial ideas for the future midterm conference were discussed.
