



ESA Research Network 30 ‘Youth and Generation’
Midterm Conference 2023 Call for Papers
Youth in the post-pandemic: from experiences of inequalities to new opportunities for solidarities

20th-23rd September 2023,
Hotel Flamingo Resort, Santa Margherita di Pula, Sardinia, Italy

Keynote Speakers
Prof Carmen Leccardi (University of Milano Bicocca)
Prof Maria Grasso (Queen Mary University of London)

Organisers Dr Valentina Cuzzocrea & Prof Giuliana Mandich, University of Cagliari

The COVID-19 outbreak and now the cost-of-living crisis have led to worldwide fast-paced and unprecedented socio-economic and political changes with deep implications for young people’s education, future plans and employment prospects, but also for their everyday and social lives.

The global pandemic has widened already existing gaps in education, training, wages, employment and health, including how these vary by gender, ethnicity, across generations, between different countries and between the North and the Global South. The pandemic has also worsened a labour market crisis, which is already hitting young people hard creating further uncertainty about the immediate but also longer-term future. With the lockdowns and the interruption of teaching during COVID-19 major outbreaks, many young people had to switch to online education or even drop out with deep implications for their social relationships, learning experiences, the development of new skills, their work and life prospects.

Amidst this bleak picture, it is likely that the pandemic times, and more recently the continually raising cost of living, have also brought new opportunities for young people to respond *together* to the challenges they face, developing new coping strategies and forms of collective action via both old and new youth-led forms of solidarities. We are interested in delving into whether these new (either structured or loose) forms of being and acting together are markers of a new post-pandemic youth.

In this context, the **2023 RN30 ESA Mid-term Conference in Sardinia** seeks to account for the continuity between pre-pandemic and post-pandemic experiences of inequalities while also exploring how young people come together to forge new forms of solidarities channeling their active responses and commitment to change with and through companionship with their peers. Hence, we invite colleagues to submit abstracts of **max 300 words** which explore youth unequal experiences and solidarities in multiple fields, such as young people’s views of the future during times of increased

risk and uncertainty; education and employment prospects; youth identities; activism and civic engagement; experiences of migration and mobilities; youth cultures and subcultures; transitions to adulthood and more. Comparative perspectives on how youth are experiencing inequalities and solidarities in the past or beyond Europe are also welcome.

Please send the abstract (300 words) with the author's name and institutional affiliation to m.franceschelli@ucl.ac.uk and E.Baillergeau@uva.nl by the 13th March 2023. In the abstract, please outline the aims, the research questions, the relevant theory/theories and the implications of the paper you seek to present. Papers can draw on a variety of methodologies and approaches. If you draw on empirical research, please provide details of the applied research design and methodology.