



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

Newcastle Youth Studies Group  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Faculty of Education and Arts  
University of Newcastle



INVITATIONAL  
SYMPOSIUM:

## Youth Outside the Northern Metropole

**Friday 29th August 2014**

Crowne Plaza Newcastle

Dr Clarence M. Batan (University of Santo Tomas, Philippines);  
Professor Andy Bennett (Griffith University); Dr Julia Coffey (University of Newcastle);  
Dr David Farrugia (University of Newcastle); Dr Alistair Fraser (University of Hong Kong);  
Professor Andy Furlong (University of Glasgow); Associate Professor Anita Harris (Monash);  
Professor Pam Nilan (University of Newcastle); Oki Rahadianto Sutopo (University of Newcastle);  
Dr Steven Threadgold (University of Newcastle); Dr Dan Woodman (University of Melbourne);  
Professor Johanna Wyn (University of Melbourne)

# Youth Outside the Northern Metropole

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Convenor: Steven Threadgold

The international field of youth sociology has been dominated by research in the UK, Europe, Australia and North America, emphasising urban youth. Taking a different direction, international and Australian youth researchers in this symposium will present their studies on urban youth in the global 'South'; regional/rural youth in Australia; or discuss some of the theoretical implications of a rapidly changing world.

Asia is home to over 45% of the world's young people and the region is experiencing unprecedented levels of economic and cultural expansion. The trends associated with this expansion, including mobility of capital, people, information and ideologies, will gather pace over the next decades. As Australia enters what some are calling the 'Asian Century', this symposium brings researchers together to articulate some of the key concerns for urban, regional and rural young people in Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

Australia's engagement with Asia will largely be determined by the ways in which Australia addresses the issues faced by young people in a region where rapid change and the youth population bulge have the potential, unless managed, to amplify the associated problems of poor educational outcomes, unemployment, exploitation, civil unrest, ill-health, and forced migration. Although the Australian Government's White Paper on 'Australia in the Asian Century' highlights the opportunities of the rise of Asia for Australia and the region, it would be a mistake to assume that the economic and cultural benefits are assured. This is especially the case at a time where economically, Australia's integration with Asia is paramount, while politically and culturally, Australia does not seem to think of itself as being part of Asia and longstanding problems around race and multiculturalism persist.

These issues will be at the forefront of any valuable future sociological work.

# Timetable

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## 8.30-9.00: Register and Coffee

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**9.00-9.15: Welcome:** John Germov (PVC Faculty of Education and Arts, University of Newcastle)

### Session 1:

**9.15 -9.45:** Youth Outside the Northern Metropole: Pam Nilan (University of Newcastle)

**9.45-10.15:** Homologies of (Youthful) Habitus: Mapping Theory and Method Beyond the Metropole: Alistair Fraser (University of Hong Kong)

**10.15-10.45:** Researching rural youth and the challenge of conceptual orthodoxies: Johanna Wyn (University of Melbourne)

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## 10.45 – 11.15 Morning tea

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### Session 2

**11.15-11.45:** Performative pedagogy: Post-structural theory as a tool for identity work within a youth-led HIV prevention program in South Asia: Helen Cahill (University of Melbourne) and Julia Coffey (University of Newcastle)

**11.45-12.15:** Rural Youth Subjectivities in Late Modernity: Spatial Inequalities and Imagined Futures: David Farrugia (University of Newcastle)

**12.15-12.45:** Bourdieu and Methodological Nationalism: Steven Threadgold (University of Newcastle) and Dan Woodman (University of Melbourne)

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## 12.45 - 1.45 Lunch

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### Session 3

**1.45 – 2.15:** Young Indonesian Musicians Building Forms of Capital: Oki Rahadianto Sutopo (University of Newcastle)

**2.15 -2.45:** Popular Music Scenes, Youth and Everyday Life in the Global South: A case study of Iran and Tunisia: Stefano Barone, Andy Bennett and Elham Golpooshnezhad (Griffith University)

**2.45-3.15:** Chinese Youth across Wenzhou and Prato: Globalisation, Mobile Belongings and Youth Cultural Practices: Anita Harris (Monash University), Roberta Raffaeta (University of Trento, Italy) and Loretta Baldassar (University of Western Australia)

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## 3.15 – 3:30 Afternoon tea

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### Session 4

**3:30-4.00:** Unravelling the Youth Question in the Global South: The Persistence of Education-Employment Problematic and Its Consequences: Clarence M. Batan (University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines)

**4.00-4.30:** Japanese youth in the post-bubble economy: Andy Furlong (University of Glasgow, Scotland)

**4.30-5.00:** Workshop Review Discussion

# Abstracts and Biographies

## Session 1

### ***Youth Outside the Northern Metropole***

**Pam Nilan (University of Newcastle)**

The title of this symposium - Youth Outside the Northern Metropole - encodes a number of fields with which we might engage as youth researchers. The first is youth. As a demographic field the term youth constitutes an age segment of any national population. It points to a new generation composed of young people who will inherit a range of environmental, political and social crises in adulthood. As an academic field, the study of youth has been dominated to a large extent by psychology and health, and to a lesser extent, by critical social science studies and theoretical paradigms, all developed in, and disseminated from, the Global North: UK, Europe and North America. The second field of engagement in the title of this symposium refers to transnational inequality between the constructed socio-political imaginaries of Global North and Global South. This needs to be problematised. While the field of youth studies worldwide has certainly been dominated by researchers and theorists from the UK, Europe and North America, there is no real clarity, for example, about whether youth in countries like Japan and Australia would fit for analytical purposes in the Global North or the Global South. And what of young people in a city like Dubai? There are issues of international hegemony and allegiance to be teased out here, as well as socio-cultural mobility and networking; actual and virtual. Finally we engage the field of the metropole, which can be defined as the urban context, incorporating both poor and rich areas of a city. The metropole as a field of youth research epistemologically excludes rural and regional youth. Our symposium title therefore constitutes a number of contrasts to be explored: between youth in developed and developing countries; between urban and rural youth; and between conceptual framings of youth experiences and transitions based on different locations on the planet, in the nation and in the city. In particular, we are challenged to devise and refine innovative theoretical frameworks of youth sociology that are sufficiently flexible to describe and analyse both the lives of contemporary young people in the Northern Metropole and outside it.

**Pam Nilan** is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Newcastle, Australia. She has published widely on youth in Indonesia and Australia, and also on youth in Vietnam and Fiji. Her books include: *Adolescents in contemporary Indonesia*, Routledge 2013; *Australian youth: Social and cultural issues*, Pearson 2007 and *Global youth? Hybrid identities, plural worlds*, Routledge 2006. A forthcoming book is *Spaces and times of youth in the global city* (Feixa, Leccardi & Nilan, Brill 2014). Professor Nilan is Treasurer of the Asia Pacific Sociological Association (est. 1995).

### ***Homologies of (Youthful) Habitus: Mapping Theory and Method Beyond the Metropole***

**Alistair Fraser (University of Hong Kong)**

In recent years, there has been a firm recognition among youth scholars of the need for comparative, transnational research; particularly that which moves beyond knowledge created in the global North. However, production of this knowledge remains clustered in a relatively narrow range of geographical sites—and understandings of youthful lifestyles and identities in the South too often defined through the lens of the North. As processes of globalization confound and disrupt the traditional dualisms of East/West and North/South, there is a pressing

need to develop 'thinking tools' for research that are sensitised to this complexity. In this paper, I map out an exploratory theoretical and methodological agenda that seeks to approach the study of youthful habits and lifestyles in a way that is grounded yet comparative. Drawing on two studies – one on youth gangs and 'global exchange' in Glasgow and Chicago, the other on youth leisure in Hong Kong and Scotland – the paper will discuss the potentialities in Bourdieu's social theory for conceptualising youth studies 'beyond the metropole'.

**Alistair Fraser** works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, University of Hong Kong, where he is Assistant Director of the Master in Social Sciences (Criminology) programme. His research interests lie in the study of youth crime and justice in a global and comparative context, with specialist expertise in the field of youth gangs. He is an experienced ethnographer and qualitative researcher, having carried out fieldwork in Glasgow, Chicago and Hong Kong. Currently he is co-PI on a comparative study of youth leisure in Scotland and Hong Kong, funded by the ESRC-RGC Bilateral Fund. A monograph based on his doctoral research, entitled 'Urban Legends: Gang Identity in the Post-Industrial City' will be published by Oxford University Press in 2015.

### ***Researching rural youth and the challenge of conceptual orthodoxies***

#### **Johanna Wyn (University of Melbourne)**

Johanna Wyn's presentation addresses an emerging debate within youth studies about the relevance of the 'transitions' metaphor. She argues that normative concepts of transition have focused on urban-based lives and obscured the significance of young people's relationship to places and people and the ways in these elements are implicated in decisions about education, employment and residence. New landscapes of production, consumption and protection, including the casualisation of the youth labour market, powered by three decades of neoliberal policies have impacted on young people's opportunities and choices. Wyn draws on insights gained from an analysis of longitudinal data about two generations of young Australians, using individual narratives of life that span twenty years as well as data on the patterns of transition and life experience to provide a more nuanced understanding of young Australians in relation to rural settings. This approach shifts the focus from a view of rural youth as homogenous and disadvantaged to an understanding of the ways in which young people construct a sense of belonging in rural locations that are themselves undergoing significant transformations. Belonging is about the kind of settlement that individuals negotiate in relation to their social, physical and sociohistorical location.

Professor **Johanna Wyn** is Director of the Youth Research Centre in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne, Australia. Her work focuses on the interface between young people's learning and wellbeing in formal and informal educational settings, on young people's transitions and on the question of what kinds of knowledge and skills professionals who work with young people in these settings need in the 21st Century. Her recent books include *Youth and Generation* with Dan Woodman, *Youth and Society: exploring the social dynamics of youth*, with Rob White; *Youth Health and Welfare*; *Touching the Future: Building Skills for Life and work*; *The Making of a Generation: The children of the 1970s in Adulthood* with Lesley Andres; *For we are young and...* *Young people in a time of uncertainty*, edited with Sally Beadle and Roger Holdsworth; and *Making it work: Continuity and change in rural places*, with Hernan Cuervo. She has held visiting Professorships at the University of British Columbia, University of Toronto and the University of Glasgow an adjunct position at the University of Western Sydney and was the Jantina Tammes Chair at The University of Groningen in the Netherlands in 2010.

## Session 2

### ***Rural Youth Subjectivities in Late Modernity: Spatial Inequalities and Imagined Futures*** **David Farrugia (University of Newcastle)**

This paper explores the consequences of social change for young people positioned as 'peripheral' to the Northern metropole through a focus on the spatial dimensions of rural youth subjectivities. The paper begins by interrogating the spatio-temporality of narratives of social change, arguing that terms such as 'globalisation' and 'individualisation' can lead to a homogeneous and dislocated view of youth, both obscuring and reinscribing distinctions between the centre and the periphery emerging from global economic and cultural inequalities. Narratives from young people living in two 'disadvantaged' communities in regional Victoria are then analysed in order to locate their desires, personal investments and imagined futures within a spatialised approach to the contemporary youth period. Young people's narratives reveal a complex relationship between inequalities and investments in place. Parallel in some respects to literature describing 'peripheral' youth in Eastern Europe and the global South, for young people in these communities an idealised vision of a metropolitan, cosmopolitan modernity may be a means by which to reconstruct or escape the local. In these instances, the rural is reinscribed as peripheral to metrocentric economies of cultural distinction. In other cases, young people articulate an ongoing history and relationship to place, a form of belonging which acts as a resource for constructing a reflexive, entrepreneurial relationship towards the future. These examples unsettle conventional narratives of individualisation and globalisation, and spatialise understandings of actually existing youth subjectivities.

**David Farrugia** is Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Newcastle. His work focuses on inequalities and youth identities, as well as contemporary sociological theory. David has published work on youth homelessness, young people and social class, and geographical inequalities from the perspective of rural and regional youth. His current interests include theories of social change and globalisation, and the intersections between geographical and sociological theory, especially as they apply to young people.

### ***Performative pedagogy: Post-structural theory as a tool for identity work within a youth-led HIV prevention program in South Asia*** **Helen Cahill (University of Melbourne) and Julia Coffey (University of Newcastle)**

In many countries outside of the Northern metropole, young people carry a disproportionate burden of new HIV infections. Most countries in the Asia-Pacific region experience a 'concentrated' HIV, meaning that the vast majority of new HIV infections are concentrated amongst specific key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure which include people who buy and sell sex, people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, and transgender people. This paper discusses the use of post-structural theory as a way to inform identity work within a youth-led HIV prevention program in South Asia, entitled NewGen. Many HIV prevention programs which serve those 'at-risk' focus on changing the behaviours that are deemed to put the individual at risk. Using a logic of change informed by a poststructuralist understanding of identity the course positions participants as leaders and advocates rather than simply as members of key populations identified to be at higher risk of HIV exposure. A post-structural focus on positioning and subjectivity emphasises the socially constructed nature of identity, and highlights the importance of social factors, rather than individual behaviour, in the ways identities are formed and lived. The pedagogies used within the

program are designed to facilitate a (re)positioning, (re)imagining and (re)enactment of the self. In this chapter we explore the ways post-structural theory informs the design of the NewGen course. Data collected about participants' experiences of the NewGen course illustrates their response to the methodology as a form of identity work, as well as the potential for conceptual tools originating from the Global North to be adapted successfully to local context.

**Helen Cahill** is the Deputy Director Youth Research Centre, Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Helen is a leader in pedagogical development and specialises in pedagogy, youth and mental health, and using arts and drama methods in education. She works in education research, specialising in the development of evidence-based prevention curricula addressing resilience, life-skills, suicide prevention, drug education, bullying, grief and loss, and sexuality education.

**Julia Coffey** is a lecturer in sociology in the school of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle. Her research is in the field of health sociology, with a focus on youth, the body, and gender. Julia has also worked on areas related to health and youth in education and development. Julia has published on young people's body work practices and identity, health and the body, and pedagogy.

### ***Bourdieu and Methodological Nationalism***

**Steven Threadgold (University of Newcastle) and Dan Woodman (University of Melbourne)**

In Southern Theory, Connell uses Bourdieu as an exemplar of northern theory. Beck has critiqued Bourdieu (and class analysis in general) as being mired in 'methodological nationalism'. This paper responds to these criticisms. Firstly, we will discuss Bourdieu's work in Algeria, and his complex relationship with France's colonial project, highlighting overlaps and debts to post-colonial theorising in his work. Secondly, we argue that Bourdieu's concepts are not as starkly opposed to Beck's notions of individualisation and cosmopolitanisation as is often assumed. Thirdly, we discuss some developments of Bourdieu's ideas and some empirical examples that highlight how a post-Bourdieuian perspective maintains vitality for tracing contemporary patterns of inequality but, like all sociological concepts, need to be developed for new times using a reinvigorated and global sociological imagination.

**Steven Threadgold** is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Newcastle. He is a founding member of the Newcastle Youth Studies Group. He was convenor of the TASA Sociology of Youth thematic group from 2011 to 2013 and Academic Editor of Youth Studies Australia in 2011-12. His research interests focus on inequality and youth, especially the interplay between class, risks and governmental discourses. His most recent work is on young people's construction of 'DIY Careers' in networked music scenes and on the ways figures such as 'hipster' and 'bogan' are invoked in media to perform distinction whilst eschewing the very notion of class. He is currently working on a research monograph with Routledge called Youth, Class, Culture.

**Dan Woodman** is the TR Ashworth Lecturer in Sociology in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. He is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Youth Studies and Vice President for Australia, New Zealand and Oceania of Research Committee 34: Sociology of Youth within the International Sociological Association. His work focuses on the sociology of generations, individualisation and inequality among young people, and the impact of insecure work and variable employment patterns on young people's relationships.

### Session 3

#### ***Young Indonesian Musicians Building Forms of Capital*** **Oki Rahadianto Sutopo (University of Newcastle)**

This paper offers insights into the lives of contemporary young people outside the Northern Metropole, in the Muslim-majority developing nation of Indonesia. It presents some analysis of data from a study of young male jazz and indie musicians in Indonesia moving between the cities of Yogyakarta and Jakarta and the island of Bali as they join bands, play and record new songs and arrangements, make contacts and learn new skills. This mobility facilitates the accumulation of strategic social and cultural capitals, acknowledging Bourdieu's (1986) argument that both cultural capital and social capital are convertible, under certain conditions, to economic capital. While the young musicians remain devoted to their creative work in the field of music, they are also keen to make the successful transition to economically sustainable married adulthood within the field of middle-class lifestyle and consumption. Successful accumulation of strategic social capital and cultural capital is enhanced by mobility, since the three locations offer different kinds of experiences and contacts to the young musicians that increase both their contact network and their knowledge and skill base relevant to future income-earning capacity.

**Oki Rahadianto Sutopo** is a lecturer in sociology at the University of Gadjah Mada Indonesia, and a semi-professional musician. He is currently completing his PhD in Sociology the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle. Oki has published widely in Bahasa Indonesia on youth sociology and culture in Indonesia.

#### ***Popular Music Scenes, Youth and Everyday Life in the Global South: A case study of Iran and Tunisia*** **Stefano Barone, Andy Bennett and Elham Golpooshnezhad (Griffith University)**

In recent years, scholarship on popular music and youth culture has broadened significantly to embrace a range of youth-based music scenes beyond the Northern metropole. In many cases, however, such work has either focused on a specific genre and / or has often tended to exoticise particular local scenes purely on the basis of them being positioned outside the global north. Focusing on case studies of rap, metal and electro music scenes in Iran and Indonesia, this paper will examine the more mundane aspects of these scenes as they struggle for existence with limited resources and, in some cases, a barely existing infrastructure to support them. The paper will also consider how, when faced with such conditions of shortage, deficit and consequent low visibility, youth-based music scenes in the global South create specific localised discourses of scene as a means of enabling them to act as cultural spaces for youth who are often doubly marginalised due to both to their stylistic and musical preferences and concomitant resistance against dominant political, religious and cultural forms that characterise their everyday social environments.

**Stefano Barone** is an international PhD student in the School of Humanities at Griffith University and an HDR Affiliate of the Griffith Centre for Cultural Research. His Masters thesis, awarded by the University of Siena, was a study of the Tunisian metal scene and its relationship to the broader political, cultural and religious context of Tunisia. Stefano's ongoing PhD research broadens the focus of his MA project through examination and comparison of the metal, rap and electro scenes in Tunisia.

**Andy Bennett** is Professor of Cultural Sociology and Director of the Griffith Centre for Cultural Research at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia. He has authored and edited numerous books including *Music, Style and Aging*, *Popular Music and Youth Culture*, *Cultures of Popular Music*, *Remembering Woodstock*, and *Music Scenes* (with Richard A. Peterson). Bennett was lead Chief Investigator on a three-year, five country project funded by Australian Research Council funded entitled 'Popular Music and Cultural Memory' (DP1092910). He is also a Faculty Fellow of the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University.

**Elham Golpooshnezhad** is an international PhD student in the School of Humanities at Griffith University and an HDR Affiliate of the Griffith Centre for Cultural Research. Her Masters thesis, completed at Shiraz University, was a study of the rap scene in Iran. Her PhD project develops this focus on rap in an Islamic context through a comparison of the local rap scenes in Tunisia, Morocco and Indonesia.

***Chinese Youth across Wenzhou and Prato: Globalisation, Mobile Belongings and Youth Cultural Practices***

**Anita Harris (Monash University), Roberta Raffaeta (University of Trento, Italy) and Loretta Baldassar (University of Western Australia)**

This paper investigates how translocal youth cultural practices and everyday spaces figure in the belonging work of young people of Chinese background living in Prato, Italy. Prato is a minor Italian city (pop 189,000, 20 km from Florence), home to a large number of Chinese immigrants from Wenzhou (a medium level Chinese city, pop 3 million) who have revitalised and re-shaped the local Italian clothes-manufacturing industry for a global economy. But their presence in this corner of old Europe as the new Asian face of global economic transformation has resulted in intercultural tensions, especially amongst Prato's youth population. How then do young people of Chinese background living in this 'anti-cosmopolitan' not-quite city use youth cultural practices within local and translocal spaces to construct belongings and navigate intercultural mix? More broadly, how does their experience help us theorise distinctly generational but locally specific modes of mobile belongings in a post-industrial, interconnected world?

**Anita Harris** is an ARC Future Fellow and Associate Professor of Sociology, Monash University. Her research interests include youth, citizenship, gender and diversity. She is currently undertaking projects entitled 'Young People in the Multicultural City' and 'the Civic Life of Young Australian Muslims'. Her books include *Young People and Everyday Multiculturalism* (Routledge, 2013), *Next Wave Cultures: Feminism, Activism, Subcultures* (Routledge, 2008); *All About the Girl* (Routledge, 2004) and *Future Girl* (Routledge, 2005).

**Loretta Baldassar** is Professor and Discipline Chair in the department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Western Australia and Adjunct Principal Research Fellow at Monash University. Loretta has published extensively on migration and settlement including, *Transnational Families, Migration and the Circulation of Care: understanding mobility and absence in family life* (with Merla, Routledge Transnationalism Series, 2014); *Intimacy and Italian Migration* (with Gabaccia, Fordham Uni Press, 2011) and *Families Caring Across*

Borders (with Baldock & Wilding, Palgrave, 2007), as well as many journal articles and book chapters. Loretta served a term as Director at the Monash University Centre in Prato, Italy, from 2009-2011 where she began new research projects on Chinese immigration. Loretta is currently editing a volume on Chinese Migrants in Europe (with Johanson, McAuliffe and Bressan, Palgrave, forthcoming)

**Roberta Raffaeta'** has obtained her PhD in 2008 at the University of Lausanne. After that, she has worked as research assistant at Prato Centre (Italy), Monash University; she has been granted by a Marie Curie post-doc research fellow (University of Trento-Monash Melbourne); and she has been senior lecturer at Lausanne University (Switzerland). Right now she is research fellow at the Department of Human Sciences and Sociology at Trento University (Italy). Her research follows two main strands which are interrelated: the first focuses on health governance, embodiment and identity (through research on vaccinations, allergies and sport); the second deals with an ecological understanding of various aspects of the migratory experience (parenting, ethnicity, belonging, identity, second generation) of people from China, Morocco and Ecuador settled in Italy. In this research her interest is in exploring how the body, the senses/affect and place/space matter.

#### **Session 4**

##### ***Unravelling the Youth Question in the Global South: The Persistence of Education-Employment Problematic and Its Consequences***

**Clarence M. Batan (University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines)**

This paper narrates and examines the growing up experiences of selected Filipino cohort born in the 1970s combined with recent case study data on the Filipino youth and fellow youths in other countries from the Global South such as Colombia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina, Honduras, and Nigeria. Using life history and case study methods, the paper unravels what may be considered as relevant youth questions (both conceptually and methodologically) in the context of growing up in the Global South. The paper argues on the persistence of education-employment problematic as focal points in understanding these Global South youths directing attention to the structural and historical consequences of growing up in the margins, and unequal world. In the end, the paper concludes with some notes about rethinking youth in the context of the Global South, and offers methodological reflection on how to creatively study them.

**Clarence M. Batan** is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Letters, and Research Associate of the Research Center on Culture, Education and Social Issues at the University of Santo Tomas (UST), Manila. He obtained his AB in Sociology from UST; MA in Sociology from the University of the Philippines-Diliman; and PhD in Sociology from Dalhousie University at Nova Scotia, Canada under the Government of Canada Awards and the Faculty of Graduate Studies-Dalhousie University Scholarship Program. Recently, he was a Visiting Fellow in International Studies at Brown University under Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) program. His research interests are sociology of children and youth, sociology of work and employment, and qualitative and mixed methods. He is now the Chairperson of the Technical Committee in Sociology of the Philippine Commission of Higher Education (CHED), and Vice President for Asia of the Research Committee 34 - Sociology of

Youth, International Sociological Association.

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***Japanese youth in the post-bubble economy***

**Andy Furlong (University of Glasgow, Scotland)**

Many of the changing conditions that we are currently observing in Europe, North America and Australia occurred much earlier in Japan, triggered by the collapse of the bubble economy in the early 1990s and followed by what some refer to as the 'lost decades' in which economic growth was extremely limited. While levels of youth unemployment were not particularly high, there was a very significant increase in the numbers of young people working part-time or in precarious forms of employment. This paper outlines the experiences faced by young people in the Japanese post-bubble economy (in both objective and subjective dimensions) and explores emerging parallels in countries affected by the global financial crisis of 2007/8 and the ensuing 'Great Recession' in order to explore some of the likely consequences for young people living in other parts of the Global North.

**Andy Furlong** is Dean of Research and Professor of Social Inclusion and Education in the School of Education at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He also is Conjoint Professor at the University of Newcastle, NSW. Andy is an educational sociologist with a longstanding specialism in the study of youth and a strong interest in the reproduction of inequalities and in processes of social change. Since 1998 Andy has been editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Youth Studies*, one of the leading journals in the field. He has produced several books on youth, notably *Young People and Social Change* (with Fred Cartmel, 1997, 2nd edition 2007, Open University Press), *Higher Education and Social Justice* (with Fred Cartmel, 2009, Open University Press) and the *Handbook of Youth and Young Adulthood* (Routledge): his work has been translated into twelve languages. Andy has held visiting positions at Deakin University, the University of Melbourne and Monash University, and has held an Invitation Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He is an Academician of the UK Academy of Social Sciences and has recently been awarded a Doctor of Letters by the University of Leicester.

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