

Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Faculty for Humanities and Social Science

Youth in Africa

Lecturer: Dr. Noa Levy

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Office hours: Wednesday, 12:00, the Tamar Golan Africa Centre, building 74, room 459

Africa is the youngest continent in the world with more than half of its population in the ages of 0-24, and above 250 million over the age of 15. While populations around the world are aging, young people in Africa are shaping the face of the future. We will discuss contemporary aspects in youth's lives in various countries in Africa. We will learn about the shaping of youth in global and local economic, social and political contexts, while engaging with a wide range of countries and themes. We will explore the ways in which young people are taking a leading role in the formation of their place within families, communities and countries.

Course Requirements:

Attendance & reading – obligatory

Project – 20%

Final Paper – 80%

Weekly Meetings: (Subject to Change)

Part 1: Introduction – Questions of Youth

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Knowledge production about youth in Africa

- Abbink, Jon (2005). Being young in Africa: The politics of despair and renewal. In, Jon Abbink and Ineke van Kessel (eds.). *Vanguards or Vandals: Youth, politics and conflict in Africa*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 1-34.

Week 3: Critical Youth Studies

- Akom, Antwi, Cammarota, Julio, and Ginwright, Shawn (2008) Youthtopias: Towards a new paradigm of critical youth studies. *Youth Media Reporter* 2(4): 1-30.
- Cooper, Adam, Swartz, Sharlene, and Mahali, Alude (2019) Disentangled, Decentered and Democratised: Youth Studies for the Global South. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 22(1): 29-45.

Part 2: Work

Week 4: Waithood

- Honwana, Alcinda M. (2008) *The time of Youth: Work, Social Change, and Politics in Africa*. Boulder & London: Kumarian Press. Chapter 1: Youth.

Week 5: Making ends meet

- Mwaura, Grace Muthoni (2017) Just farming? Neoliberal subjectivities and agricultural livelihoods among educated youth in Kenya. *Development and Change* 48(6): 1310-1335.

Week 6: Aspirations

- Dubinsky, Itamar and Schler, Lynn (2019) Goal dreams: Conflicting development imaginaries in Ghanaian football academies. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 57(2): 247-272.

Part 3: Gender and mobility

Week 7: Masculinity and social mobility

- Turner, Simon (1999) Angry young men in camps: Gender, age and class relations among Burundian refugees in Tanzania. The Centre for Documentation and Research, working paper n. 9.

Week 8: Adolescence and gendered expectations

- Grabska, Katarzyna (2019). 'Wasting time': Migratory trajectories of adolescence among Eritrean refugee girls in Khartoum. *Critical African Studies*, 12(1): 22-36.

Week 9: Shaping gender roles

- Boehm, Christian (2006) Industrial labour, marital strategy and changing livelihood trajectories among young women in Lesotho. In Catrine Christiansen, Mats Utas and Henrik E. Vigh (eds.), *Navigating Youth, Generating Adulthood: Social Becoming in an African Context*. Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikains Institutet.

Part 4: Civil Society and Politics

Week 10: The grasp of the State

- Mhike, Ivo (2017) Political violence in Zimbabwe's national youth service, 2001–2007. In, Elina Oinas, Henri Onodera and Leena Suurpää (eds.), *What Politics? Youth in a Globalizing World*, Volume 6. Brill, 246-264.

Week 11: Nationalism and intergenerational dynamics

- Rich Dorman, Sarah (2004). Past the Kalashnikov: Youth, politics and the state in Eritrea. In, Jon Abbink and Ineke van Kessel (eds.), *Vanguards or Vandals: Youth, politics and conflict in Africa*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 191-206.

Week 12: Higher education and civic power

- Naicker, Camalita (2016). From Marikana to #feesmustfall: The praxis of popular politics in South Africa. *Urbanization* 1(1): 53-61.

- Langa, Marlose (2017). #Hashtag: An analysis of the #FeesMustFall movement at South African Universities. Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation.

Week 13: Diasporic power

- Armila, Päivi, Kananen, Marko and Tiina Sotkasiira (2017) Diaspora as a multilevel political space for young Somalis. In, Elina Oinas, Henri Onodera and Leena Suurpää (eds.), *What Politics? Youth in a Globalizing World* Volume 6. Brill, 300-316.

Enjoy the semester!