

Distancing, Disease and Distress: the Young and COVID-19

Open call for YOUNG Special Issue

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Introduction

Across the world, the COVID-19 global pandemic is rapidly changing young people's lives. According to the UN (2020) COVID-19 the biggest human, economic and social crisis in 75 years and thus it will influence young people's future lives, locally, nationally and globally. Across the world we see similarities in how young people are finding new forms of being together – of responding and carrying out life online demonstrating what it means to be young in challenging times. Yet, there are also significant differences in how governments have responded to COVID-19 and thus have imposed restrictions on young people's lives and behaviour. The COVID-19 crisis is also feeding into questions about generational divide. Furthermore, new forms of inequality are appearing in relation to nation states' possibilities and willingness to provide financial and other forms of support to young people.

The aim of this special issue of YOUNG is to bring together international youth scholars to reflect on the short- and long-term consequences of the COVID-19 global pandemic for young people's lives. We welcome short contributions (5000-8000 words) which can be theoretical essays, critical reviews or empirical papers. The contributions should reflect on what the pandemic means to young people in their everyday lives and address young people's future.

We welcome submissions from youth researchers in countries which have suffered acutely from the effects of the pandemic, and from youth researchers in countries that have been less affected. We encourage youth researchers to write theoretical essays and critical reviews about the consequences and the societal impact of the pandemic for specific research areas, such as globalisation, inequality, temporality and future expectations. We also encourage short empirical papers, where young people's experiences are voiced, in particular with a focus on how they are handling unemployment, employment instability, closed schools and universities, disease and distress. We also welcome cross-national reflections on both the short - and long terms impact of COVID-19 for young people's lives, including reflections on the many and special challenges of conducting field work under COVID-19.

Explorations of young people's lives under the COVID-19 global pandemic can be related, but is not limited to the following themes:

- Risk, distress, anxiety and uncertainty
- Globalisation and localisation
- Migration and mobility
- Place, space and belonging
- Inequality, poverty and precarity
- Labelling and moral panic
- Social media and online communities
- Ethnicity and discrimination
- Gender and sexuality
- Drug use and misuse
- Biography and identity
- Health and well-being
- Friendships, isolation, and loneliness
- Family and generational support and challenges
- Temporality, ambivalence, continuity and change.
- Future lives and expectations
- Methodologies

Requirements: The theoretical essays, critical reviews or empirical papers have a word limit of 8000 words (including bibliography), but shorter contributions are welcome.

Deadline: 1st of September 2020. No papers will be considered for the Special Issue after the closing date, but papers with a similar theme can always be submitted for YOUNG's general submission process. For the special issue, papers must be submitted through ScholarOne and marked COVID-19. The link to submission is <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/young>

All papers are subject to **anonymous** review and will be published early online. The Special Issue is aimed at being published in the beginning of 2021. Authors must follow YOUNG's submission guideline: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal/young#submission-guidelines>