

Special Edition of the *Journal of Youth Studies* (2010)

## **Youth and social change in post-socialist Eastern Europe**

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The guest editors are inviting the submission of abstracts for possible inclusion in a special edition of the *Journal of Youth Studies* to be published in 2010.

- If interested, in the first instance, please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words to [jys.easterneurope@gmail.com](mailto:jys.easterneurope@gmail.com) by 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Youth studies has traditionally provided a rich, interdisciplinary forum for the exploration both of processes of social change and of a range of social identities and divisions. In recent years, such explorations have centred on theories of reflexive modernity, pointing variously to processes of individualisation and risk, the erosion of social identities, and the destandardisation of biographies and the life course. While the structural and cultural shifts which have purportedly given rise to these developments – in particular towards the dominance of neo-liberalism, less secure employment relations and changing formations of gender and family – have taken place in Western European societies over a protracted period, in post-socialist Eastern Europe they have taken more extreme forms, and have produced profound dislocations in all aspects of social and economic life.

In this Special Issue of the *Journal of Youth Studies*, we wish to explore the emerging contours of social change and social divisions in Eastern Europe by focusing on the ways in which young people negotiate a range of identities and transitions through a period of social transformation. Existing studies indicate that, as in Western Europe, while the dislocating experience of post-socialism may have led to processes of disembedding in young people's lives and identities, it may also have engendered a re-embedding of old divisions, dependencies and ways of doing things. As such, explorations of young people's lives in post-socialism provide an opportunity to examine not only the emerging shape of social inequalities and social change in the region, but also, to interrogate and reflect back upon some of the central claims of contemporary Western social theory. In particular, the study of young people in Eastern Europe provides rich ground for engagement with current debates about the continuing significance of divisions and identities rooted in class, gender, ethnicity and place, as well as of social formations such as kinship, the family and community. Thus, we invite papers which critically engage with Western theories of social change through empirical investigations of young people's lives in post-socialist Eastern Europe.

Submissions to the Special Issue might explore, but should not be limited to, the following themes:

- Class, gender, ethnicity, and place in youth transitions to adulthood
- Rural-urban and centre-periphery divisions amongst young people
- Young people and work: informal earning and new forms of employment
- Young people's sexualities
- Household and family formation
- (Sub)cultural formations, consumption, and leisure

Dr Charlie Walker and Dr Svetlana Stephenson, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009