Beyond “Y” and other stereotypes: Exploring the experience of youth in the 21st Century.

Martin Mills, Peter Renshaw and Lew Zipin

Alternative Education Provision: A dumping ground for ‘wasted lives’ or a challenge to the mainstream?

Sam Sellar

Hoping For The Best in Education: Globalisation, social imaginaries and young people.

Glenda McGregor

Jake Whitehead

Reflections on Being a Member of “Gen Y”.

Greg Vass

Hear No Race, See No Race, Speak No Race: Teacher silence, Indigenous youth, and race talk in the classroom.

Catherine Beavis

Young People, New Media and Education: Participation and possibilities.

Kerry Vincent and Pat Thomson

“You’re Age Don’t Determine Whether You’re A Good Mum”: Reframing the discourse of deviance ascribed to teenage mothers.

Donna Pendergast and Katherine Main

The Middle Years of Schooling Association’s Representations of Young Adolescents: Particularising the adolescent.

Stewart Riddle

Youth as Rhizome: Music, machines, and multiplicities.
The concept for the cover design of this issue, ‘Beyond Y: The experience of youth in the 21st century’, developed with the idea of disrupting the popular tendency to label youth with stereotypical generational notions of identification. In her introduction to this issue, the editor Glenda McGregor highlights researchers in the field of youth who ‘critique such generational stereotypes and bring to light some of the real-life experiences of young people today’ (p. 3). According to Weston (2001), what appears to be ‘generational youth’ is simply a group of people born in the same general timespan who share some life experiences, such as big historical events, pastimes, heroes, and early work experiences. Blauth, McDaniel, Perrin and Perrin (2011: 2) ask if ‘different age groups [are] really that different? Or does the human tendency to generalise paint a distorted picture of entire generations, as it once did of genders and ethnic groups?’

The challenge to generational stereotyping of Gen Y is represented in the cover design by the cutting up and re-joining in a disjointed way an image often associated with a myth about Gen Y – that all Gen Y are techno-savvy technophiles; an interesting observation is that Gen X grew up with evolving technologies and are more tech savvy than Gen Y who are tech dependent. For Gen Y, technology may be an intrinsic part of the world they inhabit, but this does not mean they all have access to, or the funds to purchase or continually upgrade to, the newest and most savvy techno gadgets, for entertainment or education. That is, the seemingly shared generational experience of Gen Y is better characterised as a fractured experience of social and other forms of difference.

References

ISSN: 0155-0306

Why not discuss issues raised in the journal with other readers, or even order subscriptions and back issues. Visit us at: SOCIALALTERNATIVES.COM

Acknowledgement of Sponsors
Faculty of Arts and Business, University of the Sunshine Coast
School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland
School of Education, University of Queensland
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Queensland