

Research Network Re-Configurations: Theory Workshop “Generation”

When? Friday, November 10, 2017, 10:00 – 16:15 s.t.

Where? Ketzerbach 63, room 00/0110 (ground floor)

Organizers: Achim Rohde, Christoph Schwarz

The concept of generation is highly relevant for questions regarding social change in area studies and the disciplines of the humanities. In parallel to an upsurge of discussions on space and its production, the term ‘generation’ has been increasingly referred to in debates on social change in the MENA region since 2011, albeit often without thoroughly discussing the term. Generally speaking, ‘generation’ allows for a conceptual reflection of the role of time and temporalization in the regulation of societies’ power structures (King 2002). On the one hand, we are dealing with categorizations of biographical temporality in the life courses of subjects (Leccardi 2005), i.e. regarding sequential phases of education, transitions to adulthood, and social mobility or the perpetuation of inequality and social exclusion. On the other hand, concepts like generational formation, generational consciousness (Edmunds, Turner 2005), or generational work (Inowlocki 2013) appear highly relevant when it comes to social and political change. The transgenerational transmission of narratives and historical memories, their appropriation or rejection by the younger generations (Bertaux, Thompson 1993; Chaieb, Schwarz 2014) are key to processes of re-interpreting a collective past, i.e. the invention of tradition (Hobsbawm, Ranger 1983), as well as to the projection of collective future projects (Koselleck 2004), that are usually symbolically represented and embodied by the younger generations. Accordingly, ‘reclaiming youthfulness’ (Bayat 2007, 2010), as a certain form of generational discourse and generational self-positioning has been brought forward as a particular representation of political discord in MENA, already before the spectacular events of 2011.

For this workshop, we want to invite our colleagues at Marburg University to reflect upon the concept of generation, its theoretical facets, its potential and its limitations in ongoing research. We suggest the following guiding questions for this workshop:

- How can concepts ‘generation’ or ‘intergenerational relations/relationships’ be productively and critically used to analyze social change or continuity, domination, and political protest?
- What are the political implications of generational discourses in the public sphere, in social movements, and in academia?
- How do particular chains of events, social conflicts or changing temporalities (i.e. social acceleration) pre-structure the way generations are perceived and represented?

- To what extent are spatial aspects relevant to how actors imagine and represent generations, and how is this reflected in research?

For organizational purposes, we kindly ask you to register by sending an email with the subject line #GenerationWS to Sihem Hamlaoui (sihem.hamlaoui@staff.uni-marburg.de) by November 5, 2017.

We invite all participants to thoroughly read the core texts before the workshop. You can download them here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j1ygd9nxm8qf1u9/AAAOjpZdVXcLaslbzLwXkp7Na?dl=0>

Program

10:00	Welcome and Introduction Achim Rohde, Christoph Schwarz
10:15	The Concept of Generation (Text Discussion) (Mannheim 1928): The Sociological Problem of Generations. Chair: Achim Rohde Presentation of the text: Rachid Ouaisa
11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15	The Temporal Dimension of Generations: Change and Continuity (Text Discussion) (Corsten 1999): The Time of Generations. Chair: Igor Johannsen Presentation of the text: Benedikt Stuchtey
12:00	Intergenerational Relationships, Intergenerational Transmission (Project presentation) Anne-Linde Amira Augustin: Intergenerational Transmission as an Act of Resistance in the 'South Arabian' Independence Struggle (Southern Yemen) Chair: Christoph Schwarz
12:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:45	The Spatial Dimension of Generations: Global Generations? (Text Discussion) (Edmunds, Turner 2005): Global generations: social change in the twentieth century. Chair: Dimitris Soudias Presentation of the text: Andrea Fischer-Tahir [Recommended further reading: Beck, Beck-Gernsheim 2008]
14:30	Generation as Discourse and Strategy in Political Protest (Project presentation) Christoph Schwarz: 'Reclaiming Youthfulness, Reclaiming Seniority?' Generational Narratives in the Spanish 'Grandparents Movement' yayoflutas Chair: Anne-Linda Amira Augustin [Recommended further reading: Kornetis 2014]
15:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:30	Generational Formation, Generational Rupture, and Social Change (Text Discussion) (Skalli 2011): Generational Politics and Renewal of Leadership in the Moroccan Women's Movement. Chair: Perrine Lachenal Presentation of the text: Achim Rohde
16:15 – 16:30	Final Discussion Chair: Christoph Schwarz

Publication bibliography

Bayat, Asef (2007): *Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn*. Palo Alto, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

Bayat, Asef (2010): *Life as Politics. How Ordinary People change the Middle East*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam Univ. Press (ISIM series on contemporary Muslim societies, [1]).

Beck, Ulrich; Beck-Gernsheim, Elisabeth (2008): *Global Generations and the Trap of Methodological Nationalism. For a Cosmopolitan Turn in the Sociology of Youth and Generation*. In *European Sociological Review* 25 (1), pp. 25–36. DOI: 10.1093/esr/jcn032.

Bertaux, Daniel; Thompson, Paul (1993): Introduction. In Daniel Bertaux, Paul Thompson (Eds.): *Between generations. Family models, myths & memories*. New Brunswick, NJ 2009: Transaction Publishers (Memory and narrative series).

Chaieb, Sarra; Schwarz, Christoph H. (2014): *Intergenerational transmission of trajectories of suffering in precarious environments. Researching the younger generations' strategies of reinterpretation*. In *ZQF - Zeitschrift für Qualitative Forschung* 15, Special Issue: Socialization, family, and gender in the context of migration (1-2), pp. 55–77.

Corsten, Michael (1999): *The Time of Generations*. In *Time & Society* 8 (2), pp. 249–272.

Edmunds, June; Turner, Bryan S. (2005): *Global generations: social change in the twentieth century*. In *The British Journal of Sociology* 56 (4), pp. 559–577. DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-4446.2005.00083.x.

Hobsbawm, Eric; Ranger, Terence (1983): *The invention of tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Inowlocki, Lena (2013): *Collective Trajectory and Generational Work in Families of Jewish Displaced Persons: Epistemological Processes in the Research Situation*. In Marie Louise Seeberg, Irene Levin, Claudia Lenz (Eds.): *The Holocaust as Active Memory. The Past in the Present*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Pub. Company, pp. 29–43.

King, Vera (2002): *Die Entstehung des Neuen in der Adoleszenz : Individuation, Generativität und Geschlecht in modernisierten Gesellschaften*. Opladen: Leske + Budrich.

Kornetis, Kostis (2014): *“Is there a future in this past?” Analyzing 15M's intricate relation to the Transición*. In *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 15 (1), pp. 83–98, checked on 12/12/2016.

Koselleck, Reinhart (2004): *Futures past. On the semantics of historical time*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press.

Leccardi, Carmen (2005): *Facing uncertainty: Temporality and biographies in the new century*. In *Young* 13 (2), pp. 123–146. DOI: 10.1177/1103308805051317.

Mannheim, Karl (1928): *The Sociological Problem of Generations*. Available online at http://1989after1989.exeter.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/01_The_Sociological_Problem.pdf.

Skalli, Loubna H. (2011): *Generational Politics and Renewal of Leadership in the Moroccan Women's Movement*. In *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 13 (3), pp. 329–348. DOI: 10.1080/14616742.2011.587366.