



SALZBURG
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UPCOMING
SESSION

549

Youth, Economics and Violence: Implications for Future Conflict

April 26 to May 1, 2015

Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, Austria

Youth, Economics and Violence: Implications for Future Conflict

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Why this topic and why now?

Today's youth face an identity crisis. Youth should symbolize rising hopes, endless possibilities and the energy to reach personal goals. Yet societal systems in many countries are failing young people, as reflected in poor educational, professional and health forecasts – especially for youth on the margins. Too often, economic and policy frameworks struggle to promote social and educational mobility at scale, despite the opportunities supposedly opened up by globalization. What does this mean for our future social infrastructure?

Historically, marginalized youth have played a prominent role in revolution, political unrest, and social disorder, with young men – often those with limited education and /or restricted economic security – at the fore. In countries with youth experiencing rising inequality and unreliable job prospects, there has been a notable increase in internal conflict, crime, and other markers of instability, including the rise of extremist networks. Recent studies on high youth populations and political violence show a statistical relationship between the two. However, there are conflicting opinions on the relative impact of other factors, including the urban/rural distribution of youth populations, access to employment and education, and the scale of political discontent.

As the percentage of under-25s in developing countries rises above 50% and urbanization accelerates, there will be interconnected problems of high youth populations in urban areas without access to jobs, livelihoods and pathways to economic security. Without holistic strategies, these will have major implications for social cohesion and broader security issues, particularly in failing social systems.

Youth in stressed contexts are torn between being “the future” (with no clear pathway to get there) and being kept at arms' length (as potential instigators of civil discord). Too often, policy makers give lip service to youth support but focus their efforts on cracking down on delinquency, protests, and crime. Whilst public safety demands an effective response to crime and disorder, 21st century strategies need to get beyond fragmented and reactive interventions to fully leverage next-generation human and social capital.

Looking forward, policy makers must develop a more sophisticated understanding of their disparate youth populations in order to design and implement preemptive and responsive systems to nurture youth potential in constructive ways. In partnership with the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, Salzburg Global Seminar is convening a strategic program to address the interconnected problems and opportunities of burgeoning youth populations and marginalized youth in key regions around the world.

SERIES OVERVIEW DESIGNING A SOCIAL COMPACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Salzburg Global Seminar, together with select international partners, is developing a multi-year program on the roles of states and families in meeting 21st century social investment needs.

Intergenerational and gender justice and inclusion of marginalized populations are critical for social cohesion, but come under particular strain where economic systems are confronting a “double squeeze” – how to improve start of life opportunities for all while also caring and paying for aging societies.

In many countries, the greatest burden falls on the family unit: government support, where provided, is inconsistently managed between various levels and branches and seldom reflects forward-thinking best practices.

We believe that states' and families' abilities to confront these challenges will shape 21st century economic systems, societal norms and individual wellbeing.



PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation (www.hfg.org) sponsors scholarly research on violence, aggression and dominance.

Participant Profile

The program convenes a multi-disciplinary group of 60 researchers, policy makers, practitioners and youth working on changing dynamics faced by today's youth. Perspectives will encompass economics, education, investment, workforce development, social innovation, social work, behavioral psychology, urban design and local government, police, judiciary, community, civil society and religious organizations, and family specialists. Participants will span developing, emerging and developed economies confronting acute youth challenges and accelerating shift in demographics, urbanization, inequality, marginalization and violence.

Session Format

The program incorporates five days of intensive dialogue and strategy sessions on:

- Lessons from recent studies on youth populations and violence and remaining research gaps;
- Investments that unlock advantages of youth demographics while mitigating risks;
- Evidence-based, socially-just policy making in youth development and crime prevention and management; and
- Rigorous, cost-effective strategies for youth inclusion and development in productive societies.

Drawing upon their expertise, participants will decipher drivers of change, set priorities and design a framework for action on:

- Understanding youth populations and their social situations, (aspirations, tendencies, risks, triggers, and various heterogeneities);
- Youth social justice, through a cross-cutting assessment of policy factors such as economic geography, uneven sex ratios, social opportunities, and political grievance;
- Globalization, technology and their effects on youth trends;
- Best practices in macro and micro systems to harness, and channel youth energies; and
- Reintegration programs to help marginalized youth make a net contribution to society.

Program Goals

Program results will include:

- Multi-disciplinary, cross-sector exchange and analysis of key challenges and opportunities;
- Creation of a network of knowledge and stakeholders from separate disciplines related to large youth populations, economic insecurity, and social conflict; and
- A prioritized policy framework for countries and regions most affected by changing youth demographics and related challenges.

FELLOW TESTIMONIAL



Karen Colvard

Salzburg Global Fellow –
Sessions 465 & 530;
Program Director,
Harry Frank Guggenheim
Foundation, New York, NY, USA

“Understanding a problem is the first step towards solving it, but knowledge doesn't have any impact unless it is used. At Salzburg Global, participants from different realms of responsibility – scholarship, policy, government – discuss how understandings and interpretations of social phenomena, like the youth bulge, look from their own perspectives. By synthesizing these disparate views, prior assumptions are transformed into workable plans of action. I've seen it happen in Salzburg many times. ”

FOR MORE info. PLEASE CONTACT:

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Why Salzburg?

The mission of Salzburg Global Seminar is to challenge current and future leaders to solve issues of global concern. To do this we design, facilitate and host international strategic convening and multi-year programs to tackle systems challenges critical for the next generation.

Originally founded in 1947 to encourage the revival of intellectual dialogue in post-war Europe, we are now a game-changing catalyst for global engagement on critical issues in education, health, environment, economics, governance, peace-building and more. From the start, Salzburg Global Seminar has broken down barriers separating people and ideas. We challenge countries at all stages of development and institutions across all sectors to rethink their relationships and identify shared interests and goals.

Today, our program framework has three cross-cutting clusters and addresses the underlying questions that hold keys to human progress: **Imagination, Sustainability and Justice.**

Our exclusive setting at Schloss Leopoldskron enables our participants to detach from their working lives, immerse themselves in the issues at hand and form new networks and connections. Participants come together on equal terms, regardless of age, affiliation, region or sector.

We maintain this energy and engagement through the Salzburg Global Fellowship, which connects our Fellows across the world. It provides a vibrant hub to crowd-source new ideas, exchange best practice, and nurture emerging leaders through mentoring and support.

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FOR MORE *session info*.

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TO *register for the session*

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