

Centro de Estudios Avanzados
en Niñez y Juventud

ALIANZA



REVISTA LATINOAMERICANA
DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES, NIÑEZ Y JUVENTUD

Monograph Call for Papers: Youth Studies in Latin America and Ibero-America: 2014–2024. “Bad Times to Be Young”

Volume 25, Issue 2 (May–August 2027)

Submission of articles: November 2025.

Deadline for proposal submissions: October 31, 2026.

Guest Editors: Carles Feixa and Germán Muñoz (Researchers from the Juvir Collective and the Young People, Cultures and Powers research group at the Center for Advanced Studies in Childhood and Youth of Cinde and the University of Manizales).

In the 21st century, we have become familiar with texts such as:

- “Sketches for a Map of Youth Research in Latin America” (2006), by José Antonio Pérez, *Papers. Revista de Sociología*, 79, 145–170. (<https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/papers/v79n0.829>).
- Feixa Pàmols, C., & Urteaga Castro-Pozo, M. (2019). *Is There an Ibero-American ‘Youthology’? A Conversation. Youth and Globalization*, Brill, 1(2), 307–314.
- Benedicto, J., Urteaga, M., & Rocca, D. (2022). *Young People in Complex and Unequal Societies: Doing Youth Studies in Spain and Latin America*. Brill.

This latter book offers a journey through some of the principal recent lines of inquiry within the field of youth studies in Ibero-America and Latin America. The work is a major contribution toward continuing the development of an “Ibero-American youthology” and strengthening the field of youth studies in order to advance dialogue and exchange with studies from other regions.

Over the last decade (2014–2024), at the Center for Advanced Studies in Childhood and Youth and within the Juvir Collective, which emerged in the context of the Biennial of Childhoods and Youths,



@RevistaLatinoamericanadeCSNYJ



@revista-latinoamericana-ciencias-
sociales-niñez-y-juventud



revistaumanizales@cinde.org.co



<https://revistaumanizales.cinde.org.co/>

we have posed the following question in what has been an exceptional decade for humanity and, particularly, for young people:

What have been the major themes of debate and research within the field of Youth Studies? Within this panorama, which conceptual and methodological innovations stand out?

Nothing returned to being the same in the “new normal.” Clearly, being young today means something different; emerging issues, the concepts required for their understanding, conceptual approaches and methods of inquiry, relationships with youth collectives, and their forms of action and intervention have undergone substantial transformations that demand an updated reading and a detailed analysis of theoretical articulations and their relationship with the major areas of scientific and academic knowledge. This transformed reality has moved us to forge links among researchers, institutions, and populations, while also consolidating collaborative networks across Latin America and Ibero-America. At the same time, it has highlighted the importance of promoting public policies grounded in critical perspectives capable of articulating institutional initiatives with an updated understanding of theoretical debates.

Ten years after Ayotzinapa and the “false positives” (2014), there is one concept that has profoundly shaped Youth Studies: Juvenile violence. Lethal violence against young people has existed long before, but social conditions are now different, and the absence of a future has become a constant that affects precarious populations in multiple ways in everyday life. These populations can be sacrificed because they neither produce nor consume, because they are considered expendable in an indifferent society.

Within this context of inhumanity, multiple scenarios emerge in which lines of action and/or resistance become visible:

- a) Popular uprisings, which many merely describe as “social outbursts” or “mobilizations,” have spread across the planet, transforming the landscape of protest and collective organization, and pushing against the limits of insurrection.



@RevistaLatinoamericanadeCSNYJ



@revista-latinoamericana-ciencias-
sociales-niñez-y-juventud



revistaumanizales@cinde.org.co



<https://revistaumanizales.cinde.org.co/>

- b) Three pandemics loom on the horizon: the health pandemic (Covid-19), the environmental pandemic (global warming), and the social pandemic (extreme violence and disposable lives). Each of these affects young people in particular ways: suffocating them, confining them, immersing them in uncertainty, confiscating their social lives, and preventing them from planning their futures.
- c) One strategy for survival has been migration. The Mediterranean and the Darién Gap have become mass graves, routes of death toward the so-called First World or toward any destination that appears to promise dignity, where two minimum aspirations might be fulfilled: bread and shelter.
- d) Another option has been to take refuge in connective life, in social media, screens, and artificial intelligence. Virtual worlds possess characteristics of fantasy, infinite possibilities, endless entertainment, lights and colors surpassing the familiar, refuges or trenches for evading the fear of disappearance.
- e) Finally, new youth cultures are emerging that embrace extreme risk, worlds of excess, or aestheticized forms of interaction with a reality that either does not hurt or can supposedly be transformed without direct confrontation. We might conceive of a third generation of youth cultures: Gravity Bike riders (“the weightless”), influencers (“entrepreneurs”), K-pop (idols and fandoms), Incels and Groypers (communities of loneliness and anger).

These phenomena can be approached from multiple perspectives: precariousness, violence, consumption, activism... or from different analytical angles: historical, methodological, theoretical, territorial, and political.

The historicization of the research field in order to observe expressions of youthfulness also implies a sharp political understanding of young people’s lifeworlds, capable of interpreting their influence on social, cultural, and economic transformations; their agency; their active, productive subjectivities operating upon reality, whether in school, the streets, the family, consumption, or labor, as well as within ethnic, racialized, or gender relations. Youth are not the future; they are the present.

The monograph we dedicate to Youth Studies, in a decade marked by pandemics, extreme violence, the devaluation of life, the denial of rights, the retreat of democracy, and post-truth in social networks, may aptly be named as Javier Sampedro describes the uncertainty faced by young people in times of crisis and confinement: “Bad Times to Be Young.”





In the words of Colombia's Truth Commission, let us say that "it is not a lesser evil" to be part of a barbarity that has no name, or that disguises itself through euphemisms. The decade we seek to examine through the lens of youth studies is the decade of the 43 students of Ayotzinapa, the 6,402 "false positives," the thousands killed or disappeared in favelas, mega-prisons, and undeclared or tolerated wars.

Within the Colombian armed conflict, euphemisms abound: speaking of collective homicides instead of massacres; self-defense groups instead of paramilitaries; emerging criminal bands (bacrim) instead of neo-paramilitary groups; detentions instead of kidnappings; "rotten apples" instead of military personnel responsible for thousands of disguised killings known as "false positives." The effect of this language is the invisibilization and dehumanization of the phenomenon, because neither "false" nor "positive" are words that give a human face to this tragedy, and neither term refers to the victims, who therefore also disappear from language itself. It is a contradictory combination of terms. According to one of the meanings provided by the Royal Spanish Academy, false means "uncertain and contrary to truth," while positive means "certain, effective, true, and beyond doubt." Furthermore, the word false creates the perception that the reality itself is being denied, which may lead people unfamiliar with these events to believe they never existed.

The monograph we are convening seeks to become an exercise of commitment to the truth of precarious, Indigenous, and racialized young people; to the victims of pandemics; to migrants, displaced persons, and pariahs who neither study nor work; to children and youth caught in wars that are not theirs, in which they are treated as cannon fodder. In line with the aims of the Doctorate in Social Sciences, Childhood and Youth; the research group Young People, Cultures and Powers; and the Juvir Collective (Juvenicides and Social Resistance), we understand our commitment as extending beyond the aseptic production of academic knowledge toward militant action and resistance against all forms of necropolitics.



Centro de Estudios Avanzados
en Niñez y Juventud

ALIANZA



REVISTA LATINOAMERICANA DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES, NIÑEZ Y JUVENTUD

Additional Information

Languages: Articles are accepted in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

Article submission deadline: October 31, 2026.

Journal website: <https://revistaumanizales.cinde.org.co/>

Contact email: revistaumanizales@cinde.org.co



@RevistaLatinoamericanadeCSNYJ



@revista-latinoamericana-ciencias-
sociales-niñez-y-juventud



revistaumanizales@cinde.org.co



<https://revistaumanizales.cinde.org.co/>