

Young People's (Self-)Positioning in the World: Subjectivities, Discourses, and Inequalities

September 08–11, 2026

Conference team: Jessica Schwittek, Alexandra König, Katarzyna Jendrzey, & Maraia Bonsignore

Tuesday, September 8

18:00 –
22:00 Informal Get-Together

Wednesday, September 9

09:30 – 10:00	Conference Opening	
	Jessica Schwittek & Maraia Bonsignore University of Duisburg-Essen	Opening statements & organizational information
	Jessica Schwittek, Alexandra König & Katarzyna Jendrzey University of Duisburg-Essen	Introduction to the TraNa project: parts 1 & 2
10:00 – 11:10	Block 1: (Auto-)Biographical Narratives About Europe	
10:00	Xiarong Gu University of Suffolk	Imagining Europe: Overseas Chinese Students' Narratives of Host Societies Across a Century
10:20	Beata Gromadzka Adam Mickiewicz University	Europe as Promise and Disappointment: Young People's Socio-Spatial Self-Positioning in Polish Post-Transformation Narratives
10:40	Discussion	
11:10 – 11:30	Short Break	
11:30 – 13:10	Block 2: Imagined Futures and Structural Constraints	
11:30	Anand Panamthottam Cherian George Mason University	Aspiring to Move, Positioned to Serve: Middle-Class Indian Student Migration, Recruiters, and the Production of Cosmopolitan Subjectivities
11:50	Dasarath Chetty & Sheetal Bhoola University of Zululand	Present and Future (Im)mobilities: Self-positioning and Intersectionality amongst South African and African Youth
12:10	Sadikshya Bhattarai Aarhus University	Imagining Educational Migration Destinations: Nepali Youth and the Production of Dubai and South Korea as Study Destinations
12:30	Discussion	
13:10 – 14:30	Lunch	

14:30 – 15:40	Block 3: Processual Perspectives on Young People's Mobilities	
14:30	Onallia Esther Osei Maastricht University	From Aspiration to Action: Improvising Migration by Ghanaian Stayer Youth
14:50	Hamid El Ghezioui Abdelmalek Essaâdi University	Moroccan Youth Migration to Germany through Vocational Training: Between the Horizon of Social Mobility and the Challenges of Everyday Life
15:10	<i>Discussion</i>	
15:40 – 16:00	Closing Remarks: Conference Day 1	
18:00 – 22:00	Evening Program	
19:30	Film Screening of "Misafir (A Guest)" by Mariam El Marakeshy (Yale University) and Q&A with the filmmaker, followed by a discussion on transfer activities and cooperations between science and art. Moderation: Sana Benbelli (Hassan II University of Casablanca)	

Thursday, September 10

09:30 – 10:40	Block 4: Views from the Diaspora	
9:30	Minori Matsutani Otemon Gakuin University / Heidelberg University	Ethnic Community as a Comfort Cage: Strategies and Struggles of Young Japanese Migrants in Düsseldorf
9:50	Jiayin Li-Gottwald Northern Business School, University of Applied Sciences / Helmut Schmidt University	From Positioning to Place – Transpositioning and the Construction of China among Chinese-German Youth
10:10	<i>Discussion</i>	
10:40 – 11:00	Short Break	
11:00 – 12:10	Block 5: Constructions of Migrants and Their Position in the Society of Residence	
11:00	Stella Louise Wolter University of Vienna	Conditional Belonging: Youth Self-Positioning in Austria's Integration Regime
11:20	Dmitry Erokhin International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	Framed or Framing Themselves: YouTube Discourses on Young Migrants and the Conditions of Self-Positioning
11:40	<i>Discussion</i>	
12:10 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:40	Block 6: Young Migrants as Pupils	
13:30	Mari Korpela Tampere University	"In My Memories I Just Teleported from Other Places". The Self-Positioning of Children and Teenagers Attending an International School in Finland
13:50	Anzhela Popyk SWPS University	Reflexive Self-Positioning in Educational Transition: Ukrainian Refugee Adolescents Navigating Upper-Secondary School in Poland
14:10	<i>Discussion</i>	
14:40 – 15:00	Short Break	
15:00 – 16:20	Block 7: Political Subjectivities	

15:00	Ons Chaabane Eötvös Loránd University	Between Homeland Politics and Diasporic Life: Self-Positioning and Political Subjectivities among Tunisian Youth in France
15:20	Riza Franchesca Regala Polish Academy of Sciences	Youth Participation in High-Level Migration Governance Spaces: Mobility, Discourse, and Self-Positioning
15:40	Rukayat Usman University of Ibadan	Living on the inside and outside like doors: displacement labels and im/mobility of young “returning IDPs”
16:00	<i>Discussion</i>	
16:30– 17:00	Closing Remarks	

Friday, September 11

09:30 – 13:00	Conference Follow-Up
09:30	Discussion of potential post-conference publication (with conference participants)
11:00	Internal TraNa project meeting