

Call for papers RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London 31 August – 2 September 2011

Session organisers: Katherine Gough (Loughborough University) and Thilde Langevang (Copenhagen Business School)

Co-sponsored by Developing Areas Research Group (DARG) and Geographies of Children, Youth and Families Working Group (GCYFWG)

Youth in the global South: imagining better futures

Young people in the global South are growing up in harsh social and economic environments. Economic restructuring and the transformation of labour markets have resulted in limited employment opportunities for the youth. Their inability to generate adequate incomes results in a prolonged period of dependency on family members and the delayed onset of starting their own families and setting up their own home. For some young people the effects of conflicts and war, and the impact of HIV/AIDS, have exacerbated their difficult living situations. At the same time, the youth are exposed to global images projected via the media of better lifestyles lived by young people growing up elsewhere. These serve to fuel their geographical imaginations of a better future. Against the odds, many young people in the global South hang onto the possibility of improving their lives and achieving social mobility. They engage in various strategies including: extending their formal education and gaining new skills, setting up their own businesses, forming networks and alliances, and migrating in search of new opportunities. Some of these strategies result in success whereas others fail resulting in increased disillusionment.

We invite papers that explore the experiences and practices of young people growing up in the global South and how their geographical imaginations impact on their lives. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Youth employment avenues
- Youth engagement in formal and informal education
- Youth entrepreneurship
- Youth mobility – intra- and international – in search of better opportunities
- Youth involvement in political, social or environmental movements

Abstracts of around 250 words should be submitted by February 11 to both Katherine Gough k.v.gough@lboro.ac.uk and Thilde Langevang tl.ikl@cbs.dk. Feel free to contact us with any queries.

Further details about the conference can be found at:

<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/AC2011.htm>