

PRESENTATION

The edition of this Number 50 of the magazine *Última Década* is part of the celebrations we have prepared for the 25 years of this means of disseminating research production on youth issues. Since 1993 to the present day, through the commitment of a group of colleagues, we have succeeded in giving life and legitimacy to this communication tool: first, the Population Research and Dissemination Center Achupallas (CIDPA) for 20 years, then the Anillo JUVENTUDES Project, and now, the Research and Action Nucleus on Youth of the Department of Sociology at the University of Chile.

In 2018, we commemorated relevant events that occurred 50 years ago and marked the political presence of young people in our continent and in Europe. In 1968, in Mexico, intense student mobilizations took place for several months, culminating in a critical moment with the mass murder of over 300 young people by military forces at the Plaza de las Tres Culturas in Tlatelolco. Meanwhile, in Europe, during May 1968 in Paris and the Prague Spring, political youth movements emerged that have become part of the collective memory and identity of subsequent generations.

This is a significant moment, 50 years since those historical events, 25 years of existence of our Journal, and the number 50 as a symbolic numerological confluence that inspired us to create a special issue. This edition aims to remember what these 25 years have meant for the investigative production in the field of youth, and also to outline the challenges that lie ahead in this new era, which we approach with enthusiasm and determination to face the next 25 years with renewed vigor.

Thus, in this special issue, we attempt to showcase some of the paths taken, the entry points into the realities of youth, the conceptual and perspective contributions, and the current state of social research on youth in Chile, Latin America, and Europe. For this purpose, we have selected areas that represent experiences of youth worlds and intellectual production, aiming to account for the transformations in both fields, the dialogues, and the debates within them. Similarly, we have included diverse realities and countries that have contributed to the production of the Journal throughout this journey. There are other areas and countries that, due to space constraints, we have not been able to include.

The issue opens with an interview with Óscar Dávila, founder and director of the Journal from 1993 to 2013. In it, the contextual elements that gave rise to the idea of producing the Journal are discussed, as well as the deployment of various lines of thought that have converged within it, and some challenges for the present time.

Next, we present three sections. In the first one, titled "Perspectives of Analysis on Youth," we include a set of works that show the trajectories that certain perspectives have unfolded in the Journal over these 25 years. The first perspective is what we call "Trajectories," which, through the contribution of Oscar Dávila and Felipe Ghiardo, raises some problematizations aimed at discussing the conceptual and methodological relevance of social trajectories as a possible approach to "analyze youth." For this purpose, the authors present and discuss the most common notions in use regarding social trajectories, with an emphasis on youth realities, noting the

strengths, limitations, and methodological difficulties, techniques, and sources for the development of social research under this approach. Their article is titled "Social trajectories as an approach to analyze youths"

Another perspective that has been developed in the Journal is what we call the "Generational" perspective. Carolina Álvarez presents a contribution that reviews the treatment of this perspective in youth studies, with an emphasis on what has been published in the Journal. In essence, the author argues that there are two predominant approaches within this generational perspective: the culturalist and the historical-sociological. The author suggests that the challenges of this generational perspective aim to consolidate a greater production in social research that allows for updating classic European theoretical references and the methodologies used. The article is titled "The generational perspective in youth studies: approaches, dialogues and challenges."

The third perspective included is what we call the "Cultural" perspective. Two contributions feed into its discussion. Raúl Zarzuri and Rodrigo Ganter frame their reflection from what they call the "cultural turn" in studies of young people and youth in Chile, where the use of certain conceptual categories such as neotribalization or urban tribes has been a central subject of conceptual discussions. In their work, they aim to respond to the criticisms that have been directed at this perspective, arguing that the concepts used were a result of cultural and historical mediation that allowed for a generational link. They propose possibilities for the productivity of this perspective. Their article is titled "Cultural twist and youth studies in contemporary Chile: crisis of hegemony, mediations and the challenges of a proposal."

A second contribution within this perspective is presented by Carles Feixa from Catalonia, titled "Youth cultures as a perspective to analyze youths (1993-2018)". This article provides an overview of the studies on Latin American youth cultures in the last quarter-century. It covers pioneering studies on urban gangs and tribes to the most current ones on transnational youth cultures and networks. The author argues that youth cultural expressions constitute a fundamental perspective for analyzing youth, concerning their continuities, changes, and their contribution to the transformation of Latin American societies.

The second section is titled "Analysis of Youth Analysis," which, in its redundancy, aims to demonstrate the methods and ideas that underlie the production of knowledge about youth and young people in social research. It contains two works. In the first one, titled "Youth, youths, youngsters: those words," Verónica Filardo from Uruguay reflects on research practices and the naturalizations that occur within them, even when attempting to denaturalize the productions. She highlights the relevance of distinguishing concepts and their usage due to the interchangeability of terms such as "youth," "youths," and "youngsters" that exists in specialized literature.

The second work is authored by myself and is titled "Chilean social research on youths: the case of revista última década." Its purpose is to contribute to the debate on the conceptual perspectives used in studies about youth and young people in an adult-centric society. To do this, I examine

the production of knowledge regarding the imaginaries with which it has been developed and communicated. I analyze articles published in Revista Última Década from 1993 to 2010, focusing on the imaginaries produced in relation to the adult-centric condition of post-dictatorship society.

The third section is titled "Youth Traits in Contemporary Society" and addresses the production of youth from two highly relevant issues in today's society: the relationship between gender and youth, and the connections between youth and crime. The first work is titled "Contexts that speak: revisions of the gender/ youth link: from the María Soledad case to #niunamenos" presented by Silvia Elizalde from Argentina. The author offers an analysis of the production of bodies, sexualities, and generational positions of young people in Argentina, based on a historical analysis of two cases of abuse against young women. The work highlights the social dynamics and forces that have shaped certain perceptions of youth.

The second work is titled "Youth boundaries and crime" by Rogelio Marcial from Mexico. It aims to understand the forms of high mobility in youth interaction that transgress symbolic and identity boundaries to escape from adult-centric perspectives. The latter is understood in its authoritarian aspect of control, repression, and illegality, which attempts to prevent young people from achieving sustained autonomy in life projects oriented towards solidarity and personal fulfillment.

Finally, this special issue of the Revista Última Década concludes with an index of the articles published during these 25 years, prepared by Oscar Dávila, to whom we express our gratitude for his constant collaboration in making this edition possible.

The celebratory nature we gave to this 50th issue also led us to manage its printing in addition to its electronic version on SciELO, reviving the old practice maintained until issue 42 in July 2015. For this endeavor, we appreciate the financial contributions from the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of the Universidad Católica del Maule and the Department of Sociology and the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Chile, which allowed us to present this printed version to you. We hope this celebratory issue will be a valuable contribution to your lives and experiences related to youth worlds. We look forward to the next 25 years...

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Director