Youth is a relational concept that varies according to the temporal and spatial processes that shape young lives in different places around the world. Addressing the need for better recognition of the complex differences and interconnections that structure young lives, in this presentation we will highlight the implications for youth researchers of the different ways that time and space are theorised (explicitly and implicitly) in youth studies. A spatio-temporal perspective on youth highlights issues such as the different intersections of investments in leisure, education and work in the biography and in different spaces and places, the significance of control over time and mobility for understanding inequality, and the way that young people’s identities are constructed through relationships that unfold over time and are tied to the creation of particular territories. We aim to highlight the potential of recent temporal-spatial perspective to cross geographical and theoretical divisions, creating new agendas for youth studies.

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