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Youth and Generation Studies

YOUTH AND GENERATION STUDIES

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Lectori salutem!

We are pleased to present the second issue of the 2025 volume of *Youth and Generation Studies*. Each new issue represents an important milestone, reflecting the sustained and growing scholarly interest in youth and generational research. In 2026, the journal will enter its third year of publication, a period we anticipate will bring further development, including the strengthening of our academic standing through an expanded editorial board and the continued publication of high-quality research.

The present issue opens with a study by Tamás Bokor and Viktória Szabó on visual storytelling strategies in higher education. The authors examine the development of text-to-image prompting skills among students in arts education, conceptualising prompting as a digital competence that enhances the significance of linguistic and textual abilities among younger generations. Drawing on a case study of 37 students, the article demonstrates that iterative, tutored teaching methods can improve the effective use of textual prompts for visual image generation, thereby increasing the labour market value of these skills, particularly for Generation Y and Z cohorts.

Aleksandra Góralczyk and Weronika Ludek explore the role of the South Korean education system in shaping adolescents' identity. Employing a single case-study design supported by qualitative methods, including secondary data analysis and content analysis of reports and statistical indicators, the study offers a comprehensive assessment of how educational structures influence identity formation.

In a further contribution, Nilotpal Bhattacharjee analyses how young women use Instagram selfies to construct identity, manage self-presentation, and negotiate body image satisfaction within a visually oriented digital environment. Grounded in Uses and Gratifications Theory and Objectification Theory, the study investigates how visibility and validation on social media platforms shape young women's emotions and self-perceptions.

This issue also includes a book review by Gergely Réti of Paul Morland's *No One Left: Why the World Needs More Children* (2024), which provides a critical and thought-provoking examination of demographic

decline. The review highlights the book's discussion of the causes, implications, and contested narratives surrounding global demographic processes.

Finally, on the theme of demography, Katrina Hier presents a conference report on *Family Formation and the Future: The Geopolitical, Cultural, and Legal Dimensions of Demographic Change*, a two-day conference organised by the Danube Institute in cooperation with the Youth Research Institute, held in Budapest on 1–2 April 2025. The conference addressed the pressing challenges of declining fertility rates and the future of family structures.

We hope this issue will prove both engaging and intellectually stimulating.

Levente Székely
Editor-in-Chief

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