

INTRODUCTION

The present issue of *Revista Última Década* is produced in a context of confinement. The coronavirus pandemic is significantly altering our daily lives and has brought about profound questions about our social coexistence, the conflicts that arise within it, and the distribution of wealth and access to various goods. Poor governance in our region and in Chile exacerbates the consequences of this pandemic, with policies characteristic of extreme neoliberalism where economic production is prioritized at the expense of other aspects of human life such as health, nutrition, and social ties.

Young people have been addressed in this context, often being stereotyped as naturally "irresponsible" when some of them do not comply with confinement measures. They have also been used as "scapegoats" to impose stricter confinement measures on the entire population. However, interesting discourses have emerged that directly address young people, providing them with criteria for analyzing this situation, emphasizing the notion of collective responsibility in the face of the pandemic and the importance of intergenerational solidarity, highlighting the contributions they can make. In Chile, some young individuals have shown political agency by engaging in various political actions, both virtually and with restrained physical presence, since the popular uprising of October 2019 up to the present time.

In this issue of our magazine, we open with a current affairs article by Camila Araya, Patricia Carrasco, and Javiera Olivares, reflecting on the visibility of youth in the Chilean print media, particularly in this urgent context of the pandemic. They discuss the mechanisms through which this communication medium consolidates itself as an ideological apparatus in the production and reproduction of imaginaries about youth and youth-related issues.

Then, three sections follow. The first one, "Education, Social Classes, and Youth Trajectories," contains works where the youth condition is analyzed from their student experiences, both in higher education and secondary schooling. Felipe Ghiardo and Óscar Dávila examine the relationship between higher education and social structure in Chile, using the generational analytical framework. They discuss the differences in labor, socioeconomic, and educational aspects among the "first generation," "heirs," and "reproducers" categories in the present context.

Next, in the article titled "The ordinary elite: from promises to disappointment in the post-secondary trajectory of young people from the new middle class", Manuel Canales, Fabián Guajardo, and Víctor Orellana examine youth trajectories from high school graduation to entry into higher education and professional integration. The analysis reveals how education shapes the trajectories of the new middle class and proposes elements for their understanding from a subjective dimension.

This section concludes with an article by María Bostal and Federico González titled "After school. Projects and social distances in secondary school graduates in La Plata, Argentina". In this article, they explore the expressions of the relationship between education and work in shaping future projects among young people from lower social classes who graduate from secondary education. The authors discuss how the social inequality they experience influences their outlook and future

prospects, constrained by the limits imposed by their social position.

In the second section, "Construction of Youth Identities," two works are presented. In the first one, Yanny Santa Cruz analyzes the ways in which youth identities were constructed and expressed during the period of the Unidad Popular in Chile (1970-1973). The study examines two configurations of youth: those committed to the country's political struggles and those who were indifferent to them. These configurations become more complex when other elements are considered, such as cultural production, new practices in sexuality, and recreational marijuana consumption.

Marcos Mutuverría, on the other hand, presents the article "Youth Identities and Social Trajectories in Gated Communities in Argentina: The Case of Nordelta." In this work, he analyzes the construction of youth identities in a neighborhood in Buenos Aires and how their mobility influences their everyday sociocultural practices. The study examines the self-perceptions of young people regarding their trajectories and the stigmatization they experience based on their mobility dynamics and use of time.

In the third section, "Media and Cultures: Youth Memories and Consumption," the article by Lorena Antezana and Cristian Cabalin titled "Television Fiction and the Intergenerational Construction of Memories about the Recent Past in Chile" is presented. Through the analysis of three generations of viewers, the authors discuss the diverse interpretations of the past that are constructed from fictional series about the 40 years since the coup d'état. They emphasize what they call the "intergenerational reading" in this production of memory.

Jorge Romero presents the article "Approach to the cultural consumption of undergraduate economics students in Puebla, Mexico." In this study, he analyzes the habits, influences, and means of cultural consumption of students who have recently entered the Faculty of Economics at the Autonomous University of Puebla. Music consumption is their primary cultural preference, and it is predominantly done through the internet and mobile phones, with a significant focus on American music.

In this issue of the magazine, we are inaugurating a new section that we plan to keep as a permanent feature: "Conversations about the Research Production on Youth." This section provides an opportunity to share reflections from researchers about their trajectories and key insights into youth studies that they have been producing. We open this space to allow those who wish to contribute with this format of communication about youth in our societies. We begin with an interview by Carles Feixa (from Catalonia) with José Machado País (from Portugal): "Chasing the Winds of Time: Youth, Compound Pasts, and Possible Futures." The interview revisits the personal and intellectual trajectory of this Portuguese sociologist, one of the leading figures in youth studies in Europe and Latin America. The interview presents the main ideas from his latest book (*Youth and Creativity*, 2020), which includes five essays on youth creativity.

We invite you to carefully and critically read the contents of this issue of the magazine, to share them with your close circles, and hopefully, it will enrich your experiences with young people.

Best regards,

Klaudio Duarte Quapper

Director, *Última Década Magazine*