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(Im)mobilising Youth Citizenship / Youth Citizenship (im)mobilities

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(Im)mobilising Youth Citizenship / Youth Citizenship (im)mobilities

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2023

Mark Holton – University of Plymouth

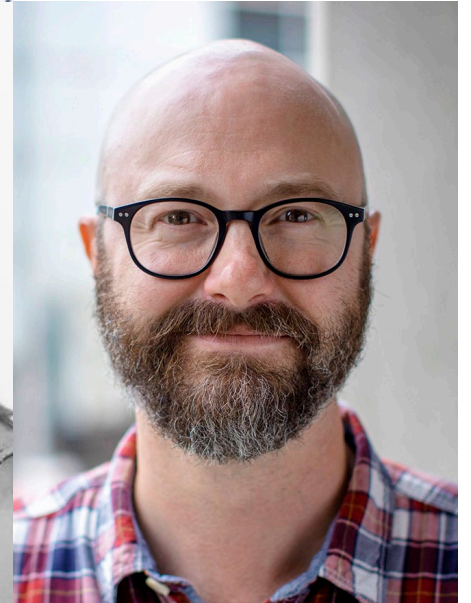
Suzanne Beech – Ulster University

Sara McDowell – Ulster University




Bordered Youth

Analysing Citizenship and
Identities in Post-Brexit
Northern Ireland



Mobilising youth citizens

The background of the slide is a dense field of colorful wooden human figures, similar to those used in a 'Human Knot' team-building exercise. The figures are in various colors including red, orange, yellow, white, grey, blue, and dark brown. They are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, multi-colored background. On the right side, there is a vertical white bar that contains a white horizontal line near the top and a white plus sign near the bottom.

- Why youth mobility citizenship?
- Young people as citizens ‘in becoming’.
 - Youth as betwixt – between ‘childhood’ and ‘adulthood’ (Mills, 2013).
- Young people as citizenship holders in their own right.
 - Citizenship as relationally produced (Wood, 2016).

(Im)mobilising youth citizens




Liminal life-course mobilities?



- Life-courses as linear or non-linear?
 - Transitions, trajectories, biographies?
 - Cartographies, constellations, assemblages?
- Life-courses as liminal states?
 - ‘in-between’, ‘betwixt’, ‘borderline’?
- Liminality as an apparatus of social positioning – to impose barriers or limits on to others.
- Liminality as an agentic state of being – to 'be', 'act' or 'think' in liminal ways.

Mobile citizenship capitals



- Mobility capital that privileges / disadvantages experiences – cosmopolitanism, entrepreneurialism, creativity etc. (Haldimann et al., 2022).
- Learning citizenship through mobility (HE, gap years, internships, graduate schemes etc.).
- Risks associated with im/mobility – ‘stuckness’, and the ‘left behind’.
- Produces fragmented, particular and temporary forms of citizenship necessitated by frequent mobilities.

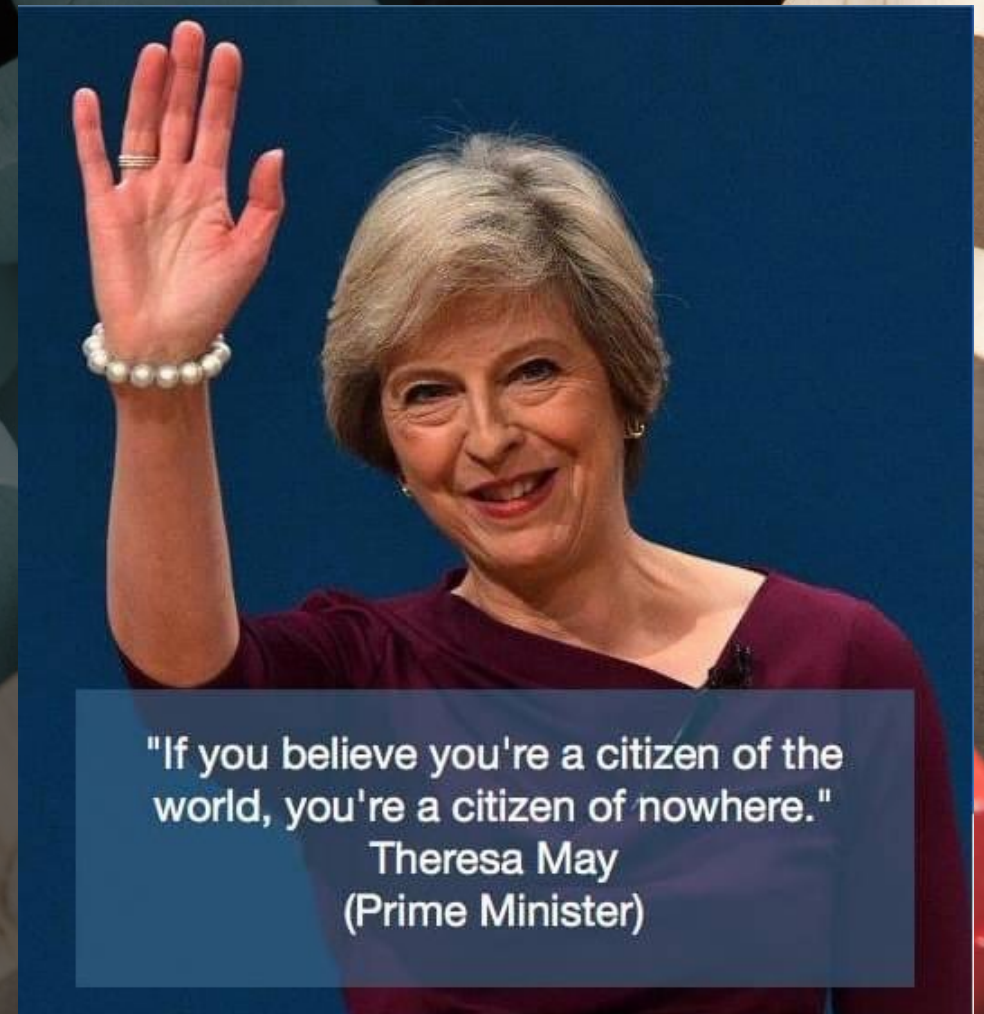
Mobile citizens – ‘footloose’ and fancy free?

- Multi-locational citizenship/s (Spinney et al., 2015)?
- ‘Footlooseness’ – cosmopolitanism or structures aimed at maintaining youth mobility?
- Precarities and temporalities of being mobile citizens.



Immobilising youth citizenship?

- Geopolitical impacts (Brexit, Trump, nationalism etc.).
- Discourses of borders and bordering.
- Political contestations surrounding good / bad mobilities and what it means to 'be' a mobile citizen.



"If you believe you're a citizen of the world, you're a citizen of nowhere."

Theresa May
(Prime Minister)

A framework for youth citizenship (im)mobilities

1. Liminal life-courses – social positioning / agentic opportunities.
2. Mobility / citizenship capitals – (re)producing citizenship inequalities.
3. Everyday precarity – normalising uncertainties and weak ties.
4. Structured mobilities – ‘good’ and ‘bad’ citizenships.

Future research on age, ageing and the life-course



Extended
in[ter]dependencies



Multi-generational
homes



Life-course
uncertainties

Thank you



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