

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

# Research-in-Progress

Tuesday 28 March / 10-11am

Room 204, Arundel

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PhD in Education

## **Navigating the ‘new South Africa’: An ethnographic study of the ‘born free’ generation in Mpumalanga**

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Young people growing up in post-apartheid South Africa are controversially referred to as the ‘born free’ generation, growing up in a democracy that officially offers them ‘free and equal access to education’ but that still grapples with the inherited legacy of racial discrimination, social segregation and unequal educational provision.

This presentation draws upon ethnographic data collected within a secondary school in a township in Mpumalanga province, where I explored the discourses proposed to previously disadvantaged South Africans as they construct their future aspirations.

The data consists of observations, interviews and focus groups with two cohorts of young people – those in their last year of schooling and those one to two years out of school. During the presentation, I intend to share my key findings and developing analysis, opening up a space to consider the value of drawing on post-structural theories in the interpretation of my data.

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