

**IDS Youth Employment and Politics Webinar Series**

# **The battle of youth continues: shifting the policy narrative from security to peace**

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**Accompanying resources**

**May 2021**

*The Youth Employment and Politics webinar series is linked to IDS' strategic research initiative: 'Ensuring decent work and political inclusion for young people', which is part of the 2020-25 IDS Strategy.*

*IDS research undertaken within this strategic initiative contributes to new thinking on youth engagement and the links between youth employment and citizenship, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The webinar series will focus the themes of youth mobility, employment, rural livelihoods, politics, peace and security, and youth in humanitarian settings. The speakers will address both the 'histories' and 'futures' of youth by speaking to dynamics before and during the pandemic and making observations on its implication.*

*Presentations will primarily focus on sub-Sahara Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In line with our values on inclusiveness of voices and co-construction of knowledge, the webinar series will capture diverse perspectives. Speakers and discussants represent academia, civil society, governments and UN agencies. Researchers involved in the IDS Europe Engagement Initiative will also share insights. Together we aim to strengthen development thinking and practice for more effective interventions for 'the Covid generation' to tackle what is a universal development challenge.*

*This webinar will connect higher-level policy debates on the securitization of the youth peacebuilding agenda to debates on youth engagement with local-level armed conflict, insecurity, and destruction of heritage. Speakers will discuss global policies and give focused case studies of Syria and Mozambique.*

*We invite researchers, policy actors and civil society representatives that study, fund and implement youth policies and programmes to sign up for our webinars and join the debate.*

## **Chair**

### **Dr Marjoke Oosterom – Institute of Development Studies**



Marjoke Oosterom is a research fellow in the Power and Popular research cluster at IDS. She holds a PhD from IDS and has a background in comparative politics and development studies. Her research concentrates on how experiences of violence and conflict affect forms of agency, citizenship, and everyday politics and governance. Her specific expertise is on youth politics and youth agency in response to insecurity and violence, and politics in the informal economy. She has been involved in consultancy work for policy makers and international NGOs that fund and implement governance and youth-focused interventions in fragile and conflict affected

settings. Marjoke leads IDS' strategic research initiative on youth employment and politics, and is convening this webinar series.

### **Relevant publications**

Oosterom, M. (2018) Youth Engagement in the Realm of Local Governance: Opportunities for Peace?, IDS Working Paper 508, Brighton: IDS

## Speakers

### Dr. Salvador Forquilha



Salvador Forquilha is a researcher at the Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IESE) and a senior lecturer at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Bordeaux, France. His research focuses on state building dynamics and political violence. He is leading a research project on state, violence and development challenges in northern Mozambique.

### Relevant publications

Habibe, S., Forquilha, S. and Pereira, J., 2019. Islamic radicalization in northern Mozambique: The case of Mocimboa da Praia. *Institute for Social and Economic Studies*.

Chaimite, E., Forquilha, S. and Shankland, A., 2021. Who Can We Count On? Authority, Empowerment and Accountability in Mozambique.

### Dr Sofya Shabab



Sofya is a Social Anthropologist and Research Officer at IDS. As part of the Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development she has been working with young people from religious minorities in Iraq and Syria in the documentation and preservation of their heritage. Her most recent research has focused on the impacts and implications of the weaponisation of affect by Daesh as mode of violence and terror.

### Relevant publications

Isakhan, B., & Shahab, S. (2020). The Islamic State's destruction of Yezidi heritage: Responses, resilience and reconstruction after genocide. *Journal of Social Archaeology*, 20(1), 3-25.

### Mr. Ali Altiok



Ali Altiok is an independent researcher and advocate on youth and peacebuilding. He co-authored a global policy paper on youth participation in peace processes for the Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth. He worked as a researcher at the joint UN Secretariat Peacebuilding Support Office and United Nations Population Fund), supporting research, data analysis and narrative development of *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, mandated by the United Nations Security Council under Resolution (UNSCR) 2250. He

established a young peace researcher with the support from United Networks of Young Peacebuilders, and currently works as a YPS project officer at Interpeace.

## Relevant publications

Simpson, G. and Ahtiok, A. 'Building Back Better': Youth, Risk and Resilience in the coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. *Accord*. <https://www.accord.org.za/analysis/building-back-better-youth-risk-and-resilience-in-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic/>

Ahtiok, A. and Street, J. A fourth pillar for the United Nations? The rise of counter-terrorism. *Saferworld*. <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1256-a-fourth-pillar-for-the-united-nations-the-rise-of-counter-terrorism>

Ahtiok, A. and Grizelj, I. We Are Here: An Integrated Approach to Youth Inclusive Peace Processes. *United Nations Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth*. <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Global-Policy-Paper-Youth-Participation-in-Peace-Processes.pdf>

Ahtiok, A., Berents, H., Grizelj, I. and McEvoy-Levy, S., Youth Peace and Security. In Hampson F., Kent J. and Ozerdem A. *The Routledge Handbook of Peace, Security and Development*. Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/youth-peace-security-ali-altiok-helen-berents-irena-grizelj-siobhán-mcevoy-levy/e/10.4324/9781351172202-38?context=ubx&refId=8c787582-efac-44d2-88ff-a1a1f922eb54>

## Discussants

### Cecile Mazzacurati



Cécile Mazzacurati works with the United Nations Population Fund, where she is in charge of the youth, peace and security agenda, as well as peacebuilding issues at large. Cécile is also the co-chair of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace & Security, a global multistakeholder platform co-led by Search for Common Ground and UNOY. Cécile has worked for nearly 20 years with the United Nations in various positions focused on health, gender and young people in humanitarian and peacebuilding settings.

### Shadi Rouhshahbaz



Shadi Rouhshahbaz is an Iranian peacebuilder, speaker, facilitator, and trainer. She has a double master's degree in Inter-Mediterranean Migration and Mediation. Shadi has worked and lived in Iran, France, South Africa, Tunisia, and Italy where she is currently based. Her area of focus is youth and intersectionality and specially the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda in the MENA region. When not working with her organization, PeaceMentors, in Iran, she holds trainings and workshops on nonviolent communication, negotiation, and mediation. Shadi has worked with several international organizations and bodies such as UNOY, UNIC, UNICEF, ALDA, Agency for Peacebuilding, the Council of Europe and PeaceMaker360.

### **Other relevant resources**

Dowd, C. (2017) How Does Work Feature in Literature on Youth Participation in Violence?, IDS Working Paper 485, Brighton: IDS



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Institute of Development Studies  
Library Road  
Brighton, BN1 9RE  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0)1273 606261  
[ids.ac.uk](http://ids.ac.uk)

Charity Registration Number 306371  
Charitable Company Number 877338  
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