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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

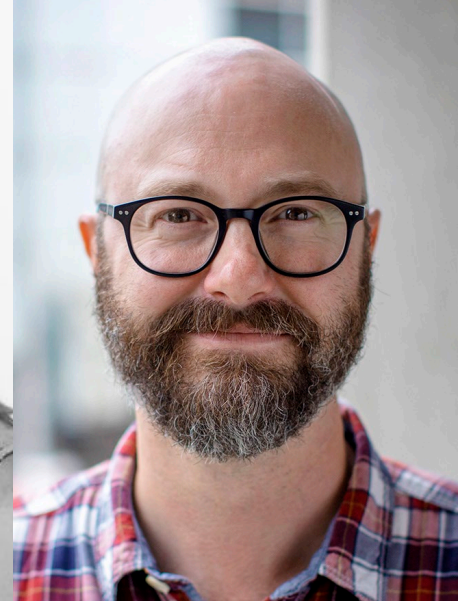
Suzanne Beech – Ulster University

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 collection of colorful wooden human figures, similar to the classic 'people' toys. 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.

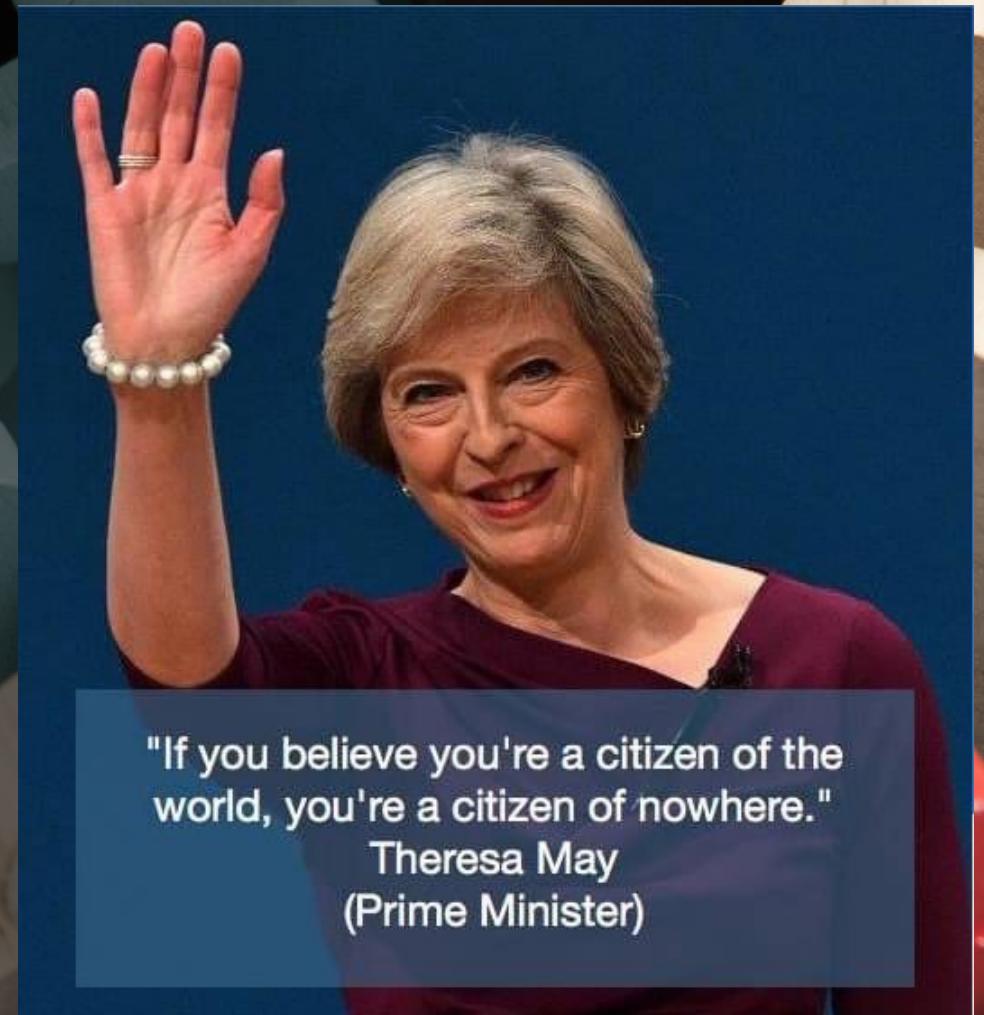




# Immobilising youth citizenship?

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- 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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