Workshop Invitation - Youth at the Margins (YOMA)

**Theme:** Methodological and ethical considerations when researching the role of religion and religious organisations in the every-day lives of young people at the margins of society

**Objective:** to discuss methodological and ethical issues and challenges when studying and researching the role of religion and religious organisations in the every-day lives of young people at the margins of society.

**Contributors and themes:**

Christina Landman, University of South Africa – *Mapping as action research in the context of religion and youth research*

Kari Jordheim, Diakonhjemmet University College – *The use of maps as a method in youth and community research*

Obaji Agbiji, University of South Africa – *Ethical and methodological considerations in researching young people: perspective from a recent publication*

Anna Juntunen, University of Helsinki – *The use of photography as a method in youth research*

The contributors will provide an input, which is then followed by common discussion.

The workshop derives from a recently launched South African-Nordic European research project (YOMA) aiming to study the nature and extent to which religion in general and faith-based organisations in particular contribute to social cohesion in the way they relate to marginalised youth at the local level in South Africa and in Nordic countries (see Swart 2013). In accordance with the framework of NEETs (Eurofound 2012), 50% of all young people between 20 and 24 in South Africa are not in education, employment or training. At the same time, 60-67% of the whole population of the country is under 30 (Crause & Booyens 2010). New ways of integration going beyond but also taking into account the confines of education and employment must therefore be found. But what are the resources to meet such integration? YOMA departs from the South African social context and is comparative in design, comprising parallel case studies and conceptual work in South Africa, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

**Chair/coordinators:**

Clint Le Bruyns, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, Lebruyns@ukzn.ac.za
Annette Leis-Peters, Diakonhjemmet University College, annette.leis-peters@diakonhjemmet.no

**References:**


---

1. *Youth at the margins: a comparative study of the contribution of faith-based organisations to social cohesion in South Africa and Nordic Europe (2013-2016).*