

## Skateboarding, youth and subculture 2020

### Open Call for Special Issue in *YOUNG – Nordic Journal of Youth Research* (Sage).

In its sixty years of history, skateboarding has evolved from a creative urban activity with a legendary past meshed with subcultural values into an Olympic Sport and a platform for multinational industry and global enterprises. The predominately male scene has been challenged by women and by LGBT-skateboarders. The mythical birth place of California, USA, has been geographically expanded and also questioned. Simultaneously, authenticity drawing from the ideas of subculture tends to prevail as new generations are fostered in this expanding community. For example, independence and creativity are still core values. Parts of this legitimacy seem to draw from ideas of an alternative youth, other parts paradoxically from glorified mainstream neoliberal culture (Schwier and Kilberth 2019).

Research on skateboarding young people has covered a range of aspects. The now classic works of Becky Beal (1995; 1996) and Iain Borden (2001) have been followed by an ever-expanding research focused on city planning and spatial issues, gender and sexuality, religion, rural aspects and more. In 2018, Atencio, Beal, Wright and McClain published *Moving Boarders* with rich empirical accounts from the San Francisco Bay Area showing new roles of youth development and civic engagement. In 2019, London based Borden published an updated version of his contemporary classic *Skateboarding, space and the city*. The recent version has the confident subtitle: “the complete history of skateboarding”.

The aim of this special issue is therefore to benchmark critical research on skateboarding, youth and culture 2020 and to contribute to the field of research which explores contemporary skateboarding focusing young people’s everyday lives from a cultural perspective.

Indicative topics include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Centres and peripheries in skateboarding culture including national and international comparisons
- Continuity and change in skateboarding culture, style, music and fashion, including visual representations
- Skateboarding generations and aging youth culture
- The established themes in youth studies, such as deviance, cultures/subcultures, and political participation;
- The dimensions of social divisions such as class, gender, sexuality or ‘race’;
- Theoretical engagements between established concepts and theories of culture and subculture;

## **Potential Scope**

The special issue aims to cover a broad range of themes and include empirical, methodological and theoretically focused contributions. Of particular interest will be articles which address the themes of the issue in a novel and interdisciplinary manner. The articles will represent projects drawing on a variety of methodological approaches, potentially including ethnographic, visual, and historical approaches with an international scope for comparative approaches. Overall, the articles will work together to explore skateboarding, youth and culture from centres to peripheries.

## **Guidelines for Submission**

The call is open, and we invite articles from both early career researchers and established researchers in the field of youth studies.

Submissions must follow the journal guidelines and be submitted for review via YOUNG's website at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/young>. This means for instance that all manuscripts are reviewed initially by the editors. Those papers that meet the editorial standards of the journal and fit within the aims and scope of the journal and of the special issue will be submitted for peer review through a double-blind reviewing process. In addition, submissions for this special issue should clearly indicate 'SI – Skateboarding, youth and culture 2020' in notes for the editor.

For further general information on submissions see:

<http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal201637#tabview=manuscriptSubmission>

The special issue will contain five articles. YOUNG editors are responsible for decisions on inclusion of manuscripts. A potential surplus of articles may be considered for publication in other issues of YOUNG.

If you have any questions regarding the special issue, please contact one of the responsible YOUNG editors.

Deadline for submission is 31 January 2020.

## Editors of the Special Issue

**Åsa Bäckström** is Associate Professor at the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden. Her research interests include informal learning processes, youth, culture and gender. Skateboarding has been particularly focused since the late 1990 and Bäckström's work has appeared in *Leisure Studies*, *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* and *Sport Education and Society*. Her Swedish publications, such as the PhD: *Spår. Om brädsporkultur, informella lärprocesser och identitet* [Traces. On board sport culture, informal learning processes and identity] (2005), are less known internationally. She is an editor of *YOUNG: Nordic Journal of Youth Research*.

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**Shane Blackman** is a Professor of Cultural Studies at Canterbury Christ Church University, UK. He received his PhD at the Institute of Education, University of London as an ESRC scholarship student. He is an editor of the *Journal of Youth Studies* and *YOUNG: Nordic Journal of Youth Research* and a member of the *ESRC Peer Review College*. His books include *Chilling Out: The Cultural Politics of Substance Consumption, Youth and Drug Policy* (2004), *Young People, Class and Place*, (eds), with Shildrick, T. and MacDonald, R. (2010), *The Subcultural Imagination: Theory, Research and Reflexivity in Contemporary Youth Cultures*, (eds) with Kempson, M. (2016) and *Youth Marginality in Britain: contemporary studies of austerity*, (eds) with Rogers, R. (2017).

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