

## PRESENTATION

The last eighteen months have marked a critical point in our humanity. The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has led us to profound questioning about the type of societies we have been constructing. Among other factors, this pandemic has highlighted the deep inequality that exists in different corners of the planet, and it has also exposed the systematic damage we are inflicting on the environment in which we live. Therefore, we speak of a political-health crisis that affects us as humanity.

The impacts on various sectors of the population are just beginning to be studied and understood. In particular, we focus on the contributions that the social and educational sciences are making to comprehend this phenomenon, its effects, and the opportunities that arise for the younger generations. Therefore, we called for submissions several months ago to present works that would account for research findings, essays, and other formats capturing ongoing developments and providing key insights into this critical context. With the selected works, we have compiled two special issues (56 and 57), which are being published in this spring of 2021 as a contribution to this reflective task.

This issue, No. 57, is organized into four sections. The first section presents two works on "Strategies for dealing with the pandemic." In the first work, a team of colleagues, including Paz Valenzuela Rebolledo, Gabriela Rubilar, Alex Manquilepe, Lesly Torres, Camila Peralta, Johanna Arancibia, Juan González, Vanessa Soto, and Joseph Strauss, presents reflections on experiences of confinement—past, present, and future imaginaries—of different generations, through a biographical study. The second text, also presented by a team composed of Eduardo Galo Erazo, Nadime Masri Ortuño, Gabriela Panes Álvarez, and Juan Zamorano Hernández, from the Colectivo Sin Fronteras, showcases the results of their two-year systematic work, emphasizing the action capabilities of children and young people based on their associativity and agency.

The second section addresses the field of "Education in pandemic times" with two contributions. The first one from São Paulo, Brazil, presents reflections on secondary school as an important space for youth sociability during the pandemic, using hybrid strategies amid confinement. The authors of this work are Marina Jorge da Silva, Joice Bissoloti Brigati, and Livia Celegati Pan. The second contribution comes from Manuel Antonio Baeza and Andrea Aravena, based on research conducted with first-year students from two universities in Concepción, Chile, during the pandemic in 2020. Their findings focus on youth subjectivities, which are characterized by a balance between individualistic retreats and social vocations, as they articulate their aspirations and expectations amid a set of uncertainties.

The third section focuses on the "Labor World." Ana Miranda and Miguel Alfredo, from Argentina, analyze the impact of the pandemic on the employment situation of young people in their country. In this context, they conclude that social inequality among young people has intensified, with a greater educational gap, disparities in employment, and income levels across different social sectors and genders.

This special edition on the pandemic and youth concludes with the section titled "Youth Political

Action in Times of Pandemic," featuring one work from Argentina and two from Chile. In the first one, Melina Vázquez and Alejandro Cozachcow reflect on youth organizations and collective actions during the pandemic, focusing on their relational strategies, activist agendas, and the occupation of public spaces in their mobilizations in this context. The following work is presented by a team composed of Diego Aníñir Manríquez, Eliané Martínez Díaz, Paulina Castillo, Leonardo Alarcón, Yadira Palenzuela Fundora, and Claudia Castilla García. Through a documentary analysis of academic and institutional production on Chilean youth during the Revolt and the Pandemic, they offer insights into social control, political action, and affectivities, proposing analytical and epistemic guidelines to address the tensions and reflections surrounding youth in the current crisis. This section concludes with the collective work of Patricia Carrasco, Diego Aníñir, Natalia Bravo, Claudio Duarte, Natalia Hernández, and Eliané Martínez, which presents the results of an investigation into the experiences of young Chileans in tension with the justice system during the current socio-sanitary crisis. They propose giving importance to the diverse positions of young people that challenge normative and homogenizing parameters often used in youth studies.

With this issue and the previous one, we hope to contribute as the Magazine "Última Década" to the critical understanding of youth actions, dynamics, and transformative proposals during this pandemic and the anti-neoliberal struggles that have unfolded in our region in recent times.

Best regards,

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