

## Youth and Young Adulthood: Transitions in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Decade of Life

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Transitions in Youth and Young Adulthood  
University of Basel, Switzerland | 28 to 30 November 2013

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### **'Age' as forgotten social category in school-to-work transition research**

The keynote lecture will discuss the state-of-the-art approach in school-to-work transition research. As a result, I will show that this research area has moved from an age role paradigm towards an institutional duration paradigm, in which age has become a forgotten social category. This development has evolved in sharp contrast to other field of transition-into-youth research, like research on family formation, in which age is still an important research dimension. In the second part of the keynote, I will demonstrate empirical consequences of ignoring age. For example, we have overlooked that school-to-work transition have moved from the second into the third decade of life for the majority of younger birth cohorts – although durations between end of schooling and first job might not have changed over time. In the final part, I will discuss why it is not only empirically but also theoretically of interest to re-integrate age into school-to-work research.

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