

Neoliberal globalization has eroded local subsistence economies and intensified human mobility across borders, incorporating non-traditional actors such as children and youth as well as new sending areas in the global South and new destinations in both the global South and North America and Europe. Children and young people have been central actors in these new migration processes.

Indigenous youth have become subjects of historical transformation in their communities in Latin America and their agency has assumed public visibility in the new ruralities and in transmigration. Scholars have repeatedly failed to incorporate youth into the ethnographic record of indigenous communities. Youth, as a stage in the life course and as a socially constructed category, has emerged in indigenous communities only in the context of the transformations brought about by transnational capitalism.

This project is divided into two phases. In the first phase dr Fina Carpena-Mendez will complete a book manuscript based on ethnographic research with Mexican Nahua youth, unveiling the social and cultural resources they drew upon to take the lead in transnational migration in communities that did not have previous experience in transmigration.

In the second phase, and building upon and expanding on the research completed for the book, a comparative project with dr Aleksandra Wierucka will be developed on the livelihood strategies and occupational experiences of indigenous youth in Puebla, Mexico, and the Ecuadorian Amazon. The outcome of this comparative ethnographic project will be singly authored publications in peer-reviewed journals and a co-edited book on the current lifeworlds and occupational trajectories of indigenous youth in Latin America. The results of this research project will help us to understand the role youth have in the dynamic process of reproducing and transforming cultural memories, knowledge and identity, as well as in the struggle for sustainable forms of life and the transformation for unjust social relations.