

PREFACE

This book is about the crisis for young people in contemporary Britain and the politics of intergenerational inequality. It explores the conditions for young adults in the key life domains of education, work, housing and welfare, asking how opportunities have changed between generations, and whether disadvantages faced by today's youth are likely to persist throughout the life time of their generation. Is our society facing the prospect of a genuine generational decline, manifested in multiple spheres, and unprecedented during the last century; if so, what should we be doing about it?

The book grows out of the research conducted since 2013 in the Centre for Learning and Life Chances (LLAKES) at the UCL Institute of Education and, in particular, in the project entitled: *The Crisis for Contemporary Youth: Young People, Opportunities and Civic Values*. This is a mixed-method research project which included quantitative analyses of existing datasets, the conduct of the sixth wave of the Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study (CELS) and also interviews with 100 young people aged 22–26 in 2014. Financial support for this research from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is gratefully acknowledged (grant reference ES/J019135/1). I would like to thank the current and former research officers at LLAKES who contributed to various aspects of the work, including Nicola Pensiero and Michela Franceschelli contributed to Chap. 2; Golo Henseke contributed to Chap. 3; and Gabriella Melis contributed to Chap. 4. Various more

specialist publications from this research will be appearing in their own names in due course.

I dedicate this book to my wife, Ye—a ‘pioneer’ of the One-Child generation in China and the Millennial generation in the UK.

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Generational Inequalities in Education, Work, Housing
and Welfare

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