

## **BSA Youth Study Group Annual Report 2023**

### **Aims**

The BSA Youth Study Group (YSG) unites sociologists with an interest in youth studies and youth-led research. We support postgraduate and early career researchers as well as established academics to help ensure excellence and relevance in all work which has young people at its heart. From its establishment in 1999, the BSA YSG has worked to build networks, produce inclusive spaces, and create exciting opportunities for dialogue within the sociology of youth as well as across the wider youth studies community. Our activities include:

- Organising online and face-to-face events on youth-related topics.
- Creating journal Special Issues and edited book collections on methodological innovations and substantive concerns in our field.
- Exploring intersections between youth, age, generation, gender, social class, race/ethnicity, sexuality, and disability as factors which shape the lives of young people.
- Enhancing critical debate in the field of youth studies and amongst youth scholars.
- Facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue between sociologists of youth and those from other disciplines.
- Supporting PGRs and ECRs situated in the sociology of youth and youth studies by providing opportunities for skill sharing and constructive feedback on ongoing work.
- Supporting the building of international collaborations and dialogue in youth sociology.

### **Our Community**

Throughout 2023, the BSA Youth Study Group continued to raise the profile of the BSA Youth Study Group by building and strengthening national and international networks among sociologists of youth and youth studies colleagues. This has included dedicating resources to online communication and virtual connection, and face-to-face events. We have continued to extend the reach of the group to those situated in cognate disciplines, such as Education, Political Studies and Criminology who hold interests in and undertake youth research, and continued to strengthen connections with youth practitioners and applied sociologists, who regularly participate in our events. All of which, ensure that youth sociology remains attentive to and connected to those interfacing directly with young people. We have created cross-disciplinary platforms for sharing of ideas, knowledge, and research with aligned learned societies, such as British Education Research Association (BERA) Youth SIG, the Political Studies Association (PSA) Young People's Politics group. The BSA Youth Studies Group has also built strong working relationships with other study groups, such as BSA Childhood Studies Group.

### **Virtual meet-ups**

Our virtual meet-ups have continued to prove popular amongst youth studies researchers from a variety of career stages. Throughout 2023, we facilitated regular virtual meet-ups as these informal spaces/times for colleagues to share experiences and ongoing research continue to prove valuable to the Youth Studies community. International colleagues attend

regularly and have reported that the virtual meet-ups provide a welcoming and supportive online space for networking and collaboration on an international scale. Due to their success and continued interest from our communities, we are planning to continue organising regular virtual meet-ups.

### **Growing the membership and communication**

The Study Group mailing list remains active with 606 subscribers, and we have an active Twitter community of 1,682 followers. The continued use of these channels indicates the relevance for our members, and informal feedback indicates they are seen as a key source of news and information for youth researchers. To ensure that the study group remains relevant, we have updated, and will continue to update, the BSA microsite.

### **Convenors**

In 2023 Dr. Janina Suppers, The University of Waikato and Sophie Atherton, The University of Manchester stepped back from their roles as post-graduate convenors to take up new roles as convenors of the Youth Studies group. We also advertised for new convenors - Dr. Harriet Rowley (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Dr. Grace Spencer (Anglia Ruskin University) were appointed whilst Thalia Thereza Assan (The University of Edinburgh) and Dr Liam Wrigley (Keele University) have taken on the PGR/ECR convenor role.

### **Activities undertaken (2023)**

- Mailing list growth – 595 subscribers to 606 (increased from 296 subscribed on or before 1/11/18).
- Twitter followers – 1699 followers to 1,682 (increased from 911 in 2018).
- Continuation of virtual meet-ups which started in 2020 – total 27 virtual meet-ups.
- Articles in the BSA's Network magazine detailing our activities and providing updates about the group.
- Hybrid Plenary in the Lifecourse stream at the BSA Annual Conference 2023 entitled "(Re)imagining the Lifecourse: Examining Childhood and Youth Futures". A keynote entitled: "Young People, Youth Sociology, and the Future: the value of a 'political economy perspective'?" was delivered by Prof. Rob MacDonald (University of Huddersfield). Plenary speakers included: Dr Avril Keating, University College London, Professor Sharlene Schwartz, University of Cape Town & University of Fort Hare, South Africa, Dr Karenza Moore, Newcastle University and Dr Liam Berriman, University of Sussex.
- Dr. Janina Suppers and Dr. Liam Berriman (childhood study group) acted as Lifecourse Stream convenors for the 2023 BSA Conference. In the Lifecourse stream, seven paper sessions were focussed on childhood and youth studies with a variety of topics including identity, everyday experiences and social inequalities. All sessions were well attended.

### **In the next 12 months we plan to:**

- Organise virtual meet-ups.
- Support members to apply and attend Journal of Youth Studies conference in Belfast, 2024. We are also organising a social networking event during the conference.

## **Finances**

Account balance £1556.98

## **Convenors**

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