

## **BSA Youth Study Group Annual Report 2022**

### **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 2022, 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 have 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. Virtual meet-ups began shortly after the COVID-19 lockdowns were introduced in the UK in March 2020, to provide space and support for those who were grappling with working from home, online teaching, difficult personal circumstances and isolation. Since the UK lockdowns have eased, we have continued to facilitate these 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. There are approximately 25 – 50 international colleagues in attendance at each event and attendees 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 595 subscribers, and we have an active Twitter community of 1,699 followers. In 2023 the Study Group will focus on continuing to develop our online presence through the mailing list and our social media presence on Twitter. 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 2022, Dr. Eveleigh Buck-Matthews, Birmingham City University has stepped down from her role as convenor of the Youth Studies group. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Eve for all of her hard work and input into the group's activities during her time as convenor, especially the webinar series which she helped to organise. As a regular attendee at our events, we look forward to continuing to engage with Eve and continue to hear more from her expertise in music festivals.

In April 2023, Dr. Karenza Moore, Newcastle University and Dr. Benjamin Hankel, Western Sydney University, stepped down after serving the BSA Youth Studies group for a number of years. Ben and Karenza were central in organising several activities in the group in recent years. To name a few, both were central in planning a Special Issue which was published in the Journal of Applied Youth Studies in 2021 and the face-to-face colloquium on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (see below). Both Ben and Karenza will be much missed by the group, however, we will hopefully continue to see them at our virtual and face-to-face meet-ups and enjoy the rich conversations that both bring.

In light of Karenza and Ben's departure, Dr. Janina Suppers, The University of Waikato and Sophie Atherton, The University of Manchester have stepped back from their roles as post-graduate convenors to take up new roles as convenors of the Youth Studies group. In 2023, we also advertised for new convenors and are very pleased to welcome two new convenors and two new PGR/ECR convenors. Dr. Harriet Rowley (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Dr. Grace Spencer (Anglia Ruskin University) are two new convenors. Harriet has a keen interest in ethnographic and creative research methods which was recently showcased at the BSA 2023 conference whereby she discussed using film in research projects with young people. Grace Spencer's expertise lie with young people's health and is keen to develop ethical guidelines for conducting research with and for young people.

We also welcomed two new PGR/ECR convenors: Thalia Thereza Assan (The University of Edinburgh) and Dr Liam Wrigley (Keele University). Thalia's doctoral research focuses on the role of friendship in the lives of Black girls and girls of colour and has an interest in creative research methods. She disseminates findings from her doctoral study in an accessible way through an Instagram account. Liam has interests in youth studies, youth justice and qualitative research methods. His doctoral work focussed on the social networks of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people.

All four new convenors and PGR/ECR convenors are active members of the BSA Youth Studies group and regular attendees at our virtual meetups. Their varied expertise makes them great additions to the team.

### **Activities undertaken (2022)**

- Mailing list growth – 585 subscribers to 595 (increased from 296 subscribed on or before 1/11/18).
- Twitter growth –1615 followers to 1,699 (increased from 911 in 2018).
- Continuation of virtual meet-ups which started in 2020 – total 17 virtual meet-ups.
- Participated in the development of an online 8-part seminar series focussing on research methods in youth research in collaboration with British Educational Research Association (BERA) Youth SIG and Political Studies Association (PSA) Young People's Politics Group. Some seminars were delivered by members of our youth studies community. See: <https://www.bera.ac.uk/event-series/researching-youth-methods-seminar-series>
- BSA Youth Group Colloquium and Social in-person event which took place at Manchester Metropolitan University on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 entitled: 'Imagining the Future of Youth Studies: A British Sociological Association Youth Study Group Colloquium & Social'. This included a Plenary delivered by Prof. Rob MacDonald, University of Huddersfield, and short presentations from a number of youth studies researchers from a variety of career stages, with a view to submission of abstracts to the BSA Annual Conference 2023.

- The BSA Youth study group co-convenors Dr Benjamin Hanckel and Dr Karenza Moore organised and programmed the Lifecourse Stream of the BSA Annual Conference, which took place online between 19th and 22nd April 2022. Four panels focused on youth research, including youth agency, social justice and imagined futures, youth inequalities, youth political participation and citizenship, and children and young people's understandings and experiences. Another two panels focused on older people's lived experiences, and ageing and ageism.
- Articles in the BSA's Network magazine detailing our activities and providing updates about the group.
- Dr Thea Shahrokh and Dr Liam Wrigley (both formerly of The University of Sheffield) hosted a day long child and youth ethics event within the Sociological Studies Department, The University of Sheffield in June 2022. This was supported by funding from TUOS UREC and assistance from members of the BSA Youth Studies and Childhood Studies Group convenorship (Sophie Atherton, University of Manchester, Dr Liam Berriman, Sussex University). See here: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/socstudies/news/child-and-youth-ethics-event>

### **Planned activities (2023)**

In 2023 we are focused on sustaining supportive spaces for youth researchers across all career stages in both an online and offline format. So far, in 2023 we have organised:

- 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. The plenary continued the ongoing discussions which began at the in-person colloquium in September 2022.
- 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.
- Plan for the 2024 BSA conference including organising further face-to-face opportunities to network in order to continue and enhance the conversations from the BSA 2024 online conference.
- Build and enhance links with other BSA study groups, for example, the Education Study Group.

- Continue to facilitate conversations, particularly focussing on ethical considerations when conducting research with young people, with the view to working towards developing guidance for youth researchers.

**Finances**

Opening Balance	£1927.48
Income:	£428.00
Expenditure:	(£838.50)
Balance:	£1556.98

**Convenors**

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