



Contemporary Youth Cultures and Transitions (CYCaT)

Faculty of Wellbeing Education
and Language Studies (WELS)

Call for PhD projects starting in October 2024

Contents

Project description	3
School	3
Members	3
Aims	3
Methodology	4
Contribution	4
Website	5
PhD project	6

Project description

School

Education, Childhood, Youth & Sport

Members

Dr Anthony Gunter	https://www.open.ac.uk/research/people/ag25367	anthony.gunter@open.ac.uk
Dr Ian Joseph	https://www.open.ac.uk/people/ij758	ian.joseph@open.ac.uk
Dr Clare Choak	https://www.open.ac.uk/people/cc6922	clare.choak@open.ac.uk

Aims

- To bring together academic researchers, community-based practitioners and youth activists to address the academic/media/societal deficit narrative that either problematise and criminalise, or ignore youth, racialised as Black or Minority Ethnic.
- To place young people's voices and experiences at the forefront of our work.
- The co-production of knowledge to inform policy and practice that better supports marginalised and racialised young people's transitions into adulthood.

- A commitment to ensuring that the holistic lived experience, and intersectional identities, of young people are sensitively and ethically captured, interpreted and utilised for change.

Methodology

CYCaT is and has been involved in a number of research/knowledge exchange projects and evaluation studies that utilise various methodologies and approaches. Overall, we take a mixed methodological approach [youth-led, practitioner informed, and community-based] incorporating surveys, focus group and one-to-one semi-structured interviews, participant observation, visual ethnography, video interviews/films, and music-making etc. The overall aim of CYCaT in undertaking research with young people and key community stakeholders is to 'do no harm' and to do so in an ethical manner and in a spirit of genuine partnership and collaboration.

Contribution

Examples of our research & knowledge exchange projects and activities include:

1. Hyperlocal Working and Violence Reduction in a London Borough: A Learning & Evaluation Study. This study, of a London Borough Council's pilot neighbourhood violence reduction project, seeks to understand the effectiveness of the Council's hyper-local approach to youth violence prevention.
2. Thug Criminology: A Call to Action' was recently published by the University of Toronto Press (July 2023) - this book brings together much of

the ethos/thinking and research of CYCaT and seeks to challenge the traditional methods/methodologies and scholarship on (thugs) violent gangs and their behaviours.

3. Commonwealth Youth Mainstreaming Training Programme - developed and delivered for stakeholders across 54 member countries of the Commonwealth to support the mainstreaming of youth development into policies and programmes, promoting the participation of young people at all levels of decision making.
4. Impact acceleration study: Formal collaboration agreement between the OU and a London Borough Council - this 15-month study examined how effectively the Council's current strategy, and related safeguarding policy and procedures, addressed young people's vulnerability and 'risk' and pathways into gang involvement.
5. Successful Youth Transitions Knowledge Exchange and Impact pilot study examining effective service practice in London and Wales - Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) organisations.

Website

<https://wels.open.ac.uk/research/projects/cycat>

PhD project

We envisage a Doctoral researcher to add to, and compliment, the work of CYCaT. They would have a strong academic and practitioner background and be able to successfully engage with marginalised and racially minoritized groups of young people.

