

## **BSA Youth Study Group Annual Report 2024**

### **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**

The BSA Youth Study Group has continued to raise the profile of the 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 Childhood Studies, 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 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 meetups**

Our virtual meetups have continued to prove popular amongst youth studies researchers from a variety of career stages. Throughout 2024, we facilitated regular virtual meetups 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 our virtual meetups 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 meetups; in addition to plans to hold an annual face-to-face meet-up and networking event.

## **Growing the membership and communication**

The Study Group mailing list remains active with 617 subscribers (64 BSA members/ 553 non-members), and we have an active X/Twitter community of 1,483 followers. The continued use of these channels indicates 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**

There are four convenors for the Youth Studies group: Dr. Harriet Rowley (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Prof. Grace Spencer (Anglia Ruskin University), Thalia Thereza Assan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Dr Liam Wrigley (Leeds Trinity University).

## **Activities undertaken (2024)**

- A modest mailing list growth from 606 subscribers to 617, Twitter followers –1,483.
- Continuation of virtual meetups which started in 2020 – total 31 virtual meetups.
- Plenary event organised at Annual BSA conference entitled; 'Identifying New Spaces for Social transformation Across the Life Course'. The Life Course stream plenary comprised of four study groups (Childhood, Youth Studies, Ageing, and Death, Dying and Bereavement), we collaborated across the study groups and nominated a keynote speaker from each group to present a 5- minute provocation based on their research, intended to foster dialogue across the Life course stream. The session was well attended and enabled delegates to consider new spaces and possibilities for social transformation across the life course, concerned with changes in meanings, methods and ethics of researching with and across different generations, capturing the consequences of social transformation and how this might transform knowledge and practice.

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

- Organise virtual bi-monthly meetups.
- Organise a face-to-face networking event in September 2025
- Continue to circulate conferences/seminars, publications, job vacancies and other opportunities of interest to the Youth Studies Group community via the mailing list.
- Promote the BSA Annual Conference and other BSA events to support engagement.

## **Finances**

Account balance £1556.98

## **Convenors**

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