

BSA Youth Study Group Annual Report 2025

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.

Virtual meetups

Our virtual meetups have continued to prove popular amongst youth studies researchers from a variety of career stages. Throughout 2025, 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 607 subscribers (correct as of July 2026). The X/Twitter account has been discontinued, and the associated accounts remains inactive/archived on the X/Twitter platform. We will endeavour to find an alternative platform (such as Bluesky) over the next academic year.

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.

Feedback from members of the BSA Youth Studies Community suggests that a dedicated 'Youth' stream at the annual conference would make participation more appealing and could encourage more submissions of presentation abstracts.

Convenorship

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 (University of Birmingham)**.

Activities undertaken (2025)

- Continued the virtual meetup series, originally established in 2020, delivering a total of 35 online meetups that provided an ongoing platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and discussion among members.
- Organised and delivered a special event at the BSA Annual Conference 2025 titled *“NEET Youth: Alternatives and Possibilities in Education, Employment and Training.”* The session featured contributions from Dr Liam Wrigley (University of Birmingham), Professor Lisa Russell (Manchester Metropolitan University), Dr Katherine Davey (Manchester Metropolitan University), Dr Seamus Byrne (Manchester Metropolitan University), and Dr Charlotte McPherson (University of Melbourne, Australia). The event examined a range of studies from England and Wales and Australia that have explored the complexities of the experiences of young people categorised as NEET. Discussions drew on a decade of applied policy and qualitative research and highlighted key projects.
- Convened and supported a plenary session at the BSA Annual Conference 2025 titled *“Identifying New Spaces for Social Transformation Across the Life Course.”* The highly attended session brought together expertise from across the life-course research community to explore evolving meanings, methodologies, and ethical considerations in research conducted with and across generations. The discussion considered the implications of social transformation for knowledge production, policy and practice. The keynote panel included Dr Melanie Hall (Manchester Metropolitan University), Dr Katherine A. Smith (University of Manchester), and Dr Kingsley Purdham (University of Manchester), facilitated by Dr Harriet Rowley and Dr James Fletcher, with organisational support from Dr Thalia Theresa Assan and Dr Liam Wrigley in their roles as BSA Youth Study Group Convenors.
- Organised and delivered the BSA Youth Study Group Public Event on 16 September 2025, titled *“Methodological and Ethical Dilemmas in Research with Young People: Perplexities, Possibilities and Refusals.”* Hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University, the event attracted significant interest from researchers, practitioners, and postgraduate students. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Eve Mayes (Deakin University, Australia), who presented her research on children’s and young people’s political socialisation and schooling, student activism, student voice, climate justice and education, and the ethical challenges associated with conducting research in these areas. The programme also included interactive breakout sessions focused on ethical provocations, expert-led discussions, and a plenary session, providing opportunities for critical reflection and debate on contemporary methodological and ethical issues in youth research.

In the next 12 months we plan to:

- Organise virtual bi-monthly meetups.

- Organise a face-to-face networking event at the University of Birmingham (TBA)
- 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 £1082.61

Convenors	Institution
Dr Harriett Rowley	Manchester Metropolitan University
Dr Liam Wrigley	University of Birmingham
Dr Thalia Thereza Assan	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Professor Grace Spencer	Anglia Ruskin University