

MUYS

The Manchester Centre for Youth Studies



2023 Annual Report

Foreword from Dr Paul Gray, Director

Welcome to the Manchester Centre for Youth Studies 2023 annual report.

2023 has seen lots of change within the Centre. Professor Hannah Smithson, who founded the MCYS in 2014, stepped down as Director in the summer of 2023 after nearly 10 years in charge. It is because of Hannah's drive and vision that the Centre is where it is now, a thriving interdisciplinary research centre with over 15 members of staff and an international profile and reputation. So, a huge thank you to Hannah! I have now taken over as Director, with support from Dr April Pudsey and Dr Deborah Jump who have become Deputy-Directors, and we're excited to see how the next 10 years unfold.

I also want to thank Dr Chloe Germaine and Dr Jenny Cromwell who have moved on within the University to pursue their own research interests. Over the last five years, Chloe and Jenny have played key roles in the growth and development of the Centre, and we wish them the best of luck in their new endeavours.

As you'll see from the report, 2023 has been another very busy year for the Centre. Colleagues have undertaken a range of research projects, ranging from poverty, vulnerability and family in the ancient world, through to

young people's experiences of starting secondary school. Alongside this, the Centre has hosted visiting academics from Finland, Germany and Belgium, and successfully secured funding for an interdisciplinary PhD that investigates potential linguistic prejudice in the youth justice system.

As the incoming Director, it is very rewarding to see that, after nearly 10 years in existence, the work of the MCYS still closely aligns with the Centre's original ethos of promoting innovative youth-informed research that amplifies the voice of young people to bring about real-world change. Long may this continue!

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the things that we've been up to in 2023.

Cheers

Paul



From Our Deputy Directors...

We have two new deputy directors, Dr April Pudsey and Dr Deb Jump.

2023 has been a fantastic year for the Centre, and for our team. As Deputy Directors we've worked closely with Paul in shaping the direction of many of our activities, objectives and outputs. We've seen some amazingly impactful research and engagement projects flourish, and exciting new global and regional relationships come to fruition.

We're proud to say all of the projects, outputs, and activities you'll read about in this report have young people at the very heart of them – young people in Manchester, across the UK, and globally, and even in our historical pasts.

In the Centre we've developed and overseen a programme of mentoring across our team, to support our members in their endeavours and their professional profiles and development.

Our programme of Team Workshops, thematic Research Cafés, and individual mentoring and support, provides all the MCYS members with regular opportunities to feed into decision-making around the Centre's priorities, as well as host exploratory sessions around their own research and practice. This combination of collaboration, exploration, and interdisciplinarity has proved very successful in ensuring a mutually supportive environment within the Centre.

Bright futures are ahead for all of us, and we hope you enjoy reading about our successes in the pages that follow.



For queries about the work of MCYS, please feel free to contact any of the Directors Team:

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d.jump@mmu.ac.uk

a.pudsey@mmu.ac.uk

Welcome to our Newest Member

We are delighted to welcome new member, Dr Anne-Marie Day.

Dr Anne-Marie Day joined MCYS as a Criminology Lecturer in January 2024. Anne-Marie has ten years' experience of conducting research into a range of areas related to youth justice, but specifically the over-representation of care-experienced children in the justice system; youth justice decision making at the point of diversion; and neurodivergent children's experiences of the education, social care and justice systems.

Anne-Marie has also written and led modules related to probation and youth justice practice and has held Criminology Programme Director roles in previous positions. Before entering academia, Anne-Marie gained over 12 years' experience as a practitioner and policy adviser in a range of criminal justice roles. She is a qualified Probation Officer, and has worked in the community, courts and prison. Anne-Marie has also worked as a youth justice manager and for the Youth Justice Board as a Senior Policy Adviser in the areas of Prevent, Looked After Children, Domestic Abuse and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Currently, Anne-Marie is a board member for the Alliance for Youth Justice and is an expert adviser to the Howard League for Penal Reform, the Youth Justice Board, a



number of local Youth Justice Services, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office on various youth justice issues.

Anne-Marie is currently a Co-Investigator on the Nuffield Funded Project 'Exploring Racial Disparity in Diversion from the Youth Justice System' (2022 – 25)

See Anne-Marie's full profile [here](#)

Or get in touch directly:
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Our MCYS team

Dr Paul Gray
Reader in
Criminology,
MCYS Director



**Dr Samuel
Larner**
Senior Lecturer
in Linguistics



**Dr Fatima
Khan**
Senior Lecturer
In Criminology



**Dr Helene
Snee**
Senior
Lecturer
in Sociology



**Dr Ben
Bowman**
Senior Lecturer
in Sociology



**Dr John
Bellamy**
Senior Lecturer
in Linguistics



**Dr Daniel
Marshall**
Senior Lecturer
in Criminology



**Dr Lucy
Newby**
Lecturer in
Criminology
(Historical conflict)



**Dr Anne-Marie
Day**
Lecturer in
Criminology
(Youth Justice)



**Dr Haridhan
Goswami**
Reader in
Sociology
(Quantitative)



**Dr Caitlin
Nunn**
Reader in
Sociology



**Prof Hannah
Smithson**
Professor of
Criminology and
Youth Justice



**Dr Jodie
Hodgson**
Senior Lecturer
in Criminology
(Feminism)



**Dr Deborah
Jump**
Reader in
Criminology



**Dr April
Pudsey**
Reader in
History
(Ancient and
Archaeology)



Get to know more
about our work:



Our Associate Members

Dr Samiya Ambreen

Research Associated in Sociology

Dr Susan Atkin

Senior Lecturer in Fashion Design

Dr Jo Briggs

Reader in User Experience, School of Art and Design

Dr Gavin Bailey

Research Associate in Sociology

Prof Jon Bannister

Professor of Sociology

Dr Anna Bergqvist

Reader in Philosophy

Dr Jennifer Cromwell

Reader in History

Dr Ian Cushing

Senior Lecturer in Critical Applied Linguistics

Dr Rob Drummond

Professor of Sociolinguistics

Dr Chloe Germaine

Reader in English

Dr Gaby Harris

Lecturer in Fashion Cultures

Dr Katie Hunter

Lecturer in Criminology

Dr Jo Jenkinson

Deputy Head, Fashion

Dr Sarah Linn

Senior Research Assistant in Sociology

Dr Kim Moore

Lecturer in English

Prof Kate Pahl

Professor of Literacies

Prof Rob Ralphs

Professor of Criminology and Sociology

Kate Westwood

Senior Research Assistant in Criminology

Dr David Wilkinson

Senior Lecturer in English

Jess Williamson

Lecturer in Criminology

Featured MCYS Projects

Poverty, Vulnerability and Family in the Ancient World

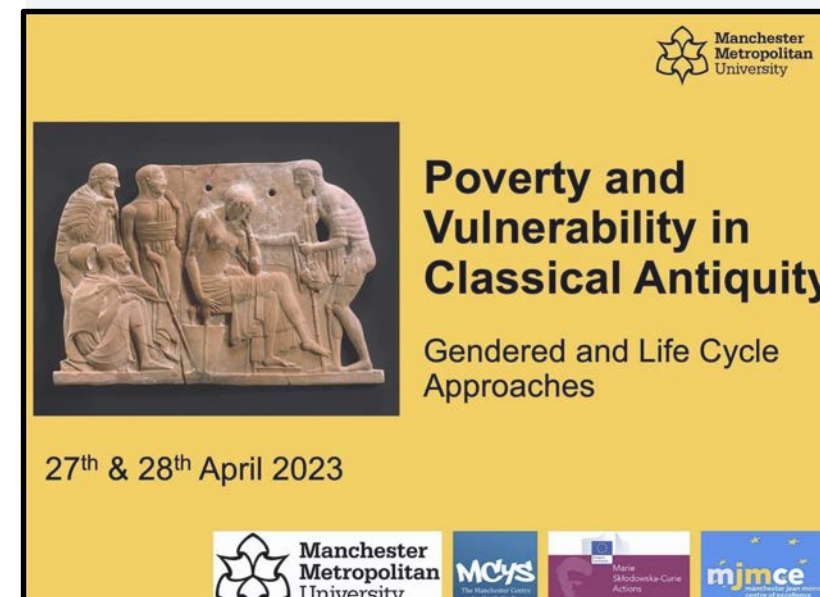
Dr Aida Fernández Prieto this year completed a major two-year research project, funded by a European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, sponsored by project P.I. Dr April Pudsey.

The project *Poverty, Vulnerability and Family in Ancient Greece* aimed to reconstruct personal experiences of poverty and socio-economic vulnerability at the family level, in particular for young women and girls, in 5th-3rd centuries CE classical Athens.

The research and its outputs provide the first systematic, contextualised and holistic

cultural nature of these interrelated phenomena in classical antiquity. It also examined their impact on the everyday experiences of women and girls of that time.

During her time with us, Dr Prieto co-hosted a two-day international research conference with Dr April Pudsey, 'Poverty and Vulnerability in Classical Antiquity: Gendered and Life-Cycle Approaches', which welcomed 25 internationally and world-leading Classics scholars, and a range of postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers. Dr Prieto and Dr Pudsey are currently working on publication of their



co-edited book on the central themes and new research put forward in this conference, which will make a significant and impactful contribution to research in ancient poverty studies and ancient family and youth studies.

During her time with us, Dr Prieto published a number of papers and spoke to various research seminars and public audiences about her work. She also co-taught on a number of ancient history course units alongside Dr Pudsey.

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“The project *Poverty, Vulnerability and Family in Ancient Greece* aimed to reconstruct personal experiences of poverty and socio-economic vulnerability at the family level, in particular for young women and girls, in 5th-3rd centuries CE classical Athens.”

Dr Dr Aida Fernández Prieto

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow

Ancient History, Contemporary Belonging

Ancient History, Contemporary Belonging is an arts-research collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and generations.

It aims to critically and creatively explore the biographies of ancient objects housed in Manchester Museum and how they can help us to navigate contemporary issues of (neo)colonialism, migration, and belonging.

The research is funded through the UKRI Citizen Science scheme and delivered by MCYS's Caitlin Nunn, Jennifer Cromwell, and Sarah Linn, in collaboration with ten migrant-background youth researchers, Manchester Museum, and Sheba Arts. The resulting exhibition was launched at Manchester Museum in March 2023 at an event hosted by youth researchers for an audience of family and community members, academics, and museum practitioners.

The youth and academic teams have gone on to run a range of tours and activities engaging with the exhibition, including for the National Saturday Club, A-level Sociology students and teachers, and undergraduate History and Sociology students. A podcast featuring academic and youth researchers discussing the exhibition and its relevance to contemporary issues of migration and (de)colonialism can be accessed [here](#). Youth researchers have also co-presented at a number of academic conferences.

“Ancient History, Contemporary Belonging aims to critically and creatively explore the biographies of ancient objects housed in Manchester Museum and how they can help us to navigate contemporary issues of (neo)colonialism, migration, and belonging.”

**Dr Caitlin Nunn,
Project Co-investigator**



Supported by follow-on funding from UKRI, four members of the youth research team took on paid roles to work with Manchester Museum's Curator of Education to develop an education resource to support high school students to engage with the exhibition. It poses the question: 'Where do objects belong?'

A related event, co-hosted by MCYS, Manchester Museum, and Debate Mate in February 2024 gave local high school students an opportunity to learn about and debate this critical issue.



The Fate of Zahaak, Goldis Gorji, Manchester Museum

The *Ancient History, Contemporary Belonging* exhibition remains on display in Manchester Museum's Archaeology, Egypt and Sudan, and Reimagining Galleries until March 2025.

You can learn more about the project and the exhibition [here](#).

For further information contact:

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Youth researchers launch the exhibition at Manchester Museum



This year, two of our colleagues Dr John Bellamy and Prof Rob Drummond embarked on a new research project on English language use in Vietnam.

Led by Mai Nguyen (Senior Lecturer in TESOL at Manchester Met), MCYS members Rob Drummond and John Bellamy were part of the Manchester Met team working with Huế University of Foreign Languages and International Studies in Vietnam, University of Cambridge in the UK and schools in Huế City on the project 'English in a multilingual world: Exploring the characteristics of Vietnamese English and its implications for classroom practice'.

Taking inspiration from the Manchester Voices project, the one-year project explored the characteristics of Vietnamese English as spoken by inhabitants of Huế City, Vietnam, and used the findings to inform future classroom practice. The community-engaged research collaborated extensively with schools in Huế City, as part of the project's focus on taking researchers into the wider community to interact with people in their everyday environments and collect valuable real-world data.

The project organised multimodal (audio-visual) exhibitions of Huế English alongside Manchester English, enabling the Huế community to recognise and

“Taking inspiration from the Manchester Voices project, the one-year project explored the characteristics of Vietnamese English as spoken by a inhabitants of Huế City, Vietnam, and used the findings to inform future classroom practice.”

**Dr John Bellamy,
Project Co-investigator**



project organised multimodal (audio-visual) exhibitions of Huế English alongside Manchester English, enabling the Huế community to recognise and celebrate their Huế English, and learn more about Manchester English. The research also applied the sociolinguistic findings to classroom practice, working closely with English teachers at schools in Huế to co-design and implement lessons using Huế English samples. The Huế school students participated in a competition where they produced their creative podcasts in English about their Huế identity and the role of languages in their lives.

For further information contact:

J.Bellamy@mmu.ac.uk



In May this year, Dr Haridhan Goswami co-organised a major international workshop in Kolkata, India, exploring the co-production of wellbeing policies for children in South Asia.

'Co-producing wellbeing policies: A South Asian perspective', is the second in a series of international dissemination events organised through the South Asian Research Network for Childhood and Youth Studies (SARNCYS), in partnership with the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). Fifty researchers, policymakers, and non-academic stakeholders from the network's five partner countries (India, the UK, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh) came together to discuss research findings on co-producing wellbeing policies with children.

The workshop was hosted by the network's Indian partner, Dr. Saswati Das from the Economic Research Unit of the ISI, in collaboration with Manchester Centre for Youth Studies. Award-winning computer scientist Professor Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, ISI Director, gave the opening speech, inaugurating the event.

SARNCYS is a unique and innovative network led by Dr Goswami and based at the MCYS. Through collaborative, interdisciplinary working and participatory practice, the network aims to improve

wellbeing policies for children in South Asia.

Networking and dissemination events form an important strand of this work. Dr Goswami explains, "The event created opportunities for delegates from a wide range of backgrounds including researchers, policymakers, think tanks, NGOs, and donor agencies to debate key issues linked to child well-being.

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**Dr Haridhan Goswami,
SARNCYS Network Leader**

This collaboration was extremely important for formulating evidence-based policies in the region. By allowing children to contribute to policy mapping, which is often neglected, the research contributed to facilitating children's participation and empowering them to raise their voice to issues which affect their lives."

The SARNCYS recently organised the following high-profile events:

- 'COVID-19 Pandemic and Children's Wellbeing in Bangladesh: Children's Voices in Shaping Policies'. A seminar in collaboration with the Department of Sociology at the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh, December 2023

- 'Coproducting Wellbeing Policies with Children: A Sri Lankan Case Study'. A seminar organised with the Department of Education at the University of Peradeniya, July 2023.

- A Winter Camp on Quantitative Research Methodology Training run by Manchester Met's Q-Step Centre in the Department of Political Science and Sociology at North South University in Bangladesh, January 2023.

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'Race', Disproportionality and Diversion From the YJS

New MCYS member Dr Anne Marie Day is currently co-investigator on a major new project exploring racial disparities in diversion from the youth justice system (YJS).

Children from minority ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in the YJS. This is partly explained by decisions about whether children who come to police attention are diverted through informal measures, or receive formal outcomes (charge or caution).

The number of children entering the YJS has reduced significantly in recent years. This has been supported by the adoption of the 'Child First' approach by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). 'Child First' seeks to prevent the unnecessary criminalisation of children by taking a more progressive and inclusive approach to youth justice. This includes an emphasis on diversion from prosecution.

This research will examine decision-making at the gateway to the YJS (initial contact with the police, including arrest). The mixed method study will be completed in two parts. The first stage will involve a review of all existing literature on racial disproportionality across the youth justice system, focusing on the gateway to the system and reduction strategies. A survey of 154 Youth Offending Teams

The aim of the research is to:

Identify the extent and nature of racial disproportionality at the gateway to the YJS and illuminate factors that explain it.

Produce recommendations for policy and practice, highlighting how decision-making would need to change to reduce racial disproportionality.

**Dr Anne-Marie Day,
Project Co-investigator**

(YOTs) in England and Wales will be used to determine the nature of diversion approaches, the rationale for using them, their outcomes, and examples of good

The mixed method study will be completed in two parts. The first stage will involve a review of all existing literature on racial disproportionality across the youth justice system, focusing on the gateway to the system and reduction strategies. A survey of 154 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in England and Wales will be used to determine the nature of diversion approaches, the rationale for using them, their outcomes, and examples of good practice.

Depending on the quality and availability of administrative data, the research team's second stage of work will involve detailed quantitative analysis in five case study sites and interviews with influential practitioners. The project's outputs are aimed at achieving maximum impact with policymakers and practitioners. Briefing meetings with the Youth Justice Board, National Police Chiefs Council, the College of Policing, and HM Inspectorate of Probation will feed the project's results into the development and implementation of policy. Briefing papers and seminars will summarise and share findings with policymakers and practitioners working in the YJS.

“The project's outputs are aimed at achieving maximum impact with policy makers and practitioners.”

**Dr Anne-Marie Day,
Project Co-investigator**



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Young People's Experiences of Starting Secondary School

In early 2023, Dr Lucy Newby and Dr Paul Gray were commissioned by Manchester City Council to undertake a new research project exploring young people's experiences of starting secondary school in Manchester.

The research project aimed to explore the pressures and challenges faced by young people during primary to secondary school transition. It also sought to identify what types of support young people felt would be most beneficial to them. To learn more about young people's views and experiences of secondary school transition, the research team ran a series of creative workshops with Year 8 pupils across three secondary schools in Manchester.

In the first set of workshops, young people completed a series of creative 'journey maps' to reflect on the 'high and low' points of their secondary school experiences. Together, they identified a diverse range of challenges associated with moving from year 6 to Year 7. These included: conflict over behaviour; developing relationships with new teachers; worries about academic performance; peer conflict; safety concerns; and issues with mental health and wellbeing. Whilst each young person's educational journey was complex and highly personal, most

Transitional

Pressures

Challenges

Support
needs

young people reported struggling to adjust to the secondary school environment. A majority of young people felt that, overall, moving from Year 6 to Year 7 had resulted in a less enjoyable and less safe educational experience.

Young people were highly aware of their support needs in the first two years of secondary school and clear about their wish to actively participate in shaping future support policies. In the second set of workshops, they formulated recommendations Manchester City Council on the interventions they felt could help to support young people with secondary school transition.



Key recommendations from young people included:

- Embedding the right to participate in the design and delivery of all support interventions.
- Supporting strengths-based behavioural approaches at secondary schools and avoiding sanctions
- Enhancing existing nurture provision to support emotional regulation
- Providing counselling and/or mentoring for young people
- Supporting young people to deal with conflict both within and outside a school setting.
- Supporting young leadership on mental health
- Manchester City Council will be taking forward the recommendations in creating future support policies.

For more information on the project, contact:
L.Newby@mmu.ac.uk

A rigorous five-year research project led by MCYS' Dr Deborah Jump and funded by Comic Relief has explored the experiences of over a hundred at-risk girls and young women.

The research itself has provided insight into how girls and young women can be protected from harm and supported to succeed. This mixed method approach highlights the critical need for tailored support mechanisms around mental health sexual exploitation.

The project's findings, presented at a Parliamentary Roundtable in May 2023, featured discussions led by esteemed figures such as Baroness Louise Casey and Jess Phillips MP, and Anne Longfield OBE. All attendees took part in a discussion around a national provision of support for at-risk girls and young women. This has fed into a joint report between Commission on Young Lives and Manchester Centre for Youth Studies, and a series of local and national policy recommendations

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“The research itself has provided insight into how girls and young women can be protected from harm and supported to succeed.”

**Dr Deborah Jump,
Project lead**



MCYS and the Department of Sociology recently hosted Professor Maura Rosenthal from Bridgewater State University in Boston, Massachusetts.

This collaborative endeavour aimed to establish a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) teaching program within the discipline of Sociology of Sport. Also working alongside the Manchester Institute of Sport this initiative is part of a broader effort by MCYS to enhance their teaching curriculum and explore new pathways in the sociology of sport. Additionally, they are seeking to expand their international Postgraduate Research (PGR) offerings. This partnership marks an important step forward in advancing academic excellence and international collaboration in the field.



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In April 2023, Professor Hannah Smithson, Dr Lucy Newby and Tom Lang (Manchester Youth Justice Services) re-launched the Participatory Youth Practice Framework.

Originally co-created with justice-involved children between 2015-2017, the revised framework for youth participation takes into account current research about trauma. The launch event was attended by a wide variety of national and regional youth justice professionals. Anne Longfield CBE delivered the event's keynote speech.

Since the re-launch Hannah Smithson and Tom Lang have provided PYP training sessions to colleagues across Greater Manchester. The PYP framework has been written into each of the nine GM Youth Justice Teams' Business Plans. It is the basis of the GMCA's Youth Justice Transformation Strategy.

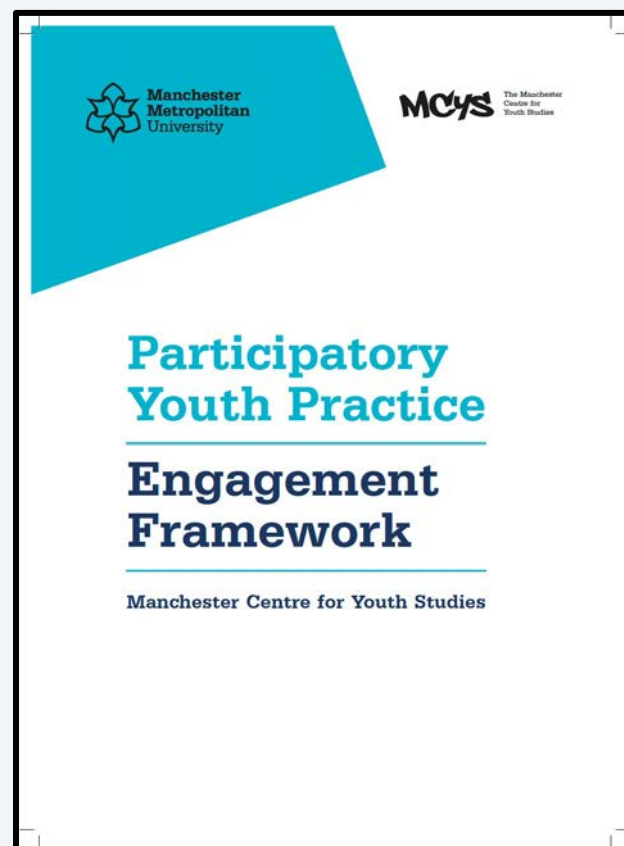
There are more planned trainings and plans to share the Participatory Youth Framework with a range of professional services in the near future.

For more information, contact:
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“The PYP framework has been written into each of the nine GM Youth Justice Teams’ Business Plans.”

Prof Hannah Smithson
Project lead



In 2023, MCYS partnered with the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit to ensure children's engagement in the development of its new 10-year strategy.

Professor Hannah Smithson, Dr Fatima Khan and Kate Westwood worked with 70 young people across Greater Manchester to support them in providing their views about the causes of violence and what could address it. Young people also reflected on where violence happens and what makes them feel safe and unsafe in everyday spaces.

The views of young people were central to informing the VRU's new strategy, which was launched in December 2023 by Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham. The Greater than Violence strategy commits to taking a collaborative approach with communities to respond to the issue of violence. The strategy is founded on two pillars: preventing violence from happening and responding to occurrences of violence swiftly and appropriately.



“Young people reflected on where violence happens and what makes them feel safe and unsafe in everyday spaces.”

Prof Hannah Smithson
Project co-investigator

For more information, contact:
f.khan@mmu.ac.uk

Athena's Owls

MCYS works in conjunction with Manchester Classical Association on the Athena's Owls project.

The project is organised by Dr April Pudsey and Dr Will Mundy, the North West Co-ordinator for the national 'Classics for All' charity and teacher at Merchant Taylors' School, Liverpool.

We run story-telling and craft sessions in local libraries for children ages 5-11, in which we read one of our classical myth inspired stories with the children, followed by a craft session relating to the story. Our latest session, hosted at Hulme High Street Library, featured the myth of Pandora. After our storytime we made and decorated our own 'Pandora's Box' boxes of hope and despair: the children decorated their boxes with scary things on the inside lid and happy things on the inside wall.

If you would like us to run a session at your local library (Manchester, and potentially Liverpool), let us know! There are plenty of classical myths to explore and you can see some of our events on our [website](#).

For further information, contact:
a.pudsey@mmu.ac.uk



AQAs

MCYS is an accredited awarding centre for the AQA's Unit Award Scheme (UAS). AQAs award young people for their important work as co-researchers in centre projects.

All of the children and young people that engage in MCYS projects have the opportunity to gain AQAs across a range of topics and at various levels (from Entry level through to Level 3). AQAs help to build confidence and can act as important stepping stones towards education, training and/or employment.

To supplement the wide range of existing available AQAs, MCYS have developed a bespoke suite of AQAs that focus on introducing children and young people to social research.

Many of the children and young people that are involved in the Centre's participatory projects play a central role in the research process. To recognise their involvement, the new AQAs build from Level One (equivalent to GCSE grades 1-4) through to Level Two (equivalent to GCSE grades 5-9).

'Introduction to Social Research (Unit 1)', for example, introduces children and young people to the field of social research, while 'Introduction to Social Research (Unit 3)' requires them to develop research tools, undertake fieldwork, and be involved in analysis.



116371 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH (UNIT 2)		Print
In successfully completing this unit, the Learner will have	Evidence needed	
acquired an understanding of		
1	what makes 'good' social research, eg useful, rigorous, ethical	Summary sheet
2	how ethics apply to social research	Summary sheet
3	the importance of data protection and GDPR in social research	Summary sheet
demonstrated the ability to		
4	apply a qualitative research approach to a given social issue	Student completed work
5	apply a quantitative research approach to a given social issue	Student completed work
6	create a social research proposal	Student completed work
experienced		
7	developing a social research project.	Summary sheet
All outcomes recorded on an AQA Summary Sheet (25.0 KB)		
Approved 3 December 2021		Level - Level Two

116372 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH (UNIT 3)		Print
In successfully completing this unit, the Learner will have	Evidence needed	
acquired an understanding of		
1	how data is collected	Summary sheet
2	how data is analysed	Summary sheet
demonstrated the ability to		
3	create at least three research tools, eg interview schedules, participant information sheets, consent forms	Student completed work
4	take part in an application for ethical approval	Summary sheet
5	identify suitable participants for a given research project	Summary sheet and/or student completed work
experienced		
6	taking part in research fieldwork	Summary sheet
7	taking part in data analysis	Summary sheet
8	working in a research environment.	Summary sheet
All outcomes recorded on an AQA Summary Sheet (25.0 KB)		
Approved 3 December 2021		Level - Level Two

The Tree of Hope Youth Research Group are part of the £2 million pound Voices of the Future project, funded through the Natural Environment Research Council's Future of UK Treescapes Scheme.



Voices of the Future employs an innovative co-production approach to learn from and with children and young people to engage them in designing, creating, and caring for UK treescapes. The Tree of Hope Youth Research Group are a team of 'global youth' who migrated to the UK as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. They are collaborating with MCYS's Caitlin Nunn and other members of the *Voices of the Future* team to conduct action research focusing on the role of global youth in caring for UK treescapes.

The group's aims include:

- Helping the environment
- Learning about research, policy, and practice
- Sharing knowledge with other young people

For further information contact:

Dr Caitlin Nunn
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Dr Keir Irwin-Rogers (The Open University)
Senior Lecturer in Criminology

Social Harm and Violence in Young People's Lives: A Crisis of Mattering?



We were delighted to welcome Dr Keir Irwin-Rogers to deliver our 2023 Annual Lecture.

Childhood and youth should be periods of security, joy and wonder. Yet for too many children and young people living in Britain today, this is not the case. This lecture will explore a range of social harms that undermine children and young people's potential to flourish. In particular, Dr Irwin-Rogers discussed the nature and scale of serious violence between young people, and considered the extent to which such violence is being driven by a crisis of mattering. He examined some of the shortfalls and limitations of contemporary responses to violence, and reflect on how we can build safer and better societies for children to grow and flourish.

You can watch a recording of this Annual Lecture on our YouTube channel using the QR code.



Co-Production, Participatory Research, and Public Engagement

Ancient World Studies and Fairer Societies

MCYS hosted an event collaboratively with the Institute of Classical Studies in May 2023, to share and develop public engagement and policy work projects within the fields of Ancient World Studies, working with young people on the fringes of society.

Prof Katherine Harloe, Director of the ICS, showcased the Institute's dedication in supporting public engagement projects involving ancient world studies, with colleagues across the UK. She and Dr April Pudsey brought together a group of academics, teachers and practitioners who have developed, and are developing, such projects, for a workshopping event around co-production and participatory projects with these young people.

We welcomed Prof Arlene Holmes-Henderson MBE (Durham University) and Caroline Bristow of the Cambridge Schools Latin textbook project, to discuss inclusion and broadening the horizons of young people through education and educational policy.

Antiquity has proven to be a way of developing curricula and activities with PRUs in the North West and beyond, as we saw from discussion and sharing with Dr April Pudsey (ManMet), Dr Michael Beer (Exeter University), Charlie Andrew of the 'Maximum Classics' project, and



Prof Susan Deacy (University of Roehampton, and 'Our Mythical Childhoods' project).

Dr Kristine Szifris (University of Cambridge) shared her work using classical philosophy teaching and learning in projects with young people in the prison and justice system. Dr Owen Rees (Birmingham Newman University) shared his online communities and ancient history project, 'Bad Ancient', in which young

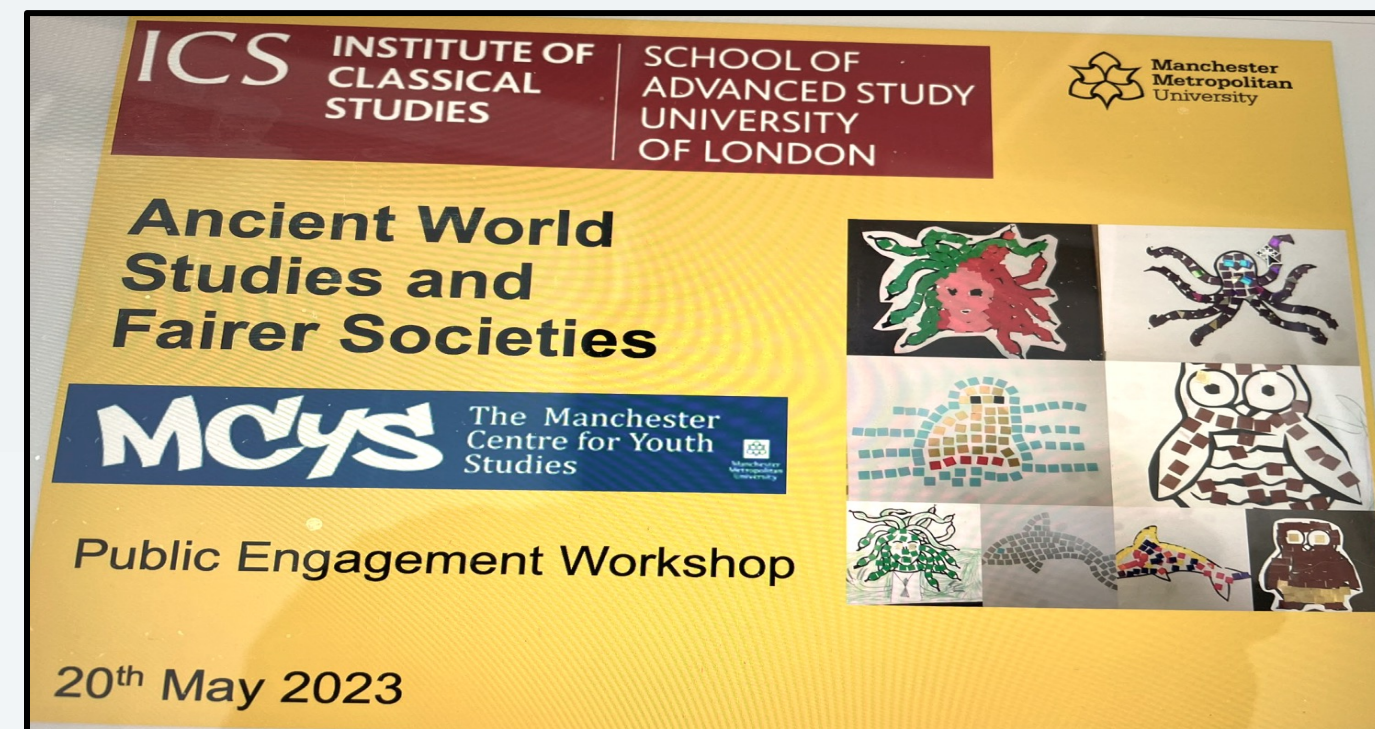
adults take responsibility for identifying false and mal-appropriated ancient beliefs and practices that are often used to support modern hate, and to correct them. Dr James Corke-Webster (King's College London) shared his ground-breaking project 'Letters of Refuge' which brought together letters written by ancient Romans seeking refuge, with contemporary letters written by young people at Art Refuge's 'community table' at Folkestone, Kent, and at Calais, France.

We explored the value and roles of performance and story-telling with some drama projects of Dr Efi Spentzou (Royal Holloway, University of London) and story-telling with young people, of professional

Story-Teller Dr Stephe Harrop (Liverpool Hope University).

The event sparked ideas for collaborations and planning around working with governmental partners on co-produced projects, and the practices and obstacles of co-production with young people. Ancient World Studies clearly provides a valuable avenue of working with young people in a range of contexts, and MCYS has plans to take forward more work in these areas.

For further details, contact:
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Visiting Professor, Dr Ville Vuolanto (Tampere University, Finland)



Dr Ville Vuolanto joined us in May 2023 as a Visiting Professor at MCYS and History, Politics and Philosophy, to work with colleagues in the centre, in particular with Dr April Pudsey on their project on Children of Oxyrhynchos.

Dr Vuolanto is an ancient historian with a specialism in youth and childhood in late antique and early Christian communities and is Chair of TRIVIUM (the Centre for Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Tampere) and on the committee of PERLA, the interdisciplinary Finnish Centre Childhood, Youth and Family Research.

While with us at MCYS Dr Vuolanto worked closely with Dr Pudsey on research and writing for their monograph *Children of Oxyrhynchos. Growing Up in an Ancient City*. This monograph reconstructs, for the first time, the lives, concerns, and cultures of children and young people in an ancient classical city (1st- 6th centuries CE). Together, Dr Vuolanto and Dr Pudsey have researched thousands of ancient Greek documents on papyrus, and the material cultures of childhood, from this city in Egypt of the Roman period; the project adopts methodologies drawn from the historical disciplines and the Social Sciences in piecing together a picture of agency, play, cultures, trauma, enslavement, and inter-relations, resulting in a reimagining of the

Dr Vuolanto and Dr Pudsey are working collaboratively on their forthcoming monograph *Children of Oxyrhynchos: Growing Up in an Ancient City* for Palgrave Macmillan

life of an ancient city around its young people. They have published six peer-reviewed research papers from this work, and their monograph will be published with Palgrave Macmillan in 2024/5.

While with us, Dr Ville Vuolanto spoke to our conference 'Poverty, Vulnerability and Family in Classical Antiquity: Gendered and Life-Cycle Approaches, and to a workshop on 'protest' we co-hosted with the Women's Classical Committee, UK. He gave several research papers and public lectures, jointly with Dr Pudsey, and guest lectures and workshops for students.

MCYS will be formally linking with PERLA and TRIVIUM in a series of staff research exchanges and interdisciplinary and international collaborations.



Dr Ville Vuolanto addressing the Women's Classical Committee UK



Dr Ville Vuolanto and Dr April Pudsey addressing the MCYS Public Lecture Series

In 2023, MCYS welcomed two new visiting research fellows, Professor Evelyn Ziegler (University of Duisburg-Essen), and doctoral student Nele Van Den Driessche (Ghent University). Both shared their expertise on topics within the field of sociolinguistics.

In May 2023, a PhD student from Ghent University (Belgium), Nele Van Den Driessche, visited MCYS for a research stay. Nele's research focuses on recent language change within Spanish teenage talk. She is particularly interested in how the lexicon and syntax of Spanish teenage talk has changed in the 21st century. Nele's project intersects especially with research by MCYS sociolinguists John Bellamy and Rob Drummond who both work on youth language

In summer 2023, one of the leading professors of sociolinguistics in Germany, Prof Evelyn Ziegler (University of Duisburg-Essen), came to MCYS for a research visit. A key specialism of Prof Ziegler's work is the meaning and value of local urban spoken dialects for its speakers, including the way that young people identify with historical cultural heritage through language usage in post-industrial cityscapes.

As a sociolinguist based at Manchester Met, John Bellamy has been fostering a close working relationship between MCYS and the University of Duisburg-Essen to develop fertile cross-comparative linguistic studies of the respective post-industrial

In summer 2023, one of the leading professors of sociolinguistics in Germany, Prof Evelyn Ziegler, came to MCYS for a research visit.

regions. During the research visit by Prof Ziegler, MCYS developed new directions of our international collaboration based on linguistic and semiotic representation of urban industrial heritage. Prof Ziegler undertakes leading research on the way young people engage with language, local identity and cultural heritage. The professorial stay also facilitated plans for our on-going international research, together with Prof Natalie Braber at Nottingham Trent University, on a comparative analysis of the language of former coal mining communities in the UK and in Germany, with a focus on the inter-generational transmission of mining words ('pit talk') and the implications for the intangible cultural linguistic heritage of these regions.

A new MCYS PhD Scholarship

John Bellamy and Hannah Smithson were successful in their application for a NWCDTP Collaborative Doctoral Award for a PhD on 'Investigating potential linguistic prejudice in the Youth Justice System'.

Embracing a participatory child-centred sociolinguistic approach, the PhD project will address the significant gap in our understanding of the potentially damaging impact on children in the Youth Justice System (YJS) from pervasive negative views on their everyday language use.

Beginning in October 2024, the PhD research will fundamentally tackle the questions: to what extent does linguistic prejudice detrimentally affect the experiences, trajectories and outcomes of children in the YYS? How do we constructively address identified issues? The doctoral research will build on the existing formal partnership between the Manchester Centre for Youth Studies (MCYS) and the nine youth offending services across the Greater Manchester region as part of the Greater Manchester Youth Justice University Partnership (GMYJUP), therefore teaming up with one of the largest youth justice regions in the country.

In addition to the academic-orientated findings of the PhD research, the project will pave the way for the co-creation (with the children) of evidence-based materials to improve their experiences in the YYS.

The materials are likely to include detailed co-produced guidelines, comprehensive staff training packages and practical recommendations to improve policy, practice and service delivery in the YYS in order to tackle potential linguistic prejudice and mitigate its consequences.

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Recent and Current Doctoral Projects

Rolanda Dei

The lives and cultures of migrants in the Roman empire.

Adam Aderman

The psychological and emotional lives of soldiers in the Roman army.

Nobila Bano

Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing around treescapes in refugee and migrant background communities.

Roumeissa Belbordj

Family language policy in multilingual families in Manchester

Kieran Boden

Exploring cultural understandings of 'green social prescribing' to develop a usable toolkit of sustainable activities that benefits communities and promotes equitable access

Gemma Hunt

Working with children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour: A critical exploration of factors that influence social work practice in one ELA.

Clara Paul

'Understanding the experiences and perceptions of children who have been 'criminally exploited': reframing the debate.

Vicki Morris

How do children's interaction with professionals at police interview shape their future trajectory in the justice system

Matthew Ingham

Women of the *Codex Justinianus*

Melvin Tay

The arrangement of operas for performance in diverse community groups

Interested in doctoral or postdoctoral research with MCYS?

Manchester Centre for Youth Studies invites expressions of interest from new doctoral and postdoctoral students who are interested in exploring themes connected to youth and childhood.

We are currently part of the following doctoral partnerships:

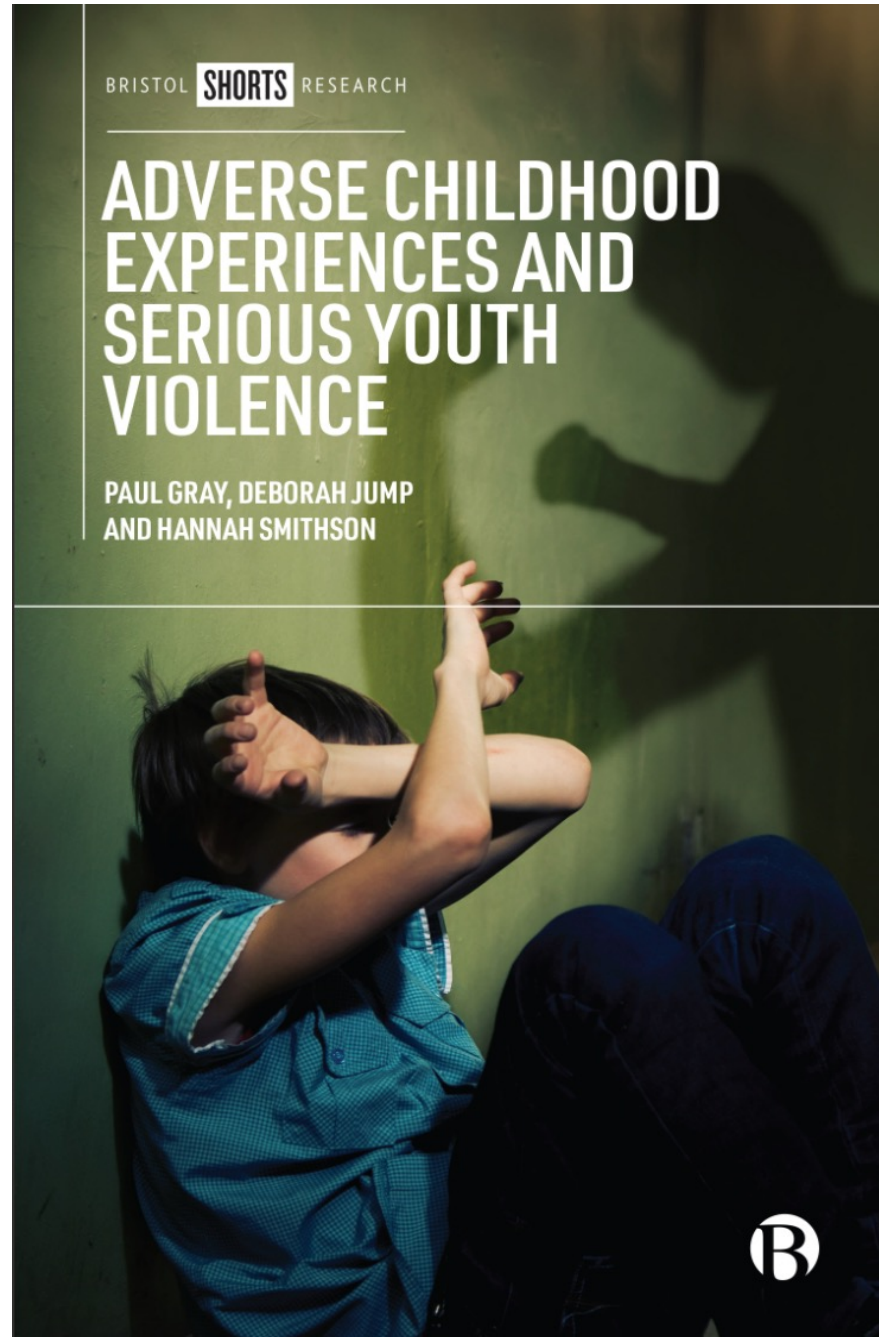
- **White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (ESRC)**
- **Northwest Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (AHRC)**

We also support applications to the following postdoctoral schemes:

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**
- **Future Leaders Fellowships UKRI**
- **British Academy Fellowships**
- **Leverhulme early career fellowship**

If you would like to make an application, please get in touch with a potential supervisor from our team with your research proposal. We will be happy to guide you through the application process.





For further details contact:

Dr Paul Gray
P.Gray@mmu.ac.uk

MCYS colleagues Dr Paul Gray, Dr Deb Jump and Prof Hannah Smithson published a new book exploring adverse childhood experiences and serious youth violence.

Whereas crime more generally has fallen over the last 20 years, levels of serious youth violence remain high. This book presents innovative research into the complex relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious youth violence.

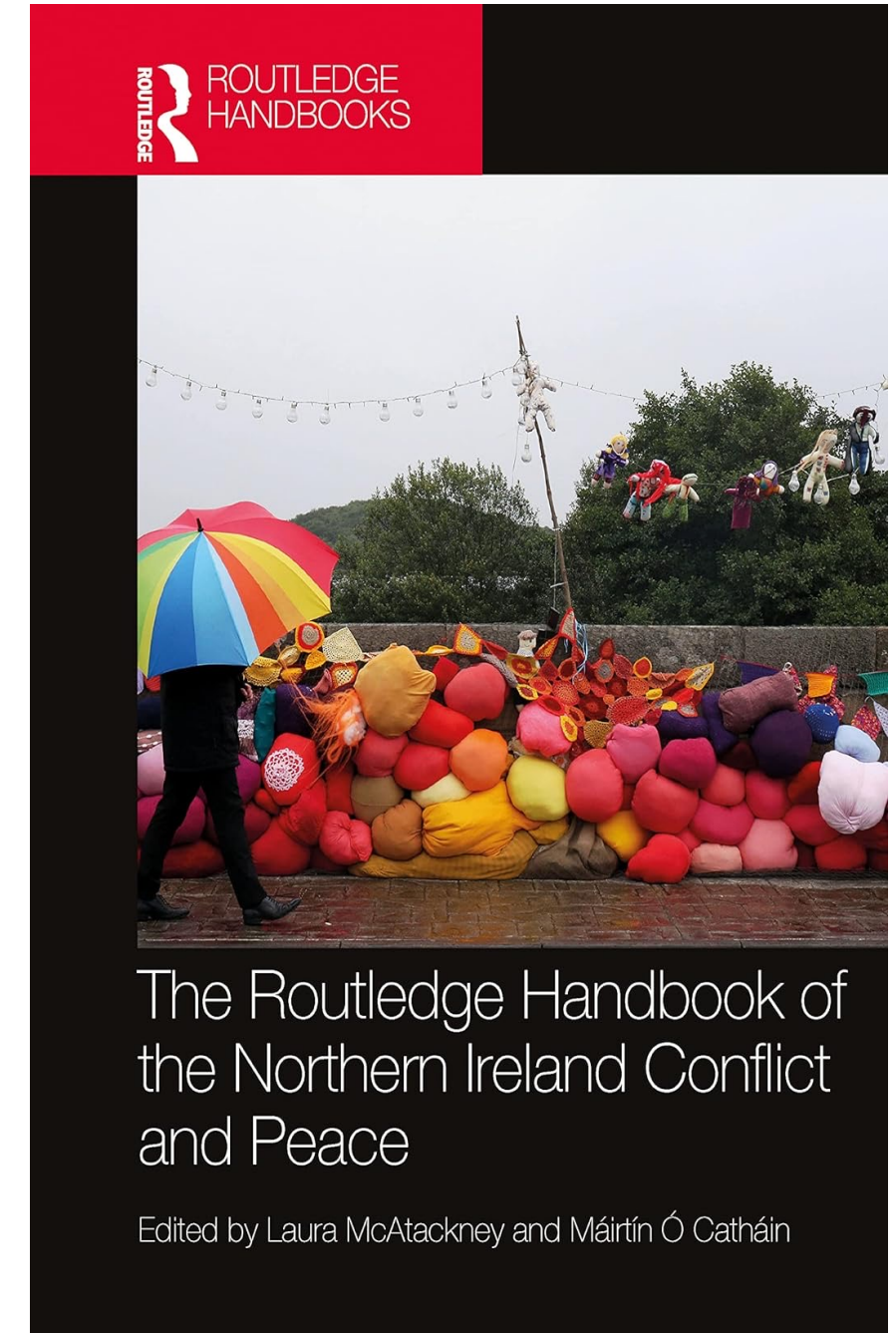
While the implementation of trauma-informed approaches to working with adolescents in the justice system is becoming common practice, there remains a dearth of research into the efficacy of such approaches. Foregrounding young people's voices, this book explores the theoretical underpinnings of trauma and the manifestations of childhood adversity. The authors conclude by advocating for a more psychosocial approach to trauma-informed policy and practice within the youth justice system.



Lucy Newby's recent chapter, 'Reconsidering Youth Conflict Experience in Northern Ireland, 1969-1998' explores everyday experiences of growing up in the 'Troubles'.

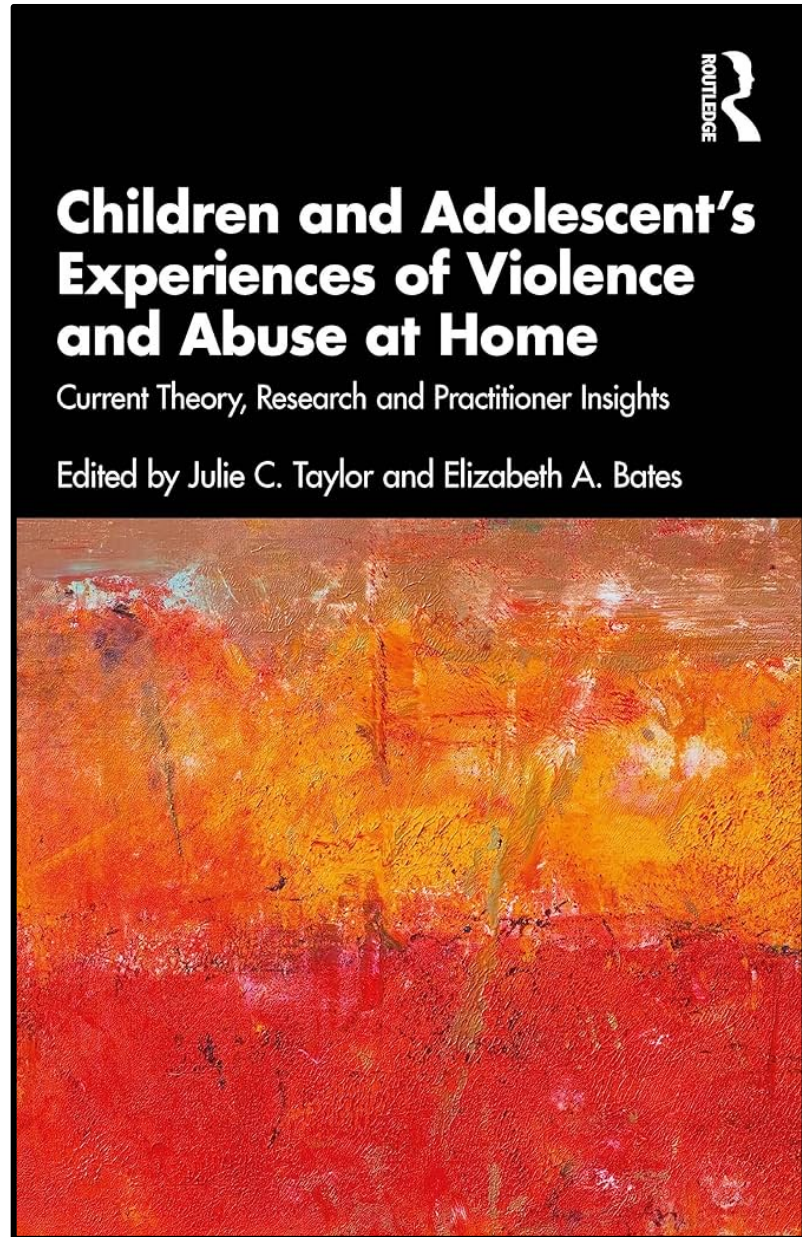
Over 700,000 children grew up in Northern Ireland during the conflict known as the 'Troubles.' In this new chapter, Newby responds to the surprising lack of engagement offered by historians in relation to exploring the everyday lives and experiences of these younger troubles generation.'

As she argues, scholarly work has tended to focus only on the experiences of children as victims or combatants. Newby makes use of oral history interviews conducted to propose a shift in the way historians engage with youth conflict experience. Making use of the personal narratives of those who grew up in conflict, she highlights the importance of recognising the the quotidian nature of conflict for many children and young people.



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Dr Samuel Lerner
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MCYS member Samuel Lerner and Dr Mark Mcglashan (Birmingham City University) published their new chapter “How Children Talk about Domestic Abuse in the Home, in a new collection edited by Julie Taylor and Elizabeth Bates.

The chapter highlights how children's voices are central to understanding their experiences of living in homes with domestic abuse. However, the researchers acknowledge that gaining access to children and therefore insights into their individual experiences is fraught with methodological problems.

To better represent children's experiences, this research explores children's voices as captured at the point of informal peer-to-peer disclosures on internet message boards. The chapter first outlines the novel methodological approach developed to collect 3,242 message board posts for analysis. Using a corpus-based approach, the feelings children describe in these posts are explored. The authors conclude by considering implications for practitioners.



Benjamin Bowman and his international research team published “‘Radical Kindness’: the young climate activists transforming democracy’, which is a policy briefing for the Council of Europe and European Commission.

“Radical kindness” is a response to a European strategic call for youth-centred knowledge about democracy, and the ways in which young people are changing politics. This accessible, research-led publication informs policymakers and practitioners about the ethics of kindness, care and empathy in young environmentalist activism, and is informed by a series of research projects hosted at MCYS.

The briefing was co-authored with two of MCYS’s young activist researchers, Pooja Kishinani and Marion Smith, and is featured in the European Commission’s new book, “Youth Political Participation”. This policy briefing is part of a range of outputs on young people’s participation during climate change, based on original research and youth co-designed teaching tools for climate education



For further details contact:
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- Bateman, T., Brodie, I., **Day, A .M.**, Pitts J., and Osidipe T (2023) 'Race', *disproportionality and diversion from the youth justice system: a review of the literature*. Nuffield Foundation.
- Bowman, B.** (2023) Is it radical to be kind? New civic education in the era of young people's dissent. In: Haste, H. and Bempechat, J. *New Civics, New Citizens: Critical, Competent and Responsible Agents*. Leiden: Brill Publishers, pp. 23–38.
- Bowman, B.** (2023). Young People's Voice and Power in Democracy: Supporting Through Action. In: Wyn, J., Cahill, H., Cuervo, H. (eds) *Handbook of Children and Youth Studies*. Springer, Singapore.
- Bowman, B.**, Kishinani, P., Pickard, S. and Smith, M. (2023) "Radical kindness": the young climate activists transforming democracy" in Deželan, T., Bacalso, C. and Lodeserto, A., *Youth Political Participation*, Brussels: Council of Europe and European Commission, pp. 15–33.
- Day, A.** "The Place of Risk Within Child First Justice: An Exploration of the Perspectives of Youth Justice Practitioners" in Case, S., and Hazel, N., *Child First: Developing a New Youth Justice System*, Springer: 2023.
- Day, A.-M.**, Clark, A. and Hazel, N. (2023), "Hearing from justice-involved, care experienced children: what are their experiences of residential care environments and regimes?", *Journal of Children's Services*, Vol. 18 No. 1, pp. 47-60.
- Gray, P., Jump, D. & Smithson, H.** (2023) *Adverse Childhood Experiences & Serious Youth Violence*, Policy Press, Bristol.
- Goswami, H.**, Goswami, G.G., Banik, B.K. & Khalil, M. I., (2023). Factors Associated with Children's Subjective Wellbeing During COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh. *Child Indicators Research*. Hayes, T., Walker, C., Parsons, K., Arya, D., **Bowman, B.**, Germaine, C., Lock, R., Langford, S., Peacock, S. and Thew, H. (2023). In it together! Cultivating space for intergenerational dialogue, empathy and hope in a climate of uncertainty. *Children's Geographies* 21:5, pp. 803-818.
- Hodgson, J.** (2023) *The Policing of Youthful 'Social Dynamite' and Neo-liberal Capitalism: Continuities, Discontinuities and Alternatives in Demystifying Power, Crime and Social Harm*. Palgrave Macmillan. pp 455–480
- Larner, S. & McGlashan, M.** (2023) "How Children Talk about Domestic Abuse in the Home: Insights for practitioners", In J. Taylor and E. Bates (Eds) *Children and Adolescent's Experiences of Violence and Abuse at Home: Current theory, research and practitioner insights*, London: Routledge, 146—164.
- Larner, S. & Smithson, H.** (2023) 'How can you punish a child for something that happened over a year ago?' The impacts of COVID-19 on child defendants and implication for youth courts, *Journal of Criminal Law*, 87(4), 252—265.
- Marshall, D.J.** (2023) *Delivering Juvenile Justice: reflections on comparative research with practitioners' in England/Wales and Japan*, Stockholm Criminology Symposium. June 2023.
- Newby, L**" (2023) Reconsidering children's experiences of the conflict in Northern Ireland" in Laura McAtackney and Máirtín Ó Catháin (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of the Northern Ireland Conflict and Peace*, Routledge: UK.
- Newby, L and Gray P** (2023) *Starting Secondary School: Transitional Pressures, Challenges and Support Needs*. Report. Manchester City Council: Manchester.
- Nunn, C.** (2023) *Troubling Research: Participatory Arts-Based Research with Refugee-Background Young People*, NEOS 15(2).

MCYS Invited talks/plenaries

- Bowman, B.** Doing Research on Young People with Young People: Co-Productions, Co-Authoring and Collaborations. S Pickard, D Arya, B Bowman. XX ISA World Congress of Sociology.
- Young people and participatory research in times of crises. PSA Annual International Conference.
 - Roundtable: BEEHIVE Hackathon! Climate Change, Future Cities and Young People. Bowman, B., Coen, S., Germaine, C. PSA Annual International Conference
- Goswami, H.** 'Does the experience of being discriminated against vary by one's socio-economic status? Evidence from every interaction of a religious minority in Bangladesh.' For the British Sociological Association conference 'Sociological Perspectives on Class Discrimination'.
- Gray, P. and Jump D.** Rethinking trauma informed practice in the youth justice system'. Forensic Trauma Forum seminar series.
- 'Partners in crime: The role of forensic psychotherapy in criminological thinking and practice'. International Association for Forensic Psychotherapy seminar series.
- Gray, P.** 'Investigating the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious youth violence'. European Society of Criminology annual conference. Florence
- 'Trauma-Informed approaches in the Youth Justice System.' Parliamentary roundtable,
- Marshall, D.J.** The Role of Police Decision-Making in the Delivery of Community Resolutions with Children and Young People, European Society of Criminology.
- Pudsey, A.** 'Children's lives in Roman Egypt: piecing together fragments and memories' Chester Beatty museum, Dublin
- University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity Seminar, 'Children's religious lives in communities of Late Roman Egypt: papyri and material culture'
 - Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, London 'The lives and concerns of enslaved children: evidence from Roman and Late Antique Egypt'
 - Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Society for Study of Childhood in the Past conference, 'Ancient breastfeeding: emotions, economies and practicalities'
 - Bonn, Germany, Centre for Dependency and Slavery Studies, 'Children at Work in a Period of Transition' conference, 'Children at work in early Medieval Egypt'
 - Tampere, Finland, 'Hope in the Premodern World' Conference, 'Hope and affection as family strategy: fostering and adoption of children in Roman Egypt'
- Smithson, H.** International Seminar with the University of Sydney, Children's Rights and Participation in Youth Justice Systems: An International Perspective.
- Invited to present at the Youth Justice Leaders Summit in Birmingham to talk about children's participation in youth justice systems.
 - Invited to present at the University of Durham roundtable about Keeping Children Safe.
 - Presentation at Confederation of European Probation workshop.
 - Presented at the European Conference of Criminology, Florence,.
- Snee, H.** 'Intersectionality and temporality in social mobility: A case study approach to nursing education trajectories', British Sociological Association's Bourdieu Study Group's Mid Term International Conference.

MCYS Professional activities

- Bowman, B.** Co-convener and treasurer, Young People's Politics Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association (2016 - present)
- Invited role as Co-I on HUMANE-CLIMATE, funded €695,762 by the Academy of Finland.
 - Invited role as expert reviewer for the NFRF-FNFR fund on climate change mitigation research. This grant programme has an awarding budget in excess of £176m, funded by research bodies in nine countries (inc. UKRI) and led by the Canadian Government.
 - Invited publication of policy-oriented outputs for the Council of Europe, European Commission, and outputs and consultancy for the British Council.
- Cromwell, J.** Appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Egypt Exploration Society
- Gray, P.** Editorial Board, British Journal of Community Justice (2020 - present)
- Reviewer, ESRC Peer Review College
 - Editorial Advisory Board, Safer Communities (2015 - present)
- Jump, D.** Editorial Board, Journal of Contemporary Harm, Crime and Ethics
- Marshall, D.** Visiting Scholar, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge
- Chair of Trustees at Children's Voices in Action (formerly The Seaver Foundation) (2016-present)
- Newby, L.** Editorial Board, Oral History Journal
- Pudsey, A.** Chair of Manchester Classical Association
- Member of Peer Review College, AHRC
 - Member of Advisory Board, *Public Humanities* (CUP)
- Nunn, C.** Editorial Board, Qualitative Research
- UKRI Interdisciplinary Assessment College.
 - Member, AHRC Peer Review College
 - Honorary Research Fellow, La Trobe University, Australia (2020 - present)
- Smithson, H.** Invited member MSPRU AP Specialist taskforce oversight board
- Invited panel reviewer UKRI ADR Data Linkages panel, 2023
 - Invited Member of HMIP Youth Justice expert panel
 - Chair of the Board, *The Alliance for Youth Justice* (2019 - present)
 - Editorial Board, *Journal of Youth Studies* (2015 - present)
 - Appointed Chair of the Youth Justice Board's *Academic Liaison Network for Preventing Harm of Exploitation* (2020 - present)
 - UKRI Interdisciplinary Assessment College.
- Snee, H.** Sociological Research Online Editorial Board Member

MCyS

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This year's report has been compiled by Dr Lucy Newby