Student Research Award Winners

Freya Milne Memorial Award

Betsy Hagestedt is pleased to have received funding from the Freya Milne Memorial Award to pursue research in Ecuador with La Confederación de Nacionalesidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE), which seeks to represent indigenous communities across Ecuador. Betsy will ask indigenous youth involved with CONAIE about their perceptions of the representational practices of CONAIE, to explore the organization’s inclusivity in representing the many indigenous groups and communities from across the country. She will use interviews and a photovoice project which allows the youth to communicate their experiences through visual methods on a forum.

Myer Horowitz Award

Abigail Graves is using Myer Horowitz award funding for research on parents’ practice of Parental Mind-Mindedness, the tendency to view one’s child as an individual with thoughts and feelings of his or her own. Abigail is investigating the impacts of parental stress and having a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder on the practice of Parental Mind-Mindedness. She hopes this research will help better understand how to support parents to improve parent-child relationships.

Diane Teixeira is glad for support from the Myer Horowitz award to investigate experiences of adults who had a parent die between the ages of 11 and 18, and the ways in which this event is perceived to impact them in adulthood. Diane is conducting in-depth interviews as part of her thesis for her Master’s in Counselling Psychology. She wants to help further our understanding of the lifelong impacts of childhood grief and the ways in which we can support children facing loss.

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Supporting CFYS

Donations to the Centre can take many forms, from one-time gifts to established endowed funds. Please contact us for more information.

Alternatively, donors may visit external.uvic.ca/development and click on the “Ways to Give” tab. You can specify the Centre for Youth & Society as the department to receive your gift. Thank you.

Centre for Youth & Society

Refugee Youth Effective Resettlement

Like many around the globe, our attention at CFYS has been drawn to the current refugee crisis - in particular to refugee youth. They make up more than 35% of refugees and many arrive in host countries unaccompanied. Yet, resettlement policies and programs rarely focus specifically on youth. In partnership with UN-Habitat Youth and Livelihoods, a research team at CFYS is looking at good practices in refugee resettlement. The many good intentions of individuals, schools, services and communities for welcoming refugee youth, while laudable, are not enough. There are distinct skills and knowledges that inform better responses to refugee youth in spaces within larger health, education, pre-employment and recreation systems of service. The aim of this research is to enrich the planning and thinking being done on the ground by NGOs, social services, religious organizations, education and health service providers. While not experts in the experiences of refugee youth, they are nevertheless striving to contribute positively to the resettlement process. The CFYS report synthesizes the major ideas from studies of programs in the areas of: youth mental health, arts/recreation/sports initiatives, language learning, housing, transitions to employment and the particular situations of refugee girls and young women.

The research employs the interdisciplinary strength of CFYS with a team led by Director, Dr. Anne Marshall, and graduate students in Psychology, Anthropology, Linguistics, and Educational Psychology.

CFYS at IdeaFest 2016

Ideafest brings university and community together. On March 7th CFYS hosted an event at UVic’s Ideafest, showcasing research that has been generated from the first year of our new and innovative project, the Youth and Family Community Research Exchange. This project helps leverage UVic research capacity to support youth and family-serving organizations around the capital region. The summary research products from the pilot are now available on our website! See p. 2 for a list of the projects from this year’s exchange.
Message from Our Director

A key UVic strategic plan goal is front of mind in this issue. Internationalization abounds at CFYS - from UN Habitat-supported research on refugee youth, to hosting international students from South Korea and Brazil, to a graduate student award winner engaged in research with Ecuadorian youth, and a Student Research Assistant taking advantage of UVic international co-ops and heading for Nairobi. Internationally focused research opportunities on youth wellbeing constitute a growing area at CFYS. Also, in this issue we celebrate the first year of the CFYS Community Research Exchange supported by the Victoria Foundation. This project is rooted in the idea that student learning is for the public good - students were matched with real-life evidence requests from youth and family serving organizations. The dedication of the students and their connection to non-governmental organizations were hallmarks of this initiative.

Spring is a time of new beginnings, and we look forward to augmenting our research communications with new initiatives on infographics and other visual research summaries striving to support accessibility of our research findings and those of our over 40 research fellows. Stay tuned also for the launch of our new website!

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- Anne

Goodbye and Thank You

CFYS is saying goodbye to two great Research Assistants we had working with us from September to April this year. Hannah Kim, an international student from South Korea, is soon finishing her Master’s in Leadership Studies. Victor Skrzypczynski, who is nearly done his Bachelor’s degree in Biopsychology, is headed to Kenya this summer for a co-op term doing research at a hospital. We wish Hannah and Victor all the best in their future endeavours and thank them for their hard work this year!

Hannah Kim

Research Fellow

Victor Skrzypczynski

Research Fellow

CFYS with AGES

The Association of Graduate Education students (AGES) and CFYS co-hosted two graduate student research cafes this semester on the topics of preparing for conference presentations, hosted by Director Anne Marshall and Graduate Student Representative Joelle Taknint; and narrative methodology, led by Anne Marshall.

Qualitative Methods in Emerging Adulthood

At the international Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood 7th Biennial Conference, CFYS fellows Natalee Popadluk, Anne Marshall and CFYS Research Affiliate Suzanne Stewart (U of Toronto) joined Richard Young (UBC) on a panel presentation. The presenters described three approaches to qualitative research with youth and young adults that are particularly engaging for this population: Action-project method, Possible Selves mapping process, and Indigenous narrative method.

New Research

Vulnerable youth and youth with developmental disabilities are consistently identified as having particular and multiple barriers to employment. CFYS is pleased to be investigating one promising approach to address this need: collaborative social entrepreneurship. Using two case studies, CFYS will identify knowledge, training needs, and support strategies for effective social entrepreneurship interventions with vulnerable and developmentally disabled youth. The project utilizes a mixed-methods case study design in collaboration with two community partners. Case Study #1 will explore micro-enterprise priorities, strategies, training needs, models, and potential impacts from youth with developmental disabilities and community stakeholders at Community Options. Case Study #2 will investigate Pacific Centre Family Services Association’s SKOOKUM Café enterprise. Outcomes will include new data on social enterprise applications with vulnerable youth, research capacity building, accessible data summaries, social entrepreneurship program development, digital stories, and community knowledge mobilization.

Becoming a CFYS Community Research Exchange 2015-16

Thank you to many community partners who submitted topics this year. Matched with graduate students, these topics allowed students the opportunity to work on “live” questions from the youth and family sector. See what was top of mind to NGOs in the region by scanning the evidence review titles below. Brief research summaries can be found on our website.

- Anne