

Photography in the Amazon: Freya Milne Award

(Continued from Page 1) Our first workshop was held at the CONFENIAE complex outside of Puyo. The first morning began with a discussion of the way we view photographs, what elements draw the eye of a viewer, and how our vision travels across a photograph. We then moved on to discuss basic photographic concepts such as the uses of color, line, perspective and convergence, symmetry and asymmetry, the rule of thirds and the golden mean, and to consider how a viewer’s interpretation can be influenced by a photographer’s choices. All of this discussion took place looking at examples of my own photography, including images from my first trip to Ecuador, as well as images from Victoria. It was the images of Victoria that provided some of the most interesting discussion, as we began to unravel the ways in which cultural knowledge and novelty play a role in the elements of a photograph that most effectively draw a viewer’s eye. That afternoon and the following morning were devoted to practical experience, focusing on the use of the elements discussed on the first morning. The participants were encouraged to shoot scenes – taking around 20 photos of a single subject from a variety of angles and focusing on different details. While they were doing this they were encouraged to think about what their choice of content could tell a viewer – what story could they share about their communities.



Other training focused on thinking about the ways that accompanying text is used in online communication and on the creation of texts that could complement photos they had taken. Participants often described a change that they would like to see happen or the specific value of something that they would like to see protected. After the completion of this series of workshops the cameras were donated to CONFENIAE and the national organization CONAIE. The current plan is to spread the cameras throughout the regions of Ecuador, focusing in the Amazon, with the hope that they will be an added resource to continue improving communication abilities within remote communities.

By Betsey Hagededt, CFYS Student Affiliate and PhD student in Anthropology.

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Donations to the Centre can take many forms, from one-time gifts to established endowment funds.

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Thank you.

Please contact us for more information.

Youth Traffic Safety

CFYS begins a research program on Youth Traffic Safety with support from the Capital Regional District Youth Traffic Safety Commission and a SSHRC partnership engagement grant. Dr. Frederick Grouzet, PI, and team are investigating innovative approaches to youth traffic safety.

Youth are overrepresented in traffic (pedestrian, cycling, driving) incidents caused by judgment errors or distraction (NHTSA, 2013). With Canada’s impending legalization of marijuana, there are growing concerns about the possible effects of marijuana use by drivers (and their passengers) on distractibility and traffic safety, particularly the frequent combined use of marijuana and drinking. Education and empowerment of young drivers in this context is of increasing importance. The purpose of the research is to investigate when and why youth and young adults (16-30 years) adopt (or not) safe traffic behaviors, and to explore with them (as well as adult practice and policy stakeholders) the foundation for effective educational materials to increase safe traffic behaviours as both driver/rider and

passengers. Additionally, the project will reach out to local youth (12 to 15 years) with adapted educational materials empowering them as passengers with the potential to influence adult traffic behaviors. This research is informed by behavioural and educational theories and research, as well as evidence from other jurisdictions, that involve dimensions that inform, explain, practice and monitor behaviour for long-term and sustainable safe traffic behaviours. Legacies of the project include new approaches for engaging youth/young adults in evidence based reflection on traffic safety, multimedia educational materials, and strengthened partnerships across youth traffic safety stakeholders.



Photography in the Amazon

Betsey Hagededt

With support from the Freya Milne Memorial fund and in partnership with the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) I began a series of photography workshops with Ecuadorian youth. Photovoice is a research method that asks participants to take photographs demonstrating their perspective of the world around them and to then provide an explanation of those photographs. These explanations are often carried out as conversations within a group. Within my

own work, this format has been heavily modified, gaining a much stronger focus on education and increasing the participation of youth in the communication practices of organizations like CONFENIAE. The focus then is on building capacity and aiding the youth to become better communicators for their communities and organizations. This modification reflects the wants and needs of the organization itself, and demonstrates an important objective within my research to be a useful ally for the organizations that I am working with. (Continued on Page 4)

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The Centre for Youth & Society mission is to promote the health and well-being of youth from diverse social, economic and ethnic backgrounds in evolving societal circumstances. The Centre facilitates university-community partnerships to generate and mobilize knowledge regarding the strengths, challenges, and opportunities of youth. Current research clusters include: physical and mental health, transitions, Indigenous youth, youth and international contexts, inclusion and engagement, literacy and digital youth, and knowledge mobilization for youth audiences.



Ecuadorian youth Photovoice participant.

Message from Our Director



It is with pleasure that I begin my five year term as CFYS Director. I have begun to meet with all research fellows individually, and I look forward to continuing to connect around your research ideas and priorities.

I was attracted to CFYS by the vibrant student community and deep and historical partnerships with youth and family serving community partners. Together, we can move forward on evidence based policy and practices that serve our youth.

As I write, we are approaching the anniversary of the origin of CFYS. In 1998, a dedicated group of researchers gathered to discuss how UVic research could contribute to youth violence prevention. In 2002, the UVic Senate formally established CFYS as a research centre. I look forward to gathering with many of these original CFYS fellows and all current research fellows in January.

I wish to extend an invitation, particularly at this time of transition, to any fellow, student, or community partner who wishes to meet with me to discuss the role of CFYS and new research initiatives.

Frederick
cfysdirector@uvic.ca

New Research Assistants

CFYS welcomes student Research Assistants.

Jessica Tegart's (Psychology) focus in youth well-being stems from a rural upbringing and a desire to see young people access support, opportunities, and find their success. Allison Murphy's (English) research interests include youth mental health and anxiety, building an intersectional feminist approach to digital culture, and fostering compassionate dialogue around issues of consent and sexual assault. Myles Maillet's (Psychology) research has focused on mindfulness, motivation, and health behaviours in youth. He is especially interested in statistics and research design. Joelle Taknint's (Psychology) research investigates discrimination, identity, and well-being among immigrant individuals at various developmental stages. We welcome Fanie Collardeau (Psychology) as our new graduate student representative on the CFYS Advisory. Fanie's research interests include young adults and adolescents, youth mental health, romantic relationships, shame, and aggression.

Interested in Becoming an Affiliate of CFYS?

Graduate student affiliates of CFYS are students conducting a wide range of youth focused research in any discipline in Social Science, Education, or Human and Social Development. Student affiliates of CFYS are eligible to apply for CFYS student awards and research assistantships. They also participate in research learning events and connect with numerous youth and family serving organizations. Students interested in becoming members of CFYS are invited to describe their youth focused research and send us their background information at this link: http://uvic.fluidsurveys.com/s/CFYS_students/

Join Us

Members include Research Fellows, Student Affiliates, and Community Partners who support the mission and goals of CFYS and are expected to adhere to high ethical principles in the conduct and mobilization of research. Membership is free. More information can be found on the "Join Us" page of our website www.youth.society.uvic.ca

Research News

Pathways Evaluation

Support for community partners engaged in the development of innovative services is vital. CFYS is conducting an evaluation of the Pathways to Healing (PTH) child treatment initiative in the North Island region. Former director and fellow Dr. Anne Marshall is leading the investigation with financial support from the Children's Health Foundation. Lessons learned from implementation evaluations such as this ensure that evidence informs on-going program development. Evaluations also provide graduate students with hands on experience related to vital youth and family services. According to Joelle Taknint, a Psychology doctoral student and research assistant on the project, "It's been rewarding to slowly develop a rich understanding of PTH through the unique perspectives of community partners—parents, social workers, educators—involved in this innovative program. Working on this project has been a great opportunity to customize program evaluation skills to a distinct local context, and to challenge myself to apply research principles and language in a way this is meaningful and accessible in both academic and community settings."

Indigenizing Music Education

CFYS fellow Dr. Anita Prest is conducting research to contribute to indigenizing music education in BC schools. In 2015, the British Columbia Ministry of Education mandated the infusion of local Indigenous knowledge, pedagogy, and worldviews into all new K-9 and 10-12 curricula, in order that all students will be introduced to these perspectives during the course of their studies (BC Ministry, 2015b). But BC music teachers, regardless of ancestry, are largely trained in the European classical music tradition and/or in jazz. Thus, many have expressed a lack of familiarity with Indigenous knowledge and with ways in which they might respectfully embed Indigenous cultural practices in their classes. Dr. Prest designed a study to fill this gap of understanding. The aim of the study was to identify public school music educators in rural BC who, together with Indigenous community members, have already been successful in facilitating the embedding of local Indigenous knowledge in music classes, schools, and their broader communities, and to examine the ways in which they have done so. Moreover, the research team sought to investigate how such culturally responsive music education has contributed to fostering students' cross-cultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect. The next step, in a new research study, will be to collaborate with Indigenous culture bearers, composers, music educators, and other interested parties to create choral resources for students in local school districts that have the approval of local First Nations.

Welcome Research Fellows

CFYS welcomes new Research Fellow Dr. Nevin Harper, an associate professor in the School of Child and Youth Care. He teaches practice-based courses in group dynamics, counseling and facilitation. He is the National Research Coordinator for Outward Bound Canada, founder of the Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium and currently co-chairs the International Adventure Therapy Committee. Prior to UVic, Nevin taught at Camosun College where he designed the Post-Degree Diploma in Adventure Education, and he has also done extensive work with youth and other populations through outdoor and adventure-based programs for over 20 years. His current research interests focus on outdoor education, therapy and healthcare practices.

Also from the School of Child and Youth Care, we welcome assistant professor Dr. Mandeep Kaur Mucina. Mandeep focused her research and work on "honour" related violence in the South Asian Diaspora and gathered life histories of women who encountered "honour" related violence, yet continued to resist, reclaim, and transgress boundaries of "honour" throughout their lives. Mandeep's future research hopes to explore the intersection between migration, trauma, and encounters with child protection for refugee children, youth and families. Furthermore, she will be expanding her research on "honour" related violence by exploring gun violence in South Asian communities in British Columbia.



Mandeep Mucina speaking at Remembering Reena: A Community's Commitment to Non-Violence on the 20th anniversary of Reena Virk's death. This tragedy sparked the formation of the Youth & Society research group at UVic which would evolve into what is now the Centre for Youth and Society. Former director Bonnie Leadbeater and Mandeep Mucina spoke on violence prevention research with many media outlets across Canada in relation to the anniversary.