

Update from Freya Milne Memorial Award winner Betsey Hagedstedt

Political communication tends to demonstrate official political perspectives from adults to adults with little regard for the ideas and interests of youth. Within her doctoral research, Anthropology student Betsey Hagedstedt is interested in encouraging youth to play a much more active role in media creation. Supported by a Freya Milne Memorial Award, she is preparing photovoice workshops to help youth to develop skills for political communication through photography. Betsey is working with the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE) to organize the workshops, providing youth associated with the organization with the opportunity to share their political opinions and perspectives. While most photovoice projects focus only on the messages that participants want to communicate, leaders of CONAIE expressed an interest in their youth receiving specific instruction in photography. After basic photography concepts and skills instruction, participants will take photographs within their communities that demonstrate the political narratives they feel are most important to share. In a group, participants will discuss their favourite photographs, explaining why they chose the photographs they did, what challenges they faced during the process, which elements of photography they decided to incorporate, and the way in which photographs and written reports complement one another.



New Freya Milne Memorial Award Winner

Emily Comeau, an MA student in Linguistics, is the new winner of the Freya Milne Memorial Award. Funds from this endowment will support her face-to-face meetings with young moms on the integration of Indigenous language learning in child care settings. In discussions of language revitalization, pedagogy, and decolonization, it is important that language not only be used as an object of study, but that it also be situated in its cultural and geographical roots. In this way, language programming is not just learning about vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation but is also about the communities that speak these languages -- their stories, their practices, and their relationships. Emily situates her project in the context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations.

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Alternatively, donors may visit [external.uvic.ca/development](http://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.

Social Entrepreneurship Research with Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Youth are three times more likely than adults to be unemployed. Youth with developmental disabilities have the lowest employment rates. Despite transition-to-employment programming and curriculum focused on acquiring job-readiness skills, there remains a significant barrier for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. The severity of unemployment and underemployment for transitioning youth with disabilities is a pressing issue in North America, Europe, Australia and the UK. There is an urgent need for appropriate and relevant employment experiences and training in order to assist these youth to acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills that will enable them to secure gainful and meaningful employment in their communities. Research at CFYS, in partnership with Community Options for Children and Families, is exploring how work-life identity and transitions to employment are understood by youth with developmental and other disabilities and the adults who work with them.

increasingly using micro- and social enterprises with both a business and a social mission to address the high unemployment rate of youth who have an intellectual disability, a neurological impairment such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), or mental health disorders. Drawing on reports from individuals with intellectual disabilities, researchers found that using a social enterprise model for employment increased the individual’s social ties with coworkers, family, and the broader community. Employees of social enterprises and their families also report a sense of purpose and pride in their work. Self-reports from individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who transitioned from day programs to micro-enterprises showed an increase in work-life factors such as pride and enjoyment in their daily work.

Three important themes are emerging from the CFYS study: the need for collaboration, financial considerations (including employee pay), and workplace location and environment. More detailed results and a related inventory of social enterprises in food and beverage, arts and crafts, health and beauty, animal and agricultural areas will be made available on our web site.



Recent literature suggests that creating relationships both inside and outside of the work space, as well as enhanced status and rapport within the community are some of the benefits individuals with intellectual disabilities can garner from community based employment. Transitioning youth, agencies, and families are

CFYS Welcomes New Director

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Frederick Grouzet has been appointed as Director of the Centre for a 5-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Psychology, he investigates socialization processes and the development of intrinsic and extrinsic goals and values among youth and young adults. Dr. Grouzet will draw upon his research expertise, multifaceted administrative experiences, and broad network of local and international partners and colleagues as he takes on the Centre Director role.

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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.



Fred Grouzet becomes the third Director of CFYS congratulated here by current Director Anne Marshall and founding Director Bonnie Leadbeater.



# Message from Our Director



This is my last message to you as Director – it’s been a wonderful nine years for me at Youth & Society. Looking back, I’m fortunate to have been able to work with so many of you on research that contributes to youth well-being. The Centre has an amazing group of talented researchers, students, and community partners who are involved in a diverse array of basic and community-engaged research, program development, and knowledge mobilization. The collaborations have also contributed to my own growth as a community-engaged scholar.

This year is a time of multiple transitions. Our five-year Centre Review process that began last fall is nearing successful completion and we launched our new-look website in December. In July, we welcome our new Director Dr. Fred Grouzet, who will bring new ideas and opportunities for our next five years. Dr. Grouzet will be working with UVic’s newly-appointed Associate Vice-President of Research Dr. Lisa Kalynchuk.

Looking forward, we have new members among our faculty, Advisory Board, student, and partner groups who will stimulate and extend the work of the Centre in the future. You will see several examples of our projects and partnerships in this newsletter, with many more to come!

My special thanks go to Associate Director Tricia Roche and Centre Assistant Karolina Karas who make working at CFYS such a pleasure. Very best wishes to you all,

Anne

## New Research Fellows

CFYS is delighted to welcome new Research Fellows from the School of Child and Youth Care: Nevin Harper and Jeffrey Ansloos; from Curriculum and Instruction: Tim Anderson and Anita Prest; and from Psychology: Briana Turner. We look forward to collaborating with these UVic faculty members.



CFYS research partner, former UVic EPLS student and current Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Transitions and Homelessness Dr. Suzanne Stewart with Dr. Anne Marshall and Dr. Jeffrey Ansloos.

## Associate Director Nominated for UVic Award

Our Associate Director, Tricia Roche, was nominated for a UVic Service Award. From her nominators: “As Associate Director at CFYS, Tricia is an outstanding relationship-builder among our community and academic researchers. Recognizing the importance of youth engagement in order to achieve sustained change, she brings her creative skills to research and KM products that make these attractive and accessible, particularly to children and youth who might have mental health, language, or developmental difficulties. The Centre’s success with community engagement and knowledge mobilization is due in large part to Tricia’s efforts. Her frontline experience and deep understanding of the community sector has guided faculty and students to “think community” (including other academic communities) from the very beginning of their projects – this enables more focused and relevant methods and data. Her innovative and engaging outreach activities have also brought community members to understand and experience UVic in new ways and to better appreciate the value of our work.” Our congratulations to Tricia for this acknowledgement of her outstanding contributions.

# Research News



## Digital Youth Research

An emerging area of research at CFYS is the study of youth in digital contexts. This project aims to increase knowledge of and access to digital methods and tools for university student researchers across multiple disciplines. Today’s youth live online and offline. Their daily lives are permeated by new media technologies such as smartphones, social network sites, tablets, and online games. According to a 2015 report on “Teens, Social Media, & Technology”, 92% of teens go online daily. Among those, 24% are almost always online because of their widespread smartphone use (Lenhart, 2015). Mobile phone use is up not only among older teens, almost half of students in Grade 4 regularly have access to their own phone or someone else’s phone (Steeves, 2014). This is a generation of highly connected children and teens who have frequent online access through portable, personal devices. As virtual spaces and technological forms of communication become embedded in their everyday lives, this creates new opportunities for young people to engage and to be engaged in digital research.

The CFYS study explores the current state of the field of digital research with youth to consider innovative strategies for training new researchers in using digital tools. Interviews were conducted with experienced researchers involved in digital projects with children and youth to gain insight about how using digital tools can strengthen research projects and to gather strategies for teaching new researchers how to conduct ethical, community-engaged studies with youth in digital contexts. Their responses highlight barriers, opportunities, methods, tools, and teaching strategies for digital research with youth. A complementary literature review shows that digital methods increase accessibility for researchers and youth, raise new concerns about ethics, evolve very quickly, complement old methods, are embedded in children’s lives, support youth-centered methods, and require more focus more on intersectionality and digital inclusion. Within this shifting media landscape, youth are central actors; there is a need for research that engages digital tools as both the objects and methods of study. Recognizing a need for further training and more resources, this research explores strategies for training students and researchers to conduct ethical and meaningful digital research with youth.

## Who participates in youth philanthropic initiatives?

Among today’s youth, volunteering and community engagement are increasingly vital for transition to meaningful employment. Marginalized youth often lack the same opportunities for sustained community engagement available to their more privileged peers. In partnership with the United Way of Greater Victoria, recent research at CFYS has examined several youth philanthropy initiatives in order to better understand the contemporary context of youth engagement in philanthropy and to investigate the ways in which sustainable youth engagement is essential for building compassionate communities and dynamic societies.



Research Assistants discuss the Youth Engagement in Philanthropy project.

The review considers innovative strategies to engage marginalized youth in philanthropy and how philanthropic organizations can work to better engage marginalized youth. It is supplemented by an inventory of youth-grantmaking, youth advisory councils, and youth-led community service or citizenship initiatives around the world. These documents will inspire reflection within the greater Victoria community on how to strategically engage with equity groups and facilitate their participation within the philanthropic sector in non-tokenistic ways.

## Girls’ Active Transportation to School

Support from the Roy Watson Traffic Safety fund has enabled CFYS student affiliates Claire Sauvage-Mar and Teresa Hartrick to conduct focus groups for a study on girls’ active transportation to school, under the supervision of Research Fellow Dr. PJ Naylor. The purpose of the *Way2Go* research project is to identify barriers, motivators, and enablers to active transportation to school experienced by girls 7 to 15 years of age in the Victoria region. Focus groups are being held throughout spring 2017 to identify critical messages to promote walking, biking, and taking the bus to school. This formative research will be used in a future Island Health social marketing campaign to promote active transportation through the eyes of girls across the Capital Regional District.

## 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](http://www.youth.society.uvic.ca)