

CENTRE FOR APPLIED YOUTH RESEARCH

30–31 July 2015
University of Tasmania

INSECURITY/ INNOVATION/ INSIGHT

Meeting the challenges facing youth in Asia and the Pacific
Inaugural symposium **Centre for Applied Youth Research (CAYR)**

PROGRAM

Public Lecture , Thursday 30 July 2015

5.30 – 6.00 pm: Reception and drinks

6.00 – 7.30 pm: Lecture

Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, University of Tasmania

Speaker: Siri Hettige, Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Topic: Sri Lanka's presidential election of 2015: Prospects for good governance and evidence-based public policies

Symposium, Friday 31 July 2015, Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, University of Tasmania

THE CENTRE FOR APPLIED YOUTH RESEARCH (CAYR)

is an international centre that promotes engagement between Australian and Asian-Pacific youth researchers and practitioners and the sharing of research, policy and practice expertise for the benefit of young people throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The impetus behind CAYR came from the realisation that the issues affecting young people cannot be sufficiently addressed by theoretical knowledge or defined by borders. The common challenges faced by all young people in successfully negotiating transition into adulthood in our globalised 21st century require renewed attention to the applied continuum: research <-> policy <-> practice.

Major symposium sponsors

Institute for the Study
of Social Change



ASIA INSTITUTE TASMANIA



Friday 31 July 2015, 8.30 – 9.00 am: Symposium registrations

Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, University of Tasmania

9.00 AM: Introductions and Indigenous Welcome to Country

Professor Rob White, University of Tasmania

Aunty Brenda Hodge, Aboriginal Elder – Riawunna Centre, University of Tasmania

Professor Richard Ecclestone, Director, Institute for the Study of Social Change, University of Tasmania

SESSION 1: 9.15 AM

Speaker

Professor Johanna Wyn, Australia

Professor Johanna Wyn is Director of the Youth Research Centre in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne, Australia, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, Australia. Her work focuses on the processes and relationships that enable young people to have positive transitions and to engage productively in their communities.

Speaker

Dr Steven Eric Krauss, Malaysia

Dr Steven Eric Krauss is a Research Fellow with the Institute for Social Science Research, Universiti Putra Malaysia. His research and teaching interests include youth development, youth work, youth-adult partnership and Muslim youth religiosity.

Topic

The challenge of addressing change and continuity in gendered patterns in Asia and the Pacific

Abstract

The development of economies in Asia and the Pacific has significant implications for young people. This presentation explores the way in which these global developments have uneven outcomes for young people (and for different countries in the region). It focuses particularly on the way in which gendered inequalities are being reinvented, despite expanding educational opportunities for women. The presentation highlights the problematic nexus between education and employment reflected in the struggle for women to achieve parity with their male peers in increasingly globally competitive labour markets.

Topic

Traditional youth associations as agents of social change: A case study of intergenerational partnership in a Malaysian fishing village

Abstract

Despite boasting over 8,000 registered youth clubs and associations, formal youth organisations in Malaysia are not often recognised for their roles in addressing issues of social justice and inequality in underserved communities. A recent exception is the Youth and Sports Association of Gaya Island (BESUGA). This presentation discusses the unique story of BESUGA and its transformation from a traditional youth development organisation to an agent of social action working on behalf of the underserved fishing villages on Gaya Island, Sabah. Of particular interest is how BESUGA used a culturally-relevant, intergenerational approach to successfully bring together three generations of Island residents for recreation, sports, instruction, and social action. Their efforts culminated in the successful organisation of diverse stakeholders to bring electricity and fresh water infrastructures to the island, empowering both the youth and community at-large. BESUGA's innovative, cooperative approach to social action represents a promising approach for youth empowerment in Southeast Asian countries.

Friday 31 July 2015, 10.45 – 11.30 am: Morning tea

Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, University of Tasmania

SESSION 2: 11.30 AM

Speaker

Dr Nahid Afrose Kabir, Australia

Dr Nahid Afrose Kabir is a senior research fellow at the International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding at the University of South Australia. She has written extensively on young Muslims' identity.

Topic

Muslim youth in Australia: Vigilant, rational and bicultural

Abstract

In the current geo-political situation, a tiny minority of radicalised young Muslims have left Australia to fight with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Some scholars have observed that youth who are marginalised and alienated have managed to find solidarity through social media. Some analysts observe that it may have led a few Muslims to the path of radicalisation. In this paper I seek to understand the identity of Muslim youth in Melbourne, aged 15–17 years, through interviews I conducted a few years ago. I found that the participants paid careful attention to national events concerning Muslims but their bicultural skills enabled them to discuss the matters rationally.

Speaker

Dr Fiona Beals, New Zealand

Dr Fiona Beals leads the Bachelor of Youth Development program at Wellington Institute of Technology. Her research interests are youth crime, educational inequality and social justice issues affecting youth; Fiona is currently exploring research on edgework and identity development.

Topic

Tackling the unmarked in youth development: Why settle for the west when a new dawn brings new possibilities

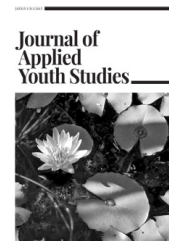
Abstract

Since the mid-1990s youth development work in Aotearoa New Zealand has increasingly emphasised positive youth development approaches informed by both traditional theories of youth development and contemporary understandings of Maori/Pasifika development. Combining such approaches creates a tension as the history (or whakapapa) of western theories is marked by deficit thinking and Anglo-American perspectives on human development which emphasise the individual rather than the collective. This presentation explores and pushes the edge of this tension (an act of edgework) to explore the possibilities for new approaches and ideas that speak both into practice and into the lives of our young people.

Friday 31 July 2015, 1.00 – 2.00 pm: Lunch

Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, University of Tasmania

Launch of the international *Journal of Applied Youth Studies*



SESSION 3: 2.00 PM

Speaker

Professor Victor Wong, Hong Kong

Professor Victor Wong is Convener of the Bachelor of Social Work (Hons) Programme, and Associate Director, Centre for Youth Research and Practice at the Hong Kong Baptist University. He has a particular interest in the employment and career prospects of young people in uncertain times.

Topic

Youth transition to work in an age of uncertainty and insecurity: Towards an expanded notion of work for insight and innovation

Abstract

In a turbulent age of globalisation, youth transition to work has been characterised by an increasing sense of uncertainty and insecurity. It is against this backdrop that there has been an outcry to develop an expanded notion of work, which includes both paid and unpaid work situated in a wide spectrum of formal and informal settings. While upholding the importance of gainful work and its inclusionary impact on both individual and community levels this broadened perspective is argued to be insightful in generating innovations inspired by the interlocking principles of 'work for youth, work with youth, and work by youth'.

Speaker

Professor Siri Hettige, Sri Lanka

Professor Siri Hettige holds the position of Senior Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He is the author of twenty books including his forthcoming publication *Towards a sane society*, a collection of essays to be published in Sinhala, English and Tamil.

Topic

High skill migration and marginalisation of disadvantaged youth in Sri Lanka

Abstract

The present phase of globalisation creates opportunities for highly skilled youth to migrate internationally in search of greener pastures outside one's own country. While highly skilled human resources are critical for industrialisation in peripheral countries like Sri Lanka, exodus of highly skilled labour acts as a hindrance for economic advancement there. Persisting underdevelopment adversely affects the life chances of less skilled youth who are left behind. This often leads to youth unrest compelling governments to look for alternatives to local employment to accommodate unemployed youth. One of the key alternatives is to find unskilled jobs overseas through state-assisted and private job placement schemes. Meanwhile, continuing exodus of skilled and unskilled labour creates labour shortages in the country, leading to a range of other issues. This paper examines these issues with a view to finding out what policy options available for the government to address such issues including youth unemployment.

Friday 31 July 2015, 3.30 – 4.00 pm: Afternoon tea

Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, University of Tasmania

QUESTION & ANSWER AND CONCLUDING REMARKS: 4.00 PM

Facilitator

Professor Rob White, Australia

Professor Rob White is Professor of Criminology in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Tasmania, has published widely in the areas of criminology and youth studies. He is Academic Director of the Centre for Applied Youth Research (CAYR) and Academic Editor of the Journal of Applied Youth Studies (JAYS).

Panel

Professor Johanna Wyn, Australia

Dr Steven Krauss, Malaysia

Dr Nahid Afrose Kabir, Australia

Dr Fiona Beals, New Zealand

Professor Victor Wong, Hong Kong

Professor Siri Hettige, Sri Lanka

FINISH: 5.00 PM

Symposium sponsored by:

Institute for the Study of Social Change

The Institute's mission is to enhance our understanding of the causes of social change and to develop innovative and sustainable strategies to address its consequences. Our motivation is to address globally significant problems while promoting local social inclusion, transformation and renewal.



<http://www.utas.edu.au/social-change>



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