AUTHORS

Dr Christine Grove is a Senior Lecturer, Educational Psychologist and researcher at Monash University. She draws on her knowledge from the last decade of working with children and youth in educational settings. Christine has a unique interdisciplinary skill set, with experience in inclusion, sociology and psychology, bridging disciplines of inclusive education, mental wellbeing, and social science. Her most recent work seeks to understand youth experiences of inclusive education using visual participatory research methods.

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YOUTH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

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Liz Solly (14yo)  Ishika Thakur (17yo)
Tamika Nguyen (15yo)  Edison Vong (17yo)

Group photo: Louisa (researcher), youth participants: Liz, Leila, Sahly, Tamika, Edison, Shekiba, Christine (researcher), youth participants: Ishika, Abhi, Rithvika, Nikith.
PROJECT MENTORS AND ADVISORS

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Professor Peter Gronn is an Emeritus Professor in the Faculty of Education at Monash University. Prior to that, he was Professor of Education at the University of Cambridge. During 2011-14, he was Head of Faculty. He was the deputy chair of governors of the University of Cambridge Primary School. He had extensive research experience in government and non-government school systems, and with public sector agencies in Australia and the UK. He is a leading international scholar in the general field of leadership, and in educational and school leadership. In 2005-6 Peter acted as a consultant to the Australian Council for Educational Research on the project ‘Standards for School Leadership’ and in 2006-7 he co-authored the Country Background Report for Australia which formed part of the OECD international project on school leadership. He has over 150 publications and an Australian Research Council recipient.

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Professor Umesh Sharma is the Academic Head of the Educational Psychology and Inclusive Education Community in the Faculty of Education at Monash University, Australia. His research programs in the area of disability and inclusive education span India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa as well as Australia, Canada, USA and New Zealand. He has conducted several award winning national and international projects on topics like Funding of education for students with disability for the Commonwealth of Australia, the Development of Personalised and Support Guidelines for Victorian Government, and the development of the National Policy on Inclusive Education for Solomon Islands. He has authored over 150 academic articles, book chapters and edited books that focus on various aspects of inclusive education. He was recently named as Australia’s Research Field Leader in Special Education (a top rating for a researcher in his/her respective field) by the Australian Chief Scientist https://specialreports.theaustralian.com.au/1540291/

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Overview of Brief Research Reports 1-5

Given the scarcity of youth participatory research, and that young people are rarely consulted about the issues that impact on them (Langhout & Thomas, 2010), the following brief research reports hope to share knowledge gained in using collaborative and engaging research methods with young people. The brief research reports are an open-access series offering 5 brief research reports about collaborating with youth as active stakeholders in research.

The series includes the following reports, each building on the previous:

- **Brief Report 1:** Co-collaborating with youth as active stakeholders in research
- **Brief Report 2:** Establishing an active Youth Reference Group
- **Brief Report 3:** Assent process, group partnership building and visual ethics
- **Brief Report 4:** Participatory workshops in action
- **Brief Report 5:** Joint Dissemination and Communication: Youth informed stakeholder exhibition

The research briefs include the strengths, challenges and lessons learned about co-collaborating and engaging with youth participation in this research project. The research briefs provide an overview on the theoretical underpinnings, ethical considerations, ways to establish a Youth Reference Group, implementing participatory workshops themselves and dissemination and communication of key research findings.

The overall aim of the report series is to share the steps taken in the youth centred pilot research project. We used a qualitative, visual methodology of participatory video, art (drawing, painting) and photovoice to explore youth educational experiences. Methods that originated and used widely in humanitarian situations and with vulnerable communities due to their ‘bottom-up’ approach. Key themes were co-constructed from conversations triggered by the visual data and disseminated through a youth-led exhibition.

The pilot project and the creation of Youth Reference Group took place at Monash University, Faculty of Education, Educational Psychology and Inclusive Education Academic Community in Victoria, Australia.
Joint Dissemination and Communication: Youth Informed Stakeholder Exhibition

The 5th and final brief report outlines the dissemination methods of the Youth Reference Group Project. Dissemination is the final but crucial step in this methodological approach, with the goal of exposing an audience to the images and meaning generated by participants, to encourage community discussion, and to promote policy change and action within the community (Foster-Fishman et al., 2013). Communicating research findings is also critical in guiding and inspiring future research (Resnick, 2014). Resnick (2014) lists a set of three rules for the dissemination of research which we have attempted to follow in this project. Rule 1 is to share freely so that diverse individuals and groups may benefit from what we have learned and subsequently build on our work. Rule 2 is to share all aspects of our research process including the planning, designing, and conducting of the research project so that others may learn from our successes and failures. Finally, Rule 3 pertains to communicating about our research to those who need to know about it the most; these can be young people in difficult circumstances, policy makers, community leaders, schools, families, among others.

Ways of disseminating research findings can be myriad. Bergold and Thomas (2012) draw distinctions between traditional academic writing and the representation of participatory research findings. Fundamentally, the representation of the results need to be more than only academic texts and include representations that are accessible and understandable for wider audiences including the use of film, pictures and posters (Bergold & Thomas, 2012). This type of research is not only about data-gathering. It positions participants to be knowledge producers and to share knowledge to a wider audience.

In this project dissemination and communication has taken a few forms:

- community dissemination: Physical and online exhibition, virtual reality showcase of physical exhibition, catalogues of exhibition, series of digital short films, short online Lens article, online Bridges repository of all the exhibition items (please see call out box below for links to joint dissemination);

- academic communication: Publication planning (forthcoming), research reports (5 in this series), and conference presentations (forthcoming) with youth participants as co-presenters.
Participant feedback

Participants were encouraged to contribute to the research reports if they wished. In reflecting on his experience taking part in the research, one group member Edison Vong wrote:

“The Youth Reference Group experience was quite interesting and rather insightful. When it came to contributing ideas; it was made simple through the use of creative arts; more specifically photography. Through photography, it enabled us to capture what we thought was important and impactful into a single image.

When it came to presenting the ideas that we thought were major issues that plague young people, it was non-confrontational. This was the case, as each individual has at least personally witnessed or experienced those sorts of issues prior. I was also very fond of the ability to be anonymous when having the chance to put up an image; as it still gave those who were not comfortable in being known, a voice.

For future researchers who are wanting to work with young people; it is very important to inform or remind the participants the purpose and reason to why that research is being conducted. The reason for this, is that young people normally do not get a say in what they want or desire; so the fact that they are put in a position to point out issues; they will more likely than not be brutally honest and point out things adults would not have thought of.” Edison Vong, Youth Reference Group member
Youth-led exhibition and dissemination booklet

The role of young people as co-researchers does not end with the collection and analysis of data. Equally important in participatory visual research is the active involvement of young people in the decisions regarding dissemination or communication of the findings (Canosa, Graham & Wilson, 2018). Vindrola-Padros and her colleagues (2016) have noted through their work with young people in a hospital setting that it is important to co-prepare dissemination of findings in a visually appealing manner in order to engage young people and make it accessible for them. Similarly, a physical exhibition space was selected by youth to be the newly renovated Matheson library at Monash University. A launch showcasing participants key themes and messages as to be launched on the evening of 23rd March 2020. Group members were provided with an invitation to forward to their chosen guests, and invited to register to attend the exhibition (see image 1). A printed catalogue and guidebook was designed and organised, for the visual data and blurbs printed out (see image 2). The catalogue included participants’ call to action, to be shared at the exhibition (image 3). These were designed to provide recommendations for ways to address the issues identified by youth in the exhibition. Expression of interest links were sent out to schools, community centres and youth groups originally contacted during the recruitment phase, to invite them to attend the exhibition. Policymakers, community members and members of Monash University Faculty were also invited to attend.
The Youth Booth: Youth Strengths and Challenges in Education
A PARTICIPATORY, YOUTH-LED PHOTOVOICE AND DIGITAL EXHIBITION

Register now

The Youth Booth Exhibition Launch 2020
Monday 23 March 6pm - 8pm

Dear Christine,

You are warmly invited to join us in celebrating the official launch of Monash Education’s ‘The Youth Booth’: Youth Strengths and Challenges in Education - a participatory, youth-led photovoice and digital exhibition.

This is an exhibition showcasing the work of 10 Victorian young people produced over the 2019-2020 Australian summer. Their work captures their collective experience: being digitally savvy, the stress of study, influence of social media, climate change and the impact of poor mental health are strong and visible themes. These perspectives, along with our video series produced alongside this, allow us to see the complex situations that impact the youth experience of education.

For schools, teachers, parents and policy-makers it highlights the importance of listening and collaboration with young people, particularly when developing policies and implementing practice to build more inclusive communities. For researchers, we hope this exhibition highlights one way to use participatory visual research methods to support and strengthen the voice of youth.

The exhibition adopts a rights based perspective which emphasises the importance not only of listening to youth, but actively and authenticity collaborating on matters that directly affect them.
YOUTH BOOTH

A PARTICIPATORY, YOUTH-LED PHOTOVOICE AND DIGITAL EXHIBITION

This is an exhibition showcasing the work of 30 Victorian young people produced over the past 12 months. The group explored issues they are passionate about with a focus on mental health, social media, online safety, death and dying, family, identity, social justice and human rights, and mental health. These passionate, young voices tell the stories of their lives and the people they love, and the people that they have loved. For schools, teachers, parents and policy makers it highlights the importance of listening and collaborating with young people, particularly when developing new policies and implementing practices that more accurately represent the voices of today’s youth.

The exhibition uses a rights-based perspective which emphasizes the importance not only of listening to youth, but also understanding collaborative relationships that directly affect them.

The study was conducted by researchers Dr. Christine Druin and Joanna Thomas in 2012-2016 at Monash University and is funded by the Monash Education Small Grant fund.

For more information:

info@youth研究中心.com
ProtectYourPrivacy@monash.edu

The project is supported by the Victorian Department of Health.

This project is supported by the Victorian Government's Social and Emotional Learning Program.

Social Media Influence

"A major challenge young people face is the influence from social media."

"Social media influences such as blogs, Twitter accounts, Facebook pages, Instagram, YouTube channels, etc. all create the perception of how one should look, sound and relate. These images and videos have a lasting effect on how the Millennials view themselves first and foremost and how we present ourselves to others."

Picture source: Yurika Dominguez

World Map and Mandela Art

"How did I come up with this idea?"

"I wanted to share the message of: "Move the world under your feet!"

"To do this, we created a series of maps that represent various countries around the world."

"This is a lot of effort but I think it’s worth it. We are all connected and we need to start connecting with each other."

Art: Shikari Farid
Image 3. Physical exhibition in Matheson Library Monash University, Clayton Campus
Impact of COVID-19 on the exhibition launch and ongoing exhibition

In response COVID-19 outbreak and requirements of the Australian Government the exhibition launch was unfortunately cancelled. Due to the cancellation of the physical exhibition, a virtual exhibition was established. The virtual exhibition mirrors the design of the physical exhibition. A link to the virtual reality exhibition and community dissemination website was emailed to registered attendees to invite them to view the project digitally.

Young people involved in the YRG proof-read the online exhibition and informed the researchers of any changes they would like to make to their contributions, as well as whether they would like their name and/or photo to be attached to their contribution. Contact was maintained with participants via email to inform and update them on the changing situation, and share their involvement and contribution to the virtual exhibition.

See the Appendix for information about the Youth Booth Exhibition hosted online.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Youth Booth physical exhibition has been moved online. We invite and welcome you to explore the virtual online exhibition: https://www.monash.edu/youth-booth-exhibition/home
Links to community dissemination about key research findings with youth

- **Online exhibition:** https://www.monash.edu/youth-booth-exhibition/home
  Image 3 below

- **Virtual reality showcase of physical exhibition:** https://poly.google.com/view/5VWLsYomxbY
  Image 4 below

- **Series of digital short films:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLeWXMlzrE&list=PLwviNhCF3gvRK6dQwbu0PMx39qs5RsHJ
  Image 5 below

- **Online collection repository of all the exhibition items on Bridges:** https://figshare.com/s/14425c9ff18a8231be6f
  Image 6 below

- **Short online Lens article:** Grove, C. (2020). Youth Booth: Putting young people’s experiences at the heart of research. https://lens.monash.edu/@education/2020/05/18/1380438/youth-booth-putting-young-peoples-experiences-at-the-heart-of-research
  Image 7 below

Image 3.

Virtual reality showcase of the Youth Booth exhibition
(https://www.monash.edu/youth-booth-exhibition/online-exhibition)
Image 4.

Online exhibitions and community dissemination website of the Youth Booth Project (https://www.monash.edu/youth-booth-exhibition)

Image 4.

Series of digital short films:
Image 5.
Online collection repository of all the exhibition items via Bridges

Image 6.
Project Summary via Monash University Lens online sharing platform
Research specific dissemination website

A research specific website was created on WordPress to allow for a digital outlet for an overview of the project, the participatory qualitative visual research methodology process, the research reports, publications and links to resources and webinars. Included on the website was an outline of the workshops, visual image galleries, and research outputs. This method of dissemination allowed for a more widespread sharing of visual data narratives (Foster-Fishman et al, 2013).

Brief research reports

A suite of five brief research reports was created by the researchers to outline the process of engaging young people in participatory research. These reports are designed to demonstrate the theoretical frameworks underpinning participatory research, provide a guide to future researchers who wish to engage with the voices of young people, as well outlining challenges to the participatory process.

“Young people are the next generation. There needs to be more support, and more recognition.”

- Youth Group Member
Youth Reference Group Members “Call to Action”

Below are the calls to action identified by Youth Reference Group members in the final workshop, which were presented in the exhibition booklet.

“Raising awareness about mental health issues and actually making a difference in society to reduce the amount of people affected by these issues ... Doing more school activities to raise awareness and make a change ... Teach more practical life skills at school.” - Ishika Thakur

“To acknowledge young people’s opinions as they are the future.” - Abhi Kariamal

“That young people are the next generation. There needs to be more support, and more recognition.” - Group Member

“Learn from young people in the community, give them a voice and listen to what they have to say.” - Liz Solly

“Your small step and small decision can change the world in a positive way.”
- Shekiba Fuladi

“We’re here to help, show you believe in us by helping us.” - Leila McMillan

“Do not undermine the effects of climate change ... If all you’re doing is raising awareness without a direct action plan, what’s the point?” - Edison Vong

“Mental health issues with teens – not only raise awareness but make a difference ... Basic life skills taught in school.”
- Nikith Udayakumar

“We are the future. LISTEN.”
- Sahnly Phan-Chan.
Additional Resources about sharing and communicating key research findings with youth


REFERENCES


Resnick, B. (2014). Dissemination of research findings: There are no bad studies and no negative findings. From the Editor, Geriatric Nursing, 35, pp. S1-S2.


Appendix A: Youth Booth Online Exhibition

Youth Booth Exhibition

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Youth Booth physical exhibition has been moved online.

We invite and welcome you to explore the virtual online exhibition:
https://www.monash.edu/youth-booth-exhibition/home

The online exhibition provides insights into how 10 young people in Victoria see the situations that impact them. The exhibition adopts a rights-based perspective which emphasises the importance of not only listening to youth, but co-collaborating on matters that directly affect them.

The exhibition is organised into aspects of life that matter to young people during the Australian 2019-2020 Summer:

- Being digitally savvy
- The stress of study
- Influence of social media
- Climate change
- Impact of poor mental health
- Connectedness

The young people in this exhibition have also given a call to action. Read their ideas, hear their voices, see their perspectives and use them to foster social change:

- Ideas for change

All items in the exhibition are available to download, share and reference at the online collection repository.

And here is the link to the physical exhibition in virtual reality
https://poly.google.com/view/5VWLSYomxbY
For more information go to:
bridges.monash.edu/collections/_The_Youth_Booth_
Youth_Strengths_and_Challenges_in_Education/4903950