Youth Studies Australia

Signs of the times

Barack Obama won the US presidential election by 6%, but carried the youth vote by 34%. What does this mean? Another topic for youth research? Maybe! Meanwhile we bring you research results that answer more puzzling questions about young people.

Does the tail wag the dog in youth research?
Brian Hemmings analysed the content of articles in *Youth Studies Australia* over the period 1998 to 2007 and his results suggest that government policy does impact on the type of research undertaken in the youth field.

When is a curriculum not a curriculum
The issue of a curriculum is not only a talking point in education circles, it is also an issue for the youth field. While youth work does not lend itself to a curriculum that specifies 'outcomes', Jon Ord suggests that an appropriate form of curriculum can be most useful.

Big boys still don't cry or even talk much
Research into the bereavement experiences of young men who had lost a sibling found that even though participants thought it was helpful to talk, some were reluctant to do so for fear of being seen as 'emotional'.

Service providers under estimate clients' use of ICT
New research has found that young people who experience marginalisation are nevertheless adept at accessing and using ICT, while service providers are underutilising it as a tool in their practice.

The tanned hunter does better?
Despite the gory ads on TV, young people are still avoiding sun-protection behaviours for a variety of reasons, including sex appeal. This article suggest strategies that might just increase sun-protection behaviours.

Bully here, bully there, bully everywhere
Original research with Australian school students reveals that those who bully in the playground are likely to be those who bully online. However, perhaps surprisingly, there was no cross-gender bullying.

Youth Studies Australia
VOLUME 27 NUMBER 4 DECEMBER 2008

Mental health/Communication/
Research/Masculinity/Youth work/
Disclosure/Sun safety/Health promotion
Online networks/Cyberbullying/
International perspectives/Inclusion

Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations

acys

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 4 DEC 2008

Youth Studies Australia (1998–2007): A review and content analysis

BY BRIAN HEMMINGS

In his analysis of the content of 252 of the journal's articles, Brian Hemmings suggests that an emphasis on health issues reflects a similar focus in Australian Government policy, in media stories and in the promotion of health and wellness campaigns by both government and non-government agencies.

The broad topic of wellbeing and health is … also attractive to researchers because substantial amounts of funding are regularly available through a plethora of sources.

A curriculum for youth work: The experience of the English youth service

BY JON ORD

In his article, Jon Ord points out that not only is youth work unlikely to escape the 'gaze of the state' by avoiding the adoption of a curriculum, but also that the purpose of youth work is first and foremost educational and, therefore, requires an appropriate form of curriculum.

Youth work values need to be … articulated through a curriculum, otherwise youth work is beholden to the mere whim of the individual practitioner.

Happy to talk … to a point: Bereaved young men and emotional disclosure

BY ANDREW MCNESS

Andrew McNess reveals that bereaved young men are reluctant to risk their traditional masculine identity by disclosing emotionally. He suggests that 'a clear cultural validation of nontraditional forms of masculine expression would allow men other forms of bereavement-related expression without challenging their masculine social identity'.

… I felt I had humiliated myself in a lot of ways by being so emotional in public and not being able to control myself. In a way it sort of lowered my self-esteem a bit.

Rethinking the digital divide: Findings from a study of marginalised young people's information communication technology (ICT) use

BY MICHELLE BLANCHARD, ATARI METCALF, JO DEGNEY, HELEN HERRMAN & JANE BURNS

Service providers who work closely with marginalised young people do not realise that their clients use the internet extensively. Agencies also underutilise the internet as a valuable outreach tool because they don't have the skills to realise its potential.

I think the perception of the people running our units is that it's not a positive thing for these young people to be using the internet.

Exploring young people's beliefs and images about sun safety

BY KATHERINE WHITE, NATALIE ROBINSON, ROSS YOUNG, PETER ANDERSON, MELISSA HYDE, SUSAN GREENBANK, JULIE KEANE, TONI ROLFE, PAUL VARDON & DEBRA BASKERVILLE

Skin cancer prevention strategies need to target young people's perceptions about tanned and non-tanned people as this research suggests that young people associate many positive characteristics with suntanned individuals and more negative characteristics with pale-skinned people.

[A person who has a tan] is probably more successful in the hunting market, so to speak.

Cyberbullying: An ethnographic case study of one Australian upper primary school class

BY DAMIAN MAHER

In his classroom study, Damian Maher found that 'Both boys and girls instigated cyberbullying although the boys were far more aggressive in their interactions and bullied each other online more than the girls did … The way the internet mediates interactions allowed both boys and girls to engage in new ways of bullying that included flooding and masquerade'.

The boys … would often press the submit key down and hold it down … This process, called "flooding", effectively prevented anyone else from interacting and was a form of intimidation.