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With the close of National Youth Week, our In Focus article by Rob White of the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies provides a timely and thought-provoking exploration of the participation of young people in decision-making. On the same topic, ARACY has just released a report exploring the participation of young people in decision-making on climate change.

I’m delighted to announce that the National Action Plan Steering Group has been formed, with an impressive membership list. I’m looking forward to the first meeting on 13 May, and working with ARACY members in developing and progressing the Plan.

Our Annual Forum will be held next month on 26 May in Sydney, focusing on intensive nurse home visiting. This is a very timely forum, with a number of excellent experts and professionals speaking. At this forum we will also be discussing our plans for a collaborative randomised controlled trial of intensive nurse home visiting in Australia.

The ARACY AGM will be held on the same day, and I encourage all organisational members to attend and participate in voting.

And finally, Professor Fiona Stanley, ARACY Board Chair, is taking a leave of absence due to family illness. We wish Fiona and her family well. Elaine Henry has accepted the request of the Board to step in as interim chair.

Dr Lance Emerson
CEO ARACY

In Focus: Climate change, uncertain futures and sociology of youth

Youth studies in this century will inevitably and increasingly be a sociology of social change, with young people in the frontline of both innovative ways to respond to immediate physical and social needs, and the target for stepped-up state repression.

The horizon issues most likely to be of immediate relevance to young people in the near future include new triggers for moral panic, social conflicts over natural resources, and particular cultural and organisational
responses to the problems associated with climate change.

All of these issues have major implications for youth identities (such as environmental victims or climate-induced migrants), transitions (for example, survival agendas or possibilities of green collar work) and cultures (including street gangs and politicised youth agency), which will vary greatly depending upon where in the global North or South young people are socially and geographically positioned.

Climate change is the most pressing issue facing the world today. Environmental effects will be both universal, affecting everyone on the planet, and particular, affecting certain population groups more than others. Women will suffer more than men, people of colour more than the non-Indigenous and the non-migrant, the young and the elderly more than the adult, and the infirm and disabled of all ages.

In this context, some critical questions for youth studies may include: How best now to speak of youth transitions when the planet groans under the weight of rising seas and impending, perhaps terminal, crisis? Is green collar work fundamentally a youth issue? How do we moralise about desistance from offending (for the greater good) in an ethical environment where desistance from carbon emissions is fiercely contested (on the basis of sectional interests)? The criminality of youth is touted as a major social problem; yet the criminalities of the powerful (such as transnational corporations) threaten immediate and longer-term harm to us all. Double standards of morality will be exposed more and more, especially among young people, as Twitter and Social Networking and Wikileaks provide new forms of public scrutiny. In this social context, anger at injustice will potentially turn upwards — toward the greedy who so assiduously ignore the needy, toward the powerful who fail to respect and fulfil the aspirations of the educated poor and the technologically savvy.

All these issues have implications for how we ‘do’ youth studies. Critical researchers will attempt to describe, interpret, understand and perhaps even try to change the world around them. Increasingly we will need to do this in a less parochial way, not so much in relation to our personally chosen problems, our pet projects, and our fund-gathering research agendas, but according to the dictates of the massive ecological and social problems emerging around us.

Rob White
School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania, Australia

**Member profile: Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies**

ACYS is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to provide a national youth clearinghouse service, which contributes to young people’s wellbeing and successful transition to adulthood by facilitating the sharing and exchange of relevant research, information and knowledge.

Over a period of 30 years, ACYS has built up an extensive repository of youth-related information and expertise, which enables it to provide the sector with a comprehensive understanding of youth issues. As a central focus for information and resources in the youth field, ACYS strengthens networks and encourages communication channels between service providers, government and practitioners in the sector.

**ACYS** – [www.acys.info](http://www.acys.info)
The ACYS website consists of a comprehensive range of youth-related resources. It includes 50 topic areas, related to all aspects of young people’s lives, in which you will find sector contacts, news, research and reports, sector resources, publications and relevant programs. There is also a daily newsfeed which is updated every weekday with current news stories and the latest reports and sector resources.

**Youth Studies Australia** – [www.acys.info/ysa](http://www.acys.info/ysa)
ACYS is the publisher of Youth Studies Australia (YSA), a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal now in its 30th year. YSA is a highly regarded source of research and practice knowledge in the youth field and is Australia’s only journal covering all issues relating to young people.

**Youth Field Xpress** – [www.acys.info/yfx](http://www.acys.info/yfx)
ACYS also publishes a free monthly email newsletter, Youth Field Xpress (YFX), which contains news and information on youth research and youth work, resources, events, publications, programs, grant opportunities, competitions, conferences, surveys, books and reports.
Upcoming ARACY Events

Collaboration webinar
On May 4, Sarah Schulman will speak on ‘Does collaboration really change things? Civil servants, collaboration and a new approach’. Register here

ARACY Annual Forum
The 2011 Annual Forum will explore models of intensive nurse home visiting by taking a closer look at the Australian experience. Panelists include Dr Lynn Kemp from UNSW, Dr Tim Moore of the Centre for Community Child Health in Melbourne, and Professor John Lynch from the University of Adelaide. Further details are available on our website.

ARACY AGM
The ARACY Annual General Meeting will follow the Annual Forum and will run for half an hour. Organisational members can vote on resolutions and are encouraged to attend. An invitation with further details will be sent to Members shortly.

New staff member
Angela Southwell
Senior Research Manager

Angela Southwell has joined ARACY as Senior Research Manager. Angela has worked previously as a social policy analyst with a passion for economic and social research and 16 years experience working with government.

“What really attracted me to ARACY beyond the high importance of the prevention agenda is the unique position ARACY holds. The huge network of members and the central goal of information sharing and collaboration is also very exciting.”

Angela is leading the second stage of the CAARS project (see below), as well as engaging in the further development of collaboration projects and new partnerships for research. Angela can be contacted by email or on 02 6248 2400. Read more

CAARS Taskforce reconvenes for next stage
Following the Australian Government’s funding approval for the second stage of the Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS), ARACY News

Report on climate change and young people
Little is known about the particular social, emotional and health impacts of climate change on children and young people, and their views are not being adequately considered in crucial policy decisions that will ultimately shape their future. Read the report prepared by the National Centre for Epidemiology and Public Health for ARACY on Weathering the future: Climate change, children and young people, and decision making. More information about ARACY’s Climate Change and Children project is available on our website.

Steering Committee for National Action Plan
In December 2010, ARACY hosted a gathering of Australia’s foremost professionals interested in improving the wellbeing of children and youth to discuss the need for a national integrated action agenda for children and young people.

To bring about this vision, a Steering Committee has been convened to drive the project forward and lead the way through influence, innovation, specialist knowledge and determination. We would like to welcome the Committee and thank them for their commitment to National

Member events and news
Since the last newsletter, ARACY has welcomed 12 individual members and four organisational members, including:

- Hands on Education
- Middle Years of Schooling Association Inc
- Rural Women’s Network Nepal
- Steiner Education Australia

Member Connect
Have you logged on recently to see who is working in your field and is available for networking or advice? More than 450 members are already involved, with more joining every week. Read more

Post doctoral fellowship
At the Centre for Children & Young People at Southern Cross University, Lismore. Contact Professor Anne Graham or read more

Right to Childhood 2011 Forum
29 April in Sydney. Read more

Positive Schools 2011
12-14 May in Fremantle. Read more

Bratz, Britney and Bralettes: The sexualisation of childhood
19 May in Melbourne. Read more
the CAARS taskforce met recently to discuss planning and implementation to take place in several trial sites around Australia. Read more

Action Plan. Read more

International Conference of the Middle Years of Schooling Association
26 May on Gold Coast. Read more

Also this month...

- Resources from the recent ARACY webinar on Collaboration case studies
- Call for abstracts Youth Health Conference 9-11 November in Sydney
- "Always Connected" – a new report from the Joan Ganz Cooney Center
- Parents Day 2011 14 May in Fremantle
- Does collaboration really change anything?

QUICK LINKS

Members Only
ARACY online forum
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Events
New research and reports
ARACY Publications and resources

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And thanks to our partners

ARACY relies on the generosity and commitment of individuals and organisations who support our commitment to a future where Australia’s children and young people thrive and their wellbeing is a national priority. ARACY’s primary funding is received from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). We are deeply grateful to FaHCSIA, and the following major partners supporting our work:

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Advocacy Partner

The CALEDONIA Foundation

For more information on how you can support ARACY, contact Chantal Lewis by email.

Visit the ARACY Website

Please send any comments about this email to enquiries@aracy.org.au

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