

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

CIRCY Newsletter

Spring 2025



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New CIRCY membership opportunities

We hope that your Spring term is off to a good start and that you are all keeping warm this frosty January. We have a variety of events coming up this term that we hope you will join us, and you can our proposed schedule of events below. This term CIRCY will begin a new regular 'CIRCY members meeting' that will take place twice a term. The first two meeting dates can be found in the newsletter and will be circulated as calendar invites shortly. These will be hybrid events, but we hope that as many people as possible will join us in-person.

The aim of the members meetings is provide opportunities for members to be able to present, and hear about, work in progress – whether it is bids being prepared for submission, ongoing research projects (including PhDs), or publications. Members will have the opportunity to present their work and to receive supportive feedback from other members. The meetings will be held twice a term (usually lasting 1.5 hours) and will provide opportunities for centre members to form connections around their work and benefit from the wider interdisciplinary expertise of the centre.

These meetings will only be successful if we can build up a critical mass of people, and we hope you will be able to join us for at least one meeting a term. We are particularly keen to hear from colleagues who would like to share their work this term (or next) – please contact circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk if this is something you are interested in doing. Over the course of the initial meetings we would warmly welcome feedback from members about how to make them work for you, so please do share your thoughts and reflections with the team.

Wishing you all a fruitful start to the year,

[The CIRCY leadership team](#)

CIRCY Autumn Term Events

Exploring environmental sustainability: what issues matter to the lives of children and young people?

Wed 22 January / 11:30-12:30pm

The [SSRP](#) and CIRCY, two University of Sussex 'Centres of Excellence', hosted a workshop on sustainability research important to the lives of children and young people, with the support of the Widening Participation team. It brought together young people and researchers with four presenters giving inputs on their research, and participants being invited to share their own ideas, responses, and questions. The event was a successful opportunity to collaborate on exploring complex sustainability issues where answers are not straightforward and contribute to an idea for a new sustainability game.

Eco-anxiety and the relationship between climate change and human and children rights

[Dr Emanuela Orlando](#) (Associate Professor in Environmental Law)

Citizen science for sustainable menstrual health

[Dr Chi Eziefula](#) (Associate Professor in Infection, Brighton & Sussex Medical School)

Nurturing Nature with(in) Children: Nature in Education

[Kathleen Bailey](#) (Postgraduate researcher, Department of Education)

Sustainable Futures and Not-So-Serious Play

[Dr Jo Walton](#) (Research Fellow in Arts, Climate and Technology)

CIRCY Members Meeting

Wed 5 February / 12:30-2pm / Fulton 208

If you would like to present a work-in-progress to CIRCY members for feedback, which could include: (i) a plan for a funding bid, (ii) a key publication you are working on, or (iii) a current research project you are involved with, please contact circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk

CIRCY Seminar - Perspectives on young people's involvement in organised crime

Wed 19 March / 1-2:30pm

In this conversation-style event, criminologist Dr Sally Atkinson-Sheppard will discuss her work on young people's involvement in gangs and organised crime, focusing in particular on county lines and the concept of 'hyper-agency'. Sally will be joined by Professor Michelle Lefevre and Professor Kristi Langhoff to offer reflections from their work on children, agency and exploitation.

CIRCY Symposium - Humanist and Post-Humanist Perspectives within Forest School Education

Wed 26 March / 3-4:30pm

This event is being curated by a group of our BA Childhood and Youth students. Further details will follow shortly.

CIRCY Members Meeting

Wed 2 April / 12:30-2pm

If you would like to present a work-in-progress to CIRCY members for feedback, which could include: (i) a plan for a funding bid, (ii) a key publication you are working on, or (iii) a current research project you are involved with, please contact circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk

Contact Information

We're ready for the new term and you're invited!

Join the CIRCY mailing list for all updates, news and latest events by emailing us at

CIRCYadmin@sussex.ac.uk.


Get in touch with any questions you have, too.



@SussexCIRCY



@circyatsussex



What is CIRCY?

The Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) is a pan-university research centre at the University of Sussex, with a membership that spans social sciences, arts, humanities and professional fields including social work, law, education and health. CIRCY's research is interdisciplinary and international in scope, united by a critical engagement with children and young people's lives in time, and a focus on the rights, voice and welfare of the child or young person at the centre of inquiry.

Get in touch!

circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk



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