

Dr Liam Berriman, Social Work: [L.J.Berriman@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:L.J.Berriman@sussex.ac.uk)

Social research with children and young people raises a range of unique challenges and opportunities with ethical, practical and methodological dimensions. This module provides an overview of this specialist area of research methods, giving participants the opportunity to explore how traditional research methods can be adapted in order to work with younger participants as well as understanding how new methodological approaches have grown from the specificity of working with children and young people. Methods covered will include interviews and focus groups, creative, digital and participatory methods, and methods for analysing children's language and talk. The course will also outline the ethical dimensions of research governance and practice for research with children and young people including a critical exploration of power relations within the research process and the potential for research to contribute to personal and social change.

By the end of the module a successful student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the ethical and practical challenges involved in conducting research with children and young people.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the potential of a range of methods for researching with children and young people including how they are matched the needs and capacities of target groups, the character and quality of data generated and the kinds of analyses that they make possible.
3. Characterise and critically evaluate examples of research with children and young people
4. Illustrate arguments with specific examples from published research.

**Assessment:** Assessment will be a 3,000-word essay demonstrating the above.

### Indicative Reading & Resource List

#### *Youth*

- Heath, S. and Walker, C (eds) (2012) *Innovations in Youth Research*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Heath, S., Brooks, R., Cleaver, E. and Ireland, E. (2009) *Researching Young People's Lives*, London, Sage
- Bradford, S. and Cullen, F. (2012) *Research and Research methods for youth practitioners*, London: Routledge

#### *Children and young people*

- Alderson, P. and Morrow, V. (2011) *The ethics of research with children and young people*, Sage.
- Tisdall, K. et al. (2009) *Researching with children and young people: research design, methods*. Sage
- Christensen, P. and James, A. (eds) (2008) *Research with children: perspectives and practices*, London: Routledge
- Thomson, P. (2008) *Doing visual research with children and young people*, Routledge
- Jamieson, L. et al. (eds, 2011) *Researching families and relationships: reflections on process*, Palgrave

## **Weblinks**

- <http://www.artlab.org.uk/mediaworlds-project-process.htm>
- <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/inventingadulthoods/>
- <http://sru.soc.surrey.ac.uk/SRU12.html>
- [http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/reading\\_lists/ethical\\_issues\\_in\\_research\\_with\\_children\\_wda55732.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/reading_lists/ethical_issues_in_research_with_children_wda55732.html)
- <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/14/4/9.html>

Last updated October 2019  
LB/HL