WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!

We hope all CIRCY members have had a great summer, with time for rest and relaxation amongst all the productive work that continues through the non-teaching time.

In this newsletter we’ll let you know what some of our members have been up to and set out the programme of events for the autumn term.

We have included some brief information about what CIRCY involves and who might join. We’d like to encourage you to share this newsletter with new members of staff, doctoral researchers, and any other colleagues who you think might not yet be aware of CIRCY and our activities.

Hopefully, by now you will have seen CIRCY’s annual report which is downloadable from our website. If not, do take a look as it’s filled to the brim with inspiring stories of research by CIRCY members, as well as beautiful imagery by children and young people on the theme ‘What nature and the environment mean to me’.

Feel free to share the report with colleagues both around Sussex and in your external networks, including on social media.

Keep In Touch!

If you’re interested in taking part in any of our upcoming members events or other activities, or just want to find out more, contact CIRCY Research Fellow, Loreto Rodriguez: L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk

And please let us know if you have any ideas for members’ events or seminars, or need any support with developing research or writing - or with research-related activities, such as networking events or conference attendance.

SEMESTER 1 EVENTS

28 October 2019
9-10am
Coffee and Collaboration Breakfast Meeting
Please contact L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk if you’d like to come along for coffee and pastries and to meet others.

30 October 2019
12-1.30pm
Seminar: Making A Noise: How are children heard and not heard?
Presented by Jo Moran-Ellis and Pam Thurschwell
CIRCY members are invited to present. More info below.

25 November 2019
3.30-4.45pm
Ideas in Action workshop
Ground Floor Meeting Room, Essex House
See call below and let us know if you want to present an idea for feedback by emailing L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk.

12 December 2019
1-2pm
Reading Group
Room 108, Essex House
Led by Dominic Dean - Research Excellence Framework Academic and Operations Manager, on the subject of flight in John Masefield’s children’s novel, The Box of Delights.
We will circulate the reading a few weeks in advance.

16 December 2019
9.30am-1pm
Mass Observation Archive at The Keep workshop
Contact L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk to book a place.
More info in the following pages.
NEW INITIATIVES

Coffee and Collaboration breakfast meetings

We’re aware that many CIRCY members don’t know each other and this can limit opportunities for networking and collaboration. So this year we are introducing termly one hour breakfast meetings with coffee and pastries at which three CIRCY members - who haven’t been so much in the foreground - present informally for around five minutes on something relevant to their work that might be of interest to others. This might be something along the lines of a theory or a methodology they have used in their research with children and young people. There will then be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

This term’s meeting will be on 28 October (9-10am) with Malcolm James (Media and Film), Hannah Field (English) and Jimena Bernal (doctoral researcher in Childhood and Youth).

Please come along - and let us know in advance so we book enough coffee and pastries (please also let us know of any special dietary needs). Let us know, too, if you are interested in being a presenter next term. For any of the above communications, email L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk.

IDEAS IN ACTION WORKSHOP

Another new initiative this year is termly Ideas in Action workshops which will provide a space for colleagues to discuss work or ideas which are at an early stage and on which they would like feedback. This might include research bids, a research proposal in formation, or new ideas for papers or books. Two ‘ideas’ will be presented at each session for approx 15 mins with a further 20 mins given to feedback/discussion.

The first workshop will take place on 25 November at 3.30pm. Email L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk if you have an idea on which you would like to present and receive feedback.

MASS OBSERVATION ARCHIVE WORKSHOP

CIRCY members are running a workshop on the morning of 16 December on how to use the Mass Observation Archive to conduct research relevant to children, childhood and youth.

The Archive, housed in The Keep, comprises thousands of accounts of everyday life written by volunteer writers from across the UK. The Archive dates back to the foundation of Mass Observation in 1937, but the workshop will concentrate on the in-depth, qualitative writing collected since 1981 as part of the Mass Observation Project.

Throughout the Project, participants have been invited to write about themes relating to childhood and youth, often reflecting on their own experiences or commenting on current issues. In recent years, CIRCY members have worked alongside colleagues at the Mass Observation Archive to develop a new strand to the archive of “everyday life” to understand how best to curate the archives of young people.

During the workshop, there will be discussion of issues encountered when looking at archived data created by and gathered from young people, as well as the opportunity to look through some of the archival material and discussing innovative approaches to researching with this rich collection of qualitative data.

The workshop will be run by Fiona Courage and Kirsty Patrick (Library) and Liam Bertran (Social Work and Social Care). Please contact L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk to book a place

Don’t forget to follow us on twitter. When you tweet about your research, tag @SussexCIRCY and we’ll re-tweet you to enhance your visibility!

MAKING A NOISE: HOW ARE CHILDREN HEARD AND NOT HEARD? A CALL FOR (SHORT) PAPERS

The overall CIRCY theme for the year is sound and childhood. Rather than sticking to the standard seminar format, during the first semester CIRCY will host an informal interdisciplinary roundtable with short provocations on the theme of “Making a Noise.”

The title is meant to be a prompt and we’d like to invite CIRCY members to submit a proposal (of just two or three sentences) for papers that can be presented within 10 minutes at most.

If you are not a CIRCY member and want to submit a proposal, please do. And join our team - you belong with us!

How does the idea of children being heard or not heard relate to your own research? Here are some ideas to stimulate your thinking:

- How children have been heard and not heard in public spaces
- Representations of noisy or disruptive children in literature, art, film, music, tv
- Children making noise on social media
- Histories of noisy or disruptive children
- Silencing of children’s voices
- How children’s voices have been heard and not heard in sociological studies - or in encounters with the state
- What research methods help us think about children making noise and how we hear them
- Is being noisy enough?
- Intergenerational noise
- Greta Thunberg and children’s voices in the climate change movement.

Please send (very) short abstracts for (very) short papers by 4 October 2019 to Pam Shuttleworth (p.shuttleworth@sussex.ac.uk) and Jo Moran Ellis (j.moran-ellis@sussex.ac.uk) who will lead the roundtable.

WHAT HAVE CIRCY MEMBERS BEEN UP TO OVER THE SUMMER?

Absent Voices: Where Are Children’s Accounts Of Being In Kinship Care

Doctoral researcher, Paul Shuttleworth (Social Work and Social Care) won first place in the Sussex Doctoral Research Poster Competition. Researchers from all years and disciplines were invited to submit a poster on an aspect of their doctoral research. Paul’s poster was shortlisted by a panel of faculty and the final winner was voted on by attendees of the Festival of Doctoral Research.

Paul’s poster was titled Absent Voices: Where Are Children’s Accounts Of Being In Kinship Care and explored how national discourse, combined with perceptions around the validity and reliability of children’s views, has led to the research base lacking children’s own accounts of kinship care. The poster concluded with suggestions for a methodology which would ensure that children’s views can have an impact on policy.

Absent Voices: Where Are Children’s Accounts Of Being In Kinship Care was undertaken as part of the Doctoral Research rainforest Doctoral Research Programme.

Paul Shuttleworth with his winning poster presentation
**RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT**

**New Research Funding**
Michelle Lefevre (Social Work and Social Care) led a successful bid to the ESRC for £1.9 million. Working alongside Gillian Ruch, Kristine Hickle (Co-Investigators), Jeri Damman and Reima Ana Maglajlic (Res) (all Social Work and Social Care), the collaborative project will examine the development of services to address complex adolescent safeguarding risks using the new approaches of trauma-informed practice, contextual safeguarding and transitional safeguarding. Partners external to Sussex include the Universities of Bedfordshire and Oxford and NGOs Innovation Unit, Research in Practice, and Become.

**New Publications**

Hannah Field’s (English) Playing with the Book: Victorian Movable Picture Books and the Child Reader was published in August 2019.


**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

It’s been a very busy summer for CIRCY researchers, who have been travelling to share learning from their work. Here are some selected highlights:

**Perpetua Kirby** (Education) and Rebecca Webb (Education, CIRCY Co-director) gave a workshop on Rebalancing and broadening contemporary education to include a focus on both conformity and transformation at the BERAt (British Educational Research Association) conference.

**Feylyn Lewis** (Social Work and Social Care) gave a keynote address at the Supporting Carers in Education and Employment Conference organised by Carers Trust Wales in Bangor, Wales. Feylyn and Saul Becker (Social Work and Social Care) jointly gave the keynote address at the Inaugural Young Carers Conference in Paris.

**Maria Moscati** (Law) presented a paper at the AFIN Conference in Granada on Surrogacy, ARTs, Same-Sex Couples and Children’s Rights in Italy.

**SUMMER WRITING RETREAT TREAT**

by Rebecca Webb

This was the first time that we had allowed ourselves the luxury of planning some writing time for CIRCY members and colleagues across the space of a couple of days. Thanks to the efficient organisation of Loreto, we were amply accommodated with refreshments. The summer sun shone. We were well set up.

We began each day with some ‘Free Writing’ to ease ourselves into what we’d each selected to work on. This also provided us with opportunities to talk a little about our hopes (and fears) for our writing and to relax into the social writing experience we’d created between us.

Over the course of the two days, we broke our individual writing time into chunks punctuated with brief ‘checking-in’ points where we each reported our progress according to criteria we set ourselves. We kept a tally of this on a board in the room and were fascinated as we looked back over the two days at the different ways we’d each chosen to capture the inevitable peaks and troughs of sustained periods of academic writing.

We ended each day with something a little different that brought us back together as a group and that enabled us to reflect on what we’d undertaken. On the first day, we stole an idea from Gillian Ruch, using a colour chart to relate and articulate our feelings about our writing to a colour we each selected. On the second day, we chose and painted a pebble by way of unwinding and creating something of a moment that would mark the experience for each of us, separately and collectively.

Many of us took different things from our Retreat Treat where we had revelled in having precious time to focus one aspect of our work. This was captured by one colleague as ‘a little slice of actually-being-able-to-write heaven….! Highly recommended!’
WHO’S WHO?

Leadership Team
• Director: Michelle Lefevre (Social Work and Social Care - M.Lefevre@sussex.ac.uk)
• Co-Directors: Rebecca Webb (Education – R.C.Webb@sussex.ac.uk) & Jo Moran-Ellis (Sociology - J.Moran-Ellis@sussex.ac.uk)
• Postgraduate Research Assistant: Loreto Rodriguez (L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk)

Steering Group
• Robin Banerjee (Psychology)
• Hester Barron (History)
• Saul Becker (Social Work and Social Care)
• Liam Berriman (Childhood and Youth / Social Work and Social Care)
• Janet Boddy (Education)
• Fiona Courage (Mass Observation Archive – Library)
• Nuno Ferreira (Law)
• Dorte Thorsen (Geography)
• Pam Thurschwell (English)

BECOMING A CIRCY MEMBER

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.

Who can join CIRCY?
CIRCY encourages academics, doctoral researchers and others across the university who write and research in these fields to become members.

What does CIRCY membership involve?
CIRCY holds lots of events through the year which members can attend. These include seminars, reading groups, methodology workshops, writing retreats, and work in progress workshops where members can get feedback on research or writing ideas.

How can you join?
Email Loreto Rodriguez [L.Rodriguez@sussex.ac.uk] to join the CIRCY mailing list and be kept informed of CIRCY news and events.

Don’t forget to follow us on twitter. And when you tweet about your research, tag @SussexCIRCY and we’ll make sure we re-tweet you to enhance your visibility!

THE CIRCY BLOG

This year, CIRCY aims to produce two blog posts per semester on the CIRCY blog, at least one of which will be from a doctoral researcher. Blogs might be about our events, a contemporary issue of relevance to children and young people, an external event, a new concept or methodology that membership might find interesting, or some real world impact being generated through our research. If you are interested in writing a blog post yourself, contact Rebecca Webb (R.C.Webb@sussex.ac.uk).

The CIRCY leadership team planning the autumn programme