

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

# CIRCY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



@circyatsussex



@SussexCIRCY

## Happy New Year!

The CIRCY team hope you have had a restful winter break. In this newsletter, we are excited to share with you our programme of events for the upcoming Spring term, which we hope you will take advantage of. We would particularly like to highlight the upcoming members meeting, which will be an important opportunity for members to hear about CIRCY's Centre of Excellence status, and to feed into plans for CIRCY's future development. This is an exciting time for CIRCY and we would really like to hear how you feel CIRCY can best support the vibrant childhood and youth research culture at Sussex. We are also hosting a special CIRCY seminar event this Spring, which has been curated by a group of students on our BA Childhood and Youth programme. The seminar will explore creative methods across two different research projects that have inspired the students. This will be a fantastic seminar, and we hope to see you all there. Finally, as you may already know, Bronte McDonald has now stepped down from the CIRCY PGRA role after several years of excellent support for the Centre. We are sorry to lose her, and wish her all the very best in the final stages of her PhD!

**The CIRCY leadership team**

## Meet the new CIRCY PGRA - Emily Askew!

Hi, I'm Emily! I'm delighted to be joining CIRCY as the Postgraduate Research Assistant and stepping back into the School of Education and Social Work, where



I recently graduated from my MA Early Years Education with EYTS. As well as supporting the CIRCY team, I also work in the university's Widening Participation department, who work to support young people underrepresented within Higher Education to make informed decisions about their futures.

To contact Emily, please use our new CIRCY admin email address:

[circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk)

## CIRCY SPRING TERM EVENTS

### **CIRCY Members' Meeting**

31 January / 10-11:30 / Fulton 102

Join us to hear all about CIRCY's Centre of Excellence status and to share your thoughts about how we can continue to grow as a centre, how you can get involved, and what's planned for 2024.

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/QRBgxJwgPEDA7Mxi8>

### **Coffee and Collaboration**

8 February / 1-2:30pm / Essex House G18

In our termly CCC meeting, Henry Smith (Social Work), Maria Moscati (Law, Politics and Sociology), and Liat Levita (Psychology) will each make a short presentation on an aspect of their research relating to children, childhood or youth. There will then be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/k2d1PhQ11S9WToDS9>

### **LPS/CIRCY Coffee Morning**

14 February / 1-2:30pm / Freeman F30

Does your research involve or affect children and/or young people? Alternatively, does your research on children/YP draw on law, sociology or politics?

CIRCY is visiting the school of Law, Politics and Sociology for a get-to-know session to explore opportunities for collaboration and discussion.

Refreshments provided!

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/J7ny7Qd4mSoyUkKf8>

### **PGR Network Consultation**

21 February / 11-12pm / Silverstone 327

This PGR network meeting will be an opportunity to feedback on how CIRCY can best support postgraduate researchers whose work focuses on childhood and youth, including what you would like to get out of future PGR network meetings. The event will be hosted by CIRCY Director Liam Berriman. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided!

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/PPkhXbr6AJziU7Uz8>

### **CIRCY Annual Symposium An Exploration of Children's Creativity Through the Works of Professor John Potter and Ms Ellen Yates**

7 March / 4:30-6:30pm / Woodland 3

Join us for our annual symposium, an event curated by BA Childhood and Youth students. We will be exploring Children's Creativity and what it means with guest presenters Professor John Potter and Ms Ellen Yates.

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/dAH1QQMA5R8QXHok9>

# Call for Contributors

On 24th April between 1-3.30pm at Friends Meeting House in Brighton, CIRCY in collaboration with SSRP (Sussex Sustainability Research Programme) are planning a workshop on

**Exploring Sustainability: What issues matter to the lives of children and young people?**

## About this event

A community engagement event on sustainability research that is important for the lives of children and young people. This event will include short presentations by five researchers and a display of wider university research, plus degree courses related to the issues of childhood, youth and/or sustainability. These presentations will be a maximum of 7 minutes each, including only 3 slides (background/context; key idea/s; and a question or dilemma/s for workshop participants to consider in relation to own area of context/experience).

## The call

Interested University of Sussex, Institute of Development Studies, and Brighton and Sussex Medical School researchers are asked to submit their proposed presentation title and a summary of the points to be covered on each of the three slides. PGRs and ECRs are particularly encouraged to apply. Researchers can indicate if they would like to share display materials related to their research (in addition to or instead of making a presentation).

**Deadline for submissions is EOP 16th February 2024 and to be sent to Perpetua Kirby [[PKirby@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:PKirby@sussex.ac.uk)].**

All applications will be reviewed w/c 19th February, and all applicants will be notified by end of February 2024 whether they have been selected to participate.

## WHO'S IN CIRCY

### CIRCY Leadership Team

- **Director: Liam Berriman (Social Work and Social Care)** [l.j.berriman@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.berriman@sussex.ac.uk)
- **Deputy Director: Perpetua Kirby (Education)** [p.kirby@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:p.kirby@sussex.ac.uk)
- **Deputy Director: Simon Flacks (Law)** [s.flacks@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:s.flacks@sussex.ac.uk)
- **Postgraduate Research Assistant: Emily Askew** [circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk)

### CIRCY Steering Group

Our Steering group meets termly to guide and facilitate the work of CIRCY.

Current steering group members are:

Robin Banerjee (Psychology)

Janet Boddy (Education)

Hannah Field (English)

Michelle Lefevre (Social Work)

Kathryn Lester (Psychology)

Jo Moran-Ellis (Sociology)

Kirsty Patrick (Mass Observation)

Dorte Thorsen (Geography)

Rebecca Webb (Education)

If your research has the rights, concerns and/or perspective of children and young people at its heart, and are interested in joining our steering group please contact [Liam](#). The minimum commitment is to attend a termly steering group meeting, and to attend or help facilitate at least one CIRCY event per term.

We are particularly interested to hear from people in Schools or Departments currently unrepresented on the steering group.

## Might you become a member of CIRCY?

### 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 would like to encourage 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. This includes seminars, reading groups, methodology workshops, writing retreats, and work in progress workshops where members can get feedback on research or writing ideas.

### Get 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 Emily Askew: [circyadmin@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:circyadmin@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 bids, or other research-related activities, such as networking events or conference attendance.

The Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) is located within the School of Education and Social Work which is based in Essex House on the University of Sussex campus.

**CIRCY Director**

Dr. Liam Berriman

[L.J.Berriman@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:L.J.Berriman@sussex.ac.uk)

CIRCY Postgraduate Research Assistant

Emily Askew

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For further information about CIRCY, visit:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/esw/circy](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/esw/circy)

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