

Youth Futures Programme

List of Awards

Reference: YF\190029

Research Team: Dr Anna Barford, University of Cambridge; Dame Barbara Stocking, University of Cambridge; Dr Brendan Burchell, University of Cambridge; Ms Rachel Proefke, Restless Development; Dr Anthony Muge Mugeere, Makerere University, Uganda; Dr Andrew Ellias State, Makerere University, Uganda

Value of Award: £297,567.25

Title: *Peak Youth, Climate Change and the Role of Young People in Seizing their Future*

Abstract: With a median age of 15.8, Uganda is demographically the third youngest country in the world. Yet, the youth labour under-utilisation rate of 67.9% makes it unlikely that these young people will find decent jobs. Climate change drives livelihoods precarity with increased flooding and droughts, and disrupted seasonality. As agriculture becomes less reliable, rural-urban migration intensifies. Young people have the energy and enthusiasm to develop solutions. Starting from youth experience and agency, this research project investigates how climate change in Uganda is affecting young lives and youth livelihoods in the regions of Karamoja and Jinja. It seeks to (i) document the diverse lives and livelihood strategies of young people in rural and urban settings; (ii) find out how climate change impacts upon young people's lives and livelihoods; and (iii) identify youth solutions to the challenges they face.

Reference: YF\190123

Research Team: Dr Barbara Crossouard, University of Sussex; Professor Mairead Dunne, University of Sussex; Dr Dauda Moses, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Nigeria; Professor Relebohile Moletsane, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Value of Award: £296,403

Title: *Youth, Gender and Education: Changing Landscapes of Work in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa*

Abstract: In many rural contexts of the Global South, the social contract of work has positioned female youth within low-paid 'own account' work and the hidden sexual economy of unpaid reproductive labour. In contemporary societies, globalisation, new media and the universalisation of education has changed the world of work and opened new employment possibilities. However, with respect to rural contexts of sub-Saharan Africa in particular, how young women's livelihoods have changed is under-researched. This project seeks to explore the livelihoods of rural female youth with different educational trajectories and what imaginaries they hold of work. By involving youth researchers in Nigeria and South Africa, it aims to develop situated understandings of the values and norms within these imaginaries and through participatory methods to support youth in developing new conceptual frameworks that challenge historic gender and other structural inequalities in the ways different work is valued.

Reference: YF\190160

Research Team: Professor Anita Franklin, University of Portsmouth

Value of Award: £209,868

Title: *Uniting Disabled Youth: Research, Empowerment and Participation - Developing a Methodology to Involve Disabled Youth in International Decision-Making Forums*

Abstract: Disabled young people are often invisible in local, national and international decision-making. This project seeks to address this through an innovative partnership between academia, disabled person-led organisations (DPOs) and disabled young people across the Global South and North. Specifically, the project team is looking to adapt a disabled young people-led research methodology to meet the cultural/political environment of the Global South. This methodology has been successfully used in England by the Children's Commissioner to develop their submission to the UNCRPD as part of the UK shadow reporting process. Co-led by English disabled young researchers,

the project team will work in partnership with a DPO in the Philippines to train a group of disabled young people to gather evidence on the enactment of their rights and its implications for the UN's 2030 agenda. Learning from the Global South/North will be shared in order to empower disabled young people to be involved in decision-making at local, national and international levels.

Reference: YF\190254

Research Team: Dr Margo Greenwood, Sightsavers; Ms Lopita Huq, BRAC University, Bangladesh; Dr Mbugua Wa-Mungai, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Value of Award: £298,425

Title: *Youth with Disabilities' Lived Experiences, Aspirations and Current Engagements in Livelihoods in Bangladesh and Kenya, and Their Influence on Policy Makers*

Abstract: This project aims to capture the experiences, aspirations and current involvement of youth with disabilities in securing their livelihoods in urban and rural settings of Bangladesh and Kenya. It is envisaged that youth with disabilities will become peer researchers to gather and analyse data for the project, alongside local and international researchers. Geographical maps and documentary photography will supplement the rich narratives and visually relate the lived experiences of livelihoods as well as the barriers and vulnerabilities impeding the futures to which youth with disabilities aspire. The young people will be supported by experienced research team members to disseminate the findings with policy makers through targeted advocacy activities to improve the evidence base upon which policies are developed and resources prioritised.

Reference: YF\190078

Research Team: Dr Karen Jacobs, University of East Anglia; Dr Cresantia Frances Koya Vaka'uta, University of the South Pacific, Fiji

Value of Award: £296,853.48

Title: *(Re-)Defining Culture: Engaging Urban Fijian Youth in Sustainable Employment Opportunities in the Cultural Heritage Sector*

Abstract: As Fiji's main economic revenue source, the tourism industry sells a packaged form of indigenous Fijian (iTaukei) culture that does not appear to represent the reality of the nation's culturally diverse urban youth. The research team will work with urban youth communities, where disengagement from their cultural roots is being experienced, often leading to problems of alienation, to examine their perceptions of Fijian culture and associated implications for sustainable employment opportunities related to cultural heritage. Through youth-driven workshops, placements, open days, interviews and artistic displays, the project will identify how urban Fijian youth experience culture and how cultural heritage institutions in Fiji can engage youth while offering viable employment opportunities.

Reference: YF\190162

Research Team: Dr Ben Jones, University of East Anglia; Dr Laury Ocen, Lira University, Uganda

Value of Award: £298,657.57

Title: *Challenging Categories: Educated Unemployed Youth as Institutional Innovators in Rural Uganda*

Abstract: In rural Uganda, there is a generation of young women and men who are the first in their family to go to school. Most do not have jobs. Many also participate in local institutions: churches, courts, committees. What changes are poorer, educated, often unemployed, youth bringing to these institutions? In what ways does their participation reconfigure gender relations? What concepts and categories do youth use to understand what they are doing? Available research on education focuses on learning outcomes and economic impact, or on the spread of modern attitudes among male urban youth. Much less is known about the changes youth are bringing to rural communities. This research project is designed with and by young people, and in partnership with a Ugandan community organisation. Through an interdisciplinary approach that brings the voices of young people centre stage, the project team is looking to examine participation in local institutions to challenge understandings of youth, education and unemployment.

Reference: YF\190165

Research Team: Dr Lisa Jones, University of Hull; Dr Christopher Hackney, University of Hull; Professor Daniel Parsons, University of Hull; Dr Hue Le, Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam; Mrs Ly Thi Ha Bui, Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environment Studies, Vietnam

Value of Award: £296,502.60

Title: *Youth-Led Adaptation for Climate Change Challenges in Vietnam: Social Action, Inter-Generational and Inter-Cultural Learning*

Abstract: This research team aims to support young people, working together in partnership, to identify imaginative ways to mitigate climate change challenges in the Red River basin, where hydrological extremes, landslides and soil erosion in the upper basin are increasingly having impacts whilst relative sea-level rises in the delta region are affecting the frequency and magnitude of flooding. Youth-led work will explore how local, traditional and indigenous knowledges can develop understandings and strengthen local and societal resilience, incorporating peer-to-peer, intergenerational and cross-/inter-cultural forms of collaborative learning. Drawing upon a decolonised, participatory action research approach, the project is seeking to generate innovative forms of knowledge exchange rooted in these diverse ways of knowing, through the creation of culturally-specific forms of affective and aesthetic expression.

Reference: YF\190041

Research Team: Dr Sukanya Krishnamurthy, University of Edinburgh; Professor Kay Tisdall, University of Edinburgh; Dr Mary Ann Powell, University of Edinburgh; Professor Irene Rizzini, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Ms Roshni Kishore Nuggehalli, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action, India; Ms Kanak Tiwari, National Institute of Urban Affairs; Mr Bharath Palavalli, Fields of View, India

Value of Award: £299,963.5

Title: *Shaping Futures: Youth Livelihood Options in Creating Inclusive Cities*

Abstract: This project has emerged out of young people's requests for improved livelihood options in their own urban contexts. It builds on established research partnerships and existing community initiatives, with longstanding engagement with youth in India and Brazil. Youth involvement in policy development is crucial, given the many challenges they face, linked to urbanisation, economic opportunities, rights and participatory democracy. With these issues recognised in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, now is a pivotal moment to: (a) critically consider young people's livelihood experiences, and (b) innovate and rethink how young people can be engaged in policy development to address these challenges. Through a strategic approach, using creative and accessible outputs, the research team is looking to engage with young and adult stakeholders to transform local policies and practices, and provide lessons nationally and cross-nationally to support youth livelihood options that create inclusive cities.

Reference: YF\190210

Research Team: Dr Sonya Krutikova, Institute for Fiscal Studies; Ms Pranita Achyut, International Center for Research on Women, India; Ms Hemlata Verma, International Centre for Research on Women, India

Value of Award: £299,851

Title: *The Medium-Run Effects of an Adolescent Intervention to Promote Gender Equity: a Participatory Evaluation*

Abstract: This project seeks to examine the medium-run effects of a community-based programme in rural Rajasthan that targeted restrictive gender norms held by adolescent girls and others in their communities. To this end, the research team will conduct a follow-up of a 3-armed randomised controlled trial covering 5,878 young women. The team will focus on the dynamic effects of the programme on work, livelihoods, time-use and bargaining power. The follow-up will also allow, for

the first time, an assessment of meaningful impacts on age of marriage and final education. An interdisciplinary and participatory approach will be adopted in which the research team will be guided by young women in deciding what outcomes to consider, how to measure them and how to interpret the programme's effects. The combination of detailed quantitative data and a randomised study design with extensive participation of young women will provide a rigorous and rich understanding of how the intervention impacted participants' lives and capabilities.

Reference: YF\190182

Research Team: Dr Andrew Lindridge, Newcastle University; Dr Anoop Bhogal-Nair, De Montfort University; Professor Pauline Dixon, Newcastle University; Dr Steve Humble, Newcastle University

Value of Award: £220,539

Title: *Addressing Societal Gender, Geographical Location, Religious and Caste Discrimination Through Developing a Life and Employment Skills Course and Accompanying Social Marketing Campaign*

Abstract: Despite India's economic growth, young women continue to experience employment discrimination based upon their gender, caste, geographic location and religious beliefs, and this has severe economic consequences. This project seeks to address these issues by designing, delivering and monitoring an employment and life-skills course accredited by the Chartered Management Institute and supported by a social marketing campaign. The course will be co-developed by young female students attending Bharati College, University of Delhi (an all-female college with a socio-economic and culturally diverse student population) and stakeholders representing employers, higher education institutions, NGOs and national government. It is envisaged that the course can be upscaled at a later stage, thereby achieving greater efficacy and effectiveness.

Reference: YF\190091

Research Team: Dr Darragh McGee, University of Bath; Professor Gerda Reith, University of Glasgow; Dr Christopher Bunn, University of Glasgow; Mr Michael Udedi, Ministry of Health, Malawi; Dr Joana Salifu Yendork, University of Ghana, Ghana; Dr Franklin Norvi Glozah, University of Ghana, Ghana

Value of Award: £299,189

Title: *Leisure or Livelihoods? A Participatory Study of Youth Perspectives on Gambling and its Social, Economic and Health Impacts in Ghana and Malawi*

Abstract: This project adopts a participatory action research approach to give voice to youth perspectives on the growth of commercial gambling across sub-Saharan Africa, including its differentiated impacts on individual and community well-being. Drawing on a comparative case study of Ghana and Malawi, as exemplars of, respectively, a mature and an emerging gambling market, the research team aims to empower young people to convey the changing social and economic significance of gambling in their communities, including the extent to which technological advances have reshaped attitudes towards gambling practices, and how this may have wider implications for traditional conceptualisations of work, livelihood and social mobility. Youth participants will play an active role in the design, collection and dissemination of research data, including the sharing of co-creative outputs with policy-makers, academics and non-governmental organisations in order to foster critical awareness of the public health risks posed by gambling across the Global South.

Reference: YF\190036

Research Team: Dr Paula Meth, University of Sheffield; Dr Tom Goodfellow, University of Sheffield; Professor Sarah Charlton, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; Dr Margot Rubin, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; Dr Tafesse Matev Karo, Hawassa University, Ethiopia; Dr Eshetayehu Kinfu, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Value of Award: £298,318

Title: *Youth and the Work/Housing Nexus in Ethiopia and South Africa*

Abstract: Youth in Ethiopia and South Africa experience high unemployment and lack affordable housing. Ethiopia recently invested in Africa's largest industrial complex in Hawassa, yet low wages

and scarce housing prohibits sustainable futures for young workers. Labour turnover is very high. In South Africa, wavering historic investment in Bronkhorstspuit, a former industrial decentralisation site, has led to high youth unemployment. Successful provision of state housing means some youth are housed, but cannot afford living costs. Faced with this problem, youth respond creatively to manage these fluid conditions. The relationship between youth, work and housing is under-theorised, particularly in terms of youth and state/private sector's responses. Focusing on two cases of state intervention, this project seeks to examine the youth work/housing nexus, asking how this nexus is experienced, what are the key challenges, what are the responses of youth and state/private sector actors, and what are the implications for youth futures and urban sustainability.

Reference: YF\190064

Research Team: Dr Kate Moles, Cardiff University; Dr William Baker, University of Bristol; Professor Catriona Louise Pennell, University of Exeter; Dr Dawn Mannay, Cardiff University; Professor Jennifer Rowsell, University of Bristol; Dr Daniel Komakech, Gulu University, Uganda

Value of Award: £237,629.43

Title: *Creative Heritage and Imagined Futures: Young People, Past Conflicts and a Shared Future for Uganda*

Abstract: This project aims to empower young people (aged 14-16) in Uganda to critically engage with their past, particularly in relation to conflict, reflect on its legacies in their everyday lives, and identify ways in which a more positive, peaceful future can be shared. The research team is looking to organise the project around the use and development of a multimodal, mobile heritage exhibition, that will seek to empower young people to contest and disrupt narratives of conflict that are dominated by the voices of adults and elites. Young people will be provided with a high-profile platform to identify how legacies of conflict can be resolved and how a more socially just future can be built. Youth-led events, displays, articles and digital archives will ensure that the project, and the young people involved in it, will have enduring national and international impact.

Reference: YF\190015

Research Team: Dr Camilla Morelli, University of Bristol; Professor Patricia Ames, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú; Professor Oscar Espinosa, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú; Professor Pilar Valenzuela, Chapman University, USA

Value of Award: £299,971

Title: *Animating the Future: Exploring the Life-Trajectories of Indigenous Youth in Amazonia through Ethnographic Animation*

Abstract: Children and youth constitute the largest demographics of many indigenous populations in Latin America and beyond, and as such they will play a key role in defining the future of indigenous societies in times of critical shifts and instability. And yet, research addressing the voices and perspectives of indigenous youth through youth-centred methods remains limited and their role of future-makers is largely underexamined. This project aims to develop an interdisciplinary framework and a collaborative methodology to explore the life-trajectories and imagined futures of indigenous youth in Amazonian Peru. The research is quintessentially collaborative and indigenous youth will take an active role in the production and dissemination of knowledge within Peru and internationally.

Reference: YF\190115

Research Team: Dr Jessica Northey, Coventry University; Professor Gordon Crawford, Coventry University; Dr Adel Chiheb, Jijel University, Algeria; Professor Ammar Belhimer, University of Algiers, Algeria

Value of Award: £295,428.66

Title: *Imagining the Future: Engaging Young People on Environmental Challenges to Create New and Sustainable Livelihoods in Algeria*

Abstract: Steered by a network of youth researchers, this project seeks to facilitate debate around how to innovate to expand and diversify livelihoods in environmental projects in Algeria. Creative solutions to tackling environmental challenges have the potential to create meaningful employment. These new jobs are often in the informal sector, in associations or small businesses, which can be valued and supported in different ways. This research project aims to capture the creative ideas and energy of young people to reconceptualise how they imagine their own futures, as citizens and decision-makers in the environmental sector and beyond. What forms of governance do young people conceive as fair and sustainable? How can they be better involved in policymaking to ensure such imagined futures, livelihoods and work are possible?

Reference: YF\190009

Research Team: Dr Marjoke Oosterom, Institute of Development Studies; Dr Victoria Flavia Namuggala, Makerere University, Uganda; Ms Maheen Sultan, BRAC University, Bangladesh; Professor Firdous Azim, BRAC University, Bangladesh; Ms Lopita Huq, BRAC University, Bangladesh; Dr Prosperous Nankindu, Kyambogo University, Uganda; Dr Nazneen Sohela, University of Sussex

Value of Award: £293,519.21

Title: *The Gendered Price of Precarity: Workplace Sexual Harassment and Young Women's Agency*

Abstract: While employment is considered an avenue for young women's empowerment, workplace sexual harassment (WSH) in Uganda and Bangladesh is widespread and detrimental to empowerment. This project aims to contribute to an understanding of the processes of empowerment of young women, which may enable them to challenge WSH. It involves comparative case study research of agro-processing firm workers and informal domestic workers in Uganda and Bangladesh, enabling the analysis of differences between the formal and informal economy and resulting implications for young women's voice and agency. The project team will pay specific attention to everyday language on WSH and the role of social-cultural norms. The qualitative research approach will involve a cooperative inquiry with young men and women, to ensure young people's central involvement in the project and the inclusion of their perspectives on solutions.

Reference: YF\190240

Research Team: Professor Ilina Singh, University of Oxford; Professor Sheila Giardini Murta, University of Brasilia, Brazil; Dr Gabriela Pavarini, University of Oxford

Value of Award: £300,000

Title: *Amplifying the Voices of Young People for Sustainable Development in Mental Health*

Abstract: To achieve the sustainable development goal of 'promoting well-being for all', young people must be engaged in the design of innovative health promotion strategies and in health policy. Yet, it is unclear whether young people feel a sense of agency and responsibility towards mental health improvement in their immediate community and in wider society. Working in close collaboration with an advisory group of adolescents in Brazil, this project's aims are twofold: (1) to conduct a preliminary mapping of young people's understandings and aspirations of agency in the context of mental health promotion, and (2) to develop and test a digital tool aimed at assessing and strengthening young people's sense of agency towards well-being promotion.

Reference: YF\190090

Research Team: **Research Team:** Dr Grace Spencer, Anglia Ruskin University; Dr Jill Thompson, University of Sheffield; Professor Stephen Kwankye, University of Ghana, Ghana; Dr Ernestina Dankyi, University of Ghana, Ghana

Value of Award: £191,518.85

Title: *Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods: Unpacking Possibilities for Empowerment with Young Migrants in Ghana*

Abstract: This project aims to generate new knowledge about the livelihoods of young migrants in Ghana and use this knowledge to 1) advance understandings of empowerment in youth-centred initiatives, and 2) inform the development of sustainable policy approaches that enhance positive

youth futures. In Ghana, one fifth of the population are aged between 15-24 years, many of whom are migrants facing significant socio-economic inequalities. Concern about young migrants has promoted a range of empowerment-based initiatives. Implicit within these approaches is the idea that young people view their livelihoods (and threats to these) in the same ways as conventional (adult-led) strategies. Empowerment is thus assumed to un-problematically translate into positive outcomes without understanding the perspectives and outcomes that matter to young people and how these perspectives are themselves shaped by socio-cultural inequalities. This interdisciplinary proposal provides a timely opportunity to develop imaginative policy responses directly informed by the experiences of young migrants.

Reference: YF\190099

Research Team: Professor Tony Wall, University of Chester; Dr Nga Ngo, Tay Bac University, Vietnam; Dr Thi Hanh Tien Ho, Phu Xuan University, Vietnam; Dr Minh Phuong Luong, Hanoi University, Vietnam

Value of Award: £266,077

Title: *Empowering Ethnic Minority Youth in Vietnam to Re-Vision the Future of Decent Work (“Re-WORK”)*

Abstract: This project is looking to explore how young people belonging to ethnic minorities in Vietnam are – and can be – supported by wider educational, work and employment systems. It responds directly to significant structural inequalities experienced by these young people which means they are vulnerable to low employment prospects and precarious work circumstances. Re-WORK seeks to demonstrate appreciative inquiry as an innovative methodological and participatory policymaking approach whereby the voices and perspectives of young people belonging to ethnic minorities can be expressed and directly inform the co-creation of a new vision of ‘decent work’ and how to achieve it with other stakeholders. It is envisaged that the findings from this project will be used to revise policy and practice in education, work and employment, thereby driving the sustainable development goals related to decent work, inclusive economic growth, and working in partnership towards sustainable development.

Reference: YF\190075

Research Team: Dr Ross Wignall, Oxford Brookes University; Dr Brigitte Piquard, Oxford Brookes University; Mr Yusuf Ibrahim, Njala University, Sierra Leone; Professor Marie-Thérèse Mengue, Catholic University of Central Africa, Cameroon

Value of Award: £283,975

Title: *Upskilling for Future Generations: How Can a Gender and Generational Approach Re-Conceptualise Technical and Vocational Education and Training as a Vehicle for Social Transformation for Slum-Dwelling Young Women in Sierra Leone and Cameroon?*

Abstract: Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is a key component of the UN’s ‘decent work’ agenda which seeks to align fair and secure working conditions with the aspirations of workers to meet Sustainable Development Goal 8. This project targets a gap in current TVET provision by focussing on gender equality as an essential foundation of ‘decent’ work and the skills agenda for aspirational young people. Adopting an innovative gender mentoring methodology, which brings marginalised young women engaged in skills training into dialogue with gender activists, the research team will interrogate the gender norms which create barriers for young women to access ‘decent work’. Working in partnership with the fastest growing skills provider in Africa, Don Bosco, in two rapidly expanding cities, Yaounde in Cameroon and Freetown in Sierra Leone, the project will employ youth researchers to explore how TVET can operate as a vehicle to challenge wider societal gender discrimination.

Reference: YF\190107

Research Team: Professor Cathy Zimmerman, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr Nicola Pocock, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Mr Tim Aye-Hardy, Myanmar Mobile Education Project, Myanmar; Ms Helen Veitch, Children Unite

Value of Award: £299,995

Title: *Invisible Girls: Raising the Voices of Young Domestic Workers in Myanmar*

Abstract: Globally, there are approximately 17.2 million child domestic workers, of whom two-thirds are girls aged 5-17. In Myanmar, over one million children are in hazardous child labour, including child domestic work - most coming from conflict-affected and ethnic minority areas. Despite the educational losses, social isolation and abuse of child domestic workers, few programmes exist to protect them. Collaborating with former child domestic workers, this project aims to identify youth-driven strategies to improve the future of at-risk youth. Youth will be engaged to contribute directly to policy dialogues on the revision of Myanmar's 1993 Child Labour Law and the UN's 2021 Year of Elimination of Child Labour, and demonstrate the value of young voices to informing policymaking and programming as well as to improving children's rights.