



## W o r k i n g   G r o u p

### OBJECTIVES

This working group aims to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving among YPAR practitioners. Through regular meetings, we will achieve the following objectives:

- Identify opportunities for collaboration
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning
- Stay informed on the latest YPAR research
- Provide open forum to present specific challenges
- Plan for further resource development

## Research Across YPAR Contexts

Shared April 2024

### HIGHLIGHT REEL

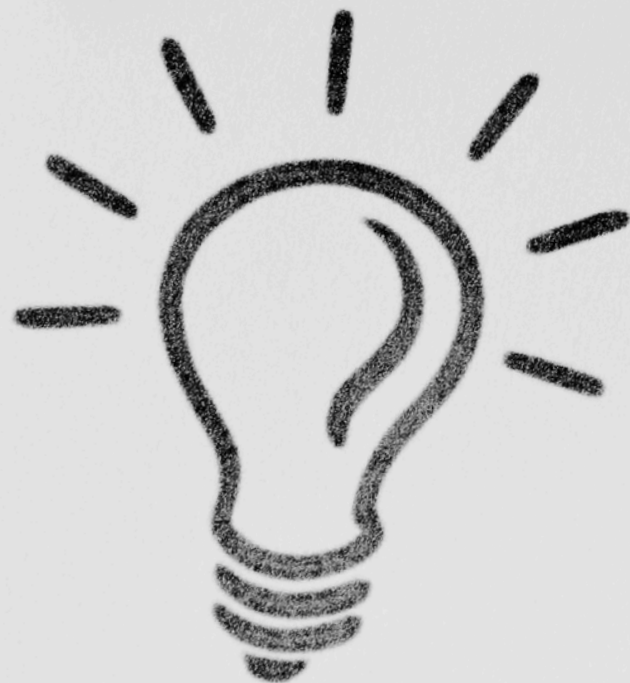
The aim of the YPAR Highlight Reels are to keep our working group informed regarding trending topics and areas of focus in recent YPAR research. Our hope is that these spark discussions and reflections on the implications of new research for YPAR practice.

## Expanding YPAR Contexts

The use of YPAR in out-of-school settings is on the rise, including: after-school programs, community centers, and youth development organizations. Studies explore how YPAR helps young people in these settings develop vocational skills, navigate educational pathways, and advocate for improvements within these programs.

## Technology and YPAR

The role of technology in YPAR is evolving. Research explores how digital tools can be leveraged for data collection, communication, and knowledge dissemination in YPAR projects. The focus is on ensuring equitable access to technology and using it in a way that empowers youth.



## Power Dynamics & Decolonizing YPAR

Critical reflection on power dynamics within YPAR projects is a growing area of research. Studies explore ways to ensure YPAR is truly youth-driven and dismantles colonial power structures. Decolonizing methodologies emphasize recognizing and respecting the unique cultural backgrounds and knowledge systems of participating youth.

## Mental Health and Well-Being

A growing trend is the focus on YPAR as a tool to address mental health concerns among youth. Studies explore how youth use YPAR to investigate stressors in their lives, develop coping mechanisms, and advocate for mental health resources in their communities.

## Social Justice and Advocacy

YPAR's core focus on social justice & youth advocacy remains prominent. Research explores how YPAR empowers young people to investigate and address issues like educational inequities, racial discrimination, and environmental justice.

## Sustainability & Long-Term Impact

Studies emphasize the importance of YPAR projects leading to lasting positive changes. Research explores strategies for ensuring YPAR findings are heard by policymakers, educators, and community leaders, and that they translate into concrete actions.

## Expanding YPAR Contexts

- The use of YPAR in out-of-school settings is on the rise, including: after-school programs, community centers, and youth development organizations.
- Studies explore how YPAR helps young people in these settings develop vocational skills, navigate educational pathways, and advocate for improvements within these programs.

Facilitating youth participatory action research (YPAR): a scoping review of relational practice in US Youth development & out-of-school time projects

**(Malorni et al., 2022)**

Using youth participatory action research as a health intervention in community settings

**(Lindquist-Grantz & Abraczinskas, 2020)**

Youth Perspectives on Designing Equitable Out-of-School-Time Programs

**(Wallace Foundation, 2022)**

Discovering My Agency: Exploring how Youth Participatory Action Research Facilitates the Development of Capital by Underserved Youth in a College Access Program

**(Hudson et al., 2020)**

Youth-Led Participatory Action Research: Promoting Youth Voice and Adult Support in Afterschool Programs

**(Anyon et al., 2018)**

Youth Participatory Action Research on How Out-of-School Programs Can Support the Transition Out of High School: Moving Beyond "Getting Stuck"

**(Intrator et al., 2021)**

## Mental Health and Well-Being

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A scoping review of participatory action research to promote mental health and resilience in youth and adolescents

(Raanaas et al., 2018)

Youth experiences of co-designing a well-being intervention: reflections, learnings and recommendations

(Vella-Brodrick et al., 2023)

Young researchers in schools: a participative action research study into the efficacy of a whole school mental health strategy

(McPartlan, 2023)

Using youth-led participatory action research to advance the mental health needs of Latinx youth during COVID-19

(Rocha et al., 2023)

The student voice in well-being: A case study of participatory action research in positive education

(Halliday et al., 2019)

Child-led research investigating social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing aspects of playtime

(Bristow & Atkinson, 2020)

## Social Justice and Advocacy

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"Liberation Is a Praxis":  
Promoting College and Career  
Access through Youth  
Participatory Action  
Research.

(Cook et al., 2019)

Addressing equity in schools:  
Youth participatory action  
research and transformative  
social and emotional learning  
during COVID-19

(Owens et al., 2022)

Youth as coresearchers:  
Social justice means youth as  
knowledge makers too

(Benninger et al., 2023)

Youth-led participatory action  
research in school counseling as  
a vehicle for antiracist SEL

(Eirmanasinghe et al., 2022)

Embracing problems, processes,  
and contact zones: Using youth  
participatory action research to  
challenge adultism

(Bettencourt, 2020)

Youth-led participatory action  
research: Developmental and  
equity perspectives

(Ozer, 2016)

## Technology and YPAR

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- Research explores how digital tools can be leveraged for data collection, communication, and knowledge dissemination in YPAR projects.
- The focus is on ensuring equitable access to technology and using it in a way that empowers youth.

Using technology to scale up youth-led participatory action research: A systematic review

(Gibbs et al., 2020)

Youth media and YPAR: Affect and learning to research together with mediamaking

(Riina-Ferrie, 2020)

Using digital technology to enhance youth participatory evaluation

(Liu, 2022)

Youth participatory action research (YPAR) 2.0: How technological innovation and digital organizing sparked a food revolution in East Oakland

(Akom et al, 2016)

Conducting virtual youth-led participatory action research (YPAR) during the COVID-19 pandemic

(Rivera et al., 2022)

Kids, kale, and concrete: Using participatory technology to transform an urban American food desert

(Akom et al., 2016)

## Power Dynamics & Decolonizing YPAR:

- Critical reflection on power dynamics within YPAR projects is a growing area of research.
- Studies explore ways to ensure YPAR is truly youth-driven and dismantles colonial power structures.
- Decolonizing methodologies emphasize recognizing and respecting the unique cultural backgrounds and knowledge systems of participating youth.

Youth participatory action research: The nuts and bolts as well as the roses and thorns

(Desai, 2019)

Decolonizing youth participatory action research practices: A case study of a girl-centered, anti-racist, feminist PAR with Indigenous and racialized girls in Victoria, BC

(Khanna, 2011)

Participatory and action research within and beyond the academy: Contesting racism through decolonial praxis and teaching "against the grain"

(Lykes et al., 2018)

"We're trying to take action": Transformative agency, role remediation, and the complexities of youth participatory action research

(Bertrand et al., 2017)

YPAR and critical epistemologies: Rethinking education research

(Carabello et al., 2017)

A community-based intervention: A hip hop framework toward decolonizing counseling spaces

(Levy et al., 2021)

## Sustainability & Long-Term Impact

- Studies emphasize the importance of YPAR projects leading to lasting positive changes.
- Research explores strategies for ensuring YPAR findings are heard by policymakers, educators, and community leaders, and that they translate into concrete actions.

Institutional participation and social transformation: Considering the goals and tensions of university-initiated YPAR projects with K-12 youth

(Mirra & Rogers, 2016)

The 4 Youth by Youth (4YBY) pragmatic trial to enhance HIV self-testing uptake and sustainability: study protocol in Nigeria

(Iwelunmor et al., 2022)

Let's make space for young people to lead: Integrating research and action programming in an arts and technology center: Opportunities, challenges and lessons

(Yan et al., 2022)

Youth participatory action research as an approach to developing community-level responses to youth homelessness in the United States

(Wagaman et al., 2022)

Youth participatory action research as an approach to sociopolitical development and the new academic standards: Considerations for educators

(Kombluh et al., 2015)

Youth-adult partnerships in decision making: Disseminating and implementing an innovative idea into established organizations and communities

(Zeldin et al., 2008)