



indefenceofyouthwork.com

In Defence of Youth Work Engaging Critically Seminars

What future for state funded youth work?

Manchester, Wednesday 14th June 1-4pm
London, Friday 23rd June, 1-4pm

- What is the current role of government in providing or funding open access youth work?
- What does this mean for young people, youth workers, and youth organisations?
- What might we expect to see in the future, and what should we be fighting for?

Bernard Davies will start from the proposition that the local authority youth service may well have disappeared by 2020 as the model for supporting and providing open access youth work. Recognising that 'the state' is a complex and contested concept whose past intrusions into this form of practice with young people have not always been helpful, [his recently published article in Youth and Policy 116](#) on which his talk will draw seeks to break out of the neo-liberal mind-set to re-imagine, for youth work, more appropriate state responses. Bernard is a widely published author on youth work, and is a retired youth worker, Youth Officer, and lecturer who has been active in IDYW since it was created.

Tania de St Croix will critically discuss the government's primary vehicle for investment in a universal youth service – the National Citizen Service. What does state support for the National Citizen Service tell us about how young people – and services for young people - are perceived in policy? Does the National Citizen Service 'count' as youth work, and does that matter? Six years on, is Tania's [critique of NCS in Youth and Policy 106](#) still relevant? Tania is a Lecturer in the Sociology of Youth and Childhood at King's College London, a volunteer youth worker / co-op member at Voice of Youth, and has been involved in IDYW since the early days.

These short talks will be followed by open discussion on the questions above. We particularly welcome youth workers and other youth practitioners (paid or unpaid), managers, voluntary sector and local authority employees, policy makers, students, tutors / lecturers, researchers, and anyone else who is interested. The seminar is offered an opportunity to take time out from the hurly burly of practice to think about where we are, where we are going, and what we might do differently.

In Defence of Youth Work is a forum for critical discussion on youth work. We are committed to encouraging an open and pluralist debate at a time of limited opportunities for collective discussion.

Manchester seminar: Wednesday 14th June 1-4pm at M13 Youth Project

Brunswick Parish Church Centre, Brunswick St, Manchester, M13 9TQ
A short walk or bus ride from Manchester Piccadilly. See map and directions:
<http://www.brunswickchurch.org.uk/contact--location.html>

London seminar: Friday 23rd June, 1-4pm at King's College London

School of Education, Communication & Society, Rm 2/21, Waterloo Bridge Wing, Waterloo Road, SE1 9NH.
Five minutes from Waterloo station (but slightly confusing to find!) See map and directions:
<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/education/WTKings/Finding-WBW.aspx>

Suggested donation to IDYW: £2-5 (students/volunteers/unwaged) / £5-10 (waged). Tea/coffee provided.

To register, email Rachel@yasy.co.uk