



NOISE SUMMER LEARNING RETREAT

THURSDAY AUGUST 9TH

Introduction - Each day will begin with a brief introduction of the day ahead and the guest speakers as well as a question session.

Evaluation - You will have an opportunity to participate in an evaluation of NOISE. This involves completing a survey which will take half an hour.

Active Learning Exercise - Please partner up in doubles with a person who is in a different grade from you. Your facilitator, Henry, will give you a question to ask your partner. Answer that question and listen carefully when your partner answers. You will then retell your partner's story to the whole group. This activity will help you work on your listening skills.

Community Agreement and Visioning - In this session you will participate in an activity where you will envision your 'ideal' community. After this exercise, your facilitator, Rebecca, will guide you through a discussion on how to implement that 'ideal' community within the NOISE project.

NOISE Forum - In this session you will have an opportunity to share your perspectives and experience on research, community and youth engagement. This discussion will give you the platform to have input in the process and content of the SLR and the remainder of the year.

'Single Story' Video - You will watch the Chimamanda Adichie TED talk called 'The Danger of a Single Story' and then discuss how the video relates to your own lives.

Facilitation and Public Speaking - In this session your facilitator, Jorge, will teach you facilitation skills and public speaking strategies. The session will include videos and imagery as well as teaching exercises that will give you a chance to put what you have learned into practice.

Connecting Online - Kathe will help you to navigate our very own social network, called the O3 Collaboration site, and also explore our other social media channels like NOISE Facebook and Twitter.

Scavenger Hunt - You will have an opportunity to familiarize yourselves with York University by participating in an adventurous interactive puzzle across campus. The winning group will get an exciting prize!!

Group Reflection and Closing - Each day will end with a group discussion of the day's events and an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned, any areas for improvement and outstanding questions.

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FRIDAY AUGUST 10TH

Definitions of Leadership – In this session Talisha, Henry and Jorge will ask you to brainstorm qualities that you either admire or critique in leaders. You will also discuss your favourite, and least favourite, leaders (could be famous or personal) and discuss what makes them great or not. The aim of this session is to learn some of the key types, definitions and qualities of leadership.

Introduction to Research – Grant will provide a brief introduction to research. The introduction will define the meaning of research and provide an overview of quantitative and qualitative methods.

Quantitative Methods – Grant and Talisha will introduce the quantitative methods approach to research. As part of this session you will be broken up into groups of 10 where you will create a questionnaire, interview other Youth Fellows and then analyse the data and find conclusions to your questions.

THURSDAY AUGUST 16TH

Qualitative Research – Zorana will provide you with a brief introduction on qualitative methods to research including different types of research methods (interviews versus focus groups), theories and how to analyze your data after you have collected it. This will be an interactive session where you will have plenty of opportunities to discuss ideas with your peers and even perform a frozen skit.

Library Session – You will be visiting York University library where our Social Work librarian, Norda, will be teaching you how to smartly research on the internet and find all of the information you are looking for in all of the right places.

Ethics in Research – In this session Uzo will be speaking to you about ethics in research.

Evaluation – As researchers we are always trying to improve our skills. Evaluations are a way in which we learn from the people we are working with - what it is that we are doing well and where we need to improve. Rebecca will be talking to you about the importance of evaluations and how to conduct ones that will really make you the best. You will also participate in an evaluation of your own.

Presentation of ACT Findings – Santiago and Jen will share some of the interesting findings of the ACT for Youth Project.

FRIDAY AUGUST 17TH

Arts-Based Research – Research does not always have to mean statistics or one-on-one interviews. There are many creative ways to do research and Rebecca and Asim will be sharing some of these techniques with you.

Critical Media Literacy – Asim will guide you through a workshop aimed to show you how power operates in the media and how this creates images of what is 'good' and what is 'bad'. By improving your critical media skills the aim is that you will be able to challenge the stories told about you and your communities and instead create more accurate 'counter stories'.

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Popular Theatre: Artful Approaches to Social Change – In this session Julia will share with you the *art* of ‘learning by doing’ through using interactive play and theatre to gather, share, engage and act on research.

Creative Dissemination: Spoken Word – Not all research is communicated through writing. In this session Lola will perform spoken word and then engage you to create a piece that is reflective of your opinions, thoughts and experiences.

Closing Circle – Julia and Asim will engage you in a closing circle to share what you have learned from the day and what you will leave behind.

Wrap-up and Moving Forward – Although the SLR has come to a close we are only just beginning! For the last few hours we will discuss what we have learned in the last four days (what we would like to see more of and the things that can be improved). We will also discuss what the next 8 months of your participation in NOISE will look like and some of the next steps. This is also your opportunity to shape the process so please do share with us what you would like to get out of this!





FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES

TALISHA RAMSAROOP

I am currently going into my third year of sociology at York University. Prior to coming to York I went to Emery Colligate Institute, where many of my teachers will tell you I was not the best student. I was extremely unfocused and had never really thought about post-secondary school. However mid-way through high school one of my best friends forced me to enroll in the ACE program. Somehow he saw potential in a little girl who couldn't even see potential in herself. After he wrote my application letter, I got into the ACE program and a couple months after he was killed in a homicide. Since then I made it my mission to not only make him proud but to help others see their potential like he saw mine. I completed the ACE program and tried my best to maintain a good average from that point on. I believe that with a push, positive energy, people who believe in you and motivation, you could do anything you put your mind to. Since then I got involved in the ACT/NOISE program and am currently committed to helping youth within my community. I grew up in Weston and Finch and moved to Jane and Sheppard when I was 13. Other than that I'm just an ordinary girl just like anyone else 😊

HENRY APPIAH

Henry is a student at York University majoring in English and minoring in Philosophy. He has both his elementary and secondary school diplomas. He was born in Toronto, and has lived in both the Rexdale and Jane and Finch communities. Henry hopes to become a teacher or a novelist after his post-secondary career. Some of his interests include reading articles on wikipedia, collecting and watching the Smallville series on DVD, and occasionally spending time with friends.

REBECCA HOUWER

I have worked with ACT for Youth for the past three years as a Research Assistant and Academic Co-chair of the Evaluation and Monitoring Working Group. Before becoming a Phd Student in the Faculty of Education at York University, I worked with the Lawrence Heights community at Pathways to Education and in Jane Finch with Success Beyond Limits at Westview Collegiate. I am committed to expanding the role and potential of research in communities and to improving youth access to participation in research.





ZORANA ALIMPIC

Zorana is the Manager for the NOISE Summer Learning Institute. She has an M.S.W from York University and recently graduated from the University of Oxford with an MPhil in International Development. Zorana first became involved with NOISE through the ACT for Youth project in 2009. For the past few years Zorana has been tri-continental balancing life between Canada, England and South Africa. Both personally and professionally, Zorana has allocated most of her energy and passion to working with immigrants and refugees in both Toronto and Johannesburg.

JORGE CAXAJ

Jorge is a charismatic and thought-provoking speaker who is passionate about the issues affecting the health and well being of youth. Born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Jorge has witnessed firsthand the tragedies that can result when there are little social and community supports for youth. His strong passion and conviction to make change both locally and globally was what inspired him to pursue studies in Education. This passion has led to an honours undergraduate degree in public policy and both a Bachelor and Masters degree in education. He is currently a Ph.D candidate at the University of Toronto. Well-educated and driven to inspire young people, Jorge has had extensive work experience in developing implementing and delivering programs for youth. Jorge has had the ability to develop youth programming for many recognized agencies such as the YMCA, UNICEF, The University of Toronto and The Ontario Lung Association. Jorge is also very much involved in development work he is currently the chair of the Guatemalan solidarity committee, a committee that focuses on youth development in his native Guatemala. Jorge is also a published poet and an aspiring novelist. His energetic and engaging personality will motivate your audience to challenge themselves to make an authentic effort towards positive social change.

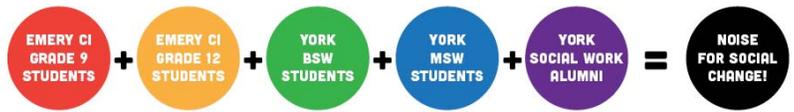
KATHE ROGERS

Kathe works on knowledge mobilization and communications for the ACT for Youth project. She graduated from the University of Toronto in 2002 with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Cinema Studies and Sociology, and is currently a Master's of Social Work student at York University. Kathe has extensive experience in communications, fundraising, event planning, advocacy, public education, and online community building. In addition to her previous work with Toronto-based supportive housing agency Houselink, she volunteers with



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the North York Harvest Food Bank and RESULTS Canada, and is a former member of the board of directors at THIS Magazine. She will complete her 2012-2013 student placement at The Stop Community Food Centre. Kathe is a frequent moderator, public speaker, and guest lecturer, and has appeared on MTV, CTV, and Global Television. She has traveled throughout Canada, the US, and Europe, and to sub-Saharan Africa.

DR. GRANT MACDONALD

I am an associate professor of social work at York University and I have been teaching since 1982. I like social media and can easily be found under my Internet name "granako". I have posted over 80 videos with 15 million views on YouTube and Vimeo and I am active on Facebook, Instagram, Viddy, Kakao and Twitter (well I don't really tweet, I just like following people). My passion is video-making and video-editing and I am happy to teach anyone interested how to use the Adobe Premiere video editing program. If you are interested in learning how to use this program, just ask me:)! I would be more than happy to teach you.

SANTIAGO RINCÓN-GALLARDO

Santiago Rincón-Gallardo is a doctoral candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), a consultant for the Mexican Ministry of Education, and a visiting scholar at the Department of Theory and Policy Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. His academic work explores the relationship between individuals and institutions while seeking to understand and promote educational change as a social movement. As an educator and an organizer, he has worked for over a decade to promote grassroots educational change initiatives in Mexican public schools serving historically marginalized communities. He was the director of Convivencia Educativa, A.C., an organization that catalyzed the transformation of instructional practice from the inside out in hundreds of schools in Mexico and inspired the development of a nationwide policy that seeks to radically transform instructional practice in 9000 schools across the country. He was a tri-chair of the Seventh Annual Alumni of Color Conference at HGSE, and the co-founder and co-director of two student organizations at Harvard: the Latin American and Caribbean Education Network (LACE), and Radical Educators. Recently, he joined the Board of Directors of the Institute for Democratic Education in America, an organization that is



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developing networks and building capacity among organizers, educators and groups that promote democratic and alternative education across the United States.

JEN RYAN

Jen Ryan is a PhD candidate in the Communication and Culture program at York University. She is originally from Nova Scotia and completed her BA in Peace and Conflict Studies and MA in Educational Foundations at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, NS. Jen has been working with the ACT project for almost two years and is currently doing research coordination, supporting the youth-led conference and is a member of the Reframing Discourse working group.

ASIM AZIZ

Asim has recently graduated Emery C.I. and has confirmed admission at Ryerson University to pursue a Business oriented future, with some philosophy on the side. He has participated in, and completed, the ACT for Youth Community Based Research Summer Institute in 2011. Since then, he has been a Research Intern with ACT for Youth; mainly making a media literacy workshop for youth and helping with the publication of a journal article. He is planning to present his workshop to multiple audiences and is seeking employment, or volunteer opportunities, that pertain to the accounting and finance field and target undergraduate students.

JULIA JANES

Julia is a PhD candidate at the School of Social Work, York University. Prior to entering the program she collaborated with various communities on Arts-informed Participatory Action Research (PAR) in the areas of homelessness, housing insecurity, aging in place, older woman abuse and financial literacy. She uses arts-infusions in her research with communities to spark conversation, surprises and laughter. Her current research explores how the Arts + PAR might further democratize, decolonize and energize knowledge work. Julia is a collaborator with the Assets Coming Together (ACT) for Youth Project, specifically the research inquiring into how youth and communities can frame popular discourse to support positive youth development.





FUNMILOLA 'LOLA' LAWSON

Emcee name: LolaBunz is making big strides in the City of Toronto in her hope to be a voice for the unheard. Through Acting, Spoken word and Emceeing Lola has been performing for over 6 years. Lola was Born and raised in Jane & Finch and is currently in her 4th year at York University. At 21 years of age, LolaBunz has already performed on various stages and at some of the City's largest urban music festivals, Theatre productions and main spaces. Including 106 and York and manifesto. In 2009 she performed on-stage with Hip Hop legend KRS-One during Toronto's Week Without Violence. Earlier this year she created, and was featured in the first all Female Cypher in Toronto, which went viral within days and was featured on many blogs and websites throughout Canada and the US. Lola she continues to push for the unheard voices of her city to be heard.

BURUK KEBEDOM

Buruk 'Early' Kebedom is an 18 year old photographer, from the Jane and Sheppard area. He is a graduate from The Remix Project and is a former member of the NIA Centre for the Arts documentation team. Since the Remix Project he is now shooting events and making his own creative projects. He was introduced to his new found love of photography in 2010 at a workshop hosted by the Eritrean Youth Coalition. Since then, he has developed a great appreciation for art and the authenticity of each individual piece. His favourite things to shoot are portraits of people, landscapes, studio and fine art photographs. Buruk enjoys sharing stories but feels his photographs tell his stories better. He is fulfilled by the fact that others can make their own interpretations of his art work.

ARTEM KRIVOCHAI

Artem Krivochei is a grade 12 student attending Newtonbrook Secondary school. He is located on Bathurst and Finch. Artem enjoys playing basketball, lacrosse & reading in his spare time. Artem is terrified of heights and huge spiders. In his future career he would like to become a professional chef and open up his own business one day.

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