

Young Researchers

connecting teens to the research process

Areas of Focus

- Participatory research WITH youth
- Youth technology practices
- Youth exposure to STEM
- Youth interest in STEM careers
- Mobile device use for information seeking and learning

What We're Doing

- Developing day camp curriculum on research methods and ethics
- Designing research projects with youth
- Support youth conducting research
- Examining youth perceptions of STEM
- Observing youth tech behaviors during camps

Science Literacy/Proficiency

Literacy includes understanding reports and discussions of science that appear in the popular media, teaching students to be informed citizens, and preparation for the world of (science) work [1, p. 593, parenthetical added].

Proficiency includes ability to "understand the nature and development of scientific knowledge and participate productively in scientific practices and discourse" [3, p. 2].

Youth as Co-Researchers

"Closer collaboration with youth themselves as partners in constructing research (rather than as objects of it);" an opportunity that shifts "from investigations that assume adults will study children to one in which adults and children learn from each other" [2, p. 1123].

Connected Learning

Agenda "advocates for broadened access to learning that is socially embedded, interest-driven, and oriented toward educational, economic, or political opportunity" [4, p. 4]

CL experiences are production-centered, have shared purpose among community members, and are openly networked, taking advantage of "online platforms and digital tools" [4, p.12]

The Young Researchers

- Come from diverse backgrounds
- Learn about research methods, careers, and ethics at camps
- Conduct research on tech habits of peers
- Collect, analyze, & present findings
- Have an opportunity to visit UIUC to present findings
- Develop research & STEM expertise
- Gain exposure to research careers

(Near) Future Work

Finish First Round Camp Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

- Develop co-designed study
- Conduct co-analysis
- Present findings with Young Researchers at UIUC during Undergrad Research Week

Start Second Round Camps Spring 2017 – Fall 2018

- Select additional locations (2-3 Illinois locations), aiming for diverse participants
- Schedule camps and recruit Young Researchers
- Refine and implement iteratively designed camp, based on evaluation of first round

Outreach

- Project website with camp curriculum modules & materials
- Publicizing best practices for participatory research with youth
- Presentation of research findings to scholarly, professional, and teen audiences

Rachel M. Magee
@rachelmmagee
rmmagee@illinois.edu

Margaret Buck
@margyette
buck7@illinois.edu

School of Information Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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