

Faculty

Katie Rose Hejtmanek, Program Director

Associate Professor, Anthropology and Archaeology and Children and Youth Studies

EXPERTISE: Hejtmanek's interests focus on the meaning and powers that influence self-transformation within various cultural contexts. She studies adolescent psychiatry, juvenile and criminal justice, race, love, strength sports, and fitness.

Jeremy Porter

Professor, Sociology and Children and Youth Studies

EXPERTISE: Porter's focus is on spatial methods/quantitative analysis, social demography, social/health inequalities, population development, criminology/criminal justice, and community sociology.

Madeline Fox

Assistant Professor, Sociology and Children and Youth Studies; Director, Roberta S. Matthews Center for Teaching and Learning

EXPERTISE: Fox's interests include critical youth studies, participatory action research, and embodied methodologies. Fox investigates social (in)justice and everyday experiences of public policy with the young people, communities, and groups who are most impacted. Her current collaborations examine young adults' experiences with violence and violence prevention, educational inequity, and growing up amidst vast inequality in Brooklyn.

Erika Niwa

Assistant Professor, Psychology and Children and Youth Studies, Faculty Director of the Brooklyn College Community Partnership (BCCP)

EXPERTISE: Niwa's focus is on the role of (in)equality in shaping the social, emotional, and cognitive development of ethnically diverse young people. This includes the impact of ethnic-political violence and ethnic-racial discrimination in shaping social and psychological adjustment among youth; the development of ethnic and racial identities; and the role of youth-centered and community-engaged research.

Brooklyn College | Children and Youth Studies Program

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Why Children and Youth Studies?

The Children and Youth Studies program curriculum provides a holistic interdisciplinary perspective of issues concerning children and youth.

Specifically, students will learn that childhood and adolescence are social constructions situated in context.

Students will become aware of the distinct place in society children and youth, as a culturally specific cohort, occupy both historically and in the present.

Students will understand the complexity and diversity of social conditions experienced by children and youth across the globe.

Students will learn how to link theory to praxis by engaging in multidisciplinary opportunities for research, advocacy, and professional development in traditional, nontraditional, and emerging areas of children and youth studies.

Career Opportunities

The bachelor of arts degree in children and youth studies prepares students to pursue future careers in professional domains and occupations related to

children and youth at public and government agencies, nonprofits, and in business settings, including advocacy work, health-related areas, the systems of child welfare and juvenile justice, and media and the arts. Children and youth studies graduates successfully pursue advanced degrees and certifications, and are employed in various fields such as social services, counseling, youth work, pediatrics, public health, juvenile justice and the law, the arts, and education.

The program offers internship opportunities to explore diverse careers in child and youth-related settings, to meet and network with individuals in the field, and to gain professional-level experience often required when applying to graduate programs and related employment.

Children and Youth Studies, B.A.

The children and youth studies program offers a bachelor of arts, a 30-credit concentration for education majors, and a 15-credit or 12-credit minor for liberal arts majors.

The children and youth studies program also offers an interdisciplinary program of study for students in the CUNY baccalaureate program.



Quotes From Our Students

“This major has definitely given me the tools to prepare for my career as a disability advocate. Our classes have open discussions about real-life situations affecting children and young people throughout the world.”

Stacy Ann De Souza, CHST Major, Spring 2019 graduate

“My children and youth studies bachelor’s degree has helped me become a leader and advocate for children and youth from underrepresented communities.

Our classes prepared me to be culturally sensitive and competent while working with many different communities in New York City as a program manager at a small nonprofit organization.”

Jennifer DeLaCruz, CHST Major, Fall 2018 graduate, Advocacy Youth Corps (hired by her internship site)

“My experience as a student was both rewarding and cathartic. I discovered a great deal of information not only about children in general, but my own childhood as well. The CHST program was the beginning of my journey to a better version of me. I learned to ‘struggle well,’ recover from painful experiences, and proceed to live and love wholeheartedly.”

Pascale Lebrun-Gay, CHST Major, Fall 2012 graduate, MSW, Fordham University