Activating Social Empathy: Learning from and with Youth Researchers
Ciara Beth Ni Ghriofa, Ashling Dunphy & Pat Dolan

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre,
National University of Ireland, Galway
Gentle Start Issue of Systems

Empathy in Child Youth and Family Services - Valued and/or Assumed?
Resilience
Social Support
Attachment
Social Capital
Social Ecology

Reflective Practice

Good News it's never ever too late

Dolan, Kenny and Kennan 2017
Valuing and Understanding Youth as Researchers

- Relatively recent Initiative – Ancora Imparo
- Pros/Cons–Valuing is key (Kennan and Dolan 2017)
- Pecking order Research – Hierarchical to Horizontal Range of ‘pluralistic’ options (Fives et al 2017)
Youth Empathy a Social values

• Social Empathy Research Brady et al in progress – Creating a Baseline

• Action Project – Implementation of Empathy Education in Secondary Schools Pilot Autumn

Case defended by - Ciara Beth Ni Ghriofa
Key Research Question?

Static

Sympathy

Empathy

Apathy

Activate
Key Question

What are the factors that moves one from static to active Empathy?

Case Defended by - Ashling Dunphy
Youth Learning from/with Each Other

- Dialogue (reflective learning)
- Youth as Researchers
  - Disseminated through Videos
- Literature (Libraries)
  - Arts
Sample YaR Studies
– Feeding Empathy Curriculum
(produced in collaboration with Foroige in the main)

• LGBT understanding study
• Rural Youth Homelessness
• Youth Mental Health Need Awareness
• Youth direct Access to Family Support Services
• Race and Police violence and attitudes in US
• Youth online Gambling
Wider International context

- UNESCO Chairs Global Network on Children Youth and Communities - Chairs NUI Galway /Penn State Leads

- Four country project initiative with UNESCO
  - Ireland, USA (State) Canada (Region) and Nigeria

- UN SDGs Target for inclusion of empathy in education
Ciara Beth Ni Griofoa

*Give me a Chance*
Ashling Dunphy

Angels in Wellies