

YOUNG GLOBAL CITY LEADERS: BUILDING AN EVIDENCE BASE IN LONDON, NEW YORK AND TORONTO TO SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP INNOVATION

PRINCIPAL INFORMATION LETTER

SCHOOL-BASED RESEARCH

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Global Cities are internationally important sites of migration, diversity and innovation. London, New York and Toronto consistently rank within the top 10 Global Cities and will serve as sites for our new 3-year ESRC-funded research project. Based on the preliminary evidence, many Global Cities are facing school leadership shortages and, as a result, deputy and school-level leaders are taking up posts at younger than ever ages in urban centres. This shift marks the entrance of a new generation of school leaders most of whom belong to GenerationX (GenX) - born between 1960-80. While GenXers are often described as flexible, globally engaged, technologically savvy, accepting of diversity and collaborative, there is little previous research related to age and leadership. More specifically, there is little research exploring this new generation of educational leaders.

Our research explores the experience and expertise of this next generation of leaders. We will be working with city-based Advisory Groups of policy/practice experts and cohorts of 35-45 GenX leaders in our annual Young Leader Networking events. Annual leader interviews will examine career development; challenges and opportunities; relationships between age, experience, gender, ethnicity, nationality and leadership; and, school-level leadership practices. Our project outcomes will include City-based leadership profiles, policy briefs, within and across city interview analysis and school-level studies. Evidence will support policy and programme decision-makers and the leaders themselves.

THE CORE RESEARCH TEAM

Dr. Karen Edge (Institute of Education-University of London) is the Principal Investigator for this study. Paul Armstrong (Research Officer), Nuria Batlle (Administrative Officer), Eugene Dapper (PhD Fellow), Juliet Horton and Katherine Descours (Visiting Research Associates) are also engaged in the project.

OVERALL RESEARCH STRATEGY

The Economic and Social Science Research Council (ESRC) in the United Kingdom is funding our research. The study will proceed in the following phases:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Developing city-based demographic leadership profiles

Phase 2 (Year 2): City-based policy and programme profiles

Phase 3 (Year 1/2/3): Young Global City Leader (YGCL) Networks

Phase 4 (Year 2/3): Young Global City Leaders Interviews

Phase 5 (Year 3): School-based studies of Young Leaders in action

THE SCHOOL BASED STUDY

In each city, we will be conducting 3 school-based studies of leadership in action. We are interested in schools that are rapidly improving and learning more about the rationale and strategies for these changes from the perspective of leaders and teachers across the schools.

Overall data collection

Participating schools will be asked to participate in the following during a one-day visit from 2 members of the research team:

- Principal individual interview (45-60 minutes)
- Assistant Principal individual interview (45-60 minutes)
- Teacher focus group or interviews for up to 8 teachers. The focus group can be held at lunch/morning/after school). If this is not possible, members of our team can conduct up to 8 individual teacher interviews at convenient times throughout the day of the visit. We can cover up to 200\$ of a supply teacher for that day.

Teacher recruitment

To recruit teachers, you will be provided with an email from the research team to circulate to teachers with the outline of the study and our research team contact information. Teachers may reply to our team directly. If you wish, we can organise the interviews from London and/or you can appoint an administrator/support staff to assist us coordinate the interviews and ensure that teacher participation remains confidential from Principals and Assistant Principals and others in the school.

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

By taking part in this project, you and your school will be contributing to the largest research study of its kind on the next generation of leaders internationally. You will also be contributing to a small but growing body of evidence related to rapid school improvement.

As a participant, you will receive a copy of your school-based study for approval prior to sharing the findings beyond your school. You will also receive copies of all reports from other schools, city-based reports from our overall findings. You will also receive the cross-city reports and we will ensure that you receive copies of each interim and final report produced about the research. We will also invite you to any dissemination events that we hold to share our findings. If you wish, we will identify your school as having contributed information to the project and you will need to sign an additional consent form.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Your participation and that of your school and teachers will remain confidential. While we would like to audiotape your interview and that of your colleagues, you are all free to decline it or to turn off the recorder at any point during your interview. Following the interview, all audiofiles will be transcribed. All files will be stored at the IOE-London and on a secure passworded cloud-based server. All files will have pseudonyms and will not be available to any person beyond the research team and will be destroyed after all data is analysed at the end of 3 years. You, your school and colleagues will also be assigned a pseudonym for the duration of the study so that, during our analysis and writing of the reports, your name and the name of your school will not be included on the raw data, draft documents or final versions. While we may use quotes from your interview, they will never be attributed to you. Only the research team will have access to the raw data and pseudonyms. However, if you wish to make your name or the name of your school public, the research team will do so.

THE PRODUCTS

The principal products of the school-based study related to your organization's contribution will be:

- School based studies: Case studies of each participating school (3 in each city)
- School based studies: Opportunities and experience in London/New York/Toronto mini reports
- School based studies: Opportunities and experience in London, New York and Toronto (cross case report)

The findings from the school-based studies will also serve as the foundation for the final report to the funding agency. Other possible products include scholarly articles and academic conference presentations. We would be happy to work with you to develop scholarly articles related to your contribution for joint authorship or conference presentation.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Karen Edge at k.edge@ioe.ac.uk or Paul Armstrong at p.armstrong@ioe.ac.uk. For questions pertaining to the Institute of Education and research safety, please contact Associate Director, Professor Michael Reiss at m.reiss@ioe.ac.uk