

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

INFORMATION LETTER

Focus group

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 overall 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. Our school-level case studies will explore issues of educational change and leadership within school led by young leaders. We are interested in issues related to collaboration, capacity building and school improvement strategies. 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. The team includes Paul Armstrong (Research Officer), Nuria Batlle (Administrative Officer) Eugene Dapper (PhD Fellow), Juliet Horton and Katherine Descours (Visiting Research Associates).

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

THE FOCUS GROUP

We will conduct the focus group with up to 8 teachers during a convenient time. The focus group will last for **45-60 minutes**. Your participation is voluntary and you may refuse to participate in the study or the focus group.

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

By taking part in this project you will be contributing to the largest research study of its kind on the next generation of leaders internationally. Your professional experience and your perspectives on school-based educational change and leadership will be of great value to policy makers, practitioners and academics. As a participant, you will receive a copy of the 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 you as having contributed information to the project and will ask you to sign an additional consent form. If you would rather we do not indicate your participation, we will not include your information.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Your participation in this study will remain confidential. While we would like to audiotape the focus group, you are free to decline it or to turn off the recorder at any point during the discussion and/or ask for the entire focus group not to be audiotaped. Following the focus group, any recordings will be transcribed. For the duration of the study, all audio files and transcripts will be stored at the IOE-London and will not be available to any person beyond the research team. Your focus group will also be assigned a pseudonym immediately upon completion of your interview. 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.

Once the project has ended, current ESRC data policy states that all project data is shared and deposited with the UK Data Archive. If you would like more information as to how this data is stored and how it might be used in the future please follow this link <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/create-manage/consent-ethics/consent?index=7>

THE PRODUCTS

The principal products of the study related to your contribution will be:

School-based case studies: Young leaders and educational change (London, New York, Toronto mini reports)

The findings from the school-based case 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