

Young people's participation

Historical influences

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Questions to be addressed?

- Have we liked or been fearful of young people?
- Is there a distinction between the deserving and the underserving participant?
- Has this influenced who we ask to participate?
- How has the history of CSE impacted on all this?

Have we liked young people?

- *We are afraid of young people:*

Demonised Youth: Hooligan: a history of respectable fears:
Pearson 1983

- *We are confused by young people:*

Developing adults: Adolescence: the time for rebellion and
challenge: neither child nor adult

- *We use young people*

Commercialization of youth : powerful consumers and victims
of corporate sexualized exploitation

Deserving and undeserving participant?

- Up until 2009: young people could be arrested for soliciting offences
- Challenging sexual innocence: creates fear // a desire to control
- ‘Victims’ of sexual offences might be perceived as more deserving

Has this influenced who we 'allow' to participate?

- UNCRC article 19: right to protection from abuse and article 12 and 13: respecting child's views/freedom of expression
- Do we ask all children to participate: are we really reaching out?
- Are we asking all CSE affected young people to participate?

Together, we can, and must, prevent history repeating itself

For more information and resources visit
our website www.beds.ac.uk/ic

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