

What's YPAR?

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Youth

Far too often, researchers and policy-makers ignore the knowledge and power of younger generations. YPAR centers youth in community-based research. Youths involved in these projects direct the focus and goals of the campaigns



Action

The goal of YPAR is for youths to engage actively and participate in their local communities (however, said community is defined). Through their participation with other community members and researchers, youths can create new policies and implement change.



Purpose for Project

This project aims to engage youth in interrogating and generating knowledge related to racial and gender justice in the interest of developing their critical consciousness.



GirlGov

GirlGov's work in guiding young women and femmes in developing critical consciousness directly informs how this YPAR project will support the organization's commitment to youths.



Thanks to Humanities Engage Summer Fellowship, I developed the literature review and curriculum needed to embark on a YPAR project during GirlGov's 2021-2022 school year. In this project, GirlGov members will not only learn about YPAR but actively engage with it. So what is YPAR and what are the larger goals?

Participatory

The key component of YPAR is direct engagement with youths. By dismantling hierarchies and cultivating a space of shared power, youth participants guide the project



Research

Those working with youths may be researchers who assist the youth with implementing their campaigns. They provide research skills and create shared spaces of power to better support youth collective-action campaigns.



Design Overview

- Identify Question – What needs change?
- Analysis and Evaluation – Complete surveys, interviews, etc.
- Engage Stakeholders – Contact or publicly reach those with the power at the center of the research question
- Implementation – Collaborate with stakeholders to implement change

What's Next?

The implementation of the YPAR curriculum aims to increase the girls' ability to engage in research for social change from an academic-community partnership perspective. Dr. Beth Sondel, Dr. Josefina Bañales, and psychology doctoral student Nabila Jamal-Orozco will lead the team when we will get started this fall!