

Dr. Tania de St Croix

Tania de St Croix has been a youth worker for over twenty years and is a Lecturer in the Sociology of Youth and Childhood at King's College London. She is active in Voice of Youth, a youth workers' co-operative, and In Defence of Youth Work, a campaign for critical, democratic and emancipatory youth work practice. Tania has written several widely read articles and book chapters on youth work practice and policy. Tania's background is in professional youth, community and play work. Her research is on youth services, and how policy interacts with professional and voluntary practice and young people's lives.

Tania teaches in the areas of education policy, child and youth studies, and interdisciplinary social science. She is actively involved in the In Defence of Youth Work forum. Tania's primary research area is the policy and practice of children's and young people's services, with a focus on issues of equality, participation and democracy. She is currently working with Louise Doherty to research how young people and youth workers experience evaluation and outcomes frameworks. Her book, *Grassroots Youth Work: Policy, Passion and Resistance in Practice*, draws on a three-year qualitative research project investigating how youth workers experience a working context dominated by managerialism and marketisation in times of austerity. Tania is interested in young people's and children's experiences of education and everyday life in a changing policy context.

Tania draws on critical theory from several areas including the sociology of education policy, feminism, anarchism and activist scholarship. She is committed to sharing her research with practitioners, young people and other members of the public in a range of ways, including through creative workshops and collaborative discussions. Her research engages critically with the value and evaluation of 'youth work', a practice of community-based informal education. She is particularly interested in the perspectives of young people and grassroots practitioners, and in how youth work is affected by policy imperatives. Her recent ESRC-funded study (with Louise Doherty) investigated impact measurement, evaluation and accountability in youth work.

Her book '*Grassroots Youth Work: Policy, Passion and Resistance in Practice*' explores the experiences of part-time and volunteer youth workers in a wider context of neoliberalism and inequalities. She is committed to collaborating with young people, youth workers and others in planning, carrying out, writing and sharing research. Most of her experience is in England but she aims to learn from and with researchers and practitioners from other contexts, recently including Japan and Canada. She was a community-based youth worker for twenty years and remains a youth work volunteer.

Here are two selected Publications by Tania worth looking at:

de St Croix, T & Doherty, L 2023, 'It's a great place to find where you belong': Creating, curating and valuing place and space in open youth work', *Children's Geographies*, vol. 21, no. 6, pp. 1029-1043. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14733285.2023.2171770>

de St Croix, T 2016, *Grassroots youth work: Policy, passion and resistance in practice*. 1 edn, Policy Press, Bristol. <https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/grassroots-youth-work>