



Visioning Transformative Youth Work: Collaborative Design Day



In partnership with the York Research Chair
in Youth and Contexts of Inequity held by
Dr. Uzo Anucha.

Wednesday, Sep 6, 2023
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM EDT

Room 519, Kaneff Tower
York University



Dr. Tania de St Croix
Senior Lecturer,
King's College London, UK



YOUTHREX
Research &
Evaluation eXchange



Agenda

- 9:30 AM** Registration + Networking Café
 - 10:00 AM** Welcome + Land Recognition
Keynote Presentation by [Dr. Tania de St Croix](#)
Visioning Transformative Youth Work:
Celebrating, Reflecting, Resisting
Q + A + Discussions
 - 11:40 AM** Networking Lunch
 - 12:20 PM** Spoken Word Performance by [Dwayne Morgan](#)
 - 12:35 PM** Insights from the Ontario Youth Sector Study
by [Dr. Uzo Anucha](#) and the YouthREX Team
Q + A + Discussions
 - 1:50 PM** Health Break (Café will be open)
 - 2:00 PM** [Ideas Labs: Storytelling x Human-Centered Design Thinking](#)
Co-Facilitated by our Special Guest, Dr. Tania de St Croix and from
YouthREX: Dr. Uzo Anucha; Cyril Cromwell, Learning & Development
Consultant; and Kathe Rogers, Knowledge Exchange Director
 - 3:30 PM** Presentations by Ideas Labs
Q + A + Discussions
 - 4:20 PM** Closing Remarks
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Event Location and How to Get There

Location

Room 519 Kaneff Tower at York University. Kaneff Tower has elevators to take you to the fifth floor. There will be signs directing you to Room 519. There is an accessible and all-gender washroom on the fifth floor.

Transit

The building is directly beside [York University](#) TTC subway station, and it includes elevators, escalators, and a ramp. The TTC provides regular updates on the status of station elevators and escalators [on its website](#).

Driving

York University offers [paid Visitor Parking](#) on Keele Campus. The parking options closest to Kaneff Tower ([#95 on the map](#)) are the York Lanes Parking Garage ([#72 on the map](#)) and the Vanier Lot ([#71 on the map](#)). Both include [Accessible Parking](#). If you choose to park in a parking garage, you will need to download the [HonkMobile app](#) to pay (York Lanes Parking Garage is Zone ID 7727)

Have any questions?

If you have questions before September 6th, please contact Kathe at kathe@youthrex.com.
If you have questions on the day of the event, please call Kamau at 437-226-8309.



Storytelling x Human-Centered Design Thinking (2 PM to 3:30 PM)

The goal of the Ideas Labs is to collaborate with peers to develop a shared understanding of issues and challenges in Ontario's youth sector and co-create recommendations for moving forward!



Storytelling: Connect - Review Reflect - Locate (30 mins)

- Connect with your *Ideas Lab* members.
- Review what you heard today and reflect on what resonated.
- Locate yourself and share stories from your personal and professional experiences connected to youth work.
- Reflect on the connections of the stories to broader political and institutional contexts.
- Choose a theme/issue to dive in deeper and envision transformative actions.

Human-Centered Design Thinking: Pose HMW Questions (40 mins)

- Pose HMW (How Might We) questions about your theme/issue:
 - **Creating:** What things (programs, policies, etc.) that do not currently exist should be created to fulfill your vision?
 - **Remixing:** What 'old' things can be combined, stretched, amplified, and/or transformed from the approaches we have now?
 - **Expanding:** Where are the sparks of possibility to enhance and amplify our opportunities and processes?
 - **Acknowledging:** Notice existing energy around your theme – how are young people already taking action on this issue?

Vision Transformative Youth Work: Strategize-Equitize (20 mins)

- Imagine new realities and consider **one major action**.
- Strategize and organize steps to achieve your action.
- Ground your action on a commitment to challenge systemic barriers to inclusion and critically embrace intersectionality.
- Design an initial call to action: What is the one *simple thing* we can all do to move towards this major action?

Visioning Transformative Youth Work: Collaborative Design Day

Thank you for registering to join us for *Visioning Transformative Youth Work: Collaborative Design Day!*

We've planned this day to foster networking, connection, and dialogue among youth work stakeholders. So often, we work in silos, or our engagement is confined within our roles and organizations.

Together with our Special Guest – Dr. Tania de St Croix – we will explore the joys, challenges, and tensions of youth work. What fuels our practice, and what are the barriers? Where are spaces for resistance and collective action? How might we design youth sector services, programs, and opportunities to challenge systemic barriers to inclusion and critically embrace intersectionality? How can we rethink the impact of youth work?

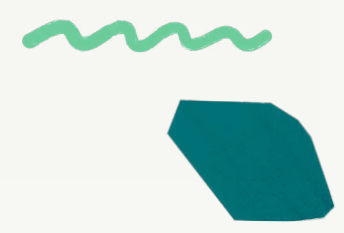
The first part of the day will include presentations by Tania, Uzo, and the YouthREX Team, through which they will share insights from research with/about youth and youth workers, as well as a spoken word performance by Dwayne Morgan. We have built-in time for discussions after these presentations.

In the second part of the day, we will work in small groups, *Ideas Labs*, leveraging storytelling and Human-Centered Design Thinking to collaboratively craft a vision for creative and viable forms of transformative youth work.

It gets better because there's a plan for afterwards! YouthREX will pull together what is developed during the day and share insights across the youth sector.

Check out the report from our 2016 Design Day:

[Collaborative Designing for Youth Wellbeing: The Story of Our Design Day](#)



Dr. Tania de St Croix



Dr. Tania de St Croix's research is grounded in an appreciation and celebration of youth work and a critical understanding of the evaluation landscape. She was a youth worker for over 20 years and is a founding member of *In Defence of Youth Work*, a network of critical and radical youth workers in the UK, and the editor of the open-access journal, *Youth & Policy*.

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 marketization in times of austerity.

[Learn More about Tania's Work →](#)

Dwayne Morgan



Dwayne Morgan is a two-time Canadian National Poetry Slam Champion. He began his career as a spoken word artist in 1993. In 1994, he founded Up From The Roots entertainment, to promote the positive artistic contributions of African Canadian and urban influenced artists.

Morgan made the 2022 *SHIFTER Magazine* list of outstanding Black men in Canada, while also winning the Toronto Arts Foundation's Celebration of Cultural Life award, and the 2018 Sheri-D Wilson Golden Beret Award for Career Achievement in the Spoken Word. Morgan has received both the African Canadian Achievement Award, and the Harry Jerome Award for Excellence in the Arts.

dwaynemorgan.ca →

Dr. Uzo Anucha

Provincial Academic Director and York Research Chair



Dr. Uzo Anucha is the founding Academic Director of YouthREX. She is the York Research Chair in Youth and Contexts of Inequity and an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, York University. Uzo's community-engaged research is focused on critical youth work. She conceptualizes her research as a community dialogue that is centred on equitable collaborations with community stakeholders. Her research projects emphasize multi-methods / multi-focal research that make space for multi perspectives. Uzo has served on a variety of boards, including being appointed by an Order in Council by the Government of Ontario to the Board of Directors of the Central Local Health Integrated Network for two terms of six years (2011-2017).

About YouthREX

The Youth Research & Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX) is a provincial initiative based at the School of Social Work at York University primarily funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services with contributions from York University and other partners. YouthREX was officially launched in November 2014 to support Ontario's youth programs with knowledge exchange, capacity building, and program evaluation support.

About the Ontario Youth Sector Compass Research Project

The Ontario Youth Sector Compass (OYC) is a research project by YouthREX in collaboration with the York Research Chair in Youth and Contexts of Inequity. The project is focused on understanding what supports young people in Ontario need to thrive and what supports youth workers need to work with young people as healthily as possible. The OYC takes an equity-based approach in understanding the experiences of youth and youth workers and merges quantitative data from surveys and stories from qualitative interviews to provide rich insights about different groups of youth and youth workers across Ontario.

[Learn More →](#)

Customized Evaluation Supports

YouthREX offers a range of customized services to support youth programs. Whether they're looking for data or evidence, starting a new program, or figuring out how to make existing programs better, *we've got programs covered!*



Apply for **FREE** Evaluation Support!

How to apply?

Fill out a [simple online application](#), and we'll get back to you within 3 business days.

Who should apply?

Youth-serving organizations or initiatives in Ontario.

How will we work together?

It is customized so we start where you are. [Check out our service pledge.](#)

Not sure what support you need?

[Book a 1-on-1 call](#) with a member of our team to discuss any of our free Customized Evaluation Supports.

Customized Evaluation Services



Knowledge and Data Requests

Find data and best practices to support your program!



Program Development

Work one-on-one with a Program Associate to create a logic model: a visual tool that maps your program from A-Z.



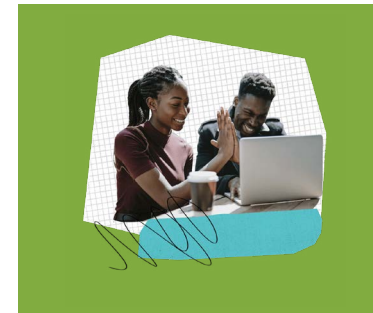
Evaluation Consultation

Work one-on-one with a Program Associate on specific evaluation tasks, from selecting the right evaluation tool to analyzing data.

Learning Opportunities

FREE Online Certificates Open Year-Round

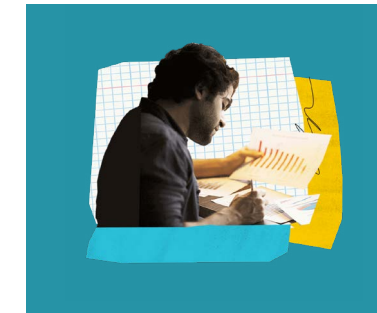
1) Register 2) Get Immediate Access 3) Learn and Engage



Program Evaluation for Youth Wellbeing

A free online certificate course about the main concepts, approaches and practices relevant to conducting evaluation of youth sector programs and initiatives.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)



Using Spreadsheets for Program Evaluation

A free online certificate course about key concepts, tools and techniques required to manage, analyze and visualize quantitative data for a youth program evaluation.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)



Cannabis and Youth: A Certificate for Youth Workers

A self-guided online professional development certificate that provides youth workers with evidence-based information on the health, social and legal risks associated with cannabis use.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Centering Black Youth Wellbeing

A Certificate on Combatting Anti-Black Racism

A free 6-week online certificate that provides the Ontario youth sector with the foundational knowledge to cultivate practices, policies, and alliances that challenge, disrupt, and combat systematic anti-Black racism.

Registration Deadline:
September 25, 2023

Certificate Dates
October 2 –
November 13, 2023



[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Thank you for joining us!

For more resources visit our [Knowledge Hub](#) →

OUR VISION is an Ontario where shared knowledge is transformed into positive impact for all youth!

OUR MISSION is to make research evidence and evaluation practices accessible and relevant to Ontario's grassroots youth sector through knowledge exchange, capacity building and evaluation leadership!

Sign up for our newsletter to learn about new resources, events and upcoming learning opportunities.

Follow us on social media:

