



Call for Papers for a Special Issue on International Positive Youth Development: Challenges and Opportunities in Policy and Practice

Special Issue Guest Editors:

Lisa Lauxman, Independent Consultant and JYD Publications Committee Member

Thomas Archibald, Virginia Tech

Elizabeth Dowling, Tufts Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development

Cassandra Jessee, International Center for Research on Women

This special issue will bring together diverse perspectives on current research, practice, and policy regarding challenges and opportunities facing international positive youth development. Diversity and inclusion are critical to this special issue. Representation by continent, country, gender, race, ethnicity, emerging to experienced authors, sectors, and type of articles will encompass the spectrum of work.

Diverse Perspectives on Youth Issues and PYD

The notion of 'youth' is a socially and contextually mediated construct. In this volume, we will consider various definitions of 'youth.' Likewise, we do not seek to advance a dogmatic definition of PYD. However, here are some descriptions of PYD that guide our editorial approach:

The [Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs](#), a collaboration of 21 United States' federal departments and agencies that support youth, has created the following [definition](#): *PYD is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.*

USAID, through [YouthPower Learning](#), refined a [definition](#) reflecting the range of international contexts: *PYD is both a philosophy and an approach to youth development. Positive youth development engages youth along with their families, communities and/or governments so that youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build skills, assets and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems.*

Topics and Manuscript Types Sought

We seek manuscripts that explore the trends, issues, and challenges regarding practice, policy, and research faced by individuals, organizations, and/or governments in international positive youth development. Papers can focus on capacity development needs of youth development professionals and systems or on the experiences and outcomes of youth themselves. Inclusion of youth voice is encouraged. Example paper types include:

- Reports of empirical studies using a variety of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches to research or evaluate the processes and outcomes of international PYD programs and policies
- Conceptual and theoretical articles exploring social, cultural, political, economic, philosophical, or other notions specific to PYD in international contexts
- Methods notes discussing validity, reliability, and cultural responsiveness of data collection in PYD contexts
- Reflection essays from youth, practitioners, and policy-makers sharing insights on innovative and promising practices and programs

Manuscripts should advance understanding of international positive youth development, the challenges and opportunities, in research, policy, and practices, discuss implications for capacity building, and generate directions for enhancing research, policy and practices to strengthen international positive youth development.

While the editors are proactively inviting some authors to do specific papers for this special issue, the editors are also looking for people to submit both feature articles (up to 5,000 words) and section specific articles (up to 3,000 words). The intent is to include both domestic U.S. and international audiences as authors. See the [JYD's section policies](#) for more information on the different types of articles.

Manuscripts should follow current APA standards and the guidelines of the *Journal of Youth Development* (see [Information For Authors](#)). All papers submitted, whether invited or open submission, will go through the [peer review process](#). Papers should be submitted online at jyd.pitt.edu by **September 15, 2020**. Please indicate in the Author Comments that your submission is for consideration in the Summer 2021 special issue.

Special Issue Timeline

June 2020	Call for Papers
September 15, 2020	Submissions due online at jyd.pitt.edu
January 15, 2021	Peer-reviews completed and returned to authors for revisions
March 15, 2021	Final paper due for copy editing and layout
June 2021	Publication and promotion of special issue

Potential authors can contact the Special Issue Guest Editors for additional information, clarification, or questions: Lisa Lauxman (lisa.lauxman@gmail.com), Thomas Archibald (tgarch@vt.edu), Elizabeth Dowling (Elizabeth.Dowling@tufts.edu), and Cassandra Jessee (cassandra.jessee@gmail.com). Interested authors are encouraged to contact these guest editors to share and discuss potential manuscript ideas.

Potential reviewers can [register for JYD](#) by filling out your first and last name, email, checking interest to be a reviewer, and key word “international PYD” for this special issue. Please include your other areas of expertise as well.