



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

DR. JESSE CHANIN & MALAIKA SALEEM | TULANE UNIVERSITY

“IT WAS HONESTLY LIKE MAGIC”: YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH AS AN INTERVENTION IN TRADITIONAL SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS

ABSTRACT:

Can participatory research address the power imbalance in service learning? This project analyzes a year-long service learning program in which undergraduates were trained to assist local middle school students in conducting youth participatory action research (YPAR) projects aimed at improving their schools. Though resource-intensive, we argue that this model allows for genuine collaboration between university students and community members that challenges the typical power dynamics of service learning.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LISTENING CLOSELY

BIO(S):

DR. JESSE CHANIN

Dr. Jesse Chanin is a researcher, professor, and author based in New Orleans. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Tulane University and is a postdoctoral fellow at the Coalition for Compassionate Schools. She was the faculty advisor and facilitator of the year-long youth participatory action research (YPAR) project, *It was honestly like magic: Youth Participatory Action Research as an Intervention in Traditional Service Learning Programs*. She is currently teaching and facilitating the second year of this YPAR project at Tulane University. Her email is jchanin@tulane.edu and her phone number is 646-400-1611.

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MALAIKA SALEEM

Malaika Saleem recently graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a BA in Sociology. She wrote her undergraduate thesis on dialectics and The Parallel Principles of Buddhism, Marxism, and Quantum Physics. She was an undergraduate facilitator of the year-long youth participatory action research (YPAR) project presented here as a potential intervention in service learning. Currently, she works on a vegetable production farm in New Orleans.