

# Voices from Beyond the School Gates: Secondary School Students' and their Parents' Experiences of Exclusion

**Public Lecture by Dr Simon Edwards, University of  
 Portsmouth University, UK**

ECU Youth Studies Occasional Lecture Number 10

This presentation discusses a small research study that responded to calls by the Department for Education in England that welcomed students' and their parents' voices; that is, their perceptions of the processes of school exclusion. Drawing on Participant Action Research methods we trained three former excluded students and their parents who successfully re-engaged their education to carry out focus groups and semi-structured interviews. They explored the voices of five secondary school students' and their parents' in relation to their experiences of exclusion. The findings stand juxtaposed to reductionist political discourses that view exclusion as being influenced by specific causal events induced by poor parenting or student deviance. Rather, our findings illustrated a spiral of disillusionment, educational disengagement, fractured relationships between students, parents and teachers that emerged as our participants encountered a series of life events that coincided with the educational processes in schools. An intervention that used these participants' voices as a means to make meaningful changes in practice and address the effects of this spiral is then discussed. To conclude I present findings from the pilot of the intervention that enabled five excluded students to successfully re-engage their education.

Dr Simon Edwards Senior Lecturer Youth Studies, School of Education and Sociology, University of Portsmouth, UK.

## **Event Details**

Date: Thursday 11th April, 2019

Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Location: ECU Joondalup Campus Building 30.124

Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to Alida Jenner on [a.jenner@ecu.edu.au](mailto:a.jenner@ecu.edu.au)  
 for catering numbers.

Closest visitor's parking is in front of the library. Walk through the library and building 30 is on your right. The meeting room is downstairs.

