The Youth Research Hub:
Examining Adolescents’ Online Social Networks

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Social networks offer one innovative way to examine adolescents’ social ecologies. This brown bag describes a recent initiative connecting students trained in youth participatory action research (YPAR) from three distinct urban high schools through an online interface. Using a mixed method design, this presentation describes the formation of relations within an online social network over a five-month period. Additionally, results highlight the developmental benefits for participants active within the online interface.

Dr. Kornbluh received her doctorate in Ecological-Community Psychology at Michigan State University. Dr. Kornbluh’s research blends theories and mixed-methods from various disciplines: developmental psychology, community psychology, social networks, and action research. Her interests lie in the relationship between social context and youth development, particularly with how young peoples’ social networks and opportunities for democratic participation influence their behavior, sense of belonging, and feelings of empowerment.