

Social innovation at the grassroots: Pathways towards social inclusion through music for disaffected youth and those at risk.

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This paper documents the ways in which music-based activities and music-based arts programs have been used to offer positive pathways for disaffected young people at risk or in detention in Australia, Britain and the U.S. Drawing on ethnographic research from 'Playing for Life' a Australia Research Council funded longitudinal comparative project, the presenters will firstly outline the ways in which opportunities of social engagement through everyday music activities have been developed both within the broader community and even within correctional institutions in Adelaide, South Australia, London, Berlin, Boston, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island. Documenting examples of how these programs appear to have been effective in facilitating youth agency, the presenters will outline how the engagement of disaffected and disadvantaged youth, in music activities and workshops, especially those at risk and incarcerated youth, can lead to opportunities of access into employment and greater development of social capital and of socio-economic inclusion. The panel consists of one academic researcher and one of the practitioners/ youth participant in the study who together will present particular aspects of the variety of ways effective music programs have been developed and can change the life path of youth at-risk for young people at risk.

It is hoped that a short demonstration of music work by some young people from Da Klinik workshops will complete the presentation.