

## **The Emergent Adult**

Madeleine Brens  
University of Cambridge Faculty of Education

**Title:** Female Young Offenders and the Impact of Arts Education

### **Abstract:**

This paper is based on work I am currently doing on as part of my doctoral research and combines my interests and past experience of working with arts education outreach programmes and art initiatives that target 'at risk youth'. The paper I am presenting investigates the role of arts education in the development of adolescents, specifically working with female young offenders, examining the impact interacting with artwork has on the outcomes of the programme. Recently, there has been an increase in research on female young offenders. However, few studies focus entirely on delinquent juvenile females which, I argue, contributes to the overall weakness and lack of understanding towards their specific needs and treatment factors. Addressing this weakness I examine whether taking part in an arts program and interacting with artwork has enhanced the positive effects which are said to come from making art, specifically in the experiences of female young offenders.