



#CTStakeover: Pensamiento y libertad (Venezuela)

Written by **Katie Brown** (University of Exeter)

On Thursday 24th October (2019), the project team from the Changing the Story Early Career Research Grant Project ‘Pensamiento y libertad (Venezuela)’ took over the Changing the Story Twitter account for the day.

In this takeover, the project team share the key findings from focus groups held in different municipalities across Miranda, Venezuela, with 15 to 25 year olds. These include what day-to-day life is like for young people, how political conflict affects their lives, families and communities, their hopes for change, and how they use images and music to conceptualise the conflict. The team also share their methodology for the first phase of the project, and how it will feed into the second phase of arts workshops.

You can follow all the posts uploaded throughout the takeover below:



On Thursday 24th October, the project team from the Changing the Story ECR Grant project, "Pensamiento y libertad (Venezuela)" took over Changing the Story's twitter feed to share more about their project, their team and where they work. Check out their day on our Twitter feed below! Find out more about the AHRC GCRF funded project 'Changing the Story: Building Inclusive Civil Societies With, and For, Young People in Post-Conflict Settings' here: <https://changingthestory.leeds.ac.uk>




Changing The Story
 @Changing_Story_



Good morning. Katie from the Pensamiento y Libertad project here. I'll be tweeting today about what we've been doing and what we've found so far. Please send your questions [#CTStwittertakeover](#)

 8 7:52 AM - Oct 24, 2019 

[See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)




Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_



Hoy es el Twitazo del proyecto Pensamiento y libertad. Compartiremos lo que hemos hecho hasta ahora, los desafíos y los hallazgos. Envíanos tus preguntas [#CTStwittertakeover](#)

6 7:54 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_



Pensamiento y Libertad brings together researchers from the Centro de Investigaciones Populares - [@mirlamargarita](#) [@jealflo](#) [@camposalexan](#) - [@DrKatieBrown](#) from [@ExeterModLangs](#) & the CSO Escuela de Teatro Musical de Petare led by [@VyanaPreti](#) & [@garcilasop](#)

14 7:59 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

The project has 2 phases: focus groups and arts workshops. With the focus groups, we wanted to understand what daily life is like for young people across Caracas, how conflict affects them, whether they feel free, and what they think their role can be in overcoming conflict

6 10:03 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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**Changing The Story** @Changing_Story_ · Oct 24, 2019 

Hoy es el Twitazo del proyecto Pensamiento y libertad. Compartiremos lo que hemos hecho hasta ahora, los desafíos y los hallazgos. Envíanos tus preguntas
[#CTStwittertakeover](#)

**Changing The Story**
@Changing_Story_

El proyecto tiene 2 fases: grupos focales y talleres de arte. Con los grupos focales, queríamos comprender cómo es la vida cotidiana de los jóvenes en Caracas, cómo los afecta el conflicto, si se sienten libres y cuál creen que puede ser su papel para superar el conflicto.

 10:04 AM - Oct 24, 2019 

 [See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#) 

**Kenya and Nepal 2019** @CTSKenyaNepal · Oct 24, 2019 

Replying to @Changing_Story_
Did you do much work with schools and teachers?

**Changing The Story**
@Changing_Story_

So far we haven't worked with schools or teachers. We have reached participants through youth groups, community centres, churches and our CSO, the Escuela de Teatro Musical de Petare.

 1 10:06 AM - Oct 24, 2019 

 [See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#) 

 **Changing The Story** @Changing_Story_ · 23h 
Replying to @Changing_Story_ and 7 others
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 **Changing The Story**
@Changing_Story_

The Centro de Investigaciones Populares have a long history of using 'life stories' as their methodology, getting people to talk about their daily lives and how this relates to larger questions (crime, violence, freedom, democracy). Creating empathy and trust is essential.

♡ 5 10:08 AM - Oct 24, 2019



 [See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)



 **Changing The Story** @Changing_Story_ · 23h 
Replying to @Changing_Story_
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 **Changing The Story**
@Changing_Story_

El CIP tiene mucha experiencia de 'historias de vida' como metodología, logrando que las personas hablen sobre su vida cotidiana y cómo esto se relaciona con preguntas más amplias (crimen, violencia, libertad, democracia). Crear empatía y confianza es esencial.

♡ 10:11 AM - Oct 24, 2019



 [See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)



 **Changing The Story** @Changing_Story_ · 23h 
Replying to @Changing_Story_ and 7 others
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 **Changing The Story**
@Changing_Story_

Focus groups were held in Guaicaipuro, Carrizal, Los Salias, Libertador, Petare, and Chapellín. The youngest participant was 15, the oldest was 28, and most were 16-19. The groups talked for on average two hours.

♥ 5 10:47 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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 **Changing The Story** @Changing_Story_ · 22h 
Replying to @Changing_Story_ and 7 others
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 **Changing The Story**
@Changing_Story_

We found the participants had very different life experiences, from not finishing school to being university students, from still living with parents to having children of their own, working or unemployed. These factors all influenced their responses about freedom & conflict.

♥ 6 10:49 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · 23h



Replying to @Changing_Story_

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Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

Se realizaron grupos focales en Guaicaipuro, Carrizal, Los Salias, Libertador, Petare y Chapellín. El participante más joven tenía 15 años, el mayor tenía 28 y la mayoría tenía 16-19. Los grupos hablaron durante un promedio de dos horas.

♡ 1 10:49 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · 22h



Replying to @Changing_Story_

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Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

Los participantes tuvieron experiencias de vida muy diferentes, desde no terminar la escuela hasta ser estudiantes universitarios; vivir con los padres o tener hijos propios; tener trabajo o no. Todos estos factores influyeron en sus respuestas sobre la libertad y el conflicto.

♡ 10:51 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story

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Here are some pictures of the focus groups underway around Caracas.

Aquí algunas fotos de los grupos focales en diferentes sectores de Caracas [#CTStwittertakeover](#)



♥ 3 11:19 AM - Oct 24, 2019



[See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)



Kenya and Nepal 2019 @CTSKenyaNepal · 23h



Replying to @Changing_Story_ and 7 others

Did your focus groups with young people generate discussions on notions of post-conflict civic values?



Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

There were discussions about what freedom means and what kind of political system the participants identify with, but not civic values (yet!). This could be something very useful to bring in to the upcoming workshops & we'll be looking to your project's work for inspiration.

♥ 2 11:24 AM - Oct 24, 2019



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Kenya and Nepal 2019

@CTSKenyaNepal



Replying to @mirlamargarita and 7 others

Young people anchoring community sense, connection and belonging. Yes!!

♥ 3 11:46 AM - Oct 24, 2019





Changing The Story
@Changing_Story_



When asked "How do you imagine the future?" the participants in Chapellín responded almost unanimously "Living here", "I love my country", "I dream of being FREE". We'll be exploring what freedom means and how it can be achieved in our workshops [#CTStwittertakeover](#) [twitter.com/mirlamargarita...](#)

Mirla Pérez @mirlamargarita

Replying to @CTSKenyaNepal and 7 others

Ante la pregunta: ¿Cómo se sueñan en el futuro? La respuesta casi unánime de nuestros jóvenes fue: "Viviendo aquí;" "me encanta mi país"; "me sueño LIBRE". Esto fue en Chapellín, un barrio del municipio Libertador.

3 12:21 PM - Oct 24, 2019



[See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)



Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · 21h



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Changing The Story
@Changing_Story_

Freedom is a central concept. It is what the participants most crave. They want "change, peace, everything available at a fair price". But when we asked what political systems they identified with this, most had very little frame of reference.

1 12:26 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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 **Changing The Story** @Changing_Story_ · 21h
Replying to @Changing_Story_
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 **Changing The Story**
@Changing_Story_

Anti-politics was very visible among many participants, who did not see any viable political alternatives. But they are not giving up. One participant said "Change is within us". In our workshops, we'd like to explore further what young people can do to bring about change.

♥ 1 12:29 PM - Oct 24, 2019



 [See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)



 **Vyana Preti**
@VyanaPreti



Replying to @mirlamargarita and 7 others

"The notions of civility, freedom and democracy can be thought by our young people in terms of family and community references. Memory has great power. Totalitarianism has not succeeded in its purpose."

[@mirlamargarita](#)

♥ 12:23 PM - Oct 24, 2019



 [See Vyana Preti's other Tweets](#)



 **Vyana Preti**
@VyanaPreti



Replying to @CTSKenyaNepal and 7 others

Not yet. But we will. We are planning a series of workshops about poetry, photography, and theater as vehicles of exploration not only about the concept of freedom but also about this visualization of the future. As Memory, imagination has great power.

♥ 3 12:36 PM - Oct 24, 2019



 [See Vyana Preti's other Tweets](#)





Vyana Preti
@VyanaPreti



Replying to @CTSKenyaNepal and 7 others

Aún no. Pero así será. Estamos planeando una serie de talleres sobre poesía, fotografía y teatro como vehículos de exploración no solo sobre el concepto de libertad sino también sobre esta visualización del futuro. Así como la memoria, la imaginación tiene un gran poder.

♡ 4 12:37 PM - Oct 24, 2019



 [See Vyana Preti's other Tweets](#)



Changing The Story
@Changing_Story_



The focus groups showed that many different levels of conflict, not just the political. Daily difficulties (especially shortages) lead to conflicts within families & communities, & risks of violence. These conflicts are not usually resolved.

♡ 2 1:05 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story
@Changing_Story_



Los grupos focales mostraron que existen muchos niveles diferentes de conflicto. Las dificultades cotidianas (especialmente la escasez) provocan conflictos dentro de las familias y las comunidades, y riesgos de violencia. Estos conflictos no suelen resolverse.

♡ 1:06 PM - Oct 24, 2019



 [See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)





Mirla Pérez
@mirlamargarita



Replying to @Changing_Story_

Las referencias directas se van borrando, por eso la memoria, la imaginación y la resistencia con propósito son fundamentales. La tarea de nuestra generación es hacer que la joven generación construyan esas nociones de libertad y democracia. ¡En Vzla esto tiene mucho valor!

♡ 12:48 PM - Oct 24, 2019



[See Mirla Pérez's other Tweets](#)



Changing The Story
@Changing_Story_



Isolation was a significant issue in the focus groups. Many participants spoke about spending most of their time at home, especially those no longer in education or work. The focus groups provided a safe space to talk about concerns and share experiences.

♡ 4 1:54 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story
@Changing_Story_



El aislamiento es un problema importante. Muchos participantes pasan la mayor parte de su tiempo en casa, especialmente aquellos que ya no están en educación o trabajo. Los grupos focales proporcionaron un espacio seguro para hablar sobre inquietudes y compartir experiencias.

♡ 1:55 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · 19h



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Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

In this respect, arts organisations can be extremely valuable. One of the focus groups was with students from the Escuela de Teatro Musical de Petare. They were very talkative! They described the theatre school as a place to be someone else, escape problems & have a new family.

♡ 2 2:23 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · 19h



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Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

Organizaciones artísticas pueden ser muy valiosas. Uno de los grupos focales fue con estudiantes de la Escuela de Teatro Musical de Petare. Eran muy habladores! Describieron la escuela como un lugar para ser otra persona, escapar de problemas y tener una nueva familia.

♡ 2:24 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_



When asked what was most important to them, most participants said their family. "Freedom for me means being able to be with family". Almost all of them had family members who have left the country because of the current conditions in Venezuela.

twitter.com/jealflo/status...



Jesus Flores @jealflo



@Changing_Story_ @DrKatieBrown @mirlamargarita



@camposalexan "Para mí la libertad significa poder



compartir con la familia". La separación familiar impuesta por las condiciones que genera la tiranía limita y elimina esa libertad.

♡ 3 2:29 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · 19h



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Jesus Flores @jealflo

@Changing_Story_ @DrKatieBrown @mirlamargarita @camposalexan "Para mí la libertad significa poder compartir con la familia". La separación familiar impuesta por las condiciones que genera la tiranía limita y elimina esa libertad.



Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

For the workshops, we'll be thinking about how to capture and build on intergenerational transmission of memories & histories, without pretending that everything was perfect in the past. We'd like to learn from the Mapping Community Heritage Project changingthestory.leeds.ac.uk/mapping_commun...



Mapping Community Heritage (Sout...

Project OverviewOver the next four years, Dr. Ly-Sok Kheang and colleagues from the Documentation Centre of Cambodia (DC-
changingthestory.leeds.ac.uk

♥ 4 2:32 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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**Changing The Story**

@Changing_Story_



Uncertainty conditions the daily lives of the young people we spoke to: "You don't know if you'll get home alive... you don't know who to believe in". We'd like to think about how to build trust and confidence in this context. twitter.com/camposalexan/s...

Alexander Campos @camposalexan

La incertidumbre vital se ha convertido en la base afectiva de nuestros jóvenes en Venezuela: "No sabes si vas a llegar vivo a tu casa... No sabes en quien creer" @Changing_Story @CTSKenyaNepal @DrKatieBrown @mirlamargarita @garcilasop @VyanaPreti

♥ 1 2:37 PM - Oct 24, 2019

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@Changing_Story_



Part of the focus groups asked participants to think creatively, to think of a colour, an image, a song to describe their feelings of the conflict. This gave us a baseline for creative activities in the upcoming workshops.

♥ 1 2:51 PM - Oct 24, 2019

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@Changing_Story_



Durante los grupos focales se les pidió a los participantes que pensarán creativamente, que pensarán en un color, una imagen, una canción para describir sus sentimientos sobre el conflicto. Esto nos dio una línea de base para actividades creativas en los próximos talleres.

♥ 2 2:51 PM - Oct 24, 2019

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**Changing The Story**

@Changing_Story_



Images of life in Venezuela given by the participants included "an unending wave", "trying to climb a mountain", "a river bursting its banks". A colour? "Grey, because it has some white in it and we always have to keep hope for a better future".

twitter.com/jealflo/status...**Jesus Flores** @jealflo

@Changing_Story_ "-¿Con qué caricatura representas lo que vives en el país? -Con una olla sin fondo... ¿Un color? Gris... porque tiene un poco de blanco y siempre tenemos que conservar la esperanza de un futuro mejor".

♥ 3 2:56 PM - Oct 24, 2019

[See Changing The Story's other Tweets](#)**Cristal Palacios Yumar** @CristalPalacios · 18h

Replying to @Changing_Story_

Hi! Do you have any published reports of this work? It sounds really interesting for my own research.

¡Gracias!

**Changing The Story**

@Changing_Story_

Not yet, but soon. We'll be writing a report to inform the workshops first, and then plan to publish an article on the whole project, as well as a more in depth analysis of the focus groups. There's a website coming too. We'll keep you informed.

♥ 2 3:07 PM - Oct 24, 2019

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Changing The Story @Changing_Story_ · 18h



Images of life in Venezuela given by the participants included "an unending wave", "trying to climb a mountain", "a river bursting its banks". A colour? "Grey, because it has some white in it and we always have to keep hope for a better future". twitter.com/jealflo/status...

Jesus Flores @jealflo

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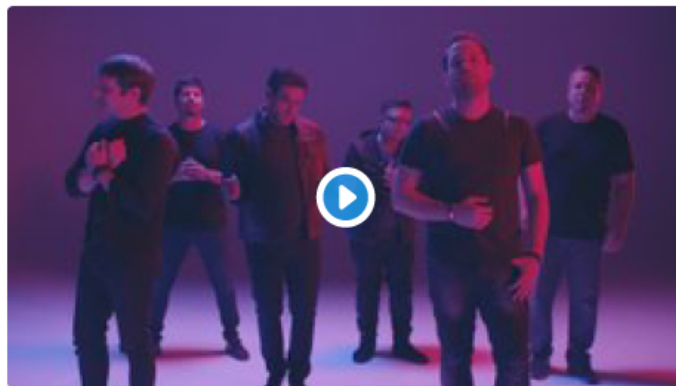


Changing The Story

@Changing_Story_

Song suggestions included 'Mis illusions' by San Luis, which includes the lyrics
"Venezuela por haberme dado tanto
Estoy contigo en la risa y en el llanto"
Venezuela, for having given me so much, I'm with you in laughter and in tears. youtube.com/watch?v=a6aqKk...

 **YouTube** @YouTube



♡ 2 3:12 PM - Oct 24, 2019



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**Changing The Story**

@Changing_Story_



What's next for Pensamiento y libertad? Focus groups using poetry, photography and theatre to explore ideas of freedom & to visualise the future + a dozen young people will receive training from a professional web designer & work to build a website [#CTStakeover](#)

♥ 4 3:54 PM - Oct 24, 2019

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@Changing_Story_



Thanks to everyone for questions & to Changing the Story for hosting us. Please stay in touch through our twitter accounts.

Gracias a todos por las preguntas y a nuestro anfitrión Changing the Story. Sigue en contacto con nosotros por Twitter.

Hasta luego!

Katie [#CTStakeover](#) [twitter.com/Changing_Story...](#)

Changing The Story @Changing_Story_

Pensamiento y Libertad brings together researchers from the Centro de Investigaciones Populares - @mirlamargarita @jealflo @camposalexan - @DrKatieBrown from @ExeterModLangs & the CSO Escuela de Teatro Musical de Petare led by @VyanaPreti & @garcilasop

♥ 4 4:39 PM - Oct 24, 2019

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TAGS: CONFLICT FOCUS GROUPS MUSIC TWITTER VENEZUELA

