

Timescapes Project 8

www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk

ABOUT TIMESCAPES

Timescapes is a large scale qualitative longitudinal study that explores how personal lives and family relationships develop and change over time. Our focus is on relationships with significant others: parents, grandparents, siblings, children, partners, friends and lovers.

THE TIMESCAPES ARCHIVE

The rich data from our projects is being gathered together to form a specialist resource for current and future use. Over 400 participants will be contributing data to the archive from our core projects and new affiliated projects will be adding more data over time as well as re-using the existing data. The archive includes:

- Qualitative, multi-media data (text, images, audio, video, drawings)
- Cumulative longitudinal data that gains in significance over time
- Accounts generated by participants as well as by researchers
- Detailed contextual material and search tools (field notes and methods files, analytical files, key word searching at case level)



INTEGRATING RESEARCH, ARCHIVING AND DATA RE-USE

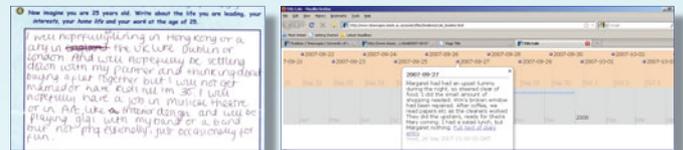
The Archive represents a unique collaboration between researchers, participants and archivists. Our researchers began planning for archiving at the start of data collection, for example, by producing high quality data for re-use and helping to design consent forms for participants. They have also tested out the browse, search and other functions of the archive to ensure the system is effective and easy to use.

A SECURE AND ACCESSIBLE RESOURCE

Our access arrangements enable the secure use of all data, even the most sensitive. There are four levels of access: data open to the public; data open to users who register by signing a standard licence; data open to approved users on a case-by-case basis; and embargoed data that is catalogued ready for use at a specified date in the future. Data in the archive is already in demand, particularly from our growing number of affiliated researchers. From 2010 we will be running training workshops to facilitate use of the archive.

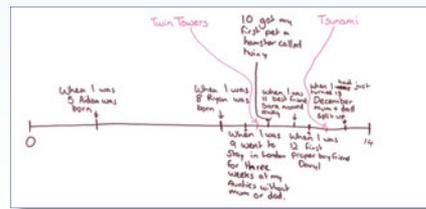
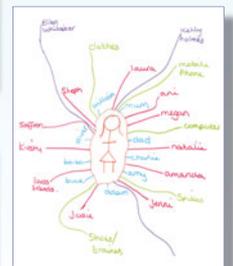
BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND HUMAN AGENCY

Our teams of qualitative researchers track individuals and family groups over time to gather their life histories and personal narratives. These rich and detailed accounts show the interior logic of people's lives and their journeys through the life course against a backdrop of historical change. In this way, Timescapes seeks to understand how social change is created, lived and experienced.



Data in the Timescapes Archive NOW (with much more to come...)

Project	Participants	Number who have contributed data	Types of materials	Number of files	File formats
P1 Siblings and friends	Young people 9-17	26	Handwritten text, interviews by post, notes to future historians, essays on 'my life to 20 years'	63	jpg, pdf
P2 Young Lives	Young people 10-15	18	Timescapes, relational maps, interviews, etc.	133	jpg, doc, mp3
P3 Dynamics of Motherhood	1st time mothers	62	Interviews	62	doc
P4 Masculinities, Identities and Risk	1st time fathers	16	Interviews (across 2 waves)	38	doc
P5 Work and Family Lives	Low-income and affluent families	1	Interviews	1	doc
P6 Inter-generational Exchange	Socially excluded, 2 generations families	0	Researchers' notes	1	doc
P7 The Oldest Generation	People aged 75+	12	Diary, email thread, summary materials for each interviewee	36	pdf
Promo CD	Various	10	Audio extracts	11	mp3
Heritage data-Involving Adults	Young people aged 16-18	20	Interviews (6-8 mins per person)	108	pdf
Artifacts					
1 Saval Shah	Three generations of disabled people	1	Interview, Audio recording	1	doc, wma
2 Carment-Lee	Chinese parents and children	20	Handwritten extracts from multiple interviews	3	doc
TOTAL		184		519	



LINKING LONGITUDINAL DATA TO PRODUCE ROBUST EVIDENCE

Timescapes is developing collaborative links with other national level datasets, both qualitative and quantitative (e.g. Understanding Society, National Child Development Study, and Mass Observation). Initiatives to link, share and re-use comparable data enable researchers to produce more robust research evidence and strengthen the impact of their findings. The collaboration between Timescapes and Understanding Society, for example, will enable broad evidence about demographic and family changes to be combined with in-depth insights into how and why such changes occur. This will strengthen the evidence base upon which to build effective long term policies to support children, parents, older people and family groups.