

## Doing Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Data

*A training workshop organised by ESRC Timescapes*



### Workshop aims

The workshop is designed to offer training in the method and practice of secondary analysis of qualitative data. It uses the new ESRC Timescapes Data Archive as a platform. We will offer a combination of presentations which demonstrate the Timescapes Data Archive and discuss our strategies for undertaking Secondary Analysis of qualitative data. We will also run a choice of linked practical sessions. Participants can gain direct experience of using the Timescapes Data Archive through a bespoke IT workshop, and participate in other practical sessions centring on issues of method and analysis in the re-use of qualitative and qualitative longitudinal data.

### Context

The value of secondary analysis of qualitative data is increasingly recognised in (and beyond) the UK research community. Qualitative data re-use provides a unique opportunity to study the raw materials of the recent or more distant past to gain insights for methodological, substantive and theoretical purposes. The workshop draws on the work of the ESRC Timescapes Qualitative Longitudinal Initiative: 'Changing lives and times: relationships and identities through the life course'. Timescapes comprises a range of activities including seven substantive research projects which focus on identities and social relationships across the life course, and are developing strategies for exploring and analysing temporality. The separate, but linked, projects are all an integral part of the Timescapes Archive of longitudinal qualitative data. This offers a rich resource for researchers and policy makers. The Timescapes Archive and the Secondary Analysis project have been developing strategies for the effective re-use of qualitative longitudinal data. The training workshop will build on the insights gained, and provide delegates with an in-depth and critical understanding of the method of secondary analysis.

## About the workshop

The day will consist of a number of presentations and participants will attend 2 different practical sessions which they will choose in advance. The workshop is suitable for academic and non-academic researchers, and policy makers seeking to learn more about data re-use. Participants will be expected to have a grounding in qualitative research methodologies.

## Programme

9.30am	Registration
10.00am	<b><i>Introduction: Secondary Analysis and Timescapes</i></b> Professor Bren Neale / Professor Janet Holland
10.15am	<b><i>The Timescapes Archive: data re-use in practice</i></b> Dr. Libby Bishop
10.45am	<b><i>Epistemology and ethics in data sharing and analysis: a critical overview</i></b> Professor Joanna Bornat
11.15am	Coffee
11.30am	<b><i>Practical workshop (Choice of three)</i></b>
12.30pm	<b><i>Plenary 1:</i></b> Review and discussion of morning sessions, including workshops (all presenters and participants)
1.00pm	Lunch
1.45pm	<b><i>The question of context in secondary analysis</i></b> Dr. Mandy Winterton
2.15pm	<b><i>Strategies for developing analyses working across data sets</i></b> Dr. Sarah Irwin
2.45pm	<b><i>Practical workshop (Choice of three)</i></b>
3.45pm	<b><i>Plenary 2:</i></b> Review and discussion (all presenters and participants)
4.15pm	Tea and close

Participants will choose 2 of the 3 available workshops when they register. For further details on the workshop summaries and abstracts, please see below.

## Who is the course for?

The workshop is suitable for academic and non-academic researchers who are contemplating, or already using, secondary analysis within their research. The workshop also caters for those from different disciplines. The level is intermediate, that is we expect a grounding in, and familiarity with, qualitative research methods.

## How to apply?

Places are limited because of the hands-on nature of the workshop, we therefore recommend early registration. To apply for a place, fill in an application form and return it to us via post or email. Electronic copies of the form can be downloaded from [www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk).

The workshop fee is £30. Payment can be made in either cash or cheque and is non-refundable for non-attendance.

Participants must meet their own travel and subsistence costs.

## Venues and Dates

*These are repeat workshops, spread around the UK to facilitate access.*

### **Edinburgh: Monday 28th March 2011**

Edinburgh Training Centre, 16 St. Mary's Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SU

### **Leeds: Friday 1st April 2011**

University House, University Rd, University of Leeds, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 9JS

### **London: Tuesday 5th April 2011**

London South Bank University, Keyworth Centre, Keyworth Street, London, SE1 6NG

## Contact Details

The workshop is organised by Timescapes, an ESRC funded qualitative longitudinal study. For further details on the workshops please contact:

**Sarah Finney**, Research Communications Officer **tel:** 0113 343 8489 **email:** [S.J.Finney@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.J.Finney@leeds.ac.uk)

## **Practical workshop sessions:**

### ***A: Demonstration of Timescapes Archive***

This workshop will offer a practical hands-on session in which participants will gain insights into the nature and scope of the Archive, and learn how to access and explore different kinds of data held within it. Users will work alone or in pairs on their own workstations. There will be a set of exercises covering all basic functions of the archive: browsing, simple and advanced searching, and downloading data. In addition, special features of the archive will be demonstrated, such as the handling of multi-media files and the use of contextual, descriptive documentation that is available for some of the Timescapes data.

### ***B: Doing secondary analysis: the example of Timescapes data on life course, social relationships and temporality***

Participants will engage with qualitative data drawn from the Timescapes projects and will address a series of questions relating to research methodology, and the doing of secondary analysis with qualitative, and qualitative longitudinal, data.

### **C. Methodological issues arising in conversations between primary and secondary analysts**

Participants will engage with samples of one another's qualitative data. As temporary secondary analysts they will discuss their own interpretations and analytic reflections. These will be brought into conversation with the analytic reflections of the primary analyst. The groups will then explore a series of methodological issues arising from these exchanges.

Participants choosing option (C) will be required to submit (brief) sample data in advance, some notes on context, and a summary of their own analytic and methodological and reflections. As with Workshop B, the workshop is designed to draw out general methodological lessons for secondary analysis, and will be of interest to all participants. More detailed guidance will be sent to participants opting for Workshop C

***For Workshops B and C, data will be prepared and issued in advance and participants will be asked to do a preliminary reading of (brief) data extracts.***

### **Presentation abstracts:**

#### ***Introduction: Secondary Analysis and Timescapes***

Professor Bren Neale, Director of Timescapes

Professor Janet Holland, Co-Director of Timescapes

One of the Timescapes Directors will provide an overview of Secondary Analysis and Timescapes, and give an introduction to the workshop.

#### ***The Timescapes Archive: data re-use in practice***

Dr Libby Bishop, Senior Research Archivist, Timescapes, University of Leeds

This presentation will introduce and provide an overview of the Timescapes Archive of qualitative longitudinal data. The strategic development of the Archive will be explained, including its stakeholder model and the significance of that model for data archiving more generally. The presentation will explain a number of the key ideas guiding the Archive's development: how it is gathering together the rich data generated through the seven empirical projects into a composite resource for sharing and re-use; its design as a multimedia resource, giving equal consideration to textual, audio and visual data; and its inclusion of research outputs and an extensive array of descriptive documentation to enable the personal accounts of participants to be placed in historical, geographical and cultural contexts. The talk will conclude with a brief demonstration of the functions of the archive and how to gain access to the data it holds.

#### ***Epistemology and ethics in data sharing and analysis: a critical overview***

Professor Joanna Bornat, Open University, and Director of the Timescapes Secondary Analysis Strand

The re-use of archived interview data opens up exciting possibilities including revisiting the past; theory development; comparing methods; asking new questions and engaging with the practice and mindsets of earlier researchers. In doing so we are forced to consider how and when knowledge is produced and to debate whether it is real or constructed or can exist independently of context. The process of reuse also raises ethical questions of ownership and consent on the part of participants and the integrity and reputation of the original researcher. The presentation will cover these and other points, drawing on examples from Timescapes and other projects.

***The question of context in secondary analysis,***

Dr. Mandy Winterton, Research Fellow, Timescapes Secondary Analysis Project, University of Leeds

The presentation will reflect on some of the dilemmas that arise when trying to make inroads into data collected by other researchers and for a previous purpose. It will use practical examples from the Timescapes Secondary Analysis Project to show how the issue of context and recontextualisation is negotiated in the process of SA. The paper will reveal the ways in which SA of existing data is able to reveal valuable sociological insight laying latent within earlier data. In so doing it will illustrate how the practice of SA requires researchers to develop a critical understanding of the contextual dynamics involved in the production of meaning. Thus the paper shows the additional resources that SA can hold for researchers, over and above the discovery of new data.

***Strategies for developing analyses working across data sets***

Dr. Sarah Irwin, Reader in Sociology, University of Leeds, and Director of the Timescapes Secondary Analysis Project

The presentation will explore strategies for undertaking secondary analysis across the Timescapes data sets, providing insights into their contents but also drawing general lessons in the doing of secondary analysis. It will consider the scope for making links with *quantitative* data sets, but will take as a focus issues arising in working across diverse *qualitative* data sets. It will consider scope, and strategies, for addressing research questions making use of the Timescapes data sets. It will map a range of issues relating to sampling, analytic strategies, theory building and social explanation.