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## Life and how we live it

A new £4.5 million study at Leeds will track the lives and loves of 400 ordinary people – from the cradle to the grave. **Page 7**



# Life and how we live it

Lives and loves, friends and family, getting together and breaking up – the whole sweep of human relationships from the cradle to the grave will be explored in a £4.5 million study led by Dr Bren Neale in the School of Sociology and Social Policy.

For five years, the Timescapes study will track a diverse mix of 400 ordinary people, building up a valuable database about their lives through interviews, observations, photos, videos and audio diaries, turning a series of 'snapshots' into a 'movie' of modern life.

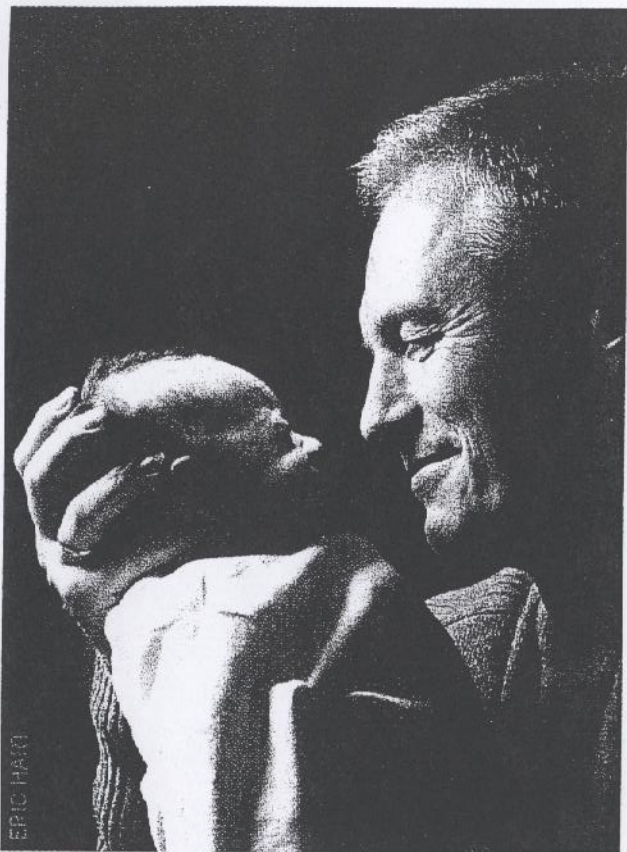
Dr Neale said: "Because this is about ordinary, everyday lives, it has an appeal and a relevance to everyone. The ups and downs of life, the challenges that people face, the

choices they make, will be immediately understandable ... It will be like walking alongside people as their lives unfold."

She said the study, which is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, will answer some key questions about how people's relationships affect their life chances, reaction to world events, and major decisions.

The data will form a new 'Timescapes Archive' at the University of Leeds, which could also be used to inform policy-making, particularly in health and social care.

The research also involves researchers from London South Bank, Cardiff, Edinburgh and The Open University.



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