ESRC End of Award Report
For awards ending on or after 1 November 2009

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Please refer to the Guidance notes when completing this End of Award Report.

Grant Reference	RES 437 25 0003		
Grant Title	Changing Lives and Times: Relationships and Identities Through the Life course (Timescapes).		
Grant Start Date	1ˢᵗ Feb 2007	**Total Amount Expended:**	£4,843,551.46
Grant End Date	31 May 2012		
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Executive Summary

The broad aim of ESRC Timescapes was to advance Qualitative Longitudinal (QL) research, create an archive of QL data for sharing, and promote and showcase the re-use of the resource. This was achieved through a network of empirical projects, the creation of the Timescapes Archive, a secondary analysis programme and a range of training and capacity building activities. The network of projects, conducted by researchers from five universities, was the test bed for advancing QL research. Spanning the life course, the projects have produced new insights into the dynamics of personal relationships and family life. By 'walking alongside' individuals and family groups as their lives unfold, the research has captured the intricacies of biographical and intergenerational processes, and explored how personal lives intersect with the broader sweep of historical change. The extensive outputs include research monographs, edited collections, journal articles, special issues of journals, policy briefings, methods guides, exhibitions, and website resources including video and audio files and an ethics knowledge bank.

The rich datasets from the projects have been gathered together to form the Timescapes Archive. This unique, multi-media resource of QL data was created using a stakeholder model of archiving that seeks to integrate research and archiving, and primary and secondary methods. We set up a network of affiliated projects to 'grow' the archive and with a commitment to work across the primary/secondary research interface. Our secondary analysis researchers have undertaken groundbreaking work to showcase the use of the Timescapes resource, to explore and advance methods of secondary analysis, and to build a culture of data sharing and re-use based on stakeholder ethics. We have also set up an international network for the archiving of QL and Qualitative data (EQUALAN) which is spreading these messages across Europe. These represent major achievements of the programme.

As the initiative comes to an end, the work of Timescapes continues. Projects are seeking funding to extend the historical reach of their research, build secondary analysis into their research designs, and engage with knowledge exchange initiatives. To date one project has received further funding (Following Young Fathers, Lau and Neale). Substantive, theoretical and methodological dissemination is ongoing, including an edited collection for Palgrave and the Sage Handbook of Longitudinal Research. With support from NCRM, Timescapes researchers continue to build capacity in QL methods and deliver training, with requests now extending across Europe. Events in 2012 include a secondary analysis workshop, a knowledge exchange conference, a methods symposium at the BSA annual conference, and QL training workshops in Vienna and Amsterdam. Further training workshops are scheduled for the next academic year with support from NCRM. The Timescapes website will continue to be maintained as a resource for QL research. Building on these development, a new ESRC Network for Methodological Innovation (led by Thomson, with Timescapes and other colleagues), will advance QL research in new areas of scholarship. The Timescapes Archive remains open, with support from our project partners (UK Data Archive and the University of Leeds Library). Under the aegis of the new UK Data Service, we will seek further funding to maintain and develop the resource. Additionally, our European network, EQUALAN, has secured funding for an international workshop and in 2013 will bid for funds to advance its work across Europe.

More broadly, QL research is flourishing. Over the course of the five years, we have supported the design and development of over 50 QL projects, and acted as a magnet for the development of many more. The method is now being applied across a wide range of disciplines, with studies funded across the research councils, including the EPSRC, and commissioned through major research charities and government departments throughout the UK and internationally. Timescapes has acted as a catalyst for this growth, ensuring that QL research can take its place as an established method of social enquiry.

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1. Non-technical summary

Please provide below a project summary written in non-technical language. The summary may be used by us to publicise your work and should explain the aims and findings of the project.

Timescapes was funded under the ESRC Changing Lives and Times initiative (2007-12). The broad aim of the initiative was to scale up and promote Qualitative Longitudinal (QL) research, create an archive of QL data for preservation and sharing, and to demonstrate and encourage re-use of the resource. QL research - qualitative enquiry conducted through or in relation to time - is a theoretical orientation as much as a method of empirical research. It is part of a rich ethnographic tradition that spans a diverse range of disciplines. Timescapes – complex flows of time – signifies an approach to research that engages with the temporal dimensions of experience in all their rich diversity. At the outset of our programme QL research was under-developed and datasets were scattered and unavailable for sharing. However, the approach is gaining recognition as a distinctive way of knowing and understanding the social world, based on discerning the 'interior logic' of lives as they unfold. Researchers are increasingly seeking to incorporate QL methods into their research design. A growing number of studies, ranging from the lived experience of welfare reform to the dynamics of transport and energy, are being funded by government, the funding councils and the main UK charities. This growth reflects a need to better understand change and continuity in the social world, the processes by which change occurs, and the agency of individuals in shaping or accommodating to these processes (Neale, 2011). Understanding how and why change is created, lived and experienced is particularly important in policy contexts where the effectiveness of new policies or interventions needs to be assessed, or where individuals or organisations are required to change their practices or adapt to changing circumstances. The Timescapes initiative was a part of the developments outlined above, and has since fuelled significant advances in QL research, archiving and data re-use.

Relationships and Identities through the Life course: Empirical Research

Timescapes was founded on seven empirical projects with substantive, conceptual and policy related connections and synergies, using the organising principle of the life course. The projects were directed by leading exponents of QL methods, drawn from five universities (Leeds, London South Bank, Open University, Cardiff and Edinburgh), and from different disciplines (sociology, social policy, psycho-social research, oral history and sociology of health). The seven projects span the life course, investigating siblings and friendship relationships in childhood and youth; the unfolding lives of teenagers; motherhood across the generations; men as fathers; family-work balance in families with young children; grandparents and social exclusion; and the lives of the oldest generation. The projects have explored time as a theoretical category as well as a methodological and ethical strategy. A particular focus has been the interconnections between three timescapes, or flows of time: biographical, generational and historical. The projects have generated useful knowledge for policy and practice concerning the dynamics of care and support in personal life and the long term resourcing of families.

Archiving

Data from the projects were gathered together to form the Timescapes Archive, a multi-media resource held in an institutional repository at the University of Leeds. The resource (which holds 9 rich datasets) was developed in collaboration with the UK Data Archive, of which it is a satellite, using a stakeholder model that seeks to bring research and archiving into closer alignment. A dedicated archiving project was designed to explore effective ways of presenting and contextualising complex QL datasets for temporal analysis and re-use. We developed a

network of affiliated QL projects to both 'grow' and use the resource, thereby developing the interface between primary and secondary research.

Secondary Analysis

The programme enabled us to pioneer innovative methods for re-using QL data and build capacity in secondary QL analysis. At the outset of Timescapes, the re-use of qualitative archived data was still a relatively uncommon approach in the social sciences, with very few QL datasets available for re-use. The availability of such data opens up the potential for cumulative and historical analyses of social processes, and for bringing cross-project data together to broaden the evidence base. We have advanced this field through a dedicated secondary analysis project, residential meetings, seminars and conference symposia, data sharing workshops, partnerships between primary and secondary researchers, a suite of training events and a range of publications and other outputs. In the process we have generated lively debate, methodological innovation and substantive contributions to knowledge.

Findings and Impact of the Programme.

The extensive publications and outputs produced across our projects and strands of work reflect a wide ranging contribution to substantive, policy related, theoretical and methodological scholarship, and to research infrastructure. From different disciplinary perspectives, the empirical projects have contributed substantive knowledge on the dynamics of personal relationships and family life, and have engaged actively with policy debates and practice developments. Extensive work has been undertaken to build capacity in QL methodology, and our achievements in the fields of archiving and secondary data analysis have contributed to a step change in the culture of data sharing and re-use in the UK and internationally.

2. Project overview

a) Objectives

Please state the aims and objectives of your project as outlined in your proposal to us.

We proposed to meet the broad aims of the ESRC Changing Lives and Times Qualitative Longitudinal Initiative through a scaled up empirical research programme; the creation of the Timescapes Archive, founded on datasets from the empirical research; and a secondary analysis programme that showcased and promoted data sharing and re-use. Our detailed aims and objectives were:

1. **Substantive:** to generate new knowledge on the dynamic and relational processes of growing up, forming and transforming relationships, shaping identities, bearing and rearing children, living in families, growing older and dying, drawing on the accounts of varied samples of people across the generations. To achieve this through an interdisciplinary network of qualitative longitudinal projects that span the life course.
2. **Policy and Professional Practice:** to produce useful knowledge on the influence of these dynamic processes on people's life chances, health and well being, and on intergenerational support and the long term resourcing of families; to disseminate this knowledge in relevant arenas to influence policy agendas and practice.
3. **Theoretical/Conceptual Development:** to contribute new theoretical insights on the temporal dimensions of social experience, and on processes of social change and

continuity, through an exploration of three inter-related Timescapes or flows of time: biographical, historical, and generational.

4. **Archiving:** to establish a specialist Archive of Timescapes data, linked to the 'live' study, for research, teaching and for long term preservation; to create a flourishing resource for re-use.

5. **Secondary Analysis & Re-use:** to advance the secondary analysis of QL data and build a community of users for the Timescapes Archive through knowledge exchange, affiliation, partnerships, promotion and training.

6. **Methodological Advance:** to showcase, scale up and build capacity in Qualitative Longitudinal research methods, both primary and secondary, and develop ethical protocols and good practice guidance for QL research, archiving and data re-use.

7. **Impact:** to create substantive, policy related, conceptual and methodological impact, both nationally and internationally, through communication, promotion, knowledge exchange and networking.
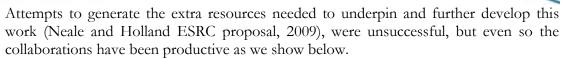
b) Project Changes

Please describe any changes made to the original aims and objectives, and confirm that these were agreed with us. Please also detail any changes to the grant holder's institutional affiliation, project staffing or funding.

The broad aims and objectives of Timescapes remained constant over the period of funding. However, in consultation with ESRC, new strategies for achieving our aims and refinements to our methods were sought and/or introduced as the study progressed.

- In order to extend the longitudinal reach of our project data, we wished to archive the heritage data that had been generated in the five Timescapes projects that were originally funded prior to 2007. We were granted funding from the ESRC to prepare these data for archiving (Neale and Holland 2008, £32,760 80% fEC, shared between projects 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6).

- The empirical projects were funded over different periods of time, with most running over a two to three year period and coming to an end between 2010 and early 2011. A proposal to ESRC Research and Resources Board (Neale and Holland 2009, £688,945 100% fEC) to extend the life of the projects, and bring them into closer integration through a set of research questions around health, wealth and family fortunes, was unsuccessful. However, where possible, no-cost extensions were arranged to enable the projects to continue limited aspects of their work and sustain their contribution to the cross cutting programme.

- The archiving project, Making the Long View, based on the Inventing Adulthoods study, was granted funding to revisit a sub-sample of young people from Northern Ireland (Sheena McGrellis, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2008-2010 £54,604) (*Growing up in Northern Ireland,* www.jrf.org.uk). Further waves of data generation had not been anticipated for Inventing Adulthoods during the lifetime of Timescapes, but this new funding re-invigorated the project and resulted in new substantive insights and the enrichment of the Inventing Adulthoods longitudinal dataset for archiving (McGrellis 2011).

- As part of our secondary analysis work, and in line with ESRC advice, we wished to enhance the potential for data sharing and cross project analysis between QL and Quantitative Longitudinal (QNL) datasets. At the outset, we sought collaborations through our advisory group with two major datasets: Understanding Society/British Household Panel Study and the National Child Development Study, 1958 cohort.

Attempts to generate the extra resources needed to underpin and further develop this work (Neale and Holland ESRC proposal, 2009), were unsuccessful, but even so the collaborations have been productive as we show below.

- Our network of affiliated projects was designed at the outset to build a community of users for the Timescapes Archive, with interests in the substantive topics of the study. However, researchers sought affiliation with Timescapes for a broad range of reasons, ranging from collaborations on substantive research, to methodological support. In the latter case, we received requests for support from projects across a range of topic areas that straddle the funding councils (including AHRC and EPSRC). Researchers sought to combine primary and secondary qualitative research rather than develop proposals solely for secondary data use; and they were interested in both depositing and using data in the Timescapes Archive under a model of data sharing. The affiliation scheme therefore developed to accommodate these wider interests, enabling a broadening of the scope of the Timescapes Archive to hold QL datasets from a wider range of studies.

- We sought to enrich the international context for our archiving work through collaborations with CESSDA (Council for European Social Science Data Archives) and the Bremen Life Course Archive. We secured matched funding from CESSDA (£5,000) to run a residential workshop on QL and Qualitative archiving in Europe (reported further below).

- Our public engagement work was enhanced through a partnership with BBC Memoryshare, enabling us to generate and tag data from the public on family and life course themes for the BBC site.

- We secured a no cost extension from ESRC for four months (February to May 2012). This enabled us to consolidate work on the archive, including the ingest of data from a major affiliated study; to complete field research with a sub-sample of young fathers in project 2; to run a professional impact event for project 6 in collaboration with the Grandparents Association and Grandparents Plus; to update our website and to complete and launch our methods guides series at a symposium at the BSA annual conference (Leeds April 2012).

- Budget Revisions: During the project lifetime there have been virements of funds into Salaries DI to cover additional costs that have arisen in this area. Almost all of this funding was transferred from the Other DI budget, as funding was not needed for consultancy with UKDA and generic support for archiving and training in sound recording. The actual costs incurred for archive data storage and minor equipment/consumables/software were less than originally budgeted. Cardiff incurred extra Salaries DI costs in order to continue and consolidate a small exploratory project. Edinburgh incurred extra Salaries DI costs for one of their researchers who worked on knowledge exchange publications. At LSBU and Leeds virements were made to cover the additional cost of moving on to the new pay scale. The awarded value was based on salaries prior to the move on to new pay scales. In accordance with RCUK guidance the partners intended to claim for the additional costs of moving on to the new pay scale at the end of the grant and in addition to the awarded value. As the project progressed it was possible to identify other DI budget available to cover these costs and remain within budget. The awarded values for salaries were also low in comparison to real pay awards in the earlier years of Timescapes, and Neale received her planned promotion earlier than originally envisaged. Leeds also incurred extra salary costs during the 4 month extension period. Following the announcement of ESRC budget reductions in 2010, we revised our budget accordingly and with no appreciable detriment to the delivery of the project.

Grant holders' affiliation: These have been remarkably stable. Two co-investigators (Bornat and Backett-Milburn) retired during the period of the grant. Their roles were taken over by Caroline Holland (OU) and Jeni Harden (Edinburgh), although both researchers retained their commitment to the central programme through their teams and institutions. Edwards moved from LSBU to Southampton (December 2010) but continued her Timescapes work through LSBU; while Thomson moved to Sussex from the OU towards the end of the programme (January 2012).

Project staffing: Staffing has also been stable across the initiative. In most cases, researchers were retained in post throughout the projects and contributed publications beyond the end of their contracts. Four research staff moved during projects and were subsequently replaced (Finn, Cardiff; Mellor, Leeds; Camacho and Holder, LSBU). The central administrative team underwent some changes. One staff member took early retirement after long-term sick leave, another left after her maternity leave, while an administrative officer who was appointed in 2010 with a communications remit, took up a marketing post during 2011. These changes resulted in some delays to projects and activities, and modifications to our communications plans, but were managed with little damage to the study as a whole.

c) Methodology

Please describe the methodology that you employed in the project. Please also note any ethical issues that arose during the course of the work, the effects of this and any action taken.

Timescapes is a methodological and resource driven initiative. We describe below some of the challenges and potential of QL methods and ethics, and give examples of our methodological contributions. We go on to describe the design of our empirical projects and present an overview of the methods used and data produced. Finally, we detail the methods used in our archiving and secondary analysis strands of work.

Methods and Ethics for QL Research

Timescapes researchers have refined and advanced QL methods and ethics in numerous dimensions of the research process. QL research is methodologically diverse and flexible, enabling a tracking of lives either intensively or extensively over varied time intervals and periods. Whatever the design, QL research is intricate. It involves complex links between temporal theory and method, balancing sample breadth and temporal depth, sustaining long term fieldwork and participant-researcher relationships; using varied methods to generate temporal data in the field; managing large multi-media datasets; and engaging in three-dimensional analyses (repeat cross-sectional analysis, case-based longitudinal analysis, and iterations between the two). The research process is cumulative and cyclical rather than linear: for example, developing a sampling frame, seeking informed consent, data management and cumulative analyses of data, are not 'one off' processes. Since samples and circumstances change, and data accrue over time, these processes need to be revisited at each wave of data generation. We have produced a range of outputs on QL methodology (e.g. McLeod and Thomson 2009; Thomson *et al* (eds) 2009; Harden *et al* 2010, Shirani and Weller (eds.) (2010); Henwood, Neale and Holland (eds.) 2012; Edwards and Weller (2012 and in press); Thomson 2012; Henderson *et al* 2012; Henwood and Shirani (in press); Henwood, Shirani and Finn (2011)). Our web resources on QL methods include a comprehensive methods guides series ((Neale and Henwood (eds) 2012), and films and videos produced in collaboration with the University of Leeds, Sage, and Methods at Manchester (www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/resources). Project 3 has developed an online digital output that animates the methods used.

The ethics of QL Research Researching qualitatively through time raises important ethical considerations. While these are not exclusive to QL research, the process of conducting qualitative research longitudinally, and of engaging with time as a topic of enquiry, heightens particular ethical issues. The challenges are magnified in relation to the tenor, flux and recurrent nature of the QL research process, requiring ethical reasoning and practice to be temporally situated. For example, well established ethical considerations such as informed consent and confidentiality for participants, take on new meaning when considered as long term processes. Similarly, the elongated time frames create long term relationships between researchers and participants that need careful consideration over time. Consent for research participation and for archiving may be differently 'informed' when the future direction of a project or the use of data may be flexible, subject to change or unknown; yet a continual revisiting of consent may become a burden on participants and create instability. Case study data can reveal inconsistencies and silences (missing data) across accounts gathered at different points in time (Harden *et al* 2010), raising questions about the ethical interpretation and representation of the data. In considering issues such as these, time is a complicating factor, but also a resource for facilitating ethical practice (Neale and Hanna 2012). While drawing on broad ethical frameworks and principles, both in the design and conduct of QL research, our approach in Timescapes reflects a commitment to situated or emergent ethics. This has particular relevance for longitudinal enquiry because it entails engaging with ethical issues as they arise and as ongoing processes, with scope to reconfigure ethical protocols and refine practices as a study progresses.

The archiving and re-use of QL datasets brings with it new considerations concerning the ethical and scientific relationship between primary and secondary research. We addressed these in Timescapes through a model of stakeholder ethics, taking into account the central interests of primary and secondary teams, alongside the wider interests of funders, research participants and the public good. A range of ethical considerations, spanning QL research and archiving, have been addressed in our publications (e.g. Hadfield 2010; Henderson *et al* 2012; Henwood 2012; Neale, Henwood and Holland 2012; Irwin, Bornat and Winterton 2012, Neale and Bishop 2012; Weller and Edwards 2012; Irwin and Winterton 2012, forthcoming). Web resources on ethics include two guides in our methods guides series (Neale and Hanna 2012; Neale and Bishop 2012); and a knowledge bank, designed to share good practice on ethical protocols and decision making, and the management of un-anticipated dilemmas that arise in the course of QL research (www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/resources/ethics).

Examples of our methodological and ethical work are presented below:

- **Sustaining Relationships in the field (project 6).** The Inter-Generational Exchange project (Hemmerman, 2010 working paper series no.2) challenges the usual boundaries of relationship maintenance and raises the ethical issue of emotional risk for researchers. Building relationships of trust with disadvantaged participants and the agencies that support them is vital, yet in a longitudinal context trust can be fragile and subject to change. There is a need to be continuously flexible and 'field ready' to gain access, while sample maintenance becomes a continuous process of frequent, informal visits. Responding ethically to need in this context may lead to over-involvement in the provision of support. The project raises questions about the 'depth' of access that should be maintained with highly vulnerable groups and the need to clarify limits of researcher support at the outset. At the same time it reveals the power of QL research to build sustained partnerships between researchers, participants and local agencies, which can bear fruit in tackling the problems of access and of social exclusion itself.

- **Non-verbal Representations of Time (across projects).** Timescapes projects have developed innovative techniques for 'capturing' diverse dimensions of time in the field and for representing time analytically – thereby making tangible a concept that is hard to articulate using talk and text alone. These range from participant observation and experiential methods, such as walking interviews and 'day in the life' tracking, to visual and diagrammatic representations of time - timelines and life history grids (see Henwood and Shirani 2012, Thomson 2012, and Hanna and Lau 2012 www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk). The Men as Fathers team (project 4), for example, developed visual narrative techniques using photographic images to investigate biographical and historical changes in perceptions of fatherhood (Henwood, Finn and Shirani, 2008; Henwood and Shirani 2012).

- **Making the Long View: Sharing the Inventing Adulthoods Project (Archiving project).** Building upon an earlier project (funded under the ESRC QUADS programme), Making the Long View (MLV) addressed the ethical and practical challenge of representing, contextualising and sharing data from the Inventing Adulthoods study. This dataset, which documents the lives of young people as they journey into adulthood, was generated through repeat biographical interviews over a 10 year period starting in 1996. QL research is notorious for creating huge volumes of temporal data and their management for re-analysis is a key consideration. MLV established a distinctive way of working with data to create 'the long view' and set gold standards for the preparation of QL data for archiving. Forty longitudinal cases were constructed and prepared for archiving. An important element of the project was the development of case history methodology, through which individual 'archives' (a corpus of longitudinal data relating to one case) are transformed into analytic narratives. Drawing on their earlier work in this area (Thomson 2007; 2010 working paper series no. 3) the team produced 10 new case histories, focusing on the lives of young people growing up in Northern Ireland through a period of political and social change (McGrellis 2011). The histories provide fresh insights into the lived experience of social change, with direct relevance to policy-makers, as well as extending methodological understandings concerning the representation and writing-up of QL data. The team has explored different approaches to case history methodology, focusing on sequence, voice and motif, as well as engaging with debates concerning ethics, validity and generalisability (Henderson, Holland *et al* 2012).

- **The Ethics of Archiving 'Family' Data (project 1).** A process of working out 'the proper thing to do' can be facilitated by consultation on ethical issues and the sharing of good practice. In 2009, Edwards and Weller consulted with their advisory group and the Timescapes team on an ethical issue that had arisen in the **Siblings and Friends** project. Following the unexpected death of a teenage participant, who had given verbal consent for archiving, the team considered whether further consent was needed from the family and whether any data could be made available to family members in a way that would not violate confidentiality or cause harm. A strategy was worked out in the context of knowledge about the particular family. After discussion with the young man's mother, the team presented her with a CD of selected recordings from her son's interview material. She was also able to record her memories of her son, which now form part of the archived material (Weller and Edwards 2012; Ethics Knowledge Bank: www.timescapes.ac.uk).

Empirical Project Design: Relationships and Identities through the Life Course

The seven empirical projects in Timescapes were devised to track varied samples of individuals and inter-generational groups over time, exploring changes and continuities in their personal and family relationships and identities. The projects were located in diverse geographical and cultural settings in England, Wales and Scotland. Collectively, they spanned the life course, documenting the lives of children and young people (projects 1-2), parents (projects 3-5), and older people (projects 6-7).

The projects addressed individual research questions, as well as temporal and policy related questions that were common to the programme (Neale 2007). Five of the projects (1, 2, 3, 4, 6), followed up pre-existing samples from earlier funded research, thereby extending the longitudinal reach of the study. Sample boosting took place where needed. In three cases (3, 5, 7) an inter-generational design was adopted, enabling a more in-depth understanding of linked lives and generational time within families. Using the logic of theoretical sampling, samples were established or refined to ensure the inclusion of a diverse range of familial relationships, circumstances and experiences, along with variations in age, gender, ethnicity, class background and access to resources. Sample sizes varied across the projects; those teams working with smaller samples or with intergenerational groups were able to follow samples more intensively and/or use a wider range of techniques in the field. The projects were designed in collaboration with project partners drawn from relevant policy and practitioner communities, with the aim of increasing societal impact.

Methods of data generation were tailored to the aims and disciplinary focus of the individual projects, and the nature of the samples, but in each case in-depth interviews were used to gather contemporaneous, life history and futures data, and to explore continuities and changes. Projects drew selectively on a palette of ethnographic methods to generate rich temporal data. These included: life history, object-based, conversational and inter-generational interviewing; recursive interviewing (sharing past interview data with participants at follow up); accounts of individual turning points and imagined futures; the use of timelines, temporal grids, relational maps and cultural commentaries; diaries and memory books; visual methods such as drawings, video diaries, photo elicitation and the use of historical and contemporary images; focus groups, web networking (online discussion groups and interactive websites); and participant observation (walking interviews and day-in-a-life tracking). Projects often combined two or more complementary methods (e.g. aural and visual methods, life histories with diaries) to good effect.

The projects combined repeat cross-sectional with longitudinal case-based analysis, building up histories of particular cases over time and comparing these with other cases in an incremental and iterative process. Varied analytical techniques and approaches were adopted, including I-poems, used in the Siblings and Friends project (Edwards and Weller 2012). These are documented in individual project reports (see www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/projects).

Table 1 (below) gives summary details of the empirical projects, including topic areas, methods, samples, waves of data, and datasets deposited for archiving.

Table 1. The Timescapes Projects: methods, samples, waves of data and archived datasets.

Project Title and Affiliation Duration and Funding.	Methods, Waves and Samples	Details of Data Generated	Data Deposited in TS Archive.
1. Siblings and Friends Edwards, London South Bank. Social Policy **Heritage funding**: ESRC and JRF: (2003-2005) **Timscapes funding** Feb 2007- Jan 2011	In depth interviews: national sample of young people, visual/writing methods, interactive website. Festival of social science: interactive online event on siblinghood across the life course (with project 7). 2008; Online collaboration event with BBC Memoryshare 2009; Museum of Childhood Collaboration on 'Family Albums' weekend activities 2009 Wave 1 2003/5 (heritage): N= 52 (age 5-13) Wave 2 2007 (TS): N= 52 Wave 3 2009 (TS): N= 45	Audio/text/image files, fieldnotes, common questions and base data, cultural commentaries. Written accounts of the future, relationship maps, photos, timelines, extensive fieldnotes 70 popular accounts of sibling relationships (with project 7). Email dialogue between project & Timescapes researchers and advisory group concerning ethical issues on death of a participant Secondary Analysis: Sarah Baker	**SAF:** 911 files deposited Wave 1: Total files=601 Interviews=120 Visuals/Other=481 Wave 2: Total files= 160 Interviews= 120 Visuals/Other= 40 Wave 3: Total files= 150 Interviews= 117 Visuals/Other= 33
2. Young Lives & Times Neale, University of Leeds Sociology and Social Policy **Heritage funding** : ESRC (NCRM): 2006-8 **Timescapes funding**: Aug 2010- May 2012.	In depth interviews, with age cohort of young people, focus groups, visual/ethnographic methods. Festival of social science event: drama workshop, exhibition of young people's work and video box evaluation of study: 2007 Wave 1 2007 (heritage): N=29 Wave 2 2008 (heritage): N=22 Wave 3 2010 (TS): N=20 Sample boost 2011-12: Young Fathers Wave 1 2011: N= 12 Wave 2: 2011 N= 11 Wave 3: 2012 N= 10	Audio/text/image files, fieldnotes, base data, common questions, timelines, futures essays (based on NCDS life at 25); focus group data. Festival of Social Science funding for group activity: drama workshop and exhibition of young people's work. Video box evaluation.	**YLT:** 648 files deposited Wave 1: Total files=395 Interviews=29 Visuals/Other=366 Wave 2: Total files= 140 Interviews= 21 Visuals/Other= 119 Wave 3: Total files= 113 Interviews= 20 Visuals/Other= 93 **Young Fathers**: 227 files deposited Wave 1: Total files=118 Interviews=12 Visuals/Other=106 Wave 2:Total files=53 Interviews=11 Visuals/Other= 42 Wave 3:Total files= 56 Interviews=9 Visuals/Other= 47

3. Dynamics of Motherhood Thomson, The Open University Sociology **Heritage funding:** Making of Modern Motherhood, ESRC Identities and Social Action Programme 2005-2007 **Timescapes funding:** Jan 2007 – December 2009	Interviews and other methods with 62 mothers pre and post birth of first child; Interviews with significant others inc. mother, grandmother; intergenerational case histories. Wave 1 2005 (heritage) N=62 mothers; Wave 2 2006 N=26 Sig others, grandma, greatgrans; Wave 3 2007 N=12 second interviews mothers; Wave 4 (TS) 2008 N=6 day in the life observations; Wave 5 (TS) 2009 N = 24 (6 Inter-generational case histories followed on from heritage phase .	Audio/text/image files, Phase 2 data: day in the life tracking of mothers/child, fieldnotes, observations with new children (aged 0 to 2) Case History analysis 6 families Secondary Analysis: collaboration with project 4 sharing parenthood data.	MoMM/DOM: 157 files deposited MoMM: Wave 1: Total files=62 Interviews (mothers)=62 Wave 2: Total files= 51 Interviews (mothers and others)= 51 DOM: Waves 3&4: Total files=44 Interviews (mothers and others)= 28 Visuals/Other= 16 (includes day in life obs., notes, et al.)
4. Men as Fathers Henwood, Cardiff University Social Psychology **Heritage funding**: ESRC study of transition to fatherhood 1999-2001 **Timescapes funding**: 2008-July 2010	Individual depth and focus group interviews, + visual methods with sample of fathers pre and post birth of first child in Norfolk; and new sample in South Wales. Norfolk Sample Wave 1-3 (heritage) 1999-2000 N=19 Wave 4 (TS) 2008 N=18 South Wales Sample Wave 5 (TS) 2008 N=15 Wave 6 (TS) 2008-2009 N=15 Wave 7 (TS) 2009 N=15	Audio/text/image files, fieldnotes (64 files). Interview/focus group questionnaires Documentation of photo-elicitation images. Detailed psycho-social analysis undertaken on phase 1. Collaborations with project 3 and project 7 for data sharing and analysis Report of cross team work with project 7.	MAF: 206 files deposited East Anglia (Waves1-3 heritage) Wave 1: Total files=33 Interviews=30 Visuals/Other=3 Wave 2: Total files=30 Interviews=29 Visuals/Other=1 Wave 3: Total files=10 Interviews=9 Visuals/Other=1 Wave 4: Total files=34 Interviews=17 Visuals/Other=17 South Wales: Wave 1: Total files=32 Interviews=15 Visuals/Other=17 Wave 2: Total files=31 Interviews=15 Visuals/Other=16 Wave 3: Total files=36 Interviews=14 Visuals/Other=22

5.Work and Family Lives Backett Milburn, Edinburgh University Social Policy and Sociology **Timescapes funding**: Oct 2007 to Jan 2010	Individual and group interviews with 14 families, 22 parents and 15 children aged 9-12 Wave 1 (TS) Oct 2007-Jan 2008 N=37 (22 parents, 15 children) individual interviews; Wave 2 (TS) Sept 2008-Jan2009 N=14 family group interviews; Wave 3 (TS) N= 37 (22 parents, 15 children) individual interviews	Audio/text and focus group data. Group and individual interviews. Collaboration with projects 1 and 2 for *life at 25* NCDS question and common questions/ base data built in Wave 2. Collaboration with project 6 on 'hard to reach' samples	**WAF**: 76 files deposited Wave 1: Total files=33 Interviews=33 Wave 2: Total files= 10 Interviews= 10 Wave 3: Total files= 33 Interviews= 33
6. Intergenerational Exchange: Grandparents, Social Exclusion and Health Hughes, Emmel, Leeds University Health Research **Heritage funding:** Research Methods Programme project in same community 2002-2006 **Timescapes funding:** Feb 2007 to Jan 2010, and intermittent funds until May 2012.	Multiple interviews with members of socially excluded families, focus groups with policy planners. Ongoing work maintaining sample, building relationship with gatekeepers and policy makers in field. Wave 1 (heritage) 2002-2006 interviews etc, socially excluded families; N=45 Wave 2 (TS) Sept 2007-May 2008 life history interviews 8 sets mid- and older-life grandparents; N=7 Wave 3 (TS) June-Sept 2008 revisit 8 sets grandparents; N=9 Wave 4 (TS)Nov 2008-Feb; grandparents and significant other interviewed. N=5 Wave 5 (TS) March-June 2009 grandparents and significant other interviewed. N=2	Audio/text files. Detailed analysis of waves 1 and 2. Fieldnotes and detailed researcher diary: Diarist for project. Analysis of metadata needs for contextualising data Collaboration with project 5 on 'hard to reach' samples. Collaborations with projects 5 and 7 for data sharing.	**IE**: 123 files deposited Wave 1: Total files=45 Interviews=11 Visuals/Other= 34 Wave 2: Total files = 25 Interviews=7 Visuals/Other= 18 Wave 3: Total files = 35 Interviews=9 Visuals/Other=26 Wave 4: Total Files = 18 Interviews=5 Visuals/Other= 13
7. The Oldest Generation Bornat, The Open University Oral History/Gerontology **Timescapes funding:** Feb 2007 to Sept 2009	Life history interviews with seniors aged 75+; interviews/diaries/photos from family recorders. Two seniors have since died Wave 1 (TS) 2007-2008 N=12 seniors interviewed; 12 family recorders, diarists / recorders; Wave 2 (TS) 2008-2009: N=24 repeat interviews, continuous diaries.	Audio/text/image files. Life histories, diary entries, fieldnotes, base data. Collaboration with projects 1, 4 and 6. Report of data sharing workshop with project 4. Data sharing with Ruth Sheldon, potential affiliate, and Mass Obs	TOG: 120 files deposited Wave 1: Total files=72 Interviews=12 Visuals/Other=60 Wave 2: Total files= 48 Interviews= 12 Visuals/Other= 36

Archiving Project: Making the Long View: Archiving the Inventing Adulthoods Study Henderson, London South Bank University Sociology, Cultural Studies and Psychology **Heritage funding:** Series of ESRC funded projects 1996 to 2007 **Timescapes Funding:** February 2007 to Jan 2011 **JRF funding** (Sheena McGrellis) for further wave of interviews with N. Ireland sample Aug 2008- Aug 2009 N= 19	Heritage data from a ten year study of young people's transitions, with six waves of data. Multiple methods inc biographical interviews, questionnaires. Timescapes: Feb 2007 to Jan 2011: Digitisation of audio files (heritage). Enhancing/anonymising interviews, (40 cases) Development of case history analysis (10 cases) Contribution to archiving strategy.	Audio/text/ files. www.lsbu.ac.uk/inventingadulthoods N=50 cases (up to six interviews plus other data sources) prepared for Timescapes Archive 10 Longitudinal Case Histories prepared.	**IA/MLV**: 151 files deposited Wave 1: Total files=14 Interviews=14 Wave 2: Total files= 29 Interviews= 29 Wave 3: Total files= 26 Interviews= 26 Wave 4: Total files= 26 Interviews= 26 Wave 5: Total files= 28 Interviews= 28 Wave 6: Total files= 28 Interviews= 28 *Note: files are archived with Timescapes and UK Data Archive. Twenty cases (up to 120 further interviews) are in queue for processing at UK Data Archive, for total of 50 cases.
Affiliated Project: Choice and Change Caroline Glendinning, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York **Department of Health funding** 2006-2011.	In depth interviews about choices made by disabled people in England Two sub-samples: young people with degenerative conditions and their parents; and adults/older people with fluctuating or sudden onset of support needs. Wave 1: 2007/8: N=107 Wave 2: 2008/9: N=79 Wave 3: 2009/10: N=68	Data from a sample of participants is archived, with funding from DoH Text files: Interview transcripts, topic guides, participant characteristics, diagrams/tables of choices made. Image files: Talking Mats for some young people (copyright SPRU).	**Choice and Change:** 333 files deposited. Wave 1: Total files=180 Interviews=57 Visuals/Other=123 Wave 2: Total files= 63 Interviews= 45 Visuals/Other= 18 Wave 3: Total files= 90 Interviews= 38 Visuals/Other= 52

Table 1: Notes relating to archived data.

1. Data from 9 projects, comprising 8 core projects and one project from our affiliation network, have been archived. In total, 2,952 files have been deposited, made up of 1,152 interview transcripts and 1,800 visual, audio and other files.
2. The table covers digital material only; a small collection of non-digital materials (e.g., hand-written or drawn, photographs, etc.) has been archived in the Special Collections section of the University of Leeds Library.
3. All data that have been made available to be archived have been counted. However, not all the data enumerated here are present or visible in the Timescapes Archive. There are several reasons for the discrepancies:
    a. Some data are under a restricted access condition, i.e., the data are available, but users must get permission from the depositor in order to download them.
    b. Some data have been embargoed. In these cases, neither data nor metadata are visible in the archive, but will be once the embargo period expires.
    c. Some data are still being processed for accession.
    d. Decisions as to where to deposit some audio, image and video files are still under review, due to their large size.
4. Total numbers of participants and interviews shown in Column 2 may not match the information given in Column 4. In some cases, not all participants identified in Column 2 consented to archive their materials; in other cases, additional types of files (e.g., documentation), have been included in Column 4 (under Visuals/Other) but have not necessarily been identified in Column 2.
5. The totals of Column 4 may not match a search done by project in the Timescapes Archive (held in the LUDOS repository at Leeds). This is due to the existence of some duplicate files, the inclusion of files (such as .xml metadata records) that are in the Archive but not counted as data for purposes of Column 4, and remaining search engine anomalies within LUDOS.

Strand One: Archiving: Stakeholder methods and strategies.

The creation of the Timescapes Archive, a specialist resource of QL data for research and teaching purposes, represents a major achievement of this programme. At the outset of this initiative, only a fraction of qualitative data re-use occurred through generic data facilities. The availability of QL datasets had hitherto been sparse, with no specialist interface in place to encourage sharing and re-use. The reasons for this scarcity relate to the elongated timeframes of QL research, where primary researchers may be engaged in cumulative data generation and analysis over many years. This means there is no clear cut off point at which primary use ends and secondary use begins. This overlap brings with it particular ethical challenges that impact on the primary research team and with implications for archiving; if data are to be shared during the life time of a QL project, specialist methods of curation are needed.

We addressed these challenges through a 'stakeholder' approach, which enables archiving to be seen as an integral part of the research process ((Neale and Bishop 2012a & b; Bishop and Neale 2010b, 2012; Bishop 2012; and the full archiving report: www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/archive). Primary researchers who deposit their data with Timescapes are stakeholders in the resource, enabling them to safely store large volumes of data for their own ongoing use, thereby breaking down the distinctions between primary and secondary use. The process of managing and preparing project data serves a dual purpose: it creates well organised data for longitudinal analysis by the originating team, while, at the same time, creating a high quality dataset, a valuable output from a project, which is 'archive ready' for sharing. In these ways, archiving becomes an important activity that accrues recognition for the originating team: it is part of the research process, built in at the design stage, rather than an administrative task simply 'tacked on' to the end of a project (Neale *et al* 2012). Researchers were supported in these tasks through ongoing consultation, the provision of templates for consent, transcriptions and anonymisation, and advice on the production of gold standard guides to their datasets. This ensured well planned and organised datasets that conform to national standards (such requirements are currently being formalised under new ESRC funding rules). We were able to produce a guide to Data management planning for QL researchers, based on our experience (Bishop and Neale 2012).

The stakeholder model offers further benefits and safeguards to QL depositors. The Timescapes Archive is built around four levels of data access: 1) **public access** to 'taster' data, 2) **registered access** to anonymised data (available to bone-fide registered users, 3) **restricted access** to sensitive or hard to anonymise data (access depends on an application to, and permission from, the originating team); and, 4) **closed access** to embargoed data. The Timescapes Archive offers flexible controls on secondary use and gives depositors a stake in how the data are used and by whom. The restricted level of access enables the deposit of data that might otherwise remain the preserve of the primary team, and facilitates consultation between primary and secondary users. Overall, the stakeholder model takes into account the varied interests of participants, primary and secondary users, archivists, funders and the wider public; it manages risk for the primary researchers and the participants, while still enabling access for secondary users and the wider public good. A much needed interface for the curation of QL data has been created, which has brought research and archiving, and primary and secondary (including 'mixed') longitudinal research into closer alignment.

Design and Scope of the Timescapes Archive

The Timescapes Archive was developed over a three-year period and opened to users in mid 2010. It is a satellite of the UK Data Archive, built on a model of disaggregated preservation and comprising rich digital, multi-media holdings of QL data. The resource forms part of an institutional repository (LUDOS) at the University of Leeds Library, and conforms to

international archiving standards (OAIS). It was designed in close collaboration with our project partners: the UK Data Archive, the Economic and Social Data Service, the University of Leeds Library, and the Timescapes Archiving project (Making the Long View – reported above). We drew on UK Data Archive protocols and standards in developing the resource, and, in turn, refined these for the UK Data Archive in the context of QL data. In order to fashion a resource and service that was in tune with the analytical needs of researchers, we consulted our projects teams on technical design, data discovery and data access functions, and the templates and protocols for deposit and re-use. Currently, some functionality is limited by the proprietary software platform (Digitool) upon which the resource is currently built. We developed a prototype for a new open source software platform (based on Fedora), and have stored the data in an open (XML) format enabling future export to other platforms (such as e-Prints, currently the planned migration strategy for LUDOS, the Institutional Repository at Leeds).

From early in its development, the Timescapes Archive was designed to expand its holdings through the curation of datasets from a wider range of QL projects. The aim was to strategically build collections of thematically related QL datasets, thereby enriching the inter-disciplinary scope of the resource and enabling productive data linkages. The mechanism for this was our affiliation network for externally funded projects and studentships (currently comprising 14 externally funded projects, 1 potential affiliate (subject to funding) and 6 studentships see www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/archive/affiliation). The first of our affiliated projects (Choice and Change, DoH) has archived a dataset on the management of life threatening or life limiting illness. This was ingested into the Timescapes Archive in May 2012. The following datasets are in line for archiving (subject to further funding for the Timescapes resource):

- Times of our Lives Disabled people through the Life course (Shah and Priestley, Leeds, Nuffield Foundation, 2007-9).
- The Changing Landscape of Third Sector Organisations in Scotland (Osborne, Napier, Scottish Government, 2009-12). Scheduled for deposit in October 2012.
- New Times: The Dynamics of Third Sector Organisations (Alcock, Birmingham, ESRC).
- Step Change: Towards a sustainable urban environment (Tight, Birmingham, EPSRC: 2010-15).
- ELICIT: Exploring life style changes in transition (on environmental sustainability and the life course) (Venn, Surrey, ESRC).
- The Dynamics of Migration (Dwyer, Salford, ESRC 2012-17).
- The 4-21 study (Growing up Girl): a classic dataset (Walkerdine, Cardiff, ESRC).

Holdings and Search tools.

The Timescapes Archive holds rich, multi-media qualitative longitudinal data from nine datasets, eight of which are from projects funded under Timescapes and the ninth from an affiliated project funded by the DoH. The scale of the archiving operation is vast – in total, 2,952 files have been deposited and ingested into the Archive, comprising 1,152 interview transcripts and 1,800 visual, audio and other files. The majority of the data are textual, encompassing interviews, focus groups, observational notes, and so on. There is extensive visual data, including timelines, collages, network diagrams, relationship maps, photographs, and video. Audio recordings are also available. The data are complemented by extensive documentation, ranging from concise but comprehensive catalogue records, participant profiles, research design and methodology, anonymisation procedures, and socio-economic base data on the study participants. In some cases, detailed fieldwork notes are available, alongside information about the broader socio-demographic, economic and social policy context in which the research was conducted.

Bringing the core datasets into a common frame enhances the potential for data linkages; we have built refined browse and search tools into the resource to facilitate analyses of thematically related data across projects, and aid longitudinal and inter-generational analysis. Data files can be searched using conceptual and descriptive key word searching at case level - facilitating a more complex and nuanced discovery of temporal data than is usually the case in generic data facilities. There is scope to explore thematically related data across the life course. Data on fatherhood, for example, can be explored from the perspectives of young people (on their fathers, and aspirations for becoming fathers); mid-life fathers (on entering and sustaining fatherhood); and older people (on father/child relationships over time and in older life). Currently over 200 researchers have registered to use the resource. With nine datasets now available, we anticipate a steady growth in use over the coming year.

Strand Two: Secondary Analysis: Methods and Strategies.

Timescapes has pioneered innovative methods for sharing and re-using QL data, both within and beyond the Timescapes teams (see, for example, Bishop 2007, 2009, 2012; Bornat 2008, 2010, 2011; Bornat and Bytheway 2012 in press; Bornat and Wilson 2008; Bornat, Bytheway and Henwood 2008; Bornat, Johnson and Reynolds, (eds.) 2012; Irwin, Bornat and Winterton 2012; Irwin and Winterton 2010, 2011a, 2011b, McLeod and Thomson 2009; Sheldon 2009; Baker 2010; and the final report on Secondary Analysis www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/secondary analysis). Here we give examples of advances in secondary analysis that were developed under the programme, and which lend themselves well to the longitudinal time frames of QL enquiry.

Data Sharing Workshops

The potential for secondary analysis was built into the design of several Timescapes projects. Partnerships with secondary analysts were developed in three of our projects - Siblings and Friends (Baker, 2010), The Oldest Generation (Sheldon 2009; both reports on the Timescapes website) and Young Lives and Times (ongoing, Churchill, Sheffield University). Working across and linking project data was a key element of the programme. A series of one day data-sharing workshops brought small groups of projects together to share and compare their data on related themes across the life course – this mirrors the way that most researchers share their data in practice. Topics included motherhood, fatherhood, grand-parenting, family and personal celebrations and the economic downturn. The first workshop on fathering across the generations brought together the **Men as Fathers** and **The Oldest Generation** teams. The event was documented as a guide to the process (Bornat, Bytheway and Henwood 2008 www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/secondary analysis). The workshop offered opportunities to explore methodologies for QL data use and re-use and for the development of new theorising from linking related data across time and across varied samples. A range of methodological issues around secondary use emerged (confidentiality, facilitating access to data, knowable context, developing a shared epistemology and working across disciplinary boundaries). The collaboration contributed to the emergence of new evidence from the original data, some derived from focused questions, and others through serendipity. The differential emphasis on past, present or future in the accounts (the constructions of past lives by older people, the present and future orientation in younger accounts) highlighted the significance of these time frames for building interpretations of the data. Sharing data across projects helped inform the future directions of these projects. The Men as Fathers project, for example, sought to build in more generational and historical comparisons when revisiting the field, while the Oldest Generation project incorporated delicate questions about the future into their follow up interviews (Irwin, Bornat and Winterton 2012). Overall this series of workshops opened up new possibilities for working across the primary/secondary interface in QL research and has been built into future plans among Timescapes researchers.

Linking QL and QNL Datasets

Part of the remit of Timescapes was to explore effective ways to build links between QL and Quantitative Longitudinal (QNL) datasets. We developed this work in collaboration with Heather Laurie (UKHLS, Understanding Society) and Jane Elliott (NCDS 1958 cohort; see for example, Elliott, Holland and Thomson 2008; Irwin 2010; Irwin, Bornat and Winterton 2012). Enabling QL and QNL datasets to 'talk to' each other, is a challenge – our approach, developed through our secondary analysis project, was to build some connecting questions and potentially comparable data between Timescapes and related QNL datasets, to enable some minimal data linkages (Neale, 2008; Neale, Holland and Laurie 2009; Irwin 2009). Across the Timescapes projects, we co-ordinated the collection of socio-demographic characteristics of our samples, which align with questions in BHPS, Understanding Society, and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England. The comparable sample characteristics act as a bridge across the datasets, with the potential for case studies of people with particular socio-demographic profiles to enrich the broader quantitative picture. A structured question used in the youth survey of Understanding Society – using visual images of happy and sad faces to elicit young people's descriptions of their feelings about various aspects of their lives - was adopted in the Timescapes Young Lives project, where the data were contextualised through in-depth interviews. At the same time, and in consultation with Irwin, UKHLS built some connecting questions into their fieldwork modules on the youth survey.

As a further example, three projects within Timescapes (1, 2 and 5) replicated an activity that was devised in 1969 for the 1958 NCDS cohort, whereby young people, aged 11, wrote about how they envisaged their lives at the age of 25. In Timescapes the activity was contextualised through interview data on why young people come to hold certain aspirations and how they imagined 'getting there'. The data gathered through this route acted as a baseline for tracking and comparing future projections with the actual trajectories of young lives, and offered insights into the factors that influence young people's orientation to the future and their life chances. We followed up these activities with an exciting and productive one day seminar on Young Lives and Imagined Futures (University of Leeds, November 2010, in collaboration with UK Data Archive), which brought together QL (including Timescapes) and QNL researchers (Heather Laurie, Jane Elliott, Ingrid Schoon) to share data and interpretations across projects and across the generations (Winterton, Crow and Morgan Brett (eds.) 2011). These collaborations with QNL researchers have also resulted in a QL/QNL editorial partnership for the forthcoming *Sage Handbook of Longitudinal Research (*Emmel and Neale, with Laurie and McGonegall (eds.)).

The Secondary Analysis project

This project ran during the final two years of Timescapes. It was devised to advance techniques of Qualitative Secondary Analysis (QSA), to develop strategies for cross-project analysis, to explore the scope for making connections with QNL datasets, and to build capacity in the method through structured training modules. An extensive range of outputs has been produced from the project, as detailed below. The work of the team relied on careful consultation over the use and interpretation of data between the primary Timescapes teams and the secondary analysts; meetings were held with individual project teams to discuss the SA project and its articulation with the primary projects, and to negotiate and agree access to datasets prior to archiving. The meetings enabled the team to refine their research questions and address ethical considerations, as outlined above.

The project explored the scope for analysing data *across* the Timescapes datasets, developed strategies for working longitudinally, and generated methodological and substantive insights,

extending the analytical reach of the numerically small qualitative projects (Irwin and Winterton 2011, 2012 working papers www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/resources). A range of analytical strategies was tested and documented, both deductive and inductive, based on a reading and interrogation of common questions built into the Timescapes projects (Irwin and Winterton 2011a), and exploring common themes that subsets of the projects addressed (Irwin and Winterton 2011b). The team found that meaningful analysis relies on a robust understanding of the structure and internal diversity of a primary dataset, and knowledge of the way it is embedded within and reflects the contexts in which it was produced - including sampling decisions, recruitment strategies, and methodological tools utilised. They critically explored a set of middle range issues relating to context, and how it is implicated in processes of data generation (Irwin and Winterton 2012; Irwin, Bornat and Winterton 2012). The team documented how they were able to develop hypotheses and conceptual ideas from one dataset, and then find ways to *translate* evidence in order to bring it into meaningful conversation with other, very differently constituted datasets. The team conducted a secondary longitudinal analysis of data from the young lives and times project (project 2) (Winterton and Irwin, 2012 in press). Additionally, they documented standards and good practice in the supply of metadata to aid secondary use, and guidance for those depositing data for re-use (Irwin and Winterton 2011, working paper no 7; Irwin and Winterton 2012 Methods Guide no.19).

d) Project Findings

Please summarise the findings of the project, referring where appropriate to outputs recorded on the ESRC website. Any future research plans should also be identified.

The extensive publications and outputs produced across our projects and strands of work reflect a wide ranging contribution to substantive, policy related and theoretical scholarship. The empirical projects have produced distinctive forms of knowledge on the dynamics of personal relationships and family life, investigated from different disciplinary perspectives. These have included insights on the intersection of home and schooling, family and employment, 'lateral' and 'vertical' kinship, the close layering of the generations in disadvantaged communities, formal and informal care, health and wellbeing, and subjective and material resources. By 'walking alongside' individuals and family groups as their lives unfold, the research has captured the intricacies of biographical and intergenerational processes in relation to changing policy landscapes. Outputs include research monographs, edited collections, articles, policy briefings, and theoretical contributions to the study of time. We have taken QL research into new areas of scholarship, for example in psycho-social research with its focus on subjectivity and affect (Thomson (ed.) 2010, 2012; Henwood and Finn 2009, 2010; Henwood and Coltart 2012), and in pressing areas for policy (see Policy Briefing Series, 2011: www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/resources).

Conceptual Advances

Timescapes is grounded in a rich body of temporal theory and philosophy (from Kierkegaard and C Wright Mills, to Adam and Abbott), which has fed into both our methodological work and our substantive concerns (see, for example, McCleod and Thomson 2009, Thomson 2010, Kehily and Thomson 2011; Bytheway 2011; Harden *et al* 2011; Neale 2011, Shirani and Henwood 2011, and the contributions in Edwards (ed.) 2008). Time is not only the medium through which our research is conducted; it is an important topic for investigation in its own right. As a substantive topic, time can be understood and dissected in a variety of imaginative and fruitful ways. The conceptual framework guiding Timescapes is the intersection of three different timescales: - biographical, generational and historical. These are the micro, meso and macro dimensions of experience, through which it becomes possible to understand the dynamic relationship between individual and collective lives, and broader patterns of social change (Neale 2007; 2011). Using

the organising principle of the life course has enabled us to explore individual life journeys, the meaning and salience of turning point or critical moments (Holland and Thomson 2009), and more gradual processes of transition in individual biographies. Other ways of conceptualising time concern the varied tempos of life and the pace or velocity of change. It is fruitful, for example, to distinguish between industrial time (the rigid, impersonal tempo of the clock), and family time (which is fluid, flexible and value laden); and to explore the intersection of these two time frames (Harden *et al.,* 2012). A third, somewhat neglected dimension of time concerns the intersection of time and space – when and where - to locate and contextualise experiences and events. Spatial metaphors (the notion of life journeys, for example, and Timescapes itself) abound in QL research as a way to encapsulate and grasp abstract temporalities; the two are inextricably linked. But perhaps the most vital and fruitful way of 'slicing' time in QL research concerns the ever shifting relationships between past, present and future. The past, hindsight and memory, is pivotal in understanding causality and the construction and reconstruction of biographies, while capturing imaginary futures at each follow up is a powerful way to understand the changing aspirations of individuals, and how and why their life chances are forged, enabled or constrained over time. Exploring these complex flows of time, the projects in Timescapes have contributed new insights on temporality in personal and family lives, and in the process, created an important bridge between social theories of time and more empirically driven life course and longitudinal studies (Neale 2011).

Detailed reports of findings across individual projects and strands of work are documented on the Timescapes website (www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk). Here we present examples of findings on the unfolding of lives in biographical, generational and historical contexts.

Biography

Much of our empirical research focuses on transitions, critical moments and turning points, the construction of the past and orientations to the future - enabling new insights into the dynamics of people's relationships and identities as their biographies unfold. The findings presented here are from the secondary analysis project, and empirical projects nos. 2, 4 and 7. They are concerned with young women's educational trajectories and aspirations, the life chances of disadvantaged young men who enter parenthood; gendered transitions and intensive parenting cultures in the lives of fathers, and the management of risk in late old age.

1. Changing Educational Trajectories over Time: A Secondary Analysis (SA project/project 2). Over recent years significant policy efforts have been expended to reduce class based inequalities in access to Higher Education (H.E.) for young people. Even so, those from middle class, professional backgrounds are more likely to aspire to and take up such opportunities. Factors that influence young people's aspirations – class background and family culture, the academic background and professional standing of parents, school environment, and the influence and support of parents, teachers, friends and peers - have been well documented. However, while existing research has explored the complex intersection of these factors, there is limited evidence on how these influences are played out biographically over young people's teenage years. There is little research, too, on students who are the first generation in their families to aspire to H.E. Building on earlier cross sectional findings (Irwin 2009), the secondary analysis team addressed these gaps in knowledge through a longitudinal analysis of QL case data from the Young Lives and Times project. (Winterton and Irwin 2012, in press) A subsample of six young women from varied class backgrounds was identified as a focus for detailed analysis, due to the lens it offered on classed processes. The educational trajectories of these young women were traced, drawing on data gathered in three waves of interviews over a four year period (aged 13/14 to 17/18). Two of the young women have academic identities that were strongly fixed from an early age and which endured through their teenage years. The varied

influences outlined above, including a family culture based on the high academic and professional standing of their parents, were strongly aligned and meshed together to reinforce this identity throughout their schooling. A further two young women were the first generation in their families to aspire to H.E. Marked differences were evident in their aspirations at age 14 and 17. While they did not inherit an academic identity it evolved over their teenage years through the alignment of other influences – notably their attendance at privileged schools, friendship influence, and parental encouragement and financial support. The remaining young women were from less advantaged backgrounds. They aspired to degree level study at age 14, based on academic ability and the influence of friends, although without a family culture of academic identity or strong parental encouragement. However, the varied influences on these young women's lives were far from aligned or uniform; they moved in and out of view over time, and sometimes pulled them in different directions. The authors trace the fluctuations in their academic identities through their teenage years, making it difficult for them to consolidate their aspirations, which remained tenuous by the age of 17, and with the added financial pressures of high fees to deter them. Despite their innate abilities and engagement in 6th form studies, the pathway to H.E. for these young women remained in the balance. The QL evidence enabled the researchers to reach a more nuanced understanding of internal class diversity and the dynamic structure of class inequalities. The findings help to explain continuing inequalities in access to H.E., and have implications for policy initiatives designed to reduce such inequalities.

2. Following Young Fathers (project 2). Youthful fertility has long been a concern of social policy in the UK. In 1999, the government launched a ten year teenage pregnancy strategy to increase sexual health, reduce pregnancies and provide support to young parents. However, much of this support is directed at young mothers, while young fathers are marginalised. Research evidence on young fatherhood is noticeably sparse. As part of Young Lives and Times, 12 young fathers (ranging in age from 16 to 22) most of whom were from disadvantaged backgrounds, were followed via focus groups and three waves of interviews over a 15 month period (Neale and Lau 2011; Lau and May 2011). The active involvement of the young men's case worker (a local authority learning mentor) was crucial in recruiting and maintaining this hard to reach sample. The intensive tracking of the young men reveals the volatile nature of their daily lives and relationships, including frequent changes of residence. The study revealed a raft of challenges facing young men in entering and sustaining parenthood. Beyond the learning curve of direct child care, these include conflicting identities and lifestyles, difficult negotiations and tenuous relationships with the mother and one or both sets of grandparents, practical issues of income, housing and schooling, and in many cases, complex needs arising from troubled childhoods. The future horizons of the young men, revealed through time lines and in interview, may necessarily be limited: long term goals may give way to short term decision making and 'making do'. Planning for the arrival of a child, for example, may mean saving up to buy nappies, rather than engaging with longer term life goals and commitments, with implications for the sustained commitment needed for parenthood. However, the entry into parenthood is a key time for the young men to forge new aspirations and they may be receptive at this time to outside support. The project found that despite a lack of preparation for parenthood and few resources, these young men attached great importance to their children; stereotypes of 'feckless' fathers are unhelpful where young men are striving to become good parents. Support from family and from professionals is vital, but provision was sparse. Young men benefit from professional involvement that is impartial and flexible, and offers emotional as well as practical support. Bringing fathers more actively into the orbit of the Family-Nurse partnership scheme, for example, would be beneficial: the positive focus of this service can complement the child protection focus of social care teams. The early findings show the power of fatherhood to create a new, responsible and potentially fulfilling future for these young men. Understanding and

responding to the tenor of young fathers' lives, their histories, current circumstances and future aspirations may be an effective route to improving their life chances and those of their children.

3. Transitions in Fatherhood over Time (project 4). Becoming a father for the first time can be a life changing experience. The Men as Fathers project has explored how life changing it is, by drawing on and extending a previous ESRC funded project carried out from 1999 to 2001. The extensive follow up has enabled the team to consider the longer term implications of fatherhood for men's changing identities and relationships ((see e.g. Finn and Henwood, 2009; Henwood, Shirani and Coltart, 2010; and Shirani and Henwood 2011). Shirani and Henwood (2010), for example, present longitudinal case studies that chart the life journeys of men as fathers. Fieldwork began with three waves of interviews around the time of entry into fatherhood, with follow up interviews taking place eight years later. The accounts reveal a discrepancy between the men's values around actively parenting their children, and the reality of family practices in the early years of parenting. The physical dependency of a child on the mother, the father's work role, and the maternal focus of much professional support makes it difficult to become actively involved before and after the birth. The discrepancy between fathers' ideals and lived realities are managed by the men through the adoption of a 'future orientation' to their fathering role, anticipating greater involvement as their children grow beyond babyhood. Eight years later the men were more engaged with their children, and felt more responsible for child care and securing their children's futures. Yet a future orientation was still evident in their accounts. For now they were 'growing up' their children and suspending their own interests and shared interests with their partners. They anticipated a time when their children would be less dependent on them. The future orientation enabled them to see the present as a temporary phase of the life course, beyond which they would regain their own lives. A further long term follow up would enable insights into their experiences as their children grow away from them, and might reveal a more retrospective orientation to the times of fathering. The Men as Fathers project has also generated important insights on intensive parenting cultures – currently a matter of widespread debate in academia and in popular media. The notion that parenting is becoming intensified is usually focused on mothers, with the role of fathers in relation to this process remaining poorly understood. The project has explored how this significant historical trend is being negotiated in individual biographies and has produced new findings relating to gender differentiated risk perceptions and the unfolding of moral parenting identities (Shirani, Henwood and Coltart 2012).

4. Perceptions of Every day Risk in Later Life (project 7). The Oldest Generation project (Bornat and Bytheway 2010; also Bytheway and Bornat 2012, and Bytheway 2011) has contributed important insights into a priority theme for ESRC; how individuals perceive risks to their health. They provide a realistic and humanistic account of how the oldest generation live with risk, in a context where changes in health status and impending death are near the surface of daily experience (two of the elders in this project died during fieldwork). The researchers used life history interviews that capture long term biographies, and combined these very effectively with diaries for documenting the tenor and contingencies of everyday life. The elders in the project weighed up the balance between future 'safety' (the short term, 'crisis management' goal of professional risk management) and living with risk in order to retain one's identity and the intrinsic value of living. Elders may prefer an independence that entails risks, to a perceived fourth age of frailty and dependence, which in itself can constitute a risk to human dignity. Such choices are undertaken in the context of an unfolding biography. An understanding of these biographical pathways and the resilience of older people in the face of past and current adversity can lead to a more realistic assessment of vulnerability in late life. The findings have implications for a system of social work practice that is built increasingly around narrow definitions of risk, and displaces understandings of a life lived over time in favour of short term risk assessment and management.

Generation

Generation can be understood in two senses. In its 'vertical' dimension it usually refers to inter-generational relationships between children, parents, grandparents. Such relationships are of vital importance to patterns of care, support and influence in families – themes that are of enduring concern to policy. In its 'lateral' dimension, generation refers to convoys of individuals, e.g. siblings and friends, who grow up and grow older together, living through similar historical times. Timescapes has addressed both dimensions of generation, as shown in the findings set out below. The examples (from projects 1, 3, 5 and 6) focus on the dynamics of gendered identities and practices among siblings in childhood, motherhood across the generations, family-work projects for parents and children, and grandparental kin care in disadvantaged communities.

1. **Gender, Sexuality and Sibling relationships (project 1).** While gender (as lived identity and social construct) is central to the organisation of family life, much existing research is concerned with gender as an outcome of adult-to-child socialisation processes. Edwards and Weller (2010) explore how these identities are constructed, negotiated and contested over time through lateral sibling relationships. The authors present four contrasting longitudinal case studies from project 1 to illustrate this theme, taking as their starting point the agency of young people and the enduring nature of siblinghood. The nuances of gendered expectations and behaviour are related to perceptions of age appropriate behaviour, age hierarchies between brothers and sisters, and internal (family) and external (peer) interactions and experiences. In the first case a 12 year old boy was supported by his older brother through the transition to high school, with encouragement to be independent, outgoing and self reliant as he took on a new masculine identity. At the time of the next follow up the boy had, in turn, provided the same support for his younger brother. The masculinity of the three brothers was reinforced through their shared activities and interests (e.g. computer games) and through the guidance which was passed down the brotherly age chain. In other cases, however, contested gender identities between siblings were evident. A 13 year old girl showed contempt for her older brother's version of masculinity (quiet, home based), while a 12 year old boy distanced himself from the aggressive and bullying masculinity of his older brother, to which he was subjected. In the remaining family, two sisters used contrasting versions of femininity against each other (one ambivalent, the other hyper-feminised in terms of body image and attitudes to clothes, make up, and boys). However, the contestations in these three cases were not fixed but worked out over time, shifting to markedly different relationships over a four year period. In the first two cases, the young people grew closer to their siblings over time. In the first instance, the older brother had developed a more acceptable, outgoing version of masculinity in his sister's eyes, and she reported a shared rhythm for their lives and friendships outside home. In the second instance, the younger brother adopted the same aggressive masculinity as his older brother, which both then directed outwards, towards peers, rather than towards each other. In the final case, the ambivalent sexuality of the older of the sisters remained a feature of her identity, while the younger sister used her own hyper-femininity to defend her older sibling when she was bullied at school. Gender in sibling relationships clearly does not operate in a straightforward, cause-and-effect manner. The authors go on to provide gender-aware guidelines for practitioners working with families where sibling relationships are troubled. Other substantive findings from the project include: the way that generation can be understood and enacted as a discursive construction between sisters and brothers, including where older siblings may belong to a different cohort generation and relatives such as aunts can be of the same or a younger generation (Weller 2009); how children and young people's hopes for their parents' futures shift over time (Baker 2010); the tracing of resources and potential trajectories over time through periods of sustained growth, credit crunch and economic recession, to show the embedding of

particular pathways into adulthood (Edwards and Weller 2010); the shifting nature of care practices in sibling relationships (Weller 2012); and how children and young people's ideas about individuality and collectivity are connected to the play and other space available to them (Weller 2010).

2. The Dynamics of Motherhood (project 3). This study, which combined a cross generational and longitudinal research design, captured the ways in which family positions reconfigure with the arrival of a new generation, as well as showing how mothers can be understood to constitute broad and differentiated social generations linked to the changing social and economic position of women. Motherhood constitutes a site of both solidarity and division between women that operates within and between generations (Kehily and Thomson 2012). In the case study families, researchers found that the period following the birth of a first child was associated with a new closeness between generations, especially mothers and daughters. New grandmothers reported how their daughters 'came into focus' again after a period of distance, and daughters reported strong desires to revisit stories of their own childhood, seeing their mothers through new eyes. As time passed a further shift in the identifications and time horizons of grandmothers, akin to the shift that had been documented for the new mothers in an earlier stage of the study, was recognised. There was a sense of the magnetic centre of the family moving from mother to daughter, with a reconfiguration of relationships, identities and resources accordingly. For some families this was made concrete in a change in what was understood as the 'family home' and the venue for major family celebrations, with new forms of inter-dependency emerging as roles and needs were redefined. Using object-based interviews with grandmothers helped to capture the emotional texture of this generational shift, suggesting a heightened awareness of the past among these participants, including childhood memories and past relationships and emotional connections. How social change is mediated and lived within families through the birth of a new generation is the subject of a recent research monograph. This provides insights into the intimate dynamics of family life, while showing how these form part of a broader shared culture of motherhood – including commercial and public services – which are in turn shaped by a volatile politics of generation (Thomson *et al*. 2011).

3. The Family-Work Project: Children's and Parents' Experiences of Working Parenthood (project 5). In the UK 83% of families have at least one parent engaged in some form of paid employment; the imperative to earn and provide for children is now as pervasive as the imperative to 'be there' and actively care for them. So how do families manage these potentially conflicting commitments, how are they worked out over time, and what part do children play in these processes? Project 5 (Harden *et al* 2012 in press) addressed these questions and traced changes in households over time through repeat interviews with parents and children in a varied sample of working families. The authors frame their discussion around the distinctive tempos of work time (where time is commodified and structured by the clock) and family time, (where time is perceived to be unstructured, fluid, enduring, freely given and imbued with quality). In the family-work project, however, these time frames are porous and may begin to merge, throwing up particular challenges for parents and for children, who may feel harried by having to be 'here, there and everywhere' at once. The authors identified particular 'hot spots', fraught times of day that mark the transition between work and family time. These were particularly noticeable during weekdays or where both parents were in paid work. But even where one parent was able to work from home, fresh challenges arose in creating boundaries around work and family time. The children emerged as active players in the family-work project, supporting parents through the hot spots, contributing to the household, taking responsibility for their own care and attending out of school clubs to fit in with working hours. They expressed a desire to see more of their parents, and for more unstructured family time spent in the family home, rather than being tied to institutional care. Overall, however, the family-work project was

a taken for granted aspect of family life; while it could be finessed, it could not be changed. These and related findings (Maclean *et al* 2010; Harden *et al* 2012) have implications for family policies that may take too little account of the challenges of combining paid work and parenting, the contribution that children make to these processes, and the impact upon them.

4. Early Grandparenthood and Poverty (project 6). The **Intergenerational Exchange** project (Emmel, Hughes and Hemmerman 2009; Emmel and Hughes 2010, 2011) have highlighted the nature of early grandparenthood in a social housing community, which is typical in being marked by highly levels of disadvantage and social exclusion, early parenthood and a close layering of the generations. Local resources and employment opportunities are sparse, infant mortality and mid- to later-life illness and disability rates are high, life expectancy of both men and women is low, and few options exist for exercising choice or effecting even modest life changes. Families rely heavily on intergenerational support and resources (time, money, food) across households, although this support is usually invisible to health and social care planners. 'Walking alongside' grandparents over 2 years and documenting and updating their life histories reveals that their lives are far from the 'leisure and pleasure' ideal, but are more akin to 'fire fighting', or 'rescue and repair', especially where they take on parental care. Despite the over-riding effort to survive in the present, and hence a limited sense of their own time or their own futures, grandparents seek to invest in and create a sense of future for the younger generations (e.g. encouraging school attendance, promoting the value of home over the streets, and building routines (bed-times and meal-times) into daily lives). Since a great deal of the support, care and nurturing provided by grandparents is hidden from view, service providers are often unaware of the wide-ranging needs of these families. Where trusting relationships with practitioners were established, at times of vulnerability, these families felt able to gain access to particular services and resources without the risk of these relationships becoming punitive. Overall, the authors found that interventions may be more effective where the tenor of grandparents' lives is better understood, relationships of trust are built, and where comprehensive 'fire fighting' help can be provided alongside sustained support.

History

Discerning the impact of historical processes on individual lives is usually seen to rely on extended longitudinal or retrospective enquiry. The historical value of a longitudinal dataset accrues over time as the intersection of biography and history comes into perspective. Historical insights have emerged through our intergenerational projects, where the accounts of those born in different eras reveal markedly different patterns of life down the generations. But there are other ways to generate historical insights. One of the significant advantages of QL research is its flexibility and responsiveness to changing environments. This makes it possible to refine research questions for investigation in the field as a project progresses, thereby tapping into micro-historical processes as they occur and capturing 'history in the making'. An example of this approach is given below:

History in the Making: Responding to the Economic Downturn (cross-project edited collection). In 2008 we were able to respond to a major contemporary issue of relevance to policy by exploring people's experiences of the economic downturn. The findings are published in a special issue of *21ˢᵗ Century Society: Journal of the Academy of Social Sciences* (Edwards and Irwin (eds.) 2010), with contributions from six empirical projects that span the life course. The publication is concerned with lived experience through the recession, rather than the recession itself, drawing on contemporary and past accounts from people from different generations and in varied family circumstances. The contributions show that while unemployment is a relatively straightforward index of the impact of recession, there are other important social, cultural and relational factors that intersect with changing family fortunes and

that affect resilience and well being. The accounts explore issues of continuity and change in the times leading to the down turn, and show the implications for the long term futures of both employed and unemployed participants: whether, for example, to have another child, move house, take early retirement or change career, how to be a good son or daughter, parent or grandparent, and how best to offer support across the generations. We also gain insights into long term experiences of low income and vulnerability; how individuals may veer between 'making do' and chaos, with an unexpected bill or expense becoming a major tipping point to a state of crisis. In these circumstances the safety net of professional support provided by local agencies is vital. The recent deepening of the recession, combined with public spending cuts, could well exacerbate some of the findings presented here. Yet, despite it all, the accounts also reveal adversity as a time to pull together, when stories of past hardships can become an important resource for getting through the present:

The essays in this themed issue … offer so much to researchers and policy makers alike. The in-depth focus on how the impacts and meanings of recession are shaped by the wider life course of those affected both reinforces and challenges the picture painted by the statistics of recession. … As these studies vividly demonstrate, recessions are times when young people are becoming adults, when parents and grandparents are searching for and developing new ways to offer support to their families. In short, adversity is a time not just of suffering but of growth. Whether …this possibility reflects the inheritance people carry into recession … can only be fully understood using the long term qualitative methodology on show in these essays. They are essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how the huge impersonal forces of global capitalism intersect with the diverse, textured lives of our fellow citizens (preface to special issue: Matthew Taylor 2010).

e. Ongoing and Future Research

Work conducted under the Timescapes Initiative is continuing in a variety of ways. The potential to extend the longitudinal reach and historical value of the Timescapes projects, and to increase their impact is evident. Further analysis and writing up is continuing in order to exploit the analytical potential of the current datasets. An edited collection bringing together findings across the Timescapes projects is in progress (Holland and Edwards (eds., Palgrave, due 2013). The overall sample represented in Timescapes is of exceptional value in QL research; projects are currently maintaining their samples for potential follow up. Two cross project collaborations are under development. The first combines primary and secondary research and brings related datasets together for in-depth analysis of the changing lives of young people over a decade (project 1 and the Inventing Adulthoods study). The second collaboration focuses on intensive parenting cultures, drawing data together for extended analysis across three projects (3, 4, and 5). The team from project 4 is also leading an ESRC funded study that applies QL methods in a new area of research – the Dynamics of Energy Use (Henwood, with Pigeon). A proposal to extend the Following young Fathers study – part of Young Lives and Times (project 2) – is in process of being awarded by ESRC for three years from 2012-15 (Lau and Neale). The project combines QL with a participatory, knowledge to action approach, and involves ongoing tracking of an extended sample of young fathers, a case study evaluation of local service provision, and a secondary analysis of small scale, scattered datasets, using data sharing workshops. Projects 5 and 6 are focusing on targeted user engagement for the policy related findings from their research, with plans to bid under the Knowledge Exchange scheme, while Bishop has developed a proposal for this scheme on the development of secondary data use for policy and practice.

The work of building capacity in QL methods and secondary analysis is ongoing and will be taken forward in a variety of ways. Reflecting the growth in interest in QL methods the NCRM invited bids for a Network for Methodological Innovation for QL research (for 2012-13), with two bids being submitted. The successful bid (Thomson, with members of the Timescapes team and other researchers) will build on Timescapes to further advance and refine QL methodology in new areas of social research. We will continue to maintain and develop the Timescapes website as a resource for QL research for the foreseeable future. Two books are under development: a volume on QL research for the What Is? Methods Series (Bloomsbury Academic, Neale); and the Sage Handbook of Longitudinal Research, (eds. Emmel, Neale, Laurie and McGonegall).

The Timescapes Archive will remain open until August 2013 on its current software platform, with support from our project partners, the University of Leeds Library (Institutional Repository) and the UK Data Archive. We are sustaining our network of affiliates, with new datasets due for deposit this year. The sustainability of the datasets that make up the collection has been addressed: copies of all the data have been transferred to the UK Data Archive for longer term preservation and re-use and are in process of being ingested there. The resource is the subject of a case study for a JISC funded project on data management planning currently being carried out by the University of Leeds Library (2012-13). With our project partners, we plan to develop a proposal to ESRC for further funding for the Timescapes Archive under the Value Added call, aligned with the new UK Data Service.

3. Early and Anticipated Impacts

a) Summary of Impacts to date

Please summarise any impacts of the project to date, referring where appropriate to associated outputs recorded on the Research Outcomes System (ROS). This should include both scientific impacts (relevant to the academic community) and economic and societal impacts (relevant to broader society). The impact can be relevant to any organisation, community or individual.

Scientific Impacts We list here early impacts across the main areas of the programme, with a particular focus on our methodological and resource building work.

Substantive Research The scope of academic engagement in the substantive and theoretical themes of Timescapes has grown appreciably during the course of the initiative. There has been a resurgence of interest across academic networks and centres of excellence in the UK in family research and the value of temporal, life course and inter-generational approaches to understanding personal lives. This has included an exploration of theories of time to enrich and underpin empirical research in this substantive field. As an example of this impact, two international networks have developed over the course of the last five years with some input from Timescapes researchers - the Mamsie network (on motherhood) and the Space and Time consortium. In the UK, two new journals have been successfully launched, with significant input from Timescapes researchers: *Studies in the Maternal* (an online open access journal, Thomson); and *Families, Relationships and Societies* (Policy Press; Neale, Cunningham Burley, Jamieson and Bornat). The latter is the first journal devoted to this theme in the UK; it engages fully with the life course and temporal themes of Timescapes.

The impact of our substantive and conceptual research work has been achieved through extensive dissemination activities and through collaborations with academic networks, leading

experts,and centre of excellence in the UK, Europe and Scandinavia. We have given over 150 plenaries, invited presentations, public lectures and seminars in the UK, and over 50 presentations at international venues including Norway, Sweden, Finland, The Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Cyprus, Spain, Israel, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, US, and Australia. Three Timescapes symposia on substantive and theoretical advances, delivered at the BSA and ESA were very well attended and generated a great deal of interest. An expert symposium on *Gender in Time* was organised in Oslo in collaboration with an affiliated project (Nielsen) May 2010). We organised two successful and over-subscribed policy conferences, where the substantive work of Timescapes was showcased for a mixed audience of academics, policy makers and practitioners (Edinburgh, October 2008; Westminster June 2011).

Methodological Advances. The past five years has seen significant growth in the use of QL and mixed longitudinal methods among academic and policy researchers across a range of disciplines, from criminology to sustainable transport and energy. QL studies are increasingly being funded across the research councils and commissioned through major research charities and government departments. Timescapes has contributed to this growth. Through our affiliation scheme, and our capacity building activities we have supported the commissioning, design and development of over 50 QL projects and studentships, and acted as a magnet for the development of many more. The scope of engagement with methodological and ethical issues under the initiative has been impressive. This was enabled in part through the incorporation into Timescapes of Neale's ESRC research fellowship, which was designed to build capacity in QL research.   Activities and resources include the following:

- Published outputs.
- A website for QL resources (www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk). The site is currently well used (9,354 visits during the last year). Resources include Working papers, Methods guides, Video resources, Ethics resources.
- Residential expert workshops.
- QL seminar series including half day and one day events at Leeds.
- Organisation of an International Conferences and 4 Conference symposia.
- Key notes and invited presentations at conferences and seminars (over 150 in the UK, over 40 internationally, covering QL methods, archiving and secondary analysis).
- Invited international lecture series and workshops (Maynooth, June 2012; Amsterdam, July 2012; Vilnius, October 2012).
- Training events (five organised over two years, three more scheduled).
- Doctoral supervision and examining – extensive across the teams.
- Tailored advice to researchers through personal consultations and research advisory groups (e.g. Scottish Government, DoE, Home-Start, Barnardos and affiliated project support).
- Hosting visiting scholars (Catherine Lilly (Wisconsin); Judith Burnett (formerly, UEL); Julie McCleod (Melbourne)) and doctoral students (from Germany, Qatar, and Poland).

In carrying out this work we benefitted from productive collaborations (e.g. joint events and writing and film projects) with colleagues from the Research Methods programme; the National Centre for Research Methods (Hub and qualitative nodes); the University of Manchester (Methods at Manchester series); Understanding Society and the NCDS; CRESC; the Third Sector Research Centre in Birmingham; and ECORYS (an independent research organisation conducting QL evaluation research with local authorities). The four methodology symposia were held at the Research Methods Festival (Oxford, 2008, 2010), The EuroQual conference (London 2010), and the BSA annual conference (Leeds 2012). Our international methods conference (The Craft of QL Research, Cardiff, January 2010), was attended by over 100 delegates, with excellent

feedback. Our seminar series, including half and one-day events, brought together an interdisciplinary mix of researchers and research users engaged with QL methods and ethics (University of Leeds, 2007-11). Our teaching and training modules in the UK and Europe have been rated highly by delegates. This input has created a step change in the take up of QL methods by academic and policy researchers in the UK and internationally.

The Timescapes Archive The creation and development of a new resource and interface for the sharing and re-use of QL data (the Timescapes Archive), is already having impact on the qualitative research environment, offering exciting possibilities for new forms of research and for secondary analysis methods teaching and training in the UK (Bishop 2012a and b). The stakeholder model underpinning this resource promotes and facilitates data sharing, brings archiving into the world of research, aligns primary and secondary analysis, enables researcher controls on access, and facilitates refined searching and thematic linking of datasets. It represents a new way of conceptualising archiving that is beginning to impact on research environments and agendas in the UK. It is worth noting that we have been able to archive public sector, non ESRC funded studies that are not subject to Research Council archiving requirements, and to persuade the funders of the projects (the DoH and the Scottish Government) of the value of archiving. The DoH has provided extra funding to enable the archiving of the Choice and Change study, while the Scottish Government study is due to deposit with Timescapes in October 2012. At the present time our network of affiliated projects continues to grow, reflecting a new orientation towards data sharing and re-use that Timescapes has supported and encouraged.

In addition, we have contributed to revised thinking about managing research data and data planning processes. Clearly, Timescapes is part of broader developments in these areas, but there is a discernible shift towards planning for archiving early in the data life cycle, and for more collaborative models between researchers and archivists in implementing institutional data policies (see, for example, the data policies emerging from the JISC programme: (www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/di researchmanagement), and new requirements for data management planning for applicants to ESRC). In both these instances, Timescapes has played an important role in shaping debates and advancing practice.

The scope of the Timescapes Archive and its future potential is significant. The number of files held in the resource (2,952 files from 9 datasets) is extensive. In order to put this into perspective, and at a very broad brushstroke, our conservative estimate is that this represents a fifth of the number of qualitative data files currently held in the UK Data Archive. This is a substantial achievement given the complexities and challenges of archiving QL data, and the relatively short time frame for development to date. The extent of the data reflects not only a very high rate of consent among participants (over 95% agreement), but a high level of commitment to archive among QL researchers - given the right environment. Moreover the data and the accompanying metadata are in most cases of high quality. When data copied to the UK Data Archive were processed for long term preservation, normal processing times were cut approximately by half; this is due to the high quality of data preparation conducted under Timescapes. The Timescapes resource was first opened less than two years, with a gradual building of datasets during that period. Yet usage statistics are encouraging: to date, just over 200 researchers have registered to use the Archive. Thus far, they have accessed 5,086 data files from the archive's holdings. With nine datasets now available, we anticipate a steady growth in usage over the coming year.

These archiving developments have been extended across Europe through collaborations with CESSDA (Council for European Social Science Data Archives), the Bremen Life Course

Archive, The Irish Qualitative Data Archive (Maynooth) and WISDOM (the Austrian National Qualitative Data Archive in Vienna). In 2009, with matched funding from CESSDA (£5,000) and hosted at Bremen, we ran a very successful two day workshop on QL and Qualitative archiving in Europe, attended by archivists and researchers from 14 European countries. Outcomes include a double special issue of the IASSIST journal (Bishop and Neale (eds). 2010/11; Neale and Bishop 2010/11) and the setting up of EQUALAN – The European Qualitative and QL Archiving Network. Currently convened by Jane Gray (IQDA, Maynooth), EQUALAN has secured funding for an international workshop through DASHISH (the Danish Archive) and is beginning to make an impact on a European wide research agenda which has hitherto been dominated by the archiving and secondary analysis of large scale quantitative datasets.

Secondary Analysis. As shown above, Timescapes has pioneered innovative methods for sharing and re-using QL data, both within and beyond the Timescapes teams. The work of the Secondary Analysis project and strand has been very effective in building capacity in secondary analysis as part of the new ethos of data sharing and re-use. Three training workshops on Qualitative Secondary Analysis were organised across the UK (Leeds, London and Edinburgh) during the early part of 2011 and were attended by a mixed audience of academic and government researchers. The workshops were capped at 40 participants per event, to allow meaningful interaction and small group work; they were all over subscribed, and the team received extremely positive feedback. Responding to demand, two further training events were organised (Leeds, September 2011 and March 2012 – the latter in collaboration with the UK Data Archive). These events were also oversubscribed and rated very highly. Overall, more than 200 researchers benefited from this training. To meet ongoing demand, three further QL and secondary analysis training workshops have been scheduled for the forthcoming year (2012-3) with financial support from NCRM and the University of Leeds. The team has produced training resources from this work (at www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/secondary analysis) and given invited presentations at conferences and seminars in the UK and internationally (e.g. in Vienna and Maynooth, Ireland), As an example of impact, the Essex led Doctoral Training Centre two day course on Secondary Analysis of Qualitative data has been strongly shaped by Timescapes Secondary analysis expertise, with active input from the Leeds team.

One of the most pleasing endorsements of our archiving and secondary analysis work was received through the methods panel of the **International Benchmarking Review of Sociology (ESRC, BSA and HaPS** March 2010). The report highlighted the important methodological work being undertaken by Timescapes and the strategic developments underway to bridge the traditional divide between qualitative and quantitative enquiry. In particular, the review highlighted our 'particularly innovative data generation effort' through 'the establishment of a specialist archive of data offering innovative methods of data management and exploitation, based on the principles of data sharing' (p29). In summing up on the state of methodology in UK Sociology, the review recommends 'support for new attempts towards sharing and archiving qualitative research for multiple use and making restricted data sets available' (section 6.2 p41).

Societal Impacts (relevant to broader society)

Policy and Practice Engagement Findings from the Timescapes projects have implications across a range of policy areas, with relevance for statutory and third sector organisations. The teams have worked with policy and practice partners in the design and development of the research. Policy organisations include: Welsh and Scottish Governments, DoE, DoH, the Maternity Alliance, Families First Initiative (Wales), Family Strategic Partnership, Fatherhood Institute, Grandparents Association, and the Family and Parenting Institute. Local practitioner

groups include: local and regional authority teenage pregnancy teams, local authority playgroup organisations, primary health care teams and third sector organisations providing a range of services to families and children (e.g. Home Start and Barnardos). Several projects took part in the consultation for the Department of Children, Schools and Families Green Paper (2009). As well as presenting at policy and practitioner conferences, the projects have produced tailored outputs for these audiences, including a series of policy briefing papers (www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/resources). A two day conference, *Understanding and Supporting Families over Time* (Westminster 2011) was jointly organised with the Social Policy Association and Family and Parenting Institute. With keynotes from Frank Field, Graham Allen and Katherine Rake, this event was an effective vehicle for disseminating policy related findings and creating dialogue with policy and practice audiences (Patrick 2012; and conference report at www.timescapes.ac.uk). Varied strategies have been used to create impact. Examples are given below:

- Findings from project 1 (siblings) have been distilled in publications, policy briefings and key note addresses for Mental Health practitioners and Play Group Organisations. Similarly, findings from Project 7 on the care of older people and values around institutional care for elderly parents has fed into national debates on this issue and been presented at practitioner conferences and in practitioner journals.

- Hadfield and Thomson, writing in *Practicing Midwife* (2009 July), distilled messages from project 3 about the disparity between women's aspirations for the process of giving birth and the reality of their experiences. Their evidence suggests the need for a review of the processes by which birth plans are created and implemented in professional practice. The team has contributed to policy discussions in the areas of family policy, maternity benefits and intergenerational justice. Some of the key ideas and narratives from the study have entered policy and popular discourse including the significance of age in shaping mothering projects, intergenerational tensions between mothers and grandmothers, and the commercialisation of mothering.

- Project 4 (Shirani and Henwood (2009)) distributed a briefing paper to the National Childbirth Trust on Men's experiences of antenatal classes. The report recommended the setting up of separate groups to enable men to speak freely about their needs and concerns. Feedback from local branches suggests the report has been extremely useful, and will be distributed widely to NCT practitioners. The project produced an accessible brochure for disseminating its research findings more readily to non academic audiences. This was used as an engagement tool with groups of learners, adult returners to education, and at community events in deprived areas in South Wales. Further targeted dissemination to Welsh policy makers and mental health practitioners is underway.

- A programme of targeted user engagement aims to build on existing uptake of research from project 5, building on the Centre for Research on Families and Relationship's contacts and networks in this field. The Scottish Government is currently considering the development of a new parenting strategy and a planned meeting with key policy and analytical staff involved in this will feed in findings about responsibilities into this strategy. Targeted dissemination is planned through CRFR's network of over 400 interested users, the Children in Scotland newsletter, and local authority Children's Services plans. The team anticipate uptake of the messages among children and family practitioners across the voluntary sector and local and national government.

- Project 6 has engaged with policy partners (the Grandparents Association and Grandparents Plus) and developed long standing relationships with local health and community care gatekeepers. The team has contributed to the delivery of primary and community health care, to broader initiatives to address inequalities in health across the city, and has taken part in national consultations on the health visitors implementation

plan and on government reports on poverty and early intervention (Frank Field and Graham Allen). The team organised a practitioner conference resulting in the development of a grand parenting network, to disseminate the findings and inform the next phase of this research. An impact case study has been produced for the ESRC website.

- The 'Following Young Fathers' research for project 2 was designed in collaboration with the York and Humberside Regional Co-ordinators for Teen Pregnancy and engages with new government initiatives on early years interventions and troubled families. The baseline study focused on a specific gap in policy and practice knowledge concerning the support needs of young fathers and how best to engage them in parenting. It afforded an opportunity to test out a 'knowledge to action' framework, which facilitates practitioner-engaged research and research-engaged practice and moves beyond notions of 'knowledge transfer' and 'knowledge exchange' (Neale and Morton: 2012). This entailed the sustained involvement of practitioners in the conduct and dissemination of the research, creating a strong pathway to impact as the research progressed. The practitioner (an educational learning mentor) became an internal research broker, jointly presenting findings with the research team, circulating the policy briefing paper, and working with local practitioners to translate the evidence into practitioner goals and strategies. The findings of the study (Neale and Lau 2011) have fed into a new service delivery plan, and been disseminated to policy makers in the DoH and DoE. The team is on the steering group of a DoE/Family Strategic Partnership initiative on young fathers, and has set up a Following Fathers network as a forum across the research, public and third sectors. Developing from this work, Neale has been appointed to the academic evidence and assessment panel for the Early Years Intervention Foundation (Graham Allen).

Engaging with users in Timescapes has revealed new insights about impact: it is as much a methodological as a substantive issue. When combined with a 'knowledge to action' framework, QL research can be an effective vehicle for creating impact as an integral part of the research process. The elongated time frames and developmental nature of QL enquiry can facilitate effective, ongoing working relationships and give time for a productive iteration between research, policy and practice. Overall, this project shows that the way that research is conducted can, in itself, create the right conditions for 'making a difference' to policy makers and practitioners.

Public Engagement Our public engagement work has taken a variety of forms, from website and media work, to interactive community initiatives. We devised a media plan in our first year, have developed good links with our university media teams and recruited a BBC media representative onto our advisory network. Additionally, our researchers benefited from ESRC media training. We give examples of our activities below.

BBC Memoryshare is a website that records memories of personal or historical events. These are deposited by members of the public and organised chronologically from 1900 to the present day. We set up a collaboration with the BBC to enable memories of personal or family life to be tagged as 'Timescapes' memories on the BBC site, and to create a collection of memories that would be thematically related and therefore retrievable for re-use. We have used festival of social science funding to create public accounts for the Memoryshare site (see below).

Festival of Social Science Events. Between 2007 and 2011, Timescapes teams organised five public events, in four cases with funding from the Festival of Social Science.

- In March 2008 projects 1 and 7 teamed up to invite members of the public to complete an online or hard copy postcard recording accounts of their relationships with their siblings. Public response far exceeded expectation: the teams received just under 800 postcards – a major achievement. As well as achieving the impact of public interest, further impact is possible through analysis of the postcards, which have been archived for re-use. A follow up festival event in 2009 showcased online some of the postcard responses from the 2008 event and enabled visitors to deposit their own memories of life with their siblings in the BBC Memoryshare archive. Further ESRC funding was also secured for a follow up showcase event. In April 2009 projects 1 and 7 collaborated with the Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood in London on a '**Family Albums'** weekend. This was designed to explore the place of sisters, brothers and other family members in children's lives. Around 1500 visitors to the Museum visited a poster exhibition of findings from the 'our Sisters and Brothers' postcard activity (see above), with 130 or so taking part in workshop activities drawing on the research, that were run by community artists and storytellers. Accounts of siblinghood were generated for the BBC Memoryshare site.

- Two interactive exhibitions were mounted for the ESRC festivals of social science in March 2010 and October 2011. The first exhibition showcased data in the Timescapes Archive on **Family Lives and Turning Points,** with further accounts elicited from people in the local community for BBC Memoryshare. The exhibition was mounted at an Arts Centre in London, before transferring to the University of Leeds. It was attended by over 300 people and feedback was excellent. Our final exhibition, **Family Lives over Time,** was held in Leeds City Art Gallery. This displayed information about the Timescapes programme and the empirical projects, using multi-media data archived with Timescapes to illustrate the research. Data from related archives – including Mass Observation - were also displayed. The day included a session on constructing family histories, organised by the local history society. The event was attended by over 200 people, with excellent feedback (reports of this and selected other events are available on the Timescapes website).

Media and Web based Work Engagement with the media has been an ongoing feature of Timescapes work, with good media coverage of major milestones (the launch of Timescapes and of the Archive). Projects have produced press releases and contributed to press coverage and radio programmes. Drawing on findings from Project 1, Edwards was the 'expert voice' on the 'Sibling Rivalry' series of three programmes for BBC Radio Wales, and the 'expert voice' on changes in parent-child relationships for the 'Reasons to be Cheerful' programme for BBC Radio 4. Project 3 has consistently worked with the media to disseminate findings about motherhood, including radio programmes, online forums and collaborations with journalists. Thomson advised the BBC on a *Thinking Allowed* series on family life, to which both Thomson and Neale contributed. Project 6 has received extensive press coverage for its work on grandparenting in disadvantaged localities and provided consultancy to documentary film makers on grandparenting in the UK. We have used the Timescapes website and project based websites for creative outputs and public engagement. Films about Timescapes have been streamed onto the main site. Project 3 has worked with media professionals to create digital online outputs that have potential to reach beyond academic audiences. In October 2010 project 1 posted the 'Learning About Young People's Lives: what do teenagers' bedrooms tell us about their identities and relationships?' video on You Tube, which combined visual and transcript material from the project: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=El0ph9yVl3I. To date, it has had over 750 views.

b) Anticipated/Potential Future Impacts

Please outline any anticipated or potential impacts (scientific or economic and societal) that you believe your project might have in future. You will be asked to complete an ESRC Impact Report 12 months after the end date of your award. The Impact Report will ask for details of any impacts that have arisen since the completion of the End of Award Report.

Scientific Impacts

- **Methodological:** continued growth and refinements in QL and mixed longitudinal methods and ethics in UK and international social science, drawing on the contributions of the initiative, and advancing into new disciplinary and wider international arenas.
- **Substantive:** further dissemination from existing projects and further funding secured to increase historical/longitudinal reach and value of project datasets and findings.
- **Conceptual:** Increased academic engagement with the concept of timescapes – complex flows of time - as a fundamental dimension of social experience/social processes.
- **Archiving:**
  - Increase in registered use of the archive and outputs from data re-use.
  - (subject to funding): Further development of the Timescapes Archive, working with core projects to increase the longitudinal reach of existing datasets, and with affiliates to build collections of thematically related datasets.
  - Further growth in collaborative models of archiving within the research community; further embedding of archiving as an integral part of QL research practice.
  - Advancing the use of Institutional repositories to hold and share data collections, complementing the work of the new UK Data Service.
  - Further advances in international archiving of Q and QL datasets and research/ archive collaborations.
- **Secondary Analysis**:
  - Increase in use and re-use of archival holdings and take up of methods (e.g. data sharing workshops) and analytical techniques for QL secondary analysis, as pioneered and disseminated through this strand of work.
  - Development of cross project analysis, bringing datasets together, facilitated by refined search and retrieval facilities in the Timescapes Archive.
  - Refinements to data linkages across diverse datasets (qualitative and quantitative).

Societal Impacts

- Further take up of substantive findings in policy and/or practice contexts, leading to new orientations in policy and refinements to practice.
- Further development and uptake of a 'knowledge to action' framework for QL research, which facilitates practitioner-engaged research and research-engaged practice.

4. Declarations

Please ensure that sections A, B and C below are completed and signed by the appropriate individuals. The End of Award Report will not be accepted unless all sections are signed. Please note hard copies are **not** required; electronic signatures are accepted and should be used.

A: To be completed by Grant Holder

Please read the following statements. Tick **one** statement under ii) and iii), then sign with an electronic signature at the end of the section (this should be an image of your actual signature).

i) The Project

This Report is an accurate overview of the project, its findings and impacts. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.	x ☐

ii) Submissions to the Research Outcomes System (ROS)

Output and impact information has been submitted to the Research Outcomes System. Details of any future outputs and impacts will be submitted as soon as they become available. **or**	x ☐
This grant has not yet produced any outputs or impacts. Details of any future outputs and impacts will be submitted to the Research Outcomes System as soon as they become available.	☐

iii) Submission of Datasets

Datasets arising from this grant have been offered for deposit with the Economic and Social Data Service. **or**	x ☐
Datasets that were anticipated in the grant proposal have not been produced and the Economic and Social Data Service has been notified. **or**	☐
No datasets were proposed or produced from this grant.	☐

Signature:	*Bren Neale*
Name: Bren Neale	**Date: 14. August 2012**

B: To be completed by Head of Department, School or Faculty

Please read the statement below then sign with an electronic signature to confirm your agreement.

This Report is an accurate overview of the project, its findings and impacts.

Signature:

Name: Professor Mark Priestley

Position: Head of School   Date: 14/08/12

C: To be completed by Finance Officer of Grant-Holding Research Organisation

Please read the statement below then sign with an electronic signature to confirm your agreement.

ESRC funds have been used in accordance with the ESRC Research Funding Guide. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.

Signature:

Name: Helen Wells

Position: Research Support Manager (Education, Social Sciences & Law)

Date: 22/08/2012