

## Timescapes Project 10

### Secondary Analysis: Changing Social Landscapes and Timescapes: Meshing levels of analysis

[www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk)

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#### INTRODUCTION

Most of the Timescapes projects take as their focus particular experiences or key moments within the life course. These 'slices of life' provide excellent lenses on key questions about social structural continuities and changes. A core theme of the secondary analysis project will be to address substantive and conceptual questions around social change, and provide insights into some important domains of social life in the early part of the 21st century.

As part of their remit the Timescapes' projects will be gathering a wealth of information about micro level social experience at the level of individuals, and building pictures of context through exploring family and intimate relationships, friendships, localities and patterns of interaction and subjective experiences over biographical time. Building understandings of such contexts provide a rich resource for understanding diverse experiences, values and orientations. As such there are important opportunities for researching diversity and commonalities both within the Timescapes' data sets, and in relation to macro level data sets. In chosen domains we will explore opportunities for forging links between micro and macro level data, with a focus on continuities and changes within individual biographies, and their link to the broader dynamic of social change.

The Changing Social Landscapes and Timescapes project will commence in October 2009 and finish in September 2011.



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#### RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The project will entail three areas of work:

- an integrative analysis of data and findings drawn from across different projects relating to subjectivities, contexts and life course transitions.
- a secondary analysis of the cross cutting Timescapes themes, which will be addressed in each of the empirical projects.
- a macro level quantitative data analysis, through strategic use of a range of data sets. The purpose here is not solely one of accessing macro 'context', but of joined-up conceptual and analytic development, exploring macro and micro level evidence to provide different lenses on key social processes.

#### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

##### Integrative analysis

- What are the core similarities and differences in how people negotiate and experience transitions and turning points over the life course?
- How do transitions and (planned and unplanned) ruptures in 'normal experience' impact upon social relationships and subjectivities? How does this vary over the life course?
- How do people's subjectivities and outlooks relate to the networks and contexts in which they are embedded? How do social relations change over biographical time, and how is this experienced and managed?

##### Macro level Quantitative Data Analysis (examples)

- How do changing practices and perceptions relating to 'work life balance', and expectations surrounding the paid work of mothers, help to inform analysis of aggregate trends in gendered employment participation?
- How do aggregate level changes in care and employment patterns among mothers of young children link to shifts in ideas of 'the best thing to do'?

#### ACADEMIC AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The project aims to provide an academic and a policy resource through advancing substantive understanding of important social processes and trends,

but also a conceptual and methodological resource through exemplifying the scope for the joined-up use of macro and micro level data sets.