

# FAMILY LIVES THROUGH TIME: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON HOW YOUNG PEOPLE IMAGINED THEIR FUTURES. THE TIMESCAPES SECONDARY ANALYSIS PROJECT

Secondary analysis takes pre-existing data sets, for example research that has been archived, and re-uses it to explore themes and questions about society. Secondary analysis may then approach the data from a different perspective, offering opportunities for the development of new theorising from existing data. Secondary analysis can then bring together various sets of data from across time or place to look at a broader themes, for example the concept of futures as explored within this display, which draws together a number of different sources. Secondary analysis then shows the value of archived material as an important resource for social research projects, demonstrating how archives can support and inspire social research.

In contemporary and historical social research, young people have been asked to undertake a similar written exercise as a means of accessing their understandings of their future. They were asked to write an essay describing what they thought their future lives might be like. Here we show a selection of these essays from two different studies, Timescapes Young lives Project (2006) and the National Child Development Survey study (1969). These studies show how young people generally tend to imagine quite realistic futures. They show how young people understand the world and their place and their future in it and allow us to consider the social processes that influence why some groups of young people imagine certain kinds of futures rather than others. They thus point to issues of inequality and of social change and continuity across families and across generations.

## NCDS: 11YR OLD GIRL WITH NON-MANUAL FATHER

I have two children one 4 the other 6. I am working in a school as a teacher. My husband is an Estate Agent. In the evenings we have tea and each person tells the rest about any interesting events which has happened to them. Then we have a sit and talk about what we are going to buy or if we are going to buy a house or not. We then watch Calendar and the news. At half past seven the children will have a bath and be put to bed. Meanwhile my husband will be seeing that the car's engine is all right so that we shall not be stranded any where is something goes wrong. After that I shall do the ironing or washing or any other jobs that want doing. At Eleven o'clock we shall go to bed and get up at seven o'clock. At eight o'clock I would take the children one to school with me the other to her grandma's. My husband goes to work at nine o'clock. At school I [illegible] teach first English, Maths and Art. In the afternoon P.E., Projects and History. On Sundays in the summer we will go to the sea for a day or go visiting. In winter I [illegible] stay at home and watch television or bake. Every Thursday we go to my mother's or mother in law's. At home I do all the housework at night after tea. When I am twenty nine I shall go to another school or stop being a teacher.

## NCDS: 11YR OLD BOY WITH MANUAL FATHER

My work is football. I am getting on quite well as a footballer. I have quite a bit of money in the bank. I have two children and a wife. We are all very happy in my house. My oldest child is 8 years of age. He wants to be a footballer just like myself. My youngest child is 2 years old. She wants to play Tennis when she is older. We mostly watch Tennis games and football games when I am not at work. I usually get up very early for training. I sometimes take my son with me I think he has a good time.

When I come home from work I mostly take my wife out to the Cinema. I hardly ever stay at home. When I do I mostly have a rest. At all other times I'm mostly giving my son some football practice and my daughter some tennis practice. My wife works in a Restaurant and she cooks delicious meals for me and my family We are a pretty wealthy family. I earn about 60 pound a week but I only have 20 pounds to spend etc. My wife earns about 50 pounds and she has 30 pounds left to spend. So we altogether have 50 pounds to spend. I think that is quite a lot of money. I have a Zephra 7 to ride around in. We have only one car but we could easily buy another one.

## CARLIE, YLT, AGE 15

Imagine you are now 25 years old. Write about the life you are leading, your interests, your home life and your work at the age of 25.

You have 30 minutes to do this.

I think I will be living on my own when I am 25, maybe in a flat. I would like to be working with children, helping them with problems that they are having with family. I would like to still be going boxing to stay healthy + keep my fitness up. I would like to be living in Leeds so I am still close to all my family and friends. I think I will have a different set of friends when I am 25 than I have now but I will hopefully still be friends with the people I hang around with now.

## RESEARCH TEAM

Dr Sarah Irwin - University of Leeds

Dr Mandy Winterton - University of Leeds

## EMILIA, YLT, AGE 15

Imagine you are now 25 years old. Write about the life you are leading, your interests, your home life and your work at the age of 25.

You have up to 30 minutes to do this.

I have finished my medicine course at Edinburgh University, and am now training to be a forensic pathologist. I have a little green car, which I use to get around. I live in a small flat with a good friend. In the evenings, I read, do work related to my training, and take Catalan classes. Occasionally, when my friend is out, I play my clarinet. Eventually, I will finish my course and move to Barcelona. I email old school friends every now and then, and they update me with their lives. I am still writing stories, in Spiral bound notebooks, which litter the floor and the desk. The flat is quite clean, as we keep it in good condition. I take the train down to Leeds during the holidays, and visit my family.