

**If you use this document in your own work please  
cite the Inventing Adulthood study  
(<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/inventingadulthoods>)**

## **Final Report Youth Values**

### **A. Background**

In an essay 'On methods and morals' A H Halsey (1985) observes that a range of disciplines have brought many methods to bear on the definition and explanation of values, only ever developing partial and provisional responses to an infinitely complex term. By keeping an open mind about what we mean by values and how they may be defined we have tried to situate this study creatively within a divergent literature in following way:

#### **Values and social change**

A body of empirical work has documented movement in the values in Western cultures over time, identifying a 'culture shift' from material to post material values (Inglehart 1990) and the development of increasingly tolerant and individualistic interpersonal morality (Harding *et al.* 1986, Ashford and Timms 1992). This empirical material lends some support to theoretical studies which point to the progressive decline in the influence of tradition and social institutions in the formation of values, a process variously described as 'detraditionalisation' (Heelas *et al.* 1996), 'individualization' (Beck 1992) and 'disembedding' (Giddens 1991). A belief in the efficacy and value of the self has grown in parallel with this decline (Giddens *op cit.*) with authority increasingly located in the individual, responsible for making decisions about what is right and wrong. Commentators have pointed to the emergence of new ethical stories and communities (Weeks 1995, Plummer 1995, Tronto 1993) and warned of rising anxiety. In Bauman's terms the ethical paradox of the postmodern condition is that it 'restores to agents the fullness of moral choice and responsibility while simultaneously depriving them of the comfort that modern self confidence once promised' (Bauman 1996: xxii).

#### **Young people as moral agents**

Influential theorists such as Giddens and Beck point to the erosion of generation as a legitimate marker of authority, but there has been relatively little sociological work that seeks to document or explain the values of children and young people within this context. Such studies as exist are primarily descriptive (Roberts and Sachdev 1996, Francis and Kay 1995) or speculative (Wilkinson and Mulgan 1995). There is a body of psychological literature concerned with documenting and theorising the processes of moral development in children and young people. This work has developed some important insights on the importance of age, gender and the relative complexity of a young person's environment to their learning process, but has tended to develop models of moral development that exist outside of particular times, cultures and gender relations. Harvey (1993) has observed that attendance to the specificity of place thwarts the development of meta-theories, and some of the most interesting studies of the young as moral agents are those that seek to document the processes of identity-making in small scale local cultures, demonstrating the importance of community (Back 1997), friendships and reputations (Hey 1997), the family (Brannen 1996), and consumption (Miles 1997) as sites of moral meaning.

#### **Values, identities and capital**

In seeking to bridge the gulf between these literatures we have found it useful to think of values as implicated in beliefs, discourses and identities, but also as representing commodities or resources that are given worth within particular economies or communities. In understanding value discursively we have built on the view that sources of moral authority have proliferated, resulting in an 'aestheticisation of the ethical' (Tester 1992, Shusterman 1988). Not only has there been a proliferation of moral discourses between which one can move in the construction of a moral self (Tronto 1993) but in moving between

these discourses or economies one is involved in the appropriation and transformation of meaning. This process has been documented clearly in the field of consumption, where young people have been shown to appropriate and transform the material value of consumer products such as computer games. By drawing these games first into the moral economy of the household, and then into the public sphere through their knowledge, expertise and ability to talk about the games with friendship cultures, young people effectively transform their value between different economies (Silverstone *et al.* 1992). A body of more ethnographic work achieves a similar end by adopting the theoretical tools of Pierre Bourdieu (1986) (in particular the concepts of social, cultural, material and embodied capital) in order to understand the relationship between what individuals value, their identities and their social environments (Skeggs 1997, Connolly 1998, Thornton 1995).

## **B. Objectives**

While data analysis and writing up are on-going, we have been able to meet all of our stated aims and have addressed each of our research questions (see report).

**1. To contribute to theory in the area of the social construction of identity by examining how young people position themselves in relation to different contemporary value systems and to understand how this positioning relates to processes of identity formation including experiences of social inclusion and exclusion.**

Analysis of data from all sources in the study have led us to significant theoretical insights in this area, discussed more fully in the report.

**2. To produce new data providing qualitative and quantitative documentation of the variety of moral world views within and between groups of young people aged 11-16 in the UK with particular reference to differences of age, gender, ethnicity, faith, social class, family formation and location.**

We have been successful in generating new and high quality qualitative and quantitative data sets in excess of those we anticipated (see section C below) and data analysis is ongoing. We have produced in-depth analyses of patterns in the quantitative data and of the qualitative material through dimensions of location, social class and gender, but more work remains to be done in the areas of faith, ethnicity and family formation.

**3 To produce knowledge of the factors that contribute to moral development and of the strategies that young people employ to cope with moral dilemmas and diversity. We will develop understanding of how social and intergenerational change have affected the legitimacy of sources of moral authority for young people.**

Through a range of methods (described below) we have been able to produce a broadly based picture of how young people understand the process of moral development, explained and detailed more fully in the report, nominated publications and Thomson *et al.* (2000). We have explored young people's strategies for coping with moral diversity both directly (focus groups, questionnaires and interviews) and indirectly through an analysis of the diversity of our sample and observation of their practice in groups. Our methods have also provided insight into the effect of intergenerational change on legitimacy of sources of moral authority for young people (see Section D).

**4. To make a major contribution towards youth policy in the areas of health, education, parenting and criminal justice by providing an understanding of young people as active moral agents, documenting the range of their moral world views and elaborating their understanding of moral legitimacy. The study will make a practical contribution to educational practice and methods, and will identify potential strategies for the support and guidance of young people from different social environments.**

We have made a significant contribution to a number of policy and practice developments in England and Northern Ireland during the funded period of the study and this is an ongoing activity (see Sections E. Activities and G. Impacts for details of contributions to date).

## C. Methods

### 1. Introduction

The methods proposed in the original application demanded a reflexive and incremental design, encouraging and responding to young people's participation throughout the research process. To do this we:

- \* consulted young people initially about the focus and methods of the research through developmental pilot groups;
- \* incorporated young people's own voices, ideas and language into the research tools;
- \* were aware of the research process as an ethical intervention into young people's lives in the 'present tense' as well as the longer term. This entailed development of participatory research techniques, observation and recording of group dynamics, negotiation of ground rules and careful negotiation of consent.

#### *Changes to the research design*

There were some changes to the proposed design leading to an expanded sample and significantly improved value for money.

*a) Sample size.* Referees encouraged an expansion of the Northern Irish sample from one to three schools to include denominational differences, which we did. We also expanded the additional groups proposed to include a broader range of 'socially excluded groups' including groups of lesbian and gay young people and young people living in local authority care.

	<b>Pilot fgs</b>	<b>questionnaires</b>	<b>fgs</b>	<b>interviews</b>
<b>Original sample</b>	6	1250	33	48
<b>final sample</b>	5	1800	56	54

#### *b) Individual interviews:*

We originally proposed to interview young people identified by peers as 'moral leaders' twice over the course of the study. Further interviews with up to 10 adults identified as 'leaders' by young people were planned. Our referees identified problems of confidentiality and consent with which we agreed and we abandoned this route. As a result of an extended period of fieldwork and our success in securing funding for a subsequent longitudinal element to the study, we decided to eliminate the second interview. Instead we widened the net of individual interviewees, choosing those identified as leaders (by researchers, teachers and pupils), as well as a range of others including young people who were quiet in focus groups and those who were seen to have unique experiences, such as young people with disabilities and young people from minority ethnic groups, head boy/ girl etc.

### 2. The methods employed (further detail in Appendix I, II, III)

**The questionnaire** was developed in consultation with the developmental pilot groups who contributed ideas to the content, wording and design. We also adapted questions from a number of existing studies including the *European Values Study* (Ashford and Timms 1992), the *West of Scotland 11-16 Study* (Sweeting and West 1995), the *British Social Attitudes Young People's Survey* (Roberts and Sachdev 1996) and the *ESRC 11-16 Adolescent Identities Study* (Banks *et al.* 1992), which had the advantage of allowing comparison with other studies. The questionnaire was administered to over 1700 young people in eight different schools.

### **The focus group**

The group discussion method used in the study was an adaptation for research purposes of a game used in training and personal and social education. The values continuum provides a means for participants to 'explore values and attitudes in a group and to enable participants to acknowledge similarities and differences in values' (Lenderyou 1994:19). This method enabled researchers to observe group dynamics as well as generate opinion and discussion on relevant themes. Sessions, with between 4-6 participants, were usually one hour long and most were held in schools. Some took place in other locations, for example youth clubs and children's homes. Two researchers were present, one facilitator and one observer, and each session began with introductions followed by agreement of ground rules, and clarification of the meaning of confidentiality and anonymity.

### **The individual interview**

The research team themselves engaged in regular sessions of memory work throughout the project (see Crawford *et al.* 1992) as a mean of developing insight and reflexive awareness about the research topic and this work informed the individual interview schedule. The primary aim was to gain insight into young people's perceptions of their own process of moral development. We employed a biographical approach, asking them to recall their earliest memories of good and bad and the key people, places and events of their moral development, reflecting on leadership, moral authority and difference in relation to others. Interviews took on average 1 hour and were tape recorded. Issues of consent, confidentiality and anonymity were reconfirmed at the start and end of the interview. Data included the transcriptions of interviews and researcher's field notes.

### **Research assignments and class work**

Research assignments were semi-structured interview schedules encouraging young people to interview an adult about what the world was like 'when I was your age'. 272 assignments were returned from 7 schools. While the administration of the method means that systematic analysis or interpretation is difficult, the research assignments have been subject to content and qualitative analysis and provide us with rich illustrative material. Schools were also invited to undertake class work in relation to the themes of the research. Again, participation in this method was voluntary and we received 'problem page' responses from young people in four of the eight schools and creative work based on trigger words from one school.

### **Methods of analysis**

All data has been transformed into machine readable form. The quantitative data set has been coded, cleaned and subjected to statistical analysis using SPSS PC. Focus group and individual interview data has been fully transcribed and coded on NUD\*IST. Initial analysis has been undertaken to identify key patterns and emergent themes. The class work and the research assignments have been coded and analysed and linked to the main data set as off-line data. An analysis of the media related data has also been undertaken, including a selected content analysis. Further analysis and writing up is ongoing and will continue. We have secured funding from South Bank University to support Sheena McGrellis part-time for 6 months to write up and work on the dissemination of the Northern Irish findings.

## **D. Results**

Our central finding has been that young people have sophisticated value systems, that they are deeply engaged in the emotional and ethical labour involved in constructing their identities and their lives. We are able to show and explore this in many ways drawing on data produced by our different methods of investigation.

### *The structure of youth values*

By comparing our questionnaire sample to relevant baseline data we found that these young people's values did not differ significantly to those documented for adults. Issues appear to fall into three areas:

those about which there is a *consensus* (for example the overwhelming majority believe that stealing, drug taking, racism and joyriding are wrong), those about which there is widespread *uncertainty* or diversity in opinion (for example abortion, suicide, euthanasia and pornography) and those over which there is *controversy*, i.e. where views are polarised, (for example attitudes towards homosexuality).

Our quantitative analysis has enabled us to see how the values of young people differ according to age, gender, social class, location and their orientation towards authority. For example we identified an overall age pattern where young people's responses to ethical issues become more circumspect and tolerant with age. On most issues there are small gender differences, with young women tending to be slightly more disapproving than young men. In some areas (including attitudes towards divorce and sex outside marriage) this pattern is reversed, and in others (such as attitudes towards homosexuality), we find a polarisation of view taking place along the lines of gender. A factor analysis of responses identified an internal structure to young people's values, confirming and complicating that identified by Ashford and Timms (1985), showing for example that attitudes towards 'Life Issues' (such as abortion, suicide, euthanasia) not only 'hang' together but may be shaped more by social class than gender or religion. We also found that location had a profound impact on certain values, enabling us to identify a discrete structure of values in Northern Ireland as well as significant local variations elsewhere. Further discussion of the content of the factors and their relationship to key demographic data can be found in the nominated publication (McGrellis *et al.* forthcoming).

The quantitative data has given us an overview of young people's values, but also questions with which to approach our qualitative data. For example, questionnaire responses indicated that the most tolerant attitudes towards drug taking occurred in the rural site and the least tolerant in the inner city site. We could make sense of this only through qualitative case studies (Henderson, 1999). Similarly, the identification of dramatic gender differences in sexual values in the middle-class commuter belt site and their relative absence in the isolated estate provided a route into mapping the contrasting economies of values of the two communities and the place of early parenthood within this (Thomson, b forthcoming). Below we briefly report those findings most directly relating to our original research questions, drawing on all our sources of data as relevant.

## **Our research questions**

### ***1. What or who do young people recognise as sources of moral authority and what factors contribute to the legitimacy of moral authority?*** (see objective 3)

#### *Distinguishing power and authority*

Authority has been described as power with legitimacy, i.e. power that neither needs to be explained nor defended. We found that young people were questioning the legitimacy of many forms of power. The line between legitimate and illegitimate power in young people's moral worlds is complex and contested - most tended to distinguish their own personal morality, the values of their particular friendship groups, the informal and formal values of the school and the values of the wider culture. While they were able to exercise some degree of control over the first two levels, they experienced themselves as subject to systems of collectively enforced values which informed the maintenance of reputations, popularity and fashion. Young people also distinguished between value systems (usually embedded within rules) that were formal and accountable and those which were unspoken and assumed.

Traditional authority figures, such as the police, religious leaders and the royal family received very little automatic respect from young people. They explained that respect must be earned, authority won and merit proven. This *ethic of reciprocity* was particularly apparent in young people's discussion of the purpose and application of school rules and the behaviour of teachers. While young people did not always invest teachers with moral authority, they watched them closely to see if they were worthy of it. The factors that contribute in young people's view to being a 'good teacher' provide insight into the factors that they see as contributing to the legitimacy of moral authority, such as consistency, care, the ability to listen and practical skills.

### *The individualisation of authority?*

The sources of moral authority recognised by young people are consistent with (an uneven) shift from traditionally ascribed authority to its negotiation and location in the individual. Young people were quick to defend their moral autonomy, stressing self determination, but the legitimate moral agent (self or other) could be complicated. First, the moral self was also the 'true' self and young people talked a great deal about the need to pursue self knowledge and authenticity in friendships and as individuals. It is also possible to identify a tension in young people's discourse between an assertion of moral individualism and a lived morality in which they are implicated in structures, identities and loyalties that transcend the individual. An example of such tensions can be found in young people's relationship with the cultural authority of the media. Young people tended to deny suggestions that they were influenced by the media, since it implies lack of agency or independence. Negative influence from the media was more likely to be mentioned when young people took on an adult position in relation to younger siblings, in stories of younger brothers and sisters acting out sequences or fantasies from cartoons, movies and games. But in less direct discussions, the media emerges with a significant place in their own moral landscapes - as a source of information, a resource for the development of moral identities, and a source of prepackaged moral discourses.

### *The family as a haven of obligation*

As a group parents were the most respected and unquestioned sources of authority, and of parents, mothers the most commonly admired and defended. In many ways parents and the family appeared to be relatively exempt from the reworking of authority that is evident more widely. While there is some evidence that young people are compelled to renegotiate family relationships (Finch and Mason 1993) from necessity (through family conflict) or choice (friendship relationships with mothers) they tend to describe the family in terms of its difference from wider relationships based on choice, consent or more explicit relations of authority. So parents have the right to hit children, there is an obligation to fight for family honour, you can only really trust family members, and 'telling' is honourable only when it involves the family. A number of those in our study were alienated from their families, either living away from home independently or in the care of the local authority. Yet in most of these cases moral authority was still attributed to the family of origin, particularly in response to the alternative assertion of authority by the state in the form of social workers. The one exception to this was in the case of a group of lesbian and gay young people where the notion of a 'community' and 'a family of choice' (Weeks, Donovan and Heaphy 1999) was posed as a positive alternative. Whether or not these ideals translated into practice, the family clearly played a symbolic role in moral landscapes - a haven of obligation in a world of choice.

## **2. How do they perceive changes in values across generations?** (see objectives 1 and 3)

We asked young people to undertake research assignments, interviewing a significant adult about changes and continuities between the worlds of their childhood and now. In focus group discussions and in the questionnaire we asked young people about their hopes and fears for the future.

### *Narratives of loss and gain*

Many of the same themes characterise the accounts of adults and young people. Most are double edged, speaking of both loss and gain, with the voices of the young accentuating the positive. One key theme identified by both was change to the family. On a positive note a greater openness in relations and communications between parents and children, and greater equality between the genders in terms of leisure and freedom was observed. On the negative side an erosion of parental authority, family breakdown, sexual pressure and lack of family time were mentioned. The condition of 'kids today..' was a way in which adults identified wider changes related to consumption, authority, and gender equality. Notions such as 'children today have no respect', 'have too much freedom', 'are spoiled for choice', simultaneously grieved a lost golden age while expressing concern about new risks faced by the young. Both young and old expressed positive views about improvements in the quality and standards of education. Continuities were discussed less frequently and in less detail than changes, and included comments on the enduring structures of everyday life - schooling, work and family life.

In discussions we found that young people were able to move within and between these narratives of loss and gain, taking up different positions, observing decline as well as progress, attributing blame as well as asserting hope. Their hopes speak of continuities between the generations. Young people generally wanted to find love (often marriage), have children, a steady job, and good health for themselves and their families. While most young people's hopes and fears centre on those things over which they feel they have some control, they are particularly fatalistic and resigned about those they see as beyond their control, such as the politics of the environment, the peace process in Northern Ireland, the economy. It is here rather than in the intimate spheres of family life and friendships that young people blame adults, expressing frustration with their failures, their 'short termism' and their greed.

### **3. How do they respond to diversity in contemporary value systems?** (see objectives 1, 2 and 3)

We approached this question in a number of ways: Young people experience diversity very differently according to where and how they grow up. Pilot work exploring the language of values revealed dramatic differences in the *linguistic repertoires* available to young people for moral discourse. While young people in the inner city site generated an excess of words for making judgements of right and wrong, and expressing ambivalent positions in between, young people in our rural site were able to report few such words. The different levels of complexity of language in these two sites could be seen as reflecting the relative complexity of the moral worlds they represent: the former a diverse, socially mobile community, ethnically diverse and relatively privatised beyond the shared spaces of schools and shops; the latter an ethnically homogeneous, relatively stable community where all are known to each other. The young people could appear inconsistent, but we theorised that they were able to switch between *value regimes*; a strategy for dealing with diversity. For example, discussing issues of parenting, such as whether it is appropriate to have a child if you cannot support it, we found that young people moved between the subject position of the child to that of the parent and back, and between value regimes of personal choice and self sufficiency. Rather than acting to resolve ethical uncertainty and complexity, young people's moral discourse tended to capture and reflect it.

Many young people responded positively to research methods that facilitated the expression of differing views, noting that this was an unusual experience. While only a small minority expressed hostile reactions to diversity, it became apparent that few young people felt confident about expressing private opinions publicly, observing that in their social worlds it is usually only popular people that 'get a say in how things are'. Others may refrain from expressing views that they consider to be out of step with dominant public values, or may prefer to keep their discussions within smaller, safer friendship groups. Yet the meaning of 'difference' called for closer investigation in discussion with young people. At one level there was a consensus among most people in most research sites that 'it's good to be different'. But this endorsement of difference in principle did not stand up to interrogation. It emerged that only some differences are good - those that are chosen and acquired (for example the cultivation of a unique personality and music tastes) rather than embodied or ascribed (for example having a body that falls outside of the normative aesthetic standards of youth, being considered to be poor, to be insufficiently masculine or feminine etc). It can be argued that in their immediate endorsement of difference young people were evoking a discursive formation, *consuming difference* rather than being different (Miles, 1997). So while it may be 'good to be different' it is neither good, nor safe to be 'weird'.

While the consumption of difference was for some a means of accessing a common culture, a number of young people employed '*strategies of distinction*' deliberately aligning themselves with values, identities and cultural resources that were not shared by the majority. Media consumption (especially music) played an important part in this process, and 'distinction' in consumption was associated with more cosmopolitan identity. In many cases these young people were making plans to leave their local area, and their strategy of drawing on alternative values and resources can be seen as part of a process of social and geographical mobility.

**4. How do young people understand the processes of their own moral development and how does this contribute to adult identity?** (See objective 1, 3 and 4)

From our quantitative data we could see a pattern in young people's values with attitudes becoming less judgemental and more tolerant with advancing age. By plotting the moral dilemmas reported by young people in relation to age we noted how these varied by age in different places, enabling us to give very grounded feedback to schools to facilitate curriculum planning. Our primary aim was not to elaborate any particular theory of moral development but to document young people's own perceptions of the process, and to do this we employed focus group discussions of parenting, learning and punishment, as well as inviting young people to tell their own stories of development through individual interview accounts.

*Adult subjectivity*

When describing the process of moral development young people tended to take the position of the adult subject and were often more comfortable talking about the development of younger siblings than their own development. The acquisition of moral autonomy was closely aligned with the development of physical and emotional competence (Thomson *et al.* 2000) and they considered it was when children had developed confidence in and control over their bodies that they were able to be responsible for the consequences of their actions. As with other dimensions of moral development, the relationship between the efficacy of choice and the development of moral autonomy was also associated with the acquisition of gendered identities.

*Trusting, testing and 'teaching':*

Young people had contradictory views on parenting, punishment and the learning process, but at the centre of the learning process they identified the need for a person who defines and polices moral boundaries. It is vital that this person has the power to punish and that they are trusted to use this power appropriately. While parents were rarely criticised directly for their failures in parenting, teachers were commonly taken to task for failing to find the required balance in this role. With developing experience and autonomy young people describe internalising moral boundaries and becoming less dependent on the 'teacher' for guidance. However, they describe a similar process of experiential learning within their friendships where the creation and the testing of trust (through the testing of confidentiality) lies at the heart of the development of social relationships (Misztal 1996).

One of the strongest emergent themes in the study concerns the ubiquity of violence in many young people's lives and its significance in their understanding of moral development. Young people described a wide range of forms of violence that they were familiar with from the chastisement and punishment of children by parents, the verbal violence of teachers, peer violence in the form of bullying and fighting, domestic violence, street and community violence associated with crime, gangs, and territorial borders and violence associated with policing which in Northern Ireland includes the actions of paramilitaries and political violence. Young people described violence as undermining the process of becoming an autonomous moral subject. Although they had very different experiences of violence, they expressed relatively similar views about its effects and place. First they considered violence to be a high risk strategy as children learn by doing - if they are hit they will hit, leading to escalation and a loss of control. They also observed that if the perpetrator of violence can see its effects they are unlikely to stop, and so the only way to escape violence is to 'firm up' and hide its effects. This was discussed primarily in terms of bullying, but the idea of embodying punishment as a way of learning is echoed in young people's discussions of the learning process at home. Physical punishment by parents tended to be seen as 'necessary violence', although talking was always considered to be more effective. Some thought that parents could be trusted to use such 'necessary violence' for the right reasons, but that the line should be drawn at 'battering'.

**5. What is the relationship between young people's values and their expectations and experiences of social inclusion and exclusion.** (See objectives 1, 2 and 4)

We found that young people's values and the values of their communities were deeply implicated in processes of social inclusion and exclusion. One way in which we have explored this relationship is in a case study of sexual values in two contrasting communities (Thomson forthcoming b). Here we have shown the way in which post material values and cultural capital of the middle class commuter belt - equality, authenticity, educational achievement and androgyny - are consistent with socially mobile futures in which sexual experience and risk taking are deferred. In contrast, young people living in an isolated public housing estate are tied more directly into values of embodied capital (hardness, good looks, risk taking, experience) that are valued in the present, but which may thwart mobility. Unlike the first group, it is difficult for these young people to exchange their social and cultural capital in other cultural fields, thus confirming and reproducing their exclusion. In this instance class and location reinforce difference and inclusion/exclusion.

Although young people draw on a number of explanatory models to account for processes of social exclusion (for example poor parenting, the cycle of deprivation) we have been struck by the individualisation of failure in their moral discourse. This is particularly the case around education, but is also evident in relation to poverty and resources that might be translated into 'family support'. Our data provides some confirmation of what Furlong and Cartmel (1997) have posed as the epistemological fallacy of modernity where individuals increasingly take responsibility for the outcome of social processes that are beyond their control.

## **E. Activities**

The research team has been actively involved in a range of networking and dissemination activities throughout the study. A full list is provided in the appendix.

## **F. Outputs**

Outputs from the study include: (see Appendix III for detail)

- \* A range of academic outputs including conference papers, working papers, journal articles, book and chapters;
- \* Contributions to key policy and practice fora and processes including relevant media activities;
- \* Contribution to the ESRC Children 5-16 programme and related activities;
- \* A detailed outline and proposal for the production of curriculum materials based on the study;
- \* A proposal for a book based on the study;
- \* Quantitative and qualitative data sets. A copy of the quantitative data set will be deposited with *Quantidata* with relevant research instruments, as appropriate. As the qualitative data set is still subject to analysis and will be built upon in the forthcoming 'Inventing adulthood' study we have informed *Qualidata* that it is not yet available for consideration for archiving.

## **G. Impacts**

Interest has been shown in the research by a range of users, including national and local policy makers with an interest in values related issues, for example in sexual health and drugs. We were invited to submit evidence to the PSE advisory group as part of the review of the National Curriculum and to the Social Exclusion Unit as part of their review of teenage pregnancy. Interest has also been shown in the research by educationalists and we have given briefings on emergent findings to BBC education to inform the development of a new set of programmes on PSE. We are in consultation with educational publishers about the possibility of developing an educational pack on the basis of the research. (See appendix for further details of activities).

## **H. Future research priorities**

The main research priorities identified by this study relate to the question of how change takes place over

time and the place of values in young people's transition to adulthood. In particular we have looked at how values contribute to or are implicated in social mobility and processes of inclusion and exclusion as young people move into adulthood. The research team has been successful in securing funding from the ESRC *Youth, citizenship and social change* programme. The study entitled 'Inventing adulthood: Young people's strategies for transition' builds on the sample and findings of the 'Youth Values' study, following a group of approximately 100 young people over a further period of 2.5 years, employing intensive narrative and individual interview methods. The data from Youth Values informs the direction of Inventing Adulthoods, and that from the latter informs the continuing analysis of the former.

## Bibliography

- Ashford, S. and Timms, D. (1992) *What Europe thinks: A study of western European values*, Dartmouth: Aldershot.
- Back, L. (1997) *New ethnicities and urban culture*, London UCL Press.
- Banks *et al.* (1992) *Careers and identities*, Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Bauman, Z. (1993) *Postmodern ethics*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Beck, U. (1992) *Risk society: Towards a new modernity*, London: Sage.
- Bourdieu, P. (1986) 'The forms of capital' in Richardson, J. E. (Ed.) *Handbook of theory of research for the sociology of education*, New York: Greenwood Press.
- Brannen, J. (1996) 'Discourses of adolescence: Young people's independence and autonomy within families' in Brannen, J. and O'Brien, M. (Eds) *Children in families: Research and policy*, London: Falmer Press.
- Connolly, P. (1998) *Racism, gender identities and young children*, London: Routledge.
- Crawford, J. and Kippax, S., Onyx, J., Gault, U. and Benton, P. (1992) *Emotion and gender*, London: Sage.
- Finch, J. and Mason, J. (1993) *Negotiating Family responsibilities*, London: Routledge
- Francis, L. and Kay, W. (1995) *Teenage religion and values*, Gracewing: Leominster.
- Furlong, A. and Cartmel, F. (1997) *Young people and social change*, Buckingham: OUP.
- Giddens, A. (1991) *Modernity and self identity: Self and society in the late modern age* Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Halsey, A. H. 'On methods and morals' in Abrams, M., Gerard, D. and Timms, N. (1985) *Values and social change in Britain*, London: Macmillan.
- Harvey, D. (1993) 'From space, to place and back again' in Bird, J. *et al.* (Eds) *Mapping the futures: Local cultures, global change*, London: Routledge.
- Heelas, P., Lasch, S. and Morris, P. (1996) *Detraditionalisation*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Henderson, S. (1999) 'It would be hard to decide the right thing to do': Young people's values and beliefs and the UK drug policy framework' paper given at the 10th Intl Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, Geneva, March.
- Hey, V. (1997) *The company she keeps: An ethnography of girls friendships*, Buckingham: OUP.
- Inglehart, R. (1990) *Culture shift in advanced industrial society*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- McGrellis, S. *et al.* (Forthcoming) *Youth values: Report of quantitative analysis*, Working Paper 1, London: Tufnell Press.
- Kutnick, P. (1992) 'Moral development' In Coleman, J. (Ed.) *Current issues in the socialisation of young people*, London: Methuen.
- Lenderyou, G. (1994) *Sex education, values and morality*, London: Health Education Authority.
- Miles, S. (1997) 'Towards an understanding of the relationship between youth identity and consumer culture' *Youth and Policy*, 51 (4) pp35-45.
- Phillips, D. and Harding, S. (1985) 'The structure of moral values' in Abrams, M., Gerard, D. and Timms, N. *Values and social change in Britain*, London: Macmillan.
- Plummer, K. (1995) *Telling sexual stories: Power, change and social worlds*, London: Routledge.
- Shusterman, R. (1988) 'Postmodernist aestheticism: A new moral philosophy?' *Theory, Culture and Society*, 5, pp337-355.
- Silverstone, R., Hirsch, E. and Morley, D. (1992) 'Information and communication technologies and the moral economy of the household' in Silverstone, R. and Hirsch, E. (Eds) *Consuming technologies: Media and information in the domestic sphere*, London: Routledge.
- Skeggs, B. (1997) *Formations of class and gender: Becoming respectable*, London: Sage.
- Sweeting, H. West, P. (1995) 'Family life and health in adolescence: A role for culture in the health inequalities debate?' *Social Science and Medicine* vol 40(2) 163-175
- Tester, K. (1997) *Moral culture*, London: Sage.
- Thomson, R. (Forthcoming, a) 'Authority' in Rutherford, J. (Ed.) *The art of life*, London: Lawrence and Wishart.
- Thomson, R. (Forthcoming, b) 'Dream on: The logic of sexual practice' submitted to *Journal of Youth Studies*.
- Thomson, R., McGrellis, S., Holland, J., Henderson, S. and Sharpe, S (2000). 'From Peter Andre's six pack' to 'I do knees' The body in young people's moral discourse in Milburn-Backett, K. and McKie, L. (Eds) *Powerful bodies: Gender, sexualities and embodiment*, London: Macmillan.
- Thornton, S. (1995) *Club cultures: Music, media and subcultural capital*, Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Tronto, J. (1993) *Moral boundaries: A political argument for an ethic of care*, London: Routledge.
- Weeks, J., Donovan, C. and Heaphy, B. (1999) 'Everyday experiments: Narratives of non-heterosexual relationships, in Silva, E.B. and Smart, C. (Eds) *The new family*, London: Sage.
- Weeks, J. (1995) *Invented moralities: Sexual values in an age of uncertainty*, Cambridge: Polity.
- Wilkinson, H. and Mulgan, G. (1995) *Freedoms Children: Work, relationships and politics for 18-30 year olds in Britain today*, London: Demos.

