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

Families and Social Capital ESRC Research Group
Faculty of Art and Human Sciences
London South Bank University
103 Borough Road
London SE1 0AA

0207 815 5821

INFORMATION SHEET

Archiving research data from the Inventing Adulthoods study: Consent for archiving

Thanks again for being part of the Inventing Adulthoods study all these years, your contribution has been invaluable. Thanks also for initially agreeing to include your research data in an archive of the study for other researchers to use in the future.

We need to get your written consent to do this, and this sheet gives you information about archiving the study so that you will understand what is involved. If anything is not clear just ask. Your researcher will be in touch about all this soon.

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

What is an archive exactly?

'Archive' might make you think of a dusty room full of old boxes and files containing your audio tapes, memorybooks, questionnaires and typed-up versions of all your interviews.

In the digital age, 'archive' can also mean something quite different: all this material can be stored in digital depositories and databases and can also be made available on the internet. Instead of sitting in a dusty room, it's now possible to view archived material online. For example if you want to research your family history, you can view old census data online.

Whatever the type of archive, access to it can be open or restricted. We want to create a digital archive, but would not make it freely available over the internet. We would ensure that only the sort of people you feel comfortable with viewing your material would be allowed access it. These might include other researchers, historians and the like.

Creating an archive of the study will take a very long time. Just to give you an idea of how much material we have, there are over 1,500 hours of tape and over 30,000 pages of interviews alone! So we're taking it a step at a time.

Why create an archive?

When the study first started, we had no idea it would carry on so long! Back in 1996, we wanted it to make young people's views and experiences matter and that concern has not changed over time. Over the last 10 years, we have collected an awful lot of information. If you stop to think, you may have had 5 or 6 interviews, taken part in at least one focus group, filled in questionnaires, kept a memorybook. With around 100 of you in the study, that's a lot of material.

We've written a lot of articles and books and given a lot of talks but it would take us another decade at least to really do justice to analysing all the material and to getting it all out there to the people who can make a difference. Our success in getting funding to keep the study going over the years has meant that you have contributed to a resource that gives a wonderful insight into what it was like growing up at the turn of the 21st century. A lot of other researchers, policymakers and people who work with young people will find it useful for many years to come. It would be great if these people, with our and your permission, could use this resource. But we would only be happy to do this in a way that keeps the promises we made to you about confidentiality each time we met up.

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

Your interviews will be anonymised for the archive. This means that we will remove anything that could identify you or anyone you talk about. Here is an example of how this will be done, using a fictional piece of interview:

THIS IS A FICTIONAL PIECE OF INTERVIEW, BEFORE IT IS ANONYMISED

*Polly: Me and **Sandy** are aiming to go back to **Glasgow** in a few weeks time. Can't wait to see everyone again. Well obviously not **Pete** after all that happened but I think he's lost touch with all the old college lot anyway, so that should be ok.*
Interviewer: What about mum?
*Polly: Yeah, well…things are better with her now but we're not staying with her. Just visit on the Sunday. She finally threw **Dave** out and says she won't have him back this time but I'll believe it when I see it. It still makes me so mad how she kept on believing his lies and didn't listen to me…He's a **waiter** in **Jeebie's** in **Sauchiehall Street** now, so that's a place to avoid. Bit of a come-down from **a car dealership** eh?*
Interviewer: I must admit, I'm surprised to hear you say are going back.
*Polly: It's weird isn't it? Couldn't wait to get away. Had to really. But I'm feeling so much better now, I have such a good life in **Manchester** with **Sandy.** Best thing I ever did applying for that job, even though I DID think I would never get it!. Working on **Coronation Street** is just great and living right in the middle of town is fantastic! We can just walk out and we're smack bang in the middle of the **Northern Quarter**. Anyway, as I was saying... life is so good now but I didn't want to keep feeling I had to lose all the good bits of the past with the bad. So when I got in touch with the old gang and I'm really looking forward to seeing them.*

THIS IS THE SAME FICTIONAL PIECE OF INTERVIEW, AFTER IT IS ANONYMISED

*Polly: Me and **my boyfriend** are aiming to go back to **my home town** in a few weeks time. Can't wait to see everyone again. Well obviously not **my ex** after all that happened but I think he's lost touch with all the old college lot anyway, so that should be ok.*
Interviewer: What about mum?
*Polly: Yeah, well…things are better with her now but we're not staying with her. Just visit on the Sunday. She finally threw **my stepdad** out and says she won't have him back this time but I'll believe it when I see it. It still makes me so mad how she kept on believing his lies and didn't listen to me…He's **a security guard in a club in town** now, so that's a place to avoid. Bit of a come-down from **running his own business** eh?*
Interviewer: I must admit, I'm surprised to hear you say are going back.
*Polly: It's weird isn't it? Couldn't wait to get away. Had to really. But I'm feeling so much better now, I have such a good life in **(an English city)** with **Brian.** Best thing I ever did applying for that job, even though I DID think I would never get it! Working in **TV** is just great and living right in the middle of town is fantastic! We can just walk out and we're smack bang in the middle of the **trendy bar and restaurant area**. Anyway, as I was saying... life is so good now but I didn't want to keep feeling I had to lose all the good bits of the past with the bad. So when I got in touch with the old gang and I'm really looking forward to seeing them.*

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

Who is organising and funding the archiving project?

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has funded all of the research to date and is funding the archiving project. The same core research team members are still involved: Sheila Henderson, Janet Holland, Sheena McGrellis, Sue Sharpe and Rachel Thomson. The study is still based at London South Bank University.

Creating an archive

We have already started the process of creating an archive of the IA study: ten of you have given written consent and we have anonymised this data. This took a long time but it has been submitted to ESDS (Economic and Social Data Service) Data Archive and, soon, other researchers and policymakers will be able to apply to gain access to and use their data. We have also written up a lot of information about the study as a whole and published on our website: www.lsbu.ac.uk/inventingadulthoods. We are hoping to include as many of you as possible in the anonymised archive and are hoping you will be part of the next archiving phase.

Becoming part of a big national research programme

At the start of 2007, the archiving project became part of a larger research programme which also follows other kinds of people such as elderly people, mothers and fathers. Called 'Timescapes', it is also funded by the ESRC and involves research projects based at a number of different universities (http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk). The research data from all these research projects, including ours, will be stored securely in a Digital Repository at Leeds University before being sent to the UK Data Archive.

Being part of the 'Timescapes' research programme will allow us to carry on archiving, possibly managing to prepare material for up to 40 of you. If we achieve this, just about half of the study material will be anonymised, digitised and ready for use. It may be that the remaining material will be deposited at the UK Data Archive unanonymised, with instructions for release at a date in the future that we all (the research team and you the interviewees) feel comfortable with. This would be like the 30 or 50 year rule for the release of government papers. Signing the form indicates that you agree for the anonymised research data to be in the anonymised archive, and for the future release of the unanonymised data, after we are all long gone.

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT ANSWERED

To what extent will I be involved in the archiving process if I give my consent?

If you decide to go ahead, you can be involved in this process as much or as little as you like. It can be as simple as reading this document and making sure you understand and are happy with what we propose to do, and signing the consent form. However, after you have signed the consent form, you can

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

also play a more active role if you wish, taking a look at as much of your data as you like and having an input into what we do to prepare it for archiving.

What exactly is my research data?

These include: the tapes and transcripts of all the interviews and any focus groups you took part in; and any material you have written (e.g. questionnaire, memorybook). Not all of this material will be available in the mini archive – your questionnaires, for example, will not be included at this stage.

How is my research data stored now?

Each of your interviews was transcribed and the transcripts are stored securely in digital form on computer hard discs with password access for the research team. Your name and contact details are stored separately, in a way that they cannot be linked to your research data. The audio tapes, questionnaires, and memorybooks are all stored in locked, fireproof cupboards. All of these are stored in the office at London South Bank University and only the research team hold keys.

What else has been done to keep my research data confidential so far?

Each time we met, we reminded you about what the study involved and asked if you were happy to talk, in the knowledge that all information collected about you would be kept strictly confidential. We have always ensured that individuals cannot be recognised in any reports or publications: changing information that might identify people and changing real names.

We made sure that you were happy for quotations of your words to be used in publications or reports, given that they would not be attributable to you by name.

How will my research data be used?

When the transcripts of your interviews have been anonymised and included in the archive, other researchers or academics will be able to apply for access and if successful they will receive a password which will allow them access. People who use your data will be bound by the same rules of confidentiality as the research team over the years. They WILL NOT have access to your personal contact details (i.e. real name, address, telephone/email).

People who might use your data are: researchers who want to know more about particular aspects of young people's lives and how they fit into life as a whole (e.g. health, employment, education); researchers working on other studies who perhaps want to compare their data on young people; teachers writing courses; or occasionally journalists researching books.

How will my research data be kept confidential?

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

Once you have given your permission for archiving, we will go through your interviews and remove/change names and anything else that could identify you or people that you talked about in your interviews, as exemplified in the anonymisation of a fictional piece of interview on page three. If you opt to, you can have an input into just how we do this.

Your rights

You will also be asked to assign copyright for your research data to the research team. Signing copyright will mean that we will have the legal right to use or authorise others to use your material on agreed terms. We ask this because owning copyright is the only effective way to protect your confidentiality – we will then be able to control access to your data in the archive. You will be offered a chance to have an input into establishing the rules for access to the mini archive. You will have an option to identify any group of people you would not be happy to see your personal data.

If you are happy with these arrangements we would ask you to sign the accompanying consent form. Please make sure that you understand what is involved before you sign.

We will continue to ensure that you have access to your research data if you so wish. To summarise, the consent form you are signing gives permission for your data to be archived in anonymised form in the digital archive. It also gives permission for your un-anonymised data to be archived at some distant future time when you would be happy for this to happen, with access restricted in the way described earlier - see end of page four .

We very much hope you will agree to be part of our archive, but it is up to you whether or not you wish to take part. If you decide not to consent for your inclusion in the anonymised archive, or you do not wish for your research data to be archived in any way at all, your research data will continue to be securely stored at London South Bank University.

Our responsibility

If you give your consent, the research team will take responsibility for ensuring that contracts of confidentiality with participants are honoured and data will only be shared in a form that you have consented to.

Contact for further information

Sheila Henderson hendersa@lsbu.ac.uk 0207 815 5821
Janet Holland hollanj@lsbu.ac.uk 0207 815 5810
Sheena McGrellis s.mcgrellis@ulster.ac.uk 02871 375221/07742 927299
Sue Sharpe: suesharpe@btopenworld.com 07718 223955

Thank you for taking part

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

Participants will be given a copy of their signed consent form to keep.

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