



## Young Lives Project

October 2005 to June 2011

### About the project

Young Lives is a qualitative longitudinal study exploring young people's relationships and identities in the different domains of their lives, home, school, and social worlds, and the ways in which these change over time.

### Research questions and aims

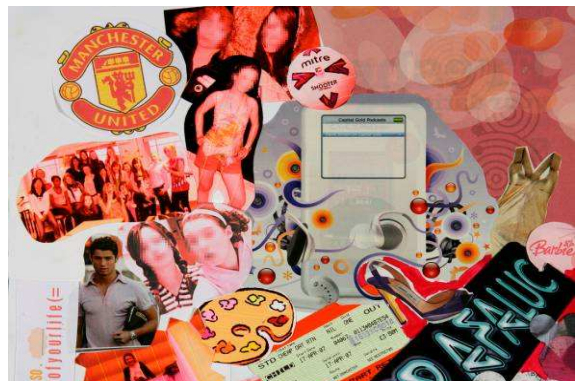
- How do young people construct their personal relationships and identities over time?
- What is the relative significance of family/peer group/school and community in their daily lives and how does this change through their teenage years?
- What values do young people draw upon in constructing their relationships and identities? What are the sources of their morality?
- How do young people make sense of their past, present and future? How do they refine their ideas at different turning points in their lives as they 'overwrite' their biographies?
- What opportunities and constraints exist in young people's lives and how far is the notion of 'life planning' applicable to them? How do diverse aspirations and subjective experiences relate to standard dimensions of social difference and inequality?

### Our methods

There are three dimensions to the methods involved in this study:

- In-depth ethnographic study
- Survey across the same locale
- Links to large-scale national survey tracking 15,000 young people (DfES Longitudinal Study of Young People in England).

The ethnographic study has a participatory approach and has adopted a wide range of tools, many of which are visual, designed to individually suit the young people.



After consulting young people through focus groups in schools and youth centres on research design, we adopted the following methods:

#### Wave 1 (Winter 2006/Spring 2007)

- 1<sup>st</sup> interview: self portrait, timeline, and 1<sup>st</sup> photo elicitation
- 2<sup>nd</sup> interview: 2<sup>nd</sup> photo elicitation, relational map
- Further activities (optional): Collages, diaries, walkabouts, video-diaries, photographs.

#### Wave 2 (Spring/Summer 2007)

- Project website launch through 'When I'm 25' essay about future
- Interview, drawing, timelines

See the Young Lives project and Publications pages of our website for outputs and publications.

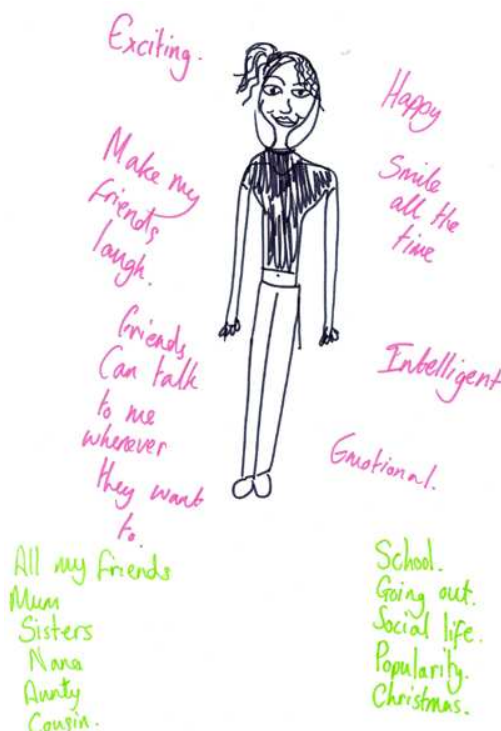
### The future of the Young Lives Project

Young Lives has continuation funding until 2011 under the ESRC Timescapes programme at the University of Leeds.

### Research Team

Anna Bagnoli, Sarah Irwin, Bren Neale, Jon Prosser

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Self-portrait (above) and collage (above right) by two participants