

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

I. Institutional news

The ESRC Qualitative Data Archival Resource Centre QUALIDATA

The QUALIDATA Resource Centre located in the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex has now been in existence for almost two years. Its aims are: locating, assessing and documenting qualitative data and arranging for their deposit in suitable public archive repositories; disseminating information about such data; and raising archival consciousness among the social science research community. Ultimately, the Centre aims to implement a policy ensuring that qualitative data produced by future ESRC and other funded projects are offered for archiving. Those applying to ESRC for research grants over the past few months will have noticed the inclusion of questions relating to plans for archiving any qualitative data they produce. Principal investigators must therefore now be extra thoughtful in their plans for "processing" materials they generate in the course of their research, for example, ensuring that interviews are fully transcribed and that tape recordings are of good sound quality.

A major function of the Centre is to maintain an information database about the extent and availability of qualitative research material in general whether deposited in public repositories or remaining with the researcher. The data we are concerned with is from the broad spectrum of social research, from academic, policy and governmental, trust and charity funded research and includes in-depth interviews, fieldnotes, anthropological materials, unstructured diaries, observational recordings, audio or video tapes, photographs and so on.

With the discipline of education being so broad, there is an abundance of qualitative data produced in the course of research. The Centre has surveyed almost 1,500 identifiable ESRC-funded qualitative social research projects dating back to 1970, by contacting principal investigators, is tracing the data arising from classic post-war sociological studies and monitors current ESRC projects. The QUALIDATA database will be available via the INTERNET from October, from which researchers will be able to search and obtain descriptions of qualitative research material, its location and accessibility. The WWW Home Page for the Centre containing detailed guidelines for depositing qualitative data, data deposited, issues relating to confidentiality and copyright, information about the Centre and links and references to other qualitative resources and repositories, has the following URL address: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/qualidata>

This information is also available in hard copy.

Deposits

A number of sets of qualitative material have been deposited in repositories around the UK, and there are a further 200 projects for which data will be deposited, pending negotiation with the investigator or on completion of writing up the research. Data deposited include:

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- Interviews generated by three major studies using in-depth life histories have been deposited with the National Sound Archive in London. Comprising nearly 2,000 tapes (750 interviews) this will make available in the country's major public sound archive all the taped interviews from the seminal projects Family Life and Work Experience before 1918 and Middle and Upper Class Families which aimed at getting a national picture of ordinary life in Edwardian Britain through interviewing more than 500 people born before 1905. In addition the interviews from a later project, Families, Social Mobility and Ageing: an intergenerational approach will be available for the first time. This was a 1980s' study aimed at gathering ethnographic and dynamic information illustrative of family, ageing and social mobility through interviewing several generations of 110 families. A further development from this was the project On the Edge of Later Life which looked at sources for self-identity and the contribution of earlier life experiences to adaptability to ageing. Data from his oral history study on Fishing Communities and Industry in East Anglia and N.E. Scotland are also available. All located at the National Sound Archive (NSA), British Library and at the Oral History Archive at Essex University.
- Professor Fred Lindop's Unofficial Union Militancy in British Docks (1981 and 1983) concerned with the ideas and activities of shop stewards and trade union activists in the dock industry in Britain. Located at Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick.
- Professor Ray Pahl's Isle of Sheppey Study focusing on industry and training in the 1980s and his 1961 study of three Hertfordshire villages.
- Professor Robert Dingwall's Protection of Children Study concerning agency decision making in child protection in the early 1980s. The project is based on an ethnographic study of agency work using case studies, observation and interviews. Location: Wellcome Contemporary Medical Archives Centre.
- Paul Thompson and Professor Ray Pahl's Families, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial values: Britain and Russia a comparative investigation of family and cultural sources of entrepreneurial values and activity in Britain and Russia. Located at the NSA, BL and The School of Eastern European and Slavonic Studies, University of Leeds.

Please see QUALIDATA's WWW site or contact the Centre for further details of deposits, including those deposited with the ESRC Data Archive. There is also a large number of important existing datasets still to be catalogued, in libraries, research centres or remaining with researchers where access is permitted. This includes data from socio-linguistics/conversation analysis and many anthropological projects as well as traditional ethnography.

Whilst there are many special collections and "natural homes" across the UK for data in most of the social science fields we deal with, we have not, so far, made links with many repositories with existing collections of qualitative data relating to educational research, who would be willing to extend their collections with access to the research community. QUALIDATA would be very grateful for any suggestions regarding suitable "homes" for specific kinds of educational research data (obviously the ESRC Data Archive will be offered any machine-readable data).

The National Social Policy and Social Change Archive at Essex

The Centre has recently received a two year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to create a National Social Policy and Social Change Archive to be based at the University of Essex. The period since 1945 has certainly been the most important ever in the development of both public policy and research on almost all issues relating to the scope of social policy, structure and welfare. It is easy to think of many major studies on, for example, income, wealth and poverty; on housing; on community care, and disability; on family and parenthood. The following datasets have recently been acquired and are available to use at Essex. Consultation is by appointment only and anyone wishing to consult the collections should contact QUALIDATA staff. The material is paper based but it is possible to obtain scanned machine-readable copies. Copyright is retained by depositor and authorized copies are permitted.

Professor Peter Townsend's research collection: Professor Peter Townsend was Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex between 1967 and 1981 and has pioneered research on poverty in Britain. The materials include: The Family Life of Old People carried out in 1955 with the aim of investigating the basis for a growing perception that a breakdown in extended family networks was leaving old people isolated and creating an increasing demand for residential care. A series of interviews and week activity diaries was conducted with 203 people in their 60s and 70s in Bethnal Green; The Last Refuge: A survey of residential accommodation for the elderly was carried out between 1958 and 1959 to show its development under the NHS and to determine the need for such accommodation. Complementary study to 'Family Life of Old People' where interviews were conducted with local authority welfare officers and matrons/wardens in 173 institutions, local authority and private, in England and Wales. Detailed notes on the buildings and facilities made and every resident who had entered within the four months prior to the researcher's visit was interviewed and their case records checked; St Katharine's Buildings. This consists of a set of unpublished interviews which Peter Townsend carried out in the 1950s in St Katherine's Building in Stepney, relating his findings to the ledger kept by Beatrice Webb and Ella Pyecroft as rent collectors in the same tenement from 1885-1890. The original manuscript, held at LSE, contains their impressions, as female rent collectors, of the place and the people. Peter Townsend returned to St Katharine's Buildings to interview a cross-section of the present tenants, some of whom are descendants of the original inhabitants spanning 70 years, with the object of writing an essay on social change in this tiny segment of London; and Child Poverty Action Group and the Disability Alliance Records, the records of two pressure groups which Peter Townsend co-founded.

Professor Dennis Marsden's research collection: Professor Dennis Marsden carried out some of the earliest research on single parent families. The collection includes data from the studies: Mothers Alone: Poverty and the Fatherless Family, a study of 116 fatherless families living on national assistance in two towns presents the experience of fatherlessness, dependence and poverty from

the mother's viewpoint, carried out in 1965-1966; *Workless: Some Unemployed Men and Their Families* which looked at the lives of 20 unemployed men from various employment backgrounds. The men were interviewed with their wives about work, their marriage and their daily routine between 1972-1975; *Poverty in the UK: Local Surveys*, an addition to Peter Townsend's studies of poverty among the "sub-employed".

Forthcoming collections at Essex include: Jacqueline Burgoyne's and David Clark's interviews for the first serious study of stepfamilies in Britain (*Making a Go of It*); Charles Critcher's research of stress, coping and support networks in the context of pit closures and unemployment; Annette Lawson's 1980s' study of Adultery; and more.

A note to potential depositors

Researchers are asked to contact QUALIDATA as early as possible to discuss the archival potential of their data, preferably before any qualitative research has begun, and to consider depositing as soon as the first piece of substantive analysis has been written. The Centre organizes twice-yearly workshops to provide social science researchers with a forum for advice and exchange of experience on issues relating to archiving and re-analysis of qualitative research data. These workshops are intended to encourage the re-use of existing data and to address questions associated with archiving and preserving qualitative data. QUALIDATA staff also give talks to researchers and postgraduate students and in the future will be offering advice on the use of archives in research and training. Finally, the Centre hosts open days on demand to enable researchers to visit and discuss issues in relation to archiving.

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II. Announcements

SHGAPE Article Prize

The Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE) announces the third SHGAPE Article Prize, a biennial competition for the best published article dealing with any aspect of US history in the period 1865-1917. The article must have appeared in journals dated 1995 or 1996. Eligibility is open to any graduate student or individual with a doctorate awarded after 1987, who has not yet published a book. An article may be nominated by the author or by others. Authors of nominated articles need not be members of SHGAPE. The Prize consists of a certificate and a \$500 award to be presented at the 1998 luncheon of the Society, held during the convention of the Organization of American Historians. A letter addressing the author's eligibility along with three copies of the article should be sent to: Professor Nina Mjagkij, Chair SHGAPE Article Prize Committee, Department of History, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, USA. To meet the deadline for the 1998 Prize submissions must be postmarked no later than 1 December 1997. Inquiries about joining SHGAPE

should be addressed to: SHGAPE Secretary-Treasurer, Roger D. Bridges, Hayes Presidential Center, Spiegel Grove, Fremont, OH 43420, USA.

The British Encounter with Indigenous Peoples, ca. 1600–1850, 13–15 February 1997

A major international conference is to be held at University College London, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Fund Colloquium in American History and the Neale Colloquium in British History. The aim is to bring together specialists in British North America and in the encounters with indigenous peoples in Africa, Asia and Australasia. There will be two keynote lectures, by Professor Philip Morgan (Florida State University) and Professor Chris Bayley (Cambridge University), with eight panels dealing with themes such as "Race and Social Place: Native Peoples in Colonial North America", "Cultural Encounters" and "Merchants, Migrants and Missionaries: The Many Faces of Imperial Discourse". Further details and a registration form can be obtained from: Ms Nazneen Razwi, Department of History, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Fax. +44-171-413-8394; e-mail n.razwi@ucl.ac.uk

British Trade Unionism, Workers' Struggles and Economic Performance 1940–79

The Modern Records Centre (Warwick University), in association with the Society for the Study of Labour History and Historical Studies in Industrial Relations will organize a conference on British Trade Unionism, Workers' Struggles and Economic Performance, in the period 1940-1979 from Friday 19 September to Saturday 20 September 1997, at Warwick University (Coventry, UK). The conference will examine British trade unionism in the period 1940–1979 – its so-called high point – analysing, *inter alia*, union politics, rank-and-file activities, relations with government, unorganized workers, women workers, minority groups, cultural depictions of unions, and unions' impact on economic performance. Three periods will be distinguished: 1940–1951, 1951–1962, 1962–1979. Papers on the 1940-1951 period should not be restricted to the duration of the Second World War, case studies with a narrow research base are discouraged, and papers may address issues across the whole period. Abstracts up to 1,000 words (indicating research base) should be submitted by 1 February 1997. Decisions as to acceptance will be made by the Organizing Committee in May 1997. Abstracts to and further details from: Paul Smith, Centre for Industrial Relations, Keele University, Staffordshire ST5 5BG, UK.

René Kuczynski Prize

In advance of the 120th anniversary of the birth of René Kuczynski on 12 August 1996, Prof. Dr Jürgen Kuczynski and Mrs Marguerite Kuczynski have decided to endow a foundation under the name René Kuczynski Fund. The Hamburg Foundation for Twentieth-Century Social History (HSG) has been asked to manage the Fund on a trust basis and as such act as custodian of its DM 125,000 starting capital. The aim of the Fund is to promote research in the fields of German economic and social history. This will be realized through the annual award of the René Kuczynski Prize.

The following were appointed to the board of trustees of the René Kuczynski Fund: Prof. Dr Thomas Kuczynski (Berlin), Dr Marcel van der Linden (International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam) and Dr Karl Heinz Roth (HSG). The board was constituted in July 1996. At its inaugural meeting it thanked Marguerite and Jürgen Kuczynski for this extraordinary contribution to economic- and social-historical research and for assigning the Fund to the HSG in trust. It pledged itself to manage the Fund as intended by the donors and in the spirit of the man whose name it carries.

The board of trustees will appoint an awarding committee, whose members will be committed to honouring the memory of René Kuczynski, one of the most progressive social scientists of the first half of the twentieth century. In other words, their activities in the scientific community will be marked by open-mindedness, competence, independence and militancy as well as tolerance. The committee will be the sole adjudicator in granting the René Kuczynski Prize.

The awarding committee will make its first decision in the early summer of 1997. The purse attached to the Prize will depend on the annual interest accrued by the Fund capital (in 1997: DM 6000).

Those interested should contact Dr Karl Heinz Roth, HSG, Schanzenstrasse 75-77, 20357 Hamburg, Germany; fax. -49-40-43 92 228.