

Secondary analysis of qualitative data: why should post-graduates care?

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ESDS Qualidata

- function of the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS)
- located at the UK Data Archive-University of Essex
- acquires, provides access to, and support for, a range of qualitative data collections
- process, digitise, anonymise, catalogue, and disseminate qualitative data and documentation
- provides information and training resources for re-using qualitative data

UKDA: sources of data

Data for research and teaching, used in all sectors, and for many different disciplines

- official agencies - mainly central government
- international statistical time series
- individual academics - research grants
- market research agencies
- public records/historical sources
- links to UK census data
- access to international data via links with other data archives worldwide

Qualitative data resources

- **What is in the archive?**
- How can I find it?
- How can I access it?
- How can I use it?
- Why would I want to use it?

What is in the archive?

- diverse data types
 - in-depth interviews
 - semi-structured interviews
 - focus groups
 - oral histories
 - mixed methods data
 - diaries
 - maps, diagrams, photographs
- contextual material, field notes, reports, etc.
- formats: digital, paper, analogue, audio-visual



The screenshot shows the ESDS Qualidata website interface. The main content area is titled 'Selected ESDS Qualidata datasets on later life studies' and lists several datasets with brief descriptions. To the right, there is a 'Thematic guide: later life studies' section with a sub-heading 'The process of researching, creating, and archiving later life studies' and a sub-heading 'The experience of ageing: mobility, intimacy, and independence: earlier, later life studies'. Below this, there is a section 'Advice on searching for related materials' which lists various search criteria like 'Date', 'Study ID', 'Study title', 'Study type', 'Study location', and 'Study status'. The website footer contains the ESDS logo and contact information for the Economic and Social Data Service.

ESDS Qualidata

Summary of selected qualitative data studies

Title	Principal Investigator	Date of collection	No. of cases	Field notes	Profile	Geographical area	Data collection method	Type of data	Format	Data source
ESDS Qualidata Study 1: The Lives of Young People	Thompson, P.	1990-1998	100	Yes	Young people aged 16-24 living in inner city areas of London	England	Interviews	Interview data	ESDS	ESDS Qualidata
ESDS Qualidata Study 2: The Lives of Young People	Thompson, P.	1990-1998	100	Yes	Young people aged 16-24 living in inner city areas of London	England	Interviews	Interview data	ESDS	ESDS Qualidata
ESDS Qualidata Study 3: The Lives of Young People	Thompson, P.	1990-1998	100	Yes	Young people aged 16-24 living in inner city areas of London	England	Interviews	Interview data	ESDS	ESDS Qualidata
ESDS Qualidata Study 4: The Lives of Young People	Thompson, P.	1990-1998	100	Yes	Young people aged 16-24 living in inner city areas of London	England	Interviews	Interview data	ESDS	ESDS Qualidata
ESDS Qualidata Study 5: The Lives of Young People	Thompson, P.	1990-1998	100	Yes	Young people aged 16-24 living in inner city areas of London	England	Interviews	Interview data	ESDS	ESDS Qualidata

ESDS Qualidata

A step-by-step ESDS Qualidata study guide to:

Families, Social Mobility and Ageing, an Intergenerational Approach, 1900-1988

Principal Investigator: Thompson, P., Newby, H.

Study Number: 4938

"To be honest, most of my friends don't have fathers. Either their parents are divorced or their fathers are dead."

"I determined that my life would be completely different. I was gonna be as good a mother as possible."

"I wasn't supposed to be ambitious for myself. I was supposed to spend my life revolved around my husband and me family."

(Interview extracts)

Introduction

Colloquially known as '100 families', this ambitious study sought to trace connections between family life and social mobility. It did so through 170 in-depth life story interviews spread across three generations of family life.

The research team, headed by Paul Thompson and Harold Newby at the University of Essex, devised an interview schedule that asked participants extensive questions relating to their own and their family's education, politics, family trees, marriage and relationships, housing, parents' work, and leisure. The interviews average 64 pages in length and

timescapes

An ESRC Qualitative Longitudinal Study

Patterns of family life and personal relationships through time

Projects:

- **Siblings and Friends:** children's lateral relationships
- **The Crafting of Young People's Relationships**
- **The Dynamics of Motherhood:** an intergenerational project
- **Masculinities, Identities and Risk:** lives of men and fathers
- **Work and Family Lives:** the changing experiences of 'young' families
- **Intergenerational Exchange:** grandparents, exclusion and health
- **The Oldest Generation:** Events, relationships identities in later life

Data:

- Qualitative longitudinal (10+ years) multi-media data
- 400+ participants
- to be archived jointly at Leeds and UK Data Archive



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Data Catalogue search

Results from ESDS with the

All of Study Description | Ageing

Choose: All Data Catalogue ESOS Government ESOS International ESOS Longitudinal ESOS Qualidata

Search results for ageing in all categories

30 studies found.

3 pages of studies.

Sorted by relevance | Sort by date

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) Waves 1, 2, 2002-2005. Teaching Dataset [2010] [unclassified]

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) Wave 3, 2006-2009. Teaching Dataset 3172 University of Essex, UK Data Archive. ESOS Qualidata [2010] [unclassified]

Lifelines of Goodness: A 1990-1998 [2010] [unclassified]

WOMEN'S MOVEMENT (WOMEN'S) (PSYCHOLOGY) (OLD AGE) [AGEING] (AGE DISCRIMINATION) [1800-1988] (SMART BATHING) (COMMUNITARIANITY) OF ... [2010] [unclassified]

On the Edge of Later Life, 1988-1990 [2010] [unclassified]

Declaration of Sociology 28 April 2004 20 January 2009 [OLD AGE] [AGEING] [INTERVIEW] [DEATH] [DISORDER] [DISABILITY] [DISSENTIMENT] [DISSENTIMENT] ... [2010] [unclassified]

Causes of Homelessness among Older People in Four Cities in England and Boston, Massachusetts, 2001-2003 [2010] [unclassified]

Quality of Life among People Aged 75 and over in Great Britain, 1994-1998 [2010] [unclassified]

SN 6011 - Older Men: their Social Worlds and Healthy Lifestyles, 1999-2002

Download/Order

Documentation | **Keywords** | **Publications** | **Related Studies**

Title: Older Men: their Social Worlds and Healthy Lifestyles, 1999-2002

Subject Categories: Ageing - Employment and labour health services and medical care - Health Physical fitness and exercise - Health Elderly - Social stratification and groupings Family life and marriage - Social stratification and groupings Gender roles - Social stratification and groupings

Depositor(s): Arber, S., University of Surrey, Department of Sociology

Principal Investigator(s): Arber, S., University of Surrey, Department of Sociology Davidson, K., University of Surrey, Department of Sociology

Data Collector(s): Daly, K., University of Surrey, Department of Sociology Davidson, K., University of Surrey, Department of Sociology

Sponsor(s): Economic and Social Research Council

Grant Number: L4034403

Other Acknowledgments: Dr Jay Ginn was a co-applicant in the original research project application and contributed substantially to the design of the research. Dr Ginn withdrew just before the commencement of the project because she was awarded an ESRC Research Fellowship. However, she maintained a lively interest in the progress and was a mentor for Dr Davidson especially during the early stages. Mr Mark Phillips, employed on the project from 3 April 2002 to 3 December 2002, helped carry out the preliminary literature search and entered data from the Health Survey for England (HSE) which informed the semi-structured interview schedule. Dr Kim Ferran, employed on the project from 4 April 2001 to 30 June 2002, analysed data from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), held at the UKDA under SN 5251 and the General Household Survey (GHS), held at the UKDA under SN 20000 which assisted in understanding the qualitative analysis of the interviews.

Abstract:

Ways of reusing qualitative data

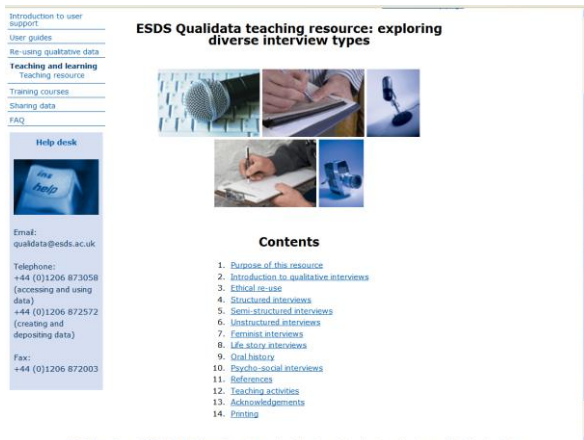
- reconceptualise data
- new questions of existing data
- new interpretations of data
- comparative work-across time, sub-samples
- methodological study
- descriptive/historical background
- teaching

How have others reused data?

- Mike Savage-Prof-Manchester
 - Class and class identity
- Julia Johnson (et al)-Sr Lec-Open U
 - 'The Last Refuge' revisited: continuity and change in residential care for older people
- Mike Roper-Head of Dept-Essex
 - The Secret Battle: Emotional Survival in the Great War
- Vanessa May-Lec-Manchester
 - On being a good mother
- Joanna Bornat-Prof-Open U
 - Revisiting interviews with founders of gerontology

Ethical and consent considerations

- questions of confidentiality and agreements made at the time of fieldwork
- archived data should always conform to ethical and legal guidelines with respect to the preservation of anonymity when this has been requested by informants or guaranteed to them
- achieve this by various strategies
 - consent for archiving
 - editing the original data
 - controlling access (e.g., legal undertakings to protect confidentiality, licences, case-by-case permission)



Qualitative data resources

- What do we have?
- How can I find it?
- How can I access it?
- How can I use it?
- **Why would I want to use it?**

(Qualified) benefits of reusing data

- Someone else organised it, but
 - Tidy data may not be the right data
- Someone else collected it, but
 - You need to find out why and how
- Expedited REC review, but
 - No short cuts in ethics
- Reading someone else's interview
 - "Why didn't they ask...?"
- Reading someone else's interview
 - "Oh no, they already asked that..."

Other benefits of SA

- May prevent unneeded data collection
 - repetitive
 - burdensome
- May allow more energy for
 - theory development
 - causal mechanisms
 - methods development
 - other ideas?



"Secondary" analysis

- Boundary is blurring between secondary and primary
 - Historical methods
 - Longitudinal research
- Some issues
 - Informed consent
 - Context
 - Primary ≠ Privileged
 - "Value for money"



For more information

www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/

<http://www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/>

