Major 5-year (2012-17) interdisciplinary research project

- Funded by the AHRC and in Scotland by Creative Scotland
- 4 universities – Manchester, Leicester, Exeter, Warwick
- 10 core researchers, 3 PhD students, multiple casual staff
- 16 national stakeholders and many local partners
UEP core questions

• Starting from the decontextualisation of value in cultural policy and the accompanying deficit model of participation (Miles and Sullivan 2012):
  – How, in what and where do people participate?
  – What are the meaning and stakes attached to participation
  – What is the relationship between participation and place
Framing everyday participation and cultural value

• Multiple frames of reference associated with the sociology of everyday life, urban sociology and cultural geography
• Bourdieu (1984) - taste and participation as (the) key markers of social distinction and power.
• Recent UK study by Bennett et al 2009 *Culture, Class Distinction*.
• Relative lack of attention to the world of ordinary consumption (Boyne 2002) and geography, or ‘site effects’ (Savage 2011)
Project Design & Method

1. **Histories** – discourses of cultural participation and value; cultural technologies; cultural policy, place and economy; representations of everyday life; community cultural practices

2. **Reanalysis of survey data** – time-use, patterns of participation by place and through the life course

3. **Cultural ecosystems research** – local histories, assets mapping, in-depth interviews (life history and participation narratives), ethnography and social network analysis in six contrasting locations

4. **Application projects** – working with communities and partners to develop projects in response to findings

5. **Research-policy-practice nexus** – reflecting on partnership and developing new models of collaboration
Where are we working?

Western Isles
Aberdeen
Gateshead
Manchester/Salford
Peterborough
Dartmoor
This session

• Perspectives on culture and stratification
  – Fields of participation and lifestyles from a re-analysis of Taking Part survey data
  – Participation narratives from in-depth interviews
  – Contrasting ethnographic studies of the facilitated participation of young people
Project Team

*Principal Investigator*
Dr Andrew Miles, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester

*Co Investigators*
Dr Eleanora Belfiore, Centre for Cultural Policy Studies, University of Warwick
Dr Lisanne Gibson, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester
Dr Abigail Gilmore, Institute for Cultural Practices, University of Manchester
Dr Felicity James, School of English, University of Leicester
Dr Jane Milling, Department of Drama, University of Exeter
Dr Kerrie Schaefer, Department of Drama, University of Exeter

*Postdoctoral Researchers*
Dr Delyth Edwards, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester
Dr Adrian Leguina, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester
Dr Jill Ebrey, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester

*Policy and Sector Researchers*
Catherine Bunting, Arts Council England
Sarah Stannage, Clore Fellow, MLA Living Places

Funded through the AHRC’s Connected Communities programme
Communications

- Website: www.everydayparticipation.org
- Twitter: @UEParticipation
- Further info: andrew.miles@manchester.ac.uk