



UNDERSTANDING EVERYDAY

PARTICIPATION

ARTICULATING CULTURAL VALUES

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



● The Clore Leadership Programme



ENGLISH HERITAGE



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 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?



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

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Co Investigators

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Communications

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