

**NCRM Methodological Innovation Network:
New Frontiers in QLR: definition, design and display
Event 5***

Child in Time: animating ideas of development and transition

**Sept 12th University of Sussex
Room 104, Fulton Building**

In her writings on the figure of the child in cinema, Vicky Lebeau captures synchronicity between the emergence of ideas of child development and our capacity to capture notions of 'Life' that which had previously been beyond the threshold of the visible. Through film it becomes possible to capture, revisit, speed up and slow down 'the 'familiar scene' of 'children as they are, children living in time.' (39). Writing about the history of visual methods within psychology Paula Reavey argues that 'technologies of visualisation' are 'part of the conceptual roots of the discipline as a whole and that photography was 'a central part of how the nascent discipline of psychology established its scientific credibility in the late nineteenth century - through the visual recording of scientific observation'. Longitudinal qualitative methods that centre of the figure of the child, have popular and expert histories, which exist in conversation with each other. Infant observations and child development research have a corollary in lovingly pondered over home movies and fly on the wall and documentaries . An iconic 'cross-over' between the popular and expert genres is Michael Apted's 7-Up series which has become an internationally recognised short hand for themes of social mobility and the interactions of historical and biographical change – as well as the ethical complex relationship between audience, subjects and 'editor/author/ film-maker/ researcher'. In contemporary times the democratisation of technologies through digitalisation poses new challenges and possibilities, suggesting a realignment between popular and expert modes of knowing. Digital cultures produce new forms of temporality, including the 'demise of forgetting' and the redundancy of remembering . In this seminar we will focus on the figure of the *Child in Time* as a way of thinking through methods, representations and ways of knowing. The event will bring together social research traditions of prospective/ panel studies with a cultural studies tradition of reflecting on how children and young people are represented in popular and expert cultures. Key issues to be explored over the course of the day include:

- *Why is the Child/ youth such a compelling and generative focus for research concerned with temporalities, what can we see through this figure?
- *What kinds of knowledge is produced from a prospective orientation, i.e following subjects over time. What are the alternatives?
- *What can we read from contemporary popular representations of the child in time?
- *How does digital culture reframe the figure of the child in time?
- * How might 'open-endedness' change our ways of knowing.
- * how can theory and practice inform each other?

PROGRAMME

10.30 Arrival and registration

10.45 Welcome and introduction

11.00– 12.45 Session 1: The child in time: perspectives from childhood studies

Professor Harriet Bjerrum Nielsen (University of Oslo, Norway) 'Temporal modes in children's development'

Professor Mary Jane Kehily (Open University, UK) discussant

12.45 – 13.30 LUNCH

13.30– 15.30 Session 2: Child-time in popular culture: rewind, fast forward and delete

Dr Pam Thurschwell (University of Sussex) 'Keep your back to the future'

Dr Jette Kofoed (Aarhus University, Denmark) 'Time to think: pace, youth life and social media'

Dr Bruce Bennett (Lancaster university): 'Children on film, domestic drama, and Michael Winterbottom's Everyday (2012)

Discussant Vicky Professor Vicky Lebeau (University of Sussex)

15.30 – 16.00 TEA

16.00 – 17.45 Revisiting developmental time

Dr Virginia Morrow (Oxford University): 'Child development and international development'

Mary Robson (artist and social educator) 'Ten years and counting'

Professor Ann Phoenix (Institute of Education) discussant

17.45-18.00 Summing up and the future of the network

* This is the final event in the NCRM methodological innovation network 'New frontiers in qualitative Longitudinal Research: definition, design and display. We hope that in exploring a substantive topic the seminar will bring together the various methodological threads that have been involved in the series including different temporal orientations (prospective, retrospective, return etc); objective vs subjective time; how time intensifies and complicates ethical relationships; the boundaries between research and other practice traditions and between popular and expert discourses. An archive of the series can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/esw/circy/research/currentresearch/newfrontiers