

**CENTRE FOR  
LIFE HISTORY  
RESEARCH  
SEMINARS**

**Autumn Term 2005**

**All seminars will  
take place in the  
Library Meeting Room  
(2<sup>nd</sup> floor),  
University of Sussex,  
from 12.30-2.00 pm.**

**18<sup>th</sup> October: Lorraine Sitzia, Sussex University -  
*The search to define 'Community History'*.**

'Community History', is a term frequently used but rarely defined or examined, as if its meaning is self-evident and requires no explanation. By exploring how community history is understood in a variety of contexts, this seminar will bring together the discussions and debates around community history, and highlight some of the key issues that emerge through this examination such as: who or what history is about; who the historians are; and to what extent the histories produced are challenging or celebratory and descriptive.

**15<sup>th</sup> November: Dr Linden West, Reader in Education,  
Co-Director of the Centre for International Studies in  
Diversity and Participation, Canterbury Christ Church  
University - *Families and their learning: therapy,  
relationships and learning, some perspectives from  
auto/biographical research*'.**

This talk presents auto/biographical research into families and their learning on Sure Start programmes in a number of marginalised communities. Some commentators suggest these programmes are intrusive, an exercise in social control not empowerment. They also embody the 'therapeutic ethos' that pervades contemporary education, making people feel better rather than thinking hard about their situation, alongside a melancholy view of the possibilities for collective human transformation. We suggest that certain programmes can offer, ironically, a kind of radical therapeutic education that provides lifelines for families. Also drawing on psychodynamic insights, some new ways of thinking about the relationship between emotion and cognition in learning and research.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November: Al Thomson and Sandra Koa-Wing,  
Sussex; *Developing a Mass-Observation digital  
resource for teaching and learning in life history.***

This seminar will explore issues posed in the creation and use of a digital resource of written and oral life story source material, drawing upon the Mass-Observation Archive collection (and funded by TLDU). The resource (a CD in the first instance) will enable p/t students and others with limited access to the M-O collection to utilise the digital resource in workshops and independent study, and will facilitate learning about life history research theory and method through applied research practice.

**29<sup>th</sup> November: Katherine Campbell, Producer, WW2 People's  
War at BBC.**

WW2 People's War is a BBC project where the public are contributing their wartime memories to create an online archive. Stories and images are added directly to the site, which now has over 34,000 contributions. Katherine will discuss: *Conception, development and launch of the project* - creating an online application specifically for the over 65s; *Running the project* - engaging the wartime generation - story gathering network - case studies of contributors; *The future* - ensuring that this becomes a lasting resource - developing the archive site, etc.

Find the site at [www.bbc.co.uk/ww2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2)

**For further information about  
the seminars, email Gerry  
Holloway or Teresa Cairns:**

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**To be put on the mailing list,  
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