

**Project Title: Family and Social Network:
Roles, Norms and External Relationships in Ordinary Urban Families
Depositor: Elizabeth Bott
Research Period 1952 - 1953. Deposited 2001**

Catalogue Abstract: This research was among the first to attempt to study families, in their natural habitat - the home. Among its aims were to explore the internal structure of a particular sort of family and the relationship between those families and society through their interaction with external persons and institutions. Twenty families were selected, not without some difficulty, as the researchers tried to track down “ordinary families”, for which there has never been an easy definition. The selected families were ‘ordinary’ in the sense that they were selected through formal and informal contacts, rather than be easily accessed on, say, lists from outside agencies dealing with family ‘problems’ and the like. They differed in socio-economic status but all had children under ten years of age, all were English and of mainly Protestant background, and they all lived in various districts of London. The material collected here consists of a set of notes for each of 17 of the 20 families studied, drawn from a lengthy series of home interviews, observations and – in some cases – follow up interviews outside the home. Topics covered include i) family and social histories of each partner and account of their marriage ii) internal organisation of the family: domestic tasks, finances, divisions of labour, child-rearing etc. iii) informal relationships outside the family: relatives, friends and neighbours iv) formal social relationships outside the family: school, church, clubs etc. v) couples general views on issues such as class, money, politics, society and religion etc.

Section 1 Interview notes							
File No:	Family Code No.	Family Pseudonym:	M/F Dates of birth:	M/F Occupations:	Number of Children:	Date of Contact:	PP:
01	N1	Thornton	1915/1914	book-keeper/ housewife	3	1953	13
02	N2	Salmon	1921/1922	civil servant/ housewife	2	1953	19
03	N3	Mudge	1911/1913	fireman/ housewife	1	1953	13
04	N4	Hartley	1920/1921	building surveyor/ housewife	2	1952	20 *
05	N6	Dodgson	1922/1924	barber/ housewife	2	1953	30
06	N8	Redfern	1920/1920	electrical engineer/ housewife	2	1952	20
07	N9	Newbolt	1924/1928	polisher/ housewife	2	1953	30
08	N10	Appleby	not known	carpenter/ housewife	1	1952	19
09	N11	Fawcett	1914/1921	not known	2	1953	26 *
10	N12	Bullock	1925/1924	economist/ housewife	2	1952	10
11	N13	Baldock	1921/1921	mechanic/ housewife	2	1953	9
12	N14	Woodman	1921/1924	not known	2	1953	18

File No:	Family Code No.	Family Pseudonym:	M/F Dates of birth:	M/F Occupations:	Number of Children:	Date of Contact:	PP:
13	N15	Bruce	not known	civil servant/ housewife	2	1953	49 *
14	N16	Wraith	1919/1922	journalist/ housewife	1	1953	18
15	N17	Daniels	1921/1917	civil servant/ civil servant	2	1953	28
16	N18	Jarrold	1920/1919	electrician/ student teacher	3	1953	25
17	N19	Barkway	1923/1925	costing clerk/ packer	1	1953	36 *

* These four files also include the researcher's analytical summary of the interviews.

Section 2:	Contextual and Miscellaneous Material	
File No:	Contents:	Notes:
18	Analysis of contact agencies.	Assorted tables analysing the contact process between researchers and the families studied.
19	Interview schedule. Draft chapter 'Fieldwork' and corrections.	
20	Assorted correspondence.	One letter has been copied and anonymised to protect the identity of the families mentioned. Qualidata has retained the original.
21	Assorted publications: Pamphlet: 'Marriage Guidance' May 1957 Journal articles: Robb, J.H. 'Clinical Studies in Marriage and the Family – Experiences with Ordinary Families' British Journal of Medical Psychology, 1953 Dicks, H.V. 'Clinical Studies in Marriage and the Family – Experiences with Marital Tensions seen in the Psychological Clinic' British Journal of Medical Psychology, 1953	
22	Thesis: Bott, E.J. 'The Social Organization of Twenty London Families' Submitted to the University of London, 1956.	Kept in original folder.

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