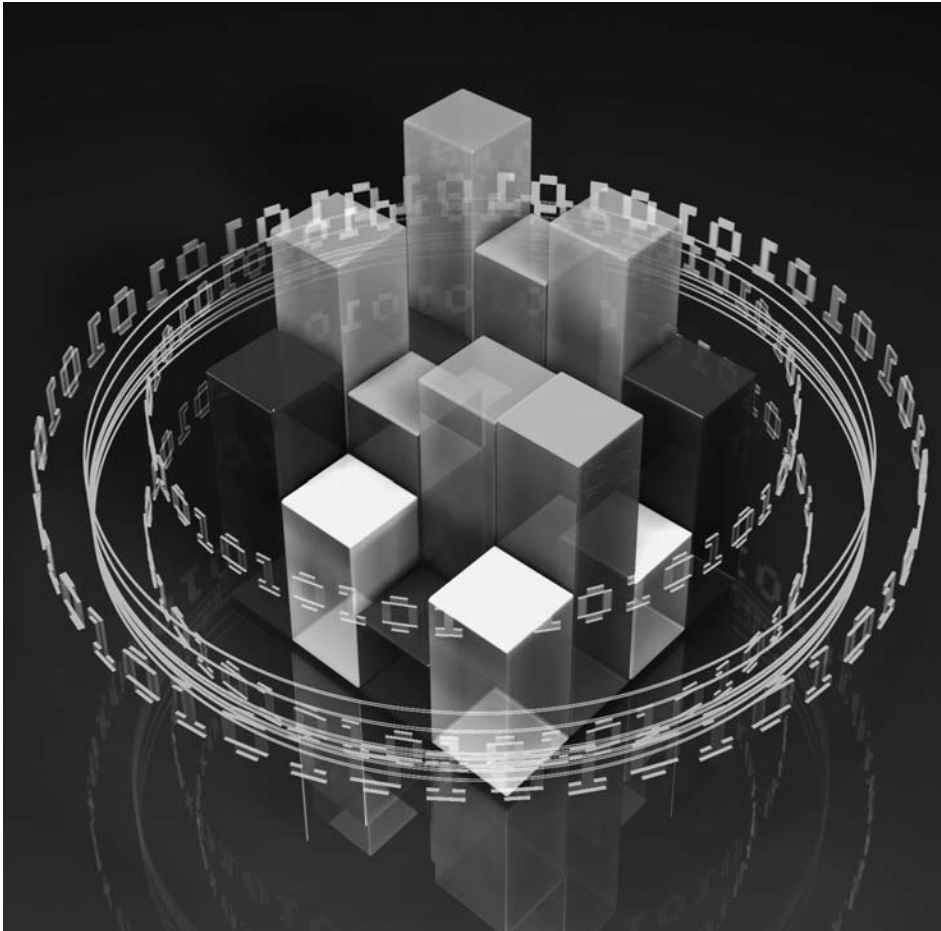


## Collections Development Committee



The Collections Development Committee (CDC) is a newly formed committee tasked with developing and devising the Collections Development Policy and associated Strategy for the next period of the Economic and Social Data Service.

Although the ESDS has previously been informed by the UK Data Archive's Collections Development Policy, it was thought timely to develop a more focused approach to the collection to ensure that the current collection is maintained and

continues to grow to meet the needs of the ESDS's existing and new user communities.

The Committee meets twice yearly and is co-ordinated by ESDS Management working closely with the specialised ESDS functions. It includes external advisors from key organisations and institutions such as The British Library, Office for National Statistics, Royal Statistical Society, UK Statistics Authority, and The Market Research Society, who have been invited to contribute their expertise, guidance and active participation in this approach. The ESDS hopes that, by working closely with these research, data and information specialists, it will be strategically placed to: identify and evaluate

new sources and types of data; facilitate access to data held elsewhere; develop the collection in line with the National Data Strategy and related ESRC strategic aims; and collaborate on case studies when applying to stakeholders and other funding bodies for additional funding for access to data. In addition to expanding the collection, the Committee aims to look more closely at existing data resources in the ESDS collection to promote some of the rich but lesser known studies. Creating more materials for teaching and training is another area the Committee will be considering at future meetings. The intention is for Committee members to take on an ambassadorial role for ESDS and to play a central role in developing a future-proof roadmap.

The inaugural meeting took place in March 2010 and began with an appraisal of current practices, difficulties and constraints in acquiring collections and offering suggestions for future working models. Following lively discussion and comparisons between methods used to identify and prioritise collections, the committee were asked to focus their views on three key areas:

- identifying gaps in the ESDS collection
- achieving a balance between breadth and depth in the collection
- deciding which working model ESDS should follow of the five possible levels: purchase (highest resource costs), data enhancement, non-enhancement, controlled access only, data for which ESDS provide information only

From these three agenda items, eleven issues were identified for ESDS to take forward and present its findings at the second meeting due to be held in October. Should ESDS users wish to suggest ways in which the collection can be developed and enhanced, they are welcome to email [acquisitions@esds.ac.uk](mailto:acquisitions@esds.ac.uk). ■

# Showcasing research using international data

'Reducing the Political Cost of Europe's Dependence on Russian Gas' is a new case study featured on ESDS International's web site, using the International Energy Agency's Natural Gas Statistics.

The project was aimed at understanding the political economy of the EU-Russia gas relationship after the EU enlargements of 2004 and 2007, in particular, how the structure of the European gas market impacts on the political divisions of Europe vis-à-vis Russia. The research project was carried out at the Electricity Policy Research Group, University of Cambridge, and was funded by the ESRC Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy (TSEC) Programme with additional support from the European Council on Foreign Relations.

To read all of ESDS International's current case studies or to submit a case study for possible publication please visit the case studies web page. The current selection includes: a study on the relationship

between public attitudes and public knowledge about science; an investigation of the changing sources of finance for development; a research project exploring low emission energy scenarios for Europe; and an examination of European identity and attitudes to the EU.

[www.esds.ac.uk/international/casestudies/](http://www.esds.ac.uk/international/casestudies/) ■

Photo by: mkrigsman, Creative Commons, Flickr



## 'Road to Recovery' at the OECD Forum

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2010 Forum took place on 26-27 May 2010 in Paris, entitled 'Road to Recovery: Innovation, Jobs and Clean growth'.

The event focused on how to develop a new model of sustainable, 'green' growth that could deliver economic progress and improve quality of life for all while also addressing the issue of climate change.



Attracting business and labour leaders, civil society personalities, government ministers, leaders of international organisations and academics, the forum sessions covered the following topics: green growth and energy; financing future growth; green jobs — myth or reality; and the future of capitalism.

Members of the ESDS International team took the opportunity to meet with their OECD colleagues to discuss the Global Project, data citation issues and developments in data provision technologies.

ESDS International provides free access for the UK FE/HE to many of the OECD's datasets including the *OECD Main Economic Indicators Databank*, the *OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators* and the *OECD Quarterly Labour Force Statistics*.

Further details on all the sessions at the OECD Forum, presentation, summaries and photographs are available on the OECD Forum 2010 website.

[www.oecd.org/forum2010](http://www.oecd.org/forum2010) ■

## Online teaching resource on qualitative methods



ESDS Qualidata has recently completed a second online teaching resource which complements the existing popular and successful 'Exploring diverse interview types'. This new resource, 'Exploring non-interview methods', provides instructors and students with support materials and exemplars for teaching qualitative methods.

The first section explores the focus group method, which involves small focused discussions facilitated by a moderator, and generates qualitative data through the dynamic group interaction. The second section looks at the use of diaries as a research tool to capture rich, detailed qualitative data which access personal meanings and understandings. Online data collection is the focus of the third section. This relatively new method which exploits digital technologies and the internet, allows researchers to access data which has already been published online, and reach groups that are geographically dispersed or otherwise inaccessible. The final section of this teaching resource addresses the use of visual methods. Visual methods can be used for the generation of primary data, such as films or photographs; as a secondary resource, for example studying family photos, historical pictures, media images etc.; or as an elicitation tool within other methods.

These teaching resources illustrate some of ESDS Qualidata's most interesting qualitative collections and show how these can be used in secondary analysis, particularly for teaching. Both resources are now freely available online, are downloadable as PDF documents and are also available to print out in their entirety.

[www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/support/teachingpicks.asp](http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/support/teachingpicks.asp) ■

# Living and Working on Sheppey project visit

On 26 April 2010, ESDS Qualidata was pleased to welcome a research visit from the Living and Working on Sheppey project.

This project, funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), is exploring the recent history and changes in working lives on Sheppey in the last decades of the 20th century and into the 21st. Team members from both the University of Kent and from the Blue Town Heritage Centre visited Essex. The Blue Town Heritage Centre is located on the Isle of Sheppey and as part of the project engages local people in recording and reflecting on their different experiences of work past, present and in the imagined future.

The Living and Working on Sheppey project takes as its starting point Ray Pahl's research on Sheppey in the 1970s and 1980s, published as *Divisions of Labour*. The current project is a combination of new research and secondary analysis of this earlier data, most notably *Social and Political Implications of Household Work Strategies* (SN 4876) and *School Leavers Study, 1978* (SN 4867). New data include interviews conducted by local people with older members of the community about their memories of Blue Town and the naval dockyard before its closure in 1960 and their experiences of change. They also include essays written by local young people in which they imagine what their futures will hold in terms of work and family life.

A key purpose of the visit was to familiarise the research team with Ray Pahl's original project data on Sheppey held by ESDS Qualidata in conjunction with the University of

Essex library.. Part of the longer term outcomes of the project is for the Blue Town Heritage Centre to facilitate local access to the newly created material and to help interested individuals access and engage with Ray Pahl's original materials held by ESDS Qualidata. The team were briefed on the digitisation and enhancement processes undertaken on the paper collections, and on registration and access procedures.

The Living and Working on Sheppey: Past, Present and Future project is hosting an event on Saturday 12 June 2010 at Blue Town on the Isle of Sheppey to present the work of the project and to solicit comments and discussion. ESDS Qualidata is pleased to be involved in this active project.

[www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/news/newsdetail.asp?id=2500](http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/news/newsdetail.asp?id=2500) ■



## New teaching datasets for ESDS

Two teaching datasets, created by the Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support (CeLSIUS), have recently been made available via ESDS. The datasets are based on the ONS Longitudinal Study which is a one per cent sample of the Census of Population, containing respondents from England and Wales only, and clustered by date of birth.

Each dataset is longitudinal in nature, following the same individuals across censuses, and each contains around 300,000 cases. The datasets are not individual-level, however, but are instead aggregated so that each case (row) represents a combination of characteristics and includes a count of the number of individuals who share that precise combination.

The first dataset, *Ethnicity and Economic Activity: Longitudinal Perspectives, 1971-2006* (SN 6416), focuses on aggregated

combinations of ethnicity and economic activity variables, and the second, *Limiting Long-Term Illness: Longitudinal Perspectives, 1971-2006* (SN 6418), on combinations related to limiting long-term illness (LLTI). Both datasets contain standard demographic information.

The datasets are accompanied by suggested teaching exercises which focus on exploratory analysis of the data. Helpfully, there are two versions of the exercises – one including SPSS code and the other with hints and tips for use with Stata. ■

# Mid-term review of ESDS

The current ESDS contract, between ESRC and JISC and the Universities of Essex and Manchester, expires at the end of September 2012. In order to assess the value of the service and to decide whether to extend the contract, the funders are now conducting a Mid-Term Review (MTR).

A review panel has been assembled, with Professor Tim Holt as chair, and its first job is to study the Director's MTR report, submitted to ESRC in March 2010. In September 2010 the panel will visit the

institutions which deliver the service and will make recommendations in January 2011. It is expected that ESRC and JISC will make their decisions on the future of ESDS in February 2011.

The MTR report presents a thorough review of ESDS dating back to the last MTR, held in the summer of 2005. Key findings are that over the past five years the service has broadened and deepened its collections of international, longitudinal, government and qualitative data. ESDS has met, indeed mostly exceeded by some margins, the targets set by its funders and helped thereby to facilitate quality research and excellence in teaching. The report concludes that without ESDS, access to social science data would be fragmented across the UK,

important data would be difficult to locate, and researchers would in all likelihood have to pay for access to data. ESDS provides the essential data for a large body of research that has a scientific, societal and policy impact, and for a variety of teaching purposes. Examples of each of these impacts are provided in the report.

The report also details plans for the delivery of ESDS up to the end of the current contract and presents a vision for development of the service beyond 2012. If you would like to comment, as part of the MTR process, on the performance of ESDS and how in the future it might be improved and developed then email [feedback@esds.ac.uk](mailto:feedback@esds.ac.uk) with your suggestions. ●



## Retirement of Angela Dale

Angela Dale will be taking formal retirement from the University of Manchester at the end of September 2010.

She will, however, be continuing her involvement with ESDS Government at a strategic level for the next two years and will be active in a number of related areas. She has just joined the Committee for Official Statistics of the UK Statistics Authority in a personal capacity and has also become chair of the Centre for Longitudinal Studies Governing Board. ●

## Forthcoming events

**5-7 July 2010:** Social Policy Association Annual Conference, University of Lincoln

**5-8 July 2010:** Research Methods Festival 2010, St Catherine's College, Oxford

**6 July 2010:** Resources for Data Management, Oxford

**12 July-20 August:** 43rd Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex

**14 July 2010:** Health Surveys user meeting, Royal Statistical Society, London

**14 July 2010:** Enhancing Longitudinal Surveys by Linking to Administrative Data workshop, Institute of Education, London

**16 September 2010:** GIS and CAQDAS Integration seminar, University of Surrey

**23 November 2010:** Managing and sharing social science research data, University of Cardiff

**29 November 2010:** ESDS International Annual Conference 2010, Institute of Materials, London ●

Economic and Social Data Service, UK Data Archive, University of Essex,  
Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ, UK

Email: [publicity@esds.ac.uk](mailto:publicity@esds.ac.uk) Tel: +44 (0) 1206 872319/873159 Fax: +44 (0) 1206 872003

ISSN 2042-9401 (print) ISSN 2042-941X (online)

E·S·R·C  
ECONOMIC  
& SOCIAL  
RESEARCH  
COUNCIL

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester



University of Essex

JISC