

**Who is research for?
Temporality and ethics in
qualitative longitudinal research**

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Panel Session 'As well as the Subject'

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Overview

'Hawthorn' (1)

1. Introduction: ethics, time and timeliness in research
2. About 'Real Times' – a qualitative longitudinal research study
 - context, research basis and institutional setting
 - purpose, focus, design and structure

'Hawthorn' (2)

3. 'Real Times' in practice
 - different interests and time horizons
 - some illustrative moments in the research process
4. Concluding remarks: who is research for?

'Hawthorn' (3)

Background to 'Real Times'

1. A contextual baseline – 'shaking-out' and 'shaking-up' the third sector
2. Seeing things differently? snapshots and moving pictures
3. Institutional setting
 - 'Third Sector Research Centre'
 - Changing political and funding environment for research
 - Birmingham and Southampton
 - Research 'streams' (e.g. 'service delivery'; 'social enterprise')
 - 'Knowledge Exchange Team'

'Real Times': purpose and research questions

A prospective longitudinal case study design

Overall purpose:

Understanding how third sector activity operates in practice over time

- What happens within third sector organisations (TSOs) over time and why?
- What matters to TSOs over time and why?
- How might we understand continuity and change in third sector activity?

Four focal points

| | |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">Fortunes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What influences the fortunes of TSOs?- How do they judge their fortunes? | <p style="text-align: center;">Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How do TSOs regard and negotiate the environments in which they operate? |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What challenges do TSOs face?- How do they respond? | <p style="text-align: center;">Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How is the 'performance' of TSOs understood by different stakeholders?- How can we understand their achievements? |

How the research is structured

15 core case studies

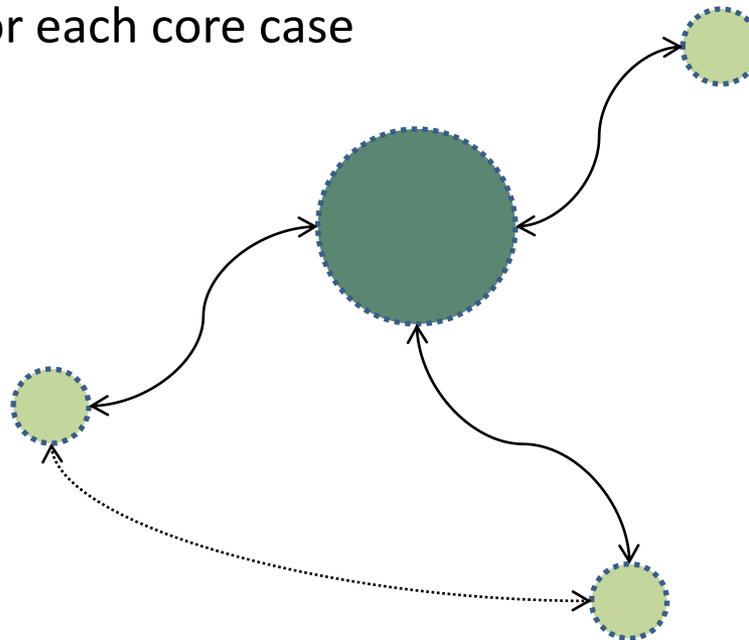
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Up to 3 'complementary cases' for each core case

Successive waves of research

Project period –

April 2010 - August 2013



'Real Times' in practice

1. different interests and time horizons
 - research participants
 - research team members
 - academic colleagues (in TSRC and elsewhere)
 - research funders
 - practice and policy audiences
 - future researchers and audiences?

2. some illustrative moments
 - recruitment, retention and reciprocal exchange
 - variable access to sensitive issues ('Birch', 'Cedar' and 'Ash')
 - ownership and access to data
 - creating room for analysis

Concluding remarks

- Who is research for?
- What are the complex ways in which this question unfolds over time?
- The importance of contested time expectations
- Foreshortening and timeliness
- What's your experience of these dilemmas?

- A last word about 'Hawthorn'....