

<b>Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University</b>		
<b>Unit of Assessment: D28 History</b>		
<b>Title of case study: Passions of Youth in Manchester and Salford: Engaging local people with Histories of Childhood and Youth</b>		
<b>Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2012-2020</b>		
<b>Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b>	<b>Role(s) (e.g. job title):</b>	<b>Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:</b>
Melanie Tebbutt	Professor of History	1995 – present
<b>Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2014-2020</b>		
<b>Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N</b>		
<p><b>1. Summary of the impact</b></p> <p>This case study reports participatory research that uses archives, personal stories and community engagement to create powerful connections between children and young people of the past and present in Manchester and Salford. Participants describe the profound effects of involvement in projects where the production of new digital resources, films and exhibitions have enriched the public's understanding of childhood and youth histories and had long-term legacies for cultural heritage, youth partnerships and local communities in Greater Manchester. <i>Passions of Youth</i> has been commended by The National Archives. Its methods have inspired further projects that have made emotional reconnections between Mancunians and the Swiss foster families that took them in after the Second World War.</p>		
<p><b>2. Underpinning research</b></p> <p>Professor Tebbutt's research focuses on gender and the everyday lives of working-class people. It articulates the experiences and perspectives of disenfranchised groups and individuals and explores the relationships between family and community [1]. Investigations of the complex intersection of culture and memory form the basis of community engagement and heritage activities. Research has contested the narrowness of narratives about childhood and the teen years by challenging dominant stereotypes of 'youth in trouble' and 'youth as trouble'. Her work has contributed an important historical dimension to current research in sociology and cultural studies, whose focus in recent years has shifted towards the 'ordinary' young [2]. This emphasis on 'ordinary' youth has opened up new historical perspectives on the lives of young people by exploring their anxieties and emotions [3] while highlighting the voices and opinions of marginalised youth, especially in relation to their leisure experiences.</p> <p>Inspired by ideas from the history of emotions, Tebbutt has delivered a novel interpretation of children's voices during the First World War, examining, in particular, the largely ignored power dynamics affecting young people's peer and cross-generational relations among silent cinema audiences and raising questions subsequently applied in the <i>Returning Home</i> project [4]. Her article on borstal inmates in the 1930s addresses the humiliation, fear and helplessness experienced by borstal boys and rejects notions of 'troublesome' youth while emphasising young people's immense creative potential instead [5]. Tebbutt's research has delivered a new understanding of 'ordinary' and 'everyday' experiences of youth, the relationship between class and adolescent transitions, and the subtleties of youth agency [2]. It demonstrates the importance of examining how feelings and emotions were expressed through young people's recreational experiences and the significance of leisure more broadly to adolescent transitions in the past and in the present. The value of these insights was recognised by AHRC follow-on funding for the <i>Passions of Youth</i> community engagement project, which built on research into the relationship between leisure experiences and the emerging identities of adolescent young men. This project used the history and heritage of leisure as a way of breaking down educational and cultural barriers with seldom-heard working-class teenagers.</p> <p>Tebbutt's research, community partnerships and collaborative engagement have been mutually reinforcing. Published work on BBC youth broadcasting in the 1930s and 1940s,</p>		

which explored a largely ignored aspect of young people's relationship with broadcasting history and the importance of their contribution to democratic debate [6], was influenced by the emphasis on youth empowerment that characterised her community engagement work on *Passions*. Research on the interplay between adult perceptions and the perspectives of childhood, based on qualitative evidence, such as diaries, letters, autobiographies and oral histories [1 and 2], informs her most recent community engagement project. *Returning Home* enables participants to share deeply emotional childhood experiences about displacement from family after the Second World War. It uses creative approaches and archive materials to open up new ways of thinking about shared experiences of childhood.

### 3. References to the research

1. Tebbutt, M., 2012 'Imagined families and vanished communities: memories of a working-class life in Northampton', *History Workshop Journal* 73 (1), pp144-169. DOI: 10.1093/hwj/dbr025
2. Tebbutt, M., 2012 *Being Boys: Youth, Leisure and Identity in the Inter-War Years*, Manchester University Press, Manchester. ISBN: 978-0-7190-6613-9
3. Tebbutt, M., 2016 'From "Marriage Bureau" to "Points of View". Changing patterns of advice in teenage magazines: Mirabelle, 1956-1977', in A. Kidd and M. Tebbutt (eds), *People, Places and Identities*, Manchester University Press, Manchester
4. Tebbutt, M., 2020 'Fears of the dark: children, young people and the cinema during the First World War', chapter in Maggie Andrews *et al* (eds), *Histories, Memories and Representations of Being Young in the First World War*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, ISBN 978-3-030-49938-9
5. Tebbutt, M., 2019 'Questioning the rhetoric of borstal reform in the 1930s', *Historical Journal*, 63 (3), pp710 – 731, DOI: 10.1017/s0018246x19000372
6. Tebbutt, M., 2017 'Listening to youth? BBC programming for adolescents in the 1930s and 1940s', *History Workshop Journal*, 84, pp214 – 233, DOI: 10.1093/hwj/dbx042

### Funding and quality indicators:

G1. *Working Class Masculinities in the Interwar Years: Youth, Leisure and Identity* (PI: Tebbutt) AHRC (AH/H007784/1) GBP31,787 (2010)

G2. *Creating Our Future Histories* (PI: Tebbutt) AHRC Skills Training Programme GBP46,678 (2014)

G3. *The Passions of Youth* (PI: Tebbutt) AHRC (AH/L015587/1) GBP75,946 (2014)

*The Passions of Youth* was shortlisted for an international 'Real Impact Award' by Emerald Publishing in 2019.

*Being Boys* [2] was supported by AHRC funding [G1] and was widely reviewed including in the London Review of Books. Its publication led to AHRC follow-on funding [G3].

### 4. Details of the impact

#### Empowerment through history and heritage

Following the publication of her AHRC-funded monograph [G1] on leisure and identity [2], Tebbutt was awarded further AHRC funding [G3] in 2014 to develop community engagement activities around the ideas in the book and this led to the creation of *The Passions of Youth* (POY) series of projects [A]. POY worked with 37 working-class young men in their teens from Manchester and Salford who had never previously engaged with heritage, history or higher education. Project partners were Collyhurst and Moston Lads Club, FC United of Manchester, Salford Youth Hub: Young Fathers, and basketballers at The Factory Youth Zone. POY increased the young men's understanding of local leisure traditions by using these leisure enthusiasms and expertise as a medium through which to explore their history via archival research, storytelling, drama and filmmaking. The project was supported by historians, youth workers, curators and archivists [B]. The young men received training in creative activities, visited heritage venues and shared their films with local communities in public screenings at the Miners' Community Arts and Community Centre [audience c.100]; at FC United football club [audience c.80-100] and during the Manchester Histories Festival

[audience c.50]. The Lord Mayor of Manchester presented the participants with university certificates. Independent project evaluation highlighted new learning, increased confidence and, for some, heightened educational aspirations. David, a Salford 'Young Father', described *POY* as an 'eye opener', finding that even with dyslexia, he could think about going to university: 'Learning that you're not the only person that needs support... it gives you the chance to be the person that you want to be' [C]. For a young boxer who became a teaching assistant in a local school, taking part opened up 'a whole new circle' for him and it turned out to be 'the beginning of something' for another participant, who went on to become a personal trainer [D].

*POY* extended the institutional and cultural networks of participating organisations. Project workers supported funding applications at Collyhurst and Moston Lads Club that led to the refurbishment of a community room for learning activities. The project also facilitated professional introductions that resulted in new initiatives with a theatre company, a documentary film maker and participation in programmes against knife crime and for railway safety. The club manager described *POY* as an immense 'confidence booster', unlocking another world for himself, for the boys who took part and for others who saw their success: 'The kids round here, they get told to do one thing and they stick to it – be a plumber or a joiner... It's opened their eyes and they won't settle for what people say they should do. Now they can choose whatever they want to do' [D]. Parents described the project as 'fantastic'; 'Such a well needed experience for North Manchester Youth'; 'Lads should be very proud of what they've achieved. Especially proud of my son Callum'; 'it has shown opportunities to others which can help develop themselves in the ring as well as life leading to success'; 'Engaging, Inspiring films. Authentic voices, great characters, loved it!' [C].

*POY* has created an impact beyond its Manchester and Salford roots and its approach has influenced other projects and received national and international recognition. Films made as part of the project have been used as part of youth studies provision in England and on undergraduate courses in Norway: 'great supplementary material to show the complexities of being young today' [D]. Norwegian students sent feedback to the boxers: 'Hey guys, Great movie, looks like a good community. Maybe one day you will inspire other lads'; 'keep on working to achieve your dreams' [D]. *POY*'s participatory models have influenced other funded projects and partnerships in universities, the voluntary sector and schools. The approach provided 'the underpinnings to a number of high-profile Manchester Centre for Youth Studies projects', including an ESRC/AHRC-funded (GBP117,000) knowledge transfer partnership project (KTP). 'The influence of the Passions project in the development of the KTP cannot be underestimated' [E]. It was 'integral to the development' of a GBP450,000 Comic Relief project on girls and gangs, which 'mimicked' Passions' methodologies and partnerships [E]. It was a template for schools' project work on the AHRC *Voices of War and Peace* project (Tebbutt was a Co-I). In 2019, the project was shortlisted for an Emerald Publishing 'International Impact Award' for engaged research that meets 'an important social need' [F]. The National Archives profiled *POY* as an exemplar of higher education projects that use archives to engage with the wider community and the history and heritage of local boxing clubs that appear in the project are featured permanently on *Visit Manchester*, Greater Manchester's official tourism site [F].

### Inspiring new cultural production

In 2014, Tebbutt used her experiences of working on *POY* to co-produce a documentary film, *Forever Young*, for the AHRC and British Academy-funded *Being Human* festival. Intergenerational themes were combined with footage from the North West Film Archive (NWFA) and contemporary oral testimony to create an impressionistic portrayal of teenage leisure lives from the 1940s to the 2000s. Screened in public and academic venues in Manchester, Liverpool and Preston, *Forever Young* has been used as a teaching aid on youth studies, history and fashion courses at Manchester Metropolitan. Screened internationally at the University of British Columbia, an audience member described the film as 'a beautiful way of sharing people's stories as well as broader themes of memory, youth

and time' [G]. Visual commemoration of youth experiences continued in 2018, when Tebbutt worked with the artist Jacqueline Butler to co-curate an exhibition of photos of German children and women during WW1 by the German photographer Kathe Buchler. The exhibition took place at Manchester Metropolitan's Grosvenor Gallery, as part of a UK tour organised with the Museum für Photographie, Braunschweig and AHRC WW1 engagement centres at the Universities of Birmingham and Hertfordshire. The exhibition raised questions about the representation of children's wartime experiences. Visitors described it as 'emotionally moving'. 'For me it was the pictures of the children. How they were, at the same time, aware of the war and unaware of the war...how war has become the "new normal" for them'; 'Very powerful images which really make you think about WW1 and how people lived and worked at a much younger age' [H].

### Connecting the generations

In 2014-15, Tebbutt's community partnership expertise led to the award of *Creating Our Future Histories (COFH)*, a 9-month AHRC-funded [G2] postgraduate training programme with the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE), the People's History Museum, the Manchester Histories charity and seven local community groups. *COFH* was established to change the way in which early career researchers are taught about public and community engagement through the design and delivery of a unique training experience which matched 16 exceptional postgraduate researchers recruited from a national field with Manchester-based community groups. Independent evaluation highlighted *COFH*'s success in breaking down barriers, creating sustainable relationships and increasing well-being. The training enhanced a sense of belonging and identification with Manchester's history, culture and heritage; increased awareness of community organisations' purpose; and improved understanding of connections between research, community engagement and the public [I].

Lessons learned in *COFH* informed the latest *Passions* project, *Returning Home*, which used participatory heritage approaches, visual records and memory work with adults from Manchester and Salford who as 'delicate children' were sent by the Swiss Red Cross to stay with Swiss foster families for three months after the Second World War. Inspired by unique archive film of the children's return to Manchester in 1948, it is a collaboration led by Tebbutt with the NWFA and the same team of experts (creative lead Sue Reddish and community film-maker Jim Dalziel) that worked on *POY*. On the 70th anniversary of the initiative, the NWFA, Granada Reports (28/3/2018) and the *Manchester Evening News* (23/6/2018) used an excerpt of the archive footage to make a coordinated appeal for adults to come forward who had been sent to Switzerland as children. 80 of these 'returners' and their relatives made contact and subsequently attended an emotional screening of the whole film. 'For us to see moving images of our mum, her sister and our grandparents from 70 years ago was truly amazing and will be treasured'; 'So many hearts broken and not until you were old enough to know these feelings yourself can you understand'; 'I have listened to my dad over the years... but it became more real having attended the event and learning more about that time in my dad's life' [J]. 25 'returners' became involved with the *Returning Home* engagement project, which was presented in 2019 at the annual congress of the International Federation of Film Archives (Lausanne, c.100 viewers) and at the Society for the History of Children and Youth conference (Sydney, c.40 attendees) [J]. Covid-19 lockdown made face-to-face group work and interviews impossible and forced the project online. This slowed the pace of engagement, giving more time for self-reflection and allowing returners' stories, several collaboratively pieced together from text messages, emails and phone calls, to illustrate the ambivalence some felt about being sent away. At a national online workshop, 'Doing public history in lockdown' for the Raphael Samuel History Centre, (c.70 participants), a Dutch public historian described this work as 'a compelling example of the benefits of "slow" public history' [J]. Lockdown also provided an opportunity to collate a rich online resource of written material and films, including a 30-minute documentary, *Returners' Stories*, the first to commemorate this Swiss-British initiative, available in the Viewing Pods at Manchester Central Library and on the Manchester Histories website. It featured on BBC North West Tonight (2/9/2020) and BBC Radio Manchester (20/9/2020).



and was live-streamed at Manchester Histories Digifest (5/9/2020) on the 50th anniversary of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (3,000+ online viewers) [J]. The website, which the Swiss Red Cross has described as 'excellent', is a hub for returners' relatives across the world (2,122 visitors and 5,593 views in 2020). A returner's daughter emailed from Australia: 'The website is wonderful! Sitting here at work with tears in my eyes – but smiling – it's really lovely and I know Mum will be thrilled when I show her this weekend. It's brilliant to think that what Mum has talked about her whole life is actually something that all the family can now "Google" and share – amazing!' Returners have described how much they valued *Returning Home* during lockdown, when separated from loved ones. It 'has been like therapy for me, it really has, I've had this at the back of my head, locked away for years and years ... it's ... as though this bubble has burst and ... brought all these memories back... it's made me feel happy'. Individuals' Red Cross cards from 1948 located in the Swiss Federal Archives have resonated powerfully with returners and their families: 'It is history coming to life and will be a wonderful addition to the record of my Mum's life' (of a participant who sadly died from Covid in 2020) [J]. To some, the project has brought a different understanding of childhood feelings at being sent away, transforming their view of themselves. One returner, the son of a poor single parent, came close to tears at seeing himself described as 'reserved', 'affectionate' and 'suitable for a good home'. Having puzzled for over 70 years why he'd been placed at a children's hostel rather than with a family, the description challenged a lifelong sense of stigma. His daughter emailed 'The whole family is thrilled: it cheered us up, so much, we've all had a little cry'. *Returning Home* is now entering a new phase through a collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross on its 2021 themes of 'family unity' and 'health support'. It is allowing British families to take up their own research by connecting them with records in Switzerland and the Red Cross's Tracing Service which is helping 'returners' and their relatives search for the Swiss foster families who welcomed them in 1948. As one relative puts it, this provides an important opportunity 'to say thank you for their hospitality and kindness in looking after my mum, all those years ago' [J].

#### 5. Sources to corroborate the impact

- A. POY web pages (<https://passionsofyouth.org/>) with links to portfolio of *Passions* projects and details of online visitors.
- B. *Researchfish* archive of engagement activities and outcomes from 2014-2020 for POY AHRC funding corroborating reach and significance.
- C. External Evaluation Report, *The Passions of Youth*, 2015; Feedback from parents and relatives who attended events corroborating reach and significance of the project.
- D. Testimonial: Lecturer in Youth Studies, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences; and feedback comments from Norwegian students sent to the Moston boxers.
- E. Testimonials: Head of Manchester Centre for Youth Studies (MCYS) on how *Passions* influenced successful KTP; Head of Youth Justice (MCYS), *Passions'* influence on successful Comic Relief project.
- F. Web links and documents corroborating recognition for POY including links to National Archives and Visit Manchester webpages; nomination letter for Emerald Impact Award (2019) from Manager, Moston and Collyhurst Lads' Club; email from Emerald Publishing; Emerald Publishing's Real Impact Award booklet, 'Research Making a Difference' (2019).
- G. *Forever Young* film ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa-AIPRzwys&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa-AIPRzwys&feature=emb_logo)) and *Being Human* web links corroborating impacts of project on young people.
- H. Feedback from Buchler 'Beyond the Battlefields' exhibition; visitors' comments.
- I. 'Creating Our Future Histories': Final Evaluation Report.
- J. Audience feedback from anniversary screening of archive film; participant and public feedback re. *Returning Home* project; NWFA publicity and International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) conference; web link to *Returners' Stories* documentary; participant feedback recorded for Impact Film; Swiss Red Cross correspondence.