

# Understanding everyday participation

*articulating cultural values*



Taking Part user event  
28 November 2012

# About the project

- *Understanding Everyday Participation – Articulating Cultural Values* is a major exploration of the relationship between participation and cultural value
- five-year project funded by the AHRC through its Connected Communities programme
- partnership between four universities, twelve national bodies and a range of local organisations



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# Why everyday participation?



- official models of participation tend to prioritise traditional, institutional forms of culture
- non-participants in formal culture are often viewed as ‘unengaged’
- how much do we know about people’s everyday cultural lives?

# Research objectives



- discover how people participate in culture in their everyday lives and what this participation means to them
- understand how communities are formed and connected through culture
- develop new articulations and measures of cultural value
- explore the relationship between different cultural contexts – institutional, voluntary, informal
- reconnect policy and practice with the everyday

# Five work packages



1. **Histories** of participation and value; cultural policy and place
2. **Reanalysis of survey data** – how does participation vary by place and throughout people's lives?
3. **Ecosystems** – in-depth qualitative research into participation and value in six contrasting locations
4. **Application projects** – working with communities and partners to develop projects in response to findings
5. **Research-policy-practice nexus** – reflecting on the partnership and developing new models of collaboration

# Telling the Taking Part story



- research methods have a ‘social life’ of their own
- Taking Part is shaped by political and social processes...
  - represents a particular view of what participation is
  - product of negotiation between individuals and organisations
- ...and helps construct the political and social world
  - paints a particular picture of participation
  - helps to inform policy and practice
- what does Taking Part miss?

# Reanalysis of Taking Part data



- use Taking Part to map the connections between everyday, cultural, social and civic participation
- create an 'everyday segmentation' to identify different types of participant across sectors
- combine six years of data to explore differences in participation at local level

# Exploring other datasets



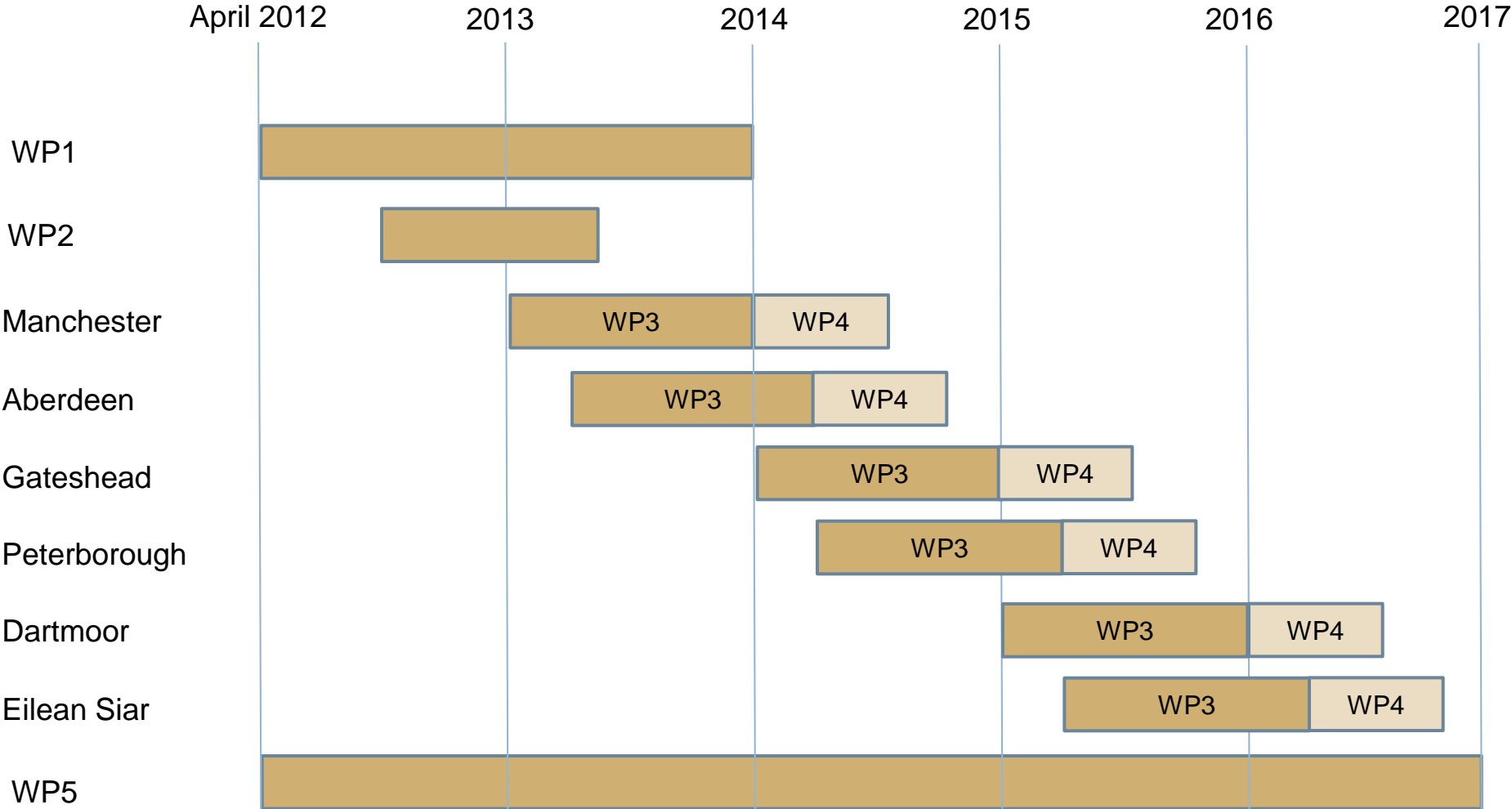
- UK 2000 Time Use Survey
  - 24-hour self-completion diaries broken down into ten minute slots
- 1958 National Child Development Study
  - qualitative data on social participation and identity from interviews with 220 respondents aged 50
- Scottish Household Survey
  - cultural participation data at local authority level



# New qualitative research

- exploring cultural participation and value from the 'bottom up' in six ecosystems
- apply a common methodology:
  - local history of participation and value
  - mapping of local cultural infrastructure and opportunities
  - longitudinal qualitative interviews: two waves in 30 households to explore nature and meaning of participation
  - ethnographies of two participation contexts e.g. museum, knitting circle, skateboard park, pub
  - social network analysis: cultural elites, intermediaries, community groups

# Timeline



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