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**Meeting of Minds, TLRP Mentoring Scheme 1<sup>st</sup> April -31<sup>st</sup> Sept 2008  
Final Report**

I gained a TLRP meeting of minds fellowship, with Dr. Helen Lucey in the Psychology Department at the University of Bath (previously at the Open University) as my mentor. We share research interests in children and young people, gender and social class cultures and psychosocial methodologies, and this fellowship has enabled me to establish a professional relationship with Dr. Lucey which has continued beyond the life of the fellowship bearing further opportunities for interdisciplinary work in the field of education.

Below I outline the progress I have made with the aid of the mentoring scheme. I also attach my current CV.

Specifically my main two targets to work on with Dr. Lucey were:

- *Developing a conference paper for publication in a high ranking journal*  
Over the six months of my fellowship I concentrated on re-writing a paper for submission to the journal *Urban Studies*. Meeting with Dr Lucey every four to six weeks to discuss the ideas and progress of the paper was invaluable support, and also gave me regular deadlines to keep the process moving. In August I submitted the paper and have since received news that it has been accepted for publication.
- *Preparing a research funding application (e.g. to an appropriate scheme such as British Academy Small Grants, ESRC First Grants -if renewed)*

During my fellowship, Dr. Lucey shared ideas with me about research funding possibilities. We discovered that I was not eligible for British Academy or ESRC First Grants funding as I am currently undertaking a PhD (albeit part-time whilst working as a research fellow). Having developed and drafted ideas for a research funding proposal during the course of my fellowship, Dr. Lucey agreed to develop this further in collaboration, drawing on our differential expertise, and we are now working towards submitting a proposal to the ESRC small grants scheme with Dr Lucey as principal applicant and myself as co-applicant. This is likely to be submitted this month.

At the same time I have also continued to contribute to a number of proposals to a wide range of funding bodies, as co-author and lead author. I am currently principal investigator on two research projects for the education and technology funding body, Becta, for both of which I led on the writing of the bid. I have also been co-applicant or named researcher on three other ESRC grant proposals in this time, two of which were alpha rated but unfunded, and one for which we are still awaiting the outcome.

*Additional outcomes:*

In order to work towards becoming a principal investigator, or to secure funding to lead on high quality research projects, I stated in my application that I would benefit from:

- *Expanding on and developing my growing portfolio of publications*  
I now have one lead author publication accepted and two currently under review. I am also jointly authoring a book.

- *Gaining experience submitting a grant application*

I now I have experience of successfully securing funding with one funding body, and have experience of preparing and writing ESRC funding applications.

- *Gaining research project management experience*

I have, over the past year, gained experience managing three research projects at my institution.

- *Contributing to the organization of academic events (e.g. organizing or convening conferences or seminars) and expanding contacts and networks*

I am a member of IPSE's Public Profile Group and have been actively involved in organising and running our current seminar series *Education and the Social World: Critical Perspectives*. The theme for 2007/8 was *The Educated Family?* and I was responsible for organising and running a seminar on middle class families, for which I invited the speakers and chaired the event. This enabled me to make contacts with scholars with similar research interests. I was also involved in organising the TLRP Meeting of Minds Conference, held at London Metropolitan University.