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## Welcome to Issue 9!

Welcome to Issue 9 of the ARK newsletter. Community Relations Week will take place during 23-28 May, and so this edition of the newsletter focuses on ARK materials relevant to community relations. As always, we highlight latest publications, as well as forthcoming events. We hope you find something of interest.

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## Focus on community relations

### *Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey*

Every year, the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey includes a module of questions relating to community relations. In fact, some of these questions had previously been asked in the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey which ran from 1989 to 1996. This means that we can track public attitudes to community relations over the past 20 years or more, during which time Northern Ireland has experienced major social and political changes. As well as asking about relations between Catholics and Protestants, the module has included questions on flags, identity, parades, integration and segregation. Tables of results for all of these questions, as well as the questionnaires and datasets are available on the [NILT website](#).

A recent publication - [An age of change? Community relations in Northern Ireland](#) (Research Update 72), by Paula Devine, Gráinne Kelly and Gillian Robinson - uses data from NILT and the Social Attitudes Survey to explore attitudes to community relations over the past 20 years.

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### *Young Life and Times Survey*

The Young Life and Times (YLT) Survey also includes key questions on community relations every year. As well as looking at changes over time, we can compare the attitudes of 16 year olds with respondents from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (who are aged 18 years and over). In addition, YLT has included questions about cross-community contact, both in and out of school. As with NILT, tables of results, questionnaires and datasets can be found on the [YLT website](#). Results from the [2010 survey](#) are now available.

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### *Surveys Online*

[Surveys Online \(SOL\)](#) provides quick and easy access to information on a range of academic and voluntary sector social surveys. Users can view tables of results and/or the questionnaire without having to analyse the full dataset themselves. The list of surveys within SOL includes the 1989-1996 Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Surveys, which regularly included questions on community relations. SOL also has a specific section on Community Relations and Political Attitudes which shows the time series of attitudes of [adults](#) and of [16 year olds](#) to these issues.

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### ***Online Research Bank (ORB)***

The [Online Research Bank](#) contains a bibliography and summaries of social policy research in Northern Ireland since 1990, and the database can be searched for entries relating to community relations. In addition, the [Children's Research Database](#) consists of a bibliography and summaries of research in Northern Ireland focused on children and young people since 2000 - and again, this can be searched for entries relating to community relations.

### ***CAIN***

Conflict Archive on the Internet - [CAIN](#) - contains information and source material on the Troubles and politics in Northern Ireland from 1968 to the present. Searching the site for material relating to community relations will produce a wealth of articles, reports and other useful material.

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### ***Qualitative Archive on Conflict***

This [project](#) brought together information about qualitative material related to the Troubles into a single catalogue. The existence of the catalogue and its associated archived material is a valuable resource for researchers and commentators and helps commemorate the experience of the people of Northern Ireland who have lived through the conflict.

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## **ARK seminar series**

### **ARK seminar series**

The next event in the ARK seminar series will take place on Tuesday 17 May. Dominic McSherry and Montse Fargas Malet, from the Institute of Child Care Research at Queen's University Belfast, will present findings on the third phase of the Care Pathways and Outcomes Study.

The seminar will be held at NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, at noon, followed by a sandwich lunch. Everyone is welcome, and the seminar is free. However, places must be booked by email [info@ark.ac.uk](mailto:info@ark.ac.uk), or by telephone 028 7137 5513

For information on all past and forthcoming events, view the [Events](#) section on the ARK website. The website includes videos of many of our previous events.

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## **Recent publications**

[Playscapes at 16](#) by Jacqueline O'Loughlin, Brenda Stevenson and Dirk Schubotz explores experiences of, and attitudes to, leisure facilities for 16 year olds in Northern Ireland. This Research Update uses data from the [2010 Young Life and Times Survey](#).

ARK produces a range of publications, including Research Updates and fact sheets. Most of these are available online. For a full list of publications, as well as links, visit our [Publications](#) page.

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## **About ARK**

ARK is a joint initiative between Queen's University and the University of Ulster, and began in 2000. Our mission is to make social science knowledge on Northern Ireland easily accessible to the widest possible audience. Most of our dissemination is via

our website at [www.ark.ac.uk](http://www.ark.ac.uk), which is divided into four main areas:

- [Surveys](#)
- [Conflict, Politics and Elections](#)
- [Policy, Research and Resources](#)
- [Outreach, Dissemination and Training](#)

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## Contact us

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If you wish to contact us, please email [info@ark.ac.uk](mailto:info@ark.ac.uk)

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