

Ali's notes on Hideaway session 3 on 11th November 2019.

Yesterday at Hideaway we finally made a breakthrough. This has been a difficult space to work in, partly because it is an open access youth club for girls and young women with a lot of different activities going on and partly because I am not sure if we were able to explain to the youth workers what we were about.

I had had one excellent session there with a group of 6 or 7 young women who came and looked and joined in as and when they wanted, we started with names and birth year and an outline of looking at archival material. I had been before a couple of times to try and stimulate some interest so the young women recognised me. We were also working with a textile artist with a brief to capture ideas about being a young woman/identities. We used the 'jar' exercise which provoked a lot of discussion about the different constraints on girls and boys, expectations of girls to be caring and responsible, it also raised questions about education and the sort of sex education that they were getting at school. The textile work, felt and stitching, started a discussion about representation. The archival material was looked at but the time ran out.

This time I had decided that we might film the youth workers who had been very vocal in other sessions about their memories of the late 80s. And I had hoped that by doing this we might be able to use the workers to carry on reanimating the data. When the film-maker and I arrived, there were no workers around and we sat in the youth club talking to some of the young women who remembered us. Then a volunteer worker came and joined us, T, who was 21 in 1989, dual heritage and had lived mostly in Hulme and Moss Side. She started to reminisce about the Reno club in Moss Side, her fragile life in the late 80s, sofa surfing and her precarious work life.

Next two of the workers got together a group of young women and brought them to meet with us in a room downstairs. I had brought a selection of interviews to use with the workers + the Feminist Webs 'box' with a selection of magazines and artefacts, badges, mugs, from the 80s. The girls were 2x14,15 and 16, L a Middle Eastern Muslim, B and K both Black and A Asian Muslim (with a hijab). We then sat around a table and introduced ourselves plus our birth years. I had put a selection of magazines out and we began to look at them, commenting on the ways that people communicate now and then. I then look at an extract from AMB 18, the part where the interviewee talks about having a boyfriend of the same background/race. The young women read the extract out and it sparked a lot of conversation about race. The girls were clear that in their opinion there was very little racism at school, and that people were not concerned about race. We talked about sex education and how they learnt about relationships and sex, all in science lessons at school, very biological approach. They talked about their relationships with their mothers and the fact that all their mothers were young and therefore easy to confide in.

I then decided to ask some of the original questions from the interviews and see how the young women responded. This brought up responses about families, about curfews and about the fear of the streets and being stabbed.

Sue then interviewed the 3 girls separately encouraging them to think about the differences between 1989 and 2019.

The break through happened with one of the youth workers L. The girls were talking about their hopes and aspirations for the future when L disclosed that her own education had been disrupted when she was 14 and became pregnant. She talked to the girls about education but they were eager to go by then and so we began to film L by herself. She was very interested in the archival material but what this sparked was her sudden vision of using the material to encourage the girls to think about relationships and their understanding of sex. She said that in her opinion the moral panic of 2019 was the vulnerability and grooming of local girls and young women and that looking at *Taught not Caught* and *Spare Rib* and the *Agenda* pack was giving her ideas for future work.

We left the interviews and other archival material and L is going to talk to her team of K and T to suggest how they might work with the material. So let's see what happens next!