

**'Re-asking' experiment: Transcription of an audio recording of a group of adult researchers experimenting with the 're-asking method, using the WRAP data.**

This document contains part of the transcription of an audio recording of a session that took place on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Manchester Metropolitan University. In the session the four adult researchers pilot two methods for reanimating interview data from the Women, Risk and AIDS Project (WRAP) archive. This workshop was part of the Reanimating data project. In the group are two members of the Reanimating data project team (Ester and Ali) and two members of staff at MMU (Jo and Jayne).

This part of the transcript relates to the first 'experiment' with the 're-asking' method. In this section the group try out the method and then reflect on the method in relation to the wider Reanimating data project.

The original transcript was completed by Type out transcription services and later edited by members of the reanimating data project team.

*Ester spreads out some pages from a WRAP interview (USD06) on the table and asks the group to mess up the pages so that they are in no particular order.*

ESTER: ... So feel free to mess it up and do you want to choose a page for yourself, any page... And the task is just to cut out the questions that really stand out to you, so it might be questions that really jar you or questions that you find really interesting or that just stand out in some way. You do have...

ALI: Questions, yes?

ESTER: Questions, you do have permission to look at another bit of paper if you want to but it's so easy to get overwhelmed with this stuff, so..

JAYNE: Yes, it's quite good just to...

(The group read in silence. There is the sound of scissors cutting through paper as the group all cut out questions from the data)

JAYNE: Just questions you're wanting, aren't you?

ESTER: Yes, just questions.

(Silence and cutting again.)

ESTER: If you've got your questions, you can stick them down on a bit of paper.

(Ester hands out coloured pieces of paper and glue. The group cut and stick. Jayne has to leave the room.)

ALI: Do you have a little bit of paper?

ESTER: Do you want one? [She rips a sheet of blue paper in half and hands some to Ali]

JAYNE: Thanks.

ESTER: Did you find yourself wanting to cut them all out or not?

ALI: No.

ESTER: So it was easy to be selective?

ALI: Yes, I think...I think questions are quite interesting because they are very much in the context of the interview, aren't they, so...

ESTER: Yes. Some of them don't make sense if you took that context away. We'll just wait for Jayne but if you just keep your cut-out bits to one side so you can come back to them, the sheets that you've cut from.

(The group continue to cut out questions and stick them onto coloured paper using pristinick. There is the sound of scissors slicing through paper)

ESTER: [To Ali] We should just have done it all for ourselves first, shouldn't we, really?

ALI: Yes, we could have done it, couldn't we? Played around.

ESTER: That's what we should have had at our team meeting.

ESTER: It's the first time I've got to do anything with the data.

ALI: I think I've been doing it with the Levenshulme and a bit with the Proud Trust.

[The group continue cutting and sticking]

ESTER: Well, maybe just in case Jayne's got side-tracked with something...just in case Jayne's got side-tracked, maybe we'll just start doing the next thing and then she can join us...I was just thinking that is that we could have a go at re-asking the questions to each other. In pairs? And of course we can choose whether or not we want to answer them or answer them however we want. Practice consent in how we do this. Who would like have a go at either asking or being asked?

JO: It's going to be interesting because the ones that I've chosen might be a bit oddly fragmentary.

ALI: But that's the whole point, isn't it, I think?

ESTER: [To Jo] Do you want to have a go at asking?

ALI: Shall we ask, ask, ask [*points to each person indicating that the group should work in circle, each person asking a question to the person on their left, who in turn asks a question to the person on their left*] if there's just three of us? What do you think?

ESTER: Yeah, yeah, go on then.

JO: I'll start. [To Ester] Okay, do you feel like you're the lucky one then?

ESTER: I think I am lucky in lots of ways, yes, I think I have fair amounts of social privilege on my side, which is a form of luck, and I think I am lucky in a lot of the people I know in my life, other people who make me who I am and I sometimes think if I hadn't had the relationships, like with people that I have then I wouldn't be the person I am, I wouldn't be able to do things that I do so I feel pretty lucky in, like, the people I've been able to know and be close to and the opportunities I've had carved out to do things. So yes, I think so.

[To Ali] How do you get on with your dad? I mean, talking a lot about your relationship with your mum, is it as close as with your dad?

ALI: Yes, my relationship with my dad is much closer than with my mum, though I don't suppose I would have talked particularly with my dad or with my mum, actually, about relationships, probably not. So that was quite secret, perhaps. But I think with my dad I shared the same kind of humour and so I think if I was really upset the person I would have gone to would have been my dad, yes, so much closer relationship than with my mother. My mother had more aspirations for me in a particular way. She would like to have seen me nicely married to presumably somebody useful like a vicar or somebody sensible, and I could live in a house in the country and live a bit of Downton Abbey kind of life. Whereas my father was much more encouraging of me to be educated and go to university and do what I wanted to do, so I think it was that kind of tension.

[To Jo] Well, I mean, did you get any pleasure out of it at the time?

JO: [laughs] At the time... [All laugh] I think I was very fortunate to enjoy a lot of pleasure. [laughs]

ALI: That's good.

JO: I think my experiences in my younger life were pretty fortunate and I can remember sort of chatting with girlfriends, and I am talking about sexual relationships, because this is the context... Yes, I feel like I had fairly...also luckily, and it does feel like luck in a way, kind of positive experiences, because I think most folk that I know chatting about early experiences, maybe it wasn't so much about pleasure, it was more about maybe fitting in or... I'm not quite sure because that's going from speaking to somebody else, but yes, I think so and I feel lucky for that.

ALI: Thank you. Keep going?

JO: I'm going to skip around. [To Ester] Right, so it wasn't something you were scared to say to him?

ESTER: I think if we're talking about heterosexual relationships, I think there have been many things I have been scared to say to male partners, yes, because I think I find it very hard to be assertive in heterosexual relationships. I still think that yes, that's something that I find difficult on the personal level so I might be able to challenge more of it in a more public professional way. But I think still around personal and intimate relationships, yes...I don't know, I wouldn't use scared, not in the terms of fear, I don't think I've ever felt fearful but more nervous or apprehensive or just conflict avoidance, heaps, yes.

[To Jayne who has come back into the room] So we're going around in a circle, Jayne.

JAYNE: Yes, sorry, I knew if I stepped out the room...

ESTER: No, it's fine.

JAYNE: ...it would be a disaster.

ESTER: [To Jayne] Do you think it's embarrassing to have to bring the subject of contraception up?

JAYNE: Am I answering as me?

ALI: As you.

JAYNE: I don't have to be somebody else? No... Well, its not that simple is it? [All laugh] Okay, I'm thinking about this on so many different levels. So in terms of me and relationships, I think [Someone appears at the door and Jayne looks up]...I hoped I've booked in here, I've probably booked a completely different room. I'll just check. Sorry. [Gets up and leaves the room]

ESTER: [To Ali] Do you think it's embarrassing to have to bring the subject of contraception up?

ALI: No, I don't think so. When I was in a heterosexual relationship I think for me it was really important because I always wanted to have children but I knew I didn't want to get pregnant, if that makes sense? It was something about I want to be in control of this...

All: Yes.

ALI: So it didn't worry me about having a baby, but I didn't want to have a baby when it felt problematic. So I think I've always been very interested in that whole debate about contraception, [*Jayne comes back into the room*] and I never really took the pill because it didn't suit me at all, so I've had to really talk to male partners in quite a kind of imaginative way, you know? Particularly stuff about condoms is still very tricky, I think. So, you know, I think you have to kind of negotiate that, the whole thing. And I was also talking to a friend of mine about the fact that when we were young, because it was hard to get contraception then and because people were perhaps aspirational in that way of wanting to go to university, wanting to do something, not to have a baby, people had to really think about how they were having sex and pleasure, without those kinds of risks. So actually I was talking to a friend of mine, another woman, and we were talking about the fact that actually we had lots of sex without penetration and that was the... So there was something about actually very young understanding about pleasure and about the fact that it wasn't all about penetrative sex and I think for men, that's quite...it's not challenging, because there are lots of things you can do, but, you know, it's an interesting conversation.

ESTER: Thank you.

ALI: Oh, I'm asking one now. [To Jo] Right, so what point do you think you have to make a decision about...I mean, do you think you just have to say, well, what the hell and take the chance or do you think you say, let's have a test?

JO: (Laughs). What a brilliant question. Sorry, can I look at it?

ALI: So I think it's really about having a test about HIV.

JO: Oh, right.

[Jayne is cutting and sticking questions in the background]

ALI: So when do you think you have to make a decision about are you going to see if your partner is HIV positive or are you just going to say, well, you know, I fancy the pants off this one so I'm going to go for it?

JO: It feels like it's part of this similar question there about embarrassment and...I think I rely on...not...yes, I think humour, in trying to be very straightforward, I feel like sometimes the only way that I can do very straightforward is almost be a more blunt persona than I really am. Just like, well...

ALI: [laughs] Yeah!

JAYNE: Oh, I really get that.

JO: So what? What about that then? And I feel like it's the only way that I can do it because a bit of me is still really, really embarrassed. So I was raised in a Catholic tradition where we were told that you only have sex if you were intending to conceive a child and that sex for pleasure was... And so all this stuff around contraception, I don't know if the embarrassment is still from that or it's just universal. But I wonder if some of it is around that. [Reading] At what point do you have to make a decision? I mean, do you just think you have to say what the hell and take the chance or do you think let's have a test...?

ALI: I mean, in a way that could be about contraception as well, couldn't it?

JO: It could be, yes.

ALI: Because it could be am I just going to go for it, if you're talking about heterosexual sex.

JO: So I tend to ask people so how do you handle blah-blah-blah? Do you go and get checked out? I do this, what do you do? And that's my way into having the discussion, not that that's always particularly super easy.

ALI: Because what's interesting about this question is I would imagine these days people are not having that discussion about gonorrhoea or syphilis, are they? I don't know.

ESTER: Can I just hold off the discussion just...? (All laugh)

ALI: [To Jo] Yes, so your turn now.

JO: [To Ester] Is that normal in terms of your friends and people you know? Is that the average level? (All laugh)

ESTER: I mean, it's always been hard to know what's normal, right? So as a researcher, I would say, we'd use the NASTSAL, the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, that tells

us what's, you know, about patterns of how often people have sex and who they have sex with. But yes, it's interesting for me at the moment so I'm at the age when most of my friends have got young kids so the conversation now is about is it normal to have this little sex when you've got young children, so it's interesting that that's come up again as a thing, and that's not been a thing for a while. So it's funny, the points in a life course when what's normal becomes important again. I think it's also there in the background but I think there are these pinch-points around first sex and early sex and maybe from the work we've been doing with the university students, at university how much sex you have as a university student is now quite a thing, which it wasn't really when I was a university student. So I think yes, there are moments when what's the normal level or the right amount of sex to be having becomes important and again and then I think maybe it eases a bit. And I guess some people care more than others about what's normal.

[To Jayne] I mean, the thing about contraceptives, do you think you could ever look on them as sexy things? I mean, something that is fun and part of, you know, the whole...?

JAYNE: That's quite a good one. I think because when I did sex ed I used all the contraceptives as a way of doing the education, so they were quite handy that they were things and I always think about Dawn French's sketch and the Slinky and all that kind of stuff, so I always kind of look at things and picture Dawn French really in the bus stop describing the coil as a Slinky with barbed wire added and stuff like that. (ALI laughs)

But I suppose...so in an abstract way, yes, for me personally I don't use them because I've been a lesbian since my mid-20s, and I have to say at that point I was, like, hallelujah, I have not got to use contraception. If I could have stuck a flag out and said, I'm so relieved... I think at that point I'd just gone and had a cap fitted, so I'd left home, gone on the pill because I didn't answer the earlier question, I think I just avoided contraception, well, I made it very internal, I just went and did it, and then I didn't have to negotiate it with anybody.

JO: Was that pre-AIDS then?

JAYNE: 1982, yes, so...oh, I hadn't really thought about that, I had not made that... But I don't think we'd had any kind of education or anything at school so god knows how I knew, other than the fact that my dad had recently set up his own company... No, he hadn't but I think before that he'd gone to work, basically, for the drug companies that make the pill, so it was a standing joke that in our garage for some reason, I don't know why they'd be in our garage, there were stacks of boxes of contraceptive. I don't know why he had them in the garage because that doesn't make any sense at all and I must go and ask him because he did set up his own business later, but I don't think he'd... Maybe he had at that point. Anyway, and at that point, I think, or just before, he'd worked for what they call Pill Palace in Burgess Hill in Sussex which is where Organon, I think, and another drug company that made a lot of the pills at that point.

So I kind of knew it vaguely from him, but I don't remember ever learning anything about it at school so I think I kept it very internal. I've forgotten the original question.

ESTER: Could you look on contraceptives as sexy things?

JAYNE: Well, I don't have to, do I? I don't have to have anything to do with them. I mean, I can use condoms, and that's fine. The cap was beyond me, I'm not sure I could ever get my head around that, and I was literally relieved that I didn't have to negotiate it. I was relieved actually to be away from those power dynamics with men. Really, you know, I had two boyfriends, I was really good at it, I was so clever, just had one and then I had another one while I was working out, whilst I was discussing with my friends that obviously girls were better-looking. (All laugh) Literally had a conversation with my best friend, obviously girls are better-looking but you go out with boys... All my posters were girls.

ALI: Yes, I think that's such an interesting thing.

JAYNE: And I had a full year when I was about 22 going, god, I'd really like to be a lesbian, like I was saying I'd really like to be Jamaican. Literally, but I think it was a real safety thing, and then I went, oh, I can. But yes, funnily enough, it was two things when I came out, apart from the... obviously, it was not using contraception and also just feeling relieved, a bit like you were saying about not being scared of men at all. I had really nice boyfriends, but just thinking that whole world of men was a little bit of a challenge and actually I didn't have to do that anymore.

ALI: Do you want to ask one?

JAYNE: Oh, sorry, I was just looking expectantly at you, (All laugh) I thought you'd know what it was. Okay, [To Ali] were there things that people told you that you can remember that really weren't right? Do you know things that were...

ALI: I think when I was young, I was probably quite like you, I kept things very... I didn't talk about things very much. I'm a talker but I didn't talk about that, and I made sure I found out what I wanted to know. And yes, there were some things... That's what I feel about when you talk about sex with young people, they quite often say, yes, we know, but actually I can remember being... I don't think the word's confused but it was like a mystery, wasn't it? It was like something that people didn't really tell you. So I think when I was young, I didn't feel that people told me things that were not true, but I don't know whether the things I read, because I made sure... I bought magazines like... it would be things like Cosmopolitan or Honey or those early magazines, and I made sure I really read them to know what I was... you know? Because we're talking about the late '60s, so there wasn't a lot around, really, unless you were married or you were very proper...

But then when I became a youth worker, there were lots of things girls told me and I was, like, oh... you know? Gosh, like my favourite, well, you could try it, you young people that are fertile, you don't get pregnant if you have sex while you're standing on a telephone directory, (JO laughs) and that made me laugh because I thought, well, it would be quite hard to have sex standing on a telephone directory. (All laugh)

ESTER: It is these days because you'd have to find a telephone directory.



JO: Exactly, it's probably a really good...

ESTER: That's a good method of contraception, isn't it?

JO: I will sleep with you when you come back. (All laugh)

ALI: The BT telephone directory. So it's those kinds of things that you sometimes think how did people believe it? (All laughing) But they obviously do. Well, I just met a woman up in Harpurhey and she said, well, I did it up the alley and I haven't said that to Neil and Murray because that would probably make them think about something else, but anyway, I did it up the alley, she said, because people had said to her, the old chestnut, if you do it standing up you won't get pregnant. So I mean, she was 85, I think, but I'm sure that's still doing the rounds.

(laughing) Carry a telephone directory wherever you go. Oh, question... [to Jo] Okay, right, but I mean, how about the idea... I mean, do you see yourself as a Christian and living by those rules or anything?

JO: Wow, how interesting. No, but of course I did when I was young and suddenly all of this is really making her come back. No, I don't and I think that in fact recently I did a thing where I sort of wrote out, I tried to remember a lot of the attitudes that were put into my head about what sex was and what it was for and what it was not for, and whether it was spoken or not, what was approved of or gained of through facial expressions, or what got switched on or off on the telly or all of those things. And a lot of it was kind of expressions of female sexuality that was joyous got switched off or turned down or, you know, disapproved of, and I feel like a lot of those things went into my bones as a young person. But some part of me managed to resist that.

So what is it, so that says Christian, doesn't it? So I'm thinking specifically that I think that some of my stuff comes from the Catholicism stuff. So some of those attitudes were around sex is only for conceiving a child, but then when someone did conceive a child, if it was outside of marriage, even though this was the '90s, I can remember a friend of mine getting pregnant in school and then we just didn't see them anymore. And it's like... and we didn't go and find her, and I feel bad about... I mean, nothing bad happened to her, she just stayed in and didn't come to school anymore, and all of that stuff. Blah-blah-blah, where was I going?

And so I wrote out my own stuff now which was more about sex being about joy and about connection and about generosity of spirit between people. And being yours, you know, and not for someone else to tell you what it could be. So I'm going to say no, I don't, thank you. (laughs)

ESTER: So I'm going to suggest we stop asking, (*murmurs of agreement*) thanks, everybody. So how did you find that process of just doing that?

JO: (*Pause*) It was interesting because I picked really fragmentary questions because I'm not very smart and I didn't anticipate us asking them to each other, then I was feeling sort of

weirdly guilt feelings about not picking more structured or clear questions, I suppose. I picked ones that seemed to be a bit poetic to me in some way. I thought it was amazingly generative and even just with one question I found myself going, oh, let's just all have this one and just talk about it for an hour.

ESTER: It made me think about what a good focus group method it is because, like, it feels like a really safe space in here to me, so it would need to be that, but you know how some people control the airwaves, that kind of...we were going to do it in pairs but because you popped out, that's why we did it like that, but actually...

JAYNE: I quite liked it like that.

ESTER: It stops you in your tracks and then you have to switch over to being the interviewer, but it meant that everybody has a chance to share and it's a bit arbitrary, I just read you whatever question comes next, so you're not, like, oh, I'm going to choose a good lesbian question for Jayne, I'm just, whatever's next sort of thing, and then there's something about...I really like it as a...

ALI: I thought it was really interesting and things came out, and the questions were a bit random, weren't they? Because we didn't know that's what we were going to do, so I really enjoyed it.

ESTER: Yes, I didn't explain that, so I mean, I think in some ways that's quite nice, you're not pre-empting too much.

JO: Yes, exactly. Because I think if you'd said, you know, what questions...like if you'd explained it then you might have censored questions and been like, oh, that's a bit awkward, someone won't want to answer that, but actually if it's just what's interesting or what's jarring then you just choose what's interesting and then you deal with it.

ESTER: Yes, and it was also interesting that if part of this project is, like, if we work with this stuff, do we end up answering questions about social change and in some ways I felt like if we'd kept going we'd get more and more because particularly from you both [To Ali and Jayne], but I think you were as well [To Jo] talking about being in the '90s and we all just started to, like, position ourselves in terms of historical periods and thinking about them. So it's like you don't need to ask about social change, it just comes through the process, which is really interesting for me.

JAYNE: Yes, because we had a good range of decades, I think, didn't we? So that's quite handy.

ALI: I mean, I've always been interested in contraception, I would like to talk much more to the young women about contraception because it's something I feel very...because of course it's not now a moral panic as far as I can see about young women having babies because they're all bunged up to the gills with chemicals. That seems to me to be something very troubling for me, personally.

JAYNE: Well, it's not questioned, is it, at all?

ALI: It's not questioned at all.

JAYNE: It's just like this is what you do. You don't think about what's in them, you don't think about the impact.

ALI: I think we don't know, do we, what's going to happen in 20 years or 30 years?

JAYNE: I can remember the first pill I went on then changing the dose after a few years because they then had done more research and recognised that it was much too high. And I can remember at the time thinking, oh shit, great, you know?

ALI: But now this Depo Provera, no one even questions it.

JAYNE: No, I know. Well, that's what happened when I was working in sexual health, because they started talking about it, this was probably fifteen years, something like that, I was thinking hang on a minute, I'm sure we were campaigning... I'm sure this wasn't a good thing.

ALI: We were campaigning because I was going to do an MA on it and I remember Janet Batsleer said to me it would be very hard to do that because the drug companies would just close down.... [...] I'm so suspicious of all these things that seem to be about... It's not so much about controlling sexuality anymore, or people having sex, it's something about, oh, we don't mind what you do as long as you don't have a baby, and we don't care what we do to your body as long as you don't make it complicated by having...

JAYNE: Although they are still judged by having babies so actually if they do have babies young, this would probably...

ALI: Yes, it's still terribly...

JAYNE: About seven or eight years ago I did a self-esteem project with groups at 42nd Street, and the young mums group because it was specifically about bodies, that was really interesting because they were saying we couldn't celebrate our bumps at all.

ALI: Really?

JAYNE: And actually our bumps made us kind of... people then knew you were pregnant, so random people would come up to them in the street, have a go at them, people they didn't know, you know, call them names, all that kind of stuff, and it was interesting, actually, because I think my kids were relatively young then, and as an older mum, I'd been, like... well, I really noticed things like, A, I could celebrate it because it had taken me ages to figure out how to have a baby and then to get pregnant, so I was really up for being visibly pregnant, so I really, really thought, god, and you're not being allowed this at all, because not only are you not allowed to be visibly pregnant, you're also then harassed when you are.

But also at the time, I think it still exists, there was the Care To Learn grants? Which was great, so the idea being that if you had a baby when you were young then you can get money

and go to college and get childcare, and in Stockport they employed somebody to help the young women navigate that, and actually she needed to because it was really complicated and the kids would get the babies into nurseries and then the baby would be ill, and so then they wouldn't go back because they'd be a bit embarrassed and then the nursery would be really pissed off with them. So she actually did loads and loads of advocacy, really, for the young women.

But I remember thinking, hmm, but I can choose to be off on maternity leave, because I'm older and for them it's seen as good to not be off on maternity leave and go back into college, and it's like the choices of...

ESTER: It used to be my job to sort out people's Care To Learn money, and I never thought that before. I just thought it was brilliant.

JAYNE: Well, it was in itself.

ESTER: That they could get funded, but it's really true...

JAYNE: But they lost that choice, yes. Well, I worked in the office with the woman that did it.

ESTER: And it was only until 19 as well so if you had a baby at 18, you needed to crack on with getting into education because, well, it's only free until you're 19, isn't it? You don't get an extra year if you've had a baby or anything.

JAYNE: Yes, that's true.

ESTER: So when I've done this with the young women before, they then had a look at the answers to the questions and just sort of compared the kinds of things that we talked about.

JAYNE: Oh, that's brilliant.

ESTER: I don't know if that might be interesting.

JAYNE: That's such a good idea.

ESTER: Just see...

JAYNE: If I can find them.

ALI: Not sure where they come from.

JAYNE: I know, god. One of the ones I didn't ask, because I was out the room, was it was interesting what other things people do apart from having sex as intercourse, and then the follow-up question was just groping around in the back of the car. There was a whole answer there about groping around. (laughs)

JO: So the question I asked Ali about how did you get on with your dad, she said, [Reading] no, not as...I mean, me and my dad don't go out for a drink and I cringe if I see him in the pub because I don't like him knowing that I go to the pub. I know it sounds daft, but I don't...I mean, I bang into him in pubs but we always laugh, you know what I mean? He's dead calm, like, dead calm, would you like a drink? Yes. Louise, what are you drinking? I'll have an orange juice, please, Dad, you know, stoned out of my head, I'll have an orange juice, you know what I mean? (All laugh)

JAYNE: Oh, that's brilliant.

ALI: So mine that was the one...I mean, did you get any pleasure out of it at the time? The girl has said [Reading] we'd been together seven months, it was like the final thing and we never saw each other for a while, but I was never, like, on Cloud Nine. Did you get any pleasure out of it at the time? No. And the questioner says, I don't think many people do. It's a bit...but what makes me laugh is I made him, he didn't want to, I was a Lolita.

JO: I was a what?

ALI: Lolita, like a young...yes.

JAYNE: Blimey.

ALI: So that's quite interesting, isn't it? That would be a whole interesting thing... I've just got to find...this one.

JO: Do you feel like you're the lucky one then? Yes, on a Saturday I can feel like the lucky one, and on a Sunday, I don't feel like the lucky one. It depends, I mean, if I'm going to the christening or the baby's first birthday party or to the weddings or engagements then I feel cheesed off. Do you know what I mean? I don't know that that carries across. Sorry, that's page 16, sorry, I've lost the next bit.

ESTER: It's because we're working with the chunks that we've got.

JAYNE: That's an interesting question, isn't it, as well?

ESTER: And when we did this at another workshop, that was the bit of all the data that one woman in the workshop went, yes, that's my life, that is my life right now, am I the lucky one that I don't have kids, and again I think it's a particular age that you're at where you some days she's like...so yes, some days I feel so lucky and some days I feel really sad about the fact that I'm the only one who hasn't.

JAYNE: I got so the one about, were the things that people told you that you can remember that really weren't right? So I've got, [Reading] no, I mean, oh aye, periods, things like contraception, I've heard all sorts, like what? Jumping up and down on the floor to stop you getting pregnant. Before or after? After. And if you miss three pills then take them all at once. [Stops reading] I think we've all heard that one. And actually I would say that, not that I haven't done much sex ed for a few years but absolutely, all the same things, you won't get

pregnant if you have sex standing up, how can we possibly...how can they still be thinking things like this? This is awful.

ESTER: I've got one, [reading] do you think it's embarrassing to have to bring the subject of contraception up? And she says [reading] I think it would be for some people. I wouldn't be embarrassed. I mean, I've just started another relationship and I've got a question to ask you, have you... No, I'm not, and he went in, and then they get interrupted. That's really annoying. What was she going to say?

JAYNE: So the one about, I mean, do you see yourself as a Christian and living by those rules? She said, oh yes, I don't think...I mean, they say that, it says in the Bible you don't have to go pray to God, God is everywhere. I believe in that, I sit in bed, like, and I don't have to go to church, God, because you're there. I mean, that's what it says in the Bible. You can read the Bible whichever way you want. You can always pick something out that suits you. [stops reading]

JO: (laughing) I like that. That's the way to do it.

ALI: I think that was...

JAYNE: Yes, actually I think what you did with the students before was really good and I also want to do this one as well, it was brilliant, because it brings up a lot, doesn't it?

ESTER: When we did it with the drama students they then created a short scene that just encapsulated something about the experience of doing it, so some of them reperformed them asking themselves or one of them did this quite powerful thing where they basically sat in silence in response to the questions, because they found the questions really obtrusive and unanswerable, basically. But they really showed that really nicely with their...and we were talking about when you take questions out of context, like, they seem outrageous, some of them. Not actually any of these examples, but there are some examples that just feel, like you can't ask that, but when you take it out of context, but maybe when you put it back into context, it feels okay. But it's that funny thing about decontextualising and recontextualising them.

JO: I like this thing of acting out somebody else's words and it's not quite the way that you would phrase things, and, you know, I said like it felt like my young self keeps popping up, it feels like that, it feels like talking out these different voices feels like you're sort of bringing someone else...I don't know. I can't finish my sentence.... It's something about you're bringing them or you're conjuring this person because you're speaking the words in their cadence or whatever, but then also you're conjuring your earlier stuff... A lot of these I wasn't sort of answering from my now self because I was thinking about back then.

JAYNE: It takes you back, I suppose, it's more an emotional connection rather than if you said think about when you were 20 or something, that would be different. There's something about doing it...

JO: Exactly, yes.

ESTER: So I said something about how the then and the nows, which we've looked at loads in this project, like we did an activity where we did a sort of then/now collage but how they collapse and how the then always is now, because we only experience the then through the now, so you are your now self but all of this takes you to your then self, and you just can't...like it just collapses so we kind of hold them up there as a frame to help people to time-travel, but actually it doesn't really make sense, in some ways to do that.

So we've used the method of performing them in other projects as well, we've got young people to perform other young people's stories of first sex, for example, and there's one actually from Levenshulme, a girl made an animated story that it's the story from the interview but it's also her story and that's why she chose to tell it, and why she was interested in it, and I think that's the same for a lot of...when you do this, it's like a way of talking about yourself safely and a way of articulating a bit of yourself that might be hard to talk about or you might not know you have permission to talk about. So I think that's one of the nice things about the method.

JAYNE: Yes, that's a really good way of...

ALI: Yes, we did that in Levenshulme. At first we just read them through and they found that really interesting, and in fact the girls...I'll see what happens at the Proud Trust tonight but they said they wanted longer interviews so they could... Because at first I just took some extracts but they said, oh, we want a whole interview that we can really go into, so I think it will be interesting to see what's happened tonight.