

The Mass-Observation Project

Autumn 2003 Directive

Part 1:

Public and private spaces/places

This directive is about your feelings and use of public places. Think broadly - parks, streets, buildings, public facilities of any kind.

What kind of public spaces do you like best and feel most comfortable in?

What kinds of public spaces do you like least?

Where do you feel safe and where do you feel unsafe?

Can you describe why you like some places and not others.

Those places you like

How often do you use them?

Whom do you see/meet there?

If you were in charge of running your local area how would you improve the public spaces there.

As usual, please start all three parts of your reply on a new sheet of paper with your M-O number, (NOT name), sex, age, marital status, town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply.

The difference between private and public

What do you think the difference is between private and public space?

Are there things that you would do in private but not in public and vice versa?

Do you feel differently when you are at home as opposed to when you are out in the street?

Do you think about different things and behave in a different way when you are inside or outside?

Meeting people: your experience

Can you describe the last time you met a person or a group of people who were very different from you outside of your home?

How did it make you feel?

How did you interact, if at all?

Do you find mixing with people who are different from yourself an enjoyable or an awkward experience. Tell us a story about one or more such experience.

Part 2: Childhood reading: comics & magazines

Please start by noting down your year of birth so that we know exactly which years your childhood covered.

Did you read comics and/or magazines as a child? If you did, please describe whatever you remember. Our researcher is especially interested in the influence of comics and magazines on the way we grow up. As always, the questions below are prompts to get you going but if you think of other things which are relevant, please add them. If you didn't read comics as a child, we would still be interested in your views.

Did you have a regular comic ? At what age? Did this change over time?

Who bought the comic? And who paid for it? Were your parents involved in the choice?

Did you read it with your parents or with other members of your family? Can you recall the experience? As usual, all details appreciated.

Did you have favourite characters or story lines? Please describe.

It is sometimes said (at least in the past) that some comics appealed to girls and some to boys. Was this so in your case? What do you think?

Question for men and women: did you ever read your mother's (or sister's) magazines? What attracted you to reading them? Did they offer advice on careers or marriage?

How do you think comics or magazines affected the way you grew up? Please feel free to reflect widely!

Part 3: Day diary for New Year's Eve 2003

Please keep a diary from waking to sleeping on New Year's Eve 2003.

Nothing is too trivial or too boring for us so please don't write and tell me that you haven't bothered because nothing happened!

And even if your day is completely untypical, we still want to hear about it.

Please end with a list of your hopes (personal and general) for 2004.

Send in your replies to the whole directive after the New Year.

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