

**Paul Antony Widdop**

Cultural Consumption in Modern Day England

Oct 2006 - Oct 2009

**Funding:** Economic and Social Research Council 1+3 studentship**PhD summary**

The title of my PhD is 'Cultural consumption in modern day England', as the title suggests I am researching the consumption habits of individuals across the domains of; Museum, Art, History and Literature; Theatre, Music, Dance and Television; Creative and Performance; and Sport. The methodology driving the thesis is a quantitative analysis of the Taking Part Survey 2005/06, using advanced statistical methods.

The core aims of the thesis are to identify typologies of cultural consumption behaviour (lifestyles) across the domains identified, and identify what types of people make up these typologies based on education, occupational class, ethnicity, age, gender, and family composition (at the individual level). This will allow the testing of theory. Indeed, the literature is dominated by Pierre Bourdieu's homology argument (1984) and Richard Peterson's omnivore-univore argument (1996), the results of the thesis will identify if any one position holds true across domains. The final aim is to identify the role geography plays in formation of cultural lifestyles (typologies), essentially are there contextual or compositional forces (or both) which directly and indirectly inhibit or facilitate cultural consumption behaviour.

To deliver these aims the methodology is split into three sections, although the sections are mutually dependent on the other. Firstly, a latent class analysis is delivered on a series of cultural indicators that make up a given domain (i.e. visit to a museum in last 12 months yes/no, visit to art exhibition yes/no etc), to determine cultural typologies. The typologies created in the first step are then regressed against control variables, using a Multiple Indicators Multiple Cause Model (MIMIC). Finally, a multilevel structure is applied to the MIMIC model, which allows the calculation of the between area variation, allowing one to determine the variation in latent typologies that is accounted for by the area level.

**Supervisors:** Dr David Cuts and Dr Gindo Tampubolon**Conference Papers and Presentations:**

Museums Libraries and Archives Council (Presentation) findings from Phd: November 2008

**Contact Details:**

Paul.Widdop@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

tel +44(0)161 275 4721

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk>