

About the project

Poverty and Participation in the Media is a participatory media project examining how the media treats poverty and those affected: Looking at opportunity and exclusion; representation, stigmatisation and stereotyping. With the wealth gap on the increase and virtual segregation of the classes creating urban ghettos - Does the media influence bridge or increase the divide?

This project was initiated with a series of three, two day workshops, run by Spectacle, during which participants filmed group discussion and individual interviews. Within the parameters of the projects themes, the direction this took was left largely to those who attended, giving real scope to raise and debate the issues that most concerned them.

The groups considered:

- * How is UK poverty depicted in the media – TV, radio, press, online?
- * What are good examples and what are not? Why?
- * How would participants like to see their lives and situations depicted in the media?
- * How much influence do those living in poverty have on how poverty is portrayed?

Project contributors are residents of Luton's Marsh Farm Estate, Larkhall in Stockwell and the Pepys Estate, Rotherhithe. The films produced offer those with first hand experience of these themes, an unmediated right to reply, with participants involved in all aspects of the production process.



Screening and discussion

Statement from Teresa Hanley,
Manager, Public Interest in Poverty Issues, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Chair, Fred Robinson - Durham University
Researcher for Poverty in the Media: Being seen and getting heard

Speakers:

Eileen Devaney,
UK Coalition Against Poverty
Discussing UKCAP members distrust of the media

Jheni Arboine,
Larkhall resident and community activist
Discussing the detached, anthropological approach of the media
Clips: Zac Beattie - Rich Kid, Poor Kid
FR leads Q+A

Jessica Leech:
Pepys resident, housing and community activist
Discussing sensationalised and negative v's sensitive reporting
Clips: Daily Mail, The Tower, Cathy Come Home
FR leads Q+A

Glenn Jenkins,
Marsh Farm resident, Chair of Marsh Farm Outreach
Discussing the national press and local or 'New Media' potential
Clips: New Media, Marsh Farm experience
FR leads Q+A

Mark Saunders
Director of Spectacle, community-led, investigative documentary
Top-down television and alternative models
Clip: Abusive Elements in the Media

Q+A to conclude the programme

The programme concludes at 9pm
Please join us for drinks and continued discussion after.

Notice:
This event is being filmed, please alert a member of the crew if you do not wish to be included in this