

## **Volunteering and social class : a narrative approach**

DEAN, Jonathan <<http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3338-1957>>

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# **Social Class and Habitus: a qualitative study of the barriers to youth volunteering**

Jon Dean, University of Kent

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# Bourdieu and the re-emergence of class analysis

- Habitus – “a set of dispositions – perceptions and appreciations” (Burawoy, 2008) set in the practices of everyday life
- “Class is something beneath your clothes, under your skin, in your reflexes, in your psyche, at the very core of your being” (Kuhn, 1995).

# Narrative Sociology

- “It is now acknowledged that we, as critical ethnographers, have a responsibility to talk about our own identities why we interrogate as we do what we choose not to report, on whom we train our scholarly gaze, who is protected and *not* protected as we do our work” (Fine and Weis, 2002)

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Social class is often a barrier to formal volunteering
- Volunteering policy should be targeted at those not in the 'civic core'
- Volunteering within schools to combat early inhabited indifference to communities