Volunteering and social class : a narrative approach

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

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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