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**Tracking Young Lives over Time: a Review of Longitudinal Evidence on the Status and Condition of Children in Europe**

The Young Lives and Times project is a prospective qualitative longitudinal investigation of a cohort of 50 young people aged 13, with different backgrounds and drawn from different areas in metropolitan and rural Yorkshire. The project will track the young people's lives over a decade, walking alongside them in their daily lives, with a particular focus on their relational worlds, including their family, peer group, and school environment. What do we know about children's daily lives, their relationships, and the ways these change over time? In this paper we will review the longitudinal literature on middle childhood, and evaluate the evidence concerning children's changing lives and their relationships in the UK and in Europe: what is known, what gaps emerge from this literature, as well as what would need more careful investigation, particularly as far as relationships are concerned.

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