

JOHN BYNNER AWARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF LONGITUDINAL AND LIFE COURSE STUDIES. JOHN BYNNER MADE THE AWARD TO G ELDER AT THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING, STIRLING, SCOTLAND --- OCTOBER 12, 2017

I want to start by saying: None of us would be here today without Glen Elder. His scholarship and inspiration in formulating the principles of life course study and the pioneering use of archived longitudinal data led the way for most if not all of us. Central to the thesis was the principle that lives are patterned over time and the processes through which lives are changed by changing environments.

With origins in sociology - to which Glen also brought social psychology - life course study is essentially holistic, bringing together all the disciplines of the social and behavioural sciences with those of health and biomedical science. The scientific pursuit is understanding the status transitions, risk processes and turning points through which the life course over time is constructed - also bringing historical time, that is to say, *history*, to the development science research table. Not surprising that Colby described Glen's work as "one of the most important achievements of social science in the second half of the 20th century". But this is not to forget the crowning achievement of the work through which Glen's ideas were formed, Children of the Great Depression – a scientific path breaker as reflected in the countless scholars who have followed in his footsteps.

And we of course are all the beneficiaries. Glen's truly transformative approach to studying lives inspired in 2008 the establishment of our journal, LLCS, and the society, SLLS, two years later. The huge popularity and buzz of the SLLS annual conferences, as here in Stirling, bears witness to the new scientific community that Glen's work has done so much to bring about.

It is therefore with the greatest pleasure, Glen, on behalf of the SLLS Executive Committee that I ask you to accept the 2007 award for your outstanding contribution to longitudinal and life course study.

John Bynner
SLLS Conference, Stirling
12th October 2017

Acceptance statement re the John Bynner Award of the International Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, Stirling, Scotland, October 12th, 2017

Thank you. Thank you very much. I greatly appreciate this special honor, most especially for the recognition it provides generations of my collaborators, students, and colleagues. They have made it possible to now celebrate the emergence of life course studies with a perspective that places lives and cohorts in a changing world and views them over historical time.

Nearly sixty years ago, a fascination with social change in my life and in others led me to an affiliation with sociologist John Clausen, then director of the Berkeley Institute of Human Development. I am indebted to him for a foundation role in working with a pioneer longitudinal cohort, the Oakland study, now known as “children of the Great Depression”. And for his generous support across the years. I have, in turn, enjoyed and valued the opportunity to pass such benefits on to the younger generations.

I conclude by acknowledging the heart of my career, the loving support of Karen Elder up to my later years and Sandy Turbeville who is with me now. They have sustained me in more ways than they can possibly know.

(See photos below)

