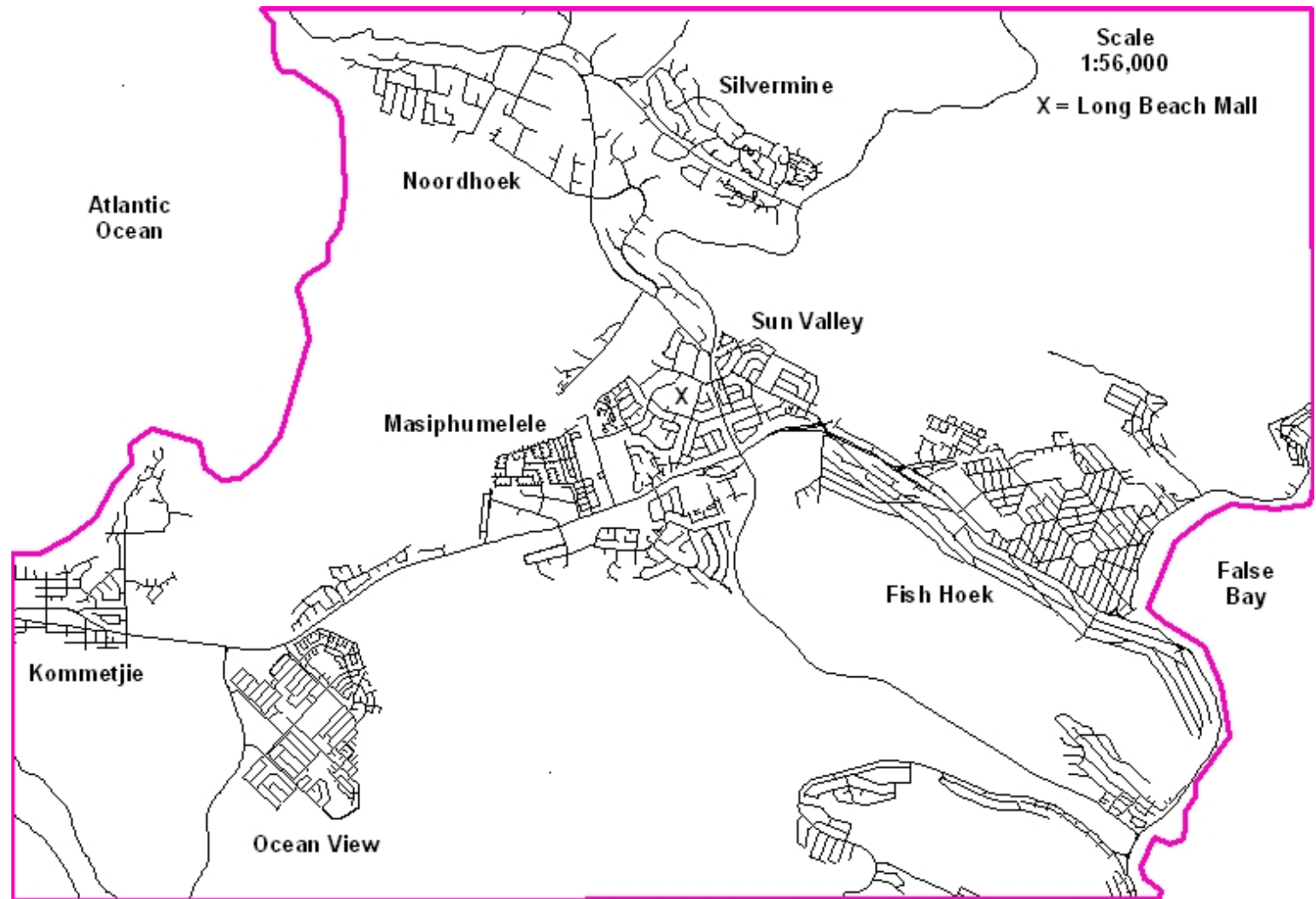


Aims of lecture

- Brief history of study of childhood in RSA
- Where we are now, what we are trying to achieve in child-centred research?
- Challenges to bringing research into policy & practice
- Studying Cape Town's children: aims & design
- Findings: how children do 'family'







Pay EDGARSE

Horse Riding



Farm Village

Noordhoek

Kerry's House

Ashley

Vanland

Alison House

Amy's house

F.H.P.S.

School

Bronwyn

Fish Hoek

- Danger
- Important
- Fun
- Need
- My Home

PROBLEMS

SUPPORTS

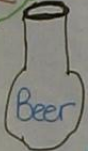


Peer PRESSURE

No Guns or Gangsters



Dagga Tik.



TEACHERS

FRIENDS

Violence



More of Sports



More Computers For schools

To Much responsibilities responsibilities

GR:11B



us

A Friendship should never end



Gameeda Monique Angelina

Community



Church



Household talking care of our younger brothers & sisters

FAMILY

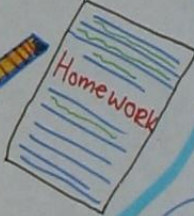
Our Own

Cars, House, stable home

Better Social Life

To Much Work

MONEY



Movies, More Outings.

Unemployment

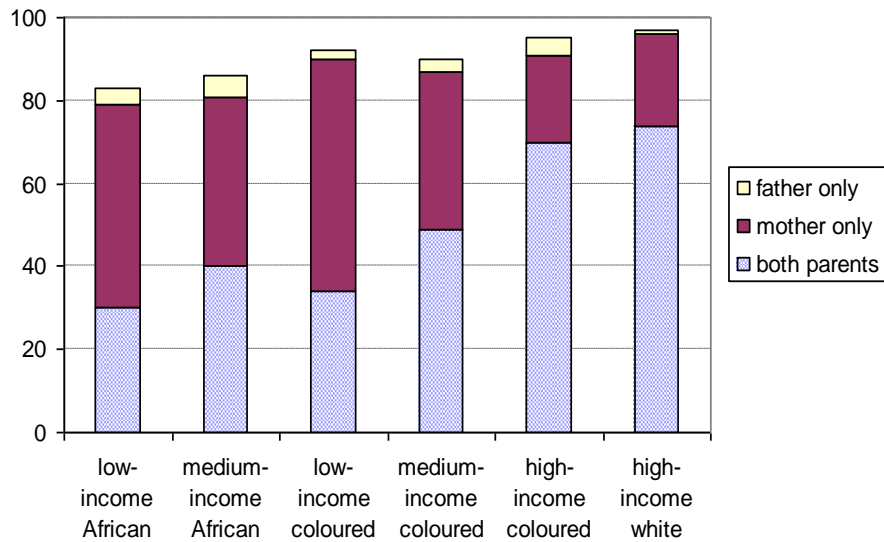
No support from government or too little money



Get along friends.

Get along

Proportion of children aged 0-13 living with both parents, mother only and father only, in Cape Town, by race and household income



Exploring 'family' through children's eyes

Drawn from 'Growing Up in the New
South Africa...'

Rachel Bray

Using surveys to prompt questions

- Children's households are not becoming 'more nuclear'; we are seeing a huge range in family forms
- How do children relate to the adults in their lives, both present and 'absent'?
- What scope is there for children and adolescents to make decisions for themselves around their care? How do they do this?

1) How do children 'do family'?

- Children aged 11-14 yrs in Masi & Ocean View consistently portrayed their parents as heroes & providers of everything.
- Later the realities emerged:
 - Parental absence/disconnection
 - Ambivalence/neglect...Silence
- Why the 'hero' image? (children's strategies)
- Domestic fluidity is there but the key issue is actual or feared retraction of parental support

2) Looking closely at variety

- Some children in both poor neighbourhoods have always had their needs met, articulate emotional security now, for the future
- For the majority: a fine balance exists between the ability and inability of parent (figure)s to deliver the basics
- Having two parents present does not guarantee care as children define it

3) What makes the difference...

Between good care and poor care for children?

- Income level & work security
- Absence of dependence on alcohol or drugs
- Mental health (linked to physical health)
- Parents explicitly asserting co-residence &/or parenting styles, and are able to put these into practice

4) Can children improve things?

- What scope do children have to influence domestic arrangements or garner care?
 - Source care from others nearby, different people for different needs
 - Move house, form new nurturing relationships (do not replace mothering)
 - Easier in Masi than in Ocean View or Fish Hoek

How do children judge family coherence and 'care'?

- Relationship qualities and shared values over biological integrity
- Trust, open communication, reciprocity & mutual respect
- A re-forming of the family alongside social change...enables entitlement & honours duty
- Brakes: economic shocks & domestic violence, children powerless here but try to protect (cost = neglect, or abuse)