

Inclusion and Exclusion
Racism and Ethnicity in Research, Policy and Practice
Monday 17th May 2004

- 09.15 Registration
- 10.00 Welcome by David Allan, Chair of SSRG
- 10.05 Opening remarks from the Chair
Nasa Begum, Principal Advisor Participation, Social Care Institute for Excellence
- 10.15 Reflections on debates in the study of racism and ethnicity
Professor Ann Phoenix, Open University.
- 10.45 Research, policy and practice: the contribution of research to promoting race equality in social care
Jabeer Butt, Deputy Director, REU.
- 11.15 Refreshments
- 11.30 Workshops I – Six workshops exploring the findings of recent research projects looking at racism and ethnicity
- 12.45 Lunch and exhibition
- 14.00 Workshops II – Six workshops exploring the findings of recent research projects looking at racism and ethnicity.
- 15.15 Refreshments
- 15.30 Messages from the ESRC growing older programme on the experience of black and minority ethnic older people
Professor Alan Walker, Sheffield University.
- 16.00 Panel on Using lessons from the day and options for the way forward discussion
Professor Waqar Ahmad, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Middlesex University
Dr Daryl Crosskill, Research Associate, REU
Professor Mike Fisher, Director of Research & Reviews, Social Care Institute for Excellence
- 16.30 Chair's closing remarks
- 16.45 End

Workshop List

Title: Implementing research on Black disabled children and short breaks
Presenter(s) *Ronny Flynn*, Lecturer, Open University
Jennipher Bagot, Barnardos
Time 11.30-12.45

Abstract

This paper will outline two research studies and the development work that has arisen from them. The first study was funded by Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) as a review of access to short breaks by Black disabled children and their families. However, from the start, a development project that would implement the main recommendations was planned, and this began in February 2004. The development work is funded by JRF and the Community Fund, through the organisation Shared Care Network. An outline of what the two Shared Care Network workers are doing will be provided. The second piece of research was funded by Barnardo's Midland and carried out in one local authority with a minority ethnic population of less than 2%. This focused on low take up of short breaks by Pakistani and Bangladeshi families and included interviews with parents, young people and service providers. Details of how far implementation of the findings of this second study have progressed will be outlined.

Both studies identified similar barriers to access for Black families. These included lack of pro-active development work to find out who the families were and where they lived; strategic lack of knowledge of the ethnic make up of the population served; the assumptions by service providers that 'one size fits all', and lack of an ethnically diverse enough workforce to cater for the diversity of the population. Quite starkly, many services were still set up and run as if all their users were from White majority ethnic groups. The JRF study featured examples of good practice in short break provision, and Barnardo's Families Together in Tower Hamlets was one of them. The project leader will describe how this scheme had been living the recommendations long before the studies began, and will share some of the learning from the project with us.

Title: Methodological complexities involved in researching mixed-parentage children and families
Presenter(s) *Vicki Harman*, Royal Holloway, University of London
Dr Ravinder Barn
Time 11.30-12.45

Abstract

This paper explores some of the methodological complexities faced by research seeking to explore the circumstances and experiences of mixed-parentage families. This will include a review of research that has been carried out, including Wilson, 1987; Tizard & Phoenix, 1993; Alibhai-Brown, 2001; Sinclair & Hai, 2002; Ali, 2003. Research methods

adopted in these studies will be explored, and we will consider what they add to our understanding of people's experiences.

We will consider some of the difficulties around researching mixed-parentage young people and families. This includes problems around gaining access to the sample, concern that the research could be pathologising, and the extent to which researching the 'mixed' population implies that racially 'pure' groups exist. We will point to the diversity of experiences of mixed-parentage families, and the importance of taking into account factors such as socio-economic position, family structure, experience of living in care and contact with extended family.

This paper will reflect upon the "tangle of terminology" (Ifekwunigwe,1999). There is no consensus over the appropriate term for describing people with parents from different racial/ethnic backgrounds, with various terms in use such as mixed race, mixed parentage, mixed/multiple/dual heritage, métis(se). This paper will point to the political context of the adoption of terms, with identifiable tensions between the language used by professionals and academics, as well as between the researchers and the researched. This paper argues that whilst it is important not to neglect the subject of language (indeed, how people chose to describe themselves is data in its own right), it is also important that disagreements about terminology do not silence important debates that have implications for the welfare of children.

This paper will consider how changes in ethnic monitoring, particularly the inclusion of a mixed category in the 2001 census, has provided more information on the mixed-population and has made it more likely for general research studies to include mixed categories. We will identify gaps in the existing knowledge base and point to areas where future research is needed.

Title: Racism, social class and health: findings from the health survey for England

Presenter(s) *Saffron Karlson*, Senior Research Fellow, University College London

Professor James Nazroo

Time 11.30-12.45

Abstract

Indicators used to explore the relationship between ethnicity and health often fail to account for central aspects of ethnic minority experience which may influence health. These aspects include the multi-dimensional and contextual nature of cultural identity, socio-economic disadvantage, and the impact of racial harassment and discrimination.

Findings from the UK suggest that around one in eight people from ethnic minority groups experience some form of racial harassment each year and two-fifths believe that at least half of British employers would refuse someone a job on the basis of their ethnicity or religion. People from ethnic minority groups have also repeatedly been

found to experience both health and socioeconomic disadvantage compared with ethnic majority groups. But work exploring whether and how these dimensions may be related is still in its infancy, at least in the UK.

This paper uses nationally representative UK population based data from the Health Survey for England 1999 and a follow-up study, the Ethnic Minority Psychiatric Illness Rates in the Community (EMPIRIC) study, conducted in 2000. It uses multivariate analysis to explore the relationship between experienced interpersonal (verbal, physical and work-related) racism, perceived racial discrimination in wider society, occupational class and various indicators of physical and mental health for all ethnic minority groups combined and for each ethnic group separately, including white minority and majority groups.

The findings suggest significant independent relationships between each of the indicators explored and health. Current assessments of the factors that influence the health of ethnic minority groups must take account of the different forms of structural disadvantage experienced by ethnic minority groups and the various ways in which racial oppression can impact on health.

Title:	The impact of racism upon the people's experiences of growing older in Britain today
Presenter(s)	<i>Jo Moriarty</i> , Researcher, King's College London <i>Jabeer Butt</i> , REU
Time	11.30-12.45

Abstract

This paper uses information from a study of 203 people aged 55 and over from different ethnic groups funded under the Economic and Social Research Council's Growing Older programme to discuss experiences of racism. Almost half of Black, Asian, Chinese, Mixed Heritage and other participants reported that they had experienced racism. By comparison, just four white people reported that they had experienced it and they were either people who were from a 'hidden' white minority, such as Irish or Welsh, or who had a Black partner. Given that racism is a topic that is notoriously difficult to discuss and that it is widely agreed that reports of the frequency with which it occurs are likely to be an under-estimate, the contrast between the experiences of the two groups are even more striking.

The paper suggests that the experience of racism has multiple impacts upon people's lives. In the workplace, missed opportunities in terms of career progression or the need to take up paid employment in an area for which one is overqualified may lead to inequalities in income throughout people's working lives and into their retirement. In terms of the environment, a lack of safety in the streets or in the home, may contribute to a reluctance to participate in the life of the wider community or to a reduction in social contacts.

The paper uses the contrasting experiences between those for whom the frequency with which racism occurred had reduced and those from whom it continued to play a part in their daily lives, as a way of pointing out that strategies for the reduction of racism can and do exist. This is all the more important in view of the statutory duty on public authorities to take the lead in promoting equality of opportunity, good race relations and in preventing unlawful discrimination.

Title: Carrying out research with refugees
Presenter(s) *Lucy Williams*, Lecturer, University of Kent
Time 11.30-12.45

Abstract

This paper will address the challenges inherent in carrying out qualitative research with refugees and asylum seekers. Refugees are a stigmatised and marginalized group in the UK and therefore may be reluctant to engage with researchers. Refugees are also a highly vulnerable group, living in poverty and who may be extremely distrustful of authorities. The heterogeneity of refugees also makes research challenging as it can be very misleading to generalise about the experience of refugees as even amongst refugees linked by ethnicity or culture, experience post- and pre-flight may make their needs and outlooks very different. Carrying out research with refugee women and young people is often especially challenging.

Trust and the contested nature of refugees' testimony is a particularly acute issue in research with refugees. Many authorities, including Summerfield (1996) and contributors to Daniel and Knudsen's work (1995), have noted the 'survivor-oriented mistrust' (Muecke 1992) which is the result of not only the conflict and social breakdown of pre-flight experiences, but also the continuing need for refugees and especially asylum seekers to present their experience tactically. The policies of deterrence enacted by European immigration regimes lead to a social environment typified by disbelief and researchers, and especially qualitative researchers, need to take this into account when designing their methodologies.

One way in which researchers have tackled the challenges of research with this vulnerable group is through using refugee community organisations (RCO's) as gatekeepers. There are considerable advantages in this approach as these organisations are a significant resource in terms of knowledge about their community's needs and in accessing to potential participants. The drawbacks of this approach, however, include issues of representation, as there may be a tendency for these communities to present their members in ways that may not represent the full range of opinion within the group. Similarly, researchers from a refugee background may be able to encourage the participation of some refugees through their personal experience and knowledge of culture and language but may be unacceptable to others, who may have fled their own ethnic or cultural group.

Title:	Young people of Pakistani origin and their families: implications for providing support to young people and their families
Presenter(s)	<i>Sangeeta Chattoo</i> , Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Research in Primary Care <i>Dr Karl Atkin</i>
Time	14.00-15.15

Abstract

Responding to diversity is a core issue for the welfare state. We know that professionals providing health and social care can sometimes feel overwhelmed by the prospect of dealing with people from increasingly diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds. At the same time, professional assumptions and popular stereotypes about the culture and family lives of ethnic minority communities can lead to inadequate and inappropriate referrals to community and specialist support services. Such stereotypes reduce people to homogenous communities, defined by their ethnicity or culture, without any reflection on differences within and similarities across communities. Further, a focus on culture can deflect attention away from the more structural issues of inequality and the forms of institutional racism that sustain these inequalities.

This paper will present relevant findings from a three-year research project looking at the changes occurring in Pakistani family life. The purpose of our work was to explore values among families of Pakistani origin and to offer suggestions on how to develop good policy and practice. The research was based on focus group and face to face interviews with health and social care professionals, young people (aged between 11-18 years) and their siblings, parents and grandparents across West Yorkshire. The Community Fund supported the project, which was carried out by the Centre for Research in Primary Care, University of Leeds and Barnardo's.

Title:	Silenced voices in adoption support
Presenter(s)	<i>Perlita Harris</i> , Lecturer, University of Bristol
Time	14.00-15.15

Abstract

This paper will draw on findings from a larger study of service users' experiences and views of post-adoption services, focusing on those findings that relate to Black service users. Nineteen out of 66 research participants were Black: 12 transracially adopted adults, five Black birth relatives, one Black adopted adult, one Black adoptive father. The paper will argue that although the numbers are very small and it is not possible to know how representative they are, plus the possibility that this group may be skewed by some being users of the West Midlands Post Adoption Service (and others of the Association for Transracially Adopted People), their voices are still important. Indeed, users have questioned 'the idea that how 'representative' they are affects the validity of what they say' (Beresford and Campbell 1994 p319). Further, given the absence of

existing UK research on adoption support and Black users, this study raises some key themes that require further consideration.

The paper will identify some of the barriers to accessing services that Black birth relatives reported (e.g. lack of awareness, racism and stigma) and their suggestions for making services appropriate (including specific support needs that they identified) and accessible. In relation to transracially adopted adults, the paper will look briefly at the positive difference that adoption support services can make to this group, before highlighting gaps in existing service provision and identifying some of their specific support needs (e.g. an opportunity to discuss racism in childhood and meet another transracially adopted adult; a lack of knowledge of birth family language and culture post-reunion; negative and positive experiences of counselling and psychotherapy regarding the experience of transracial adoption, racism and sexuality; child abuse experienced within the adoptive family; the need for a separate support group, and the availability of Black workers).

Title:	Colour blind? Creativity, self-development and learning
Presenter(s)	<i>Partice Lawrence</i> , Coordinator - Black and Minority Ethnic Children and Young People's Programme, National Children's Bureau <i>Claudia George-Meek and Ruth Chigwada-Bailey</i>
Time	14.00-15.15

Abstract

In the fields of research and policy development, the spoken and written word are our key tools of communication. But language can also be divisive. Who decides what words we can use, what are important and what are 'appropriate'? Who 'translates' the words and experiences of respondents into 'acceptable' terminology? What is the impact of these interpretations on people whose voices are rarely heard?

In the field of criminology, practitioners of Black heritage are arguing that the lack of a minority perspective within the field can limit our understanding of the data we uncover. Such an argument can be transposed across the field of mainstream social research where the experiences of Black families are often presented as an 'add on', or may not be mentioned at all. But can a greater number of researchers and practitioners from more diverse backgrounds change the way that minority experience is funded, researched, presented and understood by mainstream, predominantly white audiences? And can the experience of being researched produce positive benefits for Black children and families often at the receiving end of the questionnaires?

In a collaboration between a children's charity, a criminologist, a youth group and a cultural arts company, this presentation will explore how the tools of the creative industries can be used to develop an inclusive approach to representing BME experience. An arts exhibition and a short theatrical piece will accompany the presentations of case studies that show how a cultural arts based approach can develop the expertise (and self-

confidence) of the participants, stimulate community cohesion and offer a vital language for exploring social and humanitarian issues.

Title:	Understanding the dementia care giving experience of Eastern European and South Asian Family Carer
Presenter(s)	<i>Jenifer Mackenzie</i> , Senior Lecturer, University of Bradford <i>David Coates</i>
Time	14.00-15.15

Abstract

This paper reports on a 3-year project to develop and evaluate an educational / support programme for family carers of people with dementia from Eastern European and South Asian communities in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

The findings from the evaluation have contributed to an understanding of family carers' needs and the ways dementia is conceptualised in diverse cultures. Different ways of understanding dementia has implications for Persons With Dementia, and also for their family carers, which influence not only service use, but also personal standing in the community. For example: While there was a general lack of awareness among family carers of potentially useful health and social care services, the major reason for non-engagement with services appears to have been the stigma associated with dementia and the perceived community response. This led to a firm obligation to retain care-giving responsibility within the household. In addition, cultural and religious explanations for dementia had a significant bearing on the way Persons With Dementia were perceived socially, with the result that Persons With Dementia and their carers eventually became isolated and excluded from participating in their communities. Consequently, for many carers, care giving was an onerous undertaking. This was seen to be the case in all of the communities with which we were involved, and was apparent in the qualitative and the quantitative data.

In order to improve the quantity of life for family carers, the conclusions from our project suggest that the following information and support might be offered:

- A supporter who can speak the language of the family, but who is not living in the same neighbourhood.
- Details of benefit entitlements and support in making claims.
- Details of home adaptations and help to secure these.

Information about local culturally and religiously appropriate day-care provision, domiciliary and respite services.

Title: Black children and discipline: where does child discipline stop and child abuse start?

Presenter(s) *Momodou Saleh*, Research Student, University of Leicester

Time 14.00-15.15

Abstract

The presentation is about research carried out over the last four years looking at the boundary drawn between abuse and discipline from a Black perspective. The term “black” is used through out the research in its political context signifying people of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, African and African-Caribbean origin in the UK. Across five countries, forty-one young people between twelve and sixteen years were engaged in group interviews as well as twenty-five parents in semi-structured individual interviews with children in the same age range. The presentation covers three areas, literature review, research methodology, analysis and implication for practitioners.

The literature review looks at the social construction of race, different concepts of reality and justifies the research on the dearth of research on Black families with its disastrous consequences. The research methodology would also be shared; how information was gathered, the ethical considerations and issues around confidentiality. The findings and the process of analysis would also be shared and most importantly the implications for practitioners.

The analysis of the finding would be given in-depth coverage around the following headings:

- Reward and sanction in Black households
- The way Black parents were brought up VS the way they have to bring up their children
- Black people’s perception of and experiences with Social Services
- Boundary between abuse and discipline

The presentation would argue that in present day Britain, cultural dislocation of children is still rife in many practitioners’ intervention; cultural relativism and dogmatism still remain uncharted territories.

Title: Local government strategies for black and minority ethnic older people

Presenter(s) **Jill Manthorpe**, Professor of Social Work, King’s College London

Time 14.00-15.15

Abstract

This workshop uses research undertaken for Better Government for Older People as a springboard for discussion. This research consisted of a postal survey in 2003 of UK local government authorities exploring their development of strategies for black and minority older people. A total of 128 authorities responded and their responses indicated

that while about a quarter were actively engaged in developing responses to the needs of their black and ethnic minority older citizens, most had either no plans, or were only thinking about the subject.

This research also explored local authorities knowledge of other agencies' work in this area and found that links were not always well established with relevant groups. Some areas, by contrast, had made significant moves to reflecting the diversity of their older populations.

This workshop explores local authority responses and the 'models' that emerged. It places these in the context of policy imperatives to respond to the growing diversity of the UK's older population.