

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 262, 17 August 2018

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses>.

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010: caste discrimination

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06862>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 578, 6 Aug 2018)

Useful new House of Commons Library Briefing Paper which summarises the current position.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Embracing Social Justice as a Library Leader | Leading From the Library”

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=embracing-social-justice-as-a-library-leader-leading-from-the-library>

(Source: LJXpress – Library Journal, 31 Jul 2018)

Very interesting and topical article:

“Library core values can align with contemporary social justice issues. Library leaders who find it difficult to grasp the social justice movement need to think about how they should use their leadership to understand, if not embrace, social justice issues and the staff who support them.”

“Talking about our collection”

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/talking-about-our-collection>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 2 Aug 2018)

Interesting initiative by Tate:

“We are thinking carefully about the people and stories that have too often been absent or under-represented. Our ambition is for Tate to become a space that is relevant, welcoming and inclusive for all. We hope this ongoing work will bring us closer to that goal.

We recognise that there is always much to learn and that is why we would like to hear from you. If you spot text at Tate which you believe overlooks or misrepresents an important perspective, or uses language which you suggest we should improve or change, please email us at texts@tate.org.uk.”

Please see the MA website (https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/01082018-tate-launches-drive-to-make-displays-more-inclusive?utm_campaign=1262136_Copy%20of%2002082018&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,R1VC,27LU0M,2RPYE,1) for more info – and a critique!

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Education Secretary sets vision for boosting social mobility”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-vision-for-boosting-social-mobility>

Text of the speech given by Damian Hinds at the Resolution Foundation, in which he sets out how to create:

“[...] a country that works for everyone – because, as I said at the start, what is progress for our society, if we’re not doing more for the people who start out with the biggest disadvantages? A strong society, a strong economy, does not leave people behind.”

There has been a level of criticism of this speech – more in *The Network Newsletter*.

“Young Offenders: Ethnic Groups: Written question – 165113”

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-17/165113/>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 578, 6 Aug 2018)

Interesting written answer from *Hansard*, which shows the number and proportion of BAME under-18 children and young people in custody, Dec 2016 to May 2018.

The latest figures (May 2018):

BAME young people in custody = 428
% BAME of total under18 custodial population (excluding unknowns) = 49%

Housing First: tackling homelessness for those with complex needs

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8368#fullreport>

(Source: Equality and Diversity Forum *Newsletter*, 2 Aug 2018)

Another new House of Commons Library Briefing Paper which sets out the principles behind Housing First:

“Advocates of HF support the early provision of permanent housing which provides a stable home from which it is easier to deal with other underlying issues, such as substance abuse. Unlike most traditional approaches, HF commits to support individuals for as long as they require, even if a person leaves HF accommodation.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Anti Knife Crime Fiction and Resources Lists”

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/2018/07/30/teenlibrarian-monthly-july-2018/>

The latest *Teen Librarian* includes these useful resources [pp6-7].

Racial diversity in the charity sector

<https://www.acevo.org.uk/2018-publications-and-reports/racial-diversity-charity-sector>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 375, 26 Jul 2018)

Important new report from.

“The charity sector as a whole is failing to reflect the racial diversity of the individuals, communities and geographic it serves. Fewer than one in 10 voluntary sector employees (9%) are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME), a lower proportion than both the public and private sectors [...] at 11%) and a lower proportion than the UK as a whole (14%) [...]

This document is the first in a series of initiatives that ACEVO and our partners will be engaged in over the coming months and years in which we aim to understand, reflect on and overcome structural inequality, prejudice, racism and unconscious bias in charitable organisations [...]”
[pp2-3]

The guide is split into three parts:

1. Making the case for diversity – why should diversity be a priority?
2. Leadership principles – the principles by which we believe leaders should recruit and which we are asking charity leaders to publicly sign up to.
3. Practical advice – information about how to change recruitment practices to improve equality and diversity within your charity.

“You may call me a BAME author, but this misleading term hides more than it reveals”

https://theconversation.com/you-may-call-me-a-bame-author-but-this-misleading-term-hides-more-than-it-reveals-101139?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2014%202018%20-%20108679686&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2014%202018%20-%20108679686+CID_2dfb7ed3c22cd19d063ff29b9903263f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=You%20may%20call%20me%20a%20BAME%20author%20but%20this%20misleading%20term%20hides%20more%20than%20it%20reveals

(Source: *The Conversation*, 14 Aug 2018)

Really interesting article that challenges the limitations put on people by trying to fit them into ‘boxes’ (in this case BAME).

As Sheena Kalayil concludes:

“Perhaps rather than trying to solve issues about diversity by making diversity more explicit and more fractured at the expense of cohesion, we should simply acknowledge that it is, frankly, impossible to categorise a creature as self-reflective and self-concerned as a human being.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Partnerships, public engagement and pushing the boundaries”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/07/30/partnerships-public-engagement-and-pushing-the-boundaries/>

Guest Libraries Taskforce blog post which gives an overview of three of the “Engaging Libraries” pieces of work:

- Oldham Libraries “Comics and Cosplay; Caring for Young Minds” (“using the arts to encourage conversations about mental health”)
- Leeds Libraries “Body Image and Mind” (which uses “a wide variety of artistic methods to inspire discussion about body image and self-acceptance”)
- East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture “Brainworks” (which “aims to get people exploring aspects of neuroscience and brain research within their local library, through practical activities and lively discussions”)

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Poverty’s impact on well-being is hard to ignore”

https://theconversation.com/povertys-impact-on-well-being-is-hard-to-ignore-51378?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%207%202018%20-%20108199629&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%207%202018%20-%20108199629+CID_b8bd3fdc7daf9a427a5e399d544a8c09&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Povertys%20impact%20on%20well-being%20is%20hard%20to%20ignore

(Source: *The Conversation*, 7 Aug 2018)

Article that looks at why life expectancy within just a few miles can differ by as much as 18 years. Useful round-up with weblinks to other sources.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Toronto: planning for diversity, inclusion and urban resilience

<http://citiesofmigration.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Building-Inclusive-Cities-Toronto-Case-Study-Final-Digital-Version-V2.pdf>

(Source: *Cities of Migration Newsletter*, 76, Jul 2018)

Latest “Building Inclusive Cities” case study.

This major report concludes (amongst other things) that:

“All cities, even the best of them, are both vulnerable and fast-changing. Building inclusive and resilient cities should recognize the importance of adaptation and flexibility in the construct of a common ground. Municipalities should apply an equity framework in planning to foster diversity, inclusion, and urban resilience, which can be reflected in municipal planning policies, programs, community outreach processes, and the construct of shared public spaces.” [p6]

One example of a community space and cultural hub that is cited is Toronto Public Library:

“[...] which is an open, free, accessible resource hub for communities across the city. It has a set of Multicultural Service Goals that have been designed to guide service delivery for newcomers and those whose first language is not English [...] It also has a Library Settlement Partnership program that helps newcomers gain Canadian experience via volunteer or technology training and preparation for jobs. It offers cultural programming and library collections in many languages to build an inclusive community. By providing services and resources in one location, the library meets the needs of diverse people, with equal access to information, resources, services, and the space.” [p5]

There are also two separate, but related posts, “A Rising Phoenix in St. James Town – StreetART Program, City of Toronto”, at:

http://citiesofmigration.ca/good_idea/a-rising-phoenix-in-st-james-town/; and

“Taking the Plunge – Regent Park Aquatic Centre, City of Toronto, Parks & Recreation” at: http://citiesofmigration.ca/good_idea/taking-the-plunge/.

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“The positive and negative impact of using volunteers in public libraries”

<https://leonslibraryblog.com/2018/07/27/the-positive-and-negative-impact-of-using-volunteers-in-public-libraries/>

Very useful guest blogpost by Gina Baber, a Library & Information student at UCL.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“Hear by Right”

<https://nya.org.uk/hear-by-right/>

(Source: LGA *Children and young people bulletin*, Jul 2018)

Some of you will have used the “Hear by Right” framework since it was launched over 10 years ago.

It has now been refreshed and relaunched – see above weblink for details of how to get involved.

Centre for Cultural Value

<https://ahrc.ukri.org/newsevents/news/funding-announced-for-new-collaborative-centre-for-cultural-value/>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 375, 10 Aug 2018)

“The Arts and Humanities Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation, has announced new funding for the creation of a collaborative Centre for Cultural Value, the first of its kind in the UK.

The term ‘cultural value’ includes all the societal benefits that arts and culture can bring including impact on the economy, on communities and cities, and impact on health and wellbeing.

The aim of the Centre for Cultural Value will be to advance understanding of the value of arts and culture in the UK and abroad. It will present how this value is being captured and encourage organisations to act on that knowledge. As such, the Centre will function as a custodian and communicator of cultural value in all its guises; it will synthesise existing research and bring together organisations and sectors with an interest in using evidence about cultural value in their work.

The Centre will be funded jointly by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) and Arts Council England, with a major investment of around £2.5 million over five years.”