



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 333, 7 July 2021

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

“Decolonising the FE College Library”

<https://infolit.org.uk/decolonising-the-fe-college-library/>

(Source: CILIP CDEG *Newsletter*, Jul 2021)

“Liz White, Further Education Representative for the CILIP Information Literacy Group, considers the opportunities and challenges experienced in decolonising FE college libraries, including a possible role for information literacy in the process.”

“Structural racism: what it is and how it works”

https://theconversation.com/structural-racism-what-it-is-and-how-it-works-158822?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%201%202021%20-%201990119535&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%201%202021%20-%201990119535+CID_6e4232be982600d306836f6dc323d664&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Structural%20racism%20what%20it%20is%20and%20how%20it%20works

(Source: *The Conversation*, 1 Jul 2021)

Important background article, setting out what structural racism (and institutional racism) are.

“Critical race theory: What it is and what it isn’t”

https://theconversation.com/critical-race-theory-what-it-is-and-what-it-isnt-162752?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201992219556&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201992219556+CID_57f037b84f06192a9054d280bdeb223d&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Critical%20race%20theory%20What%20it%20is%20and%20what%20it%20isnt

(Source: *The Conversation*, 3 Jul 2021)

Given that the term ‘critical race theory’ is often dropped into discussions about BLM without necessarily being clearly defined (or, on occasions, actually being misused), this article gives a very helpful briefing on what it is (and isn’t).

“The race conversation: why terminology is key”

<https://www.personneltoday.com/hr/the-race-conversation-why-terminology-is-key/>

(Source: NHS Mid and South Essex *Equality and Inclusion Current Awareness Bulletin*, 32, 6 Jul 2021)

Useful short article, arguing that:

“It’s only by really understanding the terminology around race that we can get to grip with the debate’s key issues [...]”

It focuses on:

- Anti-racist v non-racist
- Microaggressions
- White privilege
- Systemic, structural and institutional racism
- Use of the acronym BAME.

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Attainment gap grown by a quarter since pandemic, study shows”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/attainment-gap-grown-by-a-quarter-since-pandemic-study-shows>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 5 Jul 2021)

News report with the latest ‘headline’ findings from an ongoing study:

“The study of 10,000 Key Stage 1 children from 156 schools found a deterioration in reading and maths ability across all pupils but that this was greatest among those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Among year 2 pupils, the attainment gap for reading is now seven months and for maths eight months, compared with six months for both in 2019. For year 1 pupils, the gap for both reading and maths is around seven months.”

Further info about the study is at:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/nfer-impact-of-school-closures-and-subsequent-support-strategies-on-attainm/>.

Funding & Opportunities

“Diversity and Equality Award 2021”

https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201300&id=740249&utm_source=Email%20marketing&utm_medium=Informz&utm_campaign=Email%20marketing

(Source: CILIP CDEG *Newsletter*, Jul 2021)

“[CILIP’s] Community, Diversity and Equality Group is relaunching the Diversity and Equality Award for 2021. Following the difficult time everyone has had due to Covid, the Group feels that it should do

something to celebrate and recognise the outstanding work individuals and teams in the library sectors have been doing to help wider society.”

Further info and application form at above weblink.

Applications will close on **Tuesday 31 Aug 2021**.

“Digital Innovation and Engagement Fund”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/funding/digital-innovation-and-engagement-fund/?utm_campaign=1964837_02072021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,1642T,27LU0M,4IKF8,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 2 Jul 2021)

“We are delighted to announce 14 awardees of the new Digital Innovation and Engagement Fund in collaboration with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

£600,000 has been awarded across the museums throughout the UK to help them kick-start, scale up and evaluate the innovations they so adeptly designed through the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Climate emergency – Other Agencies

“How can the social sector catch-up and keep up with the transition to net zero?”

<https://www.thinknpc.org/blog/how-can-the-social-sector-catch-up-and-keep-up-with-the-transition-to-net-zero/>

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital *Weekly Update*, 6 Jul 2021)

New blogpost:

“When so many other issues demand the attention of the social sector, many are asking how we can catch up and keep on top of activities to address the climate crisis. The climate emergency is too urgent and all-encompassing for environmental activists, charities and funders to work on alone. Without stronger engagement from the social sector, opportunities will be missed and the communities we support risk being left behind or disadvantaged by changes to the climate and changes to climate related policy. This blog details our recent roundtable on how the social sector can embrace its role in the transition to a net carbon zero economy.”

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

“HVG EDI Board”

<https://trello.com/b/Y8o5YTBj/hvg-edi-board>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 2 Jul 2021)

The Heritage Volunteering Group [HVG] has created an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion [EDI] Trello Board as a space to gather resources and useful links to support EDI work in heritage organisations.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: health equity and dignified lives

Briefing note: <https://www.instituteoftheequity.org/resources-reports/build-back-fairer-in-greater-manchester-health-equity-and-dignified-lives-briefing-note/build-back-fairer-in-greater-manchester-briefing-note.pdf>

Executive summary: <https://www.instituteoftheequity.org/resources-reports/build-back-fairer-in-greater-manchester-health-equity-and-dignified-lives/build-back-fairer-in-greater-manchester-executive-summary.pdf>

Full report: <https://www.instituteoftheequity.org/resources-reports/build-back-fairer-in-greater-manchester-health-equity-and-dignified-lives/build-back-fairer-in-greater-manchester-main-report.pdf>

(Source: *The Conversation*, 2 Jul 2021)

Important piece of research

“A new report Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester from Michael Marmot’s UCL Institute of Health Equity provides recommendations for Greater Manchester to Build Back Fairer from the COVID-19 pandemic. These recommendations are also highly relevant to the rest of England.”
[Briefing note, p2]

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

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

The Neurodiverse Museum

<https://theneurodiversemuseum.org.uk/>

(Source: email from Justine Reilly to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 5 Jul 2021)

“The Neurodiverse Museum, generously funded by Art Fund, has been set up to change the way museums and the cultural sector as a whole, approaches neurodiversity. In case you’re not familiar, neurodivergence includes autism, ADHD, ADD, dyslexia OCD, ODD dyspraxia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and others [...]

We are currently in the process of developing the next stage of the project and accessing funding to support a wide scale programme to support neurodivergent people to access museums, see themselves reflected through museum display and collecting, and support pathways to the workforce which are currently not available – with lived experience always at the centre [...]

Over the coming months we will be sharing research, case studies, and a range of supporting provision to ensure neurodiversity is viewed and supported in-line with lived experience.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Soaring With Clipped Wings

<https://storiesofhopeandhome.blogspot.com/>

(Source: emails from Dawn X Murray, Refugee & Migration Engagement Officer, Birmingham City Council, 29 Jun 2021, and Stephanie Neville, Stories of Hope and Home, 4 Jul 2021)

A creative writing group, made up of people seeking asylum, or with refugee status living in Birmingham, has published a beautiful book of poetry entitled: *Soaring With Clipped Wings*.

The book is available for £5 + p&p. To order, or for further info, email: info@storiesofhome.org.uk.

All proceeds go to Stories of Hope and Home, which is based at Carrs Lane Church in Birmingham:

“Stories of Hope and Home is a story-telling project offering Asylum Seekers and Refugees a space to share their stories and others a space to hear them. The aim is to empower those who have been forced to flee and seek refuge to recognise the value of the stories of their humanity, and to create spaces of powerful personal encounter in order to challenge and change perceptions around these issues.”

You can also see members of the group performing poems from the book at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqYJNo8mlmn5qGfTtSQlyQ>.

LGBTQ+ issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Casting a queer eye across the collections of the National Galleries of Scotland”

https://museumcrush.org/casting-a-queer-eye-across-the-collections-of-the-national-galleries-of-scotland/?utm_source=Culture24+Company+Newsletter&utm_campaign=195565385f-mc-digest-159&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_622aef899d-195565385f-34063877

(Source: Culture24 *Museum Crush*, 2 Jul 2021)

“To mark the end of Pride Month, Dan Vo explores the three galleries that make up the National Galleries of Scotland, casting his queer eye on the collections of the Scottish National Gallery, Scottish National Portrait Gallery and Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art”

“Book28 Library Launches Anti-Prize for Queer Literature – Book Pride 2021”

<https://book28.weebly.com/>

(Source: email from Book28, 4 Jul 2021)

“Book28 is a queer library based at the Outside Project, an LGBTQIA+ homeless shelter and community centre located in London. For this year’s Pride season, Book28 decided to create an ‘anti-prize’ for queer literature and celebrate four literary works chosen by the library’s volunteer staff with four events during the month of July. The winners announced here will be revealed gradually around each week’s event:

- *Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas [Swoon Reads, 2020, ISBN: 978-1250250469]

- *Lote* by Shola Von Reinhold [Jacaranda Books, 2020, ISBN: 978-1913090111]
- *Sterling Karrat Gold* by Isabel Waidner [Peninsula Press, 2021, ISBN: 978-1913512040]
- *Tensorate Series* by Neon Yang [paperback ed to be pub Sep 2021 by Tordotcom, ISBN: 978-1250807540]

The ‘anti-prize’ aims to capture the good parts of prize culture (such as creating ‘buzz’ around particular queer works, having a short-term programme of events, creating shared reading lists/resources for collection development, helping people the positive overload of queer literature that is published, and giving more promotion for queer writers) while mitigating the negative effects of prize culture (such as hierarchies, pitting queer literature against each other, gatekeeping prize-money, institutional bias in awards boards, over-categorising queer authors).

We aim for the model of Book Pride to be used across different grassroots queer libraries and hope each library’s anti-prize will reflect their unique approach to collection development. Book28’s mission with the anti-prize is to highlight queer works underrepresented in UK public libraries.

You can follow further announcements on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook, and the Book28 team is available for questions through this email address book28.library@gmail.com.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Proud gay dad who wrote kids’ book about families like his sent horrific homophobic abuse”

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/07/01/gareth-peter-my-daddies-gay-book/>

(Source: *PinkNews*, 1 Jul 2021)

A depressing, but timely, reminder of how much work there is still to do to usualise different relationships.