The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 365, 23 November 2022

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

Black Lives Matter
Communicating decolonisation guidance
https://ma-production.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/app/uploads/2022/10/14095229/HS305-%E2%80%93-MA-Decolonisation-toolkit_AW4.pdf
(Source: Museums Association email updates, 1 Nov 2022)
Very useful new guidance from the MA, which takes you through how to communicate well about decolonising – from a very practical stance:

> "We recognise that many institutions struggle with the word decolonisation. The work of decolonising museums involves creatively reimagining the way museums work, who they work with and what they value. That's what's important. If there's pressure to use alternate [sic] words for your project, that's fine. Use the language that enables you to do the work." [p17]

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

Coronavirus/COVID-19
"Almost half of young people 'have mental health problems post-pandemic'"
https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/almost-half-of-young-people-have-mental-health-problems-post-pandemic
(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 23 Nov 2022)
Headlines from a new report which found that:

> "Among 16- and 17-year-olds involved in the study, 44 per cent have 'probable mental ill health', which indicates they have 'high levels of psychological distress'.

The report itself, *Mental health and wellbeing*, is the latest 'Briefing' from the "COVID Social Mobility & Opportunities (COSMO) Study", available at: https://cosmostudy.uk/publication_pdfs/mental-health-and-wellbeing.pdf.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

"Hundreds more homeless families rehoused outside local area in England"

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/oct/24/hundreds-more-homeless-families-rehoused-outside-local-area-in-england

Just in case you haven't seen this article:

> "Hundreds more homeless households across England are being uprooted and rehoused miles from their jobs and schools amid mounting concern about the legality of the practice and the number of lives it is disrupting.
>
> Figures obtained by the Guardian under freedom of information (FoI) reveal more than 6,000 households were shunted more than 20 miles from their local neighbourhood in out-of-area placements by 53 councils in the last four years. However, this is probably an underestimate given that the majority did not provide 2021-22 figures."

"Young people without access to a computer had poorer mental health during the pandemic"

https://theconversation.com/young-people-without-access-to-a-computer-had-poorer-mental-health-during-the-pandemic-194651?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%202021%202022%20-%202469524726&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%202021%202022%20-%202469524726+CID_ddf3d472e918e0107b44caa86ab87ac2&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Young%20people%20without%20access%20to%20a%20computer%20had%20poorer%20mental%20health%20during%20the%20pandemic

(Source: *The Conversation*, 21 Nov 2022)

Brief summary of new research:

> "Based on data from 1,387 10- to 15-year-olds, we found that those adolescents who didn't have access to a computer had substantially worse mental health than those who did. According to our adjusted model, the average total difficulties score peaked at 11.2 (out of 40) for those with computer access, but 17.8 for those without […]
>
> In our paper, we call on policymakers, health services and researchers to pay more attention to the risks of a lack of digital access. Future world events, and not just pandemics, may once again cause widespread social disruption to young people. By ensuring as many as possible have the means to connect digitally, we may be able to protect some of these young people from mental health problems."

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

"It's about handing over power": the impact of ethnic diversity initiatives on curatorial roles in the UK arts & heritage sector 1998-2021
https://bibli.artfund.org/m/53e933cf196387c3/original/Art-Fund-Curatorial-Diversity-report.pdf
(Source: Museums Association email updates, 11 Nov 2022)
Important new report which, amongst other recommendations, calls for more action to address structural and institutional racism.

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

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Irregular migration: a timeline of UK-French co-operation
https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9681/CBP-9681.pdf
(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 21 Nov 2022)
New HOC Library "Research Briefing", a useful background summary of Anglo-French agreements (and their cost).

Migration issues – Other Agencies

"The UK's asylum system is in crisis, but the government – not refugees – is to blame"
https://theconversation.com/the-uks-asylum-system-is-in-crisis-but-the-government-not-refugees-is-to-blame-193670?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%202%202022%20-%202450124527&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%202%202022%20-%202450124527+CID_d44122db96ee7286abee602c5de7bbe7&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20UKs%20asylum%20system%20is%20in%20crisis%20but%20the%20government%20%20not%20refugees%20%20is%20to%20blame
(Source: *The Conversation*, 2 Nov 2022)
Useful article summarising the current position (and looking at some of the political issues behind it).

"Albanian migrants: Why are they coming to the UK and how many have arrived?"
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-63473022
(Source: *MEMO* [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 766, 7 Nov 2022)
A BBC "explainer". There's a couple of what I think are questionable points in here, but, overall, this is a very useful roundup.

"The Tories concocted the myth of the 'migrant crisis'. Now their survival depends on it"
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/07/tories-myth-migrant-crisis-brexit-immigration-centre
Obviously there is a political angle to this article, but it does also outline where the current issues fit into a bigger picture.

"Sealed borders are a fantasy and talk of invasion is toxic. There is an alternative"
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/06/sealed-borders-are-fantasy-and-talk-of-invasion-is-toxic-there-is-an-alternative
Important article with a strong message:

> "There is no perfect solution to immigration but one thing is clear: don't dehumanise"

It also makes some points that are frequently omitted from the debate (and, in case you missed the article, I thought it was worth emphasising these here):

> "What to do about it? First, there can only be solutions to real problems, not made-up ones, such as a supposed mass invasion. Second, to know what to do, we also have to know what not to do. The red lines should be clear: don't demonise, dehumanise or pursue unconscionable policies such the Rwanda mass deportation scheme.
>
> Third, there need to be proper legal routes for asylum seekers. Currently, people can only apply for asylum when on British soil. But they can only get to Britain with a valid visa. And there is no 'asylum visa'. Which means that it is almost impossible to claim asylum without using irregular means to enter Britain. It's a Catch-22 situation that the government, and apologists for its immigration policy, pretends does not exist.
>
> Beyond creating legal routes, there also needs to be decent resourcing of the asylum claims process to reduce the artificially created backlog. Allowing asylum seekers to work, making their lives more fulfilling while reducing their reliance on the state, would also be a welcome change.
>
> Finally, we need to recognise that there is no perfect solution. The moment anyone suggests opening up legal routes, or questions the policy of deterrence, or challenges the morality of the Rwandan deportation scheme, critics shout 'open borders'. It's as if any liberalisation of policy amounts to an 'open border'. The fantasy desire for a perfectly sealed border is part of the problem. The fact is, a more liberal policy is not just more humane, it is also more realistic."

"'They're risking their lives to come here. There must be a reason': how Dover really feels about migrants"
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/09/theyre-risking-their-lives-to-come-here-there-must-be-a-reason-how-dover-really-feels-about-migrants
Useful article that probes behind the "most people say …" comments.