



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 376, 7 June 2023

Events

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

Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

“Articles on Windrush 75”

https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/windrush-75-139220?utm_source=TCUK&utm_medium=linkback&utm_campaign=Windrush75&utm_content=InArticleTop

(Source: *The Conversation*, 5 Jun 2023)

The Conversation is publishing a series of articles to mark the 75th anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush arriving in Britain. “The stories in this series explore the history and impact of the hundreds of passengers who disembarked to help rebuild after the second world war.”

“The worries parents from ethnic minority backgrounds have about their children’s experiences at school”

https://theconversation.com/the-worries-parents-from-ethnic-minority-backgrounds-have-about-their-childrens-experiences-at-school-202901?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%205%202023%20-%202644726651&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%205%202023%20-%202644726651+CID_42862515937b758593f80b119cb5637e&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20worries%20parents%20from%20ethnic%20minority%20backgrounds%20have%20about%20their%20childrens%20experiences%20at%20school

(Source: *The Conversation*, 5 Jun 2023)

New research report:

“Children and young people should be able to study in schools that recognise and respect their diverse backgrounds. But teachers sometimes struggle to handle this diversity in the classroom.

Findings from research conducted in Ireland have shown that teachers may not receive adequate training in intercultural education.

My research investigated how parents from minority ethnic (non-white) backgrounds who had immigrated to Ireland felt about their children’s school education.”

Climate emergency/the environment – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Severe Weather Emergency: how prepared are UK homelessness systems for the impacts of climate change?

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/623b05f9825aa34cda99921f/t/6423301d2f6abf0202364811/1680027696562/Severe+Weather+Emergency+a+Museum+of+Homelessness+Investigation+2023.pdf>

(Source: Museum of Homelessness, *Spring News*, 6 Apr 2023)

New report from the Museum of Homelessness:

“We are worried that climate emergency is going to hit people living outside the hardest and fastest. We have carried out an investigation and analysis designed to help our homelessness systems be ready for the increasing frequency of climate events [...]

Until this investigation, as far as we are aware there had been no comprehensive data set on what councils and homelessness charities actually do in periods of extreme weather. We wanted to produce an accurate record of what councils and services are doing, to see where improvements could be made and to make recommendations for climate emergency preparedness in the UK [...]

We offer a comprehensive picture of what 91 councils are doing during periods of extreme weather and combines that with observations, recommendations, and feedback from the ground.” [p1]

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

“Inclusive Britain update report”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 18 May 2023)

Latest update report which sets out the progress made in delivering the “Inclusive Britain action plan” since it was published in March 2022.

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

The impact of arts and cultural engagement on population health: findings from major cohort studies in the UK and USA 2017-2022.

<https://sbbresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Arts-and-population-health-FINAL-March-2023.pdf>

(Source: *The Social Biobehavioural Research Group Quarterly Newsletter*, 21 Apr 2023)

New from The Social Biobehavioural Research Group:

“[...] major summary report exploring how engagement with arts and culture is linked to the health of the population across the lifespan. With findings from over 70 of our published research articles since 2017, the report describes how peoples’ arts engagement is linked to a wide range

of health outcomes and behaviours throughout their lives.” [Taken from email, 21 Apr 2-23]

The Group have also published four “Evidence Brief” outlines:

- *Evidence brief: how the arts can support children and young people’s development and wellbeing*, <https://sbbresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SBB-Evidence-Brief-Arts-and-young-people.pdf>
- *Evidence brief: how the arts can support mental health and wellbeing in adulthood*, <https://sbbresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SBB-Evidence-Brief-Arts-and-mental-health.pdf>
- *Evidence brief: how the arts can support the health and wellbeing of older adults*, <https://sbbresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SBB-Evidence-Brief-Arts-and-ageing.pdf>
- *Evidence brief: inequalities in accessing arts and culture for health and wellbeing*, <https://sbbresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SBB-Evidence-Brief-Access-to-the-arts.pdf>.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Understanding and supporting mental health in infancy and early childhood: a toolkit to support local action in the UK

Web version: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/campaign-with-us/early-moments-matter/early-childhood-mental-health-toolkit/>

pdf: https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/UnderstandingAndSupportingMentalHealthInInfancyAndEarlyChildhood_ToolkitPDF_Final-1.pdf

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 20 Apr 2023)

New toolkit from UNICEF UK and the University of Cambridge’s Centre for Research on Play in Education, Development & Learning, which aims to:

- “Help partners from different services and professions to develop a deeper, shared understanding of mental health in infancy and early childhood, and the factors that influence it
- Support service leaders, commissioners and other decision makers and policy teams to develop whole-system responses to ensure babies and young children are mentally healthy now, and are supported to develop the skills they need to continue to be mentally healthy throughout their lives.
- Provide resources, signposting, and conversation guides to support constructive local discussions, decisions and action about the needs of babies and young children in their area, and what more might be done to respond to these needs (including through strategy development across mental health, maternity, early years or Family Hubs & Start for Life).” [Taken from website]

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

Everywhere & Nowhere: guidance for ethically researching and interpreting disability histories

<https://everywhereandnowhere.le.ac.uk/researching-and-presenting-disability-histories-ethically/#:~:text=Everywhere%20And%20Nowhere%3A%20Guidance%20for%20ethically%20researching%20and%20interpreting%20disability%20histories>

(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 11 May 2023)

“Everywhere and Nowhere is a collaboration between the University of Leicester’s Research Centre for Museums and Galleries and the National Trust that explores little known and previously untold histories of disability from across the Trust’s sites and collections.” [Taken from:

<https://everywhereandnowhere.le.ac.uk/>]

Drawn from this collaboration:

“[...] we have developed guidance for heritage and cultural organisations that shares new ethical and inclusive ways of researching and (re)presenting stories connected to disability and the lives of disabled people.” [Taken from:

<https://everywhereandnowhere.le.ac.uk/researching-and-presenting-disability-histories-ethically/#:~:text=Everywhere%20And%20Nowhere%3A%20Guidance%20for%20ethically%20researching%20and%20interpreting%20disability%20histories>]

Disability issues – Other Agencies

Our services for professionals: supporting people with sight and hearing loss

<https://communitylibrariesnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Deafblind-Professionals-Booklet-HIGH-RES.pdf>

(Source: *Community Libraries Network Newsletter*, May 2023)

Outline of the services/support provided by Deafblind UK.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Your guide to finding a settled home in the UK

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1156115/6.8384_HO_Afghan_leaflet_A4_V10_WEB.pdf

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 790, 22 May 2023)

New from HM Government:

“This leaflet is for people who have come to the UK through [the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy] or [Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme] and eligible British Nationals who are temporarily staying in hotels or serviced accommodation”

“Finding a school place when relocating from hotel accommodation”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/finding-a-school-place-when-relocating-from-hotel-accommodation>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 790, 22 May 2023)

“Information for Afghan guests in the UK on obtaining a school place in England when relocating after leaving hotel/serviced accommodation.”

Migration statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 792, 5 Jun 2023)

A HOC Library “Research Briefing” which sets out the background to how migration figures are measured – and what they mean.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Esol English classes are crucial for migrant integration, yet challenges remain unaddressed”

https://theconversation.com/esol-english-classes-are-crucial-for-migrant-integration-yet-challenges-remain-unaddressed-204415?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2016%202023%20-%202627826444&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2016%202023%20-%202627826444+CID_9cb1b36254c799b4178bc9ee1b9e157e&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Esol%20English%20classes%20are%20crucial%20for%20migrant%20integration%20yet%20challenges%20remain%20unaddressed

(Source: *The Conversation*, 16 May 2023)

Important article:

“In the year ending September 2022, more than 70,000 people had claimed asylum in the UK. The vast majority were from countries that do not use English as a first language.

Being able to communicate in English is essential for newly arrived migrants. People who have gone through traumatic experiences are, understandably, often desperate to build new lives. They want to use the skills and knowledge they have to access work and education. To do that, they have to navigate the health, social security, housing and education systems.”

It suggests some solutions:

“Removing some of the requirements to produce evidence of learning would shorten teacher administration time. It would also relieve the pressure on students and teachers to be constantly preparing for the next assessment. This would allow more time to focus on discussing issues of relevance to the learners [...]

Thinking afresh about language education for forced migrants means considering how a participatory approach may be an effective way to welcome newcomers and help with their integration. With little effort, language education for migrants could allow space for the development

of projects that bring people together. It could foster friendship and understanding while also promoting language development.”

It concludes:

“Esol is not just another academic subject, it is the most important area that promotes integration. But, at present, opportunities to provide holistic, person-centred language education to people seeking refuge in the UK are being missed because of the overly bureaucratic and exam-focused system that prevails.”

“How schools and teachers can make refugee children feel welcome”

https://theconversation.com/how-schools-and-teachers-can-make-refugee-children-feel-welcome-199345?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2012%202023%20-%202625126418&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2012%202023%20-%202625126418+CID_6914d347a38f98baee3492e78be5fe9f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20schools%20and%20teachers%20can%20make%20refugee%20children%20feel%20welcome

(Source: *The Conversation*, 11 May 2023)

Useful summary of a recent research project:

“We found that by taking specific steps to create an inclusive school environment, schools and teachers can provide a place where a newly arrived child can feel safe and able to trust the adults in their community.”

The research conclusions emphasise fostering wellbeing and creating sanctuary.

“The truth about migration figures”

https://www.jcwi.org.uk/the-truth-about-migration-figures?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2022&utm_campaign=2b69435a85-Newsletter+June+1+2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-2b69435a85-120687778

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 2 Jun 2023)

Important post from the JCWI, which argues that:

“Migrants are and always have been an important part of our story, and we should celebrate the fact that so many people want to make the UK their home. They enrich our society, make our country a better place, and are a vital part of our workforce and our communities.”

“Net migration: how an unreachable target came to shape Britain”

https://theconversation.com/net-migration-how-an-unreachable-target-came-to-shape-britain-206430?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2030%202023%20-%202638926569&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2030%202023%20-%202638926569

https://www.bbc.com/news/health-62638926569+CID_d491682bcd4537607d54775a7d4a54a6&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Net%20migration%20how%20an%20unreachable%20target%20came%20to%20shape%20Britain

(Source: *The Conversation*, 30 May 2023)

Informative background piece on the meaning of ‘net migration’ figures.

“New data shows that the UK has hit a record high net migration number of 606,000. Through it has been central to 13 years of policy and rhetoric, net migration is, in fact, a pretty odd metric that tells us very little about how the UK’s immigration system is functioning.

Net migration is the difference between the number of people entering the country (and expected to stay long term) and the number leaving. So net migration of +1 could be achieved by two people leaving the country and three people moving here, or by ten million people leaving the country and ten million and one moving here. The practical difference between these two scenarios is, of course, huge.”

“Who is allowed to come to live in the UK?”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48785695>

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 791, 29 May 2023)

A very useful BBC “Explainer”.

“The same but different... ONS finds net migration has “levelled off” after two years of strong growth, reaching 606,000 in 2022”

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/press/the-same-but-different-ons-finds-net-migration-has-levelled-off-after-two-years-of-strong-growth-reaching-606000-in-2022/>

Useful press statement from The Migration Observatory:

“The unusually high levels of net migration the UK has experienced result from several different factors that have coincided in a short period of time, including:

- Visa schemes for people leaving Ukraine and Hong Kong. Together, humanitarian visa schemes and resettled refugees made up 19% of non-EU long-term immigration in 2022.
- High employer demand for workers, particularly in the health and care sector; work routes made up 25% of non-EU long-term immigration in 2022.
- Increasing numbers of international students, following a government-sponsored strategy to recruit more foreign students and diversify away from China—as well as the reintroduction of a two-year post-study work visa. Students made up 39% of non-EU long-term immigration.
- An increase in the number of asylum seekers, who have been included in the figures for the first time since new, post-pandemic methods for estimating migration have been in place. Asylum made up 8% of non-EU long-term immigration in 2022.”

Housing Rights Spring 2023

<https://www.housing-rights.info/docs/Housing-Rights-Newsletter-Spring-2023.pdf>

(Source: email from A Azim El-Hassan, 25 May 2023)

The latest issue of this newsletter includes a very useful summary of the background to the conflict in Sudan, some info about Sudanese people in the UK, and some ideas of practical things that Councils can do.

Responding to far right attacks – practical tips for local organisations

https://cdn.cityofsanctuary.org/uploads/2023/04/responding-to-far-right-attacks_2023-04-v2-1.pdf

(Source: email from City of Sanctuary, 27 Apr 2023)

“HOPE not Hate tracked a 102% increase in antimigrant far right activity in 2022, with frequent demonstrations across the country taking place outside asylum accommodation. In response, Together With Refugees, HOPE not hate, IMIX and City of Sanctuary UK have put together this 10 point plan of what local organisations can do if any similar situations happen in their area.” [p1]

“The EU pays Africa’s brutal militias to lock up migrants. Britain wants to follow suit”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/04/eu-pays-africas-brutal-militias-to-lock-up-migrants-britain-wants-to-follow-suit#:~:text=Britain%20wants%20to%20follow%20suit,-Kenan%20Malik&text=Please%20help%2C%20today%20one,dead%20by%20petrol%20because%20hopeless.%E2%80%9D>

Useful background piece, drawing attention to a practice undertaken across Europe.

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

“Research Centre for Museums and Galleries developing guidance on trans-inclusive practice”

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/05/research-centre-for-museums-and-galleries-developing-guidance-on-trans-inclusive-practice/#msdyntrid=hCF1ZMOpR6s7UQvfEHD3kNJKDGO-ijinrQ8Hp9Izwn0>

(Source: Museums Association update, 30 May 2023)

“Guidance on trans-inclusive practice in museums, galleries and heritage organisations is being developed by the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG) at the University of Leicester.

RCMG is developing the guidance to help cultural organisations take forward this work as part of their wider commitments to advance equity and inclusion.

The work emerges in the context of growing uncertainty and anxiety surrounding trans-inclusive practice across heritage, arts and cultural organisations, according to the RCMG [...]

The guidance, developed with legal scholars from the University of Edinburgh, will be issued this summer and will be free to download.

It will include an ethical framework to guide work that seeks to advance equality for trans staff and visitors and fosters approaches that harness the capacity for cultural organisations to build public understanding and support for trans inclusion.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

ILGA Rainbow Europe map and index 2023

<https://www.ilga-europe.org/report/rainbow-europe-2023/>

(Source: *PinkNews*, 11 May 2023)

“The Rainbow Map and Index ranks 49 European countries on their respective legal and policy practices for LGBTI people, from 0-100% [...]

- For the eighth year in a row, Malta continues to occupy the number one spot on the Rainbow Europe Map, with a score of 89%.
- With 76 points, Belgium now occupies the second place with a rise of four points due to the inclusion of gender identity and sex characteristics as aggravating factors in the country’s penal code.
- Denmark comes third place with a score of 76 with the rise of two points due to its new equality action plan, which includes specific measures on sexual orientation and gender identity but falls short of inclusion of projects on sex characteristics.
- The three countries at the other end of the Rainbow Europe scale are Azerbaijan (2%), Turkey (4%), and Armenia (9%), exactly the same as the last three years. Among them, only Armenia increased an index point after revoking its ban on blood donations from men who have sex with men.”

As *PinkNews* says:

“Until 2015, the UK consistently achieved the number-one spot in the rankings, but since then has slipped down the list. It was down in 10th in 2021 before falling to 14th in 2021. This year, the country dropped further still and now sits in 17th place.”

“The rainbow university: advice on creating a higher education system in which LGBTQ+ students, staff and faculty can thrive”

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/spotlight/rainbow-university?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial-weekly&spMailingID=26026789&spUserID=MTAxNzcxMzc5Nzk1MQS2&spJobID=2250058025&spReportId=MjI1MDA1ODAyNQS2

(Source: *Times Higher Education Newsletter*, 1 Jun 2023)

“Despite the huge progress that has been made towards greater inclusivity of gender and sexual orientation, being LGBTQ+ and ‘out’ in

higher education is still difficult. This collection of resources looks at what steps can be taken, on an institutional and individual level, to ensure LGBTQ+ scholars, students and staff can flourish, whether in the classroom, research lab or while simply relaxing on campus. From the use of pronouns and inclusive language to wearing of rainbow lanyards and active allyship, even seemingly subtle changes can make a big difference.”

Positive futures: how supporting LGBT+ young people enables them to thrive in adulthood

<https://www.justlikeus.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Positive-Futures-report-by-Just-Like-Us-compressed-for-mobile.pdf>

(Source: *PinkNews*, 1 Jun 2023)

“Positive Futures examines the individual and disproportionate challenges that LGBT+ young adults face in school, their family life and the workplace. We independently surveyed 3,695 18-to 25-year-olds from across the UK in January 2023, including 1,736 LGBT+ respondents, to enable us to examine how being LGBT+ shaped their formative years [...]

In this report, we set out what kind of impact those challenges in school and at home have on early adulthood. The results demonstrate that a lack of support in LGBT+ young people’s teenage years is linked to long-lasting and devastating effects on their mental health, self-worth, chances of family estrangement and even their outlook on their careers and whether they believe they’ll find a life partner.” [p6]

“They fled war – now, LGBTQ refugees battle discrimination”

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2023-06/they-fled-war-now-lgbtq-refugees-battle-discrimination>

“In Poland and other eastern European countries, Ukraine’s queer refugees face political intolerance and social exclusion [...]

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

Ready to learn: how public libraries help children and families prepare for school

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/use-libraries-help-get-children-school-ready-say-teachers>

(Source: email from Libraries Connected, 18 May 2023)

Just in case you haven’t seen the info about this new campaign from Libraries Connected.