



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 377, 23 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

“Beatrix Potter’s famous tales are rooted in stories told by enslaved Africans – but she was very quiet about their origins”

https://theconversation.com/beatrix-potters-famous-tales-are-rooted-in-stories-told-by-enslaved-africans-but-she-was-very-quiet-about-their-origins-202274?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%202632526499&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%202632526499+CID_1c41b0cc6e61c2f3401ab4f5723ad692&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Beatrix%20Potters%20famous%20tales%20are%20rooted%20in%20stories%20told%20by%20enslaved%20Africans%20%20but%20she%20was%20very%20quiet%20about%20their%20origins

(Source: *The Conversation*, 20 May 2023)

Very interesting article which identifies just how much Beatrix Potter (and Enid Blyton) drew on the Brer Rabbit stories without acknowledging the source.

“‘We are not where we were’: why Gary Younge still has hope”

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/gary-younge-dispatches-diaspora-book-hope-racism-rwanda/?utm_source=SEGMENT%20-%20Newsletter%3A%20oD%20weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign= Tory%20MP%20accused%20of%20rape&_kx=1_8D1xQSf81SrwgQ7oVGBK2blBk82Fazlk5OMY7463I%3D.YiCYwm

(Source: openDemocracy *Weekly Newsletter*, 13 May 2023)

Interview with Gary Younge, where he really captures current conversations about race:

“I think that we have a real problem with this at the moment in Britain, which is we talk a lot about race, but the way that we talk about it is mostly stupid.

We talk about it through these weird portals. Piers Morgan says something, Meghan Markle says something, Jeremy Clarkson says something, Diane Abbott says something and then a half-baked, ill-informed, half-arsed conversation emerges, which is really not about anything very much.”

“How the Windrush generation changed stories of Britain forever – ten recommended reads”

https://theconversation.com/how-the-windrush-generation-changed-stories-of-britain-forever-ten-recommended-reads-206729?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2012%202023%20-%202650626722&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2012%202023%20-%202650626722+CID_60c16c5f275cea90546afc8477edf0cc&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20the%20Windrush%20generation%20changed%20stories%20of%20Britain%20forever%20%20ten%20recommended%200reads

(Source: *The Conversation*, 12 Jun 2023)

Interesting article with some background info and the 10 recommended books:

“Perhaps the fact that Kitchener’s London is the Place for Me was revived as the anthem of the Paddington movies while the Windrush scandal was making headlines, speaks to the ongoing conflict. That is, between seeing Caribbean voices as central to Britain’s character as a convivial multicultural nation, and the real narrow nationalism of the conservative Britain we live in.”

“The Black-owned publishing houses that shaped the Windrush generation”

https://theconversation.com/the-black-owned-publishing-houses-that-shaped-the-windrush-generation-204843?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2020%202023%20-%202657726811&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2020%202023%20-%202657726811+CID_2db29600518ceae8cdadce6db7484c09&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20Black-owned%20publishing%20houses%20that%20shaped%20the%20Windrush%20generation

(Source: *The Conversation*, 20 Jun 2023)

Very interesting short article which focuses particularly on New Beacon (est. 1966) and Bogle-L’Ouverture (est. 1969).

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Impact of Brexit on minority ethnic and migrant people in Northern Ireland

https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/DMU/ImpactOfBrexit-MinorityEthnicMigrantPeople.pdf?utm_source=NewZapp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=StakeholdersEzineJune23

(Source: email from Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, Jun 2023)

New report from the Equality Commission NI; their evidence can be summarised as:

“Evidence summary 1 – Life in Northern Ireland feels more difficult following Brexit

Evidence summary 2 – ethnic minority and migrant people do not feel they are a government priority in Northern Ireland” [p8]

Migration issues – News

“Thousands of Afghan refugees in UK set to be made homeless”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/11/thousands-afghan-refugees-uk-homeless-crisis-operation-warm-welcome>

(Source: Peter Tatchell Foundation *Weekly*, #255, 22 Jun 2023)

“Thousands of Afghan refugees in the UK face homelessness this summer, the government was warned last week at a secret crisis meeting in Downing Street.

Council officials told No 10 and Home Office civil servants that about 8,000 Afghan refugees, allowed into the country in 2021 under the slogan Operation Warm Welcome, are due to be evicted from hotels as early as August because of a government deadline, yet have nowhere to go.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Global trends: forced displacement in 2022

Summary: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends>

Full report: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>

(Source: *Free Movement Refugee and Asylum Update*, 15 Jun 2023)

“UNHCR's Global Trends report presents key statistical trends and the latest official statistics on refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people worldwide, as well as numbers of refugees and IDPs who have returned to their countries or areas of origin.”

The ‘headlines’ are:

“At the end of 2022, 108.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order.

This represents an increase of 19 million people compared to the end of 2021 – more than the populations of Ecuador, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the) or Somalia. It is also the largest ever increase between years according to UNHCR’s statistics on forced displacement.

More than 1 in every 74 people on Earth has been forced to flee.”
[quotations taken from: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends>]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Briefing: the Seasonal Worker visa”

https://freemovement.org.uk/seasonal-worker-visa/?mc_cid=7776d618cd&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 19 Jun 2023)

Very useful “Briefing” about an area which is often confusing (or interpreted as such).

“Briefing: the state of the UK asylum system”

https://freemovement.org.uk/briefing-the-sorry-state-of-the-uk-asylum-system/?utm_source=Free+Movement&utm_campaign=2b80f3bf06-Asylum+updates&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_792133aa40-2b80f3bf06-116428530&mc_cid=2b80f3bf06&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Refugee and Asylum Update*, 20 Jun 2023)

“Everyone agrees that the United Kingdom’s asylum system is broken. In this briefing we will take a look at the whole of the asylum process, from the numbers claiming asylum to the decision-making process, the cost of the system, the volume and quality of decisions, the outcomes of appeals, the use of detention and the number of removals. The information is drawn mainly from the quarterly immigration statistics and transparency data for the year ended March 2023, the most recent available at the time of writing. Some of the figures are drawn from statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Bill.”

“How new UK immigration rules will separate more international students from their families”

https://theconversation.com/how-new-uk-immigration-rules-will-separate-more-international-students-from-their-families-207752?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%202023%202023%20-%202660826857&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%202023%202023%20-%202660826857+CID_9294813c80bc558df5d2f4cd376bdcef&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20new%20UK%20immigration%20rules%20will%20separate%20more%20international%20students%20from%20their%20families

(Source: *The Conversation*, 22 Jun 2023)

“The UK government has changed its policy on international students, restricting them from bringing their families with them during their studies. This change to how student visas are allocated, the government argues, will help reduce net migration [...]

Public opinion is largely in favour of legal immigration. The UK public generally perceives legal migrants as having the potential to contribute positively to the UK. Our analysis shows, however, that the government’s new rules have the potential to significantly – and adversely – impact these very people’s mental health [...]

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“White nationalists and anti-vaxxers protested at 90% of all-ages drag shows in the last year”

https://leftfootforward.org/2023/06/white-nationalists-and-anti-vaxxers-protested-at-90-of-all-ages-drag-shows-in-the-last-year/?mc_cid=2c0608c4e9&mc_eid=e91604b40f

(Source: *Left Foot Forward*, 22 Jun 2023)

LFF article to mark the publication of a new report:

“A new report has highlighted the scale of far-right mobilisation against all ages drag shows in the UK. The report – from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) – found that 57 events took place in the year from June 2022 and that 51 of these were met with protests from a range of groups including white nationalists and anti-vaxxers.

That means that almost 90% of all these events saw mobilisations from the far right or conspiracy theorists. Ten events were cancelled ahead of time as a result of abuse and the risk of danger to attendees and staff.

The majority of protests took place at Drag Queen Story Hour events. Drag Queen Story Hour is an event where a drag performer reads books and tells stories to an audience of children. Over the past year, these events have taken place in libraries across the country.

According to ISD, events have seen protests in which parents taking their children to Drag Queen Story Hour have been subject to verbal abuse and harassment. At events in Reading and Blackpool, protesters were able to enter the library and abuse the performer. In addition to this, protesters have been found to have called libraries and emailed local councillors in an effort to pressure events to be cancelled.”

The report is at: <https://www.isdglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Anti-Drag-Mobilisation-Efforts-Targeting-LGBTQ-People-in-the-UK.pdf>.

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

“Historic England Segments”

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/heritageskills-cpd/inclusion/segments/>

(Source: email Robin Page to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 19 Jun 2023)

“The Historic England Segments help us to connect more effectively with our existing audiences. They also enable us to engage with new and more diverse groups [...]

The Segments were created in direct response to Historic England’s Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Strategy and represent how diverse the population is in terms of demographics, beliefs, and values. They can be used as a tool in the pursuit of inclusion and diversity goals, as well as a tool for working with different audiences.

We commissioned this segmentation system to help us understand how people relate or could relate to heritage, driven by their personal values. The Segments are defined by the motivations which might lead people to connect with heritage.

Everyone is different. Trying to meet the needs of everybody can mean that we meet the needs of nobody. Likewise, we recognise that treating people as one homogenous mass won't work either. We, therefore, use an approach called segmentation: grouping people together into a small number of Segments who share the same values, particularly in response to the historic environment.

This is primarily a pragmatic tool. No one in the world has one set identity, and there will be some overlaps between Segments. Some people will feel like they are in the middle of a Segment, while others may feel they fall between two or three Segments. Ultimately, each of us will share more things in common with some people than others.

It's important to note that we have based this segmentation system on values and not demographics (such as location, age and gender). This is because our values change more slowly, unlike our life stage or location. Once we understand core values and how people feel about the world around them, we can more easily encourage behavioural change.”

The Segments are available in two versions:

- “Snapshots” (summaries),
<https://historicengland.org.uk/content/documents/inclusion/historic-england-segment-snapshots/>
- Full version,
<https://historicengland.org.uk/content/documents/inclusion/historic-england-segments-full/>.