



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 392, 30 January 2024

Events

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

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Nine million adults lack essential skills”

<https://www.localgov.co.uk/Nine-million-adults-lack-essential-skills/58585>

(Source: Learning and Work Institute *Newsletter*, Jan 2024)

Very brief article highlighting this new research:

“Nine million adults in England lack essential literacy and numeracy skills with skill level disparities within local areas far exceeding those between local and combined authorities, a new study has revealed.”

“Disadvantaged children worst hit as early years forced to 'move towards childcare”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/disadvantaged-children-worst-hit-as-early-years-forced-to-move-towards-childcare>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 24 Jan 2023)

Article outlining the key findings from recent research by the Sutton Trust; the headlines are:

“The early years sector is increasingly moving towards offering childcare “at the expense of providing high quality education” due to “mounting pressures” on providers [...]”

The full report, *General Election Policy Briefing: Inequality in early years education*, is at: <https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Inequality-in-early-years-education.pdf>.

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

“Are you ageist? England’s first ever anti-ageism campaign launches”

<https://theageactionalliance.org/2024/01/16/are-you-ageist-englands-first-ever-anti-ageism-campaign-launches/>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 16 Jan 2024)

“The Centre for Ageing Better has launched ‘Age Without Limits’, a hard-hitting new campaign highlighting the issue of ageism.

With new data from the charity revealing half of adults aged over 50 in England have experienced age discrimination in the last year, the

campaign is set to change the way we all think about ageing, tackle prejudices and empower people to age with confidence.

For people in their 50s and 60s who experienced discrimination because of their age in the past 12 months, this happened most commonly in work (37%), followed by social media and television, movies or news reports (32%), and as a consumer (32%).

For people aged over 70, age discrimination was most keenly felt on social media, television, movies or news reports (44%), as a consumer (43%) and in health or social care settings (29%).

Other areas of life where both age groups experienced age discrimination include social situations (highlighted by 22% of people in their 50s and 60s) and public transport (mentioned by 23% of people aged over 70).”

“Affirmative action policies to increase diversity are successful, but controversial, around the world”

https://theconversation.com/affirmative-action-policies-to-increase-diversity-are-successful-but-controversial-around-the-world-213941?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2030%202024%20-%202862629051&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2030%202024%20-%202862629051+CID_27819bf7ff4a026524a4895146080120&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Affirmative%20action%20policies%20to%20increase%20diversity%20are%20successful%20but%20controversial%20around%20the%20world

(Source: *The Conversation*, 30 Jan 2024)

Very interesting summary of ‘positive action’ policies across the world:

“We found that 63% of the 194 studies we reviewed concluded that affirmative action programmes indeed served to improve outcomes for ethnic, religious or racial minorities. These measures helped the target groups gain better education and employment outcomes, as well as foster meaningful political participation.”

Despite this, they are still controversial:

“In over half of the countries we studied, national protests and civic action emerged in support of or against the conduct of affirmative action policies. And almost one in five saw violent incidents or riots directly linked to the introduction and implementation of affirmative action policies.”

The article also has a link to the research paper itself: *Affirmative action around the world: insights from a new dataset*,

<https://www.wider.unu.edu/sites/default/files/Publications/Working-paper/PDF/wp2023-59-affirmative-action-around-world-new-dataset.pdf>.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“What not to say to somebody with dementia”

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/language-dementia-what-not-to-say?utm_medium=email&utm_source=alzsoc_emailmarketing&utm_content=What%20not%20to%20say%20-%20button%20CTA&utm_campaign=%E2%80%8B0097%3A%2025%20January%202024&utm_id=1613578&email_campaign_tags=GenEnewsletter&utm_source_platform=DotDigital&utm_marketing_tactic=retargeting&utm_creative_for_mat=email&dm_i=57EL,YL1M,2JFJ2V,3Y3WW,1

(Source: email from Alzheimer’s Society, 25 Jan 2024)

Brief helpful advice:

“Words can be helpful and uplifting, but also hurtful and frustrating depending on the situation. Here, we look at some words and questions to try to avoid when talking to a person with dementia.”

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

“Work begins on Ukraine-focused decolonisation guide for museums”

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/01/work-begins-on-ukraine-focused-decolonisation-guide-for-museums/#>

(Source: email from the Museums Association, 16 Jan 2024)

“Work has started on a new decolonisation guide for museums focused on Ukraine, which will be published later this year.

The guide will act as a tool for specialists and non-specialists allowing them to more accurately identify and describe cultural heritage from Ukraine. It will also help promote wider understanding of historical efforts by imperial powers to subjugate Ukrainian history and heritage.

Developed and tested in collaboration with a range of international partners and subject experts, the guidance will include case studies and examples of how curators can be more effective in cataloguing, labelling, and contextualising Ukrainian history and heritage.

The guidance is being produced by an international partnership project led by the Ukrainian Institute in collaboration with the Museums Association (MA), the United Kingdom and Ukraine National Committees of the International Council of Museums (ICOM UK and ICOM Ukraine), and supported by the British Council.

The guidance will offer practical solutions to the following key questions:

- How do we identify Ukrainian cultural heritage?
- How do we accurately assign location information to cultural heritage items in situations of historically changing state borders?

- How do we promote appropriate language, terminology and labelling?
- How do we fairly represent contested heritage?”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Asylum and migration: a positive alternative policy”

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/asylum-and-migration-a-positive-alternative-policy>

(Source: *Social Europe Newsletter*, 20 Jan 2024)

Interesting article that argues for a major “shift from curbing ‘irregular’ migration to pursuing integration for mutual benefit.” For example:

“First of all, this means that municipalities, as sites of integration advantageous to all, should have a say in the uptake of newcomers, and indeed that citizens participate in the decision. This would considerably reduce the initial potential for incitement, arising from a feeling among the citizenry that decisions are being taken over their heads.

The decision to admit those on the move must be voluntary and supported by positive financial incentives, in such a way that the financing of integration is matched by the financing of additional municipal projects independent of integration. There have been positive experiences with this procedure in municipal German politics in the arena of inclusion policy.”

“EU citizens are being kicked out of the UK. In Spain people are asking: why not treat Brits the same way?”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/18/eu-citizens-entry-britain-spain-europeans-uk-border>

Very interesting/depressing article about the impact of Brexit on EU citizens – and it includes a lot of valuable information that isn’t often brought together, eg:

“About 4,000 EU citizens are denied entry to Britain every quarter, suspected of harbouring undocumented work or study plans. That means that about 60% of people now refused entry to the UK are from the European Union. They are usually the easiest people to send back to their countries of origin.”

“Ireland’s asylum debate has turned violent thanks to the spread of misinformation and disinformation”

https://theconversation.com/irelands-asylum-debate-has-turned-violent-thanks-to-the-spread-of-misinformation-and-disinformation-221788?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2026%202024%20-%202859529010&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2026%202024%20-%202859529010+CID_5331859767d4edd5e40c6c64c9cfcdf3&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Irelands%20asylum%20debate%20has%20turned%20violent%20thanks%20to%20the%20spread%20of%20misinformation%20and%20disinformation

(Source: *The Conversation*, 26 Jan 2024)

“A perfect storm has unfolded in Ireland in recent years. The number of asylum seekers has increased sharply (to over 13,000 per year in the past two years) and many Ukrainians have sought temporary protection (about 100,000 since the war began). All the while, Ireland has been experiencing a housing crisis. Record numbers of Irish people are in emergency accommodation and there has been a surge in rough sleeping.

This creates the impression that asylum seekers may somehow be responsible for the housing crisis or competing with Irish people for scarce resources. That’s certainly an impression that has been cleverly seized on by the far right, which has been spreading damaging tropes and seeking to capitalise on protests by local communities against the opening of new asylum reception centres. This is therefore a good moment to dispel some of the leading myths.”

“Friendship is crucial for refugee children – here’s how to talk to your child about being welcoming”

https://theconversation.com/friendship-is-crucial-for-refugee-children-heres-how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-being-welcoming-220718?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2030%202024%20-%202862629051&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2030%202024%20-%202862629051+CID_27819bf7ff4a026524a4895146080120&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Friendship%20is%20crucial%20for%20refugee%20children%20%20heres%20how%20to%20talk%20to%20your%20child%20about%20being%20welcoming

(Source: *The Conversation*, 30 Jan 2024)

Important – and moving – article:

“In Ireland, where I carried out my research, schools in every county are welcoming Ukrainian refugee pupils. In the UK, there are refugees in every local authority area, and over 400 schools have become “schools of sanctuary”, declaring their commitment to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees.

It is likely that your child will have refugees in their school and maybe their class. There are a number of very simple things parents can do to encourage their children to welcome displaced children rather than emphasising their differences.”

The article also has a link to a booklist, *Together with refugees*, produced by Children’s Books Ireland and UNHCR, 2023,

https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2021-08/CBI_Book_List_UNHCR_Together_With_Refugees.pdf.

Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“From social care to homelessness, what are the cost pressures facing English councils?”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/28/from-social-care-to-homelessness-what-are-the-cost-pressures-facing-english-councils>

(Source: *Later Life AGenda*, 30 Jan 2024)

Just in case you haven't seen this article summarising the current position.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

2023 Statehouse Report: right-wing attacks on the freedom to invest responsibly falter in legislatures

Summary: https://www.pleiadesstrategy.com/state-house-report-bill-tracker-republican-anti-esg-attacks-on-freedom-to-invest-responsibly-earns-business-labor-and-environmental-opposition?mc_cid=a77ab9feba&mc_eid=e91604b40f

Full report:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VJ82mMNupoFSZPQ98nLcW7AtcyBQWB18/view>

(Source: Left Foot Forward *Right Wing Watch*, 20 Jan 2024)

This is an interesting demonstration of where the “anti-woke” agenda can lead (the report tracks attacks on the ESG [environmental, social, and corporate governance] agenda):

“In 2023 Republican lawmakers in 37 states introduced 165 pieces of legislation to weaponize government funds, contracts, and pensions to prevent companies and investors from considering commonplace risk factors in making responsible, risk-adjusted investment decision.” [Taken from summary]