

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 408, 28 November 2024

Events

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

Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

“Majority back British Museum exhibit on transatlantic slave trade”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/21/majority-back-british-museum-exhibit-on-transatlantic-slave-trade>

Just in case you haven't seen this article (the story also got coverage in many other media outlets):

“New poll finds 53% of Britons support permanent exhibition on Britain's role in slave trade at British Museum”

Advancing antiracist therapy for racialised communities

<https://media.equality-trust.out.re/uploads/2024/10/BLAMReportCompressed.pdf>

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, Oct 2024)

Important new report from the Equality Trust and BLAM (the Black, Learning and Mental Health organisation).

“The COVID-19 pandemic, the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, and race riots across the UK have made the psychological toll of racism more visible and urgent. Racism is not just an isolated act of discrimination; it is a pervasive and cumulative force that shapes every aspect of life for Black and racialised people. It is a fundamental cause and driver of poor mental health, causing trauma and race-based stress and disparities in mental health outcomes.

However when people from racialised communities, particularly Black people, need treatment arising from racial injury, they are met with unsafe pathways to care, culturally inappropriate services and ultimately experience poorer outcomes [...]

This report calls for an urgent reevaluation of how we address mental health in the UK by examining the intersections of racism, inequality, and mental health.” [p6]

The report has a series of key recommendations, including, for example, incorporating anti-racism as a core principle in the new Mental Health Act.

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

Culture, Climate and Environmental Responsibility Report 2023/24

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-creativity-and-culture/environmental-responsibility/culture-climate-and-environmental-responsibility-report-202324>

(Source: *Museum Development North Newsletter*, 22 Nov 2024)

This new report from ACE and Julie's Bicycle:

"[...] covers National Portfolio Organisations' environmental data and their creative and inspirational responses to the climate crisis in 2023/24. This is the first year of reporting from the 2023-26 portfolio engaging with the Investment Principles in the Arts Council's Let's Create strategy.

The report offers insights into the creative and cultural sector's continuing commitment to Environmental Responsibility, showing success stories and how organisations are understanding and reducing their environmental impact. The report covers climate action ranging across key areas including clean energy, biodiversity, programming work, campaigning, governance, and the small everyday acts of care that are the conditions for transformative change." [Taken from website]

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

A class act: social mobility and the creative industries

<https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/A-Class-Act.pdf>

(Source: LinkedIn)

This is the new report which has had considerable media coverage:

"From acting in an award-winning film to producing a number one album, getting to the top of the creative industries is a dream for many young people. But access to such careers, both behind the scenes and in front of an audience, is currently far from equal. For young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds in particular, there are major barriers."

[Taken from: <https://www.suttontrust.com/our-research/a-class-act/>]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

"Digital exclusion on the rise in Kent - are we doing enough to help older people left behind by technology?"

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/kent/news/sometimes-i-go-back-to-my-car-and-cry-is-technology-leavi-315571/>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 11 Nov 2024)

Interesting & important article:

"Whether it's scanning a QR code to access a menu, paying for parking on a phone, or simply booking a GP appointment online – essential parts of our daily lives are fast becoming intertwined with tech.

But what happens to those unable to keep pace with the rate of digital change – or who choose not to engage – and will they, in effect, become ‘locked out’ of society altogether?”

“New research hub to counter ‘distortion and trivialisation’ of Holocaust”

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/11/new-research-hub-to-counter-distortion-and-trivialisation-of-holocaust/#>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 19 Nov 2024)

“Sussex University is to house a new research hub dedicated on building digital expertise across the global Holocaust commemoration and education sector.”

The “Landecker Digital Memory Lab: Connective Holocaust Commemoration” is at: <https://www.alfredlandecker.org/en/projects/landecker-digital-memory-lab>.

Older people and essential skills

<https://learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/older-people-and-essential-skills/>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 18 Nov 2024)

“Age UK commissioned Learning and Work Institute to explore the prevalence and impact of low essential skills among people aged 50+ and identify recommendations for policy and practice to support more older people to improve their skills.

The research draws on existing data to highlight that an estimated 6 million adult aged 50 and over have difficulties with maths, and the same number have difficulties with literacy.” [Taken from website]

The spirit level at 15

<https://media.equality-trust.out.re/uploads/2024/07/The-Spirit-Level-at-15-2024-FINAL.pdf>

Very important new title from the Equality Trust:

“In 2009, the bestselling and award winning book, *The Spirit Level*, sounded the alarm on the corrosive effects of economic injustice. At a time when only a few academics were exploring this issue, the book provided a comprehensive analysis linking the negative effects of inequality to a wide range of social ills – from higher rates of imprisonment and mental health issues to eroded trust within society. It revolutionised the way we looked at, measured and understood the impacts of inequality [...]

The book’s original release coincided with a change in the UK government after the 2010 election which ushered in years of austerity along with cuts to vital public services. It has been described as ‘the most influential and talked-about book on society in the last decade.’ 15 years on its warnings ring truer than ever. Billionaire wealth has skyrocketed, and the richest 52 families in the UK now have more wealth than the bottom half of the population. If this trend continues, by 2035, the richest

200 families will have more wealth than the entire UK GDP.” [Taken from: <https://equalitytrust.org.uk/evidence-base/the-spirit-level-at-15/>]

“Digital inclusion: what the main UK datasets tell us”

https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/policy-and-research/research-and-evidence/research-2024/digital-inclusion-datasets?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Datasets&utm_content=Link+-+B

(Source: *Good News from Good Things Foundation*, Oct 2024)

This review by Good Things Foundation, Lloyds Banking Group, Nominet, and University of Liverpool gives an overview of the main UK datasets on digital inclusion. The headline stats are worth a particular read.

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

“How women’s basic rights and freedoms are being eroded all over the world”

https://theconversation.com/how-womens-basic-rights-and-freedoms-are-being-eroded-all-over-the-world-243302?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2020%202024%20-%203171232344&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2020%202024%20-%203171232344+CID_b52aa3a12eb6fbf118fa2ade9171a97&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20womens%20basic%20rights%20and%20freedoms%20are%20being%20eroded%20all%20over%20the%20world

(Source: *The Conversation*, 21 Nov 2024)

Very important article which concludes:

“If the world can tolerate the Taliban’s abuses, Iraq’s restrictive laws and the US restrictions on abortion access, it reveals the fragility of women’s and girls’ rights globally, and how easy it is to take them away.”

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

Healthier working lives: the role of local governments

https://learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/healthier-working-lives/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=New%20report%3A%20%20Healthier%20working%20lives&utm_campaign=New%20report%3A%20%20Healthier%20working%20lives&vgo_ee=R6%2FJWBfIXCOmFyPEKVtM4AsifBy0DPREjW4c%2FgdgKjXnGw%3D%3D%3Au2hBb1ddAoNxXHf6ltw4L24Qp9QF%2BqZW

(Source: email from the Learning and Work Institute, 26 Nov 2024)

“This paper is aimed at local governments to help them consider the actions they can take to improve the working health of their residents, focusing on how they can engage with employers to create healthier workplaces. Local governments are uniquely placed to improve their residents’ working health and they are already engaged in substantial programmes of work to do this. However, due to funding constraints,

fragmentation, lack of coordination and a weak evidence base, this area of work requires more support and better understanding to maximise impact across the country.” [p6]

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Tackling health inequalities: seven priorities for the NHS”

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/tackling-health-inequalities-seven-priorities-nhs>

(Source: UK Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) Network *Network Bulletin*, 17 Oct 2024)

Important new report:

“Drawing on The King’s Fund’s five-year programme of work on health inequalities and tackling the worst health outcomes, which includes insights from stakeholders, partners and people with lived experience, this long read outlines what we think the anticipated 10-year health plan should focus on to help the NHS do more to tackle these challenges.”

It also includes brief info about, for example, “Avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health experiences and outcomes” and “Barriers to accessing services”.

The Big Mental Health Report 2024

Web summary: https://www.mind.org.uk/about-us/our-policy-work/reports-and-guides/the-big-mental-health-report-2024/?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=bmhr&utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2024&utm_campaign=6618fe25b3-Newsletter+March+2+2024_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-6618fe25b3-120687778#findings

Full report: <https://www.mind.org.uk/media/vbbdclpi/the-big-mental-health-report-2024-mind.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 25 Nov 2024)

“We’re currently in the middle of a mental health crisis. The scale and severity of mental health need is spiralling, but too many of us aren’t getting the help we need.

A lack of funding and resources, financial insecurity, racism, discrimination, stigma – they’re all playing a part in the problems many of us are facing. The system is at breaking point and without urgent action things will get worse. This would be a catastrophe for people and their communities [...]

But to address the mental health crisis, we need to really understand it first. That means having a clear, consistent source of information that lays out what’s happening and where improvements are needed.

The Big Mental Health Report is designed to do just that. For the first time, we will have an annual overview of the state of mental health in England and Wales from the latest available evidence.” [p4]

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

NLISN News

<https://nlisn.org/2024/11/24/nlisn-news-winter-2024/>

The first issue of *NLISN News* has been published by the Neurodivergent Library and Information Staff Network – a really interesting & useful new resource.

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

“New poetry project launches across Norfolk libraries to celebrate Norfolk as a county of welcome”

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/63849/New-poetry-project-launches-across-Norfolk-libraries-to-celebrate-Norfolk-as-a-county-of-welcome>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 24 Nov 2024)

“Norfolk Library and Information Service has teamed up with Creative Arts East on a multi-lingual Words of Welcome Poetry Exchange, launching this month in all 47 libraries across the county. The project aims to celebrate Norfolk’s cultural diversity and showcase it as a place of welcome, by inviting library visitors to read specially commissioned poems on the themes of welcome and sanctuary, and respond with their own ‘words of welcome’.”

Migration issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations: Libraries of Sanctuary

“The Migration Museum’s Annual Lecture 2024: ‘Does the story of migration shape its future?’”

https://www.britishfuture.org/the-migration-museums-annual-lecture-2024-does-the-story-of-migration-shape-its-future/?mc_cid=5a07735afa&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 18 Nov 2024)

Full text and link to a recording of this event:

“On 12 November, British Future’s Director Sunder Katwala gave the Migration Museum’s Annual Lecture at the Merchant Taylors’ Hall in London. His thought-provoking speech asked guests to consider: if we engage and educate people about the history of immigration, how much can we hope or expect to change about how we talk and think about its future?”

The lecture has an interesting and challenging conclusion:

“But if we use the history well, it could help us to live well together and embrace a changing idea of ‘us’, in which everybody’s voice can be heard.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

No reason for no recourse: why reform of ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ conditions would be good for London and the UK

<https://wpieconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/No-recourse-report-v3-web.pdf>

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 18 Nov 2024)

This new report from the Centre for Social Policy Studies illustrates how the NRPF policies are having a major impact on people:

“Legal migrants to the UK, many of whom are working in schools, hospitals and across all UK industries, make a significant economic contribution, without this being reciprocated with support from the state if they need it. This is because many migrants have a No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition on their visas. This means they are unable to access a range of financial and in-kind support that UK citizens making the same contribution in the same workplace, would be able to.”
[p4]

and makes a powerful case for reforming the system.

“Does immigration really drive up crime? Not according to the evidence”

https://theconversation.com/does-immigration-really-drive-up-crime-not-according-to-the-evidence-242446?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2019%202024%20-%203170132334&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2019%202024%20-%203170132334+CID_28ec9e50fea17809c3881dd4597b844b&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Does%20immigration%20really%20drive%20up%20crime%20Not%20according%20to%20the%20evidence

(Source: *The Conversation*, 20 Nov 2024)

Interesting article:

“[...] immigration and crime were two of the top three issues for Trump voters in the 2024 election, after the economy.

But what does the evidence really show? Our analysis reveals that studies consistently find no causal link between immigration and increased crime across a variety of countries. Research from the US, including both older and more recent studies, as well as research on Italy and the UK, demonstrates that immigration does not have a significant impact on crime rates.

Our paper also provides new evidence from Europe that reinforces this conclusion. After analysing 15 years of data on immigration inflows and crime rates across 216 regions in 23 European countries, we found no significant link between immigration levels and crime rates.”

The article also has a link to the research report itself:
<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.38.1.181>.

“Why Europe’s Migration Crisis Starts in Africa”

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/why-europes-migration-crisis-starts-in-africa>

(Source: Social Europe *Newsletter*, 18 Nov 2024)

Important article which argues that “Europe can’t solve its migration crisis without tackling Africa’s poverty and instability at the source.”

It looks at two opposing arguments about how to solve these issues – but concludes:

“What both arguments ignore is the extent to which state failure has been caused, or at least exacerbated, by globalisation – which has licensed the free trade in arms, foodstuffs, and commodities – and geopolitical rivalry, which has inserted China into the scramble for minerals and influence in Africa. The destruction of traditional farming systems in the name of efficiency has left the world’s poorest countries dangerously dependent on volatile food imports. As we saw following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, blockades, sanctions, and other impediments to exports of wheat and fertilizer inflicted large-scale collateral damage on African economies. Rising food prices may cause hardship in Europe, but they cause famine in Africa.”

“Better Pathways for people with no recourse to public funds”

<https://www.brushstrokessandwell.org.uk/nrpf-better-pathways>

(Source: West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership *Newsletter*, Nov 2024)

“The 14-month Better Pathways project, funded by Barrow Cadbury Trust and led by Brushstrokes Community Project, sought to bring to the fore the voices of individuals with lived experiences of the ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ (NRPF) condition, living in the West Midlands, to listen to their experiences of both challenges and positive experiences of support.

The project steering group brought together people with lived experience of NRPF, representatives from local authorities, children’s trusts and local charities has met throughout the project and, along with additional contributors, to co-create a West Midlands NRPF Best Practice Charter.

The aim of the Charter is to provide support for frontline practitioners in the statutory and voluntary sector working with people with NRPF to support the vital and complex work they are doing under challenging circumstances.

In addition to the Charter, a four-part briefing paper series responds to current areas of challenge arising for cross-sector frontline practitioners who are supporting individuals and families with the NRPF condition. Each briefing paper collates up-to-date information on legal definitions, policy changes, insights from academic research, shares reflections and

good practice from frontline practitioners across the statutory and third sectors, and signposts to useful resources.”

“Afghan asylum seekers and refugees in the UK”

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/afghan-asylum-seekers-and-refugees-in-the-uk/>

(Source: West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership *Newsletter*, Nov 2024)

Published 25 Oct:

“This briefing examines the migration of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees to the UK. It presents statistics on the number of Afghans arriving via small boat, and those given protection in the UK under the two main resettlement schemes for Afghans: the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).”

“Irish indigenous identity is being invoked to stir up antagonism towards immigrants”

https://theconversation.com/irish-indigenous-identity-is-being-invoked-to-stir-up-antagonism-towards-immigrants-243889?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2025%202024%20-%203176232396&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%2025%202024%20-%203176232396+CID_dedefacaec8969e9be499292afec210&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Irish%20indigenous%20identity%20is%20being%20invoked%20to%20stir%20up%20antagonism%20towards%20immigrants

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

Very interesting article, outlining how “[...] the white, settled (as opposed to travelling), Irish identity [is being] positioned as an indigenous experience.”

“Racial abuse, physical assaults and no beds: asylum seekers tell of brutal conditions at Manston migrant centre”

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/nov/23/racial-abuse-physical-assaults-and-no-beds-asylum-seekers-tell-of-brutal-conditions-at-manston-migrant-centre?mc_cid=26abc33ce9&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 25 Nov 2024)

Just in case you didn't see this article ...

A data briefing from the NACCOM Network: understanding destitution and homelessness in the asylum and immigration system 2023 / 2024

Full report: <https://nacom.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/FINAL-NACCOM-Annual-Survey-Briefing-2024.pdf>

Web summary: <https://nacom.org.uk/launching-our-new-data-briefing-2024-understanding-destitution-and-homelessness-in-the-asylum-and-immigration-system/>

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 25 Nov 2024)

“NACCOM’s latest Annual Survey data reveals that destitution and homelessness in migrant and refugee communities are on the rise in the

UK, with thousands of people in the asylum and wider immigration system routinely experiencing trauma and hardship.” [Taken from summary]

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

LGBTQIA+ inclusion in European museums: an incomplete guideline

https://www.nemo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/Publications/NEMO_report_LGBTQIA_inclusion_in_European_museums-An_incomplete_guideline_2024.pdf

(Source: Queer Heritage & Collections Network *Newsletter*, Nov 2024)

This important resource has just been published:

“In this guideline, the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) addresses the critical issue of ensuring that all communities feel welcome in the museum by implementing LGBTQIA+ inclusive policies in museums. Building on insights gathered from museum professionals across Europe, NEMO aims to support institutions in becoming more inclusive spaces for everyone.”

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

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Will the cycle of violence ever end? TGEU’s Trans Murder Monitoring project crosses 5,000 cases”

<https://tgeu.org/will-the-cycle-of-violence-ever-end-tgeus-trans-murder-monitoring-project-crosses-5000-cases/>

(Source: email from QueerAF, 16 Nov 2024)

“Murders of trans people remain at alarming levels as anti-rights sentiments spread and transphobic agendas take hold worldwide. Current laws and policies fail to address violence against trans people.

To mark the start of Trans Awareness Week 2024, leading up to Trans Day of Remembrance on November 20, TGEU—Trans Europe and Central Asia—is releasing the annual update of its global Trans Murder Monitoring project. This research initiative monitors the murders of trans and gender diverse people globally, documenting cases since 2008.

350 trans and gender diverse people were reported murdered since the 2023 update. This is a significant increase in comparison with the previous year, when 321 cases were reported. It confirms what the trans community has been saying – transphobic violence is in no way subsiding, and on the contrary, is increasing, aided by growing anti-trans hate speech. This year, the Trans Murder Monitoring project has documented one of the highest death tolls since its beginning in 2008.”