



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 288, 22 October 2019

Events

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

Funding & Opportunities

“New £250 million Culture Investment Fund launched”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-250-million-culture-investment-fund-launched>

Press release 12 Oct, announcing the launch of this new fund:

“Innovative cultural projects, libraries, museums and creative industries will benefit from £250m of new funding for the culture and creative sector, the Culture Secretary announced today.

Of this new funding over £125m will be invested in regional museums and libraries around the country. More than £90m will be provided to extend the Cultural Development Fund which uses investment in heritage, culture and creativity to drive regeneration and growth.

A further £18.5 million has been allocated to York’s National Railway Museum, and an extra £7 million for Coventry and the UK City of Culture programme.

In total, over the next 5 years, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will invest an additional £50 million each year in culture and the creative industries across England to revitalise existing assets and to support new cultural development.”

I’m sure we’ll return to this ...

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

The white elephant in the room: ideas for reducing racial inequalities in higher education

https://www.hepi.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/HEPI_The-white-elephant-in-the-room_Report-120-FINAL-EMBAROED-19.09.19.pdf

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 10 Oct 2019)

Important collection of essays looking at how to tackle racism and racial inequality in HE. As Kalwant Bhopal says in his chapter, “Race matters”:

“Current scholarship on race in UK higher education consistently highlights the pervasiveness of institutional racism, which persists despite the presence of equality and diversity policies and the 2010 Equalities Act [...]” [p11]

Of particular interest is the essay by Margot Finn, “Decolonising History? Reflections on the Royal Historical Society’s 2018 Report”, which sets out key steps to take.

Messaging checklist for advocates to build solidarity across difference
<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/images/blog/Solidarity%20Across%20Difference%20Messaging%20Checklist%202019.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 10 Oct 2019)

New from Runnymede Trust, this toolkit (produced in conjunction with CLASS) aims to start “A conversation about politics and inequality which builds solidarity across ordinary people to address the urgent issues facing society today.” [p1]

The toolkit begins by identifying the main issues:

- “1. Ordinary people in the UK have been actively held back by precariousness, lack of voice, prejudice and loss of community space; from the rural towns of Northern England to the tower blocks of London [...]
2. Instead of seeing their voices and struggles centred on the political agenda, communities have been divided and pitched against one another in the public debate, often along the lines of Brexiteers/Remainers, deserving/undeserving, British/foreigner, white/BME, white/migrant.
3. ‘Divide and rule’ tactics have fuelled scaremongering and prejudice against migrants and people of colour and distracted us from addressing the urgent issues facing communities today: a rigged system privileging a wealthy few at the top.
4. This needs to change.” [p1]

What the toolkit is proposing instead is “[...] to ensure our messages keep challenging ‘divide and rule’ while building solidarity across difference.” [p1]

They identify 12 common traps in the way we have conversations on race, class and immigration, and the toolkit suggests alternatives to promote a stronger, more positive and more engaging message.

The toolkit is set out as a table, with column headings of “Don’t”, “Instead, do”, and “So that ...”; for example [taken from p2]:

Don't	Instead, do	So that ...
<p>1. Ignore the challenges and fears facing working class people today</p>	<p>Recognize that the working class has not only been left behind, but actively held back by precariousness, prejudice, lack of power and loss of community space. Highlight that such issues affect all working class people, regardless of their skin colour or where they come from.</p>	<p>We avoid division and open up a conversation on how to actually address these challenges: investing in communities and services, tackling disadvantage, strengthening voice and participation, creating jobs, etc.</p>

Very useful and important checklist, recommended.

“We must turn the tide on inequality for all our children”

https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/we-must-turn-tide-inequality-all-our-children?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%207%20Oct%2019&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%207%20Oct%2019+CID_f21c160f057acff9adaef0949b0821d5&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20the%20blog

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 11 Oct 2019)

Powerful blogpost by Andrea Barry (Senior Analyst at JRF), which, drawing on her own experiences of racism in the US and UK, highlights the links between ethnicity and poverty:

“A person's ethnicity can mean they're more likely to be locked in poverty than other people. It's the right thing to do to change our policies and systems to enable everyone to break free from poverty.”

Poverty in Scotland 2019

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-scotland-2019>

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 11 Oct 2019)

This new report from JRF “[...] looks at the impact that governments have had on poverty in Scotland over the past 20 years and how this evidence can be used to inform policy development for the future.”

The headline conclusions are:

- “Poverty in Scotland is rising, from an already unacceptably high level. More people are facing situations where they cannot afford the basics nor play a full role in society. Almost one in five people in Scotland live in poverty, and for children the situation is worse, with one in four in poverty.
- We need to open up routes out of poverty and try to prevent more people from being trapped in this situation. History over the past 20 years tells

us that this can be done. If there are the foundations that allow people to build a stable financial future, then poverty will fall.

- This report shows the range of tools government has for solving poverty. New analysis shows the key role of housing in people's lives, and how types of housing, and the lower cost of housing in particular in the social rented sector, mean that poverty is significantly lower in Scotland than in the rest of the UK overall.
- The announcement of the Scottish Child Payment earlier this summer shows how seriously the Scottish Government is taking its legal obligations on reducing child poverty. But to reach the child poverty targets, and to make a Scotland without poverty for all a reality, we need a number of ambitious solutions across work, housing and social security."

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

"Can cultural activities protect people against depression in older age?"

<https://www.nationalelfservice.net/mental-health/depression/cultural-activities-depression/>

(Source: MARCH Mental Health Network *Newsletter*, Oct 2019)

Interesting blogpost outlining the results of recent research into the evidence for cultural engagement being a protective factor against depression.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Music and health: a short review of research and practice for BBC Music Day 2019

<https://www.thriveldn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NEA-Music-and-Health-BBC-document-R5-Singles.pdf>

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 12 Oct 2019)

This short paper outlines ways in which we interact with music; looks at some examples of 'bringing participatory music to people'; gives some examples of research that is being carried out to show the effects and benefits of music; and summarises the key findings from research, including:

"In order to increase individual wellbeing and social benefit, engagement for everyone, regardless of background, demographic or social group, in music and other creative activities for at least two hours a week should be promoted by public agencies, alongside regular exercise and a healthy diet, as part of a healthy lifestyle." [p11]

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

"Meet the GlaswegAsians: Glasgow's South Asian heritage"

<https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2019/06/glasgows-south-asian-history/>

(Source: *Black & Asian Heritage Mix Newsletter*, Oct 2019)

Guest blogpost which gives a brief, interesting look at Glasgow's South Asian heritage. The author, Saqib Razzaq is a Project Officer with Colourful Heritage* and is involved in video interviewing the South Asian elders to capture and preserve their story.

*“Colourful Heritage is the first and largest community focussed charitable initiative in Scotland aiming to preserve the South Asian and Muslim heritage in Scotland. We have created the largest online archive of video stories from the elderly South Asians that came to Scotland.” See: <https://www.colourfulheritage.com/>.

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“15 things LGBTQ people of colour want you to know”

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/15-things-lgbtq-people-colour-want-you-know?utm_source=Stonewall+Newsletter&utm_campaign=ba667f1145-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_09_03_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2efb92031c-ba667f1145-211168265&mc_cid=ba667f1145&mc_eid=bfb9d438cb

(Source: *Stonewall Newsletter*, Oct 2019)

“The experiences of LGBTQ people of colour can often be misunderstood, and based on assumptions and prejudices. They can seem fully erased from LGBTQ stories.

This [Black History Month](#), some of Stonewall’s Black, Asian and minority ethnic members of staff want to tackle a number of common myths and misconceptions, and clarify the questions constantly asked of QTIPOC (queer, trans and/or intersex people of colour). To ensure that we're moving towards LGBTQ equality, it's so important we listen to the voices of the people who've historically been excluded from our communities. Whether you're white or not, LGBTQ or not, this blog is a good way to find out how to be a better ally to QTIPOC.”

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

“When is a library a lifeline?”

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/blog/when-library-lifeline?cldee=am9obkBuYWRkZXlub3JnLnVr&recipientid=contact-a4733678e9aee511937a005056915655-ce1250f903904be094f66f3b3703d200&esid=4cf0d6d2-a7e9-e911-bf9e-005056911737>

(Source: email from Arts Council England, 10 Oct 2019)

“Kerry Hudson, author of *Lowborn*, marks this year's Libraries Week by blogging about how libraries changed her life.”

BBC “Novels that changed our world” festival

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/libraries-connected-novels-shaped-our-world-festival>

(Source: Libraries Connected update, Oct 2019)

Press release from Libraries Connected:

“An exciting new programme of library activities, events and partnerships designed to celebrate the novel and promote the joy of reading,

particularly to new and diverse audiences, is unveiled today as part of the BBC's The Novels That Shaped Our World festival [...]

Libraries Connected will work with BBC Arts and libraries to deliver a programme of innovative activities for all communities, from voracious readers to those who haven't read a novel in years, with opportunities for everyone to try something new to read. Libraries will commission artists, creatives and local partners who specialise in working with vulnerable groups, including refugees, young people at risk of knife crime and adults with dementia."

How can we engage more young people in arts and culture? A guide to what works for funders and arts organisations

https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/arts/?utm_source=New%20Philanthropy%20Capital&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10951555_Weekly%20eshot%2007.10.19

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital NPC's weekly update, 8 Oct 2019)

Starting from the point that:

"People from poorer backgrounds continue to be less likely to engage with the arts, and the same is true for people of black, Asian or minority ethnic heritage (BAME). If you are disabled, come from a lower socioeconomic group, don't own your own home, or don't have higher level qualifications, you are less likely to have participated in the arts in the past 12 months [...]" [p4]

this report then looks at the gap that philanthropists need to be able to fill.

"In this report, we examine why it can be difficult for young people to engage with the offer of arts organisations and propose a framework for overcoming these barriers. Our work is based on a literature review, workshops and interviews with arts organisations, and focus groups and interviews with young people [...]" [p4]

Although we've seen this elsewhere, nevertheless the section on 'understanding the barriers' (which the report sees as: attitudinal; functional; and practical) is a good introduction to thinking through what barriers there may be to accessing our provision.