



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 307, 17 August 2020

### Events

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

### Black Lives Matter

#### “Resources on anti-racism”

<https://anti-racism.cityofsanctuary.org/>

(Source: City of Sanctuary *Newsletter*, Aug 2020)

City of Sanctuary have added new webpages as part of their being more explicit about anti-racism:

“[...] we need to be actively thinking about how we can contribute to the anti-racist movement and stand up against racism. We don’t need to re-invent the wheel because there is good work already happening – but we do need to spend some time learning, reading, watching, listening and challenging ourselves and developing the confidence to challenge others. These resources meet a range of learning styles. Some of them require hours of study. Other resources will take less time to learn something.”

#### “The rise and fall of Black British writing”

[https://theconversation.com/the-rise-and-fall-of-black-british-writing-144435?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201704216451&utm\\_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201704216451+CID\\_d24992984ce280083f5736320e229f54&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=The%20rise%20and%20fall%20of%20Black%20British%20writing](https://theconversation.com/the-rise-and-fall-of-black-british-writing-144435?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201704216451&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201704216451+CID_d24992984ce280083f5736320e229f54&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20rise%20and%20fall%20of%20Black%20British%20writing)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 15 Aug 2020)

Very interesting article by Malachi McIntosh (Emeritus lecturer in British Black and Asian Literature, Queen Mary University of London), which celebrates the current excitement around Black British writing, but also sounds a warning – this has happened in the past, but the gains were not sustained:

“While it is far too early to make a judgement on how long the current boom will last, the way this moment repeats a pattern of social change followed by publishing frenzy is at least worthy of attention - and perhaps scepticism. So often the present seems unprecedented, but in order for it to be truly revolutionary, novel, status-quo shifting – liberating – the changes we see within it have to be sustained.”

### **“Decolonisation of the Curriculum”**

<https://aralearning.wordpress.com/2020/08/14/decolonisation-of-the-curriculum-alex-healey-ales-chair/>

(Source: email from ARA Learning, 14 Aug 2020)

Blogpost by Alex Healey (Chair of the Archives for Learning and Education Section [ALES], ARA), summarising the importance of decolonisation and the work being done by ALES.

### **Coronavirus/COVID-19**

#### **Poverty and COVID-19: a report of the Social Metrics Commission**

<https://socialmetricscommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SMC-Poverty-and-Covid-Report.pdf>

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 7 Aug 2020)

“This report uses original analysis of a new YouGov poll of close to 80,000 people between March and May 2020. Based on the approach of the Social Metrics Commission’s poverty measurement framework, it provides early indications of the likely scale and nature of poverty impacts coming from the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK.” [p2]

The report includes a range of important findings, eg:

- “Those employed prior to the crisis and already in the deepest forms of poverty have been most heavily impacted by the economic fallout. For example, compared to those more than 20% above the poverty line, those more than 50% below the poverty line have been 15 percentage points more likely to have experienced a negative labour market outcome.
- Groups already over-represented amongst the population in poverty have also been most heavily impacted by the crisis. For example, disabled people employed before the Covid-19 pandemic have been 4 percentage points more likely to have experienced a negative labour market outcome than people without a disability” [p2]

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

### **“Targeted action for parts of Britain at risk of surging unemployment”**

[https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/targeted-action-parts-britain-risk-surging-unemployment?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2010%20August%202020&utm\\_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2010%20August%202020+CID\\_df55a41444d8866149132780273be1a0&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Read%20the%20research](https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/targeted-action-parts-britain-risk-surging-unemployment?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2010%20August%202020&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2010%20August%202020+CID_df55a41444d8866149132780273be1a0&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20the%20research)

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 14 Aug 2020)

JRF blogpost highlighting their new research which:

“[...] for the first time identified the parts of Britain which will find it hardest to recover from the economic impact of the lockdown.”

The hardest-hit areas are likely to be: Brent; Barking and Dagenham; Newham; Blackpool; Haringey; Sandwell; South Tyneside; Pendle; Thanet; Ealing; Wolverhampton; Hartlepool; Walsall; City of Kingston Upon Hull; Waltham Forest; Oldham; Enfield; Tameside; Knowsley; Bradford.

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

#### **“Embedding Diversity at the heart of CILIP and its work”**

[https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/520033/Embedding-Diversity-at-the-heart-of-CILIP-and-its-work.htm?utm\\_source=Email%20marketing&utm\\_medium=Informz&utm\\_campaign=Email%20marketing](https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/520033/Embedding-Diversity-at-the-heart-of-CILIP-and-its-work.htm?utm_source=Email%20marketing&utm_medium=Informz&utm_campaign=Email%20marketing)

(Source: *CILIP News*, 5 Aug 2020)

“The CILIP Board has unanimously approved five new proposals for a comprehensive programme to diversify our leadership and governance.

Specifically, the Board unanimously approved the following:

- That CILIP will be creating an Anti-Racist Policy and action plan in close collaboration with our BAME Network.
- To amend the elections process for the Board to promote greater representation of BAME professionals in our leadership and governance, with an aspirational target of 20% representation on the CILIP Board by the end of 2020. Further details on how to put yourself forward for a place on the Board can be found here.
- To support all of CILIP’s Regional Member Networks, Special Interest Groups, CILIP Cymru Wales, CILIP Ireland and our delegated panels to diversify their boards and committees to reach our company-wide goal of 20% BAME representation on all of our committees by the end of 2022. To facilitate this, we are offering up to 150 complimentary memberships to library and information workers from BAME backgrounds who are selected to join a committee before the end of 2022.
- To work with our Diversity Networks and our Community, Diversity and Equality Group to establish an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Oversight Committee to accelerate the embedding of diversity and inclusion throughout CILIP.
- To implement an annual Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Audit.”

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### **“Strained Solidarities: On (re)building a mass anti-racist movement in Britain”**

<https://ceasefiremagazine.co.uk/strained-solidarities-rebuilding-mass-anti-racist-movement-britain/>

(Source: *Prevent Digest*, Jul 2020)

Very interesting ‘long-read’ article which argues that:

“Anti-racist activists in the UK must eschew stale debates over terminology and representation, and instead focus on building a movement rooted in structural knowledge and powered by cross-communal solidarity [...]”

### **Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies**

#### ***The Prince’s Trust youth index 2020***

[https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/news-views/youth-index-2020?utm\\_campaign=1500860\\_IYD%20-%20August%20ENews%202020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Prince%27s%20Trust&dm\\_i=4DH7,W62K,273YFE,3YQ1L,1](https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/news-views/youth-index-2020?utm_campaign=1500860_IYD%20-%20August%20ENews%202020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Prince%27s%20Trust&dm_i=4DH7,W62K,273YFE,3YQ1L,1)

(Source: email from the Prince’s Trust, 12 Aug 2020)

Latest annual ‘snapshot’ from the Trust:

“This year, the Index found that the overall wellbeing of 16 to 25-year-olds in the UK has dropped to its lowest ever level. The figures are based on data collected towards end of 2019, before we knew that a global pandemic was upon us and that we were heading into an economic crisis that would take such a brutal toll on the jobs market. The employment challenges facing young people today are arguably greater now than at any other point in living memory.” [p2]

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

### **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

#### **Schools of Sanctuary**

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

(Source: City of Sanctuary *Newsletter*, Aug 2020)

Schools of Sanctuary now has a new website, with updated news and resources.

“Schools of Sanctuary is a growing network with more than 350 primary and secondary schools all committed to supporting the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, creating a culture of welcome, and raising awareness of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers.”

#### ***Hear us: the experiences of refugee and asylum-seeking women during the pandemic***

[https://dfbbceaf-7cbc-4bfa-8f79-6a8a879c2c25.filesusr.com/ugd/d37102\\_3eb3a41885e24e648f049a972e7e3335.pdf](https://dfbbceaf-7cbc-4bfa-8f79-6a8a879c2c25.filesusr.com/ugd/d37102_3eb3a41885e24e648f049a972e7e3335.pdf)

(Source: City of Sanctuary *Newsletter*, Aug 2020)

“Sisters Not Strangers, a coalition of eight organisations, surveyed over 100 asylum-seeking women from England and Wales to hear how they are surviving during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was completed by women seeking and refused asylum, as well as those with leave to remain. These responses were supplemented by a survey of 24 staff and

volunteers who have been supporting asylum-seeking women since the outbreak.” [p4]

The report highlighted key issues around immigration status; food; housing; mental health; health and hygiene.

The recommendations include:

- “[...] a grant of leave to remain to be given to all those with insecure immigration status, to ensure the safety of those seeking asylum, to protect public health, and to enable British society to rebuild more equally.” [p16]
- Equality: “Everyone in the UK should be able to access sufficient income, safe housing and equality before the law” [p16]
- Care: “Everyone in the UK should be able to access care for their mental and physical health needs.” [p16]
- Connection: “Everyone in the UK needs to be able to access information about their rights and to be able to communicate effectively with others.” [p16] – this recommendation emphasises the importance of access to the internet.

#### **“COVID-19 in Newly Resettled Refugee Populations”**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/refugee-populations.html?mc\\_cid=c669be57ae&mc\\_eid=f042f48a83](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/refugee-populations.html?mc_cid=c669be57ae&mc_eid=f042f48a83)

(Source: Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services *Bulletin Alert*, Aug 2020)

New guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although entirely US-based, this info is helpful background:

“The impact of COVID-19 on the lives of resettled refugees remains unknown, as COVID-19 is a new disease. Meeting the healthcare and everyday needs of refugees, especially during health emergencies, can help keep communities safe.”

#### ***Wake up call: how government contracts fail people seeking asylum***

[https://asylummatters.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/117/2020/07/Wake-Up-Call-Report\\_July-2020\\_final.pdf](https://asylummatters.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/117/2020/07/Wake-Up-Call-Report_July-2020_final.pdf)

(Source: City of Sanctuary *Newsletter*, Aug 2020)

“This report brings together experiences shared by people with lived experience of the asylum system, and many organisations supporting them. It exposes a system characterised by substandard performance, fragility, an inability to withstand change and a tendency to lurch from crisis to crisis.” [p3]

#### ***From expendable to key workers and back again: immigration and the lottery of belonging in Britain***

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/ImmigrationAndTheLotteryOfBelongingFINALJuly2020.pdf>

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 31 Jul 2020)

“[This] report, which comprises a selection of essays from leading thinkers and policy makers on immigration, calls for a major overhaul of the UK’s broken and inhumane system. The contemporary Covid-19 pandemic continues to expose many of the UK’s immigration policies as not fit for purpose.” [Taken from:

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/equality-and-integration/immigration-and-the-lottery-of-belonging.html>]

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

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

#### **“Not the Marrying Kind...”**

<https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/not-the-marrying-kind/>

(Source: email from Di Stiff, Surrey History Centre to [archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk), 5 Aug 2020)

“We’ve also chosen a Pride theme with our latest Seeking Surrey Ancestors blog where Jane Lewis, our professional genealogist, looks at finding and acknowledging LGBTQ+ ancestors in your family tree” [taken from email]

### **LGBTQ+ issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

#### ***Attitudes to transgender people***

[https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/attitudes\\_to\\_transgender\\_people.pdf](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/attitudes_to_transgender_people.pdf)

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 13 Aug 2020)

Just published, this survey is based on an analysis of the British Social Attitudes survey for 2019. The conclusions include:

“The BSA data suggests that although attitudes vary across groups in society, public attitudes to transgender people are broadly positive. The public sees transphobia as wrong and is more likely to have positive rather than negative feelings about transgender people. However, attitudes are more nuanced in specific situations.

There were high levels of approval towards the employment of transgender people as police officers and primary school teachers. Approval levels were lower in relation to transgender people using public toilets corresponding to their gender identity, although the majority were still comfortable with this. Just half of respondents were comfortable with a transgender woman using a refuge for women who were victims of domestic violence. Little more than half thought that transgender people should be able to change the sex on their birth certificate.” [p35]