



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 308, 27 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

“A call for action”

https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=a-call-for-action-back-talk&utm_source=Marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=august18LJXpress

(Source: *LJXpress* – *Library Journal*, 18 Aug 2020)

Brief but helpful article by Cindy Hohl (President, American Indian Library Association):

“Black Lives Matter. Indigenous people should be honored and recognized. Xenophobia is not acceptable. This movement across our country is a call to action, and libraries are redefining what the scope of this work entails and how we need to take the appropriate action to create a safe space for everyone.

How do we accomplish this safe atmosphere while also employing police? How do we welcome patrons to explore our collections when there are not enough titles by diverse authors? How do we offer bilingual story times for families when the staff speaks only one language in a multicultural community?

The time is now for library leaders to get it right when crafting intentional diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) plans, as we focus our collective antiracism efforts toward helping our colleagues engage in thoughtful dialogue across our networks. This is not the time to layer empty slogans, hire expensive consultants, or use incomplete diversity plans.”

Funding & Opportunities

“Museums Change Lives Awards 2020”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/museums-change-lives/museums-change-lives-awards-2020/?utm_campaign=1794375_17082020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,12GJR,27LU0M,438A9,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 17 Aug 2020)

“We are calling for entries for the Museums Change Lives Awards 2020.

The Museums Change Lives Awards celebrate the achievements of museums and individuals that have made an impact on the lives of their audiences and communities, with winners to be announced at a ceremony during our online conference in November.

This year's Museums Change Lives awards will have four categories – including a new award for the **Best Lockdown Project**, which will recognise the best museum responses to the coronavirus crisis.

Other awards include the **Best Museums Change Lives Project** award, which will recognise the best project in the past year that reflects one or more of the themes of the MA's Museums Change Lives campaign: Promoting Health and Wellbeing; Creating Better Places; and Inspiring Engagement, Reflection and Debate.

There will also be an award for the **Best Small Museum Project** that delivers social impact, for museums with an annual turnover of less than £320,000.

There is also a **Radical Changemaker** award that will recognise the achievements of an individual in promoting one or more of the themes of Museums Change Lives in their museum. This award will be open to staff, freelancers and volunteers from across the sector.

You can find full details of the awards and how to apply on below. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the online nomination forms for each category. The deadline for entries is **Friday 25 September at 17.30.**"

Further details, including entry criteria, at above weblink.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Statutory Homelessness, January to March (Q1) 2020: England

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910409/Statutory_homelessness_release_Jan-Mar_2020.pdf

This experimental stats release:

"[...] provides information on local authority activities carried out under their statutory homelessness duties including amendments under the Homelessness Reduction Act (2017). It covers activities undertaken during January to March 2020 and households in temporary accommodation on 31st March 2020." [p1]

It's accompanied by "Detailed local authority level tables: January to March 2020", available to download from:

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statutory-homelessness-in-england-january-to-march-2020?utm_source=9b8c16ce-e464-417d-955d-

[35e899f0ee08&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily.](https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/TakingStockRaceEqualityInScotlandJuly2020.pdf)

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Taking stock: race equality in Scotland

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/publications/pdfs/TakingStockRaceEqualityInScotlandJuly2020.pdf>

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

“In 2016, we published *Scotland and Race Equality: Directions in Policy and Identity* [*], which drew together leading researchers and policy actors to understand and evaluate recent developments in race equality in Scotland. This follow-up report builds on the earlier publication but also draws on evidence presented at the conference event ‘Tackling Scotland’s Racism Problem’ held on 10 May 2019. The conference was focused on policy solutions and brought together practitioners, activists and politicians. This report includes contributions from MSPs (members of the Scottish Parliament), stakeholders and researchers, and is presented as a further and necessary check on how Scotland’s race equality agenda is developing and where it may be headed in the years to come.” [p6]

* see:

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Scottish%20Equality%20report%20v3.pdf>.

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

“Has Covid-19 really ended homelessness?”

<https://www.thinknpc.org/blog/has-covid-19-really-ended-homelessness/>

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital *Newsletter*, Aug 2020)

This blogpost begins by considering the “Everyone In” scheme, whereby:

“Over 5,400 people, who had been sleeping unsheltered pre-lockdown, were provided with accommodation in a matter of days. News articles talked about how Covid-19 had nearly ended homelessness in the UK, but to what extent is this true and what can funders do to ensure that this overnight progress on homelessness is not shown the door in coming months?”

[...] Covid-19, and the policy response to it, undoubtedly caused a paradigm shift in the homelessness system. It has shown that where the political will exists, it is possible to eliminate rough sleeping. But we should be cautious about any claims that Covid-19 has solved the issue of homelessness.”

It goes on to argue that:

“The majority of people who are homeless in the UK do not sleep rough. Last year, around 120,000 households became homeless in England,

including nearly 50,000 children. The vast majority of these people can be described as 'hidden homeless', living in temporary accommodation (such as council-provided B&Bs) or ad hoc shelter (such as sofa-surfing).

The best estimates suggest that people sleeping rough make up less than 5% of all people who are homeless. Therefore, merely providing shelter to those sleeping rough will have a limited impact on the wider issue of homelessness.”

“How racism and classism affect natural ecosystems”

https://theconversation.com/how-racism-and-classism-affect-natural-ecosystems-144751?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2020%202020%20-%201708316493&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2020%202020%20-%201708316493+CID_07a61bf882cd4993b6c817109016cdaa&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20racism%20and%20classism%20affect%20natural%20ecosystems

(Source: *The Conversation*, 20 Aug 2020)

Interesting article, based on new research, that argues that:

“Urban ecosystems are made up of lots of complex interactions between social and natural systems. The result is a variety of environmental conditions that wouldn’t exist without humans, such as industrial pollution, habitats lacking in biodiversity, and localised climate change in the form of urban heat island effects.

But these conditions can be unevenly distributed as a result of structural racism and classism.”

DevicesDotNow: interim impact report #3: 24 March - 31 July – end of campaign report and plans for the future

https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/interim_impact_report_3_devicesdotnow_july_2020_3.pdf

(Source: email from Good Things Foundation, 12 Aug 2020)

“In this new socially distanced world, FutureDotNow and Good Things Foundation are coordinating action through a new initiative called DevicesDotNow, targeting digitally excluded households without access to the internet.

1.9 million households in the UK don’t have access to the internet, meaning many vulnerable people are now cut off from the outside world. It’s impossible to shield effectively without a device and connectivity. No internet means no access to government websites and other critical online services, no accurate health information, no online purchases, no online learning and no video chat with family and friends.

Frontline organisations are in desperate need of digital devices for the vulnerable people in their communities so they can help them stay connected with the outside world. Although DevicesDotNow has delivered 4,270 devices through 349 community partners to date, we have also secured funding to support 5,921 further people, meaning we

have achieved our first goal of supporting 10,000 people. But this issue isn't going away and we'll be working tirelessly to achieve our next goal of helping 50,000 people.” [Taken from:
https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/devicesdotnow?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=2ce96b372d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-2ce96b372d-110066901]

In terms of the future:

“What next for the DevicesDotNow initiative? We will continue to support the most digitally excluded people in the UK by working in three areas:

- Nominet will lead on building a collaborative effort to distributing refurbished devices to communities through sharing information and top tips through a new Reboot website
- Good Things Foundation will embed personal access to devices and the internet in all its future work to ensure that digital inclusion leads to digital equality; and, in August, will begin working with major funders on two large personal access projects
- FutureDotNow will continue to advocate for people, and device and data poverty with Government and industry.” [p2]

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Immigration statistics, year ending June 2020”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020>

(Source: email from West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, via Dawn Beaumont, 27 Aug 2020)

Just published (27 Aug), these include:

- “Overview of the immigration system”,
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/overview-of-the-immigration-system>
- “Summary of latest statistics”,
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/summary-of-latest-statistics>
- “How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?”,
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>
- “Why do people come to the UK? To work”,
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work--2>
- “Why do people come to the UK? To study”,
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

- “Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons”, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>
- “How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?”, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>
- “How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?”, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>
- “How many people are detained or returned?”, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>
- “EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation”, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/experimental-statistics-asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation>

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“When hope is a dinghy in the Channel: how racism in Britain is a crisis of belonging”

https://theconversation.com/when-hope-is-a-dinghy-in-the-channel-how-racism-in-britain-is-a-crisis-of-belonging-144513?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2017%202020%20-%201706116468&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2017%202020-%201706116468+CID_68b97354d570d3f1f7cbe742a87efa3c&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=When%20hope%20is%20a%20dinghy%20in%20the%20Channel%20how%20racism%20in%20Britain%20is%20a%20crisis%20of%20belonging

(Source: *The Conversation*, 18 Aug 2020)

Powerful article looking at what happens to us all when the narrative is one:

“[...] that presents migrants and refugees as a threat to Britain. But these refugees and migrants in dinghies, people looking for a better life, are not the only group affected.

Such harmful narratives affect the rest of us, once refugees and migrants and now citizens contributing to building this country, as we watch these people demonised by right-wing scaremongering and callously left in distress at sea. These narratives become a threat to our sense of humanity and belonging, and provoke feelings of not being accepted by a country we now call home.”

Beyond belief: how the Home Office fails survivors of torture at the asylum interview

https://freedomfromtorturestories.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Beyond_Belief_report.pdf

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Jun-Jul 2020)

“In this report, Freedom from Torture throws light on a process that can be fraught with difficulty, leaving those at the heart of it feeling unheard, dehumanised and re-traumatised.” [p5]

Key findings include:

1. “Torture survivors were unable to give a full account and explain the relevance of their evidence when caseworkers failed to apply the principles and standards for asylum interviews set out in policy guidance. We found evidence of poor questioning technique, prejudice of the claimant’s credibility, and a failure by caseworkers to maintain a sensitive and professional approach to claimants at all times.
2. Torture was not consistently identified as a key fact in these asylum interviews [...]
3. Caseworkers did not always take into account individual circumstances, needs and vulnerabilities that the torture survivors brought into the interview, suggesting a failure in their duty to recognise and respond to the individual at the heart of the process.
4. A ‘positive and secure environment’ in which claimants are treated with ‘respect and humanity, dignity and fairness’ [...] as required by the Home Office guidance, was not maintained in many cases. At worst, some torture survivors described leaving the interview feeling dehumanised, re-traumatised and despairing of getting a fair decision.” [p6]

“I’ve been watching desperate people seek protection in Europe for 20 years – it’s time the narrative, and policies, changed”

https://theconversation.com/ive-been-watching-desperate-people-seek-protection-in-europe-for-20-years-its-time-the-narrative-and-policies-changed-144817?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2027%202020%20-%201714316558&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2027%2020-%201714316558+CID_be9495298e2b5ec6c3ba0557908adb19&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=lve%20been%20watching%20desperate%20people%20seek%20protection%20in%20Europe%20or%2020%20years%20%20its%20time%20the%20narrative%20and%20policies%20changed

(Source: *The Conversation*, 27 Aug 2020)

Article by Heaven Crawley, looking at the background to the current channel crossings:

“There is no pragmatic policymaking or acknowledgement that many of those crossing the Channel in search of protection come from countries in which there is well-documented conflict and human rights abuse. There is no admission that it is actually impossible for anyone to legally enter the UK in order to claim asylum, as is their right under international law. No acknowledgement that people are not obligated under international law to claim asylum in the first country they arrive in. This policy has been developed primarily by the EU to prevent so-called “asylum shopping” and, ultimately, to keep people out of the wealthier countries of northern Europe that are harder to reach.

What's more, there is virtually no recognition of the extensive body of research what drives migrants to make the choices they do [...]"

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

“Libraries remove vital trans teen book after disgraceful far-right letter writing campaign linking LGBT+ lives to paedophilia”

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/10/beyond-magenta-susan-kuklin-cork-city-library-ireland-far-right-homophobia-kelly/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 16 Aug 2020)

“*Beyond Magenta* by Susan Kuklin consists of six interviews with trans teenagers about their lives and was published in 2014.

Since then, the book has been assailed by anti-trans activists who have called for it to be banned.

Cork City Libraries opted to remove *Beyond Magenta* from its shelves and have it re-processed for ‘adult/YA lending’ – which requires adult consent – after they received a letter from a far-right activist.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

Out of the Margins: LBT+ exclusion through the lens of the SDGs: report on key research findings from the global Out of the Margins network

<https://outofthemargins.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Out-of-the-Margins-report-2020.pdf>

(Source: *Stonewall Supporter Newsletter*, 4 Aug 2020)

“*Out of the Margins* is a project and network working to build evidence on exclusion faced by lesbians, bi women and trans people (LBT+ communities) internationally, using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework. Created by Stonewall, the network currently spans 25 organisations in three world regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.” [p5]

The research looks at:

- Access to economic wellbeing
- Access to healthcare
- Access to education
- Personal security and violence
- Civic and political participation.

The report concludes:

“These initial findings show that there is an urgent need for further research in all of these areas. Most importantly, the research is needed at a community level. It must be actively led by community members who can engage with organisations to conduct research in their own communities, using methods appropriate to their contexts.” [p9]