

Ethnicity strand

Strand organisers: Professor Nissa Finney (University of St Andrews), Dr. Gemma Catney (Queen's University, Belfast)

4.45pm Monday 5 September: Ethnic inequalities during the pandemic: early results from the EVENS survey

Introducing the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) for understanding experiences of ethnic minorities during the coronavirus pandemic

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Stark evidence now exists that ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, with higher rates of death among Black and Asian people in Britain. Commentators have pointed to structural inequalities as underlying causes, including deprivation, occupational segregation and racism (e.g. Nazroo and Becares, 2020). However, a severe lack of data has hindered investigation of the experiences and causes of ethnic inequalities during the pandemic. This presentation will introduce the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS), the largest and most comprehensive survey of ethnic and religious minorities in Britain during the pandemic. EVENS, undertaken by the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), collected data between February and October 2021 using novel non-probability survey methods, thereby providing unrivalled data for 14,000 people, including 9,000 ethnic and religious minorities. EVENS is novel in enabling robust comparison between ethnic and religious groups, allowing reliable documentation of racism across the lifecourse and during the pandemic in institutional contexts including education, employment, policing and public spaces. The presentation will give methodological reflection on the innovative non-probability survey design prior to release of the survey to the research community via the UK Data Service in Autumn 2022

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Complex articulations of ethnic identity

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The concept of ethnicity is a socially constructed individual identity, shaped by a wide range of factors including ancestry or country of origin, physical characteristics, religious beliefs, culture and language (among others) (Aspinall, 1997, p. 690). Official ethnicity classifications used for administrative and monitoring purposes combine objective criteria such as place of birth, nationality and skin colour with a subjective element such as own perception of belonging to a particular group. Inclusion of the ethnicity question in the 1991 Census was driven by a need to know who the UK minorities are and what kinds of direct or indirect discrimination they experience (Williams and Husk, 2013, p292). Since 1991, the number of official ethnicity categories has been slowly growing in an attempt to better represent the main ethnic groups living in the UK. Despite these efforts, it is widely recognised that the existing ethnicity categorisations are insufficient to represent how all people identify. In this paper, we utilise a unique write-in ethnicity question from the EVENS survey to better understand how people articulate their ethnic identity when they are not constrained by the pre-defined 'boxes'. We begin by comparing the most and the least frequently used words and phrases to provide a general overview of the language used for expressing one's identity. We then differentiate between a wide range of semantic categories to understand and map conceptual underpinnings used for describing one's identity. To this end, we apply thematic analysis and classify all open-ended responses into broader conceptual categories based on the semantic meaning of the words used. This approach allows analysis of how well the existing ethnicity categories capture (or not) concepts that are meaningful to people for defining their ethnic identity. We find that the majority of people adopt the language used in standard ethnicity

categorisations; however, for a significant proportion of people, the classification based on one's origin or skin colour is not sufficient. The more complex articulations of ethnicity include: subnational, place-based identities; identities related to one's personal journey and the feeling of belonging to different communities at different points in time; family-related expressions of identity or those based on cultural/linguistic identifications.

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Local belonging, housing and ethnicity: descriptive results from EVENS

Joseph Harrison¹, Nissa Finney¹, Hannah Haycox² and Emma Hill¹; ¹University of St Andrews, ²University of Manchester

This paper uses EVENS to examine the disparities in residential experience between ethnic minorities, considering aspects of both housing and neighbourhood. EVENS enables the paper to comment on ethnic groups that are otherwise hard to study for those interested in concepts of housing, neighbourhood and home. We analyse four key topics: local belonging, outdoor space, overcrowding and accommodation types. Disparities are identified between ethnic groups including in comparison to White British. Key findings include higher local belonging for most ethnicities compared to White British; a disproportionate lack of outdoor space for Arab households with children compared to White British households; very high overcrowding for Roma and Pakistanis, driven by high numbers of households which include a third generation. On accommodation type the paper illustrates that Indian, Jewish and Irish have broadly similar distributions of accommodation types to White British. However, there are large differences between ethnic groups regarding living in flats and apartments and larger housing types, and the difference goes beyond simple geographic explanations. Our overall conclusions consolidate existing understanding of housing disadvantage for ethnic minorities that can only partly be explained by age structure and geographical distribution whilst highlighting high levels of attachment to local communities.

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Ethnic inequalities in socioeconomic circumstances under the weight of COVID-19

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In this paper we focus on two interrelated domains of ethnic inequalities in socioeconomic circumstances – general socioeconomic status and socioeconomic status under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic. We use Evidence for National Equality Survey (EVENS) data which provide to-date unrivalled inquiry into the lives of different ethnic groups in the UK. We describe ethnic inequalities in a range of socioeconomic measures: education, occupation, tenure and financial situation before the COVID-19 outbreak. We then focus on how people's financial situations have changed during the course of the pandemic, whether people have been receiving income-related benefits, whether they have experienced income change, and to what extent they worry about their financial situation. Examining the descriptive statistics results as well as fitting logistic regression models, we find that even though many ethnic groups show an advantage in terms of educational or occupational status, they still experience much more hardship compared to the White British population. Moreover, existing financial difficulties experienced by ethnic minorities have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic – almost all ethnic groups report more financial struggle compared to the pre-pandemic rates. For example, Arab, Any other ethnic background, Gypsy/Traveller, Any other Black, Any other mixed background, Any other Asian and Pakistani people were significantly more likely to report having financial difficulties in the COVID-19 pandemic aftermath compared to White British people. Altogether, our findings hint at persistent ethnic inequalities in experiencing hardship despite advantages in educational and occupational status.

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1.15pm Tuesday 6 September: Ethnicity data and measurement

ONS' new population estimates by ethnicity and religion

Jesse Ransley & Kanekwa Nzimba; Office for National Statistics

In December 2021, ONS published new, experimental statistics of population estimates by ethnic group and religion for England and Wales for 2019. The estimates were developed in response to a strong user need for population estimates by ethnic group and religion between censuses. A need that has become more urgent with increased demand for analysis of disparities and inequalities surrounding COVID. Prior to their publication, our best, official estimates of population by ethnic group or religion remained those from the 2011 Census. The estimates draw on Annual Population Survey (APS) data, adjusted for communal establishments and to Mid-Year Estimates. This method builds on previously published research to produce estimates for 18 ethnic and 8 religious groups by age and sex at the national and regional level. These new estimates are experimental statistics, meaning they are official statistics but are subject to continued development (including further testing and evaluation work). Seeking feedback from users, stakeholders and experts is a key part of that development process. For example, due to the limitations of APS sample sizes and in response to user engagement, we prioritised detail in the number of ethnic groups and the demographic breakdown of the 2019 estimates over geographic granularity. Whilst we are currently undertaking feasibility testing around additional age groupings in response to initial feedback on the publication, we're keen to gather more expert feedback at BPS to inform the continued development of these much-needed estimates.

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Social Statistics Transformation: Producing ethnicity statistics from administrative data

Alison Morgan, Office for National Statistics

The decennial Census is an important source of ethnicity data for England and Wales but between Census years, the Office for National Statistics does not currently produce annual statistics by local authority on the population by ethnic group. However, there is a high demand for this information, with data on ethnicity important for equality monitoring and service provision. As part of our plans to deliver the 2023 Recommendation on the future of population and social statistics, we are conducting research into the potential to produce statistics on the population by ethnic group from administrative data. We are also expanding our research to cover multivariate analysis on topics such as income and housing by ethnicity. For the admin-based ethnicity statistics feasibility research, we have used a record-level admin-based dataset as our population base and linked on ethnicity data collected across the health and education sectors. Since the first research outputs were published in August 2021, we have incorporated additional data sources, tested alternative rules for dealing with multiple recorded ethnicities for an individual and expanded the time period to cover 2016-2020. This presentation will provide an overview of the research so far and the challenges still to be overcome through further development of data sources and methods. It will explore the coverage achieved through linking together the admin data sources, look into what the admin data are showing about the ethnic composition of the population, and provide the findings from research into ethnicity selection methods.

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Researching 'race': possibilities and challenges in using the 2021 census

Nigel de Noronha; University of Manchester

The 2021 census will help to answer questions about where people were living in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; their demographic characteristics and provide evidence of the experiences of housing, health, employment at neighbourhood level. The data for Scotland will follow the year after. In 2011 early headlines from the census fed nationalist tropes about places where the majority of people were from ethnic groups, the extent and impact of immigration on local places and the decline of the English language. The response to the evidence of structural inequalities in terms of race were not addressed consistently due to political change and the impacts of austerity on local public services. It is hoped that with the responses to Black Live Matters from these public bodies that the evidence from 2021 will be harnessed to address the structural inequalities we

can expect to find. This paper will explore evidence from the first releases of the census 2021 data to identify inequalities in healthcare (Kapadia et al., 2022); the broader determinants of health (Marmot et al., 2021; de Noronha, 2021); and employment, skills and access to good jobs (Clark and Ochmann, 2022). The presentation will identify potential issues to be aware of and later census 2021 products that will support further analysis. It will build on work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to explore structural and institutional racism.

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A more granular analysis of the social outcome inequalities among different ethnic groups in Great Britain
Tian Lan, Justin van Dijk, Paul A. Longley; Department of Geography, University College London

Huge disparities exist in the intergeneration social mobility outcomes among different ethnic groups, as there has been no level playing ground for any populations in contemporary British society. In this paper, we use an improved individual level, names-based ethnicity estimation to classify the modern British society into long-established populations and recent migrant groups, making use of a big data asset covering the near-complete population of the society. Compared to the standard census categories, we further estimate the name bearers' countries of origin to enable a more nuanced study of the social mobility outcomes. We use the Index of Multiple Deprivation as a proxy measure of intergenerational social outcomes to examine the within- and between-group inequalities. The preliminary results show that the duration of residence, human/social capital, and socio-economic status of the emigrating origin countries are likely to play a role together in shaping their life chances and social outcomes. The findings could potentially contribute to better informing the current community 'levelling up' debates and social mobility strategies.

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2.45pm Tuesday 6 September: Ethnicity, ageing and health

Work life expectancies among immigrants in three European countries: A multistate life-table approach
Hill Kulu¹, Andreas Hoehn¹, Julia Mikolai¹, Isaure Delaporte¹, Chia Liu¹, Gunnar Andersson²; ¹University of St. Andrews, ²Stockholm University

Previous research shows that family migrants have low employment levels. Employment levels are particularly low among female migrants with children. The gender differences in employment are larger for immigrants than for the native-born population. This suggests that immigrant women are likely to experience larger motherhood penalties than native-born women, although cultural preferences may also explain low employment levels among some groups. We will investigate differences in employment levels among migrant women and men in three European countries: UK, France and Germany. We will calculate work life expectancies using multistate life tables. We will show how much time immigrant women and men spend in and out of employment over their life course. This is a first study to calculate working life tables for migrant populations.

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Deconstructing digital precarity for older workers: An intersectional perspective
Sajia Ferdous; Queen's Management School, Queen's University Belfast

Against the backdrops of dual threats of automation and ageing, this paper draws on existing theories and evidence to build a conceptual framework for understanding the disproportionate impacts automation may have on ethnic minority older workers in the UK. There is a dearth of inclusive conceptual tools in the existing literature that can anatomise the nuances of these groups' 'digital precarity', especially within the contexts of extended working lives. The proposed digital inclusion framework takes an intersectional life-course approach to the conceptualisation, so that ethnic minority older groups' life-long trajectories across borders may be scrutinised and particularities of their 'ageing in place' can be studied. It adopts a three-pronged approach illustrating the relationship between precarity indicators (e.g., socio-economic backgrounds, lifestyle choices,

gendered culture), trigger factors for digital exclusion (e.g., skills management system, ageist attitudes in workplaces, gendered exploitation in HR practices such as glass walls/ceilings) and homogeneity bias (e.g., gender, age or race/ethnicity stereotyping) to help understand what shapes the groups' tech-literacy/tolerance level, recognise in-group heterogeneity and design industry/task/organisation specific transitional shock absorbing human resources strategies for employers. The paper contributes to the ageing workforce, intersectionality and life-course literature and the framework has the potential to be a guiding tool for employers and policymakers alike in drawing up inclusive and sustainable labour market policies for older workers as they extend their working lives.

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Loneliness and Social Isolation of Ethnic-minority-immigrant Older Adults: A Scoping Review
Mengxing Ma, Nissa Finney, Jo Mhairi Hale; School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews

Loneliness and social isolation among older adults are emerging public health concerns. Although a sizable body of literature has researched effects, risk factors and interventions for loneliness and social isolation, most of them have focused on older adults in general. Older adults from ethnic minority communities or with immigration backgrounds (i.e. ethnic-minority-immigrant older adults) may be more vulnerable to encountering loneliness and social isolation issues due to their double jeopardies based on their old age and minority status. The intersection of population ageing and international migration has made many western countries' older populations ethnically and culturally diverse. This review aims to examine the extent, range and nature of research activities on loneliness and social isolation issues of ethnic-minority-immigrant older adults, summarise their key findings and identify the limitations and gaps in the existing evidence base. This review uses the scoping review method, following Arksey and O'Malley's five-state framework. Nine electronic databases were searched, which yielded 3621 articles after removing duplications. After title and abstracting screening and full-text screening, 76 articles in the period 1983-2021 that meet inclusion criteria were included. An increase in the number of publications was observed between 2015 and 2021, accounting for 72% of the included articles. 58 out of 76 studies are quantitative design, and the evidence is largely US-focused. Loneliness is more researched than social isolation and ethnicity/race is more researched than immigration. We found an evidence gap in qualitative investigation or longitudinal design and a paucity of research focusing on the heterogeneous experiences within the ethnic-minority-immigrant older groups.

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Race/Ethnic and Gender Differences in Inflammatory Markers Among Adults 56-80
KJ Davidson-Turner, University of Texas at Austin

Chronic inflammation, which refers to the activation of the body's immune system and occurs when the body is preparing to actively fight against an actual or perceived threat, is one of the most widely researched biological risks for late-life health issues. Prior studies have documented an association between inflammation and health outcomes; however, there is a less comprehensive understanding of this association for major race/ethnic and gender groups at a population level. To better understand differences in inflammation that may give rise to health disparities, this study makes use of new age-related inflammatory cytokine measures from the Health and Retirement Study to examine variations in inflammation patterns for middle-aged and older Blacks, non-Hispanic Whites, and Hispanics as well as between men and women in the United States. Multivariate models (e.g., OLS regression, logistic regression and poisson regression) will be used to evaluate whether there are significant differences. Our preliminary findings suggest that Black women appear to be at greatest likelihood to be in the high-risk category of inflammation and that inflammation patterns for Hispanics and across gender varies for different markers of inflammation. Overall, we conclude that there is not currently a gold standard of measuring inflammation, and we should be cautious when using inflammatory markers as measures of biological risk as health outcomes for race/ethnic and gender patterns may be emerging differently.

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9.00am Wednesday 7 September: Ethnic segregation, diversity and neighbourhoods

The re-making of diverse places: narratives of housing and inclusion

Hannah Haycox^{1,3}, Nissa Finney¹, Emma Hill¹, Sharon Leahy¹, Nasar Meer², James Rhodes³; ¹University of St. Andrews, ²University of Edinburgh, ³University of Manchester

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the socio-economic inequalities experienced by ethnic and racialised minorities into sharp relief. Emerging evidence continues to indicate that racialised minorities experience disproportionate disadvantages in relation to health and social outcomes. Housing provision has been identified as a key area where racialised minorities are rendered particularly vulnerable, with the COVID-19 pandemic deepening processes of exclusion, precarity and dispossession. However, whilst such systemic inequalities have been exacerbated as a result of the current pandemic, these disparities are historically entrenched and frequently normalised. This paper explores the impact and experience of housing governance on racialised minorities in a multi-scalar context. Focusing on neighbourhoods positioned on the socio-economic, cultural and geographical periphery of regional urban centres in Scotland and England, the paper identifies and evaluates racialised minorities' housing experiences over the last two years. New insights are provided by exploring both the rationale behind practitioners' policy responses to housing inequalities in a COVID-19 context, as well as the subsequent impact of such approaches on racialised minorities. By drawing on research conducted by the Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), the paper will further examine how housing provision is enacted and experienced differentially across places. The extent to which the pandemic is, and is not, an exceptional moment will be assessed in relation to both housing experience and broader strategies of place-based exclusion.

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Segregation as social fault lines: Estimating social frontier propensities for UK cities

Andrew Bell¹, David Manley², Gwilym Pryce¹; ¹University of Sheffield, ²University of Bristol

Whilst an exotic variety of methods have emerged in the burgeoning literature on segregation measurement, the vast majority of this analysis boils down to an (a)spatial value describing the urban space, but not the discontinuities within it. In other words, a value reporting the degree to which the proportion of a particular ethnic group varies across aerial units. In recent years, however, there has been growing recognition that a single descriptive value overlooks essential aspects of the spatiality of segregation, especially those arising from the juxtaposition of aerial units. Moreover, many of the most popular measures of segregation are essentially aspatial, or only incorporate space in a hierarchical or symmetric way. At the forefront of this counterrevolution in segregation research, a new focus has emerged on juxtaposition and discontinuity in the form of "social frontiers". Social frontiers denote abrupt spatial transitions in the composition of neighbouring communities. They represent spatial fault lines in residential geography and have been identified as potential flashpoints for territorial behaviour and social conflict. Crucially, for a given variation in an ethnic or migrant group's proportions—measured, for example, using Index of dissimilarity—there will be an entire spectrum of social frontier propensity. Such variation has yet to be acknowledged, let alone quantified, in the extensive urban geography literature. We provide the first estimates of this spectrum of potential social frontier propensities in England, which we use to estimate the expected level of social frontiers in each Travel to Work Area. We then compare this expected value with the observed level of social frontiers for the TTWA to gauge the degree to which social frontier propensities are higher or lower than would arise by chance. We conclude by reflecting on the implications of this work for human geography research and the priorities for future development.

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Measuring the exposure of Black, Asian and other ethnic groups to COVID-infected neighbourhoods in English towns and cities: updating the evidence

Richard Harris; University of Bristol

In our 2021 paper published in *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, Chris Brunsdon and I developed an index of exposure, measuring which ethnic groups had been most exposed to COVID-19 infected residential neighbourhoods during the first and second waves of the pandemic in England – that is, in the period from the seven days ending 21 March 2020, to the seven days ending 15 May 2021. We found that members of ethnic minority groups appeared often to be living in areas with higher infection rates but also that the risk of exposure was distributed unevenly across these groups: initially, in the first wave, the disease disproportionately affected Black residents but, as the pandemic progressed, especially the Pakistani but also the Bangladeshi and Indian groups had the highest exposure. At the time that paper was written, various research had shown that more economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods tended to have higher infection rates. However, the Omicron variant has changed that: at the time of writing (April 2022) the number of tested cases in advantaged neighbourhoods has exceeded that in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The questions this paper asks, therefore, is whether this has also changed which of the various ethnic groups appear most exposed. Is it still the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian groups and, if so, where? Or has the disease ‘moved on’ as the rules around preventing the transmission of the disease have been relaxed across England?

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Geographical variation in multi-group, multi-scale ethnic school segregation in England

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Recent literature on residential segregation has refuted the argument of "self-segregation of ethnic minorities" by examining segregation occurring at multiple geographical scales. The multi-scale approach is important because different scales can reveal different sources and mechanisms of segregation. In the context of school segregation, the multiscale nature has not yet been fully explored. Additionally, as the ethnic landscape is more complex, it is important to capture segregation among multiple groups rather than pairwise comparisons only. The goal of this study is to provide an overview of multi-group ethnic school segregation in England over the past two decades. Specifically, this paper examines ethnic school segregation at different geographical scales and the role of residential segregation in determining the variation in school segregation across local authorities. Segregation is measured by the entropy-based mutual information index. The data source is individual-level Spring School Census data from National Pupil Database. Results show approximately half of the ethnic school segregation in London and East Midlands occurs between local authorities, which may reflect the spatial concentration of ethnic minority groups in traditional immigrant portals within these regions. Other regions experience school segregation primarily within local authorities. Schools in Yorkshire are found with particularly high levels of segregation. Taking the fixed-time effect into account, residential segregation occurring at the lower output area level roughly explains about 42 per cent of the variance observed in local school segregation. School segregation in London, however, is less sensitive to local residential segregation and the size of the ethnic minority population.

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