

Ethnicity 1

Tuesday 2 September, 4.45pm

The geographies of religion in England and Wales, 2001-2021

AbdulQadeer Fayaz-Khan - Queen's University Belfast, Gemma Catney - Queen's University Belfast, Jesse Ransley - Office for National Statistics, Christopher Lloyd - Queen's University Belfast, Momoko Nishikido Queen's University Belfast

This presentation examines the shifting geographies and demographics of religious communities in England and Wales, tackling three key issues: the evolution of major religious groups over time, the geographical diversification of religious affiliations, and the current state of religious diversity amid secularisation trends. Drawing on Census data on religion for 2001, 2011 and 2021, the study uses the Dissimilarity Index (D) and Reciprocal Diversity Index (RDI) to analyse residential segregation and diversity at the neighbourhood (Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA)) and Local Authority levels.

The findings reveal significant demographic changes. The proportion of people describing themselves as Christian - some 46.16% of the England and Wales population - continues to decline, while non-religious identities rise sharply. The proportion of people identifying as Muslim (6.51%) and Hindu (1.74%) now comprise the second and third largest groups.

Analysis of segregation shows decreasing residential separation for people identifying as Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu, reflecting growing integration, while people describing themselves as Jewish maintain relatively high segregation levels, essentially unchanged since 2001. People describing themselves as Christian had low segregation levels in 2001 and these are even lower by 2021.

Ongoing research will show how religious diversity nationally, regionally, and in local areas, has evolved in recent decades. We will explore the growth and spread of religious diversity, and the ways in which this relates to the new neighbourhood geographies of ethnic diversity evidenced in allied research (Catney et al., 2023).

Email: akhan29@qub.ac.uk

The Spatial Scale of White Avoidance in Sweden

Gijs Westra - Uppsala University

Ethnic segregation is in part (re)produced through the residential mobility of the ethnic majority moving away from (white flight) or avoiding moving to (white avoidance) areas with high concentrations of ethnic minorities. Current explanations for these patterns are either ethnic prejudice or homophily or the quality of life-based racial proxy hypothesis. However, most research is done based on flawed, large monoscalar land-based neighbourhoods which are ill-suited for capturing neighbourhood effects. This study explores the strength of both explanatory mechanisms by challenging the notion of mono-scalar neighbourhoods in favour of a bespoke knn approach. The socioeconomic and ethnic composition of the neighbourhood at multiple bespoke scales is used to predict the ethnicity of an adult moving into a neighbourhood. I find that the ethnic concentrations at 100 and 6400 nearest neighbours decrease the odds of a mover being a visible majority. Moreover, these effects are stable with controls for the amenities, the greenness, and the socioeconomic composition of the neighbourhood, thus showing that some white avoidance is likely the result of homophily or negative group perceptions. Nevertheless, the socioeconomic profile of the neighbourhood remains an important explanation as well at similar scales as ethnic concentration. The findings indicate that the racial proxy is not sufficient by itself to explain white avoidance.

Email: gijs.westra@kultgeog.uu.se

What is the role of cultural values in sustaining remittance behaviour across (migrant) generations in the UK?

Tiago Nascimento, Alita Nandi - Institute for Social and Economic Research / University of Essex

In 2023, remittances, defined as money sent from work country back to the home country by migrants, was around 656 billion US dollars and in 60 countries, accounting for 3+% of their GDP (World Bank 2024). Remittances are thus a vital part for supporting families in developing countries and reducing global income inequality (SDG10).

As remittances are a drain on household finances, we expect that these will limit a person's ability to send money, while cultural values particularly ties to countries of origin to mould their preferences. Studies have examined the role of these factors but have focussed either on the first or second generation. We examine whether cultural values play a role in sustaining remittance behaviour across generations, after accounting for financial constraints.

Using data from Understanding Society and analysing remittance patterns through multivariate logistic regression, we find that ethnic minorities are more likely to remit than White British (30.5% vs 8.3%). Focussing on ethnic minorities, the first generation are more likely to remit, reflecting their strong ties to the home country. However, among Bangladeshi and Pakistani individuals, 1.5 and 2nd generation (born in the UK or arrived before 17 years) were more likely to remit. Compared to Indians, most ethnic groups are more likely to remit (exceptions are White Other and Chinese). As expected, factors associated with economic position (e.g., household income) and measures of ties to countries of origin (e.g., strength of identification with non-UK country) are positively associated with remitting.

Email: t.nascimento@essex.ac.uk

Do Political Attitudes Matter for Vaccine Acceptance? Understanding the Ethnicity Gap.

Magda Borkowska - University of Essex

A sizable body of research has examined inter-ethnic disparities in relation to demographic and socio-economic factors and how these contribute to differences in vaccine uptake. However, to date, few studies have explored how attitudinal correlates might differently contribute to explaining vaccine acceptance across ethnic groups. In this paper, we explicitly test the following questions: To what extent do political trust, perceptions of discrimination, and other political attitudes help explain the ethnic gap in vaccine acceptance? Are these effects the same/different across ethnic groups?

We use KHB logit models based on the Evidence into Equality National Survey—a large, representative study of 21 ethnic groups in the UK—to investigate the factors that explain the Covid-19 vaccine uptake gap between ethnic minority groups and the White British majority. Our findings show that perceptions of discrimination and low trust in government account for much of the variation in vaccine uptake among Black ethnic minority groups. In contrast, attitudes towards the Black Lives Matter movement are more important for explaining vaccine uptake among certain White ethnic groups, particularly White Eastern Europeans. Additionally, economic marginalisation plays a key role in explaining the gap for Gypsy and Roma populations.

These findings highlight the substantive heterogeneity in the reasons for vaccine hesitancy across ethnic minority groups. They also suggest that socio-political attitudes play a more significant role in shaping vaccine acceptance than is commonly assumed.

Email: m.borkowska@essex.ac.uk

Administrative Data Based Ethnicity Estimates for Scotland

Lisa Whyte - National Records of Scotland, Scottish Government

National Records of Scotland's research on Administrative Data Based Ethnicity Estimates is the first of its kind in Scotland. NRS is investigating the feasibility of producing characteristics about the population of Scotland using administrative data, with ethnicity as the first in development. Currently, NRS only produce statistics by ethnic group using census data, so the research investigates whether administrative data could provide consistent, timely and accurate evidence inform policy decision making. The first publication for this

research was released in February, with a second publication later this year. NRS are working with ONS to ensure coherent statistics across our work on admin-based ethnicity estimates.

The Admin-Based Ethnicity Dataset (ABED) links together the datasets that form the population base of the admin-based population estimates, with the ethnicity information provided by Scottish Government Pupil Census, Public Health Scotland Health Activity, Further Education Statistics and Higher Education Statistics Agency students.

This research focuses on 2022 ABED. Using administrative data, the ABED includes an ethnicity record for 68.1% of people. When Census 2011 is included as an additional source - where it's used only if an individual has a missing or 'not known' ethnicity – it established an ethnicity record for 82.2% of people on the ABED. The proportion of people with a stated ethnicity was highest for those age 5-17 years and lowest for those under school age, followed by those of working-age.

Current research is looking at the distribution of ethnic groups, making comparison to Census 2022 to understand differences in reported ethnicity.

Email: lisa.whyte@gov.scot

Ethnicity 2

Wednesday 3 September, 2.45pm

Who is my neighbour? The changing ethnic make-up of residential space across the urban-rural continuum in England and Wales, 2001-2021

Gemma Catney - Queen's University Belfast, Momoko Nishikido - Queen's University Belfast, Richard Wright - Dartmouth College, Mark Ellis - University of Washington

Ethnic and racial diversity has been increasing steadily across neighbourhoods in England and Wales. A feature of this growth in diversity has been its increasing spatial complexity. Analysis of Census data for 2001-2021 revealed increasing ethnic diversity in urban spaces, which also spilled over to urban peripheries and small towns beyond the urban fringe. These changes are significant and mark the growing presence of people from several ethnic groups in formerly non-diverse, White-dominated, suburban and rural spaces.

We find that most minority ethnic group populations are living in moderately diverse White spaces – not in neighbourhoods dominated by their own ethnic group. This points to interesting developments in the diversification of White spaces. Who are the new neighbours of White people? In what ways is residential ethnic mixing growing, and in what area types?

We employ our neighbourhood schema that categorises neighbourhoods according to their levels of ethnic diversity and group dominance and focus on low- and moderate-diversity White and high-diversity neighbourhoods. We are interested in these spaces because of their prevalence, but also because these spaces experience the most demographic changes.

Our analysis uses the 2021 Office for National Statistics urban-rural classification of small areas using 2001-2011-2021 Census data for geographically consistent Lower Layer Super Output Areas, and explores changes in the 16 ethnic groups consistent across the three Censuses. We show that White-dominated spaces are becoming more mixed, and their ethnic composition more diverse. Whites have become increasingly residentially 'exposed' to people in other (minority) ethnic groups, across the urban-rural hierarchy.

Email: m.nishikido@qub.ac.uk

Ethical Loneliness and the Undermining of Social Capital: How Racism Shapes Loneliness in Three UK Asian Communities – A Mixed Methods Study

Mengxing Joshi - Nissa Finney, Jo Mhairi Hale - University of St Andrews

Loneliness can have severe health impacts, and ethnic minority groups may face heightened risks due to structural barriers like racism. This study explores the relationship between racism, social capital and loneliness among Chinese, Indian, and Pakistani communities in Britain. Using mixed methods, we analyse secondary data from the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) and data from qualitative interviews with 20 older adults and 8 key informants. Our findings show that racism not only exacerbates loneliness but also appears to undermine the positive effects of social capital in reducing loneliness. Ethnic bonding does not consistently protect against loneliness; instead, participating rarely in ethnic activity is associated with less loneliness for Chinese and Pakistani people. We find that marginalization and isolation within ethnic communities, particularly due to socio-economic status, can exacerbate loneliness and, together with limited English proficiency, hinder the building of bridging ties. Furthermore, although a sense of belonging to British society (bridging capital) lowers loneliness, institutional racism undermines this benefit, leading to ethical loneliness—a profound sense of isolation and abandonment. The findings emphasize the need for policies that enhance both ethnic bonding and bridging capital while addressing structural racism and social inequalities.

Email: jo.hale@st-andrews.ac.uk

What does it take to get a robust ethnically representative survey? Lessons from the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS)

Nissa Finney - University of St Andrews, Laia Becares - King's College London, Magda Borkowska -

**University of Essex, Jo Mhairi Hale - University of St Andrews, Daniel Horn, University of St Andrews
Dharmi Kapadia - University of Manchester, Natalie Shlomo - University of Manchester, Harry Taylor -
University of St Andrews**

There is widespread acknowledgement, in academic, commercial, community and policy sectors, of the challenges of creating large scale social data that robustly represent minority/minoritised communities. Concurrently there is growing interest in the potential of non-probability approaches which differ from traditional approaches in having an open invitation to participate rather than using a sampling frame. This paper contributes to this emerging literature with lessons from the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS). EVENS, which has an achieved sample of 14,200, was fielded in Britain in 2021 using non-probability methods to document the experiences of ethnic and religious minorities. Drawing on longitudinal R-indicator analyses and evidence from interviews, this presentation focuses on effective recruitment for ethnic diversity and representation, highlighting the need for multi-modal, responsive and group-specific recruitment strategies; and the value of partnership with community organisations. Less effective methods used in EVENS, including snowball survey links and direct e-mail outs, are reviewed. The presentation will also comment on the need for open-web surveys to be attentive to fraud, showcasing novel evidence from EVENS on methods for fraud identification and mitigation, including AI approaches. Lessons from EVENS can inform data producers and users in the ambition to create more inclusive social data infrastructure.

Email: Nissa.Finney@st-andrews.ac.uk

**Education and National Identity: Evidence from the Fundamental British Values Policy
Ozan Aksoy - University College London, Burak Sonmez - University College London, - , - ,**

How much are national identity and democratic values shaped by education? Are the effects of education, if any, moderated by the pupils' ethnic or religious background? The plethora of pathways leading to identity and value formation makes isolating the impact of education difficult. A large-scale educational intervention in the United Kingdom provides an opportunity to address some of those questions. In 2014 the Department for Education, as part of the government's counterterrorism Prevent strategy, introduced a policy requiring schools to teach "Fundamental British Values". The aim was to foster a shared sense of "Britishness" through instilling core values. By analysing multiple censuses, cross-referencing with two high quality survey datasets, and utilizing three different causal identification methods based on difference-in-differences, we find that overall, the policy has significantly increased the probability of identifying as British. Yet the effect is heterogeneous. The policy backfires for Muslims, for whom it reduces identifying as British. We find no effect of the policy on other targeted values. Our study provides the first systematic assessment of the long-term and large-scale consequences of the policy. In doing so, it contributes to the debates on education and nationalism in increasingly diverse countries and on developing civic education approaches for bridging social divisions.

Email: ozan.aksoy@ucl.ac.uk

**Hong Kong BN(O) Migrants in the UK
Tak Wing Chan - University College London**

As a result of the imposition by China of a national security law in Hong Kong in 2020, the UK government has introduced a new visa route for Hong Kong residents with British National (Overseas) status to move to the UK. From January 2021 through June 2024, 209,406 BN(O) visas have been granted. This is one of the largest migrants flow to the UK from a single source country ever recorded. To understand who the BN(O) migrants are, and how they are faring in the UK, we are organising a panel survey of the BN(O) migrants. In this paper, we report some initial findings from wave 1 of the BN(O) Migrants Panel Survey. Our survey is designed to be comparable to Understanding Society, permitting direct comparisons between the BN(O)s and other migrant groups or minority ethnic groups in the UK. Among other things, we show that the BN(O)s are much more highly educated than the UK-born and other migrant/ethnic groups in the UK. We also report a complex picture of national/ethnic identity among the BN(O)s which might have important bearing on their long-term settlement intention. This paper provides a portrait of a large migrant group in Europe that is not quite refugees or economic migrants.

Email: w.chan@ucl.ac.uk