

Newsletter

centre for
URBAN AND
COMMUNITY
research

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CUCR Newsletter

Welcome to the CUCR termly Newsletter. CUCR is an interdisciplinary research centre based at Goldsmiths College. Since opening in 1994 staff at the Centre have raised over a million pounds in research grants on projects in a wide range of areas.

A new MA degree on Urban Culture

CUCR is offering a new MA degree on urban culture called **MA in Culture, Globalisation and the City**. The course examines a range of issues from the economics of the global city to the politics of graffiti writing. It offers a comprehensive theoretical and empirical review of how urban life has been studied combined with exciting discussions of urban studies today. The programme develops an understanding of critical urban studies which is relevant across the social sciences.

For more details contact the Course Convenor direct on 020 7919 7380 or e-mail l.back@gold.ac.uk

New ESRC Funded research project into ethnic minority political participation

A new research ESRC funded project will address the question of the changing forms of political participation among ethnic minority communities in contemporary Britain.

This project will study the participation of ethnic minorities in conventional forms of democratic activity and the role of participation within the alternative public sphere of ethnic minority civil society. The research will be focused on three localities: two in London, and one in Birmingham. The team will also investigate the role of organisations and movements that have emerged within minority communities to give voice to specific interests and concerns.

The research will:

- explore the political, social and cultural processes that are shaping the ways in which ethnic minority communities evolve strategies for participating in and influencing democratic institutions,
- analyse the role and impact of alternative forms of political mobilisation within minority communities that go beyond the boundaries of existing institutions and draw on cultural, religious and ethnic boundaries.

The research team includes Les Back, Michael Keith, Kalbir Shukra and John Solomos.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Coalition: underlining racism on-line p. 2
- The Ghost of Laurie Grove p. 3
- CUCR teams up with Millwall for Anti-racist Exhibition p.3
- Current Research and publications @ CUCR p.4

Coalition: Underlining Racism on-line

Announcing the launch of a new website:
<http://www.coalition.org.uk>

Coalition has been produced in collaboration between Thirdnet and the Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR) at Goldsmiths College.

Racist Culture in a Digital Age

The site has three parts. The core of the site is the electronic publication of writing by Les Back, Michael Keith, Ken McVay, John Solomos and Michael Whine about White Power on the internet. These texts relates to a conference held at Goldsmiths College in South East London in May 1999 entitled "Racist Culture in a Digital Age". At that time, bombings in Brick Lane, Brixton and Soho, historic centers of London's black and gay communities, as well as killings in Colorado, were very present in all our minds. Those events showed some of the ways in which racist culture and violence are changing in the digital age. Coalition presents important research on and analysis of these shifts. These writings, then, provide a resource for both activists and for academics and researchers, as well as for people looking for information about the far right in the digital age.

This site and conference which inspired it, grew out of work, based at CUCR: both the Guggenheim Foundation-supported "Mechanisms of Racist Expression" Project (looking at White Power music, the internet and graffiti) and the 1999 Searchlight publication on White Power culture "White Noise"; as well as on-going CUCR research work in South-East London.

Other Collaborations this Year

In **February** CUCR collaborated with the Department of Anthropology in holding a one day conference: Environmental Justice in a Divided Society.

In **March** CUCR again collaborated with Philosophy and Human Values group organizing the Critical Urban Studies Seminar series entitled "Ethics 'race' and difference". The next series is scheduled for April, the final programme will be pasted on noticeboards in and around college.

Integrated Communities and Sustainable Regeneration

CUCR research team has just completed a two year research project in Area Regeneration. This extensive project was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation explores the importance of community participation in regeneration using four Case Study Areas:

- ❖ Creekside/Greenwich Waterfront, SE London
- ❖ Aston/Newton, Birmingham
- ❖ Kings Cross, London
- ❖ Barnsley

As the research progressed, summaries of the initial findings will be fed back to those who have provided information and views, giving them the opportunity to comment and to add further reflections. The Final Report of the project has been completed and is due for publication in July 2000. Information about ordering a copy from the JRF can be found at <http://www.jrf.org.uk> or on 01904-615905. Information about the project can be found at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/cucr/intecom.html> or on 0207-919-7390

THE GHOST OF LAURIE GROVE

For those who have not visited us, the Centre for Urban and Community Research is located in an ornate old building in Laurie Grove formerly used as a public baths. The baths were opened in the early 20th century as part of a municipal drive to civilise the 'great unwashed' of Deptford. The historian Roy Porter confessed at the centre's opening in 1994 that he learned to swim at Laurie Grove.

Today, we share the building with the fine art students. The floor of the main swimming bath is divided into a grid of studios in which young artist work. Recently an E Mail arrived in Michael Keith's inbox from Peter Towers, a former occupant of Laurie Grove and the son of the last official baths manager, Michael passed the message on to me. After expressing his thanks to the college for saving his former home. Peter inquired about the 'Baths Ghost!' Throughout the eighteen years that his father managed the baths numerous members of the public – even several police officers – witness strange phenomena. The said 'poletergeist' was affectionately known as "Charlie" because he was given to whistling the tune "Charleston". Three members of staff left because of Charlie's antics, two without giving notice.

Charlie's favourite haunts were/ are the balcony of the main bath area, the council room and the cupboard under the small staircase that leads up to the Centre for Cultural Studies. One Sunday I went looking for 'Charlie the Ghost' with my three young children. Inside the main bath the young artists were all hard at work. We look on the balcony, under the stairs and in the "Wash-house Committee Boardroom". The pool-side cubicles – formerly where bathers would change into their swimwear – are now filled with stashes of paint and art materials.

Stevie, six, complains about the sewer-like stench emanating from one of them - it's a nasty combination of plaster, stagnant water and paint. She is distracted by a painting of two strawberries set against a vivid light blue circular canvass. Turning back to the matter in hand she chuckles "perhaps Charlie's gone to a ghosts' football match?"

Les Back, Acting Head of CUCR

CUCR teams up with Millwall for black footballers exhibition

Research material from CUCR based project of racism in football has been used for an exhibition at Millwall Football Club on black footballers.

The initiative has been developed in association with Millwall Football Club and the Centre for Urban and Community Research and draws on research material provided from The Cultures of Racism in Football, an the ESRC project conducted by Les Back, and Tim Crabbe and John Solomos. The exhibition is an anti-racist educational initiative that has combined academic research with a local campaign.

It's a little known fact that in 1912 **Hussein Hegazi** became the first ethnic minority player to appear in a Millwall shirt. He was born in Cairo, Egypt and went on to attend Cambridge University. He gained a 'blue' for football through representing Cambridge in a 2-1 victory over their rivals Oxford University in 1914.

The **History of Black Footballers Exhibition** ran from the 6th-12nd March at The Den, Zampa Road. **Black Lions: A History of Black Millwall Players** by Les Back & Ken Chapman is available free from CUCR. For a copy please send in a stamped addressed envelope.

Current Research and Funding

On-going programmes for research and evaluation associated with the Centre

- **Integrated communities and sustainable regeneration: building community perspectives into evaluation and training.**
JRF funded 98 – 2000
Grant: £120,000
- **The violence resilient school: a comparative study of schools and their environments.**
ESRC funded 98 – 2000
Grant: £180,000
- **Building bridges; the evaluation of Creekside Single Regeneration Budget partnership.**
SRB funded 97- 2001
Grant: £24,000
- **Racism and 'Unfairness' discourses in South London.**
ESRC funded 99 – 2000
Grant: £50,000
- **Action Learning in the Community(ALIC)**
- DFEE funded 99 – 2002
Grant: £15,000
- **Skillswork project on the Cultural Industries.**
SRB Funded 99 - 2000
Grant: £50,000 (with UEL)
- **Youth Participation Project**
London Borough of Lewisham funded 2000 Grant: £7,800
- **Democratic Governance and ethnic minority participation** ESRC funded 2000 – 2003 Grant - £166,000
- **Racism and 'Unfairness' Discourses in South London: Researching a Youth Work Intervention**
ESRC funded 99 - 2000
Grant: £40,918

- **Stockwell Project Mortality Audit**
Lambeth Drug Reference Group funded April 2000 - July 2000
Grant: £4,700

Occasional Paper Series

Nine papers are now published in the series, with other papers forthcoming and planned.

AVAILABLE NOW:

Vikki Bell

Show and tell: passing, narrative and Tony Morrison's jazz.

Paul Gilroy

The status of difference: from epidermalisation to nano-politics.

Garry Robson

Class, criminality and embodied consciousness: Charlie Richardson and a South East London Habitus.

Fran Tonkiss

The 'marketisation' of urban government: private finance and urban policy.

Danielle Turney

The Language of anti-racism in social work: towards a deconstructive reading.

Andrew Barry

Motor ecology: the political chemistry of urban air.

Les Back, Tim Crabbe, John Solomos

Lions, Black Skins and Reggae Gyals

Ben Gidley

The Proletarian Other: Charles Booth and the Politics of Representation

Colin King

Play the White Man

Working paper cost three pounds.

Send orders to CUCR, Goldsmiths College, New Cross, London, SE 14 6NW

Tele: 0171-919-7390, Fax: 0171-919-7383

