



ESRC

Seminar Series 2007-10

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Ethnicity, networks and voice mechanisms in established and hard to reach BME communities: capacity building and beyond

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The subject of racism and social exclusion is a serious challenge. In terms of employment, the main concern has been to focus on the use of legislation and training programmes as vehicles of inclusion as far as government and social partners such as trade unions are concerned. There has been increasing interest in the subject of managing diversity, as well, as a way of 'selling' the business benefits of social inclusion to employers. However, there is a gap in the academic debate related to the policy debates. There is an issue as to the understanding, support and strategic focus of policy makers and bodies in relation to the broader tapestry of BME community and social enterprise groups. This is especially the case given the changing nature of such groups and the increasing presence of 'hard to reach' groups who are developing their own informal processes. So the seminar aims to facilitate a space for a debate concerning, the dynamics of change within BME communities and their networks and the attitude of traditional bodies to them as they attempt to connect institutionally. In effect, it is aimed at mapping the new actors and networks in terms of their roles and strategies – and linkages. If the role of BME communities and groups is to be more proactive – and, indeed, in many cases they are – then we need to ensure that there is an understanding of their structures, diversity, roles and needs at various levels. The aim of the seminars is to establish a network of scholars and practitioners which will focus on the organisational and voice related issues of BME communities; establish a network that will draw expertise on social capital, network theory, and regulation change and thus challenge the boundaries which are used to understand the subject; and provide a dialogue between academics and practitioners within the DTI, TUC, UNISON and local trade unions, and regional bodies that rethink the role of BME communities.

Seminar Programme:

LSE/Brunel:

What is a 'community' and 'network' for established and hard to reach BME groups? ; issues in terms of capacity needs and capacity building for BME networks? The third sector, BME networks and emotion work

Manchester:

BME communities' and employment relations: links to bodies such as trade unions and employer organisations: understanding the gaps that exist and mutual considerations

Leeds:

Local labour market dynamics and the role of networks within BME communities

Open University:

Networks beyond BME communities: their role in local economic dynamics and regulatory processes for BME communities. The role of regional policy on BME networks. Additional theme: the challenge of researching BME communities

Glasgow:

The internal structures and politics of BME networks: the gender dynamics and emotion structures of such networks

Birmingham:

The representative structures within the public and third sectors in relation to BME network

Bradford:

BME communities and city regeneration
Doctoral Research Methods Workshop

London:

BME communities, voice and agency: Emerging research and policy agendas

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For more details visit the following website:
www.bradford.ac.uk/management/ESRC-BME

