

Integration and neighbourhood relations

*What makes people get on in their local neighbourhood?
Where are the opportunities for co-operation?
Are there obstacles to integration in neighbourhoods?*

These are just a few of the questions our research at the University of Oxford is hoping to tackle. Integration is an interactive process, involving everyone in a neighbourhood, both those that are newly arrived and those that lived there for many years. This research project will explore how local residents experience migrant integration in their own locality.

We will be working in two selected neighbourhoods, Camberwell and Bermondsey. Each of these places have very different histories of Immigration and integration, but both are part of the same local council framework of Southwark.

Research approach

Explorative stage

To begin this project and to become familiar with the neighbourhoods, we will establish contacts with local organisations. Through these contacts we will interview key actors in community services (such as neighbourhood engagement, community police, housing, etc) as well as interest groups and community organisations.



In-depth stage

We aim to do 20 in-depth interviews with residents in each of the two neighbourhoods, focusing on their experiences of integration and neighbourhood

relations in a multi-cultural setting. It is very important to ensure that the selected residents include both long-term residents (White majority as well as Black and ethnic minority groups) and immigrants who have arrived within the past 10 years.

Confidentiality

We will make sure that all the information you give us is kept strictly confidential. We will keep your name, address or any other personal information you give us separately from the tapes and answers recorded in the interview schedule. Nothing we write will make it possible to identify you and we will not pass on what you tell us to anyone in a way that could be linked with you.

Outcomes

At the end of the research, in October or November 2011, we will organise a neighbourhood forum in both Camberwell and Bermondsey. Here we will invite research participants and other interested people to a discussion of what we have learned. The forum will ideally help inform policy-making at the local level.

This project is also part of a larger, EU-funded project called Concordia Discors, involving researchers in Italy, Hungary, Germany, Spain, and Britain. So similar research projects will be carried out in Barcelona, Turin, Nuremberg, and Budapest, and the findings will be brought together in a report that will be available towards the end of 2012.

The project is carried out by researchers from the Centre of Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), at the University of Oxford.

For further information about COMPAS, see www.compas.ox.ac.uk/

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