



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

IRiS Newsletter

January 2015

Happy New Year from IRiS! This e-newsletter reflects back on some of the activities and projects staff in the Institute for Research into Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham has been involved in our second year of establishment. To find out more about our activities and keep up to date with our news, events and research findings visit our website <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/iris>, follow us on Twitter [@IRiS Birmingham](https://twitter.com/IRiS_Birmingham), or join our mailing list.

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS	1
NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM IRiS STAFF	3
RESEARCH PROJECTS	5
POLICY AND PRACTICE SUPPORT	8
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER DIVERSITY NETWORK (DRDN) UPDATE	8
NEW INITIATIVES	9
OTHER NEWS	9
NEW MEMBER OF STAFF	10

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

In the past year IRiS has hosted a wide range of events and the first international interdisciplinary conference on superdiversity. Below you can read about some of our events of the past year, a full record is available on our [webpage](#).



Superdiversity: Theory, Method and Practice, 23-25th June 2014, University of Birmingham

The international conference on ‘Superdiversity: Theory, method and practice’ took place at the University of Birmingham from the 23rd to the 25th of June. The event was convened by Dr Nando Sigona and hosted by the Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS). It was the first international multi- and inter-disciplinary conference on superdiversity. It brought together more than 120 academics, policy makers and practitioners from different

specialisms, theoretical perspectives and disciplinary backgrounds. The overarching aim of the conference was to explore the opportunities and challenges provided by pioneering research that seeks to explain our complex social realities in new ways. Keynote speakers included: Professor Jan Blommaert, Tilburg University, The Netherlands ; Professor Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College, USA ; Professor James Nazroo, University of Manchester, UK; Professor Jenny Phillimore, University of Birmingham, UK ; Professor Gill Valentine, University of Sheffield, UK. Podcasts of the plenary sessions are available at:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/superdiversity-institute/events/superdiversity-international-conference/abstracts-and-podcasts.aspx>

Seminar Series - Migration, citizenship and diversity: Questioning the boundaries

In recent decades, a significant transformation in the meanings, practices and experiences of membership in contemporary Western democracies has taken place. These transformations have challenged traditional conceptions of state membership which have typically assumed the existence of a nation-state, with a burgeoning line of scholarship challenging the significance of the nation-state in determining membership and endowing rights. This literature argues that recent trends in globalisation, human rights and multiculturalism have made state borders less important. The seminar series jointly convened by Dr Nando Sigona and Dr Katie Tonkiss (INLOGOV) invited four speakers to explore these issues through a focus on the boundaries between migration, citizenship and diversity. Each speaker brought a distinctly different perspective, yet some common themes emerged.

Workshop: Varieties of Religious (Super)Diversity

On November 26th the Religion and Culture stream of IRiS organised a workshop that aimed to bring scholars from a range of different disciplines and from across the country (including two colleagues from Amsterdam and Vienna) together to explore different approaches to religious (super)diversity. Thirty scholars came together from disciplines as diverse as social policy, theology, philosophy, law, education, geography, health sciences and urban studies, and the morning was spent offering a number of colleagues the opportunity to address the question of religious diversity from their own perspective. All the contributors agreed that the level of religious diversity within the UK has grown and that this raises specific questions for a range of practitioners, including schools, health services, universities and even local religious communities within the city. A number of interesting theoretical perspectives on this diversity were also offered for further discussion. The morning session was summed up by Professor Linda Woodhead from Lancaster University who highlighted a common question and the underlying concerns about what 'religious diversity' means and whether it is viewed more widely as a positive or negative development. The afternoon session led on to group discussions around gaps within the current research agendas and suggestions for how these might be addressed and the day ended with a number of groups forming around potential research proposals that the Religion and Culture stream is looking to develop further in the future.

Workshop: Causes, experiences and responses to poverty among refugees and economic migrants

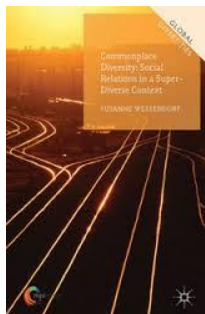
IRiS hosted a workshop on causes, experiences and responses to poverty among migrants and refugees. As an introduction to the workshop, research teams including colleagues from the universities of Sheffield Hallam, Keele and Oxford presented the findings of the recently completed reviews on poverty and migration ([IRiS WP 4-2014](#)) and asylum ([IRiS WP 1-2014](#)) in the UK. The reviews were commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation as part of their Anti-Poverty Strategy. The aim of the workshop is to take stock of existing evidence and discuss future scenarios and possible actions.

Workshop: Examining diet and physical activity behaviours amongst older adults through the lens of superdiversity

On September 18, 2014, IRIS held an interactive workshop at the University of Birmingham as part of the IRIS seedcorn funding awarded to Doctoral Researcher Diana Castaneda Gameros in partnership with Professor Janice L. Thompson from the School of Sport, Exercise & Rehabilitation Sciences. Attendees consisted of key researchers around the UK with expertise in superdiversity, public health, dietary and physical activity assessment, motivational processes, health and social care, PhD students, as well as non-academic community stakeholders working with older adults and ethnically diverse older adults themselves. Following an introduction by IRIS's Director, Professor Jenny Phillimore, about superdiversity and the need to conduct health research through the lens of superdiversity, experts in the different fields presented their experiences when assessing diet, physical activity and healthy ageing amongst older adults. The importance of integrating theories when developing interventions to promote healthy behaviours, as well as cultural considerations when conducting community-based research in ethnically diverse samples were also addressed by the presenters. Workshop participants joined the presenters in the discussions and helped to identify: 1) barriers to measuring diet, PA and healthy ageing; 2) main cross-cultural considerations when motivating older adults to engage in PA; and 3) the main limitations for researchers when conducting community-based research. Finally, recommendations to address these issues were developed with the purpose of producing an informative piece of work to disseminate the information to the public, as well as a second output that will be submitted to an academic journal. PowerPoint slides from the event and a complete summary of the workshop are available on IRIS [website](#).

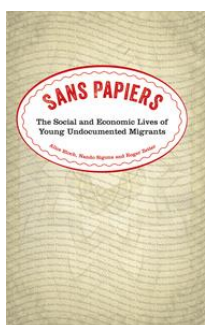
NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM IRIS STAFF

Full details and links to recent publications are on our website. Here are some highlights from 2014:



Wessendorf, S. (2014) [Commonplace Diversity: Social Relations in a Super-diverse Context](#), Palgrave.

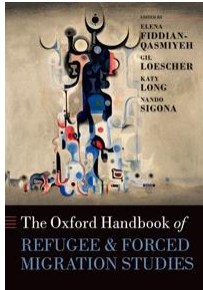
Urban areas in the UK and beyond have seen significant changes in patterns of immigration, leading to profound diversification. This diversification is characterized by not only the multiplication of people of different national origins, but also differentiations regarding migration histories, religions, educational backgrounds, legal statuses and socio-economic backgrounds. How has this diversification of diversity, also described as 'super-diversity', impacted on social life on the local level? How do people get along in a context where almost everybody comes from elsewhere? This book presents an in-depth study of super-diversity on the local level. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in the London Borough of Hackney, Wessendorf shows that diversity in this context has become commonplace. Rather than experiencing it as something particularly unusual, local residents see diversity as a normal part of everyday life. This book presents a vivid account of the daily doings and social relations among Hackney's residents and how they pragmatically negotiate difference in their everyday lives.



Bloch, A., Sigona, N. and Zetter, R. (2014) [Sans Papiers. The social and economic lives of young undocumented migrants](#), Pluto Press.

Undocumented migration is a huge global phenomenon, yet little is known about the reality of life for those involved. Sans Papiers combines a contemporary account of the theoretical and policy debates with an in-depth exploration of the lived experiences of undocumented migrants in the UK from Zimbabwe, China, Brazil, Ukraine and Turkish Kurdistan. Built around their voices, the book provides

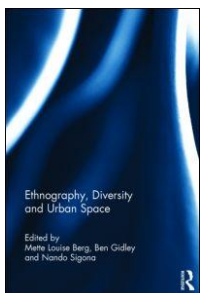
a unique understanding of migratory processes, gendered experiences and migrant aspirations. Moving between the uniqueness of individual experience and the search for commonalities, the book explores the ambiguities and contradictions of being an undocumented migrant. With its insights into personal experiences alongside analysis of wider policy issues, *Sans Papiers* will have wide appeal for students, academics, policy-makers and practitioners.



Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E, Loescher, G, Long, K and Sigona, N. (eds) (2014) [The Oxford Handbook on Refugee and Forced Migration Studies](#), Oxford University Press.

Refugee and Forced Migration Studies has grown from being a concern of a relatively small number of scholars and policy researchers in the 1980s to a global field of interest with thousands of students worldwide studying displacement either from traditional disciplinary perspectives or as a core component of newer programmes across the Humanities and Social and Political Sciences. Today the field encompasses both rigorous academic research which may or may not ultimately inform policy and practice, as well as action-research focused on advocating in favour of refugees' needs and rights.

This authoritative Handbook critically evaluates the birth and development of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and analyses the key contemporary and future challenges faced by academics and practitioners working with and for forcibly displaced populations around the world. The 52 state-of-the-art chapters, written by leading academics, practitioners, and policymakers working in universities, research centres, think tanks, NGOs and international organizations, provide a comprehensive and cutting-edge overview of the key intellectual, political, social and institutional challenges arising from mass displacement in the world today. The chapters vividly illustrate the vibrant and engaging debates that characterize this rapidly expanding field of research and practice.



Berg, M.L., Gidley, B. and Sigona, N. (eds.) (2014) *Ethnography, diversity and urban space*, Routledge

Across Europe, multiculturalism as a public policy has been declared 'dead' but, everyday multiculturalism is alive and well. This book explores how people live with diversity in contemporary cities and towns across Europe. Drawing on ethnographic studies ranging from London's inner city and residential suburbs to English provincial towns, from a working-class neighbourhood in Nuremberg to the streets of Naples, Turin and Milan, chapters explore how diversity is experienced in everyday lives, and what new forms of local belonging emerge when local places are so closely connected to so many distant elsewhere. The book discusses the sensory experiences of diversity in urban street markets, the ethos of mixing in a super-diverse neighbourhood, contestations over the right to the provincial city, diverse histories and experiences of residential geographies, memories of belonging, and the ethics and politics of representation on an inner city estate. It weaves together ethnographic case studies with contemporary social and cultural theory from the disciplines of anthropology, sociology, geography, cultural studies, and migration studies about urban space, migration, transnationalism and everyday multiculturalism.

Phillimore, J. (2014) 'Delivering maternity services in an era of superdiversity: the challenges of novelty and newness', [Ethnic and Racial Studies](#).

The population complexity associated with superdiversity brings a wide range of challenges for social welfare providers. Commentators have outlined concerns about the ability of service providers to meet the welfare needs of ever diversifying populations and point to potential problems in identifying the nature of need in rapidly changing superdiverse neighbourhoods as conventional

approaches to consultation based around ethnicity become practically impossible. Using data collected in the West Midlands, which explored maternity service needs from the perspectives of new migrants and maternity professionals, some key barriers to effective welfare delivery in superdiverse areas are explored. The paper outlines the emergence of two challenges important in shaping new migrant access to maternity care in an era of superdiversity – novelty and newness – and proposes further research to examine the extent to which these challenges are faced in other social welfare services.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2014 has seen the success of some major grant applications and the emergence of early findings from projects such as TLANG and KING.

New Projects

Becoming 'Adult': Conceptions of futures and wellbeing among young people subject to immigration control in the UK

Collaboration between Dr *Nando Sigona* at IRiS, Dr Elaine Chase at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention and Prof Dawn Chatty at the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford.

This ESRC funded study shed light on the life trajectories of young people who arrive in the UK without a parent or legal guardian when they 'turn 18'. For a significant number, the transition to adulthood corresponds with a 'transition into illegality'. Each year, of the 2,000 unaccompanied migrant minors who leave care in the UK, many go 'missing' (in institutional terms), disengaging from institutions and 'self' integrating through informal networks, or adopting strategies of secondary migration - either to other parts of Europe or, if returned to a country of origin, returning to Europe via an alternative route. While current policy frameworks have failed to respond to the social and economic consequences of these uncertain outcomes for young people, equally scholars have failed to advance our understanding of the cultural and institutional factors influencing these phenomena and what the appropriate policy responses might be. Due to the 'hard to reach' nature of the population and the almost complete absence of longitudinal research, particularly across this significant age/policy transition, there are practically no data on the individual and/or collective behaviours, trajectories and wellbeing outcomes of this under researched group.

This study seeks to enhance understanding of: a) how young men and women subject to immigration control conceptualise their futures and wellbeing; b) how these ideas are formed and influenced over time; c) young people's lived experiences as they make the transition to 'adulthood' while subject to immigration control; and d) how young people's intentions for their futures fit with conceptualisations of futures and wellbeing embedded within contemporary immigration and asylum policies governing their lives.

Understanding the practice and developing the concept of welfare bricolage (UPWEB)

IRiS is very pleased to have been awarded funds for the UPWEB project as part of the Norface Funded Welfare Futures programme. The project will be led by IRiS Director *Jenny Phillimore* in conjunction with partners at the Universities of Uppsala, Minho and Bremen. The project will reconceptualise welfare theory through responding to the question of how all residents living in superdiverse neighbourhoods access healthcare. Such a focus is pertinent given increasing population complexity, heterogeneity and pace of change under globalisation, and the subsequent need to rethink welfare design, alongside issues of engagement, approachability and effectiveness. Using innovative techniques including street-mapping, community research and a mobile phone "app" alongside a neighbourhood survey, we explore the multiple approaches that residents living in superdiverse neighbourhoods use to meet their health needs, encompassing the perspectives of

service users and providers. We will generate new theoretical and practical insights through the development of models of welfare bricolage: the practice by which individuals combine formal, informal and virtual health services across public, private and third sectors in an attempt to meet need. We use a comparative/sequential approach to interrogate local welfare states across eight deprived and upwardly mobile superdiverse neighbourhoods in four different national welfare states (UK, Portugal, Germany and Sweden) each with different welfare, health and migration regimes. By focussing on key features of superdiverse neighbourhoods where residents are differentiated according to faith, income (including socio-economic status), age, gender and legal status, we bring new insights with societal, practical and policy relevance. The study will illuminate inequalities and diversity in respect of individuals' relationship with healthcare, different modes of provision, and responsibilities for welfare allocation.

West Midlands: No recourse to public funds, Lisa Goodson

Dr *Lisa Goodson* is undertaking a programme of research commissioned by the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (WMSMP) to help fill gaps in knowledge in relation to the growing number of migrant families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPFs) in the West Midlands region. NRPF is a condition which may be imposed on persons from abroad living in the UK. In essence it means they are not entitled to welfare benefits or public housing. The link between NRPF people and local government lies in local government's statutory responsibility to support people who are destitute. In the last few years NRPF has become increasingly important to local government because the numbers of NRPF people, children and families in particular, becoming destitute are increasing.

The study aims to examine the profile and costs associated with NRPF migrant families supported by local authorities in the West Midlands region. It intends to improve the existing evidence, identify good practice and make recommendations about how emergine trends and issues can be addressed in the region.

Emergent findings

TLANG

The focus of this project led by Professors *Angela Creese* and *Adrian Blackledge* is to understand how multilingualism is relevant in the everyday lives of British people, and with this purpose in mind we have been developing relationships with people working in linguistically rich contexts in four UK cities. Our first research theme - one of four – is business, workplace and multilingualism and we have selected the following research sites:

- A Chinese butcher's stall in Birmingham's indoor market
- A small family-run Polish shop in Newham, London
- A small family-run Arabic shop in Cardiff
- A community-run advice and support centre in Leeds

We are near to the end of the data collection phase for the 'business' phase of the project. However, although data collection has ended for this theme, we will still be busy with the business focus until March. Up to then, we will focus on analysing our data sets, which comprise of field notes, photographs, interviews, and audio and video recordings and other textual data such as text messages, skype recordings etc. In March we will start the next phase of data collection, which is on Heritage. For more information <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/tlang/index.aspx>

Health Histories and Primary Care Providers

Dr **Antje Lindenmeyer** briefly reports on two linked qualitative studies that are currently looking at the experiences of recent migrants (who have been here for around a year but not much longer than five years) in accessing health services in the UK and the primary care professionals who provide healthcare for them.

Study 1: Health Histories

This study focuses on the ways in which recent migrants experienced health, illness and needing to access healthcare in their countries of origin and how this has changed after migration to the UK. Additionally, we also explore their views on accessing health services in the UK and how they could be improved. 6 Community Researchers affiliated with IRIS have interviewed migrants from a variety of countries (e.g. Cameroon, China, Poland and Iraq); we have started analysing the interviews we already have received as some are still being transcribed. The main issue arising so far is negotiating the change from a system where care is not universal but specialist services, tests and medications can be accessed quickly by paying privately or contacting family members who are health care professionals to a system which is free at the point of use but access to specialist care is slow and being given only paracetamol is a commonly told story.

Study 2: Primary Care Providers

This study looks at the experience of primary care providers who work with migrants, with a special interest in the ways in which practices make themselves more accessible to migrants and enable communication (by using interpreters but also by being more culturally 'literate'), and barriers and enablers to good practice in this area. We are currently in the process of concurrently recruiting and interviewing and have so far interviewed 12 doctors, nurses and other health professionals. We have also linked up with the West Midlands Strategic Partnership on Migration (<http://www.wmsmp.org.uk/our-work/health/>) and accessed a range of training and networking events which enabled us to explore a fast moving environment as both the NHS structures and migrant entitlements to healthcare are currently undergoing radical changes.

Social Anchoring

The preliminary findings from the project "Social Anchoring in Super-diverse Transnational Social Spaces" led by Dr **Aleksandra Kazłowska** were presented during the half-day workshop "Social Anchoring and Settlement: adaptation and integration in Birmingham's new Polish community" held within the ESRC Festival of Social Science at the Library of Birmingham on the 6th November 2014. The research with the Polish post-accession migrants in West Midlands shows that own family (that is children and spouses) together with the limited circle of people involved in reciprocal support (consisted of family members or friends) and work in the UK constitute the most important anchors for Poles in the UK. A strong attachment to the Polish culture and the Polish social environment have been observed, along with a rather low social engagement, limited to the Polish community. English language is perceived as the most difficult challenge and obstacle to integration with the British society. English courses, children's school and relations with neighbours represent the spheres where possible anchors having a potential for integration could be more extensively developed.

POLICY AND PRACTICE SUPPORT

Professor Jenny Phillimore presented at a DCLG roundtable on *What works in integration?* Jenny spoke about socio-economic integration. She also joined an invited roundtable at the Demos integration discussion around integration and cohesion at the Conservative conference fringe and contributed to the Bright Blue Commission on immigration. She is one of the lead contributors to the Knowledge of Integration Governance Project led by ISMU Foundations and has contributed to briefings aimed at EU Ministers, most recently for the November meeting of Ministers in Milan. Jenny also has a leading role in the new Birmingham Policy Commission where she has presented on superdiversity and the challenges and opportunities it offers the city of Birmingham.

IRiS's **Practitioner Research Programme (PRP)**, which brings together policymakers and practitioners with IRiS academics to work on innovative research projects, is nearing the end of its pilot phase. Sixteen practitioners participated in various stages of the programme. In the first stage practitioners from a range of organisations across the city engaged in accredited training in research methods and then went on to conduct a range of different projects on topics including undocumented migration and destitution, child migrants and food poverty, refugee settlement and integration, safeguarding and the role of the church. A number of practitioner researchers showcased poster presentation at the IRiS international conference and gave presentations to a well receiving audience interested in both the research topics and the methodological approach underpinning the PRP process. One practitioner has since been awarded a University of Birmingham scholarship in order to embark on a PhD that builds on the research developed during engagement with the PRP. Another has completed an MA in Migration, Superdiversity and Policy, at the same time as being involved in the PRP, and will go on to lead a second project in the New Year which will involve a team of migrant women researchers from the Hope Partnership, a local charity supporting destitute migrants. The PRP is now recruiting for its second cohort of researchers and intends to build on some of the key themes that underpinned projects in the pilot phase with a view to creating hubs of expertise which will bring together a number of organisations interested in common research areas. Proposed hubs relate to:

- Undocumented Migration
- Child migration
- Ageing migration
- Trafficking
- Migrant health

If you are interested in getting involved in IRiS's PRP please contact Dr Lisa Goodson on l.j.goodson@bham.ac.uk or Ann Bolstridge on a.bolstridge@bham.ac.uk for more information and an application form.

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER DIVERSITY NETWORK (DRDN) UPDATE

After a successful first year of activities that have been well supported by Doctoral Researchers (DRs) across the University, the DRDN kicked off with a networking event on 8 November which was attended by over 30 DRs. This provided opportunities for them to meet other DRs and IRiS academics in an informal setting, talk about their research interests and share their thoughts about the activities they would like the network to organise. The networking event also launched our new programme of workshops, masterclass and other events for 2014-15. Our review of last year's programme helped us to identify new areas of activity which we hope will be of real interest to DRs and their development as academic researchers. These include workshops and Masterclasses on comparative research, research ethics and superdiversity and language. We are still keen to hear from DRs for their ideas around events they would like to lead with support from IRiS academics. For

details of our new programme of activities, please visit the DRDN website or contact Ricky Joseph at: r.joseph@bham.ac.uk

NEW INITIATIVES

IRiS Working Paper Series: Reimagining society in the age of superdiversity

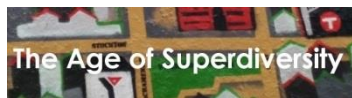
The new IRiS working paper series aims to provide a platform for research that is theoretically and methodologically innovative, empirically grounded and policy relevant on the emerging field of superdiversity. Papers will address a range of topics including issues surrounding population dynamics, security, cohesion and integration, identity, global networks, rights and citizenship, service delivery, well-being, social exclusion and opportunities superdiverse societies offer to support economic recovery.

The IRiS working paper series is edited by Dr Nando Sigona and Dr Aleksandra Kazłowska at the Institute for Research into Superdiversity, University of Birmingham. We welcome proposals for IRiS Working Papers Series from researchers, policy makers and practitioners. For queries and proposals, please email: n.sigona@bham.ac.uk.

Download our Working Papers here:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/superdiversity-institute/publications/working-paper-series.aspx>

The age of superdiversity – new blog at www.superdiversity.net



Researchers at IRiS have recently launched a new blog on superdiversity. Contributors are invited to explore and reflect of the challenges and opportunities of a 'superdiversity turn' in social sciences. We welcome contributions from researchers, policy makers and practitioners. We welcome proposals for blog posts on superdiversity and related areas (including Call for Papers, new publications, book reviews, events and conferences).

Superdiversity on Jiscmail

IRiS manages the first discussion list on Superdiversity. The list currently includes more than 60 subscribers.

To subscribe: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=SUPERDIVERSITY&A=1>

OTHER NEWS

Global Blackness Conference November 6-8, Duke University

Ricky was invited to speak at a conference organised by the Global Inequalities Research Initiative (GIRI) based at Duke University in North Carolina. The conference, attended by academics, students, policymakers and practitioners, explored the historical emergence of and comparative cross-national analysis of the concept of 'blackness'. Among the presentations given was an update on the National Asset Scorecard. This research project measures various indicators of wealth across racial and ethnic groups in 5 US cities. The project is collaboration between the Research Network, a consortium of universities and the Centre for Global Policy Solutions.

NEW MEMBER OF STAFF

Dr. Susanne Wessendorf has joined IRiS as Research Associate and will be starting a Marie Curie Fellowship next year. She is a Social Anthropologist and has been doing research on migration, transnationalism and diversity for more than 10 years. Susanne has conducted pioneering research in the emergent field of superdiversity. She has undertaken in-depth ethnographic fieldwork over long periods in complex urban settings, accumulating a range of experiences in working with people of different age groups, ethnic, national and class backgrounds. Her current project investigates how recent migrants settle in superdiverse contexts, comparing Handworth in Birmingham and Hackney in London, and focussing on the role of civil society organisations in the settlement process.

Visiting Scholars

IRiS has hosted visiting scholars from across Europe looking at a range of topics including return migration and access to welfare, Roma, adapting institutions in light of superdiversity, integration, undocumented children and migrant settlement. Visiting scholars work with IRiS staff, present seminars and engage in IRiS events. If you are interested in coming please send a CV and a covering letter setting out your interests and the dates for which you wish to come to a.bolstridge@bham.ac.uk