

IMPACT CASE STUDY 1: JOSEPH (JOE) HOPKINSON (HERITAGE CONSORTIUM/HUDDERSFIELD)

Joe Hopkinson was a 2017 recruit to the Heritage Consortium. He is due to submit his thesis in summer 2021, following quite a few months of COVID related disruption to his research, which involves oral interviews.

Joe's thesis is: **'Educating Immigrant Children in the Industrial North, 1960-1980'**.

Joe gave a paper on his research at the Royal Historical Society Public History Conference in 2018 and was invited to speak about his PhD research at the History of Education Society annual conference also in 2018.

Joe has produced an award-winning film on the experiences of migrant children of south Asian origins in West Yorkshire during the period when the Department for Education had a policy of dispersing the black and Asian children of immigrant parents across multiple schools. His interest is in the shared experience and stories of this group in the community and the diversity of outcomes resulting from this policy.

The film is: *Dispersing the Problem: Immigrant Children in Huddersfield in the 1960s and 1970s*. Joe won the Royal Historical Society Public History Prize in 2020 for this documentary film and it went on to win him a place on the prestigious three-day Edinburgh Television festival in 2020. Joe was one of 15 UK wide students selected for the AHRC TV PhD Talent scheme 2020.

His film can be watched here: [Dispersing the Problem: Immigrant Children in Huddersfield during the 1960s and 1970s - YouTube](#). It has had >2000 views to date.

Joe's research has raised awareness of the experience of the 1960s groups of immigrant children and the racism, cultural adaptations and educational challenges they experienced. His research aims to change minds about reach the community to eradicate prejudice, celebrate diversity and build bridges in all age groups. The 'children' of the film are now all older members of the community and their stories are part of building a brighter future in which black lives matter.

For my PhD work placement I worked at Kirklees Local TV on their 'Windrush: The Years After' project about the heritage of local people of African Caribbean descent. It aimed to produce a documentary film, and interview database from interviews were done with multiple generations of Caribbean people who settled or were born in Huddersfield. I worked as a researcher, videographer, and editor and was on the project committee working with members of the public. This improved my film-making skills and greatly increased my contacts with Huddersfield's visible minoritised communities: <https://www.facebook.com/WindrushFilm/>.

After working with KLTV I was keen to test and further improve my film-making skills. To that end I made a short film for a local African Caribbean organisation to advertise a project that seeks to re-furbish and open a derelict building that was once a centre for their community. It was initially uploaded onto YouTube and immediately viewed several hundred times. However, the organisation removed the video and asked for a second edit which was uploaded and can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXOG-1pvOXJx_r9owFS_0PA.

Prior to Covid-19 I was in the midst of arranging the donation of a large personal collection of materials relating to multicultural and antiracist education that have been used throughout my thesis. The materials come from an elderly antiracist called Jane Lane who contacted me after

seeing my documentary film to speak about her life's work for the Committee for Racial Equality and as a founding member of several anti-racist teacher groups. I have also more recently received materials from eminent sociologist of education Sally Tomlinson. After reviewing and featuring them in my work these will also be donated to Heritage Quay.

Sally Tomlinson also forwarded my contact details to researchers for a TV production company who consulted me about racism in education and ESN schools for an upcoming documentary they are working on with famous British film director Steve McQueen. I think this a contact that could lead to more work in Television when I've finished my PhD and documentary film!

On the possibly less tangible side of things I think that my research has been beneficial for the participants. After reading a draft of my thesis one emailed me to say: 'Thank you for writing the truth, in all its sadness and humiliation. At the end of the day, most of us can say, we rose above it, for 'our' children's sake, no matter how long it took us'.

For me this confirms that the potential public impact of my documentary could be great. Through telling the stories of the interviewees and their experiences in the British education system publicly it will shine a light on a little known but important aspect of recent British history. It will also represent the lives of the many thousands of now middle-aged British visible minoritised people whose memories of racism in our education system have largely been ignored.

Blogs/articles written since starting my thesis:

'Dispersal bussing in Huddersfield during the 1960s and 1970s: Solving "the problem" of immigrant children', Huddersfield Local History Society Journal, 29 (2018/19), pp. 59-68.

Post-racial myths and public history | The Social History Society: Community Exchange Blog | 27 February 2019 https://socialhistory.org.uk/shs_exchange/post-racial-myths-and-public-history/.

The importance of multicultural education history | The History of Education Society | 22 March, 2018 <http://historyofeducation.org.uk/the-importance-of-multicultural-education-history/>.

Mitigating the researcher-interviewee power dynamic in oral history through co-production | History to the Public | 10 July, 2018 <http://historytothepublic.org/mitigating-the-researcher-interviewee-power-dynamic-in-oral-history-through-co-production/>.