

## **EVENT REPORT**

### **ECR conference: ‘Belonging in a post-Brexit-vote Britain: researching race, ethnicity and migration in a changing landscape’**

9 May 2017

University of Sheffield, UK

The Department of Sociological Studies at the University of Sheffield successfully hosted a conference for early career researchers on belonging in Britain after the Brexit vote. The event took place on May 9 2017 (please see the link to the program: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/socstudies/events/postbrexitvote#tab01>).

Conference delegates from around the UK benefitted from two exciting plenary sessions led by keynote speakers: Professor Louise Ryan, Dr Jon Fox, Professor Sarah Neale, Dr Hannah Lewis and Mr Jeremy Abrahams. The keynote speakers shared their excellent expertise in racism and xenophobia pre-and post-Brexit, the challenges for Sociology that Brexit brought about and resulting Sociological research agendas. The delegates also enjoyed the presentation of the impact of Brexit depicted in a series of couple portraits prepared by Mr Jeremy Abrahams who is a theatre and portrait photographer.

There were six thematic panels in this conference. They addressed key issues in the multi-faceted nature of the post-Brexit-vote era. There were 15 presentations that discussed the issues of integration and belonging of EU migrants in the UK; the implications of Brexit for the UK citizens who planned to retire in the EU; a mixture of various emotions and attitudes related to the imminent changes in laws and policies; children and the youth in the context of Brexit; possible changes in organ and tissues donation in result of Brexit; after-death body disposal for migrants in the post-Brexit UK; and the issues beyond the popular ‘EU vs non-EU rhetoric’ such as the implications of Brexit on the belongingness of non-EU citizens in the UK.

A Mentoring Café took place during the conference in which Professor Louise Ryan provided support for three early career researchers in terms of their further maturing as academics and building their research profile. This conference was a platform for sharing the knowledge and research agendas, and networking for collaborations in further development of this novel area of Sociology – belonging in the post-Brexit-vote Britain.

This conference was possible thanks for the generous financial support of the British Sociological Association, as well as the support and contribution of the Sheffield Migration Research Network and University of Sheffield’s Department of Sociological Studies. The event was organised by Dr Julie Walsh, Dr Will Mason, Dr Iryna Kushnir from the Department of Sociological Studies and Dr Marcia Vera-Espinoza from the Department of Politics. The event was also supported by Professor Louise Ryan.



Keynote speaker Sarah Neal discussing the politics of race in the context of Brexit



Keynote slideshow by Mr Jeremy Abrahams