

Ethnic Group Population Change and Integration

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How is the geography of ethnic group populations changing in England and Wales? How does this relate to social integration of ethnic groups? This project addresses these questions in the context of renewed political and theoretical concerns about ethnic segregation. Using innovative quantitative methodologies the research aims to rethink the concept of spatial segregation in terms of processes of population change and to provide a re-theorisation of the links between spatial and social dimensions of integration.

Over the last decade concerns about diversity and integration have shifted as a result of new migration patterns and emergence of super-diversity. In particular, there has been a turn away from policies of multiculturalism towards a focus on shared values, rights and responsibilities, together with renewed concern about residential segregation. This project engages with these issues by using a demographic approach which focuses on dynamic processes of population change rather than static measures of ethnic composition. For wards in England and Wales, population change between 1991 and 2001 is decomposed into its demographic components (natural change and net migration) for ethnic groups separately, and with age and sex breakdown. This provides new information about population change of ethnic groups over the decade.

The second contribution of this research is an explanation of the links between spatial segregation and structural and social dimensions of integration. It has traditionally been theorized that structural and social integration follow from spatial integration and that spatial integration is characterized by sequential moves away from dense urban areas and co-ethnic concentrations. These theories, developed in the first half of the twentieth century and based on the US situation, have remained remarkably undeveloped. Indicators of spatial integration, including the measures of population dynamics, structural integration and social integration will be analysed to develop understanding of how population processes in the UK are related to integration of ethnic minorities.

This project uses 1991 and 2001 census data including aggregate statistics, interaction data (special migration statistics) and microdata; a robust time series of census-based population estimates 1991-2001; and the Home Office Citizenship Survey.

For more information and publication details see: <http://www.uptap.net/index.html> and www.ccsr.ac.uk/staff/nf.htm

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