



A new, free resource for A/AS level teachers and students exploring themes of migration, poverty, racism, ethnicity, power and inequality.

A new special issue of the free online magazine Discover Society, focuses on migration and the UK Hostile Environment, in a set of 7 papers plus a short introductory piece.

[3.2 Migration and Hostile Environments - Discover Society](#)

Guest edited by Louise Ryan, a sociology professor and migration expert at London Metropolitan University, this special issue brings together leading sociologists who are undertaking new, cutting edge research on various aspects of migration in the UK today.

The articles are all around 2,000 words long and written in a very accessible style that will appeal to A/AS level students and can be used as a handy teaching aid to engage students with up to date sociological research on a very topic social issue.

The special issue begins with Prof Brad Blitz's insightful analysis of the UK government plans to 'Off-Shore' migrants to Rwanda. Prof Blitz examines how other countries like Australia and Israel tried to implement similar policies in attempts to deter migration. Next, Professor Alessio D'Angelo examines the links between the UK and wider EU immigration policies as the notion of 'fortress Europe' is invoked to keep out 'unwanted' and 'illegal' migrants.

Turning to migrant experiences in the UK, Prof Louise Ryan and her colleagues draw upon their on-going research with Afghans, who were dramatically evacuated from Kabul airport in 2021, to assess how the much promised 'Warm Welcome' is being developed in practice. Sticking with the theme of migrant experiences, Prof Umut Erel and colleagues reflect on the lived realities of those who have 'no resource to public funds' in other words, whose immigration status excludes them from accessing welfare benefits. Erel et al used theatre-based workshops with women migrants as part of their research project.

Several papers examine the fundamental contradictions at the heart of immigration policies, as migrants are vilified as 'invading swarms', while simultaneously providing much needed workers in the UK economy. Bringing together analysis of Brexit and the Covid Pandemic, Dr Anna Gawlewicz and her colleagues discuss the vital role played by Polish migrant workers, especially in health care. While their contribution as 'key workers' was applauded during the lockdown, their immigration status became uncertain and contested post-Brexit.

In recent years, Albanians have emerged as one of the most vilified groups of migrants entering the UK, especially in the UK tabloid press. The paper by Dr Iraklis Dimitriadis uses demographic data to examine the complex and contradictory positioning of Albanians in immigration rhetoric. The ways in which hostile policies and negative media discourses can impact even on seemingly settled communities is powerfully revealed through the Windrush scandal when thousands of Caribbean born people who had lived in the UK for most of their lives were suddenly faced with deportation. This topic is addressed by Prof Tracey Reynolds and her team.

Together, as a collection, these free to access papers will be of particular relevance to the A Level Syllabus topics of: Stratification and Differentiation, Media Representations, Ethnicity, Poverty and Welfare, Culture and Identity and Global Development.