

21st & 22nd March 2013
The University of Sheffield, UK

Day One: Thursday 21st March

12.00 – 1pm Arrival, registration and lunch

1pm Welcome from Jo Richardson

This is the second in a series of three seminars funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The aim of this particular seminar is to focus on the challenges for Gypsies and Travellers in accessing public services. The first session will look broadly across the public sector as a whole in order to articulate problems in accessing services. Thereafter the seminar sessions will concentrate in more detail on (1) health (2) education and employment and (3) social care.

1.15pm Challenges and conflict in accessing public services for Roma, Gypsies and Travellers.

The session aims to introduce key ideas and themes that will stretch across the two-day seminar. Drawing on studies examining health, education, social care and policing, as well as wider cultural issues, the facilitator and key discussants will debate some of the main challenges facing Gypsies and Travellers.

Lead facilitator : Jo Richardson (De Montfort University)
Key Discussants: Margaret Greenfields (Bucks New University)
Patrice Van Cleemput (University of Sheffield)
Sarah Cemlyn (Bristol University)
Professor Judith Okely (Hull/Oxford University)

2.45pm Short break/refreshments

3.15pm Inequalities in health: access and outcomes

This session looks at health inequalities, not just in outcomes which result in poorer health for members of Gypsy and Traveller communities, but also in accessing services. Ideas on use of mediation approaches in GP surgeries as one way of bridging the community divide will be discussed. Also the issue of inequality within the community will be debated including the challenges in encouraging Gypsies and Travellers to engage with the health service.

Lead facilitator: Patrice Van Cleemput/ Jo Richardson
Key Discussants: Yvonne McNamara (Irish Traveller Movement in Britain)
Lynne Hartwell and Mary Bonomaully (Leicestershire NHS)
Helen Jones (Leeds GATE)
Janie Codona (One Voice)
Sarah Bennett (Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)

5.00pm Summary of the key issues so far

Lead Facilitator: Jo Richardson/ Patrice Van Cleemput

5.30pm END of day one

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Day Two: Friday 22nd March

9.30am Coffee

10.00am Accessing Education and Employment

As with health, there are inequalities in accessing education as a public service, as well as with the educational outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers. Conflict can also be seen in schools as a reflection of wider social prejudices with issues of bullying.

Lead facilitator: Sarah Cemlyn
Key Discussants: Margaret Greenfields
Pauline Anderson (Sheffield Education Authority, Irish Traveller)
Brian Foster (ACERT – Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers)
Helena Kiely (Irish Traveller Undergraduate student)
Gaba Smolinska-Poffey (Roma Education Support)

12.00 – 1pm Lunch

1.00pm Social care – conflict in culture and transitions into housing

This session has links with issues in both education and health, but the challenge of understanding and dealing with differences in culture in social care are perhaps even more magnified. Drawing upon research from a number of participants, the conflict that can occur, even where practitioners are well meaning, can leave lasting consequences for Gypsies and Travellers. Importantly, this session will also look at the challenges that occur in transitions into bricks and mortar housing.

Lead facilitator: Margaret Greenfields
Key Discussants: Sarah Cemlyn
Dan Allen (Edgehill University)
David Smith (Greenwich University)
Judith Okely (Oxford University)

2.30pm Short break/refreshments

2.45pm Workshop

The seminar group will split into smaller groups to discuss three key questions that have come out of the sessions so far. These will broadly look at (1) implications for future research and development of ideas and theories (2) policy messages (3) practical future – what can practitioners do tomorrow to help reduce inequality and conflict in accessing public services for Roma, Gypsies and Travellers.

4.15pm ENDS