

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

INSTITUTE OF
RACE
RELATIONS

About the IRR

THE INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (IRR) was the first educational charity on race relations to be established in the UK, in 1958. Since then, it has striven to change its focus in response to changing needs and pioneer new thinking to keep abreast of changes in racism itself. Today, IRR is at the cutting edge of the research and analysis that informs the struggle for racial justice in Britain, and internationally. It seeks to reflect the experiences of those who suffer racial oppression and draws its perspectives from the most vulnerable in society.

Most of IRR's information and publishing is now electronic and reports are in many cases available as free downloadable files from the website. But, in addition, IRR produces the international quarterly *Race & Class* also in print format, occasional pamphlets and has a back file of print materials available for use in education and training. Educational materials are downloadable from the website, and the DVDs *Struggles for Black Community* and *Catching history on the wing* are also available. IRR's library, known as the Sivanandan Collection, has moved to the University of Warwick; a Black History Collection of leaflets, pamphlets and journals from the 1950s to the 1980s has been retained at the IRR. The organisation also holds occasional meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences.

**INSTITUTE OF
RACE
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Company Number 601929
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Chair's comment



TWO HUGE STORIES with global reach have grabbed the headlines during the last year – the COVID19 viral pandemic and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) anti-racist upheaval. Both stories involve moral and political challenges in regard to doing what is right and undoing what is wrong. Both stories address the urgent need to reset national priorities. Both are race and class stories.

The onset of the pandemic, which panicked governments across the world into shutting down great swathes of their economies, and subjecting entire national populations to lockdowns and curfews, has exposed unpleasant truths about much that passes as normal in our unequal and unevenly developed societies. Already millions have been infected and hundreds of thousands killed, and the virus looks like it is here to stay.

'I can't breathe', were some of the last words uttered by George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American Black man, as he lay on the street in Minneapolis, USA, on 25 May 2020. He died seconds later under the insistently crushing knee of a European-American white policeman. There have been many such deaths before – in the USA as in the UK. And unless policing is radically overhauled there are likely to be many

more. A nine-minute filming of George's asphyxiation to the point of death went viral on social media. His words have since been adopted as a telling metaphorical descriptor for what ails millions of the most oppressed citizens of the USA, and indeed of the world. Along with the shocking video footage, those last words galvanised mass support for the long campaigning Black Lives Matter movement: sparked by deaths but focused on lives as they are actually lived in racist societies. Premature deaths are but one symptom of what is desperate and brutal about the lives lived by marginalised, poor, criminalised, and disproportionately incarcerated populations – locked down, as the norm.

The media headlines about BLM action in the UK featured the toppling of monuments of historical great white male figures with racist-imperialist pasts, as in the case of the seventeenth-century Bristol philanthropist and slave trader Edward Colston whose statue was unceremoniously removed from its plinth in the first week of June 2020; alongside a public debate sparked by assaults on cherished British symbols of greatness. BLM though comes of a long standing, cross-Atlantic, anti-racist tradition; and has an agenda that goes well beyond symbolic demonstrations.

Chair's comment

[See, [Movement for Black Lives: an interview with Barbara Ransby](#) | Institute of Race Relations]

The movement's revitalised insurgency this last year has succeeded in calling out governments and state apparatuses, globally, to some effect. The European Union, for example, in its new 2020 draft action plan against racism, reportedly, states that 'It is not enough to be against racism. We have to be active against it.' The same plan describes racism as structural and 'often deeply embedded in our societies' history, intertwined with its cultural roots and norms'.

Meanwhile, government double-downs and cover-ups abound on any number of the race and class scandals about which we have had cause to comment over the last decade.

Since the terrible west London, Grenfell residential tower fire of 2017, locals, the nation, and more specifically, the Justice for Grenfell campaign still wait to see what will be delivered by the state's enquiry. They have witnessed a torturous process of insult being added to the innumerable injuries and seventy-two counted deaths already suffered. There has been little urgent movement on the serious and sensible report recommendations that came out of Part 1 of the enquiry's hearings; and the Part 2 hearings, stalled for some weeks by COVID19 lockdown rearrangements, have been embarrassed by the buck passing of the majority of those who were responsible for renovating and maintaining the tower in the years leading up to the tragedy.

The blocking and blighting of hundreds of lives by UK Home Office officials, first exposed in 2018/19 in what came to be called the Windrush scandal, continues.

People have been harassed, interned, and forcibly transported to other countries. Consequently, many have had their lives severely destabilised, and several have suffered deaths, in as well as outside of custody. New immigration legislation is promised for 2021, which proposes to tidy up and legitimate much of what has already become common practice. Justice campaigners have repeatedly been dismissed by spokespeople for the government as making a big deal about mere 'perceptions of racism'. And yet, a parliamentary public accounts committee reported in September 2020 that the Home Office appears to have been funding a 'hostile environment' policy based on 'anecdote, assumption, and prejudice', to the tune of four hundred million pounds a year – based, in other words, on perceptions not evidence.

COLIN PRESCOD

Director's report



THESE ARE NOT easy times to be working for racial justice. Despite – or perhaps because of – the challenges thrown up by Black Lives Matter – it is now more difficult than at any time since the 1999 Macpherson report to use the term institutional racism. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick deems the term ‘unhelpful’ and No 10 policy advisor Munira Mirza, who heads a government commission on racial inequalities, describes it as ‘perception more than a reality’ further linking it to a ‘victimhood agenda’ and a ‘grievance culture’ within the anti-racist field. In such ways, officialdom is turning the clock back to the 1950s, a time when Little Englanders responded to issues of societal racism by telling those who complained, ‘you’ve got a chip on your shoulder’ or ‘you can’t take a joke’. New guidance from the Department of Education, while not overtly instructing schools to exclude anti-racist perspectives seems to come straight from the deniers of structural racism’s playbook. Schools have been asked not to use resources that could be seen as ‘promoting divisive or victim narratives that are harmful to British society’. If discussing racism is, per Mirza, part of a ‘victim narrative’, then we could be just one step away from excluding from official debates those who persist in drawing attention to its presence. The tragedy we face today is that just when people are coming together to

counter racism, some policymakers and politicians are hell-bent on obstructing them.

This year, the work of IRR staff has been shaped by the profound implications of a pandemic that has held up a mirror to society, widening and intensifying all aspects of the racial class divide. While racial justice issues, in relation to health, policing, employment, education, housing, civil liberties, asylum, migration and racial violence, have been huge, each week, staff and volunteers, provide a vital service to IRR users by diligently summarising developments in our regular *IRR News* digest of important trends.

The pandemic has intensified the stigma against the racialised poor and the vulnerable. All those children who are educationally excluded and schooled in Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision have been further let down by the governmental failure to mitigate its effects. This year, the IRR’s report, *How Black Working-Class Youth are Criminalised and Excluded in the English School System*, shows how this educational exclusion has been forty years in the making, concluding that factors such as austerity, privatisation, educational enclosure, and now the pandemic, have hardwired racial injustice into the educational system.

Director's report

Not surprisingly, the pandemic, which necessitated a move to remote working, created challenges for IRR's operations. Whether it was staff, volunteers or Trustees, everyone connected with IRR had to make a huge effort to maintain outputs and services, even as each felt personally the impact of Covid 19 and the insecurity it brings. Perhaps older members of staff did not initially relish the challenge of adapting to a world of video conferencing, instant messaging and online webinars, but we quickly learnt from younger colleagues that digital platforms facilitating exchanges between multiple users is the face of things to come, irrespective of when the pandemic is brought under control. What has been exciting is the opportunities it has opened up for us to work virtually across borders, with valuable links forged with colleagues fighting for racial justice not just in Europe but all over the globe, especially in North America.

The foregrounding and internationalisation of racial justice this year through BLM has also helped focus interest on IRR's work within new constituencies, which has meant an increase in unsolicited donations to IRR. We would also particularly like to thank the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for providing increased support under its emergency Covid 19 adaption scheme, which has allowed IRR to keep services running, renew essential parts of the office fabric and make changes to lessen any potential risk to staff.

We also have to note that during the year, and after deliberation within Trustees and staff as to improving IRR's efficiency and impact, we created a new post of Communications Officer. The post was filled as from April 2020 and the results of that decision - in terms of increasing our users, mainstreaming our perspectives and initiating debates – speaks for itself (see Communication report p16).

Finally, congratulations are due to UK researcher Jessica Perera who has been awarded a place and funding to study for a DPhil at Oxford; she continues as an associate researcher at IRR. We also extend our warm wishes to IRR Trustee Tony Bunyan who recently stepped down from his post as Director of Statewatch – where he has been a tenacious information warrior working tirelessly to increase accountability in British and EU state institutions. We are delighted that Tony remains an IRR Trustee.

LIZ FEKETE

IRR NEWS and UK Research

IRR NEWS

2020 HAS BEEN an important year for *IRR News* – we have provided in-depth coverage on racism, health and civil liberties through the course of the pandemic, experimented with creative design features and significantly extended our reach with a 20 per cent increase in followers between May – June 2020. Amidst increased attention to institutional racism across various fields, instigated by both the Covid-19 crisis and the Black Lives Matter movement, the *IRR News* team has risen to the challenge of responding to a situation that has been rapidly changing on the ground.

We have been experimenting with new design features for our newsletter to make our content more visually engaging and exciting



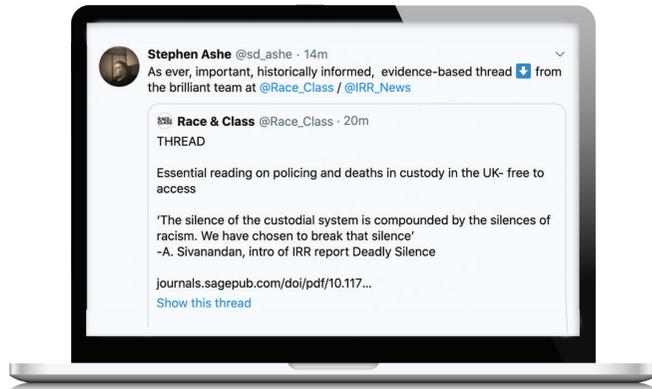
Covid-19

As Covid-19 has laid bare entrenched structural inequalities across lines of race and class, the *IRR News* team has published consistent coverage that holds governments to account over their handling of the pandemic. Liz Fekete interviewed Suresh Grover and Dorothea Jones of The Monitoring Group (TMG) about race hate crimes during the lockdown, which was praised for being ‘a brilliantly clear and detailed interview’. Black health activist Wayne Farah contributed several key articles on institutionalised racism in the NHS and the ways in which the New Right is attempting to use inquiries into Covid-19 excess deaths to normalise scientific racism. Long-time activist and *IRR News* contributor John Grayson wrote a series of articles investigating the horrendous conditions in asylum hostels in South Yorkshire during the Covid-19 lockdown, which worked to amplify the voices of asylum seekers that are so often overlooked. His work has been praised extensively, e.g. ‘You are doing a herculean job, as always, on behalf of asylum seekers, who are amongst the most vulnerable people of all in this pandemic’, and his writing made a number of impacts including an offer from a housing association of accommodation for asylum seekers during the Covid-19 crisis and his articles are being submitted as evidence as part of a legal challenge against the Secretary of State for the Home Department for failure to protect residents at Urban House.

‘It happens here too’

As Black Lives Matters protests swept throughout the world from May 2020 onwards, *IRR News* played a crucial role in documenting the resistance and keeping track of developments across the UK and Europe following the death of George Floyd. Building on the calls of UK BLM protestors saying ‘it happens here too’ we shared key historical and contemporary IRR educational resources, including

IRR NEWS and UK Research



pamphlets, reports, films and key *Race & Class* articles on policing. *IRR News* was praised for being 'awesome and essential to anti-racist politics' with one user saying 'this work should be compulsory reading in schools and colleges'.

As the police comes under increased scrutiny, we extended our coverage on policing by publishing an article on the disproportionate use of Tasers on BME communities by Jessica Pandian, as well as a piece by Tessa Qui on the launch of a campaign for justice for Rooble Warsame, who died in a police station in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Volunteers have been absolutely integral to the flow of *IRR News*, especially when responding to the challenges thrown up by Covid-19 and BLM, and we warmly thank Graeme Atkinson, Aisha Rana-Deshmukh, Kaiisha Kukendra, Jessica Pandian, Sarah Ross, Ifhat Shaheen-Smith, Neal Tank and Laura Wormington, for their commitment to compiling the calendar of race and resistance.

UK RESEARCH

Projects, partnerships and research

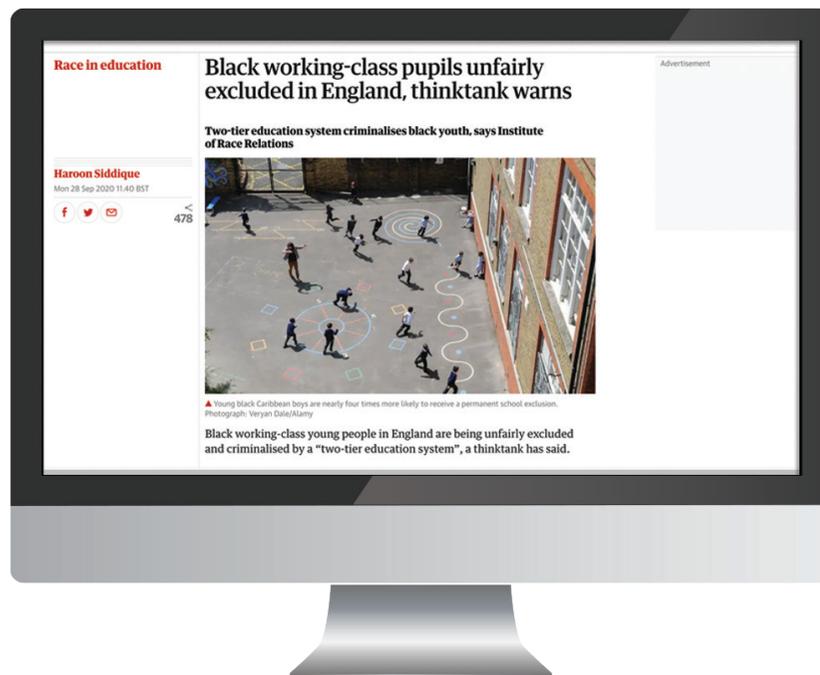
In September 2020 we launched the key report *How Black Working-Class Youth are Criminalised and Excluded in the English School System* by Jessica Perera. This follow-up to her 2019 study *The London Clearances*, questions why the proportion of pupils in Public Referral Units (PRUs) and Alternative Provision in London is almost double the national rate, with young boys of black Caribbean heritage overrepresented in the sector, and provides an alternative framework for understanding what is commonly referred to as the 'PRU-to prison pipeline'.

Even before the killing of George Floyd in the US reignited the BLM movement in the UK, the IRR had stepped up its monitoring of police and race issues. Concerned about the growth of racial profiling in the UK as well as corelated systems of mapping and surveillance, our research uncovered that software used



IRR NEWS and UK Research

by a consultancy, which specialises in identifying ethnicity from people's names, was linking ethnic data to specific types of criminal behaviour and being marketed to the police. Using our research, the *Guardian* ultimately revealed that five police forces, including the Metropolitan Police, have used software that can be deployed to help identify whether different ethnic groups 'specialise' in particular types of crime.



Apart from working with the Guardian, we have also assisted the New Statesman, Metro, Inside Time, Byline Times, Morning Star, Eastern Eye, Therapy Today, EachOther, NBC News and TRT World.

This year, we continued our collaboration with the NHS Confederation Black Leadership Network acting as a community partner on its research for the Health Foundation on 'The Covid-19 Pandemic – disproportional impact on BME NHS staff and BME communities'. We were also interviewed for academic research projects based at Goldsmiths and the University of Westminster (in collaboration with the University of Montreal), on Policing the Political (which aims to understand how charities are affected by restrictions to political engagement) and on Conflict Generated Diasporas.

Staff news

We are pleased to report that IRR's researcher Jessica Perera has been accepted by Oxford University and awarded funding to study for a DPhil in human geography under the supervision of Danny Dorling. She will be based at IRR as an Associate Researcher during the course of her studies. In September 2020, we employed Jessica Pandian, on a temporary basis, to assist on *IRR News* and carry out further research on policing, with a particular focus on the use of force, from handcuffing to the use of batons and tasers.

European Research Programme

IN SEPTEMBER, THE Greek government declared a four-month state of emergency and riot police were flown to the island of Lesbos after fires destroyed Moria refugee camp, leaving at least 12,000 people without shelter and many fleeing to the mountains. The destruction of the impossibly overcrowded camp was the culmination of months of absolutely misery, with one refugee telling the Guardian that during the long time refugees had been held in strict quarantine, they had been treated like animals. Ever since the global pandemic surfaced in April, IRR's researchers on the ERP have been monitoring the unfair and discriminatory impacts of Coronavirus regulations, with far more severe lockdown restrictions implemented in refugee camps, and Roma and migrant settlements. What we have witnessed developing across Europe is a system of targeted quarantine and militarised confinement, and we have sought to draw attention to this: in the IRR newsletter; in our fortnightly Calendar of Racism and Resistance; and in the pan-European webinars we have participated in, including one which we co-hosted alongside the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Political Research Associates, Movement Generation and Ende Gelände. Another opportunity to highlight the injustices meted out to undocumented workers during the pandemic was provided by award-winning journalist Hsuai Hung Pai who asked Liz Fekete to write the foreword to her devastating expose of the plight of agri-workers in Italy (Ciao Ousmane, Hurst, October 2020).

The IRR has worked with the London Steering Group of the Permanent People's Tribunal on Asylum and Migrant Rights to provide evidence to important hearings – in September 2020 submitting evidence to the Berlin session of the PPT on access to the human right of health, and to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into Channel crossings. We have also continued to assist groups and individuals impacted by laws that criminalise solidarity, including Seán Binder, whose charges

I thoroughly enjoyed this conversation with Liz Fekete. Listening to the experiences of people in the anti-racist movements of the 80s/90s is incredibly fascinating.

Demetrius Williams

arising from rescue activities on Lesbos remain outstanding in the Greek courts, and made links with European and US practitioners. Frances Webber wrote on criminalising solidarity for the *Journal of Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Law* and spoke at a webinar organised by the American Society of International Lawyers. The IRR is also working with the French immigrant and refugee support organisation GISTI on an online publication on Channel crossing deaths since 1999.

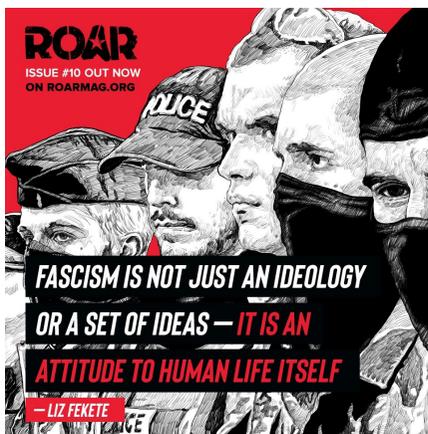
The plight of the undocumented, which Anya Edmond-Pettitt and volunteer Laura Wormington have further explored in pieces for *IRR News* on the Gilets Noirs in France and the Black Sardines movement in Italy, has resonances not just in Europe but in the US. In late 2019 we were delighted to organise for US Dartmouth College scholar and author Annelise Orleck a public meeting to discuss social movement unionism and the global uprising against poverty wages.

The demands of the Black Lives Matter movement, following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, are also international, with a strong pan-European element. We took part in Global Justice Now's webinar 'US political crisis and the need for internationalism'. We have, too, endeavoured to link BLM protests in the US to those in Europe, by providing regular round-ups of BLM protests over deaths

European Research Programme

in custody and police harassment on *IRR News*. We also charted the disturbing structural denial of police racism, ranging from Metropolitan police commissioner Cressida Dick's declaration that institutional racism is a contested term that she does not find useful, to the decision by the German interior minister's decision to cancel an official inquiry into racial profiling on the grounds that it served 'no need', to the angry opposition of French police trades unions to an attempt to ban chokeholds as a form of available restraint.

Liz Fekete's book *Europe's Fault Lines*, published by Verso in 2018, has now been translated and republished elsewhere: the Dutch translation by EPO was published in September 2020 and a Portuguese translation by Editoria do Portugues is currently in production. An in-depth interview with Liz Fekete by the global online magazine *ROAR* on the issues raised in *Europe's Fault Lines* in the new context of Covid19 was also translated into Italian (as well as Farsi).

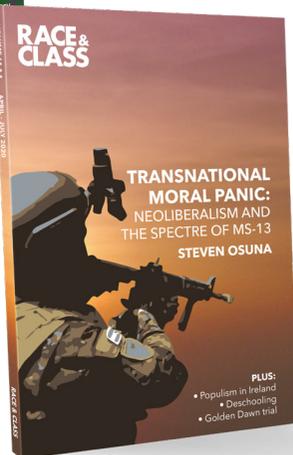
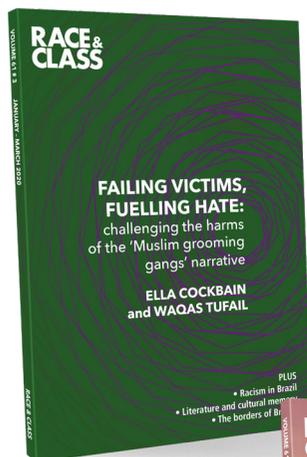


'Thanks for all your political and moral support over the years from all of us. And for teaching us so much about how to cope with the long-lasting commitment the fight needs.'
NSU-watch

The acknowledgement of our in-depth knowledge of pan-European and internationalist perspectives has enabled us to extend our impact with new constituencies, particularly over the need to underline the tenets of anti-racism. We have used invitations to speak to new audiences to defend core anti-racist principles within an approach that emphasises the need for universal values and unity in movements. The newsletter of the Jewish Socialist Group published an edited version of Liz Fekete's speech at its AGM, (based on the *Race & Class* piece 'Reclaiming the fight against racism in the UK' 6/1/4), and Busy Being Black, presented by Josh Rivers, who is curating a special series funded by the European Cultural Foundation, interviewed Liz Fekete to better understand queer Black solidarity across Europe during the Covid-19 crisis.

The ERP has also assisted journalists on the Guardian, De Morgen, Toronto Star, Euronews, Byeline Times, New York Review of Books, and Red Flag.

Race & Class



WORKING THIS YEAR partly remotely has not produced the easiest of conditions for the staff on the journal, but, thankfully, to look at the output and impact of the journal, one would not know it. The official impact factor of the journal has now increased to 1.78; in part, due to the appointment of a Communications Officer in April, we have increased our twitter followers to over 5,000 and the impact of the journal can be seen in the introduction of twitter threads around key articles and the unprecedented number of downloads of pioneering articles such as 19,333 for 'Failing Victims, Fuelling hate: challenging the harms of the "Muslim grooming gangs" narrative by Ella Cockbain and Waqas Tufail (61/3) (which also unfortunately attracted a massive online backlash from far-right and racist commentators against the authors). Of the April, 61/4 issue, Liz Fekete's article on the Golden Dawn trial has been circulated amongst anti-racist and solidarity groups in Greece, and an edited version published on the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation's website. Steven Osuna's important article on transnational moral panic in El Salvador was widely circulated and cited in a recent *Al Jazeera* article on El Salvador.

In response to the Black Lives Matter political moment, previous *Race & Class* articles were

circulated on twitter and on the *Race & Class* blog, and have been hugely successful. The Editor's pick collection on black self-help movements in the UK was praised for being an 'amazing resource showing the long history of minority self-help in Britain', resulting in Sophia Siddiqui participating in a webinar on mental health and social power, organised by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities University of Cambridge. The Editor's pick collection on policing and the carceral state in UK and US was praised for its 'historically informed, evidence based' content, and received almost 40,000 impressions on twitter and 2,000 engagements.

It is significant for us that the journal is not just appealing to the academic 'market' but also can because of its rich content and long history be used now by those concerned about debating and making racial and social justice.

The two issues of the pandemic and the upsurge of interest in structured racism following the Black Lives Matter ignition have necessarily dominated *Race & Class's* output coverage in the second half of the year. The July issue, 62/1, entitled, 'If not now, when?' included very timely and challenging pieces by Jeremy Seabrook on human resourcefulness, Peter



Race & Class

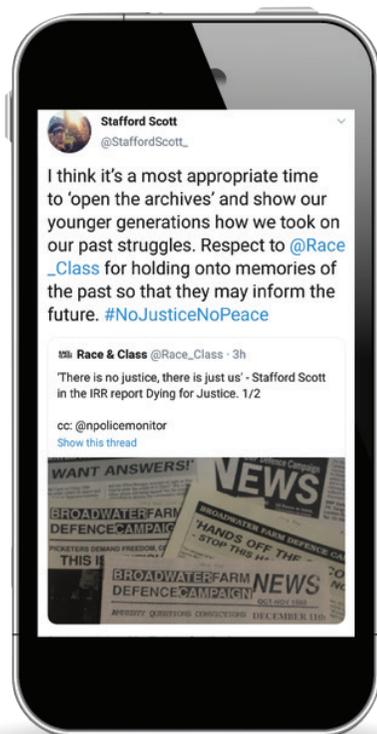


Pelz on desk killers of modern history, Nanna Dahler on biometrics as imperialism, Barbora Černušáková on containment of the Czech Roma and an account of a wide-ranging and important round-table IRR discussion on the politics of the 'hostile environment'. The October issue, 62/2, entitled 'A watershed moment', too, addressed key contemporary currents with US historian and organiser Barbara Ransby analysing the Movement for Black Lives, radical social economist William I Robinson on 'Global capitalism post-pandemic' and Simon Man on Anti-Asian violence and US imperialism'. Other pieces looked at the relevance of the First Intifada on present negotiations on Palestine and the development of the notion of 'Terrorcraft'.

The special issue on 'Race, mental health and state violence' guest edited by Eddie Bruce-Jones and Monish Bhatia (prepared for January 2021, 62/3) continues to look at state violence – in various guises – against a range of black and refugee communities, examines how new fronts are being opened via surveillance and the psy disciplines and highlights the ways in which community and family campaigns are fighting back.

This has proved to be a very strong year for the journal, which despite all the upheavals, continues to provide IRR with a considerable proportion of its income. We were extremely sorry that during the year Neil Lazarus, who has resigned his post at Warwick University, also decided to retire from the Editorial Working Committee and thank him for his contributions and support over the past years. Sophia Siddiqui has during the year been promoted to Deputy Editor in recognition of the considerable part she has and is playing on keeping the journal running so smoothly.

Black History Collection and educational work



THIS YEAR WHEN the interest in British Black History has come into its own with the spreading cultural impact of Black Lives Matter and the urge among young people to 'decolonise the curriculum', our materials both in the Black History Collection and those we have created (particularly the educational pamphlets on racism during the 1980s) have become much sought after. For those coming to an understanding of structured racism for the first time, IRR's analysis and recording of institutional racism and the decades of black-led fights led by community and families have also become extremely important. We have been delighted to advise and service not just individuals but educational institutions, faith groups, film companies and curators. With the Covid lockdown coinciding with much of this renewed interest, it has been impossible to open our Black History Collection to the public, but we have done all in our power to provide reading lists, make available key texts from *Race & Class* and provide advice by phone and email – senior staff even turning to hand-deliver books and pamphlets! And we were delighted that in the *Guardian's* 11 July 2020 list of 'Books to keep protest alive' Neha Shah chose A. Sivanandan's 'From resistance to rebellion: Asian and Afro-Caribbean struggles in Britain' as a key text.

Prior to 18 March 2020, when the Black History Collection closed due to Covid-19 we had assisted an increasing number of readers from universities to access materials related to the British Black Panther and Rastafari movements, Caribbean Carnivals in London, the Brixton Defence Campaign, Black feminist periodicals in the 1970s and '80s and solidarity with Biafra, during the war. We have also engaged with young activists researching issues of internationalism in Black British political life and the BLAM team with materials for a seminar on black British community activism and resistance.

Curators, too, are increasingly turning to the BHC for assistance. For example, items from the Collection were used as part of a photomontage in an exhibition on the work of John Heartfield curated by Four Corners, a film and photography centre in east London. At the beginning of 2020 curators at the Institute of Contemporary Arts asked for our advice and materials on a new exhibition to document, with the help of veteran activist Stafford Scott, youth activism at Broadwater Farm in the 1980s. We hope to continue to support this project when conditions allow. And we are also doing all in our power to showcase images from earlier struggles and campaigns in our *IRR News* output and twitter feeds

Black History Collection and educational work

for IRR and *Race & Class*, so as to keep the richness of history and traditions in the public eye.

The work of the BHC, managed by Anya Edmond-Pettitt, has significant input from IRR chair Colin Prescod, who has advised the Royal Maritime Greenwich on a new permanent gallery to replace the current 'Atlantic worlds' gallery and also was interviewed this year by the Paris-based architectural journal, *The Funambulist*, on the history of Ladbrooke Grove, with the interview taking the form of a walk through the Grove to reflect on issues of race and resistance, from the 1958 'riots' to the 2017 Grenfell fire. Colin also presented a paper at the workshop 'Sociology in the Archives: Black and Asian activism by and for young people' at the British Library in November 2019 and featured on the ground breaking NTS Radio show 'Within the Sounds of Notting Hill Carnival'. We were delighted to see that the film 'Blacks Britannica' (1978), for which he was both adviser and narrator, was selected as one of the ten best black British films (*Guardian* 19 June 2020).

Prior to the lockdown in 2020 IRR staff had begun to reorganise parts of the IRR's valuable unique collections of books and pamphlets on black struggle from the 1950s (but not part of the catalogued BHC which is principally of ephemera) so as to make the locating of these materials easier for users. We will continue this task as soon as we are able as we feel that our resources now have a potential new lease of life.



Communications

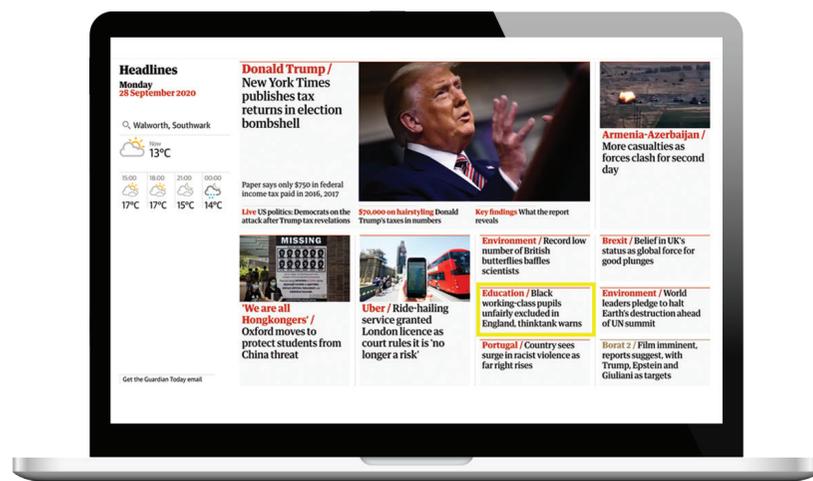
AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION within staff and Council in 2019-2020 as to how to enhance the work of IRR, it was decided to create a new post of Communications Officer and we were pleased to welcome Liam Shrivastava in April 2020. His impact on IRR's work in his six months in post has certainly been a great endorsement of our decision.

His appointment coincided with the Black Lives Matter movement resurgence and the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 both of which has naturally raised consciousness around racial justice inequality and we have seen significant increases in social media followers and website visits. In terms of social media performance,

we have, since April, gained 2,583 new followers for *IRR News* Twitter (an increase of 44 %) and 1,230 for *Race & Class* Twitter (up 33%). As well as increasing our number of followers, we have also seen considerable engagement with our content, with hundreds of people liking and sharing both new (including a number of Twitter threads) and archive content that responds to the moment. As demonstrated in the graphs, web traffic saw a considerable spike in June and July, raising average page views and visits compared with last year. Through video content, the most impactful of which was Sivanandan's '[Don't break my legs](#)' clip, we have caught the mood of many who recognise the limitations and contradictions found within certain strands of anti-racist activism.

We have had positive media engagement, with mainstream publications such as The Metro online and The Guardian using our comments and stories related to race – including stories concerning the police's use of the controversial Origins software and providing a comment on the appointment of Munira Mirza to set up a race disparity audit which featured the IRR on the front page and most recently covered the latest IRR Report *How Black Working-Class Youth are Criminalised and Excluded in the English School System*.

Liam Shrivastava has also helped establish new developments to IRR's internal and external communications. Under the coronavirus lockdown, the staff moved over to Microsoft Teams with video conferencing and instant messaging to stay in touch remotely. We also moved our phone line over to a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) system so that staff can receive and transfer external calls from home and implemented a new email newsletter system, MailerLite which provides better functionality for newsletter design and also means we can now start to track how emails perform with our audience. Whilst lockdown presented many challenges,

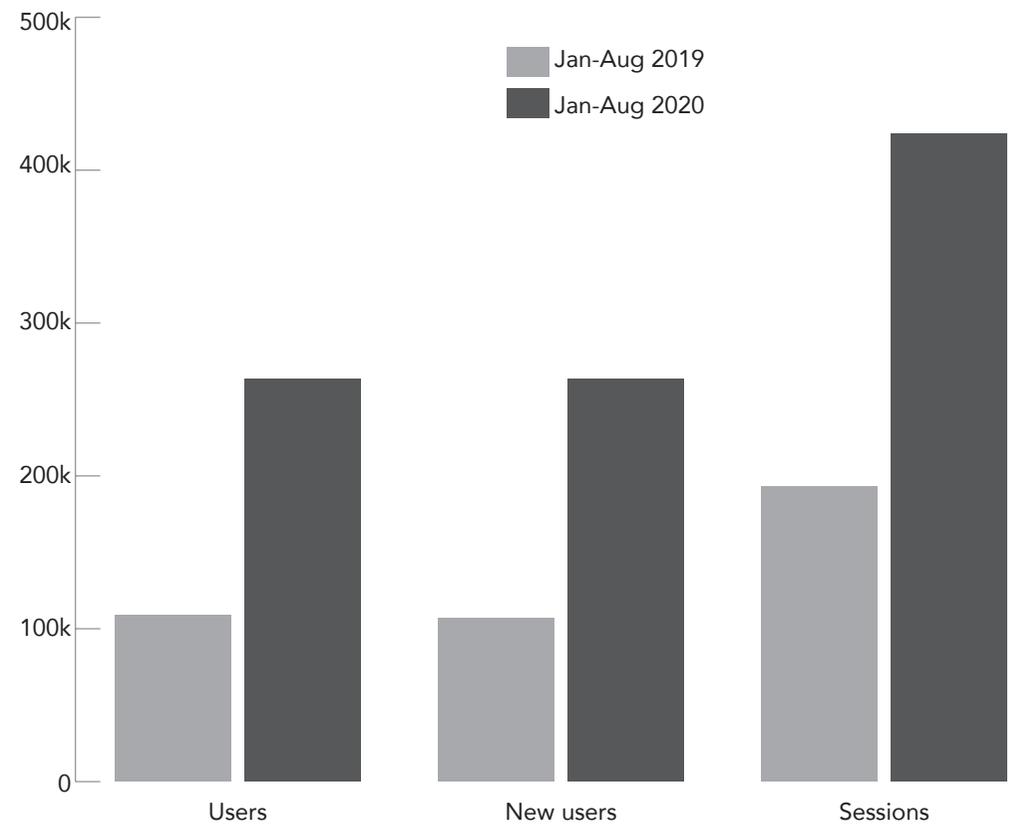


Communications

remote working did also prompt us to utilise video conferencing for interviews and catch ups with contacts outside the UK, including a special interview on the Movement for Black Lives with Barbara Ransby in the US.

We have also begun a much-needed website overhaul, which has proved challenging given the age and composition of the website and the fact it contained a vast amount of material spanning two decades. Whilst work and improvements to the site are ongoing, the design, security and ecommerce functionality have all been improved and the website is now fully accessible for people with impairments, bringing us in line with the Equality Act. When we are able, a major redesign of the website will be undertaken. This is part of a larger objective to refine the Institute's overall communications strategy and explore how communications can be embedded into all strands of our work to ensure that outputs are led by the Institute's overarching goals and objectives.

USERS OF IRR.ORG.UK



Volunteers

AISHA RANA-DESHMUKH WRITES:

My passion for anti-racist work came to fruition when I became the Black Minority Ethnic Officer at the University of Bristol. Alongside advocating for students of colour I wrote a report into our experiences and how racism, otherness, disproportionate isolation influences attainment in HE.

I was drawn to IRR because they create a space where academia and activism coalesce. This space is vital in giving voice to the voiceless and creating meaningful change. It has been powerful to feel a part of an anti-racist organisation and movement especially during these times. This feeling was potent during the Covid-19 attacks, on-going police brutality and Black Lives Matter movement. This is a time where our expressions of solidarity and actions to challenge racist structures are undoubtedly being tested. I have learnt a lot about what it means to be activist from this time.

My work at IRR involves collating the racial violence and harassment section of the calendar. This has proven difficult as it deals with visceral forms of racism and how it manifests in the everyday. It reminds me and our readers just how prevalent it is and how our justice system fails the most vulnerable. It also highlighted to me how the media renders racism into a phenomenon leaving the systems that allow it to flourish unaddressed.



KAIISHA KUKENDRA WRITES:

By researching my Tamil heritage, I uncovered the work of A. Sivanandan, and I have been following the work of IRR for several years now. I am very passionate about fighting against racism and other forms of injustice in our society and I am determined to embark on a life and career focused on intersectional anti-racist advocacy, in order to fight for the rights of the most marginalised in our society.

Studying History at university did not enable me to read widely outside of a Eurocentric-white curriculum, but the anti-racist work I embarked upon was informed by taking modules outside of my degree on Race, Gender and Feminism and Critical Race Theory. At university I created an anti-austerity campaign prior to the 2019 general election looking at the intersectional effects of cuts to public services – including domestic violence services, childcare and other forms of employment – on low-income women of colour and migrant women in the UK. Through this I discovered the work of feminist activist groups such as Sisters Uncut and Southall Black Sisters, which demonstrates that migrant women are powerful agents of political change.

At the IRR I have been working on the calendar of racism and resistance every week and writing up the health section, looking specifically at Covid-19 related stories in regard to race and how ethnic minority communities are being disproportionately affected. Working at the IRR has enabled me to stay informed and to feel proactive during the pandemic, and I feel proud and lucky to be part of this organisation.



Volunteers

JESSICA PANDIAN WRITES:

Throughout my time at university, I consistently studied and researched themes relating to race, diaspora and anti-Blackness from an interdisciplinary perspective in a range of global contexts, from the US, to Latin America and the Caribbean. After graduating, I decided that it was absolutely necessary to spend time focussing on race in the UK and Europe, as I've lived in the UK my whole life. The IRR, which studies race in these regions from criminological, musicological, historical and geographical perspectives, amongst others, very much appealed to me, and this is what led me to apply to volunteer with them in February.

Whilst volunteering, I utilised my Spanish to monitor the Spanish press for news stories relating to racial violence, immigration and asylum, and wrote immigrant death profiles for the European Research Programme. About 4 months into this work, I pitched an article for IRR News on tasers which eventually became 'Taser Trauma: An Increasingly British Phenomenon'. Throughout the process, the IRR team were especially supportive and helpful, encouraging me to speak with victims' families and scholars and activists in the field, which made the piece all the more compelling. Moreover, through this, I began to really understand and appreciate the collaborative ethos of the IRR – it's what makes the work so dynamic and exciting! I'm excited to continue working with the IRR until the New Year and hope that during this period, I can contribute to amplifying marginalised voices and strengthening the IRR's response to institutional racism in policing in these fraught times.



Out and About

Diary of meetings, seminars and webinars at which IRR staff and Council members have made contributions

2019

6 November

Attendee at 'Abolitionist and Reparative futures' conference with Ruth Gilmore and Anita Rupprecht, SOAS University London

11 November

Attendee at 'The atlas of migration in Europe: a critical geography of migration policies' event, SOAS University London

16 November

Joint host with Permanent People's Tribunal of meeting on 'Social Movement

Unionism and the Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages', University of London

18 November

Speech to workshop 'Sociology in the Archives: Black and Asian activism by and for young people', British Library

19 November

Participant at 'Hostile Environments and Struggles for Justice' conference, St Ethelburga's, London

19 November

Panel speaker in 'Fight not flight: challenging

the hostile environment in the UK', meeting University College London Student Access to Justice committee

21 November

Panel speaker on the far Right at 18th British/German Trades Union Forum, Unison, London

6 December

Participant in 'Border Ecologies workshop', Goldsmiths University

14 December

Keynote speaker on how the far Right mobilises fear at conference 'Around Social History:

Nationalism and Authoritarianism', University of Warsaw, Poland

2020

3 January

Host of Common Resistance housing workshop, IRR Offices, London

4 February

Lecture on 'Criminalising Solidarity' to Bristol International Affairs Society, University of Bristol

7 February

Research participant University of Düsseldorf forum on 'Memories of Rostock, 1992', Bishopsgate Institute, London



IRR hosts Common Resistance activist Fatma Tounsi

24 February

Guest lecturer on 'Social harm and the war on migration', University of Wolverhampton

27 February

Host of panel discussion 'Psychological coercion in the hostile environment', IRR Offices, London

3 March

Attendee at 'Black Feminism in a (post) imperial French context? Histories, experiences and theories', Campus Condorcet, Aubervilliers, France

5 March

Participant in international workshop

Section head

on 'Conflict Generated
Diasporas: Between
self-determination
and securitisation',
University of
Westminster

7 March

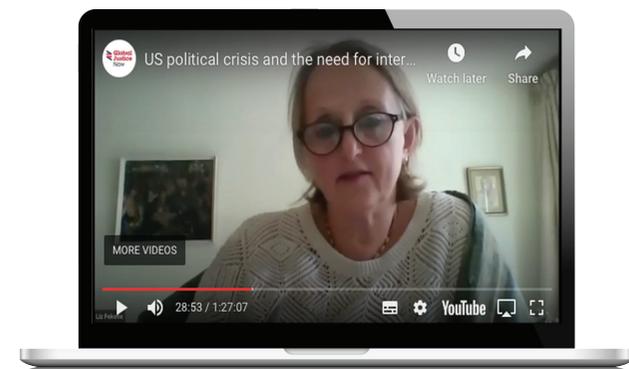
Chair/ moderator of
meeting on 'Climate
justice and refugees',
Charlbury Refugee
Action Group,
Charlbury

20 March

Lecture on 'Anti-racist
Feminism' to second
year undergraduate
Sociology students, City
University, London

12 May

Co-host of webinar
'From climate change
to Covid-19: countering



Liz Fekete speaking at Global Justice Now webinar

the narratives of the
Racist Right' with; Rosa
Luxemburg Foundation,
Political Research
Associates, Movement
Generation and Ende
Gelande

28 May

Panel speaker on
'Mutual aid and mental
health in times of

Covid-19', as part of
Cambridge conference
on social power
and mental health,
organised by the centre
for research in the arts,
social sciences and
humanities (CRASSH)

8 June

Panel speaker at
webinar, 'US political

crisis and the need
for internationalism'
organised by Global
Justice Now

18 June

Panel speaker at '*Black
Lives Matter, policing
and the criminal justice
system*' with Adam
Elliott-Cooper, Vera
Baird QC, Kathy Evans
and Lachlan Stuart,
(Crime and Social
Justice Studies webinar)

19 June

Attendee at a meet and
greet for discussion on
'a Channel 4 Dispatches
documentary'
organised by Traveller
Movement

25 June

Speaker 'Imprisoning
Schindler' at the
annual meeting of the
American Society of
International Law

25 June

Guest speaker at Jewish
Socialist Group AGM
(webinar)

16 July

Guest speaker on a
panel discussion on
BLM and institutional
racism with Birmingham
Trades Union Council

18 September

Attendee at 'Covid-19,
feminist academia and
social justice issues',
a joint-event between
the Feminist Studies
Association (FSA) and

the Centre for the
Study of Women and
Gender (CSWG) at the
University of Warwick

Finance Report

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2020 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The purpose of these pages is to provide a summary of the charity's income, expenditure and year end position. This summary is derived from the full annual accounts, and is not a full representation. A full copy of the annual accounts and auditor's report can be obtained from the charity's offices. The statutory accounts have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2019 (£)
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	65,940	29,580	95,520	104,907	58,893	163,800
Charitable activities	107,766	–	107,766	116,527		116,527
Investment income	186	–	186	152		152
Other income	3,412	–	3,412	1,292		1,292
Total income	177,304	29,580	206,884	222,878	58,893	281,771
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	(170,156)	(33,054)	(203,210)	(184,033)	(62,367)	(240,284)
Total expenditure	(170,156)	(33,054)	(203,210)	(184,033)	(62,367)	(246,400)
Net movement in funds	7,148	(3,474)	3,674	38,845	(3,474)	35,371
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	101,944	118,146	220,090	63,099	121,620	184,719
Total funds carried forward	109,092	114,672	223,764	101,944	118,146	220,090

Finance Report

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2020

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	113,779	118,039
Current assets		
Stocks	800	800
Debtors	73,758	74,064
Cash at bank and in hand	62,039	34,994
	<u>136,597</u>	<u>109,858</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(26,612)	(7,807)
Net current assets	109,985	102,051
Net assets	223,764	220,090
The funds of the charity		
Restricted funds	114,672	118,146
Unrestricted funds	109,092	101,944
Total funds	223,764	220,090

Contacting the IRR

Council of Management

Sam Berkson, Lee Bridges, Jon Burnett, Eddie Bruce-Jones, Tony Bunyan, Sue Conlan, Rebekah Delsol, Saqib Deshmukh, David Edgar, Gholam Khiabany, Joseph Maggs, Jasbinder Nijjar, Colin Prescod (Chair), Danny Reilly, Cilius Victor, Frances Webber (Vice-Chair)

Funders

Garden Court Chambers
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Open Society Foundations

Volunteers

Ann Dryden, Aisha Rana-Deshmukh, Max Goodall, Kaiisha Kukendra, Graham Murray, Jessica Pandian, Ifhat Shaheen-Smith, Neal Tank and Laura Wormington

Staff

Liz Fekete Director and head of European Research Programme

Hazel Waters Joint Editor *Race & Class*

Jenny Bourne Company secretary and Joint Editor *Race & Class*

Anya Edmond-Pettitt Office Manager and Research Assistant to the Director

Sophia Siddiqui Deputy Editor *Race & Class*

Jessica Perera Researcher

Liam Shrivastava Communications Officer (as from April 2020)

Jessica Pandian part-time IRR News assistant (September-December 2020)

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