

## The Changing Geographies of Ethnic Diversity, 'Segregation' and Mixing in England and Wales

**Speaker:** Gemma Catney  
Department of Geography & Planning, University of Liverpool

**Chair:** Tim Bunnell, Department of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Friday, 4 April 2014, 3:30pm – 5:00pm

**Place:** Earth Lab, AS2-02-03, Department of Geography, NUS

### Abstract

The population of England and Wales is becoming more ethnically diverse and mixed. The spatial distribution of ethnic minorities in Britain has been a major focus of debate in both policy and media, and has been a topic of considerable academic interest. However, surprisingly little is known about where ethnic minorities reside, relative levels of concentration and dispersal, and how these have changed over time. This paper will use recently released 2011 Census data to chart changes to the geography of the increasing diversity of England and Wales between 1991 and 2011, in particular within neighbourhoods. The paper will begin with an account of the changing landscape of diversity and mixing within England and Wales, before considering the decrease in minority group 'segregation' witnessed over the last two decades; London, and major urban centres like Leicester, Bradford, Manchester and Birmingham, have seen decreases in ethnic minority segregation. Local measures of segregation are applied, which enable the spatial variation in ethnic group population distributions to be properly accounted for. Not constrained by pre-imposed area boundaries, these measures provide much greater insight into how areas have changed over time, and in what ways the different dimensions of segregation (for example, 'evenness' and 'exposure') are related over local space and between ethnic groups. This methodologically innovative approach enables a more meaningful understanding of the dynamics of ethnic geographies, of relevance within and beyond the British case.


### About the Speaker



Dr Gemma Catney is Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Liverpool. She is a Population Geographer with research interests in internal migration with an ethnic group dimension, and in residential segregation, mixing and integration in Britain. In particular, she is interested in changes to ethnic diversity and population concentrations in recent decades, at a fine geographical scale. 'Religious' segregation in Northern Ireland is another focus of her work. In exploring these contemporary issues she has developed expertise in the analysis of individual and area level Census data, making use of longitudinal and advanced spatial methods.

Gemma was awarded a prestigious Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship, to research the 'Geographies of Ethnic and Social Segregation in England and Wales, 1991-2011'. Her research has received considerable academic, policy and media interest, and her publications aim to challenge popular public and policy discourses on the dynamics of ethnic group population change in Britain.

**ADMISSION IS FREE – ALL ARE WELCOME**

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