

## **PANEL 5: ETHNICITY**

### **Is Immigration Affecting Crime Rates within the UK; Official Findings vs Public Perception**

---

My dissertation will be looking at the public perception of immigration within the UK. It will focus on whether the public believe immigration has affected crime rates and whether this corresponds to official findings and statistics in relation to this topic. I will initially delve into literature that already exist on crime and immigration. I will explore why public attitudes vary/do not vary in relation to immigration and whether they think crime has increased within their area and what this is due to. I will discover what comes into someone's head when the word immigration is mentioned and what they think immigration is. I will also explore and question different variables that could possibly make opinions vary, such as age, gender, nationality, Brexit, etc. I will also determine what crimes the public think immigrants are more likely to commit. I will gather this information via a questionnaire with open and closed questions.

### **The public's perception on the causes of hate crime against the Muslim community**

---

The proposed project will include primary and secondary research to enquire into the public's perception on the causes of hate crime against the Muslim community. Additionally it will identify and analyse existing literature and theories that are based on the perceptions and causes of hate crime. The theories will include Merton's strain theory, Gottfredson and Hirschi's (1990) A General Theory of Strain with various other theories to be utilised for the literature review. The research method to collect primary data will be an online software called Qualtrics to circulate the questionnaire which will involve open and closed questions. The results of the questionnaires will then be analysed and compared to existing theories to see any patterns in the public's perception on the causes of hate crime against the Muslim community. The aim of the research is to raise awareness and improve the knowledge and understanding of hate crime.

### **The experiences of European migrant children in the UK education system**

---

The aim of the following study is to highlight the experiences of European migrant children in the UK education system. Research has often focused on the political and economic aspects of migration, the impacts on educational institutions, and the younger population of migrants is significantly unexplored. The participant sample in this study are males and females aged between 18-30. The selected participants originate from various European countries. The study involves a qualitative online questionnaire, in which the participants will be asked questions that encourage them to reflect on their experiences of the UK education system. The purpose of gathering such data for analysis could potentially identify suggestions for improvement to educational policies.

## **Comparative analysis of the prosecution rates by ethnicity versus the public perception of who commits crime**

---

My dissertation will be based on a comparative analysis of the prosecution rates by ethnicity versus the public perception of who commits crime. The study will focus specifically on the study of black and white males between the age categories of 18-25. The aim of the study is to determine if the public have a general bias towards black males in regards to who commits the more crime within society. This study will aim to highlight whether there is an injustice within the criminal justice system towards black males within the age range. I will complete this by sending out a questionnaire to a variety of individuals of all ranges, careers and backgrounds. I will then gather all the results and analyse them to see what the public perception of black male's connection to criminal activity. I will also study government's statistics to see whether the arrest and prosecution rates match up with the offending rates to determine if younger black males are being targeted within the system.

## **Joint Enterprise Law in the UK: its application to ethnic minorities**

---

My dissertation will be exploring the Joint Enterprise law in the United Kingdom. I will be focusing on the misinterpretation of the law over the past 30 years, the public's perception and understanding of this complex doctrine and the use of this law in securing convictions against 'gang' members from ethnic minorities. I have considered theorists such as Phil Cohen and Howard Becker and their subculture and Labelling theories, which I believe will support this investigative research. I will also investigate whether Joint Enterprise is a law considered to target ethnic minorities. I have created an online questionnaire asking participants for their views on Joint Enterprise, I will then analyse the responses I gain in order to build a better understanding of the public's perceptions of this complex area of the criminal justice system and the links this law has to gang culture and ethnic minorities.