

Institution: Leeds Trinity University		
Unit of Assessment: 33		
Title of case study: Socio-political, cultural, creative and educational popularisation of key theories and concepts on immigration and BAME communities.		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2015 – 2019		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Dr Kostas Maronitis	Senior Lecturer in Media and Politics	2014 - present
Ricardo Barker	Senior Lecturer in Filmmaking	2012 - present
Trinity Vision (Prof Graham Roberts as CEO/MD 2010-20)	LTU Production Company	2010 - present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2017-2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? Y/<u>N</u>		
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words) The overall impact of the work detailed in this case study is to give voice and visibility to issues around migration and racism and the specific impact of the above projects can be summarised as follows: - Gives a voice to migrants and refugees, giving them the opportunity to voice their desire for inclusion, their rights and quality of life while raising awareness of their circumstances and stimulating discussion about equality and human rights. Through creative practice - films, animations and other outputs - the work detailed in this impact case study opened new avenues for them to explore and share their experiences in an open context. - Gives visibility to issues of institutionalised as well as more widespread racism in the cultural industries. BAME students have benefitted from these works which have changed their perception of the educational and industry environment. - Contributes to the understanding and analysis of migration as a wider phenomenon. Starting from a general theoretical analysis moving into practice-based production, the micro-stories of immigrants are surfaced.		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)		

The underpinning research is based on Dr Kostas Maronitis' work on European immigration and Ricardo Barker's practice-based research on filmmaking and institutional racism and the gap in student retention for BAME (Black, Asian and Minority, Ethnic) students within British universities. Maronitis' book *Postnationalism and the Challenges to European Integration in Greece: The Transformative Power of Immigration* (2017) is one of the first examinations of the immigration crisis and its impact on politics and society. This research offers a timely assessment of immigration policies and perspectives in Europe; reflects the salience of immigration in recent debates and electoral contests across Europe; and examines Greece's experience of harmonising and integrating itself with the EU while dealing with the phenomena of immigration and asylum. Maronitis formulates the concept of "Europia" in order to analyse how the immigration crisis creates utopian and dystopian visions regarding the present and future of the European project. The book is comprised of distinctive yet interconnected case studies around the themes of political theory and the EU; immigration policy and control of mobility; detention and human rights; and integration and tolerance **(R1, R2, R3)**.

The socio-political themes of integration and tolerance are explored from a creative and a pedagogical point view in a number of practice-based projects. In this context, and as part of the ongoing discussion within MFC, film practitioner Barker developed a practice-based research filmic project on BAME students in higher education through which he visually analyses issues of retention and discrimination. *Re:Tension* (2019) is a 20-minute film that follows the character Thapelo, a bright and capable university student, on a day where he is unwittingly forced to question the judgements of his tutors and peers, and delve deeper into his own actions, choices and beliefs **(R5)**. The film addresses the topic of institutional racism and the issue of retention amongst ethnic minority students within British universities. The film's research is grounded in statistical data that highlights the unexplained dropout rate of BAME students. Furthermore, the film attempts to provide a real insight into unconscious racial harassment within the Higher Education system and the micro-aggressions that often go unnoticed. BAME students were also involved in the whole production process of the film.

Alongside producing Barkers' film, our in-house production company: Trinity Vision also developed audio-visual projects in this area of research, often in collaboration with the International Research Centre for Interactive Storytelling (IRIS) at Leeds Trinity. These projects are **(R4)**:

ADIRA/SADACCA – Mental Health and Me (2019-20) - A collection of conversations: Sheffield based charity ADIRA and SADACCA members discuss their thoughts and experiences of mental health, cultural identity and breaking a cycle of misconceptions both within and towards BAME communities.

"Our Keighley" (The Good Shepherd Centre) 2017 – 2019 An exhibition of 12 videos exploring individual residents' experiences. Intended for use in schools, focussing on children living on a particular housing estate in Keighley some of whom have recently migrated from Poland, Slovakia and Iraq.

Leeds City Council & The Children's Society (2018)

Young Refugees who have recently been moved from London to Leeds by the government talk about their lives in Leeds.

Hearts & Hopes / My Bright Kite (2016-2018). Two Films: "An intercultural child voice project linking children in Leeds with children seeking refuge around the world"

The above list of practice-based productions clearly shows the involvement of Trinity Vision in ongoing research within MFC on immigration and BAME people and its contribution to the general engagement of the team in research that brings theory into practice and vice-versa.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

R1: Maronitis, Kostas. (2017). *Postnationalism and the Challenges to European Integration in Greece: The Transformative Power of Immigration*. Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave-McMillan. Paperback edition published in 2018.

R2: Pencheva, Denny and Maronitis, Kostas. (2018). Fetishizing Sovereignty in the Remain and Leave Campaigns. *European Politics and Society*, 19:5, 526-539. (Taylor and Francis). DOI: 10.1080/23745118.2018.1468948

R3: Maronitis, Kostas. (2015). The Meaning(s) of Immigration at the Limits of European Civilisation: Detention Centres and the Suspension of Law. *Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies Journal* (7). (Cardiff University Press). DOI: <http://doi.org/10.18573/j.2015.10004>

R4: Trinity Vision
ADIRA/SADACCA – *Mental Health and Me* (2019-20)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YINdkwSGNQ0&t=3s>

Our Keighley (The Good Shepherd Centre) 2017 – 2019
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL48LIjRRgnsYKZeV53Qb72kH3DBAv7lr1>

Leeds City Council & The Children's Society (2018)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhswyR-Thxk&t=28s>

Hearts & Hopes / My Bright Kite (2016-2018)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjfvhckh2Hk>

R5: Barker, Ricardo (2019). *Re:Tension*. Short film (20 min).
Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CInCiLiX4Bk>

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

All projects involved in this case study have an impact on the general perception of issues linked to immigration, racism and BAME communities which results from wide-spread sharing across media, public organisations, film festivals and educational work

Dr Kostas Maronitis has been quoted in and given interviews in over 30 national and international media outlets, such as BBC Radio, LBC, The Yorkshire Post, the Daily Express, Huck Magazine, Radio Aire and the Polish newspaper Rzeczpospolita. In 2017 the political weekly magazine New Statesman published his article on the legacy of New Labour and Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party. Moreover, his article on automation and immigration has been disseminated to members of the RMT Union, the International Workers Union of Great Britain and the United Voices of the World Union through internal mailing lists and publications. In 2020 Maronitis was acknowledged as an expert contributor by the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST) for submitting questions to the House of Commons and House of Lords around the themes of the future of work and the pandemic; immigrant workers and no recourse to public funds; welfare, public health and workers' rights – the questions asked were two, on the 30th of June 2020 and 8th of October 2020 **(S6)**.

Ricardo Barker's film has been screened at two festivals, demonstrating impact nationally and internationally (reach) as well as with large audiences. *Re:Tension* was screened at the Queen Palm film festival 2020 (Social Awareness Shorts section) on streaming platforms and at the Festival International du Film PanAfrican de Cannes 2020. The latter has an audience of 300+ people and a Facebook page with 12k followers which gave large visibility to the film. Furthermore, in a teaching and learning context, it was shortlisted for the prestigious: *Learning On-Screen Awards: Educational Film Award* (University/Colleges category) **(S4)**. According to the Learning on Screen official website: "Entries to this category can have been produced to educate either a general audience or those with a specific interest", recognising the education quality of the film.

It played an important role in achieving the REC Bronze award for Leeds Trinity University (as referred to by the awarding Equality Challenge Unit's feedback report) (**S1**).

The film is now complemented by a newly created Aftermath Toolkit which gives organisations a framework through which to discuss the issues raised in the film. The film premiere (at Leeds Trinity in 2019) received extensive media coverage regionally and nationally (**S2, S3**). Based on our experience at LTU, the screening of the film enables and provokes constructive discussions about racial micro-aggressions among students and between students and the institution. Due to the visibility gained by the film, a number of universities have already booked screenings within their institutions and are planning to use it as an educational tool. Universities include, Leeds Beckett University – intended January 2021 (both postponed due to Covid-19), University of London UCL, Falmouth University, Durham University, Kingston University of Art and Norwich University of the Arts. Furthermore, it was screened to the executive team of Salford University on the 2nd of December 2020.

Re:Tension has also been used by the Fashion Academics Creating Equality (FACE) as part of their FACE N.S.S. campaign: <https://www.weareface.uk/about-us>. The film was also presented at the EDI Conference – Advance HE, 19 March 2020, addressing issues of racial abuse in HE in the UK. *Re:Tension* is still at an early stage of dissemination (due to Covid) so we believe that its impact value will increase over the coming years.

In addition, the film has influenced the design and delivery of the new 30 credit programmes recently launched within MFC, focussing on equality and BAME student involvement. This was achieved through regular discussions with students and with the effort of the University's BAME network in decolonialising the curriculum putting in place workshops and events for academic staff.

The impact of our Trinity Vision production has been to work with a range of organisations to help them bring voices and issues to life through media artefacts, to support them in creative ways of bringing issues and concerns to realisation and providing them with a means of sharing ideas and generating discussion. All Trinity Vision productions are available in the public domain through Youtube. Such a platform allows a wider engagement with international audiences, easy access and large visibility. The short film *ADIRA/SADACCA – Mental Health and Me (2019-20)* is a collection of conversations that gives people voices that are often not heard. Sheffield based charity ADIRA and SADACCA members discuss their thoughts and experiences of mental health, cultural identity - breaking a cycle of misconceptions both within and towards BAME communities. This project was screened as key contribution at: "Mental Health and Me" conference organised by ADIRA in Sheffield on the 12th of October 2019. ADIRA is an organisation that organises events to raise awareness of issues affecting the black community in Sheffield, in particular in relation to mental health. The video on the Youtube's Trinity Vision channel has, currently, 200+ views (**S5**).

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

S1: Equality Challenge Unit's feedback report.

S2: Combined news articles.

S3: Selection of online newspaper articles:

- <https://yorkshirereporter.co.uk/premiere-film-tackling-institutional-racism-higher-education/>
- <https://www.ilkeygazette.co.uk/news/17706971.film-highlights-bame-student-attainment-gap/>
- <https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/ilkeynews/17706971.film-highlights-bame-student-attainment-gap/>

S4: Learning on Screen Awards' website: <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/awards/shortlist/>

S5: *ADIRA/SADACCA – Mental Health and Me* (2019-20) – Youtube video.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YINdkwSGNQ0&t=3s>

S6: Maronitis' questions submitted to POST and discussed in parliament.