REF2021

Institution: University of the West of Scotland	
Unit of Assessment: 20**:** Social Work and Social Policy	
Title of case study: Enabling migrant and refugee integration via research, policy and practice	
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2014 - 2017	

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 Emilia Pietka-Nykaza	Senior Lecturer	2014 - 2020
Dr Dina Sidhva	Lecturer	2016 - 2020
Prof Colin Clark	Professor	2013 - 2020
Dr Chris Gilligan	Senior Lecturer	2008 - 2020
Dr Colin Atkinson	Lecturer	2017 - 2020

Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2016 - 2020
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? No

1. Summary of the impact

Research by the UWS team in Migration and Ethnic Studies has made significant contributions across policy and practice related to migrant and refugee social inclusion and integration that are of global importance. This committed work, adopting an interconnectedness lens, has engaged with numerous migrant communities:
1) Polish migrant settlement in Scotland and experiences of citizenship and integration
2) Lived realities of HIV-positive forced migrants from Africa currently living in Scotland
3) Central and Eastern European migrant Roma communities in Scotland and their experiences of racism, exclusion and integration
4) Immigration and Northern Ireland, vis-à-vis race relations and hate crime
5) Policing and increased public awareness of human trafficking in Scotland.

2. Underpinning Research

Impact on refugee and migrant integration has been achieved through the following five strands of sustained and engaged research work:

1) Trajectories of **Polish migration** and settlement patterns in Scotland and accompanying questions of citizenship and integration, with a focus on education and employment sectors **[3.1, 3.2]**

2) The lived realities of **HIV positive refugees from Africa** who are living in Scotland with multiple disadvantages and experiencing high degrees of social exclusion **[3.3]**

3) **Roma communities from central and Eastern Europe** and their experiences of everyday racism, socio-economic in/exclusion and integration in Glasgow **[3.4]**

4) Anti-immigrant **racism in Northern Ireland**, and how a 'race relations' framework offers little in terms of the structural factors that reproduce race/class discrimination **[3.5]**

5) The **Scottish experience** of raising awareness across communities of the problem **of human trafficking**, and the development of a strategy to tackle this issue **[3.6]**

Combined, this body of academic work can be synthesised as examining population mobility and experiences of growing vulnerabilities, borders and boundary-making vis-à-vis nationality, 'race', ethnicity, community, and welfare rights. The academic outputs problematise the nature of UK public policy and service provision to communities whose precarious citizenship status is often linked to issues of nationality, 'race', gender, ethnicity and age.

What connects the studies of Polish migrant families **[3.1, 3.2]**, Africans in Scotland **[3.3]**, Roma communities from central and Eastern Europe **[3.4]**, and minorities facing anti-immigrant racism in Ireland **[3.5]**, are shared experiences of multiple vulnerabilities in citizenship, belonging, and

everyday racism. The public policy measures and community impact of an important aspect of vulnerable migration, the case of human trafficking, are also considered **[3.6]**.

Specifically, the research evidence collated via outputs **[3.1 - 3.6]** detail the systems, processes and structures that contribute to migrant and refugee precarious status and sustain *unintegrated* neighbourhoods with evidence of multiple discrimination. In the case of Poles and Roma, outputs **[3.1, 3.2]** and **[3.4]** illustrate that settlement practices in Scotland are impacted by different migration drivers; gender, age, class, and ethnic composition, as well as the reception offered to the communities, post-arrival.

Similarly, African refugees who are living with HIV in Scotland are said to be 'living in limbo' **[3.3]** due to their health and immigration status. This photo-based research, as with **[3.1]** and **[3.4]**, illustrates that racialised 'othering' can be challenged via active policy interventions that raise awareness and challenge underlying perceptions.

While set within the Scottish context, these concerns are relevant globally and the value of the Northern Ireland work is that tackling anti-immigrant racism via a dominant 'race relations' lens and policy framework is of limited value **[3.5].**

The underlying research also contributes to a greater awareness of human trafficking, through the prism of 'invisible crimes' **[3.6]**. It recognises the role of transnational networks and how human trafficking has shifted from a peripheral concern to a core issue in Scotland's political, policing and community safety landscapes.

Overall, this body of research **[3.1 - 3.6]** documents how macro level structures of citizenship, identity and representation operate at the meso and micro levels illustrating migrant and refugee experiences of exclusion and integration in Scotland.

3. References to the research

3.1 Piętka-Nykaza, E. (2015) 'I Want to Do Anything which Is Decent and Relates to My Profession': Refugee Doctors' and Teachers' Strategies of Re-Entering Their Professions in the UK, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 28(4): 523-543. https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fev008

3.2 Pietka-Nykaza E., McGhee, D. (2016) EU post-accession Polish migrants' trajectories and their settling practices in Scotland, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 43(9): 1417-1433. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2016.1241137

3.3 Sidhva, S., Palattiyil, G. (2015) Caught in a web of multiple jeopardy: Post-traumatic stress disorder and HIV-positive asylum seekers in Scotland. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 43(4): 362-374. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10615-015-0542-5

3.4 Clark, C. (2014) Glasgow's Ellis Island? The integration and stigmatisation of Govanhill's Roma population. *People, Place and Policy*, 8(1): 34-50. https://doi.org/10.3351/ppp.0008.0001.0004

3.5 Gilligan, C. (2018) 'Northern Ireland and the limits of the race relations framework'. *Capital & Class*, 43(1):105-121. https://doi.org/10.1177/0309816818818090

3.6 Atkinson, C. and Hamilton-Smith, N. (2020). 'Still an 'invisible crime'? Exploring developments in the awareness and control of human trafficking in Scotland. *European Journal of Criminology*, Online First. https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370820931868

Grants

3.A Pietka-Nykaza, E., Clark, C., *Advanced Learning and Inclusive EnviroNment for Higher Education through greater knowledge and understanding of migration processes*. Erasmus +Programme, European Commission, September 2016 to October 2019 EUR387,315.

4. Details of the impact

Collectively, the high-profile and innovative impact work of the UWS team has assisted in changing perspectives and policies at local, national and international levels. Migrant and refugee integration and inclusion policies and practices are rarely undertaken with ideological neutrality or without political concerns and interventions. As such, migrant and refugee agency and perspectives are foregrounded in the policy and practice impacts of the UWS research team and drive forward staff research and outreach activities. Working in partnership with a range of civil society bodies and Government agencies to deliver socially useful research that helps make a difference is core to such activities.

i) Promoting self-representation and agency of migrants and refugees

Sustained impact on refugee policy and practice is demonstrated via the gathered testimonials included as corroborating evidence. Polish community organisations in Scotland, as well as the Scottish Government, have benefited from Pietka-Nykaza's research **[3.1, 3.2]** as her expertise and knowledge has been translated into well-regarded evaluation and advocacy tools **[5.1 - 5.3]**. For example, her contribution to expert debates on migrant voting rights, as well as contributing to an expert focus group and networking session at the Scottish Parliament, demonstrates that shared knowledge can have meaningful and sustained impact via influencing Scottish Government policy and practice on refugee and migrant integration. Refugees, MSPs and policymakers were informed via Sidhva's research **[3.3]** as this led to the creation of visual mediums that facilitated refugee voices to be seen as well as heard, via travelling photographic galleries and exhibitions in **Scotland, India, South Africa,** and **Jordan**. The high-profile Scottish Parliament launch of the exhibition generated significant media attention **[5.4, 5.5]** Roma rights NGOs (e.g., Romano Lav), Glasgow City Council, COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) and the Scottish Government (Equalities Unit) have all benefited, in a policy and practice sense, from Clark's long-term ethnographic research **[5.4]** which has emerged from his committed advocacy scholarship work with local Roma communities to ensure their voices are central to their own emancipation, especially for younger members of these disenfranchised communities **[5.6, 5.7]**.

ii) Influencing strategies and practices of agencies and organisations working with migrants and refugees

Government and NGO strategies and policies have used the robust evidence base offered by the UWS research team. For example, an evaluation of the provision of integration services to refugees as well as the holistic integration service model has been informed by Pietka-Nykaza's **[5.1 - 5.3]** research. **UNFPA/UNICEF** review and adopting new policies on child marriage have been informed by Sidhva's **[5.4, 5.5]** work as an Expert Panel Member on their Global Consultation on ending Child Marriage among Refugees (Jordan, Feb. 2020). More inclusive higher education policies and practices for Roma migrant students has resulted from policy advice delivered to the **House of Lords** by Clark **[5.6, 5.7]**, as well as via his appointments as Director, Trustee and Advisor, to various UK-based Roma, Gypsy and Traveller NGOs. Similarly, the NGO Scottish Detainee Visitors (SDV) has benefited from Gilligan's contributions as Board member, and his research has helped shape SDV's policy approach to refugee detention. Staff have used their research expertise in a manner that assists third-sector organisations in their strategic planning and policies and practices.

iii) Awareness raising of issues impacting the everyday lives of migrants and refugees through media/outreach work

High-profile media attention of UWS research has helped set the public agenda on refugee and migrant integration in Scotland. For example, Sidhva's 'Living in Limbo' photographic exhibition about HIV+ **African refugees** in Scotland and Pietka-Nykaza's work with **Polish migrants** in Scotland, as well as her ongoing work with the **Scottish Refugee Council**. Similarly, Clark's engagement with **Romanian** and **Slovakian Roma communities** in Scotland has helped families

to challenge the continual negative representation by the media and the racism (Anti-Gypsyism) that communities endure. Clark's ongoing **trustee work with Romano Lav** stands out in this regard, helping to challenge hostile media/political discourses **[5.7]**. Journalists routinely approach the UWS team for comments or opinion articles on refugee and migrant integration and this helps establish fresh perspectives and new policy ideas for promoting inclusion and belonging.

iv) Improving the evidence base used by Government and NGOs, regarding migrant and refugee needs from policy and practice

Meaningful impact comes through reliable data and improving the evidence base. Gilligan's academic work **[5.5]** has led to roundtable invitations allowing him to network and disseminate knowledge. Pietka-Nykaza's research **[3.1, 3.2]** has enabled invitations to high profile events **[5.1 - 5.3]** that assist in transmitting policy and practice guidance to NGOs working in the field of migrant and refugee rights. Sidhva's commitment to high quality practice-based work **[3.3]** has promoted active exchanges with Government/NGO bodies regarding the needs and expectations of refugees in vulnerable conditions **[5.4, 5.5]**. Clark's voluntary engagement with different organisations, including the Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Traveller Movement **[5.6]**, Romano Lav (Roma Voice) **[5.7]** and the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights **[5.8]** has enabled him to offer research evidence **[3.4]** to inform the grassroots policy and practice work of these bodies. Atkinson's innovative research **[3.6]** helped to directly shape the policy and strategy of the Scottish Government Taskforce on human trafficking **[5.9, 5.10]**.

5. Sources to corroborate the impact

5.1 Contribution of Pietka-Nykaza to an expert discussion on the proposal to introduce a national-level reception and integration strategy for Scotland, as part of the research project funded by the Scottish Parliament on 'Attracting and retaining migrants in post-Brexit Scotland: Is a social integration strategy the answer?' (held on 11th January 2018) https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefings/Report/2018/6/28/Attracting-and-retaining-migrants-in-post-Brexit-Scotland--is-a-social-integration-strategy-the-answer--1#Executive-Summary

5.2 Contribution by Pietka-Nykaza to an expert debate entitled **"Independence referendums: who should vote and who should be offered citizenship?"** lead by European University Institute, December 2014.

5.3 Contribution by Pietka-Nykaza to evidence that supported changes to the 'New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018-22' document produced by the Scottish Government (Annex, Evidence Sources, 'Employment and Welfare Rights', page 29). https://www.gov.scot/publications/refugee-integration-evidence-scotland-study-evidence-available-support-new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/

5.4 The 'Living in Limbo' photographic exhibition was launched at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on March 23, 2016 by MSP [Cabinet Secretary for Justice] with over 100 people attending. Since this time, via the work of Sidhva and partner organisations, the Photovoice research has been exhibited in several locations in Scotland and travelled to many locations, including India, Jordan and South Africa.

5.5 Testimonials to Sidhva from The Secretary General of the Higher Population Council in Jordan regarding the exhibition, its impact and Sidhva's role in organising this research and associated impact events. May 2020.

5.6 Testimonial from the Traveller Movement regarding Clark's role on the Advisory Committee of the organisation and his strategic input to policy issues (e.g., access to Higher Education) regarding Roma, Gypsy and Traveller Rights in the UK. May 2020.

5.7 Testimonial from the Romano Lav [Roma Voice], outlining how the NGO has benefitted from Clark's input as a Trustee of RL on matters of strategy in relation to Roma inclusion and integration in Scotland. May 2020.

5.8 Participation of Clark (as Chair and as keynote speaker) in the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) hosted event entitled 'Fostering Good Race Relations in Scotland - How can we improve our approaches to fostering good relations in Scotland?' held on 26-02-2019 at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow. The outcomes from this event contributed to updates to the Scottish Government strategy on social integration and race relations, as evidenced in the 'Race Equality Framework for Scotland: 2016-2030' document (Chapter 3, participation and representation, pages 36-45). https://www.gov.scot/publications/race-equality-framework-scotland-2016-2030/

5.9 Testimonial from a representative of the Scottish Government Serious Organised Crime Task-force to Atkinson indicating the ways in which the findings reported in research paper **[3.6]** was used to inform Scottish Government strategy on combatting human trafficking and serious organised crime.

5.10 A BBC News Online item [04-06-18] reporting on the 'Community Experiences of Serious Organised Crime in Scotland' research findings, including comment from former Justice Secretary. This project involved Atkinson from UWS. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-44349385