



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES



IRiS
Institute for Research
into Superdiversity

Superdiversity, population health and health care: opportunities and challenges in a changing world

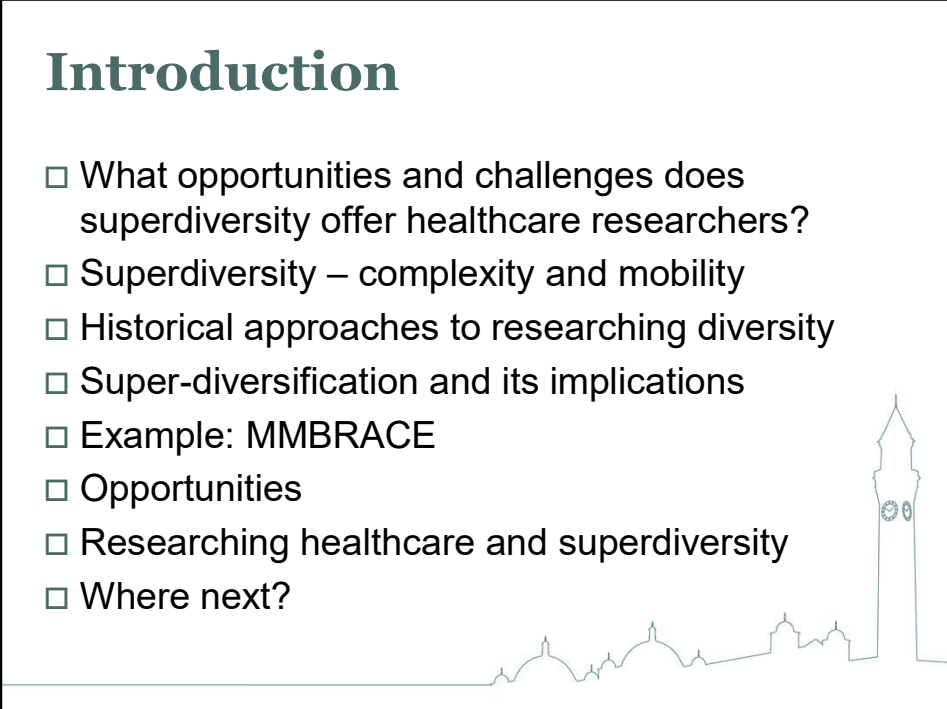
Jenny Phillimore, Institute for Research into Superdiversity, University of
Birmingham
Tilman Brand, Leibniz-Institut für Präventionsforschung und Epidemiologie,
Bremen
Hannah Bradby, University of Uppsala



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Introduction

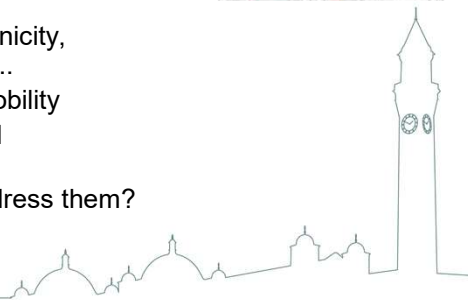
- What opportunities and challenges does superdiversity offer healthcare researchers?
- Superdiversity – complexity and mobility
- Historical approaches to researching diversity
- Super-diversification and its implications
- Example: MMBRACE
- Opportunities
- Researching healthcare and superdiversity
- Where next?



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Superdiversity

- Diversity that supersedes anything previously experienced (Vertovec 2012)
- From old migration – critical masses from few places to few places – post-colonial and bilateral agreements
- More people from more places to more places
 - Bham (187), Milan (140), Rotterdam (160), Toronto (200), Melbourne (214) Sao Paolo (100)
- Multi-layered – indigenous/old migrant/ new migrant
- Complex – gender, status, age, ethnicity, reason for migration, class, faith.....
- Scale, speed, spread and super-mobility
- Challenges for health provision and researchers
- What are these and how do we address them?



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Diversity and health

- Post-1950s natural experiment minorities/residents
- Country of birth or mother's country of birth as identifiers
- Assumptions that any health needs/ differences were temporary
- Acknowledgement of differential health needs post-1980s
- "Old" migration ethnic categories introduced in UK's 1991 census (not Northern Ireland)
- Attention paid to inequalities, outcomes and risks with some redistribution of resource – interpretation provision
- Calcification of categories based on "old" migration
- Inconsistent categories = barriers to comparative work

16 What is your ethnic group?
 Choose one section from A to E, then tick one box to best describe your ethnic group or background

A White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background, write in: _____

B Mixed / multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background, write in: _____

C Asian / Asian British

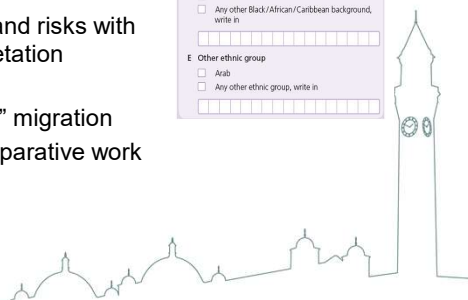
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background, write in: _____

D Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, write in: _____

E Other ethnic group

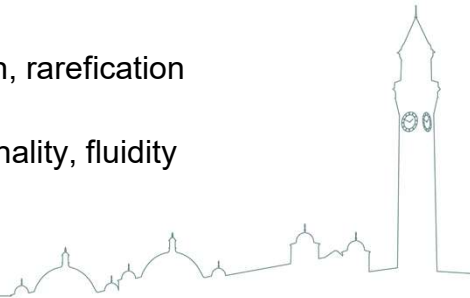
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group, write in: _____



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Challenges of super-diversification

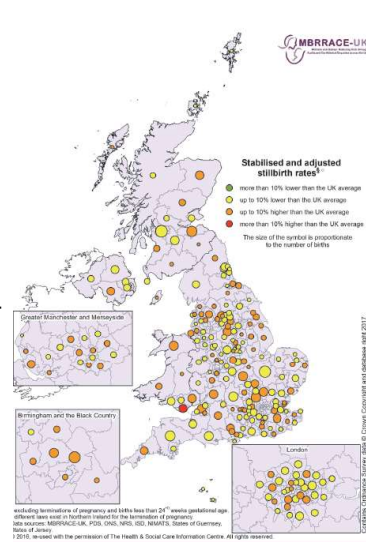
- Growth of the “other” category
- Novelty and newness (Phillimore 2013)
- Increased complexity, fragmentation, super-mobility challenge providers (see Phillimore et al forthcoming)
- Diversity within diversity unacknowledged
- Over-categorisation
 - Encourages pathologization, rarefication and essentialisation
 - Omits structure, intersectionality, fluidity



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Example: MMBRACE data

- Maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality
- Ethnicity as a control – white, Asian, Black, Chinese & Others, Mixed
- Mortality rates by geography, Trusts, Health Boards and CCGs controlled by ethnicity
- Rationale – high levels of consanguinity, low pre-natal testing and termination rates
- Parts of Birmingham with highest perinatal mortality rates in Europe do not appear as problematic when stabilised and adjusted (for stillbirths)
- Is there no problem in these CCGs?
- Dispersal, controlling relationships and poverty (Phillimore 2016)



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Opportunities and superdiversification

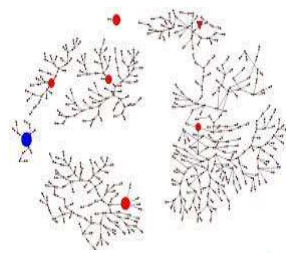


- Which differences make a difference?
- Examine characteristics and experiences that shape outcomes
- Re-orientate attention to newness, migration history, policy (i.e. charging policies).....
- Look at some groups in depth to explore intersections
- Focus on place – i.e. UPWEB examination of bricolage behaviours in SD neighbourhoods – importance of age, newness, gender and education (Phillimore et al 2016; 2018) (see Brand on unmet need)
- Exploration of intra-group difference can de-essentialise and identify positive examples as well as inequalities

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Researching superdiverse populations

- No specific methodology (see Goodson & Kazlowska 2017) but inclusive sampling
- Maximum variation sampling (Patton 2005)
- Respondent driven sampling (Schonlau & Liebau 2010)
- Inter and intra-categorical approaches (McCall 2005)
- The ongoing problem of small groups (or groups)
- Focus on population group variance



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What to do

- Justify all classifications in terms of research questions
- Question – what are the likely categories of difference pre-analysis – mixed methods
- Test other hypotheses with population data and look at intra-categorical variations
- Consider intersections
- SD is a demographic state, possibly an orientation but not a theory
- So.....more theorisation

