

# Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research

## Applying structure to life's difficult questions

Research at The Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research (CMI) addresses some of the most pressing research questions of our time in the fields of social mobility, political and social participation, ethnic diversity, health, class, gender and labour.

At The University of Manchester, we are challenging myths about diversity within the UK, at local and regional levels, and also across different countries. We look at social patterns and change that are comparable across time and regions. We study data and statistics, applied to lifecourse, migration and social mobility processes.

CMI provides a focal point for researchers working across the social sciences and humanities to develop and apply advanced quantitative methods to help improve our understanding of these core questions.

Bringing together researchers specialising in political participation, ageing, ethnicity, health, class, gender and labour means that we are able to offer highly original and creative insights into understanding contemporary problems.

Our focus on the theme of Social Dynamics and Inequality allows us to examine the implications of socio-economic and demographic change over time, with a particular emphasis on the consequences for social inequality.

Our skills in Advanced Quantitative Methods and Resources mean that we can apply the latest cutting edge approaches and data to model and understand social attitudes and behaviours.

Our findings inform key resources for NGOs (eg Runnymede Trust), and a number of local UK authorities now use our researchers' methods to estimate ethnic group population change.

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CMI is home to world class social science research that uses cutting edge methods and data to investigate key questions about societal and political change.

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**Professor Rachel Gibson**

Director, Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research

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### Distinguished Achievements

CMI research staff are members of several key national and international advisory boards and scientific committees, including Public Health England and the Royal Statistical Society, Understanding Society Health and Biomarker board and the Research Centre on Micro-Social Change.

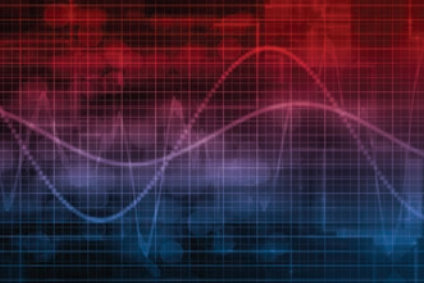
Staff have held visiting or honorary positions in a wide range of international institutions, including Duke University; Jawaharlal Nehru University, the

Australian National University, University College London and the University of Oxford.

We have been invited to speak at the House of Lords and in Parliament on issues around ethnicity and to deliver key note lectures.

CMI staff sit on the editorial boards of several generalist and subject specific journals including the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*; *Ethnicity and Health*; *International Statistical Review*; and *Political Science Research and Methods*.





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### Ethnic Diversity and Social Cohesion

We are making a major contribution to the understanding of issues of ethnic diversity, integration, immigration and identity. The ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity with the University of Glasgow, maps and tracks the contemporary patterns of ethnic inequalities. We are looking at how these relate to the changing ways in which ethnic identities are perceived, acted upon and experienced.

### British Election Study

The ESRC funded British Election Study (BES) of electoral behaviour is one of the longest running election studies in the world, and one of the longest running social science surveys in the UK. It provides vital evidence for understanding change and continuity in the political views and behaviours of British citizens. In 2015, The University of Manchester, along with the Universities of Oxford and Nottingham, was awarded the BES. CMI staff are using the data collected to draw important insights into election outcomes and changing patterns of party support in the UK.

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The distinctive feature of CMI is the combination of application and development of advanced, interdisciplinary and innovative methods to tackle important questions on social and political processes.

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**Professor James Nazroo**

Director, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity



### Quantitative Research Methods

CMI is part of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods, leading on developing advanced quantitative methods with "big data". CMI also provides high quality training in advanced quantitative methods in its short course programme, as well as through large ESRC investments such as the UK Data Service and the Administrative Data Service. Our Manchester Q-Step programme is part of a strategic national response to the shortage of quantitatively-skilled social science graduates.

Our Q-Step trained undergraduates have been offered placements at the BBC, Times/Sunday Times, IPSOS Mori, World Bank, Santander, New Economy, IPPR North, Government Departments including the Home Office, Food Standards Agency and DFID, College of Policing, YouGov, AudienceNet, Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Scraperwiki, AgeUK, The University of Manchester, and a number of small and medium sized enterprises and charities.

### Working with stakeholders

CMI researchers provide specialist advice to local, national and international policy makers including Manchester City Council, the Office for National Statistics, and the US Census Bureau. We create projects and support policy development with leading organisations such as the Runnymede Trust, Bank of England, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Technology Strategy Board, NHS, Human Fertility and Embryology Authority, Vodafone, Oxfam and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.



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