

Karis Campion

Title: Mixed race, then and now: An exploration of the impacts of socio-political contexts in post-war Britain on methods of ethnic identifications within mixed race populations.

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PhD Summary

The core aim of this PhD is to document the changing nature of mixed race identity in post-war Britain, with a particular focus on the period from the 1970s to the present day. It is a common occurrence in previous research within mixed race studies to utilise autobiographical methods by positioning the mixed race individual as the focal point of data collection, which has produced insider-led accounts of what it means to be mixed race. The proposed project intends to further these debates by situating the discussion around mixed race more firmly within wider theories of ethnicity and 'race' and by considering how other social markers such as social class impact upon the construction of mixed identities. In order to do this, the research will engage in an historical analysis of how the ethnic category of mixed race has been categorised, classified and created over time. It will pay particular consideration to the ways in which issues regarding ethnicity have been discussed within wider social, political and economic debates that have taken place at both the local and national level. Thus, the hope is that the PhD will be able to effectively situate mixed race testimonies within specific historical contexts to identify potential links between the changing external representations of mixed race and internal understandings of this ethnic category.

Research Interests:

Ethnic inequalities in education, ethnicity and social movements, class inequalities, social cohesion, identity, multiculturalism and sexuality.