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RACE AND ETHNICITY: SEXUAL HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE EXPERIENCES IN POSTWAR BRITAIN

Researchers

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Description

This project examines the racialisation of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services provided by charities in Great Britain over time, i.e. the processes by which racial meanings are attached to particular issues that are often treated as social problems. During the twentieth century, issues around race (the perceived biological difference linked with physical characteristics), ethnicity (the perceived cultural differences between groups), and SRH generated regular debates. But how did these debates emerge? Who mobilised to bring these issues onto the public health policy agenda and with what results? To what extent have these debates impacted SRH services offered by charities and with what effects on service users? This project will examine the dynamic interplay between changing and manipulated categories of race and ethnicity and medical stereotypes and policies developed by British SRH charities over time, and their impact on minoritised individuals.

Additional information

Timeline: 2023-2028

Funding institution: Swiss National Science Foundation in the framework of project leader Caroline Rusterholz's Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship.

The project uses the reproductive justice framework to achieve a better understanding of disparities in access to, and quality of, care provided by SRH services in postwar Britain up until the present. Using a reproductive justice framework means recognising that cultural, political, economic and structural constraints influence individuals' access to health care and reproductive autonomy. Reflecting this theoretical framework and adapting it to the British context, this research uses a holistic approach that puts minoritised individuals' experiences at the fore of the analysis. By combining the analysis of SRH policies, norms and practices, with minoritised SRH activism and service users' experiences, the project deconstructs the working of this racialisation, the resistances it triggered and its impact on minoritised individuals and how the three were closely interconnected.

