

Exploring The Impact Of Ethnicity On Access, Success & Progression To Higher Education

24th June 2025

14:00 – 16:45



Welcome

- This session is being recorded
- We will be using live captions
- Please feel free to use the chat and the virtual feedback during this event
- Discussion and break out sessions will be included in this session
 - Please have cameras and Mics on if possible during discussion
 - if that's not possible please join in via the chat (let the group know you're there)
- Please turn-off cameras and Mics during presentations
- PowerPoints and some recordings will be made available on the NERUPI website after the event – we will let you know when they are ready



If you have colleagues who can't attend do share the presentations and website resources with them

Session Agenda

- ♦ **14.00 Welcome and Introductions**
Annette Hayton, NERUPI Convenor & Sumaya Ahmed, SsREE Co-lead
- ♦ **14.05 The OfS Characteristics & Risks in relation to Ethnicity**
Fatmata K Daramy, Doctoral Researcher; University of Leicester & NERUPI Researcher
- ♦ **14:25 Questions & Discussion**
Open floor for questions and clarifications
- ♦ **14:45 Overview of racialised student experiences in higher education, focusing on key insights, structural inequalities and priorities for equity across different ethnic groups**
- ♦ **South Asian Students**
Dr Shames Maskeen, Associate Director of The Race Institute and Senior Lecturer in Psychology; Leeds Trinity University
- ♦ **Black Students**
Dr Barbara Adewumi, Senior Research Fellow; University of Kent
- ♦ **East Asian Students**
Dr Ada Mau, Maths Outreach Research Associate; Imperial College London
- ♦ **15:30 Capacity Building for individuals and organisations**
Dr Deborah Husbands, Chartered Psychologist and Reader in Race and Sociocultural Psychology; University of Westminster
- ♦ **15.50 Discussion and practical strategies**
- ♦ **16.15 Feedback**
- ♦ **16.45 Close**
Sumaya Ahmed, London South Bank University



Equality of Opportunity Risk Register (EORR)

- ❑ Helps HEPs Identify **systemic risks** to equality of opportunity across the student lifecycle (access, success, and progression).
- ❑ 12 Identified Risks that can be found on the OfS website.
- ❑ This tool is how OfS now assesses and supports HEPs in **addressing disparities** in access, success and progression for WP students



Risk 1: Knowledge and skills

Students may not have equal opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills required to be accepted onto higher education courses that match their expectations and ambitions.

Lifecycle stages: Access, on-course, progression

Risk 2: Information and guidance

Students may not have equal opportunity to receive the information and guidance that will enable them to develop ambition and expectations, or to make informed choice about their higher education options.

Lifecycle stages: Access, on-course, progression

Risk 3: Perception of higher education

Students may not feel able to apply to higher education, or certain types of providers within higher education, despite being qualified.

Explore these risks by:

Indications of risk →

Student characteristic →

About the risk register

What is the risk register?

How to use the risk register

Methodology

Give feedback

Access and participation glossary

Key Student Characteristics in the EORR

- ☐ Low Income Households
- ☐ **Ethnicity** ← **Today**
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ First in Family
- ☐ Disabled Students
- ☐ Mature Students
- ☐ Commuter Students
- ☐ Service Children
- ☐ LGBT+
- ☐ Estranged Students
- ☐ Students With Parental Responsibility
- ☐ Care Experienced Students
- ☐ Young Carers

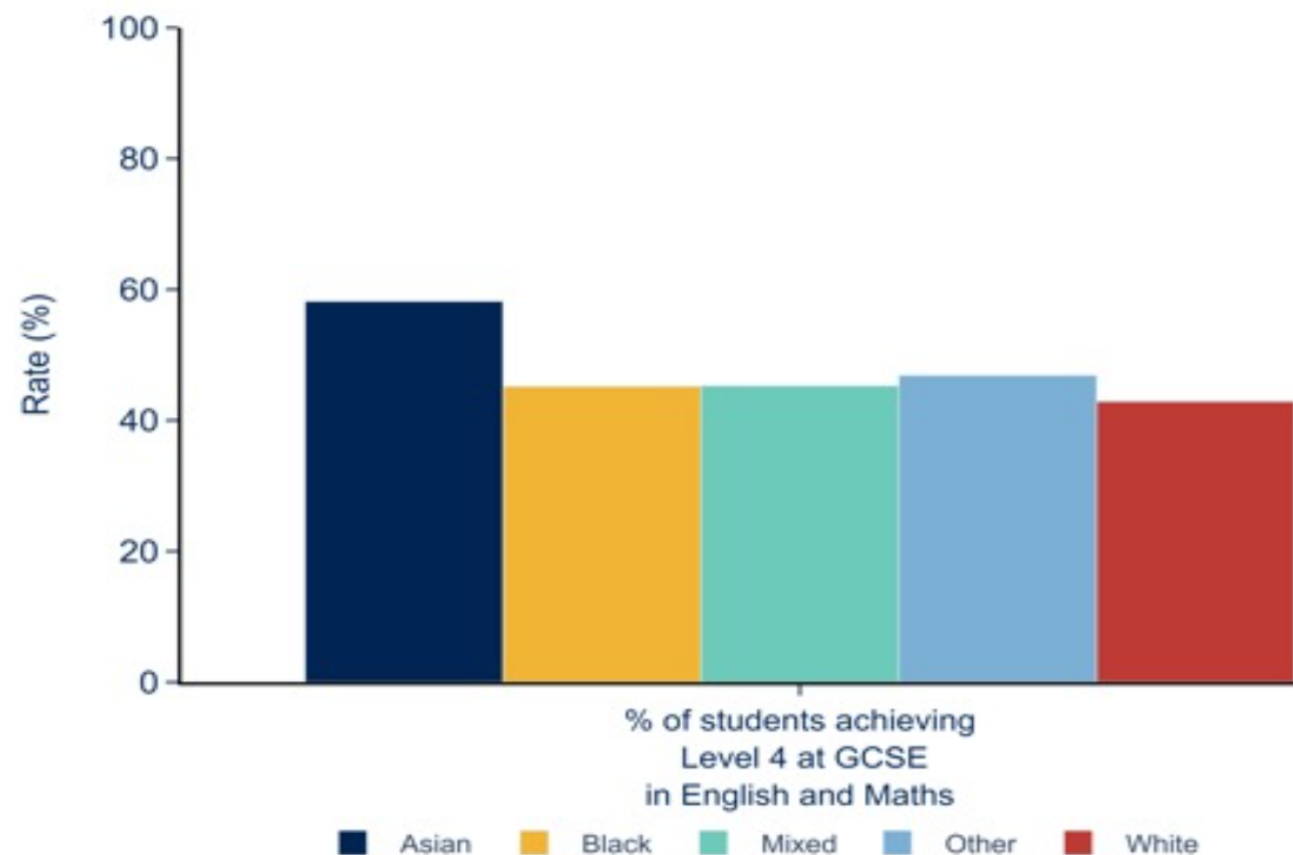
Student characteristics

This section lists the characteristics of students that are most likely to indicate risks to equality of opportunity.

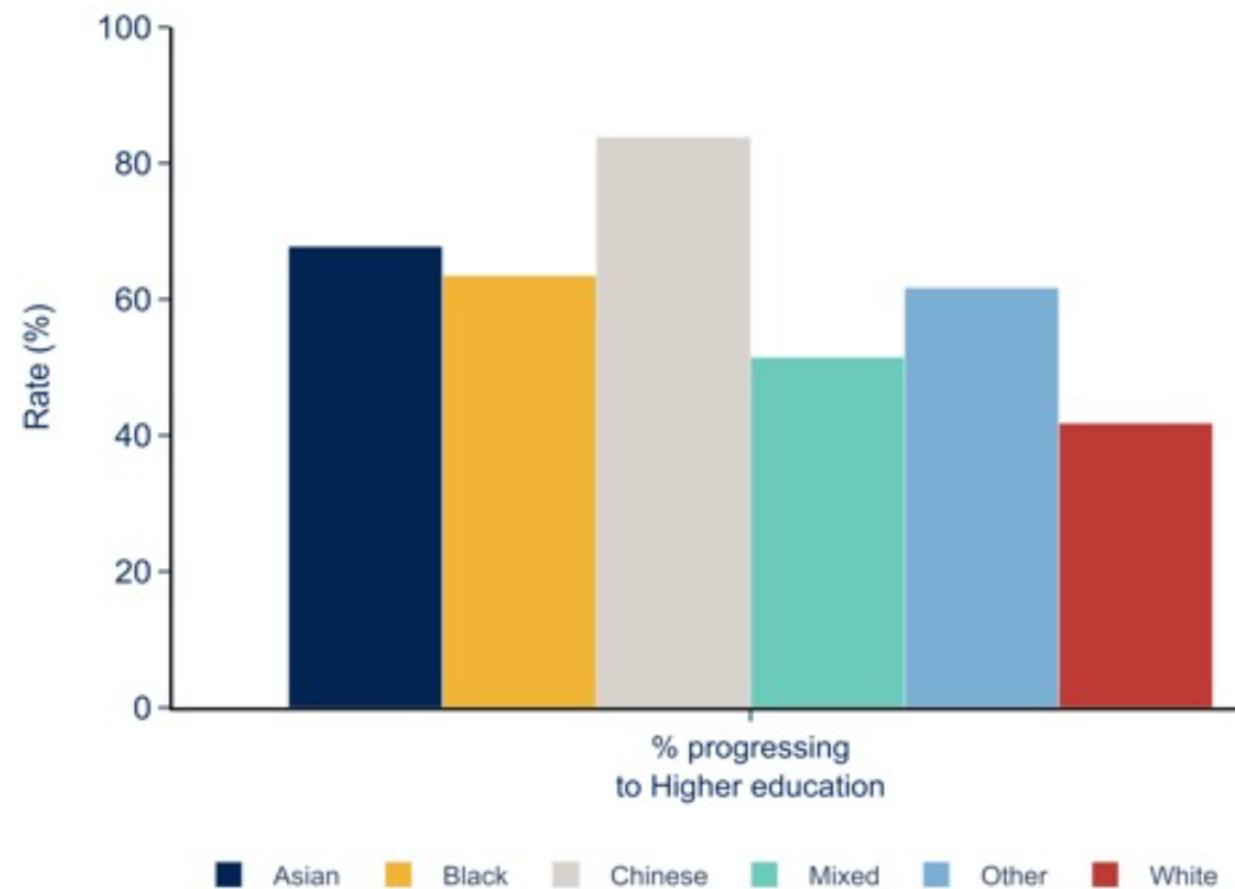


Ethnicity

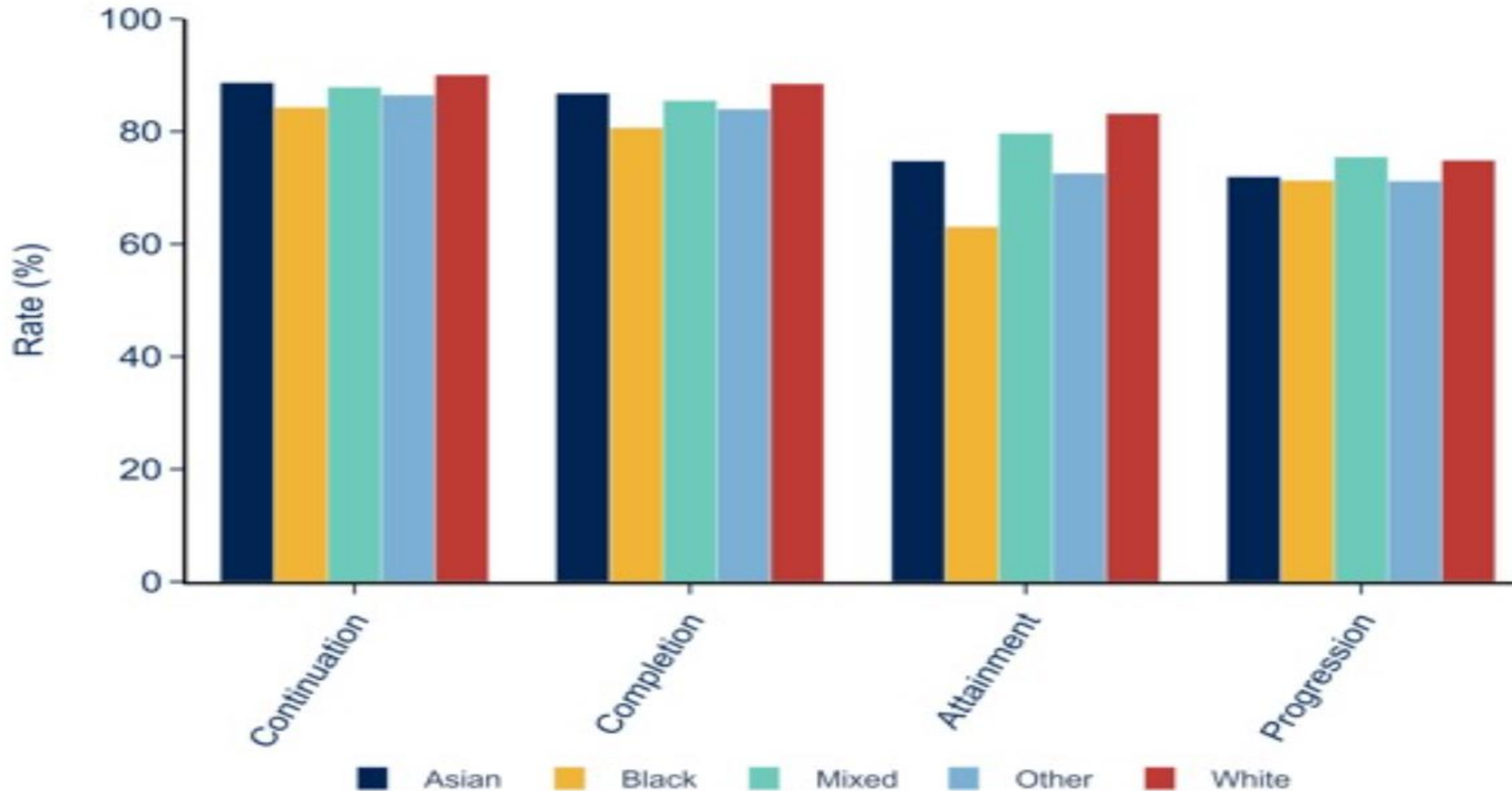
Ethnicity Key Stage 4



Ethnicity pre-higher education



Ethnicity On Course



Strengths

- ❑ Data-driven & institution-specific
- ❑ Sector-wide benchmarking
- ❑ Comprehensive lifecycle lens



...and Limitations

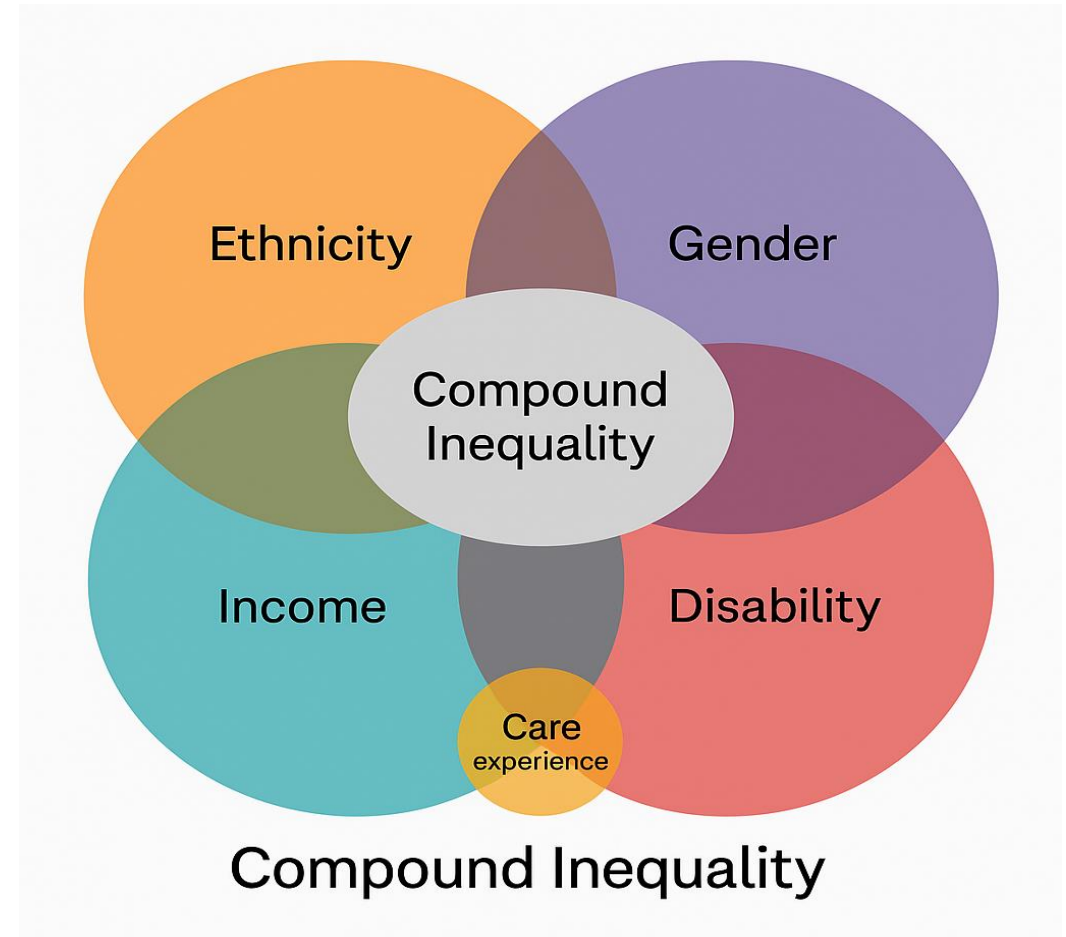
- ❑ Over-generalization of ethnic subgroups
- ❑ **Insufficient intersectional analysis**
- ❑ Over-reliance on quant data
- ❑ Potential for superficial action



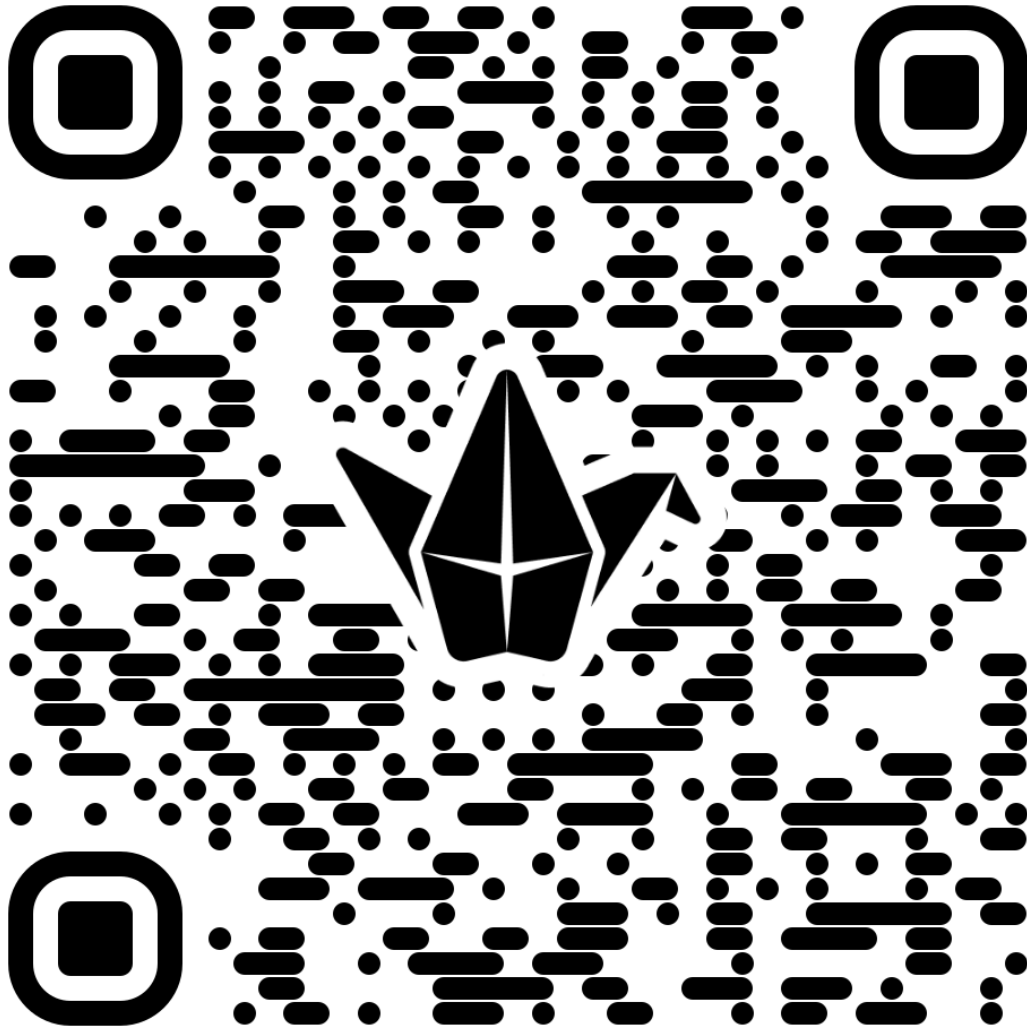
Intersectionality and the Limits of EORR

The EORR categories can obscure how **multiple characteristics overlap** to compound disadvantage.

- ❑ A Black disabled woman will face different challenges than a white disabled man
- ❑ A care-experienced student from a working-class South Asian background may face different risks than their white working-class peer

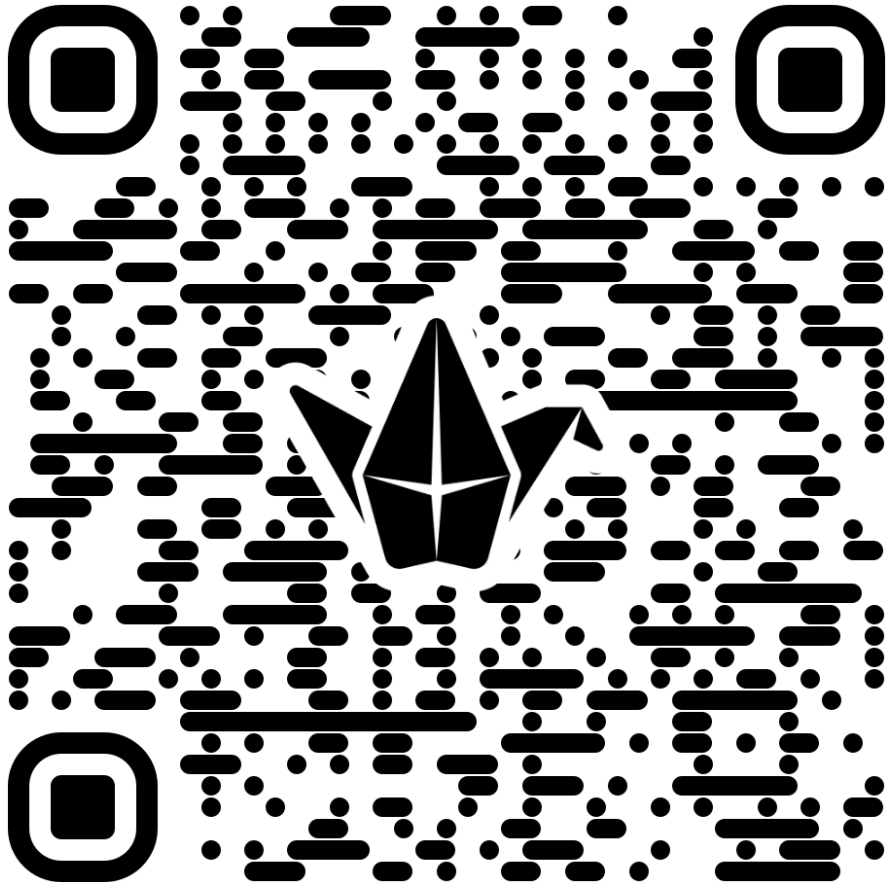


Padlet – Questions Or Points of Discussion



<https://padlet.com/fkd5/exploring-the-impact-of-ethnicity-on-access-success-progress-arw7vtq2co8ysgle>

Strategies and Takeaways



[https://padlet.com/fkd5/strategies
-and-takeaways-jvmsi53ar87yjxr6](https://padlet.com/fkd5/strategies-and-takeaways-jvmsi53ar87yjxr6)