Local press, dispersal and community in the construction of asylum debates

YHRMP ID
64
Author(s)
Finney, Nissa and Robinson, Vaughan

Aims

To explore local manifestations of the asylum debate with particular attention to the dynamics between the local press and constructions of community.

Methodology

The paper analyses local press coverage of dispersal in two case study locations, Cardiff and Leeds. Local press coverage is taken from the period January 1999 to July 2001.

Key issues

The article shows how asylum is framed and constructed differently by the local press in different places with implications for reactions to asylum seekers and community cohesion. The relations between local press and community are explored as explanations for varying discourses. It is found that the way the local press represents and constructs local identity within local networks of power and information shapes the extent to which established discourses can be challenged. For Cardiff, the localising of asylum through the dispersal policy created an opportunity for local negotiation of difference in the context of the national moral panic on asylum.

Conclusions

The case studies offer very different examples, one that reinforces stereotypes and one that challenges them. The approach taken has implications for the success of dispersal policies and for community cohesion.

Migrant Group
Asylum seekers
Topic
Community and society
Community cohesion
Media
Public perceptions
Place
Leeds
West Yorkshire

Year
2008
Resource Type
Journal article
Resource

Social and Cultural Geography

Volume
9
Number
4
Pages
397-413

Source URL: *https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/research-entry/local-press-dispersal-and-community-construction-asylum-debates*