

### **Ethnic Difference in Education in the United Kingdom**

1. **Stream:** Migrants, Ethnic Minorities and Social Policy
2. **Summary:** The UK is rapidly changing and becoming more diverse which imposes greater challenges to already stretched schools which makes understanding the interaction between education and ethnicity all the more important. This study forms part of a three-year research project entitled 'Ethnic differences in education and diverging prospects for urban youth in an enlarged Europe' (EDUMIGROM). Using quantitative data techniques to explore pupils' lived experiences at school and classroom level in three multicultural schools in one northern city this paper focuses on key aspects of inter-ethnic relations as perceived by BME and white pupils. It will also discuss the complex issue of identity formation as approached by the interviewees in terms of group-belonging. Further, in-depth analysis will be given by the study about pupils' perceptions of the meaning of 'ethnic' identification in their daily life; the sources of pride and shame that they owe to ethnicity as well as experiences with various forms of discrimination. The paper will introduce variations in school experiences and the major factors that shape them, and will show their implications for past and projected educational careers. Last but not least, the paper will show how pupils think about their adult lives, what are the driving values that they consider important and how they plan to meet them, what they hope for, and what do they fear.
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