

## **Forced migration, humiliation and human dignity: re-imagining the asylum-migration nexus through participatory action research (PAR)**

Maggie O'Neill, Loughborough University

The paper explores renewed methodologies for conducting social research with 'new arrivals' in the UK by focusing upon the author's research *with* refugees, asylum seekers, and European migrants. The paper highlights the profound importance of 'understanding' experiences of humiliation, mis-recognition and lack of respect through participatory action research that is underpinned by a commitment to fostering human dignity and social justice globally and locally. The work of Lindner, Hartling, Klein and Smith on humiliation, human dignity and appreciative enquiry is discussed in relation to the work of Fals Borda and Rogers. Questions will be explored such as how can we address the processes of 'othering' and subjugation experienced by asylum seekers/refugees; and how can we foster processes of social justice that includes mutual recognition, dignity and egalization in our institutions, policies and practices towards people seeking safety and refuge? Examples of work emerging from a regional network funded by the AHRC arts, migration and diaspora programme in the UK found at [www.makingtheconnections.info](http://www.makingtheconnections.info) (based upon the principles of participatory action research and participatory arts) will be highlighted.