



RUNNYMEDE

Decline to Renewal: Race, Deindustrialisation and Working Lives



Deindustrialisation

- Shift away from manufacturing and heavy industries towards a service-based economy
- Departure / stripping away of Middle Income jobs (IFS, 2023)
- Community disintegration, job strain, poor health, proliferation of “low skilled”, insecure, poorly paid work (Shearing & Jeannet, 2022)
- Renewal, reinvestment, and regeneration desperately needed, especially outside London.

Deindustrialisation (the problem)

- Stories about deindustrialisation hyper-focus on White people and White communities.
- Marginalisation of experiences of communities of colour.
- Serves a far-right agenda of splitting the working class into the racialised other and the 'white working class' (Mondon & Winter, 2023)
- This is not true



Ethnic minorities have long been disproportionately part of the British working class and those negatively affected by deindustrialisation.





- 1) What is the social cost of deindustrialisation particularly for communities of colour?
- 2) How are ethnic minority workers affected by insecure work in the economy today, particularly in post-industrial regions with higher levels of insecurity, unemployment and inactivity?
- 3) How should local actors and policy makers regenerate labour markets to ensure good jobs for young people in formerly industrial regions?



- Multi-method
 - Quantitative & Qualitative research
 - Research, Engagement, & Policy
- Quantitative work, e.g., :
 - Re-analyses of large-scale datasets (e.g., ONS Census data, Annual Population Survey).
- Qualitative work, e.g.:
 - Based around 3 specific affected sites
 - Leicester, Preston, Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester
 - Surveys, Walking interviews
 - Community Reminiscence Sessions
 - Collaborative solution building
- Policy analysis:
 - Industrial Strategy & draft Equality Bill vs. Local authority employability and work agendas



reports launched within Parliament and shared with parliamentarians through Runnymede networks - such as the APPG on Race and Community (2027)

policy and data briefings which evidence ethnicity insecurity gaps and inequalities within regional labour markets, and the policy challenges they uncover (2027)

Interactive maps showing how formerly industrial geographies have changed over time with embedded oral histories and case studies

video and other visual outputs to disseminate findings in an accessible, appealing, storytelling way

public community storytelling sessions in research areas, based on the findings, allowing communities to come together and share experiences of industry, highlighting and generating solidarities amongst working class communities



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