

# The 'migrant children schooling crisis': examining the intersection between media framing, neoliberalism and schooling (Leicester)

Centre for Urban Research on Austerity (CURA) funded,  
Interdisciplinary Research Partnerships project, May-July 2019

## Aims

The pilot project aims to address tensions identified with the 'migrant children schooling crisis' as it is portrayed in the media and the challenges this brings to local authorities and schools who have to place and educate 'migrant children'. This is an intersectional study between the media framing of neoliberal tensions within the education sector and the reality of how local authorities and schools deal with those tensions.

## Methodology

This is qualitative research that aims to construct a historical narrative through an interpretive case study to develop a strategy for overcoming the barriers brought in to the classroom as a result of neoliberal policies.

The project will be based in Leicestershire and investigate three secondary schools.

A total of ten interviews were conducted with Head Teachers, Local Authority (Leicester city and Leicestershire council), and Chair of governors of selected schools on admission policy and migrant schooling, supported by a qualitative news frame analysis, employing both rhetorical and technical framing devices of the five national newspapers focusing on the headlines and content (The Sun, Daily Mail, The Guardian, The Times and The Independent) and two local newspapers (Leicester Mercury) to understand how the issue of migrant schooling has been framed between 2009- 2019 through media texts and how people in position view the migrant crisis.



## Findings from the community engagement event

- Newspapers develop a culture of fear
- Migrants for generations have contributed towards the development of Leicester
- There needs to be more research on educational attainment for migrant children.
- There is a need to build resilience in children to combat social issues in society.
- Cultures and religions have impact on school curriculum
- Migrant families need more community spaces to discuss sociocultural issues

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**Symposium focus group SWOT  
(Community engagement event),  
July 23, 2019**