



Social Inclusion & Equality

'Race' and ethnicity



A starting point

- *'Over the past decade or so the shifting boundaries of race and ethnicity as categories of social analysis have become ever more evident...In this environment ideas about race, racism and ethnicity have become the subject of intense debate and controversy. Yet it is paradoxically the case that there is still much confusion about what we mean by such notions, as evidenced by the range of terminological debates that have tended to dominate much discussion in recent years.'*

(Blochs and Solomos 2010, p.5)



Question

- How significant do you think racial stereotypes are today in influencing people's attitudes and behaviour in comparison with the past?

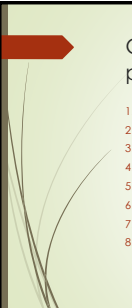


- **'Race'** is a socially loaded concept. A form of classification whereby individuals are grouped according to certain genetically inherited physical characteristics.
- Driven by notions of difference, 'us' and 'them' and imperialistic attitudes.
- The role of power
- A means of social classification but science cannot give a clear biological basis to the concept
- 'Race' is a social construction based on prejudiced stereotypes.



Ethnicity

- 'Ethnic group' now the frequently used term. Includes cultural and religious beliefs as well as physical similarities
- Still a term that is socially constructed
- Therefore need to view the terminology as being in the process of evolution within the economic, political and social power relationships of any society at a given time
- Still a process of boundary drawing



Gillborn (2008) Historical phases of policy on race

(adapted from Bartlett and Burton 2012)

1. Ignorance and neglect (1945 – late 1950s)
2. Assimilation (late 1950s – mid-1960s)
3. Integration (mid-1960s – late 1970s)
4. Cultural pluralism and multiculturalism (late 1970s – late 1980s)
5. Thatcherism: The new racism and colour-blind policy (mid-1980s – 1997)
6. Naïve multiculturalism: New Labour and Blair (1997-2001)
7. Cynical multiculturalism: from 9/11-7/7 (2001-2005)
8. Aggressive majoritarianism (2005 onwards)
