



# **Cigarette smoking and African-Caribbean young women in the UK: Intersections of 'race', ethnicity, gender, class and tobacco.**

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# Limitations of some current research, policy and practice on health inequalities

- Does not consider 'race', gender and ethnicity.
- Research is often focused on ethnicity or gender and does not consider intersections of gender and 'race'.
- Research in ethnicity and health must be undertaken which considers a range of intersections.
- Appropriate intersectionality- informed methodologies must be developed which enable more meaningful and relevant research which highlight where there may be issues of concern – e.g. maternal mortality.



# Why a Study on African Caribbean Young Women and Cigarette Smoking?

- Patchy research on smoking and minoritised communities in the UK.
- Adult studies – small scale localised studies.
- General Household Surveys.
- Fewer studies on minoritised young people and cigarette smoking.
- Both quantitative and qualitative research needed.
- Analysis of both sources of data to provide a meaningful understanding of the complexities of cigarette smoking
- Research on young women and cigarette smoking in the UK has been conducted on young white women.



# Intersectional approach to researching inequalities in health: cigarette smoking

What are the patterns and influences on the cigarette smoking behaviour of African-Caribbean young women in contemporary urban Britain?

What meaning does cigarette smoking have for African-Caribbean young women?

How to develop an intersectional approach to researching this complex social phenomena?



# Intersectionality-informed research methodology

Multi-method – quantitative and qualitative methodologies  
– convergent research design

- Survey
- Focus groups
- Integration and analysis of the two sources of data
- Intersectionality-informed- exploring the intersections of 'race', class and gender.



# The challenge of developing intersectionality –informed social science methodologies

- Trying to develop an intersectional approach for social research presents a challenge.
- Denis (2008) comments that the practice of developing appropriate intersectional methodologies has not caught up with the theory.
- The challenge of integrating multiple, concurrent, yet often contradictory social locations into analyses of power relations.
- We need to develop effective methodological tools in order to marry theorising with necessary complex analyses of empirical data.' (2008: 688).



# Designing Intersectionality informed Research Design using Cole's three questions

Cole (2009: 170) proposes that 'an intersectional framework does ask researchers to examine categories of identity, difference, and disadvantage with a new lens' and that researchers adopting an intersectional approach should ask three questions:

- Who is included within this category?
- What role does inequality play?
- Where are the similarities?

Cole (2009:172)



# What is intersectionality?

*Intersectionality promotes an understanding of human beings as shaped by the interaction of different social locations (e.g. 'race'/ethnicity, Indigeneity, gender, class, sexuality, geography, age, disability/ability, migration status, religion).*

*These interactions occur within a context of connected systems and structures of power (e.g. laws, policies, state governments and other political and economic unions, religious institutions, media).*

*Through such processes, interdependent forms of privilege and oppression shaped by colonialism, imperialism, racism, homophobia, ableism and patriarchy are created.*

(Hankivsky 2014).



# Findings

- Literature on gender and smoking exploring working-class identity exists but not an exploration of gender, ethnicity and class and how this is expressed through smoking behaviour.
- My findings contribute new knowledge to understanding young people's smoking behaviour: whilst the African-Caribbean young women in this sample were more disadvantaged than their white female peers, they were less likely to smoke.



# African-Caribbean young women and cigarette smoking

- Caribbean culture, family life and religion were central to their lives and to a large extent protected many young women from cigarette smoking.
- This research demonstrates findings based on predominantly one ethno-cultural group do not necessarily translate to other groups, even if they live under similar material conditions.



# Developing an intersectionality-based framework to understand health inequalities

- Health research needs to recognise the intersections between 'race', ethnicity, class, culture, age, sexuality, and the interlocking social locations of different communities and individuals
- Research on health behaviours should understand the social and cultural context in which those behaviours emerge and are sustained.



# Finally

Thank you for listening.

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