

State of the Legacy:
Interrogating a Decade of 'Olympic Regeneration'

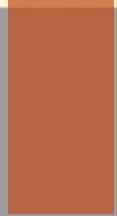
*A presentation by
Farjana Islam*

Presentation Outline

- 00 Disproportionate Covid-19 impact: A legacy of racialised inequality?
- 00 The Legacy 2012: An attempt to attune people with space
- 00 The theoretical framework & research proposition
- 00 Transforming heart of East London: Rhetoric VS reality
- 00 Covid-19 : The *de facto* legacy of socio-structural exclusion?

Disproportionate Covid-19 impact:

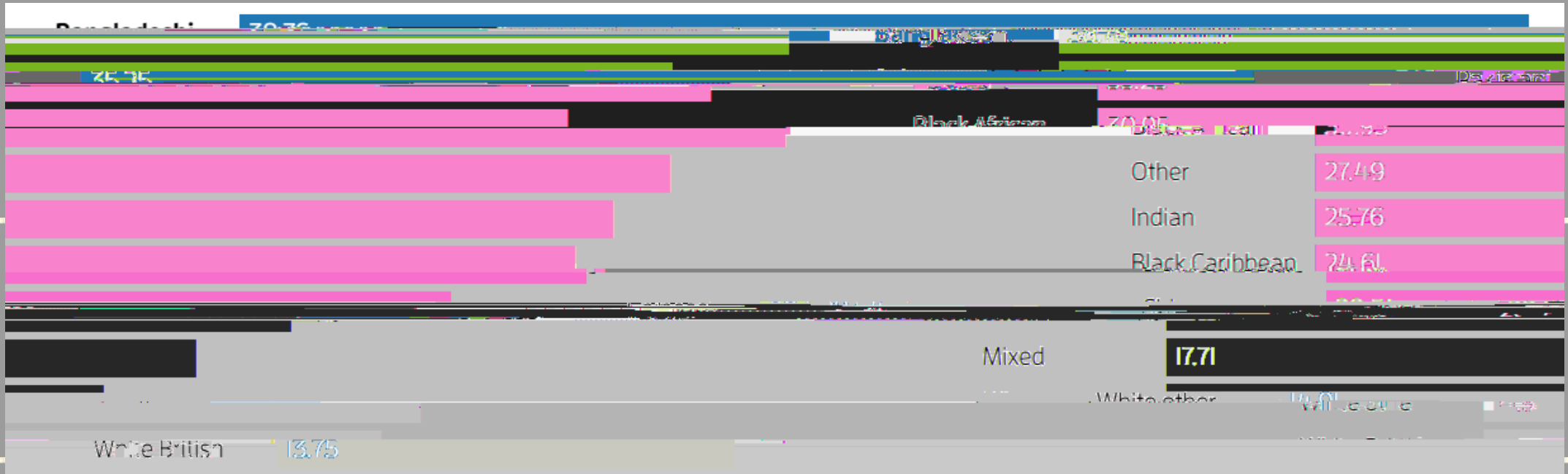
A legacy of racialised inequality



Disproportionate Covid-19 impact:

A legacy of racialised inequality

- Underlying health conditions, health inequality, overcrowded and substandard housing conditions, pre-existing socio-economic inequalities, lower income, work in public-facing roles and other ethno-cultural factors such as multi-generational households (Islam & Netto, 2020) .. Vaccine hesitancy/Lower up-take



Source:

East London: The relic of historic proletarianism

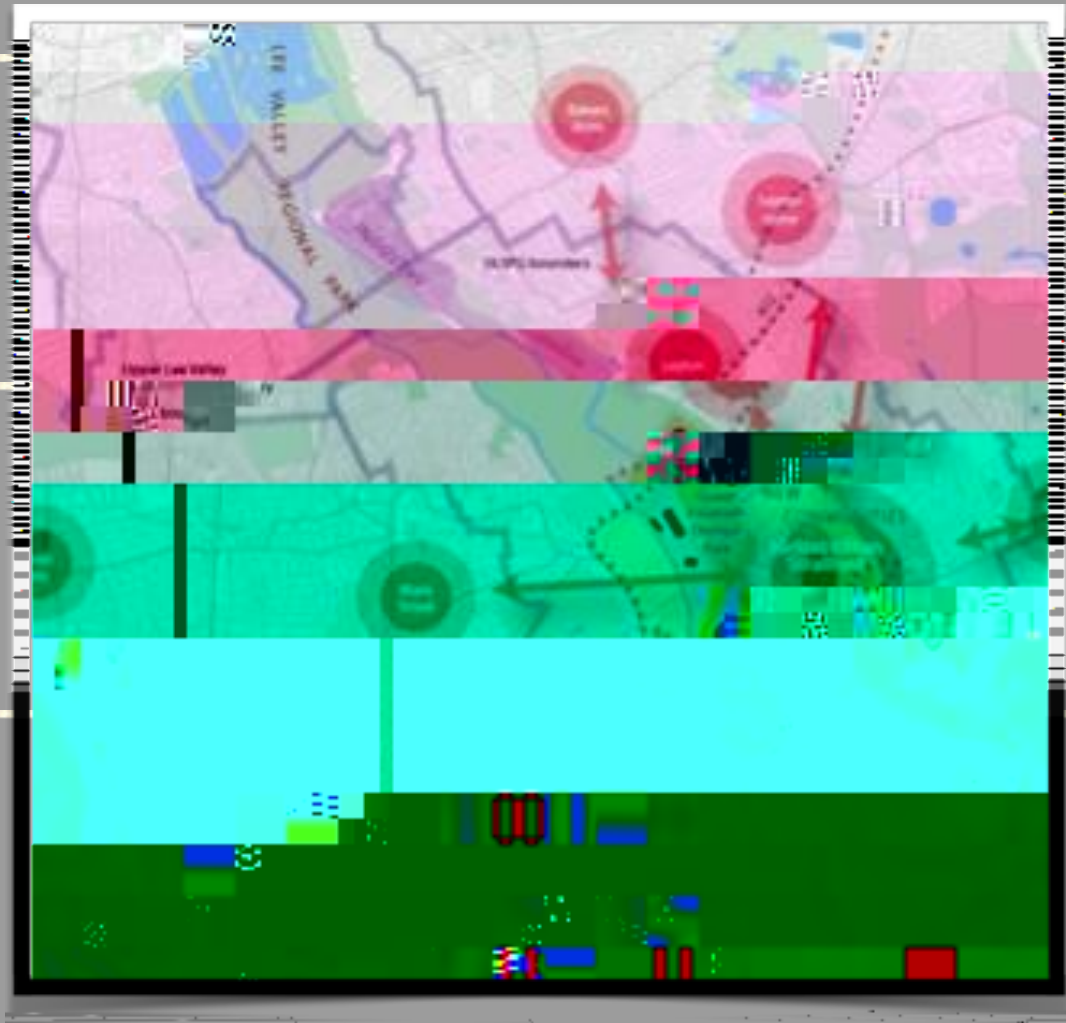
- London docklands boroughs lost 150,000 jobs between 1966 and 1976 (MacRury and Poynter, 2009).

(a British-Bangladeshi resident in Tower Hamlets)

- London – acute fragmentation and spatial concentrations of poverty, particularly along ethnic lines (Cox and Watt, 2002; Hamnett, 2003)
- The post-industrial ‘working class’ - longstanding Black and Asian population (Watt, 2008; Butler et al, 2003).
- Ethnic enclaves are experiencing sub-proletarian poverty and an ever-present

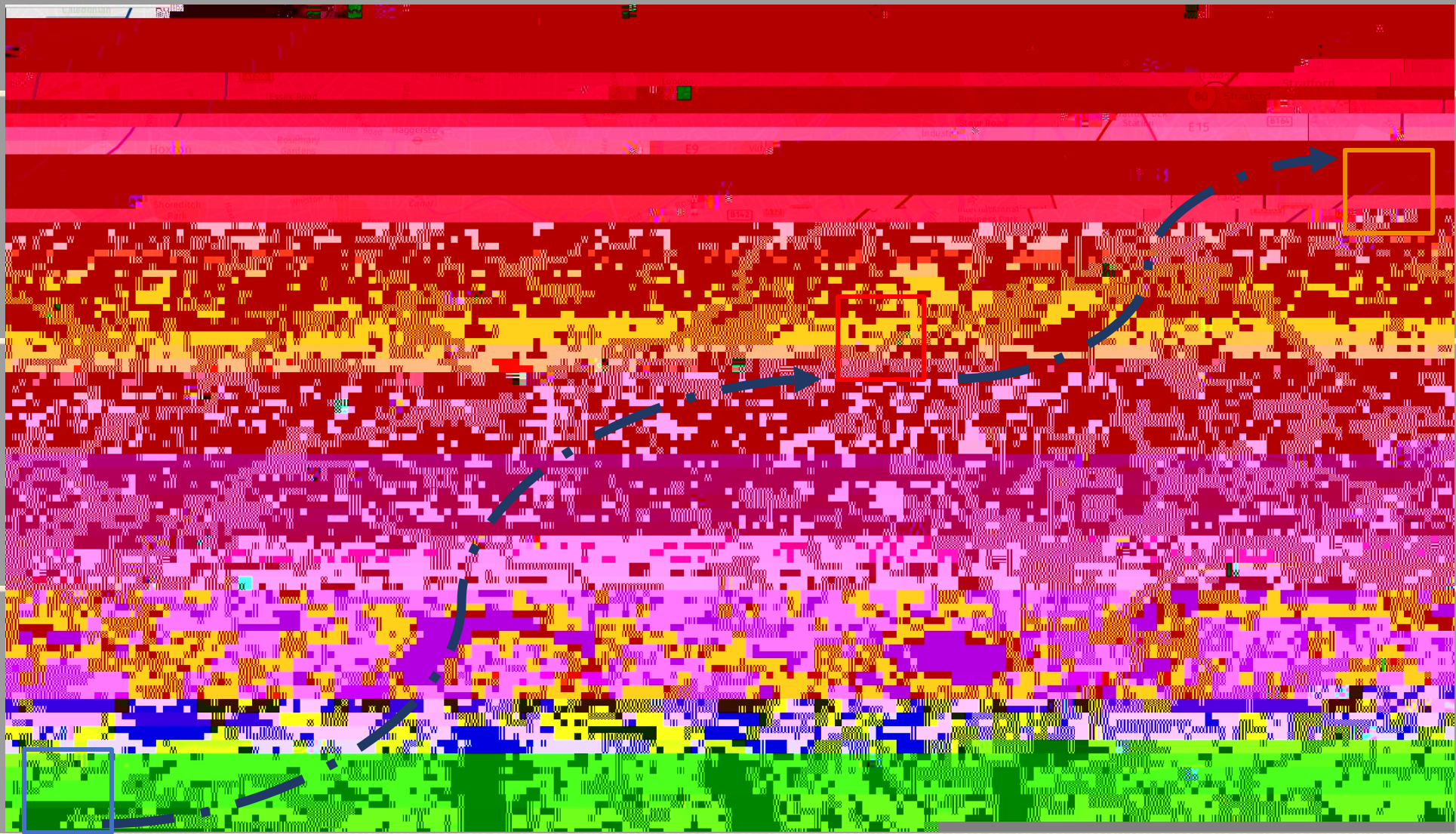
The Legacy 2012: An attempt
to attune people with space

The Legacy 2012 Rhetoric



DOMESTIC PLANNING

(Olympic legacy supplementary planning guidance, n.d.)

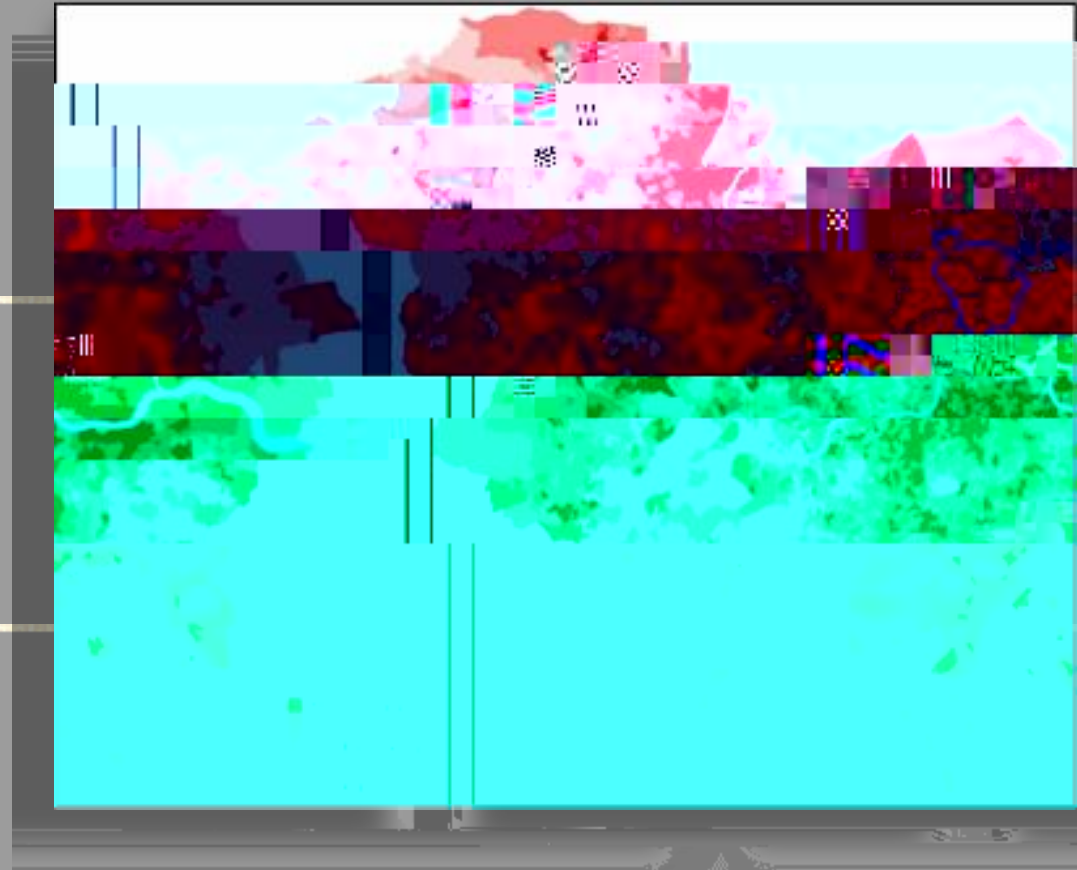


Context-The Olympic host boroughs

Ethnic Minority of Greater London (2011)



Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010



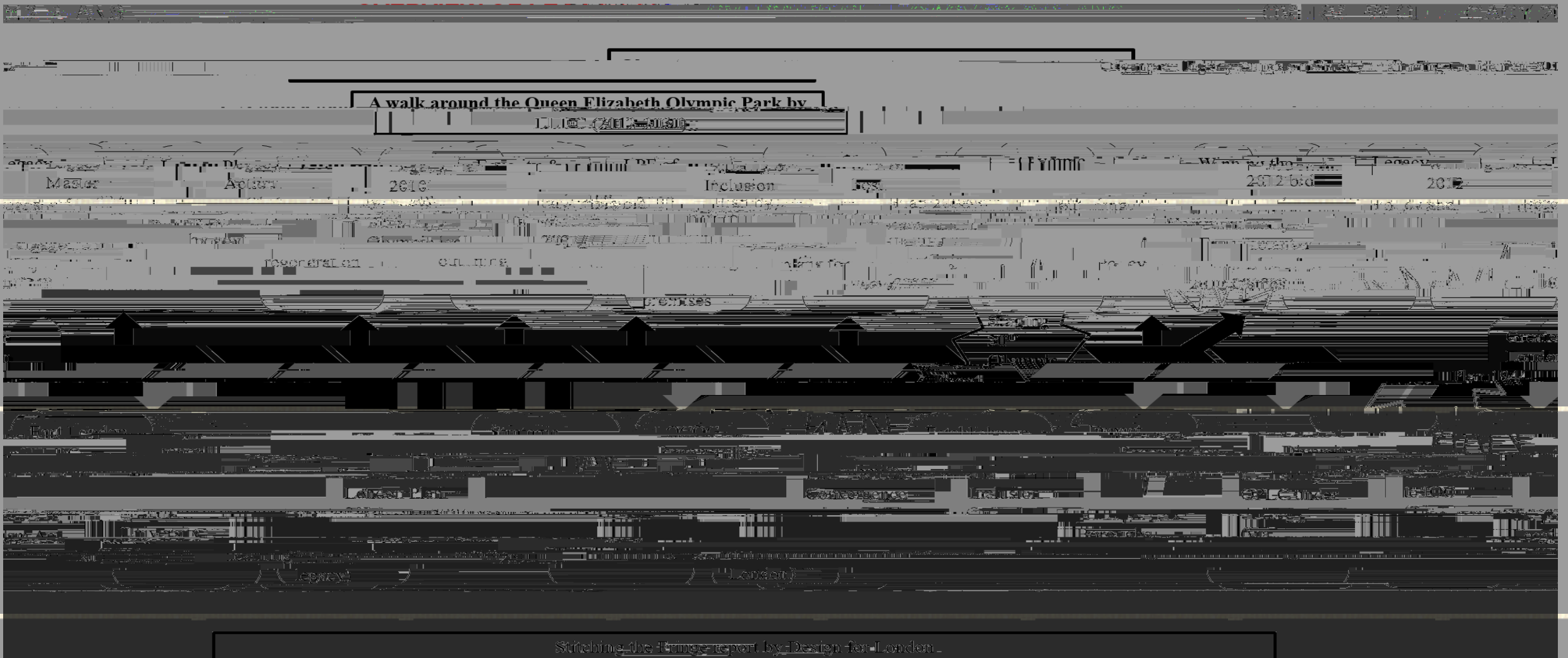
LEGEND

Orange - Asian/British Asian - Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Other Asian

Blue - Black/Black British - Black African, Black Caribbean, Other Black

Source: Will-Faichney-Photography

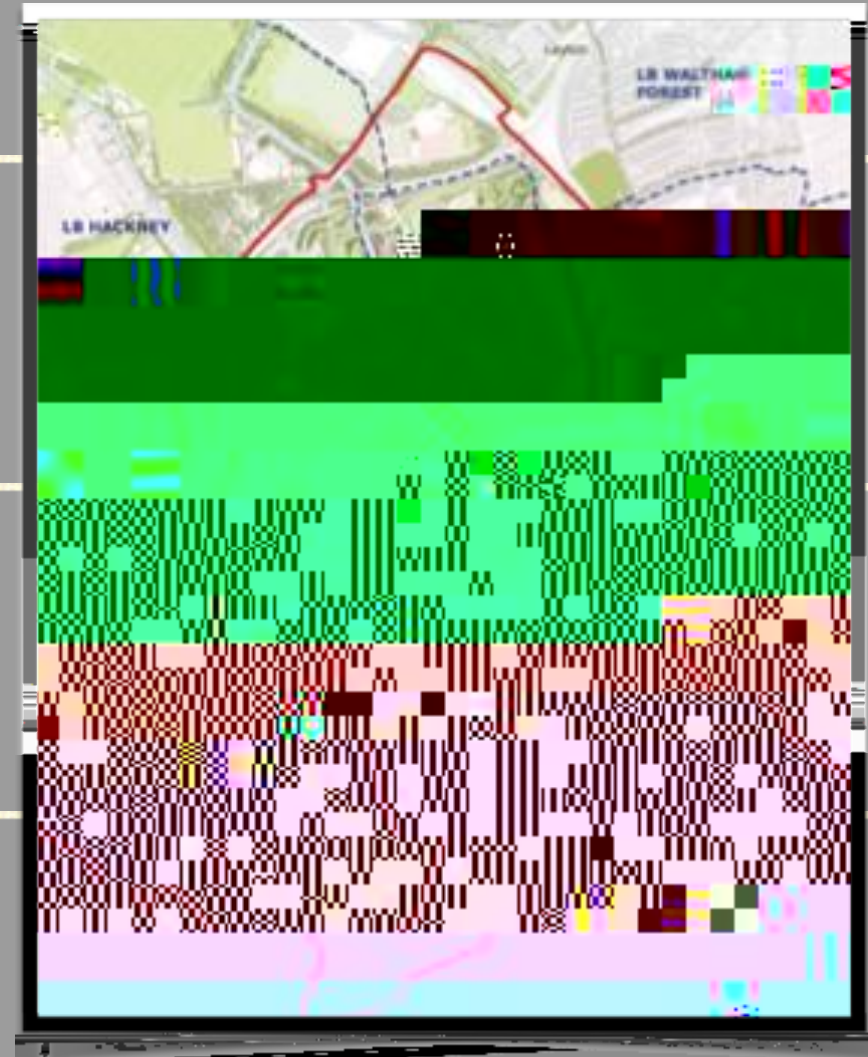
The Legacy 2012 Rhetoric



Research proposition & the theoretical framework

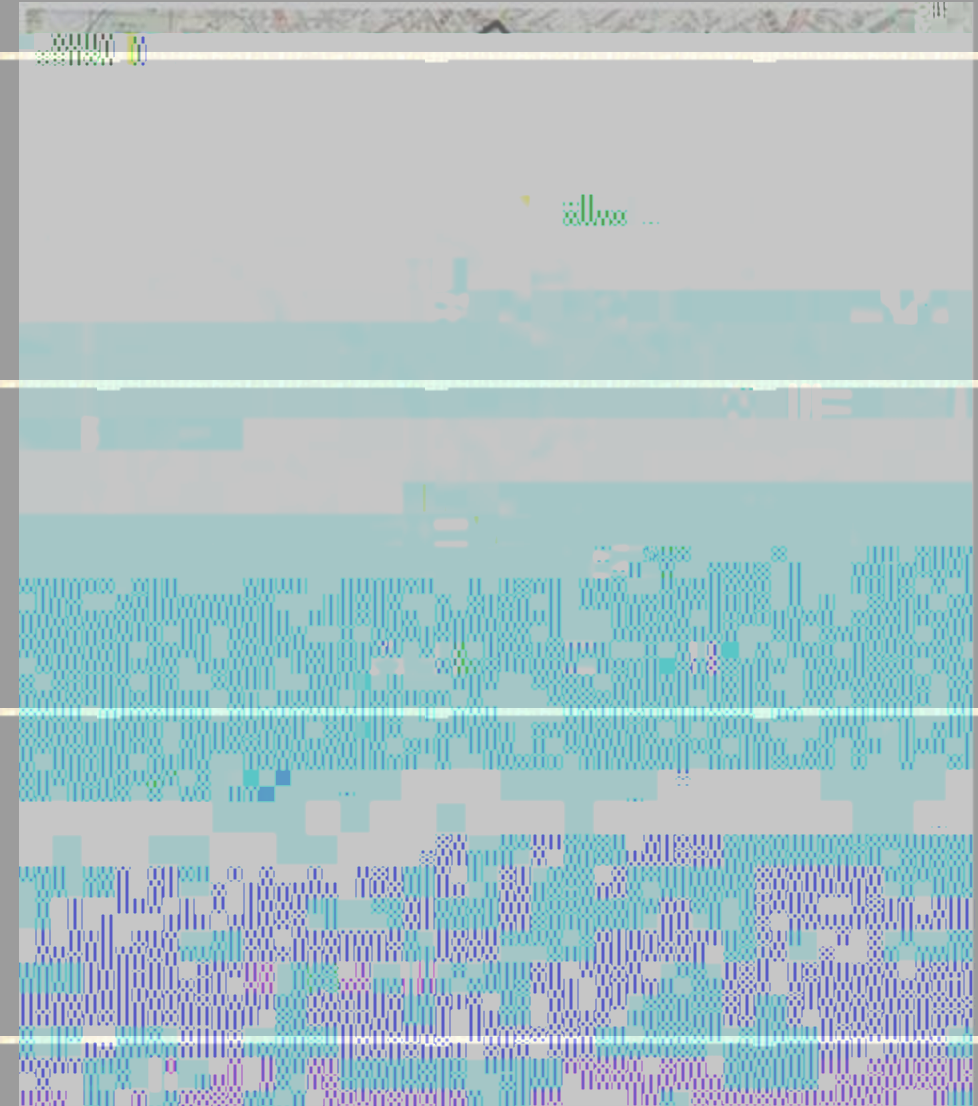
Research Aim

“ To explore the extent to which the London Olympics have supported the (social) inclusion of the ethnic minority communities in Olympic park and its surrounding areas under a ‘right to the city’ perspective ”

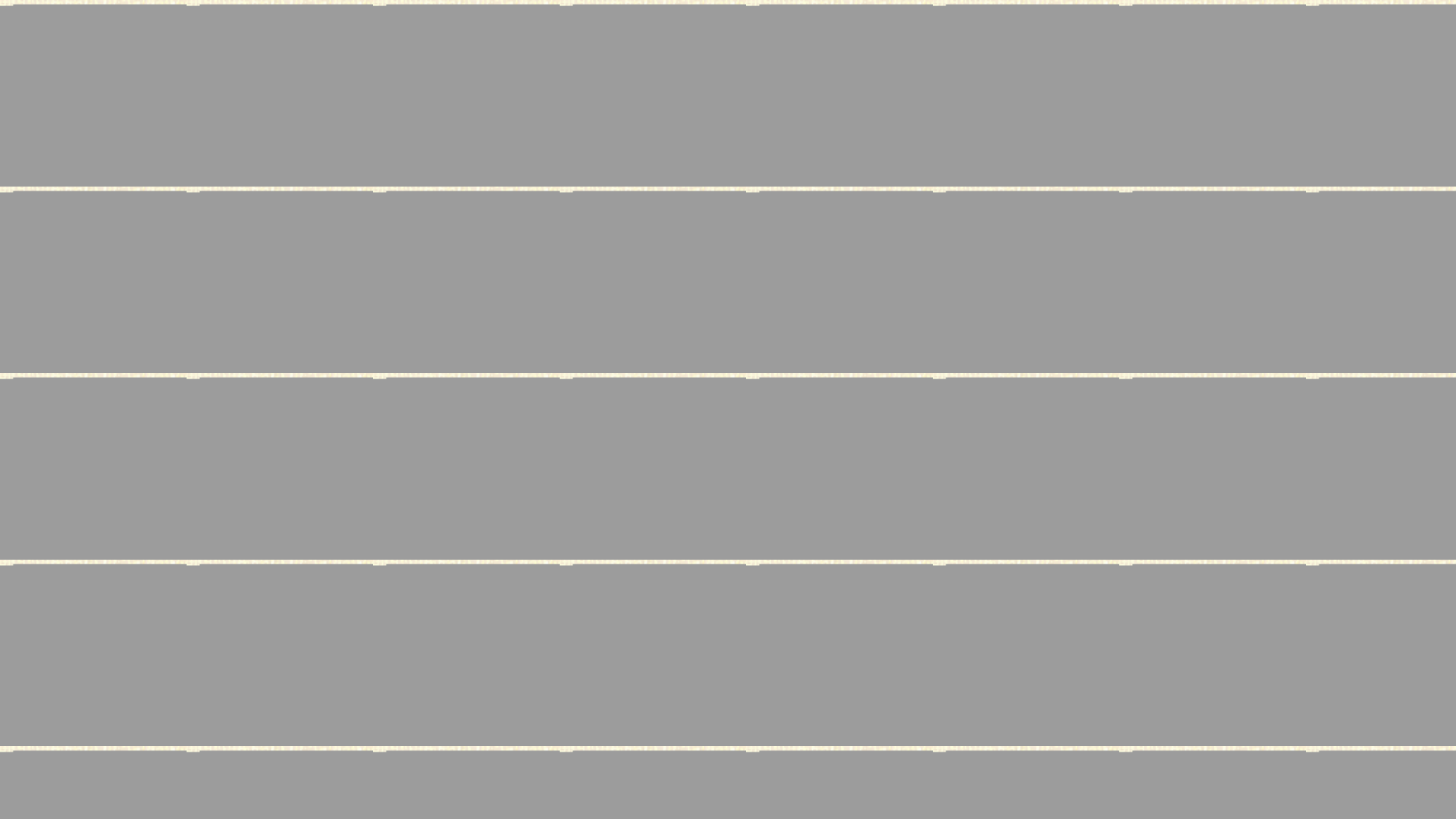


LLDC Area – Park area & 600 acres of land from adjacent wards

Selection & sampling



Transforming heart of East London: Rhetoric VS reality



Resident's participation in reality

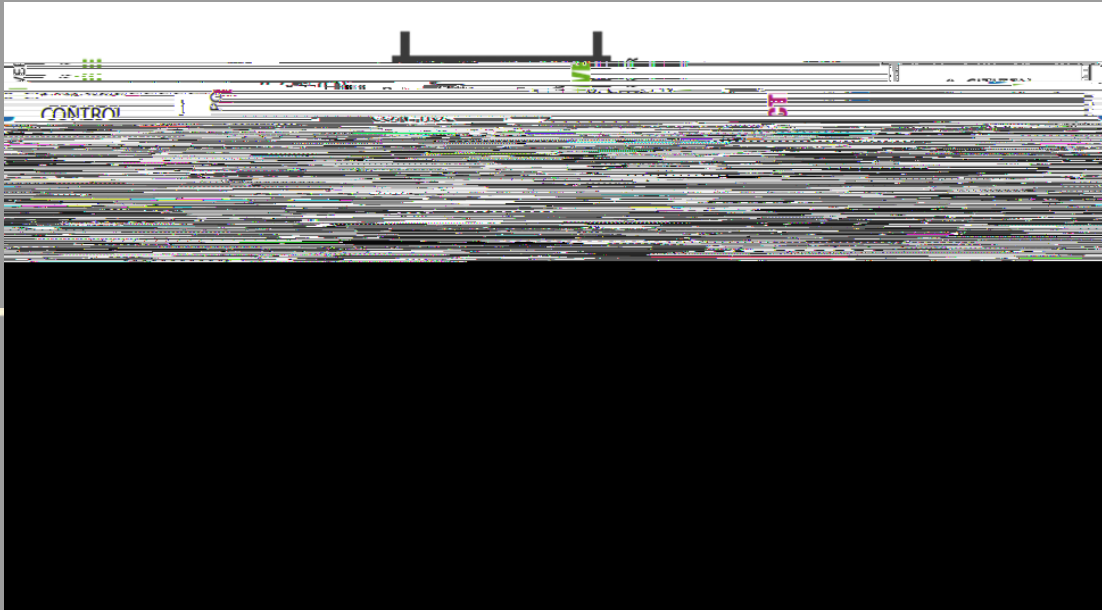
Direct Participation, Indirect Participation & Participation through information exchange.

No invitation but only the decision, therefore, change is obvious; no interest- they have had no part

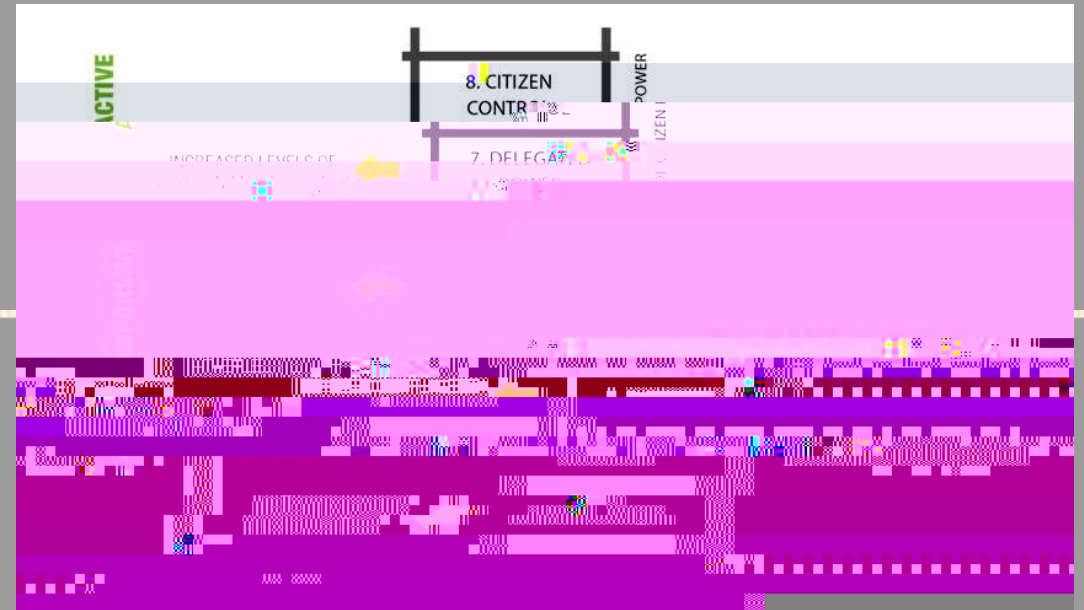
Hard to reach group, language, digital illiteracy

Lack of advocacy to represent the need of ethnic minority groups at local/community level.

Difficulties of participation for women.



ME resident's participation in pre-Olympic planning



ME resident's participation in post-Olympic planning

Right to Appropriation in reality

- **Frustration - higher-paid job opportunities**
- **Frustration - increased living cost and fear of involuntary displacement**
- **Improvement in local housing stock, but gentrification at pace**

Ms Amina (British-Bangladeshi):

“This is a two-bedroom flat, we (couple and a child) share with other three people. We are living in the flat’s living

Covid-19 : The de facto legacy
of socio-structural Inequality
and exclusion?

White city
stadium

Transport
Infrastructures

0.72million
evicted

200
families
evicted

1.25million
evicted

Regeneration

London
1908

Rome 1960
Tokyo 1964

Seoul
1988

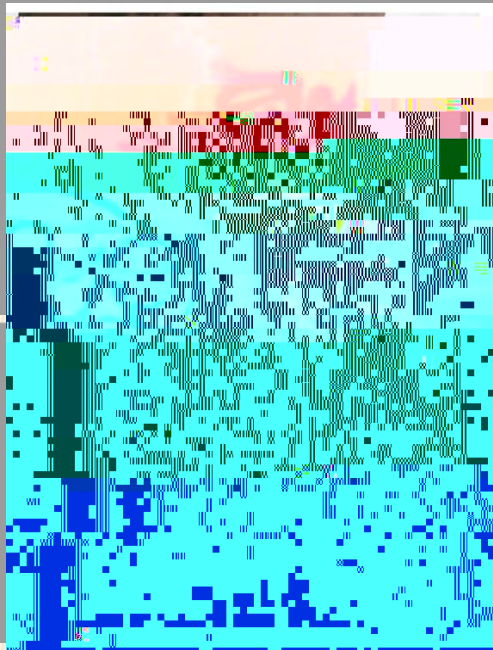
Barcelona
1992

Beijing
2008

London
2012

Urban Transformation

- “ the impact of Covid-



“Graffiti in the peanut factory from 2012. The Olympics look great on television, but for the residents, they are painful. A gigantic construction site on our doorstep with dust, dirt and noise. Lots of hype & promise, especially for local businesses. Then a two-week event which we are entirely shut off from, helicopters circling



<https://www.thecentriclab.com/covid-19-poverty-a-london-data-study>