

ACH working with IRiS

The Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) works to advance the University of Birmingham's (UOB) expertise in the field of superdiversity. UOB is the first University to focus on this field. Superdiversity refers to the emerging increase of diversity in Birmingham. These populations change rapidly, presenting challenges and opportunities to policymakers, practitioners, businesses, communities and migrants. IRiS aims to build the capacity of researchers, policy makers, practitioners and communities to understand superdiversity.

Ashley Community Housing was invited to participate in IRiS' practitioner research programme, which enables practitioners working with diverse client groups to conduct research with IRiS. ACH therefore took this opportunity to conduct two separate research projects on superdiversity. One by staff member Haliima and the other by previous tenant Wahabelbari.

Ashley Community Housing supports refugees into housing, education, training and employment. The aim of ACH is to support refugees into independent living and to support their integration into UK society. The two research projects are concerning superdiversity, and therefore an excellent opportunity for ACH to collaborate with IRiS.

ACH is aiming to conduct further research on various topics related to refugees and to make improvements to services offered to this group of people by influencing policymakers. Interviewing our clients will provide us with important data that could influence policy makers and the University's expertise in topics concerning super diversity.

Furthermore, working with IRiS and developing a partnership with UOB will give ACH deeper insight into the current services offered to refugees and newly arrived communities. As a result, support services individually tailored towards the need of ACH clients can be designed and implemented.