

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

**How has the Legacy transformed the heart of East London?**

*Understanding the disproportionate Covid-19 impact  
on racialised minorities through rights-based perspective*

*A presentation by  
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# Presentation Outline

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



# Disproportionate Covid-19 impact:

## A legacy of racialised inequality

### 'The virus does not discriminate'

- Ethnic disparity on Covid-19 death - reported by Guardian Newspaper
- Department of Health and Social Care, Runnymede Trust, New Policy Institute, The British Medical Association
- Public Health England (2020)
  1. Disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19
  2. Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups.
- ONS

Damian Barr's Tweet on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

*'We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. Some are on super-yachts. Some have just the one oar.'*



(Kathryn, 2020, Church Action on Poverty)

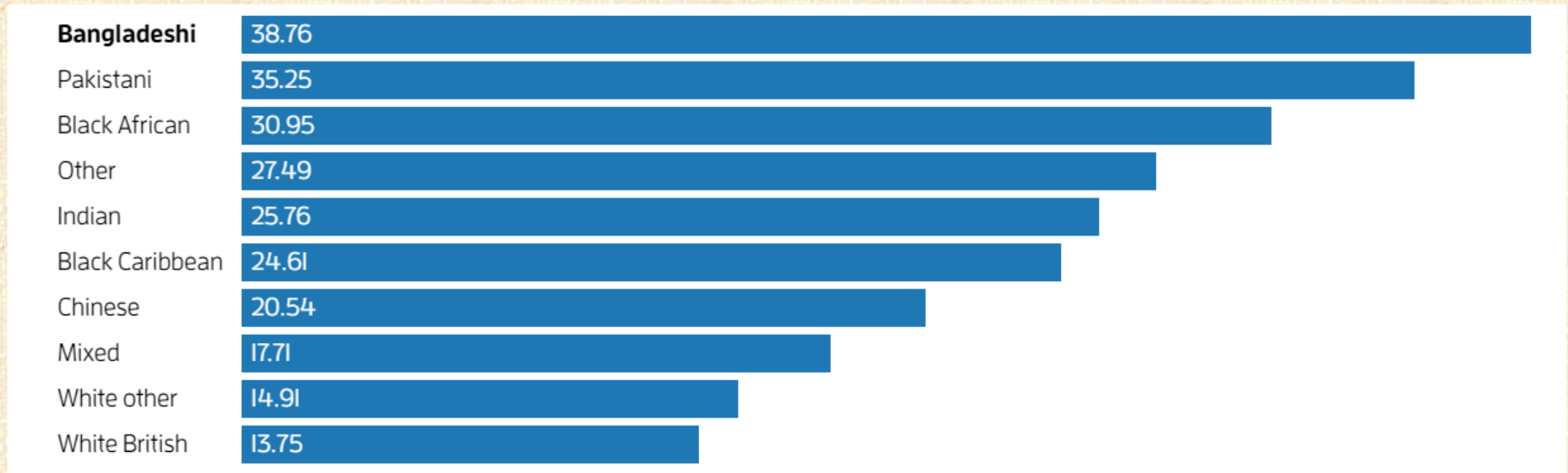
# Disproportionate Covid-19 impact:

## A legacy of racialised inequality

### Why is there a racialisation disparity ?

- 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

**Figure: % death (30-100 years) involving covid-19 in England between 24 January 2020 and 1 December 2021**



Source: NewScientist, 3 February 2022. weblink: [shorturl.at/acKPZ](https://www.shorturl.at/acKPZ)



# Disproportionate Covid-19 impact:

## A legacy of racialised inequality

### East London: The relic of historic proletarianism

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

***“I had to work so hard those days which deteriorated my physical and mental health. Later, the factory was closed and I lost my job. I am still suffering from mental illness”***

(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 feature of working class life in London (Levitas et al., 2007).
- London Plan 2004 – regeneration along the Lea valley to create jobs, build new houses (Davis and Thornley, 2010)
- At the strategic level, the regeneration plans for East London did not rely on the Olympic Games.
- 42% of the population of the four host/growth boroughs (i.e. Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham forest) are from minority community (LOCOG, 2012:7).
- London- contains the major share of minority people living in the England & Wales. This includes 58.4% of Black people and 35.9% of Asian people (Source: [shorturl.at/hjkg7](http://shorturl.at/hjkg7))

The Legacy 2012: An attempt  
to attune people with space



# The Legacy 2012 Rhetoric



## DCMS Plans for Legacy (Dec, 2010)

“ Ensuring Olympic Park can be developed as a principle driver of regeneration after the Games”

## OPLC Park vision (Oct, 2010)

“ To close the deprivation gap between the Olympic host boroughs and the rest of London”

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



# Context- East London

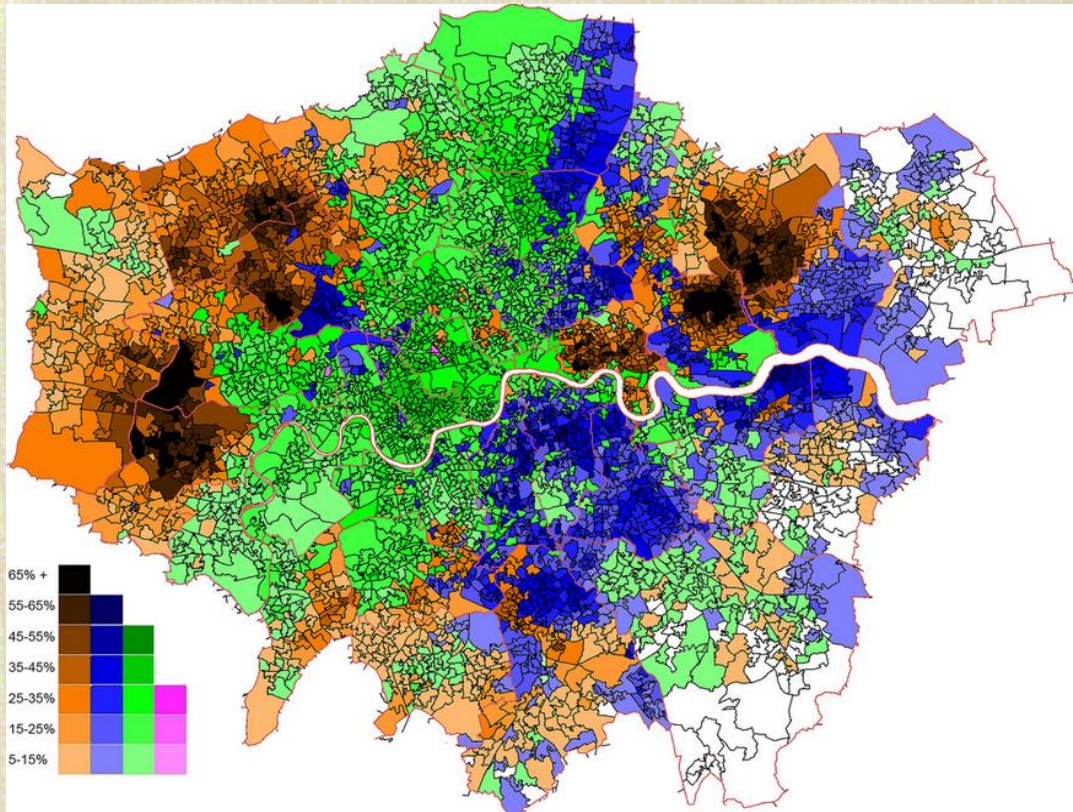


Source: Cheshire, J. 2012. Lives on the Line: Mapping Life Expectancy Along the London Tube Network

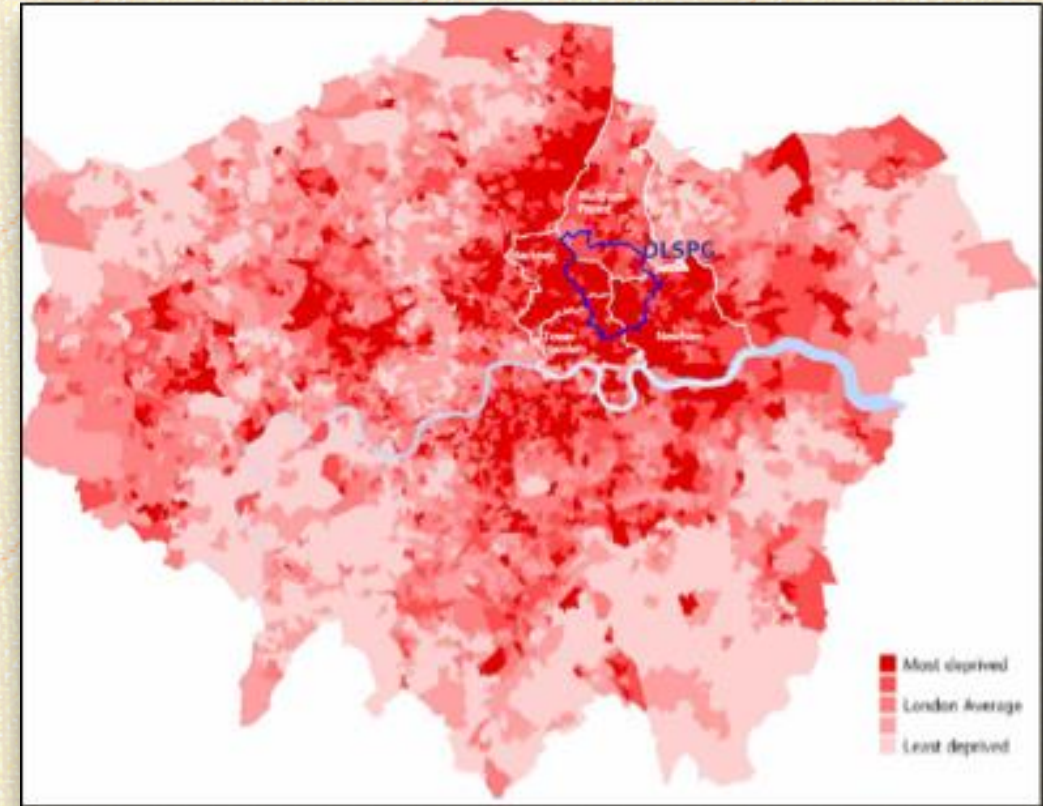


# Context-The Olympic host boroughs

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

# Legacy promises

 *Transforming spaces, communities & prospect*

DCMS's promise 2007		Mayor's promise 2007		Theoretical Impact
(2) To Transform the heart of East London	+	(3) Transforming the heart of East London	=	Regeneration
				+
(5) To determine UK as a creative, inclusive and welcoming place to live in, visit and for business	+	(5) Showcasing London as diverse, creative and welcoming city	=	City Branding/ City Marketing

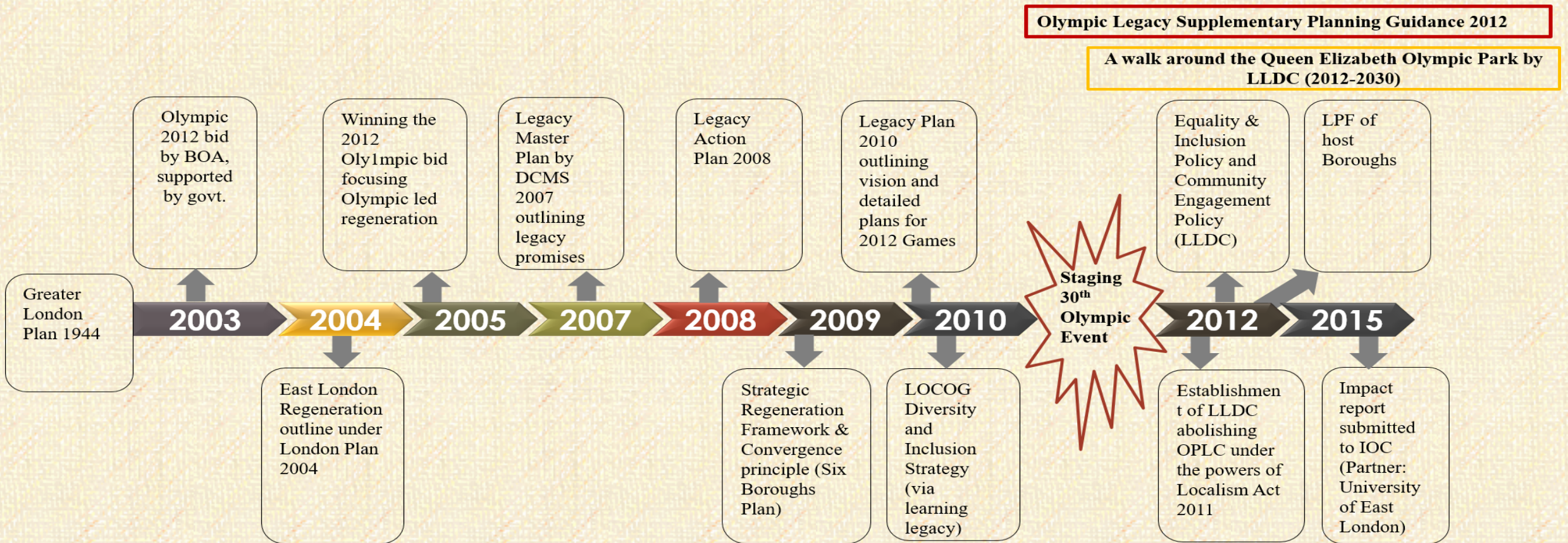
Global recession in 2007: social legacy VS economic regeneration (Sivaeu, 2012)

Winners & Losers



# The Legacy 2012 Rhetoric

## OVERVIEW OF LEGACY 2012 PLANS



Olympic Legacy Supplementary Planning Guidance 2012

A walk around the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park by LLDC (2012-2030)

# Research proposition & the theoretical framework





# Theoretical Framework

- Right to the city

The right to the city ‘always concerned with residents, resisting the current hegemony of property rights and stressing the primacy of the rights of the inhabitants’ (Purcell, 2002).

RIGHT TO THE CITY encompasses two principal rights (Purcell, 2002, 2003)

- (a) **Right to Participation**

Right to play a direct role in any decision that involve the production of urban space to promote accountability and transparency of the decision-making system.

- (b) **Right to Appropriation**

Right to produce urban space, right to physically access to public spaces, right to access to the natural environment and resources in a responsible manner.



# The Olympic boroughs

Host Boroughs	Adjacent Wards of Olympic Park	Population 2011 (Census)	% BAME - 2011	% Not Born in UK 2011	% English is First Language of no one in household - 2011	Rank of average score of deprivation (1=most deprived 628=least deprived)
<b>Newham</b>	Stratford and New Town	17,768	59.2	54.9	23.5	36
	Canning Town North	14,810	59.2	47.9	18.6	3
	Forest Gate North	16,257	64.1	50.5	21.0	117
	Forest Gate South	17,362	68.2	54.8	25.5	44
	West Ham	15,551	65.5	51.2	22.1	35
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	<b>Bromley-by-Bow</b>	<b>14,480</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>12</b>
	Bow East	14,781	39.9	30.9	10.9	78
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	Leyton	14,184	63.5	48.8	20.8	48
	Cathall	12,700	61.0	50.1	20.0	53
<b>Hackney</b>	Hackney King's Park	11,098	62.0	43.3	13.4	42
	<b>Hackney Wick</b>	<b>11,734</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>5</b>

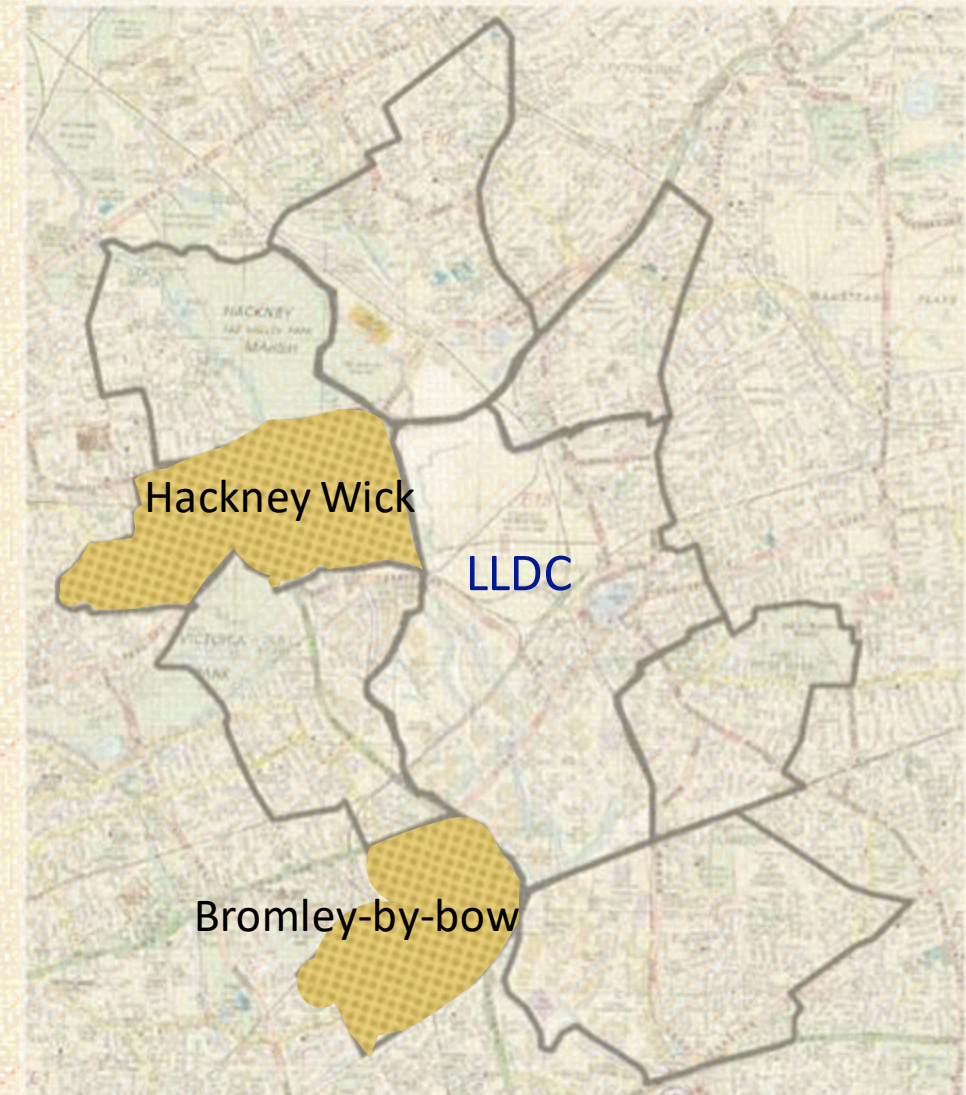
# Selection & sampling

Ward	Number of respondents (residents)		
	British-Bangladeshi	White (British & Irish)	Black (African & Caribbean)
Bromley-by-bow	27	5	0
Hackney Wick	0	5	25

**Recruitment of Respondents :** Purposive & snowball sampling

**Time:** 9th March - 5th June 2015

**Qualitative methods:** Direct observation, In-depth interviewing of residents & key informants, Photo-elicitation





# Transforming heart of East London: Rhetoric VS reality

# Public participation in socio-spatial transformation (Rhetoric)

- “Public support was critical” (David Studds, 2005)
- TELCO’s ‘Ethical Olympics’ signed by Mayor of London & LDA

## **After winning the bid,**

- *“...ODA does not require to produce a statement on stakeholder and community involvement because it would not be a plan-making authority.” (6<sup>th</sup> September 2006).*
- *TELCO’s participation – Experienced professional Vs ‘Little or no experienced’ Community Stakeholders (Marrero-Guillamón, 2017)*

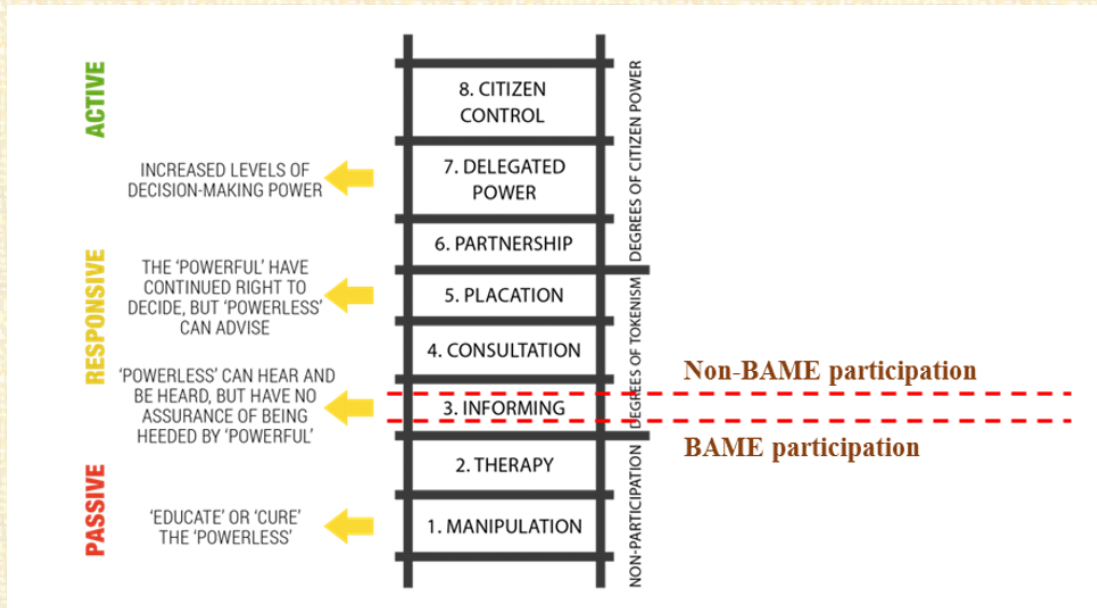
## **After the Olympic Games,**

- LLDC’s plan 2015-2031, (ODA, LOCOG, LDA abolished and LLDC emerged)
- ‘Olympicopolis’ & LLDC’s Convergence Agenda

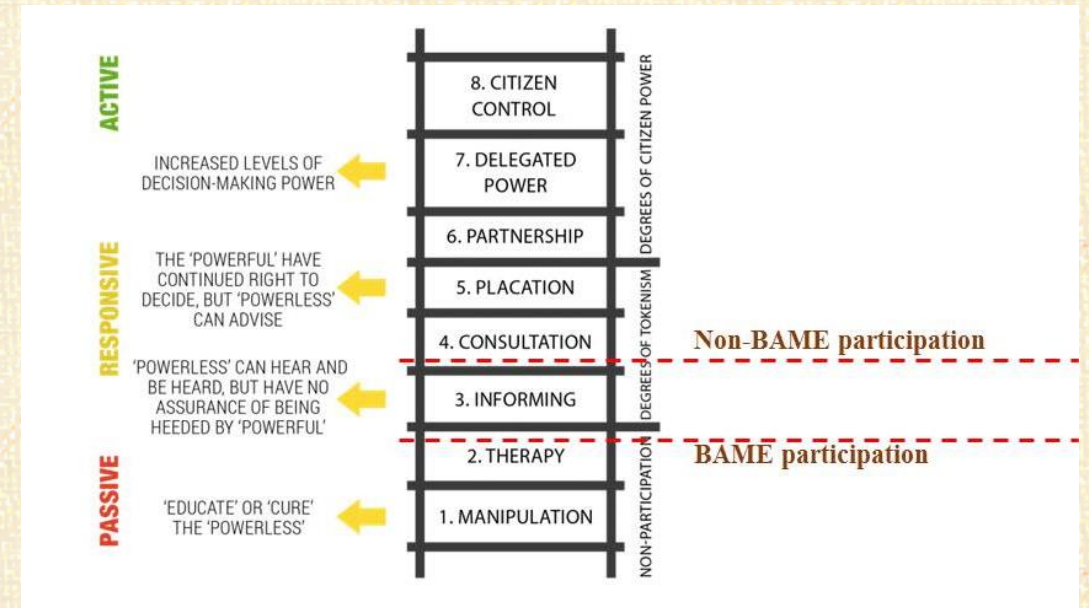


# Resident's participation in reality

- 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

# Resident's participation in reality

<i>Pre-existing barriers (prior to the Olympic legacy situation)</i>	<b>Dynamic barriers</b> <i>(with the Olympic legacy situation)</i>	<b>Core problems</b>	<b>The perceived outcome</b>
<p>a) Irregular and narrow window of direct participation in local planning and decision making process</p> <p>b) Formally institutionalised representative democracy does not ensure the inclusion of ethnic minority residents</p> <p>c) The (one-way) flow of 'information and exchange' makes the participatory mechanism untrustworthy.</p> <p>d) No unified voice to advocate the ethnic minority residents' central role in any decision making process</p>	<p>a) The room for direct public participation became limited and nominal within a relatively short timeframe</p> <p>b) The participation of the elected representatives became more nominal and limited in the local planning process.</p> <p>c) The wide use of digital platforms for information and exchange excludes people without e-communication knowledge.</p>	<p>a. <b>The top-down and speedy Olympic-led physical transformative process changes were responding to market forces rather than the needs of residents.</b></p> <p>b. <b>The fragmented power relations among residents, local representatives and the planning authority</b></p> <p>c. <b>Residents' lack confidence and motivation to influence the top-down decision-making process</b></p> <p>d. <b>Absence of advocacy on behalf of the ethnic minority residents to challenge the top-down planning process.</b></p>	<p><b>The disempowerment of marginalised ethnic minority residents because of their non-participation in planning, implementation and overall decision making process of the Legacy-led regeneration projects</b></p>
<b>Causes</b>		<b>Effects</b>	



# 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 room; the room is not well ventilated. Walls are damp and causing breathing problem to my son”*

- **Non-renewal of local market place & disappointments on the disappearance of communal places**
- **Physical Transformation – The never ending construction process to transform a wasteland into wonderland**



Bromley-by-Bow



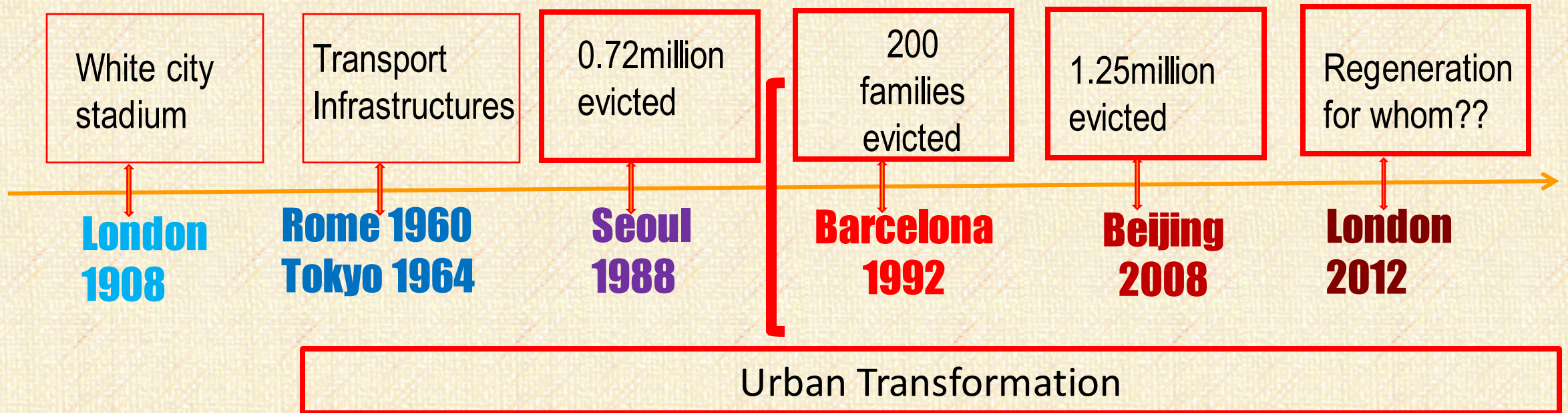
Alma Apartments, HW

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



# Cohabiting with the Legacy-led Transformative Changes: Opportunity or Frustration?

🏊 The Tower Hamlets borough worse in IMD2015 (i.e. published after the Olympic Games) in comparison to IMD2010 (published before the Olympic Games).



# Cohabiting with the Legacy-led Transformative Changes: Opportunity or Frustration?

*So, we are not all in the same boat...*

- 12% of Bangladeshi and 10% of Black African households were more likely to have damp problems
- 30% of Bangladeshi and 28% of Black African Caribbean household were more likely to be overcrowded in contrast to 2% of White British households
  
- “the impact of Covid-19 has replicated existing health inequalities and, in some cases, has increased them” (PHE, 2020)
- “the impact of Covid-19 was greater for those who live in more deprived areas” (NHS Providers).
- “Black men were four times, and Asian men were three times as likely to die from coronavirus (ONS, 2021)
- “British-Bangladeshis had around twice the risk of death when compared to the people of White British during March to May 2020” (PHE, 2020)



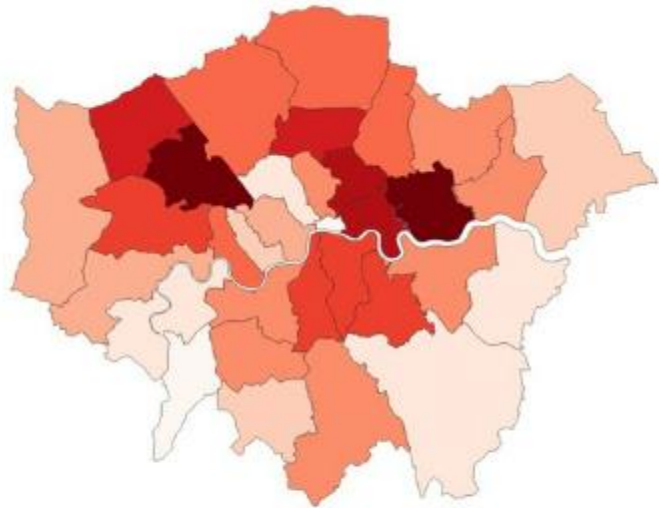
## 'Once an Olympic City, always an Olympic City' (Jacques Rogge, 2007)



*“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 around us day and night followed by a complete shutdown of the area again for several years. The graffiti had a little addition which is now not visible anymore: Everybody here hates the Olympics (except for the 100 metres). The yellow on blue at the bottom is done by one of Hackney Wick’s most prominent graffiti artists, Sweet Toof”*

Photo-elicitation interview with Mr. Becker, White German, artists’ community

# Thank You



**Figure 7.** COVID-19 deaths as of 17/04/2020 (darker red = more deaths per 100k population). Newham and Brent are the most affected areas, followed by Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

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