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## **“Mapping Migrant Cultures in Manchester 1880-2000” Project Summary**

This AHRC research project provides a new vision of the construction of diasporic cultures in modern Britain through enabling migrants to digitally map their own life experiences. Connecting Manchester’s unique archives of oral testimony with new interviewing, and with the visualization capabilities of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology will generate an innovative micro-history of the spaces and movements through which migrants constructed their own identities in industrial and post-industrial Manchester.

Through collaboration with migrant associations, the Manchester Jewish Museum and the Manchester Public Library, research focuses on the changing cultural landscapes through which Jewish and Caribbean immigrants to Manchester created distinctive collective identities between 1880 and 2000. Digital mapping provides new methods for analyzing and representing the internal heterogeneity of these diasporas, how they interacted with native and other immigrant groups, and how diasporic cultures have been remade by subsequent generations.

In mapping these cultural landscapes remembered by migrants and their children, this project develops new interpretations and methodologies in four key areas:

- (i) *Disaggregating Diaspora*: How were the internal structures, networks and tensions of diasporic communities expressed spatially and historically? How did these internal relationships differ between diasporas defined by race and religion?
- (ii) *Generational Identity*: How did the cultural landscapes of migrants change between the first and second generations? What were the spatial practices, individual experiences and historical conjunctures that shaped the creation of Black British and Anglo-Jewish identities?
- (iii) *Contact Zones*: How were diasporic communities defined through exchanges with the other social groups with which they lived? How were these interactions concentrated at particular sites and at particular periods?
- (iv) *Culture and Society*: To what extent were migrant cultures shaped by changes in socio-economic environments and material experiences?

The GIS methods and spatial approaches developed in this project will have considerable applications for migration studies and the international humanities research community. They will also provide a platform for future collaborative projects with the Irish, South Asian and Chinese communities of Manchester.