Reading Postmigration in black Writing of Britain

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This presentation explores the possibilities and challenges of contemporary notions of 'postmigration' (and concomitant concepts of 'postracial', etc.) as they emerge in recent black writing of Britain. It explores the ways in which such writing seeks to convene ways of thinking about polycultural being beyond familiar models of mobility and dwelling, such as 'axial' migration (eg: Caribbean-British), minoritisation, 'integration', diaspora identification and racial belonging. As I will consider, aesthetic and stylistic expression are crucial to the shaping of emergent ways of thinking that are readily fit for purpose for materialising 'postmigrant' perspectives properly fit for purpose today. Literary examples will be drawn from a range of writers (an indicative list would include Caryl Phillips, Bernardine Evaristo and Diana Evans). Ultimately, my presentation contributes to the critical assessment of notions such as 'postmigration' and 'postracial' as part of my ethical support for the lives and experiences of those ever subjected to the prohibitive precepts of increasingly neonationalist governance.