

State Capacity and the Capacity to Aspire: The Corona pandemic as a testing ground of local migrant integration – Stuttgart, London and Milan

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Background to the Project

- University of Roehampton works with the University of Ludwigsburg, Germany and the Catholic University of Milan, Italy
- Germany explored the impact of Covid-19 on Turkish migrants and Milan investigated the experiences of Peruvians
- London looked at the experiences of Bangladeshi migrants/settlers in London – specifically, Tower Hamlets

London: Who We Interviewed

- 15 interviews were conducted with 9 male and 6 female participants
- Transcribed verbatim (some interviews conducted in Bangla and were translated during transcription)
- A variety of respondents:
 - Medical doctor (M)
 - Heads of charity organisations (M/F)
 - Community activists (M/F)
 - Covid champion (M)
 - Funeral director (F)
 - Local councillor (M)
 - Imam (M)
 - Two university students (F)
 - Three Bangladeshi migrants from Italy (M/F)

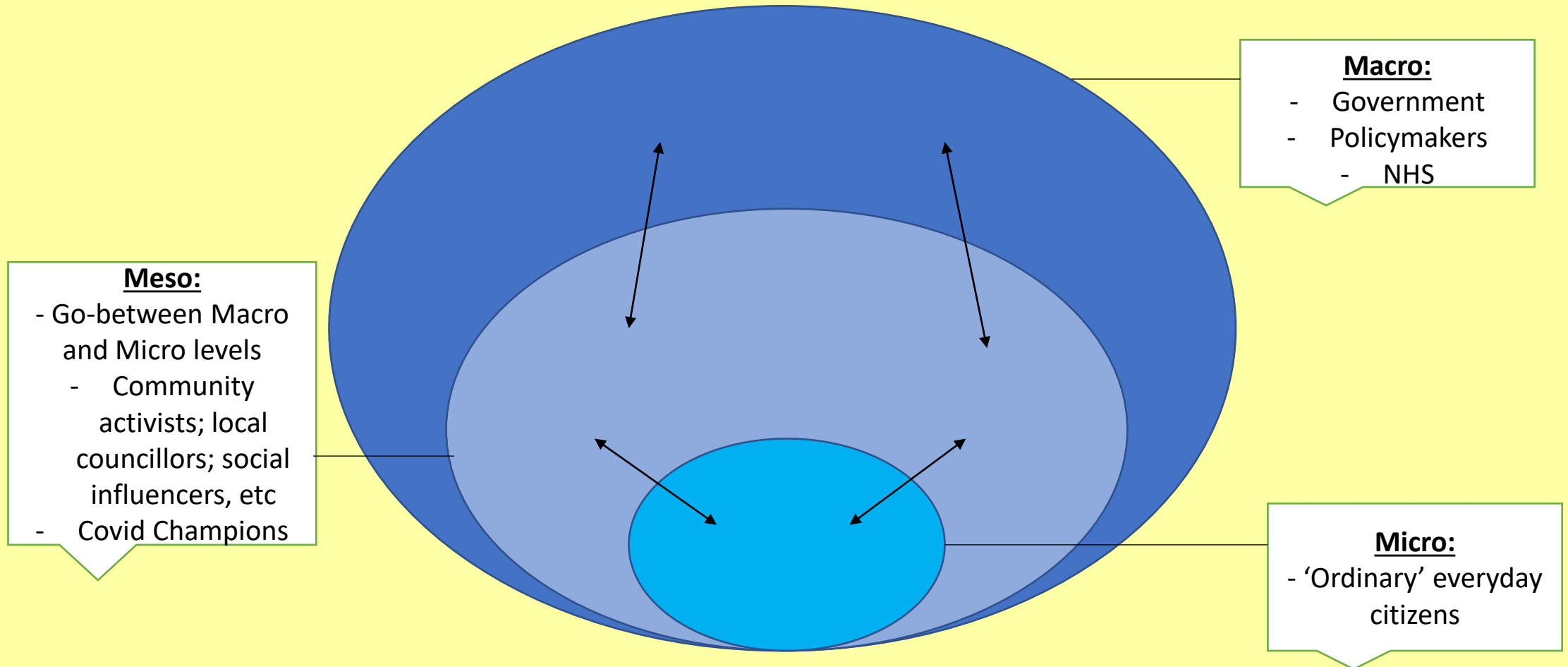
Themes I

- **Trust and risk** – politics and science interface/separation; distrust when there is disagreement between scientists
- **Community** – ties between community members and local/transnational networks
- **Integration** – depends upon individual; depends upon length of time in 'host' country – different in different Muslim communities
- **Technology** – pandemic has taught us its capacity

Themes II

- **Age** – impacts on youth and the elderly – experience across generations
- **Religion** – finding out about people/a communal space and worship/funerals
- **Environment** – how emotion might be played out, family members, financial issues

From a Systems Perspective



Implications for Policy

- Meso level has proved crucial for understanding people's needs and relaying information between official institutions and local residents; important site for community engagement
- Tower Hamlets have introduced Covid Champions who are the go-between the Government/NHS and the 'ordinary people'
- Meso level includes other community activists and representatives such as local councillors, social influencers, leaders of community organisations, Imams and providers of services such as funeral directors – and as such, can act as a platform for agency and resilience by various actors
- Continual learning at and through the meso level

Thank You

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