

# The Race Funding Gap in UK Research

**Rachel Oliver**

Cambridge University

and

The Inclusion Group for Equity in Research in STEMM

# Key people



- Dr Ying Lia Li  
Research Fellow  
at UCL and CEO  
at Zero Point  
Motion



- Dr Tanvir  
Hussain  
Associate Prof in  
Materials  
Engineering,  
University of  
Nottingham



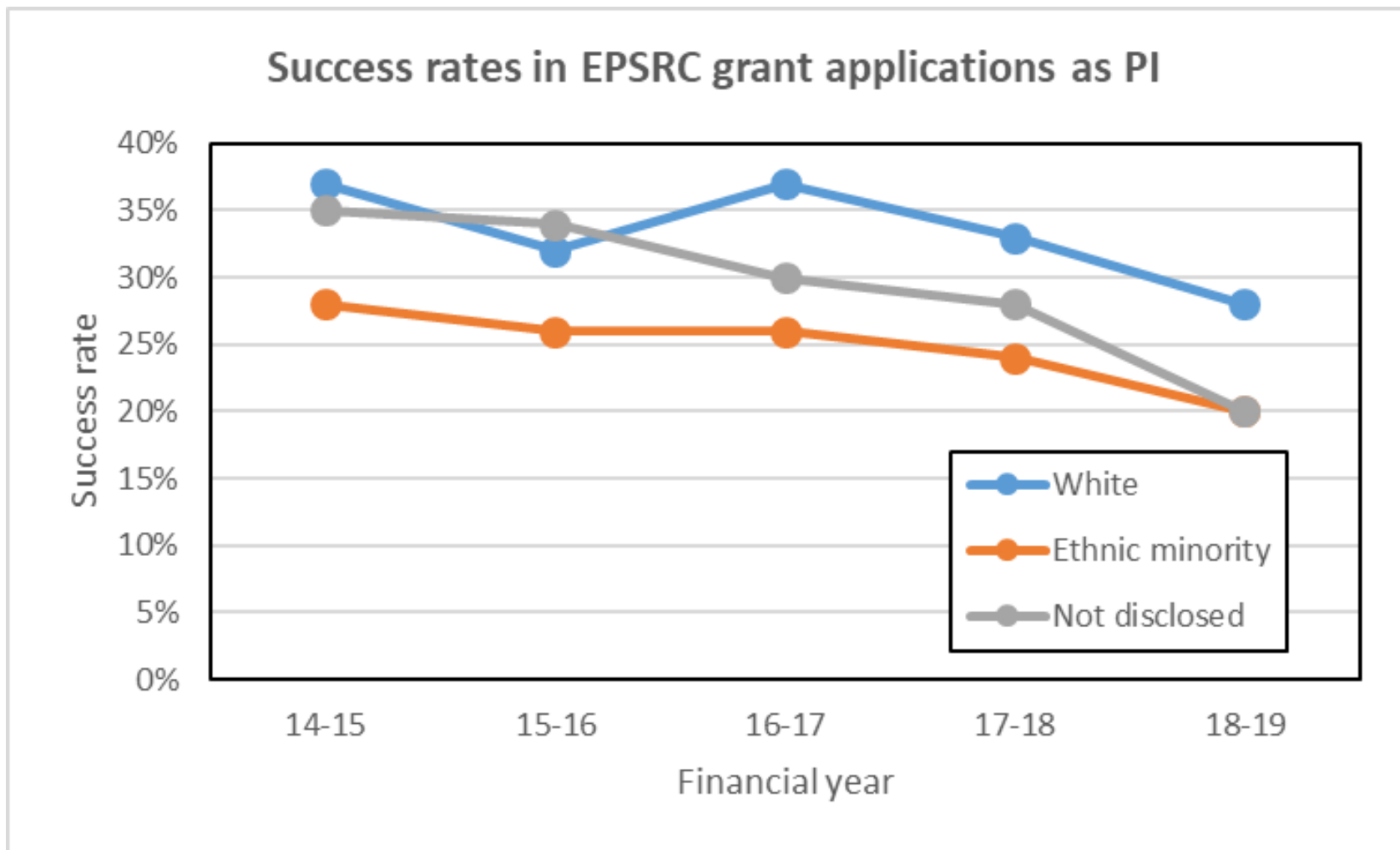
- Hope Bretscher  
PhD student,  
Cavendish  
Laboratory,  
Cambridge



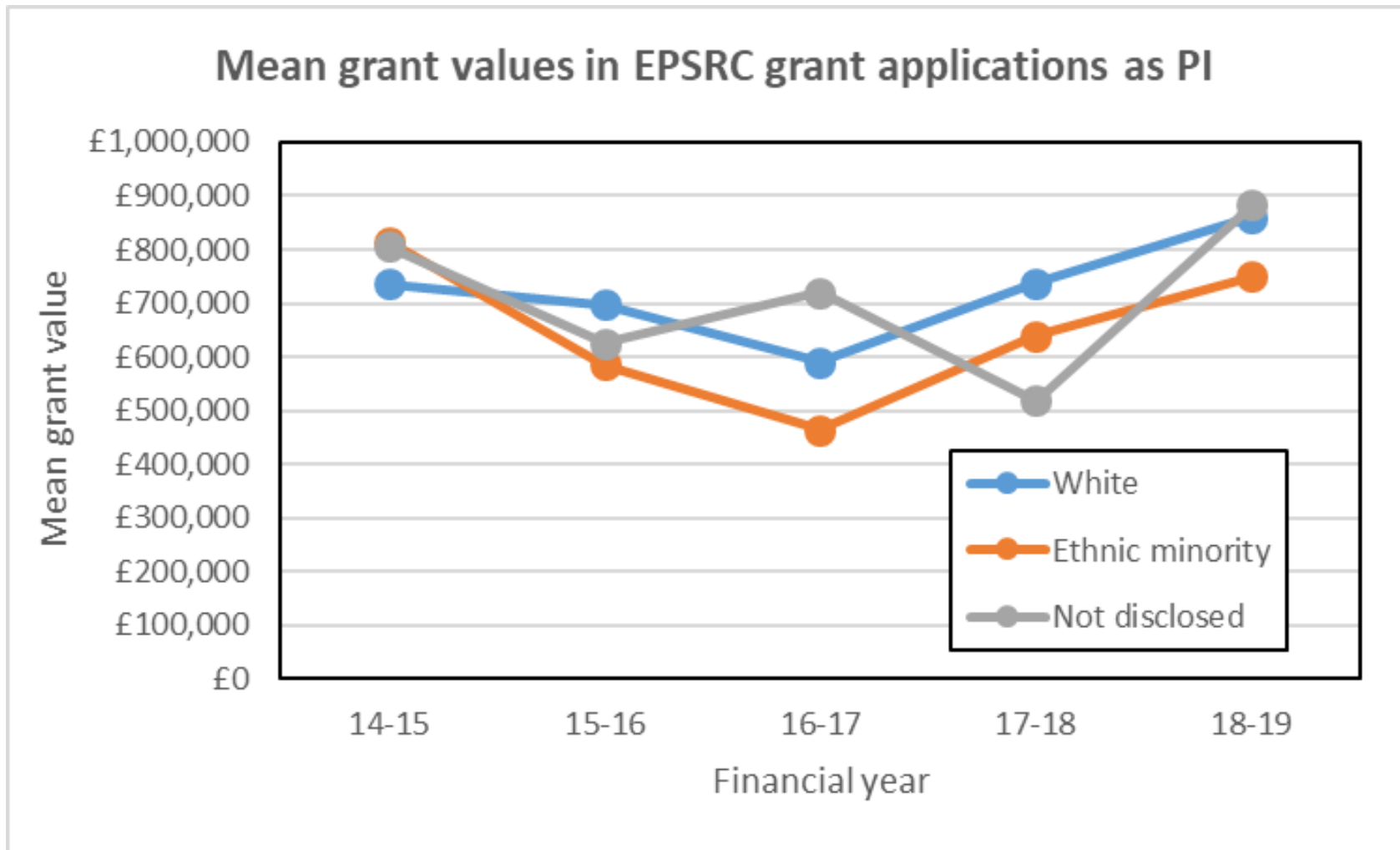
- Dr Erinma Ochu  
Senior Research  
Fellow, University  
of Reading



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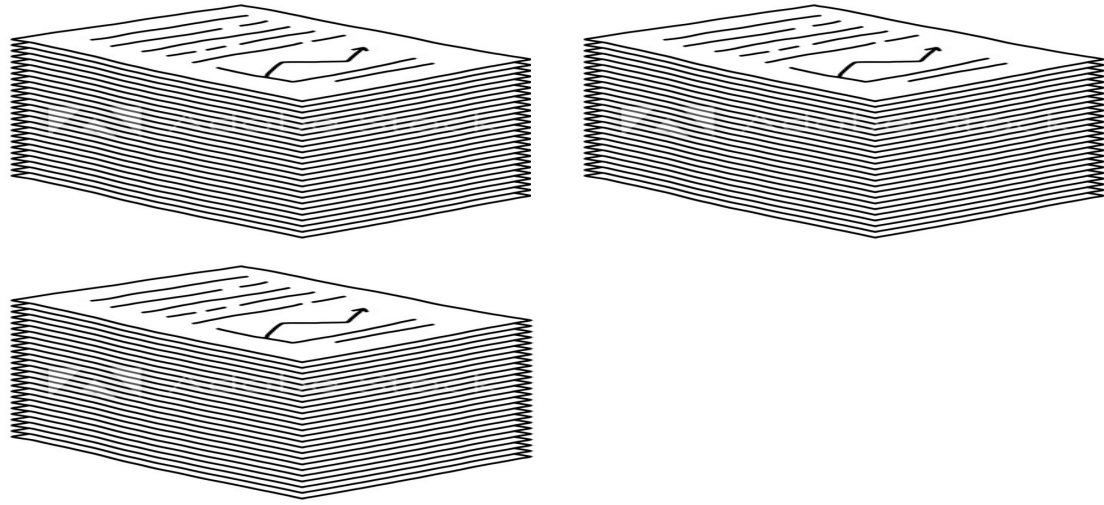


- Average white success rate: **33% ± 2%**
- Average ethnic minority success rate: **25% ± 1%**

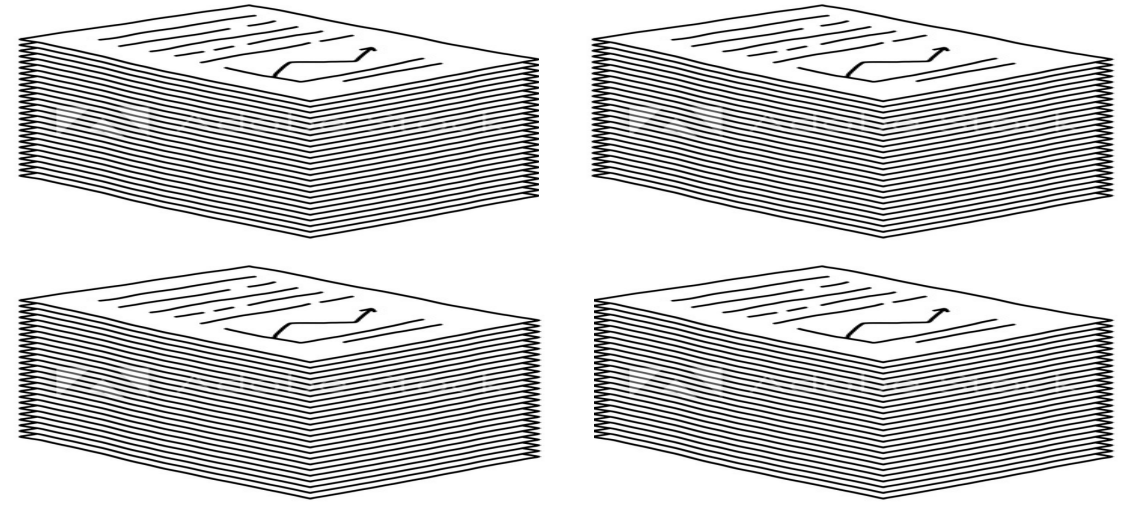


- Average white award amount: **£715k ± £62k**
- Average ethnic minority award amount: **£650k ± £62k**

# White researcher



# BAME researcher

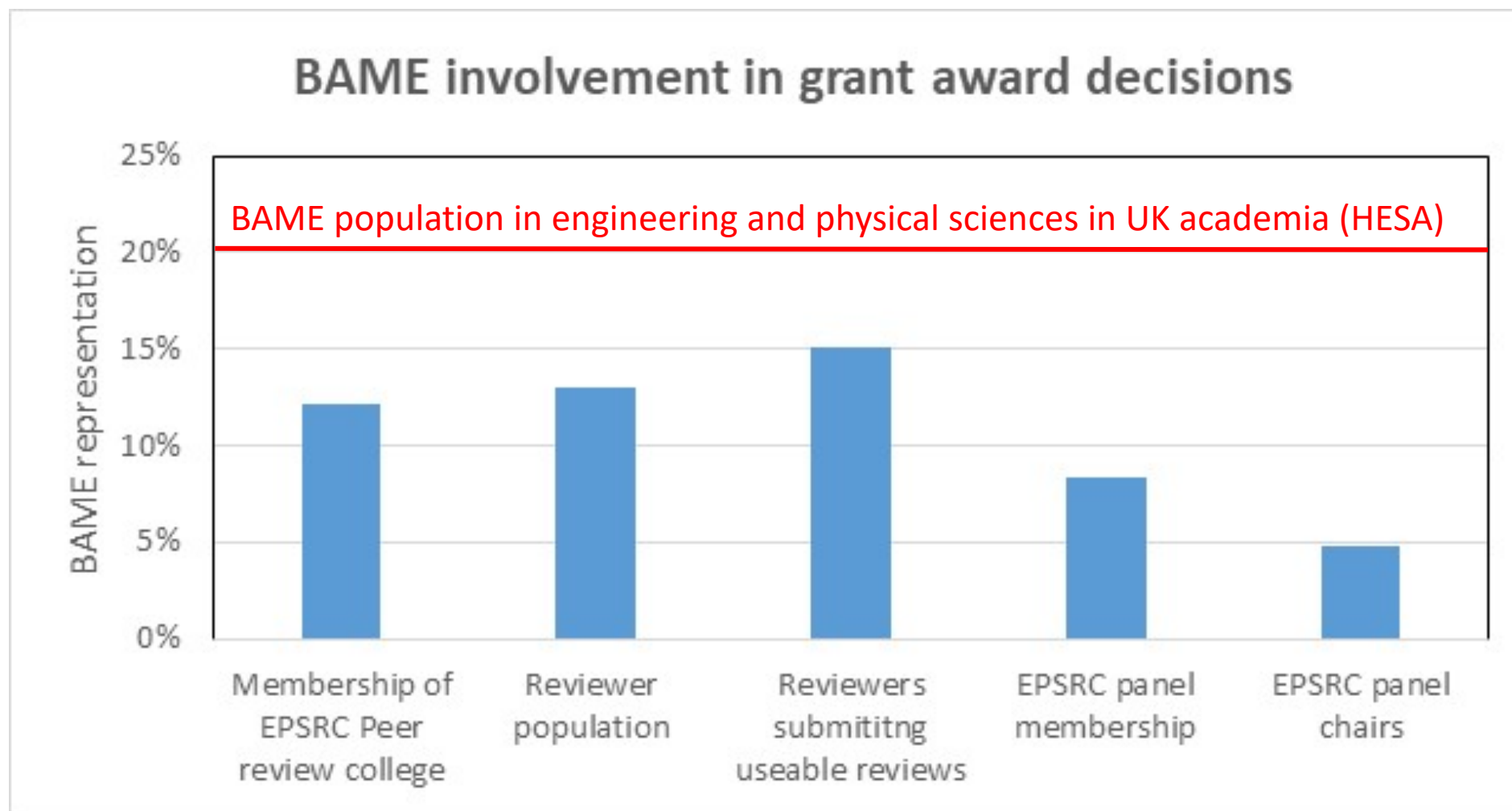


# The Diversity-Innovation Paradox

***“Demographically underrepresented students innovate at higher rates than majority students, but their novel contributions are discounted and less likely to earn them academic positions.”***

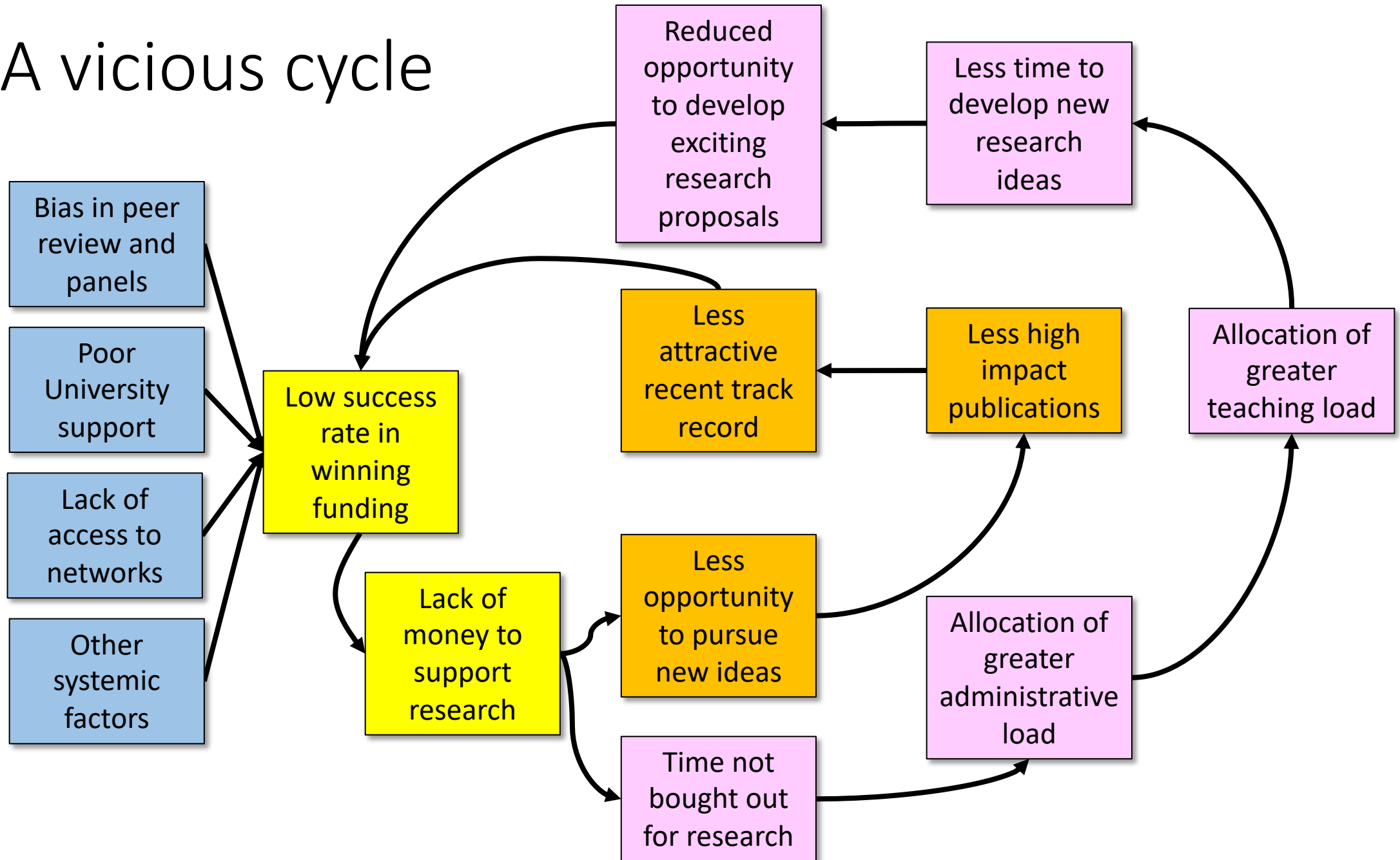
Hofstra *et al.* PNAS April 28, 2020 117 (17) 9284-9291

# “Peer” review?



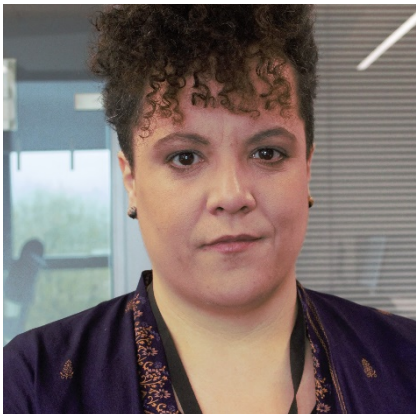


# A vicious cycle





# Multimillion investment in six new research projects to investigate COVID-19 and ethnicity



• Dr Addy Adelaine  
Ladders for action

- £4.3 million awarded
- **No** Black awardees
- **No** diversity data collected on applicants or awardees
- One member of the panel who allocated the funding will himself receive funding from **3 of the 6** awarded grants.

# Bonfire of bureaucracy?



UK Research  
and Innovation

Funding

Research

Innovation

Skills

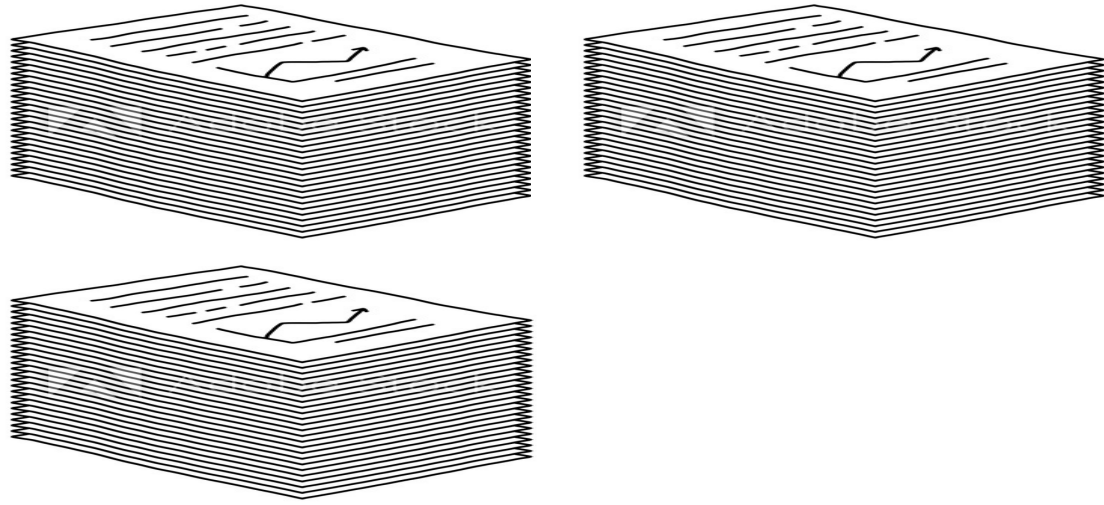
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## UKRI reducing unnecessary bureaucracy

10/09/2020

*“The changes build on work already underway across UKRI to streamline and simplify its processes and **the lessons learnt during UKRI’s rapid response to the coronavirus pandemic.**”*

# White researcher



# BAME researcher

