

LBS Newsletter May 2021



The Centre for the study of the
Legacies of British Slavery

ucl.ac.uk/lbs

We are pleased to introduce our new logo for the Centre. This has been designed by Stephanie Channer, a Jamaican graphic designer, to whom we are very grateful. See [here](#) to find out more about the meanings behind the design.

Upcoming events

Tracking the money and the stories of the enslaved

Saturday 29 May 6.30pm - 8pm via Zoom

This event is organised with Black History Walks and will showcase developments made to the LBS database in the last seven years. We will also provide more detail on the Centre's future plans and how the database can be developed to trace the lives of enslaved people. Case studies under discussion are the Whitemans of Grenada, the Greenes of St Kitts and the Beckfords of Jamaica. The speakers will be Matthew J. Smith and Rachel Lang, both from LBS, and Tony Warner from Black History Walks. Find out more and book a place [here](#).



A Tarnished Past: Higher Education and the Business of Slavery

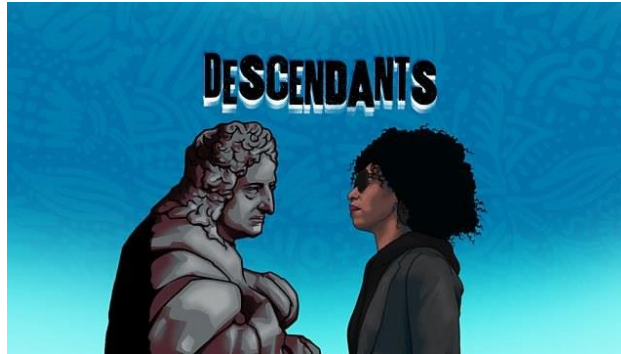
Tuesday 1 June 2pm - 3.30pm via Zoom

This webinar is a first step in bringing together representatives of some of the Universities that have organised interventions and reports on their institutional relationships with slavery. The webinar has two main objectives:

1. For researchers and report directors who have worked on various studies to share their work with counterparts in a constructive dialogue about their findings and approaches, and to discuss how these recommendations have been taken up.

2. To discuss collectively how these research projects can be developed further into scholarly work and public engagement activities.

Speakers will be Matthew J. Smith (UCL), Stephen Mullen (Glasgow), Stephen Lovell (KCL), Michael Bennett (Sheffield), Esther Brot (KCL), Liam Liburd (KCL), Lise Butler (City, UoL) and Matthew Stallard (UCL). Tickets are available [here](#).



Descendants

Friday 28 May 11am - 11.30am, BBC Radio 4

LBS has been working as historical consultants on a new BBC Radio 4 series.

One year on from the toppling of the Colston Statue in Bristol, *Descendants* asks... how close is each of us to the legacy of Britain's role in slavery? And who does that mean we're connected to?

The story begins with Jen Reid – whose image first captured the attention of the national and international press after a replacement statue of her appeared on the plinth where Colston once stood. The series will look at 14 other figures, including Gayle Heron, sister of poet and musician Gil Scott Heron, Conservative MP James Cleverly and Mark Cropper, a descendant of the abolitionist James Cropper. The series will be available online [here](#); see more information on the [BBC news page](#).

Space, Place and Racial Capitalism in 18th century Jamaica

Tuesday 1 June 5pm via Zoom

The third in a series of public lectures of the Newnham [Legacies of Enslavement Inquiry](#) will be given by Prof Catherine Hall of LBS. This lecture will discuss the ways in which the slavery business and the West India trade depended on the racialization of all aspects of life. That was how racial capitalism worked: from birth to death. Economic, political, cultural, reproductive and spatial relations were all structured through the cruel logic of racial difference. Edward Long described this system in his *History of Jamaica*. This lecture will focus on his mapping of the island: his attempt to racialize space into places for those who were White and those who were Black. Book a place [here](#).



Black Lives Matter in Slavery and Abolition

Monday 7 June 4pm - 6pm, online event

June 7 marks the one year anniversary of Edward Colston's statue in Bristol being torn from its perch. That event was part of a world-wide series of protests about racial injustice that were highlighted under the broad rubric of Black Lives Matter. These events do not just have a contemporary resonance. They influence how scholars of slavery and emancipation write about their topics. This forum explores how the study of slavery in the past intersects with the concerns of Black Lives Matter, broadly conceived. It arises from an approach by Trevor Burnard, Director of the Wilberforce Institute, to Gad Heuman, editor of *Slavery and Abolition*, the leading academic journal in the field, to produce a forum on Black Lives Matter and Slavery. This forum comes out in the June 2021 issue of this journal. It contains an introduction by Trevor Burnard and three outstanding essays by distinguished historians of slavery – Matthew J. Smith of University College, London; Tyler D. Parry of University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Daina Ramey Berry of the University of Texas at Austin. They look at post-traumatic stress disorder and slavery; 'soul values' as a mechanism whereby enslaved people dealt with the trauma of enslavement; and the changing politics around the erection of statues celebrating black lives in Jamaica. Together, these presentations illustrate how the politics of the present help us formulate new ways of thinking about how we look at slavery and emancipation in the past and how scholars can make a difference in debates over an urgent modern problem – the legacies of slavery in the present and continuing structural racism. Register for this event [here](#).

Imperial Sexual Economies

Wednesday 16 June 6pm - 7.30pm, online event

The Raphael Samuel Memorial Lecture will be given this year by Hazel Carby, Professor Emeritus at Yale University. Drawn from her new book *Imperial Intimacies: A Tale of Two Islands* the lecture will examine the workings of patriarchal, racialized and gendered power through the entangled lives of free women of colour and enslaved women on a Jamaican coffee plantation. Book a place [here](#).

Recordings and podcasts

Rewriting History? Heritage, Rurality and Empire

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olUljLIZZ_g

In case you missed the live event, Corinne Fowler's inaugural lecture is now available on youtube and well worth watching.

This lecture explores the repressed histories of rural Britain's connections to transatlantic enslavement and the East India Company. It details the colonial links of country houses, coastlines, moorlands, woodlands and village graveyards.

The countryside is an important source of ideas about Britishness, and especially Englishness. Literary tradition has played a formative role in this regard. Many influential pastoral works were produced during four hundred years of colonial rule. These works comment upon the relationship between colonial wealth and British landscapes, including Acts of Enclosure, country estates and the nation's longest stone wall. Today, authors and poets are transforming the pastoral tradition in response to recent research into imperial Britain.

Colonialism's cultural and economic legacy is not simply expressed by chinoiserie, statues, monuments, galleries, warehouses and stately homes. Narratives are equally part of that legacy. Prof Fowler argues that Britain's recent 'culture wars' can be understood as a resurgent yet longstanding reluctance to explore the nation's colonial past.

Writing Slavery into Australian History

<https://australian-legacies-slavery.org/events/seminar-series-writing-slavery-into-australian-history>

Recordings of a series of eight seminars organised by the Western Australian Legacies of British Slavery project are now available online. These seminars aim to explore the life stories of Australian colonists and their networks, and to produce new sources and methods for writing biographies that include slavery. Topics include the kidnapped men in the Pacific and James Stirling, first governor of Western Australia. The final seminar in the series includes contributions from Catherine Hall and Keith McClelland.

Other news

An artist is looking to have a conversation with anyone who searched the LBS archives about their story and what should happen next. To find out more you can contact her directly on lifschitzsharone@gmail.com