

# The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre Annual Engagement Report

Academic year 2020/2021







Local Educators viewing the 'Celebrating 30 Black Educators over 30 years in Leicester' exhibition at the SLRC

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# A Year in Reflection

There is no doubt that the last year has heightened the urgency of research and informed debate addressing race, racism and the quest for social justice globally. As we are still living in the midst of the overlapping pandemics of racism and COVID-19 which continue to expose longstanding inequities in health, social care, education, housing, the labour market, law, policing practices, access to public resources and in the everyday experience of moving in and through the world, the research agendas of the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre (SLRC) are vital.

Over the last year our team has expanded to include the inaugural cohort of early career researchers recruited as part of our signature Legacy in Action Fellows programme. These talented scholars are pursuing ground-breaking research asking questions that will inform how we think about the impact of gentrification, global circuits of capital through virtual technologies, road life, the gendered dimensions of Islamophobia and the shifting racialised identifications, solidarities and contestations that inform how people and communities mobilise, resist and create. Our team has also grown in capacity over the last year to generate wider networks that will enable research in health disparities and better our understanding of how they impact other social arenas including educational outcomes, a topic that the team recently explored in a project with Leicester schools funded by a collaboration between De Montfort University (DMU) and Leicester City Council.

Aside from the research projects that our team has been able to develop in the last year we have also sought to bring research-informed discussions to the general public. To that end we launched The Exchange, a webinar series that brought together academics, practitioners, educators, students and community members into discussion about such topics including the disparate impacts of COVID-19 as experienced by marginalized communities, media representations of Black masculinity and how local schools are embedding Stephen Lawrence's legacy into the curriculum and wider school culture. Additionally, we developed The COVID Files, a digital repository of research, reporting and informed public opinion about the global impact of COVID-19. In an age marked by the proliferation of misinformation, the SLRC's commitment to publicly engaged research and scholarship is a necessary intervention designed to cut through the noise and empower people about issues that matter.

Other highlights of the year include our four-week web series, Un/Settled Multiculturalisms, which featured leading national and international scholars; our Teaching to Transform initiative working with local educators to develop racial literacies; and our support of national commemorations of Stephen Lawrence Day which included engaging over 1,000 secondary students across Leicester and Leicestershire in a week of classroom takeovers hosted by our team.

While we can certainly look back on a number of successes over the last year despite working in unprecedented conditions, there is still much to do and much to look forward to. As we continue to work towards fulfilling our ambitions of becoming a global hub of research on race and social justice, we are both cognizant of the sobering realities of an inequitable world but hopeful about the prospect for change.



*Dr Kennetta Hammond Perry, PhD, FRHistS Founding Director Stephen Lawrence Research Centre and Reader in History*



*(L-R) Dr Lisa Palmer, SLRC Deputy Director, Dr Kennetta Hammond Perry, SLRC Director, Monica Barrett, Programmes and Operations Manager, Sherilyn Pereira, Public Engagement Manager, May 2019*



## Our Vision

The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre (SLRC) is a unique initiative at De Montfort University that aims to drive forward conversations that will shape and influence how we think about race and social justice in contemporary society. The vision for the centre began with the loan of archival materials by DMU's former Chancellor, Baroness Doreen Lawrence, a collection which documents the history of the Lawrence family's fight for justice in the wake of their son's tragic murder.

## Our Mission

The SLRC has a mission to extend the legacy of Stephen Lawrence's life and his family's ongoing pursuit of justice by producing, supporting and innovatively communicating groundbreaking, impact-oriented research that influences public dialogues, promotes social justice, fosters inclusion, and engenders equity on a local, national and global scale. The SLRC aims to become a hub of innovative and world-leading interdisciplinary research in the following four target areas:

- **Histories and cultures of Black, Asian and racially minoritised peoples in the UK**
- **The concept and practice of institutional racism**
- **Denials of justice**
- **The social psychology of racial violence**

## Our Strategic Objectives

- Curate the Stephen Lawrence Archive and Exhibition in collaboration with Special Collections as an educational resource for wide-ranging audiences.
- Cultivate inclusive and intergenerational research communities within and beyond the university that work collaboratively to develop and co-produce interdisciplinary research related to the four research target areas.
- Invest in researcher development through innovative initiatives that enhance skills, encourage reflective practice and facilitate pathways towards progression.
- Create partnerships, build networks and maintain channels of communication that facilitate research, public engagement and knowledge exchange with wide-ranging audiences locally, nationally and internationally.
- Champion the role of research in creating influence and impact on a local, national and global scale.
- Contribute to and harness local knowledge to understand and address social justice issues with a particular emphasis on education.



Local Educator Lorraine Douglas viewing the 'Celebrating 30 Black Educators over 30 years in Leicester' exhibition at the SLRC



# Legacy in Action Fellows Programme

LEGACY IN ACTION FELLOWS  
STEPHEN LAWRENCE RESEARCH CENTRE

The Legacy in Action Research Fellowship aims to urgently address the racialised disparities that exist within higher education institutions and across many academic disciplines. Being distinct in its design, the Legacy in Action Fellowship allows early career researchers to focus on establishing their academic profile through participation in appropriate research, teaching and pedagogic activities. This sector-leading programme enables collaboration with varying internal and external community stakeholders while developing each fellow's growing national and international research profile and academic practice.

In September 2020 we welcomed three Legacy in Action Fellows to the SLRC team; Dr Fatima Rajina, Dr Karis Campion and Dr Yusef Bakkali.



Dr Fatima Rajina



Dr Karis Campion



Dr Yusef Bakkali

[Dr Fatima Rajina](#)'s research focuses on the relations between Bangladeshi and Somali communities in Tower Hamlets in the East London. She will look at how the Bangladeshi community constructs notions of blackness and how this construction unravels vis-a-vis the Somali community.

[Dr Karis Campion](#)'s research focuses on barbershops and examines their function as key social institutions for Black communities in Britain. Her research interests span areas of (mixed) race/ethnic identity, geographies of race in urban space, intersectional inequalities, Black feminism, youth identities, anti-racism and institutional racism in education.

[Dr Yusef Bakkali](#)'s research focuses around the lives of young people involved in 'Road Life' - a contemporary street culture of which elements have recently been the subject of popular media representations in shows like Top Boy (Channel 4) and films like Blue Story (BBC Films).

The SLRC holds a Legacy in Action Research Seminar twice yearly, giving the Fellows an opportunity to share their ground-breaking research with colleagues attached to the centre, thereby supporting the development of a vibrant intellectual community at the SLRC.

As part of the Legacy in Action Fellowship programme, Fellows are encouraged to think reflectively about their research and teaching as part of their preparation for transitioning into the faculties. Legacy In Action Fellows have participated in 'Teach the Trainer' workshops via the Teaching to Transform programme to engage with models for anti-racist pedagogies and also integrate race and social justice themes into their teaching practice. They were integral to the delivery of classroom takeovers for the Stephen Lawrence Day school engagements, leading on many of the sessions.

Through the Legacy in Action Fellows programme, the SLRC has also hosted key events with Dr Karen Salt and Professor Gary Younge to support the Fellows and the wider DMU research community in their work:

## Understanding the Funding Landscape in the UK: A Workshop with Dr. Karen Salt, UKRI

The SLRC is acutely aware of the competitive nature of the UKHE funding environment and the racialised disparities that exist across the funding landscape. It is therefore important that the programme responds to these inequities with targeted support for the Legacy In Action Research Fellows. In December 2020 we began this process by attending a workshop led by Dr Karen Salt on Understanding the Funding Landscape in the UK. Dr Salt is the Deputy Director of UKRI advisory group for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. We aim to develop this working partnership as well to extend our future programme of activities to DMU colleagues beyond the SLRC.

## Professor Gary Younge - Workshops

The research and writing produced by the Legacy in Action Fellows is expected to reach a varied audience as part of the wider public engagement strategy of the SLRC. To support this work, we partnered with the leading writer, journalist and academic, Professor Gary Younge to deliver the following workshops:

### Writing Workshop 1: Using your voice in Longform writing with Gary Younge

### Writing Workshop 2: Finding a home for your writing with Gary Younge

The workshops were open to colleagues across the University as part of the SLRC's commitment to creating shared opportunities related to staff development and training.

# Our Research

As a hub of innovative and inclusive research, the centre is proud to be a part of collaborative research and to facilitate opportunities to explore race and racism in relation to other power dynamics such as gender, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship status, employment status, sexual orientation, health, age, location and more, which are relevant and significant to the real-world context. Throughout the academic year, the SLRC was awarded £87,401.25 from bids to fund 4 internal research projects and a salary for a one-year, fully-funded student placement.

## Annual Overview, 2020-2021



Our current funded projects for the 2020-2021 academic year include:

### Textures of Blackness in the Midlands: Excavating Regional Archives of Black Culture and Politics

In May 2019, the SLRC was awarded funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership. The PhD studentship, in collaboration with [Serendipity Arts](#), supports work that aims to unearth, explore and think innovatively about the co-production of archives designed to map, reflect and (re)present histories of Black cultural and political life in the Midlands.

### Grassroots Struggles, Global Visions: British Black Power, 1964-1985

Supported with a £250,000 grant from the AHRC, this two-year research study is a collaboration with the University of Manchester to deliver the most comprehensive study to date about the historical development and significance of Black British Power outside of London with focus on three other significant regions: Greater Manchester, Nottingham and Leicester.

### SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus (Covid-19) and the Impact to Teaching, Learning and Mental Wellbeing for Secondary Students in Leicester City

Funded by DMU Local+, this project aims to examine how secondary school students, teachers and parents responded to the Covid-19 lockdown measures and the impact these changes had to teaching, learning and mental wellbeing among secondary students in Leicester city. The findings of the research will inform a set of recommendations made to Leicester City Council and inform strategies that will address pre-existing inequalities and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in relation to education and mental wellbeing.

### Creating Black Joy: Black Visual Culture, Community Care and Collective Artmaking

The [Creating Black Joy](#) project is supported by a 'Right to the Discipline grant' from the Antipode Foundation, and arises following the global Black Lives Matter and anti-black policing protests in 2020. It creates a digital platform for visual artists and filmmakers to exhibit their work and aims to disrupt the circulation of images of Black trauma on social media through the presentation of art which represents Black Joy. It will demonstrate how Black diasporic artists and communities survive and find beauty amongst and for themselves despite ongoing cycles of mediated and real violence.

### Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) in 18 – 40-year-olds: A Multifactorial Management Intervention to Address Multimorbidity in Early-Onset T2D in Adults (The M3 Research Programme)

Funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and based at the University of Leicester, this five-year project seeks to address the underrepresentation of adults with early-onset type 2 diabetes in clinical research. The project aims to; develop and test the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a new type of care specifically for early-onset T2D, utilise existing partnerships with people with early-onset T2D, healthcare professionals and stakeholders from different backgrounds and demographics, inform the M3 intervention design, conduct in-depth research studies into life with early-onset T2D and improve engagement with diabetes support and healthcare services by making care more accessible.



# Publications

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Darko, N (2021) *Engaging Black and Minority Ethnic Groups in Health Research: 'Hard to Reach'? Demystifying the Misconceptions*, Bristol: Policy Press, Available at: <https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/engaging-black-and-minority-ethnic-groups-in-health-research>

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Perry, K.H. (2020) 'Black Pasts, White Nationalist Racecraft and the Political Work of History' in Dan Geary, Jennie Sutton and Camilla Schofield, eds., *From Enoch Powell to Donald Trump: Britain, the United States and Global White Nationalism*, Manchester: University of Manchester Press.

Perry, K.H. (2021) "'To Tell It As We Know It": Black Women's History and the Archive of Brexit Britain' *Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques*, 47, 2, pp. 22-35.

Perry, K.H. (2021) 'One British Thing: *The Hair Weavers Text Book: A Study in Art of Hair-Weaving and Beauty Culture (1967)*' *Journal of British Studies*, 60, 1, pp. 169-172.

Rajina, F (2021) 'BBC vs Zara Mohammed: An exercise in Islamophobia', *Middle East Eye*, 10 February. Available at: <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/bbc-interview-zara-mohammed-exercise-islamophobia>

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Routen A, Darko N, Willis A, Miksza J, Khunti K. (2021) "'It's so tough for us now"- Covid-19 has negatively impacted religious practices relating to death among minority ethnic groups' *Public Health*, 194, pp.146-148. Doi: 10.1016/j.puhe.2021.03.007

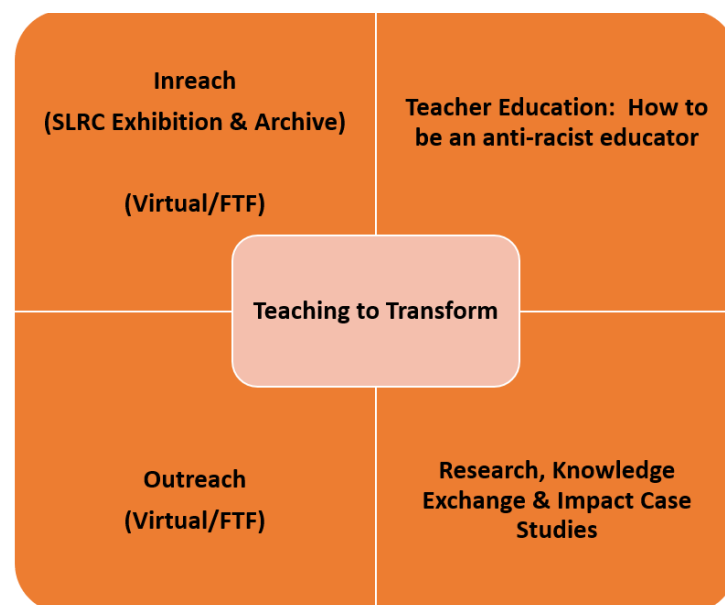


# Beyond the University Walls: Teaching to Transform

TEACHING TO  
TRANSFORM  
STEPHEN LAWRENCE RESEARCH CENTRE

Despite living and operating in the height of a global pandemic, we have continued to cultivate and nurture relationships with communities, educators and schools within the locale. As such, our Teaching to Transform programme continues to flourish.

Teaching to Transform takes up elements of the unfinished agenda of the Macpherson Report's recommendation to combat the "failure of the National Curriculum to adequately reflect the needs of a diverse, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society (Macpherson, 1999)." The project intends to provide an opportunity for the SLRC to contribute to DMU's wider public engagement agenda by influencing anti-racist, social-justice oriented pedagogic practice in Leicester, a city well known for its racial and ethnic diversity.



## The four key elements

**Inreach** - Utilising our resources for teaching and learning in relation to our research target areas

**Outreach** - Engaging in external teaching and learning spaces in relation to our research target areas

**Teacher Education: how to be an anti-racist educator** - Working with educators to develop racial literacies and social justice-oriented pedagogies

**Research, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Case Studies** - Building research frameworks around our work in schools and with educators to co-produce, collect data, monitor and evaluate various interventions and demonstrating impact

## Teacher Education: Cultivating Anti-racist Educators



For the 2020/21 academic year, we introduced a pilot project that seeks to develop a bespoke teacher education programme that emphasises building racial literacies amongst local educators. The programme aims to co-create strategies and facilitate the embedding of anti-racist practice in local schools with an eye toward addressing the persistence of racial inequalities and injustices in the classroom, the curriculum and the wider school environment.

Our partner in this pilot phase of the project is the LiFE Multi-Academy Trust (LiFE MAT). This past year the SLRC team designed a 4-session module that included 25 participants across LiFE MAT schools as an offer through their professional pathways programme. Not only did educators on the programme enhance their ability to effectively communicate about race, racism and anti-racism but they were also encouraged to incorporate reflective anti-racist practice into their own teaching practice. In the long-term the project intends to produce a practice-driven evidence base that will amplify calls for educational policy reform and investment in teacher education.



Head of Religious Studies, Natasha Boyce, and students from Winstanley School interviewed by BBC News for Stephen Lawrence Day, 2021



# National Stephen Lawrence Day, 22 April

Stephen Lawrence Day provided a prominent date on the national calendar for the SLRC to deliver a programme of activities that responded to Baroness Lawrence's vision of extending Stephen Lawrence Day into regions outside of London. Our Teaching to Transform programme provides a vehicle for taking the centre's work into schools during the week of Stephen Lawrence Day, while helping to extend Stephen's legacy into regions outside of London.

Our activities for 2021 responded to the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation's wish to widen the reach of Stephen Lawrence Day nationally and fit within the Foundation's framework of the 3Cs: Classrooms, Community and Careers. The SLRC's 2021 offer built on relationships and events formed to support the two previous years' activities that have included hosting local educator listening sessions, supporting DMU Graphic Design students with visualising and conceptualising their approach to Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence's design brief, delivering the 'Stephen Lawrence Day at DMU Experience' attended by Baroness Lawrence and school outreach activities (bespoke visits, classroom takeovers and school assemblies). These activities have provided a springboard for the SLRC to further extend its work by cultivating relationships with local schools in the SLRC network including Stephen Lawrence Day ambassador schools and community groups that were first formed through these activities.

## In-reach engagement: making best use of our resources for teaching and learning

Using online capabilities and creative platforms, we were able to continue to offer virtual bespoke visits to the SLRC. For example, we welcomed students on the BA Design course 'into the centre' where they were given a virtual tour in pictures to inform their assignment set by Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence to support Stephen Lawrence Day.

## Outreach engagement: engaging in external teaching and learning spaces in relation to our research target areas

### ▪ The Stephen Lawrence Exhibition Virtual Timeline

The Stephen Lawrence Exhibition Virtual Timeline is a new educational resource that replicates the existing timeline that can be found in the SLRC on campus.

The timeline builds upon archival resources included in the original Stephen Lawrence Day educational pack. It is designed to be an educational resource that is especially adaptable to the virtual learning environment. Like the exhibition space at the SLRC, it was created to introduce a new generation of students to Stephen's story, explore the historical significance of the case and highlight the Lawrence family's fight for justice. In addition, it positions the development of the SLRC as part of the journey and introduces Baroness Lawrence's connection to DMU and Leicester.



**11 SCHOOLS**  
USED THE VIRTUAL TIMELINE

**“A day for everyone with a cause which deserves justice and a day of celebration of what we have achieved across that year and what we are going to achieve in the future.”**

**Baroness Doreen Lawrence of Clarendon OBE**



▪ SLRC Classroom Takeovers

For the week of 19-23 April and on 30 April, Leicester and Leicestershire schools were invited to apply to take part in a class session delivered by the SLRC on themes that responded to everyday race and social justice issues. SLRC session leads liaised with teachers to ensure that the teaching sessions they had developed were age appropriate and aligned with the schools' teaching agendas.

Themes included:

- The Sights and Sounds of Black Britain
- Black British History and The Importance of Black Studies
- Race and Privilege
- Sport, Protest, and Racism
- Race and Islamophobia
- Colourism
- Measuring Our Multicultural Society
- The Policing and Media Response to UK Rap Music



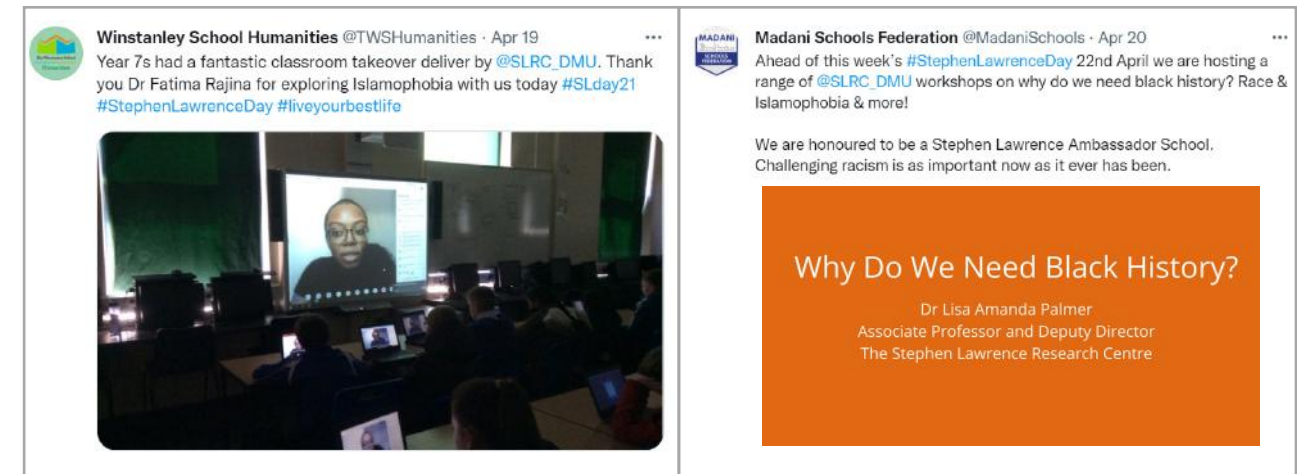
Schools participated in the offer



Classroom takeovers delivered



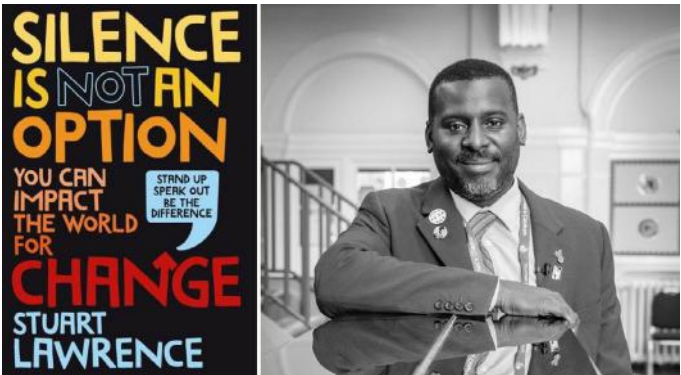
Students from 8 of 14 schools participated



Feedback from Winstanley School and Madani Schools Federation Twitter accounts following their Stephen Lawrence Day classroom takeovers.

▪ Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence visits Winstanley School

As part of our Stephen Lawrence Day offer, the SLRC facilitated a virtual visit by the Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence to Winstanley School. His motivational talk on the life and legacy of his brother Stephen inspired the young people to be good citizens and to make the most of opportunities to learn, achieve and reach their potential. Copies of Stuart's book were given as prizes to winning students who participated in Stephen Lawrence Day competitions.



Students attended this talk



Students at Winstanley School take part in the #BecauseOfStephen campaign, Stephen Lawrence Day 2021



# Public Engagement and Knowledge Exchange

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

The SLRC entered the new academic year with an exciting programme of engaging and innovative public engagement events. The activities were specifically designed to translate the complexities of topics linked to our research target areas into entertaining and engaging content and experiences for members of the public, students and other academics and to connect the SLRC with local, national and global communities.



8

SLRC Led Events



19

Public Lectures & Presentations



7

Seminars



10

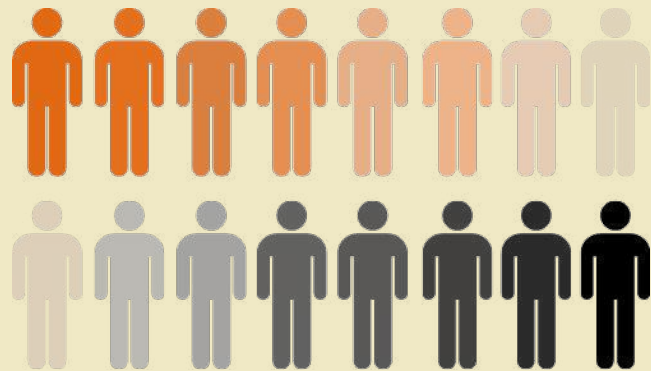
Panel Discussions



10

Media Engagements

WE REACHED AN AUDIENCE OF



10,162

AND ENGAGED WITH

25

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES





# A Voice in National Conversations

The SLRC has been at the forefront of conversations on race and equality in the UK. Following the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd, the SLRC worked with DMU's Vice Chancellor to publish a commemorative statement in the DMU newsletter, reinvigorating our commitment to building an anti-racist university with structured steps for staff and student involvement. The SLRC continues its support of Black Lives Matter through its successful launch of the Black Lives Matter fully funded PhD opportunity.

In March 2021, we invited Baroness Doreen Lawrence to speak with members of the Leicester community ahead of Stephen Lawrence Day. This was a timely event as the government released the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report, which Baroness Lawrence said at the event, was giving racists the green light. Her quote gained national media traction and headlined the front page of *The Guardian* and other national publications the following day, highlighting the SLRC event and generating further coverage. Following this, the SLRC released a statement denouncing the report on Twitter.

## The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre Responds to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report

Following the release of the Sewell Report on 31 March 2021, The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre is appalled by the outcomes and recommendations of this report and its attempt to 'present a new race agenda for the country'. We are deeply concerned by the report's disregard for existing data and evidence that clearly show the racialised disparities that exist across many areas in British society including the criminal justice system, education, health, employment and housing. The report's attempt to create a false narrative that seeks to separate racism and racial injustice from geography, family influence, socio-economic background, culture and religion is deeply problematic. We see this as a complete denial of decades of scholarship and evidence that demonstrate the complex ways in which all of these areas are interrelated. We find it deeply reprehensible that the report could begin a process of legitimising a 'new story' on the possible merits of the trade in African people whose humanity had been systematically violated under plantation slavery. This and many other points raised in the report are engaged in a dangerous process of delegitimising the historical and daily experiences of people of African and Asian descent. Indeed, the document dishonours and disrespects the lives of people who are persistently discriminated and harmed by systemic and institutional forms of racism.

1 April 2021

171,345

Total tweet impressions

7,499

Total tweet engagements

2,043

Youtube views





STEPHEN LAWRENCE RESEARCH CENTRE

# UN/SETTLED MULTICULTURALISMS

2020 Transruptions in a time of Racist Calamities

4-PART WEEKLY WEBINAR SERIES



## Un/Settled Multiculturalisms: 2020 Transruptions in a time of Racist Calamities

February 2021

This four-part webinar series marked the 20th anniversary of Professor Barnor Hesse's edited landmark publication of the same name. Dr Hesse, an internationally renowned political theorist, is an Associate Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University in Illinois. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of Black Political Thought, Critical Theory and Critical Race Studies. This webinar series discussed concurrent racial catastrophes that have unfolded during 2020 through his ideas on race and 'transruptions'. It addressed questions related to the social and global problem of contemporary racism.

Each of the webinars brought together world-leading international scholars and thinkers from across the globe to discuss ways to navigate and respond to the urgent issues of our times.

Through discussion we examined the racist fault lines of Grenfell and the Windrush Scandal and discussed the global impact of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement to the extent that anti-black racism has also been named as a 'pandemic'.

2,291

Youtube Views



## Attendee Feedback

**"Luke de Noronha - incredibly thought provoking on the performative nature of the national reaction to the Windrush scandal #2020transruptions"**

**"#2020Transruptions the more I learn the less I find I know but thanks @AgostinhoPinnock for trying to make me one more step along the way."**

### EPISODE 1

03/02/2021

5:30-7:30PM

Un/settled Multiculturalisms revisited – transnational dialogues on the formations of racism and identities in the catastrophic present

### EPISODE 3

17/02/2021

5:30-7PM

Multiculturalisms of race, gender, class, and the politics of solidarity in the aftermath of Grenfell

### EPISODE 2

10/02/2021

5:30-7PM

(Post)colonial entanglements of Blackness in the context of 'Windrush'

### EPISODE 4

24/02/2021

5:30-7PM

Regional transnational Blackness





# Creating New Channels of Information

While in the grip of the global pandemic, the SLRC's networks, including the BAME Staff Network, education leaders and community partners, turned to the centre to express frustration, fear, anger and confusion over the plethora of information, emerging data and realities of BAME groups being hit hardest by COVID-19.

At the same time the SLRC was aware that Leicester - a city rich in cultural diversity – was the main region in the UK to experience the longest lockdown periods.

The SLRC responded to an urgent need to develop new channels allowing for the dissemination of facts for the university's students, staff and the city and swiftly created two new channels, The Exchange and The COVID Files, for sharing accurate and up-to-date information.

## The Exchange Events



Delivering high quality online events has now become the signature of SLRC webinars.

The Exchange is a webinar channel that we created to bring together a range of guest speakers from across the globe to exchange ideas, raise awareness and address issues and perspectives which are often underrepresented in the public arena and in academic research. Within our networks, it has quickly become known as a place to engage in hot topics and thus attracts huge audiences to events hosted on the channel.

We have hosted five events on The Exchange platform to date including:

### • COVID-19 and Racial Inequality in the UK

The inaugural event took the form of a panel with the Director of Public Health for Leicester Professor Ivan Browne - a regular speaker in the national media as Leicester remained in lockdown - teachers and academics who highlighted the racial inequalities exacerbated by Covid-19 in health, education and housing.

The inaugural episode also helped communities better understand how the wider social determinants of health were shaping the disproportionate effects the virus was having within BAME communities. This first webinar received a combined 6,000 Facebook and YouTube views. The attendance and viewing figures for the inaugural webinar suggests the SLRC was one of the few places providing a place for people to hear first-hand perspectives about BAME communities and COVID-19.

### • An Evening with Baroness Doreen Lawrence: Bringing Legacy to Leicester

With Imran Khan QC, local educators and students from SLRC Ambassador Schools. Facilitated by Dr Kennetta Hammond Perry. 31 March 2021.

This online event launched Stephen Lawrence Day in Leicester whilst at the same time, introducing the work of the SLRC to a wider regional audience and helping to raise awareness of the day across the Midlands via the centre's work. It provided Baroness Lawrence with a platform to further build on her early work of extending Stephen's legacy on a national landscape, to share the Foundation's vision and to reconnect with Leicester communities. Schools, local educational partners and community groups were invited to attend this panel discussion and to hear from Baroness Lawrence, Imran Khan QC, educators and students within the SLRC school network of Ambassador Schools who champion Stephen Lawrence Day.

### • Scholar Activism in the UK: Questions of Ethics and Practice

28 April 2021



Following the success of our collaboration with Leading Routes in delivering the Black in Academia online event in November 2020, the SLRC partnered with them again to deliver the online event. This conversation, which was organised and led by the SLRC Legacy in Action Fellows, was routed in recent histories of scholar activism in the UK both within and outside Higher Education Institutions.

The event fit into the wider reach of the SLRC to look at collaboration between activists on the ground and scholar activists in academia. The event discussed and interrogated the meaning of scholar activism and the ways in which the urgency of this work is needed to tackle the ongoing issues of racism, social justice and inequalities in society.

SCHOLAR ACTIVISM IN THE UK 28 APRIL 2021

LEADING ROUTES

THE EXCHANGE  
STEPHEN LAWRENCE RESEARCH CENTRE

## GUEST PRESENTERS



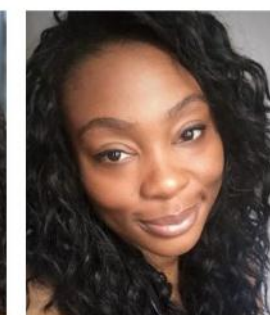
DR NATHANIEL COLEMAN



DR REMI JOSEPH-SALISBURY



MALIA BOUATTIA



PAULETTE WILLIAMS



ROXY LEGANE



“Really thought-provoking roundtable on #ScholarActivism. The inherent conservatism of universities can preclude effective activism, incumbent on academics to push back.”

“This has been one of the most critically minded and exciting events I’ve been to, ever! @natcphd your keynote was phenomenal and will be used in our future lectures. Thanks @SLRC\_DMU.”

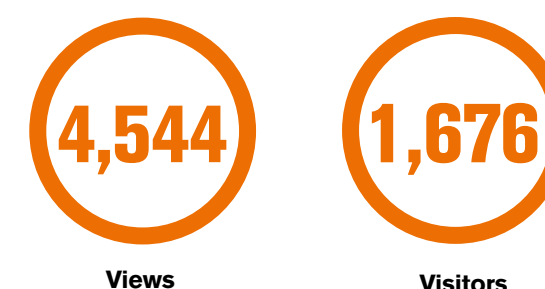
“This was one of the best events and keynote lectures that I have been lucky enough to listen to. Thank you @SLRC\_DMU for hosting such an engaging event.”

## The COVID Files

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, the SLRC created ‘The COVID Files’ - a repository of published material designed to provide a lens for raising awareness about social inequality created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The site offers a combination of current academic research, government reports, think pieces, webinars, news articles and other media sources collected from a variety of channels which is updated regularly. This allows for the sharing of ideas to help drive forward critical conversations.

A virtual COVID Files Timeline charting crucial moments and conversations over the first year of the pandemic has also been created as an education and research resource.

### Engagements 2020-2021



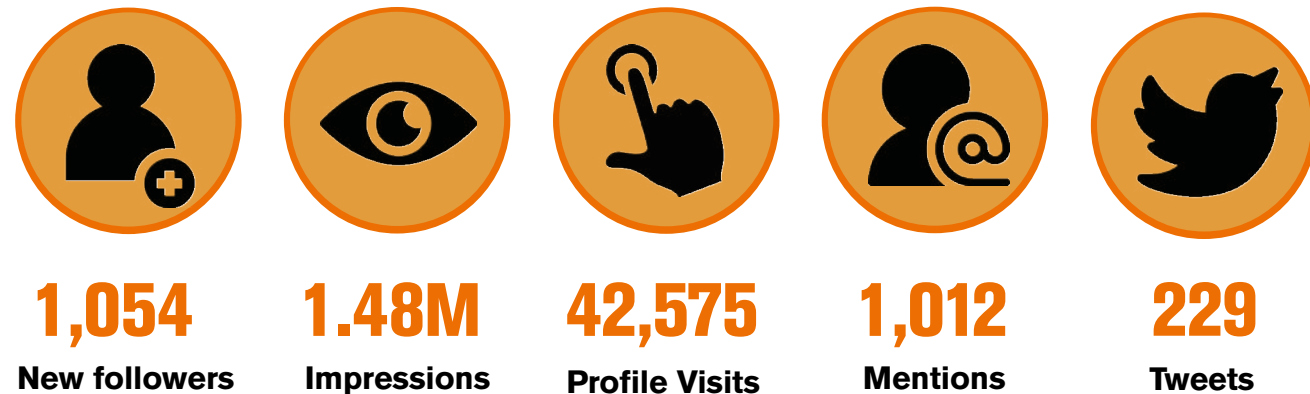
<b>6</b> Continents	<p><b>Europe:</b> United Kingdom, France, Ukraine, Finland, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Iceland, Turkey, Spain, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Poland, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Austria, Portugal</p> <p><b>Africa:</b> Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe</p> <p><b>Asia:</b> Bangladesh, India, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates</p>
<b>40</b> Countries	<p><b>North America:</b> United States, Canada, Jamaica, Trinidad &amp; Tobago, Cuba</p> <p><b>South America:</b> Colombia, Venezuela</p> <p><b>Oceania:</b> New Zealand</p>
<b>Top three visitor countries:</b>	
<b>1</b>	United Kingdom
<b>2</b>	United States
<b>3</b>	Germany



# The SLRC on Social Media

We continue to introduce new strategies to engage online audiences in conversations relating to our research target areas. This year, we introduced live tweeting from events, providing a running commentary of discussions being had between panellists and guests. This helped to stimulate online conversations and increase our number of followers.

## Annual Overview



## Top 5 Tweets of the year

### First tweet to promote the launch of the Un/Settled Multiculturalisms webinar series:

Un/Settled Multiculturalisms -2020

A 4-part webinar series

Join us to discuss the ongoing racist calamities defining our times from the Windrush scandal, #Grenfell to #BlackLivesMatter, within the context of a global pandemic

Registration now open! <http://bit.ly/2LOLGfp>

### Promotion of Episode One of Un/Settled Multiculturalisms:

Join us for Episode 1 of 'Un/Settled Multiculturalisms' on 3 Feb @ 5:30PM!

Our panellists will discuss what it means for Black and Brown people to face the ongoing racial calamities in the present context.

Be part of the conversation!

Register now: <http://bit.ly/2LOLGfp> [pic.twitter.com/IryaRtvYBf](https://twitter.com/IryaRtvYBf)

### Promotion of the SLRC's Stephen Lawrence Day webinar 'An Evening with Baroness Doreen Lawrence: Bringing Legacy to Leicester':

Join us for this live online event with Baroness Doreen Lawrence as she shares the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation's vision for creating a fairer society for all.

Mon 29 March @ 5.30pm

Join here: [bit.ly/3bVGwaU](https://bit.ly/3bVGwaU) #LegacyForChange @sldayfdn @DLawrenceOBE

### A statement from The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre denouncing the Race and Ethnic Disparities Report

#RaceReport #SewellReport

### Call for Black filmmakers/digital artists to apply for the Creating Joy: Art, Refusal and the Worlding of Black Lives grant of £700:

Are you a Black filmmaker/digital artist interested in creating art that looks at joy in Black life?

We could support your project with a £700 grant.

Apply here: <https://bit.ly/3rt3QUT>



# Acknowledgements

The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre team would like to thank the SLRC Academic Advisory Committee, SLRC Academic Affiliates, our network of local educators, DMU colleagues, community partners and everyone who has helped to bring the centre's research agendas to life.

Special thanks to the Lawrence family and the [Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation](#) for supporting our work and our vision to extend Stephen's legacy.

## The SLRC Team:

Dr Kennetta Hammond Perry, Founding Director

Dr Lisa Amanda Palmer, Deputy Director

Dr Natalie Darko, Associate Professor

Sherilyn Pereira, Public Engagement Manager

Monica Barrett, Programmes and Operations Manager

Sajidah Ali, Administrative Coordinator

Rayann Bryan, Research Assistant

Keeley Close, Student Intern, Creative Content Specialist

Dr Fatima Rajina, Legacy in Action Fellow

Dr Karis Champion, Legacy in Action Fellow

Dr Yusef Bakkali, Legacy in Action Fellow

## SLRC Academic Affiliates:

Dr Amina Easat-Daas

Dr Christopher Roy Zembe

Dr Shardia Briscoe-Palmer

## PhD Students:

Alethia Antonia, PhD Researcher

Camille London-Miyo, PhD Researcher

Keisha Bruce, PhD Researcher

Lisa Robinson, PhD Researcher

Mutsa Mhende, PhD Researcher

Nkiruka Emodi, PhD Researcher

Raj Gill, PhD Researcher

## SLRC Academic Advisory Committee:

Professor Bertha Ochieng, Integrated Health and Social Care

Chris Hall, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Fiona Dick, Head of Sport

Professor Jo Richardson, Associate Dean, Research and Innovation

Katharine Short, Special Collections Manager

Kaushika Patel, Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Dr Manjeet Ridon, Associate Dean, International and DMU Dubai Provost

Dr Meera Warriar, Head of Policy Governance and Research Student Services

Professor Momodou Sallah, Director, Centre for Academic Innovation

Professor Richard Hall, Education and Technology

Professor Shushma Patel, Dean, Computing, Engineering and Media

Professor Simon Oldroyd, Pro Vice-Chancellor

Professor Siobhan Keenan, Associate Dean, Research and Innovation

Professor Stuart Price, Media and Political Discourse

Vanessa Haye, Project Manager, Leicester's Future Leaders

Yasmin Ali, Deputy Director, Strategic and International Partnerships



For more information or to engage with the work  
of the SLRC please contact:

**T: 0116 366 4370**

**E: [slrc@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:slrc@dmu.ac.uk)**

**W: [dmu.ac.uk/slrc](http://dmu.ac.uk/slrc)**



**@SLRC\_DMU**

**Stephen Lawrence Research Centre  
Hugh Aston Building  
De Montfort University  
Leicester  
LE1 9BH**