



University  
of Glasgow

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

EVENTS BROCHURE



# INTRODUCTION

The University of Glasgow welcomes you to celebrate Black History Month 2020 with an exciting schedule of events happening throughout October. Although our Black History Month events may be taking a different format this year, we are thrilled to share with you a variety of events, organised by our staff and students, which can be enjoyed from the safety of your own home.

From our annual James McCune Smith Memorial Lecture, the launch of the Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, 'Creative Conversations' with black and minority ethnic writers, public talks, discussions and movie screenings, our 2020 schedule is packed full of different events to mark this annual commemoration of the history, achievements and contributions of Black people in the UK.

Please note that whilst some events are for UofG staff and students only, many of the events taking place are also open to the public. The University of Glasgow looks forward to welcoming you to our Black History Month events throughout October.

For a full detailed listing of events, please visit our [Events Website](#)

[#UofGBHM20](#) [#BlackHistoryMonth](#)

1 October, 17:30 – 18.30	<b>Creative Conversations: Homi K Bhabha</b>
6 October, 18:00 – 19:00	<b>Intersectional Panel Discussion: 'Being Queer and Black'</b> <i>SRC in collaboration with the POC Network</i>
8 October, 16.00 – 17.15	<b>Open Forum Discussion on Reni Eddo-Lodge's "Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race" (Bloomsbury 2018)</b> <i>Empire, Colonial, and Postcolonial Studies reading group</i>
8 October, 17:30 – 19:00	<b>'Decolonising the LGBTQ+ Sphere' Workshop</b> <i>SRC in collaboration with the POC Network</i>
8 October, 18:00 – 19:00	<b>FutureLearn British Slavery in the Caribbean Online Court Launch &amp; Panel Discussion</b> <i>Dr. Christine Whyte and Dr. Peggy Brunache</i>
10 October, 19:00 – 21:00	<b>Africa in Motion – International Day of the Girl Child</b>
11 October, 19:00 – 21:00	<b>Africa in Motion – International Day of the Girl Child</b>
13 October, 18:00 – 19:00	<b>International Panel Discussion: 'Being a Black Woman in Society Today'</b> <i>SRC in collaboration with the POC Network</i>
14 October, 13:00 – 15:00	<b>The Other Half of the Empire: Scots and Early British Colonialism in Asia. c. 1690-c.1820</b> <i>Dr. Andrew Mackillop</i>
14 October, 18:00 – 19:00	<b>Crash Course on Colonialism in Black Communities</b> <i>African Caribbean Society Workshop and Dr. Peggy Brunache – QMU</i>
16 October, 18:00 – 20.00	<b>BHM Movie Screening</b> <i>QMU/ACS/SocNet</i>
20 October, 14.00 – 15.30	<b>Who tells our ancestral histories?</b> <i>Dr Gameli Tordzro (UofG), Prof Kofi Anyidoho (University of Ghana) and Kojo Yankah (African University College)</i>
20 October, 18.00 – 19.00	<b>Intersectional Panel Discussion: Being Black in the Arts</b> <i>SRC in collaboration with the POC Network</i>
21 October, 13.00 – 14.00	<b>African mission children in Scotland</b> <i>Dr. Christine Whyte</i>
21 October, 14.00 – 15.30	<b>Textiles: Our Ancestral Stories</b> <i>Naa Densua Tordzro and Chandra Brooks</i>
21 October, 17.00 – 18.30	<b>Workshop: How to be a better ally</b> <i>ACS/QMU</i>
22 October, 14.00 – 15.30	<b>Martin Plaut on Dr Abdurahman and anti-racism in South Africa – a book discussion</b> <i>Martin Plaut, Prof Alison Phipps, Tawona Sitholé</i>
22 October, 15.00 – 17.00	<b>Discussing the term BAME</b> <i>Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)</i>
22 October, 16.00 – 17.15	<b>Reading Group Session on Black Left Feminism</b> <i>Empire, Colonial, and Postcolonial Studies reading group, led by Glasgow-based documentary film-maker, Christopher Reid</i>
22 October, 17.00 – 18.30	<b>UNESCO World Heritage sites in Zimbabwe: Protecting Heritage and the Heritage Returned from Colonial Acquisitiveness. Stories in Global Context – Lessons for the Global North</b> <i>Tawona Sitholé, Prof Alison Phipps, Stephen Chinhuwo</i>
22 October, 17.30 – 19.00	<b>Decolonising the Arts Workshop</b> <i>SRC in collaboration with the POC Network</i>
23 October, Time TBC	<b>Black Student Life at University of Glasgow in a time of COVID</b> <i>Dr. Peggy Brunache and African Caribbean Society</i>
27 October, 15.00 – 16.30	<b>Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies Launch</b> <i>Dr. Peggy Brunache and Dr. Christine Whyte</i>
27 October, 18.00 – 19.00	<b>Intersectional Panel Discussion: Being Black and Scottish</b> <i>SRC in collaboration with the POC Network</i>
28 October, 18.00 – 19.00	<b>Professor James McCall Memorial Lecture</b> <i>Dr. Mandisa Greene, President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons</i>
29 October, 15.30 – 17.30	<b>James McCune Smith Memorial Lecture: 'Since 1804: Haiti and the Movement of Caribbean Freedom'</b> <i>Prof. Matthew J. Smith</i>
29 October, 18.30 – 19.30	<b>Creative Conversations: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o</b>
30 October, 13.00 – 14.00	<b>Creative Conversations: Bernadine Evaristo</b>
30 October, 19.30 – 22.00	<b>Entertainment/Open Mic Night</b> <i>AMU/ACS/SocNet</i>

# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS:

Gameli leading Ha Orchestra in story telling at Solas Festival 2017.  
Image by Karen Gordon

## WHO TELLS OUR ANCESTRAL STORIES? PANEL DISCUSSION

**DATE:** Tuesday 20 October 2020

**TIME:** 14:00 - 15:30

**VENUE:** Zoom

**SPEAKER:** Dr Gameli Tordzro (UofG), Prof Kofi Anyidoho (University of Ghana) and Kojo Yankah (African University College)

**WEBSITE:** [rila\\_bhm2020\\_1.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rila_bhm2020_1)

“It Is Time To Tell Our Own Story!” But who qualifies to tell the African Story and how must it be told?

Africa’s history goes far beyond the history of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and its colonial history. There is evidence that many contributions to language, technological invention, modern inventions and the resistance to slavery and colonialism have been wrote out of the history books. But now, there is a growing call and a need to write and tell Africa’s story in full. The question though is who qualifies to tell Africa’s Histories?

Join Gameli Tordzro as he hosts a conversation between Prof Kofi Anyidoho and Kojo Yankah, two of Ghana’s prominent academics, whose work has a particular focus on Africa and its heritage.



## TEXTILES: OUR ANCESTRAL HISTORY

**DATE:** Wednesday 21 October 2020

**TIME:** 14:00 - 15:30

**VENUE:** Zoom

**SPEAKER:** Naa Densua Tordzro (UofG) and Chandra Brooks (currently studying at UofG)

**WEBSITE:** [rila\\_bhm2020\\_2.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rila_bhm2020_2)

Join Naa Densua Tordzro and Chandra Brooks in a fun discussion and shared stories on textiles and quilting. We will learn about fabrics, patterns, migration, connections and the importance to Africans through migration in the global south, and its significance to Black American and Africans in the Diaspora in the global north. Come and be part of oral stories of migration and decolonisation of textiles and quilts, as told by their ancestors.

This event is part of four Black History Month sessions organised by the UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts. For the full programme, please visit the **UNESCO Chair website**.



Dancers from Noyam African Dance Institute, Ghana, in textiles by Naa Densua Tordzro at Solas Festival 2017.  
Image by Karen Gordon

# MARTIN PLAUT ON DR ABDURAHMAN AND ANTI-RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

## A BOOK DISCUSSION

**DATE:** Thursday 22 October 2020

**TIME:** 14:00 - 15:30

**VENUE:** Zoom

**SPEAKER:** Martin Plaut (former Chief Correspondent, BBC World Service, Africa, Senior Research Fellow at Institute for Commonwealth Studies), Prof Alison Phipps

**WEBSITE:** [mila\\_bhm2020\\_4.eventbrite.co.uk](https://mila_bhm2020_4.eventbrite.co.uk)

As President of the African Political (later People's) Organisation (1905-1940) Abdullah Abdurahman was a leading political voice among South Africa's 'coloured' community and a tireless campaigner against segregation. Though civil, social and political equality was not achieved in his lifetime, he made an important contribution to the case against white supremacism, and for improvements in education, the welfare of the Cape poor, and public health. A medical graduate of Glasgow University (MB CM 1893) he ran a successful multi-racial practice in Cape Town.

This conversation marks this important figure in the history of University of Glasgow and also the launch of a new book on Dr Abdurahman by Martin Plaut, a journalist specialising in the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa, and former Africa Editor for BBC World Service News.



Dr Abdurahman and Cissie Gool with Sarojini Naidu, who was a leading Indian nationalist, who visited South Africa at Gandhi's request.

# BENIBA CENTRE FOR SLAVERY STUDIES LAUNCH

**DATE:** Tuesday 27th October 2020

**TIME:** 15.00 – 16.30

**VENUE:** Zoom

**SPEAKERS:** Zandra Yeaman, Helen Minnis, Jackie Kay  
(who will give two readings: an extract from her reissued book, *The Lamplighter*; and a selected poem)  
+ more to be confirmed

**WEBSITE:** [glasgow.ac.uk/research/az/slavery/](https://glasgow.ac.uk/research/az/slavery/)

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, directed in 2020-2021 by Dr Peggy Brunache, Lecturer in Transatlantic Slavery. This research centre aims to focus attention on slavery and its legacies in Scotland and globally, through academic research, public events, and engagement with ongoing anti-racist activism and reparative justice. The date of the launch is significant. The name was chosen for the centre because Beniba was a woman, a mother, who was held in slavery by Robert Cunningham Graham, former Rector of the University of Glasgow (1785-1787). We know very little about the life of Beniba, but her name indicates that she was born on a Tuesday and was perhaps, of Akan origin. For that reason, we chose to launch the centre on a Tuesday - to give respect and remembrance to the innumerable lives of ancestral Africans and their contributions throughout the slavery era.



**Roaring River Estate, which was associated with Robert Cunninghame Graham, former Rector of the University of Glasgow (1785-87).**  
*James Mason, 1710–1783, British, after drawings by George Robertson, 1749–1788, British, Published by John Boydell, 1720–1804, British, A View in the Island of Jamaica, of the Spring-head of Roaring River on the Estate of William Beckford Esq.r, 1778, Line engraving on medium, moderately textured, cream wove paper, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. Public Domain.*

# JAMES MCCUNE SMITH MEMORIAL LECTURE: 'SINCE 1804: HAITI AND THE MOVEMENT OF CARIBBEAN FREEDOM'

**DATE:** Thursday 29 October 2020

**TIME:** 15:30 - 17:00

**VENUE:** Zoom

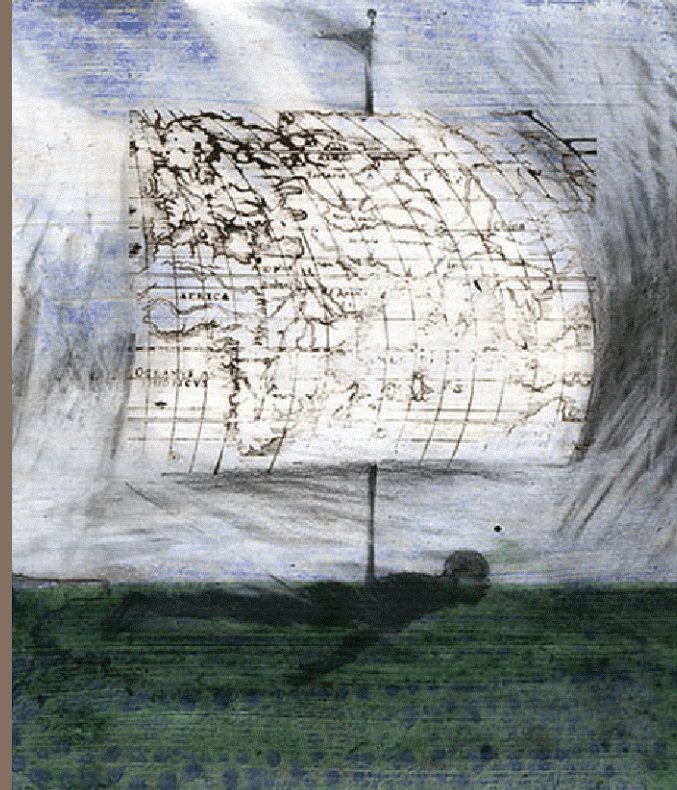
**SPEAKER:** Prof Matthew J. Smith

**WEBSITE:** <http://ow.ly/HTf550BGpTR>

Prof Matthew J. Smith (UCL) will deliver this year's James McCune Smith Memorial Lecture. Organised by the University of Glasgow's Dr Christine Whyte and hosted by the University's Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies.

In 1804 the republic of Haiti became the first Caribbean territory to abolish slavery and demolish colonial rule. This was an end and beginning. Freedom from slavery meant that in a world dominated by imperial powers Haiti would be considered a threat to notions of white rule. But for Haiti's Caribbean neighbours it was something more promising. Haiti defined the contours of Caribbean Freedom and inspired contradictory visions of the future of the region.

This presentation will examine the implications of Haitian independence for black people in the Caribbean after slavery. It will give special focus to the movement of Haitians across the archipelago and how the stories of their intersecting lives tell us volumes of the expectations of liberty and decolonization and the enduring struggle for recognition among black Caribbeans.



**Castaway**  
by Trinidadian artist,  
Christopher Cozier

# CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS: BERNARDINE EVARISTO

**DATE:** Friday 30 October 2020

**TIME:** 13:00 - 14:00

**VENUE:** Zoom

**SPEAKER:** Bernardine Evaristo

**WEBSITE:** <http://ow.ly/n1CG50BHqq5>

**Author and Activist Bernardine Evaristo reading and in conversation.**

**"One of our most compelling contemporary authors"  
First Minister Nicola Sturgeon**

Bernardine Evaristo is an award-winning author whose work spans the genres of novels, poetry, verse fiction, short fiction, essays, literary criticism, and radio and theatre drama. She has received many honours and awards. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2004, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2006, a Fellow of the English Association in 2017 and a Fellow of Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance in 2018. She received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2009. She joined the governing Council of the Royal Society of Literature in 2016 and became Vice Chair in 2017. In 2019, she became the first black woman to win the Booker Prize for her book *Girl, Woman, Other*.

You can register for tickets for this event via Eventbrite. This is a zoom event and a link to attend the meeting will be sent to you after you book tickets.



**Creative Conversations is programmed by the University of Glasgow Creative Writing Programme and funded by the Ferguson Bequest. Professor Thomas Ferguson (1900-1977), Henry Mechan Chair of Public Health (1944-64), bequeathed his estate to the University, with the instruction that the money should be used to foster the social side of University life.**

# A STATEMENT FROM UofG RACE EQUALITY CHAMPIONS, MRS BONNIE DEAN AND PROFESSOR SATNAM VIRDEE

As University of Glasgow's Race Equality Champions and co-convenors of the Race Equality Group at the University, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves and welcome you to celebrate Black History Month 2020. At the University of Glasgow, we are fully committed to promoting racial equality and providing a work, learning, research and teaching environment free from racism or racial tension. In our roles as Race Equality Champions, we are here to support the ongoing development of the race equality work at the University of Glasgow, including the co-chairing of our Race Equality Group which has student and staff representatives and acts as a channel of communication where race equality issues can be raised and addressed or referred to appropriate bodies for action. With such a fantastic schedule planned for October, we are looking forward to welcoming you to our Black History Month events this year.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

#UofGBHM20 #BlackHistoryMonth