



TRACES

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE
LEGACIES OF BRITISH SLAVERY



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The culmination of the labours of a large international team guided by artistic director Ashley Scott Shaw Adjaye, *The World Reimagined* unveiled over 100 commissioned globes in seven UK cities. At the launch, forty-two of the London globes were laid out in the Dean's Yard, each revealing a different interpretation of a difficult history.

The moving effect of that layout was superseded only by seeing the globes in situ. Putting Black history temporarily in plain sight, the globes challenge passers-by to consider the multiple aspects of African bondage and its permanent marks.

DIRECTOR'S EDITORIAL



Reimaginings

BY MATTHEW J. SMITH

Often it is the small things that make the difference. An inspired idea can, with support and patience, alter how we see the world or at least the part of it we occupy. We have all been witnesses over the past three years to unforgettable changes of shifting scales.

At the Centre this summer we were not only witnesses but also participants in a project of change that began with a conversation and ended with a remarkable comment on transatlantic slavery and its consequences. In August the globes of the project *The World Reimagined* (TWR) were launched at an event in Westminster Abbey, London. TWR is an art heritage endeavour intended to present the history of slavery and its lasting impact in the Americas, the UK, Europe, and North America.

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FEATURE PROJECT

Global Threads

BY MATTHEW STALLARD



globalthreadsmcr.org

Thanks to funding from UCL's Grand Challenges programme and UK Office, we have been able to offer fully-paid roles over the last two years to a team of talented emerging researchers. **You can meet our team here.**

In 2021 we worked with seven researchers through a series of heritage and public history research and writing workshops and one-to-one mentoring and skills development sessions to craft ten case studies, each exploring a specific narrative (or thread) linking lived experiences of resistance, solidarity, colonisation, enslavement, and industrialisation to Manchester.

During Summer 2022, the second stage of our project involved recording a series of audio discussions, managed and edited by one of our team, putting our talented researchers in conversation with each other and a group of invited experts which explore the content of each case study as well as key issues and challenges around public history.

The warp and weft of Manchester's history is woven together with the stories of people and places from around world. Our project, a collaboration between the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery and the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester which began in 2019, is about following these Global Threads to learn more about how we are connected.



Three of our team worked to envision, plan, and run three participation days in the Science and Industry Museum, engaging hundreds of visitors with our work and developing key skills in engagement activity design and delivery. The team at the Museum was also joined by Manchester-based textile craft facilitator **Green Jay Crafts** who provided the opportunity for visitors to knit their own Global-Threads linked patches and make a collaborative banner.



Some of the Global Threads team have focussed on connections between manufacturers in Manchester and enslaved people on cotton plantations in the US South, bringing the experiences of enslaved people to the fore. Megan Bridgeland, one of the project's researchers said:

'I was very excited to take part in this project, and have the opportunity to elevate the voices and experiences of people who have rarely been heard throughout history. My case studies focus on **cooking** and **crafting** within enslaved communities. These themes have allowed me to explore stories that are rich with the daily experiences and resistances of enslaved people. I hope that by highlighting 'everyday' items, such as clothes and recipes, my studies will give readers in Manchester an engaging insight into the lives of enslaved people in the Caribbean and US, and our relationship with them.'

Serena Robinson, who researched African American abolitionist campaigner Sarah Parker Remond's visit to Manchester on the eve of the U.S. Civil War said:

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 enslaved people.*



HARRIET POWERS' PICTORIAL QUILT, 1898

'Doing this research allowed me to explore gender and race through a historical lens via Sarah Parker Remond and her visit to Manchester in 1859. I hope that **this research** highlights the power of Black women throughout history.'

We look forward to providing future updates on our Global Threads work as we continue to add new stories to the platform, develop new partnerships, and continue to work with our current and new team members.



DESTRUCTION OF THE ROEHAMPTON ESTATE DURING THE GREAT JAMAICA SLAVE REVOLT, OR BAPTIST WAR BY ADOLPHE DUPERLY, 1832

UPDATES FROM THE DATABASE

Advanced Search

BY JESS HANNAH

From its origins in the records of the Slave Compensation Commission, the CSLBS database has grown to include details of the lives of enslaved people, links between Britain's nineteenth-century wealth and slavery, and British slavery's continuing commercial, cultural, and political legacies. The result of decades of collaborative work by an ever-growing community of volunteers and professionals around the world, the database is a world-leading example of freely accessible, crowdsourced expertise.



ENVELOPE OF A LETTER SENT FROM GLASGOW TO SANDBACH TINNE IN LIVERPOOL, APRIL 1827, DETAILING SUPPLY OF COAL, SUGAR, AND CHAINS (COLLECTION OF MARC OXLEY)

Since the project began more than a decade ago, we have seen more than two million visitors to our site from the UK, the Caribbean, the USA, and around the world. In the short time that I have been involved—I joined the Centre in June of this year—artists, academics, schoolteachers, museum curators, genealogists, journalists, and archivists have been in touch to share what the database has meant to them and their work. To name just a few, in recent months, readers and researchers have used the database to develop projects on property transfers in North Yorkshire, on trustees in Jamaica, on the hidden history of a painting of a slave-ship under construction in Lancaster, on colonial legacies in museum studies, on the

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complex connections to slavery of the novelist Jane Austen's family, and one Windrush-generation family's Barbadian ancestors.

This diverse work has, in turn, often led to vital contributions and improvements to the database. As these projects have developed, researchers have been able to help our team to fill gaps in the database by supplying missing details or clearing up inconsistencies. Recently, correspondence with users of the database has allowed us to establish previously unidentified links between family members, business partners, or firms, and to refine our information on the conditions of enslaved life and the commercial and cultural legacies of slavery. One researcher's work, for example, illuminated links between merchants in Liverpool and shed more light on how some amassed huge fortunes and influence as a direct result of slavery and the commerce built from it. Another contributor helped us to trace an otherwise unidentified estate in Jamaica by tracking the estate through multiple changes of name. The work of another researcher working in early eighteenth-century history, finally, has helped to reveal the shared roots of commercial interests that would otherwise have appeared by the 1830s to be separate.

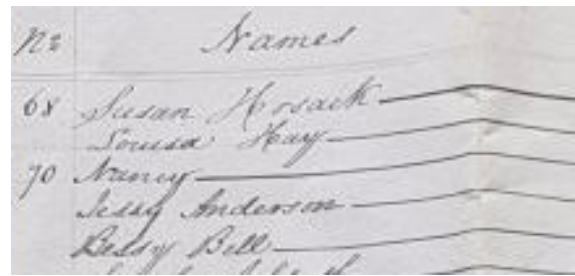
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The database is built from a vast array of materials and sources, from poll books and trade directories to baptism and probate records, and from apprenticeship indentures and biographies to Parliamentary Papers and pamphlets. These diverse materials together form a rich archive for those learning, teaching, or researching the legacies of British slavery. This aspect of the database, too, is enriched by contributions from our users. This summer, for example, researchers have shared with us a compendium detailing four estates and the people enslaved there from 1753, photographs of church monuments in the Caribbean, parchment manuscripts recording the sale of estates in St Kitts from 1774, and an article in the September 1827 edition of the *Royal Gazette of Jamaica* advertising the sales of estates including precise details of its acreage, crops, animals, buildings, tools, and the number of enslaved people held there.




No.	Name	Condition	Remarks
	Chittam at the Court		
	Diana's Cooman		
	Mary Cooper		
	Ann's Child		
	Robert Charles		
	William's Son		
	Deborah's Son		
	Thomas's Wife		
	John's Wife		
350	John's Wife		
	Mary's Wife		
	John's Wife		
	John's Wife		
	John's Wife		
	John's Wife		
	John's Wife		
	John's Wife		
	John's Wife		
	John's Wife		
391	John's Wife		



At its beginning, the CSLBS database contained around forty thousand names from the compensation lists. We now have entries for more than sixty thousand individuals. Faced with the absence of systematic information on enslaved lives, we are currently working to link our data to the Registers of enslaved people produced for most British colonies every three years in the early nineteenth century. This is a limited but nonetheless rich source for better understanding the lives and experiences of those who were held in enslavement. By its very nature, the archive we are building will never be complete, and is always growing and changing.

This living database, formed from the work of many researchers over many years, is a vital resource for ongoing work around the world on the legacies of British slavery.




CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE LEGACIES OF BRITISH SLAVERY PUBLIC LECTURE

Speaking the Unspeakable; Or, Providing the Evidence Without Being Censored

Monday October 10, 2022
5.30-7pm
IAS Common Ground
UCL

Lissa Paul
Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities
Brock University, Canada



The Centre for the study of the Legacies of British Slavery
ucl.ac.uk/lbs

For more information, contact lbs@ucl.ac.uk

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Events

The first Centre of the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery public lecture of the academic year takes place on Monday 10 October, 5:30pm-7.30pm, IAS Common Ground, UCL. The lecture by Professor Lissa Paul of Brock University, Canada, is titled 'Speaking the Unspeakable; Or, Providing the Evidence Without Being Censored.' Attendance is free, and the registration link can be found [here](#).

'AMY AND ME IN THE ARCHIVE'
BY NYDIA A. SWABY

In our second public lecture of the year, Suzanne Francis-Brown of the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communications, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, will speak on 'Interleaving Records and Policies to Illuminate Papine's Enslaved Community 1817-1832' at 6pm on Wednesday 30 November. This event will take place virtually; please register [here](#) for access.

Our third public lecture is scheduled for early next year. "And I Have Feelings Too. Until I Name Them, I Will Not Know": Curating Archives of Affect' by Nydia A. Swaby, the inaugural Caird Research Fellow at the CSLBS and the National Maritime Museum, will take place at IAS Common Ground on Wednesday 18 January 2023.

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The Chair of the CSLBS, Professor Catherine Hall, will give a public lecture at Sheffield University on Thursday 3 November 2022 titled 'Making White and Black: Edward Long, Slaver and Historian of Jamaica.' Further details can be found online.

The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery hosted the inaugural Elsa Goveia public lecture at UCL on 18 May 2022. Our inaugural speaker was Jennifer L. Morgan, whose lecture 'The Measure of their Sadness: Slavery and Private Life in the Early Black Atlantic', is now available to view in full on the CSLBS YouTube channel [here](#). Jennifer L. Morgan is Professor of History in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU and is author of the prize-winning *Reckoning with Slavery: Gender, Kinship and Capitalism in the Early Black Atlantic* (Duke University Press, 2021). Our sincere thanks go both to Cameron Christie for his video editing work and to Professor Morgan for her inspiring talk.



INAUGURAL ELSA GOVEIA PUBLIC LECTURE

*Professor
Jennifer L.
Morgan*



ELSA V. GOVEIA

Elsa V. Goveia (1925-1980) read History at UCL from 1945-1948 where she was one of the first West Indian students to have studied in the department. In 1947 she won the Pollard Prize for English history in 1947, becoming the first West Indian to do so. After completing her PhD at the University of London in 1952 she was to become the first woman appointed as a professor at the newly created University College of the West Indies (UCWI) and the first Caribbean-born professor of West Indian Studies in the UCWI History Department. For three decades she taught History there and was responsible for a pioneering course on Caribbean History while undertaking foundational work in the understanding of 'slave societies'.



The Centre for
the study of the
**Legacies of
British Slavery**
ucl.ac.uk/lbs

'OF THIS AND THAT' *Sights from CSLBS in 2022*



CSLBS Director Matthew Smith with Jamaican scholarship students at UCL in March 2022



The launch of the World Reimagined in London, August 2022



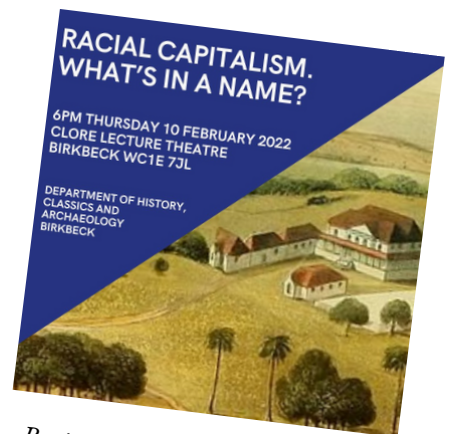
Researchers in an online Global Threads workshop



Global Threads engagement team members at the Science and Industry Museum



Matthew Smith's guest lecture to sixth-form students at Mulberry School for Girls, East London



Poster for CSLBS Chair Catherine Hall's 2022 Eric Hobsbawm memorial lecture at Birkbeck



Attendees and volunteers at the inaugural Elsa Goveia lecture, May 2022