



Black History Month

2021

Visibility
and
Voices

 Durham
University

PROGRAMME



Black History Month theme for 2021

October marks Black History Month (BHM) in the UK. This provides us with an opportunity to offer a strong sense of history, achievement and continuity within our Black communities. It also contributes in promoting inclusion and multiculturalism within Durham.

Durham University's theme for this year's Black History Month is "**Visibility and Voices**". Through this theme, we aim to provide a platform for the stories, works and achievements of Black-heritage individuals from underrepresented groups—touching on the intersectional aspects of Black identity in the 21st century.

Black History Month Keynote Event featuring Alexandra Wilson

Thursday 14 October at 7-8pm

The BAME Network, Durham People of Colour Association (DPOCA) and the EDI Unit are delighted to welcome author and campaigner, [Alexandra Wilson](#), for our Black History Month Keynote Event this year. Alexandra will speak about our theme "Visibility and Voices" and will share her story as a young female Black barrister navigating the legal profession. This will be followed by a Q&A with the audience.



Proudly from Essex, Alexandra studied at the University of Oxford and was awarded two prestigious scholarships, enabling her to research the impact of police shootings in the US on young people's attitudes to the police. She went on to study for a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) and her Master of Laws at BPP University in London. Alexandra was awarded the first Queen's scholarship by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, a scholarship awarded to students showing exceptional promise in a career at the Bar.

Alexandra is the founder of Black Women In Law, an organisation with over 500 members. She also co-founded One Case At A Time, an organisation set up to assist disenfranchised minorities in the legal process. Her first book, *In Black and White: A Young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice System* was published in August 2020.

The BHM Keynote Event is open to all. Please register through this [Eventbrite page](#).



Reading Negritude Thinkers with Black Lives Matter

Friday 15 October at 12.30-1.30pm

We are pleased to welcome [Professor Frieda Ekotto](#) as part of our Black History Month programme this year.

Professor Ekotto's talk reads a Negritude thinker Aimé Césaire's work as a continuation of the struggle for the dignity of Black people around the world. As a Francophone philosopher and poet, Césaire is a member of an important global lineage of Black intellectuals. Together with James Baldwin, W.E.B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, and Claudia Rankin, Césaire's work offers the historical background needed to understand Black lives in the second decade of the 20th century, and particularly the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This talk will take place via Zoom. It will include a Q&A with the audience, to be chaired by [Dr Laura Marsiliani](#) (Faculty of Business) and Dr [Amaleena Damlé](#) (School of Modern Languages and Cultures). **Please register through this [Eventbrite page](#).**

DPOCA Black History Month talk with Diane Abbott MP

Monday 25 October at 2-3pm

The Durham People of Colour Association will be holding a talk with [Diane Julie Abbott MP](#). This event will be open to all, registration details to follow (in the meantime, queries relating to this event can be sent via **Instagram: [@durhampoca](#)**).



Born in London, Diane made history in 1987 by becoming the first Black woman ever elected to the British Parliament. She has since built a distinguished career as a parliamentarian, broadcaster and commentator.

Diane's parents, originally from Jamaica, immigrated to the United Kingdom in the early 1950s. She was educated at Harrow County Grammar School for Girls and received a degree in history from the University of Cambridge in 1973. She worked as a civil servant in the Home Office (1976–80) and then as a television reporter (1980–84). A member of the Labour Party, she served as a press officer for the Greater London Council and the Lambeth Borough Council and was active on race and civil liberties issues.



Fisk Jubilee Singers, circa 1870s

Black History Now!

Tuesday 26 October (5.30-6.30pm via Zoom)

Black History Now! is an online panel discussion that reflects on the state of the field in Black British History and affirms its centrality to the discipline of History more widely. What is going on in Black History in Durham and the North East? How can historians in Durham and the wider region continue to build the field? And what are the implications of recent developments in the field for the movement to decolonise the curriculum?

The panel includes the following speakers:

Stefanella Julius, Nkechi Managwu, and Emilie Tenbroek are historians studying at Durham as well as Decolonising the Curriculum Interns with the Decolonise Durham Network.

Sean Creighton is an independent historian who has worked extensively on Black British History, radical history, and the history of slavery and abolition in the North East, including his role in the Tyne & Wear Remembering Slavery project in 2007 and North East Popular Politics Project in 2010-13. He maintains a blog on History and Social Action.

Liam Liburd is Assistant Professor of Black British History at Durham University. His research interests lie in the history, impact and legacy of Empire, decolonisation and race/racism in twentieth-century Britain. Recently he published the article 'Thinking Imperially: The British Fascists and the Politics of Empire, 1923-35' in *Twentieth Century British History* and featured in the BBC Radio 4 series *Britain's Fascist Thread*.

To register for the Black History Now! event, please click [here](#)

CONTACT

For any other queries relating to these Black History Month events, please contact edi.team@durham.ac.uk