



Call for Contributions

Windrush 70: Celebrating the Migrant Contribution to British Society

As part of Leeds Beckett University's Race and Education Working Paper Series, we are inviting academic and artistic responses to Windrush 70.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the arrival of MV Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948, carrying more than 490 Caribbean men and women. Since then stories of the Windrush Generation have been researched, recognised and preserved thanks to, among others, Sam King MBE, Arthur Torrington CBE, Mike and Trevor Phillips, Professor Stuart Hall FBA, Dr Denise Nobel, Dr Michael McMillan, David Olusoga, Stephen Bourne, Marika Sherwood, S.I. Martin, Dr Angelina Osborne, Lynda Burrell and Catherine Ross. A photograph of the Windrush was voted by the public as one of the 100 most iconic symbols of British history in 2011, and a model of the Windrush was included in the opening ceremony of Olympic Games and Cultural Olympiad in 2012. Yet this year an increasing number of people who were born in commonwealth countries (in particular the Caribbean), who migrated to the UK as children between 1948 and 1971, are being threatened with deportation. Thousands have signed petitions calling for government to stop deportations, change the burden of proof and establish an amnesty.

In an attempt to challenge the negative rhetoric around migration, there has been a growing campaign to embrace Windrush 70 (2018) as a year in which to celebrate the contributions made by the first big group of postwar immigrants from the West Indies (there had already been a Black presence in Britain for centuries), along with others who came from the British Empire. Also to reach across our many different ethnic, faith and family heritages, to reject prejudice and intolerance, and to shape a fair and inclusive future that we all want to share. For many, Windrush 70 provides an opportunity to recognise the contributions which immigration and integration have made to our society over the generations.

This year for the first time ever, Windrush Day will be celebrated during a special Churches Together service at Westminster Abbey. From the NHS to the British Library, from Phoenix Dance Theatre's 'Windrush: Movement of the People' to the Windrush Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, from The Voice Newspaper's essay competition to the British Council's Migration Education Pack, organisations and institutions across the country have been planning events, exhibitions, publications and awards. We are looking for academic and/or creative contributions that document, respond to and/or examine the activities associated with Windrush 70. In what ways has Windrush 70 been recognised by institutions and organisations, and what might this suggest about the current social, economic, political and cultural context? Have Windrush 70 activities been able to reflect multiple, intersectional and nuanced perspectives on and diverse experiences of migration? To what extent has Windrush 70 been able to promote the achievements of migrants and challenge negative rhetoric around migration?

Suggested word count: 2000 words

Format/ file size: up to 6MB (links to appropriate external sites acceptable)

We particularly welcome abstracts from BME scholars, artists and students.

Please send abstracts of 300 words (include an example of work if submission visual/audio), plus a 50 word bio to leedsbeckettwindrush@gmail.com (Any questions to Patrick Vernon OBE, Dr Angelina Osborne, Lynda Burrell, Catherine Ross and Pen Mendonça at the same e-mail address).

Closing date for abstracts: Friday 22 June, 2018

Completed work to be submitted between 22 June and 30 December, 2018

#Windrush70 #WindrushDay Useful references:

The House of Lords debate on Windrush 70 <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/45da8456-ac84-4b0b-8a52-facfd2cfab43?in=16:00:02>

The John Blanke Project <https://www.johnblanke.com>

The Heritage Lottery Fund <https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/news-features/commonwealth-shared-histories>

The Arts Council <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants>

Phoenix Dance Theatre <https://www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk/work/windrush-movement-people/>

Westminster Abbey Windrush 70 National Service <http://www.voice-online.co.uk/article/spirit-windrush-contributions-multicultural-britain>

The Voice Newspaper <http://www.voice-online.co.uk>

The Windrush Chelsea Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show: <http://www.floellabenjamin.com/windrush-chelsea-garden/>

UKBlack Pride <https://ukblackpride.org.uk>

Black History Month Magazine <http://www.officialblackhistorymonthuk.co.uk>

The National Caribbean Heritage Museum <http://www.museumand.org>

The Windrush Foundation <http://www.windrushfoundation.org>

The Migration Museum <http://www.migrationmuseum.org>

Runnymede Trust <https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/sam-b-king-tribute>

Nottingham Carnival <http://www.thelondonnottinghamcarnival.com>

Reach Society <http://www.reachsociety.com>

Commonwealth Summit <https://www.chogm2018.org.uk/the-ambition>

British Library <https://www.bl.uk/press-releases/2017/november/2018-at-the-british-library>

Black Thrive <https://www.blackthrive.org.uk>

Museum of Grooves <http://reelrebelsradio.com/museum-of-grooves/>

Black History Month <http://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk>

British Council Windrush Migration Education Pack <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/classroom-resources/list/migration-education-pack>

BCA <https://blackculturalarchives.org>

Our Migration Story <https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk>

100 Great Black Britons <http://www.100greatblackbritons.com>

Every Generation Media <http://www.everygeneration.co.uk>

Thurrock Council <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/history-on-river-thames/empire-windrush-and-tilbury-docks>

Lambeth Council <http://love.lambeth.gov.uk/campaign-celebrate-windrush-generation-launched/>

Hackney Council <https://hackney.gov.uk/museum-teaching-resources>

Windrush Day logo by the late Jon Daniel www.jon-daniel.com

Petition: Amnesty for anyone who was a minor who arrived in Britain between 1948 -1971 <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/216539>

Petition: Stop the deportation threats to the children of the Windrush generation and other UK residents from the Commonwealth <https://www.change.org/p/home-office-we-demand-an-immigration-amnesty-for-commonwealth-citizens>

Graphics for Windrush Day, International Women's Day, NHS 70, British Council Schools Programme, Black Pride etc @MendoncaPen