

Uncovering Hidden Histories: a creative practice PhD to uncover, explore and engage people with black histories in Lancaster and Morecambe

Project Description:

As the American literary critic and historian, Henry Louis Gates said, “The thing about black history is that the truth is so much more complex than anything you could make up.”

This project will enable crucial research on hitherto hidden histories in the Lancaster area to inform two in-person exhibitions and/or digital interpretations curated through the Lancaster Maritime Museum. Mentored by the museum the student will research curatorial interventions on two differing, but at times associated, areas of black history, relating them in Lancaster to the slave trade and industries based on slave-produced goods 1680-1865 and in Morecambe around black entertainers and their contribution to the seaside holiday 1850-1950.

The student will work with museums such as the International Slavery Museum, as well as professional bodies like the Museums Association, to research and analyse curatorial interventions regionally, nationally and internationally to determine best practice engagement in this developing field. The project will be a combination of archival work into black history and creative work to develop the optimum curatorial intervention. The written section will analyse self-reflexively the historical and contemporary difficulties of designing an exhibition on black history and the techniques used to overcome this in the curatorial intervention itself. Of particular interest will be developing an understanding of how to engage those who are hesitant or reluctant to discover more about this subject, encouraging them to learn and reflect in order to form their own opinions.

The exhibitions will utilise this work to promote best practice engagement, reflecting the need to tell these stories in new ways that reflect developing postcolonial ideas in the wake of the Black Lives Matter Movement. The grassroots Lancaster & Preston Black History Groups will be a resource the student can access to ensure that the exhibition reflects community concerns. Their written piece will reflect on the multiple influences of museums and community groups and how they shape the final exhibition.

Further information

Informal project related enquiries about the post can be made to Professor Alan Rice, arice@uclan.ac.uk

For full details go to: <https://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/research-degrees/studentships>

Please apply using the following link, quoting the studentship reference number DTC015:

<https://my.uclan.ac.uk/BANP/bwskalog.P DispLoginNon>

For any other queries, please email researchadmissions@uclan.ac.uk.

Closing Date: 24th June 2022

Proposed Interview Date: TBC

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FOR THIS RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP**