

Work to support race equality in the History Faculty since 2016

Admissions:

- Our UNIQ summer schools, designed to widen participation at Oxford, have included one on 'Race and Protest' (<https://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk/history-race>) and another on 'Global Encounters in the Pre-Modern World' (<http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk/EncountersPreMod>)
- In 2019 we organised our first study day specifically aimed at BAME school students and focusing on histories of race in a national and global setting (<https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/event/oxford-university-history-faculty-bame-study-day-2019>).
- In [2020](#) and [2021](#), we co-organised online BAME Humanities Study Days for students across the country.
- At graduate level, in 2019, the Faculty established a Masters scholarship for a UK BME applicant, paid out of Faculty funds (£25k) – awarded for entry in October

Environment and staff and student experience:

- A Race Equality Working Group was established in 2016 and has met regularly since to discuss issues around questions of equity and discrimination, and to develop proposals to address concerns arising. The Working Group seeks to integrate student activist organisations keen to address issues of equality among the student body and curriculum into the Faculty's decision-making processes. In 2018 the REWG met to discuss the Royal Historical Society Report on Race and Ethnicity, and agreed 11 points of action, some of which are underway, some of which it is hoped the REAP will address.
- The History Faculty is contributing to the work of the University's Bullying and Harassment Group with a view to developing more effective mechanisms for reporting inappropriate behaviour
- The Faculty has published a Statement of Values including an expression of our commitment to creating an environment in which everyone – at every academic level from undergraduate to professor, and among professional and support staff, regardless of background and identity – can fulfil their potential
- In the Faculty building, a seminar room has been dedicated to Professor Merze Tate, the first African American woman to graduate from Oxford. In 2018-19, we had the opportunity to learn more about Merze Tate from Harmsworth Visiting Professor, Barbara Savage, who has been working on her social and intellectual milieu.
- The 'Oxford and Empire' project <https://oxfordandempire.web.ox.ac.uk/home>, headed by Erica Charters, funded initially by the Humanities Division through a teaching award, and subsequently directly funded by the History Faculty has led to a series of plaques in the city that commemorate individuals whose lives help to demonstrate the range of scholars who have been part of Oxford <https://oxfordandempire.web.ox.ac.uk/objects-empire-blueplaques>
- The Faculty also supported the development of the Uncomfortable Oxford project, founded by students, which offers tours of the city that raise awareness and create conversations about racial inequality, gender and class discrimination and legacies of empire. <https://www.uncomfortableoxford.co.uk>

Staff Recruitment and training:

- The Faculty appointed an Associate Professor in Black British History in 2020, having made an appointment in this area a priority.
- Incoming academic staff, admissions interviewers and selection panel members are provided with implicit bias training; face to face when possible, online if not.

Curriculum:

- The History syllabus was substantially reformed in 2017-18. They now have to study at least one period of global history along with British and European history. New options have been introduced, including (second year) 'The Global Twentieth Century, 1930-2003' and (first year) 'Haiti and Louisiana: the problem of Revolution in the Age of Slavery'. There is a Masters degree in Global and Imperial History and global and colonial options make up a good part of the revamped masters courses launched in 2018. More information can be found here <https://global.history.ox.ac.uk/study-0>
- The Faculty ran Race 'Teach-In' events in 2018 and 2019.
- Research on colonialism in the Faculty is feeding into the school curriculum. Miles Larmer received a Vice Chancellor's Diversity Award in 2018 for providing resources to underpin a new GCSE module on 'Migration, Empires and Peoples'. <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/article/vice-chancellors-diversity-awards-2018-prof-miles-larmer-wins-award-promoting-ed-learning>.

Supporting research:

- The Oxford Centre for Global History <https://global.history.ox.ac.uk/home> holds regular seminars and supports powerful and innovative research at the frontiers of colonial and postcolonial history. In 2018, it hosted the Royal Historical Society's Symposium in its 150th anniversary year on 'The Future of History: Going Global in the University': <https://global.history.ox.ac.uk/article/royal-historical-societys-2018-symposium-future-history-going-global-university>. Among its many research projects, both funded by the European Research Council, are Pekka Hämäläinen's 'Nomadic Empires: a World-historical approach', which covers two millennia of history and Miles Larmer's 'Comparing the Copper Belt. Political Culture and Knowledge Production in Central Africa', which explores how both social-science models of development and African collective memory of a golden age have misrepresented the history of the copperfields of Zambia and Katanga.

Selected Events and Exhibitions

- *A Black History Month Roundtable* (2016) chaired by Imaobong Umoren, with contributions from Dr Nicole King, Dr Yasmin Khan, Professor Elleke Boehmer, Professor Robert Gildea and Dr Ryan Hanley <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/article/black-history-month-roundtable-17-october-2016>
- *The Empire Windrush and Black British History* (2018) a lecture by Professor Hakim Adi <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/event/empire-windrush-and-black-british-history>
- *Decolonising the History Curriculum* – a panel discussion co-hosted with Common Ground (2018) (<https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/event/decolonising-history-curriculum-panel-discussion>)
- *A Nice Cup of Tea* (2018) - an exploration of the colonial histories of Britain's national drink in collaboration with the African Caribbean Cultural Heritage Initiative <https://www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/article/what-can-a-nice-cup-of-tea-tell-us-about-global-trade-and-exploitation>.
- *Early Black Lives Special Seminar* (2019) – a discussion of Black British History in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, featuring presentations by Dr Miranda Kaufmann, Dr Onyeka Nubia and Dr Katherine Paugh, and Dr Anders Ingram <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/event/early-black-lives-special-seminar>
- *Empires of the Mind – Robert Gildea in Conversation with Catherine Hall* (2019) - a discussion of Professor Gildea's recent work exposing the brutal realities of decolonisation

and neo-colonialism in the postwar world <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/event/book-launch-robert-gildea-in-conversation-with-catherine-hall-empires-of-the-mind>

- Faculty and Student visit to Woking Mosque and introduction to the Everyday Muslim project (2020) <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/article/the-mecca-of-europe-in-suburban-surrey-day-trip-to-two-of-britains-most-historically-signifi>
- The Faculty has provided support to the Annual BME Staff Network Black History Month Lecture.