



UNIVERSITY OF
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Arts and
Humanities
Research Council



The United Nations International Decade for
People of African Descent (2015-2024):
Recognition, Justice, Development
Repair

Report on AHRC-funded Research Networks

Esther Stanford-Xosei and Charles Forsdick





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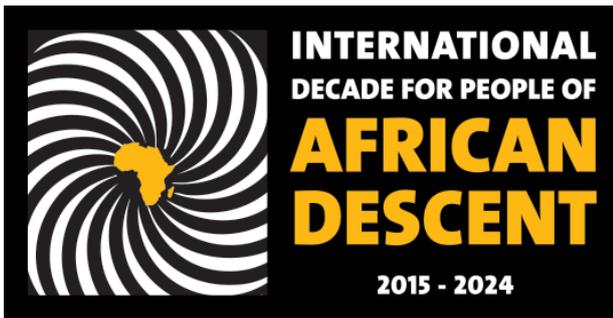


Introduction

This Decade is a huge thing not only for African heritage communities across the world but also for the wider world. If it were wider known that the AHRC funded these networks, there would be greater appreciation for its role and impact on society.

Kofi Mawuli Klu

This is a report about the research networks funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).¹



Background

Although the UK government still has no specific plans to support the Decade,² the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded in 2016 an ambitious call for boundary-crossing research networks to explore the underpinning themes of the UN IDPAD: recognition, justice and development, and to contribute to its broader aims.

In order to be considered under the highlight notice, the funded networks needed to demonstrate that they:

- had a core Arts and Humanities research focus on issues of specific relevance to people of African descent and/or the UN IDPAD; and
- included engagement with, or the participation of, researchers and/or communities of African descent and/or with relevant community, cultural, heritage, creative or professional organizations or relevant providers of community services.

This call complemented a number of community-led initiatives – coordinated notably by the IDPAD Coalition UK³ and other entities such as the Europe-Wide Afrikan Consultative Council for Afrikan Reparations (ENGOCCAR)⁴ – that have sought to acknowledge IDPAD both nationally and transnationally and contribute to its work of challenging *Afriphobia* (anti-African prejudice and discrimination).

Eleven projects were funded as a result of the AHRC call, representing engagement with a range of different sectors, disciplines and approaches. When considered as a portfolio of interlinked projects, these networks constitute a powerful and unprecedented contribution to the UN IDPAD, not least because there are few if any other research-based initiatives relating to the decade and to the furtherance of its objectives.

¹ www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/

² www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-27/270326/

³ www.idpadcoalitionuk.com/

⁴ www.engoccar.wordpress.com/about/



Scope and Context for the UN International Decade for People of African Descent

In proclaiming this Decade, the International Community is recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected.⁵

Flavia Pansieri, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the UN General Assembly on the launch of the IDPAD, 18 December 2014

Given the lack of progress on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action arising from the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), the UN General Assembly proclaimed in 2014 the period 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent (resolution 68/237).⁶ In designating this Decade, the UN cited the need to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and ensure their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.⁷ Around 200 million people identifying themselves as being of African descent live in the Americas. Many millions more live in other parts of the world outside of the African continent, including in Europe where there are approximately 15 million people identifying as such.

The theme for the International Decade is: “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, and the main objectives are as follows:

- to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;⁸

- to promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies; and
- to adopt and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks according to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action⁹ and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,¹⁰ and to ensure their full and effective implementation.

The UN IDPAD builds on the recommendations adopted at the WCAR and provides an operational framework for state and non-state actors to join people of African descent and take measures towards implementation of its objectives, including promoting respect, protecting of human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent, and encouraging a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contributions of people of African descent to culture and society around the world.

At the launch of the IDPAD, the UN General Assembly adopted a Programme of Activities.¹¹ Various stakeholders are invited to take specific action to contribute to the objectives of the UN IDPAD at several levels:

5 www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/InternationalDecadeofPeopleofAfricanDescent.aspx

6 www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/237

7 www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/plan-action.shtml

8 www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/

9 www.un.org/en/durbanreview2009/ddpa.shtml

10 www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cerd.aspx

11 Op Cit.



- at the national level, states should take concrete and practical steps through the adoption and effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks, policies and programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent, taking into account the particular situation of women, girls and young males in the following areas: recognition, justice, development, and multiple or aggravated discrimination;
- at the regional and international levels, the international community and international and regional organizations are called, among other things, to raise awareness, disseminate the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, assist states in the full and effective implementation of their commitments under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, collect statistical data, incorporate human rights into development programmes and honour and preserve historical memory of people of African descent.



About this Report

This Decade matters for all people of African descent. It matters for every society and for each of us.¹²

Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General at the UN General Assembly on the launch of the IDPAD, 18 December 2014



This report is an outcome of the initiative taken by Professor Charles Forsdick through the AHRC 'Translating Cultures' theme. This sought to facilitate the bringing together of members of these networks in workshops in order to discuss their research, reflect on their contribution to the UN Decade and outline their plans for future activity. The workshops provided an invaluable forum for network members, who had previously had no opportunities to collaborate. They allowed network members to amplify and aggregate their work and to explore the ways in which the UN IDPAD provided a shared focus for their research.

Although the UN IDPAD networks did not form

part of the AHRC 'Translating Cultures',¹³ the theme offered these AHRC-funded IDPAD networks visibility. 'Translating Cultures' facilitated their coming together as an interlinked portfolio of projects that, taken collectively, provided spaces for dialogue and relationship building while challenging structural impediments to the creation of new communities of researchers of African descent.

At the Liverpool workshop (June 2019), the African-Caribbean Women's Mobility and Self-fashioning in Post-diaspora Contexts network and the International Network of Scholars & Activists for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR) presented their findings. At the London workshop (June 2019), Principal Investigators and/or their community partners gave presentations: Afro-Latin (In)Visibility

¹² www.youtube.com/watch?v=85IWC1UFUv8

¹³ Translating cultures is one of the four AHRC thematic programmes which has been running since 2012, www.translatingcultures.org.uk/



and the UN Decade: Cultural Politics in Motion in Nicaragua, Colombia and the UK; The Diasporic Everyday: Labour, Creativity, Survival; Ethiopian Echoes on a British Landscape; Geographies of Black Protest; International Network of Scholars & Activists for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR); and Small Magazines, Literary Networks and Self-Fashioning in Africa and its Diasporas.

Central to both events was a commitment to building capacity across the networks and to exploring ways of sustaining the portfolio of projects beyond their initial funding. Participants were able to discuss their activities, to identify commonalities and to reflect on the possibility of more collaboration and research. Discussion focused on the implications of the UN IDPAD for enhancing research practices and on the ways in which the networks had responded to these. Given that the UN Decade has not in itself been resourced and has relied on support from member states, the AHRC initiative was broadly welcomed as an opportunity to focus on the ways in which the IDPAD intersects with academic research and permits the forging of new types of partnerships – bringing researchers and communities together working on the objectives of the UN Decade. An additional aspect of discussions was the formulation of recommendations for future calls and further support.

Some of the issues arising from the workshops included network members:

- expressing concern about the lack of visibility of these projects and absence of opportunities to network with each other during the development phase;
- questioning how the AHRC networks relate to and connect with existing activism pertaining to the UN IDPAD as well as to the secondary and further/higher education curricula;
- evaluating how the academic and community partnerships operated, how they might be strengthened, and how the networks have contributed to advancing the objectives of the UN IDPAD;
- exploring how the interest in the UN IDPAD goes beyond people and communities of African heritage, with notable examples being provided of how the Principles of Participation of the International Network of Scholars and Activists for Afrikan Reparations were being deployed by members of Extinction Rebellion, informing how they engaged with African heritage communities in respect of the climate and ecological crisis;

- recognizing the added value of the AHRC networks in bringing together community partners with established academic organizations (principally universities) but also the need for honest reflections on some of the strengths as well as tensions in such academic/activist partnerships in the light of power differentials and varying levels of institutional preparedness of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Independent Research Organizations (IROs) to support such university-community partnerships;
- seeking to understand how research practices can simultaneously provide resources to communities while reforming universities;
- acknowledging impediments to the work of the networks, including the inability of many academic institutions to co-ordinate successfully community partnerships, the existence of structural tensions between activists and academic researchers, and the challenges of sustainability for networks reliant on temporary funding; and
- expressing caution, despite welcoming this initiative of the AHRC in funding the developments of the UN IDPAD networks, regarding the potential of people suffering from UN Decade fatigue – it was noted, for instance, that during the period of the UN IDPAD, there are eight other UN Decades also being commemorated.¹⁴

The workshops provided clear evidence of the extent to which the networks have provided a unique opportunity to develop coherent and co-designed research agendas, rooted in clear principles of participation, that have permitted knowledge production between academic scholars, community researchers and activist groups. Being rooted in the UN IDPAD has provided a clear focus and a common purpose for a diverse range of projects located at the university/community interface, actively seeking mutual benefits for all involved.

There were tensions throughout the UK events between activists and academics; structural tensions that sometimes get played out along class and gender lines. Such tensions are real and often get played out in public spaces, and also exist between different groups of activists. The networks were a great way to start conversations about these tensions, but they cannot be the end!

Nicola Frith



These workshops culminated in a public event in July 2019 in London. This brought together work from a selection of the funded networks in a pop-up exhibition. The networks provided evidence of a variety of public engagement activities, ranging from appearances of one network on Canadian TV to the inauguration of a blue plaque commemorating Haile Selassie. The public event also showcased the variety of work undertaken, highlighting the networks' wider intellectual, institutional, educational, cultural, societal and policy impact (as evidenced by the rich case studies below). During the July 2019 Panel and Roundtable session, seven of the eleven AHRC networks and/or their community partners were represented including: African-Caribbean Women's Mobility and Self-fashioning in Post-diaspora Contexts; 'African Union Law': Creativity in Norm Generation to Solve African Problems; Blackness in Britain; Diasporic Everyday: Labour, Creativity, Survival; Ethiopian Echoes on a British Landscape; Geographies of Black Protest; and International Network of Scholars & Activists for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR).

Each network had an opportunity to discuss its work and present a variety of outputs. There was a discussion around the broader themes and aims of the UN IDPAD,

talks on the wider context of the networks in terms of activities within the UK (Dr Marlene Ellis, Co-Chair of the IDPAD Coalition UK, was an invited speaker) as well as international initiatives (addressed by Dr. Barryl Biekman, Global Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Decade for People of African Descent). An AHRC perspective relating to the UN IDPAD was provided by Dr Karen Salt (University of Nottingham). In addition, there was representation from INOSAAR's youth auxiliary fellowship, RepAfrika,¹⁵ whose Simeon Stanford contributed to a panel discussion.

The Evening Reception and Networking Event provided an overview of the networks with an extended discussion on recommendations for the way forward.





Recommendations Arising from the Workshops and Public Event

I think the Decade provides an opportunity to confront the issue of anti-Blackness and how it intersects with modern systems of knowledge and politics. If you think about educational activism in the UK, there is a growing hunger and demand for decolonizing knowledge. These networks are a significant part of taking this work forward

Suzanne Scafe

The workshops underlined the importance of the AHRC UN IDPAD call and revealed the potential of aggregating the impact of separately funded projects into a consolidated initiative. The networks revealed the transformative potential (for all partners) of co-producing research with communities; in the process, projects and partnerships have contributed actively to an ongoing process of decolonizing the academy, most notably embracing different forms of knowledge and driving social change. Underpinning their activity was an essential valorization of knowledges and memories from the African continent and its diasporic communities. Through the research conducted and the partnerships forged, the networks also demonstrated the multiple ways in which the UN IDPAD intersects with a range of other social issues, including indigenous people's rights and climate change. As such, they contributed to the wider work of reparative research, actively associated with decolonization (including of the production and dissemination of knowledge) but certainly not limited to this.

The AHRC UN IDPAD networks illustrate the potential for the investment of AHRC funding in initiatives that create safe spaces of collaboration, co-creation and co-production, led by researchers of African descent and/or in partnership with community organizations and other bodies in Africa or its diaspora. By foregrounding key concepts and practices such as cognitive justice, this portfolio

of projects provided an opportunity to confront Afriphobia in modern systems of knowledge and to highlight the need for people of African descent to speak in their own name. As such, the networks form part of a suite of recent activities and calls associated notably with the AHRC-ESRC Connected Communities programme, but also including the AHRC Equality, Diversity & Inclusion engagement fellowships pilot scheme, the UKRI citizen science collaboration grant, and the joint Research England and Office for Students funding competition to improve access and participation for Black, Asian and minority ethnicity postgraduate research students. The aim of all these initiatives is to permit academic researchers to connect with members of grassroots communities, to form equitable partnerships whilst avoiding forms of extractive research, and to find innovative ways of translating research activity into accessible formats for wider community engagement.

The networks were welcomed by those involved in them as spaces where the epistemological could meet the practical, addressing in the process structural tensions and inequalities that have traditionally characterized many academic-community-activist collaborations. As such, the networks responded actively to recommendations set out in the 'Creating Living Knowledge' report on university-community relationships and the participatory turn in the production of knowledge.¹⁶ This document arose from 'Connected



Communities’,¹⁷ a cross-council programme designed to help us understand the changing nature of communities in historical and cultural contexts and their role in sustaining and enhancing our quality of life. The UN IDPAD networks are also closely related to the work of the Common Cause Research project, a collaboration of ‘Connected Communities’ and ‘Translating Cultures’ with Arts Council England and the Runnymede Trust.¹⁸ Common Cause spent two years looking in depth at the landscape of Black and Minority Ethnic community-university partnerships, and released in 2018 a report detailing their findings and recommendations. These included a list of ten principles for conducting fair and mutual research partnerships. Drawing on their own experiences, the UN IDPAD networks called for universities to be better equipped at managing network funds, notably with training in handling transitional financial systems and developing procedures as well as financial administration management in instances where there are knowledge co-production partnerships with community-based partners, both domestically and in international contexts.¹⁹ The recommendations are made in a wider context of advocacy for direct structural change leading to the appointment of higher numbers of researchers of African descent to institutions that hold UKRI funding.

The following recommendations emerged from the UN IDPAD workshops and public event.

The AHRC should seek ways to:

- acknowledge the pioneering nature of the UN IDPAD networks it has funded as the foundation of a growing but still disparate portfolio of awards in the area of race, racism and activism;²⁰
 - continue to encourage research aligned with the objectives of the UN IDPAD, strengthening national, regional and international cooperation in support of the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent as well as their full and equal participation in all aspects of society;
 - commit to addressing impediments in its own practices and policies that hinder this objective;
 - ensure that, through AHRC calls, selection procedures, conditions of award and other
- monitoring procedures, HEIs and IROs are encouraged to develop capacity among their staff to support research that takes full account of issues of ethnic diversity and inclusion in terms of both design and delivery;
 - issue a second UN IDPAD highlight notice call to fund further networks and other research relating to the Decade and ensure that these projects are brought together much earlier in their development;²¹
 - support and encourage the development of additional research networks to harness the experiences and activities of people of African descent across Europe and develop collaborations between institutional-based academics across Europe engaged in research on the African diaspora;
 - provide mechanisms to link the work of the UN IDPAD networks to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to associate their work with the wider Global Challenges Research Fund;
 - identify and invest resources to ensure continuity of the work of the networks but also to fund initiatives that aggregate the various networks into partnerships and equitable collaborations with each other (particularly those who are interested in collectivizing work on the issues they have raised and explored);
 - resource and support the development of further collaborations among and between the existing AHRC UN IDPAD networks around the notion of reparatory research, permitting additional activity around the application of the projects’ findings in educational and policy contexts;
 - encourage follow-on activities for projects that it has already supported through the UN IDPAD highlight notice, permitting further research into policy and practice and supporting communities to address the challenges that the UN IDPAD identifies;
 - provide information and support to community partners in relation to various international agencies working on the UN IDPAD as well as the UN IDPAD Programme of Action and those arising from the WCAR and the outcome document of the 2009 Durban Review Conference.

¹⁷ www.ahrc.ukri.org/research/fundedthemesandprogrammes/crosscouncilprogrammes/connectedcommunities/

¹⁸ www.commoncauseresearch.com/report/

¹⁹ These findings echo those of the ‘Common Cause’ report, in which both community partners and HEI staff noted that university systems are often a significant impediment to the development of productive relationships. The good practice example of the Afro-Latino organization Ayora Vanguarda was highlighted. This provides sensitization workshops to university accounts departments on the added value that Afro-Diasporic communities bring to university-community collaborations.

²⁰ For an overview of UKRI-funded research on race and ethnicity, see www.ukri.org/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/our-work-on-race/.

²¹ Any future highlight notices relating to the Decade should include an exploration of existing IDPAD networks so that scoping work can be carried out to facilitate exploratory conversations with established or previous networks first. This will ensure there is not duplication of effort. Furthermore, in future calls there should be a dedicated mechanism to allow support for and liaison across funded networks, and to maximize the opportunities for working more widely with civil society.



What does all this mean for the AHRC? Between those of us who do the lobbying and have an advocacy role in research worlds along with the brilliance of our communities, we can work together to move this work into all sorts of places whether that might be exhibitions and various other content, conferences and other research programmes, degree granting programmes, workshops etc. We have an unlimited possibility of what we can do, next.

Karen Salt

AHRC-funded UN IDPAD Networks should be encouraged, resourced and supported to:

- connect activities in Europe on implementation of the objectives of the UN IDPAD with those initiatives happening in Africa and other parts of the African diaspora;
- create an archive, archival commons or African Diaspora library of initiatives contributing to implementation of the UN IDPAD;²²
- produce a publication promoting the work of the UN IDPAD networks and compile an edited collection around the notion of how each of the networks are contributing to reparatory justice or ‘repair’ through the lens of the three themes of the UN IDPAD: recognition, justice and development;
- increase the visibility of the work of the eleven networks by supporting an online exhibition promoting their work.

Further practice issues:

- it is important to assess how the objectives of the UN IDPAD and the activities of the AHRC networks connect or relate to implementation of initiatives such as the Global Challenge Research Fund;²³
- it was further highlighted that research associated with the UN IDPAD has urgent relevance to policymaking in relation to the themes of justice, recognition and development, consequently broadening the appeal and impact of the networks;
- UKRI is encouraged, as a result, to explore ways of embedding the experiences and findings of the AHRC UN IDPAD research networks into wider processes such as the identification of the Areas of Research Interest (ARI) that provide details about the main research questions facing government departments and also collaboration with the Race Disparity Unit in the Cabinet Office.

While these recommendations in this report are addressed primarily to the AHRC, funder of the UN IDPAD research networks, we acknowledge that this portfolio of awards has provided an example of best practice from which other funding bodies and agencies have much to learn. The challenges and opportunities identified by the AHRC IDPAD networks have wider relevance for UKRI and its constituent bodies, for ministerial departments including Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), as well as for other community partners and funders. Addressing the recommendations above requires coordinated and concerted action across these organizations.

²² The Digital Library of the Caribbean (www.dloc.com/) was offered as an example of good practice in this regard.

²³ www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/



Case Study 1



Project title:

African-Caribbean Women's Mobility and Self-fashioning in Post-Diaspora Contexts Network

PI: Dr Suzanne Scafe, London South Bank
University

Co-I: Dr Leith Lorraine Dunn, University of the
West Indies

www.digitalstorymaking.co.uk/networks/african-caribbean-women-in-post-diaspora-contexts/

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The African-Caribbean Women's Mobility and Self-fashioning in Post-diaspora Contexts Network (Post-diaspora Network) was a trans-disciplinary, transcultural and trans-Atlantic Network concerned with investigating the effects of globalization on African-Caribbean women migrants, and on the formation of diaspora communities. The Post-diaspora Network consisted of twelve scholars from the UK, North America and the Caribbean. The core questions centred around the ways in which Africa-Caribbean diasporic identities are mediated by gender primarily, but also by class and geography. These categories transform in different ways the diasporic subject's relationship to home and hostlands. Are these inter-diasporic communities more complex as a result of migration? Do they become 'post-diasporic'? What unexpected intimacies emerge from African-Caribbean women's migration? Are unexpected affective and economic affiliations developed as a result of migration? Do these affiliations, intimacies and communities challenge the proscriptions of the nation-state? Are both hostlands and homelands transformed, imaginatively, physically and literally, conceptually, culturally by the presence of 'post'/inter-diasporic communities

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

The Network's achievements included fulfilling the stated outcomes of the project in a systematic and timely way: a) a network of scholars was established to form the core participants of the project; b) each event brought together an augmented pool of scholars who examined the research topic from new and unexpected angles; c) workshops in Jamaica and Toronto, and the final conference in London, UK, included public events that addressed the project's research questions through interaction with a wider constituency including non-academics and feminist activists; d) the final three events featured the inclusion of creative artists: published writers; a specially commissioned performance entitled *Song for the Beloved* and a solo exhibition of paintings and sculptures. These creative productions reflected key findings around African/African-Caribbean histories and interconnections, as well as issues of black feminist and queer activism in the context of African-Caribbean (post)-diasporic communities and spaces.



The network's first publication was a series of online Working Papers by Suzanne Scafe, Denise Noble and Patricia Noxolo. The second publication was an online, open-access peer-reviewed Special Issue of CRGS. The editorial and introduction is co-authored by Leith Dunn and Suzanne Scafe.²⁴ The issue includes an article by Suzanne Scafe.²⁵ The third and final published outcome is a co-edited collection of articles for the journal *African and Black Diaspora* (Taylor and Francis). The Special issue 13(2) is entitled: 'African-Caribbean Women Interrogating Diaspora/Post-diaspora'.²⁶

The project's key findings centred around investigations of expanded concepts of African-Caribbean diasporic communities extending beyond the parameters of the Black Atlantic, and resulting in the return to the use of 'post-diaspora' as a concept under investigation. Workshop discussions, conference papers and published articles highlighted the importance of gender identities and roles as an impulse towards migration and diasporic community-formation; the interconnection of continental African and Caribbean cultures and identities in black diasporic spaces, and the importance of an interconnection of black feminist activism and academic practice in discussions of diaspora, migration and diasporic identity.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

Contributions highlighted the importance of African histories in the formation of African-Caribbean identities; African cultural practices that connect African-Caribbean diasporic communities; and the routine interconnection of Africa and the Caribbean in diasporic spaces.

Next steps, future plans for the network

The next step is to use the contacts established through network-building and its expansion through the project's events to write a bid for follow-on funding. The key question is: what are the roots and routes of diaspora's 'others' in African/Caribbean diasporic contexts. The project will focus on the forced and voluntary migration, return and re-migration of African/Caribbean subjects excluded from governmental/national discourses of diaspora. These include queer subjects; elderly, frail and debilitated subjects; refugees; trafficked subjects and illegal migrants. The research questions will investigate the following:

- the roots and routes of these subjects in the circum-Caribbean diaspora, in Britain and in Europe,
- the ways in which the intersecting activities of black feminist academics and black feminist activists can be used to highlight and address the condition of these excluded subjects,
- the extent to which the sustained use of creative practice can be used as an intervention into conditions of exclusion,
- the interconnections of African and Caribbean communities, cultures and practices as diasporic resources for excluded subjects in the Caribbean, Britain and Europe. This latter is reflected in the change from African-Caribbean to African/Caribbean.

²⁴ www.sta.uwi.edu/crgs/june2019/documents/CRGS_13_Pgs1-16_LDunn_SScafe_AfricanCaribWomenMigration.pdf

²⁵ www.sta.uwi.edu/crgs/june2019/documents/CRGS_13_Pgs93-120_SScafe_GenderedPost-diasporic.pdf

²⁶ Suzanne Scafe and Leith Dunn (eds and intro), 'African-Caribbean Women Interrogating Diaspora/Post-diaspora', *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal*, 13.2 (2020): www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17528631.2020.1740471



Case Study 2



Project title:

‘African Union Law’: Creativity in Norm Generation to Solve African Problems

PI: Dr Femi Amao, University of Sussex

www.africanunionlaw.org/

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The pioneering concept of African Union Law (provisionally defined for the purpose of this project as the bodies of treaties, resolutions and decisions that have direct and indirect application to the member states of the African Union) is currently underexplored and underdeveloped. However, it has the potential to be groundbreaking with far reaching implications. This Network initiative, led by Dr Femi Amao, and consisting of over 80 academic, policy and NGO experts on the theme of AU law across Africa, in the UK and the US, explored the emergence of AU law as a new legal order and addressed its implications for existing legal orders in the region. The focus of this project, the first phase of which ran between April 2017 and July 2019, was the contention that the concept of AU Law could be a critical tool in the quest for solutions to problems peculiar to the African continent.

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

Main activities were four workshops which have led to the development of significant new knowledge on the theme of AU Law:

1. The history, scope and creation of the African Union Law, including lessons from the EU and the Caribbean, University of Sussex (June 2017);²⁷
2. The Implications of AU Law, London School of Economics (December 2017);
3. The Propagation and Enforcement of AU Law, Brighton Hotel, (September 2018);²⁸
4. African Union Law Edited Book Project, University of Sussex (July 2019).

This network facilitated the development of new curricula in African Union Law, which has led to an expansion of offerings in African Studies in education and training institutions globally. Strong relationships have been established with partner institution in Africa, the University of Lagos and also with the African Commission’s Office of Legal Counsel. The network is also developing a relationship with the University of Carthage, Tunisia, in relation to the pedagogic aspects of AU Law. In addition, the network has generated

²⁷ www.esil-sedi.eu/african-union-law-research-network-workshop-exploring-the-history-scope-and-creation-of-african-union-law/

²⁸ www.africanunionlaw.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Agenda_Brighton_3rd_AU_Workshop_VersionF_docx.26043108.pdf



significant interest among students across Africa and beyond through the running of a global essay competition for AU law. In the inaugural essay competition, entries were received from across Africa, UK, the USA and Hong Kong. The winning entries to the competition are available for download on the network's website.²⁹

A key finding from this research is that, despite the fact that the concept of AU Law is implicit in the legal and institutional framework of the African Union, its institutions rarely refer to their norm-generating activities in those terms. Through the operations of the network, the concept of African Union Law is gaining traction in Africa. The network has also illuminated the potentials of the AU legal order to serve as a protector of individual rights beyond state level. This is important because of limitations associated with the protection of rights in many of the member states of the African Union. A key finding in this regard is the need to explore the potential offered by the continental court, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. Research from the network has featured in key publications such as the *African Human Rights Yearbook/Annuaire Africain des Droits de l'Homme* (2018).³⁰ Significantly, the network has generated the publication of the first academic text on African Union Law, a monograph entitled *African Union Law: The Emergence of a Sui Generis Legal Order published by Routledge*.³¹ An article about this publication featured in the *Huffington Post*: 'Could African Union Law Shape A New Legal Order For The Continent?'³²

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

This network has contributed to recognition of African Union Law and the need to promote the effective implementation of regional legal frameworks in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. In this regard, recognition of African Union Law has important and potentially radical implications for the African continent, its constituent member States and its people in Africa and in the diaspora. It is indisputable that there are specific problems that are peculiar to the African continent. These intractable problems are wide-ranging, and they include absence and/or abuse of rule of law, human rights violations, child labour, modern slavery, corruption, racial and gender discrimination and environmental degradation.

Next steps, future plans for the network

An edited collection from presentations at the network's workshops and a second monograph are planned for publication. The relationships established with partner institutions in Africa and other agencies will help facilitate the taking forward of the findings of this project

29 www.africanunionlaw.org/african_union_law_essay_competition

30 www.pulp.up.ac.za/latest-publications/230-african-human-rights-yearbook-annuaire-africain-des-droits-de-l-homme-2, see page 90

31 www.routledge.com/African-Union-Law-The-Emergence-of-a-Sui-Generis-Legal-Order/Amao/p/book/9781138914940

32 www.theconversation.com/could-african-union-law-shape-a-new-legal-order-for-the-continent-99245



Case Study 3



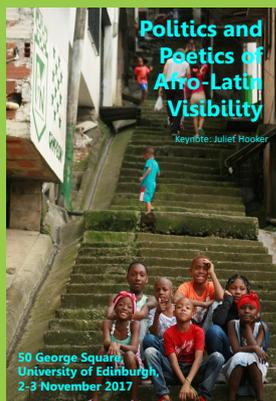
Project title:

Afro-Latin (In)Visibility and the UN Decade: Cultural politics in motion in Nicaragua, Colombia and the UK

PI: Dr Julie Cupples, University of Edinburgh

Co-I: Dr Charlotte Gleghorn, University of
Edinburgh

www.afrolatin-network.hss.ed.ac.uk/



The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The network was designed to encourage exchange between Afro-Latin Americans and scholars, activists and artists in three countries where narratives of Blackness have infused constructions of national belonging in significant and often contradictory ways: Nicaragua, Colombia and Cuba. Working closely with collaborators Dixie Lee Smith³³ at the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (URACCAN)³⁴ and Ramón Perea Lemos³⁵ of the Afrocolombian Association for Social and Cultural Development – Carabantú,³⁶ the project harnessed the international reach of the UN Decade to focus discussion and develop new areas of collaboration. A series of events, attended by participants from Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Colombia and the UK, analysed the main challenges facing Afrodescendants, with a view to developing strategies to counter racism and discrimination, enhance visibility within national polities, and cultivate and fortify Afrodescendant media and film production.

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

- Primer Foro Centroamericano y del Caribe sobre Afrodescendientes, Bilwi, Nicaragua, 2017
- Co-organized with Carabantú the first national meeting of Afrocolombian filmmakers as part of the 2nd International Festival of Community Black Cinema-Kunta Kinte, 2017³⁷
- Politics and Poetics of Afro-Latin Visibility, a two-day gathering of talks, discussions and film screenings, University of Edinburgh, 2017
- (In)Visibilidad de los Pueblos Afrodescendientes: Entrelazando proyectos político-culturales en Nicaragua, Cuba, y Colombia, Medellín, Colombia, 2018
- Pilot testimonial project in San Andrés Archipelago interviewing prominent Raizal community members, 2018. This would lead to the development of a successful follow-on funding bid centred on the design of an interactive web documentary drawing on audiovisual testimonies of connected Creole/Raizal communities.

33 Dixie Lee Smith is from Bilwi/Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. He is an Afrodescendant academic at the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean.

34 First Intercultural University in Latin America emphasizing Indigenous and Afrodescendant knowledges on the Caribbean Coast www.uraccan.edu.ni/

35 Ramón Perea Lemos is an Afrocolombian cultural activist based in Medellín. He is co-founder of Carabantú association, the Festival Internacional de Cine Comunitario Afro "Kunta Kinte", and active member of the Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN).

36 www.carabantu.org/

37 www.carabantu.org/kunta-kinte/



Accomplishments

- The Bilwi Declaration
- The creation of the Afrocolombian Audiovisual Council – Wi Da Monikongo, instrumental in influencing policy and curating collectively several high-profile film seasons³⁸
- Afro-Latin Visibility in Focus: series of five screenings and associated cultural events, collectively curated by organizers of the Network and staged in collaboration with Africa in Motion Film Festival and Havana-Glasgow Film Festival³⁹
- Video 'Presenting Wi Da Monikongo!'
- Media coverage on Pregoneros isleños, San Andrés online TV station
- Media coverage on Teleislas and Canal 5
- Collectively authored chapter 'Afro-Latino-América: Black and Afro-descendant rights and struggles', in *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Development* (2019)⁴⁰
- Further successful funding bid, follow-on funding from an AHRC/GCRF International Development highlight notice. This follow-on project, 'Visibilizing Afro Cultural Connections and Geopolitical Dynamics in Nicaragua, Colombia, San Andrés and Providencia', brings the archipelago of San Andrés into our existing network and research programme, capitalizing different audiovisual strategies aiming to de-centre the Hispanophone and Anglophone Caribbean, complicating narratives of linguistic, territorial and cultural belonging, and bringing to the fore individual and collective Afrodescendant histories in order to build transnational Afro/Creole communities through radio, film and online media.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

The three meetings funded by the networking grant have all contributed to the UN IDPAD. In Bilwi, Nicaragua, the project provided a space in which people outlined the progress made by their governments and NGOs in attending to the decade. The resulting Bilwi Declaration was an urgent call to governments in the region to respond.⁴¹ In Medellín, Colombia, the network paid specific attention to the visibility of Afrodescendants in the mediascape and how the decade could be better harnessed to promote positive forms of visibilization. In Edinburgh, the

activities connected with the prominent Africa in Motion Film Festival to expand the emphasis on connected Afrodiasporic media and filmscapes and their relevance to localised struggles.

Next steps, future plans for the network

- Co-authored article on census and data activism in relation to the UN IDPAD
- Further collaborative publications on themes of media and film
- Interactive web documentary triangulating connections between Creole, Raizal and Raizal diaspora through audiovisual testimony (Follow-on Funding GCRF/AHRC). This project, named Creole Connections, will hopefully be launched by the end of 2020.



38 www.carabantu.org/wida-monikongo/

39 www.afrolatin-network.hss.ed.ac.uk/outreach-programming/

40 www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9781315162935/chapters/10.4324/9781315162935-35

41 www.juliecupples.wordpress.com/tag/bilwi/



Case Study 4



Project title:

Blackness in Britain: Beyond the Black Atlantic

PI: Prof Kehinde Andrews, Birmingham City University

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

To develop an interdisciplinary network of Black Studies, the network organized six research engagement events, including three symposia (Black Studies and British Higher Education; The 'Black Mediterranean and migrant crisis' and The 'Black Mediterranean in action'), two conferences (Black Education for Liberation: In Conversation with Latin America; and Re-Engaging Pan-Africanism), a workshop (Blackness at the Intersection), which brought together an interdisciplinary mix of scholars, as well as artists and community activists. Finally, the network also hosted an audience with Kathleen Cleaver who was one of the most prominent members of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and is currently professor of law at Emory University.

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

The network's key achievements included:

- Developing an interdisciplinary network of Black Studies.
- Establishing the first Black Studies Association in the UK.
- Building connections that expand on the notion of the 'Black Atlantic'.
- Establishing a journal for British Black Studies.
- Supporting early career academics seeking to advance the discipline of Black Studies.

Long-lasting international research connections were made between academics, activists and artists from America, Latin America and wider Europe. Some of these include research connections with academics, activists and artists working in collaboration with New Urban Collective Social Enterprise (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Icesi University (Colombia), Ponta Grossa State University (Brazil), Northwestern University, University of Delaware and the University of British Columbia. In addition, the network established a culture of public sociology/academia through accessible conferences open to the wider public, and therefore broke down barriers between the knowledges pertaining to Black Studies produced and disseminated in universities and communities. The first edition of a Black studies journal is currently being edited for issue.



Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

Blackness in Britain: Beyond the Black Atlantic contributed to the recognition theme of the UN IDPAD through promoting and co-producing knowledge and enhancing the visibility of the culture, history and heritage of people of African descent, through research and education. The network initiatives have also contributed to the full and accurate inclusion of the living history and contributions of people of African descent in educational curricula.

Next steps, future plans for the network

The networks created from these convenings will be used to build a truly global network that links Africa and the Diaspora, locally, nationally and internationally. Following on from the Re-engaging Pan-Africanism conference, the project is exploring the possibilities of organising a major Pan-African conference on the continent of Africa in 2020-2021. In addition, it aims to further the dissemination of knowledge, and enhance public awareness about the multidisciplinary aspects of Black History Studies through the development of a permanent British journal in Black Studies. A journal is envisaged that not only can provide a resource for teaching and learning about Black Studies but will also enable the network to have more power in shaping the discipline and help spread its ideas into other areas. In this regard the project is in the process of formulating a multidisciplinary editorial board of academics and scholar-activists.



Case Study 5

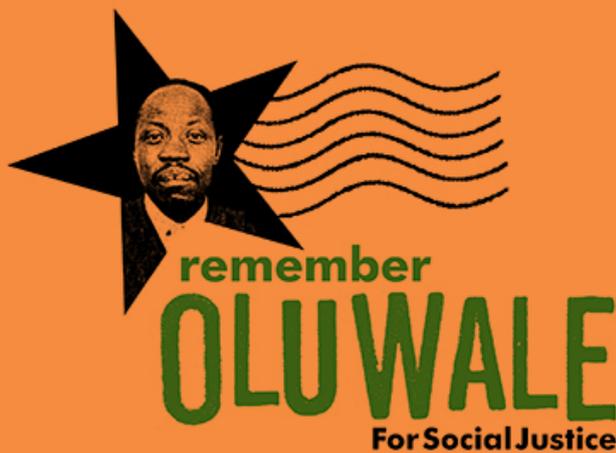


Project title:

The Diasporic Everyday: Labour, Creativity, Survival

PI: Dr Andrew Warnes, University of Leeds

www.awarnes.wixsite.com/diasporic-everyday/events



The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The network focused on those everyday acts of diasporic expression, from culinary improvisation to the earliest known shanties and chants, which have seemed to seize back the immediate moment and insist on the presence, persistence and worth of African human experience. Inspired and intrigued by Zora Neale Hurston's description of the 'juke joint' as 'the most important place musically in America', the project held roundtable discussions and hosted international plenary lectures not only on jazz and the blues but also on Hip Hop, diasporic foodways and communal storytelling. The common thread running through discussions has been the belief that these cultural forms, arising in the midst of systemized racial violence and terror, in themselves refute the rhetoric of white supremacist prestige and Eurocentric exclusivity that has legitimized such racism. Diasporic expression of the varied kinds considered itself enacts the presence and persistence of African identities and African lineages, manifesting a unique cultural resource more intimately connected with securing group survival than equivalent heritages to be found elsewhere in the world. International guests included the British Caribbean novelist Caryl Phillips and the prize-winning African-American studies professors Psyche Williams-Forsen (author of *Building Houses out of Chicken Legs*) and Kyla Wazana Tompkins (author of *Racial Indigestion*). Public partners were Leeds Library, a subscription institution that is becoming a hub of diasporic expression in the heart of the city, and the David Oluwale Memorial Association, an organization dedicated to memorialising the life, hopes and brutal death of the Nigerian refugee Oluwale in Leeds.⁴²

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

International publications have been commissioned as a result of the network's interest in everyday life. Dr Warnes has now contributed two entries (on the topics of 'Grocery Stories' and 'Hunger and Malnutrition') to Greenwood Press's landmark *The World of Jim Crow America: A Daily Life Encyclopedia* (2019), which will be distributed widely within the US school system, and he is also producing a chapter on the relationship



between everyday dance music and the Harlem Renaissance for *The Cambridge Companion to the Harlem Renaissance* (2020).⁴³ The network has also led to the development of new public networks and an ongoing engagement with the decolonization movement of the University of Leeds Student Union. Although a poetry reading at the Leeds Library attracted a wide and diverse local audience from north Leeds, the network funded an even larger event on campus that was spearheaded by undergraduate Jodie Yates and which showcased excellent new local writers of the diaspora as well as a significant contribution from Melz Owusu, leader of the *Why is my Curriculum White?* campaign in Leeds.⁴⁴ Momentum from this network-sponsored event has led directly to the adoption at Leeds of a new curriculum approach which moves away from a previous concentration of non-European material in the third year of the degree, increasing its presence and placing it into all levels. This is an important legacy of the network and one which has been warmly welcomed by students.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

This reconfiguration of the English literature curriculum at Leeds offers a specific and practical contribution to the UN IDPAD in relation to the theme of recognition. It enables all undergraduates to encounter the writing of Africa and the diaspora far earlier in their degree and in a manner designed to encourage subsequent study through to postgraduate level. The diversification of the degree at all levels thus articulates to all students from the start of their programme a vision of literary production that supports the United Nations' commitment to the equity of all cultures, manifesting a form of cognitive justice that no longer focuses exclusively or unduly on European traditions while cultivating a critique of the imperial habits of Eurocentric thoughts. Dialogue with fellow network PIs, and particularly with those hitherto more closely affiliated with INOSAAR and its proposed Academic Liaison Team, has been beneficial and has allowed the project to situate these developments within a wider paradigm of 'repair' (educational repairs/reparations).

Next steps, future plans for the network

The reparative paradigm is useful for clarifying that the decolonization of the curriculum involves more than the addition of overlooked work and requires deep epistemological reorientation for all. While the new curriculum will correct certain concentrations in and omissions from our existing

degree, INOSAAR's reparative paradigm will clearly require a further, and more cultural, response focusing on the deeper forms of marginalization and discrimination that persist in the university sector. The network has also led the network to establish deeper links with Leeds Library and with Dr. Emily Zobel Marshall, a specialist in carnival culture at Leeds Beckett University, allowing exploration of new public and pedagogical initiatives focused on various forms of diasporic culture.



⁴³ www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/the-cambridge-companion-to-the-harlem-renaissance

⁴⁴ www.luu.org.uk/news/archive/why-is-my-curriculum-white-the-campaign-so-far/



Case Study 6



Project title:

Ethiopian Echoes on a British Landscape

PI: Dr Shawn Sobers, University of the West of England

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The network explored themes relating to the legacies of Emperor Haile Selassie I, his family and advisors, living in Bath city from 1936-1943. Led by Dr Shawn Sobers at the University of the West of England, the project worked in partnership with Fairfield House, the property that the Emperor purchased and in which he lived. In 1953 the Emperor gifted the house to the city to be used for older people. Fairfield House today is home to the Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association (BEMSCA),⁴⁵ which keeps the Emperor's wish alive. It also houses a small museum and gallery space, is a site of pilgrimage for Rastafari and Ethiopian communities and is now home to Imperial Voice Radio.

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

Setting up of an internet radio station Imperial Voice Radio is one of the primary outputs of Ethiopian Echoes on a British Landscape. A series of training programmes for a wide array of presenters who feature on the station were developed in furtherance of this objective. The station can be listened to at www.imperialvoice.com, a website which also contains information about the wider Ethiopian Echoes Network. In addition, through working with Emeyou, the granddaughter of Blattenguetta Herouy Wolde Selassie (Ethiopian Foreign Minister, a writer, scholar and Emperor Haile Selassie's closest advisor),⁴⁶ Fairfield House, in conjunction with the network, was able to organize various fundraising events to contribute to the costs of restoring his grave. Herouy died in 1938 and was buried not far from Fairfield House. The unveiling ceremony took place in April 2018 and was attended by five generations of Herouy's family. The network grant was also able to support a Blue Plaque for Haile Selassie at Fairfield House which was unveiled by Haile Selassie's grandson, Prince Michael Mekonnen, in September 2019.⁴⁷ Overall, the Ethiopian Echoes network has helped to position Fairfield House and the city of Bath as a site of intercultural dialogue and play a significant role in bringing to the surface largely undocumented voices on highly topical and pertinent issues relating to the important debates regarding the

⁴⁵ www.bemsc.com/portfolio-items/about-us/

⁴⁶ www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herouy_Wolde_Selassie

⁴⁷ www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-49786813



dynamics of the African diaspora in contemporary Britain.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

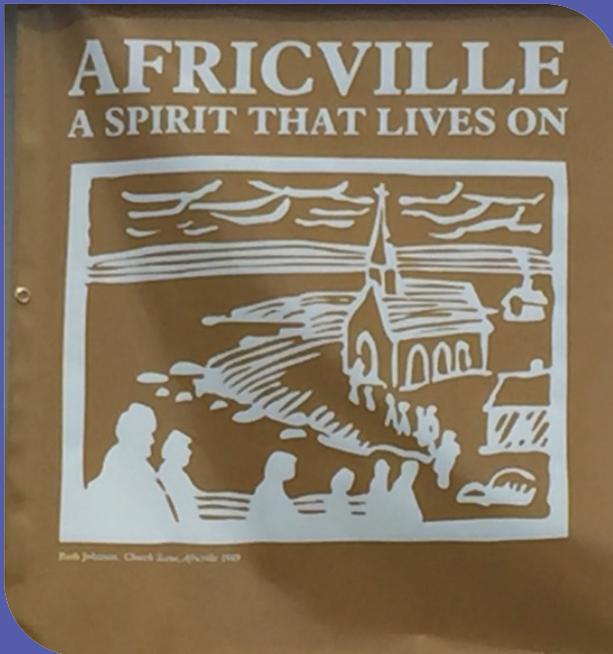
The network links and has contributed to the aims and objectives of the UN IDPAD through focusing on the theme of recognition, in particular through promoting greater knowledge and recognition as well as respect for the culture and heritage of Ethiopian and Rastafari communities within the UK in general and specifically honouring the historical memory and legacy of Emperor Haile Selassie, his family and advisors living in Bath.

Next steps, future plans for the network

The network will continue to exist through the medium and increasing connections and reach being generated through the continuance of Imperial Voice Radio which as an internet radio has local, national and international reach.



Case Study 7



Project title:

Geographies of Black Protest

PI: Dr Karen Salt, University of Nottingham

Key partner: Lisa Robinson, activist, educator, Director of Social Enterprise, Bright Ideas Nottingham

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

Inspired by Black Lives Matter (started by three African American women in 2013), this network and its outputs sought to understand the origin points, dynamics and possible futures of intersectional human rights and social justice movements that build upon and respond to other forms of protest and resistance. Despite the exponential growth of BLM internationally, activists have arguably been affirming that 'Black Lives Matter' for centuries. It is this heritage of protest which was the primary focus of the 'Geographies of Black Protest' networking events. This network sought to gather information about forms of protest and resistance within the African diaspora. Through material interactions, notably sharing conversations and objects, it aimed to connect protest memories and cultures at the local level with other histories and actions around the world. The project plans to use the information gathered from the communities inside and outside of the UK to produce educational, cultural and historical information that engages with the histories of Black protest—and the many ways that communities have engaged in activism for political or cultural purposes. In drawing together these legacies, the network explores questions such as how can protest memory serve activists today as well as in the future and how do communities keep going and what do we want to pass on to future generations?

The network's activist partner was Lisa Robinson of Bright Ideas Nottingham, which promotes community engagement. Participating communities included young people and activist communities in Nottingham, such as Black Lives Matter UK, cultural and heritage archaeologists in St Lucia, as well as former residents and activists connected to Africville (Nova Scotia), which was declared a National Historic Site of Canada in 1996.⁴⁸

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

In its work so far, the network has developed a framework to connect protest cultures at the hyper-local level and link them into a network that embraces research as key to social action. This has consisted of mapping black murals across the UK, developing 'Shapeshifters', a co-



produced leadership programme for and with young Black activists and allies, interviewing and conducting oral histories with activists in Canada (Nova Scotia) and St Lucia, undertaking archival research into protest within informal, local and formal repositories in Canada (Nova Scotia) and St Lucia, and developing a website to share narratives from the research and encourage others to upload and share protest memories. The team's trip to Africville also resulted in coverage by CBC (Canadian Broadcast Corporation), where they were able to promote the network and the international connections that have been made.⁴⁹ The project followed up its visit to Africville by attending the 35th Annual Africville Family Reunion in 2018. Supported through partnership funding from the Future Food Beacon of Excellence based at the University of Nottingham, the Geographies of Black Protest team focused on collective strategies of survival for African Nova Scotian communities, community transmission of the past and ways that elders and young people exchange ideas, information and perspectives through cultural activities, intergenerational events and food.

Going forward, the network aims to:

- Create and disseminate new resources that: (a) aid scholarship and enable activist groups to draw from past ideas, images, language, cultural representations and political acts, in their own literature, visual culture, rhetoric, strategies, definitions and philosophies; (b) enable scholars and activists to share new materials from their work across this network.
- Establish protest archives on Black protest arising from the activities and network engagements fostered by the project.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

Geographies of Black Protest has contributed to implementation of the UN IDPAD through championing the theme of recognition. In particular, through promoting greater awareness and insights into the heritage of protest and how protest memory can serve contemporary and future movements of resistance for people of African descent and their allies. Such elevation of the protest memories of activists and their communities of resistance not only honours the lineages of struggle that have contributed to advancing the rights of people of African descent, but also has huge implications for implementation of the justice theme of the IDPAD in relation to how best to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of slavery,

colonialism and their modern-day legacies.

Next steps, future plans for the network

Ultimately, the network aims to sustain a network of scholars and activists who will continue to share resources and advance protest scholarship beyond this project's existence. They see this as an evolution of the notion of 'research repairs' as the project seeks to further strengthen the connections that have been made and promote reparative research in recovering and regenerating protest memories which are channeled into the co-production of further resources by academics and scholar-activists based in communities across the African diaspora.

⁴⁹ www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/africville-protest-struggle-relocation-survival-research-1.4664253



Case Study 8



Project title:

International Networks of Scholars & Activists for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR) Reparations for Slavery from Theory to Practice

PI: Dr Nicola Frith, University of Edinburgh

Co-I: Professor Joyce Hope Scott, University of Boston

www.inosaar.llc.ed.ac.uk/



The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The International Network of Activists and Scholars for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR) is a trans-Atlantic project coordinated by the University of Edinburgh, UK (PI: Dr Nicola Frith) and Wheelock College at Boston University, USA (Co-I: Professor Joyce Hope Scott). This network is a collaboration between activists, artists, state and non-state actors based in Europe, West Afrika and the Americas, notably the Pan-Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe (PARCOE, UK) and the Association panafricaine pour une réparation globale de l'esclavage (APRGE, Benin). The project is dedicated to advancing scholarship and activism that promote cross-community and transnational dialogue and learning on the subject of reparations and other forms of transitional justice for the enslavement, colonization and genocide of Afrikan peoples by western powers, including the resultant oppression and deformation of Afrikan identities.⁵⁰ Through the promotion of knowledge-production partnerships, the network has aimed to develop a coherent research agenda for understanding reparations across disciplinary boundaries, encourage youth and student participation, provide space to understand the many possible approaches to reparations, and to have a positive overall impact on public and political (mis) understandings about reparations.⁵¹

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

Through workshops held in the UK (London and Birmingham), culminating in a major international conference held in Benin (Porto-Novo), the network has explored the challenges of building international and cross-community solidarity around reparations. These events resulted in: the endorsement of our Principles of Participation; the launching of RepAfrika (student/youth-led branch of the INOSAAR);⁵² the building of links to reparations activists and academics in Europe, West Afrika and the Americas, such as the Global Afrikan Family Reunion International Council (GAFRIC) and representatives of the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC); and the signing of the Porto-Novo Declaration (Sept 2018) calling upon Afrikan states to join civil society to 'formulate policies and establish

⁵⁰ www.inosaar.llc.ed.ac.uk/en/about-project

⁵¹ www.archive.voice-online.co.uk/article/global-push-reparations

⁵² www.inosaar.llc.ed.ac.uk/en/repafrika



operational committees to institutionalize and advocate the claim for reparatory justice', signed by his majesty Kpoto Zounmè Hakpon III on behalf of the Council of Kings of Benin.⁵³ Key findings include the need for: reparations to incorporate cultural, spiritual, environmental and psychological approaches; transnational and cross-community collaborations that are rooted in the praxis of cognitive justice (or the equity of all knowledges); and acknowledgement of the importance of Afrikan knowledge systems for conducting reparations-related scholarship and activism. In addition to a special issue in the *Journal of African American History*,⁵⁴ findings have been communicated through a website, two video-documentaries and three public reports.⁵⁵

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

The network has sought to participate in the IDPAD's goals by focusing on its central pillar of justice. This pillar encourages initiatives to acknowledge, apologize and pay reparation for the untold suffering and evils inflicted on men, women and children as a result of slavery. Rooted in the principle of cognitive justice, the project has built a cross-community and international network dedicated to exploring and promoting the urgent need for reparations and other forms of transitional justice to address the longstanding adverse effects of Afrikan enslavement on society today. In doing so, the INOSAAR has sought to offer a positive contribution to the advancement of the International Social Movement for Afrikan Reparations (ISMAR).

Next steps, future plans for the network

The INOSAAR has submitted a bid to request follow-on funding to undertake three interconnected activities under the project title: 'Rethinking Reparations for African Enslavement as Cultural, Spiritual and Environmental Repair'. If successful, this project will focus on the twin themes of 'rematriation' (or the process of cultural and spiritual return to the African continent) and 'planet repairs' highlighting the important role that African systems of knowledge, including its cultures and spiritualities, can play in diversifying ecologically-focused social movements today. The three activities include: the creation of a high-quality video-documentary in Benin on cultural loss and the reconnection of African descendants to the continent; a training workshop in Ghana with African youth focused on planet and cultural repairs, and professional

training in communications and video-making, to expand youth participation in reparations-led environmental activism; and a workshop looking at rematriation, planet repairs and policymaking in link with traditional African leaders in Ghana (building from our existing connections in Benin).



⁵³ www.inosaar.llc.ed.ac.uk/en/activity/porto-novo

⁵⁴ www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/696363

⁵⁵ www.inosaar.llc.ed.ac.uk/en/home



Case Study 9



Project title

New Explorations into South Sudanese Museum Collections in Europe

PI: Dr Cherry Leonardi, Durham University

Co-I: Dr Zoe Cormack, Oxford University

www.southsudanmuseumnetwork.com/

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The new state of South Sudan is best known for its deeply troubled history; from enslavement and colonization in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, to the prolonged civil wars that led both to its independence in 2011 and to continued post-independence conflicts. This history of violence and victimhood poses both analytical and practical challenges to scholars and nation-builders alike: how can we better understand the interactions and strategies pursued by people even in violent contexts? How can we study and celebrate the creativity, resilience and reciprocities that also run through South Sudanese history? How can we gain a richer picture of the region's past, one that reaches beyond deterministic narratives of conflict and ethnic division? One resource for doing this lies unexploited in our midst – European museums house an estimated 20,000 objects, originally acquired by European travellers, traders, missionaries and officials in the Southern Sudanese region in the nineteenth or early twentieth century. It is these collections which became the focus of the AHRC-funded network which operated between May 2017 and August 2018.

This international network brought together academics from different disciplines with museum practitioners and heritage stakeholders to develop a research agenda on South Sudanese museum collections across Europe. The work investigated a huge but largely untapped resource for advancing understandings of South Sudan's history, global connections and creative arts. The network was co-organized by Dr Zoe Cormack (African Studies Centre, Oxford University) and Dr Cherry Leonardi (History, Durham University).

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

During the period of operation, the network ran three workshops in the UK and South Sudan:

1. 'South Sudanese collections and their histories' at Durham University, Durham, July 2017.⁵⁶
2. 'Working with objects: comparative approaches, technology and display' at Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, January 2018.⁵⁷
3. 'Connecting collections with South Sudan' at UNESCO, Juba, July 2018.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ www.southsudanmuseumnetwork.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/southsudanworkshopreport2017.pdf

⁵⁷ www.southsudanmuseumnetwork.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/ssmn-workshop-2-report-20aug-2018.pdf

⁵⁸ www.southsudanmuseumnetwork.com/events-2/workshop-3/



These workshops brought together museum and heritage professionals, academics, artistic and cultural practitioners and community representatives. Wider audiences were reached through media engagement and through the network website and its online resources: workshop reports, blogs, links including a working inventory of South Sudanese objects in museum collections in Europe and Russia.⁵⁹

Key findings were that the objects from South Sudan housed in European museums embody ambiguous and contentious histories: histories of creativity, skill and exchange, but also of conflict, exploitation, predation and imperialism. For South Sudanese people today, they may represent precious cultural heritage that has otherwise been lost or threatened by colonialism, conflict and displacement; but which has also been rendered hidden, inaccessible or distorted by processes of European collecting and curating. There are important questions for museum curators and others seeking to work with these collections about how to deal with the categories and identities which are reified within museum displays, such as ethnic differences and ethnographic categorizations – and which may be a source of division among South Sudanese today. The network identified the need for collaborative initiatives that could bring contemporary perspectives together with historical knowledge in and on South Sudan to better describe and display some of these objects.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

This network's operations link to the IDPAD by promoting a better understanding, recognition and contextualization of the culture, history and material heritage of South Sudan and its people through research, museum collections and public education. The workshop discussions and other activities of the network enabled participants to shed light on the memory of Sudanese communities and various public stakeholders through using objects to explore and generate a sense of shared heritage and history, in all its complexity, contestations and dynamism.

Next steps, future plans for the network

Network members are currently working on an edited book collection focusing on the histories, meanings and significance of heritage in South Sudan and individualized objects from South Sudan within and beyond the museum collections, with contributions from a wide range of the

network participants. Taken together the network documentary outputs and the connections forged through network activities provide a valuable basis for future research and engagement work to build upon and extend. The network website makes available important resources for future work on and beyond South Sudan, including the issues and questions raised in the workshop reports, which provide important signposts for future research and engagement directions.



Case Study 10



Project title

People of African Descent in the 21st Century: Knowledge and Cultural Production in Reluctant Sites of Memory

PI: Prof Olivette Otele, Bath Spa University

www.reluctantsitesofmemory.com/

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

The purpose of the network was to shed light on reluctant sites of memory and this network reached beyond academia to work with communities to explore connections between people of African descent and the history of involvement in transatlantic slavery, Black presence in South-East England and South Wales and colonial legacies. The network consisted of a cross-disciplinary study of 'sites of memory' related to the history and experiences of people of African descent. However, it extended the notion of sites of memory to the idea of 'reluctant sites of memory' which present a variety of micro-histories regarding the experiences of people of African descent. The polysemic term 'reluctant sites of memory' was chosen to emphasize that 'reluctance' evokes degrees of resistance from both minority groups and majority communities.

The network explored specific settings in order to show how these reluctantly tell the story of the legacies of colonial encounters between people of Africa, Asia and Europe. Some of the core questions the network explored were how such sites provide examples of active participation of people of African descent in shaping societies to which they were forcibly relocated. The network partnered with the South East Wales Racial Equality Council (SEWREC). Collaborators in the network include Prof Ana Lucia Araujo: Howard University, USA, Dr Adeola Dewis: Visual Artist and Performer, UK; Prof Iftikhar Malik: Bath Spa University; Prof Julia O'Connell Davidson: University of Bristol, UK; Dr Nina Reid-Maroney: Huron University College, Canada; and Dr Shawn Sobers: University of West England, UK.

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

This network has illuminated the mechanisms of cultural production at work in these various sites of memory through a series of workshops including creative performance as well as a conference: 'People of African Descent in the 21st Century: Knowledge and Cultural Production in Reluctant Sites of Memory' in September 2018, which was held in Bristol and featured international scholars. Through partnering with SEWREC the network was able to establish strong links to local agencies and community groups to participate in a series of workshops which enabled participants to share



their stories and to reflect upon, and challenge, the ways in which the history of people of African descent are represented in Western Europe. The outcomes of these workshops have increased knowledge and capacity for advocacy amongst educational practitioners as a contribution to the debates about the British Empire, the legacies of the past and how to include Black Welsh history in a regional curriculum. In addition, the network activities have also contributed to emerging research and knowledge-production which examines not only how arts-based initiatives can respond to traumatic memory, but also their potential therapeutic value for their participants, and their future role in the building of more resilient societies.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

People of African Descent in the 21st Century: Knowledge and Cultural Production in Reluctant Sites of Memory has contributed to the UN IDPAD by championing recognition of people of African descent and the victims of slavery and colonialism through the establishment of memorial sites in countries such as the UK that benefitted and profited from African enslavement. Although the focus of this network has been on reluctant sites of memory, these sites have undoubtedly served to honour and preserve the historical memory of people of African descent. Furthermore, such reluctant sites of memory are of huge significance to discussions and initiatives which seek to engage with people of African descent on appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of enslavement and colonization which they experience today.

Next steps, future plans for the network

Funding is being sought to continue the work of the network and to bring together network participants on a regular basis. It is hoped that funding can also be obtained to publish the papers that were presented at the conference on 'People of African Descent in the 21st century: knowledge and cultural production in reluctant sites of memory'.



Case Study 11



Project title

Small Magazines, Literary Networks and Self-Fashioning in Africa and its Diasporas

PI: Prof Madhu Krishnan, University of Bristol

Co-I: Dr Christopher Ernest Ouma, University of Cape Town

www.smallmagazinesafrica.org/

The work of the project, including core questions, research team and partners

Comprised of academics and practitioners, this research network seeks to explore the role of small magazines, literary journals, periodicals and other alternative print cultures from Africa in the larger context of Black Internationalism and its legacies. Literary magazines such as *Kwani?*,⁶⁰ *Bakwa*⁶¹ and *Chimurenga*⁶² play a crucial role in the self-fashioning of African identities. From sexuality, ethnicity and the ways in which space is lived and imagined these publications and the networks they create have developed civic participation and affiliation on a national scale and across the diaspora. However, these networks have been left critically unexamined. Small Magazines, Literary Networks and Self-Fashioning in Africa and its Diasporas aimed to change this. Led by Prof Madhu Krishnan at the University of Bristol and Dr Christopher Ouma at the University of Cape Town,⁶³ the project moved away from a modernist impulse toward 'high literature' and a tendency to focus on oral culture in sub-Saharan Africa. The project aimed instead to examine the networks and methodologies of cultural production these small magazines enact. The research network ran from February 2017 through to November 2018, looking to create collaborative links with a variety of different writers and publications. At its heart were two weeks of research spent in Cape Town and Kampala.

Key achievements, findings, outputs and outcomes

In Cape Town, a four-day workshop in April 2017 brought together writers, researchers and publishers, as well as policymakers and funders, with an interest in small magazines, literary networks, festivals and black identities. A research day was held on the premises of literary magazine *Chimurenga*, assisted by editor Stacy Hardy, a writer shortlisted for the Caine Prize for African Writing.⁶⁴ The research day was livestreamed through the Pan African Space Station, expanding the reach and engagement of the project.⁶⁵

The South African workshop was followed by a practice-based research week in Kampala, during

60 www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwani%3F

61 www.bakwamagazine.com/

62 www.chimurengachronic.co.za/

63 www.smallmagazinesafrica.org/member-profiles/

64 www.caineprize.com/

65 www.panafricanspacestation.org.za/



the Writivism festival⁶⁶ in August 2017, which provided many opportunities for networking and collaboration. Prof Krishnan says ‘having the week at the Festival was particularly important, as much of the work that is being done on the continent by young creatives escapes the visibility of scholarship, and therefore fails to garner the public attention and canonization it deserves’.

Further, the research spawned a number of new collaborations: a Global Challenge Research Fund funded project Creative Writing and Translation for Peace led by Prof Krishnan alongside Dr Ruth Bush (including collaborators Doseline Kiguru of the British Institute of East Africa⁶⁷ and *Bakwa* magazine⁶⁸) and a bespoke workshop at the Royal African Society’s Africa Writes 2017 Pop-Up: Bristol with *Saraba Magazine*.⁶⁹

The network also involved a number of workshops and a panel at the Africa Writes festival. A special edition of *Social Dynamics*⁷⁰ journal is being produced from the event – each article in the journal was workshopped at the conference through vigorous discussion. Some of the contributions are also being adapted for inclusion in the *Routledge Handbook of African Literature*.⁷¹

A packed-out panel was held consisting of Dr Kate Wallis (University of Exeter), Jama Musse Jama (founder of the Redsea Foundation, which runs the Hargeysa International Book Fair), Dr Ouma, Nancy Adimora (founder of AFREADA)⁷² and Dzekashu Macviban, of *Bakwa*. It promoted the work the network had done and joined up with work from the Horn of Africa, sub-Saharan Africa outside of the Horn and in the UK, where a number of small magazines by African diasporan people exist. A new collaboration was formed, for instance, between the Center for African Cultural Excellence, *Bakwa* and the Hargeysa Book Fair. By working with the Africa Writes festival, the project was able to engage with diaspora communities in London, whilst Prof Krishnan has further connected with Bristol’s Black South West Network⁷³ and African Voices Forum with hopes to run a workshop with young people, drawing from these groups. Six posts have been produced for the *Africa in Words* blog,⁷⁴ with a further two to come, each reaching at least 1,000 people.

A toolkit has been developed by the project with the independent publishers and entrepreneurs the research network engaged. It consists of reflective testimonies from educators and practitioners, sample lesson plans, and guidance for putting small magazines in conversation with ‘canonical’ African literature in the classroom.

Links to/contribution to UN IDPAD

This network has enabled a contribution to the IDPAD by promoting a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage and contributions of people of African descent to the development of societies through the dissemination of ideas and the promotion of initiatives and explorations amplified in the publication of small magazines, literary journals, periodicals and other alternative print cultures from Africa.

Next steps, future plans for the network

The working paper went to the project’s partner organizations and will be delivered to stakeholders across Africa through their networks. It summarizes the key observations and findings from the two research weeks, with a list of key challenges for African literary producers and recommendations for further research. Plans for a creative writing school in Nairobi have been developed significantly during the operation of the research network.



66 www.writivism.com/

67 www.biea.ac.uk/

68 www.bakwamagazine.com/

69 www.sarabamag.com/

70 www.africanstudies.uct.ac.za/cas/resources/social_dynamics

71 www.routledge.com/Routledge-Handbook-of-African-Literature/Adejumobi-Coetzee/p/book/9781138713864

72 www.afreada.com/

73 www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/

74 www.africainwords.com/



Glossary of Key Terms

Afriphobia

Prejudice, fear, hatred, bigotry or discrimination towards people of African heritage.

Afrodescendant

A person of African origin who lives in the Americas and in the region of the African Diaspora as a result of slavery, who have been denied the exercise of their fundamental rights.⁷⁵

AHRC

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) is a British research council and non-departmental public body that provides government funding to support research and postgraduate study in the arts and humanities. The AHRC is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), a new body that works in partnership with universities, research organizations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

Cognitive Justice

The right of multiple forms of knowledge to co-exist. This plurality recognizes the diversity of knowledges not only as methods, but as ways of life.

DDPA

Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The DDPA was adopted at the third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance which took place in Durban, South Africa in 2001.

GCRF

Global Challenge Research Fund. A £1.5 billion fund administered by UKRI announced by the UK Government in late 2015 to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries.

HEI

Higher Education Institution. An independent, self-governing body such as a university active in teaching, research and scholarship and established by Royal Charter or legislation.

IDPAD

International Decade for People of African Descent.

IRO

Independent Research Organisation. An organisation which is deemed by AHRC to have a large enough research 'critical mass' to be considered for AHRC funding in the same way as a university. To be eligible as an IRO, organizations must possess the in-house capacity to carry out research that substantially extends and enhances the national research base and be able to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake and lead research programmes.

IYPAD

International Year for People of African Descent. The year 2011 was officially proclaimed the 'International Year for Persons of African Descent' (IYPAD) by the general assembly of the United Nations (UN) in Resolution A/RES/64/169, adopted on December 18, 2009.

People of African Descent (PAD)

People of African descent may be defined as descendants of the African victims of the trans-Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea Traffic in Enslaved Africans. The group includes those of the sub-Saharan Traffic in Enslaved Africans.⁷⁶ People of African descent live in many countries of the world, either dispersed among the local population or in communities. The largest concentration can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean where estimates reach 200 million. Whether descendants of those Africans that were displaced to the Americas during the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans (TTEA), people of African descent throughout the world make up some of the most marginalized groups. They are a specific victim group who continue to suffer discrimination as the historic legacy of the TTEA.

Principal Investigator (PI)/Co-Investigator (Co-I)

Positions in a research project. Those who carry out these roles are usually named in a funded research proposal. The Principal Investigator is considered to be responsible for the project from a management/administrative and financial perspective. A Co-investigator (Co-I) assists the Principal Investigator in the management and leadership of the research project.

⁷⁵ The Declaration of Santiago arising from the 2000, Regional Conference of the Americas in the city of Santiago, Chile, which was a preparatory conference for the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. was the first instrument of international human rights law to define the concept of Afro-descendants and recognize the people of African descent as subjects of rights and especially subjects of international human rights law. This definition was ratified by states at the third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance – known as the Durban Conference which took place in 2001.

⁷⁶ An amendment of the definition proposed by the United Nations Working Group of Experts of People of African Descent 'UN Working Group on People of African Descent, Identification and Definition of People of African Descent and How Racial Discrimination Against them is Manifested in Various Regions', E/CN.4/2003/WG.20/WP.3

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face collectively, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

TTEA

Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans. This is a redefining what is commonly referred to as the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This definition is considered to be more appropriate term as it does not reinforce the dehumanization of enslaved Africans.

UKRI

United Kingdom Research and Innovation. Operating across the whole of the UK with a combined budget of more than £7 billion, UKRI brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England. It works in partnership with universities, research organizations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

WCAR

World Conference Against Racism.

WGPA

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD) is an output of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism and is comprised of five independent experts, who are authorized to conduct country visits upon invitation of governments. The WGPAD is mandated to make proposals on the elimination of racial discrimination against Africans and people of African descent in all parts of the world; and to address all the issues concerning the well-being of Africans and people of African descent contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.





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