Call for Papers

Workshop: Caring for ourselves? Writing histories of slavery, colonialism, and race
September 13th, 2024, The University of Edinburgh

In recent years, funding for PhD and postdoctoral research on Britain’s history of slavery, colonialism and race has increased, expanding the profile and breadth of the field. However, the question of how to ethically pursue and undertake this research has largely been left underexplored. Therefore, we ask the following questions:

1. How should we engage in these histories with an ethic of care?
2. What responsibility do we have to ourselves as researchers, to the subjects of these histories and their descendants?
3. What role does our positionality have in this research, and how can we work with self-awareness to enhance our archival practice, writing, and work?
4. What is the purpose and politics of this research?

As four early career researchers engaged in this area of work, Dr April-Louise Pennant (Social Sciences, Cardiff University), Hannah Cusworth (History, University of Hull and English Heritage), Emma Pearce (History of Art, University of Edinburgh) and Siân Davies (History, University of Edinburgh), we would like to invite participants to a one-day workshop at the University of Edinburgh to discuss these questions and propose answers in a collaborative and caring environment. Moving away from ‘findings’ and results, we want to engage in a reflexive discussion focused on methodology, approach, and the how and why of our research. While focused on the histories of slavery, colonialism, and race, we welcome participants from across the humanities and historical approaches in the social sciences engaged with these topics as we want to make a necessary intervention which challenges the established neglect of these considerations within history as a discipline in Britain.

We invite participation in three ways. Presentations and papers may focus on any aspect of the questions listed above:

Presentations: We invite presentations of 15 minutes from PhDs and ECRs on the how and why of their research. Please submit a 300-word abstract of your presentation and a CV.

Pre-circulated written paper: We invite pre-circulated papers to be submitted, circulated, and discussed as part of the workshop. To apply, please submit a 300-word abstract of your paper and a CV. If accepted, complete papers of 4,000 words will be due one month before the workshop on 13th August.

Attendance: Those wishing to attend but not present or submit writing for discussion should submit a 250-word statement of motivation and a CV.

We particularly welcome applicants with personal connections to this topic and descendants of the enslaved and colonised.
Please note before submitting that all contributors and attendees will be required to stay for the whole workshop on **Friday, the 13th of September 2024, from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM** at **The University of Edinburgh**, central campus.

Funding dependant, we hope to contribute to the cost of travel and accommodation. Travel bursary applications from accepted participants will be considered.

Deadline for submission, **31st March 2024** to cfworkshop2024@gmail.com.

---