



Centre for the Study of the

Legacies of British Slave-ownership

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Newsletter April 2017

Remembering slavery

Nick Draper will be leading a course at Gladstone's Library in Hawarden, North Wales, on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th April. Day places and residential places are available. Sessions include 'The Material and commercial legacies of British slave-ownership' and 'The Gladstones and slavery'.

The Gladstone's Library is a particularly appropriate setting. William Ewart



The reading room of Gladstone's Library

Gladstone was Liberal Prime Minister in four separate parliaments between 1868 and 1894. His father Sir John Gladstone built the family's wealth in the 1820s and 1830s from the West Indian economy and was an awardee in claims for £106,769 compensation for the ownership of 2,508 enslaved people following Emancipation. William Ewart Gladstone endowed the library with £40,000 and donated 32,000 of his own books. As Nick says, the Gladstone's Library 'stands for both the remembering of the greatness of Britain's liberal traditions and the forgetting of what lies behind that greatness'.

For an interview with Nick, see [here](#) and for a detailed programme, see [here](#). For more information on the course, email enquiries@gladlib.org.

Hidden Histories seminar

The University of Plymouth hosted a Hidden Histories seminar in November last year on the importance of researching diverse histories locally and nationally. The sessions are now available to view online with performances from, among others, [Louisa Adjoa Parker](#) and [Annet Richard-Binns](#). Presentators include Rachel Lang on [the LBS project](#), S.I. Martin on '[Black histories for new audiences](#)', Joanna Traynor on '[History through a different lens](#)' and Lucy Mackeith on '[Marginal Stories? Moving our stories to the centre](#)'. See [here](#) for the full set of performances and presentations.



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Slavery, Emancipation and art

Art has been used to make political statements both upholding and resisting the institution of slavery, to challenge and deconstruct ideas of 'blackness'. A day-long workshop at the University of Central Lancashire on 20th April will explore the role of art in issues of slavery, emancipation, resistance and identity. With contributions from artists [Lubaina Himid](#), [Kimathi Donkor](#) and [Joy Gregory](#) this looks to be a fascinating event where the emphasis will be on debate and discussion.



Catalogue from Lubaina Himid's installation, [Naming the money](#) (2004)

The workshop takes place from 10am to 5pm on the 4th floor of the Media Factory at UCLAN in Preston. For more information and to book a place, see the Anti-slavery Usable Past [eventbrite page](#).

Hannah Young

We're very pleased that Hannah Young, a PhD student with the LBS project, has submitted her thesis, 'Gender and absentee slave-ownership in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Britain'. Hannah's earlier MA dissertation on female slave-owners is available for download [here](#). Her work stemmed from the surprising statistic that 41% of awardees and direct beneficiaries of slave compensation were women.

Hannah's PhD thesis explores the relationship between gender, property and power. Using [Thomas Lane](#) as a case study she looks at how concepts of masculinity shaped Lane's presentation of himself simultaneously as a gentleman and a slave-owner. She also investigates the ways in which [Anna Eliza Grenville](#) exerted control over her inherited property despite the legal limitations of her position as a married woman.

Hannah wrote a blog about her work on the papers of Anna Eliza Elletson (mother of Anna Eliza Grenville) which you can read [here](#). A [separate blog](#) describes her own experience of visiting the Hope Botanical Gardens in Kingston, the site of the sugar plantation owned by the Grenville family. Hannah has been a brilliant colleague over the last three and a half years and we wish her well in her new fellowship in the United States.