



Centre for the Study of the

Legacies of British Slave-ownership

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Newsletter February 2019

Andrea Levy (1956-2019)

We have lost a strong, witty and wise voice with the death of [Andrea Levy](#), aged 62, from cancer on 14 February. Her writings spoke to the experiences of a generation of Black Britons.

Andrea won widespread acclaim and a multitude of prizes with her fourth novel, [Small Island](#). Her final novel, [The Long Song](#), was recently [dramatised](#) by the BBC.

"Britain made the Caribbean that my parents came from," she said. "It provided the people – black and white – who make up my ancestry. In return my ancestors, through their forced labour and their enterprise, contributed greatly to the development of this country. My heritage is Britain's story, too."



New LBS Director

A new [Chair of History](#) at UCL will be appointed to take over the position of Director of LBS on the retirement of Nick Draper in September 2019. Interviews will take place in April and the successful candidate will be announced shortly after.

In addition, UCL Institute of Advanced Studies is looking to appoint a [Professor and Director](#) of the newly-formed Centre for the Study of Race and Racism (CSRR). The new Centre will focus on critical race studies, race theory, the histories and representations of racialised thinking and its impacts and effects. The CSRR will offer a new MA in Race and Racism. The closing date for applications is 26 February.

Black History Walks

There are twelve events planned for late February and March by Black History Walks. [The Black Presence in the National Gallery](#) on Sunday 3 March and [Secrets of Soho](#) on Saturday 9 March are of particular interest; other the events include film showings and walks in Brixton, Notting Hill, Bank and Hackney. For a full schedule see [here](#).



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Empires of the Mind

Catherine Hall will be in conversation with [Robert Gildea](#) on Monday 4th March at 5pm at the Nazrin Shah Lecture Theatre at Worcester College, Oxford, to discuss his new book [Empires of the Mind: The Colonial Past and the Politics of the Present](#).

According to Catherine, 'The past never remains in the past, Robert Gildea skilfully reminds us as he recounts the brutal histories of both British and French colonial and neo-colonial ventures. This is a book that insists on the connections between what happens/ed 'out there' and what happens/ed 'in here' and helps us to think through that complex and dangerous entanglement, which continues to inform our contemporary politics today.'

Activities in Liverpool

Two hands-on activities will take place at the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool this weekend and next. Both events are family-friendly.

At '[African Myths and Legends](#)', from 1-3pm on Sunday 24 February in the Anthony Walker Education Centre, participants can explore folk tales and mythology and create their own artworks. '[Slavery and Abolition](#)' on Saturday 2 March from 11am till 12 noon gives people the chance to handle objects from the museum's collection and examine the lives of abolitionists.

Both events are free and no prior booking is required.

Beyond Slavery and Abolition

In his new book, [Beyond Slavery and Abolition: Black British Writers c. 1770-1830](#), [Ryan Hanley](#) assesses the contribution of Black authors to the politics and culture of Britain in the years before abolition.

Hanley considers the lives of Black celebrities such as Ignatius Sancho and Mary Prince, radicals like Ottobah Cugoana and Robert Wedderburn and previously neglected Evangelical authors including Boston King and John Jea. By exploring the influence of these individuals in their wider social and political networks, Hanley argues that Black intellectuals were never confined to the peripheries of British culture.

