



Centre for the Study of the

Legacies of British Slave-ownership

www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs

Newsletter May 2020

Port Royal project



At LBS, we have been working on a new project to transcribe and digitise the slave registers for the parish of Port Royal in Jamaica. Our new research assistant, Matt Stallard has spent the last few months devising forms and queries to enable us to link enslaved people across different registers, to develop biographical information and chart movements and familial relationships amongst enslaved people. We envisage extending our public database to include enslaved people and will let you know how the project progresses in future newsletters.

Matt has outlined his work and its applications on the [LBS blog](#).

Epidemics and African American Communities

The Project on Race & Gender in Science & Medicine at the Hutchins Center, Harvard, is sponsoring a series of conversations on 'Epidemics and African American Communities from 1793 to the Present'. Each event is hosted by Evelyn M. Hammonds. Three past sessions are available on youtube if you follow the links:

[*Epidemics and Health Disparities in African American Communities: A Conversation with David R. Williams*](#)

[*The Myth of Innate Racial Differences between White and Black People's Bodies: Lessons from the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A Conversation with Rana Hogarth*](#)

[*Lessons Not Learned: Smallpox and African Americans in the 1860s: A Conversation with Jim Downs.*](#)

The next session, on African Americans, public health and the 1918 influenza epidemic, will take place on Zoom today (30 April) at 4pm EST. You can register to watch it live via Zoom and find out more about the series [here](#).



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New Doctoral studentship

Birkbeck and the National Portrait Gallery are jointly hosting a fully funded collaborative doctoral studentship examining the links between the National Portrait Gallery and historical transatlantic slavery. The closing date for applications is 3 June with a preferred start date of 1 October 2020.

The student will be encouraged to pursue their own original enquiries but the project may address which of the NPG's founders, donors and sitters had direct links with transatlantic slavery and how this history resonates across Britain's cultural sector, past and present. The project supervisors are [Sarah Thomas](#) and [Lucy Peltz](#).

See [here](#) for further details of the project and the application process.

The Bonds of Family

Katie Donington will explore slavery, commerce and culture in the British Atlantic world on Monday 4 May at 4pm BST as part of the [Historical Association webinar series](#). The event addresses the history of transatlantic slavery through the multi-generational story of the Hibbert family.

From humble beginnings in the Manchester cloth trade, the Hibberts established a trading empire which propelled them into the political and social elite in both Britain and Jamaica. They fought against abolition and were instrumental in securing compensation for the slave-owners. As collectors and philanthropists they left behind tangible legacies which raise complex questions about slavery's afterlife.

The webinar will be held using the Adobe Connect platform. Participants can register to listen live or to receive a link to listen to the webinar after the event. See [here](#) for more information.

