

## **Researching Black British History – a worksheet for schools**

In this live event recording of 22 October 2020, four researchers from the University of Manchester share insights into their current research projects on Black British History and various research techniques such as using interviews or newspaper sources.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEtFAqrwnkA>

We give a brief outline of each segment below. Your students might find it useful to consider the following questions:

### **While watching:**

- What does each researcher say about the techniques/sources they used for their work?
- What do the presenters say about the specific issues they encountered while conducting their research in a British rather than an US American context?

### **For discussion after watching:**

- Are there any approaches you could use for your own work?
- Can you think of a way in which you could have used the Black British experience in a recent assignment, and how this might have changed your argument?

### **Outline of each film segment**

Xavier Banson (2:30 onwards) discusses how he used an oral history approach to research his MA thesis and gives practical advice on how to conduct and use interviews in historical research.

Zalirah Cooper (14:07 onwards) discusses some of the research findings for her PhD project on *Black Britons in the Industrial North 1960-70*. Being from the US, she also outlines the different approaches needed by researchers to uncover the experiences of black Britons vs their African-American contemporaries. She also explains why she decided to focus her research on working class communities in England's North.

Dr Eloise Moss (25:13 onwards) gives an insight into research for her next book project on hotels in Britain, and how she encompasses Black British history in this research. Similar to Zalirah's presentation, she draws a parallel to US history and how a historian of the British experience needs to employ different techniques.

Jessica White (39:20 onwards) outlines some of her research findings for her PhD on female identity in post WWII Britain. Using newspapers as sources, she gives a demonstration how historians need to critically assess the material to use it for their research.