

Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre

Head of AIU RACE Centre & Education Trust - Safina Islam

Library & Archive Manager - Lianne Smith

Collections Engagement Officer - Maya Sharma

Library Assistant - Annie Dickinson

Academic Director - Claire Fox



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RACE Centre & Education Trust

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Head of AIUET - Safina Islam

Audience Development Officer - Angela Smith

Finance Officer - Helen Cooley

CIFTC Project Manager - Maya Sharma

CIFTC Community Archivist - Laila Benhaida

CIFTC Community Producer - Hafsah Bashir

CIFTC Collections Assistant (Digitisation) - Sonbal Khokar

CIFTC Collections Assistant (Digital Engagement) - Kadija Ollow

CIFTC Freelance Archivist - Joanne Robson



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MANCHESTER
1824

Vision and Mission

Our ***vision*** is an inclusive, equally represented and racially just society where everyone belongs.

Our ***mission*** is to make global majority history, heritage and culture more accessible, supporting excellence in research and learning through community partnerships and inclusive practice.

Values and guiding principles

We work collaboratively and respectfully for others - centring the needs of global majority groups and not those of the institution.

We take a lead in challenging inequality, discrimination and bias.

We work courageously to uncover, record and collect marginal histories, by providing a safe space for discussion, learning and exploring.

We proactively seek to share our platform and privilege.

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What do we do?

- Collecting and collections management
- Work with schools and young people
- Community heritage projects
- Public and creative engagement
- Supporting teaching, learning and research
- Advocacy, networking, and partnerships
- Access to collections

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Centre of Excellence

- Oral histories
- Collections of national significance
- Policy and ethics in relation to contemporary digital collecting
- Cap- Co funded oral history lab equipment will enable us to support even more meaningful community led collecting
- Delivering training and capacity building in communities to lead their own heritage projects and heritage at risk

Anti-racism and EDI in heritage sector

- Nationally recognised as thought leaders; developing our voice further
- Current research project into EDI in the heritage sector
- Coaching and mentoring collecting organisations

Teaching and learning

- Contributed 11 online sessions last year
- More than "just" archives - bringing anti-racist and collections-led approaches to teaching

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For many this was their first archive trip and as History students, meant that it was the first time they saw the ‘stuff’ of their subject. It was also a unique perspective into collections on Black and global majority collections. It was also an eye-opener for many of the students in regards to the archival practice and the significance of decolonised vs colonialist methods of doing this.

The students found the materials surprising and have remarked on how they shifted entirely their preconceptions of Moss Side and Black communities in Manchester. A few students have already stated their intention to return to the archive to carry out further research related to my module, and their dissertations.

Research

- Supporting individual researchers
- RACE Centre research strategy in development that addresses our needs / we are principal investigators
- Collaborating with academics in research proposals eg AHRC-funded Black Power in North research project starting in Feb 2022 (we co-lead with Kerry Pimblott for the North)

Diversifying and Decolonising our collections

- Current collections relate to race, ethnicity and migration and include academic and popular works, children's books and a local history section

Issues:

- Some material is dated
- Lack of intersectionality
- Lack of synergy between the archive and library collections
- The importance of the oral tradition and storytelling isn't reflected

Diversifying and Decolonising our collections

Process

- Focusing on UK history, culture and identity, race theory and gender initially
- Auditing collections to examine who is writing what we hold and whether they are well placed to do so
- Looking for gaps in subject areas and checking whether there is fair representation amongst the topics and themes
- Collaborating with ICP students

Intended outcomes

- ensure that the library remains diverse, relevant and current
- ensure that the library holdings reflect and complement our archive holdings
- ensure the collections reflect and support our vision, mission and values as an organisation working towards a fairer and more just society.