

The October Dialogues 2015

Black Lives Matter:

*The Past, Present and Future of an International Movement
for Rights and Justice*

Nottingham Contemporary, The Space

28 October 28 2015

9.30am-9pm

Christopher Alder. Sandra Bland. Michael Brown. Kingsley Burrell. Kindra Chapman. Julian Cole. Smiley Culture. Joyce Curnell. Mark Duggan. Demetre Fraser. Joy Gardner. Eric Garner. Oscar Grant. Freddie Gray. Cherry Groce. Mya Hall. Cynthia Jarrett. Ralkina Jones. Rodney King. Stephen Lawrence. Olaseni Lewis. Trayvon Martin. Edita Pommel. Tamir Rice. Sean Rigg. Colin Roach. Tony Robinson. Azelle Rodney. Walter Scott. Raynette Turner. #SayTheirNames #ICantBreathe #HandsUpDontShoot #BlackLivesMatter

The rallying calls of a new movement have spread across the US and the UK. There have been over 1000 Black Lives Matter protests worldwide in the last two years and mobilisations in at least 10 UK cities. There are now 30 Black Lives Matter chapters across the United States. The movement responds to the oppression, violence and exclusion that shapes black lives: in the US, 42% of black children are educated in high-poverty schools, black Americans are 37% of the country's homeless population, constitute nearly half of the 2 million jail population, and are 26% of those killed by police (though are 13% of the national population). In the UK, black children are more than twice as likely as white children to be living in poverty, black people are six times as likely as whites to be stopped and searched, are more likely to go to jail when convicted of similar crimes and will serve longer sentences, are twice as likely not to be in employment, education or training, and are more likely to be forcibly restrained when held under mental health legislation. "I Can't Breathe" evokes the suffocating daily reality of all these statistics.

A series of panels featuring activists and researchers will explore the roots, dynamics and possible futures of #BlackLivesMatter. Is it a movement or a moment? A transatlantic or an American phenomenon? How does it operate on local, regional, national or international levels? How does it negotiate leadership? What characterises its rhetoric, visual culture and philosophies? Is it a new civil rights movement, a new Black Power movement or a

new black feminism? What is its protest heritage - is there a usable past for Black Lives Matter? What should #BlackLivesMatterUK be about? What is the history of Black Lives Matter since the UK Race Relations Act and the US Civil Rights Movement of 50 years ago, and where is Black Lives Matter going next?

Programme

9.30-10am: **Registration**

10-10.30am: **Opening remarks and spoken-word performance**

10.30-11.45am: **Global Protest and #BlackLivesMatter as an International Movement**

(chair: Champa Patel)

Kadija Sesay: *Black, Bitter and Beautiful: The Role of Poets in Human Rights Campaigns*

Karen Salt: *Mapping the Roots/Routes of Power: David Oluwale, #BlackLivesMatter and Activism in the Diaspora*

Joshua Aiken: *Black Lives Matter as Social Theory: Distributing Life Chances*

11.45am-12pm: **break**

12-1.15pm: **Gender Activism and #BlackLivesMatter as an Intersectional Movement**

(chair: Victoria Showunmi)

Althea Legal-Miller: *#SayHerName: The 1960s Mobilisation against Law Enforcement Sexual Violence and the Usable Past for Black Lives Matter Movements*

Ella Achola: *Ain't I A Woman: Tell Her-Story*

Stephanie Davis: *Queer and Trans People of Colour Activism and the Black Lives Matter Movement: Resisting the Silences on the Intersections of Race, Gender and Sexuality*

1.15-2pm: **lunch**

2-3.15pm: **Criminal (In)Justice and #BlackLivesMatter as a Black Power Movement**

(chair: Monica Miller)

Kennetta Hammond Perry: *The Anti-Discrimination Paradox: Race Relations Policy, Policing & the Politics of Black British Citizenship*

John Narayan: *The Coloured Cosmopolitanism of Black Power: From the Black Panther Party to #BlackLivesMatter*

Kehinde Andrews: *Black is a Country: Black Radicalism and Contemporary Organising Against Racial Oppression*

3.15-3.30pm: **break**

3.30-4.45pm: **Grassroots Activism and #BlackLivesMatter as a Civil Rights Movement**

(chair: James Braxton Peterson)

Brian Kwoba: *Lessons from History: Black Lives Matter and the 2016 Election*

Adam Elliott-Cooper: *Disruption At The Point Of Consumption: How #BlackLivesMatter Changed What Solidarity Looks Like*

Imani Robinson: *"In a world where black lives matter, I imagine'...: Movement-Building, Creativity and the Rehumanisation of Black Lives*

4.45-5.15pm: **Closing address by Stafford Scott**

5.15-6.30pm: **dinner**

6.30-9pm: **Hip Hop and Social Justice**

Featuring performance and discussion with Akala, performances by local hip hop artists, and keynote addresses:

Monica Miller: *Know Where / Nowhere to Go?: Hip Hop, Black Life, and White Li(v)es in a Post-Civil Rights Era*

James Braxton Peterson: *A Song, A Slogan, and A Service: Dispatches from the Movement for Black Lives*

Additional events:

Tuesday, 27 October (The Night Before)

6.30-8.30pm: **Baldwin's Nigger Reloaded II-Publication Launch and Film Night**

Nottingham group Chat'Bout launch a newspaper about racism, the criminal justice system and the role of women created in collaboration with artists Barby Asante and sorryoufeeluncomfortable, with a screening of films of the past and present looking at race, activism and social justice.

Thursday, 29 October (The Morning After)

10am-1pm: **Black Lives Matter Activist Workshop**

An open workshop to reflect and devise actions emerging from the conference.