



**INSTITUTE OF
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH**

**SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

The Windrush Scandal in a Transnational and Commonwealth Context

#WSTCC

Windrush75

Monday 19 June 2023
Institute of Historical Research



The Windrush Scandal in its Transnational and Commonwealth Context

June 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks, bringing with it over 500 passengers from the Caribbean. It will be a time to celebrate the longer historical presence of people with Caribbean heritage in the UK. But that anniversary also comes in the wake of the Windrush Scandal, which saw members of that community arrested, detained and in some cases deported, despite having every right to remain in the UK. In this day-long conference we explore how the scandal was possible and what its long term impact is likely be.

The free evening event that follows will celebrate the contribution of the Windrush Generation.

The conference and evening entertainment will mark the launch of the Windrush Project website and a series of roadshow events designed to open a dialogue about the findings of the research.



For internet access please connect to **UOL CONFERENCES**
No password is required.

Monday 19 June 2023

10.30- 11.00 **Registration**

11.00- 11.15 **Conference welcome**

Philip Murphy (Director, History & Policy and Principle investigator on the Windrush in a Transnational and Commonwealth Context project)

11.15 - 12.30 **Panel 1: Taking the long view. How was the Windrush Scandal Possible?**

Chair: **Philip Murphy** (Institute of Historical Research)

- **Amelia Gentleman** (Investigative journalist and author of *The Windrush Betrayal*)
 - **Guy Hewitt** (Former Barbados High Commissioner to the UK, and Director, Church of England)
 - **Patrick Vernon** (Social commentator, cultural historian and social justice activist)
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12.30- 13.45 **Lunch** (provided)

13.45 - 15.00 **Panel 2: A Long History of Deportation and Anti-Deportation Campaigns**

Chair: **Rob Waters** (Senior Lecturer in Modern British History, Queen Mary, University of London and Co-investigator, *The Windrush Scandal in its Transnational and Commonwealth Context*)

- **Gus John** (Director, Gus John Consultancy Ltd; political activist, educationalist and author of several notable works including *Because They're Black*, 1972)
 - **Stella Dadzie** (Founder member of OWAAD, activist, historian and author of *The Heart of the Race: Black Women's Lives in Britain*, 1985)
 - **Hannana Siddiqui** (Head of Policy and Research at Southall Black Sisters and author of several notable works)
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15.00 - 16.15 **Panel 3: Commonwealth High Commissions, International Diplomacy and UK-Caribbean Relations**

Chair: **Eve Hayes de Kalaf** (Research Fellow, *The Windrush Scandal in its Transnational and Commonwealth Context*)

- **Arthur Snell** (former British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, 2011-2014)
 - **David Comissiong** (Barbados' Ambassador to the Caribbean Community-CARICOM)
 - TBC
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16.15- 16.30 **Break** (provided)

16.30 - 17.30 **Panel 4: Looking to the Future - Reparations, Compensation and Justice**

Chair: **Juanita Cox** (Research Fellow, The Windrush Scandal in its Transnational and Commonwealth Context)

- **Gus John** (Director, Gus John Consultancy Ltd; political activist, educationalist and author of several notable works including *Because They're Black*, 1972)
- **Martin Forde KC** (Barrister at Law, Former Independent Advisor to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, and author of *The Forde Report into antisemitism in the Labour Party*)
- **Anna Steiner** (Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster and Supervising Solicitor at the Windrush Justice Clinic)

17.30- 17.45 **Conference Close**

Remembering the Ship in Citizenship: An Evening with John Agard and a Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Windrush

This free evening event rounds off the day-long workshop on The Windrush Scandal in its Transnational and Commonwealth Context, offering us an opportunity to celebrate the 75th Anniversary Windrush and reflect on the contributions of the so-called 'Windrush Generation' to British society.

Readings by the internationally renowned poet and playwright, **John Agard**, will form the centrepiece of evening. Agard was born in British Guiana (present-day Guyana) in 1949 and has lived in the UK since 1977 working for the Commonwealth Institute and the BBC. He is the winner of the 1997 Paul Hamlyn Award for Poetry and the 2021 Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. In November 2021 he became the first poet to be awarded the Book Trust's Lifetime Achievement Award. His works have featured on the AQA English GCSE syllabus since 2002. He has been engaged in a wide range of Public Engagement and Knowledge Exchange initiatives, including serving as poet-in-residence at the National Maritime Museum in 2008. One of his famous poems, implores us to '*remember the ship in citizenship*' and fittingly offers us the title of this evening's event.

John Agard will be supported by the **Tobago Crusoe**, a calypsonian, composer, musician and a performing artist with over 30 years experience.



John Agard



Tobago Crusoe

18.00- 18.15 **Welcome & Introduction to the evening**

18.15- 19.00 **Performance and creative response from John Agard, supported by Tobago Crusoe**

19.00- 20.30 **Reception**
Books by John Agard available for sale in the MacMillan Hall

The Windrush Scandal in its Transnational and Commonwealth Context project would like to thank the following organisations for making these events possible:



For further information:



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