

DR RENÉE LANDELL

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Comparative Literature and Cultures 2019-2023
Thesis: *Wi Run Tings, Tings Nuh Run Wi: Black Humanity and the Nonhuman World in Anglophone Caribbean Neo-Slave Narratives, 1983-2020*
Royal Holloway, University of London
- M.A. by Research, Comparative Literature and Cultures 2017-2018
Thesis: *The Infernal Paradise: Returning to Earth by Re-humanizing the Body and Land through Caribbean Poetry*
Royal Holloway, University of London
- B.A. with Hons, Comparative Literature and Cultures - 1:1 / First Class 2014-2017
*Recipient of the Driver Prize for 'Outstanding Achievement'.
Royal Holloway, University of London

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

World Literature; Literary and Cultural Theory; Caribbean Literatures of Slavery; Black British Writing; Postcolonial/Decolonial Theory; Environmental Studies; Visual Arts.

PUBLICATIONS

- 'Beauty & the Beast: White Women, Black Men & The Question of the Animal in *Slave Song*'. In D. Dabydeen, & L. Macedo (Eds.), *Writings on David Dabydeen*. Hansib Publications. Book Chapter. (forthcoming, 2024).
- 'Breaking the Body: Blackness and Animality in David Dabydeen's *Slave Song*'. In C. Spear & M. Sinclair (Eds.), *Territorial Bodies: World Culture in Crisis*. Warwick Series in the Humanities, Routledge. Book Chapter. (forthcoming, 2024).
- 'Cover Me with the Leaves of Your Blackness': Collaborative Resistance Across Species Boundaries in Caribbean Neo-Slave Literature. In E. Spiegelhofer, & E. Tavella (Eds.), *Animated Wor(l)ds: Language and Relationality for Multispecies Kinship*. The University of Chicago, OCHRE. Book Chapter. (forthcoming, 2024).
- 'Making the Revolution Global: Black Radicalism and the British Socialist Movement Before Decolonisation', by Theo Williams. *Twentieth Century British History*. Journal. Oxford University Press. Book Review. (published, 2023).
- 'Why we need to stop thinking of the Caribbean as a tourist 'paradise''. *The Conversation*. Web-Based Publication. (published, 2021).
- 'Naming "Paradise": The Adamic Imagination, Colonial Toponyms, and Remembering the Indigenous Caribbean' *Environmental History Now*. Web-Based Publication. (published, 2021).
- 'Reading/Speaking/Writing the Mother Text: Essays on Caribbean Women's Writing', ed. by Cristina Herrera and Paula Sanmartín. *Journal of West Indian Literature*. Book Review. (published, 2020).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2023	School of Advanced Study Creative Practitioner in Residence Fellowship	£4000
2019-22	Technē AHRC. Royal Holloway, University of London Ph.D. Studentship	£55,681.30 + £4,000 (fees)
2021	Technē AHRC The Research Training Support Grant	£1,000
2021-22	Royal Holloway Doctoral School Research Awards	£378
2020	Technē Study Support and Work Placement Fund (SS&WP)	£1,500

AWARDS AND PRIZES: RACE EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN ACADEMIA

- Nominee, 2021. National Diversity Award (NDA) in association with ITV News, '*Positive Role Model*' – Category: *Race/Faith/Religion*.
- Winner, 2019. National Union of Students (NUS), *Campaign of the Year: Most Effective Campaign/s Tackling Critical Issues in Race and Justice*, NUS Black Student's Conference.
- Recipient, 2019. Passport Award, *Serving the College and Local Community*, Royal Holloway, University of London.
- Winner, 2018. Laurel Award, *Contribution to the Student's Union & Devotion to Helping Others*, Royal Holloway, University of London.
- Runner-up, 2018. National Union of Students (NUS), *UK Black Student of the Year: For Commitment to Activism and Personal Student Achievement*, NUS Black Student's Conference.

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PAPERS

- October 2023. 'In Plain Sight: Racist Objects and Nostalgia'. *Living With Difference*. Wolverhampton Art Gallery.
- November 2022. 'Racist Objects – what they mean and how to deal with them'. *International Museums Association Conference 2022: Make Change Happen*. Panel. Museums Association
- July 2022. 'Early-Career Environmental Historians for a Sustainable Academia'. *European Society for Environmental History Conference 2022*. Panel. University of Bristol
- May 2022. 'Dissecting the Case for Reparatory Justice'. *One Young World Bath 2022*. Panel. University of Bath
- March 2022. 'Black, British, and Writing'. *States of Independence Book Festival*. Panel. De Montfort University, Leicester
- October 2021. 'From school to PhD in Humanities: the trajectory, experiences, and activism of two BAME postgraduate students.' *Diversifying Towards Decolonising the Curriculum*. Panel. University of Winchester
- July 2021. *(S)exploitation and the Sugar Plantation: Interrogating the Jezebel Stereotype in Caribbean Literature*. Paper presented at the 'Society for Caribbean Studies 44th Annual Conference' International, Virtual.
- May 2021. 'The Unpalatable Mammy Stereotype and Literature'. *Unpalatable, Inedible, and Indigestible: Exploring Boundaries, Constructs and Communities in Human Food Practices*. Symposium. Invited Speaker. Royal Holloway, University of London
- November 2020. 'Zwarte Piet: National Tradition or a Remnant of a Colonial Past?'. Invited Speaker. Presented at the *Black Employee Inclusion Group event*, a network of ING Bank, Netherlands

June 2020. Poster presentation. ‘Doctoral School Annual Conference’. Royal Holloway, University of London

March 2020. ‘A History of Anti-Black Images and Literature’. *Guest Talk for Paisley executives and partners*. Invited Speaker. Paisley Museum, Scotland

November 2019. *Reflections on Mess and Research Panel*. Student-Led Conference. St Luke's Community Centre. TECHNE.

July 2019. Mythologies, Bodies and Ecologies. *TECHNE Student Congress*. The University of Brighton.

July 2019. ‘That Won't Put Food on the Table: Fighting the Stigma of the Arts and Humanities in Black Communities.’. *Disrupting the Discourse*. Invited Speaker. Leading Routes x Wellcome Collection.

June 2019. *We Run Tings, Tings Nuh Run We: Rewriting Caribbean Bodies and the Environment in Anglophone Caribbean Literature*. The 'SMLLC Postgraduate Colloquium'. Royal Holloway, University of London.

June 2018. *The Infernal Paradise: Returning to Earth by Re-humanizing the Body and Land Through Caribbean Poetry*. The ‘SMLLC Postgraduate Colloquium’. Royal Holloway, University of London.

ACADEMIC AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

November 2023. **Seminar**

University of Manchester, UK

I was invited to teach a seminar to undergraduate and postgraduate students in UoM's history department, starting with an outline of my research and followed with some critical information and advice for those hoping to pursue further degrees and careers in Higher Education.

October 2023. **Guest Lecture**

University College Cork, Ireland

In my first international lecture, as part of the ‘UCC English Seminar Series’ I presented a paper entitled ‘The Human, the Nonhuman and the Superhuman in Anglophone Caribbean Neo-Slave Narratives.’ Exploring the relationship between Black degradation and environmental desecration from the point of slavery.

November 2021. **Conference Assistant**

Kew Gardens, UK

I co-organised the Regrowth and Resistance conference, a one-day hybrid (virtual and in-person) event that brought together research and performance from scholars and practitioners in Environmental Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Activism. I was responsible for marketing, media and design, technology, and communications and hosting the ‘Rethinking Environmentalism’ panel.

November 2020. **Guest Lecture**

University of Cambridge, UK

I was a guest lecturer in the ‘Cambridge Postcolonial Literatures Seminar Series’ presenting a paper entitled ‘(S)exploitation and the Sugar Plantation in Marlon James' Book of Night Women’. The paper explores interspecies bonds and hyper-sexualisation in Marlon James’ 2020 Caribbean neo-slave narrative.

November 2019. **Seminar**

St Luke's Community Centre, UK

I facilitated the PGR interactive workshop ‘On the Plantationocene: Racialising Space and Spatialising Race in Caribbean Poetry’, beginning with a short introduction to the Plantationocene. Participants interrogated Caribbean literary texts and shared thoughts on environmental racism, multi-species labour, and the plantation as an embodied space.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- June 2023 **ILCS Fellow** [University of London, Senate House] I was appointed by the ILCS as a Practitioner in Residence (Environmental Humanities) for a period of four months from June to October 2023 to work collaboratively with the Environmental Humanities Research Hub, to develop my own practice, and to explore connections with different audiences. My project transforms two Caribbean neo-slave narrative poems into a multisensory experience using vocal and abstract sound and textured visual art pieces.
- February 2023 **Museum Research Consultant** [Wolverhampton Art Gallery] I am collaborating with Wolverhampton Art Gallery on a funded project titled 'Living with Difference' to explore using the collections more meaningfully. I have been hired to offer consultation to the gallery to look at how racist objects have been catalogued and challenge them, especially regarding racist and colonial cataloguing methods. This project has so far accumulated into a successful public event and the redisplay and re-labelling of objects in the 'Sharing our Histories' cabinets.
- June 2022 **Museum Consultant & Researcher** [Paisley Museum, Scotland] I was hired as part of a team of experts on racist memorabilia and anti-Black stereotypical imagery by the Paisley Museum. I was instrumental in consulting and offering feedback to Paisley Museum staff on the design and approach of their Robertson's Jam display, including placements of objects, the floor plan, its aesthetic value, and educational possibilities. The consultation group also reviewed the visuals, audio, and script of the museum's cinematic interpretation of the display, a short animatic by award-winning film director *Etienne Kubwabo*.
- January 2022, **Shortlisted Candidate** [Olivette Otele Prize], I was short-listed by the Institute of Historical Research for my paper titled 'The 'Bad' Mammy: Eco-Critical Readings of Sacrifice and Resilience in Grace Nichols' *I Is a Long Memoried Woman*'.
- September 2021, **Offer of Representation** [Andrew Nunberg Associates] I signed with London literary agent Silé Edwards of Andrew Nunberg Associates. The offer to sign was a direct result of the global impact of my article *Why we need to stop thinking of the Caribbean as a tourist paradise*, published by 'The Conversation' in August 2021. The article is currently in the top 3% most read articles of 'all time' across all contributions from Royal Holloway, University of London.
- November 2020 **TV Research Assistant** [BBC Two - Uplands TV] I was an on- and off-screen research assistant for the upcoming BBC Two documentary '*Blackface with David Harewood*' with Uplands TV. Off-screen, I aided the team with crucial sources and information to help frame and contextualise the history and literary outputs of Blackface in London and its crossings from American soil to Britain. On-screen, I took acclaimed Hollywood actor David Harewood on a journey through London, where showcases of popular Jim Crow and Blackface performances occurred with aired on BBC TWO in 2023 (and is still available to watch on BBC iPlayer).
- March 2020, **Museum Consultant** [Jim Crow Museum, USA] I had the opportunity to travel to Michigan in the United States to interview the founder of The Jim Crow Museum, Dr David Pilgrim and tour the exhibition. Based on findings from my research, I was also invited to consult the museum directors on their initial plans for a new building and displays that will house their ever-growing collection of objects, which stands as the most extensive collection of racist memorabilia in the world.

ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP & PUBLIC SERVICE

- I am a 2023-2024 committee member of The Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS). I am part of the social media and communications team, oversee applications for the David Nicholls Prize and the Bridget Jones Award, and help with the general organisation of the society.

- I have worked with Emily Wilding Davison Library Staff and the Careers Service at Royal Holloway, University of London, on several Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives and events. This includes organising and hosting a Careers roundtable with racially minoritised students, hosting and chairing a student-staff progression panel event for racially minoritised students and staff and helping to curate the Black History Month Library Reading List.
- As a member of the Harassment and Violence Working Group, I sat with college security and student union staff to tackle issues at Royal Holloway University, compile action plans and think of innovative and practical ideas/strategies to report hate and discrimination.
- As founder and director of Beyond Margins UK,—a multi-award-winning racial justice movement—I have had the privilege of providing expert advice and training to major national and international organisations and partners over the last five years. Such organisations include a networking group at ING Bank (Netherlands), The Paisley Museum (Scotland), several universities such as Royal Holloway and Winchester, local churches, schools, and other grassroots movements.
- I have been a commentator, discussing my research on the legacies of slavery, on CBC News (Canada) and Al Jazeera News for special segments, including Kings Charles II Coronation, National Windrush Day 2020, Barbados becoming a Republic, and the Queen’s Jubilee.
- I co-founded the global online network ‘Black in Arts and Humanities’, promoting relevant job, publication, and funding opportunities to our following of over 3,000 accounts.
- I was one of two students, among several senior academic staff, vice-principal leads, and other faculty, who sat as a member of The Race Equality Charter Self-Assessment Team between 2018-19 at Royal Holloway, University of London. The team worked together to provide feedback on the university on race equality in surveys, focus groups, and University events. As a result of our research, input, and activities, the Bronze Level accolade was awarded to the university.

REFERENCES

Professor Charles Burdett, Director of ILCS (Research Fellowship Advisor)
 Institute of Language, Cultures and Societies; School of Advanced Study
 charles.burdett@sas.ac.uk

Dr Michael Niblett, Associate Professor (External Examiner)
 English Department; University of Warwick
 m.niblett@warwick.ac.uk

Dr Kesewa John, Lecturer (Internal Examiner)
 History Department, Goldsmiths, University of London
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Dr Danielle Sands, Senior Lecturer (Primary Supervisor)
 Languages, Literatures and Cultures Departments, Royal Holloway, University of London,
 Danielle.sands.@rhul.ac.uk