

EMMANUEL HISTORIES WORKING GROUP:

LEGACIES OF ENSLAVEMENT INQUIRY

23 JUNE 2021

At a virtual meeting of the Emmanuel Histories Working Group, held on Zoom on 23 June, 2021, there were present:

The Master, Sarah Bendall, Jeremy Caddick, Daniel Coleman, Amanda Goode, Robert Henderson, Philip Howell, Akshata Kapoor, Emily Johnson, David Lambert, Shelly-Ann Meade, Okeoghene Odudu, Corinna Russell, Eliane Thoma-Stemmet, Mai-Linh Ton.

1. Apologies. There were no apologies for absence: all members of the Working Group attended.
2. Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting on 26th February 2021 were approved.
3. Update on activity since the last meeting.
 - a) Members of the History Faculty had been consulted about the inquiry, and had been informed about its findings. The Chair of the Faculty and Directors of Studies in College had been made aware of funds available for undergraduates conducting research in this area.
 - b) Amanda Goode reported that work had begun to transcribe the list of benefactors into a searchable digital format. The earliest book was already online thanks to the work of Claire Chippindale in the library. The next volume takes us up to 1811 and the appeal for donations towards repairs after the fire that damaged the Westmoreland range in Front Court. The Archivist would continue to liaise with the Working Group about a cut-off date for this process of digitization.
 - c) Lord Northfield Scholarship for students from the former British West Indies. Philip Howell reported that the text of an advertisement for this scholarship had been revised and would be more widely publicised. A committee member from the Cambridge African Caribbean Society had responded with enthusiasm to an inquiry from the Working Group about publicising the Scholarship. Shelly-Ann Meade, as a former scholarship holder, will liaise with the WG about effective channels to reach likely applicants. The Master had contacted the British Council.
 - d) Akshata Kapoor, ECSU Racial Equalities Officer, reported on the ECSU Shadowing Scheme for BME students in Year 12, which had been organised by ECSU, working with the college's Schools Liaison Officer and current students and fellows. 20 participants had been mentored by current Emmanuel undergraduates who identify as BME, and had fully engaged in weekly academic and social sessions run on Microsoft Teams since March.
4. Material for College Website
 - a) Contested Histories Landing Page. The text of the landing page was discussed. There was broad agreement that the tone was appropriate, but some valuable suggestions were made about revising or clarifying some terms in the text which gave rise to a range of different responses.
 - b) Document on research so far. This is a living document, which can grow as further research progresses. David Lambert suggested that the geographical locations on the 'Venn' drop-down might be supplemented by contacting the West-India

Committee to request any information pertaining to Emmanuel alumni. Amanda Goode and Sarah Bendall had provided information from the College archives substantiating the findings on gifts from the Long family.

5. Paper on possible commissioned research. The Working Group agreed to recommend that a new phase of research be commissioned from a qualified specialist in the field. The view was expressed by several members of the group that, rather than seeing the two versions presented in the paper as mutually exclusive, they could be combined so that the outcomes were public-facing and involved the community, but also made a lasting contribution to the developing historiography of the College. There was a discussion about recruitment and the kinds of specialism required. Mai-Linh Ton reminded the group that the Virginia University site (USS) has a mailing list which could be used for questions to comparable institutions. The paper should be revised to capture the Working Group's recommendation, and should then be forwarded to the Bursar, and to the College Council for approval before the end of July.
6. Next Steps. There would be a verbal report of the work to date to Governing Body at the next meeting (1st July). The Master would brief the Master-Elect on the progress of the Working Group, and in particular any decisions pertaining to commissioned research. The Editor of the College Magazine would like an update on the Working Group and the inquiry.

Emily Johnson is moving to a new job, and was thanked for her involvement in and support for the Working Group since its inception. A request had been circulated to all College staff for expressions of interest in taking Emily's place as a staff representative to the Working Group, and expressions of interest had already been received.

The date and time of the next meeting would be confirmed by circulation.

