

# EMMANUEL HISTORIES WORKING GROUP:

## LEGACIES OF ENSLAVEMENT INQUIRY 26 FEBRUARY 2021

At a virtual meeting of the Emmanuel College Contested Histories Working Group, held on Teams on 26 February 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, Corinna Russell, Eliane Thoma-Stemmet, Mai-Linh Ton.

### **Membership of the Working Group**

Dame Fiona Reynolds (Master)

Dr Sarah Bendall (Development Director, Fellow)

Revd. Mr Jeremy Caddick (Fellow, Dean)

Daniel Coleman (MCR)

Ms Amanda Goode (College Archivist)

Dr Robert Henderson (Senior Tutor)

Dr Philip Howell (Fellow)

Akshata Kapoor (ECSU)

Professor David Lambert (co-opted member, University of Warwick)

Ms Shelly-Ann Meade (co-opted member, Solicitor, Emmanuel Society Committee Member, Cambridge African-Caribbean Alumni Society Member)

Ms Emily Johnson (Deputy Development Director)

Dr Okeoghene Odudu (Fellow)

Dr Corinna Russell (Fellow)

Eliane Thoma-Stemmet (ECSU)

Mai-Linh Ton (MCR)

The Master welcomed all members and extended particular thanks to Professor Lambert and Ms Meade for bringing their interest and expertise to the group.

A Teams chat has been set up for this Working Group. Dr Odudu had been invited to join the Working Group and would contribute when commitments permitted.

### **Identifying Objectives**

- i. Consideration was given to short-, medium-term and longer-term objectives. There was broad agreement that the preliminary research conducted by the College Archivist offers a useful base from which to build out. Information

relating to the Working Group can be made available on the College Website, and the early findings could be reported there as indicative / interim case studies or windows onto the research process. There was a suggestion from ECSU members that the group consider meetings to update the student body.

- ii. Looking further ahead, support for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research in this area was seen as a desirable element of the college inquiry, and funding has been identified for this purpose. Skilled supervision will be a necessary component of this provision. The Working Group will liaise with members of the History Faculty, and other relevant disciplines, to discuss the best way of advertising and facilitating this kind of educational support. Emmanuel students would be eligible for a dissertation grant on the same basis as those already awarded by Master and Tutors' Committee.
- iii. A longer term objective of the inquiry will be feed into the next phase of the University's Legacies of Enslavement inquiry, which aims to create a linking narrative of research into the histories of individual colleges. This will require specialist work by a trained researcher. The Working Group will work towards an agreement about who should undertake this research, and how best to fund it.
- iv. Professor Lambert (Professor of Caribbean History, University of Warwick) recommended that the Working Group consult the practices of other institutions, and brought to the attention of the group the website of the USS (Universities Studying Slavery) consortium, led by the University of Virginia: <https://slavery.virginia.edu/universities-studying-slavery/>. This collaboration shares 'best practices and guiding principles' relating to research into institutional links with slavery.

### Research Methods and Logistics

Professor Lambert and the College Archivist explained in outline some of the digital and archival resources available, such as [THE UCL DATABASE](#), an online resource taken from the census of slave-owners eligible for compensation after the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, or the [CAMBRIDGE ALUMNI DATABASE KNOWN AS 'VENN'](#). Ms Goode will draft a memo detailing some starting points within the archive.

### Modern Slavery Statement

The draft which had been approved by the College Council was circulated. This had already been shared with ECSU, but was still to be approved by the Governing Body.