

# Engaging with Bath's Uncomfortable Past

A creative workshop to launch a new walking trail and reflect on the legacies of slavery in Bath

Thursday 25th March 18:00 – 19:30 GMT

Event Details: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-with-baths-uncomfortable-past-through-walking-and-creativity-tickets-144784663827>



This online event seeks to promote public debate about commemorative practices engaging with the history of transatlantic slavery and slave ownership in Britain. It will also launch a new walking trail in Bath designed by a group of students and staff at the University of Bath addressing Bath's links with this "uncomfortable past". The team was brought together by the VIP project for the Co-Creation of Inclusive Urban Practices.

Electrified by the Black Lives Matter movement and the toppling of Edward Colston's statue in Bristol in the summer of 2020, various actors have sought to decolonise and re-frame the way history is taught, narratives are shaped and the history of colonialism, slavery and slave ownership is remembered. The walking map "Walk through Bath's Uncomfortable Past" has been designed to make legacies of this past visible in the public space. Members of the design team are now launching the walk, inviting audiences from Bath and elsewhere to join the debate about contemporary memorial practices, monuments and creative engagement with the past.

**The event will consist of three activities:**

- 1. The presentation of the walk by the design team**
- 2. A discussion with a panel of Bath-based stakeholders and heritage experts from across Britain**
- 3. A hands-on drawing and collage workshop in which participants will be encouraged to cut, paste, draw, paint and juxtapose contemporary and colonial images to design a monument acknowledging the history of transatlantic in Bath.**

**Confirmed speakers of the panel include:**

**Prof Alan Rice (University of Central Lancashire), Director of UCLan Research Centre in Migration, Diaspora and Exile (MIDEX), Co-Director of the Institute for Black Atlantic Research, author of several monographs about Black Atlantic Memorials.**

**Dr Richard White (Bath Spa University), an artist/researcher with interests in the physical, emotional, sensory and intellectual experience of walking as a way of engaging with reluctant heritage including the Holocaust and transatlantic slavery. Richard's Sweet Waters project has been exploring legacies and revealing resonances of slave ownership in Bath.**

**Dr Shawn Sobers (UWE Bristol) is Associate Professor in Cultural and Interdisciplinary practices, Director of the Critical Race and Culture Research Network, he works through research, film and photography on personal narratives, hidden histories and untold stories. His expertise has spanned a wide range of topics, including community media, creative education, Trans-Atlantic slave trade, disability & walking, and Rastafari culture.**

**The event is facilitated by Dr Christina Horvath (University of Bath) and Benjamin van Praag (University of Bath).**

**Tickets are free but booking is compulsory.**

