

Ancient History Contemporary Belonging

REPORT FOR
PARTNERS
DECEMBER 2024

This report is an update to all project partners and stakeholders on Manchester Metropolitan University activities and outputs for the *Ancient History, Contemporary Belonging* project.

End of Project

The period of follow-on funding from UKRI ended in December 2023, but an extension at MMU meant that the project formally continued until April 2024, with four members of our youth team staying on as Research Assistants. This enabled several activities to take place, including a Debate Mate event, the completion of the 'Big Question' resource, and evaluation of the exhibition in Manchester Museum. Since the completion of the project members of the academic and youth research teams have continued to accept invitations to share our work with new audiences.

Education Resource

The main outcome of the follow-on funding was the education resource as part of Manchester Museum's 'Big Question' series for schools, produced by our youth team, in collaboration with Hannah-Lee Chalk (Curator of Learning, Manchester Museum) and Clive Hunte (Sheba Arts). This resource, which addresses the question, *Where do these objects belong?*, is available on our website [here](#).

Events and Presentations

5th February 2024: Debate Mate event.

This event involved trialling the 'Big Question' resource through activities with students from two local schools, supported by the youth team that developed the resource. The event ended with a debate, hosted by [Debate Mate](#), centred around the resource's key provocation.

15th May 2024: Community Research and Development Seminar

Ferdos, Dana, and Caitlin shared our work in an invited seminar at the University of Wolverhampton (online), through a presentation titled 'Ancient History, Contemporary Belonging: Re-Presenting (Neo)Colonial Inheritances with Migrant-Background Young People in the Contemporary Museum.'



25th June 2024: Innovative Methods in Migration Research

Sarah Linn and Jina Lee facilitated a participatory creative cartography workshop based on the creation of *Unprovenanced Map*, which is part of the project's exhibition.

10th September 2024: Undisciplining II Conference

The project's youth team (Dana, Ferdos, Mariam, and Senna) and Caitlin shared our work as part of an invited presentation at *The Sociological Review Foundation Undisciplining II conference*, held at the Lowry (Salford).

1st November 2024: Supporting Ethical Participatory Research

At the event hosted at the University of Manchester and organised by the Young Foundation, UKRI, and the UK Participatory Research Network, the project's youth team (Dana, Ferdos, Mariam, and Senna) and Caitlin shared our work as part of an invited presentation on the panel '[Enabling 'the system' to better support](#)

[ethical participatory research](#)'. The youth team also led a tour of the project's exhibition for event participants.

27th–29th November: Culture and Mental Health: Refugees Conference

Sarah was invited as a keynote speaker at the second [International Conference on Culture and Mental Health](#), hosted at the Dr Guislain Museum in Ghent (Belgium). Sarah shared reflections on 'the museum as a space of social care for refugee young people', building on experiences from the Ancient History, Contemporary Belonging project.

Evaluation

In March and April 2024, the project's team (Caitlin, Jenny, and the youth researchers) undertook evaluation of the exhibition, housed across the Archaeology, Egypt and Sudan, and Reimagining Galleries in Manchester Museum. The evaluation consisted of observations of public interactions with the exhibition, as well as written responses from visitors. The resulting report will appear on the project website (www.historyandbelonging.com).

Publications

This year has seen the publication of two articles by the project team on aspects of our work:

- Linn, S., Hall, O.A., Nunn, C. and Cromwell, J. (2024) 'Participatory museum projects with refugee-background young people'. *Museums & Social Issues*, pp.1-20. [[Open access](#)]
- Nunn, C. (2023) 'Troubling Research: Participatory Arts-Based Research with Refugee-Background Young People.' *NEOS* 15(2). [[Open access](#)]

Forthcoming

The academic journal *Area* will shortly be **publishing an article** written by Sarah Linn, Jina Lee, Mariam Zorba, Caitlin Nunn, and Jennifer Cromwell, on the use of participatory historical geography to explore the migration of objects and people across (neo)colonial spatialities. A number of other academic articles related to the project are underway.

The AHCB exhibition will continue to run until February 2025 in Manchester Museum. Updates on the future of the artworks will be provided on our website, where the digital exhibition will continue.

If you have any updates to share about the project or any queries about this document, please contact Caitlin Nunn (c.nunn@mmu.ac.uk) or Jennifer Cromwell (j.cromwell@mmu.ac.uk)