

THE
EQUIANO
PROJECT

TOWARDS THE
COMMON GOOD:
RETHINKING
RACE IN THE
21ST CENTURY

12TH - 13TH JANUARY 2023

Emmanuel College and
King's College, Cambridge



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FOREWORD

We live in a time where the subject of racism presents in paradoxical terms. On the one hand, society has progressed towards a point where racial discrimination is illegal and expressions of racism are socially taboo. Yet, on the other hand, anxieties about the problem of racism grow stronger.

Many of us will be familiar with the debates that have been taking place in our culture around these issues, raising many important questions. How should we define racism? How should we understand racial disparities in socioeconomic outcomes? Is colour blindness an important liberal ethical principle or an excuse to ignore racism?

From education and employment to crime and interpersonal relationships, race is increasingly the prism through which we analyse social phenomena. However, we cannot merely accept this at face value without question. Whilst it often feels as if it has become harder to discuss these issues, with the debate too often and too easily becoming polarised, it is a moral imperative that we examine and interrogate these questions with candour.

As liberal democracies increasingly struggle to give meaning and authority to universal values such as freedom of speech and tolerance, the stakes are indeed high. This is also why we must guard against the tendency to slip into caricatures, to view these issues as a reflection of simple “left” versus “right” divides - an error that many of us have been guilty of. The problem is much deeper and calls on us to reflect upon not just where we are as a society, but also who we are and who we want to be.

Reassuringly, when we dig a little deeper, there is a lot that we share. A commitment to improving people’s lives, finding solutions to complex social issues and a determination to build a harmonious and tolerant society do command majority support. Although we may differ on how we can achieve these goals, there is a shared foundation to build on.

It will be of no surprise to many that we both hold the value of freedom of speech in high regard. But freedom of speech means very little without a serious effort to cultivate and maintain a common civic culture - one that is grounded in a notion of the good. A civic culture that believes people can reach their potential, take advantage of the opportunities our society affords, become full participants in our democracy and that society can get better.

So, let us enjoy what we hope will be a lively and illuminating occasion, in this wonderful location, as we build a unifying and constructive narrative on race.

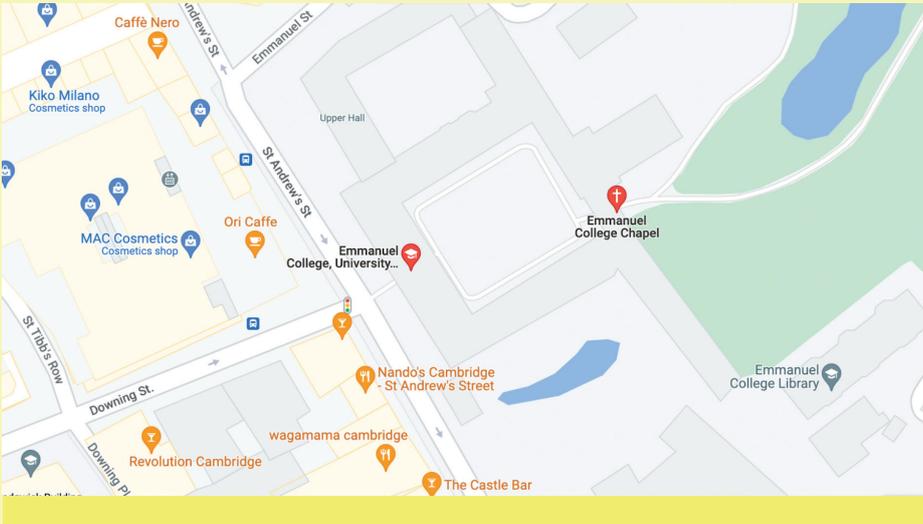
Inaya Folarin Iman, founder and director of The Equiano Project

Richard Bourke, Professor of the History of Political Thought and a Fellow of King’s College at the University of Cambridge

LOCATIONS



EMMANUEL COLLEGE, ST ANDREW'S ST,
CAMBRIDGE CB2 3AP, KING'S COLLEGE



KING'S COLLEGE, KING'S PARADE,
CAMBRIDGE CB2 1ST

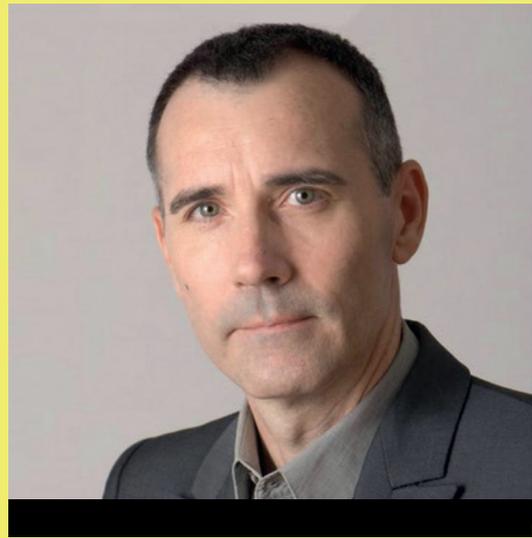


CONVENORS



INAYA FOLARIN IMAN

Inaya Folarin Iman is a writer, broadcast journalist and political commentator. She is the Founder and Director of The Equiano Project. She is a Senior Consultant for Civic Future, a new educational organisation that exists to identify and support highly talented individuals committed to the values of liberal democracy to enter into positions of public leadership. She has also helped found and deliver numerous freedom of speech initiatives including Index on Censorship's Free Speech Is For Me, the Free Speech Union and the Free Speech Champions project. She was the creator and host of The Discussion, a weekly ideas, culture and politics TV show on GB News and is a regular commentator on programmes such as The Big Questions, Politics Live and Radio 4. She has written regular columns for The Telegraph, The Sunday Telegraph and Spiked magazine and is the Youth Engagement Trustee for the National Portrait Gallery.



PROFESSOR RICHARD BOURKE

Richard Bourke FBA is a UK-based Irish academic specialising in the history of political ideas. His work spans ancient and modern thought, and is associated with the application of the historical method to political theory. He is a Professor of the History of Political Thought and a Fellow of King's College at the University of Cambridge. He was formerly a Professor of the History of Political Thought and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of the History of Political Thought at Queen Mary, University of London. In July 2018 Bourke was elected Fellow of the British Academy (FBA).

Thurs 12th **Queen's Lecture Theatre, Emmanuel College**
St Andrew's St, Cambridge CB2 3AP

6.30pm Registration desk opens and refreshments

6.50pm Welcome:
Inaya Folarin Iman
Co-convenor; director, The Equiano Project

7.00pm **UNDERSTANDING THE NEW POLITICS OF RACE**

Despite the success of the civil rights movement in the 1960s in transforming the lives of black people, race politics in the US at the start of this century seems more polarised than ever. Racial inequality persists but there are fierce debates over the causes and solutions. Rather than seeking to realise the liberal ideal of a 'colour-blind' society, a new anti-racism politics wants to raise consciousness about race and the 'problem' of whiteness. Is this leading to more equality and progress or not? How should liberals approach this question? Crucially, how is the US experience influencing what happens in the UK and what can we learn from it?

Keynote speaker:
Professor John McWhorter
Writer; Professor of Linguistics, Columbia University

Respondents:
Kenan Malik
Author; columnist, The Observer
Munira Mirza
Chief Executive, Civic Future

Chair:
Professor Rana Mitter OBE
Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China,
University of Oxford

8.15pm -
10.00pm Food and drinks reception

Friday 13th **Keynes Lecture Theatre, King's College**
King's Parade, Cambridge CB2 1ST

8.30am Registration and refreshments

9.30am Opening remarks:

Richard Bourke
Co-convenor, Professor of the History of Political Thought,
University of Cambridge

9.45am

HOW CAN WE ENSURE THAT A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWPOINTS ON RACE ARE HEARD?

In the US, and increasingly in the UK, the debate about race is contentious, with the liberal perspective often viewed with suspicion in prominent anti-racist circles. In addition, there is evidence that universities - which have traditionally educated the next generation of leaders - are not prioritising intellectual diversity or freedom of speech. Instead, it is argued, universities are emphasising the protection of identity groups against a narrow conception of harm. But, is this a fair assessment of the landscape? How do we ensure that liberal perspectives continue to be heard and championed in the public space, and how do we build support for them amongst a younger generation?

Professor Arif Ahmed MBE

Professor of Philosophy, University of Cambridge

Ayishat Akanbi

Fashion stylist and writer

Coleman Hughes

Writer and podcast host

Sonia Sodha

Chief leader writer and columnist, The Observer

Chair: **Tanjil Rashid**

Journalist and producer

11.00am

Break (The Bar and Chetwynd room)

11.15am

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT PROGRESS IN RACIAL EQUALITY AND THE DISPARITIES THAT EXIST?

The evidence about racial inequality is varied and complex. It is often hard to draw singular conclusions about how and why certain groups fare differently. Added to this are the myriad definitions of inequality and racism; terms which are used in different ways and often have political connotations. Can we use evidence to reconcile disagreements, engage the 'moderate middle', and reach a shared understanding? What kind of inequality should we all be concerned about? What do we understand or not about the driving factors?

Professor Glenn Loury

Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences, Brown University

Lord Tony Sewell CBE

Chair, Generating Genius

Katharine Birbalsingh CBE

Headmistress, Michaela Community School; Chair, Social Mobility Commission

Paul Johnson CBE

Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Chair: **Munira Mirza**

Chief Executive, Civic Future

12.30pm

HOW HAS THE MEANING OF RACISM AND EQUALITY CHANGED?

Race and anti-racism have moved increasingly centre stage in public life and institutions, even before the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. But today's anti-racist movement, placing increased emphasis on racial difference, seems to contrast with the universalist character of the 1960s civil rights era. This change of emphasis is significant, yet it has received little pushback from institutions. Therefore, what is new and different about today's anti-racist movement from those of before? What, if anything, has contributed to this change? How should we approach this? And, to what extent can liberal values continue to give meaning to the notion of equality?

Sir Trevor Phillips OBE

Businessman; Chair, Index on Censorship

Professor John McWhorter

Professor of Linguistics, Columbia University

Dr Alka Seghal Cuthbert

Director, Don't Divide Us

Chair: **Clive Davis**

Chief theatre critic, The Times

1.45pm

Lunch (The Bar and Chetwynd room)

3.00pm

HOW SHOULD LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES PRACTICALLY ADVANCE THE GOAL OF RACIAL EQUALITY AND JUSTICE?

Just as there are debates about the extent of racial disparities and the causes, there are different opinions about how to address these. Many of these are based on evidence of 'what works' but they also derive from different views of social processes and individuals. In a liberal democracy, what role do ideas of individual agency, community self-reliance and state action play in enabling ethnic minorities to overcome disadvantages? What role do formal institutions and legislation play, as well as culture, family and community? Is it realistic or fair to expect these factors to overcome longstanding historic disadvantage?

Jason Riley

Senior fellow, Manhattan Institute; columnist, Wall Street Journal

Dr Ian Rowe

Senior fellow, American Enterprise Institute

Dr Remi Adegkoya

Associate Lecturer on Politics, University of York

Mercy Muroki

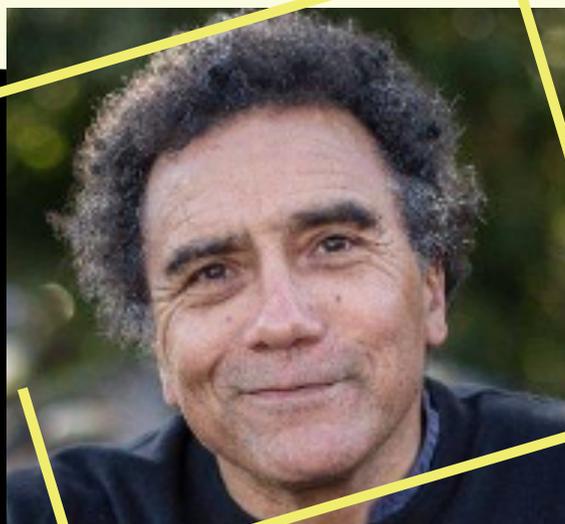
Policy advisor and journalist

Chair: **Kunle Olulode**

Director, Voice4Change England

4.15pm	Break (The Bar and Chetwynd room)
4.30pm	<p>Closing session –</p> <p>HOW TO BUILD A NEW AGE OF TOLERANCE AND EQUALITY</p> <p>Coleman Hughes Writer and podcast host</p> <p>Thomas Chatterton Williams Contributing writer, The Atlantic; Professor of Humanities at Bard College</p> <p>Stephen Bush Columnist and associate editor, Financial Times</p> <p>Tomiwa Owolade Contributing writer, New Statesman</p> <p>Chair: Inaya Folarin Iman, Co-convenor; director, The Equiano Project</p>
5.45pm	Closing remarks
6.00pm - 8.00pm	Evening buffet (The Bar and Chetwynd room)

CHAIRS



CLIVE DAVIS /  @CliveDavisUK

Chief theatre critic, The Times

Clive Davis is the chief theatre critic of The Times. He also contributes book reviews on history, politics and race. He has more than thirty years of journalism experience, having been a regular freelance writer for The Times, The Sunday Times, The Independent, Daily Express, New Statesman and Weekly Standard. He started his career as a reporter and editor at West Indian World newspaper in Haringey, before joining the BBC as a news trainee. Clive Davis is also a media fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.



MUNIRA MIRZA

Chief Executive, Civic Future

Munira Mirza is the Chief Executive of Civic Future, a new educational organisation that exists to identify and support highly talented individuals committed to the values of liberal democracy to enter into positions of public leadership. Munira was the Director of the No 10 Downing Street Policy Unit between 2019-2022, and was previously a Deputy Mayor for London for Culture and Education. She studied at Oxford University and did her PhD in Sociology at the University of Kent. She has worked in senior positions in government, higher education and the cultural sector and has written for a wide range of media publications. She has served on the boards of the Royal Opera House, Institute of Contemporary Arts, and the West London Children's Zone.

Books: *The Politics of Culture: The Case for Universalism* (2011, Palgrave)



PROFESSOR RANA MITTER OBE FBA

Professor of the History and
Politics of Modern China,
University of Oxford

Rana Mitter OBE FBA is Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, and acting Master of St Cross College at the University of Oxford. He is the author of several award-winning books. His latest book is *China's Good War: How World War II is Shaping a New Nationalism* (Harvard, 2020). His writing and commentary on contemporary China have appeared recently in numerous leading publications and forums around the world. His recent documentary on contemporary Chinese politics "Meanwhile in Beijing" is available on BBC Sounds. He won the 2020 Medlicott Medal for Service to History, awarded by the Historical Association. He will take up the ST Lee Chair in US-China Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School in 2023.



KUNLE OLULODE MBE /
🐦 @KunleOlulode

Director, Voice4Change England

Kunle has been awarded an MBE for his contributions within the Black and Minoritised sector in 2022. As an activist working in the public sector at Camden Council, from 2002 - 2011, he led the Camden Black Workers staff group, represented over 500 Black and Asian staff members and founded its award-winning Camden Black History Forum.

Kunle is a regular on television and radio including Radio London, Al Jazeera, Sky TV, GBN on debates relating to politics, the arts, diversity and race. With a long-standing interest in arts development particularly in film, he is on the programming steering group for African Odyssey at London's South Bank.

Kunle is a trustee of the English Heritage Trust and sits on the advisory board of Hawthorn Communications.



TANJIL RASHID / 🐦 @tanjil_rashid_

Journalist and producer

Tanjil Rashid is a journalist and producer. He has worked on a variety of current affairs programmes across television and radio, including Daily Politics, Sunday Politics, and Newsnight. Documentaries he has recently worked on include the Rose d'Or-winning *Storming the Capitol: The Inside Story*, its sequel *After the Storm: America's Enemy Within*, and *The ISIS 'Beatles'*. Rashid is also a freelance writer, regularly contributing to *The Financial Times*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *The Spectator*.

SPEAKERS

DR REMI ADEKOYA /  @RemiAdekoya1

Associate Lecturer on Politics,
University of York

Before joining academia, Remi was a political journalist who has written for the Guardian, Sunday Times, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, Washington Post, Politico, Spectator and UnHerd among others. He has provided sociopolitical commentary and analysis for CNN, BBC, Sky News, Al Jazeera, South

African Broadcasting Corporation,
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, African International

Television, Radio France International, Talk Radio and Times Radio among others.

He is a former regular columnist for Business Day, a Nigerian daily, and a former political editor of Warsaw Business

Journal. Remi sits on the Home

Office Strategic Race Board as an external expert.

Books: *It's Not About Whiteness, It's About Wealth* (Forthcoming: 2023, Little, Brown)

Biracial Britain: What It Means to be Mixed-Race (2021, Little, Brown)



PROFESSOR ARIF AHMED MBE

Professor of Philosophy,
University of Cambridge

Arif Ahmed has been a Professor of Philosophy (Grade 12) since October 2022 and a Fellow of Gonville and Caius since 2015. His philosophical outlook is individualistic, atheistic and empiricist and his work applies this approach to questions in metaphysics, the theory of rational choice and philosophy of religion. He has campaigned for many years in defence of free speech and academic freedom. In recognition of this work he was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 and the Trustees' Award by Index on Censorship.

In late 2022, the Minister for Women and Equalities, and Trade Secretary, Kemi Badenoch MP appointed Ahmed as new Commissioner to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Board.

Books: *Evidential Decision Theory* (Cambridge University Press 2021);

The Value of the Future (Forthcoming, Princeton University Press)

AYISHAT AKANBI /  @Ayishat_akanbi

Fashion stylist and writer

Ayishat Akanbi is a fashion stylist and writer based in London. She has styled Grammy award-winning reggae artist Koffee, classic British singer-songwriter, Rod Stewart and fashion icon Naomi Campbell. Ayishat's writing is also interested in trends, such as the rise of identity-based narratives. Her writing explores the limits of identity and common errors that disguise disempowerment as a form of strength. Now that we are all broadcasters, Ayishat is motivated by the question, how do we learn to think for ourselves when doing so can lead to social exclusion? In the attempt to combat division, polarisation and extremism, Ayishat's work seeks to highlight the way our similarities are concealed by in-group biases.

Books: *The Awakening: Clarity, Culture and Identity in the Web of Chaos* (Forthcoming: 2023, Orion Publishing Co)



STEPHEN BUSH /  **@stephenkb**

Columnist and associate editor,
Financial Times

Stephen Bush is a British journalist. He is a columnist and associate editor at the Financial Times and the former political editor of the New Statesman. In 2017 he was named the PSA's Journalist of the Year, and was shortlisted for Political Commentator of the Year by the Society of Editors. In June 2020, Bush was appointed to chair the Board of Deputies of British Jews' commission on racial inclusivity within the Jewish community.



KATHARINE BIRBALSINGH CBE
/  **@Miss_Snuffly**

Headmistress,
Michaela
Community
School; Chair,
Social Mobility
Commission



Katharine Birbalsingh is Headmistress and co-founder of Michaela Community School and Chair of the Social Mobility Commission. She is known as 'Britain's Strictest Headmistress', following the ITV documentary about Michaela. Michaela draws up to 1000 visitors a year from across the world.

In 2022, Michaela's Progress 8 score placed the school top in the country. OFSTED has graded the school as "Outstanding" in every category.

Katharine read Philosophy & Modern Languages at The University of Oxford and has always taught in inner London. She has made numerous appearances on television, radio, podcasts and has written for several publications.

Katharine has also written two books and edited another two.

Katharine was appointed Honorary Fellow of New College, Oxford in 2021 and Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2020.

Books: *Michaela: The Power of Culture* (2020, John Catt)

THOMAS CHATTERTON WILLIAMS /

 **@thomaschattwill**

contributing writer,
The Atlantic; Professor
of Humanities at
Bard College



Thomas Chatterton Williams is a contributing writer at The Atlantic and the author of *Losing My Cool* and *Self-Portrait in Black and White*. He is a Visiting professor of humanities and senior fellow at the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College, a 2022 Guggenheim fellow, and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. He was previously a contributing writer at The New York Times Magazine and a columnist at Harper's. His work has appeared in the New Yorker, the London Review of Books, Le Monde and many other places, and has been collected in *The Best American Essays* and *The Best American Travel Writing*. He has received support from New America, Yaddo, MacDowell, and The American Academy in Berlin, where he is a member of the Board of Trustees.

Books:
Nothing Was the Same: The Pandemic Summer of George Floyd and the Shift in Western Consciousness (Forthcoming, Knopf)

Self-Portrait in Black and White: Unlearning Race. (2019, W. W. Norton & Company)

Losing My Cool: How a Father's Love and 15,000 Books Beat Hip-Hop Culture (2010, The Penguin Press)



COLEMAN HUGHES /  [@coldxman](#)

Writer and podcast host

Coleman Hughes is a writer, podcaster and opinion columnist who specializes in issues related to race, public policy and applied ethics. Coleman's writing has been featured in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, National Review, Quillette, The City Journal and The Spectator. He has appeared on many TV shows and podcasts, including Real Time with Bill Maher, Making Sense with Sam Harris, and The Jordan B. Peterson Podcast. In June 2019, he testified before a U.S. House Judiciary subcommittee at a hearing on reparations for slavery, arguing against the campaign. Born and raised in northern New Jersey, Coleman briefly attended the Juilliard School to study jazz trombone before dropping out to pursue a career as an independent jazz/hip-hop artist. Shortly thereafter, Coleman discovered a passion for applied ethics and public policy at Columbia University, where he graduated with a B.A. in philosophy.

Books: RACIALIZED (Forthcoming, Penguin Random House)

PROFESSOR GLENN LOURY /

 [@GlennLoury](#)

Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences, Brown University

Glenn C. Loury is Merton P. Stoltz Professor of Economics at Brown University. He holds the B.A. in Mathematics (Northwestern) and the Ph.D. in Economics (M.I.T).

As an economic theorist, he has published widely and lectured throughout the world on his research. He is also among America's leading critics writing on racial inequality. He has been elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economics Association, as a Member of the American Philosophical Society and of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Books:

Ethnicity, Social Mobility and Public Policy: Comparing the US and the UK (Co-edited with Tariq Modood and Steven Teles; 2005, Cambridge University Press)

The Anatomy of Racial Inequality (2002, Harvard University Press)



KENAN MALIK /  @kenanmalik

Author; columnist, The Observer

Kenan Malik is a writer, lecturer, broadcaster and columnist for the Observer. Malik has written multiple books on race, religion, freedom of speech and morality.

His new book, *Not So Black and White: A History of Race from White Supremacy to Identity Politics* is published by Hurst in January. He has presented *Analysis*, on BBC Radio 4, and *Nightwaves*, BBC Radio 3's wonderful arts and ideas programme and was, for many years, a panellist on *The Moral Maze*, also on Radio 4. He has written and presented a number of radio and TV documentaries including *Disunited Kingdom*, *Are Muslims Hated?*, *Islam, Mullahs and the Media*, *Skullduggery* and *Man, Beast and Politics*.

Malik was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize in 2010. He is a Distinguished Supporter of Humanists UK and was a trustee of the free speech NGO Index on Censorship.

Books:

Not So Black and White (2023, Hurst)

The Meaning of Race: Race, History and Culture in Western Society (Palgrave / New York University Press, 1996)



**PROFESSOR JOHN
MCWHORTER** /

 @JohnHMcWhorter

Writer; Professor of Linguistics,
Columbia University

John McWhorter teaches linguistics at Columbia University, as well as Western Civilization and music history. He specializes in language change and language contact, and is the author of *The Missing Spanish Creoles*, *Language Simplicity and Complexity*, and *The Creole Debate*. He has written extensively on issues related to linguistics, race, and other topics for *Time*, *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic* and elsewhere, and has been a Contributing Editor at *The Atlantic*. For the general public he is the author of *The Power of Babel*, *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue*, *The Language Hoax*, *Words on the Move*, *Talking Back*, *Talking Black*, and other books, including *Nine Nasty Words* and *Woke Racism*, both of which were *New York Times* bestsellers. He hosts the *Lexicon Valley* language podcast, has authored six audiovisual sets on language for the Great Courses company, and has written a twice-weekly newsletter for the *New York Times* since August 2021.

Books: *Woke Racism: How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America* (2021, Faber & Faber)



PAUL JOHNSON CBE /

🐦 @PJTheEconomist

Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Paul has been Director of the IFS since January 2011. He is also currently a columnist for the Times, a visiting professor at University College London, and a member of the climate change committee. He is currently helping to lead the IFS-Deaton review of inequalities. He was awarded a CBE for services to the social sciences and economics in 2018. As well as a previous period of work at the IFS his career has included spells at HM Treasury and the Department for Education. Between 2004 and 2007 he was deputy head of the Government Economic Service.



MERCY MUROKI / 🐦 @MercyMuroki

Policy advisor and journalist

Mercy Muroki is a Policy Fellow in the Cabinet Office advising the Minister for Equalities and Women on British policy around race, gender, and protected characteristics. She holds an MSc in Comparative Social Policy from Jesus College, University of Oxford and previously sat on the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities in 2021. Before joining the Cabinet Office, she was a national broadcaster and columnist.



TOMIWA OWOLADE / 🐦 @tomowolade

Contributing writer, New Statesman

Tomiwa Owolade is a writer and critic. He has written for many publications, including the Times, the Sunday Times, the Spectator, the FT, the Evening Standard, and Literary Review. He is a contributing writer at the New Statesman. He has also appeared on BBC Radio 4. He has written on a wide range of issues, including identity politics, liberalism, social protest movements, and religion. He has a forthcoming book entitled This is Not America.

Books: This is Not America (Forthcoming 2023, Atlantic Books)



**SIR TREVOR
PHILLIPS OBE /**
🐦 @TrevorPTweets

Businessman; Chair,
Index on Censorship

Trevor Phillips is a businessman, writer, and broadcaster.

He is the Chairman of the Green Park Group, co-founder of the data analytics firm Webber Phillips, created with Professor Richard Webber in 2014, and is a director of the AIM-listed behavioural science group Mind Gym.

He has written for several of the UK's biggest-selling newspapers; he now contributes a fortnightly op-ed column for the Times, and periodically writes for the Sunday Times and the Sun. He was shortlisted for Comment Writer of the Year in the 2020 British Journalism Awards.

He is an award-winning TV producer and presenter, with three RTS journalism awards to his name. He has written and presented some of the most talked-about programmes of recent years, including "Things We Won't Say About Race That Are True", described by one newspaper reviewer as "probably amongst the most important documentaries of the decade".

Trevor is Chairman of Index on Censorship, the international campaign group for freedom of expression.

DR IAN ROWE / 🐦 @IanVRowe

Senior fellow, American Enterprise Institute



Ian Rowe is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where he focuses on education and upward mobility, family formation, and adoption. Mr. Rowe is also the co-founder of Vertex Partnership Academies, a new network of character-based International Baccalaureate high schools opening in the Bronx in 2022; the chairman of the board of Spence-Chapin, a nonprofit adoption services organization; and the cofounder of the National Summer School Initiative. He concurrently serves as a senior visiting fellow at the Woodson Center and a writer for the 1776 Unites Campaign.

Books: Agency (2022, Templeton Press)

JASON L. RILEY / 🐦 @jasonrileywsj

Senior fellow, Manhattan Institute;
columnist, Wall Street Journal

Jason Riley is an opinion columnist at The Wall Street Journal, where his column, Upward Mobility, has run since 2016. Riley is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and has appeared on the Journal Editorial Report, other Fox News programs and C-SPAN.

Riley, a 2018 Bradley Prize recipient, is the author of four books.

Books:

Maverick: A Biography of Thomas Sowell
(2021, Basic Books)

False Black Power? (New Threats to
Freedom) (2017, Templeton Press)

Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals
Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed
(2014, Encounter Books, USA)

Let Them In: The Case for Open Borders
(2008, Avery Publishing
Group)



DR ALKA SEGHAL CUTHBERT /

 @ASCphiled

Director, Don't Divide Us

Dr Alka Sehgal Cuthbert is an educator, academic, author and campaigner who believes passionately in the essential importance of impartiality both in education and as a prerequisite for the civilised conversations necessary for democracy to flourish. Alka comes to the directorship of Don't Divide Us (DDU) following two years as its founder lead on education. As a citizen, she felt impelled to join DDU to counter what she views as the unsubstantiated belief that Britain is a systematically racist country. As a life-long educator, she felt impelled because of the divisive effects of educational policies based on a radical re-racializing of schools in the name of anti-racism at the cost of affirming the value of truth and truthfulness.



She is a prolific author of specialist texts on education including the 2017 'What Should Schools Teach? Disciplines, Subjects and the Pursuit of Truth' (IoE UCL Press). She has spoken at numerous prestigious conferences and gave evidence to the 2016 All-Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry (APPGI) on Knowledge and Skills in Education.

SONIA SODHA / @soniasodha

Chief Leader Writer and columnist, The Observer

Sonia is Chief Leader Writer and a columnist for the Observer. She is a former head of public services and consumer rights policy at Which?, the Consumers' Association, where she led their work on public services.

Prior to this, she was a Senior Policy Adviser to Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, the Leader of the Opposition. She has also worked as Head of Policy and Strategy at the Dartington Social Research Unit and led programmes of work on public services, education, children and families at the think tanks Demos and the Institute for Public Policy Research. Sonia is also a trustee of the education charity Ambition School Leadership.



LORD TONY SEWELL CBE

Chair,
Generating Genius

Lord Tony Sewell CBE is an international expert in education, leadership, and social mobility. He is chair of the charity of the Science and Technology charity Generating Genius, which he founded in 2004. In March 2021, Dr Sewell as chair, published the findings of the government's Race and Ethnic Disparities Commission. This has given rise to the seminal document 'Inclusive Britain' which is the implementation programme of the 'Sewell Report'. He has served on the board of the Learning Trust in Hackney and was part of the team that transformed education in that borough. His latest book will be out in May 2023 called: 'Black Success: 'The Surprising Truth.' He has been a regular columnist for The Voice, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, and Sunday Mirror. In 2016 he was awarded the CBE for his services to education and youth. He has recently been given a peerage to the House of Lords in recognition of his services to Education and social mobility.

Books:

'Black Success: 'The Surprising Truth'
(Forthcoming: 2023, Forum)



ABOUT THE EQUIANO PROJECT

The Equiano Project, founded in August 2020, is a non-profit organisation which promotes open dialogue and public debate on race, culture and politics. We are a liberal organisation, facilitating conversations about and emphasising the importance of freedom, our common humanity and universalism. We provide forums for discussion and debate by organising public events, and delivering workshops and sessions in schools, universities, charities, companies and public institutions. We also publish reports, articles, reviews and other original content in written, video and audio form.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

You can support our work by making a donation. We are kept going by donations, large and small. No matter how little, we would greatly appreciate your contribution. You can make a donation at: theequianoproject.com/donate

You can also support us by following us on social media and spreading the word.

Follow us on social media here:



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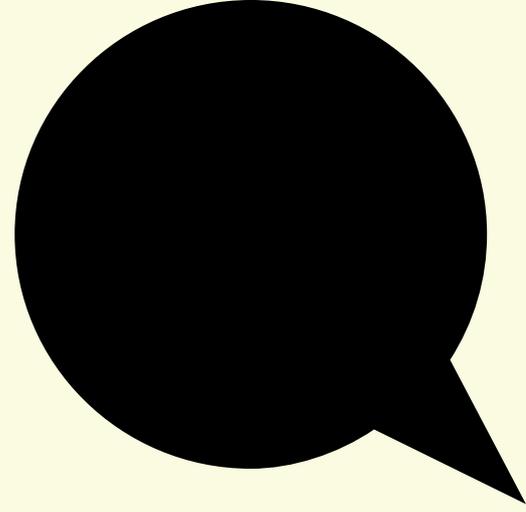
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THANK YOU



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