

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2024

THINK ING

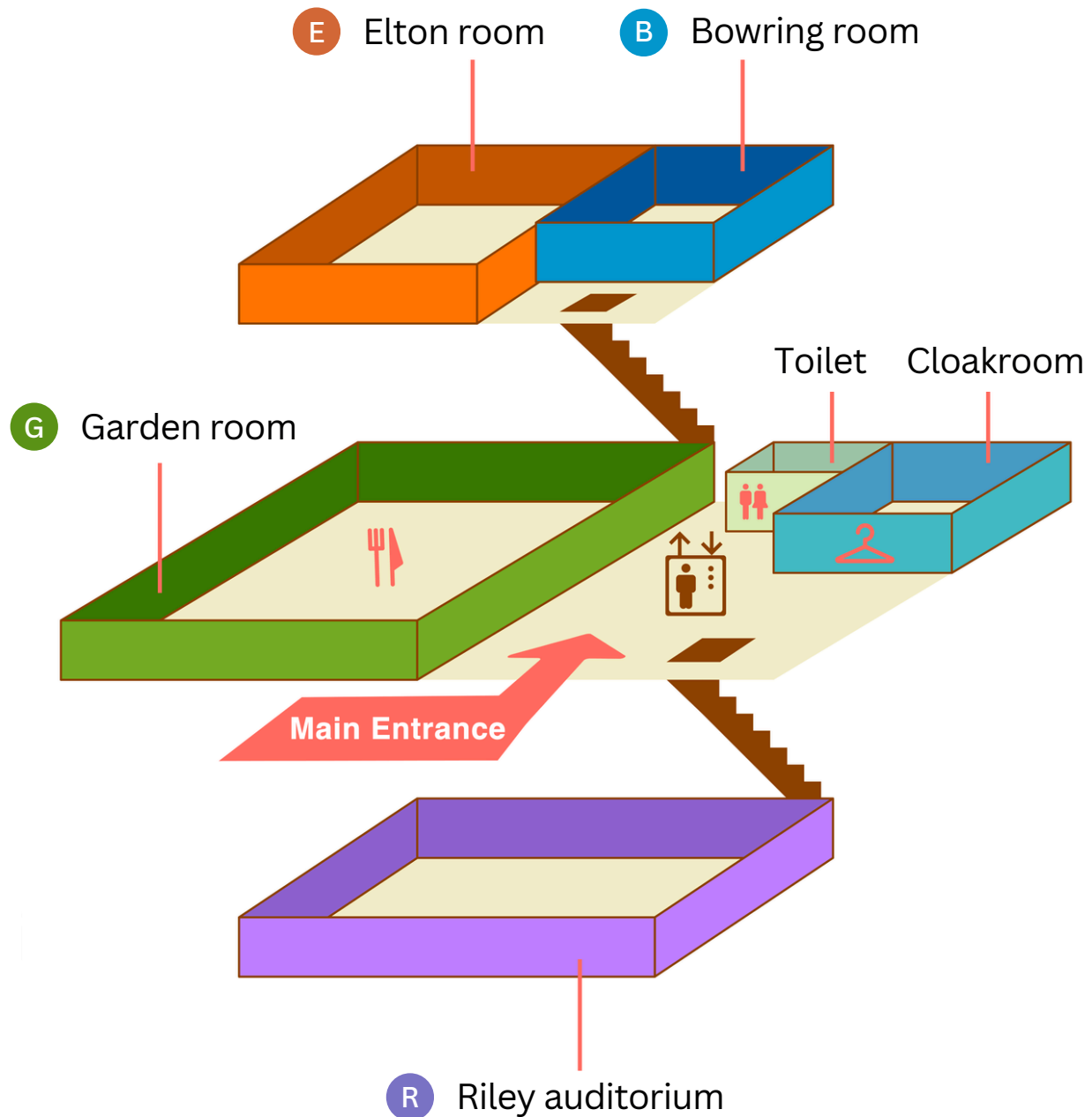


ENVISIONING AN ANTI-RACIST ACADEMIA

A day of workshops,
conversations, art,
movement, live
music and more



Site map & workshop schedule



Gillespie Centre, Memorial Court,
Clare College, CB3 9AJ ([map](#))

- G** 09.45-10.00
Registration
- G** 10.00-10.15
Opening & welcome
Mónica Moreno Figueroa and Manali Desai
- E** 10.15-11.30 (Session 1)
Having difficult conversations about racism and power
Aviah Sarah Day
- G** 11.30-11.45
Morning break
- G** 11.45-13.00 (Session 2)
Movement principles for collaboration
Bim Malcomson
- G** 13.00-13.45
Lunch
- B** 13.00-15.00
Curated open art space
Nuode Li
- E** 13.45-15.00 (Session 3)
Healing from the effects of racism
Mónica Moreno Figueroa
- G** 13.45-15.00 (Session 3)
Understanding whiteness: a somatics workshop
Joanna Jasiewicz
- G** 15.00-15.15
Afternoon break
- G** 15.15-16.30 (Session 4)
Embodied narratives: unpacking privilege and oppression
Joanna Jasiewicz
- E** 15.15-16.30 (Session 4)
Revealing the writer: restoring affect to academic inquiry
David Lambert
- B** 15.15-16.30 (Session 4)
Antiracist avengers unite! Making community through art
Stacey Leigh Ross and Lorraine Henry King
- G** 16.30-17.00
Moving together
Bim Malcomson
- G** 17.00-17.45
Dinner
- R** 18.00-19.30
Reflections on antiracist work
Eduardo Bonilla Silva and Arathi Sriprakash
- G** 19.30-20.30
Drinks reception
- G** 19.45-20.30
The Frida Violeta Band

Welcome to a space that *makes* space



HOW CAN WE ALIGN OUR ANTI-RACIST GOALS WITH OUR ACADEMIC PRACTICES? HOW CAN WE GO ABOUT DEVELOPING THE SUPPORT WE NEED?

This festival is an exciting experiment in creating 'a space that makes space'. It is especially for us: academics, researchers and staff who wish to align our anti-racist goals with our academic practices. It is a space for thinking, a space for feeling, moving, making. A space to attend to our processes, our doubts and certainties, our emotions, our bodies, and consider how these elements sit in relation to how we work, how we research, how we teach.

The festival aims to offer a sense of what a transformational anti-racist and intersectional academic

space might look like. It features a range of art, movement and knowledge-based explorations to foster an experience of antiracist collaboration and establish a creative and curious tone for the academic year ahead.

This pilot, one-day event will help us understand what we can offer collectively and what we need as a community. This festival is part of a series of events entitled Thinking Us: Developing Intersectional Antiracist Agendas in Research, sponsored by CRASHH, SHSS and Sociology at the University of Cambridge, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.



Thinking Us: Developing Intersectional Antiracist agendas in Research is an interdisciplinary project proposed by Professor Mónica Moreno Figueroa and Professor Manali Desai. It aims to enable Cambridge scholars to explore how we can further incorporate intersectional and anti-racist perspectives into their academic work.

During the first half of 2024, we held a series of collaborative meetings with academics, staff and PhD students where we shared our experiences of success, our challenges and our solutions when engaging with intersectional anti-racist work. That resulted in the programme we see here today.

We will now continue with a series of collaborative workshops, panels and a conference where participants will have further opportunities to experiment with research processes and project co-

imagining with creative and critical curiosity.

Some activities will be recorded, transcribed, and published to create a collective resource to support anti-racist perspectives within research across the Humanities and Social Sciences at Cambridge.

Thinking Us is part of the scoping and design phase for a new research institute on global racism and social transformation at the University of Cambridge, led by Professor Mónica Moreno Figueroa, dedicated to the challenges of racism and intersectional social inequalities worldwide. We hope this will be a sustainable and interdisciplinary institute facilitating dialogue, experimentation and research.

MÓNICA MORENO FIGUEROA
DIRECTOR, THINKING US FESTIVAL

“I’ve never experienced anything like this in Cambridge. I came away inspired, thinking about what can be done, and what I can do”
(workshop participant)

“My main takeaway is hope – for the first time in six years I feel like there’s a chance here of doing things differently”
(workshop participant)

Aviah Sarah *Day*

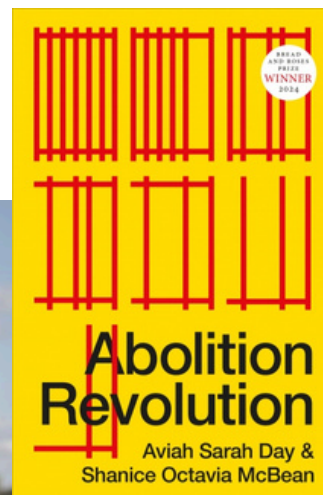
HAVING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACISM AND POWER

In this session, Aviah will discuss broaching difficult conversations on race by drawing on her experience in social movements and as lecturer in criminology at Birkbeck, University of London.

Participants will also have the opportunity discuss and reflect on their own experiences and fears and come away with some techniques and strategies to broach difficult conversations in future.



Aviah Sarah Day © Angeles Rodenas



“Perfect for reading groups and activist meetings, this is an invaluable book for those new to abolitionist politics”
(plutobooks.com)

Aviah Sarah Day is a Black community organiser with Sisters Uncut – a national direct-action collective fighting cuts to domestic violence services and state violence, as well as the London Renters Union – a members led tenants union and Hackney Cop Watch. The rest of her time is spent lecturing in Criminology at Birkbeck, University of London, organising

in her trade union branch, and reflecting on how to build workers' power through anarcho-syndicalism. Her research is informed by her work and activism of domestic violence meaning that her work integrates theory and practice with the express goal of furthering social justice. This maps across her academic, teaching and activist commitments. Before academic life Aviah held a number

of front-line domestic violence service roles, including working as an Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate, Refuge Worker and National Domestic Violence Helpline Worker. She recently published “Abolition Revolution” with Shanice Octavia McBean. Their book won the Bread and Roses 2024 prize.

Bim *Malcomson*



Bim Malcomson © Gillian Edelstein

MOVEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR COLLABORATION

This workshop will draw on dance principles to explore the relevance of embodiment for thinking and grounding collaborations

Bim Malcomson is a dance artist, choreographer and educator based in London, UK. Working with people of all ages, abilities and identities, Bim uses meticulous and playful exploration to reveal beauty. She is skilled at working with professional dancers, students, people of all ages and abilities, with individuals as well as large

groups, in a wide range of settings. For over 20 years, Bim has worked with organisations including the Royal Opera House, the Royal Ballet School, Central School of Ballet and Trinity Laban. Amongst others, her dance pieces have been seen at the Royal Opera House, London bus stops, Bulgarian orphanages and on the BBC (bimmalcomson.com).

Feeling *creative*?

Drop in to the Bowring Room at any point in the day for an open art space with a range of materials provided for creative artistic expression. Our Festival Curator, Nuode Li, will be on hand between 13.00-15.00. The art space will then become “Antiracist Avengers Unite! Making community through art” for Session 4 (15.15-16.30).

See page 14 for details



Open *art* space

FEATURED EXHIBITION



© Nuode Li



Our featured exhibition, by **Nuode Li**, explores the life of Abdus Salam, the first Nobel Prize winner from Pakistan and a groundbreaking theoretical physicist. He studied at the University of Cambridge, where he earned his degree and began his journey in science. Throughout his life, Salam faced various challenges due to his background and beliefs yet remained deeply committed to scientific knowledge and his own country. The project is inspired by the documentary *Salam: The First ***** Nobel Laureate*.

Mónica *Moreno* *Figueroa*

HEALING FROM THE EFFECTS OF RACISM: THE EMOTIONAL DIMENSION OF ANTIRACIST WORK

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WORKSHOP IS EXPRESSLY
FOR THOSE WHO IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE OF COLOUR

This workshop will take participants through a series of exercises and reflections to discuss and experience what it would be like to heal from the effects of racism.

As researchers exploring the multiple dimensions of racism and anti-racist work, we are well aware that the history and stories of racism are full of intense emotions:

anger, shame, sadness, powerlessness. We listen to those stories, analyse them, discuss them and sometimes, we have also gone through them ourselves or benefited, even if unintentionally, from racial privilege. However, many of us struggle to bring together how these stories make us feel with how we analyse them for academic and/or political

purposes. In this workshop, we are interested in bringing together the personal, academic and political experience of living and researching through experiences of racism. What are the emotional dimensions of these processes? How can we heal the effects racism has on us? How can this support our academic practice and activist work?



Mónica Moreno Figueroa © Seila Montes

Mónica Moreno Figueroa is a Black-mestiza woman, professor of Sociology at the University of Cambridge. She is also a Fellow in Social Sciences at Downing College. Her research focusses on the intersectional lived experience of 'race' and racism in Mexico and Latin America; antiracism and academic-based impact; feminist theory, intersectionality and racism.

Alongside her academics, Mónica co-founded the first explicitly antiracist organisation in Mexico in 2011, Colectivo para Eliminar el Racismo (COPERA), and acted as the University of Cambridge's Race Equality Co-Champion from 2017 to 2021.

UNDERSTANDING WHITENESS: A SOMATICS WORKSHOP

Session 3 (13.45-15.00)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR
THOSE WHO IDENTIFY AS WHITE**

This workshop offers a supportive and honest space to explore the embodied effects of whiteness, based on the understanding that racism—and any other form of systemic oppression—creates separation from others and from your own body.

Through conversation and guided somatic practices, you will be invited to notice how whiteness shows up in your thoughts, emotions, and bodily sensations.

By exploring these sensations and engaging in gentle mindful movement (only if you wish to!), you will be encouraged to notice how patterns of racialisation may have taken shape within you. The session encourages slowing down and making space for complexity and accountability.

EMBODIED NARRATIVES: UNPACKING PRIVILEGE AND OPPRESSION

Session 4 (15.15-16.30)

This workshop integrates conversation, somatic practices, and gentle movement (if you choose to try it), inviting you to notice and explore your body's positionality in terms of privilege and oppression, all within a supportive environment.

This space offers an invitation to unpack these dynamics, imagining privilege and oppression as narratives living in your body.

By becoming more aware of, and possibly expressing, these stories through gentle movement, you might create more room to notice and perhaps shift patterns that do not serve you and may not support those around you.

Joanna *Jasiewicz*



Joanna Jasiewicz © Diana Hayes

Joanna Jasiewicz is a somatics-informed race equity educator, sociologist, and trauma-informed yoga teacher. She is the founder of Move Rooted (moverooted.co.uk). With a strong background in the sociology of race and racism and extensive experience in academia and the third sector, Joanna specialises in supporting individuals and organizations in deep, no-tick box work to recognise and address racism and oppression, both in our minds and bodies and the world around us.

Previously, Joanna led the University of Cambridge's successful application for Race Equality Charter (REC) Bronze recognition. While at Cambridge, she delivered a highly regarded Race Awareness session attended by approximately 2700 participants. She went on to head the Royal Society of Chemistry's Race and Ethnicity Unit and now supports other higher education institutions in their REC applications as an Advance HE Associate.

David *Lambert*

REVEALING THE WRITER: RESTORING AFFECT TO ACADEMIC INQUIRY

This session will use short creative writing tasks to move us from passive observer to active participant taking more ownership of our research subjects. We will explore the impact of including the eye, embracing the I.



David Lambert © Michèle Lambert

David Lambert is a Trinidad-born British writer. He studied Modern Languages at the University of Cambridge, and has a Masters in Conference Interpreting (Bath), Applied Linguistic (Essex) and Creative Writing (UEA). He taught Imaginative Writing at Anglia Ruskin University for 13 years and now runs writing retreats at his property in France (retreatfrance.co.uk).

Stacey *Leigh* Ross & Lorraine *Henry King*

ANTIRACIST AVENGERS UNITE! MAKING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART

**Identify your antiracism
superpower while you
connect and create with
fellow antiracism
advocates and activists.**



© Stacey Leigh Ross

Stacey Leigh specialises in Life Story Art, creative practice development, education design, and creative social change. She has extensive experience crafting bespoke learning programmes for inclusion and creativity. Stacey Leigh is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy with an MA in Applied Imagination, a BSc in Management, and a PgCert in Academic Practice with speciality in Inclusive Teaching Practice. Her ongoing doctoral research seeks to cultivate compassion through curation, art, storytelling and Caribbean Carnival. Past clients describe Stacey Leigh as perceptive, determined, inspiring and joyful (byleigh.com).

Lorraine is an educator, curriculum designer, process specialist, artist, and researcher, who develops interventions that disrupt invisible barriers and myth-bust unconscious biases. She is a member of ILM, EMCC, Fashion Academics Creating Equality (FACE) and her international research includes academic articles and presentations. Lorraine is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy with an MA in Textiles, and a BA in Interactive Broadcast Media. Her doctoral research focuses on the representation and costuming of Black superheroes in Hollywood films. Past clients and colleagues describe Lorraine as an inspired 'fixer'.



© Lorraine Henry King

Eduardo *Bonilla-Silva* & Arathi *Sríprakash*

REFLECTIONS ON DOING ANTIRACIST WORK

In this interactive conversation, Professor Eduardo Bonilla-Silva and Professor Arathi Sriprakash will discuss the meanings of racism and anti-racism, as well as reparations and educational spaces. Rather than a conventional key note address, Eduardo and Arathi will seek to gain insights from members of the audience to create a collaborative dialogue on anti-racist work within the academy.



© Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

Eduardo is an sociologist and professor of sociology at Duke University in the United States. He is trained in class analysis, political sociology, and sociology of development (globalization). However, his work in the last 20 years has been in the area of race. Eduardo has published on racial theory, race and methodology, color-blind racism, the idea that race stratification in the USA is becoming Latin America-like, racial grammar, HWCUs, race and human rights, race and citizenship, whiteness, and the Obama phenomenon among other things. In all of his work, he contends that racism is fundamentally about "racial domination," hence, racism is a collective and structural phenomenon in society.

Arathi is a sociologist of education. Her current research examines reparative justice in educational systems and practices. How might collective recognition of past and present injustices help us imagine 'reparative futures' of education? What does reparation in education look like? Underlying much of this research has been an abiding interest in the racial politics of education. Her scholarship has explored the active erasures of racism and coloniality in the field of education and the ways in which racial capitalism sustains educational injustices.



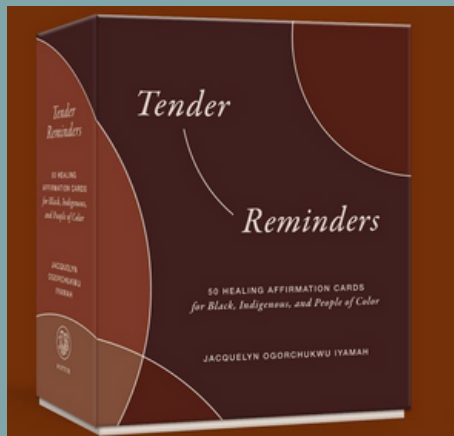
Arathi Sriprakash © Scott Walter

The *Frída* *Violeta* Band

The Frida Violeta Band is a vibrant all-women ensemble that has been bringing Latin American folk music to the UK since 2018. They blend classical and traditional instruments to recreate forms of music like cueca, bailecito, huayno, zamba and cumbia. Born in diverse corners of the globe—India, Mexico, England, Chile and Argentina—they seamlessly share and integrate their cultures and music with joy and love (fridavioletaband.weebly.com).



© Frida Violeta Band



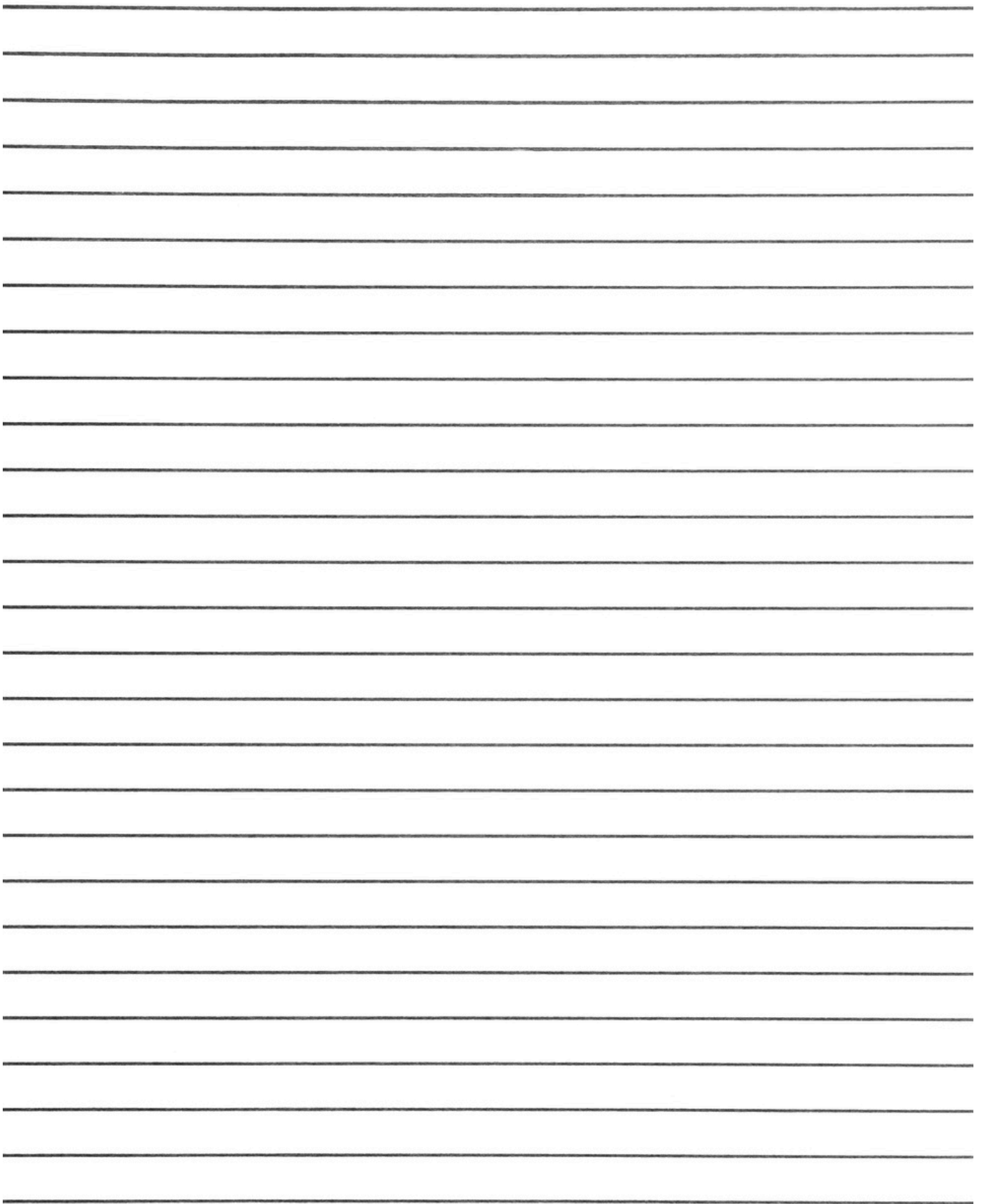
© Jacquelyn Iyamah

Jacquelyn Ogorchukwu *Iyamah*

The Tender Reminders used in the Thinking Us festival are produced by Jacquelyn Iyamah, an expert in creating content that considers gender, race, ability, socioeconomic status, and other dimensions of identity. Jacquelyn is also the author of “Racial Wellness: A Guide to Liberatory Healing” published by Penguin Random House. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Social Welfare from UC Berkeley and a Master’s degree in UX Design and Information Architecture (inclusivecontentstudio.com).

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Doodles



Meet *the* organisers

Yiyun is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge. She holds an MPhil in Sociology from Cambridge and an MSc in Media and Communications from LSE. Before joining Cambridge, Yiyun was actively involved in anti-racism initiatives, collaborating with the United Nations Human Rights Council on their online anti-racism campaign.



YIYUN BAI
CO-CONVENOR

Karen is a PhD student at the Centre for Latin American Studies sponsored by the Gates Cambridge Trust. Her research explores how Black hair entrepreneurship might shape antiracist struggles in Colombia, particularly on the Caribbean and the Pacific Coasts. Karen also has significant experience working for feminist NGOs in projects on feminist security and peacebuilding with international partner organizations from Latin America and Europe.



**KAREN DOMÍNGUEZ
MENDOZA**
CO-CONVENOR

Hao is a PhD student at the Department of Sociology. Her research examines the role of childbearing in China, with a particular focus on how cultural norms and individual agency intersect in fertility decisions. Before her PhD, Hao also conducted research on international student immigration and higher education, focusing on the intersectional experience of Chinese students in UK universities.



HAO LI
CO-CONVENOR

Nuode is an interdisciplinary visual artist from China. Her practice has been broad and diverse, experimenting with different media and techniques including painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed-media collage, moving image and digital illustration. Nuode's work emphasizes individual experiences in contemporary society, resisting grand narratives. She explores themes of loneliness and alienation, as well as the states and emotions of ordinary people amidst the rapid societal and global changes (nuodeliart.com).



NUODE LI
CURATOR

Shannon is a queer-feminist sociologist of colour and an assistant professor of sociology at Cambridge. His research focuses on the relationship between masculinities, femininities and sexualities in cities of the Global South. He has carried out long-term ethnographic and qualitative fieldwork in New Delhi and Johannesburg, focusing on the ways in which race, class, caste, sexuality and gender operate in everyday social processes and their many consequences.



SHANNON PHILIP
CO-CONVENOR

Tianran is a PhD student in the department of Sociology at Cambridge University. Coming from a film production and film theory background, Tianran takes an intersectional approach in analyzing the structural tensions between gender, class, and race/ethnicity. Her current PhD research addresses the Big Heroine phenomenon in Chinese television as a superficially presenting symptom of deeper sociocultural tensions.



TIANRAN QIN
CO-CONVENOR

Marta is a research project administrator at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), alongside which she has supported the Thinking Us project. Marta holds a PhD from the University of Padova and was an EU Marie Curie postdoctoral researcher at the Hashemite University in Jordan and the University of Sheffield. Before joining CRASSH, she was the Research Facilitator in Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge.



MARTA TENCONI
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Yue is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Cambridge. Her research explores the lived experiences of Chinese-African interracial couples in China, with a focus on how gender, race, and nationalism intersect in shaping these relationships. Outside academia, Yue actively engages with feminist NGOs and leads a female academic community aimed at supporting women in academia.



YUE ZHONG
CO-CONVENOR

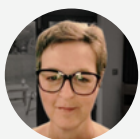
MEET THE ORGANISERS

Mónica Moreno Figueroa, a professor of sociology at Cambridge, is the director of the Thinking Us Festival. The Thinking Us project is part of the design process for the new research institute on global racisms and social transformation, which she is currently leading. Mónica has secured seed funding from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for 2023–2025, as well as from the ODA-UKRI International Science Partnership Fund. In 2022–23, she was awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship for her project, “The Structure Within: Internalised Oppression, Defensiveness, and Resentment”. This project is linked to the development of the research institute and serves as one of its flagship initiatives.



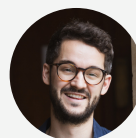
**MÓNICA MORENO
FIGUEROA**
DIRECTOR

Lisa is the project administrator at the global racisms and social transformation research institute and personal assistant to Professor Mónica Moreno Figueroa. Lisa was formerly the office manager at Newnham Walk Surgery (NHS), where she worked for 15 years. In her spare time, she coaches at the Cambridge University College Boat Club and has previously rowed for England.



LISA WATSON
PROJECT
ADMINISTRATOR

Joe is the project coordinator at the global racisms and social transformation research institute. His MPhil dissertation investigated the decolonisation movement in Cambridge, and he has been highly involved in supporting racial justice projects based at the University, including Decolonise Sociology, Black Cantabs, the End Everyday Racism campaign, the Black British Voices Project, the Race Equality Network and the Black Advisory Hub.



JOE COTTON
PROJECT
COORDINATOR

Elmira is the research coordinator at the newly-proposed global racisms and social transformation research institute. She holds an MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology, as well as in Public Policy Conflict Resolution and Mediation, and has previously worked in education, journalism and marketing. She is the founder of Family Ethnography, a course and community of female writers from Central Asia, writing about memory and history with a decolonial lens.



ELMIRA KAKABAYEVA
RESEARCH
COORDINATOR



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2024

Editor

Mónica Moreno Figueroa

Design

Joe Cotton

Graphics & Illustrations

Nuode Li

FUNDERS

The Thinking Us Festival has been made possible by the generous support of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Research Framework Fund), with additional funds from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, as part of the design of the new global racisms and social transformation research institute.

THINK ING

US

An initiative by
the global racisms and
social transformation
research institute

*Are you signed up
to our mailing list?*



Scan the QR code and
enter your email address to
register. Don't forget to
click on the sign-up link in
the confirmation email too!

If you're not a robot and can't read
QR codes, you can also contact Joe
Cotton (jwc55@cam.ac.uk)



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
Department of Sociology