

WAR INNA BABYLON

Lecture 1:

An introduction to War Inna Babylon - understanding “the community” and its issues through a historic lens.

The TR curated multilayered approach to understanding the racist state-designed attack on Black communities in the UK since their arrival.

- a. Foundations:
 - i. Colonialism and migration policies - **Arrivals**
 - ii. Limiting access to public and social services; housing, employment, health, education - **Deprivation**
- b. Agitations:
 - i. SUS laws, SEN schools, Borstals and Youth Offenders: **Institutionalisation/Criminalisation**
 - ii. Community Development and Uprisings: **Frontlines**
 - iii. Brutality and Miscarriages of Justice - **Repercussions**

Here we look at the context of present day manifestations of racism and conflict between the community and the state through the actions of the state and the community responses/defenses; from inviting Black commonwealth members to the country; the systemic rejection and marginalisation of first generation Black British children, through public services and; the Black communities response through UK wide development of their own, autonomous, self-built services and spaces.

Workshop 1:

Campaigning: Throughout the years, galvanising large groups of people to address the hardship caused by lack of state provisions and targeted conflict towards the Black community has been key to the Black British struggle for equality and rights. When individuals are targeted and left intentionally vulnerable and isolated, the collective voice matters and needs to be strong.

This workshop will seek to teach students the core components of campaigning, including:

- Identifying and engaging community needs
- Deciding objectives for a campaign
- Strategising and rollout
- Producing and disseminating campaign materials
- What happens after public displays of outrage? Beyond protesting.
- Public bodies and key players that influence change
- Sustaining campaigns and campaigners
- Networks of campaigns (solidarity and allyship)

Lecture 2:

1. **Suspect Communities: Labelling and justifying hostility against Black communities**
 - i. Policy making, stigmatisation and policing within Black communities
 1. Isolating individuals through criminalisation.
 2. Include responses within reports and public bodies that challenge race and diversity issues.
 3. Media collusion/or fuelling the fire and breaking down public opinion.

Here we look at the infrastructure that facilitates social hostility and abuses of power towards Black communities and its layers: starting with a history of Westminster policy agendas, the social implications of these policies and then taking a look at the strong arm of the state, the police.

Workshop 2:

Casework: The impact of racism and injustice is easier to approach when many people, with a shared experience, are visible and vocal about their issues in a collective manner.

However, many individuals are often left to challenge the state, in isolation, which is both tactically difficult and personally taxing.

Non-legal advocates and caseworkers, often belonging to specialised charities, provide services for specific communities; using their lived experience and professional skills to support individuals to navigate institutional challenges, and often also providing therapeutic and pastoral care.

- Identifying clients
- Deciding a course of action
- Support and ethics
- Quasi-legal practices
- Building the case profile
- Pastoral care
- Sustaining a casework organisation

Lecture 3:

1. Marginal communities: Isolated and vulnerable

- i. Identity and community within the Black experience
 1. Shared experiences of race, migration and colonial histories
 2. Separate identities and organising by need
 3. Community development and support as the centrepiece for collective action
- ii. Impact/first hand accounts -
 1. daily impact of racism
 2. intergenerational legacy
 - a. Between Windrush and Ragamuffin
 - b. Between Ragamuffin and Millennials
 3. Implosion: uprisings as the voice of the voiceless

Within the academy and public understanding, Black British voices are often unheard. Many studies of racism neglect the lived experiences of Black British grassroots communities - opting for other ethnic groups or African Americans as examples to highlight racial disparity or insensitivity - despite the over representation of Black British individuals in statistics relating to racism; and the decades of collective input from Black British communities to keep race on the agenda and garner impactful social change.

Here we highlight the uniqueness and importance of the Black British experience using lived experience, first hand accounts and intergenerational testimony to establish the array of experiences within Black British communities.

Black meaning of African descent. Black community resistance as a reflection of the shared experience of specifically Afro-Caribbean and African people. Community meaning those who collectivise and organise around a shared experience and the need for relative progress, harmony and resources amongst the collective.

Workshop 3:

Grassroots Community Development: At the heart of any struggle for justice, there are communities of people with shared identities, experiences and needs. These voices are the fuel behind the experiences that catch the attention of wider public, campaigners, policy makers, media outlets and others seeking social change.

At the height of conflict between state and communities, these voices often go unheard or distorted. Their fundamental needs, identities and experiences - beyond dealing with explosive events - are often left unaddressed.

Community development, at a grassroots level, is about respectful, mutual, effective coordination and provision for those who are being alienated and deprived by the state. It is about enabling autonomy and encouraging functionality, wellbeing, collective spirit and access, which is sustainable and fair, for those who belong to the community.

In 2022, resources for community development look very different to the golden days of 'Frontlines' and Black grassroots organising, in the 1980's, but it is still a necessity, and the crucial element for any aim to achieve social parity and harmony.

In this workshop, using previous examples of organising such as parents movements, bookshops, youth associations, educational advocates, council-sponsored employment contracts and more, we will discuss what possibilities there are for building communities on the ground, that are strong enough to support themselves in the absence of state provision, whilst challenging oppressive onslaughts from the state.

Lecture 4:

1. State harassment: (the sustained and well-resourced attack against communities)

- i. Responses to uprisings
- ii. Infrastructural power and its commitment to exclusion
- iii. Daily operations
- iv. The wider mechanism: i.e. info sharing via The Matrix, covert surveillance strategy etc

This lecture will look at the relentless and prolonged efforts by the state to marginalise Black British communities. From policies which have emerged over the years from archaic laws, deemed unnecessary; to draconian, knee jerk policy responses in times where Black communities frustrations have been voiced through public protest, to the specific agendas of legal institutions which utilise hyper-surveillance strategies and multi-agency approaches to policing sects of the Black community.

Workshop 4:

State Accountability: A phrase which often seems mythical given the monopoly of power the state holds over its own investigation and calls for reform. This workshop will look at how, over the years, Black campaigners have:

- Utilised legal challenges to fight against state injustices
- Challenge the police at a macro and micro level
- Worked with other partners to contest state narratives
- Unearth and challenge collusion and covert operations
- Raise public awareness
- Fund and sustain these challenges without mainstream or public infrastructure to do so.