

CLOSING OUR GAP:  
BLACK HISTORY 365

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## In conversation with...



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OCT

**RICKY BENJAMIN**  
RAPPER TO BANKER



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OCT

**DR SHARDÉ M DAVIS**  
#BLACK IN THE IVORY



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**VERONIC WRIGHT**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



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**KUMI NAIDOO**  
AFFLUENZA THE GREATEST THREAT  
TO HUMANITY



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NOV

**ROBERTA BABB**  
THE BAME EXPERIENCE: THE AXE  
FORGETS, BUT THE TREE REMEMBERS...

We have moved away from the month-long approach to Black History and are committed to celebrating and education for the full year. For further details of our upcoming events email: [closingourgap@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:closingourgap@canterbury.ac.uk)

**BOOK NOW**

[canterbury.ac.uk/bh365-events](https://canterbury.ac.uk/bh365-events)

#CCCUBH365

## In conversation with...



Christ Church welcomes you to celebrate  
Closing Our Gap: Black History 365 with us.

## In conversation with...



**RICKY BENJAMIN**  
RAPPER TO BANKER

Ricky Benjamin grew up in West London, graduated in Mathematics with Computer Science at Brunel University and has 17 years experience working in Retail Banking. He is an optimistic and open-minded person and claims this is because his blood type is 'B Positive'.

Ricky is a Capability Manager at TSB Bank and is a BAME Network co-chair, he has been heavily involved in the organisation's response to the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020 along with planning and organising Black History Month.

Whilst being a husband and a father, he is an FA qualified football coach and coaches a youth team in his home town.

He has a passion for music, was previously signed to a major record label and enjoys telling his 'Rapper to Banker' story to inspire younger generations.

**21  
OCT**

15.00-16.00



**DR SHARDÉ M DAVIS**  
#BLACK IN THE IVORY

Dr Shardé M Davis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Connecticut and the creator of the popular hashtag #BlackintheIvory. Her research examines the way Black women leverage communication in the sistah circle to invoke collective identity, erect and fortify the boundaries around their homeplace, and backfill the necessary resources to return to white/male dominant spaces in American society. These ideas have been published in over 30 peer-reviewed articles and invited book chapters, and are best represented in her theory, The Strong Black Woman Collective. Her research was formally recognised with the 2018 American Postdoctoral Fellowship from the American Association of University Women and the 2019 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, as well as over 40 awards and honours. She is involved in various professional communities around the nation, and her service includes serving as the Chair of the African American Communication and Culture Division (AACCD) of the National Communication Association. Aside from her academic pursuits, Dr Davis volunteers her time to organisations and non-profits that support the overall livelihood of Black women and other people of colour in the greater Hartford community.

**28  
OCT**

16.30-17.30

**BOOK NOW**



**VERONIC WRIGHT**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Ms Veronica Wright, from The Gambia, is a Senior Legal Officer with the United Nations Investigative Team for Accountability of Crimes committed by ISIL/Da'esh (UNITAD), in which capacity she leads the investigations into the sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against children committed by ISIL in Iraq.

Prior to joining UNITAD, she was the Senior Regional Legal Adviser and Head of the Justice Section at the Regional Office for West and Central Africa of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

A graduate of Fourah Bay College, (the oldest University in West Africa), the Nigerian Law School and the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, she started her career as a State Counsel in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, in her home country of The Gambia and rose to the position of Principal State Counsel.

From November 2017, Ms Wright was seconded to the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (UN-IRMCT) in Arusha, Tanzania, as Senior Legal Adviser and Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Prosecutor.

She returned to her position in Senegal in January 2019, to resume her functions, before finally leaving UNODC to join UNITAD in Iraq, in October 2019.

**4  
NOV**

17.00-18.00



**KUMI NAIDOO**  
AFFLUENZA THE GREATEST THREAT TO HUMANITY

A seasoned activist in South Africa during its struggle against apartheid, Kumi Naidoo has never lost his broad vision, deep commitment to people and planet, and his capacity to catalyse communities and movement for justice across issues, sectors and borders.

He is a founding chair of the Campaign for a Just Energy Future and is a patron of Future SA, which both advocate for accountability and an end to corruption in South Africa. He has served as Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Secretary General of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Board Chair of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), President of the Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA), and Board member of Shared Interest and the Thembanani International Guarantee Fund. He also served as Board member for 350.org, the Global Greengrants Fund, and as an Ambassador to the Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute.

Kumi currently serves on the International Council of Transparency International.

Kumi Naidoo is recognised internationally as a forceful advocate for human rights, gender equity, economic justice and environmental justice.

Please read this page before the event:

<https://medium.com/@kuminaidoo/covid-is-horrific-but-affluenza-poses-the-greatest-threat-to-humanity-e93fdf539ce>

**11  
NOV**

15.00-16.00

**BOOK NOW**



**ROBERTA BABB**

THE BAME EXPERIENCE: THE AXE FORGETS,  
BUT THE TREE REMEMBERS...

**27  
NOV**

15.00-16.00

Dr Roberta Babb is a registered Clinical Psychologist and a registered Forensic Psychodynamic Psychotherapist. Her work is influenced by psychodynamic psychotherapy, cultural psychology, schema therapy and cognitive behavioural therapy. To develop meaning and enable clients to make sense of their difficulties, Dr Babb works closely with clients to safely explore their past, present and future. She simultaneously builds long-lasting internal resources which may help clients actively take responsibility for promoting positive changes in their life.

**Talk overview**

- A personal overview of her career (academic and professional) in clinical psychology.
- Share some of the external and internal challenges she faced (and continue to face) during her psychology career.
- Highlight issues that affect BAME students mental health and wellbeing.
- Offer some strategies for how to manage them/reduce their impact.

**BOOK NOW**