

Impact case study (REF3)

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| Institution: University of Chichester | | |
| Unit of Assessment: 28 (History) | | |
| Title of case study: Diversifying the Study of History in Britain | | |
| Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2012-2020 | | |
| Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit: | | |
| Name(s): Hakim Adi | Role(s) (e.g. job title): Professor of the History of Africa and the African Diaspora | Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: 2012-2020 |
| Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2014-2020 | | |
| Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N | | |
| 1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words) | | |
| <p>Research conducted by Hakim Adi at the University of Chichester (UoC) led to landmark changes in the UK's secondary history curriculum, new opportunities for underrepresented young British historians (particularly through the twice Heritage Lottery-funded (GBP66,200) Young Historians Project), equality-focused structural reforms at The National Archives, and a surge in public interest in/awareness of black British history through a variety of media engagements (at least one of which reached over 660,000 people). It was the driving force behind 'History Matters', a group combining historians, teachers and students concerned about race, ethnicity and equality in UK academia, which prompted major reports by the Royal Historical Society and the Runnymede Trust.</p> | | |
| 2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words) | | |
| <p>The legacy of Britain's colonial past has become ever more contentious in recent years, as challenges to Eurocentric approaches to history have mounted both within and outside academia. In 2020 it became the subject of an unprecedented public debate globally, resulting in the removal/renaming of over 70 memorial tributes to slave traders and colonialists across Britain, and a wave of corporate and governmental initiatives designed to reassess the imprint of colonial history on British institutions, policies and public spaces.</p> <p>Hakim Adi's research at the UoC has played a key role in laying the groundwork for this outburst of historicist activity, and represents a number of important building blocks within it. Focusing on a significant, yet neglected, aspect of colonialism, his work recovers the hidden history of the global African Diaspora, shedding new light on the networks and ideologies that underpin it, as well as its largely forgotten political significance in Britain specifically.</p> <p>In a series of pioneering early monographs, Adi established, for the first time, the political influence of west-Africans in modern Britain, who lobbied against racism and colonial rule alongside better-known organisations (including the British Labour Party and Communist Party) at pivotal moments, such as the 1945 Manchester Pan-African Congress. Building on these insights, Adi's more recent research has sought further to link this British story with the broader history of the global African diaspora, and the various international (particularly Pan-Africanist) political movements to which it has given rise. This has resulted in two major scholarly works: <i>Pan-Africanism and Communism: The Communist International, Africa and the Diaspora 1919-1939</i> [R1], which explores the cross-fertilisation of inter-war communism with pan-Africanism and global pan-Africanist networks; and <i>Pan-Africanism: A History</i> [R3], which surveys the entire pan-African movement, from its eighteenth-century inception to the creation of the African Union in 2002.</p> | | |

Adi has also continued to develop his early work on the African diaspora in Britain in *Black British History: New Perspectives* [R4], the first edited collection of scholarly essays on black British history to be written predominantly by black British authors. Revisiting familiar historical terrain (such as Tudor England) alongside lesser-explored subjects (including the British reparations movement), the collection offers a range of original arguments and insights into a wide variety of historical contexts. Adi's latest book, *An Introduction to Black British History* (forthcoming from Penguin), will provide the most complete survey of the over two-thousand-year history of African and Caribbean people in Britain written to date.

Alongside these more traditional academic outputs, Adi has written textbook materials [R2] for a secondary (GCSE) History readership, utilising his academic research into the histories of immigration, empire, colonialism, and the contributions of migrants (particularly Africans) to Britain. In doing so, he has enabled GCSE students to appreciate in new ways the historically constructed and contingent nature of these concepts, and how they continue to impact upon British society. This work supplements Adi's earlier children's writing, which includes *The History of the African and Caribbean Communities in Britain* (first published in 1995, and most recently republished in 2020).

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

[R1]: *Pan-Africanism and Communism: The Communist International, Africa and the Diaspora, 1919-1939* (Africa World Press, 2013).

Translations:

- Spanish: *Panafricanismo y comunismo, La Internacional comunista, Africa y la diaspora, 1919-1939* (Ciencias Sociales, 2019).

Research funding:

- British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship, 2008–2009. **Awarded: £40,000**
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Award ('Slavery, Memory, Citizenship'), 2013. **Awarded: £500**
- Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diaspora, York University, Toronto, 2008–2009. **Awarded: £1,500**

Select reviews:

- [Roundtable discussion and review of *Pan-Africanism and Communism*](#) in *Black Perspectives* (25 July 2015)
 - o 'This stunningly conceived and exhaustively researched book brings to life the little known contribution of the Comintern to Pan-Africanism during the 1920s and 1930s.'
- [Review of *Pan-Africanism and Communism*](#) in *I Am Hip-Hop Magazine* (4 June 2015)
 - o 'This book is an enormous research archive of the history of the Comintern and the ITUCNW [International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers].'
- [Review of *Pan-Africanism and Communism*](#) in the *Review of African Political Economy* (14 Dec 2016)

[R2]: With M. Spafford, D. Lyndon, M. Sherwood, *Explaining the Modern World: Migration, Empire and the Historic Environment* (Hodder Education, 2016).

[R3]: *Pan-Africanism: A History* (Bloomsbury, 2018). This output is being submitted to REF2021.

Translations:

- French: *Panafricanisme: une histoire* (Présence Africaine, forthcoming).
- Portuguese: *Pan-Africanismo: Uma Historia* (Editora da Universidade Federal da Bahia, forthcoming).

Select reviews:

- [Review of Pan Africanism: A History](#) in *Humanities and Social Sciences*
 - o An 'astonishingly concise and extensively researched survey [...] this book deserves to be widely read by students, scholars and activists alike'.
- [Review of Pan Africanism: A History](#) in *The Nation*
 - o 'Few scholars are better positioned than Adi to chart Pan-Africanism's history: Over the course of two decades, he has chronicled it and the modern black experience more broadly as the writer or editor.'

[R4]: Adi, (ed.) *Black British History: New Perspectives* (Zed Press, 2019).

All outputs available on request.

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Recent campaigns such as '[Why is My Curriculum White?](#)', '[Why isn't My Professor Black?](#)', and a [2020 petition](#) signed by 268,772 people have lent widespread urgency to the notion that history education at all levels must be made less Eurocentric if it is to become truly inclusive of students and historical perspectives. Since jointly founding the [Black and Asian Studies Association](#) (BASA) in 1991, Adi's research and research-led activism have, to a perhaps unique extent, catalysed the beginnings of this long-overdue change.

An important springboard for impact in the recent period was a conference hosted by the '[History Matters](#)' (HM) initiative (founded by Adi) in April 2015, which brought together individuals from schools and cultural institutions (including Black Cultural Archives, the Historical Association and the Royal Historical Society (RHS)) to explore concerns about the extraordinary under-representation of students and teachers of African and Caribbean heritage at all levels of UK history education. Key data, subsequently published by HM representatives in the [Times Higher Education](#), showed that in 2011-12 and 2012-13 black undergraduates studying history represented a mere 1.8% and 1.9% of the UK total cohort, respectively, and in 2013 'only three black students were admitted to higher education to train as history teachers'.

Diversity in Higher Education (HE) History

Addressing this deficit in HE specifically, Adi organised a [2017 conference](#), edited a volume of scholarly essays [R4], and created the twice Heritage Lottery-funded (GBP66,200) [Young Historians Project](#) (YHP), which has so far provided over 40 young black British historians (ages 16–25) with opportunities to pursue practical, impactful and community-focused research. YHP places a strong emphasis on equipping its researchers with the practical skills required for dynamic, cutting-edge research, including oral histories, documentary making and field work [C1].

With HM, Adi, who in 2015 became the first black British historian to be appointed Professor at a UK HE institution (UoC), successfully petitioned the RHS to conduct a report into this issue. Published in 2018, this report attests to the 'pioneering efforts', 'formative contribution', and 'substantial initiatives and resources' provided by Adi/the UoC, in laying 'essential groundwork' to overcoming 'major obstacles to racial and ethnic diversity and inclusion in UK university History' [C2].

Diversity in GCSE History

Adi's research at the UoC has both underpinned and constituted landmark curricular changes in UK secondary education. In 2014 the examination board OCR invited BASA, on the strength of its public research profile, to develop the unprecedented History GCSE module 'Migration to Britain', alongside a new accompanying textbook, which Adi jointly authored [R2]. Adi's research played a 'crucial role' in making 'Migration to Britain' 'feasible', and approximately 7,200 GCSE students have studied it to date [C3]. In addition to providing the impetus for the collaboratively-produced [Our Migration Story](#), an award-winning online repository of classroom and revision

resources designed to accompany the module, 'Migration to Britain' elicited a further (July 2019) report into 'Teaching Migration, Belonging, and Empire in Secondary Schools' [C4], which argues that 'Migration to Britain' has met a pressing curricular need, and which has helped to generate widespread press coverage and debate on the issue of diversity in secondary education [C5].

'Diversity Amongst Documents'

Invited to deliver a keynote address to the 2018 Gerald Aylmer Seminar '[Diversity amongst documents?](#)', hosted by The National Archives (TNA), RHS, and Institute of Historical Research (IHR), Adi's research-led critique of underrepresentation in the independent research organisation sector was decisive in driving the creation of two new diversity-focused roles at TNA in 2019: a first ever Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Records Specialist, and a first Inclusion and Change Manager [C6]. These individuals have already been responsible for a variety of diversity-focused [podcasts](#) and [workshops](#).

Diversity in Public Historical Awareness

Adi's research at the UoC has prompted dozens of invitations to contribute to national television, radio, broadsheet media and arts initiatives, through which his research has achieved significant national and international reach within the REF2021 assessment period:

- [History's Biggest Fibs – Queen Anne](#) (BBC4 documentary by television historian Lucy Worsley first aired in March 2020, which gained over 660,000 views) [C7].
- [Making History](#) (BBC Radio 4 programme first aired in March 2016 exploring why there are so few black British academics).
- *The History Hour* (BBC World Service programme first aired October 2019).
- '[Pan-Africanism, Slavery, Colonialism And African Diasporas](#)' (Black History Month Magazine interview with Adi, May 2020).
- '[Pan-Africanism and Communism: an interview with Hakim Adi](#)' (*Review of African Political Economy*, January 2017).
- '[Why Protesters Want To Tear Down Statue Of "White Supremacist" Winston Churchill](#)' (article in *Huffington Post*, June 2020).
- '[An Introduction to 19th Century African and Caribbean British History](#)' (*Historical Association* podcast, April 2014).
- '[A Shameful Whitewash](#)' (Review of *Black and British: A Forgotten History* by David Olusoga in the *Spectator*, January 2017).
- '[Who is the greatest leader in world history?](#)' (March 2020 *BBC History Magazine* competition in which Adi nominated Amilcar Cabral, one of Africa's foremost anticolonial leaders, securing 2nd place with over 5,000 (25%) public votes – ahead of Winston Churchill). As a result of this public intervention Adi was thanked by Pedro Pires (former President of Cape Verde) for his 'invaluable contribution' towards the growth of public awareness of/interest in Cabral, and 'the historical appreciation of our national liberation struggle' [C8].

In addition to the above, in 2017, Adi contributed an article ('Discovering Africa in London') to the programme notes for Inua Ellams's play *The Barbershop Chronicles*, which enjoyed two sell-out runs at the National Theatre, as well as a world tour. In May 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Theatre rereleased an Open Access digital recording of the play as part of its '[National Theatre at Home](#)' series. It also republished Adi's article as part of its '[Learning at Home](#)' initiative, which disseminate educational resources to students and teachers at a time of national crisis [C9].

More recently (since July 2020), Adi has given talks on his research (by invitation) as part of Black History Month 2020 to the UK Cabinet Office, the Home Office, the London Metal Exchange, and NBC Universal. He also contributed to a BBC Radio 4 programme on the 5th pan-African Congress. [C10].

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

[C1]: Testimonial statement from Amelia Francis, YHP Coordinator, 11 March 2021.

[C2.1]: Testimonial statement from Emma Griffin, President of the RHS, 27 January 2021.

[C2.2]: [Royal Historical Society Race, Ethnicity & Equality in History: A Report and A Resource for Change](#) (2018), particularly pp. 7, 23, 25, 102, 114.

[C3]: Testimonial statement from Mike Goddard, Lead Subject Adviser, OCR, 25 January 2021.

[C4]: [Teaching Migration, Belonging, and Empire in Secondary Schools](#): Report by the Runnymede Trust (2019), particularly p. 2.

[C5]: Press coverage/debate on 'Migration to Britain', and prompted by 'Teaching Migration, Belonging, and Empire in Secondary Schools' Report (Runnymede Trust):

- [Article in the Daily Mail](#) (09/01/2016)
- [Article in the Guardian](#) (01/12/2014)
- [Article in the Guardian](#) (03/07/2019)

[C6]: Testimonial statements from:

- Kevin Searle, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Records Specialist (10 March 2021).
- Rachael Minnot, Inclusion and Change Manager at The National Archives (12 March 2020).

[C7]: Testimonial statement from Tom Cholmondeley, Series Producer and Director of BBC4 documentary *History's Biggest Fibs* (March 2020).

[C8]: Testimonial statement from Pedro Pires, President of the Amilcar Cabral Foundation, 9 March 2020.

[C9.1]: Hakim Adi, 'Discovering Africa in London' – from programme notes for *The Barbershop Chronicles*.

[C9.2]: Testimonial statement from Sarah Corke, Acting Head of Publishing at the National Theatre, January 2021.

[C10]: Testimonial statements from:

- Tom Carl, Co-chair, International Legal Diversity Committee, NBCUniversal (25 January 2021).
- Chanju Mwanza, Policy Officer, Events Lead: Cabinet Office Race Equality Network (February 2021).
- Dr James Southern, Historical Advisor, Home Office (4 February 2021).
- Tracey Everiste, Senior Quality Assurance Analyst, London Metal Exchange (28 January 2021).
- Rosemary Laryea, Freelance Producer and Presenter (27 January 2021).