

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

Project Title				
A LGBTQIA+, Black and Marginalised History of the British Psychological Society, 1892-2022				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution	University of Leicester			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation	The British Psychological Society – the UK’s home of psychology			
Website URL	www.bps.org.uk			
THE RESEARCH PROJECT				
<p>The British Psychological Society (88,000 members) is the voice of UK psychology. Its internationally significant archive collection (founded in 1891-2) contains numerous neglected hidden histories of LGBTQIA+, Black and marginalised people. A ground-breaking research partnership with the University of Leicester, rediscovers filed and forgotten histories, closed for over a century.</p> <p><u>Why this project and why now?</u></p> <p>The BPS archive remains unused by researchers in the UK and globally. This project is ambitious and timely because it is based on a century of neglected evidence of LGBTQIA+, Black and marginalised histories of psychology in the UK. The BPS are committed to decolonising their collections and promoting public history by engaging with historic issues of discrimination in this CDA.</p> <p><u>Key Research Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent did the BPS support (or not) LGBTQIA+ issues nationally and internationally? 2. In what ways did the BPS engage with, or discriminate against, Black patients and practitioners, related to developments in UK psychology from 1890 to the present-day? 3. How did BPS members orchestrate uses of psychological testing, categorising people by age, gender, disability, race and ethnicity, and to what extent did this create certain discriminatory subtexts of the marginalised? 4. To what extent did BPS members experience prejudice (or not) because of their commitment to improving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion? 5. Who in the BPS, and for what reasons, was reluctant to promote EDI issues and can these hidden histories be uncovered to access their important historical lessons? 6. In what ways did the BPS membership engage with stakeholders in central government, local authorities, and charities, compared to the general public needing their help and expertise? <p>In outline, the PhD will focus on: (1) The BPS unwritten history of LGBTQIA+, Black and marginalised members (2) The impact of the BPS’s policies on such communities (3) The specific ways that IQ psychological tests may have institutionalised discrimination (4) Recovering the hidden histories of particularly important individuals who challenged the status quo of discrimination and promoted EDI issues, as well as those that did the opposite.</p> <p><u>Methodologies:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of 200 existing oral histories using NVivo or other corpus packages like WordSmith. 2. Quantification of, for instance, minutes of the BPS, members’ responses and strategy documents relating to marginalised groups. 3. Case study analysis of particular moments or initiatives, including for example, mental health and cognitive profiling and testing, with a particular focus on LGBTQIA+, Black and marginalised community impact. 4. Qualitative analysis of policy documents, government consultations, and individual case records, notably relating to the marginalised groups defined here. 				

Added benefit for the research collaboration: The CDA will greatly benefit from the expertise of the BPS membership, and the expert University of Leicester supervisory team, working in close collaboration with BPS trustees such as Jowett, who together provide a proven track-record of expertise on LGBTQIA+ issues, Same-sex marriage, Conversion Therapy, Social Psychology and Health Psychology.

Hurren is an international expert on the history of the body, sex and science, widely published on body disputes where the poorest in society have been discriminated in the recent past by medical science. She has collaborated extensively with the National Centre for Ethnic Health and Well-Being at the University of Leicester.

Hurren and Maltby together have supervised 35 PhDs to successful conclusion, for the AHRC M3C/M4C, ESRC and Wellcome Trust. Maltby is a world-leading expert in differential psychology encompassing well-being, health, education, and the media and focuses on gender roles and identities (e.g. masculinities, attitudes to gender) and underserved communities (assessments and care pathways in underserved communities). Maltby holds two Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships working with organisations to deliver new strategic innovations.

Timetable/Milestones of the PhD research-design will be monitored monthly:

Year 1: Literature Review, sample chapter to ensure appropriate gaps have been identified and a novel research angle for the PhD. From Months 6+, the student will sample the archive and collect materials.

Year 2: This will be devoted to researching in the archive and writing up Chapters 2-4.

Year 3: The PhD student will write chapters 5-6, and undertake public engagement and community outreach work. They will work closely with the BPS EDI Officer, and liaise with Debra Malpas, Director of Knowledge and Insight. The aim will be to co-create with BPS members and the general public.

Year 4: The supervisory team and the PhD student will be working to refine all the draft chapters of the thesis to bring them up to a viva voce standard. The PhD will be submitted in the funding window.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Professor Elizabeth T. Hurren, Chair in Modern History, School of History, International Relations and Politics, University of Leicester
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