

Speaker Profiles





Dr Marie-Annick

Dr Marie-Annick is the Programme Lead of the Reparative Futures Programme; and Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Reparative and Civic Futures); and Associate Professor in Lifelong Learning and Inclusive Pedagogy in Department of English at the University of Bristol. Marie-Annick leads initiatives that enhance accessibility, inclusivity, and diversity in education.

With over two decades of experience in senior leadership across higher education and the non-profit sector, she has made significant contributions to advancing equitable educational practices.

Since joining the University of Bristol as Director of Part-Time Programmes in 2019, Marie-Annick has been instrumental in shaping programmes that support diverse learning pathways. Previously, Marie-Annick held various leadership roles at UWE, Bristol, where her work emphasized inclusive curriculum development and equitable opportunities for students and staff. Marie-Annick established the Global Majority Teachers Network in 2019, creating a vital community of practice for global majority educators that addresses key issues in representation, retention, and progression.

Marie-Annick's extensive experience is complemented by her service in Non-Executive Director roles, where she has collaborated with various organisations to promote inclusive practices and lifelong learning.



Dee Brecker

Dee is a University of Bristol alumna (BSc (Hons) Zoology, 1989) and is currently the Chair of the Alumni Association for the University.

She is a qualified executive coach & trauma-informed wellbeing coach, consultant, facilitator, funding advisor and interim senior leader.

Alongside her coaching and consultancy work, she is a director (part-time) at Ten Years Time. Ten Years Time is a philanthropy advisory firm that creates transformative learning experiences for donors (including grant-making trusts and foundations), fostering reflection and guiding them towards equitable and reparative philanthropy practices. Where capacity allows, Dee is an Associate Consultant with Philanthropy Company and a Specialist Consultant with Civil Society Consulting. She is a speaker, panellist, and chair, focusing on racial and social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging in fundraising for Higher Education professionals through Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and a chair for panels for CIOF Major Donor Special Interest Group events.

Prior to setting up her own company, over a 25-year period, Dee held senior leadership roles in high value philanthropy, fundraising, and communications in leading UK universities (KCL, LSE), in UK domestic and international charities, and in the public sector (NHS hospital charities, Department of Health, local government). Dee has a BSc (Hons), University of Bristol, an MSc, University College London and holds professional qualifications in Executive Coaching (UWE, ILM), Wellbeing Coaching (ILM), Lewis Deep Democracy Co-Resolve Foundation, and Marketing (CIM). She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CIOF).



Evelyn Welch

Evelyn Welch graduated from Harvard University, receiving her PhD from the Warburg Institute, University of London. She was previously Senior Vice-President for Service, People & Planning at King's College London, where she had previously been Vice-President (Arts and Sciences) and Provost (Arts and Sciences) since 2013. She has taught at University of Essex, Birkbeck College, the Warburg Institute, and held leadership roles at University of Sussex (PVC Teaching and Learning) and Queen Mary, University of London (Dean, Arts and PVC Research and International).

As Professor of Renaissance Studies, she has led major research programmes including 'The Material Renaissance,' and 'Beyond Text: Performances, Sounds, Images'. She was a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator from 2017 to 2022 and has recently published an open-access monograph with Manchester University Press based on this project, 'Renaissance Skin'. She is the author of numerous other publications, including *Fashioning the Early Modern: Creativity and Innovation in Europe, 1500-1800* (OUP 2017) and *Shopping in the Renaissance* (Yale 2005), which won the Wolfson Prize for History.

Professor Welch has also served as a Trustee of the Victoria & Albert Museum and Chair of Trustees of the Dulwich Picture Gallery. She is currently a Deputy Lieutenant of the County and City of Bristol.



Peaches Golding

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Peaches Golding OBE CStJ is a highly experienced, award-winning Executive and Non-Executive Director. She commenced the role of Lord-Lieutenant of the County and City of Bristol on 23 April 2017. Her commission runs until 13 December 2028, her 75th birthday.

As Lord-Lieutenant, her interests include mental health, widening access to opportunities for those most disadvantaged in society, education, social justice, volunteering and poverty. In the commercial sphere she is interested in research and development, science and technology-based enterprises as well as sustainability and environmental protection.

Peaches was awarded the OBE in 2009 for services to minority ethnic people in the Southwest and the CStJ for services to faith and for humanity in 2020. In 2010 she was awarded an honorary MBA and, in 2017, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of the University by the University of the West of England. She was appointed Honorary Captain Royal Naval Reserve in June 2020.

Peaches is the Independent Chair of the Bristol Water Customer Challenge Panel, Deputy Chair of the WaterShare+ Group Panel, Non-Executive Consultant of Moon Consulting Ltd and a Trustee of the ss Great Britain. She won the Bristol Post and Bath Chronicle 'Outstanding Contribution to Business in Bristol and Bath 2015' award and was England's first black High Sheriff, serving the County and City of Bristol in 2010-2011. She led on regional and national campaigns regarding corporate responsibility for Business in the Community (one of The Prince's Charities) from 1994 to 2011.

She graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA, with a Biology degree and was awarded an honorary Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree from the University of the West of England. She is the widow of Bob and has an adult son, Charles.



Erica McInnis

Dr Erica McInnis is a Chartered Consultant Clinical Psychologist of Jamaican parentage. She is a Visiting Lecturer for several professional psychology doctorate programmes and a doctoral research supervisor.

She has over 20 years of experience across academic, NHS and community settings. She knows first hand how navigating systems of White supremacy can create an additional taxation on the mind, body, and spirit - a 'Black Tax'. Yet she also recognises the opportunities to excel despite setbacks.

She specialises in African Psychology, founded Nubia Wellness and Healing (NWAH) CIC to further this mission, and was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2016. Her work contributes to emotional repair from racial trauma through organising and facilitating Emotional Emancipation Circles (EEC SM) and residential retreats that support community healing and wellness for people of African ancestry.

In 2025, Dr McInnis spoke at an international Restorative Justice forum in Nantes, France, exploring the psychological legacy of enslavement and the need for reparative healing. She also spoke at the High Commission for Trinidad and Tobago in 2019 on the psychological impact of the Windrush Maafa (disaster) on people of African ancestry. Her TEDx talk on African Psychology was released in 2026.

Dr McInnis created the world's first:

- Online school in African Psychology
- Emotional Emancipation Circle (EEC SM) in residential retreat format
- 'Know Thy Self - Adinkra Cards' for healing using traditional African wisdom

This is her first time visiting Bristol, and she hopes it will not be her last.



Dorbrene O'Marde

(Ambassador) is an Antigua-born Caribbean citizen. He is presently one of the three vice-Chairpersons of the CARICOM Reparations Commission and Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission, a Government appointed body with the main objective of advancing the case for reparatory justice.

He is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and two North American universities. He is a management/planning consultant and a cultural worker – published author, playwright/director, lyricist and a former radio/TV programme host in both jazz and calypso.

He is a columnist and frequently invited guest on national and regional media programmes addressing a broad range of subjects but primarily culture, education and reparatory justice where his focus is on history, health and Africa Caribbean unity.



Arley Gill

Arley N. Salimbi Gill is an attorney with more than twenty five years in the legal profession. Before joining the legal fraternity, Mr. Gill was a history teacher in Grenada.

In addition, Mr. Gill was a parliamentarian for about four (4) years in the Grenada Parliament served as a Minister with responsibility for Culture, Information and Information Communication Technology in the Government of Grenada from 2008 to 2012.

He then served as a magistrate in the Commonwealth of Dominica from 2013 to 2018.

From 2019 to 2022, Mr. Gill served as Grenada's ambassador to CARICOM.

Attorney Gill is an avid calypso and sports enthusiast and is a veteran calypso competition adjudicator and a trainer of past and current calypso competition judges. And in 2022, he served as the chair of Spicemas Corporation.

He is a prolific current affairs writer and political, social, and cultural critic and commentator who has dedicated his life to the cause of reparations and reparatory justice for Indigenous Peoples and Africans and African descendants. He speaks locally, regionally, and internationally on the issue of slavery, the slave trade, colonization, and reparations.

Attorney Gill is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, and the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad and Tobago. He obtained an LLM in Maritime Law from the International Maritime Law Institute in Malta and holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Keller Graduate School of Management (DeVry University) in the United States.

Mr. Gill is currently the Chair of the Grenada National Reparations Committee and a member of the CARICOM Reparations Commission.



Olivette Otele

Dr Olivette Otele is a distinguished Historian and Memory scholar, currently holding the position of Distinguished Research Professor of the Legacies and Memory of Slavery in the Law Department at SOAS University of London.

She holds a BA in British and American Literature, an MA in History and a PhD in European Colonial History and the Politics of Memory. She has written extensively on the history and legacies of colonial enslavement and on the legacies of the past. Her forthcoming book is about 15 ports that made European Empires through Slavery (Basic books, 2026).

She is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and a Fellow and a former Vice President of the Royal Historical Society. She received an Honorary Degree from Concordia University, Canada (2022). She was a visiting Professor at Huron University, Canada and a visiting professor at the College de France. She was a judge of the International Man Booker Prize and chair of the PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize. She was Chair of Prix Goncourt des Lyceens du Royaume Uni (French Embassy in the UK).

Dr Otele is regular contributor to the press (BBC, Guardian, CNN, New Yorker, Elle, Vogue Italia, GQ), a consultant for films in the US (the latest are the docu-fiction African Queens (Netflix) and movie Chevalier (Dysney+). Her third book African Europeans (2020) was 'A Guardian Best book of 2020', was shortlisted for both the Orwell Prize for Political Writing (2021) and for the LA Times Book Prize (2022). Professor Otele also advises policy-makers, banks and charities on colonial history and restorative justice (Welsh Government Audit on Slavery and Colonialism, the Newspaper the Guardian's project Cotton Capital).



Tommy J. Curry

Professor Tommy J. Curry joined the Philosophy Department at the University of Edinburgh in the Fall of 2019. His research interests are in Africana Philosophy and the Black Radical Tradition. His areas of specialization are: 19th century ethnology, Critical Race Theory, Social Political Theory, and Black Male Studies. He is the author of *The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre, and the Dilemmas of Black Manhood* (Temple University Press 2017), which won the 2018 American Book Award. He is the author of *Another white Man's Burden: Josiah Royce's Quest for a Philosophy of Racial Empire* (SUNY Press 2018), and has re-published the forgotten philosophical works of William Ferris as *The Philosophical Treatise of William H. Ferris: Selected Readings from The African Abroad or, His Evolution in Western Civilization* (Rowman & Littlefield 2016). He is also the editor of the first book series dedicated to the study of Black males entitled *Black Male Studies: A Series Exploring the Paradoxes of Racially Subjugated Males* on Temple University Press. Dr. Curry is currently co-editing (with Daw-nay Evans) the forthcoming anthology *Contemporary African American Philosophy: Where Do We Go from Here* on Bloomsbury Publishing (2019). His research has been recognized by *Diverse* as placing him among the Top 15 Emerging Scholars in the United States in 2018, and his public intellectual work earned him the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy's Alain Locke Award in 2017. He is a past recipient of the USC Shoah Foundation and A.I. and Manet Schepps Foundation Teaching Fellowship (2017), and the past president of Philosophy Born of Struggle, one of the oldest Black philosophy organizations in the United States.



Leona Vaughn

Dr Leona Vaughn is Senior Lecturer/Research Fellow for studies of slavery and unfree labour at University of Liverpool. She recently led global research on vulnerability and modern slavery at the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (New York) and is the co-founder of Black Academia. Her academic teaching and scholarship focus on risk, harm and inequalities in social policy. She has extensive professional experience in racial and social justice, including devising an award-winning national positive action programme for Crown Prosecution Service to increase representation of Black prosecutors in England and Wales.



Kim Poole

Ms. Kim Poole is a Soul-Fusion Performing Artist and Founding Fellow of the Teaching Artist Institute, providing an opportunity for artists to learn techniques for social transformation while fostering outlets for socially engaged art. Operating in the USA, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and The Gambia through TAI Kim Poole and an international team of Teaching Artists are originating the Art for Social Transformation: Teaching Artistry in Action curriculum & workbook for change agents and universities interested in exploring the "Art of Possibility." Under the TAI umbrella, Poole serves as Chief Visionary of the ARTIZEN conference philosophy aimed at connecting sustainable development to art culture in emerging economies.

As a performer, Ms. Poole has quietly become an international powerhouse with regular headline performances on the soul and jazz festival circuit. As a demonstration of Art for Transformation, she uses music, living history reenactments, and cultural narrative to empower youth and African Women in health and business across Maryland. Locally in her hometown of Baltimore, Poole has recently established an Artist in Residence program for Community artists in need of housing and authentic opportunities for community arts service.



Robert Beekford

Robert Beekford, PhD, is an interdisciplinary activist-scholar whose work bridges theology, media, culture, and reparative justice. Working across television and radio documentaries, radio drama, written scholarship, and music production, he engages in transformative action-research projects with public and private-sector partners, international aid agencies, local government, arts organisations, and broadcast media in the UK and the USA. He has written seven monographs exploring the interface between religion, culture, and politics, most recently *Decolonising Contemporary Gospel Music: Handsworth Revolutions* (Bloomsbury, 2023). Robert has also written radio dramas for BBC Radio and performed and produced a studio album, *The Jamaican Bible Remix* (5 AM Records, 2017). His work has received numerous international honours, including a BAFTA, the Jamaica Diaspora Award, and the Black Pentecostal Scholars Award.

Robert is currently Professor of Black Theology at The Queen's Foundation and Professor of Theology at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He is presently engaged in reparative justice projects across the UK, the Caribbean, and North America. Current action-research is a multi-platform Critical Reparations project encompassing the BBC World Service documentaries, *Black Male Christian Trauma Therapy for the Afterlife of Slavery* (2026), *Should I Change My (Slave) Name?* (2024) *The Church's Slave Plantation* (2022), as well as the documentary film *After the Flood: The Church, Slavery and Reconciliation* (2022), with consultancy work for the Brattle Group Report on Reparations for Transatlantic Chattel Slavery (2023).

Robert's forthcoming book is a review of Christian-led reparations, provisionally titled, *Dem Jinal but We Fass: Christian Reparations in the UK* (2028). He is also co-convenor of the Critical Reparations Conference taking place in Birmingham in September 2026.



Leon Tikly

Leon Tikly is Professor of Education and Director of the Perivoli Africa Research Centre at the University of Bristol. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and the Academy of Social Sciences, and holds the UNESCO Chair in Transforming Knowledge and Research for Just and Sustainable Futures. Leon's scholarship has focused on globalisation, education policy, and improving the quality of education for disadvantaged learners in Africa; race, ethnicity, and education in the UK and globally; and, more recently, the intersection of decolonial thought and sustainable futures. He directed the UKRI-funded network Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures, with partners in India, Rwanda, Somalia/Somaliland, and South Africa. His research is grounded in critical realism and informed by postcolonial and decolonial perspectives, reflecting a commitment to social, environmental, and epistemic justice.



Sado Jirde

Sado Jirde is Director of Black South West Network (BSWN), a racial justice organisation working at the intersection of community organising, research, and policy advocacy. Since 2013, she has led BSWN's development into a nationally recognised infrastructure organisation pioneering community-rooted approaches to structural inequality. Her work on co-production (including BSWN's Charter for Co-Production Through an Anti-Racist Lens) challenges extractive models of partnership and centres the knowledge and agency of racially minoritised communities. In 2025, she was named Transformational Leader of the Year at the South West Business Leadership Awards and received the Activist Museum Award.



Sharon Walker

Sharon Walker is a sociologist of race. Her research examines the material and discursive processes that reproduce the idea of racial difference, and racist practices and outcomes in education systems.

More broadly, she is interested in the politics of representation (race and ethnicity), in race as a technology of state formation and practices of governance, in the cultural politics of race, and anti-racist education in schooling/comparative and international education. She is carrying out a study relevant to the discursive constitution of British Blackness against a backdrop of notions of 'Englishness'. Methodologically her research draws on critical discourse analysis, corpus approaches to discourse analysis and ethnographic approaches. Theoretically, it is influenced by perspectives from cultural studies, postcolonial sociology and intellectual history.

She is the lead facilitator of the Race, Empire and Education Collective, a member of the Centre for Comparative and International Research in Education and Migration, Mobilities Bristol.



Rafael Mitchell

Rafael Mitchell is co-director of the Centre for Comparative and International Research in Education (CIRE) at the University of Bristol. His research focuses on schooling in Africa, and he is working with colleagues in Tigray on education reconstruction following the Civil War. He works with school teachers in Bristol and the South West on anti-racist projects, including work on decolonising curricula and a recent study on "Black teachers' experiences of reporting racist incidents in English schools". He is Partnership Director for the School of Education, and supports social justice oriented collaborations in our local community.



Isabella Aboderin

Isabella is Chair in Africa Research and Partnerships, Founding Director and Chair of the Perivoli Africa Research Centre (PARC); and Professor of Gerontology at the University of Bristol. Her research focuses on issues of ageing, intergenerational relations and care in Africa, and the politics of international collaborative knowledge production in, on, with and 'for' Africa. Building on the latter, Isabella has been centrally involved in the development of- and co-leads the core facilitating team for the Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations.

In other roles, Isabella is extraordinary professor at North West University (South Africa), co-chairs the advisory board of the Berlin Center for Global Engagement, and serves as member of the Lancet Commission on Long-term Care for Older Persons; the National Academies of Science Global Commission on Healthy Longevity; the advisory board of Future Africa, University of Pretoria, and the editorial board of Bristol University Press.

Prior to joining the University of Bristol in 2020, Isabella spent eight years at the African Population and Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi where, as senior research fellow, she established and led a research and policy engagement unit on Ageing and Development in Africa. Her work brought together major academic, practice and policy constituencies in the region- and shaped major continental policy frameworks on the issue. In earlier positions Isabella served as Associate Professor, Centre for Research on Ageing, University of Southampton and Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford; and scientist at the World Health Organization Ageing and Lifecourse Unit.



Alisha Lola Jones

Revd Dr. Alisha Lola Jones is an associate professor of music in contemporary societies and academic convenor for approaches to research cultures in School of Arts & Humanities at the University of Cambridge in England. She is also the co-editor of the Journal of Popular Music Studies (JPMS), alongside Dr Benjamin Tausig of SUNY- Stony Brook University.

Prior to arriving to the University of Cambridge, she was on faculty in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University (Bloomington). Dr. Jones' book *Flaming?: The Peculiar Theopolitics of Fire and Desire in Black Male Gospel Performance* (Oxford University Press) breaks ground by analyzing the role of gospel music-making in constructing and renegotiating gender identity among black men. Dr. Jones' book has been awarded the 2021 Ruth Stone prize (SEM), Music in American Culture prize (AMS), and Philip Brett prize (AMS).

She is completing three books: a gastromusicology book entitled *Ultrasonic Tastemakers: Towards a Critical Gastromusicology*, *Sound Our Signatures: A Womanist Approach to Music Research*, which sets forth anti-oppressive ways of listening to Black women, and *The Black Messiah: Listening for Deliverance*. Her research interests extend to global pop music, musics of the African diaspora, music and food, the music industry and the marketplace, and anti-oppressive ways of listening to black women.

As a multi-genre vocalist-scholar, Dr Jones consults museums, conservatories, seminaries, and arts organizations on curriculum, live and virtual event programming, and content development.



Esther Ojulari

Dr Esther Ojulari is founding director of the Biblioteca Cultural Ife in Cali, Colombia, a new project centered on reparations and the "reconnection" between Africa and the Diaspora through decolonial community education, research, dialogue and language teaching. Dr Ojulari holds a BSc in Sociology and an MA and PhD in Human Rights from the University of London. Her research and activism work centers on international law, transitional justice, reparations, racial justice, land and cultural rights and self-determination of black peoples, focusing in Colombia and Latin America. Among others, she has worked as a consultant for the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights at the UN, The Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Office of the Vice President of Colombia on reparations and ethno-racial justice. She is currently advisor at the Institute for Peoples, Territories and Pedagogies for Peace, Algoma University, on reparations, environmental governance, and decolonizing education.



Safi Darden & Melody Kuziwa Jombe

Dr Safi Darden and Dr Melody Kuziwa Jombe, both academics at the University of Exeter, are co-founders of Black Heritage University Groups (B-HUGs), an initiative committed to advancing equity, belonging, and structural transformation within education. Their work centres on creating safe spaces in which Black youth are not only recognised, but meaningfully supported through embedded, measurable change. Together, Drs Darden, a Black woman from the USA, and Jombe, a Black woman from Zimbabwe, bring international and complementary perspectives and lived experience to the work they do. Their collaborative practice is both research-informed and action-oriented, and centres reciprocal learning through participant researcher engagement and validation of lived experience and the many ways of knowing. Together, they are committed to embedding justice into everyday educational practice, ensuring that change is not episodic, but systemic, sustained, and accountable to the communities it is intended to serve.



Julian Thompson

Julian is a Design Leader, Strategist and Futurist with a background in Human Rights, Public Policy and Design, exploring possibilities for deep societal change. He has over 13 years experience leading public and civic innovation teams both in consultancy and in house in large organisations, working on complex societal challenges. A community activist at heart, Julian's practice centres creative and ancestral ways of weaving past, present and future. A thought leader in the area of equity-centred design, he founded and is the Executive Director of Rooted (The Centre for Reparative Innovation), an award-winning civic innovation centre with a mission to shape futures in which Black African & Caribbean Diaspora communities live well for generations. His current work is focused on reimagining and realising Black-centric infrastructure for ecological, mental and financial thriveance. Alongside his work Julian is a Guest lecturer in the field of design and policy.



José Lingna Nafafé

José Lingna Nafafé is an Associate Professor of African and Atlantic History and was co-Director of Teaching for Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at the University of Bristol. Dr Lingna Nafafé's academic interests embrace a number of inter-related areas, linked by the overarching themes of: the Black Atlantic abolitionist movement in the 17th Century; the Lusophone Atlantic African diaspora; seventeenth and eighteenth century African, Portuguese and Brazilian histories; slavery and wage-labour, 1792-1850; race, religion and ethnicity; Luso-African migrants' culture and integration in the Northern (England) and Southern Europe (Portugal and Spain); 'Europe in Africa' and 'Africa in Europe'; and the relationship between postcolonial theory and the Lusophone Atlantic.

In 2016, he was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship to undertake archival research for the project "Freedom and Lusophone African Diaspora in the Atlantic". Dr Lingna Nafafé is Co-Investigator for a recently awarded ERC Advance Grant project with Prof. Julia O'Connell Davidson at the University of Bristol. We are carrying out research in 5 countries - UK, Spain, Brazil, France, Italy - on "Modern Marronage? The Pursuit and Practice of Freedom in the Contemporary World". Dr Lingna Nafafe leads the project's Brazil strand, conducting archival research on Quilombo dos Palmares (Alagoas), one of the earliest, largest and most successful Maroon communities in the seventeenth century, and on migrants' settlement in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

He is currently writing a third monograph on: Beyond Wilberforce's Experiment in Abolitionism: Yellow Fever Epidemic, Unfree Labour and the Market, 1792-1870



Suchith Anand

Suchith Anand is Professor of Practice in Science Policy at the University of Exeter. He is an internationally recognised expert in sustainable development and geospatial science, providing guidance and advice to governments and international organisations on data science, data ethics, open education, open data and open science policies. He is passionate about education enabling an inclusive society which supports a full commitment to equity, diversity and the public good. His values are deeply rooted in education, service to others and being able to make a positive impact for the most vulnerable groups and members of our society. He has been championing for over 20 years the need for providing more scholarships for students from economically poor families in all universities globally. He has positioned his work to serve as a bridge between academia and the worlds of policy and practice. His recent research has focused on 'Leadership for a More Ethical, Equitable, and Just World'.



Folúkẹ Adébísí

Dr Folúkẹ Adébísí is a Professor at the Law School, University of Bristol whose scholarship focuses on decolonial thought in legal education and its intersection with a history of changing ideas of the 'human.'

Folúkẹ joined the Law School in September 2013. Foluke holds an LL.M with Distinction from Lancaster University in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Her Ph.D, was also completed at Lancaster University. She has a background in legal practice and NGO work.

She currently teaches Law and Race, Rich Law Poor Law, as well as Health Law and the Body, and Health Inequalities in Law and Society. She has also taught on Contract Law (both undergraduate and postgraduate), Foundations of Business Law, and law of Tort.

She is the founder and Director of Forever Africa Conference and Events – FACE. She writes about law, Africa, pedagogy and life in general at Foluke's African Skies.

In 2024, she was one of 5 finalists for Oxford University Press' Law Teacher of the Year Award. Her monograph Decolonisation and Legal Knowledge: Reflections on Power and Possibility was published by Bristol University Press in March 2023 and won the Society of Legal Scholars' Margaret Brazier book prize for Outstanding Mid-Career scholarship in 2024.



Michele Acuto

Michele is Pro-Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement) of the University of Bristol, where he also holds the role of Professor of Urban Resilience in the School of Geographical Sciences. Michele is also a managing editor of Urban Studies, and a Trustee of Fondation Botnar.

He joined the University in 2024 following leadership positions at University of Melbourne, University College London (UCL), and University of Oxford, having been educated in Italy (Genoa), Norway (Oslo), Australia (ANU), and Singapore (NUS). He has a wide-ranging university management track record, alongside significant diplomatic experience in the multilateral sector outside academia (at the World Bank and for the EU and WHO), focused on urban development and international relations, and centred on global health and climate resilience.

His research on the relation between urban governance and planetary challenges has received over \$42 million in named research funding with a broad publication record and regular partnership with UN agencies, local governments, and the private and philanthropic sectors. He has served as an advisor and in policymaking across all scales of governance, including UN-Habitat, City of Melbourne, and the Australian and UK Governments. Professor Acuto is also currently Managing Editor of Urban Studies and a Board Member at Fondation Botnar. He is the author of *How to Build a Global City* (Cornell University Press) and *Managing Cities At Night* (Bristol University Press).

