

# RESISTING SILENCE

Key Stage 5 Study Day  
Thursday 16 November 2023



## HANDS-ON STUDY DAY

Oxford's History of Science Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum are hosting a hands-on study day for Key Stage 5 students.

We'll examine the interpretation of slavery through museum collections.

Students will have opportunities to:

- hear from experts
- develop their thinking
- handle objects from the collections.

0915 Arrive at the Pitt Rivers Museum

0930 Key note talk

1000 Travel to next session

1015 Workshop session 1  
(A/B/C in rotation)

1100 Travel to next session

1120 Workshop session 2  
(A/B/C in rotation)

1205 Lunch and travel to next session

1250 Workshop session 3  
(A/B/C/ in rotation)

1335 Travel to next session

1335 Panel discussion

1430 Finish

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# Programme

## KEYNOTE TALK

### Resisting Silence

The history of erasure of slavery from museum collections

Dr Marenka Thompson-Odlum

#### A: The slave ships *Henrietta Marie* and *Marie S raphique*\*

Dr Jane Webster

Venue: History of Science Museum

This session uses three unique sources to investigate the Middle Passage — the journey that captive Africans were forced to make on board slave ships. The first is the wreck of the slave ship 'Henrietta Marie', excavated by underwater archaeologists. The second and third are about another slave ship, 'Marie S raphique', which we explore using a painting, made in 1769, and a modern 3D video reconstruction of the ship and its voyages.



#### C: Resisting Silence

Marenka Thompson-Odlum and

Dr Ashley Coutu

Venue: Pitt Rivers Museum

We will look at objects from West African kingdoms, thinking about their links to transatlantic slavery. Marenka and Ashley, research curators at the Pitt Rivers Museum, will share insights from their archaeological fieldwork in St Lucia on the site of a former 18th century sugar plantation understanding the lives of enslaved people through methods including ancient DNA extraction of clay tobacco pipes.



#### B: Science: An Untold Story\*

Helen Pooley & Chris Parkin

Venue: History of Science Museum

The story of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment from a European perspective celebrates individual "geniuses" such as Francis Bacon, Isaac Newton, and Carl Linnaeus. In this session, we explore how science and mathematics developed hand in hand with colonialism, benefitting from new experimental opportunities, materials and knowledge from indigenous and enslaved peoples.



## BOOKING INFORMATION

e: [christopher.parkin@hsm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:christopher.parkin@hsm.ox.ac.uk)

- Maximum of 20 places per school
- Charge £5 per student
- \*Sessions A&B: Apologies — there is limited wheelchair access at the History of Science Museum.