

AHRC Heritage Priority Area Launch and Public Lecture

PRACTICING HERITAGE IN AN AGE OF TWILIGHT

Dr Karen Salt

Saint Lucian poet, playwright and Noble laureate Derek Walcott first described twilight as the transitional potential of the time after the dark of empire and colonialism. Rather than see twilight as a hopeful condition, Walcott initially saw it as a violent process of control that appropriated the language of futurity, empowerment and inclusion for its own machinations. More than twenty years later, while giving his Noble speech, Walcott returned to twilight. In this talk, twilight emerges not as a process, but as an occluded way of (not) seeing that has political implications.

While it is tempting to read Walcott's twilight musings as incompatible, taken together, these framings offer a way to comprehend the histories, power, raciality and entangled processes of seeing (and not seeing) that encircle the practice(s) and politics of 'heritage'. This talk adds to these formulations of twilight by considering how our current occluded Age of (not) seeing contains legacies of empire and colonisation and processes of inclusion—along with a rise in hate crimes.

This talk does not offer an easy answer for those practicing or preserving heritage, but does consider how best to grapple with these forces in order to see the many worlds that live within 'heritage' through an equitable lens.

Wednesday 4 October 2017
18:00 – 21:00

British Academy
London



HERITAGE
RESEARCH

AHRC HERITAGE PRIORITY AREA LAUNCH AND PUBLIC LECTURE

Wednesday 4th October, 6pm, Wolfson Lecture Theatre, British Academy, London

The AHRC Heritage Priority Area team welcomes you to our official launch, marked by our inaugural public lecture – *Practicing Heritage in an Age of Twilight* – presented by Dr Karen Salt, and introduced by AHRC's Chief Executive Professor Andrew Thompson.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funds world-class research in a wide range of subjects. Heritage has been identified by the AHRC as one of three priority areas, alongside Design and Modern Languages. Over the past few years AHRC has built upon its previous investments and enhanced its work in this area through partnerships with other agencies, targeted calls and collaborations both in the UK and internationally.

The AHRC Heritage Priority Area team work with the AHRC, the heritage research community, and heritage partner organisations, to draw together and stimulate the development of a wide range of research across the arts and humanities that makes an important contribution to understanding heritage. We also aim to support the interconnections between research, policy and practice, both in the UK and internationally.

This evening, we are delighted to have Dr Karen Salt, Co-Director of the Centre for Research in Race and Rights at the University of Nottingham and member of the AHRC Advisory Board, address key issues of race, sovereignty, power and politics, and their relationship to heritage. A significant portion of Karen's work investigates how nation-states have claimed independence, demanded political recognition and fought for their continued sovereignty within a highly racialised world. She also provides service to the wider arts, humanities and social research communities, and is an active grant reviewer and a member of the Peer Review colleges for ESRC and AHRC.

Following the public lecture will be a networking reception.

This public lecture is part of a series of events organised by *Heritage Research*, the AHRC Heritage Priority Area team.

Further information about our work, research and future events is available at www.heritage-research.org

Please follow us on Twitter @AHRCHeritage and join today's discussion on #HeritageRes