

# Teaching Partition and imperial history: training for KS3 teachers -London and Leicestershire

London, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## About the project: why teach Partition and imperial history

This training programme was developed as an offshoot of the Migrant Memory and the Postcolonial Imagination research project.

[Migrant Memory and the Postcolonial Imagination: British Asian Memory, Identity and Community After Partition](#) (MMPI) is a longitudinal study launched at Loughborough University (and funded by the Leverhulme Trust) in 2017, which explores memories of the 1947 Partition of British India, decolonisation and migration that circulate within British Asian communities in London and in Loughborough. The aim of the project is to understand how these memories, and associated processes of remembering, affect British society in terms of identity and belonging. One of the research findings of this project is the widespread perception that public discourses around Partition (e.g. public affairs or TV history programmes), tend to treat exclusively as an event which is part of South Asian only, without any acknowledgement of the fact that this is an event which is part of British history too. Our research has shown that this part of history is also not discussed enough in schools.

**The failure to clearly communicate the role of the British empire in the history of Partition and of South Asia more generally influences people's perception of the social, cultural and economic texture of British society today, and limits the understanding of how the legacy of this violent event is still felt in the UK.**

This project aims to bridge this gap and to support teachers to develop the confidence and knowledge to discuss these topics in the classroom. This programme of workshops will be based on the underpinning research of the MMPI project and the contributions of key educational and cultural organisations which are currently working to increase awareness of the history and legacy of British imperial history in society: Inspirate; The Partition Education Group; A Little History of the Sikhs; The Samosa Media; Project Dastaan.

Our co-production workshop will offer the opportunity to educators and cultural practitioners to share experiences and challenges of engaging students and the wider public with the histories of the empire and partition and will inform the content of the two workshops designed for KS3 teachers which will take place in Loughborough and in London in October and November 2022.

At the end of the project, training material will be made openly accessible online.

## Contacts:

Dr Clelia Clini [C.Clini@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:C.Clini@lboro.ac.uk)

Dr Jasmine Hornabrook [J.Hornabrook@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:J.Hornabrook@lboro.ac.uk)

Prof. Emily Keightley [E.Keightley@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:E.Keightley@lboro.ac.uk)

## Programme:

15:00 – 15:10	Welcome and intro
	<b>FIRST SESSION</b>
15:10 – 15:20	Zaiba Patel (Oxford University)
15:20 – 15:30	Mr Shay (The Underground Creatives)
15:30 – 15:40	Sam Dalrymple (Project Dastaan)
15:40 – 15:50	Rav Singh (A Little History of the Sikhs)
15:50 – 16:00	Q&A
16:00 – 16:10	group discussions
16:10 – 16:20	Summary part I
16:20 – 16:40	tea break
	<b>SECOND SESSION</b>
16:40 – 16:50	Jiten Anand (Inspirate/An Indian Summer)
16:50 – 17:00	Anwar Akthar (The Samosa Media)
17:00 – 17:10	Sandeep Kaur (Partition Education Group)
17:10 – 17:20	Q&A
17:20 – 17:30	group discussions
17:30 – till end	Summary part II and final remarks

## Speakers' biographies:

### Jiten Anand

Jiten Anand co-founded [Inspirate](#) whilst he was on a university placement in 2011. The organisation he leads has been instrumental in pioneering a breadth of arts, cultural and heritage events, experiences and projects across the country - with a big focus on Leicester. From outdoor arts extravaganzas to creative education programmes, Inspirate has aimed to lead a new approach to the 'creative case for diversity'. Their recent work, which Jiten will share more about, delves into the history of global South Asian migration to the UK.

### Anwar Akthar

[Anwar Akhtar](#) was born and grew up in Manchester, UK. He is Founder and Director of The Samosa, a UK arts and journalism charity that works to embed diversity in the arts and humanities curriculum

in schools, colleges and universities, and produces media that explores cultural and social issues. His latest film is “Pakistan’s Best Kept Secret – Lahore Museum” and his Manchester 4/4 talk, “Cities, Tolerance, Multi Culturalism” is available [online](#).

Anwar was the production consultant on the play “[Dara](#),” working with Ajoka Theatre Pakistan and National Theatre UK. The first South Asian history play at the UK’s National Theatre, “Dara” was seen by more than 30,000 people in 2015. “Dara” tells the story of Mughal India, raising questions about religious freedom, tolerance and clerical power that still resonate today. Anwar also led the Royal Society of Arts’ Pakistan Calling project, which produced more than 60 films looking at identity, education, equality, culture, religion, women’s and minority rights in Britain and Pakistan. Anwar was previously project director of the Rich Mix Cultural Foundation, where he led the capital and business development of a new £26 million arts centre in East London. He recently presented a *Radio 4 Documentary* “[Schools Apart](#)” which is also detailed here [www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/many-young-minority-ethnic-people-dont-feel-a-sense-of-inclusion-or-belonging-at-school](http://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/many-young-minority-ethnic-people-dont-feel-a-sense-of-inclusion-or-belonging-at-school). He has just co-produced with Ajoka Theatre a peace concert in Lahore, on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Partition. You can see reviews of the concert here, [75 Years of Cultural Resilience](#) and a film of the [performances here](#).

### **Sam Dalrymple**

Sam Dalrymple is an author, journalist, director and multimedia producer. He has been published in *The New York Times* and featured in TIME, The Economist, BBC, Elle, Reuters, Mashable, and Nikkei amongst others. As the Co-founder and Producer of Project Dastaan, his debut film, *Child of Empire*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and his animated series *Lost Migrations* sold out at the BFI. His debut book ‘Five Partitions’ will be published by Harper Collins in 2024.

### **Mr Shay**

Akshay Sharma, also known as Mr Shay, is a musician, poet and educator from Leicester. Through his social enterprise, [The Underground Creatives](#), Shay leads projects working predominantly with young people and adults from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. His work as an artist often focuses on his cultural heritage and identity, exploring themes of migration, British-Asian identity, anti-racism and activism. These themes feed into his workshops and projects, working with community groups to explore their own journeys and identities through creative expression.

### **Sandeep Kaur**

Sandeep Kaur is an Associate Headteacher of a Primary School in East London and a Secondary school governor and a member of the [Partition Education Group](#). She has an extensive background in Inclusion and is currently the Equalities Link Governor in her Governing Board role. With 20 years of teaching experience in East London schools, Sandeep has led on Inclusion and Diversity throughout her career, and was awarded National Achievement for All School Leader in 2018. The inclusive practices she has led at Highlands Primary School are central to its success, including recognition from UNICEF as a Rights Respecting Gold school and achieving the Mayor of London’s Schools for Success Award for four consecutive years. This honours the progress of the most disadvantaged groups. Sandeep has completed year 1 of the MA in Race, Education and Decolonial Thought at Leeds Beckett University and is continually using this learning to develop Anti-Racist/Decolonial practices in primary education. Sandeep has extensive experience of coaching middle and senior leaders and is currently coaching middle leaders on the BAME into Leadership programme. Her philosophy and vision for education is to empower and uplift the consciousness raising experience for all through education, in opposition to a banking notion of filling minds with abstract knowledge.

**Zaiba Patel**

Zaiba is a former history teacher who works in History Education. She is due to begin a DPhil in Education at the University of Oxford where her work will focus on the role of pedagogy in decolonising the history curriculum.

**Rav Singh**

Rav Singh is the founder of ‘A little History of the Sikhs’, a community initiative that works to translate research in modern-day Sikh history and heritage into walking tours in London, day trips across the south-east of England and study visits to destinations in the UK and across Western Europe. Rav’s research has included developing ‘Sikhopoly’, presenting Anglo-Sikh and Sikh history through walking tours visiting the London locations of the world-famous Monopoly Board, and since 2014 he has been sharing stories from Sikh history found on the streets of London. His research papers on Sikh History on the streets of Kensington & Chelsea and British Imperial and Sikh History on the Streets of Westminster have been published in the Sikh Research Journal. His work is featured on the website: [www.alittlehistoryofthesikhs.org](http://www.alittlehistoryofthesikhs.org)

