

CONNECTED HISTORIES OF THE BBC: A UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX RESEARCH PROJECT, FUNDED BY THE AHRC.

Our new website: **PEOPLE NATION AND EMPIRE** explores how the BBC has tried to re-imagine itself in the multicultural and post-imperial age – how it's grappled over the years with the wider issue of who exactly gets to speak on air and who exactly gets to appear on screen.

The website includes a large number of clips from programmes not seen since first broadcast several decades ago, as well as lots of interview recordings, photographs and written documents that are being made publicly available for the very first time through this website.

As well as viewing clips and interviews, you can download and keep selected transcripts of interviews recorded with BBC pioneers and kept in the Corporation's oral history archive. You can also download important and previously unavailable documents from the BBC's Written Archive Centre, which help reveal the inside story of the BBC.

HIGHLIGHTS

- BBC news bulletins from the day the Empire Windrush arrived in 1948
- Rare clips and images of African-American and Black British performers on pre-war and post-war BBC television.
- Documents revealing the behind-the-scenes story of how and why the BBC launched programmes for 'Asian immigrants' in 1965.
- Clips of, among others, Paul Robeson, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Derek Walcott, George Lamming, Louise Bennett, and John Figueroa speaking on the BBC.
- Clips from pioneering dramas and documentaries dealing with immigration and cultural identity: *A Man from the Sun* (1956), *Special Enquiry* (1955), *Morning in the Streets* (1960), *Fable* (1965), *Black Christmas* (1977), *Empire Road* (1978)
- Specially recorded location-interviews with the veteran Indian correspondents Satish Jacob and Mark Tully, discussing the role of the BBC in India and its reporting of key events such as the storming of the Golden Temple at Amritsar and the premiership of Indira Gandhi.



NEWS RELEASE FEB 2019

The BBC has opened up its archives, to explore how TV and radio have understood and covered race, immigration, British identity, and nation across the twentieth century.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/historyofthebbc/people-nation-empire>

PROJECT

The **100 Voices that Made the BBC** series is part of the AHRC-funded **Connected Histories of the BBC** project based at the University of Sussex and running from 2017 to 2021. For background, see:

<https://connectedhistoriesofthebbc.org/>

Image: Olive Shapley (producer) with Mrs Emerson in the colliery village of Craghead, County Durham BBC North region 01/01/1939

- A specially recorded interview with the novelist and broadcaster Mike Phillips, discussing the challenges of being a black reporter at the BBC in the 1970s.
- Documents from Mass Observation revealing British attitudes about race and immigration since 1939.
- The story of Una Marson, the BBC's first black producer, who developed broadcasting to the Caribbean during the Second World War – including the earliest known recording of her, and newly-available documentary evidence of why she left the BBC in 1946.
- Vivid portraits of the life and culture of the BBC's 'North Region' before and after the war, through freshly-released interviews with Olive Shapley, Yvonne Adamson, Alfred Bradley, and John Snagge.
- Intimate descriptions of life among international broadcasters working at Bush House during and after the Second World War.
- A frank account from the former head of religious broadcasting, Colin Morris, about disagreements between the BBC and the established churches over the direction of multi-faith programming in the 1960s and 1970s.
- Clips of early episodes from pioneering children's TV series such as The Flowerpot Men (1952), Playschool (1971), Grange Hill (1978), and recorded interviews telling the inside story of their creation.
- A timeline of key events in the BBC's attempts to represent sexual diversity since 1957, including clips from This Time of Day-Lesbianism (1965), Man Alive-Consenting Adults (1967), Open Door (1973), Gaytime TV (1995), and other key documentaries from the 1960s through to 2017.

AUTHORS:

The text has been written by David Hendy and Alban Webb from the School of Media, Film and Music at the University of Sussex, with guest contributions from other media historians, including Aasiya Lodhi (Westminster), Jeannine Baker (Macquarie), James Procter (Newcastle), Jamie Medhurst (Aberystwyth), and John Escolme (BBC).

PREVIOUS WEBSITES

in the **100 Voices that Made the BBC** series can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/historyofthebbc/100-voices>

They include websites about British identity, the history of elections broadcasting, the birth of television, and the reinvention of radio in the 1960s.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES:

There is also a section called 'Share Your Memories' where you can upload your own thoughts and recollections as a viewer and listener to these BBC programmes.

CONTACT

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