

HOME

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th July 2022

KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS:

KAVITA PURI

award-winning executive producer and broadcaster for the BBC and author of *Partition Voices: Untold British Stories*

DR JUANITA COX

currently working on the project, 'The Windrush Scandal in its Transnational and Commonwealth Context' at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies

NIRMAL PUWAR

works at Goldsmiths College and has written extensively on memory and place

SIMON STEPHENS

Head of Publications and Events at the Museums Association and Editor of *Museums Journal*

SONIA SOLICARI

Director of the Museum of the Home, London

CALL FOR PAPERS

Home as both an idea and a physical place has deep meanings for all of us. It connects us to family, generation and communities, both past and present; it is conveyed and expressed through memory, objects, images and the emotions. Home can confer and establish identity and belonging but it can also signify status or position. It can be a place of safety but also of danger, a refuge but also a site of confinement. Our experience of the COVID-19 pandemic has put home in the forefront of shared understandings and discussions of home.

Home also marks difference and can have different meanings in relation to gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity or class. Migrants' ideas of home may be intimately bound up with their place of origin, with disruption, identity and loss, as well as with renewal and re-creation in a not always welcoming environment. For refugees and asylum seekers escaping war, persecution, genocide or environmental disaster, thoughts about and memories of home may be fraught and ambivalent.

Home can be the result of limited options, especially when it takes the form of residential care for children, women fleeing

violence, frail older people, people with mental health problems or those near the end of life. The experience of being homeless, living on the streets, or in hidden spaces or temporary hostels, brings another dimension to understandings of home. Home may be associated with a physical space, or lack of it, but it may also be understood, felt and remembered more as a state of mind than an actual place. Oral history provides a means to explore all such experiences and ways of understanding and recalling, creating and re-creating, finding, discovering, asserting, challenging, celebrating and

being or returning home. The conference welcomes contributions which use oral history to present and explore:

- Meanings of home through identity and belonging, generation, place and community
- Feelings and attachments to home as a place of celebration and creative adventure
- Home as identity: class, ethnicity, race, disability, gender and sexuality
- Displacement, rupture, renewal and recreation of home
- Homeland? And diasporic homes
- Loss of home as a result of war or environmental disaster.
- Home experienced in places of

confinement or in institutional spaces

- Forced separation from home
- Homes in movement, mobility and change
- Being homeless, without a home
- Home as a source of income or place of work
- How home is expressed and used in individual life stories
- How home is represented in museums and public history
- Violence in the home
- Rediscovering ideas of home in archived oral histories
- Home as a site for the oral history interview
- When home is a dangerous and challenging topic in interviews

PROPOSALS

The deadline for submission of proposals is **31st January 2022**. Each proposal should include: a title, an abstract of between 250-300 words, your name (and the names of any copresenters, panellists, etc), your institution or organisation, your email address, and a note of any particular requirements. Most importantly your abstract should demonstrate the use of oral history or personal testimony and be directly related to the conference theme. Proposals that include audio playback are strongly encouraged. We are looking for a wide variety of contributions addressing such

issues and questions, delivered in a variety of formats. We would encourage contributors to submit abstracts summarising their oral histories of home which can be presented as papers, or as theatre, photography, art, or other kinds of installations. We also hope to run panel sessions representing themes and workshops for those in the early stages of a project and around doing oral histories (e.g. live interviews, examples of analysis), so please think about what format works best for you. We are also particularly interested in contributions from those working in community settings. We are currently investigating the

format the conference will take and are considering the feasibility of offering an online element alongside the in-person conference.

● Proposals should be emailed to the HOME Conference Manager, Polly Owen, at polly.owen@ohs.org.uk. They will be assessed anonymously by the conference organisers, and presenters will be contacted at the end of March 2022. Please would you indicate on your submission whether you would prefer to present in-person or online, and if you would be willing to participate whatever the format of the conference.

www.ohs.org.uk/conferences