Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Performative Blackness and Black Histories in Scotland

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Funder: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

Template: AHRC Data Management Plan

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Project abstract:
Performative Blackness and Black History in Scotland initiates a new cultural history of Scotland: one that reconnects Scotland with its imperial and colonial past, and reveals the hidden history of representations of blackness embedded in Scottish popular culture at a time of rapid colonial expansion and social upheaval. This study, the first of its kind, will explore performative blackness, that is, racial impersonation of people of African descent through the use of cosmetics, movement and speech, across a range of performance genres, abundant in Scottish popular culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It will examine how blackness was performed by white and black entertainers in Scotland in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, in theatre and music hall, the circus, human exhibitions, jazz, and local festivities.

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Performative Blackness and Black Histories in Scotland

Data Summary

1. Briefly introduce the types of data the research will create. Why did you decide to use these data types?

This project will produce the following types of data:

- A new dataset of information about archival documents. The dataset will be held in a database created in SQLite.
- High-resolution images (png format) for publication.
- Low resolution images for analysis.
- A bank of analytical notes in MS Excel.

I have selected these data types for the following reasons:

- A relational database allows the researcher to compile information in tabular form, guards against data redundancy, helps with data organisation and consistency. Through building queries, it can be adapted into a searchable catalogue of information.
- The dataset will be usable throughout the lifetime of the project and beyond.
- It will be open access, freely accessible and stored indefinitely. Therefore reusable by researchers and others interested in these themes.
- High quality image files will be publishable, and therefore suitable for the website and publications.
- Low resolution images will be used for reference.

Data Collection

2. Give details on the proposed methodologies that will be used to create the data. Advise how the project team selected will be suitable for the data/digital aspects of the work, including details of how the institution's data support teams may need to support the project

Methodology:

- Systematic, keyword and targeted searches of collections of records in archival & special collections, whether digitised, non-digitised or as yet uncatalogued.

Project Team:

- The Lead Researcher has previous experience in this field, as is evidenced by previous main publications:
  - *Imagining Caribbean Womanhood: race, nation and beauty competitions, 1929-1970* (Manchester University Press, 2013); 'Glorifying the Jamaican Girl': The 'Ten Types One People' Beauty Contest, Racialised Femininities and Jamaican Nationalism *Radical History Review* (2009) 36-58; 'Beauty, Ugliness & Ideas of Difference: Sara Baartman, Fanny Eaton and Black Women's Performance of Beauty in the Ninteenth Century City', in Jessica Clark

(ed) *Cultural History of Beauty in the Age of Empire* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming) and "'The Negro Type of Beauty': The Black Muse in Jacob Epstein's art" (in preparation).

- The Centre for Data and Society (CDCS) provide ongoing support for the development of the relational database.
- Software engineer to support development and maintenance of website.
- Administrator to support the project, especially the Network.
- In-kind support and guidance on research is provided by project partners and the new Black Histories in Scotland Network, created as part of this project.

Short-term Data Storage

3. How will the data be stored in the short term?

- The entire dataset will be stored, as it grows, on the University of Edinburgh DataStore and during the construction of the searchable catalogue.

3a What backup will you have in the in-project period to ensure no data is lost?

- The University DataStore provides enterprise-class storage with guaranteed backup and resilience. Data is retained on DataStore until deletion by the data owner. The backups provide resilience in the case of accidental deletion and against incidents affecting the main DataStore storage. The data are automatically replicated to an off-site disaster recovery facility, with 10 days of file history visible online. Off-site tape backups keep 60 days of history of the file system. The 60 day rolling snapshots allow important data to be recovered to a prior state, by request if beyond the visible period.
- During the construction of the website, a 'golden copy' of the dataset will remain in the DataStore.

Long-term Data Storage

4. How the data will be stored in the long term?

- On completion of the project, once the website is published, the software engineer will continue to provide maintenance.
- The website will stored in the University's DataShare service.
- A 'golden copy' of the dataset will remain on the University's DataStore
- Alongside the dataset a description of the structure of the database will be stored in Datastore and on DataShare.

4a. Where have you decided to store it, why is this appropriate?

- The University's DataShare which is open access repository. It will be stored indefinitely.

4b. How long will it be stored for and why?

- The dataset will be stored indefinitely in line with the University's policy.
  https://datashare.ed.ac.uk/
- This means it will be accessible and reproducible in future.
- The website and research publications will be available online indefinitely.
- The website will be preserved by the University Library service indefinitely.
- In a future funded phase 2 of this project the dataset may be expanded further and more outputs produced from it, such as a performance and exhibition, both of which could be recorded and digitally preserved indefinitely.

4c. Costs of storage – why are these appropriate? Costs related to long term storage will be permitted providing these are fully justified and relate to the project Full justification must be provided in Justification of Resources (JoR)

No additional storage costs are anticipated, because the dataset is unlikely to exceed the generic storage provision.

Data Sharing

5. How the data will be shared and the value it will have to others

- The data will be shared first through the publication of the website, which will house:
  - a copy of the database with guidance.
  - an image store
  - an interactive data visualisation using Google Maps.
- This will make it freely accessible to all, including project partners, who will be able to use it as a resource for understanding Black Histories in Scotland.
- The datasets will be publicised through a range of public engagement and further research outputs.
- A DOI will be assigned to the dataset the when it is deposited in the DataShare and will appear in all publications and outputs.
- It will therefore have a metadata record in The University's CRIS system PURE.
- A data access statement will be included in all publications.

5a. How the data will enhance the area and how it could be used in the future?

The dataset will break new ground in terms of academic and public understanding of the Scottish past.

- Enhance knowledge of the development of ideas about race in Scottish popular culture, including change over time in relation to these themes.
- Aid researching, teaching and learning about Black Histories in Scotland.
- Support academics & school teachers in global Scottish and Black Histories, as well as research into race, gender, class, sexuality, performance and popular culture. .
- Support family history searches. It will be useful to members of the public researching Scottish, Black and Family Histories.
- It can be freely used to research into:
    - the history of intersectional studies of race and identity in Scotland
    - the history of performance culture in Scotland
    - family histories
    - and the history of venues of historical significance across Scotland.
- It can provide a model for new studies into global understandings of race in locales that do not include large multiracial populations.

5b. Releasing the data – advise when you will be releasing and justify if not releasing in line with AHRC guidelines of a minimum of three years. If the data will have value to different audiences, how these groups will be informed?

- The dataset will be published within the funding period.

5c. Will the data need to be updated? Include future plans for updating if this is the case.

- The dataset may need to be extended in a subsequent phase 2 of the project.
- New data collected in phase 2 would be added to the golden copy of the database.

5d. Will the data be open or will you charge for it? Justify if charging to access the data

- The dataset will be open.

5e. Financial requirements of sharing – include full justification in the JoR

- Potential financial costs in preparing the dataset for publication include copyright searches and related permissions purchases and potential additional costs of image preparation through professional photography.

Ethical and Legal Considerations

6a. Any legal and ethical considerations of collecting the data

- I will ensure that I abide by any access conditions placed on the records by the library or archive.

6b. Legal and ethical considerations around releasing and storing the data – anonymity of any participants, following promises made to participants

The School of History, Classics and Archaeology has a robust set of ethics principles and procedures. An application will be submitted for ethical approval prior to the research commencing, and this will be reviewed and approved by our School Ethics Committee: https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/research/ethics-procedures.

- Copyright searches may be necessary to obtain permission to reproduce certain images and written archival documents.
- All materials to be used for this project are already in the public domain and concern deceased persons.
- However, on the website I will publish a takedown policy, for use in the unlikely event of an objection being raised to the publication of material in the database, for instance by a surviving family member of one of the performers.