

THE SOUTH NORTH CIC

TIMESTAMPS FOR ROUTING DIASPORA HISTORIES: REFLECTIVE CONVERSATIONS

Recording 1:

IN THIS CONVERSATION, DAMALI IBRECK AND VANESSA ANSA REFLECT ON DELIVERING THE ROUTING DIASPORA HISTORY PROJECT: APPROACH, CHALLENGES AND KEY LEARNINGS

REASONS FOR & INTENTIONS OF PROJECT

- **00:00 - 08:04: How/why the project idea arose; intentions to look at pre-colonial African & African and Caribbean diaspora histories and enable processes of creating/making as a way of 'moving' things/thoughts/memories/emotions; our approach**

HOW APPROACH SHIFTED

- **08:04 - 09:45: How our work shifted beyond historical text/books more into spaces of thinking and making; an open, responsive approach enabled shifts in focus to evolve naturally based on what came up**

QUESTIONS OF HISTORY

- **09:45 - 14:44: Questions around accessing history; what counts as history; alternative ways of finding/learning it; how histories are taught institutionally; how we settle our connections with heritage which has been disrupted; and our aims to create spaces which would enable other people to come to these questions in their own ways**

WORKING WITH AND AS PARTICIPANTS

- **14:44 - 16:04: Approaching the project as participants, not just organisers**
- **16:04 - 18:45: Who we decided to invite as participants and why**
- **18:45 - 21:41: Process rather than the outcome-based way of working; intentionally allowing for evolution; effects of this approach for partners; challenges of this approach**
- **21:41 - 25:40: Paying participants; learning and sharing together**

CHALLENGES, BENEFITS, LEARNINGS

- **25:40 - 32:31: Challenges of being both participants & organisers; key learning to walk through project and consider potentialities needing contingencies; creating spaces of nourishment rather than extraction through a responsive approach / choosing a route that takes into account the project themes**
- **32:31 - 35:15: Risks associated with projects that deal with colonialism, racism and working with people you've never worked with before, leading to a key logistical change in our project; key learning about the importance of accessing support mechanisms**
- **35:15 - 46:51: The importance for institutions to resolve all difficult issues fully: they impact future work; for funders to be proactively aware of mechanisms that might need to be drawn on, alongside the value of flagging potential project-**

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theme-related risks; our experiences of dealing with an issue that re-emerged from the institutional past; key learnings

CO-CREATING WITH ACADEMIC STUDENT AS RESEARCH ASSISTANT/CREATIVE

- 46:51 - 50:15: Mya's involvement as academic partner/student/research assistant and the value of her response as a creative

Recording 2

IN THIS REFLECTIVE CONVERSATION, DAMALI IBRECK AND VANESSA ANSA TALK ABOUT THE LOGISTICS OF DELIVERING THE ROUTING DIASPORA HISTORY PROJECT

FINANCE

- 00:00 - 3:00: Funding in arrears for small organisations/individuals: effects

CO-CREATION

- 03:00 - 06:26: Logistics and challenges of co-creation; navigating relationships as collaborators/co-creators
- 06:26 - 08:59: The schedule of workshops and creating shared creative spaces; challenges of time, gathering together when we are not dictating a meeting schedule, but trying to find the best fit for all participants

WORKING WITH PARTICIPANTS

- 08:59 - 11:52: Questions around the weight of project themes and how this might have affected participation; allowing space for non-participation as much as participation; the pros and cons of having a looser or tighter schedule for participant engagement and allowing participants time to engage in their own ways/time;
- 11:52 - 14:51: Benefits and challenges of taking an organic, adaptive and responsive approach; learning: to be explicit about this from the outset

CHANGING FINAL EVENT

- 14:51 - 19:04: Postponing and changing the final sharing event; questions around format and access

TRAUMA-INFORMED SUPPORT

- 19:04 - 21:46: Bringing in a trauma-informed art therapist to support participants; learnings: beneficial to have this support for all of us more broadly

SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION

21:46 - 24:42: Participants outside London