



Hi Museum Supporters!

With exhibitions, screenings, new videos, personal testimonies and team members, March has been a busy month for the MBC team. Read below for highlights from the last few weeks and details on what's coming up in April.

MBC at Belfast Imagine! Festival



MBC was delighted to be included in the programme of events for this year's [Imagine! Festival](#) in Belfast, in partnership with the wonderful [Pat Finucane Centre](#). As well as daily screenings of our Operation Legacy documentary as part of the [Legacy of Colonialism](#) exhibition, Luna Diaz from the UK team, also joined Paul O'Connor from PFC and Bill Rolston from the Transitional Justice Institute for a panel discussion on the themes of justice, colonialism, memory and heritage.

Luna, Paul and Bill joined an amazing line up of speakers over the course of the week including Lionel Shriver, George Monbiot, Robert Ince and Scott Santens.

March was also a busy month for university screenings of Operation Legacy, with the University of Manchester and Goldsmiths University both hosting independent screenings for a variety of groups.

New Content: Chinga Dam, Hola Anniversary, and Mau Mau Literature



Chinga Dam was constructed in the 1950s for a British colonial officer who wanted a lake on which to sail and fish. Suspected Mau Mau prisoners from Othaya Works Camp were forced to build the dam, destroying land belonging to local farmers who received no compensation.

Today however, the lake has become a resource for the local community, where they can fish and rent out boats to tourists. We visited the lake to explore the lasting effects of the dam's construction on the local community.

Watch the video via our YouTube channel [here](#).

Blogs from the Team

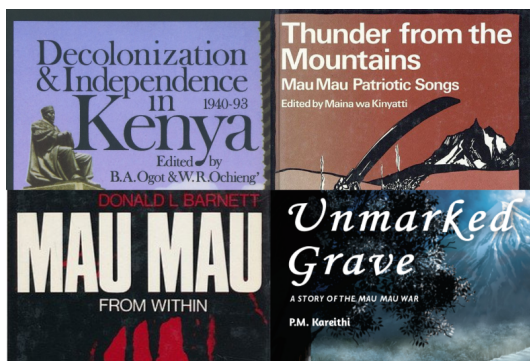
The Hola Massacre and Mau Mau Literature

On the 3rd of March, we remembered the 60th anniversary of the Hola massacre. On this day, British colonial forces beat eleven Mau Mau suspects to death at Hola Detention Camp in Kenya, and covered it up by blaming unclean



drinking water. Today we know the truth. Team historian, Beth, was able to look further into the story at the Kenya National Archives - read her blog [here](#).

Our team member Adam recently spoke to Dr Chege Githiora, senior lecturer in Swahili at SOAS, and was the Kikuyu translator during the Mau Mau court case in London, 2014.



Adam and Chege spoke about Mau Mau literature, non-fiction, and biography, noting that listening to African stories and reading African historians is of the utmost importance in enhancing our collective understanding of the conflict. Read the blog [here](#).

Building Our Oral Archive



This is James Njuguna Mwaura. He was 20 when the Emergency began in 1952. He joined the Mau Mau to fight for Kenya's freedom and he took the oath. He was arrested and detained in Karatina camp for four years, surrounded by barbed wire so high they couldn't reach. He and his fellow detainees were

interrogated but not willing to give answers, even if they were mistreated. During the court case in 2011, James showed the marks on his back from where he had been beaten. Just two weeks ago, James shared his whole story with Beth from our team. He asked that we write these things down and we share them.

James is one of thousands of individuals in Kenya keen for their story to be better known. Over the next few months, we will be meeting as many of these individuals as possible to listen to, capture, share and preserve their experiences. We believe this will lead to a richer and more truthful history, that will, in turn, lead to a richer and more truthful society. If you or anyone you know is in the UK or Kenya, and has direct or indirect experience of the Mau Mau Emergency that you would like to document and share, please get in touch with us.

You can contact us via email at info@museumofbritishcolonialism.org, or via any of our social media accounts on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [Facebook](#).

James' full story will be available soon on our website.

MBC at UCL and University of Sussex

Much of our field work has been supported by Gabe Moshenska and the very generous small grants scheme at the UCL Centre for Critical Heritage Studies. We were delighted to join the Centre to share updates on our work and talk with others also working with the Centre.

On 5th April, we are delighted to be joining an interdisciplinary symposium at the University of Sussex on 'Finance Capital and the Ghosts of Empire'. The Museum will be represented by our very wonderful team member, Hannah McClean. Updates to follow..

Archaeology and Heritage of the Mau Mau Rebellion
Gabriel Moshenska¹, Chao Tziyana², Olivia Windham Stewart³, Hannah McClean⁴
¹UCL Institute of Archaeology, ²Museum of British Colonialism

Introduction: the Mau Mau Rebellion
The Mau Mau Rebellion was an anti-colonial uprising in British-controlled Kenya from 1952 to 1960. During the conflict colonial authorities detained tens of thousands of suspected Mau Mau rebels without trial. The network of detention camps that they built has been called 'Britain's Gulag'.
After Kenyan independence, the British government destroyed or let decay the buildings, its treatment and murder in these detention camps. Today the survivors of the camps are elderly, the camps have not been preserved, and the history of the rebellion is not well known either in Kenya or in the UK. There is a need for better protection, understanding and communication of this heritage.

Our Project
Our project aims to identify, record and study the surviving traces of the detention camps, and to create digital heritage resources for their management and preservation. Our work is also dedicated to increasing public understanding of the Mau Mau Rebellion in Kenya and the UK, particularly amongst young people.
In September 2018 we conducted fieldwork in Nyeri Province with National Museums of Kenya curator Antony Maina. We visited the sites of two former detention camps and carried out preliminary survey and recording.

Site 1: Kangubini Girls' High School
Formerly the site of the famous local girls' boarding school which held more than 1000 prisoners. Many of the original structures survive: detention cells have been transformed into storage buildings and dormitories, and the guard house has been used to store furniture (Figure 2). The camp administration building is now the school finance office, and the compound is used to raise the head-teacher's residence. We surveyed traces of the deep ditch that surrounded the camp, and paved off paths to locate the site of the imposing guard tower.

Site 2: Mwaru High School
Formerly the site of Mwaru Works Camp. We recorded former cell blocks now used as classrooms, a toilet house that has been converted into a communal bathroom, and the ruins of other buildings. One notable feature was a supposed torture room preserved in the school grounds as a memorial (Figure 3). Blocks made in the camp were stamped 'MWC', and from these we were able to trace most original camp buildings (e.g. Figure 3). We carried out extensive recording at this site, and we intend to create 3D digital models of two of the structures.

Future Work
Based on the success of the pilot project we intend to carry out further fieldwork to catalogue and survey the sites of at least 20 detention camps used during the Rebellion. We are working closely with Kenyan heritage organisations to explore different ways of sharing the story of the Mau Mau Rebellion with new audiences, including through film and travelling exhibitions. Research updates and more information about our ongoing work, along with videos and images from our 2018 fieldwork, can be found at our website www.museumofbritishcolonialism.org. Find us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube as well.

Funding
We are grateful to the Centre for Critical Heritage Studies for their support of this project through their small grants scheme.

Acknowledgements
Our thanks to the Museum of British Colonialism team-members and supporters, Antony Maina of National Museums of Kenya who is fantastic guide to the sites and monuments of the Mau Mau Rebellion. The head-teachers and staff at Kangubini Girls' High School and Mwaru High School generously allowed us access. All images are © Gabriel Moshenska.

FINANCE CAPITAL & THE GHOSTS OF EMPIRE

<p>Friday, April 5 Quiet room, Meeting House, University of Sussex</p> <p>10:00-10:30 Welcome</p> <p>10:30-12:00 Race, colonialism and debt, past and present K-Sue Park (University of California, Los Angeles) Jerome Roos (ROAR Magazine, London School of Economics)</p> <p>12:00-12:45 Breakout focus group conversations</p> <p>12:45-13:30 Lunch (provided for all registered attendees)</p> <p>13:30-15:00 Tracing imperial legacies: Interventions Traces of Nitrate project (Brighton - Doreen Riise and Louise Turbitt) Museum of British Colonialism (London)</p> <p>15:00-15:15 Break</p> <p>15:15-17:00 Emerging scholars' panel one Franziska Müller (Kassel) "Greening the anti-politics machines: De- and re-politicising Africa's renewable energy transition" Rebecca Bramall (University of the Arts London) "The colonial meddling never stopped": stories about Empire and responsibility in contemporary tax justice discourse" Nick Bernards (Warwick) "Colonial legacies and the limits of financialisation in sub-Saharan Africa" Sarah-Jane Phelan and Jenny Hewitt (Sussex) "Playing with Experiences of Displacement: Complexity, Accountability, Global Reach Ambitions and the Toy Industry"</p> <p>17:00-17:30 Plenary conversation</p>	<p>Saturday, April 6 Meeting room 1, Falmer House (Student Union building), University of Sussex</p> <p>10:00-11:45 Emerging scholars' panel two Nadine King Chambers (Central Lancashire) "From the Shores of a Mine to the Shores of a Smelter - Entanglements of Extraction from Jamaica to British Columbia." Catherine Cumming (Auckland) "How finance colonised Indonesia: A critique counter-history" John Handel (Birkbeck) "The financialization of American slavery and the mundane political economy of sovereign debt"</p> <p>11:45-12:30 Breakout focus group conversations</p> <p>12:30-13:30 Lunch (provided for all registered attendees)</p> <p>13:30-15:00 Making visible finance & the afterlives of empire Femke Herregraven (Artist, Amsterdam) Research for Action (London)</p> <p>15:00-15:15 Break</p> <p>15:15-16:45 Future directions: Write-offs, write-downs & reparation Cathy Bergin (University of Brighton) Gargi Bhattacharyya (University of East London) Johnna Montgomerie (King's College London)</p> <p>16:45-17:30 Plenary conversation</p>
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AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM AT
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX * 5-6 APRIL, 2019

Wider Information and Articles



Recently, musician and activist Akala spoke to Owen Jones for The Guardian on the colonial roots of the black-on-black violence narrative, and mentioned in particular Operation Legacy. See the interview [here](#).

We thought we'd round up some similar articles and interviews, as well as contextual and background information for our projects.

You can also find many more multimedia resources via our website [here](#)!

New volunteers!

We're very pleased to welcome new volunteers to our team, following a call out in both the UK and Kenya. We're excited to welcome Maureen from Nyeri, and Shahreen and Tanzil from London to our growing team!

Our mailing address is:

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