

DIGITAL BLACKNESS

CULTURE, THEORY & TECHNOLOGY IN THE NETWORK ECOLOGY

DECOLONISING DIGITAL HUMANITIES

CONFERENCE | 30TH JUNE 2017

CALL FOR PAPERS - DEADLINE: 28/03/17

The proliferation of digital technologies has worked to expand the scope of the representation and performance, affirmation and experiences of Blackness. In this newly globalised world, created by the online and the digital, these technologies, and the forms of knowledge and communication they facilitate, impact on the everyday realities and activities of Black people and black cultures; blackness becomes hyper-visible at all levels from the local to the global, and, increasingly, both spectacular and spectacle.

The Digital Blackness conference contributes and builds on a [conversation](#) that began within universities in the US in 2016, but orientates the debate from a Black-British perspective – centring the local context of UK communities, researchers, activists and artists; asking how the digital reshapes the meaning, performance, representation, and reception of Blackness in Britain as part of the wider on-going transnational digital exchange and negotiation.

By exploring the specificity of Black British thought within the larger framework of the global Black Digital this conference seeks to help frame a new conversation on black creative and expressive practice, research, content production and resistance as part of the interconnected knowledge and culture ecology, and to generate a new critical understanding of the political economy that shapes the meanings of Blackness online.

Conversely the conference seeks to explore how blackness can serve as a critical prism through which to understand broader transformations brought about by digital and technological innovation. To date, the academic fields rising up in response to challenges posed by digital transformation have neglected blackness as a necessary epistemology, experience, and issue of straightforward social justice. How can

academics working within the Digital Humanities aid in the decolonisation of the prevalent theories and methods that have come to define the field, and which increasingly limit its scope, and relevance?

Sponsored by the Ascent Research Group, the Sussex Humanities Lab, and the School of Media, Film and Music, contributions are invited to this one-day conference to be held at the University of Sussex on the 30th June 2017.

Papers might include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

Journalism | Agency | Activism & Resistance | Automation & Algorithms | Transnational Digital Exchanges | Identity, Community & Digital Tribes | The Vector of Blackness | Social Media/New Media | Digital Publishing | Afro Futures | Digital Divide | Archives | Intellectual Property: Ownership, Servers, Content, Copyright | Digital Research Methods | Epistemologies in Digital Humanities | The Politics of Memes | Defining, Searching and Finding Blackness - Metadata | Writing Back | Empowerment | Representation | Aesthetics | Black Art & Music | Black Film | Black LGBTQ | Black Feminism | Black Nationalism | Digital History, Sociology, Art, Cultural Studies | Political Economy of Blackness Online | Health & Wellbeing | Justice & Crime | Business & Entrepreneurship |

In addition to academic papers, the organisers also welcome contributions from digital activists and artists, and nonacademic researchers, in the form of other innovative presentation styles (e.g. art installations, videos, augmentation etc.)

Please forward abstract submissions of no more than 300 words to:

digitalblacknessuk@gmail.com

Please include your name, contact details and institutional affiliation, if applicable, and attach your abstract as a word document to the email. Organisers intend to publish selected papers as part of a journal special issue.

For further information please visit:

www.digitalblackness.com

