

The Collegium for African American Research [CAAR] is hosting their biennial conference in Liverpool, UK from June 24<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

<https://caarliverpool2015.wordpress.com>

An open letter to the Collegium for African American Research [CAAR] 2015 organisers:

Seriously, I will skip through all the formalities of Dear Sir, stroke Madam . . .

Are you telling me, that in the year 2015, in one of the largest empires in the world, there is not one Black academic who can deliver a keynote address at the CAAR 2015 conference who is actually from the UK? Oh, not even from other parts of Europe? You seem to have no trouble getting Black performers from the UK? Seriously, are we coming to carnival or CAAR? Yes, I did see that you have asked a Black keynote speaker from the US . . . of which, after mentioning your two main keynote speakers, you offer some information on accommodation and student registration, then your Black man performer, and then . . . joining us . . . the Black scholar from the US-- how thoughtful of you! This is appalling! I am stunned yet again. It is not that I underestimate the value that performers bring to conferences or scholarly gatherings it is the fact that White folks of your ilk seem to have no trouble finding Black performers but somehow have great difficulty finding Black scholars to deliver keynote addresses. It must be really difficult to remain in your chair and possibly with slightly tilted head gaze up at a Black scholar whom you have to listen to even if it pains your liberal arses!

In 2013, you had European women presenting on Sarah Baartman in Atlanta, yes, that's right, Black pussy seem to be about the best you can muster as presentations, even if as it were, the work was old and outdated and smelled as rotten and racist in 2013 as it did in the mid 1980s when it was in popular circulation by a more talented group of White folks from the US!

And one wonders why your up and coming generation of White English scholars are among the most arrogant in the world-- they seem to get regular doses of arrogance and ignorance -- that lethal colonial combination-- from you, their seasoned peers.

Oh, and I am sure, you are arranging for participants to go on the tour of Liverpool where you will no doubt showcase your lovely museum and remind those in attendance of slavery that you seem to forget . . . was abolished in 1833, which in my calculation is 182 years ago. Are you planning on taking your conference attendees to the actual site where those boats arrived? Why bother? I mean, seriously, being in attendance at CAAR in 2015 is evidence enough? Surely, at this stage, there must be a few Black people in the UK worthy of mention, who can speak and not only sing and dance, who you can put on a podium not to sell human flesh but to speak with noteworthy articulation to deliver a keynote address?

It would be great, at some point, to have a conversation with the Black academics who live in the UK so that you can learn not only to study your colonisation of them, and your beneficiary status as people who benefitted from the enslavement of their ancestors but to invite them to speak on their own histories, with your permission, of course, otherwise it would simply not be right to talk about you without offering you a warning in advance.

Your actions speak precisely to the multi-layered components of systemic and institutional racism in Europe. European universities stink of racism -- you want to write about us but cannot possibly foresee that we can write and speak for ourselves. Black professors in the UK and the rest of Europe are denied tenure, have their work denounced, are eliminated from shortlists, and are overlooked from achieving the next level of their professorial work precisely because collegiums like yours still endorse, perpetuate the maintain the very racism you claim to be against.

Yesterday was May 10th, the annual day for the remembrance of slavery in France -- your neighbours. Aren't you embarrassed, at this stage of CAAR's history, and at this stage of the history of the British Empire, that you are still serving slavery in every form, evenly, on a thinly sliced piece of White

bread to CAAR members, many of whom do not want to eat it any longer. Don't you get tired of gorging yourself, living on the same diet of slavery and racism, and then regurgitating it at very occasion, recycling it, chewing and spewing the same shit and garnishing it with museums of slavery, in case we forget that you can claim us as yours!

You are delirious and gleeful in your racism -- may your path towards the death of White Supremacy be as pleasant to you as it has been painful to us.

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