

Buffett Undergraduate Research Fellowship Opportunity

Grassroots Struggles, Global Visions: Black Power in Britain

Faculty Mentor: Kennetta Hammond Perry, Associate Professor, Black Studies (Evanston campus)

Project Synopsis: Scholarly interest in Black Power has grown over the past two decades. While earlier studies focused chiefly on the United States, more recent works situate Black Power within an international frame tracking how global flows of culture, people and ideas informed a series of related but autonomous movements spanning North America, the Caribbean, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific. This project builds upon this scholarship by examining how grassroots activists in Britain navigated these transnational webs of Black politics during the late twentieth century with particular attention to Black Power activism taking place outside of London. Highlighting the regional dimensions of Black Power with attention to Greater Manchester and the East Midlands, this project will explore the following key questions:

- How did British Black Power look operate at the grassroots level beyond London and how might considerations of place and region transform our understanding of the movement?
- What were the key issues, sites of contention or grassroots movement-building practice that linked various regional struggles and connected them to (trans)national Black Power and anticolonial movements?
- What are the legacies of these grassroots Black Power struggles and how were they (made to be) remembered by those who experienced them first-hand?

Not only does this project aim to recover numerous under-examined grassroots activists and campaigns, but it also intends to work collaboratively with local organizations and community heritage practitioners in the UK to understand how histories of Black Power are preserved, archived and invoked in the present. Note that this project will contribute to a larger grant-funded project being conducted with colleagues based at the University of Manchester.

Project Term: Summer + academic year, 2 terms

Project Location: Aside from summer research travel for archival research in the UK, it is expected that research assistance on this project will be based on campus with regular meetings to be arranged both in person or virtually.

Ideal Applicant: The ideal applicant for this position will be a highly motivated student with interest in the history of Black Power who is curious about the mechanics of undertaking historical research. It is expected that the successful applicant will conduct directed archival research; assist with organizing archival materials and references for various project outputs; support the transcription of oral history interviews; and work closely with UK-based collaborators in planning a symposium related to the project

which will take place in spring 2025. It is expected that students will gain valuable practical skills relevant to working in archives and conducting research interviews and develop relational skills through an experience of interfacing with various project collaborators.

Number of Available Positions: One

