

AN ERC-FUNDED PROJECT

2016-2021

Travel, Transculturality and Identity in England, 1550-1700



INTRODUCING TIDE

TIDE is a 5-year (2016-2021) European Research Council-funded project that aims to investigate how mobility in the great age of travel and discovery shaped English perceptions of human identity.

The role of individuals and groups marked by transcultural mobility was central to this period. Trade, diplomacy and politics, religious schisms, and shifts in legal systems all attempted to control and formalise the identity of such figures. Our current world is all too familiar with the concepts that surfaced or evolved as a result: foreigners, strangers, aliens, converts, exiles, or even translators, ambassadors and go-betweens.

By examining how different discourses tackled the fraught question of human identity in this era, TIDE opens a new perspective on cross-cultural encounters. It places pressure on our understanding of cultural difference, transculturality and identity, and generates a new understanding of key terms, concepts, and debates.

The project also probes the unique role played by literature, illuminating how concepts of cultural difference and identity took shape in different ways in the imagination, at times challenging the dominant norms seen in the politics or law codes of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Through an engagement with TIDE's historical research, our annual visiting writers generate new literature about cross-cultural encounters and issues of migration and belonging today.

This project therefore consolidates our fragmented understanding of transculturality and the idea of 'betweenness' in the early modern period with the ways mobility continues to have a significant impact on the contemporary world.



MORE THAN JUST EXPLORATION

Human movements across borders increased under the combined impact of multiple political, economic, religious and social factors throughout this period. As individuals migrated, the ways in which they thought about differences between countries and races, about one human being from this part of the world and one from another, developed rapidly as well, and began to take recognisable shapes and forms.

In a period marked by mobility, what did it mean to belong, or not to belong? What did it mean to move between cultures, countries, languages, faiths? How did you see yourself, and how did others see you? Were assimilation and segregation the only two options available? Or could one be both this and that, a third thing, both part of the world one had left and the world one occupied?

These questions seemed urgent enough when the idea of TIDE was formulated a few years ago, but against the backdrop of the unprecedented scale of crisis and anxiety about human mobility and migration that has unfolded since then, they seem even more important to ask and to understand today.



VISITING WRITERS

Working with the University of Liverpool's Centre for New and International Writing, TIDE brings together academics and contemporary writers and poets, whose involvement will provide a new context of exploration and open up a new place of dialogue between literary-historical research and contemporary developments in literature.

TIDE's visiting writers are actively involved with the project. They attend project meetings, have access to the project's research material, and respond to research and produce new writing.

In April 2017, TIDE welcomed the poet, novelist, essayist, and playwright, Fred D'Aguiar as its first visiting writer. Fred D'Aguiar was born in London in 1960 of Guyanese parents and brought up in Guyana and London. His fiction and poetry have been translated into several languages, and he is currently Professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Visiting writer for 2018, Sarah Howe is a Hong Kong-born British poet, academic and editor. Lecturer in Poetry at King's College London, she has also held fellowships at Cambridge and Harvard, and a Leverhulme fellowship in English at University College London. Her first book, *Loop of Jade* (2015), won the TS Eliot Prize, and *The Sunday Times*/PFD Young Writer of the Year Award.

Nikesh Shukla is our visiting writer for 2019. He is the author of three novels, including *The One Who Wrote Destiny* (2018) and the award-winning bestselling essay collection, *The Good Immigrant* (2016). Nikesh has written for *The Guardian*, *Observer*, *The Independent*, BBC 2, and BBC Radio 4. He is the co-founder of the *Literary Journal*, *The Good Journal* and *The Good Literary Agency*.

The Centre for New and International Writing is the University of Liverpool's focal point for the study of contemporary and international literatures, for creative writing, and new writing in its many manifestations. Launched in 2013 by Honorary Professor Neil Gaiman, the Centre combines an interest in global literature in English and translation with a focus on innovative creative practice and the visual arts. Check out *The Centre for New and International Writing* here: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/new-and-international-writing>



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The TIDE project aims to widen public engagement across disciplines and institutions, and advance new ways of using the past to explore contemporary questions about English heritage and identity. Our activity has included our **#gateofaccess** Twitter series, which offers curators and archivists in museums and libraries a means of disseminating objects from their local and international collections to new audiences through a series of curated tweets. The role of migrants, and the beliefs, habits, and artefacts they carried with them, in shaping English identity continues to have a significant role in contemporary debates about belonging, inclusion, and tolerance, and the project works closely with local groups, museums, and schools to explore the legacy of cultural 'betweenness' on the world today.

The series has included partnerships with the Liverpool Special Collections and Archives, National Pipe Archive and the Museum of Liverpool. TIDE has also developed a collaboration with the World Museum, which will include an exhibition on Chinese porcelain alongside the poetry of Sarah Howe.

Aims of collaborations:

- To raise public awareness of objects in library and museum collections, whether new acquisitions, lesser-known treasures, or artefacts that do not appear on permanent display.
- To foster a dialogue about the movement of peoples and objects, and the mingling of cultures, on the formation of English identity, and to promote the use of the past in addressing present debates.
- To encourage viable working methods for interdisciplinary collaborations between institutions.
- To draw larger numbers of visitors to participating cultural institutions, and to bring attention to early modern collections at a time when late modern and contemporary art tend to attract larger audiences.
- To encourage both public and institutional awareness of the research conducted by TIDE and other academic institutions on the historic role of migration and transculturality on identity in England.



TIDE CASE STUDIES

Over the course of the project, through monthly reading group seminars, our case studies examine mobility in practice through the perspectives of literature, religion, law, and trade and diplomacy. Our selected cases, chosen in careful discussion, include representative and anomalous examples of early modern transcultural individuals. These studies pay close attention to the ways in which individuals and communities negotiated their identities across geopolitical, religious, racial, cultural and linguistic borders, and probe instances where such negotiations surfaced through particular events and texts.

The main output for the case studies is a core set of 24 case studies. These will: (1) form essential material for the TIDE team's own monographs and articles; (2) feature as short essays in an open-access resource on the project website; and (3) produce new research for our visiting writers and other cultural institutions to use as points of meditation, departure and response in the new writing they produce over the project period.

Individuals investigated by TIDE so far include:

- Diego Sarmiento de Acuña, Count of Gondomar (1567-1626)
- Luisa de Carvajal y Mendoza (1566-1614)
- Patrick Copeland (1572-1650)
- Jane Dormer (1538-1612)
- Virginia Ferrar (c. 1627-1688)
- John Florio (1553-1625)
- Alberico Gentili (1552-1608)
- Robert Parsons (1546-1610)
- Pocahontas/Matoaka (c. 1596-1617)
- Edward Pococke (1604-1691)
- Thomas Roe (1581-1644)
- Thomas Stephens (1549-1619)
- Roger Williams (c. 1606-1693)



PREVIOUS TIDE EVENTS

In conjunction with the Runnymede Trust, we organised workshops with KS3 teachers in London and Liverpool, to discuss best practice for exploring migration in the national curriculum.



Every year, TIDE organises a number of interdisciplinary lectures, seminars and readings in Liverpool and London. Speakers have included the linguist Sylvia Adamson; historians Jyotsna Singh, Joan-Pau Rubiés, Nadine Akkerman, Jane Stevenson, Matthew Dimmock, and Peter Davidson; the poet Vahni Capildeo; and our visiting writers.



Together with the Dolphin's Back theatre company, we organised a successful experimental workshop which used excerpts from plays and non-dramatic documents to ask a series of questions on belonging and identity in Tudor London.



As part of Liverpool 2018's cultural program, TIDE worked with the Liverpool University Players to stage a set of early modern lunar-themed performances for the public, under Luke Jerram's spectacular Moon installation which welcomed the Tall Ships Regatta into the city.

THE TIDE TEAM



Nandini Das is a literary and cultural historian, and Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool. Her essays and books include *Robert Greene's Planetomachia* (2007), *Renaissance Romance: The Transformation of English Prose Fiction, 1570-1620* (2011), and the co-edited *Enchantment and Dis-enchantment in Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama* (2016). Her investigation of the traces and impact of early modern cross-cultural encounters in Britain, and British and European engagement with the wider world, has developed through essays on Renaissance travel, and through her experience as volume editor of Elizabethan Levant Trade and South Asia in the forthcoming OUP edition of Richard Hakluyt's *The Principal Navigations*. Nandini is co-editor of *The Cambridge History of Travel Writing*, and Principal Investigator of the 'Traveller' and 'Envisioning the Indian City' projects.



Lauren Working is a historian of late sixteenth and seventeenth-century English politics and culture. Her research investigates the two-way impact of colonisation; the Anglo-Algonquian Chesapeake; material and visual approaches to civility; and wit and political friendships at the Inns of Court. Lauren's sub-project examines the consequences of colonisation, from tobacco smoking to English attempts to 'civilise' indigenous peoples, on sociability and the practice of politics in the Jacobean metropolis.



Haig Smith investigates how English overseas companies established distinct governmental identities through their religious interactions with diverse communities across the globe. He has previously published work in an edited volume on Anglo-Indian Interaction and in the *Journal of Church and State*. His research focus on the TIDE project investigates how law and governance influenced the formation of identity in the early modern English world. His work examines the intellectual process in the politics of Anglo-indigenous interaction between 1550-1700 in forming early modern concepts of identity and English governance.



João Vicente Melo is a cultural historian who works on early modern cross-cultural encounters and diplomacy. His research interests include diplomatic rituals, early modern European ethnographic production about South Asia and Africa, religious missions, and the European presence at the Mughal court. As a part of the TIDE project, he will publish a book-length study on the Jesuit and English presence in Mughal India between 1580 and 1650.



Roger Christofides is a Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Liverpool. His current research examines representations of the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and North Africa in early modern literature and how those representations can help us to think in new ways about modern conflicts across those regions. His latest book, *Othello's Secret: The Cyprus Problem*, is published with the Arden Shakespeare and reads Othello as a play about Cyprus, helping to reimagine the island's current ethnic divisions.



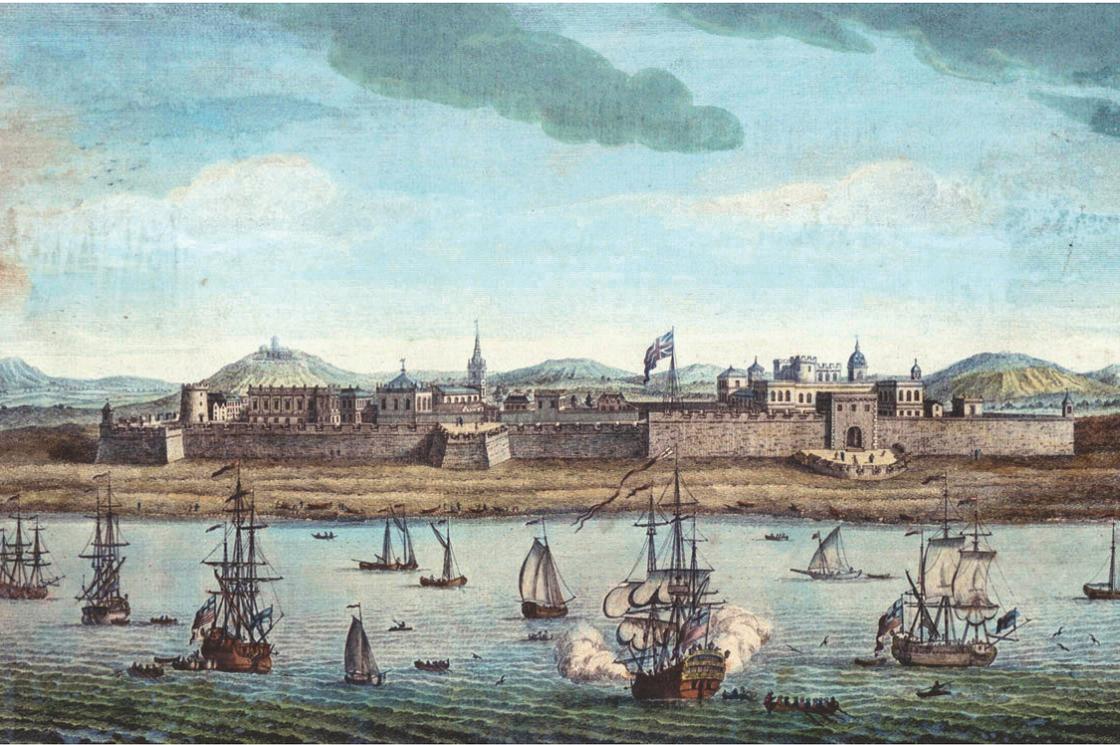
Emma-Louise Whitehead is the Project Administrator for TIDE. She also works as a freelance bibliographer for the Oxford English Dictionary, dealing mainly with early modern religious and scientific texts. She is involved with the Shakespeare North theatre project, working on Engagement, and studying for an undergraduate degree in English, with a particular interest in Renaissance drama.



Emily Stevenson previously studied at the University of Warwick (BA) and King's College London (MA). Her doctoral research focuses on reconstructing the intellectual and textual networks of Richard Hakluyt using network mapping techniques to analyse the ways in which he collected and parsed material for *The Principal Navigations*. Her thesis will approach *The Principal Navigations* as both a body of collected material and a seminal text in its own right in order to examine both the tradition it developed from and the effect it had on the evolving culture of sixteenth and seventeenth century travel writing.



Tom Roberts studied at Queen Mary, University of London (BA English) and Trinity College Dublin (M. Phil Early Modern History). His doctoral thesis will assess how the Italian *commedia dell'arte* manifested in the English cultural landscape between the beginnings of the secular public theatre in the 1570s and their closure in 1642. His wider research interests include immigrant 'spaces' and 'places' in early modern London, pamphleteering, and the English clown.



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