

**Centre for the Advancement of  
Racial Equality (CARE)**

**Member Profile**

**Dr Emel Thomas**

Senior Lecturer in Education  
(Childhood, Youth and Families)

Published:

- Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean
- Eastern European and Minority Ethnic pupils in English Schools.

Interests:

- Race and migration
- Education in the Caribbean and other small states
- Race, religion, gender and social class
- Community groups and activism.

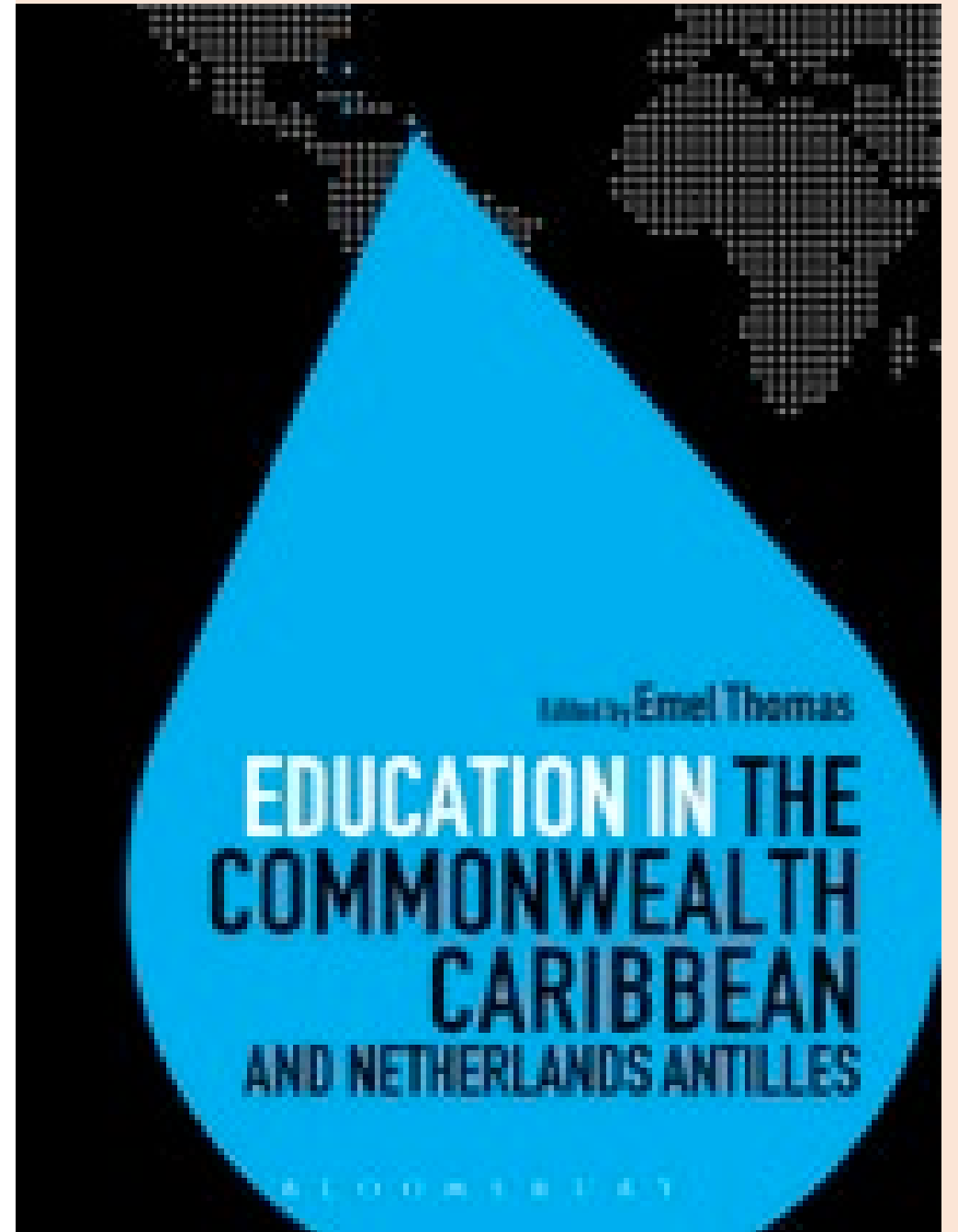
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[https://uon1.padlet.org/emel\\_thomas/windrushtoday](https://uon1.padlet.org/emel_thomas/windrushtoday)



Thomas, E. (2014), *Education in the Commonwealth Caribbean and Netherlands Antilles*. London: Bloomsbury.







500 JAMAICANS ARRIVE AT TILBURN ... 22/6/48. T  
When the 14,400 tons ex-troopship Empire Windrush  
alongside the landing stage at Tilbury her decks  
with nearly 500 Jamaicans who had come to Britain  
work that they could not find in their own country

Photo Shows. Among the first  
who will be fighting  
Charles SMITH  
Boy SOLAS





# Why HMT Empire Windrush matters (75 years on)?

Immigration debates

Race and racism

Comparisons

Generations

Challenge injustice

Equality for all

Windrush scandal



# What is race?

The term race is **problematic on conceptual grounds** and therefore difficult to define.

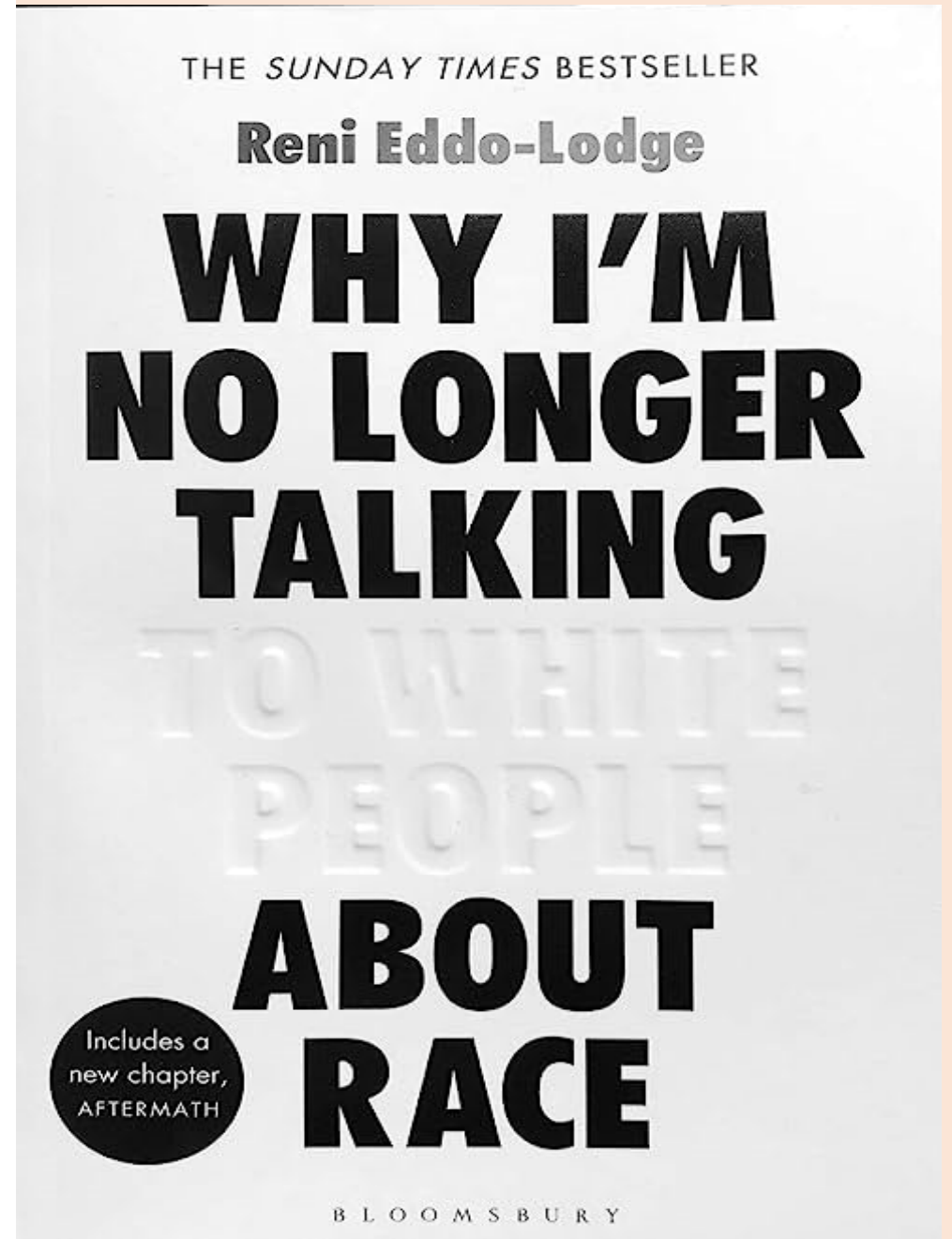
According to Gillborn (2008, p.3) “Far from being a fixed and natural system of genetic difference, ‘**race**’ is a **system of socially constructed and enforced categories** that are constantly recreated and modified through human interaction”.

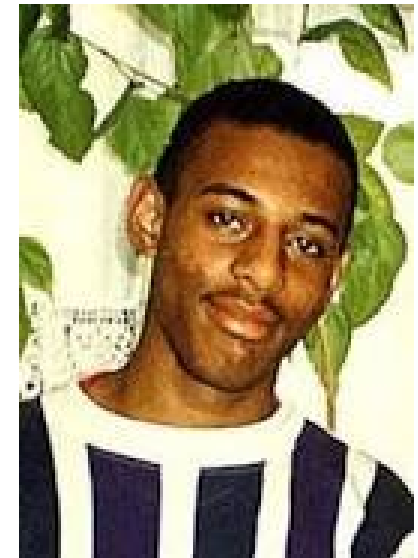
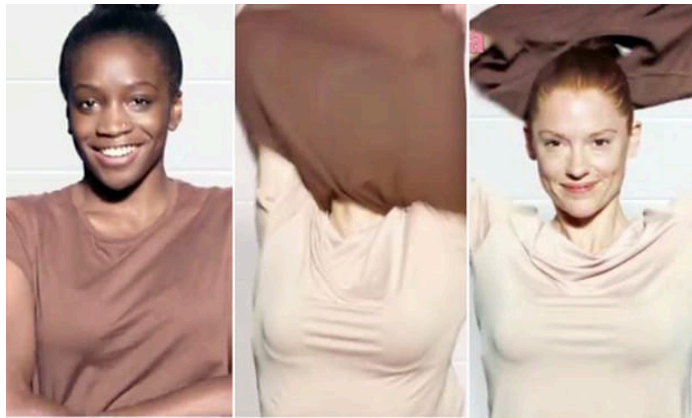
# What is racism?

In the UK, race has tended to be a term used to politicise racism and to address racial and/or social exclusions.

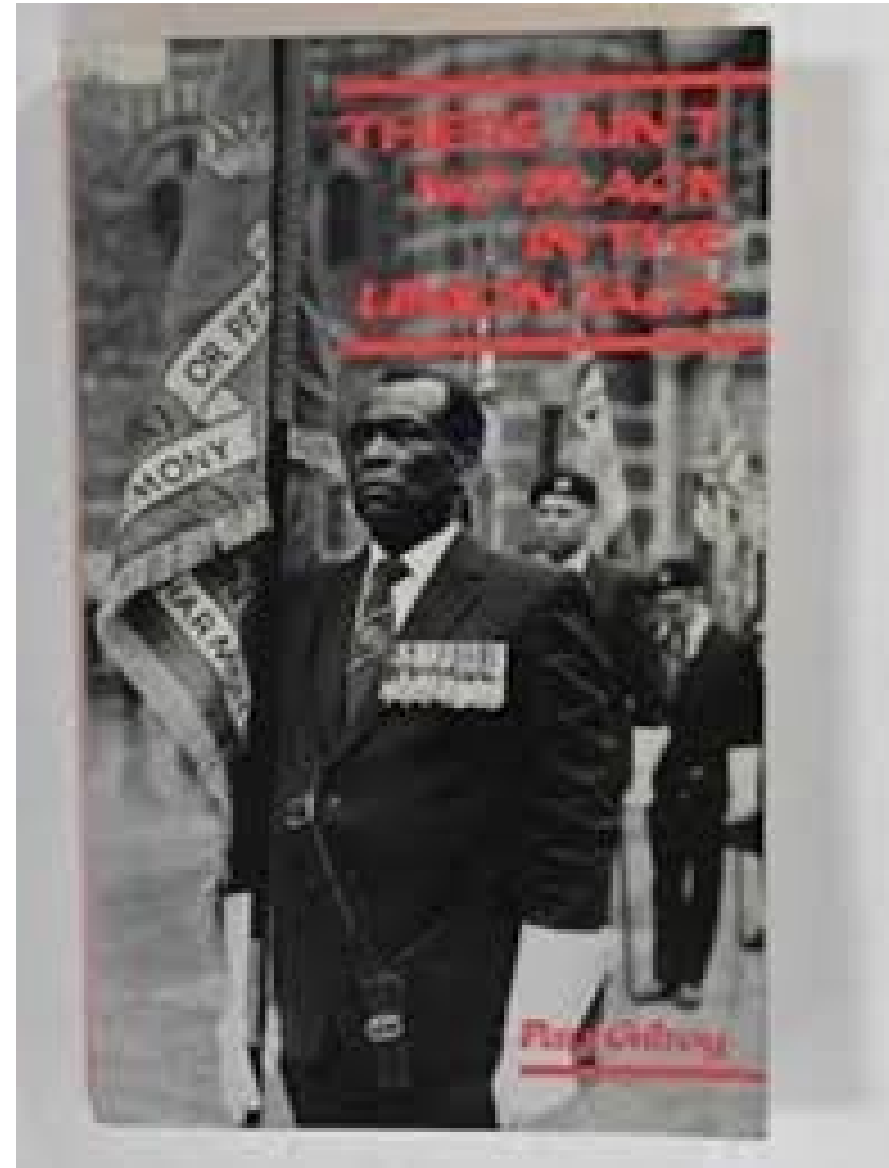
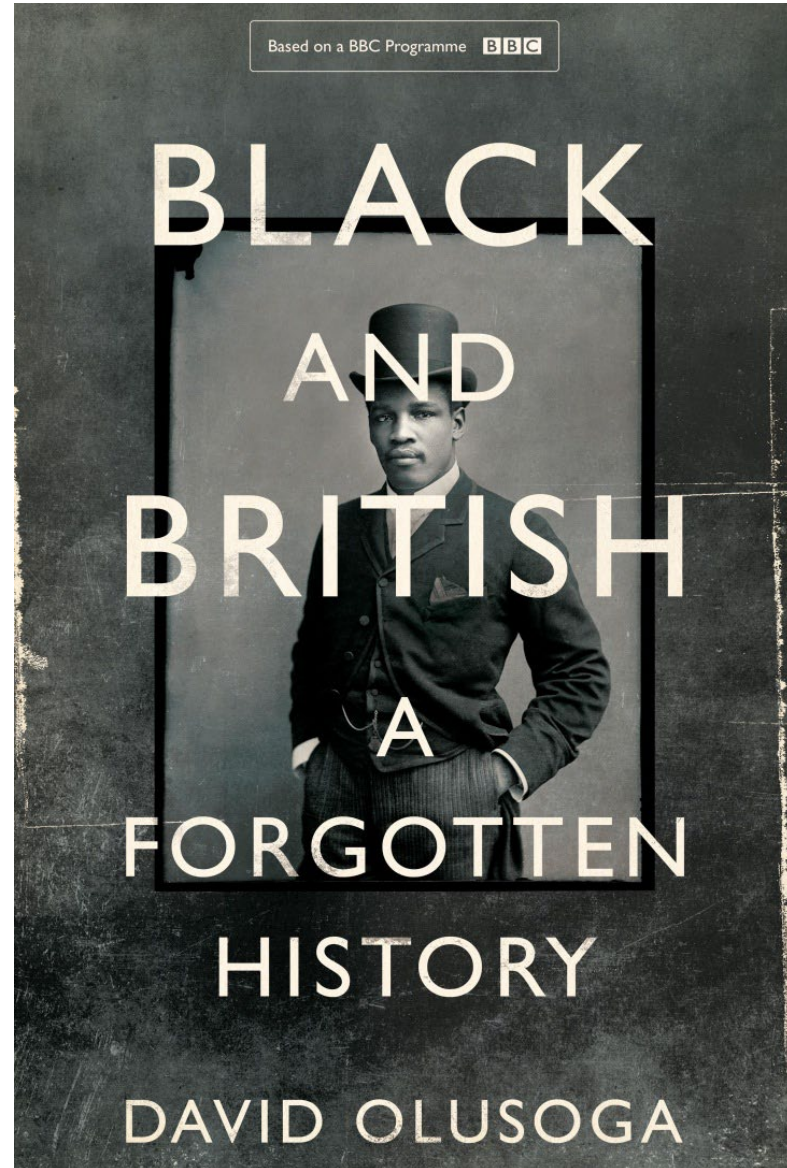
Racial discrimination; prejudice and discrimination; beliefs – inferior v superior.

Personal - towards an individual; cultural - towards a group; and institutional (Eddo-Lodge, 2017).











*“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots” (Marcus Garvey, 1918).*

