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# **Decolonising Wikipedia x London's Colonial Her/Histories**

Presentation for DEL in Between | Friday 13 May 2022

**Lucy Panesar** | LCC Project Manager and Wikimedian in Residence

**Alex Goodall** | LCC Student and Decolonising Wikipedia Assistant

**Sam Baraitser Smith** | SLG 'Festival of Empire' Young Researcher

<https://decolonisingwikipedianetwork.myblog.arts.ac.uk/>

<https://festivalofempire.myblog.arts.ac.uk/>

# Why Wikipedia?

#WIKIEDU20



# Key stats about internet + Wikipedia

According to Whose Knowledge (2018):

- Globally, 51% of humans are online
- 75% of the world's population from the global South
- Online content skewed towards rich, Western countries
- 20% of the world edits about 80% of Wikipedia's global content
- 1 in 9-10 of the editors self-identifies as female

<https://whoseknowledge.org/decolonizing-the-internet-conference>

# Key stats about Wikipedia

According to Graham, DeSabbata and Zook (2015, p.97) :

- In the US and UK 85% / 78% content is created locally - by their own citizens
- In Africa less than 5% of their content is created locally

Graham, DeSabbata and Zook (2015) "Towards a study of information geographies:(im)mutable aug-mentations and a mapping of the geographies of information." *Geography and Environment* 2, no. 1: 88–105, 90.

# Decolonising Wikipedia x London's Colonial Her/Histories

UAL x Wikimedia UK Knowledge Exchange project for 2021-22

Has aimed to:

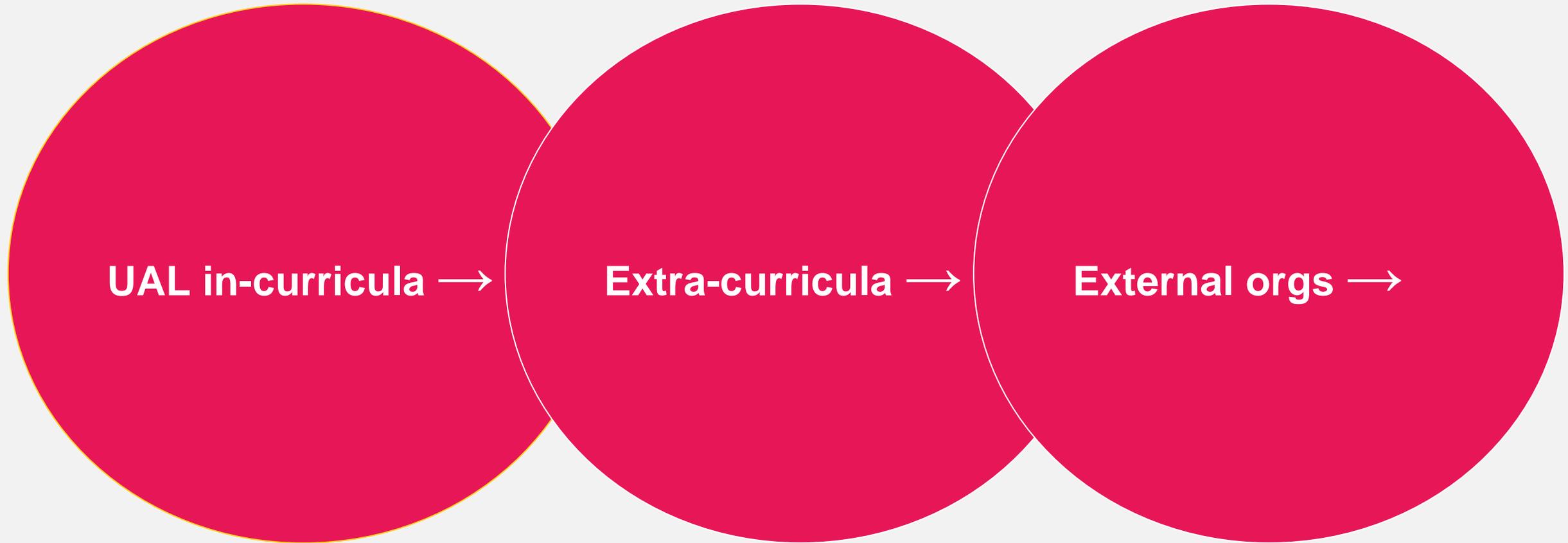
- Develop an understanding of the role that Wikipedia can play in decolonisation\*
- Expand the Decolonising\* Wikipedia Network across UAL
- Prompt and support people to edit and create Wikipedia pages related to London's colonial her/histories and legacies

# \*Decolonising / Decolonisation

Statement on the [Decolonising Wikipedia Network homepage](#):

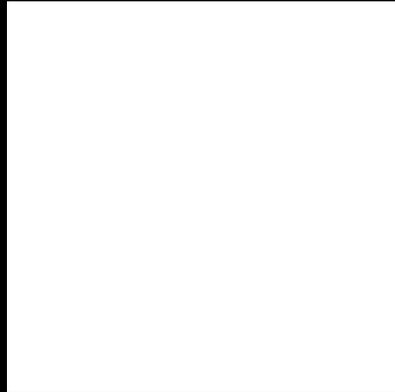
Decolonisation is not a metaphor or synonym for diversity and inclusion work ([Tuck and Yang, 2012](#)); it is about equity, justice and reparation for those whose lives and life chances have been and continue to be negatively affected by colonisation. Under British colonial rule, entire communities and nations suffered the loss or oppression of traditional knowledge and ways of knowing, and other forms of epistemicide. The legacy of this continues to influence knowledge production and dissemination to this day.

# Decolonising Wikipedia x London's Colonial Her/Histories





**In + Extra-Curricula at the  
London College of Communication**



# The Decolonising Wikipedia Network

Established in November 2020



**About**

[Join](#)

[Guidance](#)

[Examples](#)

[Help](#)

[Projects](#)

[Events](#)

# Own experience

## Repeal

In June 2017, [New York City Councilmember Rafael Espinal](#) introduced a bill for the full repeal of the regulation.<sup>[17]</sup> It was passed 44-1 by the City Council on October 31, 2017.<sup>[18]</sup>

However, a venue can still be fined or closed by the city, as the law still requires the venue to be located in a [zone](#) that allows dancing.<sup>[19]</sup>

Editing the Wikipedia page for [New York City Cabaret Law / Repeal](#)

— Wikipedia page before Alex's edit

## Repeal [\[ edit \]](#)

In 2017, Dance Liberation Network was formed, co-founded by Frankie Decaiza Hutchinson of [Discwoman](#). They began the 'Let NYC Dance' movement to campaign for the repeal of the law. <sup>[17]</sup> In June, [New York City Councilmember Rafael Espinal](#) introduced a bill for the full repeal of the regulation.<sup>[18]</sup> It was passed 44-1 by the City Council on October 31, 2017.<sup>[19]</sup>

However, a venue can still be fined or closed by the city, as the law still requires the venue to be located in a [zone](#) that allows dancing.<sup>[20]</sup>

— Wikipedia page after Alex's edit

# DWN extra-curricula

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#WIKIEDU20

Decolonising Wikipedia Virtual Cafe, Friday, 11th  
February 2022, 2-5pm

🕒 14:00 - 17:00

📅 11 Feb 2022

📍 Online

➔ [find out more](#)

# DWN editathons

London's Colonial Her/Histories - Decolonising Wikipedia work list									
<i>Working list of Wikipedia articles to review and potentially edit through an anti-/de-colonial lens</i>									
Name	URL	TO DO / Suggestions	Page contains (Yes/No):						
			Info Box	Wiki Links	CATegories	Refs to add	Facts to add	Images to add	Source 1
London	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London</a>	Review/revise in light of findings by the London Metropolitan Archives research project, esp. section on demography	Yes	Yes	Yes				<a href="https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk">https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>
History of African presence in London	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_African_presence_in_London">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_African_presence_in_London</a>	Review/revise in light of findings by the London Metropolitan Archives research project	Yes	Yes	Yes				<a href="https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk">https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk</a>
Atlantic Slave Trade	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_slave_trade">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_slave_trade</a>	Review/revise in light of findings by UCL Legacies of British Slavery esp. ection on Effects on British Economy	Yes	Yes	Yes				<a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk">https://www.ucl.ac.uk</a>
Festival of Empire Great Exhibition	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Festival_of_Empire_Great_Exhibition">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Festival_of_Empire_Great_Exhibition</a>	Review/revise 'Reception' section and add more details about racism in the athletic games and in the pageant Review through an anti-/de-colonial lens	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes pending copyright
Crystal Palace	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Palace,_London">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Palace,_London</a>	Review through an anti-/de-colonial lens and add more detail for other imperial exhibitions that took place							
African Exhibition	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1895_African_Exhibition">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1895_African_Exhibition</a>	More detail needed for this new Wikipedia page on the 1895 African Exhibition that took place in Crystal Palace Park							<a href="https://www.victoriaandalbertmuseum.org">https://www.victoriaandalbertmuseum.org</a>
Colonial and India Exhibition	<i>Wikipedia page needs to be created</i>	New page needed for the 1905 Colonial and India Exhibition that took place in Crystal Palace Park							<a href="https://discovery.com">https://discovery.com</a>
Imperial International Exhibition	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_International_Exhibition">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_International_Exhibition</a>	Review through an anti-/de-colonial lens and add more detail of the exhibition contents, aims etc							
White City	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_City,_London">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_City,_London</a>	Review through an anti-/de-colonial lens							
East India House	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_House">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_House</a>	Review through an anti-/de-colonial lens							
Kew Gardens	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kew_Gardens">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kew_Gardens</a>	Review through an anti-/de-colonial lens							
Chiswick House	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiswick_House">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiswick_House</a>	Review in light of recent projects aiming to surface and promote Black history at Chiswick House							<a href="https://chiswickhouse.org">https://chiswickhouse.org</a>
Gunnery Park	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunnery_Park">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunnery_Park</a>	Review in light of recent projects aiming to surface and promote diverse local communities							

# DWN in-curricula: Sound Arts

## CRiSAP Soirée: Wikipedia Editing

4th May 2021 - 24th June 2021

The CRiSAP Soirées are a series of meet ups for [CRiSAP researchers past and present](#) to discuss issues and topics within sound arts practice relating to their work.

Stemming from the Accessibility themed Spring Term Soirées, the Summer Term Soirées are dedicated to editing sound arts related pages in Wikipedia.

### **Introductory Session:**

3.30pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

With Lucy Panesar and the LCC [Decolonising Wikipedia Network](#), Richard Nevell from [Wikimedia UK](#), Alex Duncan of the [Art+Feminism Wikipedia Editathon](#) and Alex Goodall from [LCC Changemakers](#).

# DWN in-curricula: MA Photojournalism

## **Decolonising Wikipedia Network X Collaborative Unit MAPJD 2021**

**Partners:** Wikimedia UK Commons Dr Richard Nevell, LCC Decolonising Wikipedia Network (DWN) Lucy Panesar and Student Changemaker for the Photography programme Ana Blumenkron.

**Academic Liaison:** Dr Jennifer Good Senior Lecturer, MA Photojournalism & Documentary Photography.

**Key aims:** To produce a collaborative work that can take the form of written article, updating an existing one, translating and editing translations within Wikipedia. The work is self directed but DWN will support students who decided to become Wikipedia editors/creators. DWN provides students with an opportunity to play an active role in decolonising knowledge whilst improving research, writing and editing skills. It also provides opportunities to meet with Dr Richard from Wikimedia to clarify work flows and other information.

# DWN in-curricula: BSc Creative Computing

## **Task 01:** *finding the bots!* [ 30min]

Go to a random Wikipedia page, click on 'view history' and find which bots have been operating;

- click on the bots you find to better understand how exactly they operate;
- can you find any source code? if so take a look into it;

Continue your exploration, and collect five other different bots;

## **Task 02:** quick dive into licenses on [Wikimedia](#) [ 15min]

- find five different images holding five different types of licenses;

Add your findings on bots and image licenses into [Padlet](#);

# DWN in-curricula: MSc Data Science and AI for the Creative Industries

## Assignment brief

Pick one Wikipedia entry that could benefit from correction through a decolonial lens. Start by researching some specific data within Wikipedia and other archival sources related to London colonial histories, including but not limited to [this list already started](#) by Lucy Panesar. Write a 500 word report considering how data science methods may be used to aid the process of updating the entry.

# Edit East India House Wikipedia Entry From Decolonize and Data-centric View



**Xiaolin Deng**

MSc Data Science & AI for Creatives Industries, Creative Computing Institute

**Contact me:** [x.deng0320211@arts.ac.uk](mailto:x.deng0320211@arts.ac.uk)

# Crysern Smith

## DECOLONIAL AND DATA CENTRIC APPROACHES ON IMPROVING WIKIPEDIA ENTRIES

### TODAY'S PRESENTATION

1. Who is Jan Smuts?
2. Why this historical figure?
3. Apartheid Laws timeline
4. Wikipedia entry
5. Why Lack there is lack of information?
6. How Data Centric approaches can help
7. Data Centric Approaches have disadvantages.
8. Conclusion

# Can We Share the Same Wikipedia Page?

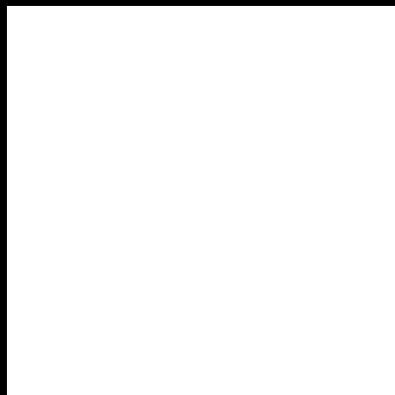
Take Marc Aurel Stein's Wikipedia page as an example, discussing decolonizing Wikipedia and data-centred edition.



Yirou Tang

Data Science & AI for the Creative Industries, Creative Computing Institute

Welcome to contact me: [y.tang0320212@arts.ac.uk](mailto:y.tang0320212@arts.ac.uk)



# **External, Extra-Curricula with the South London Gallery**



# Festival of Empire

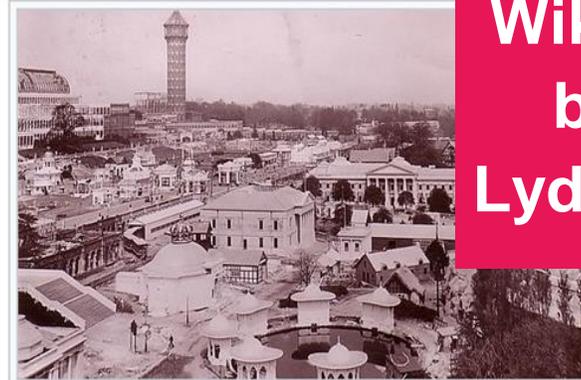
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The 1911 **Festival of Empire** was the biggest single event held at [The Crystal Palace](#) in [London](#) since its opening. It opened on 12 May and was one of the events to celebrate the coronation of [King George V](#). The original intention had been that Edward VII would open it in 1910, however, this was postponed after his death shortly before the planned opening day. The Festival contained a display of landscapes and exhibits from the British Empire, mainly the dominion countries, to encourage emigration to those nations; and it contained a large scale pageant dramatising British history.<sup>[1]</sup> It was described at the time as 'a social gathering of the British family' encouraging the 'firmer welding of those invisible bonds which hold together the greatest empire the world has ever known'.<sup>[2]</sup> It has since been described as the 'ultimate imperialist propaganda showcase'.<sup>[3]</sup>

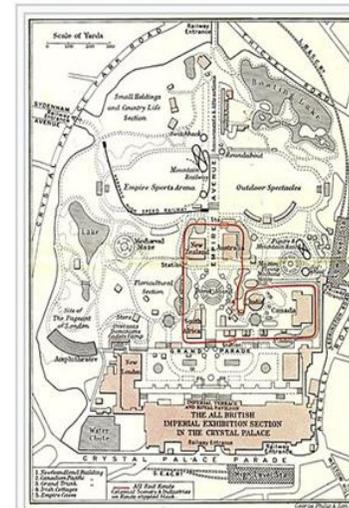
## Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- Context
- Festival Design
  - Buildings
  - Exhibits on The All-Red Route Train Ride
- Pageant of London
- The King's Day with the Children
- Inter-Empire Championships
  - Athletics
- The End of the Festival
- Critical appraisal of the Festival
- See also
- References
- External links

Coordinates:  51.



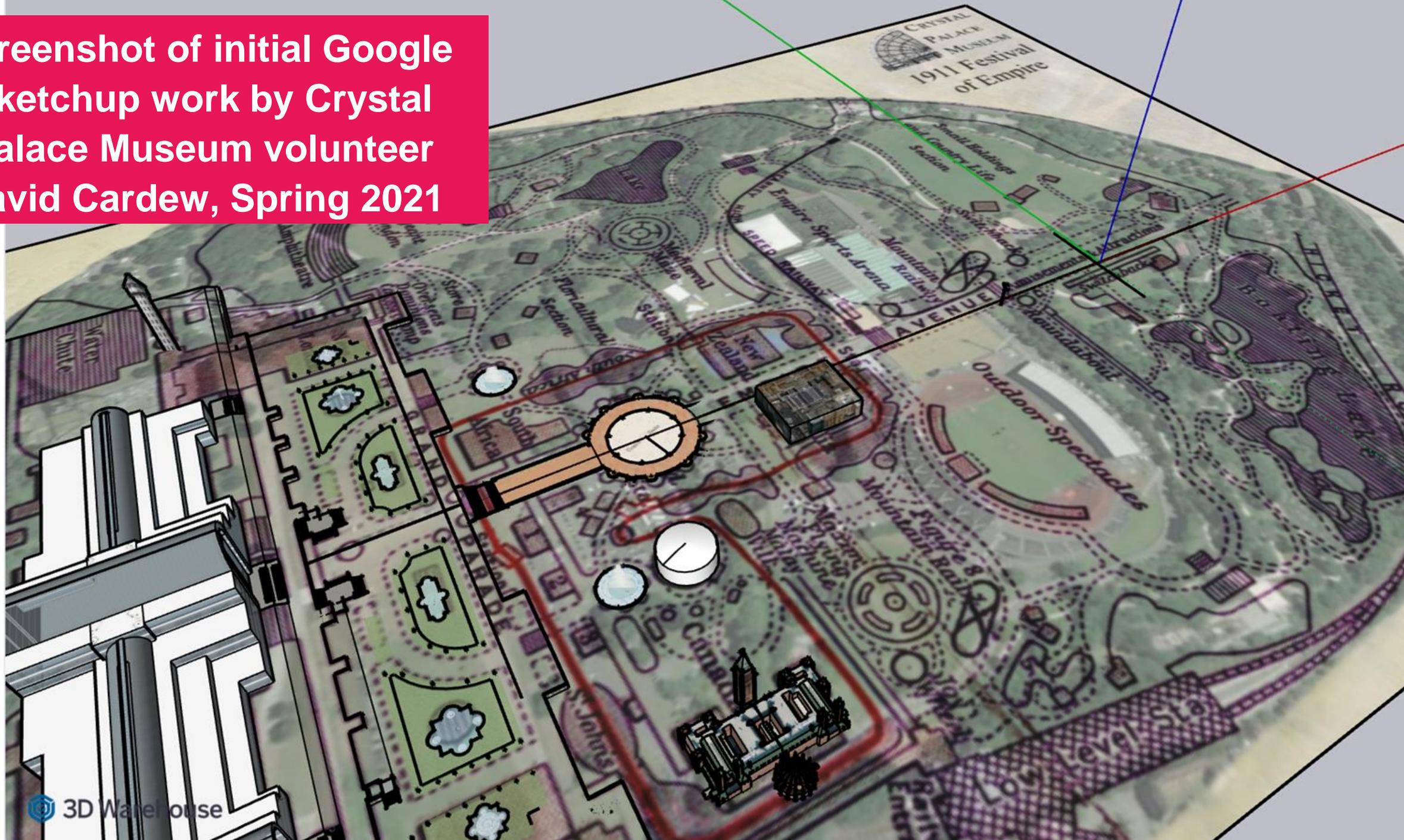
View from the Canadian replica Parliament Building of the Festival at the Crystal Palace



Map of the event

Screenshot of 1911 Festival of Empire Wikipedia page co-edited by Lucy Panesar and Lydia Wilks in Spring 2021

Screenshot of initial Google Sketchup work by Crystal Palace Museum volunteer David Cardew, Spring 2021



# Places Never Seen

hosted by the South London  
Gallery in partnership with UAL  
and Wikimedia UK and enabled  
by Heritage Lottery Funding



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**

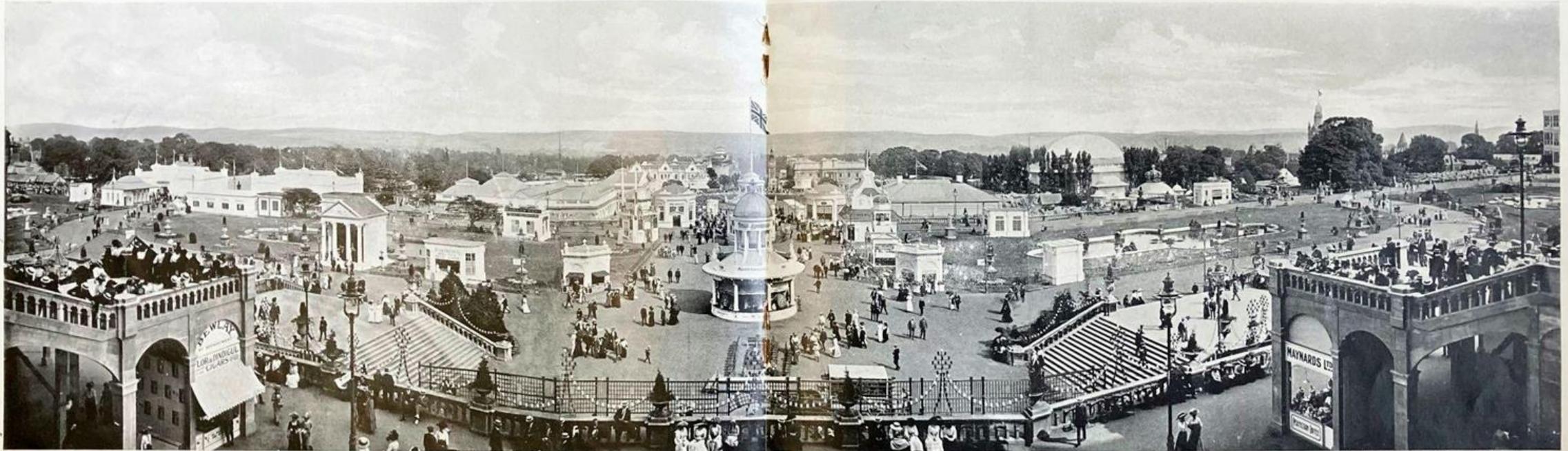


Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport





Art Assassins



A Panoramic view of the grounds as seen from the Royal Box.

Photo by Campbell-Gray, London, W.

## Festival of Empire – Crystal Palace Park, 1911



All Red Route; South Africa Station; passengers embarking for a tour of 25,000 miles. Photo by Campbell-Gray, London, W.

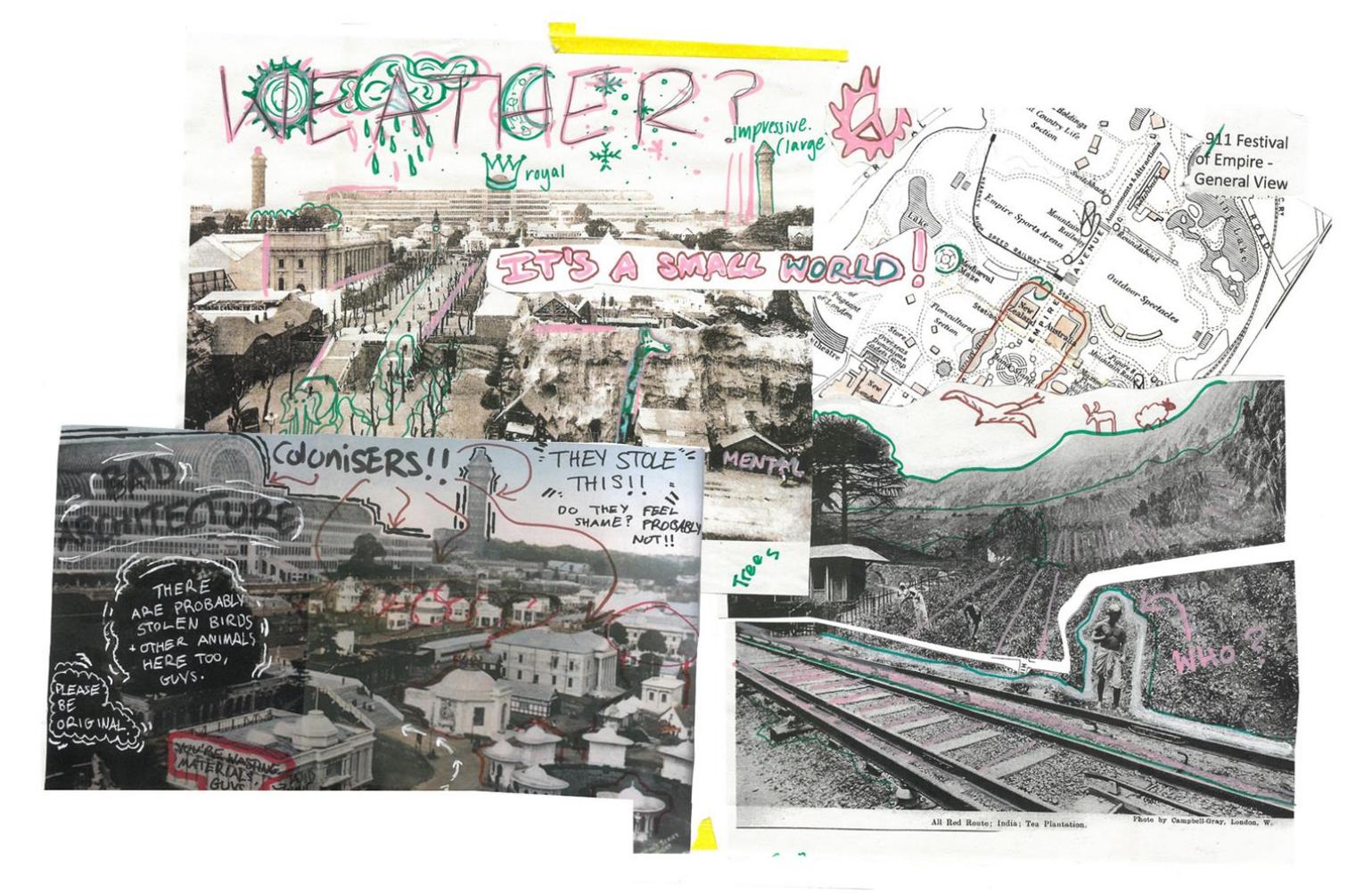
## The All Red Route

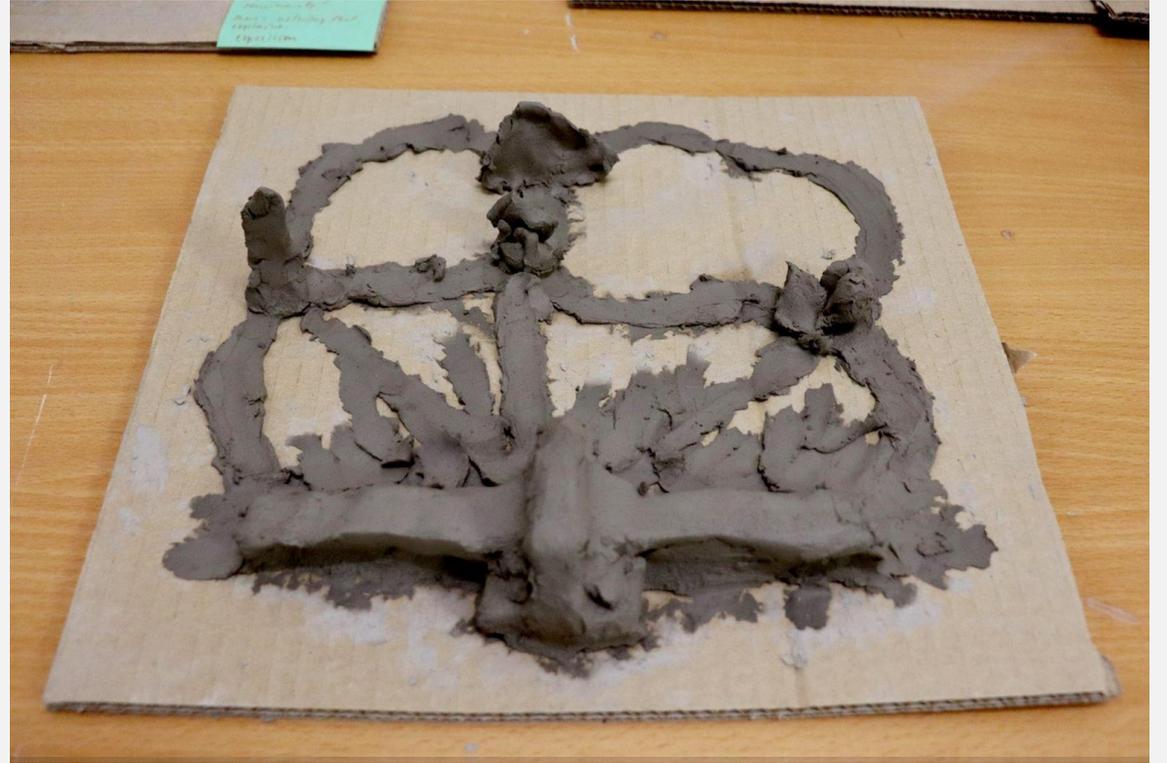


## The Pageant of London



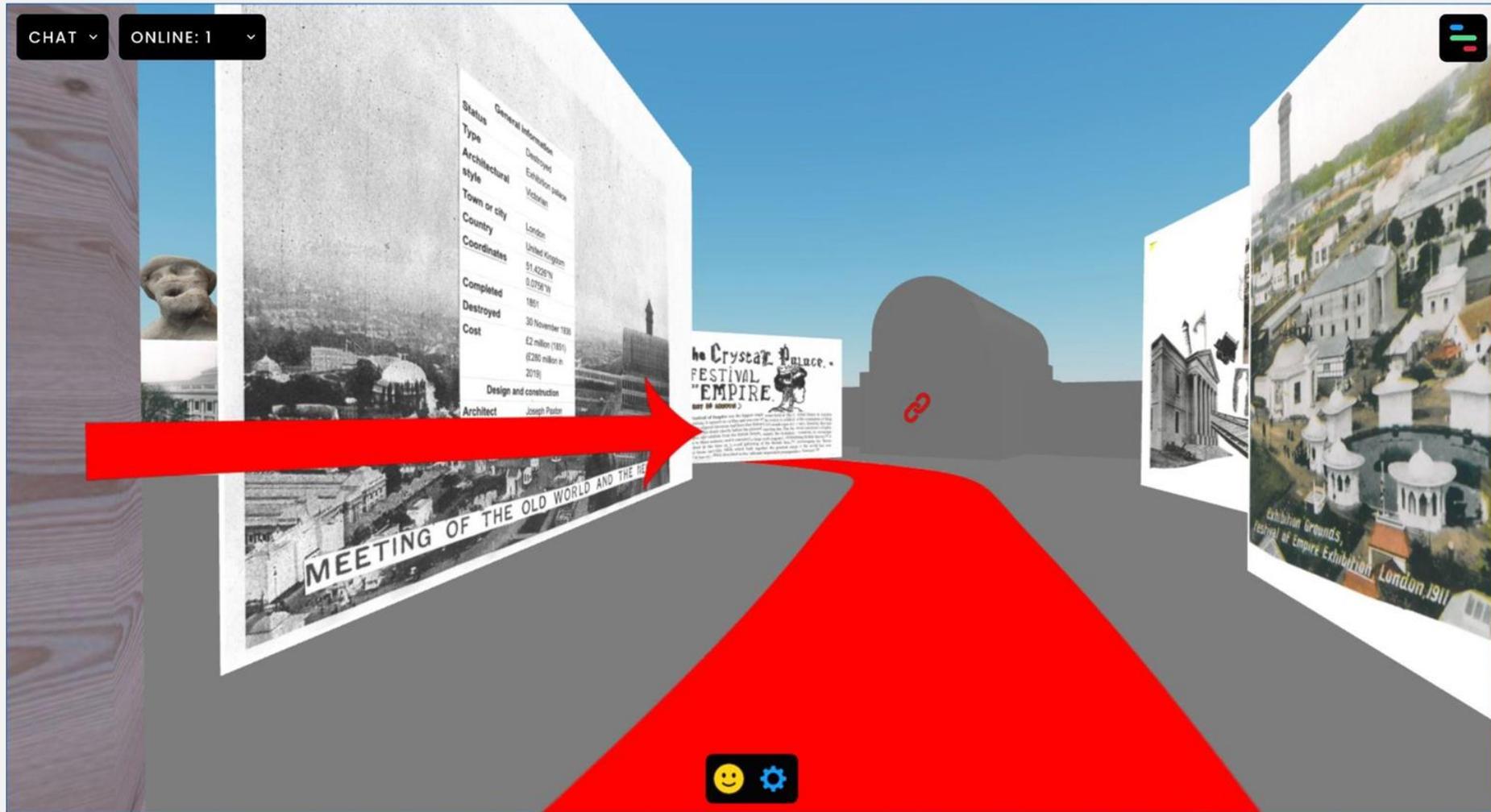
Pageant of London; Part 1, Scene 2. The Triumph of Carausius. Photo by Campbell-Gray, London, W.





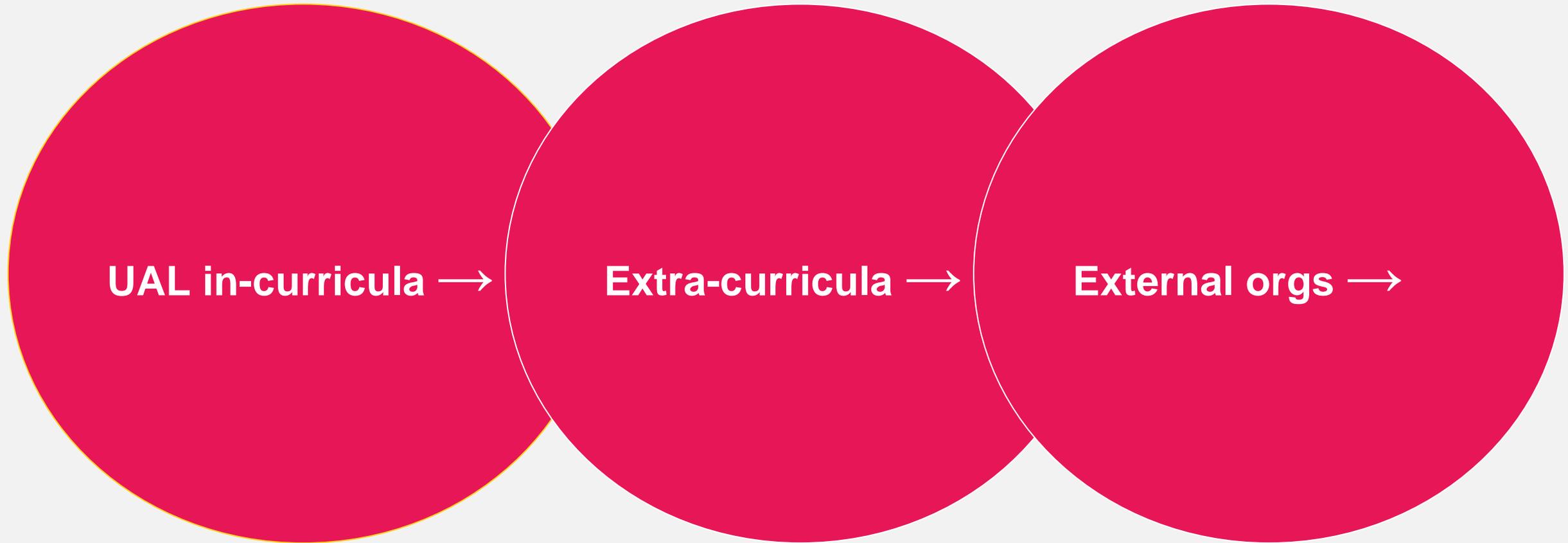
Clay workshop with Art Assassins

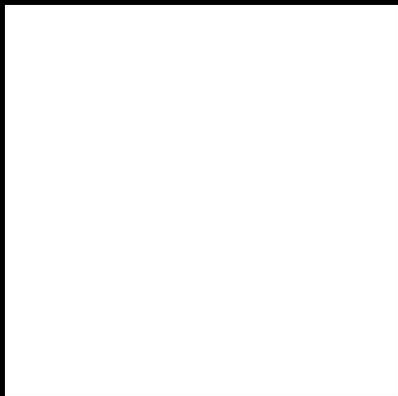




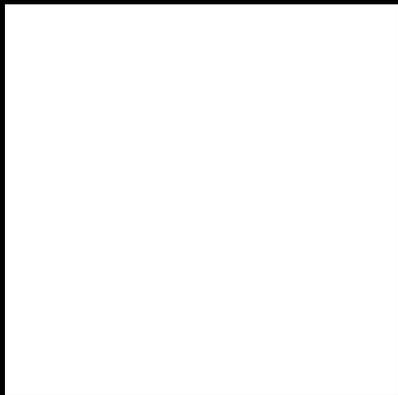


# Decolonising Wikipedia x London's Colonial Her/Histories next steps





**Q+A**



# Thank you!!!

<https://decolonisingwikipedianetwork.myblog.arts.ac.uk/>

<https://festivalofempire.myblog.arts.ac.uk/>