
Press release

Departures – A new podcast exploring 400 years of emigration from Britain

Departures is a new podcast from the Migration Museum launching on Thursday 26 November.

In a new podcast series accompanying the Migration Museum's exhibition *Departures: 400 Years of Emigration from Britain*, Mukti Jain Campion speaks to people who are shedding new light on this often hidden history.

Today, the news headlines are full of stories of migrants trying to come to Britain. But for most of this country's history, more people have left these shores than arrived. And Britain's emigration rate remains one of the highest in the world. Why has such a small island nation produced so many migrants and how have they shaped the world we live in today?

"When the Migration Museum invited me to make these podcasts, I was excited but also a bit daunted. How could I distil 400 years of Britain's complex and diverse emigration history into a few podcasts? How could I convey the human experiences of those millions who've left these shores to make new lives abroad while also highlighting the profound changes to Britain and the world that has resulted from centuries of mass British emigration and settler colonialism?," said Mukti Jain Campion, producer and presenter of the podcast.

"In this series, you'll hear of the thousands of poor English emigrants who undertook the perilous journey to settle the east coast of America in the 17th century and of the young men of the East India Company setting out in the other direction to seek their fortunes in India. You'll hear of the legacy of 18th century slavery as explored in a single modern British family today, the tale of the 19th century Welsh colony in Patagonia, and the impact of large-scale emigration on the left-behind wives of Cornish miners. Later podcasts will feature the life-changing experiences of children deported to Australia in the 1950s and conversations with Brits abroad today."

"There are countless more fascinating stories to be told, but I hope that these podcasts will act as stepping stones across Britain's long emigration history in a way that prompts further investigation and also a deeper understanding of the experiences of other global migrants today. The fundamental reasons why people cross oceans and continents have not changed."

Aditi Anand, the Migration Museum's Head of Creative Content and curator of its *Departures* exhibition said: "We wanted to create a podcast series that could accompany our physical exhibition and bring this great untold story of British emigration to a much wider audience. The podcast draws upon the themes of the exhibition, and includes interviews with some exhibition contributors, but it also digs deep into these themes to explore the fascinating and complex story of British emigration over the past 400 years."

For more information, visit www.migrationmuseum.org/departurespodcast

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For more information, please contact:

Matthew Plowright

matthew@migrationmuseum.org

+44 (0)7585 117 924

Notes for editors

Dates and schedule

Departures is a new podcast series launching on Thursday 26 November. Episodes will be released fortnightly on Thursdays, with a break over the Christmas and New Year period.

How to listen and subscribe

You can listen and subscribe to Departures on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Alexa or wherever you get your podcasts by searching for 'Departures: 400 Years of Emigration from Britain'. Alternatively, you can listen to and find more information on all episodes at: www.migrationmuseum.org/departurespodcast.

Website and social media

Website: www.migrationmuseum.org/departurespodcast

Twitter: [@MigrationUK](https://twitter.com/MigrationUK)

Facebook: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.facebook.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

Instagram: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.instagram.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

Podcast hashtag: #DeparturesMM

About the Migration Museum's Departures exhibition

Departures is an immersive exhibition at the Migration Museum (Lewisham Shopping Centre, Molesworth Street, London SE13 7HB), running from October 2020 until Summer 2021, exploring 400 years of emigration from Britain from the *Mayflower* to the present day through personal narratives, contemporary art and a range of media. The exhibition features dozens of emigration stories spanning four centuries – from *Mayflower* Pilgrims to *Windrush* deportees, Cornish and Welsh emigrants to South America to 'Ten Pound Poms', Black Londoners resettled in Sierra Leone in the 1780s to Black Britons who have recently moved 'back' to their parents' countries of birth across West Africa. The exhibition is closed to the public until at least December 3 due to government restrictions in response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. [View the exhibition press release](#)

For more information, visit www.migrationmuseum.org/exhibition/departures

About the Migration Museum

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. Migration is a pressing contemporary issue and is at the centre of polarised political and online debate. But there's an underlying story of comings and goings stretching back many centuries. And this story goes to the heart of who we are today, where we come from and where we are going.

From our current home in the heart of Lewisham Shopping Centre, we stage engaging, interactive exhibitions and dynamic events, alongside a far-reaching education programme for primary, secondary, university and adult learners. Our museum and our *Departures* exhibition are closed to the public until at least December 3 due to government restrictions in response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. We have a growing digital presence, and launched our first major digital exhibition, *Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS*, on 5 October 2020. For more information, visit www.migrationmuseum.org

About Mukti Jain Campion and Culture Wise

Mukti Jain Campion is founder of the indie production company Culture Wise, for over 20 years producing widely-acclaimed documentaries for BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service. This includes many compelling and distinctive stories about international migration and the diverse history of Britain. For more information, visit www.culturewise.org

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