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Tate Encounters: Black and Asian Identities, Britishness and Visual Culture
End of Year Report for 2007

The project launched the Tate Encounters Microsite on the Tate website in November 2007 at

<http://www.tate.org.uk/research/tateresearch/majorprojects/tate-encounters/>. This comprised the first of six [E]ditions, which will profile different dimensions of the research as it develops. [E]dition 1. focused upon methodology and the cultural policy context of the research proposal. Material published included excerpts from participant interviews and edited material from the closed research participants' site, together with four working papers. The Microsite was launched together with the publication 'Tate Encounters: Britishness and Visual Culture / Research Programme 2007-2009' which laid out the aims and methods of the project, the terms of reference and a detailed project schedule to help inform a wide audience of the project's purpose and working context.

Whilst participant recruitment from LSBU students started in October 2006, the first practical phase of the project was delayed for four months, (Nov 06 – March 07) as a result of the process of recruitment and appointment of the three research assistants. The project will be extended by three months until January 2010. The project had an overwhelming number of very high quality applicants for the research assistant posts, which resulted in excellent appointments. From April to June 2007 the research team ran regular participant workshops at Tate Britain and conducted a series of video interviews with Tate employees and student participants. The project Intranet was also established and participants made contributions in the form of image and text material over the period June – September 2007, which subsequently formed an edited section of Tate Encounter [E]dition 1. The project began a process of recruitment of a second cohort of participants from October 2007 who joined a programme of workshops which ran until December and the end of the period covered by this report. To date over 500 students have been exposed to the project through lectures and visits to Tate Britain and Tate Modern. The project currently has a regular core group of twenty participants. In addition to the audience strand of the research we have negotiated an organisational study of Tate Employees, which will follow the time-line of the production of the Tate Britain exhibition 'The Lure of the East: British Orientalist Painting which will open in 2008.'