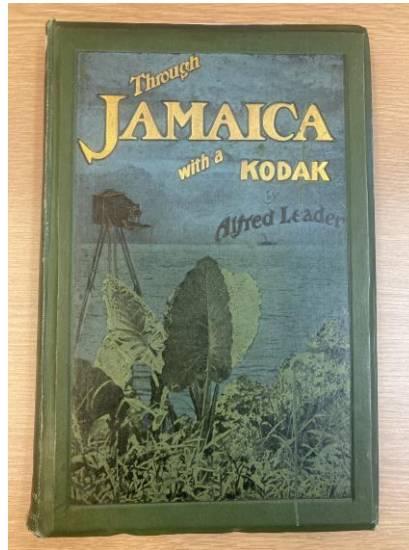


THE ECCLES INSTITUTE CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP
PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS OF AND FROM THE CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA
OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Alfred Leader's *Through Jamaica with a Kodak* ([BL Shelfmark: 010470.e.5.](#))

Deadline for applications: 2nd of June 2025 at 10:00

Interview date: 8th of July 2025

Fellowship period: September 2025 to June 2026 (full details below)

The Eccles Institute for the Americas & Oceania is excited to announce a new fellowship opportunity for a lens-based artist based in the UK to explore the British Library's collections of photographic material of and from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The British Library holds an extensive and diverse collection of photo-related media, ranging from photo books to exhibition catalogues, newspapers, magazines, oral histories and interviews of leading photographers, including material of and from Latin America, the Caribbean and their UK diasporas. From romanticised travelogues to photo books by seminal photographers, these collections offer fascinating insights into how these regions and their peoples have been represented and collected through the medium of photography.

We are looking for a lens-based artist (such as a photographer, filmmaker or content-creator) interested in delving into these collections to find new sources of inspiration and incorporate their research and critical reflections into a new body of work. In addition to enhanced curatorial support to explore the collections, the fellow will be mentored by leading photographer and scholar of Caribbean and Latin American visual culture, [James Clifford Kent](#).

About the Eccles Institute for the Americas and Oceania and our collections

The Eccles Institute builds, curates and preserves the Americas and Oceania collection at the British Library. It champions knowledge and understanding of these regions through a rich programme of fellowships and awards, cultural events, research training, guides to the collections and programmes for schools.

The Eccles Institute is interested in fostering new methods for collections research, learning and public engagement. In line with these aims, we are delighted to be launching a new strand of creative fellowships with the aim of bringing together creative practitioners with curators, academics and diverse audiences to explore how we can activate the British Library's Americas collections in new ways.

As the national library of the UK, the British Library holds over 170 million items – including a rich collection of photographic material of and from Latin America and the Caribbean, ranging from photo books to magazines and exhibition catalogues. Examples of material include:

- Illustrated travelogues of Latin America and the Caribbean, such as Theodore Roosevelt's *Through the Brazilian Wilderness* ([BL Shelfmark: W91/4816](#)), VP Parkhurst's *Picturesque Jamaica* ([BL Shelfmark: 1790.b.9](#)) and Alfred Leader's *Through Jamaica with a Kodak* ([BL Shelfmark: 010470.e.5](#)).¹
- Key reference books such as Martin Parr and Gerry Badger's *The Photobook: A History* trilogy ([BL shelfmark: m05/.17063](#)), Horacio Fernandez's *The Latin American Photobook* ([BL Shelfmark: LD.31.b.296](#)) and Paul Gilroy's *Black Britain: a photographic history* ([BL Shelfmark: YK.2008.b.1638](#)).
- Photo books by leading Latin American and Caribbean artists such as Graciela Iturbide, Raul Corrales and Mario García Joya
- Iconic magazines such as *Flamingo* ([BL Shelfmark: P.P.5109.bq](#)), *West Indian Review* ([BL Shelfmark: 9299.110000](#)) and *Tricontinental* ([BL Shelfmark: P.701/219](#)).

We invite you to read more about our collections as a possible source of inspiration for artists in this [blog post](#) including an interview of photographer James Clifford Kent about his use of the British Library collections and reading rooms as a creative space.

Role and expectations of the creative fellow

The fellowship will be structured around an initial three-month induction and research period (between September to December 2025) primarily based at the British Library, followed by six

¹ Travel, Landscapes and Kodaks: Picturing Jamaica: [Travel, Landscapes and Kodaks: Picturing Jamaica - Americas and Oceania Collections blog](#).

months (January to June 2026) for the creative fellow to create a new body of work, learn new skills and develop a public engagement programme to share the outputs of the fellowship in collaboration with the Eccles Institute team. There will be flexibility to accommodate other commitments that the creative fellow may have, working more intensively during some periods and less during others, but we are looking for a practitioner who will make this a primary commitment.

The appointed fellow will be expected to:

- Spend a time equivalent to 30 days carrying out collections research, joining meetings with British Library staff and colleagues, delivering talks or other forms of public engagement, and developing a new body of work.
- Present their research and work in progress to British Library staff and the general public.
- Keep a log of their research, visually document the various stages of their project and produce a minimum of 3 blog posts (or other forms of sharing their process online).

What will the creative fellow get?

- A stipend of £7,500. This fee will be all inclusive of any talk, workshop and public engagement carried out by the fellow and will need to cover the fellow's living and travel costs. Funding will be disbursed in instalments corresponding to the completion of agreed project-specific benchmarks, so planning for good personal cash flow is essential.
- Introductions to British Library staff and collections, and support from the Eccles Institute curators.
- Two mentoring sessions from photographer James Clifford Kent, who will provide an introduction of how he has been using the British Library's collection as source of inspiration.
- A production/public engagement budget of up to £3,000, to be agreed with the Eccles Institute team. This budget can be used for consumables and costs attached to public programmes and/or the creation of a new body of work. The British Library cannot offer working space or technical support to produce new work.

Application process and eligibility

We welcome applications from creative practitioners of any age and nationality based in the UK who meet the criteria of the fellowship outlined below. We welcome applications from those based in or outside London (in the UK), but please note that there is no separate budget for accommodation or travel.

Applicants are required to complete [this application form](#). **The deadline for applications is the 2nd of June 2025 at 10:00.**

Shortlisting will take place within a few weeks after the application closing date. Once a shortlist has been selected, unsuccessful candidates will be informed by email, and **shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on the 8th of July 2025**. Please note that we are unable to

provide any feedback on unsuccessful applications (we will only be able to provide feedback to shortlisted applicants that are interviewed).

Interviews will include a short presentation and a series of interview questions. Please note that we cannot cover travel costs for the interviews.