

BLACK HISTORY MONTH NEWSLETTER

University of Leicester School of Physics and Astronomy
12th October 2020, Edition 4

Black in STEM: Spotlight on Prof. Clifford V. Johnson

Today we're highlighting the work of Professor Clifford V. Johnson, a theoretical physicist and scientific television consultant.

Originally from London, [Clifford V. Johnson](#) earned a BSc in Physics from Imperial College,

London before completing a PhD in Mathematics & Physics from the University of Southampton.

After earning his doctorate, he applied his scientific skills to theoretical physics. Working at a number of [American universities](#) and earning the 2005 Maxwell



Photo credit: Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics

Today's donation link is Black Learning Achievement & Mental Health, ([BLAMUK](#)), a charity that supports African & Afro-Caribbean cultural & historical education in schools. Donate [here!](#)

[Medal and Prize](#) from the Institute of Physics, "For his outstanding contribution to string theory, quantum gravity and its interface with strongly coupled field theory."

In addition to his academic work, Professor Johnson has taken a proactive approach to scientific outreach, appearing on a number

of scientific documentaries and acting as a consultant for documentaries and science fiction films, including Avengers: Endgame & Star Trek: Discovery.

You can learn more about Prof. Johnson's work on his blog, [Asymptotia](#).

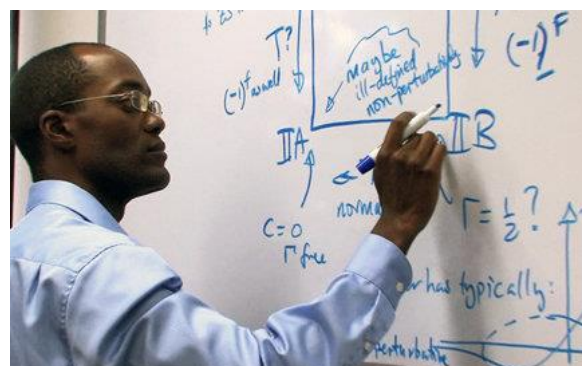


Photo credit: Mira Zimet

EVENTS TODAY

Distant Drums by Whispered Tales

A free digital art installation (13th to 16th October) based at Leicester's The Mill by Graffwerk street arts venue. The installation uses audio and visual media to tell the story of Reggae Sound System culture. More information [here](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES

Book for younger readers:

[Black & British: A Short Essential History](#) by David Olusoga provides an introduction to Black British history suitable for younger audiences, illustrated through maps, photos and portraits. Available in paperback from the Black-owned bookshops [Sevenoaks Bookshop](#) & [Roundtable Books](#).

Book for older readers:

[Girl, Woman, Other](#) by Bernadine Evaristo tells the story of 12 people, as they navigate modern British life in a novel that examines identity, race, patriarchy and relationships. Available in paperback from [Sevenoaks Bookshop](#) & [Round Table Books](#).

Podcast

[Historically Black](#) is a

podcast from APM Reports creating a "people's museum" through telling the stories behind personal objects connected to Black history.

Livestream:

Spawn on Me is a gaming stream and podcast hosted by Kahlief Adams, spotlighting gamers of colour while delivering gaming news. Check them out on [Twitch](#) or [YouTube](#).



Photo credit: Uncensored Opinion

Today's key figure from Black British history is [John Edmonstone](#). John was born in British Guiana (now Guyana), around the turn of the 19th century, and grew up enslaved on a plantation. It was there that he met the son-in-law of the plantation owner, British naturalist Charles Waterton, who taught John taxidermy.

After John was freed, he travelled to Scotland with his former master and settled in Edinburgh, where he was employed to stuff birds at the [Natural History Museum](#). John also taught taxidermy to University students on the side, including Charles Darwin. Find out more about him [here](#) and [here](#).

Contact us

For any recommendations for scientists, events, donation links, books and podcasts for future editions please use the email below.

Emma Thomas: emt18@leicester.ac.uk **Rosie Tilbrook:** rht6@leicester.ac.uk

Don Bowden: dlb28@leicester.ac.uk

Special Thanks to [Nicolle Finch](#) for her recommendations!