

**“It’s more than money: telling the story of racial wealth divides in the UK and South Africa” -
Update by Adele Oliver**

Why this project?

While working on the administrative side of the International Inequalities Institute’s *Racial Wealth Divide* book project, led by Professor Mike Savage, I felt there was a gap—an opportunity to bring the human aspect of the research to the forefront. The idea for this digital storytelling project came from a desire to show that behind every piece of data, there are people with real stories. By blending analytical research with personal narratives, we can make the issues more relatable and impactful for a broader audience. I particularly wanted to focus on how Black and Coloured people in Cape Town and London experienced and conceptualised differences in wealth and the related, intertwined histories that caused them. For example, housing property assets are central to any enquiry into racial wealth divides; however, the importance of home and the land on which it stands extends beyond housing as an asset. Access to the sense of belonging, security, self-sufficiency, and in-community grounding that home/land brings extends beyond the physical asset has historically, through the European colonial project, been gatekept along racialised lines.

What has been done so far?

The project is well underway. I’ve been working through transcripts from focus groups and videos of the research team, as well as key insights from the *Racial Wealth Divide* book. These materials will be woven together to create an interactive, accessible digital platform that combine news stories (such as the tragic story of two-year-old Awaab Ishak, who died of black mould in a rented flat, after his parents told their landlord to 'stop being racist') with quotes from our focus group participants to illuminate why the racial wealth divide matters. I travelled to Cape Town in July capture footage of local researchers and activists, offering on-the-ground perspective.

Impact and feedback

Although the project is still in progress, it has already garnered positive feedback from colleagues, researchers, and activists. There’s excitement about how this approach could serve as a model for future storytelling projects at LSE, blending rigorous research with personal, voice-led narratives. This digital platform aims to not only inform but also inspire action by making complex issues more accessible and engaging for a wider audience. By combining data and personal stories, I hope to create a narrative that resonates emotionally and intellectually, helping to foster a deeper understanding of this inequality.