

The David Nicholls Memorial Trust Lecture
Regent's Park College, Oxford
5.00pm Thursday 17th October, 2013

'Is This What You Call Free'? The Caribbean after Slavery

Professor Gad Heuman, University of Warwick

Gad Heuman studied at Columbia College and Yale University. He is Emeritus Professor in the History Department and is a past Director of the Centre for Caribbean Studies at the University of Warwick. His initial research was on the free people of colour in Jamaica, which examined the politics and social position of the free coloureds during slavery and after emancipation. He then began to work on slave and post-emancipation resistance and this led him to investigate the most important post-emancipation rebellion in the nineteenth-century Caribbean, the Morant Bay Rebellion. This black-led rebellion had significant ramifications in the Caribbean: it was evidence of the difficulties faced by blacks after emancipation and led to a fundamental change in the political relationship between Britain and her Caribbean colonies. Professor Heuman continues to do research on the transition from slavery to freedom in the Caribbean, and his lecture will discuss the ending of slavery and the onset of full freedom in the region.

His major publications include: *Between Black and White: Race, Politics and the Free Coloureds in Jamaica, 1792-1865* (1981); *The Killing Time: The Morant Bay Rebellion in Jamaica* (1994) and *The Caribbean: A Brief History* (2006; 2nd edition, forthcoming, 2013). He has edited or co-edited *Out of the House of Bondage: Runaways, Resistance and Marronage in Africa and the New World* (1986); *Labour in the Caribbean: From Emancipation to Independence* (1988); *The Slavery Reader* (2003); *Contesting Freedom: Control and Resistance in the Post-Emancipation Caribbean* (2005), *The Routledge History of Slavery* (2010) and *Slavery* (forthcoming).

Professor Heuman is Editor of *Slavery & Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies* and was formerly Co-Editor of the *Warwick University Caribbean Studies series* published by Macmillan Caribbean.

Professor Heuman has been Chair of the Society for Caribbean Studies in the UK. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and has had various fellowships and grants, including the Rockefeller Residency Fellowship in the Program in Atlantic History, Culture and Society at Johns Hopkins University.