



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe



A Brave New World: Resilience & Community

Human Library Living Books

ISS inclusive services group, SAILS and Faith & Community

@CampusLife are working together to present A Brave New World: Resilience and Community, an online Human Library event for Swansea University staff that will take place on the 18th November via Zoom. The theme is inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic that has demanded resilience from us all as we have looked for new ways of staying connected and socialising. The following Living Books will be sharing their stories event. Each Book will be available for conversation in 15 minute 'reading' slots. Registered attendees of Human Library will receive a link to reserve their reading slot before the event.

Eric Ngalle Charles

A Cameroon-born Wales based writer, poet, playwright, actor, and activist. I am currently a postgraduate student taught at Swansea University. Following the publication last year of my autobiography, *I, Eric Ngalle*, I was selected by Jackie Kay as one of the UK's top ten BAME writers <https://g.co/kgs/BPVwgX>: I was recently the special guest at the African Festival of Emerging Writers, Cardiff Seren poetry Festival and my short film [*This is Not a Poem*](#) is currently touring the UK.



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Kevin Child - From Directionless to Director; A 30 Year Journey of Happy Accidents in Higher Education and the World

My formative years, after O Levels, were spent seeking the next travel adventure, no thought of a career or professional direction, just the next journey, purely hedonistic chasing surf around the world. Always returning, when my money ran out, to some mundane, monotonous job in order to save my £400 to leave again. Then I discovered English Language Teaching and the responsibility of being able to positively impact the lives of others set me off on the most wonderful new journey, now spanning 30 years always aiming and hoping to continue making that positive difference to lives. I've been lucky, I've made my luck, I've fought my battles for myself and others, and have somehow ended up in a role I would never have thought possible and one that is without the best job in the University.

Mohsen Elbeltagi

Muslim Chaplain at Swansea University.

Sarah Morgan - Responding to change: re-feathering the empty nest

Five years ago, my career as a busy touring stage manager ended abruptly. Mum was diagnosed with dementia and Dad with Parkinson's. They moved to Swansea and I became their carer.

At the same time, my children were getting ready for take-off. GCSEs, A levels and university loomed, and they were reaching for their independence.



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Both trajectories coincided in the summer of 2018, when Mum died, Dad went into nursing care and my daughter left for university.

I applied for a part time job, first at the Taliesin, and then in the library. While there, I decided to do an MA in creative writing, a move far more rewarding than I ever imagined.

While I await my MA results, Dad hovers in the waiting room between life and death, heartbreakingly unaware of what I have achieved, thanks to the opportunity they gave me by allowing me to support them.

With some writing projects in the pipeline and the possibility of a PhD next year, I find that despite the losses and separations, the undeniable grief and pain of the last few years, I am facing my empty nest with new skills and positivity.

[Theresa Ogbekhiulu - Discovering my 'blackness': The Journey from Majority to Minority](#)

I am an International student from Nigeria, West Africa, and as you can imagine already, majority of the people there are Africans. However, on arriving Swansea for my foundation year, I had to adjust, because I quickly realised that I was different. From being the only black student in my class, to reading about only Western authors, to the lack of role models and events that interested me meant I had to begin this journey from being part of the majority to being a minority.

Since my foundation year, I have completed my under-graduate and post-graduate degree, and a two-time elected Education officer at



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Swansea University Students' Union. In my role, I am able to influence change, and bring the voices of black students back to the centre.

Professor Martin Stringer

Pro-Vice Chancellor Education, Swansea University. I am a gay man, and dyslexic and I learnt very early in my life to engage positively with those who tried to bully me. I was told by my family that I would end up either in education or the church, but education really chose me. I enjoy encouraging and developing others, whether as a lecturer supporting students or as a leader within the institution supporting staff. I have never liked being told what to do, so I always ended up being the one in charge, and now I just happen to be one of a small number of colleagues 'in charge' of a very large, complex institution at a very interesting time.

Donna Thomas - Chase Your Dreams: From the Gutter UP!

Sexually abused from the age of 7, left home age 9. For 9 years I lived rough on the streets of London tangled within the care system. At 29 I learnt to read and write returning to school, college & university. I am now a Qualified nurse, A Queens nurse, a public speaker, and the founder of Homeless Hope a voluntary nurse led street clinic. Never give up on your dreams.