

Section 1: Contribution Details

| Contribution | Detail |
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| Authors Name(s) | Sireita Mullings |
| Title of Submission: | Black at The Ascots: Missing Histories and Contemporary Realities of Black People “Doing Nice Things”. |
| Sub-Theme(s) of Submission: | Case studies of AI and ML applications in libraries; |
| Keywords of Submission: | Black, British, History, Black Joy, Ai and Visual Accountability |

Section 2: Abstract Text

Abstract.

The Royal Ascots horse races were held in the UK in June 2024, a group of Black Women including myself attended via the “We Do Nice Things” excursion. Observations from the day’s event speak to an ongoing making of the lived experience of Black people in Britain. Autoethnography, participatory art making, and co-curation offer insight into the reflections of the women some of whom questioned the role of black people in equestrian history.“ Don’t tell me we didn’t have equestrian skills, Don’t tell me we didn’t play a role in the rearing of horses?” The paper draws upon conversations held and uses narrative enquiry to interrogate what is meant by Black Joy in the context of these Black Women attending the Royal Ascots in the UK and what we mean by a Black Sense of Place. Consequently, this project and paper function as an embodied exploration and illustration of what might constitute a black sense of place in both a contemporary and historical sense. When considering ways to render invisible narratives as visible or to amplify silent histories through the use of images, the project explores how we might visually account for these and previous stories that are significant to the writing and archiving of Black British History. In this context the use of AI and the edited image become questionable tools, raising further questions about how rendering invisible realities visible, offers an interesting juxtaposition of what counts as true against what counts as represented. Therefore an archive and mode of resistance in itself, the excursion, the project and the article serve to bring to the fore contemporary manifestations of black joy as well as historic representations of missing and silenced narratives about the Black experience. The project becomes a frame work to interrogate, how might research projects that generate and utilise visual Ai data benefit libraries?