PRE PROGRAMME EVENTS

• ALLA LEAKE PERCUSSION
Since 2001 Music in the Community at the University of Edinburgh has provided opportunities for students to study traditional song, dance and drumming in The Gambia. Students collaborate with Alla Leake Percussion, master musicians from Guinea and The Gambia. Their artistic director is djembe fola, Gibril Camara.

Alla Leake Percussion are renowned in The Gambia and won best cultural group at the Kafountine Festival in 2016. They visited Edinburgh for the first time in 2017 to be part of a large scale promenade community opera produced by Music in the Community and composed by Dee Isaacs – The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. The project was nominated for a British Composer Award. This year they released their 2nd album SABUYE. In the summer 2020 they will perform at the prestigious WOMAD festival in the UK.

• GLOBAL JUSTICE ACADEMY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION (Foyers 1 – 3)
The Global Justice Academy is committed to innovation in scholarship and research as part of our ethos as an interdisciplinary network that supports research, teaching, and knowledge exchange on global justice issues.

As part of upholding this ethos, the GJA held its inaugural photography competition in the 2013-2014 academic year. Colin Cavers and David Williams of Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) supported the competition from the outset, opening it to Honours Photography students at ECA.

Following this initial success, the competition has continued each year, evolving into a credit-bearing element of the MA (Hons) Photography programme. 2018-19 students were given ‘Imperialism and Power: Traces of African Colonialism within Scottish Public Spaces’ as their brief, and asked to consider the following themes:

• the legacies of colonialism in Edinburgh and Scotland;
• the relationship between colonialism and capitalism;
• the relationship of Africa to Scotland; and
• how these topics relate to issues of power.

Students had to reflect on their own photography practise when navigating such a complex subject, including how to address the multiple perspectives on colonialism and the concept of the ‘Western Gaze’ and how to connect their work with the audience.

As part of the brief, students had to make two submissions:

• a collection of between three and five photographs to the brief generally; and
• a collection of between five and nine photographs focused on one of the brief’s themes and with strong graphic visuals suited to digital content.