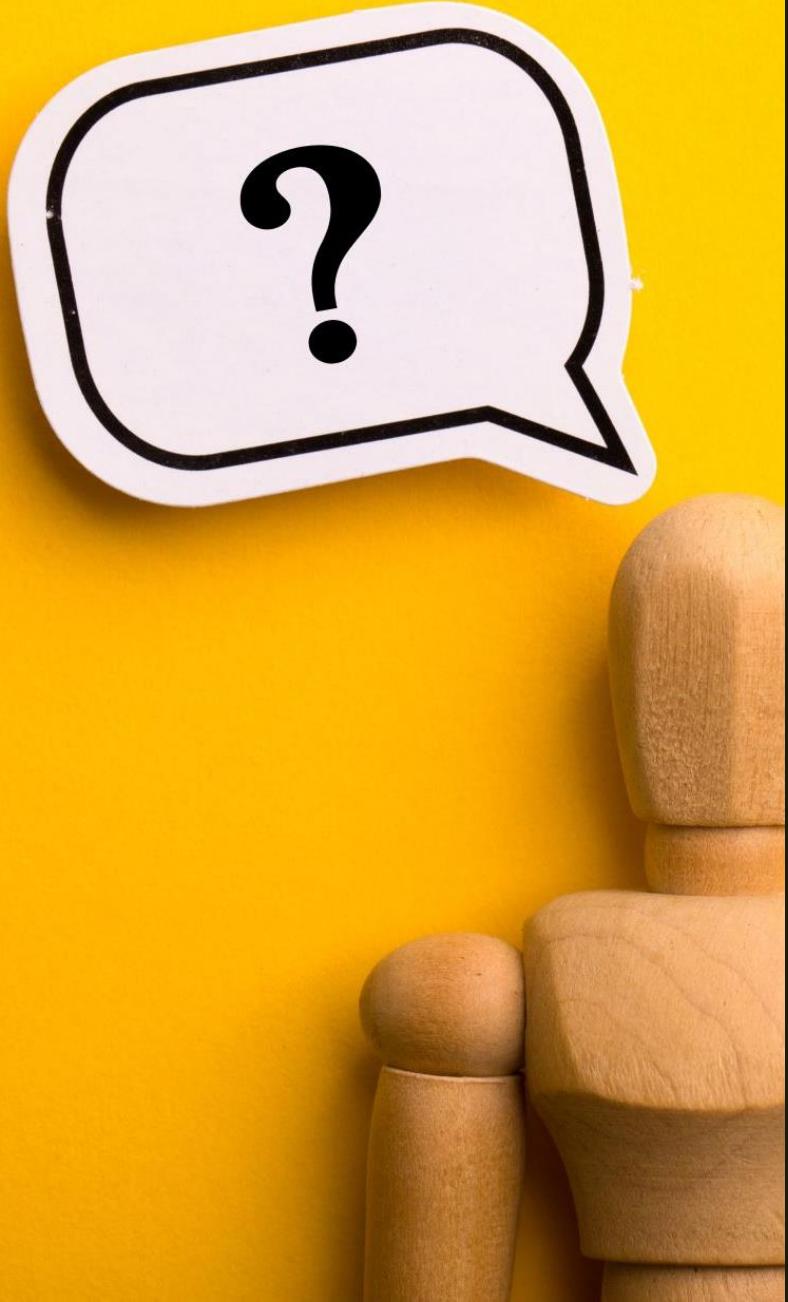


# **DECOLONISING THE ACADEMY: A JOURNEY OF SELF-REFLECTION**

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**University of Westminster**



# Decolonising

What is it?

Why is it done?

How is it done?

For whom is it done?

Can it ever be considered ‘done’?



# Importance of exploring our cultural stories

- Positionality
- Storytelling
- Critical race theory (trigger alert!)
- Benefits
- Risks



# Decolonising is a process...

- Purpose
- Practice: reflective & reflexive
  - *Knowing-in-action*
  - *Reflection-in-action*
  - *Reflection-on-action*  
(Gould, 2009)
- Our conduct: being prepared, patient, perceptive, peaceable & positive

# Storytelling moments

- Get some refreshments
- Form a pair
- Use your ‘artefact’ as a conversation starting point
- Aim for an ‘intimate’ chat about your journey, your culture, your background (each person to share your story for up to 10 minutes).
- Ask (respectful) questions about anything you want to know more about or don’t understand
- Come back into the lecture theatre by **11:20am**
- Share your reflections on the process as you feel comfortable





# Feedback

Feedback



# Reflections

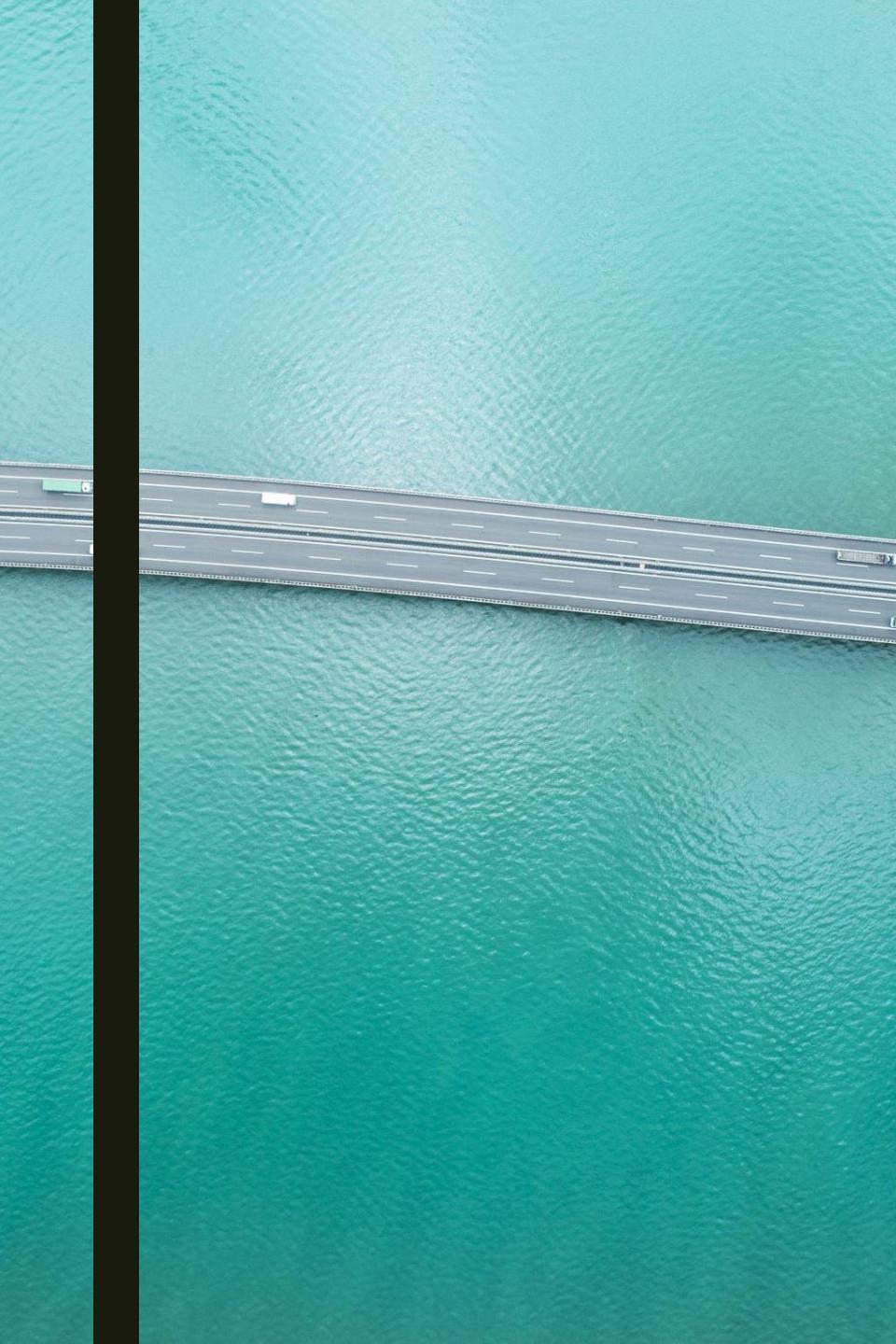
- How do you/we feel about your/our stories?
- How can you/we engage with culturally diverse students'/colleagues' stories and experiences?
- Does telling our stories feel 'healing' or 'challenging'? What are the issues with either outcome?
- How can you use your story to decolonise the curriculum/academy in your area of work?
- What can you commit to do after this session to further your decolonising journey?



## Storytelling my artefact: The experience of an ‘outsider-outsider’

Bought while on holiday in Jamaica, the land of my immediate ancestors

- Shading reflects hypervisibility and hyperinvisibility of my experiences in the academy
- The natural plaited hairstyle (cornrows down each side) signifies my resistance to adopting Eurocentric ways of being, fighting the urge to bodily ‘code-switch’ in order to feel a sense of belonging
- Holding a visage of quiet strength and determination, declaring my Blackness and intersectional identity to a world that is not fully open to me

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows an aerial view of a long bridge stretching across a body of water. The water is a vibrant turquoise color. The bridge has a grey asphalt surface with white dashed lines and a metal railing. A few small vehicles, including a white van and a green car, are visible on the bridge. The rest of the slide is a plain, light beige background.

# Thank you!

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