

JULIA CABANAS / BME OFFICER

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT RACE IN COLLEGE.
LET ME TELL YOU A COUPLE OF STORIES...**

- *Last year, after a particularly stressful day, I went to check my post at the porter's lodge. One porter, noticing that I was stressed, asked me 'Hey Julia, where are you from?' to which I bluntly answered 'London.' Unsatisfied, he replied 'No, but like, you know what I mean, **where are you from from?**' Sighing, and not wanting to cause a fuss, I said 'My family are from the Philippines'. Acting 'concerned' as I'm sure he was... he replied 'Well, if you ever want to have a familiar face to talk to, you should talk to our housekeeping staff... I think some of them are from the Philippines.'*
- *I went to the tutorial office to register as a student this year after coming back from fieldwork. One of the members of staff took one look at me and said 'Oh, hey, you're here to sort out your Tier 2 visa, right?' to which I bluntly replied 'No.'*



IF YOU CAN RELATE: VOTE FOR ME

IF YOU DON'T GET WHY WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS: VOTE FOR ME

WHO AM I?

I am a second year MPhil student studying Architecture and Urban Design. My research focuses on urban school segregation in Harlem. I recently spent 3 months in New York researching racial and social divisions, meeting activists, engaging with grassroots groups and collaborating with committees to find ways to better design cities with a diverse population. I did my undergraduate at Jesus College, meaning that this is my fifth year living in Cambridge – I'd say I know this town pretty well!

OBJECTIVES

GATHER // Encourage all students from all backgrounds to support BME students in college- and university-wide events. Keep up to date with current lectures, events and debates happening in Cambridge, for example those organised by de-colonise groups, other BME societies, and specific BME groups such as ACS.

DISCUSS // Bring together students from all backgrounds to discuss some 'uncomfortable' topics such as 'white fragility', implicit bias, post-colonial discourse, and microaggressions. These will be done in casual group discussions (over tea and coffee!) within Downing, book clubs and film nights.

REPRESENT // Represent Downing's BME population and give them a safe space to discuss potentially sensitive topics. Events such as Black History Month currently gain little emphasis in college, I will make a point of publicising these important celebrations on social media and newsletters. Collaborate with other MCR equalities officers to address intersectional topics.

ACT // Bring cases of discrimination to college management. Encourage implicit-bias training for staff and MCR committee members. Campaign for social justice and uphold equal rights for all Cambridge students.

EXPERIENCE

MCR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER 2019 / **POSTGRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT** / EXPERIENCE WITH ACTIVISM IN NEW YORK CITY / **ARCSOC COMMITTEE** / FILIPINO SOCIETY PUBLICITY OFFICER / **JESUS COLLEGE AMBASSADOR FOR SCHOOLS AND ACCESS** / JESUS MAY BALL COMMITTEE / **JESUS COLLEGE ARTS MAGAZINE CHIEF EDITOR** / RACE AND DISCRIMINATION FOCUSED RESEARCH /