

In this brief submission, I propose the erection of a plaque or another permanent monument at the entrance to the Berkeley Library as an alternative to its renaming. Such a monument would briefly contextualise Berkeley's life, acknowledge his role as a slave owner, give a background to the naming of the library in 1978 and state that his values do not represent the current values of Trinity College, Dublin. Such a monument would provide a daily reminder to students and staff of Ireland and Trinity College's connection to the slave industry. While of course the slave trade will be continued to be examined and discussed by academic historians, this aspect of history would more likely be forgotten among the wider public if the library is simply re-named.

The naming of institutions reflects the culture and values of the time in which they were founded. The working paper suggests that Berkeley was popular in the United States in the 1950s and that his name was used by Trinity College in funding campaigns.¹ Most would agree that naming a new institution after Berkeley in 2023 would be wrong. However, the presence of a building on the college campus named after Berkeley would serve as a daily physical reminder not only of the slave trade, but also of a period in which people were either unaware of or indifferent to Berkeley's role as a slave owner. This should also be acknowledged on such a monument as described above.

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¹ Mobeen Hussain, Ciaran O'Neill and Patrick Walsh, 'Working paper on Berkeley's legacies at Trinity' (Nov. 2022) (<https://www.tcd.ie/seniordean/legacies/berkeleyTLRWGworkingpaper.pdf>) (31 Jan. 2023).