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# Perceiving the temperature of the water

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HANDOUT 1, WORKSHOP 1

## The Swarthmore Lecture

Started over 100 years ago in 1908

It usually happens every year at Britain Yearly Meeting.

The name "Swarthmore" was chosen in memory of the home of Margaret Fell which was always open to the earnest seeker after Truth, and from which loving words of sympathy and substantial material help were sent to fellow-workers.



*"The Swarthmore Lecture has two key purposes: to interpret to Quakers their message and mission and to make the wider public aware of the spirit, the aims, and fundamental principles of Friends."*



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Marie Curie said:

*"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."*



Patricia Bath said:

*"Believe in the power of truth. Do not allow your mind to be imprisoned by majority thinking. Remember that the limits of science are not the limits of imagination."*

What do you think?

- *Did Marie Curie and Patricia Bath push through all the barriers BECAUSE they knew they were brilliant scientists?*
- *Did Marie Curie and Patricia Bath become brilliant scientists because they had to push through all the barriers?*

Was there something about their personalities that made them both brilliant scientists and determined enough to push through all the barriers?



## Science is by definition subversive, and underdog scientists learn good scientific skills.

The Hegelian Master-Slave Dialectic (HMSD) – a bit of philosophy introduced to me by my then 16 year old son Sam. Someone talks someone else down in a “fight to the death” i.e. a heated debate. The person who succeeds in talking someone else down gets to feel chuffed with themselves. The person who is talked down is probably left feeling foolish and ignorant... So, the person left feeling foolish and ignorant runs about finding out or creating new things to please the person who talked them down in the first place. This happened to me... the other scientist was a white man, much younger and less experienced than me. A lovely guy – so he didn't cause this – but everyone in the room was giving him all the air time.



### What do you think?

- *Am I right that white men are more likely to be listened to – and not to be interrupted – than other people?*
- *Is it a good thing if people question and challenge us?*
- *What do we learn from being questioned and challenged?*
- *What do we learn from talking over other people?*
- *What do you think I did when I “lost” in the HMSD?*



# Stereotyping, greed and our planet

This is something we **all** do. It's natural and keeps us safe.

**But**, we tend to negatively stereotype (or stigmatise) people who are not like us. The slave trade and colonialism – led by Britain and other European countries – extracted trillions of pounds from other countries by putting black and brown people to work for free or for very little pay.



*If I could contribute a million pounds a day, how long would it take me to pay India back?*



*It is estimated that Britain extracted £44 trillion out of India and £9 trillion out of Jamaica.*

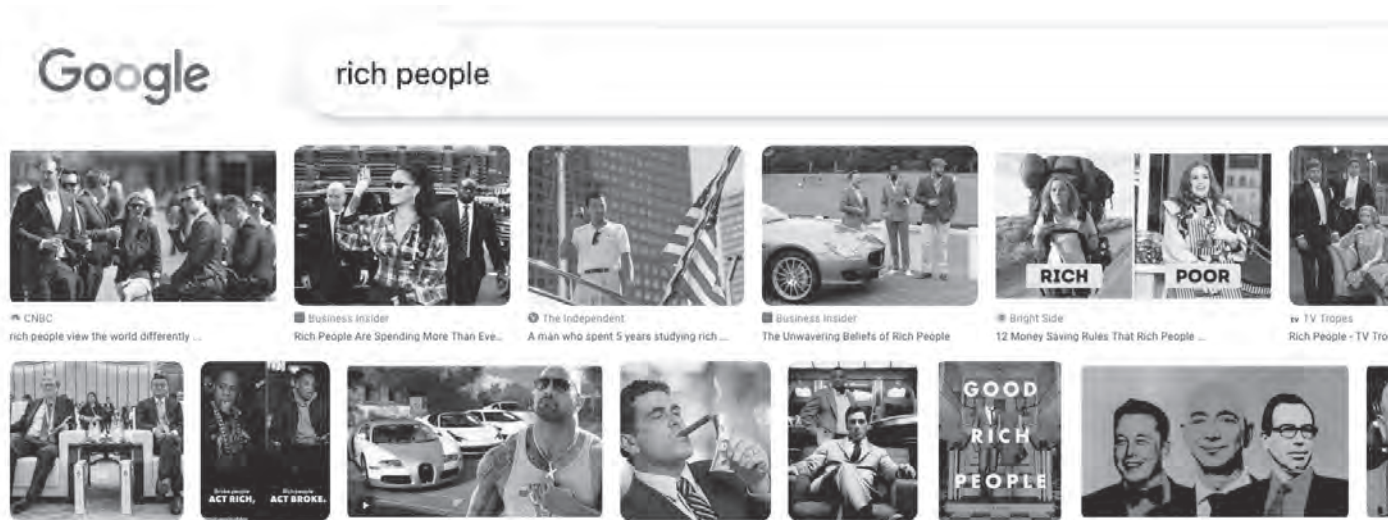
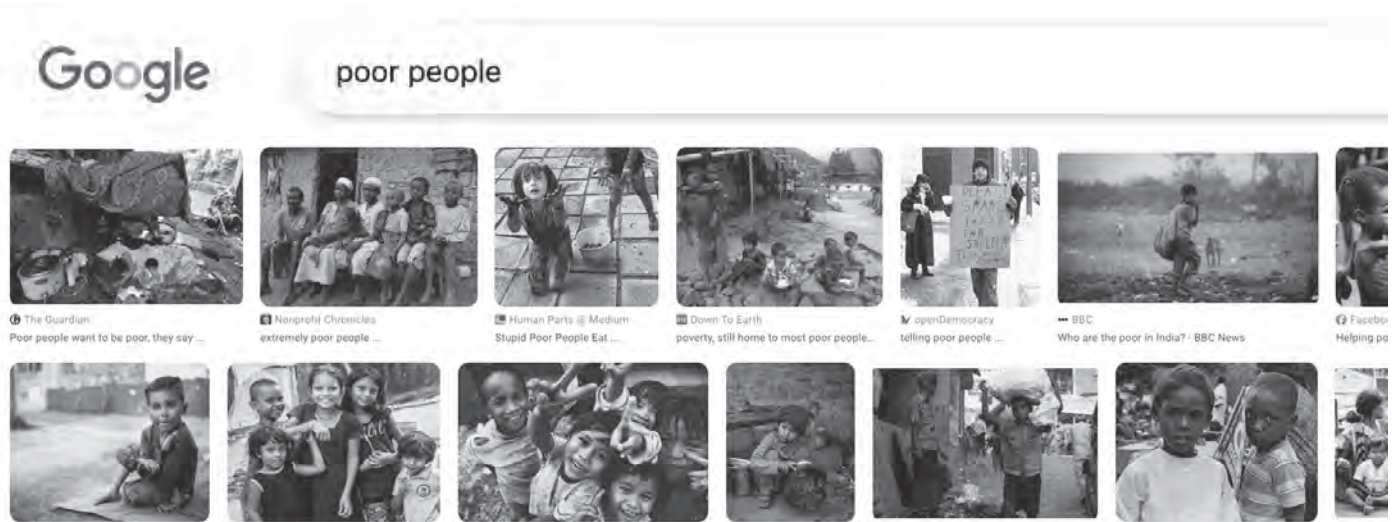
## GREED IS DESTROYING OUR PLANET!

Sadly, Google images still tells us that white people are rich and successful and black people are poor and unsuccessful.

...over



# HANDOUT 4, WORKSHOP 1 (Continued)



## What do you think?

- *Have you ever had the experience of someone stereotyping you negatively – e.g. assuming that because you are a young person, you're not going to have sensible opinions?*
- *What did it make you feel?*
- *Do people who get negatively stereotyped a lot have a right to be angry?*

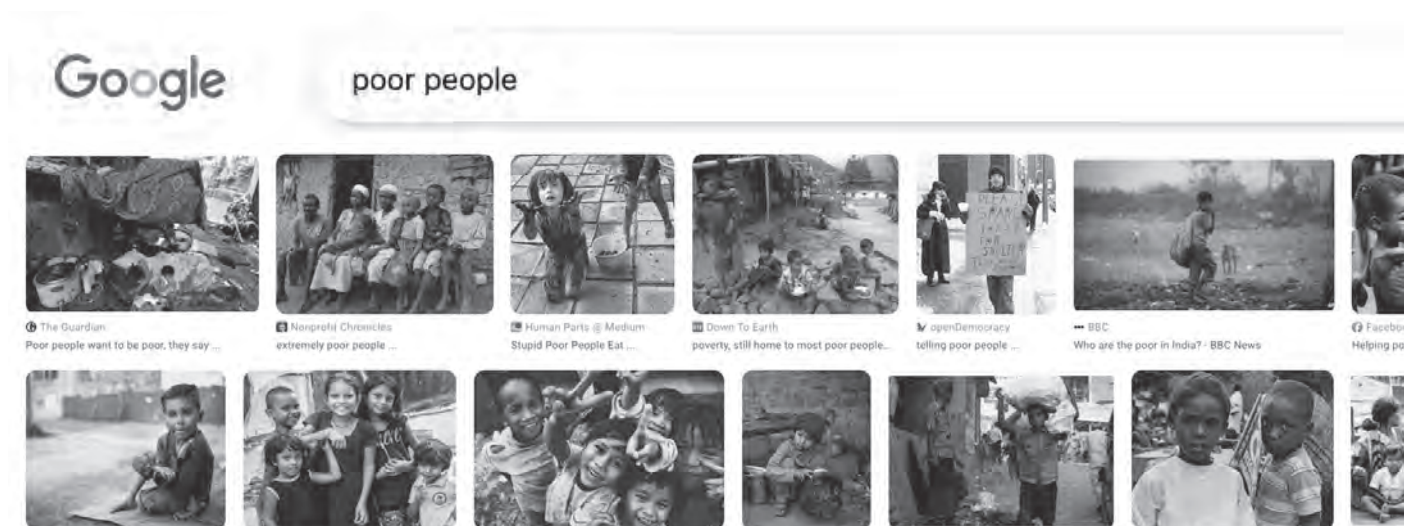
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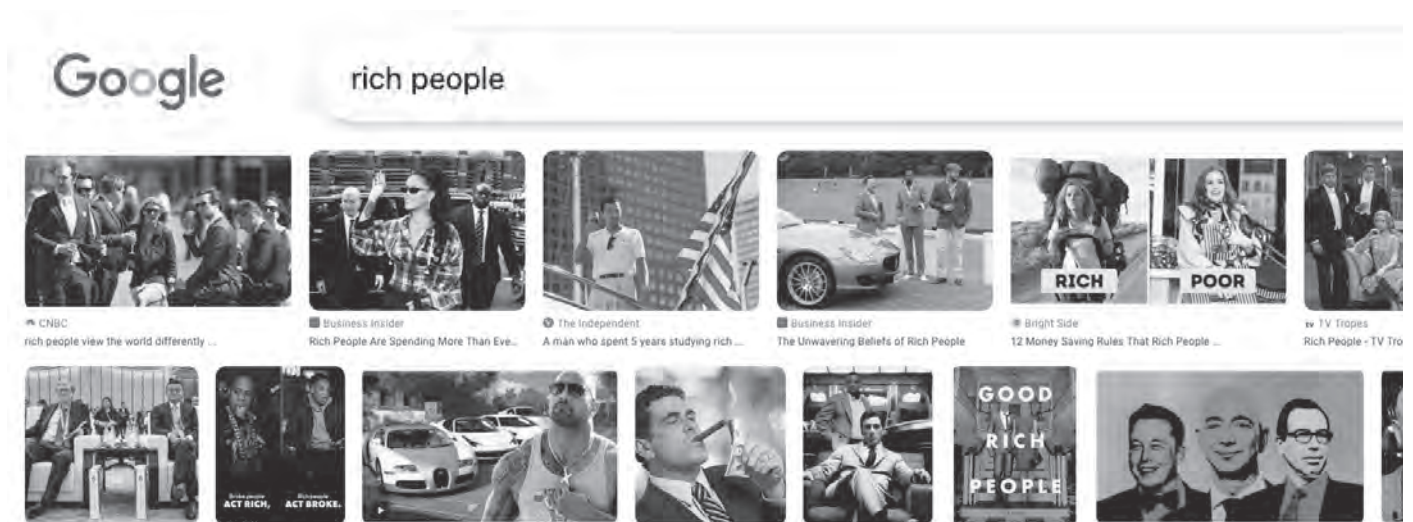
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