

Lilian Thuram is one of the most celebrated French footballers of the past few decades. Born on the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, Mr Thuram's family moved to the outskirts of Paris when he was a child. He began his football career there with Racing Club de Fontainebleau. Across two decades, he played for some of Europe's major clubs (Monaco, Parma, Juventus and Barcelona). His club trophies include the 1999 UEFA Cup with Parma, and the Italian League title (Serie A) with Juventus in 2002 and 2003. He was a mainstay of the French national team for well over a decade, and he held the record as France's most capped player (142 caps). He won two major international competitions, Euro 2000 and, two years before that, he was a vital member of the 1998 team that won the World Cup, scoring two goals in the famous semi-final victory over Croatia.

Since the end of his playing career, Mr Thuram has distinguished himself as one of the most visible and articulate representatives of the diversity that the World Cup winning team embodied. Already an eloquent and outspoken critic of racism, in 2010, Mr Thuram published a book of essays on his black heroes (*Mes Etoiles noires/My Black Stars*), which went on to become a bestseller and which is taught on our undergraduate French course here at the University of Stirling.

That same year, he created the Lilian Thuram Foundation—Education against racism (www.thuram.org/la-fondation), which has been very active in bringing his anti-racism message to schoolchildren in France. He has collaborated closely with the French research collective, ACHAC: in particular, in 2011-12, they curated a major exhibition at the Musée du Quai Branly, *Exhibitions: The Invention of the Savage*, which attracted over 250,000 people over its six-month run. A poster exhibition based on the original Quai Branly event has toured most major French cities, as well as universities in the US and the UK, including a Scottish tour from Feb-June 2018. We were delighted to welcome this exhibition to the Pathfoot Gallery at the University of Stirling in March 2018.

Lilian Thuram is an important public figure who has made an impressive and highly unusual transition from high-level sportsman to public intellectual and activist. He was a celebrated footballer and he is now receiving deserved acclaim in an entirely different sphere: rather than retreating into a gilded retirement, he has chosen to use his fame to combat the growing scourge of racism and the intolerance of difference.

We thus wish to recognize through this honorary degree Mr Thuram's unparalleled contribution to football as well as his commitment to education as a means of combating racism.