

Humanities Research Centre  
Annual Report  
2022/23

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In the course of the academic year, the Centre organised and supported a variety of conferences, lectures, seminars, and other events.

## Doctoral Fellowship Conferences

Charlotte Spear (English) and Madeleine Sinclair (English)  
**'Territorial Bodies: World-Culture in Crisis'**  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023



women and racial exploitation.

Key questions include:

- How is the intersection between bodies and territories registered in world culture today?
- How do cultural registrations work to locate the body as a distinct site of socio-ecological crisis?
- What happens to our conception of a 'culture in crisis' when explored through the lens of 'territorial bodies'?

The concept of 'territorial bodies' takes inspiration from the Latin American feminist transnational concept of 'body-territory', which has been used as a 'strategic' tool to engender new forms of global solidarity, linking multi-form violence at various scales. More broadly, 'body-territory' becomes a lens through which to critique overlapping forms of violence in an era of socio-ecological crisis. The expanded notion of 'territorial bodies' offers a new methodology to explore and critique the registration of socio-ecological crisis in contemporary world culture.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

[Dr Lauren Wilcox](#), University of Cambridge  
[Prof. Kathryn Yusoff](#), Queen Mary University London

In his discussion of the socio-ecological crisis of capitalism, Jason Moore dismisses the theoretical tendency to describe 'twin' social and environmental crises, arguing that 'these are in fact a singular process of transformation that today we call a crisis' To interrogate the singular socio-ecological crisis further, this conference proposes 'territorial bodies' as a critical framework for readings of contemporary world culture, synthesising interdisciplinary approaches to embodiment and violence studies. It considers how the 'territorial body' offers an analytical tool for addressing urgent social, ecological, and political challenges, from ecological breakdown to the rise of statelessness, to violence against

## Report

We would like to thank the *Humanities Research Centre* at University of Warwick for generously funding *Territorial Bodies: World Culture in crisis 2023*, a one-day interdisciplinary conference which took place at university of Warwick on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

*Territorial Bodies: World Culture in Crisis 2023* was based around the notion of ‘territorial bodies’, a concept which drew inspiration from the Latin American feminist transnational concept of ‘body-territory’, which has been used as a ‘strategic’ tool to engender new forms of global solidarity, linking multi-form violence at various scales. By bringing together interdisciplinary research, we hoped to critically evaluate the terms “body-territory” as a lens through which to critique overlapping forms of violence in an era of socio-ecological crisis. In particular, we invited critical discussion surrounding the extent to which the ‘territorial body’ offers an analytical tool for addressing urgent social, ecological, and political challenges, from ecological breakdown to the rise of statelessness, to violence against women and racial exploitation.

The conference brought together 55 delegates from across the world, synthesising diverse research from various disciplines such as geography, sociology, history, visual arts, comparative literature, politics and international relations. The conference programme encompassed wide-ranging perspectives on the concept of ‘territorial bodies’, from the extractive plunder and dispossession of land to the violation of gendered bodies, to the exploitation of racialised bodies and uneven flows of migration.

The conference included two keynote addresses from field-defining interdisciplinary scholars, Dr Lauren Wilcox and Prof. Kathryn Yusoff. Dr Lauren Wilcox’s keynote entitled “On the map, the territory, and the body” unpacked the “entanglements of ‘the map,’ ‘the territory’ and ‘the body’ in modern international and political thought in order to provide an understanding of their co-constitution”. Prof. Kathryn Yusoff’s address entitled “Geologic Bodies, Planetary States”, argued that Geologic Life substantiates a key “analytic for geography that positions inhuman forces in political terms as preceding biopolitical concepts of life and understanding changes of state as a political domain”.

The day also included eight panel discussions on themes including Embodied Extractivism; Aquatic Bodies; Gender; Body, Space; Mining Bodies; Travelling Bodies; Bodies and Accumulation; Reimagining Territories and Travelling Bodies. The papers presented in these panels concerned varied research interests and geographies, from “The Science of Mining in the Himalayan Rivers” (Saumya Pandey), to “The Case of Sperm Smuggling in the Occupied West Bank” (Gala Rexer), to “Aquatic territorial bodies as submerged sites of ecological (re)existence and peace” (Beatriz Arnal Calvo), and so many more. Each of the papers presented brought new perspectives to bear on the notion of “territorial bodies” as a framework for deciphering crisis in the twenty-first century.

## Outcomes

Our hope is that the conference will lead to an edited collection via the [Warwick Series in the Humanities](#), Routledge. We have already released a call for papers for this collection. The edited collection is tentatively entitled *Territorial Bodies: World Culture in Crisis*.

We were also fortunate enough to receive additional support from The Centre for Women and Gender; BCLA and GRP (Connecting Cultures). This funding allowed us not only to deliver the conference but also to provide travel bursaries and fee reimbursement for our speakers.

Tabina Iqbal (English)

'Saying Nothing to Say: Sense, Silence and Impossible Texts in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century'

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023



*Saying Nothing to Say: Sense, Silence, and Impossible Texts in the Twentieth Century* was an interdisciplinary conference held at the University of Warwick on Saturday 13th May 2023.

The conference's aim was to bring scholars from across the world together to discuss the weight of the 'imperative of silence', to borrow Susan Sontag's phrase, on the so-called "age of noise", the twentieth century.<sup>1</sup> As Sontag writes, '[t]he art of our time is noisy with appeals for silence [...] Discovering that one has nothing to say, one seeks a way to say that', or as Wittgenstein put it, '[i]n art it is hard to say anything as good as: saying nothing', or in John Cage's famous words, 'I have nothing to say and I am saying it and that is poetry as I need it'.<sup>2</sup>

Split into three panels, the conference sought to address three broad approaches to the notion of "saying nothing": the ineffable, the silenced, and the unsaid. In the first, we heard about the moments at which language appears to have failed us, the moments at which language seems to us to inadequately represent the world and our relation to it. Here, it might be said, an excess of words leaves us feeling as though we've said nothing, or at least not the *right* thing. On the flip side of this, our final panel of the day, the unsaid, addressed the notion of "saying nothing" as that which is absent, unwritten, unseen and unheard: meaning which manifests in the negative ground. Here, the question was: can saying nothing say something?

But what breaking silences? Our middle panel, the silenced, explored the relation between the authorial voice and authenticity, the strategies employed to navigate the censor, the status of art made in secret, and the notion of co-option.

<sup>1</sup> Susan Sontag, 'The Aesthetics of Silence' in *Styles of Radical Will* (London: Penguin, 2009), pp. 3-34 (p. 12).

<sup>2</sup> Sontag, *ibid.*, p. 12; Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Culture and Value*, ed. by G. H. von Wright and H. Nyman, trans. by Peter Winch (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998), p. 23; John Cage, 'Lecture on Nothing' in *Silence: Lectures and Writings* (New York: Marion Boyars, 2009), p. 109.

The day also featured two keynote speakers, Dr Maria Balaska and Dr Thomas Gould. Dr Balaska's keynote, titled 'Encounters with nothing: objectless wonder in Wittgenstein and Heidegger', discussed objectless wonder as 'a profound mood' which 'is directed at everything and nothing in particular', arguing that while 'Wittgenstein expressed concerns regarding the paradoxical nature of the expressions that accompany objectless wonder [...] we should not view this paradoxicality as a cause for worry but rather as a validation of the underlying ontological insight'. Dr Gould's keynote, titled 'Erasure before erasure: on the silence of the line' discussed the relation between writing and drawing, asking 'how does the poetic line always erase a more original graphic line? How does writing erase drawing? What kind of silencing is going on here?'

## Outcomes

It is hoped that the conference will lead to a publication within Routledge's Warwick Series in the Humanities, and a proposal for this is currently being drafted. Given the success of the performative aspects of the conference, it is hoped that any publication will also be accompanied by live events (performances, readings, etc.). This, however, is very much in the early stages of planning.

Many thanks to the Humanities Research Centre for their generous support.

## Programme

### Session 1 The Missaid: at the limits of language

10:30-10:50 Juulia Jaulimo (University of Helsinki and Justus-Liebig University Giessen) An Impossible Experience: Kathy Acker, Samuel Beckett and the Poetics of Sous Rature

10:50-11:10 Imogen Free (Kings College London) 'It was the low thick almost guttural sound of the voice that she meant, rather than the horror of what was being said': resounding vocal relations in Rosamond Lehmann's *The Echoing Grove* (1953).

11:10-11:20 Q&A

11:20-12:10 **Keynote 1 Maria Balaska** (University of Hertfordshire) Encounters with nothing: objectless wonder in Wittgenstein and Heidegger

12:10-13:00 - Lunch

### Session 2 The Silenced: the politics of the voice

13:00-13:20 Ella Flavell (University of Warwick) Silent or Silenced: The Author's Voice in the Psychiatric Art of Art Brut.

13:20-13:40 Aman Sinha (University of Warwick) Against Revelatory Gestures: Silence, Ambivalence and Sensuality in Ismat Chughtai's *Lihaaf* (Quilt) (1942)

13:40-14:00 Owain Burrell (University of Warwick) 'Three Cheers for Mute Ingloriousness!' – Tony Harrison's *The School of Eloquence* and working-class silence

14:00-14.10 Q&A

14.10-14.30 - Break

### Session 3 The Unsaid: absence, sound, technology

14.30-14:50 Jarkko Tanninen (University of Nottingham) Silence after Violence: Photographic Absence in Joel Sternfeld's *On This Site: Landscape in Memoriam* (1996)

14:50-15:10 Misha Zakharov (University of Warwick) A quiet actress of disquieting presence: The restless spirit of Yekaterina Golubeva

15:10-15:30 Sebastiane Hegarty *Silence on Loan: listening to silence and the unheard*

15:30-15:40 Q&A

15:40-16:40 **Keynote 2 Thomas Gould** (University of East Anglia) Erasure before erasure: on the silence of the line

16:40:17:00 Closing Remarks

Niels Boender (History) and Yara Staets (German)

'Homecoming' after war: Comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023



On Saturday the 20th May, we brought together at the University of Warwick an international group of scholars working on various themes relating to themes of post-war return. The desired outcome was to initiate a discussion between scholars across disciplines, geographies, and periods, thinking about the subjective dimensions of *homecoming*. This is significant as this field has long been dominated by normative and prescriptive social science analysis. We were particularly interested how literary theory and criticism might fertilise detailed historical analysis, and specific examples from the past might enrich and nuance broader theorisation.

Our keynote speaker Kate McLaughlin from the University of Oxford got us going with a fascinating, challenging and provocative talk on the 'silent' veteran, using the particular example of Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*. Her remarkable interweaving of philosophical theory, in particular drawing on Gayatri Spivak's 'Can the Subaltern Speak?', and close literary analysis, was strikingly applicable to historical analysis. Through the lecture she made the figure of the 'silent veteran', a problematic in all our studies, a fruitful field of analysis. The importance of 'listening' to the silences was particularly resonant and significant to all the presenter's studies.

The first session 'What home? Disrupted Homecomings' spoke very closely to some of the key themes of the conference. All three papers stressed different dimensions of the problematic of 'home': what constitutes home in the post-war, across time and place, and for different individuals. Professor Taylor Soja's discussion of a British officer, dragged backward and forward across the Empire in the 'Small Wars' of the late-Victorian era, complicated how 'home' for many could be the Front itself, but also how this would change over one's life. On the other side of the colonial divide, Rose Miyonga gave an account of the inability of many Kenyan men and women to come home, even 60 years after the Mau Mau conflict. Due to close ancestral ties to their land, which was taken by the colonial government, people continue to feel discombobulated so long afterwards. War however can also provide a tool for making one's idea of home much more secure, as Amy Carney elucidated. In studying a German-born Jewish soldier in the American Army, she revealed that the war itself crystallised his identity as an American, which became, undisputedly, *home*.

Our next panel considered how women specifically experienced, and are represented in accounts of, post-war homecoming. Alison Fell gave a remarkable account of what place combatant women came to have in post-war memory and myth-making. Due to women's personification as the nation, tied closely to traditional ideas of motherhood, the image of homecoming was the putting down of the rifle, used to protect the home, and the taking up once again of mothering roles. In a different register, Marcin Filipowicz analysed contemporary Czech literature to illustrate how women's homecomings disrupt easy theorisations of good and evil in post-war contexts. His powerful rendition of a scene of violent homecoming of a female holocaust survivor, with real bearing on how we consider post-war homecoming, precisely indicated the value of an interdisciplinary approach to this subject.

The third and largest panel of the day considered the broad question of the politics of homecoming, and especially how veterans made claims on the state. Robin Bates introduced to the conference a theme which would come up repeatedly, the battle for veteran's rights, in his case, Union veterans of the American Civil War. His conception of the struggle for veteran's rights contrasted the very different idea of the veteran in contemporary Russia. Elena Racheva shared how since the fall of the Soviet Union the state has weaponised veterans for their own ends, slowly incorporating the wars in Chechnya and Afghanistan as part of a glorious struggle in the defence of Russia. The instrumentalisation of veteran's status was similarly demonstrated in Drew Flanagan's discussion of French far-right activist François de la Rocque, who used his status of front-line soldier to resist allegations of collaboration. The final speaker of the panel, Susan Carruthers, spoke to a very different way post-war homecoming was framed by the state - through the British offering of 'demob' suits to returning servicemen. Hereby they were to be re-civilianised, although multiple groups (i.e women) were excluded.

Able chaired by Holly Furneaux, our fourth panel brought the focus specifically on disability-centric histories of Homecoming. Nick Bailey spoke to a specific institution that mediated disabled homecomings, the British Corps of Commissionaires, with strong disciplinary overtones. This genealogy of veteran's rights was continued by Michael Robinson, who discussed debates about provisions for veterans across Canada, Britain and Australia in the 1920s and 1930s, with a special focus on 'invisible disabilities'. The different treatment in different countries was also reflected in Sofya Anisimova's excellent reflection on disabled Imperial Russian officer veterans. Here too was remarkable picture of fluctuation over time, and the political uses of disability by the veterans themselves.

The final panel tied together many of the themes of the conference, discussing how veterans produce narratives that reflect on their homecoming. Chloe Storer spoke on reticence in her own oral histories with British Afghan veterans, linking back to the notions of silence considered in the keynote speech. Eamonn O'Keeffe spoke by contrast on a very talkative veteran, Shadrick Byfield, who leveraged his literacy and experiences with members of the elite to survive in Victorian Britain. The final speaker of our conference Dimo Georgiev showed how the staid, jargonistic, novels of Bulgarian International Brigadiers became standard reading in socialist Bulgaria, omitting the difficult realities of homecoming.

Altogether, the conference met the objectives we set wholeheartedly. This panoply of scholars has a real contribution to make to the study of the post-war, and to that end we seek to keep the momentum going with an edited collection. Such an opportunity is available with Routledge's *Warwick Series in the Humanities*, which we hope to take advantage of in the coming months.

## Other Conferences

### Fireside Tales of Terror: The Gothic and Winter – organised by Dr Jen Baker (English)



Fireside Tales of Terror: The Gothic and Winter took place 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 as a hybrid event – in-person presentations were given in Zeeman building whilst there were also speakers and audience members online via Teams. The conference was sponsored by the Humanities Research Centre, the ELCS department, and the International Gothic Association and co-organised with a colleague from Hull University. As well as a large number of online audience members who weren't participating, there were 33 presenting delegates with papers ranging from Romantic period epics to Victorian short stories, through to video games and film, to fashion and vintage postcards. The conference ran two panels simultaneously with a mix of in-person and online. The two keynote speakers were Dr Derek Johnston from Queen's University, Belfast on his work on televisual period drama at Christmas and the Gothic mode, and Dr Monica Germana from University of Westminster on Boreal Gothic, folklore, and travel in winter.

The general speakers were arts and humanities scholars at various stages of their careers, both independent and affiliated, and other than a postgraduate based in Germany, most in-person presenters travelled to us from across the UK, whilst the online aspect allowed us to have an international presence such as a number of speakers from the United States, and from India, respectively.

We had two postgraduate speakers who were recipients of the International Gothic Association travel bursaries (£50 each) and who helped to live-tweet the conference. Three doctoral students of mine assisted on the day with technical assistance, registration, and tweeting, and one of them presented at the conference. The twitter presence (@TerrorTalesof #FiresideTalesofTerror) received great traction and drew in lots of online discussion as did the online coffee spaces.

Our objectives were to bring scholars from around the world together to explore the environmental and affective traditions and departures between the Gothic mode and the winter season across different mediums in the arts and humanities. Although the conference itself was extremely successful in terms of exploring these topics, and forging new networks and the connections across papers, as well as new and innovative research being showcased, the event itself encountered several problems in regard to the weather (snow) and train strikes, and illness from delegates in the week and days leading up to the event. However, the simultaneous online format gave us a great opportunity to easily move things around, for many to participate by sending pre-recorded papers but still engaging in live discussion and meant only one paper ended up not being presented in some form.

Symposium on Adorno's "Sexual Taboos and Law Today" – Sixty Years On held at the University of Warwick and on Zoom on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023

This symposium was dedicated to Theodor W. Adorno's essay 'Sexual Taboos and Law Today' and its contemporary relevance. It brought together junior and senior scholars from the fields of legal studies, psychoanalysis, pedagogics, social theory, and philosophy to revisit Adorno's controversial essay in times of #MeToo, identity politics, and heightened public concern for gender equality and transgender right. The event was divided into three thematic panels and a roundtable discussion. Each panel engaged with one key dimension of Adorno's text and its relevance today. Panel 1, composed of Prof. Christine Kirchhoff (IPU Berlin) and Prof. Julia König (University of Mainz), approached the text in light of recent developments in psychoanalysis; Panel 2, composed of Dr Marcel Stötzler (Bangor University) and Craig Reeves (Birkbeck), read Adorno's essay in light of current research in social theory and sociology; Panel 3, composed of Prof. Nicola Lacey (LSE) and Dr Iris Dankemeyer, reflected on Adorno's essay in light of recent transformations in the legal sphere and legal theory. The roundtable discussion, in which all speakers, with the exception of Prof. Lacey, participated, enabled all scholars to engage in detail with each other's arguments and to reflect on the value of Adorno's contribution.



Throughout this symposium – and, particularly, during the concluding roundtable discussion – it became clear that, rather than being outdated, Adorno's reflections are still thought-provoking and productive. This was particularly evident in the context of the current punitive turn in legal theory and praxis, recent discourses of queer and transgender identities, and, more generally, the acute and challenging task, faced by scholars of legal and social theory, philosophy and psychoanalysis alike, to theorise desire in contemporary society.

*(Sportsmen by Kazimir Malevich)*

List of papers and speakers:

- Christine Kirchhoff (International Psychoanalytic University, Berlin): Sexual Taboos and Law Today? Reflections from the Perspective of Psychoanalysis
- Julia König (University of Mainz): Reflections on the 'Minors-Complex' in Adorno's 'Sexual Taboos and Law Today' and in Current Moral Panics
- Marcel Stoetzler (Bangor University): Law, Lust, and Otherness in the Society of Total Domination: On Adorno's Essay 'Sexual Taboos and Law Today'
- Craig Reeves (Birkbeck): Persecution, Punishment, and the Potential for Freedom: Reactualising Adorno's Critical Moral Psychology
- Iris Dankemeyer (University of Art and Design, Halle): Presumption of Innocence: On the Topicality of Adorno's Lines of Inquiry in 'Sexual Taboos and Law Today'
- Nicola Lacey (LSE): A Feminist Criminal Lawyer's Retrospective on Adorno's Text

The symposium was a great success. All six invited speakers gave original papers that were met with lively discussions. The interdisciplinary character of the event was particularly productive, and we were excited to witness fruitful scholarly exchange across disciplinary boundaries. The roundtable session at the end provided a good opportunity for speakers and the audience to reflect on the symposium's theme.

The results of this conference will be published – together with some additional contributions on Adorno's essay 'Sexual Taboos and Law Today' – in a special issue of the *Journal of Adorno Studies*, a key journal within the field of critical theory research. This special issue will be edited by the conference organisers, Simon Gansinger and Antonia Hofstätter.

## Processing the Pandemic

**Processing the Pandemic III: Hope** took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This event, a collaboration between the University of Warwick and the Newberry Library in Chicago was supported via generous funding from the Humanities Research Centre, the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, and the School for Cross-Faculty Studies at the University of Warwick, along with the Newberry Library's D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies and the Newberry's Center for Renaissance Studies.

The event was the final phase of **Processing the Pandemic**: a multi-year series of seminars and symposia that explore how the experiences of the past may guide society's emotional and social responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The series explored how we—as an open community of scholars, teachers, archivists, social workers, and practitioners—might learn from these experiences and from each other in transformative, inspiring, transdisciplinary ways. It asked questions such as how these kinds of dialogue can reframe existing discussions around the history of emotions, our responses to trauma, and how we navigate from loss to hope. It questioned how the study of peoples' responses to traumatic events in the past and present can help guide our own experience of the pandemic and its unfolding future.

Following the series' first in-person symposium on Loss at the Newberry Library in April 2022, and a series of virtual seminars—1: Lord Have Mercy - Popular Print and Communal Loss (Sperry & Totaro); 2: Mexican Futures in a Post-Pandemic World (Hughes); 3: Scholarship as Hope (Otaño Gracia and Hernandez)—Processing the Pandemic III concluded the series' discussions around the theme of Hope as it attempted to trace new pathways to answer the question of how communities in both the past and present move from Loss to Hope, navigating the complex constellations of emotions that result from such crises. Both the conference at Warwick and the series as a whole were radically transdisciplinary and transhistorical in their conception and execution; they brought together Native American and Indigenous Studies, Black Studies, Medieval Studies, Renaissance Studies, Pedagogy, and Creative outputs. They encouraged participants to not only share their research, but to reflect on their own relationship to this work throughout the pandemic, leading to broader discussions on how individuals can embrace their positionality, narrative, and unique voice within their scholarship, teaching, and artistic process. Thus, the conference served not only as a capstone of a unique transdisciplinary series, but raised deeper and broader questions about how we might consider doing scholarship differently as we move forward after COVID-19.

The conference was a fascinating two-day in-depth discussion on the theme of hope. It included twenty participants and three keynote speakers. It was attended by eighteen individuals in person (ranging from undergraduate students to academic staff) and twenty-four individuals online. The Keynote talks focussed on a wide range of topics, including "Hope through the Lens of Indigenous Futurity" and Science Fiction (Blaire

Morseau, University of Massachusetts, Boston), and “Hope against Hope” in the work of Judith Butler and James Baldwin, along with critical discussion on the relevance of Sophocles’ *Antigone* and the Black Lives Matter movement during COVID-19 (Jesse McCarthy, Harvard).

Papers presented ranged from discussions of hope and crusading ghosts in Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* (Herron and Miller), Hope in Prints and Moral Philosophy in the context of religious conflicts in the Hapsburg Empire (1526-1662) (Spissu), through an exploration of pedagogies of hope and reflections on online teaching during COVID (Wade and Metherell) and community engagement in Bologna (Grazioli), to a creative workshop on how the works of the medieval English anchoress Julian of Norwich inspired a songwriter in Chicago during the COVID pandemic (Greenholdt). Roundtable discussions at the conference included an exchange among previous participants in the series on how our thinking around hope and loss has changed in the past year (particularly with the current war in Ukraine) and an exploration of Native American and Indigenous Experiences of resilience and hope in reclaiming history in upstate New York (Mt. Pleasant); advocating for indigenous ways of life and belonging in Hawai’i (Bourgette), and the work of a geographer using data to empower indigenous women in the Amazon (Lamiña).

The response from participants was universally positive. Many noted that they sincerely enjoyed learning from other fields with which they normally had minimal interaction, others noted how the conference embodied a unique and exciting approach to transdisciplinarity, where each field was willing to be humble, listen, and learn of new methods and ways of thinking from others. Participants also praised the openness of the conference in bringing together different disciplinary fields of study, pedagogical research and reflection, and creative approaches to such questions with the work of songwriters and artists. One of our undergraduate audience participants noted that “This conference has inspired be to become an academic!”

As a concluding event, *Processing the Pandemic III: Hope* opened new avenues of research and inquiry, brought together fields that are not normally in dialogue, and created a unique space for intellectual exchange across academic fields, periods of study, and even across oceans and time zones. The organisers are considering publishing an edited volume from the series and are hoping to find a press that is open to innovative and unique thinking that breaks down disciplinary boundaries and experiments with traditional processes of peer review.

### Teaching Medieval French: Sustainable Approaches for the Next Generation

Dates: 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Organisers: Emma Campbell and Liam Lewis (SMC)

#### Background and Objectives

This three-day event for U.K.-based university teachers, researchers, and early career academics came out of two online ‘state-of-the-discipline’ workshops for Medieval French Studies organised in 2022. Responding to a need identified at those workshops, this in-person event at the University of Warwick enabled participants to develop new, sustainable, interdisciplinary approaches to teaching medieval French materials to undergraduates across a range of HE institutions.

The interconnected aims of this event were: (1) to introduce participants to strategies that they could take forward in their teaching practice, (2) to provide space and time for attendees to workshop ideas they could integrate directly into their present or future teaching, and (3) to discuss the sharing and development of pedagogical resources cross-institutionally. To that end, invited speakers with expertise in areas that intersect with studies of medieval French—particularly performance studies, visual culture, and material culture—led

workshops aimed at providing participants with a set of tools for their own practice. Participants worked on existing course materials or on new ideas in 'developing ideas' sessions incorporated into the workshops. There was a final session dedicated to discussing practical strategies for sharing resources and sources of potential funding.

### **Final Programme**

Thursday 27 April: Texts & Material Culture

12-1pm: Arrivals

1-2pm: How to teach with medieval architecture (Jenny Alexander)

2-3pm: Developing ideas session

3-4pm: How to use collaborative transcription and editing (Laura Morreale)

4-5pm: Developing ideas session

5-6pm: How to grow our community—a discussion led by Grapevine charity

6-7pm: Networking, with drinks reception

7pm: Dinner on campus

Friday 28 April: Visual Culture & Interdisciplinary Work

9-10am: Arrivals

10-11am: How to teach with medieval images (Debra Strickland)

11am-12pm: Developing ideas session

12-1pm: How to approach interdisciplinary work (Liam Lewis and Harriet Jean Evans)

1-2pm: Lunch

2-3pm: How to teach with medieval mapping (Marianne O'Doherty)

3-4pm: Developing ideas session

7pm: Performance at St Mary's Guildhall of 'Silence' by Rachel Rose Reid, followed by an after-show talk at 9pm.

Saturday 29 April: Performance

10-11.30am: Storytelling Workshop with Rachel Rose Reid

11.30am-12pm: Break

12-1pm: How to teach with storytelling (Daisy Black and Jane Bonsall)

1-2pm: Lunch

2-3pm: How to teach with medieval song (Emma Dillon)

3-4pm: Developing ideas session

4-5pm: How to foster cross-institutional support and sharing of resources—discussion led by Emma Campbell

### **Outcomes**

The planned outcomes of the event were all met or surpassed. These can be summarised as follows:

New teaching resources and approaches. Participants left the workshops equipped with new materials and methodologies for teaching medieval French literature culture immediately usable in their own institutional contexts. Where possible, sessions were recorded. These are currently being edited and will be made available online, so others can use them.

We had numerous messages of thanks from participants after the event. For instance, a senior colleague emailed to say how generative the workshops had been for her: 'My huge thanks to you and Liam, and your amazing speakers. It was a really fab few days. I feel really regenerated.' Another colleague highlighted the value of the event for sharing ideas: 'A huge thank you to you both for such a welcoming, inspiring event. It was the most innovative and exciting conference I have been to for a long time. Because of covid it has been a

while since I have had a chance to meet and share ideas with colleagues outside my immediate circle, so this was very much welcome.'

· Strategies for collaborative working and resource sharing. The workshops enabled colleagues to explore practical strategies for sharing resources and expertise across institutions. The final session built on this by discussing actions for developing resources and possible platforms for cross-institutional collaboration. Emma Campbell is currently planning a follow-up meeting this summer to take these actions forward.

One of our speakers emailed after the workshops to say she had already started to work with other participants: 'Since the event I've already got a little team of people to work on that Mandeville manuscript I showed and am also talking to Daisy about some kind of map-based public engagement project. It's been not just brilliant for teaching ideas but also for research collaborations. I'd love to find out about any more events run with / by this group.'

Another speaker emphasised the importance of the interdisciplinary exchanges: 'Just a note of warmest thanks for a truly wonderful couple of days. I had the best time!!! I absolutely loved the workshops on storytelling as well as the magical performance of Silence. And it was such a lovely context for me to share ideas about teaching and also about the MUSLIVE project. I learnt so much from the conversations. Moreover, it was such an engaged and welcoming gathering -- I was so glad to be there. So many, many congratulations on convening such a marvellous event. I know, too, how much work went into this, both with the logistics and also building such a brilliant programme. Thank you.'

One mid-career colleague highlighted the importance of the networking that took place, as well as the pedagogical benefits of the workshops: 'What a fantastic occasion the teaching workshop was! It was wonderful to see so many colleagues, and to meet new ones. I found it a truly inspirational moment, and it came at just the right time as I reflect on the relationship between teaching and research in my future work. Well done!'

· Future funding bids. We anticipate future funding bids to facilitate collaborations with community partners. Additional funding plans to support cross-institutional sharing of resources are under discussion (see above).

· Professional development. Participants of all career stages were able to learn new skills and integrate those into teaching plans.

· Community engagement. The workshops included a session co-led by Grapevine charity. There was also a public performance of a medieval text at Coventry's Guildhall, a public after-show discussion, and a storytelling workshop accessible to the public.

### Demokratie 50 years after *Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe* - 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Organised by Mark Philp (History)- supported by the HRC, the IAS, and the EHRC

This was a slightly unusual conference in that it was directed to the detailed exploration of the *Geschichtlicher Grundbegriffe* (henceforth GG) entry on Demokratie written 50 years ago, which has had a profound influence, not only on German historiography but also on the way in which political ideas are discussed in, especially, Central and Northern Europe.

The conference circulated both an epitome of the GG entry, and a detailed agenda for discussion. The six key speakers (German-speaking experts from the region) whose travel we supported were given the task of responding to the different topics on the agenda in turn, and then, in each session, the floor was opened to others attending. These included a number of senior people in the field from Oxford, Cambridge, Sussex, Nottingham, York, etc.

Key speakers' short biographies:

Andreas Fahrmeir: Professor of modern history with a particular emphasis on the 19th century at Goethe University Frankfurt. Research interests include the history of migration policies and state formation/nationalism, elites and general European history. Potentially interesting publications: *Citizenship: The rise and fall of a modern concept* (2007); co-ed with Christoph Cornelißen: *Vom Konklave zum Assessment-Center: Personalentscheidungen im historischen Wandel* (2021).

Franz L. Fillafer: Research Associate at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OAW). Research focus is regional and global history of knowledge, Habsburg monarchy and Austria (17th-20th centuries). Currently working on a project about the Habsburg monarchy as a workshop for world knowledge, 1760-1860. Publications: *Enlightenment Habsburg. State formation, knowledge culture and historical politics in Central Europe 1750-1850*, Göttingen: Wallstein 2020; (ed. with J. Feichtinger, J. Surman), *The Worlds of Positivism. A Global Intellectual History, 1770–1930*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2018; and, (ed. with T. Wallnig), *Josephinism between the regimes: Eduard Winter, Fritz Valjavec and the Central European historiographies in the 20th century*, Vienna-Cologne-Weimar: Böhlau 2016.

Mark Hewitson: Professor of German History and Politics at University College London. Publications include a monograph on *Nationalism in Germany, 1848-1866: Revolutionary Nation* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010) and articles on 'Belligerence, Patriotism and Nationalism in the German Public Sphere, 1792-1815', *English Historical Review*, 128 (2013), 839-876, and 'The Old Forms are Breaking Up, ... Our New Germany is Rebuilding Itself': Constitutionalism, Nationalism and the Creation of a German Polity during the Revolutions of 1848-49', *English Historical Review*, 125 (2010), 1173-1214. His next project will re-examine debates about a German nation in 1848-49.

Theo Jung: Professor of Modern History, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg. Main research interests include modes and media of political communication (meetings, protest, parliaments, back-room politics, street politics, etc.) and historical semantics (concepts, metaphors, narratives, etc.). Research focuses on the comparative European history of the 18th and long 19th centuries, esp. on France, Britain and the German territories. Currently preparing the publication of 'habilitation' thesis on the uses and meanings of silence in 19th century European politics, provisionally titled *Qui tacet: Die Politik des Schweigens im Europa des langen 19. Jahrhunderts* (2024).

Susanne Lachenicht: Professor of Early Modern History at Bayreuth University, Germany. Works on Europe and the Atlantic World with a special focus on the Age of Revolution, diasporas, nationalisms, religious migrations, knowledge transfer and transformation as well as temporalities in the early modern world. Publications include *Information und Propaganda. Die Presse deutscher Jakobiner im Elsaß* (Munich: Oldenbourg, 2004), *Die Französische Revolution* (Darmstadt: WBG, 1012, 2016), forthcoming (ed. with Volker Depkat and Karsten Fitz) *Representations and Usages of the American Revolution in Past and Present* (Heidelberg: Winter, 2024 (Publications of the Bavarian American Academy)) and (ed. with Volker Depkat, Hansjürgen Lüsebrink, Christine Vogel) *Politischer Journalismus im Spannungsfeld von Medienwandel und Demokratisierung, 17.-21. Jahrhundert* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2024 (Media History, 4)).

Hedwig Richter: Appointed to the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of the German Armed Forces Munich (UniBw München) in 2019. Received her doctorate at the University of Cologne. In 2016, habilitated at the University of Greifswald. Research focuses on the history of democracy and dictatorship, the history of the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR, US and European history in the 19th and 20th

centuries, nation-building, migration, church history and historical gender studies. In 2020 she published *Democracy: A German Affair* (CH Beck, Munich).

The conference was a key stage in our larger project: Re-imagining Democracy in Central and Northern Europe. This is a fourth strand of a project that has thus far completed and published three books – on the Atlantic World (2013), the Mediterranean (2018), and Latin America (forthcoming July 2023). All these are published by Oxford University Press. The projects require a good deal of network building and the development of agendas and ways of working, drawing in a substantially wider group of participants than contribute essays in the final volume. Our aim in the series is to produce volumes that encourage a rethinking of traditional (usually teleological) views of an inevitable march towards representative democracy, so as to explore how people at the time used the term and for what purposes, thereby allowing a critical reconceptualization of the history of the term.

The discussion of the GG entry was crucial for this area, since it has provided the basic narrative for the region and is increasingly embraced also by the Nordic states. What the conference was able to show was that the GG comes with a number of implicit assumptions and convictions of a teleological form; that it would need very substantial revision in the light of the new digital scholarly resources now available, and that such a rewriting would part company with a good deal of the narrative constructed in the GG. Moreover, one major area, that the GG obscures is the role of the term in German speaking peoples who were not part of the eventual German state in the 1870s.

In our view – and those of the participants, the conference was very successful – we have a detailed transcript of the discussions which we are following up with different individuals and groups and it enabled us to forge a number of very strong connections that will be central in the development of the project. It has clarified for us a great deal in respect of the historiography of the period (1750-1870) and to current work being undertaken, and it has also demonstrated the contribution which our proposed volume will make to a better understanding of the period and the fortunes of democracy in it.

### Twenty-First Warwick Symposium on Parish Research - Parish and Performance

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023

*Co-organized by Beat Kümin (Warwick History / My-Parish) & John Craig (Simon Fraser / Records of Early English Drama) with Daniel Gettings & Maria Tauber (Warwick History)*

Report by Daria Akhapkina (Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, Warwick)

This Symposium was held in a hybrid format and welcomed researchers from Belgium, Canada, Hungary, the UK and the US to Warwick's Institute of Advanced Study as well as online. In his opening remarks Beat Kümin (Warwick) stated that – from the preaching of sermons via the staging of plays to the conduct of ceremonies – parish culture has always included elements of oral, musical, mimetic and other types of performance. The speakers explored a variety of sources from the Middle Ages to the present, addressing aspects of regulation, contexts as well as perception.



‘The Thames at Richmond, with the Old Royal Palace’  
(unknown Flemish school, early 17thC). © The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

The keynote speaker Peter Greenfield (Puget Sound) introduced the audience to REED ONLINE, the digital version of Records of Early English Drama. He began his address by quoting a diocesan letter written in 1585 by Thomas Cooper, Bishop of Winchester. Cooper wrote of the ‘straunge perswasion among Christians’ in his diocese that ‘they cannot by any other meanes of contribution repaire their Churches and set forth the service of God, but that they must first do sacrifice to the devill, with Dronkennes and dauncing, and other ungodly wontonnes’. Cooper’s fulminations were set against the very different language used two decades later by the inhabitants of Rangeworthy in Gloucestershire, where the Whitsuntide revel was called a ‘generall feast or meetinge of Freindes’ used for the ‘refreshinge of the mindes and spirittes of the Countrey people’ and for the ‘preservacion of mutuall amytye, acquaintance and love...’. These contrasting examples were used to illustrate REED’s main mission of locating, transcribing, and publishing the comprehensive evidence of the development and existence of English drama from its documented beginnings to the closure of the London theatres in 1642. Greenfield demonstrated how the digital collections make individual records easily accessible to the researchers, facilitating the users’ experiences and encouraging a deeper understanding of the performances in early modern communities.

The first panel on music, dance and charivari included papers from Susan Skinner (Plymouth), Michael Heaney (independent scholar), Taylor Aucoin (Edinburgh) and Emily Winerock (Point Park). Common themes included changing and vanishing traditions: all speakers presented evolving perspectives on specific parish activities. Skinner focused on the tradition of Cornish parish music, looking into the history of Polperro and Looe fishermen’s male voice choirs. She argued that the practice of choral singing, which practically died out in the aftermath of the WW2, was a way to unite the community and share their lived experiences. By committing to performances, the unprofessional singers strengthened their sense of comradery, raised funds for charitable

causes and forged a local Cornish identity. Heaney discussed another once prolific tradition that moved in and out of parish life – that of morris dancing. His paper traced how the once widespread entertainment was viewed with increasing disapproval from the mid-sixteenth century, which eventually led to its total suppression and exclusion from the parish activity. Aucoin examined ‘nuptial’ charivaris – traditions of communal exactions of food, drink and entertainment from newlyweds – which have long remained understudied due to being less ‘sensational’ than their ‘marital’ counterparts aimed at transgressions of gender norms. Aucoin investigated a type of exaction known as ‘ball-money’, where local children or adults demanded a football, or money to purchase one, either on the respective wedding days, or during festive seasons like Shrovetide. He concluded that the underlying idea of such rituals was that all newlyweds owed something to the community. The final paper returned to the previously mentioned 1613 Rangeworthy case: Winerock argued that constable Parker arrived at the site being aware of the ‘unlawful activities’ taking place and therefore likely had an interpretation already in mind, while the parishioners defended their traditions. The lack of respect for such customary celebrations felt like an attack on the community, since local parish festivities were already under pressure from the religious authorities. This explains the harsh response from the parishioners who refused to follow the constable’s orders.

In the second panel, Lynne Renberg (Anderson), Lydia Fisher (Exeter), Kristy Flake (Warwick) and Chris Highley (Ohio) all concentrated on the parish relationship with drama. Renberg discussed the role of the York Mystery Cycles in modeling emotive performance. She suggested that they had a didactic function, presenting the audience with a normative understanding of emotional expressions as well as a rhetorical framework for expressing their feelings. By using rhetoric in sermons and plays that framed joy as a future delight, parish performances steered lay audiences towards heavenly joy through performed earthly models. Fisher emphasized the dramatic qualities of stained-glass images in the church of St Kew (Cornwall) that evoke the narrative and spectacle of religious plays. She argued that several scenes, such as Christ’s entry to Jerusalem, borrowed certain details from the miracles of the Cornish *Ordinalia* cycle, i.e., created an artistic dialogue between stained glass and religious drama which sought to move the audience to worship and actively experience these climactic events in present terms. Flake’s paper was dedicated to the performative practices of preaching the Book of Homilies, which became a foundational text for the development of English Protestantism and the Church of England. The Homilies’ performances fulfilled a range of functions such as social cohesion during the Rogation days, discipline in the form of public penance and political control. Flake discussed examples which highlighted different appeals to – and experiences by – the congregations. At one point, she asked a Symposium participant to impersonate a sinner who had to go through a disciplinary reading of the homily against gluttony and drunkenness, which – quite contrary to the preacher’s original intent – made the modern audience sympathize with the poor penitent. Highley’s final paper concerned the representation of parish life in the drama *The Spanish Curate*. Although the title character Lopez and his sexton Diego fail to carry out their duties as the religious leaders of the community, they are still loved and respected by their parishioners for being undemanding and allowing the beloved communal activities. Highley discussed how the portrayal of corrupt clergymen from Cordova might have resonated with seventeenth-century English audiences.

As a part of the next session entitled ‘performance’, David Fletcher (Warwick) directed a dramatic reading of a pamphlet (‘Parochial Tyranny’) by Mark Roberts (from Leamington Spa’s Loft Theatre Company), who engagingly moved among and appealed to the Symposium participants. After that, Thomas Straszewski (York) shared his experience of performing the York Mystery Plays, *Heaven and Earth in Little Space*, at the church of All Saints North Street in York. The limitations placed on the performers by the restoration works and lockdown regulations made them apply Levi-Strauss’s theory of bricolage through inventorying, sifting,

assemblage and indirect approaches. In the end, the actors managed to improvise upon traditions and use the absence of certain images and audiences as a frame for their performance.



*Performative elements in our papers on homilies & parochial tyranny: ©BK*

The final panel on processions widened the geographical framework to Italy, Hungary, and the Low Countries. Klaas Van Gelder (Vrije Universiteit Brussels / State Archives in Brussels) presented on joyous entries – medieval and early modern investiture rituals held for feudal lords. Consisting of several components, they appeared very flexible and strived toward maintaining a balance between the lord’s authority and the respect for the community. Changes in their structure, Van Gelder argued, could be interpreted ambivalently, and showcase the shifts in the power dynamic between the seigneurial authority and the people. Eva Van Kemenade (Warwick/ Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome) presented a paper on the *Decennali Eucharistiche* processions in 16th and 17<sup>th</sup>-century Bologna. She interpreted these celebrations as top-down tools of implementation of the Tridentine Reform on a communal level and discussed how the lavish and elaborate processions reinforced Catholic identities and at the same time encouraged competition between parishes, which later led to the authorities striving to suppress ‘blasphemous’ activities in favour of more pious ones. Bela Mihalik (Budapest) addressed the processions held in Eger, an ancient episcopal seat in Hungary, which was liberated in 1687 after ninety-one years of Ottoman rule. In his paper, he demonstrated how the religious community, torn apart by contradictions in the absence of a single leader, instilled an image of unity through finding compromises and forcing non-Catholic residents to participate in the processions in order to continue living in the city.

The contributions raised several interesting questions, highlighted different views on the participants, occasions and evolution of parish performances, and elucidated the various meanings associated with such activities. The closing remarks addressed the nature of parishes as more than just ecclesiastical units and the subsequent political and economic meanings that performances carried. Several interventions pointed to the importance of perspective and temporal context in researching the evidence discussed here. The participants also commented on the paradox of the material culture, which by itself may not be performative, but becomes so as an extension of the artists and viewers.

Full programme details:

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Peter Greenfield (University of Puget Sound), 'A strange persuasion': English Parish Performances and the Records of Early English Drama

**Session 1: MUSIC, DANCE & CHARIVARI – chair: Beat Kümin**

Susan Skinner (University of Plymouth), 'Music, Place and Culture: the Male Voice Choirs of two Cornish Fishing Communities'

Michael Heaney, 'From Centre Stage to Outcasts: Morris Dancers in Parish Performance 1540-1660'

Taylor Aucoin (University of Edinburgh), 'The "Parish Football Fund" and the Hunt for Britain's Nuptial Charivari'

Emily Winerock (Point Park University, USA/Shakespeare and Dance Project), 'Choreographing Community or Performing Profanation? Competing Conceptions of Dancing in English Parishes, c. 1550–c. 1640' (delivered via video address)

**Session 2: DRAMA – chair: Maria Tauber**

Lynneth Miller Renberg (Anderson University), 'Performing Joy: Plays and Emotion in Medieval York' (delivered via video address)

Lydia Fisher (University of Exeter), 'The Drama of Stained Glass: an Examination of the 15th century Passion Window at St Kew, Cornwall'

Chris Highley (Ohio State University), 'The Drama of the Parish: Performing Local Life in Early Modern London'

Kristi Flake (University of Warwick), 'The Performance of the Book of Homilies in the English Parish, 1547-1720'

**Session 3: PERFORMANCES – chair: Andrew Foster**

David Fletcher (University of Warwick) and the Loft Theatre Company: 'Parochial Tyranny' – a Dramatic Reading

Tom 'Strasz' Straszewski (University of York), "'Heaven and Earth in Little Space": Performing the Parish through the York Mystery Plays'

**Session 4 : PROCESSIONS – chair : Daniel Gettings**

Klaas Van Gelder (Vrije Universiteit Brussels/State Archives in Brussels), 'The Parish as the Main Stage: Seigneurial Joyous Entries in the Burgundian and Habsburg Netherlands'

Eva Van Kemenade (University of Warwick/Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome), 'Corpus Christi processions in the parishes of Post-Tridentine Bologna'

Bela Mihalik (Institute of History, Budapest), 'The Performance of Unity: Processions in Eger in the first decade of the post-Ottoman Era, 1687-99'



<b>PERFORMING THE FANTASTIC IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE</b>		25 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
		Online via Teams
		Twitter: @PTFWarwick
<b>PROGRAMME</b>		
10.00–10.15	Opening remarks: Dr Ian Farnell	
10.15–11.35	Session 1: Fantastic practice (1)	Chair: Dr Ian Farnell
<b>Dr Roweena Yip</b>	“Intercultural Fantasy in MIYAGI Satoshi’s <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> ”	
<b>Dr Yair Lipshitz</b>	“Leaving the Table: The Performance of Death and Resurrection in <i>Critical Role</i> ”	
<b>Dr Yaron Shyldkrot</b>	“(Mis)performing Humanoids: All is Full of Love?”	
11.45–13.05	Session 2: Fantastic productions (1)	Chair: Gheorghe Williams
<b>Professor Trish Reid</b>	“Zinnie Harris: Fantastic Temporalities”	
<b>Professor Benjamin Poore</b>	“Secret Histories: The Fantastic and the Counterfactual in Alistair McDowall’s <i>The Glow</i> (2022) and Martin McDonagh’s <i>A Very Very Very Dark Matter</i> (2018)”	
<b>Dr Alex Watson</b>	“Strange Temporalities, Everyday Violence: The Continuum of Gender-Based Violence in Alistair McDowall’s <i>all of it</i> and <i>The Glow</i> ”	
13.05–14.00	Lunch	
14.00–15.00	Keynote lecture: Dr Siân Adiseshiah – “Fantastic Ageing”	
15.15–16.35	Session 3: Fantastic practice (2)	Chair: Bee Scott
<b>David Norris</b>	“From Santa to Satan to Snow White: Curated memories, commercial memories”	
<b>Dr Sanja Vodovnik</b>	“SF performativity @ Ars Electronica Festival 2022”	
<b>Kate Lane</b>	“ <i>Confinement</i> : Motherhood, Myths & Activist Scenographics in site-specific performance”	
16.45–18.15	Session 4: Fantastic productions (2)	Chair: Gheorghe Williams
<b>Dr Tyrone Grima</b>	“ <i>The Way it Came: An Exploration on Fear</i> ”	
<b>Dr Kate Katafiasz</b>	“Taking the significance of ‘otherness’ seriously in Edward Bond”	
<b>Mike Griffin</b>	“ <i>Gormenghast</i> : Staging the Epic Fantasy”	
18.15–18.30	Closing remarks	

Performing the Fantastic in Contemporary Culture was an interdisciplinary conference held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023, and organised by Dr Ian Farnell in Theatre and Performance Studies. Originally planned as an in-person event, the conference moved online via Microsoft Teams to accommodate multiple international speakers without having to incur travel costs and to function as a carbon neutral event.

The conference was built on the premise that the fantastic – an umbrella term for genres including science fiction, fantasy, horror, folklore and fairytales – can be traced across contemporary society and culture. The conference placed particular emphasis on the ways in which fantastic imagery was being performed, i.e. how it was not only being dramatized across theatre, television and film media, but also how it emerged in social activities, political ideologies and everyday life. The conference recognised that comparisons with the fantastic could be found in as wide a variety of activities as public protests, such as those inspired by Margaret Atwood’s speculative novel *The Handmaid’s Tale*; museum exhibits including the National Science Museum’s Science Fiction and Hayward Gallery’s *Into the Black Fantastic*; and also in political concepts such as zombie economics. Inviting speakers to draw on these and any other examples, *Performing the Fantastic in Contemporary Culture* sought to unpack the complex ways in which fantastic imagery shapes our lives today, as well as to prioritise and pursue the unique opportunities afforded by a performance studies perspective when approaching the fantastic.

The conference consisted of four panels, each with three speakers from a variety of backgrounds and locations including the UK, Canada, Singapore, Israel and Malta. These international contributions brought much-needed diversity to the topic of the fantastic. For example, the conference opened with Dr Roweena Yip (National University of Singapore) and her analysis of MIYAGI Satoshi’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, which adapted canonical Western texts including Shakespeare and Peter Pan to speak to contemporary Japanese anxieties around the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster. Elsewhere, Dr Tyrone Grima (Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology) delivered an engaging talk on his work as a practitioner and the devising processes he employed to explore notions of fear within the context of modern Europe. Similarly, Dr Sanja Vodovnik (University of Toronto) explored what she termed the science-fictional schemas of *Ars Electronica*, an Austrian performing arts festival.

Across the day’s discussions, multiple trends and themes emerged across different papers and through discussions between participants and audiences. For instance, the second panel (entitled *Fantastic Productions*) focused specifically on contemporary theatre productions that incorporated fantastic imagery. Opening the panel was Professor Trish Read (University of Reading) who focused on the ways in which time is disrupted or compressed in the work of Scottish playwright Zinnie Harris. As the panel continued with Professor Benjamin Poore (University of York) and Dr Alex Watson (BIMM University, Brighton), the concept of time re-emerged throughout their papers and was further elaborated on in a lively Q&A session which opened up the conversation to other playwrights and practitioners who drew on the fantastic to play with notions of time. Elsewhere, the ways in which bodies could be reimagined as fantastic entities emerged as a focal topic in multiple papers. In a talk by Kate Lane (Central Saint Martin) on her work as a performance artist, the body was read as both a crucial site for childbirth as well as a key element in site-specific practice. Similarly, the affective body of the audience/participant was central to the work of David Norris (University of Birmingham) in analysing the varying levels of interaction within what he termed “curated character interactions”: encounters between consumers and performers dressed as fantastic characters such as Snow White and Santa Claus. Given the conference’s stated desire to explore what a performance studies approach brings to the fantastic, it was extremely rewarding to see these concepts emerge organically and repeatedly across the day.

Other conference highlights included performance-based interrogations of topical concepts via a fantastic lens. This was especially evident in a presentation by Dr Yaron Shyldkrot (University of Leeds), who explored how debates around artificial intelligence are often polarised via images of servitude or apocalypse, much of which (he argued) is prompted by fantastic stories across literature, cinema and television. Problematising such depictions, he drew on a number of examples including Sophia the robot and Bjrok's "All is Full of Love", both which offer alternative, more complex embodiments of AI than those found elsewhere. The conference also enjoyed a superb keynote by Professor Siân Adiseshiah, entitled 'Fantastic Ageing'. Exploring how the fantastic helps those "who are underdone by the real" by embodying alternative ways of being and living, Adiseshiah drew our attention towards the "master narrative of decline" that underpins politics and culture, which renders ageing bodies as abject and as an interruption of fast capital. Fantastic narratives, she argued, provide opportunities to re-figure and revivify the ageing process and the aged body, and she illustrated this with recourse to multiple examples including the utopian artworks and performance practice of Mojisola Adebayo, and the work of Jordan Harrison.

Overall, *Performing the Fantastic in Contemporary Culture* enjoyed good attendance across the day and featured multiple lively discussions across the panels. It can also be situated as part of an ongoing conversation that continues to examine this topic. As such, a proposal for an edited collection is being worked on, to be submitted to Methuen Drama following positive discussions with editors. More information on all speakers can be found on the conference website, and via its twitter profile which features live-tweet summaries of the speakers' work.

I would like to thank both the Institute of Advanced Study and the Humanities Research Centre for providing funding support before the conference moved online. I also want to extend my gratitude to Gheorghe Williams and Bee Scott who were excellent panel chairs, and to all the speakers and attendees who contributed to the day itself.

### **Warwick Global History and Culture Centre Annual Conference:**

#### **Archaeology, Antiquity, and the Making of the Modern Middle East: Global Histories 1800–1939**

25<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. University of Warwick. Organisers: Dr Guillemette Crouzet (European Research Institute at Florence) and Dr Eva Miller (UCL)

The 'Middle East' is both a geographical descriptor and a much grander conceptual designation, associated with emerging empires, antiquity, antiquities, and the forging of modern political, religious, ethnic, and national destinies. What competing imperial, national, and transnational narratives about the present and future of this geopolitically crucial region were fed by archaeology, philology, and history? How were these emergent disciplines themselves forged through Middle Eastern contexts they purported to study? How were temporalities of modernity and progress constructed in relation to the ruptures, continuities and heuristic challenges suggested by the excavation and exegesis of traces of ancient civilisations? How did the return of the remains of the past assist Western and Eastern empires, and new Middle Eastern countries in understanding their own futures?

To engage with these questions, we convened the conference 'Archaeology, Antiquity, and the Making of the Modern Middle East: Global Histories 1800–1939' on 25–26 May, 2023 at the University of Warwick. As the annual conference of Warwick's Global History and Culture Centre, it brought together attendees with a particular interest in the Middle East, archaeology, or imperialism, with those with a broader interest in global history, history of science, or imperial or postcolonial histories.

We began and ended the conference by thinking about why a conference on one area of the globe belonged as the annual conference of a centre for 'global' history and culture. As a region so often figured as part of the 'origin' of various world historical landmarks (a 'cradle' of civilization, writing, empire, cities, art), the Middle East has often been understood as crucial to the history not just of itself, but of the *world* (or perhaps particularly European powers that considered themselves leaders of that world). Our conference explored how the Middle Eastern past has been claimed by and for the world and what has this meant for the political and national destinies of people living in these regions. A final roundtable which closed the conference 'Whose Heritage? Living with the Legacies of Imperialism, Colonialism, and Nationalism in the Middle East' explicitly critiqued the notion of the Middle East's past as 'global heritage'. All panelists worried about the erasure of local traditions and local claims to objects and site management. 'Global heritage' projects seem completely disconnected from the localities and sites they pretend to valorise and put on the global map of tourism. There is a strong discrepancy between global endeavours and local aspirations and realities. Prof. Lynn Meskell described the results of a recent study she had conducted at Penn which indicated that for almost 1,200 World Heritage sites worldwide, the inscription of global heritage had actually increased conflict rather than cooperation. Conference papers and discussion made it clear that 'contesting' the ancient Middle Eastern past took place in many arenas, including the military and political. Yet the research presented also indicated the many ways that antiquities and antiquity were marked as significant to individual and community identities, as well as to national and imperial constructs.

Speakers, chairs, and organisers came from institutions in the UK, the US, Israel, Egypt, Iraq, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. Speakers ranged from emeritus professors who have contributed foundational, agenda-setting work to current doctoral students presenting results of emerging research projects. Attendance was at about 54 registered in-person participants, with more than 30 further attendees registered online.

The conference was an unqualified success. As organisers, we were especially pleased not just by the incredibly high quality of papers presented but also by how well they cohered. Common themes were picked up across papers, without anyone stepping on anyone else's toes in terms of subject matter. Participants had submitted longer drafts in advance which contributed to the clarity of the arguments they made, and the overall quality of discussion. Discussions after each panel, during the roundtable, and informally throughout the conference alighted on a few themes that we will highlight here (in lieu of presenting mere 'minutes' of the conference; the programme below can give a sense of the full proceedings).

### **Extraction, development, preservation**

Robert Vigar and Amany Abd el Hameed contrasted British preservationist rhetoric with the reality of the 'extractivist' nature of British colonial-era archaeology. Parallels between the extraction of oil and the 'resource' of antiquities (or 'antiquity' itself, in a historiographical sense) were noted by many. Lynn Meskell and Erin O'Halloran pointed out the practical overlap between oil workers and archaeologists: sometimes, they literally shared equipment or trained each other. Fresh from a visit to Kirkuk, Eleanor Robson pointed out that archaeological sites and oil extraction sites can exist so close to one another they are virtually indistinguishable. Papers by Billie Melman and Sarah Irving demonstrated how colonial and post-colonial ideas about 'development' encompassed the development (destruction and extraction) of heritage sites. Archaeological sites were treated as a resource for development and exploitation in the efforts to bring Middle Eastern countries into modernity. Artefacts extracted from archaeological excavations have been regarded by imperial and postcolonial actors, such as Unesco, as global commodities, which are in danger of looting, but also eligible to be bought, sold, or exposed in museums and galleries. They have a value on the market, just

like oil. Global heritage sites are in some way perceived in the same vein as locales where history and monuments are 'marketable' commodities.

### **Money, value, trade**

Sarah Griswold pointed out that it is strange how often scholars overlook something that looms very large in most of our lives: money. How did people make a living from antiquities? How was the value of antiquities measured? Griswold, Nicole Khayat, and Vigar and Abd el Hameed all presented studies that showed how administrators, no less than later scholars, have often struggled to adequately determine what substantially distinguishes 'looting' from many types of archaeological extraction (as discussed above, the leading scientific paradigm for nineteenth and early twentieth century Middle Eastern archaeology). While designating objects as antiquities or 'world heritage' often made them monetarily worthless to ordinary traders (if, legally or practically they could not be traded), it also rendered them 'emotionally priceless'. And yet states no less than individuals weighed up real costs when it came to heritage. Several speakers highlighted that British colonies and mandatory powers were run 'on a shoestring'. Debbie Challis showed how the English curator-excavator Thomas Newton justified the expense for moving the stones of Halicarnassus to the British Museum by promising that they would repay the home economy, in part by inspiring British art and architecture and stimulating these areas economically.

### **Warfare and conflict**

In a sobering keynote on the first day, Lynn Meskell traced the practical, as well as ideological, imbrication of archaeology, war, and nation-building in the Middle East in the era around the First World War. Incorporating new insights from archival research in only recently available letters of T.E. Lawrence, David Hogarth and other archaeologist-spy-diplomats, Meskell revealed how archaeological and military technologies and perspectives birthed new forms of violence. Particularly striking to attendees, and much discussed, was Lawrence's advocacy of carpet bombing on Iraqi and Kurdish villages—a suggestion derived from the aerial gaze enabled by flight, a technology which simultaneously made the past visible and (so Lawrence seemed to suggest) the human cost of warfare invisible. Lynn Meskell's keynote showed brilliantly the blurry line between archaeology and imperialism, by analysing Hogarth's and his protégé's contribution to the Sykes-Picot negotiations during the First World War which carved the Middle East, around a geography of oil sites and archaeological sites. Archaeologists not only helped rewrite the Middle East past, they also forged the political future of the region and drew borders together with diplomats and heads of imperial states. Solmaz Kive's analysis of the Iran Bastan museum also showed how European archaeologists, despite their violent legacy, still loom large in the history of heritage in Iran. Built under the Pahlavi dynasty which is known for having made use of the Achaemenid past to legitimize its own rule, the museum still has galleries names after two French archaeologists, Jacques de Morgan and Marcel Dieulafoy.

As Erin O'Halloran pointed out, the use of the Middle East as a 'testing ground' for new technologies of killing is one that is being repeated today, as techniques employed in the 11-year-old Syrian Civil War have moved to the war in Ukraine. O'Halloran's study of three different modern Middle Eastern nations also demonstrated this flexibly, and the centrality of archaeology to nation-building in the aftermath of war and conflict, while Marwan Kilani's exploration of Lebanese 'Phoenicianism' showed how the concept of a Phoenician connection was a paradigm that adapted itself to different agenda in times of warfare and conflict and times of relative stability.

## **‘Local’ knowledge**

We had hoped to find scholars who were able to give us perspectives beyond, or beneath, the level of state actors, and this is where research presented at the conference had the newest insights to offer. Debbie Challis opened proceedings by showing a map of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, in present-day Turkey, as it existed in the mid-nineteenth century, offering a new way of seeing a famous archaeological site of the ‘Classical past’: as a site of Turkish homes, which were destroyed or even tunnelled into without permission by British excavators. Daniel Foliard read the (in)famous Austen Henry Layard’s popular accounts of his 1840s excavations in Nineveh ‘against’ the grain, incorporated insights from Mosul’s social history, to reveal the political practicalities that lay behind local resistance to his excavations, as well as showing just what kind of books were being written and read in Arabic in Mosul at the time about the region’s past. Nora Derbal countered the German travel writer Heinrich von Maltzan’s accounts of North African ‘disinterest’ in Phoenician antiquity by pointing out that he was denied access to ancient inscriptions precisely because a local Ottoman ruler wanted to collect and publish the inscriptions himself. Laith Shakir contested the widely accepted historiographical narrative that Iraqi interest in archaeology arose only belatedly and only in response to European paradigms, by revealing a strong and multifaceted interest in archaeological developments in Iraq in both the local and regional Arabic press. Nicole Khayat, working in part from family archives, presented a case-study of a Palestinian antiquities dealer (her great-grandfather) who conducted excavations not only to find pieces to sell, but also as a means of community building, and out of a historical-antiquarian interest in ancient artefacts. Heba Abd el Gawad spoke about her role as an ‘indigenous Egyptian’ scholar of ancient Egypt, and the contradicting demands such an identity places on her. She highlighted her weariness at having to prove repeatedly that Egyptians care about their own history. At the same time, she questioned why Egyptians should necessarily have to care about their heritage only within the paradigms laid down by European archaeologists.

Zeynep Çelik’s keynote on the second day, which looked at provincial Ottoman museums and antiquities storage, and the movement of antiquities from local sites to Istanbul, also offered a tantalising new perspective. Provincial towns created ‘museums’ within high schools, police stations, or other municipal buildings. While the Istanbul Museum might emerge as a towering edifice of imperial self-fashioning (as Solmaz Kive also showed to be the case with the Iran Bastan Museum), small provincial museums had an entirely different setting and would have been encountered in entirely different ways by the communities they were located alongside.

## **Sociability in Politics, Food and Travel in the Early Modern Era**

Dates 8-10 June 2023, Organisers Naomi Pullin and Charles Walton

### **Background and objectives**

This three-day interdisciplinary international conference aimed to explore the intersection of sociability with the themes of food, politics and travel in the early modern period (1550-1850). The conference coincided with an Institute of Advanced Studies Visiting Professorship of Dena Goodman (University of Michigan), who has devoted much of her career to studying sociability in eighteenth-century France.

The conference was open to researchers at all levels of their career and aimed to explore new insights on forms, models and practices of sociability interpreted and analysed through the themes of food, politics and travel. These constitute three of the four strands currently being explored in the new scientific programme (2023-2025) of the GIS Sociability international network. Two of these themes – food and travel (‘connecting cultures’) – fall under the ‘Global Research Priorities’ of the University of Warwick.

Historical research on sociability has been developing for several decades. It has been enriched by theoretical frameworks for understanding networks and the rise of public spheres. Sociology and cultural anthropology have been especially helpful for conceptualising how, why and the conditions under which people interact in specific ways. Recent studies of emotions – individual and collective – have thrown light on various forms of sociability. Although there is a rich literature on the topic to draw from, the aim of this conference is to home in on how sociability was imbricated in other cultural phenomena and to get a better understanding of new directions for the study of sociability in this period.

### **Outcomes**

The conference was a great success and generated much interest in the connections between sociability and political culture, food and drink studies, and trade, travel and overseas exchange. We had 50 delegates attend in total, which included speakers from France, Italy, the United States and Canada. Many members of the Faculty of Arts at Warwick (UG/PG/staff) also attended and early career speakers from the History department were especially well represented on the panels, giving them a chance to present their work in progress and develop new networks. It was particularly helpful to bring scholars of the British Isles and early modern Europe together to compare the ways in which sociability played out in different geographical contexts in this period. The conference also served as an opportunity for the Early Modern and Eighteenth-Century Centre to deepen our relationship with partner institutions in the Midlands, and we were active in promoting participation to the conference through combining it with our annual network meeting. This meant that we are able to bring together researchers from the Universities of Birmingham, Leicester, and Northampton with the wider GIS Sociabilities network.

We had numerous messages and informal comments of thanks from our delegates, who commented on the organisation of the event and the intellectual stimulation of the papers, especially the papers of our two keynote speakers from Prof. Rebecca Earle and Prof. Dena Goodman. Rebecca spoke about the inequalities and changes that resulted from colonisation and empire in connection to food, showing how food was inseparable to the colonial experience. Dena spoke about the convergence of family and friendship in learned societies after the French Revolution, drawing attention to how essential the sociability of tea was for intellectual work in this period.

Further collaboration – the conference organisers are leading the scientific strand of the GIS Sociabilities scientific programme on Sociability and Politicisation until 2025. Over the next 2 years, we will continue to organise reading groups, a seminar series and other workshops in collaboration with our partner institution at the University of Brest. We anticipate that this will lead to a joint publication on an area related to this theme.

Future funding bids – the GIS Sociabilities network was funded by a HORIZON 2020 grant; we hope to continue to apply for follow-on funding to continue the network and set a new scientific programme from 2025. There are currently plans to apply for a Horizon Funded grant connected to the theme of social, cultural and political identities, and the sense of belonging and democracies. We are also actively in conversation with members from the National Trust and delegates from other Midlands institutions about developing a Collaborative Doctoral Award through Midlands4Cities in connection to eighteenth-century political sociability. We are very grateful to the Humanities Research Centre for this funding and for their ongoing support with the activities of the Early Modern and Eighteenth-Century Centre, which enables us to develop a reputation of international excellence.

## Warwick Numismatic Day 2023 – Imitations of Ancient Coins and their Function organised in conjunction with the Money and Medals Network Training Day – 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Ancient Numismatics, the study of ancient coinage, is one of Warwick's Classics Department's research strengths. The Department is an international hub in numismatics with three staff members, experts in the field, embedding their research in the wider context of Ancient History, Classical Archaeology and Ancient Economy.

The *Warwick Numismatic Day* has been an annual event since 2010, assembling specialists, including young researchers and students, as well as members of a wider audience, such as collectors, to share and discuss papers around topics on ancient Numismatics

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/research/interests/numismatics/numismaticday/>. After a two-year break due to the pandemic, this year's workshop saw the return of the 11<sup>th</sup> Numismatic Day, dedicated to imitations of ancient coins and their functions <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/research/money-and-medals/events/>. This workshop was a milestone for two reasons.

First of all, this was the perfect opportunity to mark the move of the prestigious Money and Medals Network (MMN) from the British Museum to the Department in August 2022, an institution offering training and advice to c. 240 museums and other institutions in the UK holding coins in their collections. Therefore, organising the Numismatics Day together with the first MMN Training Day at the Department was straightforward. Campbell Orchard, a PhD student investigating the mint of Tarsus, and the new MMN officer will report on that event separately below. The other asset and hallmark was the presence of Clive Stannard as the Visiting Speaker. Clive joined the Department as an Honorary Research Fellow in September 2022. He has written extensively on non-state coinage, including imitations and the value in minor coinage in ancient economies, as well as on minting and die technology <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/intranets/staff/stannard> and hence delivered a keynote paper at both events.

### The Numismatic Day (16<sup>th</sup> June)

The term 'imitation' of ancient coins refers to coins deliberately made to resemble genuine coins; however, as opposed to fake coins, they were not produced to deceive the user. Yet, similar to forgeries, they were not made by official minting authorities. Such coins can be a source of important historical and cultural information, shedding light on issues such as local economic conditions, political affiliations, and artistic styles. Imitation coinage can be found from various historical periods and in various parts of the world, making it a fascinating area of study for numismatists and historians alike. They were mainly produced when states were unable to provide coinage, yet needed to perform transactions, typically those at the lowest level of the economic scale for daily use, with small bronze coins. The production and circulation of such coins were therefore tolerated, if not encouraged, by the official authorities.

In the past, the phenomenon of imitative coinage was studied more widely, e.g., for the so-called barbarous radiates of the third quarter of the third century AD, produced by the usurpers of the Gallic Empire, Postumus (260-268), Victorinus (269-271) and the Tetrici (father and son, 271-274). Imitations of other periods and regions were less studied, if studied at all. Such coinages were discussed at the occasion of the Numismatic Day, in three parts, on imitations a) of the Western Mediterranean, in the Republican period, and in Italy in particular, b) of the Eastern Mediterranean in the Roman Empire, and c) of the late imperial period in the West. This included seven papers by scholars from the Universities of Liverpool, Nottingham and Warwick, including three female PhD students, a proportion which is rare in disciplines related to ancient economy.

Kevin Butcher, Suzanne Frey-Kupper and Clare Rowan moderated the discussions after the three thematic blocks.

For a long time, the general view was that Republican Rome provided coinage on a regular basis to its colonies, and allies in Italy. Stannard who conducted groundbreaking research in this field was able to demonstrate that this was not the case, and that from the mid-second century BC to Augustus, a wide range of local (non-state) coinages were issued by various actors in Latium and Campania to bridge the gap of small change. His keynote paper gave an ample account of these coinages as well as of small silver obols circulating in Southern France imitating after prototypes of Carthaginian coins of the Second Punic War. Suzanne Frey-Kupper (Warwick) who has worked with Clive Stannard on imitations in the past, argued in her paper 'Imitative coinages in Italy as a prelude to Augustan quadrantes?' that the iconography of the quadrantes issued under Augustus may reflect the choice of iconographies on imitative coinage circulating Latium and Campania. In this workshop, these western imitations were for the first time, paralleled to small bronze coins from the Roman Near East. Just as the imitations from Italy, they operate by the use of hybrid combinations of obverse and reverse dies for which Andreas Kropp coined the appropriate definition 'mix and match coins'. The paper by Kevin Butcher (Warwick) 'Small coin, big implications?' discussed the wider implications of these coins, produced from the later second century AD, complemented by the contribution of Nathalia Kristensen (Warwick) on 'Imitations of Caesarea Marittima' and of Andreas Kropp (Nottingham) 'Syrian imitation coins: types, die links and attributions'. In the final part, Susan Walker (Warwick) discussed 'Usurpers and commemoratives – the importance of site finds: the Roman sanctuary of Uley and its imitations of Magnentius' Chi-Rho SALVS issues' and Naomi Rubinstein (Liverpool) presented a paper on 'Identifying Constantinian base metal copies in Romano-British coin hoards (AD 330-341) through compositional analysis with XRF', highlighting the importance of scientific analysis to understand the production and diffusion of imitations.

*Warwick Numismatic Day 2023: the lively discussion following the sections on imitations of the Ancient Near East.*

The pluridisciplinary approach of the workshop and the following discussion allowed to address a number of questions regarding the function of imitative small coins and to pinpoint directions for future research. It was agreed that more data from finds as well as rigorous die-analysis combined with metal analyses are promising tools for a better understanding of the phenomenon which helps to enlighten not only economic aspects but also question the choice of often obscure iconographic choices.

Overall, the workshop was a welcome and helpful platform to advance in this direction with Warwick and its colleagues from elsewhere who are longstanding fellow researchers, at the forefront of this research.



### **The Money and Medals Training Day (15<sup>th</sup> June)**

The Money and Medals Network (MMN) Training Day on 15<sup>th</sup> June marked a significant milestone for the network, as it was the first in-person training event since 2019. The event provided attendees with a unique opportunity to enhance their skills in coin identification, expertise currently underrepresented in the sector

due to the move towards more general curation. With experienced professionals leading the training sessions, participants gained practical knowledge and engaged in discussions on current issues and challenges in the field.

The MMN Training Day attracted a diverse audience consisting of 14 individuals from the museum sector, metal detectorists, and students. The event commenced with an opening talk by Campbell Orchard, the MMN Project Officer, who discussed the future of the network, particularly its commitment to offering training opportunities throughout the UK once again.



*Money and Medals Network: Training Day with hands on activities on coins from the Classics Department's coin collection.*

The training sessions were facilitated by Suzanne Frey-Kupper and Kevin Butcher, supported by Clive Stannard and Andrew Brown (London) from the Portable Antiquities Scheme based at the British Museum. These knowledgeable professionals guided participants through hands-on activities, imparting practical skills in coin identification and cataloguing.

In the afternoon, Andrew Brown delivered a talk on the Portable Antiquities Scheme <https://finds.org.uk/>, shedding light on its significance and impact within the field of numismatics. The talk emphasized the scheme's mission to promote the reporting and preservation of portable antiquities, highlighting the scheme's role in encouraging best practices among finders, landowners, archaeologists, and museums in the discovery, recording, and conservation of finds made by the public. This session provided attendees with a broader

perspective on the cultural and historical significance of portable antiquities and their role in elevating museum collections.

A key highlight of the MMN Training Day was the roundtable discussion, which fostered an open exchange of ideas among all attendees. The discussion primarily revolved around how the network could best support museums in the UK with their numismatic collections in the future. This fruitful conversation allowed participants to voice their opinions and share insights, ultimately helping to shape the network's future offerings and initiatives.

The day concluded with a captivating talk by Clive Stannard titled 'Dies, transfer-dies, punches, and hubs.' This presentation delved into the production process of coins, enlightening attendees about the intricate nuances involved in coin manufacturing. The talk seamlessly connected with the upcoming Warwick Numismatic Day, further enhancing the attendees' understanding of both official and unofficial currency.



*Clive Stannard, Honorary Research Fellow of the Classics Department, explaining coin technology to participants of the Money and Medals Network's Training Day.*

The Money and Medals Network Training Day held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June marked a successful return to in-person learning for the network. With a diverse range of attendees, the event provided a valuable platform for individuals from the museum sector, metal detectorists, and students to enhance their numismatic knowledge and skills. Through engaging training sessions, informative talks, and a productive roundtable discussion, participants gained practical insights and contributed to shaping the future direction of the network. The event's conclusion with Clive Stannard's talk served as a fitting segue to the upcoming Warwick Numismatic Day. Overall, the MMN Training Day was an enriching experience for all involved.

We are grateful to HRC for its support, allowing the organisation of the Numismatic Day and enriching the MMN Training Day, funded by the Royal Numismatic Society and the British Numismatic Society, by Clive Stannard's keynote paper.



## Humanities Book Launch – HRC Special Event

This year we showcased publications from Humanities academics via our Book Launch Event on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.



Sarah Wood, David James, Alison Cooley, Emma Campbell, David Lines, Chris Bilton, Clive Gray

### PROGRAMME

Alison Cooley (Classics and Ancient History)

*The Senatus Consultum de Cn. Pisone Patre* (Cambridge University Press, February 2023)

Emma Campbell (SMLC)

*Reinventing Babel in Medieval French: Translation and Untranslatability (c. 1120–c. 1250)*  
(Oxford University Press, 2023)

Sarah Wood (English)

*Piers Plowman and its Manuscript Tradition* (York Medieval Press/Boydell & Brewer, 2022)

David Lines (SMLC)

*The Dynamics of Learning in Early Modern Italy: Arts and Medicine at the University of Bologna* (Harvard University Press, February 2023)

David James (Philosophy)

*Property and its Forms in Classical German Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Carolina Bandinelli (CMPS)

*Fashion as Creative Economy: Micro-Enterprises in London, Berlin and Milan* (Polity, December 2022)

Chris Bilton (CMPS)

*Cultural Management: a research overview* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2023)

*Creativities: the what, how, where, who and why of the creative process*

Bilton, Chris, Cummings, Stephen, ogilvie, dt (2022). (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar)

Clive Gray (CMPS)

*The Changing Museum* (Routledge, November 2022)

Jane Woddis (CMPS)

*Acting on Cultural Policy: Arts Practitioners, Policy-making and Civil Society* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023).

Harry Warwick (English)

*Dystopia and Dispossession in the Hollywood Science-Fiction Film, 1979-2017* (Liverpool University Press, 2023).



Jane Woddis and Harry Warwick

## Doctoral Fellowships

This year the Centre was able to sponsor three (internal) Doctoral Fellowships. The Fellows contribute to the life of the HRC by organising a one-day postgraduate interdisciplinary conference and are given financial support for their PHD dissertation research.

This year's winners (and the conferences they will organise next year) are as follows:

Gennaro Ambrosino & Kerry Gibbons (SMLC)

[Archaeology, Psychoanalysis and Colonialism: The Return of the Repressed in European Culture in the Modern Age](#) - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Ambika Raja & Ruth-Anne Walbank (English)

[Divine Disasters: Exploring distressed landscapes in literature and theology](#) - date Spring 2024 tbc



Yue Su (Film & TV Studies) - 'Forms and Feelings of Kinship in the Contemporary World'

[Forms and Feelings of Kinship in the Contemporary World](#) - Saturday 27th April 2024

## HRC Biographical Turns Colloquium – Director’s Special Event

On 17<sup>th</sup> May, the HRC hosted a workshop at Scarman House on the theme of ‘Biographical Turns across the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences’. Speakers of all career stages came together from a variety of departments, including SMLC (French), English, History, SCAPVC (History of Art + Film Studies), Global Sustainable Development, and Philosophy. A huge range of different types of materials were under discussion. Some of these were written with explicit biographical agendas, including hagiographies of medieval saints and the biographies of eighteenth-century cultural figures authored by Philippe Sollers. Others, such as the novels of Charles Dickens and the art of Cezanne, were explored from biographical perspectives, analysing how these may enrich our readings of these works. For other speakers, biographical approaches opened up innovative pedagogical techniques in teaching languages and the place of autoethnography in film-making. We were able to explore shared themes across the disciplines, including the role of exemplarity, and in particular the blurred boundaries between biography, reality, and imagined narratives. I am very grateful in equal measure to Sue Rae for her organisation of the practical side of the workshop and to the Chairs of the sessions, Louise Bourdua, Silvija Jestrovic, David Lambert, and Phil McCash for facilitating our discussions.

Alison Cooley  
Director, HRC

## Publishing opportunities

The HRC has secured two book series showcasing the best current work in the Arts faculty.

### Warwick Series in the Humanities (with Routledge)

This series will publish the varied and multidisciplinary outcomes of the projects funded by the HRC. By definition, all conferences and seminars sponsored by the HRC are interdisciplinary, and by design such events draw from the full gamut of the Faculty’s strengths: literary, historical, linguistic, visual, philosophical; ancient and modern of all temporalities; British, European, and global. Events typically highlight the work of scholars established, new, and in training; the work itself is inflected by modes and models of thinking that show the humanities as alive, well, and intimately and intricately embedded in the wider culture.



We hope those receiving funding from the HRC (including doctoral fellowship conferences) will seriously consider publication in this series. In addition, the Series will accept proposals from the faculty community in general, with the proviso that any such proposals are interdisciplinary.

<https://www.routledge.com/series/WSH>

### Warwick Studies (with Anthem Press)

This is a new series that partners the HRC with Anthem Press, a small independent publisher offering a high-quality list aimed at the academic community. Unlike the Warwick Series in the Humanities which is explicitly inter-disciplinary, the Warwick Studies will have more of a discipline-specific focus, and thus will be marketed as Warwick Studies in Literature, Warwick Studies in History etc.

<http://www.anthempress.com/>

## Published (Routledge)

### Most recent publication

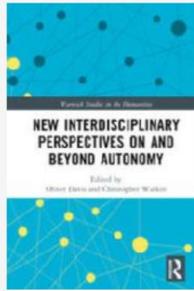
#### **New Interdisciplinary Perspectives On and Beyond Autonomy (17)**

Edited by Christopher Watkin and Oliver Davis (Warwick) December 2022

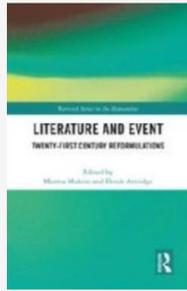
What does 'autonomy' mean today? Is the Enlightenment understanding of autonomy still relevant for contemporary challenges? How have the limits and possibilities of autonomy been transformed by recent developments in artificial intelligence and big data, political pressures, intersecting oppressions and the climate emergency? The challenges to autonomy today reach across society with unprecedented complexity, and in this book leading scholars from philosophy, economics, linguistics, literature and politics examine the role of autonomy in key areas of contemporary life, forcefully defending a range of different views about the nature and extent of resistance to autonomy today. These essays are essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the predicament and prospects of one of modernity's foundational concepts and one of our most widely cherished values.

### Other titles in the Series

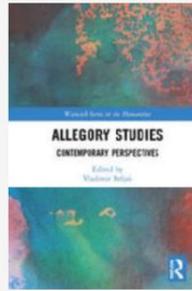
- **Classicism and Romanticism in Italian Literature: Leopardi's Discourse on Romantic Poetry (1)**
- Fabio Camilletti (Italian)
- **Rome, Postmodern Narratives of a Cityscape (2)** Dom Holdaway and Filippo Trentin (Italian)
- **Gender and Space in Rural Britain 1840 – 1920 (3)** Gemma Goodman and Charlotte Mathieson (English)
- **Picturing Women's Health (4)** Fran Scott, Kate Scarth and Ji Chung (English)
- **Knowing Nature in Early Modern Europe (5)** David Beck (History)
- **New Jazz Conceptions: History, Theory, Practice (6)** Roger Fagge (History) and Nicolas Pillai (Birmingham City University)
- **Food, Drink and the Written Word in Britain, 1820–1954 (7)** Mary Addyman, Laura Wood and Christopher Yiannitsaros (English)
- **Sing Aloud Harmonious Spheres: Renaissance Conceptions of Cosmic Harmony (8)** Jacomien Prins (CSR) and Maude Vanhaelen (Italian)
- **Beyond the Rhetoric of Pain (9)** Stella Bruzzi and Berenike Jung (Film and TV Studies)
- **Mood, Interdisciplinary Perspectives, New Theories (10)** Birgit Breidenbach and Thomas Docherty (English)
- **Prohibitions and Psychoactive Substances in History, Culture and Theory (11)** Susannah Wilson (French)
- **Archaeology of the Unconscious Italian Perspectives, 1st Edition (12)** Alessandra Aloisi and Fabio Camilletti (Italian)
- **A Quest for Remembrance The Underworld in Classical and Modern Literature, 1st Edition (13)** Madeleine Scherer (English) and Rachel Falconer (Lausanne)
- **Interdisciplinary Essays on Cannibalism - Bites Here and There (14)** Giulia Champion (Warwick)
- **Allegory Studies: Contemporary Perspectives (15)** Vladimir Brljak (Warwick)
- **Literature and Event: Twenty-First Century Reformulations (16)** Mantra Mukim (Warwick)



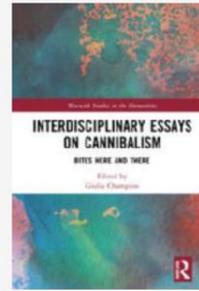
New Interdisciplinary Perspectives On and Beyond Auto...



Literature and Event: Twenty-First Century Reformulatio...



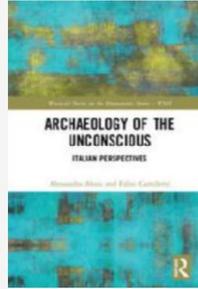
Allegory Studies: Contemporary Perspectives



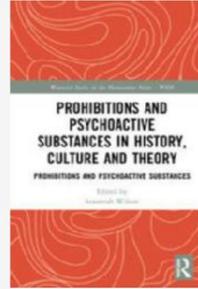
Interdisciplinary Essays on Cannibalism: Bites Here and...



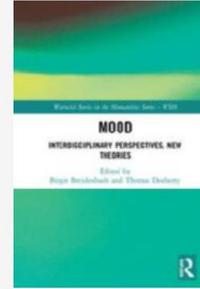
A Quest for Remembrance: The Underworld in Classical...



Archaeology of the Unconscious Italian Perspectives



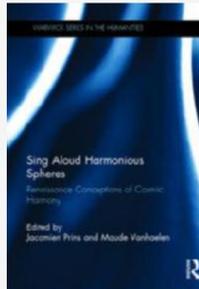
Prohibitions and Psychoactive Substances in History, Cu...



Mood, Interdisciplinary Perspectives, New Theories



Beyond The Rhetoric of Pain



Sing Aloud Harmonious Spheres: Renaissance Concepti...



Food, Drink and the Written Word 1820-1954



New Jazz Conceptions



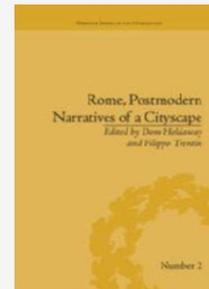
Knowing Nature in Early Modern Europe



Picturing Women's Health



Gender and Space in Rural Britain 1840 - 1920



Rome, Postmodern Narratives of a Cityscape



Classicism and Romanticism in Italian Literature: Leopa...

## Visiting Speakers' Fund

The Visiting Speakers' Fund assisted arts departments wishing to bring in high profile external speakers to Warwick:

**Professor Lynn Meskell** (Penn, USA) (see report for Warwick Global History and Culture Centre Annual Conference)

**Professor Carlo Caruso** (Siena)

The Italian section of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance are grateful to the HRC's Visiting Speakers' Fund for their generous contribution to fund Professor Carlo Caruso's visit to Warwick in October 2022. On this occasion, Prof Caruso participated in two events: a research seminar in the STVDIO series hosted by the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, and a book presentation hosted by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures.

Carlo Caruso is Professor of Italian Philology at the University of Siena, Italy. He is a scholar of Renaissance and Early Modern cultures, whose interdisciplinary research intersects textual criticism and reception, Italian Studies and Classics. His work illuminates the cultural and political relevance of ancient Greek and Roman sources for Latin and vernacular literature, the arts and scholarship in post-Classical times. He has published widely on this and related topics both in English and in Italian. He is the author of the monograph *Adonis: The Myth of the Dying God in the Italian Renaissance* (2013; 2nd ed. 2015), the editor of *The Life of Texts: Evidence in Textual Production, Transmission and Reception* (2018), and co-editor of *Italy and the Classical Tradition: Language, Thought and Poetry 1300–1600* (2009, with Andrew Laird), and *La filologia in Italia nel Rinascimento* [Philology in Italy in the Renaissance] (2018, with Emilio Russo).

We welcomed Prof. Caruso on the afternoon of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the SMLC in the Faculty of Arts Building. After meeting faculty and postgraduate students, Prof Caruso gave a talk on his recent research at the STVDIO Seminar Series (Convenors: Prof Rich Rabone and Dr Claudia Daniotti) of the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance. The STVDIO research seminars series promotes the collaborative, interdisciplinary study of the Renaissance in the UK and internationally and aims to showcase the rich variety of work that is done on Renaissance topics, both at Warwick and beyond. Interdisciplinary in nature, the series brings together scholars and students of the Renaissance across different fields, including Modern Languages, English and Comparative Literature, Classics, History, Art History, and Philosophy.

Prof. Caruso's talk was entitled 'An antique novel for modern readers: *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (Venice, Aldo Manuzio, 1499)'. Generally described as the most splendid book of the Italian Renaissance, *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* [*Poliphilo's Strife of Love in a Dream*] (1499) is an allegorical romance accompanied by woodcut illustrations and written in an unusual Latinate Italian, presenting a curious example of a story situated in an antique context and narrated as a recollection of an oneiric experience. Prof Caruso explored this narrative dimension in relation to several still unanswered questions concerning the text, such as the mystery revolving around its author and the apparently idiosyncratic nature of its language, proposing some answers. His interdisciplinary approach, vast knowledge of his field, and deeply stimulating work created a rich platform for discussion with several scholars and students of Italian Studies, Classics, and the Renaissance at Warwick. The talk was followed by a drinks reception, during which doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty had the opportunity to continue the conversation with Prof. Caruso.

On the second day of his visit, 12<sup>th</sup> October, Prof. Caruso spoke as a respondent, together with Dr Elena Giusti (Classics – Warwick) at the book presentation of *Sappho and Catullus in Twentieth Century Italian and North American Poetry* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2022) by Dr Cecilia Piantanida (SMLC, Warwick), organized by Warwick Italian Research Seminar Series (Convenors: Dr Federica Coluzzi and Dr Luca Peretti) at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures.

Going beyond exclusively national perspectives, Dr Piantanida's book considers the reception of the ancient Greek poet Sappho and her first Latin translator, Catullus, as a literary pair who transmit poetic culture across the world from the early twentieth century to the present. Sappho's and Catullus' reception has shaped a transnational network of poets and intellectuals, helping to define ideas of origins, gender, sexuality and national identities. The book shows that across time and cultures translations and rewritings of Sappho and Catullus articulate modernist poetics of myth and fragmentation, forms of confessionality and post-modern pastiche. The inquiry focuses on Italian and North American poetry as two central yet understudied hubs of Sappho's and Catullus' modern reception, also linked by a rich mutual intellectual exchange: key case-studies include Giovanni Pascoli, Ezra Pound, H.D., Salvatore Quasimodo, Robert Lowell, Rosita Copioli and Anne Carson, and cover a wide range of unpublished archival material. Texts are analyzed and compared through reception and translation theories and inserted within the current debate on the Classics as World Literature, demonstrating how sustained transnational poetic discourse employs the ancient pair to expand notions of literary origins and redefine poetry's relationship to human existence.

Prof. Caruso's and Dr Elena Giusti's responses discussed the interdisciplinary relevance of Dr Piantanida's monograph, while providing fresh perspectives on various themes, and raising several points of discussion including the history of translation in Italy, the relationship between poetics, poetry and philology, the intimate relationship between the reception of Sappho and Catullus and questions of gender and sexuality, as well as issues related to poetic voice and authority, and the relevance of the ancient classics in modern and contemporary cultures. Prof. Caruso and Dr Elena Giusti engaged in a productive dialogue with the author and with the audience, which comprised colleagues and students in Italian Studies, Classics and English at Warwick. The book presentation was recorded, and a podcast of the event produced by the Warwick Italian Research Seminar, aiming at reaching as wide an audience as possible and increase international visibility.

Prof. Caruso's visit was an invaluable opportunity for faculty and students at Warwick to engage with a leading scholar in Italian studies and strengthen our relationship with international partners. We renew our thanks to the HRC for their fundamental support in funding this visit and the two related events.

**Uki Goñi** (Argentinian Journalist)

Uki Goñi, 'The Real Odessa: How Nazi War Criminals Escaped Europe', 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Generously sponsored by the Humanities Research Centre, the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, the School of Law, and the European History Research Centre.



The large influx of fugitive Nazis and collaborators in post-WWII Argentina created an environment that normalized the presence of such heinous criminals in society and by doing so facilitated the crimes of Argentina's own genocidal dictatorship in 1976-83. "If you're a neighbour to Adolf Eichmann or Josef Mengele, or just a random German that you knew did bad things during the war, what does this do to you? It means that once these things start happening in your own country, society has acquired the habit of coexisting with evil," says Goñi. A witness to the erasure of truth as a measurable reference, of the moral decay and the normalization of violence that preceded Argentina's 1976 military coup, Goñi sees alarming parallels with the extreme views and abusive behaviour in current political discourse. The author believes the dictatorship survival skills he acquired under Argentina's military junta could prove useful in such an environment. Uki Goñi is best known for his book *The Real Odessa: How Nazi War Criminals Escaped Europe*, augmented edition, Granta Books, London, 2022, resulting in numerous appearances in documentaries on the topic by the BBC, Discovery, NatGeo and PBS. As a journalist he has written a series of

stories on human rights and the environment for the *Guardian*, op-eds for the *New York Times* and essays on authoritarianism and racism for the *New York Review of Books*. Born in the US to an Argentine family, he was raised in Dublin where he lived until the age of 21. He resides in Buenos Aires.

Uki Goñi, investigative journalist for several international newspapers of record, spoke on 15 May 2023 about the expanded edition of his book *The Real Odessa*, to an audience of 30 students and staff at Warwick. Rather than reprising the content of his book, he explained the reasons why he wrote it. He offered unique and important insights into the origins of the Argentine dictatorship in the 1970s and 1980s, recalling for example his childhood in Dublin as the son of the Argentine ambassador in the late sixties welcoming some of the military representatives who would go on to declare and wage a bitter cultural war against the left in Argentina – initiating a cultural attack comparable to the cultural wars discussed today. He traced the origins of this mentality to Nazi Germany and connected it to the role of Argentine President Juan Perón in enabling the escape of Nazis to South America at the end of World War Two. Goñi's vision thus looked back from the Argentina of the junta to the legacy of WWII while also demonstrating the relevance of exposing such public discourses today. He also explored the process of locating, accessing and divulging sources, narrating instances of lost and burned documents, and those difficult to access because of official policies. Goñi's forensic research has been used in legal trials in Argentina, illustrating the value of the ethical investigative approach that he employs. The audience was thus treated to an excellent discussion of methodology and the value of challenging prevailing policies as they influence access to materials. Questions covered the dilemma for a journalist of being called to testify in public, which for Goñi comes down to his commitment to the truth held

in concealed and hidden archives, the responsibility of the researcher in relation to individual and highly charged stories, and his future book plans.

Goñi also exchanged thoughts with a group of researchers in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, deepening the discussion about strategies for accessing archives which officialdom may wish to keep out of reach and offering his views of journalism and the problems of so-called media 'balance' in the era of 'fake news'. The conversation was an especially valuable insight, from a professional and practice-focused angle, into questions which concern academia at present, but also opened up a discussion about how they might be navigated.

### **Objectives**

The aim of this visit was to give students an insight into how to research and manage materials relating to multiple archives and contentious historical topics. It also brought together students from a variety of disciplines (Languages, Law, History, Creative Writing) with research overlaps but who may not always come together to discuss them, as well as the wider university in an exchange about research ethics. In this sense, the objectives were met. Goñi met a number of researchers working on Latin America for whom this connection could be helpful in the future, and the visit put Warwick firmly on the map of interdisciplinary scholarship in how to manage contested pasts. Goñi will also speak in London (introduced by Guardian journalist Jonathan Freeland) and Dublin, with acknowledgement of Warwick in enabling his trip. While there are no immediate outcomes, the connection should bear future fruit and is reputationally important.

### **Dr Ian Ellis (Frankfurt)**

Dr Ian Ellison (University of Kent, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main) and Dr Arianna Autieri visited the University of Warwick on 9th June 2023 and were hosted by Dr Caroline Summers (Translation and Transcultural Studies, SMLC).

There were three elements of the day:

10am-12pm: a research meeting between Ian, Arianna and Caroline, to discuss our upcoming conference on the centenary of Walter Benjamin's essay 'Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers'. The essay was the focus for the events on 9th June, and the conference is a direct outcome of our collaboration on the events described here.  
12pm-2pm: Workshop with MA and PhD students to discuss Benjamin's essay and its interpretations, led by Ian. There were 10 attendees, and anecdotal feedback was excellent.



Abstract: In Anglophone literary studies, 'afterlife' is a term often used to encompass the influence and adaptation of texts. It seems regularly to have been employed in this way since the translation of Walter Benjamin's essay 'Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers' ('The Task of the Translator'). However, Benjamin does not use a German equivalent to the English term 'afterlife' at all. This workshop will contextualize Benjamin's essay historically and within the development of his critical thought, discussing various readings of the text alongside translations into other languages. It will consider how translation choices have shaped perceptions of Benjamin's writing in different linguistic and cultural contexts. Participants are encouraged to bring along translations from any languages they are familiar with. Building on the close readings, the session will open out into a discussion of how examining the literary 'afterlife' or 'afterlives' of texts – not only in terms of translation, but also posterity, influence, adaptation – might challenge ethnonationalist literary paradigms and historical periodization, allowing for multiplicity and complexity in the description and analysis of literary relation.

4pm-5.30pm: Hybrid-format research seminar given by Ian, with Arianna as respondent. There were 9 attendees in the room and 12 online: following Ian's paper and dialogue with Arianna, there was a very engaging broader discussion.

Abstract: This year marks the centenary of Walter Benjamin's seminal essay on 'The Task of the Translator', which introduced the influential concept of the 'afterlife' of a literary text in translation. Yet closer reading reveals 'afterlife' as a productive mistranslation of what Benjamin calls 'Fortleben' (literally 'living forth'), a term lacking any sense of the mortality or decay suggested by the English 'afterlife'. Returning to and departing from the original essay, this talk will explore what the language of translation (and translation studies) can tell us about other things. It will examine this decade's ongoing obsession with modernist centenaries to consider what forms of modernism precede a modernist 'afterlife', and what theories of 'afterlife' might enable a finer description of the ongoing legacy of modernism in the twenty-first century. Carol Jacobs has noted that 'it is an error to search Benjamin's work for stability in terminology', but this is precisely why Benjamin's consistent use of the term 'Fortleben' is so significant. This talk interrogates what implications it might have for thinking about the posterity of modernist authors, particularly those like Proust and Kafka whose later work is itself preoccupied with questions of posterity, in the present age of global literary circulation and translation.

Objectives of the day were to engage PGR and PGT students from SMLC and WWP in an interdisciplinary and multilingual discussion of a foundational and complex essay on translation; to engage PGRs and colleagues with Ian's research; and to use time to plan aspects of the conference we are organising in September. All these aims were met.

The next step for this ongoing collaboration, and a direct outcome of discussions leading up to 9th June, will be our conference on 'Afterlives of an Essay', 29-30 September 2023 and hosted at the University of Warwick. We are grateful to the HRC for supporting 9th June as both an enriching stand-alone programme of events and a developmental step in these conference plans.

### **Professor Chris Rea** (British Columbia)

Translation and Transcultural Studies Masterclass 'What's Your Problem? Practical Steps for Designing a Research Project' was given by Prof Christopher Rea (University of British Columbia) at the University of Warwick on 25th April 2023. Drawing on his book *Where Research Begins: Choosing a Research Project That Matters to You (and the World)*, Prof Rea suggested three main ways to design a meaningful research project. First of all, instead of focusing on the common idea of 'narrowing down your topic,' Prof Rea highlighted the

significance of asking ‘meaningless’ questions, which were helpful to the discovery of potential research projects. Then Prof Rea invited all the attendees to participate in the ‘Change One Variable’ exercise to pinpoint their underlying research problem. This exercise was composed of five steps: 1) write out the research questions; 2) isolate the key ‘variables;’ 3) change one of these variables; 4) repeat this procedure for at least five more times; 5) rewrite the research questions, incorporating new insights or variables. At the end, Prof Rea encouraged researchers to ‘kill the acronyms’ and be welcoming, especially to those ‘non-professionals,’ for these determine whether a specific research project matters to the world. The masterclass brought considerable insights to the attendees. Yaqi Xi, a PhD student from Translation and Transcultural Studies, said, ‘Professor Rea’s seminar inspired me to see my research in a new light. Beginning with the ‘Cereal Box Challenge,’ Professor Rea reminded us that every researcher is different and encouraged us to identify in a primary source as many questions as possible but stick to those that truly interest us. There is no hierarchy of ‘importance’ or ‘meaningfulness.’ Further, by running a diagnostic test on my research question through the ‘Change One Variable’ exercise, I learned how to reformulate my question to make it more accurate, relevant, and accessible, and was able to reaffirm my position as a translation researcher in the infinite ‘Topic Land.’ As Professor Rea so succinctly pointed out, my problem is not a topic—it is my pivot.’

Following the masterclass, Prof Rea gave a seminar, ‘Don’t Change Your Husband! and Other Lessons from a New Online Archive of Early Chinese Films,’ on 26th April 2023. This event was held both oncampus and online. In this seminar, Prof Rea introduced his experience of carrying out a Chinese film classics project and his research discoveries while writing his monograph, *Chinese Film Classics, 1922-1949*. According to Prof Rea, three factors are especially crucial to the creation of a digital archive of early Chinese films— accessibility, outreach, and training. In order to make early Chinese cinema history more accessible to the English-speaking world, more than 35 subtitled films are offered by Prof Rea on together with a brief introduction of the production and personnel. Similarly, to improve the outreach of early Chinese films, Prof Rea uploaded a large number of film clips, which were subtitled by his collaborators and himself onto Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ModernChineseCulturalStudies>). Furthermore, Prof Rea highlighted the importance of training to the study of Chinese film classics, and he introduced the ways in which he invited students to join his research as well as the free online courses he offered.

In the second half of the seminar, Prof Rea focused on discussing his discoveries and the new direction of his research. Three of his discoveries regarding Chinese filmmaking, global cinema culture, and early twentieth-century Chinese popular culture were explained in detail. Firstly, the international connections of the actress Lim Cho-cho 林楚楚. Secondly, the special effects employed in *The Mighty Hero Gan Fengchi* 大俠甘鳳池 (Daxia Gan Fengchi) and *Cave of the Silken Web* 盤絲洞 (Pansi dong). Thirdly, the differences between the Norwegian subtitles and Chinese subtitles of *Cave of the Silken Web* as well as the appearance of the name of Greta Garbo in early Chinese films. As for the new direction of his research, Prof Rea introduced his current study of the representation of ‘melon’ 瓜 (Gua) in early Chinese films, its socio-cultural implications, as well as its relations to foreign films. The seminar kindled great interest among the audience, who actively interacted with Prof Rea in the Q&A session. A large range of questions were asked and answered, including the selection of the corpus, the difficulties encountered in the process of translating subtitles, and the cultural implications of several scenes.

**Dr Laura Morreale** (Georgetown, USA) (see conference report for ‘Teaching Medieval French’)

## Warwick PhD and Early Career Research Fellowships

Warwick has long-standing links with many North American universities, and to strengthen and deepen those ties the HRC instituted a Research Fellowship programme in 2013. With financial support from the CRS the HRC awarded 2 fellowships for Warwick PhD students and early career scholars to spend a short period conducting research at a variety of high-profile North American or European universities and colleges including the Newberry Library and Johns Hopkins University.

The 2 students who made their trips in 22/23 were:

**Nicolás Gómez Baeza** (History) – International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam

The research trip to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, was funded by the Humanities Research Centre's Warwick PhD and Early Career Research Fellowship. The aim was to visit the International Institute of Social History (IISH), located in the same city, for about two weeks (13 to 29 September). The reasons for this visit, as stated in the application report, were to work in the institutional library reviewing bibliographic and archival material and participate in academic activities and exchanges with academics that would provide feedback to my research project. As the IISH is a space especially focused on Global Labour History, those objectives were fully met, which will be detailed below. Overall, a perfect space to work and share knowledge in the field, with a canteen available during lunch and free coffee for all the staff and researchers.

### 1) The research at the IISH

My first day at the Institute was Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, as my arrival to Amsterdam was on the 13<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. My visit lasted until Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> September, as my return was on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The opening hours were Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm. Therefore, there were nine visits to the IISH library, collecting unpublished material and reviewing specialised bibliographies. All the tasks were simplified because of the institutional resources, such as the scan and microfilm machines, which I could use freely after my registration. It is hoped that some of the information gathered here will be used in the thesis I am writing at Warwick and for future projects that will derive from my current line of research. The detail of the material and their usefulness is the following:

#### 1.1 Labour newspapers from the Chilean Patagonia

As was the initial aim, information was collected from local workers' newspapers from the Chilean Magellanic region, which, for various reasons, are not in the National Library of Chile or other Chilean collections. These were *Adelante!* and *La Voz del Obrero* newspapers. However, another one called *El Obrero* had published issues that were not available in Chile, so the search was more fruitful than expected. Other newspapers also found in Chile were briefly checked as well, obtaining digitised PDF copies of good quality. Examples of the usefulness of these new sources, not previously quoted in labour history research, are linked to versions of the mentioned workers' newspapers expressed at the beginning of the twentieth century (up to 1912) on the mechanisms of labour disciplining or control.

#### 1.2 Marcelo Segall Rosenmann collection

Another item of interest within the IISH collections was the one of Marcelo Segall Rosenmann, a traditional Chilean social historian. The IISH has been conserving his manuscripts and collected material. The collection consists of many folders, mainly with selected press and bulletin sources from all over Latin America, with general information on labour and social history. Most of the folders reviewed are about Chile, and some others

to countries such as Argentina. The usefulness was mostly in Chilean sources. Although no sources from Patagonia were found here, there are references to the labour struggles (strikes and massacres) in the region that I am studying in my thesis in Chilean newspapers or publications of national circulation. A very unpublished source is a note from a workers' bulletin called "Potpurri", which explains a picture of the capitalist accumulation involving, among other actors like the Government, British men in the far south of Chile, and the consequent labour exploitation of local population. Therefore, the sources found here, although they were only a few details, enrich the evidence I can present in my thesis with unpublished sources.

### 1.3 Bibliography

Although digitised material was accessed through the catalogue and discussions with IISH academics, there was also a wealth of printed bibliographic material that could be scanned. The following is a brief description of the most relevant ones and how they are helpful:

- *Australia: the sheep country* (exact date not defined, estimated in the 1910s): This is a primary sourcebook describing sheep farming working procedures in Australia. Useful as an additional reference to contextualise the global sheep farming industry scenario, specifically in Australasia.
- Federación Obrera Local Bonaerense, *La Patagonia Argentina. A los hombres honrados. Pacto federal. Declaración de principios, acuerdos, resoluciones y declaraciones de los congresos celebrados por la FORA desde el año 1901 al año 1920* (Buenos Aires: La Protesta, 1922): Primary source which mainly gives accounts and impressions of what happened in the strikes of Patagonia Argentina in 1921 and 1922. Important details regarding the repression of the workers in the sheep farming industry. Additionally, there are some conclusions of workers' Congresses.
- *Abajo el Standard, vida y lucha proletariado frigoríficos* (Montevideo: Cosinlatam, 1930): Primary source providing a diagnosis by workers' organisations in Uruguayan freezing works (*frigoríficos*) about the working conditions in those kinds of establishments. It gives a perception from there and also in Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. It also sets out a list of demands, setting out a direction for improving working conditions. This source is of great interest because it places in a South American context, from the point of view of organised workers, the work in *frigoríficos*, which was also present in Patagonia.
- Arturo Frondizi, *Breve Historia de un Yanqui que proyectó Industrializar la Patagonia (1911-1914)* (Buenos Aires: Ediciones Cen, 1964): This source contains some pages which give impressions of how the British intervened in the economy of Argentine Patagonia. It can be included in the context of the presence of British capital in the region.
- Michael Mainwaring, *From the Falklands to Patagonia: the story of a pioneer family* (London [etc.]: Allison and Busby, 1983): This book can be considered a documentary source and a later interpretation of past events by the author. Of great importance, it provides information on British landowners and the manager of labour on estancias in the process of early colonisation from the end of the 19th century in Patagonia. Specific information can even be found here for use in case studies in the framework of my thesis.
- Stevan Eldred-Grigg, *New Zealand Working People: 1890-1990* (Palmerston North: Dunmore Press, 1990): Bibliography with perspectives on New Zealand's late nineteenth-century labour past, including sheep farming industry. Helpful in contributing to the general context of labour regimes in that country, forming part of the contextualisation of one of the case studies in my thesis.
- Pantaleón Olivera, *Frigorífico: crónica rebelde sobre una realidad social* (Montevideo: Orbe Libros, 2008, 2nd edition): This book can be used to contextualise twentieth-century labour realities in South American *frigoríficos*. This one, in particular, is a re-editing of the writings of Pantaleón Olivera, who gave his account of the exploitation of boys and men by foreign managers and managers in an establishment

called "Anglo". In the author's own words, it is a fictionalised account of every such establishment with characters who, in his opinion, existed everywhere. A source that should be treated with caution, however, as it reports perceptions with fiction as a component alongside facts.

## 2) Meetings during the research at the IISH

During my visit to the IISH, I also arranged a series of meetings with academics. I met Prof. Karin Hofmeester, Prof. Leo Lucassen and Prof. Ulbe Bosma. From all of them, I received feedback on my research and suggestions on possible paths to take now or later. There were different and relevant topics we addressed in our conversations. One of the most important contributions to my thesis was incorporating concepts such as "labour relations" and "labour supervisions" (from Marcel van der Linden's chapter in the *Handbook to The Global History of Work*)<sup>3</sup> more decisively into my conceptual framework of management, control and discipline of labour.

In addition, my meeting with Dr Lucas Poy, who invited me to stay at the IISH, has also helped me to generate academic links in the field of Labour History. I have had the opportunity to get to know the Latin American Journal of Labour and Workers (*Revista Latinoamericana de Trabajo y Trabajadores*), to which I have recently sent an article to be evaluated and eventually published. Another recommendation to publish in a journal linked to the IISH came from Prof Lucassen, referring to the *International Review of Social History*. With Dr Poy, we also talked about other networks of social and labour historians in Argentina, as well as new sources to use (such as the newspaper *The Standard*, Buenos Aires, belonging to the British community at the beginning of the twentieth century).

## 3) Lecture

Finally, I had the opportunity to attend a lecture on the 20<sup>th</sup> September in the afternoon, given by Inge van Hulle called "Britain and international law in West Africa: the practice of empire". It was organised as part of the IISH Seminar series. In general, the topic explored the development of some British imperial policies and practices. This is part of a global framework in which I am developing my thesis. Therefore, the point of interest was to be able to observe a work that reconstructs the development of some of these dynamics. It was also an opportunity to become more involved in the academic environment of the IISH, sharing space for intellectual discussion with doctoral students and academics there.

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<sup>3</sup> Marcel Van der Linden, "Work Incentives and Forms of Supervision", in *Handbook The Global History of Work* (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2017), 469-89.

### Sergei Zotov (CSR) – Johns Hopkins University

I spent three weeks conducting research activities in the United States during the spring season. This research trip was made possible through the HRC/CSR research award. It provided me with the opportunity to meet Professor Lawrence Principe, the director of Johns Hopkins' Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, as well as other individuals at JHU. Additionally, I consulted numerous alchemical manuscripts at the Beinecke Library in Yale.

During my time at JHU, I had the privilege of engaging with esteemed scholars in my field and sharing my ideas with them. Professor Lawrence Principe, a leading authority in alchemy, has made significant contributions to the field by demonstrating the sophisticated chemical operations involved in early alchemy. I have previously encountered Professor Principe at alchemy conferences in Gotha and Wolfenbüttel in 2019, and our research connections have endured. He has provided valuable guidance on the intricacies of my dissertation project and has given consent to review sections of it prior to submission. His expertise and broad understanding of alchemy, as well as his familiarity with the manuscripts I am working with, make this collaboration an invaluable contribution



to my thesis. I had the opportunity to visit Principe's chemical laboratory and discuss my prospective ideas for historical research utilizing modern spectrometry equipment. Furthermore, Principe offered guidance on exploring specific resources at the Beinecke Library, which I later visited before departing from the United States.

Through these interactions, I have established and strengthened my connections with various institutions in the United States dedicated to the study of alchemy. This includes the Department of the History of Science and Technology and the Department of the History of Medicine at JHU, where I engaged with graduate students and post-doctoral researchers such as Dr Alan Van Der Arendt and Dr Orsolya Mednyánszky. Our discussions revolved around my project, and they provided valuable advice on methodological approaches and the structure of my work. I also met with leading experts in the field of alchemical studies, with Dr Jennifer Rampling from Princeton University and Dr Megan Piorko, who was previously associated with the Science History Institute in Philadelphia and is currently at Villanova University. Additionally, I had discussions with Dr Elisabeth Moreau from the Science History Institute in Philadelphia to explore current developments in alchemical studies and their potential impact on and enrichment of my research.

The primary focus of my archival research was the Beinecke Library in Yale, where I accessed various copies of alchemical treatises. Of particular significance to my research were twenty illuminated alchemical manuscripts, most of which have not been digitized and are unlikely to be available in that format in the near future due to technical constraints. These manuscripts include the Ripley Scroll (Mellon MS 41), *Donum dei* (Mellon MS 52, 54, 309), *Tabula smaragdina* (Mellon MS 34), *Speculum philosophiae* (Mellon MS 55), The Twelve Keys of Basil Valentine (Mellon MS 56, 74), *Museum hermeticum* (Mellon MS 70), Book of Lamsprinck (Mellon MS 74), *Buch der Heiligen Dreifaltigkeit* (Mellon MS 74, 108), Solidonius (Mellon MS 83), *Splendor solis* (Mellon MS 86), *Germaphroditisches Mondkind* (Mellon MS 94), *Thesaurus mundi* (Mellon MS 102), Flamel's Hieroglyphic Figures (Mellon MS 103, 146), and Eleazar's *Uraltes Werk* (Mellon MS 119). Additionally, I encountered six manuscripts with technical illustrations and diagrams, which are significant for my analysis of alchemical diagrams. Furthermore, I discovered unique annotated and coloured printed copies of *Rosarium philosophorum* (Mellon MS 201, Mellon MS 202, and QD 25 D 4). Overall, thanks to the assistance of the library staff, I was able to

undertake codicological analysis, examine and capture photographs of thirty alchemical manuscripts and printed books, providing invaluable material for my research.

This research trip builds upon a longstanding collaboration between the CSR and JHU's Center for the Study of Pre-Modern Europe. It is part of an ongoing collaboration established through a Memorandum of Understanding. I believe that this fellowship has not only complemented and enhanced my thesis on a theoretical level through research collaborations and discussions but has also introduced new manuscripts that I have incorporated into my work. Additionally, I have promoted my research at the University of Warwick, as well as the online database of alchemical illustrations that I am developing on the University of Warwick's webpage. I am also eager to contribute a blog post to the HRC newsletter (SPECTRUM) and/or the Humanities Research Centre blog following the conclusion of my research trip.

Looking ahead, this research trip has yielded potential outcomes and collaborations. Dr Piorko has invited me to participate in the Scientia conference this summer (7-10 June in Prague), where we will be hosting a panel on the history of science and alchemy "Mining for alchemical knowledge and natural magic in early modern Germany" alongside Dr Sarah Lang and Dr Michael Pickering. This panel aims to delve deeper into the influences of alchemical practices and iconography across European regions and cultures, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the development of scientific thought.

Moreover, Dr Jennifer Rampling has invited me to contribute an article on the impact of Islamic alchemical iconography on European late medieval scientific treatises to a special issue of the *Ambix* journal dedicated to the history of chemistry and alchemy. Together with her, we are exploring the potential of organizing an international symposium on the transmission of alchemical knowledge between the Islamic world and Europe, bringing together scholars from various disciplines to examine the multifaceted aspects of this historical exchange. This symposium would serve as a platform for sharing research findings, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, and forging new collaborative relationships among scholars interested in the history of chemistry and alchemy.

Furthermore, as a result of my ongoing connection with Lawrence Principe, we have decided to organize a project dedicated to studying chemical stains on manuscript paper in the future. We envision establishing a research team comprised of experts in chemistry, conservation, and manuscript studies, with the goal of developing innovative analytical techniques to identify and interpret chemical residues found on alchemical manuscripts. By elucidating the materials and processes employed by alchemists, this project aims to shed light on their experimental practices and enhance our understanding of the historical context in which they operated.

In conclusion, this research trip has not only enriched my own thesis and academic development but has also paved the way for potential collaborations and future endeavours. Through participation in conferences, contributing to scholarly publications, and initiating collaborative projects, I am dedicated to advancing the field of alchemical studies and fostering fruitful collaborations among researchers interested in the history of science, alchemy, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

This successful scheme is will be open for applications in March 2024.

Details are available online: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/irf/wtf/>

## Future Events, Plans and Funding Programmes

**Conferences** including the Doctoral Fellowship winners:

[Divine Disasters: Exploring distressed landscapes in literature and theology](#) - date tbc

[Forms and Feelings of Kinship in the Contemporary World](#) - Saturday 27th April 2024

[Archaeology, Psychoanalysis and Colonialism: The Return of the Repressed in European Culture in the Modern Age](#) - Friday 17th May 2024

PhDNet and PeerNet Symposium: European and Literary Studies – 20<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Spiritualism and Italian Culture XVIII-XX Centuries - 29th/30th September 2023

Prof. Philip van der Eijk (Humboldt University, Berlin) - Public lecture and seminar - date Autumn 2023 tbc

[Locations of \(Dis\)embodied Labour in Theatre and Performance](#) - Thursday 30th November 2023 with Keynote Professor Nicholas Ridout (QM, London)

Medicine, Rhetoric and the Epideictic Across Cultures - 6th/7th December 2023

In Search of Lost Futures: Visual Media Narratives of Economic Migration in the Mediterranean – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024

[Classical Association Annual Conference](#) – 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

22<sup>nd</sup> Warwick Parish Research Symposium 'Parish Memory' – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 tbc

Collecting Antiquities in the British Isles, workshop jointly with the British Epigraphy Society, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Provisional speakers include Anna Marie Roos (Lancaster), Caroline Barron (Durham), Peter Liddel (Manchester), and Alan Montgomery (London).

## Publications in Progress

***Troubled encounters: Theory, Politics and the Present***, Paulo de Medeiros

***Territorial Bodies***, Charlotte Spear and Madeleine Sinclair

***Stanley Cavell and the Vicissitudes of Love***, Michelle Devereaux

***Rethinking Habitability***, Guido Bartolini

***Saying Nothing to Say***, Tabina Iqbal

***Homecoming After War***, Neils Boender

## Workshops

Doctoral Fellowship Competition Launch Event – November 2024 tbc

Enhancing Research Culture at Warwick – June 2024 tbc

## The Newberry Library

The HRC remains committed to Warwick's continued involvement with the Newberry Library via the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance. Each year the HRC shoulders £2,000 as part of the annual financial commitment that Warwick makes to be part of the Newberry consortium. In addition, we reserve one of the Warwick PhD and Early Career Research Fellowships to be held at the Newberry.

### Johns Hopkins University Fellowship

The HRC will continue to partner with the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance to offer a fellowship linked to Johns Hopkins University, along similar lines to the one already offered at the Newberry Library in Chicago. The fellow will be working on an early modern topic and make use of the facilities and expertise at JHU.

### Faculty Seminars – continued sponsorship to:

- Early Modern and Eighteenth-Century Centre Seminar
- Environmental Humanities Network
- Italian Research Seminar
- Institute for Southern Studies
- Parish Research Symposium [History]
- STVDIO Seminar [Renaissance]
- Warwick Workshop for Interdisciplinary German Studies
- Caribbean Studies Seminar

### Social Media and Twitter

Our @HRCWarwick Twitter account now has over 523 followers and moving forward we will continue to tweet about HRC events, programmes and funding opportunities.

### Message from the Director

The Humanities Research Centre has continued to make a huge contribution to enhancing Warwick's research culture in the Arts, Humanities, and Philosophy, in supporting researchers at all stages of their careers. As well as funding proposals from experienced academics, we have played a mentoring role in encouraging the next generation of scholars to gain experience in organizing colloquia, presenting their research, and in publishing their work. The success of our Doctoral Fellowship launch event in November, attended by 22 PGRs, led to a bumper number of applications for the scheme. This made it all the more difficult to decide on the awards, but we look forward to the colloquia next year on the themes of 'Divine Disasters', 'Forms and Feelings of Kinship' and 'Archaeology, Psychoanalysis and Colonialism'.

Our grants foster innovative research that cuts across disciplines, explicitly aiming at encouraging dialogue between students and staff across the full range of departments, research centres, and schools in the Arts and Humanities. We promote interdisciplinary research, facilitating opportunities for international collaboration, and enabling researchers to take risks in exploring new directions in the Humanities in a positive and collegial environment.

Over the last year, we have supported 14 conferences, 7 Visiting Speakers, 7 PGR/Early Career Fellows, and a Book Launch. Our activities help to nurture existing research collaborations and create new ones on an international stage. We have welcomed visiting speakers to Warwick from the US, Canada, Argentina, Germany, and Italy. Our activities have been organized by the Departments of Classics and Ancient History, English and Comparative Literature, History, Philosophy, Centre for Renaissance Studies, Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies, Translation and Transcultural Studies, and the Schools of Modern Languages and Cultures and Creative Arts, Performance and Visual Cultures, and Cross-Faculty Studies. Our events have reached hundreds of participants not just at Warwick venues, but also online. Speakers at our events have explored topics in the Arts and Humanities that push at the conventional boundaries of existing knowledge, some with pressing

contemporary relevance, but have also taken the opportunity to experiment with new ways of presenting research and creating dialogue between researchers from different disciplines.

Heartfelt thanks to Sue Rae, our Administrator, and members of the HRC Committee.

Professor Alison Cooley, July 2023  
Director  
Humanities Research Centre

### **Contact us**

For further information on the activities of the HRC,  
please contact Sue Rae:

Humanities Research Centre, University of Warwick,  
Coventry, CV4 7AL

E-mail: [HRC@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:HRC@warwick.ac.uk)

Website: [warwick.ac.uk/hrc](http://warwick.ac.uk/hrc)

Twitter: [@HRCWarwick](https://twitter.com/HRCWarwick)