



## History Today

### School of History Newsletter

## Dear Friends

Welcome back to the new term and I hope you're off to a flying start, having recharged your batteries over the Christmas break. 2018 is the centenary of female enfranchisement so it seems fitting to change our newsletter banner. On 6 February 1918 over 8 million women aged thirty and above were given the vote following decades of campaigning by suffragists and suffragettes. Throughout the year, the University of Kent will be marking the centenary with a range of interesting interdisciplinary events. And the School of History's start of year lecture in September will be given by Professor Krista Cowman, an expert on female suffrage. This edition of the newsletter has reports on the recent Research festival organised by Claire Jones and the History Society trip to Budapest, an insight into how Peter Donaldson spent his research leave and we get to hear from our new colleague Edward Roberts, who joined us at the start of the year.

*Juliette*

**Dr Juliette Pattinson**  
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## School of History Research Festival 2018

By Dr Claire Jones

The School Research Festival, held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, gathered together staff and students to discuss approaches to historical research. Rather than presenting research papers, participants at the Festival led informal panel discussions on specific research practices with the aim of sharing experiences and expertise.

In the first panel on challenging sources materials, Dr Emily Manktelow, Dr Juliette Pattinson, Dr Jasmine Kilburn-Toppin and Professor Ulf Schmidt outlined how they dealt with sources that were deeply disturbing and upsetting in content, as well as how historians can and should address material culture. The second panel, on collaborative working, included discussions from Dr Rebekah Higgitt, Dr Jan Loop and Professor Kenneth Fincham on lessons learned from running projects over a number of years with a variety of partners. Moving on to interdisciplinary perspectives, Dr Ben Marsh, Dr Karen Jones, Dr Emma Hanna and Dr Phil Slavin provided insights into some of the ways in which they have worked across historical sub-disciplines and with other disciplines including archaeologists and musicologists. In the final panel on writing and publishing, Dr Barbara Bombi, Professor Charlotte Sleigh and Professor Grayson Ditchfield talked us through their approaches to writing and publishing, ending the day with the provocative question: why don't we talk enough about writing?

Overall, the Festival was a great success. It was attended by over fifty people and the panellists' experiences generated a great deal of discussion and food for thought. Watch this space for next year's Festival!



The first panel: Dr Emily Manktelow, Dr Juliette Pattinson, Dr Jasmine Kilburn-Toppin and Professor Ulf Schmidt



The second panel: Dr Rebekah Higgitt, Professor Kenneth Fincham and Dr Jan Loop



The third panel : Dr Emma Hanna, Dr Karen Jones, Dr Ben Marsh and Dr Phil Slavin



The final panel: Dr Barbara Bombi, Professor Charlotte Sleigh and Professor Grayson Ditchfield



The School Research Festival 2018

## History Society – Budapest Trip

The History Society annual trip in January 2018 took the members of the society to Budapest. The society members got the opportunity to visit the House of Terror, and it took them through the building that was used by both fascist and communist regimes to implement their terror, where many were detained, interrogated, tortured or killed. They also visited St Stephens Basilica and climbed to the obser-



Trip to Budapest 2018

vatory to take in the views of Budapest and were given a tour round the Hungarian Parliament Building. Amongst a number of visits and excursions, including Buda Castle and Matthias Church which was the venue of several coronations, the members of the society also visited the Hospital in the Rock built into the cave system under the Castle District which acted as a hospital during the Siege of Budapest 1944-1945 and during the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, and a nuclear bunker thereafter. The Hungarian National Museum was packed with exhibitions on Hungarian history from 804 until modern times, covering events such as the Mongol invasion, Turkish occupation, and the rise and fall of communism. The students explored some of the Jewish history of Budapest by visiting the Holocaust Memorial Centre which told the story of Hungarian Jews where over 500,000 were murdered in Auschwitz. They also did some cultural activities including a night time boat cruise along the Danube, a beautiful way to see the city's landmarks. Budapest is famous for its thermal spas and baths so they visited Széchenyi Thermal Baths on their last day. The trip was a huge success, and all 37 members enjoyed the trip as they had the opportunity to explore the history of a different country, and also to form friendships with society members across the year groups.

## Congratulations!

**Congratulations to Dr Leonie James who has been awarded the Above and Beyond Award from the Kent Union!**

**Congratulations to Dr John Wills for publishing an article for the Conversation. Read the article here:**

<https://theconversation.com/snow-white-at-80-disney-may-be-flawed-but-we-are-still-in-thrall-to-its-cartoon-magic-88883>



## What an academic gets up to on study leave

By Dr Peter Donaldson

My neighbours rarely ask about my job; experience has taught them that even the most casual of enquiries can prompt a forty-five minute monologue on the iconographical complexities of Great War memorialisation. However, curiosity is invariably piqued when you mention you are on an extended period of study leave. Isn't that just another way of saying you are on holiday? No. Do you still get paid? Yes. What exactly do you do all day? Now, there's a more demanding question – and it is certainly one I have frequently torture myself with. Nominally, study leave is our chance to indulge in our passion for our subject, immerse ourselves in our research, and devote our time to writing. In reality, at least in my recent experience, it can involve waiting three hours at Bristol Temple Meads for the delayed connection to Exeter, realising too late that what Huddersfield Town laughingly calls an archive is closed on Wednesday afternoons in November, and, more often than not, staring forlornly at a blank computer screen while wondering how it's possible for our otherwise almost silent pet cat (Bowie – two different coloured eyes) to snore so loudly. Eventually, and painstakingly, my three months study leave did bear fruit and I managed to squeeze out a couple of articles which I had been meaning to write for well over a year.

The first is a study of the commemorative landscape at Brompton Barracks in Chatham, the home of the Royal Engineers. Enclosing the central parade ground at Brompton are three monuments to the Corps' war dead of the Crimean, South African and First World Wars. An examination of the lengthy and tortuous construction processes of these three memory sites not only sheds light on the shifts in commemorative practice between 1854 and 1919, but also provides some insight into the changing culture of the Victorian and Edwardian army.

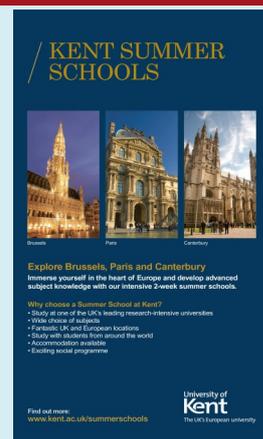
The second article represents something of a departure from my normal research focus. A visit to the recent exhibition on soccer and the services at the excellent National Football Museum in Manchester, served as inspiration for a research project looking into the impact the First World War had on the late Victorian habit of connecting warfare and sport (hence the abortive trip to the Kirklees Stadium, home of the mighty Huddersfield Town). Through an exploration of a range of contemporary literary texts, the article examines the extent to which the pre-war belief that the playing field was an adequate training ground for the battlefield managed to survive the mechanized slaughter of the Western Front.

So, notwithstanding the vagaries of South Western trains, the distraction caused by adenoidal Bowie's napping and the despondency that is a free afternoon in Huddersfield, study leave really is an enormous privilege and a hugely rewarding experience. It rekindles your passion for history, reinvigorates your enthusiasm for teaching and, even (eventually), restores your belief in the joy of writing. Thanks to the School of History for providing such a singular opportunity.

## Interested in Kent's Summer Schools 2018?

Scholarships are open to 2nd and 3rd year undergraduate students and will cover the cost of tuition, accommodation, lunches during the week, travel around Paris or Brussels, entrances and visits as part of the programme and a final dinner. The deadline for scholarship applications from Kent students for the European Summer Schools is 2 March 2018.

Details of all the Summer School courses and how to apply are available at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/summerschools/index.html>



## Dates in your calendar

**'Secret Lives Exposed: If Walls Could Talk' with novelist Sarah Dunant and historians Bettany Hughes and Suzannah Lipscomb**

International water charity Just a Drop has announced that its third annual lecture at the Royal Geographical Society will feature award-winning authors and historians, and will take place on 1 March 2018. at 7:30pm at the Royal Geographical Society in London, and will be followed by an audience Q&A led by BBC HARDTalk presenter and Just a Drop Patron Stephen Sackur.



To purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.iustadrop.org/Event/secret-lives-exposed-if-walls-could-talk>

## THE SCHOOL OF HISTORY

Spread the word – all are welcome!



### RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES FOR SPRING 2018

Week	Date	Speaker	Title
15	31 January	<b>Dr Juliette Pattinson</b> University of Kent	'A wis naebody': reconstructing British civilian masculinities in the Second World War
17	14 February	<b>Dr Ed Roberts</b> University of Kent	Bishops on the move: episcopal translation in Ottonian Europe
19	28 February	<b>Dr Jonathan Fennell</b> Defence Studies Department (DSD) - King's College London	Radical Armies: The British and Commonwealth Armies and the Second World War
19	2 March*	<b>Professor Michael Broers</b> University of Oxford <i>* This lecture will begin at 5PM in TBC</i>	<u>Centre for the History of Colonialisms Annual Lecture</u> Nuestras Indias? The European Origins of European Colonialism: The First Napoleonic Empire and a Subaltern Europe
20	7 March*	<b>Dr Felicity Henderson</b> University of Exeter <i>* This lecture will begin at 5.15PM in Tempelman Lecture Theatre</i>	<u>Centre for the History of Sciences Annual Lecture</u> The Royal Society and Early Modern Science
21	14 March	<b>Professor Richard Bessel</b> University of York	1917-2017: The revolutionary Wave and Europe's Century of Violence
23	26 March*	<b>Dr Richard Huzzey</b> Durham University <i>* This lecture will begin at 5PM in KLT5</i>	<u>Roger Anstey Memorial Lecture</u> The Abolition of Slavery: What was in it for Britain?
23	28 March	<b>Dr Zoe Hyman</b> University College London	American Segregationists and South Africa: White Supremacy and International Racism after Civil Rights

Our research seminars take place in **Eliot Lecture Theatre 2 (ELT2)** (\*unless otherwise indicated).

They begin at **4PM** on **alternating Wednesdays** (\*unless otherwise indicated) during term time.

A Q&A session and a wine reception will follow every paper.

For any questions, contact Dr Mario Draper ([m.a.draper@kent.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.draper@kent.ac.uk)).



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# Getting to Know You

## Dr Edward Roberts

### Lecturer in Early Medieval History

#### What is your area of research?

I study early medieval Europe, with a particular interest in the tenth century, which I think was one of the most formative periods of European history. For the first time we see polities which are starting to resemble countries like England, France and Germany as we know them, and it's a critical time for the institutional development of the Latin Church. This was a fast-changing world, but the nature and causes of these political, social and cultural changes are hotly debated. I'm interested in trying to understand how the attitudes and innovations of this era set the stage for Europe's subsequent 'take-off' in the later Middle Ages.

#### Where did you study?

I did my BA and MA at the University of Manchester and then ventured north of the border for my PhD at the University of St Andrews.

#### What made you want to become a historian?

I suppose I'd say my teachers. I enjoyed history in school, and one of my teachers told me that I'd get a lot more out of university if I chose a subject I really liked. As an undergraduate I became very interested in what happened after the Roman Empire, and I was inspired to continue studying early medieval history as a postgraduate. But I wasn't at all confident I'd be able to make a career out of it, so I'm delighted to still be doing this!

#### What do you love about teaching?

Teaching medieval history is great because it's very easy to show students the materials the 'pros' have used to write their books, and then to get them thinking about alternative interpretations or explanations. The early Middle Ages are particularly notorious for being 'source-poor', but I think the period offers superb intellectual training, because the nature of the surviving material compels students to think very hard about what our evidence can (and cannot) tell us.

#### How are you finding being at Kent so far?

I'm very much enjoying it! Everyone in the department has been extremely helpful and friendly, and my students working on Anglo-Saxon England this term all seem eager to get stuck in.

If you have a news item, an upcoming event, or simply an idea for something you'd like to see in the next issue of this newsletter, please get in touch with Valeria Radu on [v.radu@kent.ac.uk](mailto:v.radu@kent.ac.uk)



#### Tell us an interesting fact about yourself:

I'm quite into beer and recently started brewing my own. Anyone interested in sampling my next brew should let me know!

#### Where's your favourite place in the world?

Probably where I grew up, which was near Denver, Colorado. Although I was born in the UK, Colorado will always be home to me and I go back as often as I can.

#### What's your favourite book?

Blood Meridian by Cormac McCarthy. It's a bleak, harrowing 'anti-western' set in the southwestern US around 1850. It's a challenging read in many respects, but also extremely poignant and thought-provoking.

#### What's your favourite film?

I'm a huge sci-fi fan, so I'm going to say 2001: A Space Odyssey. It's endlessly fascinating and still the film all science fiction epics are measured against.