



History Today

School of History Newsletter

Dear Friends

This has been an interesting month! While spring has finally sprung, the sun is out and the daffodils are in flower, the snow caused excessive disruption barely two weeks ago. The University closed and teaching events were cancelled. I myself spent a miserable four hours getting only as far as one junction past Canterbury on the M2 and missed out on teaching our Masters students at our Paris campus. We have also had an extensive period of industrial action, called for by the University and Colleges Union (UCU), which has affected most universities across the country. As anticipated a considerable number of History staff observed the strike and lectures, seminars and supervisions were cancelled. Some of you may have experienced quite severe disruption, while others less so. There will be more information coming to you about that next week. This will be the first week where there are no strike days, although many staff will be participating in action short of a strike known as ASOS where they work to contract. This month is also Women's History Month and the School will have an intermittent blog which showcases women who have been actively involved in past industrial action. In this newsletter, we have a report about a recent School trip to Waterloo and a getting to know you with Katja Schmidt-Mai, our newest member of the team.

Best wishes,

Juliette

Dr Juliette Pattinson
Head of the School of History

Trip to Waterloo

By Megan King

As someone who had very little knowledge of the Napoleonic Wars prior to visiting Waterloo, my experience there was eye-opening, to say the least. In my native Pennsylvania, students of history are predominately instructed on topics relating to Native Americans, the Imperial Crisis of the American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement. My only previous connection to the 20-year conflict in general was through a fifth-grade lesson on the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, where we learned of the bombardment of Fort M'Henry and Francis Scott Key's penning of *the Star-Spangled Banner*. In fact, to add to my shame, the earliest I can recall gaining any insight into the legend of Napoleon Bonaparte was through the Ben Stiller film *Night at the Museum*. On the bright side, the narrow scope of American-centric history made me all the more appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the Age of Revolution project.

Our journey began with a visit to the Ambulance Museum of Mont Saint-Jean, which fabulously illustrated the absolute brutality of the Battle of Waterloo. The exhibits we visited emphasized a sense of humanity within the battle. The people involved in this decisive battle were not just soldiers, they were fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons who battled in grimmest of conditions. Many met violent ends and those who were lucky enough to survive were often left mentally and physically damaged. After this humbling introduction to the engagement, Dr. Tim Bowman provided an extremely insightful talk to set the stage for the next day's battlefield walk. Discussing the military strategies exercised by both sides as well as the weaponry utilized, the Age of Revolution crew was thoroughly prepared to visit the scene of the crime.

After a fueling up with a plate of dumplings and a good night's sleep, we took on the 1815 Memorial Museum, la Butte du Lion, and Hougoumont. Honestly, I could have spent the entire day exploring the Memorial Museum alone. The materials were so well presented and the artifacts were so well curated that I spent half of my time marveling at the layout of the museum and half of my time surveying the actual items it houses. The next step, or steps I suppose, 225 of them to be exact, was visiting the Lion's Mound. Not only did I realize how out of shape I am, I also came to fully realize the extent of the catastrophe at Waterloo.



Trip to Waterloo, 8-11 February 2018



1815 Memorial Museum

Standing on top of the Mound, I was able to look out, recalling Dr. Bowman's illustration of the battle, and truly appreciate the efforts and the tenacity that both sides brought to the table during this immense clash. Afterward, a short stroll to Hougoumont provided the group with an intriguing and endearing account of Britain's successful endeavor to prevent the property from falling into Napoleon's hands. As a historian with rather limited experience but quite high interest in military history, I was baffled by the fact that some 26,000 troops engaged in the fight for Hougoumont and its surrounding area. To say that the second day of our excursion left an impression would be an absolute understatement.



talk by Dr. Ambrogio Caiani

Our last full day in beautiful Belgium started with a talk by Dr. Ambrogio Caiani at Napoleon's headquarters. If it hadn't been for the excruciatingly windy conditions, I could have listened to Dr. Caiani discuss the location and its significance all day. After a quick pit stop to warm up with a cup of tea, we headed back to utilize the meeting rooms at the Memorial Museum, hearing several fascinating sessions on sources and objects and how these materials can provide substance to any lesson in revolutionary history. Speakers such as Arthur Burns and several University of Kent ambassadors enlightened us on not only how to access these resources, but additionally how to take advantage of physical items and allow them to bring history to life for students. To conclude a wonderful weekend of exploring, the group headed to the National Army Museum in Brussels where we were able to freely roam through the exhibits, exploring the history of the Belgian military. After such an informative weekend, I genuinely cannot believe how little I knew about the Napoleonic Wars a few days prior, and I am excited to continue learning about the conflicts independently.



Dr. Tim Bowman's tour

As a former primary school teacher, I really appreciate that the project provides educators with the tools necessary to better understand this era of history as well as to present the material in a way that fully engages a younger audience. I enjoyed the fact that the trip was inclusive of those with a minimal understanding of the Battle of Waterloo in addition to those with extensive knowledge of the historical significance. Not only were the organizers of the trip always willing to provide a deeper background into the unfolding of the events, the museums and monuments we attended as a group were accessible and very well assembled. After a brilliant weekend of networking, meeting fellow historians, and hearing about the specific historical interests of others, I can confidently say that the opportunity to work on the Age of Revolution project as a PhD student at the University of Kent is an absolute privilege.

Women's History Month

In 2018 International Women's Day (8th March) has arrived in the midst of the Universities and College Union's industrial action in defence of your lecturers' pensions. As such, we in the School of History felt it would be a good time to reflect on the role of women in industrial and political action through time. Women have often been active members of such actions, and in this the centenary year of female suffrage (for some) in the UK, it is a good moment to pause and think about the women of the past and their campaigning, suffering and triumphs in the face of oppressive power structures. Women of the past can inspire us all – men, women and trans-persons of the present – to campaign for what we believe in, speak truth to power, and win rights for ourselves and others. To quote from the Mary Poppins song 'Sister Suffragette':

*Cast off the shackles of yesterday!
Shoulder to shoulder into the fray!
Our daughters' daughters will adore us
And they'll sign in grateful chorus
"Well done, Sister Suffragette!"*

The School of History will be releasing relevant blog posts, written by your very-own lecturers and tutors here in the School, throughout March. Please see [here](#) the first post on the topic of the Women's War in Nigeria, 1929. Over the ensuing days and weeks, keep an eye on the blog and your email for further posts as we celebrate the role of women in history, and the role of political and industrial action in gaining and protecting workers' rights through time.

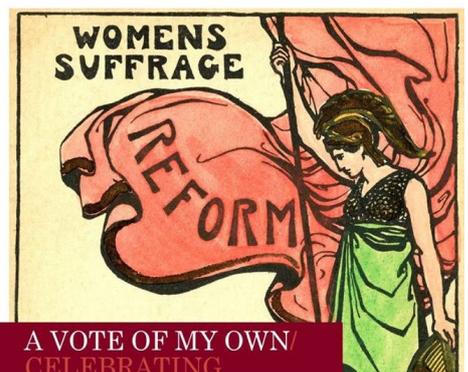
Dr. Emily Manktelow
(Acting EDI Officer, School of History)

Invitation to A Vote of my Own: Celebrating Women's Suffrage in England

To celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage this year, the Centre for Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Kent is pleased to invite you to a one-day celebration, 'A Vote of My Own: Celebrating Women's Suffrage in England'.

The event will be held on Saturday 24 March 2-6pm at the University of Kent in Grimond Lecture Theatre 3.

The event is free and open to all. Please register for a ticket via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-vote-of-my-own-celebrating-womens-suffrage-in-england-tickets-42311875960>



A VOTE OF MY OWN/ CELEBRATING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN ENGLAND

Saturday 24th March, 2-6pm
Grimond Lecture Theatre 3, University of Kent, Canterbury

A one-day event to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage organized by the Centre of Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Kent

The event will be opened by Rosie Duffield MP
Keynote speaker: Dr Anne Logan (School of History, Kent)
Roundtable: Prof Wendy Parkins (School of English, Kent), Dr Laura Schwartz (History, Warwick), Dr Chloe Ward (History, Queen Mary), and Dr Clara Jones (English, King's College London)

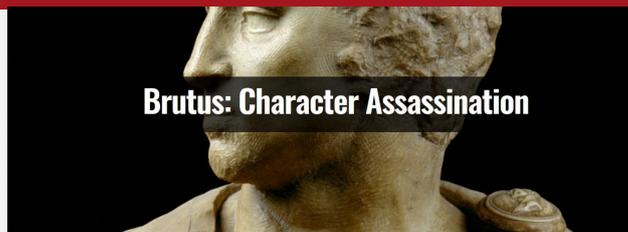
The day will conclude with a wine reception.
Free and open to all. Booking required: <https://go.on/a7b96x>

Further information:
Organizers: Jessica Gray and Raquel Garcia-Cuevas Garcia
E: englishvents@kent.ac.uk
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University of
Kent

Dr Kirsty Corrigan writes for History Today

Dr Kirsty Corrigan has contributed the cover article to the latest edition of *History Today* magazine, March 2018, entitled 'Brutus: Character Assassination'.



Launched in 1951, *History Today* is a monthly magazine dedicated to bringing history to a wide audience. Its circulation is approximately 18,500 readers.

Kirsty's article argues that Marcus Junius Brutus (85–42BCE), the conspirator behind the assassination of Julius Caesar (100–44BCE), did not always act for moral principles or for the benefit of the Roman Empire, as is usually portrayed.

The edition of *History Today* is on sale now, and full article is available [here](#) with an online subscription.

AHRC PhD Studentships

The University of Kent and The British Library invite applications for **two fully-funded PhD studentships** to work collaboratively between Kent and the British Library. Both studentships will be co-supervised by Dr Amy Blakeway, lecturer in British History, 1480-1620 at the University of Kent, and by Dr Andrea Clarke, Lead Curator of Medieval & Early Modern Manuscripts at the British Library. Manuscripts held at the British Library, notably the Cotton Collection, will be central to these projects, and the research will contribute to the major British Library Exhibition on Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots, planned for 2020. We anticipate the projects will be shaped by the students' archival findings and intellectual interests, and welcome project proposals within the broad areas identified or any excellent and innovative research proposals in these areas. These are both full-time studentships, which are funded for three years at standard AHRC rates, which will begin on 1 October 2018, and will be based at the British Library in London and the University of Kent's Canterbury campus. Please note that suitably qualified applicants may wish to apply for both studentships.

PhD Studentship: Anglo-Scottish relations in the early sixteenth century, c.1500-1560

Funding available – full AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Award. Deadline for applications: **Tuesday 8 May 2018** (12:00 midday GMT) For more information and to apply see the [University of Kent's scholarship pages](#). Informal enquiries about this collaborative project can be sent to Dr Amy Blakeway: a.i.blakeway@kent.ac.uk

PhD Studentship: Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots, 1560-1587'

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Kent Student Awards 2018

The Kent Student Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution students make to the student experience at the University of Kent, and both individual students and student groups can be nominated. Winners will receive their awards at a gala dinner, and win a brick in the "Footsteps Path" and a recognition of their achievement on their Higher Education Achievement Report.

There are 11 categories for nominations, which can be seen on the Kent Student Awards website. For more information and to submit a nomination, please visit the Kent Student Awards website: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/student/kentawards/>. Nominations are open until **Friday 6 April 2018**.



Kent Alumni Pub Night - March 2018

The Alumni Pub Nights series is Kent's social and networking series for alumni and students. The next Pub Night will be on Tuesday 27 March with the theme of career advice and mentoring. We'd love you to see you there to catch up on news from Kent and socialise with current students and fellow alumni.

The University of Kent's Careers and Employability Service will be joining us to talk about what help they can give students, staff and alumni and how the mentoring platform, KEW-NET, could be of use to you.

This is also a great opportunity for students to come along to find out upcoming graduate careers fairs and work experience opportunities.

- * Miller's Arms in Canterbury on Tuesday 27 March from 18.00 - 20.00. First drink and nibbles provided. [Please register here](#).

Spend the summer at one of our partner universities!

Attending a summer school overseas is a great way to experience another culture, gain a global perspective, enhance your studies and make friends from around the world.



The University of Kent is offering students the chance to apply for a [financial award for up to £1000](#) to attend summer schools in certain countries. You can find a list of eligible institutions [here](#). The deadline to apply is **31 March 2018**.

Getting to Know You

Dr Katja Schmidt-Mai

Taught Programmes Coordinator

Describe your role within the school

I am one of the Taught Programmes Coordinators in the School of History alongside Amy.

My role includes the day-to-day administrative tasks as well as helping students with any queries regarding their studies and supporting academic staff in the School.

Tell us about your career so far

I have studied Art History, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History in Germany, where I successfully obtained a Master's degree. I moved to Britain to work as a Research Assistant at Birkbeck College London for the National Inventory Project. This work and research experience sparked a greater interest in Art History and the History of Photography and was followed by a PhD at the University of Sussex. I have taught Art History at Kent's University Centres in Tonbridge, Medway, and at the Canterbury Campus.

What's your favourite part of your job?

I have just started the position, and I really enjoy it! It is a nice experience to be working as part of a larger team and be supported by everyone. I am also enjoying to get a look behind the scenes of the administrative organisation in the School of History.

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



Tell us an interesting fact about yourself:

I always found marionette or puppet theatre interesting, therefore I use every excuse to accompany my son to the Gulbenkian.

Where's your favourite place in the world?

I very much like to go to Denmark as there are lots of fabulous beaches, and also you can admire some modern art works at the Louisiana Museum in Humlebæk.

What's your favourite book?

It has to be Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*.

What's your favourite film?

Given the historical context I would say "The Monument Man".