



History Today

School of History Newsletter

Dear Friends

This time of year gives us an opportunity to reflect on the previous 12 months. This has been a busy and successful year for the School. We were awarded Athena SWAN Bronze, making us just one of eight History departments in the country to hold one. Myself and two colleagues who led on this, Drs Amy Blake-way and Emily Manktelow are looking forward to going to the awards ceremony next month in *Swansea* (where else...?!?) We've welcomed new colleagues to the School (Medieval historian Dr Edward Roberts, Military historian Dr Mario Draper, Katja Schmidt-Mai and Amy Harrison on reception and Amanda Butler, my PA, who's the subject of our 'Getting to know you' feature) and welcomed back a colleague from maternity leave (Dr Suzanna Ivanic, an early modern Europeanist). We shall welcome three new colleagues this summer who will contribute much to the Faculty Centres of American Studies and Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Drs Aurelie Basha, Erik Mathisen and David Rundle) and are currently advertising for two new posts, a lectureship in Medieval History and one in Imperial History. We say farewell to a number of colleagues: Drs Stuart Barker and Stuart Palmer who have been fantastic additions to the teaching team, Drs Aske Brock and Liam Haydon who have been working in the Centre for the Political Economies of International Commerce, Dr Will Pettigrew who takes up a Professorship at Lancaster, Dr Phil Slavin who is going to Stirling as an Associate Professor in Medieval & Environmental History and Dr Emily Manktelow who has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Imperial and Global History at Royal Holloway. A number of books have or will come out this year including Dr Mario Draper's, Prof Kenneth Fincham's and Dr Emily Manktelow's. Our postgraduate students continue to excel and we've seen 5 Ph.D students and 3 MA by Research students complete since January. Undergraduate and taught postgraduate students have enjoyed a number of trips with academic staff. And we held the inaugural School of History dinner.

As of 1 August, I'll be on study leave for a year and Dr Karen Jones, our current Deputy Head, has been appointed Head of School. She will be working closely with her Deputies, Drs Tim Bowman and Ben Marsh.

I wish you all a relaxing summer and see you upon my return in 2019/20!

Best wishes,

Juliette

Dr Juliette Pattinson
Head of the School of History

School of History
 Rutherford College, University of Kent
 Canterbury, CT2 7NX
 Email: history-office@kent.ac.uk

Gateways Project investigating Zeebrugge Raid of 1918

By Zoe Denness

Professor Mark Connelly is working with a team of volunteer researchers on a project investigating the ways in which the Zeebrugge Raid of 1918 was presented to the British people. The team is researching and recording data from material published in British newspapers, local and national, at the time of the raid and during the 1920s and 1930s. Mark and several of the volunteers spent a week at the British Library during June undertaking research, while other members of the team worked remotely via the online British Newspaper Archive.

The project aims to investigate a number of issues, including the extent to which the British press may have exaggerated the success of the raid, how and why it went on to become a 'highlight' of the war in the 1920s and 1930s, whether any particular parts of Britain, such as port towns, felt a stronger connection with the raid than others, and how the many memorials, images, museum presentations, books etc. about the raid were interpreted by the press. It follows on from a similar successful collaboration with community researchers in 2017, investigating battlefield tourism during the 1920s and 1930s, which drew very positive feedback from participants, who reported gaining new knowledge and skills as well as personal satisfaction from being involved in the project.

The project is sponsored by the AHRC-funded Gateways to the First World War public engagement centre. The outcomes of the research will be published later this year. Details of the 2017 project can be found at <http://www.gatewaysfww.org.uk/projects/visiting-and-revisiting-western-front-1919-39>.



The British blockships HMS Thetis, HMS Intrepid and HMS Iphigenia in the mouth of the Bruge Canal at Zeebrugge. © IWM (Q 49164)

Research Prize awarded to PhD student

Congratulations to PhD student Daniel Belteki, who has been awarded the Humanities Postgraduate Research Prize 2018.

The prize is based on his track record of achievements while at Kent, which includes completing a student internship at the Royal Museums Greenwich, providing assistance with research projects such as Dr Rebekah Higgitt's Transit of Venus 1874 digitization project, organising the School's Postgraduate Research Seminar Series this year, and his role as assistant to the Book Reviews Editor for The British Journal for the History of Science, amongst other achievements.

Daniel studies as part of The Centre for the History of the Science (CHOTS). His research focuses on the history of the Airy Transit Circle of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich - the astronomical instrument that defined the Greenwich Prime Meridian. Congratulations Daniel!

Athena SWAN Success

By Dr Amy Blakeway



In the last newsletter Juliette shared the exciting news that in April the School won an Athena SWAN bronze award. Many of you will have heard of this, and lots of you have helped us achieve this by providing us with the information we needed - filling in surveys or perhaps participating in focus groups, so many thanks! However, in case you haven't heard of it, Athena SWAN is an award which is open to Universities, and to Departments and Schools within them, to encourage work on equality, diversity and inclusivity. Originally, Athena SWAN was designed to address the low numbers of women in STEM research, but now it has spread out to encompass other subjects and, increasingly, the other protected characteristics. This isn't just about women: it's about making a better environment for *everyone* to work and study.

We've got the first of three levels of award – Bronze – and now have Silver to work towards in three years' time! Having a Bronze Award might not sound very impressive, but it's no mean feat to have one – only 53.9% of applications are successful. In fact, we are one of only eight History departments nationally to have won an award: King's College London, Queen's University Belfast, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Exeter, Essex and York are the other seven. We are also the first school in the Faculty of Humanities to achieve an award. History at Kent is really helping to lead the way!

The application was a 10,000 words long analysis of every aspect of life in the School. This is the length of an academic article, and it really helped the members of the self-assessment team (including our three hardworking student reps) to get to grips with where we are in comparison to other History departments nationally. For example, we have a good overall proportion of women professors and other academic staff, but we under-recruit women to our Undergraduate, Taught MA and Postgraduate degrees compared to national averages. For Bronze, the process has been about recognising where we can improve and making a plan to do so: when we go for Silver, we will have to show that we have done what we promised and made some positive changes.

To help us improve in the areas where we could do better, we have produced a 35 page action plan filled with suggestions such as networking days for potential applicants to MA programmes, and a new Gender and History lecture which will be given every year by a female academic or an academic with a non-binary gender identity. We are also organising some outreach days with local schools, giving them opportunities to learn about more diverse kinds of history than the National Curriculum allows. We have started with Women's History and Black History but are looking forward to expanding this. Please keep an eye out for initiatives – and carry on helping us by filling in the follow up bi-annual surveys so we know what works and what we need to change.

The application and the action plan will soon be on the website for everyone to see. The new Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity committee will be looking for new student reps in the autumn but our meetings are open to all staff and PhD students to attend. Please do make contact with your reps or come along and make suggestions: we are excited to begin our programme of events and initiatives and hope everyone will get involved!

Highlights of the Year 2017/18

The School exceeded its undergraduate student target for 2017/18 and we welcomed Freshers to the School in September.

In September a team of historians (Dr Emma Purce, Dr Emily Guerry, Dr Juliette Pattinson, Dr Emily Manktelow, Dr Amy Blakeway) from the School of History ran a women's history event at Bromley High School. Eighty five 16-18 year-old pupils from other local schools (Bonus Pastor School, Chislehurst School for Girls, Bullers Wood School & Sutton High School) attended.

Back in October, the School teamed up with Special Collections to hold a pop-up exhibition for Black History Month, which showcased some of the Templeman Library's rare materials. Dr Emily Manktelow gave a short talk on her research on Cecil Majaliwa, an African pastor-missionary who trained in Canterbury for a year in the mid-nineteenth century.



Dr Emma Purce, Dr Emily Guerry, Dr Juliette Pattinson, Dr Emily Manktelow & Dr Amy Blakeway held a Women's History Event at a local school pupils

Students embarked on trips to Waterloo, Milan, and the Historic Dockyard in Chatham, whilst the History Society visited Budapest.

PEIC's Aske Brock was awarded a highly prestigious Carlsberg Foundation grant worth c. £156,000. The title of his grant, which grows out of the Leverhulme project, is: "Women and the company: Female agency in global trading companies, 1600-1800".

The School Research Festival, held in January, gathered together staff and students to discuss approaches to historical research. Participants at the Festival led informal panel discussions on specific re-search practices with the aim of sharing experiences and expertise.



Students embarked on trips to Waterloo (left) and Milan (right), amongst others

Congregations 2018

This year's congregations for the School of History are to be held on Friday 20th July at 10.30am.

This will be followed by our annual Graduation Party from 2.00-4.00pm on the Senate Lawn, where afternoon tea and Pimms will be served!

We look forward to congratulating with this year's graduands, and hope to see you there to celebrate with our students and their families.



Academic exhibits work in British Academy festival

Research from the Centre for American Studies academic Dr John Wills featured in the first-ever British Academy (BA) festival of ideas, showcasing the impact of its research funding.

Dr Wills was one of only 15 academics nationwide to be included in the BA's Summer Showcase, which ran from 22-23 June in London. His exhibition, *'Playing Cowboys and Criminals: Videogame Depictions of the Frontier and Urban West'*, focused on his research exploring the depiction of America in videogames from the 1970s onwards.



Great News

- Two of the Centre for the Political Economies of International Commerce post-doctoral members have recently been awarded Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships! Dr Edmond Smith (at Edinburgh) and Dr David Veevers (at Queen Mary). This means that six PEIC members have now achieved prestigious follow-on posts.
- Congratulations to Dr Mario Draper who has secured a Lectureship in Military History here at the School of History. He will be taking the lead on our new distance-learning MA in Military History.
- Congratulations to Dr Amy Blakeway and Dr Andy Cohen who have both been promoted to Senior Lecturer, and to Dr Barbara Bombi who has been promoted to Professor.
- Congratulations to Dr Emily Manktelow who has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Imperial and Global History at Royal Holloway. She has led on the TEF and was a key part of the Athena SWAN SAT in her role as Deputy Chair, and we'll be very sad to see her go however wish her all the best with her new position.
- Congratulations to Justine Cook who passed her viva on 11th June with minor corrections. Justine's PhD is titled 'Constructing Britain's road network: the scientific governance of British roads and their users, 1900-1963'.
- Congratulations to School of History alum George Hay – he was announced as runner up for the Best First Book prize at this year's The Society for Army Historical Research Templer Prize ceremony, for his book 'The Yeomanry Cavalry and Military Identities in Rural Britain, 1815–1914'. What a fantastic achievement!

MEMS Festival 2018

By Angela Websdale, PhD Candidate and MEMS Fest Co-Organiser

Now in its fourth year, the MEMS Festival is a two-day celebration of all things Medieval and Early Modern and topics covered include the study of religion, politics, history, art, drama and performance, literature and domestic culture. Organised by postgraduate students, this year welcomed a record number of attendees from as far afield as New York (Ithaca College), Pennsylvania (University of Pennsylvania), Norway (NTNU University), and Russia (Lomonosov Moscow State University) making MEMS Festival 2018 truly international!

Sponsored by CHASE and the Schools of English and History and of course by the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) this year's Festival featured papers that brought together scholars from a range of disciplines, academic schools and institutions which fostered conversations and created a sense of community for all. Always popular, this year's workshops were truly interactive and featured 'Pens and Pigments: A Practice Based Workshop' which was a hands-on practice-based manuscript workshop led by PhD students Hannah Lilley (MEMS) and Cassandra Harrington (MEMS). Our own Dr Ryan Perry (MEMS) engaged us with a workshop from the Cultures of Performance Research Cluster and examined the problems inherent in punctuating Medieval texts and asked, do modern applications of punctuation alter the reader's experience? Our wonderful colleagues at Special Collections in Templeman Library offered the opportunity to explore some of their Early Modern printed materials and a 'behind-the-scenes' look at their new storage facilities in the basement of Templeman, and 12 broadswords were used for the HE-MA (Historical European Martial Arts) demonstration! An amazing 57 papers were delivered covering a diverse range of topics such as snail water (who knew there was such a thing!), the graffiti of Rochester Castle, the male homoerotic audience in Renaissance theatre and the commemorative ceramics of Charles II. Phew! We're already looking forward to MEMS Fest 2019!



Workshops included 'Pens and Pigments' (left) and 'Do modern applications of punctuation alter the reader's experience?' (right)

Getting to Know You

Mandy Butler

PA to the Head of School

Describe your role within the school

I am Personal Assistant to the Head of History. This position entails providing full administrative and secretarial support to, not only the Head of History but also the Deputy Head and School Administration Manager.

Diary organisation and the organisation of meetings are key elements to the role. Ensuring the right people get to the right meeting at the right time can be a taxing task, so getting to know the way the staff and the Department work is essential.

I am also the Events Co-ordinator for the Department. This involves organising events within the department including the Graduation Day which must go without a hitch to ensure the reputation of the Department is upheld.

Tell us about your career so far

I moved to England from South Africa in 2002. After a number of temporary assignments I took up a position as Administration Assistant to the International Deputy Director at Canterbury Christ Church University. This involved working with many international students and ensuring that they were able to make the most of their studying in the UK.

In 2009 I was offered a position as Office Administrator with Huyck Wangner an international engineering company, until being made redundant.

What's your favourite part of your job?

No day is the same! Being a person who likes to be organised and know exactly what is going on, starting in this position has been quite a challenge, but one which I am enjoying. It is always very satisfying to see an event or function you have organised run smoothly and achieve the required aim.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself:

Born in South Africa I have always enjoyed outdoor life and the countryside. One weekend adventure that stands out was White water rafting on the Tugela River whilst the river was in flood. It took a good few days for my legs to stop 'wobbling'!

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 Sam Crooks (slmc@kent.ac.uk) or Valeria Radu (v.radu@kent.ac.uk).



Where's your favourite place in the world?

The Klein Karoo on the southernmost part of the Karoo, which covers the majority of the interior of South Africa. The Klein Karoo is a desolate place with dramatic passes and outstanding landscapes, home to sheep, ostriches and 'tumbleweed'. It takes me back to my Afrikaner heritage. More recently it has started to become a tourist destination for visitors on their way through the Garden Route to Capetown.

What's your favourite book?

'Trust Me' by Lesley Pearse. The book is based on the true story of two orphaned sisters who are sent to Australia for a better life. The story tells how the sisters look after each other and find that the words 'trust me' don't always mean that. My sister and I were brought up in very different environments and a lot of the book reminds me of our lives.

What's your favourite film?

Coyote Ugly (2000). A film about a young girl who travels to New York to follow her dream of becoming a songwriter. However her aspirations are 'side lined' as her day job as a barmaid at the Coyote Ugly bar becomes the main talking point. It is a romantic musical comedy-drama and in the end the girl 'comes good'. It stars Leanne Rimes, the American country singer—I also enjoy Country music.