Society News and Announcements

1. Portsmouth Conference: Postgraduate Prize Winners

Upcoming Events

2. Shopgirls: Life Behind the Counter, Fashion & Textile Museum (11 June 2015)
5. Transnational Cultures of Petitioning from 1750 to the present (29-30 June 2015)

Calls for Papers

9. Historical Perspectives on Refuge and Asylum in Twentieth-Century France, University Institute of London in Paris (10 October 2015)
10. Women, Gender and the First World War (10 October 2015)
11. Landmarks Conference, Middlesbrough (15-16 October 2015)
1. Portsmouth Conference: Postgraduate Prize Winners

The Society’s annual conference was held on 31 March – 2 April, hosted by the University of Portsmouth. As ever, this was not only a gathering of some of our most esteemed colleagues, but provided an opportunity to find out about some of the innovative work being conducted from by new researchers as well. We are pleased to announce the winners of two postgraduate prizes.

The postgraduate paper prize was won by Ms Angela Loxham of Lancaster University. Her paper on ‘Handling the Stock: Women, Fabric and Tactility in Nineteenth-Century English Shops’ will be available on the Social History Society’s website.

There was a wonderful exhibition of research posters, putting on display some fascinating PhD research being undertaken in a range of areas of social history. These included cookery books, fatherhood, the printing trade and landscape. The poster prize was won by Ms Jessica Douthwaite of Strathclyde University for her poster on the British experience of the Cold War.

Congratulations to both.

Versions of everyday survival in 1950s Britain: feeling fear without worrying

The Cold War launched a new series of threats on Britain, from invasion by communists, to atomic warfare. The military and moral implications of this earth-shattering ideological battle meant that fear was ever-present in the public sphere.

Research question 1: did the discourse of fear and survival penetrate ‘ordinary’ lives?

Civil Defence volunteers ‘Ordinary’ civilians volunteered to provide a defence service to the nation in the event of nuclear war. Their roles required them to believe in and imagine the possibility of nuclear survival.

Post-war priorities Respondents acknowledged the presence of the Cold War but avoid admitting having feared the threat. Emotions described range from fatalism to indifference, ridicule to disinterest, being ‘busy’ to having fun.

Research question 2: how is fear interpreted and expressed in the testimony?

Selena Todd: Important though studies of survival are, it is experiences that can analyse the relationship between public and private, interiority and exteriority, and between the individual and collective.

I didn’t think too much about it [nuclear war]. I had a job to do... Of looking after the patients locally, this I did to the best of my ability. I enjoyed it. OP

Having lived through the Second World War, I [.] um. knew what war could be like. [.] I’d survived that – perhaps I’ll survive an atomic warfare, I don’t know [laughs] let’s hope. Policeman.
2. Shopgirls: Life Behind the Counter
Fashion & Textile Museum, London
6-8pm, Thursday 11 June 2015

Join the team who created the BBC television series Shopgirls to hear the true story of the incredible women behind the counters of Britain’s most famous – and not so famous – stores.

Historian Pamela Cox and television producer and writer Annabel Hobley reveal the enterprising and courageous accounts of some of the unsung army of shopgirls at the heart of Britain’s retail revolution, from the Victorian age through to the present day.

The history of women in retail encompasses young apprentices, Selfridges staff who needed to fight for their good name, suffragettes, impoverished interwar chain store assistants, the first generation of female graduate trainees, 1940s working mums, the art school entrepreneurs who kick-started the boutique movement of the swinging ’60s and the impressive individuals who championed the rights of these women throughout.

As this lively talk reveals, the story of British shopgirls – and their spirited camaraderie – is one woven deep into the fabric of our history and changes the way we understand our society. You will never shop in the same way again.

Price £15 / £12 students
The event starts at 6pm with a glass of wine in the Museum foyer and evening view of Riviera Style; the talk follows at 6.15pm for 6.30pm in the Fashion Studio and lasts for approximately one hour including an opportunity to ask questions at the end. The talk is followed by a book signing. ‘Shopgirls: The True Story of Life Behind the Counter’ is available for purchase from the Fashion and Textile Museum exhibition shop.

Book online
Numbers are limited for this event, please book early to avoid disappointment.
If you have any questions about this event please complete the enquiry form

Pamela Cox is a social historian at the University of Essex. She has presented two major history series for BBC Two – ‘Shopgirls: The True Story of Life Behind the Counter’ (2014) and ‘Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs’ (2012), both produced by Annabel Hobley. Her previous books include Bad Girls (2012) and Becoming Delinquent (2002).

Annabel Hobley is a television producer and writer. Her credits for the BBC, ITV and More4 include Shopgirls: The True Story of Life Behind the Counter; Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs; McQueen & I, a documentary on fashion icons Alexander McQueen and Isabella Blow; and The Lost World of Mitchell & Kenyon, about an extraordinary treasure trove of Edwardian films.
PROGRAMME

9.30 Registration
9.50 Welcome
10.00 Keynote Lecture: Selina Todd, (St Hilda’s College, University of Oxford), Women, Work and Family in 20th century England
11.00-11.30 Tea/Coffee Break
11.30–1.00 Panel 1: Defining Women’s Work: Campaigns and Networks, 1920s to 1950s.
Phillipa Haughton, (Durham University), ‘The Women’s Advertising Club of London, 1923-1954’
Helen Glew, (University of Westminster), ‘She's back at the mill’: an analysis of the 1947 ‘Women at Work’ campaign.
1.00 Lunch
2.00 Panel 2: Women, Work and War in Bristol 1914-1920
June Hannam (University of the West of England) Women and Work in Bristol: the impact of the First World War
Lucienne Boyce (independent Bristol author) “Does she deserve the vote?”: Women’s First World War Work and Women’s Franchise.
3.00 Tea/Coffee Break
3.15 Panel 3: The Diversity of Women’s Work: three 19th century case studies
Jane Howells (British Association for Local History) Henrietta Lear: A full and productive life.
Elaine Titcombe (University of the West of England) “Rebecca. A remarkable lady of business: this is a true account of the life and times of Rebecca John née Griffiths.”
Ross Belson (University of the West of England) “Nothing can be more gentlemanlike than they (the publishers) have been to me”: Caroline Norton, her editors and her publishers.
4.30 AGM of the West of England and South Wales Women’s History Network
5pm close

To book a place, visit http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/swhisnet/index.html
For further information about the conference contact Katherine.Holden@uwe.ac.uk or June.Hannam@uwe.ac.uk
4. Privacy, Literacy and the Self: Conference in Honour of David Vincent
Open University, Camden, London
27 June 2015

On Saturday 27 June 2015, the Open University and the Social History Society will host a one-day conference ‘Privacy, literacy and the self’ in honour of David Vincent at the OU in London, Camden. The conference will include established scholars and newer researchers, with papers considering the significance of David’s scholarship and the new directions it points to.

For further details and to reserve a place, please contact Yvonne Bartley (Tel: 01908 332790 Email: yvonne.bartley@open.ac.uk)

Conference fees: Full: £20 / Concessions: £10 (includes lunch and refreshments)

Programme
09.15 - 09.45 Registration and Coffee

09.45 - 10.30 Keynote Address: Deborah Cohen – Family Secrets: Shame and Privacy in Modern Britain (Northwestern University)

10.30 - 12.00 Roundtable: Working-class writers and autobiography
Chair/Discussant: David Vincent (Open University)
Julie-Marie Strange (University of Manchester)
Helen Rogers (Liverpool John Moores)
Jane Humphries (University of Oxford)

12.00 - 12.45 LUNCH

12.45 - 14.15 Literacy and popular culture
Chair/Discussant: Ros Crone (Open University)
Bob Patten (Rice University) ‘Privates and Public: Topsy-Turvy Sex’
Brian Maidment (Liverpool John Moores) ‘The satirical image, cultural politics and popular progress 1820 - 1840’
Louis James (University of Kent) ‘Sam Weller’s Pickwick?’

14.15 - 14.30 COFFEE

14.30 - 16.00 Privacy, the media and the state
Chair/Discussant: Christian Bailey (Open University)
Tom Crook (Oxford Brookes University) ‘Secrecy, privacy and public life: the trajectory of ‘corruption’, c. 1830-1900’
Mathew Thompson (University of Warwick) ‘Privacy and the Cultural History of the NHS’
Eve Colpus (University of Southampton) ‘That’s Life! BBC media activism and the limits to privacy c. 1974-1993’

16.00 - 16.45 Round-up:
James Vernon (University of California)
Petitioning was and is a universal phenomenon that transcends place and time. In pre-democratic periods it was frequently the most accessible form of popular political participation, but it has long been neglected by historians and political scientists pre-occupied with voting, elections and parties. The recent rise of e-petitioning and the crisis of traditional representative democracy across the Western world makes the study of alternative forms of popular representation and participation not only timely but urgent. This two day symposium brings together historians and social scientists to highlight future directions for research in this exciting emerging field.

The symposium will identify key questions for the study of petitioning in North America, Britain and Europe from 1750 to the present, specifically focusing on the changing relationship between petitioning and participation, representation and democratic development. In particular, the symposium seeks to promote the study of the transnational and comparative study of petitioning and place national and local studies in global perspective.

Confirmed participants include:

- Dr. Benoît Agnès (Paris/Sorbonne)
- Prof. Daniel Carpenter (Harvard)
- Prof. Malcolm Chase (Leeds)
- Dr. Richard Huzzey (Liverpool)
- Dr. Henry Miller (Manchester)
- Dr. Maartje Janse (Leiden)
- Dr. Diego Palacios Cerezales (Stirling)
- Prof. David Zaret (Indiana)

For further information see [http://events.history.ac.uk/event/show/14298](http://events.history.ac.uk/event/show/14298) or Dr. Henry Miller, henry.miller@manchester.ac.uk

This organiser gratefully acknowledges the support of the Social History Society and the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.
5. Juvenile Delinquency in the 19th and 20th Centuries: National and Transnational Perspectives
Centre for the History of Childhood, University of Oxford
4 July 2015

After a year’s absence the Centre for the History of Childhood is holding its traditional annual colloquium at the end of Trinity Term. This year it takes place on Saturday 4 July in Magdalen on the theme of juvenile delinquency around the world in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Conference Organizers: Professor Laurence Brockliss and Dr Heather Ellis

Venue: Summer Common Room, Magdalen College, High Street, Oxford

The conference will discuss recent work on the national and transnational history of juvenile delinquency and youth justice in different parts of the world with a particular focus on how ideas and understandings of delinquency have travelled across regional and national borders and been accepted, rejected or adapted in new geographical and cultural contexts.

The cost of attendance will be £50 for those who wish to take lunch in the New Room, Magdalen. This will be a very ample buffet lunch with wine as in previous years. For those simply wishing to attend the colloquium, there will be a charge of £15 to cover administration costs and tea and coffee. Cheques should be made out to ‘Dr L W B Brockliss, History of University’ and sent to Laurence Brockliss at Magdalen College, Oxford, OX14AU.

Further details can be found at: http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/research/centre/centre-for-the-history-of-childhood/seminar-programme-and-colloquium-2014-2015.html
What was the soundscape of industrialization? How does it differ from the soundscape today? Has the volume of our environment increased or decreased? When did people begin to perceive urban and industrial sounds as a nuisance? When did people start measuring the acoustic environment? Where and why have sounds turned into acoustic codes? What role does the technical reproducibility of the acoustic play? Which sounds are carved into the acoustic memory? What significance can sounds have for the identity of individuals, collectives or even nations? What sources can be used for a comprehensive Sound History? How do museums deal with the acoustic cultural heritage and how can they impart it? What are the benefits of publicly accessible sound collections and who would make use of them?

The final conference of the EU-Project “Work with Sounds” brings together sound projects from museums, archives, universities and media to share their experiences with recording, conserving, exploring and using the sounds and soundscapes of Europe. In panels on urban sounds, museum sounds, reflecting sounds and working with sounds the conference wants to present and discuss theories and practices in the history and anthropology of sound, the importance and meaning of sound, and the potential of working with sounds – internationally and interdisciplinary.

In the final panel we invite projects to present their work, exchange ideas and opinions, and network. We would like to have 10 minute presentations highlighting the 5 most important issues of your work – with sounds and pictures if you wish. Our “project market” will offer further opportunities for self-presentation and networking. Please send your proposal (1 page incl. a short biography) to konrad.gutkowski@lwl.org. The deadline is 20th June 2015.

For more information on the conference and the wider project, see the project website at http://www.workwithsounds.eu/

7. James Keir Hardie, 15 August 1856 – 26 September 1915: 
A One-Day Public Conference 
Working Class Movement Library, 26 September 2015

CFP DEADLINE: 30 JUNE 2015

Keynote Speaker: Professor David Howell, University of York

Saturday 26 September 2015 will mark the centenary of the death of James Keir Hardie at the comparatively young age of 59. But in those 59 years Hardie had changed the political landscape of Britain: as chairman of the Independent Labour Party (founded 1893) he headed an increasingly large group of ethical socialists who desired change based on human need and empathy rather than the mechanical Marxist economics of men such as Henry Mayers Hyndman and Friedrich Engels; he was instrumental in achieving the support of the Trade Union Congress for the foundation and financial support of the Labour Representation Committee (1900 and later the Labour Party in 1906); he had been a party to the divisive Gladstone-MacDonald pact which committed the Labour Party to avoiding a direct challenge to Liberal Party candidates in key seats; he had worked along-side Sylvia Pankhurst in the demand for the female vote. In his life he had been a miner, a journalist, the editor of a number of newspapers, the chairman of political groups and a Member of Parliament.

This conference aims to celebrate the impact Hardie had on British society and the legacy he left for those who followed. Public-facing proposals are invited for 20-minute papers on any area of Hardie’s life and work. Papers might address (but are not limited to) the following areas:

* Hardie's labours (as miner, journalist, editor, politician)
* Hardie's philosophies (attitude to trade unionism, mainstream politics, socialism, war, religion)
* Hardie's colleagues (working relations with, for example, Sylvia Pankhurst, Margaret Harkness, Henry Hyde Champion, Ramsay MacDonald)
* Hardie's travels (his work around the British Isles, his internationalism, his overseas tours)
* Hardie as author (his short stories, his children’s fiction)
* Hardie's legacy (the long-term effect of his work on British politics)

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words to Dr Deborah Mutch, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK via email: dmutch@dmu.ac.uk. Deadline for abstracts: 30 June 2015

Conference Fee: £20 waged £7.50 unwaged, including lunch and tea/coffee
8. Historical Perspectives on Refuge and Asylum in Twentieth-Century France:
1st Joint QMUL-ULIP Postgraduate Colloquium
University of London Institute in Paris, 10 October 2015

**CFP DEADLINE: 15 JULY 2015**

As the current migrant crisis has shown, many consider European shores worth the risk of a dangerous journey through international waters, much to the detriment of their personal safety. The arrival of migrants is continuously publicized, politicized and problematized in public discourse, revealing a need to reflect upon the historical implications of Europe’s long legacy as a land of refuge and asylum during the twentieth century.

France is certainly no stranger to these issues. Championed as a land of asylum by Chateaubriand, the pays d’hospitalité has long viewed itself as a safe haven for political exiles and refugees, expatriates and émigrés. Anchored in two key historical moments, the French Revolution and post-Second World War reconstruction, the legal frameworks and political structures that have emerged from population movements to the French metropolis are factors that have shaped the practices and particularities of refuge and asylum in twentieth-century France. The rural exodus and colonial migrations of the early twentieth century paved the way for mass immigration during the Great War, as well as the postwar industrial boom and great social, political and economic migrations of the interwar period. The death and destruction of the Second World War and its aftermath, furthermore, engendered massive waves of civilian displacement, expulsion and resettlement that forever altered the European demographic. The population influxes that followed decolonization, European integration and mondialisation have also further transformed France into a land of refuge and asylum.

Although notions of refuge and asylum are anchored in specific historical contexts, they are frequently omitted from historical study; these terms are often conceptualized through an anthropological or sociological lens, and such approaches fail to consider how historical factors shape scholarly understanding of the processes of refuge and asylum seeking. The arrival and reception of migrants, refugees and exiles on French soil throughout the twentieth century provided a convenient platform for reframing domestic concerns about social inclusion and exclusion, and about rights and acceptance. In many ways, viewing France as a “terre d’asile” or a “terre d’exil” exposes its dual nature as a land of tolerance and persecution on racial, political, social, ethnic, religious, sexual or gendered grounds. Just as France can be viewed as a land of refuge, it can also be seen as its own antithesis, as debates surrounding these issues often framed the acceptable limits of tolerance while naturalizing its deficits. While twentieth-century France was a place of economic, political and conscientious refuge for many, it was also a land of deportation and persecution, a site of political extremes and extremism, and home to dark legacies of occupation and collaboration. The dual nature of France as a land of tolerance and persecution, and the challenge that this binary imposes on contemporary issues, can be appropriated onto a wider historical framework and provide a fruitful topic for historical enquiry.

The School of History at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP) are pleased to invite submissions for the 1st Joint Postgraduate Colloquium, set to take place at ULIP in Paris, France on Saturday, October 10th, 2015. We are delighted to welcome Professor Gérard Noiriel, director of the EHESS and authority on the history of immigration in France, as our keynote speaker.

Doctoral candidates and early career researchers are invited to present twenty minute papers, in English or French, on any historical aspect of refuge, exile and asylum in twentieth-century France. Interdisciplinary papers with an historical focus are also encouraged.

Suggested topics include- but are by no means limited to- the following:

- The social, legal, economic and institutional practices and particularities of refugee seeking in France.
- Trajectories and migratory patterns of asylum seekers, refugees, exiles, expellees and émigrés.
- Uprooting, displacement and expulsion in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Demography, depopulation and immigration policy.
- Rightlessness and denaturalization.
- Discourses and practices of welcome and hostility in French politics and society.
- Decolonization and postcolonial migration.
- Integrationist policy and nativism towards expatriate and immigrant communities in France.
- Intolerance, xenophobia and homophobia.
- Political, cultural and personal escapism and expression.

*Please send an abstract (max. 500 words), title, and brief biographical sketch to k.rossy@qmul.ac.uk by 15 July 15th, 2015. Successful candidates will be notified by e-mail by July 31st, 2015.*
10. Women, Gender and the First World War
University of Portsmouth, 10 October 2015

CFP DEADLINE: 15 JUNE 2015

The organisers of this one-day conference, hosted by the Centre for European and International Studies Research, welcome proposals for papers on any aspect of the First World War relating to women and gender.

Possible topics may include, but are not restricted to, the following themes:

- Women and pacifism, peace movements
- Women and patriotism
- Women and war work
- Women and the state/social policy/welfare
- Women’s wartime writing
- Women war artists
- The women’s movement
- Religion
- Women and voluntarism
- Women and domestic life/leisure
- Women, gender and sexuality
- Mourning and bereavement
- Poetry, plays and film
- Commemoration and heritage

Please submit an abstract of 200-300 words to June Purvis (june.purvis@port.ac.uk) and Lee Sartain (lee.sartain@port.ac.uk) by 15 June 2015.

Confirmed speakers so far include: Maggie Andrews, Alison Fell and Lucy Noakes

The Conference is supported by the AHRC funded Gateways to the First World War Public Engagement Centre, the Southern Region of the Women’s History Network and the Centre for European and International Studies Research (CEISR), University of Portsmouth.

It is intended that a selection of the papers will form a Special Issue of the journal Women’s History Review and/or an edited book.

The cost (which includes all teas and coffees) is £20 for delegates and £10 for students. Free places for non-university affiliated people local to Portsmouth. There are cafes / a supermarket within one minute walking distance from the venue.

You can book your place online at http://www.port.ac.uk/centre-for-european-and-international-studies-research/events/women-gender-and-the-first-world-war/

The conference organisers are able to offer a limited number of free places for people who are local to Portsmouth, and who are not affiliated to the University. Please contact June Purvis (june.purvis@port.ac.uk) or Lee Sartain (lee.sartain@port.ac.uk) to learn more.
9. Landmarks Conference
Middlesbrough, 15-16 October 2015

CFP DEADLINE: 30 JUNE 2015

Historians, cultural professionals and heritage enthusiasts are being invited to submit proposals for papers for inclusion at an international conference taking place in Middlesbrough on 15-16 October.

Landmarks 2015 is the second Heritage and History Conference organised by the £2.6m Heritage Lottery Fund supported Tees Transporter Bridge Visitor Experience Project. The Conference, which hopes to attract experts from across the globe, will bring together those interested in the culture, heritage and history of landmark structures, developments and events.

The two-day event follows on from the success of last year’s Victorian Cities Revisited Conference and marks the recent HLF-supported enhancement and refurbishment of the landmark Tees Transporter Bridge. This has included the installation of a glass viewing lift to the Bridge’s upper walkway, renovation of the gondola that provides a unique crossing of the River Tees, the development of interpretation and visitor resources encompassing a new smartphone/device app, heritage trails, education activities and events.

Submissions for presentations on any themes relating to ‘Landmarks’ are welcomed, including but not limited to:

- The creation and history of landmarks
- The role of landmark structures, projects and events in wider local and national heritage
- Ways of accessing and understanding landmarks through new technologies
- The role of archives, libraries and museums in profiling and learning about landmarks
- Recording experiences and perceptions of iconic buildings, structures, events and projects
- The art, symbolism and visualisation of landmarks
- Contentious and disputed landmarks
- The celebration, conservation and remembrance of landmarks

Delegates attending Landmarks 2015 will have the opportunity to visit the Tees Transporter Bridge and other heritage locations in the area.

Conference organiser Tosh Warwick said: “We are absolutely delighted to once again host an international heritage and history conference here in Middlesbrough. Teesside is famed for its own historic landmarks such as the Transporter Bridge, Town Hall and Dorman Museum, modern structures such as mima and Temenos, as well as those around the world connected to the area such as Sydney Harbour Bridge. Following on from last year’s hugely successful Heritage and History Conference, we expect this year’s event will once again attract leading experts alongside students, early stage researchers and general enthusiasts to Middlesbrough to share their knowledge and visit local landmarks such as the Transporter Bridge.”

Proposals for papers of 20 minutes, including an abstract of no more than 500 words and a brief biographical statement, should be emailed by Tuesday, June 30 to Tosh Warwick at transporterbridge@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Papers from postgraduates and early career researchers are particularly welcomed.