

# Humanities Research Centre Annual Report

2008/2009

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WARWICK

## **Conferences, Lectures and Seminars**

In the course of the academic year, the Centre organized and supported a variety of conferences and events:

### **Autobiography and historical Crisis**

12th - 14th September 2008

### **Women, Gender and Nation: Irish Historians in Britain Conference**

12th - 14th September 2008

### **Defending The Literary: From Cervantes to Coetzee**

Saturday 20th September 2008

### **Performance Studies**

10th - 11th October 2008

### **African Athena: Black Athena 20 Years on...**

6th - 8th November 2008

### **Engendering Policy and Devolution**

Friday 21st November 2008

### **Alternative Political Imaginaries and Queer Methodologies**

16th - 18th February 2009

### **Plebeian Cultures in Early Modern England: 35 Years After E. P. Thompson**

Saturday 21st February 2009

### **Women Writing Space: Representations of Gender and Space in post - 1850 British Women's Writing**

Saturday 7th March 2009

### **Enlightening Encounters: Italian Photography and Literature Through Time**

13th - 14th March 2009

### **The Lure of Italy**

24th - 25th March 2009 (University of Warwick in Venice, Palazzo Pesaro Papafava, Venice)

### **If you have writ your annals true: Shakespeare and the Archive: the 3rd International Shakespeare and Performance Colloquium**

22nd - 25th April 2009

### **Memory/Postmemory, Music and Identity: The Construction of a Diasporic Black West Indian Experience**

Saturday 25th April 2009

### **Cultures of War in Early Modern France**

Saturday 25th April 2009

### **The Screen Anniversary Béla Balázs Symposium**

Friday 1st May 2009

### **Bildtheorie and Photography**

Thursday 30th April 2009

**Colombia: Recent Research in History, Literature and Film**

Friday 1st May 2009

**Warwick Symposium on Parish Research**

Saturday 9th May 2009

**Bourdieu and Literature**

Saturday 16th May 2009

**Warwick Graduate Conference in Philosophy and Literature**

Tuesday 26th May 2009

**All Together Now? British Theatre After Multiculturalism**

13th - 14th June 2009

**Globalising the Age of Reform, c.1780 - 1850: varieties of reform in Britain and the British Empire**

Friday 26th June 2009

**Genetic Science and French Culture**

2nd - 3rd July 2009

The 17<sup>th</sup> **Donald Charlton Lecture** was given on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 by **Professor Bruce Altshuler**, Director of the Museum Studies Program at New York University and a leading authority on museum and exhibition history.

Altshuler's lecture discussed the importance of the history and analysis of exhibitions for the study of art history. Highlighting the various relationships that can be obtained between artworks and the exhibitions in which they are displayed, it employed examples ranging from shows of early modern art through conceptual art presentation practices of the late 1960's and 70's.

Professor Altshuler is an expert on this history of exhibitions and museums. His latest book, *From Salon to Biennial*, the first volume of a two-volume work, will be published later this year by Phaidon Press.

The **HRC Visiting Fellow** for 2008/09 was **Iain Mackintosh**, theatre consultant, co-founder of the Prospect Theatre Company, theatre producer, curator of theatre exhibitions and author of *Architecture, Actor and Audience* published by Routledge in 1993.

The schedule for his three-day visit included giving a seminar on devising theatre spaces for the future (for Theatre and Performance Studies), a lecture for History of Art on 'The downfall of Shakespeare on a Modern Stage, 1765: how a single Painting satirising a single opera can be seen as a gateway into the arts of mid-Georgian England', and meeting individual students to discuss their research.

His HRC lecture emerged directly from his most recent project, that of co-curating an exhibition at the Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham: 'The Face and Figure of Shakespeare: how British 18<sup>th</sup> Century Sculptors invented a National Hero', 18 April to 7 June 2009.

## The Interdisciplinary Research Seminar Series

### Text and Visual Image

This year's seminar series addressed current critical debates relating to historiography, curating and documentation, focusing on critical understanding of responses to literature, art and performance (including music, film, dance and design). The topic's pertinence is illustrated by the current exhibition in the Guggenheim Gallery in Venice sharing an identical title: 'Text and Visual Image'.

The six seminars attracted a wide range of speakers and were well attended with participants across eight departments within the Faculty of Arts. The list of speakers and titles demonstrates the scope of the debate, with topics spanning the creative and performing arts from the eighteenth century to the present.

- Stuart Sillars (Professor of English, University of Bergen)  
*'Reading Illustrated Shakespeare: Issues and Methods'*
- Dr. Rosie Dias (History of Art, Warwick)  
*'Boydell's Shakespeare: Illustration and Imagination'*
  
- Dr. Kamilla Elliott (English and Creative Writing, Lancaster)  
*'Gothic Portrait Identification'*
- Dr. Catherine Constable (Film and Television Studies, Warwick)  
*'Focusing on the Figural: Inter-relating Philosophy and Film'*
  
- Ronnie Mulryne (Professor Emeritus, Warwick)  
*'Art, Image and Power: Entertainments for the Medici Wedding, Florence 1589'*
- Dr. Anne Daye (Lecturer in the History of Dance at Laban and the London Conservatoire for Contemporary Dance)  
*'Animating the masque: the antimasque and masque of Oberon (1611)'*
  
- Jim Davis (Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies, Warwick)  
*'Verbal and Visual Representations of English Comic Performance 1780-1830'*
- M. A. Katritzky (Barbara Wilkes Research Fellow in Theatre Studies, Open University)  
*'Why the "family of the we be three" are "far more than three"'*
  
- Professors Remo Ceserani (Bologna) and Florian Mussgnug (UCL) contributed to the seminar, on *'Visual and Verbal Synergies: the Italian Case'*
  
- Richard Crow (Visual/Sound Artist),  
*'Sound Pooling'*
- Dr. Tim White (Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies, Warwick)  
*'The Noise of Partch'*

### Newsletter

The 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the HRC Newsletter was published. The Newsletter showcases research being carried out by the arts and humanities community at Warwick as well as advertising forthcoming HRC events. It is mailed out to the arts and humanities departments of every major UK HEI as well as other arts organisations and many overseas institutions.

## 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. The fellowships were awarded to:

Arina Lungu and Charlotte Mathieson (English)  
*Women Writing Space: Representations of Gender and Space in post-1850 British Women's Writing*

John Speller (French)  
*Bourdieu and Literature*

Brodie Waddell/Mark Hailwood (History)  
*Plebeian Cultures in Early Modern England: 35 Years after E. P. Thompson*

## Future Projects

The award-winning Irish novelist and critic, Colm Tóibín will be giving the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual **Donald Charlton** Lecture on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 5.30 pm, in the Arts Centre Conference Room.

Colm Tóibín's fictional work includes the novels, *The South* (1990), *Heather Blazing* (1992), *The Story of the Night* (1996), and *The Blackwater Lightship* (1999). His fifth novel, *The Master* won the 2006 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. His most recent novel, *Brooklyn*, was published in the US and the UK in 2009 to great critical acclaim. He has also written numerous works of literary criticism and several books of journalism and travel literature. He has been a visiting professor at Stanford University and Princeton University and has lectured extensively throughout Europe and the United States.

Colm Tóibín will be discussing his work, and in particular, his novel *Brooklyn* with Professor Jeremy Treglown, English and Creative Writing Programme.

The HRC **Visiting Fellow** for 2009-2010 is the writer Francisco Goldman. His latest book, *The Art of Political Murder* (Atlantic 2008), won the 2008 TR Fyvel Freedom of Expression Book Award from the Index on Censorship and was shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger for Non-Fiction 2008 and for the Warwick Writing Prize in 2009. *The Art of Political Murder* is the story of the seven-year investigation into the murder of a Guatemalan Bishop.

Francisco Goldman will be visiting us in spring 2010. During his time with us, he will discuss his three novels, that explore personal and historical links between Guatemala and the United States, and also his non-fictional work that analyses the brutal conflicts in Central America since the 1980s, the uneasy peace agreements, and the continuing violence and human rights abuses in those countries.

Forthcoming **Conferences** include the Doctoral Fellowship winners:

**Lucy Allwright and Tara Morton** (History)  
*'Envisioning Community: Space, Place and Translating the Past in C19 and C20 Britain'*

**Anna Sloan** (Film and Television Studies)  
*'Glorious Technicolor, Breathtaking Cinemascope: Technology and Spectacle in the Screen Media'*

**Jeanine Tuschling** (German)

*'Picture Yourself – Authorship and media in contemporary German literature'*

The HRC **Interdisciplinary Seminar Series** for 2009-10 will be dedicated to the theme of **Film and History**. The inter-relationship between the medium of cinema and the historical past is complex and multi-faceted. The representation of the past has always been a staple of the film industry, although the accuracy of the representations that have been furnished of remote and not so remote events has often been contested. Some films have aimed for authenticity, while others have been concerned solely or largely with spectacle. Films have sometimes made history themselves or been a part of it; others have profoundly influenced the sense of the past. Cinema has of course been a weapon of political propaganda for left and right, but ideologies of a less obvious nature have also been woven into film texts. The understanding of film and of cinema's role in society have their own histories, one to which numerous prominent intellectuals have contributed. The relationship between film and history also encompasses issues pertaining to historical research since films from the past provide much evidence about emotions, feelings and everyday customs that is not easily obtainable from conventional sources.

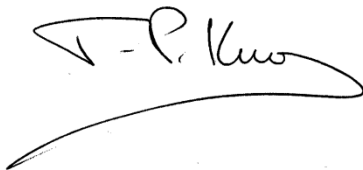
The programme will run in the Autumn and Spring terms and will comprise five or six seminars that will explore many of the issues mentioned above. Speakers will include national and international scholars as well as Warwick staff.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Once again the cornerstone of all the projects undertaken by the HRC is the Centre secretary, Sue Dibben.

We thank her for all her hard work and efficiency throughout the year, and for her calming presence at our many sponsored events.

The HRC will be looking both to consolidate and to extend its work under its new director, Professor Jacqueline Labbe, who takes up this appointment on 1 September 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. King', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

John King

28 July 2009.