



# WARWICK

Humanities Research Centre

# Newsletter

Issue 14

## Message from the Director

It's been a very busy year (I seem to say that every year!) for the HRC. As you will read in the pages of the newsletter, there is a lot of excellent scholarship being undertaken in the faculty with innovative interdisciplinary conferences and workshops as well as important research projects. The HRC supports a lot of these activities via the conference and visiting speaker funds, the several sponsored seminar series, the Transatlantic Fellowships, and the Summer Research Fund. We try to spread the funding so it can assist as many people and projects as possible, and sometimes a comparatively small amount can make a crucial difference.

Following on from the success of the HRC-sponsored Freedom of Speech events (see page 6), I am working with colleagues from Film & TV on another inter-disciplinary event "**Broadcasting War**". This 1-day workshop in May 2017 will bring together scholars interested in how war has been broadcast to the public in the 20th and 21st centuries. From the early use of radio, through to newsreel, television, 24-hour news, and now social media, the ways in which war has been broadcast has constantly evolved. Not only has the media changed, the sources of broadcasts now

include state broadcasters, international corporations and citizen journalists. We hope to understand the forces driving changes in the way war has been broadcast, and how it is remediated and remembered via the media, and how the public have both received and participated in those developments.

Further information:

[warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/bw/](http://warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/bw/)

I am particularly grateful to the HRC committee, and in particular to Douglas Morrey, for stepping up to cover some HRC duties while I was on leave this year. Everything seems to have continued to run smoothly, mostly down to the HRC administrator, Sue Rae, I am sure!



Professor Tim Lockley  
HRC Director

## Contact us

For further information on the activities of the HRC, please contact Sue Rae:

**Address:** Humanities Research Centre, Room H452, Humanities Building, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL

**Tel:** (0)24 765 23401 **E-mail:** [HRC@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:HRC@warwick.ac.uk) **Website:** [warwick.ac.uk/hrc](http://warwick.ac.uk/hrc)

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The conference and seminar reports included in this edition of the newsletter represent a selection of some of the events we supported last year. Owing to limited space we have been unable to include everything but for full details of all past events please visit our archive:

[warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/arch](http://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/arch)

### Arts and Humanities Awards 2015/16

Arts and Humanities academics at Warwick won over £3.2M of research grants and contracts in 2015/2016. This is a significant achievement given the challenging financial climate and strong competition for funding. Awards included:

A highly prestigious ERC Starting Grant, worth £765,720, won by Clare Rowan (Classics) to investigate 'Token Communities in the Ancient Mediterranean'.

A Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, to be held by Martina Salvante, and hosted by Pierre Purseigle (History), entitled, 'Brothers in Wounds: Italy's Disabled Veterans in Transnational Perspective (1917-1939)'.

A 3-year AHRC Research Grant, totalling £316,278, awarded to Simon Gilson (School of Modern Languages and Cultures), in partnership with the universities of Leeds and Manchester, for a project entitled 'Petrarch Commentary and Exegesis in Renaissance Italy, c. 1350-c. 1650'.

A 3-year AHRC Research Grant, in partnership with Coventry University, totalling £162,441 (for Warwick), awarded to Nicolas Whybrow (School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies) for a project entitled, 'Sensing the City: an Embodied Documentation and Mapping of the Changing Uses and Tempers of Urban Place (a practice-based case-study of Coventry)'.

An AHRC Research Grant, worth £597,291, won by Stephen Gundle (Film and Television Studies), in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast, to investigate 'Producers and production practices in the history of Italian cinema 1949-75'.

An AHRC Research Grant, worth £401,145, awarded to Kirsty Hooper (School of Modern Languages and Cultures), in collaboration with Michigan State University, to look at 'Imperial Entanglements: Transoceanic Basque Networks in British and Spanish Colonialism and their Legacy'.



### Sensing the City: an Embodied Documentation and Mapping of the Changing Uses and Tempers of Urban Place (a practice-based case-study of Coventry)

Scheduled to take place over a period of three years, this practice-based research project - funded by the AHRC to the tune of £265,000 (full cost: £330,500) - will undertake a series of site-specific studies of urban rhythms, atmospheres, textures, practices and patterns of behaviour in the city of Coventry (UK). Led by Dr Nicolas Whybrow (Theatre & Performance Studies) as PI, with Dr Michael Pigott (Film and Theatre & Performance Studies) and Dr Natalie Garret Brown of Coventry University's Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE) as Co-Is, the project will make use of the sensate, performing human body as a data-gathering sensor, applying techniques of writing or notation and technologies of sound/oral recording, photography, performance and film to respond to, document and process fieldwork activity.

The final phase of the research programme will be to visualise and present documented text, sound and image material both as an online, interactive mapping of the urban sites in question (presented as a prototypical mixed media website) and via a 'smart' device. The project will also culminate in an exhibition, incorporating a one-day symposium, and a co-curated publication. Together these outputs will present the findings of the project in a form that is accessible to a broader public as well as to professional specialists in fields related to the design and planning of urban futures. Coinciding with

Coventry's bid to become UK City of Culture in 2021, the research will feed directly into this initiative.

Other members of the research team include Dr Emma Meehan (C-DaRE), Nataliya Tkachenko (Warwick Institute for the Science of Cities and Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, Warwick) and Carolyn Deby, a commissioned artist-researcher in immersive performance and site-specific installation with the professional London-based company sirencrossing. The project will also draw in Dr Stuart Grant, a practice-based academic from Monash University, who specialises in the implementation of body weather movement techniques in urban sites and will act as international consultant. As a whole Sensing the City will present conclusions about the constitution, character and morphology of urban space as public, habitable and sustainable space by monitoring the instinctive reactions of the body. In other words, as a symptom of the degree to which cities are changing in the 21st century, it will examine the effects on the practices and behaviours of urban dwellers of key features of the atmospheric, aesthetic force-field that is modern-day urban space.

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Nicolas Whybrow, School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies

### Lyric Responses to the Crusades in Medieval France and Occitania

This Anglo-Italian project based at Warwick and funded by the AHRC, the British Academy and the University has produced a major online resource, research publications, public presentations and lectures, and a one-day international conference in London. The freely usable resource includes 187 Old French and Occitan texts in new or up-to-date critical editions, with translations and notes in Italian and English on the historical circumstances of their composition, together with musical and spoken recordings of some of the songs and an interview with the singer. It is currently being used in the teaching of medieval courses at Bristol, Queen Mary College London, and Kings College London, and has generated new university courses in Italy and Switzerland. Two books emanating from the project will be published by Boydell in 2017-18: *Singing the Crusades*, by Linda Paterson and others, and *Crusades and Poets*, edited by Simon Parsons and Linda Paterson, based on the London conference.

'Impact' activities included a presentation to schoolteachers suggesting ways in which they might exploit the resource in their teaching, and a poetry competition judged by the poet Grevel Lindop, in which some fifty competitors, mainly schoolchildren, wrote a poem on the topic of 'Crusade'. The entries included poems by pupils from India, Pakistan, Canada and South Africa as well as the UK, and the judge observed that 'there were some very fine poems, and it was fascinating and rewarding to see how young poets dealt imaginatively with the theme of "Crusade", a topic apparently so far in the past but also with such strong contemporary relevance'. Warwick University's International Gateway to Gifted Youth (IGGY) helped to publicise the competition. The project also saw the creation of a music group, *Medieval Song at Warwick*, under the leadership of Liam Lewis, currently a Warwick PhD student.

For further details see the project website at <http://warwick.ac.uk/crusadelyrics>

Linda M. Paterson, Emeritus Professor,  
Department of French Studies, School of Modern  
Languages and Cultures

### A Psychotic Acrostic from post-conquest Mexico

Support from the HRC Summer Research Fund enabled me to study a rare book in Spain's national library which contains some of the earliest known poems written in the Americas. The volume of Latin verse entitled *Meditatiunculæ*, 'Little Meditations', was published in 1548 and dedicated to the future Philip II of Spain for his twenty-first birthday. Its author was Fray Cristóbal Cabrera, a young Franciscan missionary who had travelled to Mexico in 1530, less than a decade after the Spanish conquest.

In the longest poem, *Ecstasis* ('Frenzy'), Cabrera describes how he had a prophetic vision of God's wrath falling upon Mexico City to punish the Spaniards for their corrupt behaviour, and how he was locked up and treated for mental illness, as no one would heed his warnings of impending catastrophe. The poet says he did recover his health but ends his account by revealing that Mexico was after all afflicted by the greatest calamity in its history. Readers are thus left wondering whether the narrator really had been mad or not, since his prediction was indeed fulfilled: it is documented that a plague killed 800,000 natives in 1545.

The *Ecstasis* is the longest acrostic in western literature – the first letters of its 236 verses spell out a text from the Book of Jeremiah. This device provides the key to the interpretation of this astonishing text. In a famous discussion of acrostic poetry in classical antiquity, Cicero had made clear that such compositions could only be produced by someone 'who is *not* frenzied, but one who is painstaking, not a madman'. The *Ecstasis* was therefore a parodic fiction (rather like Erasmus' *Praise of Folly*) which was crafted to mock Franciscan missionaries who really did believe millenarian prophecies of destruction were about to be fulfilled in the New World.

Andrew Laird is leaving Warwick to take up an appointment in Brown University as the John Rowe Workman Distinguished Professor of Classics and Humanities and Professor of Hispanic Studies. His study and translation of Cabrera's *Ecstasis* will be published in the *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*.

Andrew Laird

# HRC Special Event

## Freedom of Speech Week



The HRC committee decided to commemorate both the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University, and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HRC (initially called the European Humanities Research Centre), with a series of themed events. After much discussion we settled on the concept of 'Freedom of Speech' as one that spoke to many concerns in the faculty, the university, and the wider academic community. Initially envisaged as a week-long series, complicated schedules eventually resulted in the events taking place over a month in the second half of the autumn term.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Attorney General (and local MP for Kenilworth and Southam) Jeremy Wright who talked on the legal meanings and histories of free speech. Ranging from Magna Carta of 1215 to new legislation in 2015, Jeremy showed how free speech has always been a qualified right in UK, requiring a delicate balance between freedom of expression and those who might suffer as a result. He pointed out, for example, that both defendants and plaintiffs have rights in court that cannot be violated by prejudicial reporting in the press. He also drew a distinction between criminal restrictions on speech, for example incitement to commit a crime, and civil restrictions such as libel laws. As both society and technology have evolved so have attitudes and laws related to free speech - we are able to say things now we could not a century ago, but at the same time some ways in which we communicate (for example via social media) have to be explicitly included in recent legislation. As Jeremy noted, all western democracies have similar regulations on free speech: in the USA, where there is a constitutional right to free speech, incitement and obscenity remain exceptions.

Two weeks later saw a panel discussion on Refugee Scholars, highlighting Warwick's role in the World University Service in the 1970s that gave almost a thousand grants to students and academics fleeing persecution in Chile to come to UK universities. This session featured Alan Phillips, a former Warwick SU President and General Secretary of the World University Service, Catalina Palma, the first Chilean to come to Warwick, who now works for CONICYT, the Chilean government educational grant giving body, and John King, Emeritus Professor of Latin American Literature who taught at Warwick from the 1970s until his recent retirement. The panellists gave strong personal insights into how persecution and restrictions on freedom of speech impacted diverse academic communities separated by thousands of miles.

A session looking at the Histories of Freedom of Speech: Ancient and Modern, gathered together key academics from around the UK and included theatrical presentations from *Thesmophoriazousae* and *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes by members of the Warwick Classics Society.

The final event was on "Contested Archives" in early December. Over fifty people attended this roundtable discussion featuring speakers from across Warwick's Humanities faculty and beyond. Much discussion centered on questions of what actually archives contain, and who can, or should, be able to use archives. Are they complete, total records of institutions or individuals? Or, are they highly selective, curated collections? How do state (or official) archives differ from business archives? What are the responsibilities of archive users to the people about whom they write (whether dead or living)? How do archives (and archivists) navigate relationships of trust with archive donors alongside responsibilities of access to archive users? Some of the most compelling discussion was focused on the relationship between universities and archives.

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Tim Lockley, HRC (Director)/Department of History

## GUEST SPEAKER



*Professor Jack Zipes, Emeritus at Minnesota University giving his talk in Ramphal on the Grimms' fairy tales.*

### Professor Jack Zipes

Professor Jack Zipes visit to the university was organised by IAS Early Careers Fellow Emma Parfitt. The event was funded collaboratively across the university by an IAS residential fellowship, the support of the Humanities Research Centre and the Departments of Sociology and English & Comparative Literary Studies (raising a total of £1,733.19). The funds were used for a number of academic and public engagement events.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May Professor Zipes and Emma Parfitt were panel members at Loughborough University to debate the role of storytelling in education (32 members of the public, students and academics attended). In addition, 12 PhD students from Sociology, English and Comparative Literature studies, WBS and Sociology registered for a 'how to publish workshop' on Warwick Campus. The discussion was recorded to be used in a collaborative Critical Reflections essay between four PhD students for the IAS journal Exchanges.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June Priscilla Pizzato, a French documentary maker from Paris, conducted a two hour interview with Professor Zipes for a documentary about Cinderella for the French-German channel Arte. This was followed by a public talk and wine reception in the Ramphal building entitled 'Childism and the Grimms' Fairy Tales, or How We Have Happily Rationalized Child Abuse through Storytelling.' This was attended by 40 students, members of the public and academics from English and Comparative Literature Studies, Sociology, WBS, Centre for Education Studies, and School of Law, Social Sciences and Communications at Wolverhampton University.



*Professor Jack Zipes asking young people at Coventry Council questions about fairy tales*

On the 2nd of June a collaboration between Emma Parfitt and Shiela Bates, Coventry Childrens' Champion, enabled a two hour storytelling and drama workshop to take place in the Coventry city council building, Earl Street. Professor Jack Zipes led 22 young people through creative writing, drama and storytelling exercises. This was received very well by parents. For example, one father talked to Professor Zipes, Emma and Sheila after the workshop and asked that the storytelling and drama workshop be part of a regular event to allow more children to attend, especially those who needed help with writing skills. Sheila Bates was interested in continuing a discussion about this with the university which has been brought to the attention of the widening participation team at Warwick.



*Young people from schools in Coventry acting out their version of Polly and the Wolf, an alternative Little Red Riding Hood Story. Here two wolves approach two Polly's (in red and blue) with her family in the car.*

*Permission was obtained from the parents by Coventry Council for the University of Warwick to use these photos.*

**Emma Parfitt, Department of Sociology**

## Conferences and Symposia



### The Space Between: Micro History and Global History. Can they be Connected?

**Conference at Warwick in Venice**  
**26th - 28th February, 2016**

This conference was jointly organized by Maxine Berg, Global History and Culture Centre, Warwick and Dr John-Paul Ghobrial, Faculty of History University of Oxford. Thirty participants working over widely different fields of early modern history were invited from universities in the UK, Europe and the U.S. These ranged from early career to senior scholars. Twenty-eight attended and participated; each person presented briefly on how an aspect of their research addressed the problematic of connecting two formerly distinct fields and methodologies. The meeting was a great success, and participants were all keen to continue discussion at future meetings. An International Network grant application was proposed on 'Microhistory and Global History: New Connections' to be led by Maxine Berg as Principal Applicant and with John-Paul Ghobrial as Co-applicant with Professor Jorge Flores (EUI) as International Co-applicant. An edited volume of very short contributions drawn from the conference was proposed as a potential volume and on-line open-access resource. PhD training workshops were also proposed.

Warwick's GHCC has led the development of new historical research areas and methodologies in global

history in the years since it was founded in 2007. The Centre's first major conference in 2009 at the British Academy placed the global history agenda within wider historical research and teaching. In the volume arising from that conference, *Writing the History of the Global: Challenges for the Twenty-first Century* (Oxford, 2013) I wrote that global history was like micro history: a different scale, a different point of view. Yet micro history and global history appear to have taken very different directions. Indeed, the relationship between the two fields is a central question at the heart of John-Paul Ghobrial's ERC-funded research project based at Oxford, 'Stories of Survival: Recovering the Connected Histories of Eastern Christianity in the Early Modern World'.

The project is trying to find a new methodology that links the study of the micro-scale level of everyday life with the macro-narratives cherished by global historians. This joint Warwick-Oxford conference provided an opportunity to reflect on these questions and to investigate prospects for bringing researchers from these different traditions together. It also provided a perfect model for interaction and exchange between senior and junior scholars working across different historical contexts.





'The Space Between' brought recent developments and uses of micro history within global history subject areas to the table. Global history, emerging since 2000 out of comparative economic history and especially the debate on 'divergence' had sought to escape the particularism of microhistory, looking for broad frameworks in which to situate events, peoples and movements. It had also sought to move beyond the specialism of area studies and the political and cultural boundaries of 'the nation'. A certain type of global history, especially that written in the U.S., has, however, recently gone the way of 'big data' collection, wide structures and geographies; the people and the events have been lost.

In very recent years new issues indicate important opportunities for a conversation between these two historical approaches. Now a new generation of historians is seeking to engage with global history, while drawing on their training in the methodologies of microhistory. Global historians who sought the transnational and cultural and economic connections between peoples now seek ways of conveying agency, individual histories, events and locality within a global framework. Our conference brought together some of this new generation with more established scholars. Our key question was 'Can microhistorians and global historians learn a common language?'

## Conference themes:

1. Locality and the Lived Environment
2. Dynasties and Courts
3. Seas and Oceans
4. Informing, Recording, Scribbling
5. Plenary: Connecting Microhistory and Global History
6. Empires
7. Economy and Labour
8. Law
9. Religion
10. Material Culture
11. Trade
12. Concluding Discussion

Two or three participants spoke in each themed session. All had prepared in advance by reading a 'dropbox' collection of chapters or articles of each other's work, and in reading a common set of general readings of issues of micro, macro, scale, local and global, and relating the particular to the general. General topics discussed at the conference centred on agency, the reconstruction of 'spaces', the 'exceptional normal', philological readings, quantitative and qualitative analysis, micro history and case studies, materiality and universal categories, and simultaneity and change over time. Each presented on a case or special part of his/her research, and especially

in the Plenary and Concluding Discussion on wider issues. All attended and contributed to discussion in all the sessions. The result was an intense two days of discussion in a charged intellectual atmosphere. Outputs from the conference were firmly discussed: a publication both in hard copy and on-line open access to aid in teaching and research development; an international network grant, and PhD workshops. Impact activities in future will include the Untold Lives Blog and the British Library.

The following took part in the conference:

Jan de Vries (Berkeley, Calif.)  
Filippo de Vivo (Birkbeck)  
Guillaume Calafat (Paris 1, Sorbonne)  
Mary Laven (Cambridge)  
Sebouh Aslanian (UCLA)  
Romain Bertrand (Sciences-Po, Paris)  
Jorge Flores (EUI)  
Giovanni Levi (Ca' Foscari, University of Venice)  
Anne Gerritsen (Warwick)  
Zoltán Biedermann (UCL)  
Giorgio Riello (Warwick)  
Christian de Vito (Leicester)  
Adrianna Catena (Oxford)  
James Baldwin (Warwick)  
James Amelang (Madrid)  
Carla Roth (Oxford)  
Jos Gommans (Leiden)  
Pat Hudson (Cardiff)  
Luca Molá (EUI)  
Amanda Wunder (CUNY)  
Jeroen Duindam (Leiden)  
Nicholas Purcell (Oxford)  
Julia McClure (Warwick)  
Jason Scott-Warren (Cambridge)  
Hans Medick (Göttingen)  
Sarah Easterby-Smith (St. Andrews)  
Maxine Berg (Warwick)  
John-Paul Ghobrial (Oxford)

[Jacques Revel (EHESS, Paris), and Lucy Riall (EUI) were unable to attend due to illness].

The conference was funded by grants from the University of Warwick (GHCC, GRP Connecting Cultures and Humanities Research Centre), the Thyssen Foundation, and the ERC (Oxford).

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Maxine Berg, Department of History

# Conferences and Symposia

## The Short Story Cycle: Circling Around a Genre?

On Saturday 6th February 2016, the HRC-funded conference entitled The Short Story Cycle: Circling Around a Genre? took place at the University of Warwick. The idea behind the conference was to invite speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds to discuss the open-ended concept of the Short Story Cycle. In this way we envisaged a short story cycle structure, mirroring the content. This resulted in a stimulating forum which allowed scholars from different contexts to communicate their approaches to the theme.

Prof. Max Louwerse opened the conference with his keynote lecture about the uses of computational models for research on narrative structures and coherence in texts, and more specifically in short story cycles. Thereafter the first panel, chaired by Dr Margaux Whiskin, brought together two papers on diverse topics: Dr Jim Jordan talked about diasporic experience in two German-language story collections by Rafik Schami and Emine Sevgi Özdamar and Alexandria Milton discussed mythical imagery in Julio Cortazar's 'jazzy' Bestiario.

The second session, chaired by Prof. Ann Hallamore Caesar, combined film studies, literary theory - and practice in three stimulating talks. Firstly, Dr Louis Bayman analysed the episode film Wild Tales in order to examine narrative structures in film. Secondly, Dr Mathijs Duyck challenged traditional and recent theories on the short story cycle. Dr Sylvia Mieszkowski concluded the panel with an analysis of the role of emotion as an imperfect structuring principle in AL Kennedy's All the Rage.

The last speaker of the day was key-note Prof. Mara Santi, who highlighted a reader's perspective, introducing the concept of politext to question the generic specificity of the 'short story cycle'.

The roundtable, chaired by Dr Jennifer Burns, was a lively illustration of the variety of possible interpretations, meeting points and frictions of the interdisciplinary genre (?) of the 'short story cycle'.

Gioia Panzarella live-tweeted during the event and put together a storify-page, on which a summary can be found which tells the story of the conference in a suitably fragmented way:

<https://storify.com/WarwickSsc/short-story-cycle-56ccae72bf3d5c0e4c26d224>

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Elio Baldi and Linde Luijnenburg,  
HRC Doctoral Fellows

## Activism in 2016: Art, Land and Technology

"Activism in 2016: Art, Land and Technology" was a one-day conference dedicated to the exploration of contemporary forms of political activism and their relationship to the arts.

The conference was opened by Jenny Hughes's keynote presentation "Theatrical gestures towards the commons", on theatre as an agent of change for social solidarity and political engagement. The subsequent part conference featured two panels, each of which dedicated to discuss different aspects of activism: the first focused on the ideas of local activism and community, the second on activism as resistance to different negative factors. The first one, *Rethinking local, community and land*, included Dr Malcolm Ferris, Plymouth College of Art; Jess Allen, University of Manchester; Paola Imperatore, University of Pisa; and Stella Duffy, Co-Director Fun Palaces. The second panel, *Fighting pollution in the arts, communication and environment*, hosted Dr Chris Garrard and Paula Serafini, Art Not Oil; Julia Farrington, Index on Censorship; and Dr Joel Lazarus, University of Warwick. The event also featured a poetry performance by the artist Angela Kennedy.

This conference provided an interesting platform for artists, activists and academics to meet and discuss forms of extra-parliamentary political activity, from artistic performances to urban collectives. It was particularly enriching to share knowledge on research, artistic practice and political action in a lively setting, and to confront different perspectives on a contemporary issue of great relevance. It also was an occasion to start a variety of collaborations inside and outside the University of Warwick.

The website will provide a small online archive of works and ideas on activism, which can be a useful resource for scholars, artists and people interested in politics.  
<http://activism2016.wordpress.com>.

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Alice Borch, [Centre for Cultural Policy Studies](#)

## Shaping the Self: print culture and the construction of collective identity (1460-1660)

The inspiration behind the conference Shaping the Self stemmed from a desire to explore the ways in which early print culture influenced the creation and development of identity. How did the advent of the printing press influence collective or individual identity? And how did communities or specific individuals use this medium to preserve or shape distinct characteristics? In order to answer these broad questions, it seemed essential to share them with researchers from a range of different disciplinary backgrounds. Our conference, which took place on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016, brought together postgraduate students, early

career researchers and established scholars working in Modern Languages, English, History, and Art History, all of whom shared an interest in the social impact of early print.

The conference opened with a panel that explored the relationship between print and urban identity, with two papers exploring William Caxton's *Recuyell of the histories of Troy* (Colin Davey) and the paratextual presentation of Girolamo Savonarola's works in relation to contemporary Florentine readers (Dr Jennifer Newman). The second panel then presented a juxtaposition of the construction of individual and collective identities, with a focused study of the use of printed texts by different religious communities within the Spanish Empire (Diego Rubio) and an in-depth analysis of the English author Thomas Churchyard's identity in his publications (Dr Lawrence Green). Both panels were followed by lively discussion.

After a pause for a plentiful lunch, our keynote speaker, Dr Luc Racaut, followed with a talk on 'Printing and the construction of Protestant Identity during the French Wars of Religion'. His paper examined how the Huguenots and the Catholics used emotions and passions in martyrology narratives to shape religious identity during the French reformation, and was followed by questions from the chair, Rebecca Pillière, and the floor.

The final panel of the day explored a wide range of print formats, with papers exploring displays of power and prestige in Johannes Blaeu's atlas *Theatrum Italiae* (Gloria Moorman) and the printed games of Giuseppe Maria Mitelli in the context of early modern Bologna (Naomi Lebens). The conference ended with a roundtable discussion chaired by the organizers. This drew together various threads from throughout the day, including a questioning of the established notion of print as an 'agent of change', the use of print for the preservation of identities on the wane, and indeed the question of precisely what 'identity' meant to early modern individuals and groups. The interdisciplinary approach of our discussion led to some thought-provoking conclusions regarding definitions of this notion, and the impact of print at a time when Europe as a whole underwent a period marked by conflicts and changes marked by the juxtaposition of different identities.

As organizers and delegates, we were extremely pleased with how the day went. The papers were all of an excellent standard and prompted lively, interdisciplinary dialogue centred on the theme of identity. In spite of some late cancellations, the number of delegates (approximately 25) was well suited for the informal discussion we had envisaged. In bringing together participants from a wide range of institutions involved in a number of ongoing projects related to early print culture, we are confident that the conference has made a valuable contribution. We were also particularly pleased to hear that Rebecca Carnevali and Gloria Moorman, both PhD students in the Renaissance Centre, have been awarded a HRC Doctoral Fellowship for the coming year and will be organizing their own conference on early modern Italian print culture next year.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support we have received from the HRC. Thanks must also go to Daniele Zecchinato, who helped out on the day, and Rebecca Carnevali, who live-tweeted the event (this can be revisited on <https://storify.com/RebeccaPilliere/shapingtheself>). Last but not least, we would like to thank Sue Rae for her tireless support over the course of the last year and on the day itself.

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Matt Coneys and Rebecca Pillière,  
HRC Doctoral Fellows

### 'Vichy and the everyday: new perspectives on daily life under German Occupation, 1940-1944'

This one day interdisciplinary conference was held at the University of Warwick on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, and organised by Dr David Lees (Warwick) and Dr Lindsey Dodd (Huddersfield). The principal aim of the conference was to explore the question of everyday life during the Occupation of France through an interdisciplinary approach and to refresh the notion of the 'everyday' in this period.

Participants included early career academics, alongside more established academics and senior figures in the field of the historiography of the Occupation and Vichy France. The concluding remarks were offered by two such experts, Professor Robert Gildea (Oxford) and Professor Hanna Diamond (Cardiff).

The day was arranged around several key themes. The day began with the theme of 'Coping', which dealt with practical ways of experiencing and coping with the phenomenon of Occupation, including children's games and was followed by the theme of 'Helping,' which saw participants discuss the ways in which French people received support on an everyday basis from charitable organisations and communities. The penultimate panel dealt with the theme of 'Confrontation,' discussing in particular how French people encountered the German occupiers on an everyday basis, while the final panel was arranged around the theme of 'Challenge,' including papers on the ways in which dominant narratives were constructed and then challenged in everyday occurrences in this period.

In short, this was an informative and thought-provoking study day which would not have been possible without the generous support of the Humanities Research Centre, University of Warwick, the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France, the *Connecting Cultures* GRP, University of Warwick, the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Warwick, the Royal Historical Society, the Society for the Study of French History and the School of Music and Humanities at the University of Huddersfield.

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David Lees, Department of French Studies, School of  
Modern Languages and Cultures

# Conferences and Symposia

## 'Let's Hear It For The Girls': Girlhood, Media and Popular Culture, 1990-present

Saturday 12th March 2016

Our goal with the conference, apart from 'hearing it for the girls', which was done in spades, was to explore what it means to be a girl and how girls are represented in contemporary media and popular culture since the 1990s and the dawning of 'girl power'. The conference was a great success in addressing these concerns from a wide range of interdisciplinary perspectives, from the academic (Film and Television, English, History, Sociology and Politics) to the professional (authors, artists and filmmakers).

The day began with a keynote address from Carol Dyhouse, Professor of History at the University of Sussex. We cannot fully understand the present without understanding the past; in that vein, Carol presented work from her book *Girl Trouble: Panic and Progress in the History of Young Women* to provide a historical perspective on the media treatment of girls and the issues facing them throughout 20th century culture.

The talk was followed by papers addressing issues as diverse as the role of girlhood in the War on Terror, sexuality in young adult literature, the One Direction fandom, selfies, and masturbation. We were also delighted to welcome a pre-teen speaker from the US who co-presented with her mother on Disney Channel films. She spoke with the intelligence and maturity of a seasoned academic, but also with the perspective of a young woman navigating today's complex media landscape.

Professor Rosalind Gill of City University London closed the day with her keynote address 'Love your body (but hate it too): girls & the rise of confidence culture', which highlighted the contradictory messages the media sends to women and girls about how to feel about their bodies.

We could not be more pleased that the conference was able to foster such interesting discussions and provide a supportive space for people to present their work, from middle-schoolers to senior professors. We hope to pursue this research further in the future.

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Catherine Lester and Leah Phillips,  
HRC Doctoral Fellows

## Prohibition: Perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences

This fascinating workshop took place at the University of Warwick on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016 in the Humanities building. We welcomed a range of delegates and speakers from across the world to consider the subject of prohibition from global humanities perspectives. Our three panels presented papers that responded to the

recent passing of the UK Psychoactive Substances Act from international, theoretical and cultural perspectives.

Our first keynote speaker, Stuart Walton, gave a lecture entitled: 'Honor'd in the Breach: Contravention and Consensus in the History of Substance Prohibition'. This incredibly rich talk offered a history of substance prohibition which challenged received opinions across disciplines. The second keynote was given by Warwick's Ben Smith (History), who spoke on the topic of 'The Year Mexico Legalised Drugs'. This intervention described and analysed an episode in Mexican history when the government experimented, briefly and very successfully, with the legalisation of narcotics before the pressures of the Second World War forced them to abandon the idea.

The workshop brought together emerging and established scholars from fields as diverse as law, history, critical theory, philosophy, modern languages, and cultural studies from four different continents. Participants have established a strong research network and are now working towards a joint publication on the timely topic of prohibition in the light of recent legislative developments in the UK and across the world.

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Susannah Wilson,  
Department of French Studies, School of Modern Languages and Cultures

## Mood - Aesthetic, Psychological and Philosophical Perspectives

6th and 7th May 2016

The question of mood lies at the heart of interrelated research fields in a variety of disciplines such as psychology, sociology, philosophy and the arts. In everyday life, mood is somehow always there - be it as a subtle mode of experience underlying a situation or in the form of an excruciatingly awkward encounter we are acutely aware of. Although the vast interdisciplinary potential of this phenomenon has previously been noted by a number of scholars, until recently there had been no international platform for discussing mood and for reflecting on the benefits, and problems, of approaching mood through an interdisciplinary lens. This conference set out to do so, tackling the concept of mood through a number of guiding questions: how do concepts of mood and ways of researching it differ among disciplines, and (how) can they be brought together? Where do these disciplines collide, and what does this tell us about the nature of mood? Is mood primarily a phenomenon of the subject, or is it inherently social? What are the politics of mood, and what is its place in current scholarship across the sciences and the humanities?

The academic world responded with a great amount of interest to our CfP, enabling us to design a two-day programme including over 40 speakers from six continents, based in over a dozen academic disciplines and creative practices. The programme was structured through a series

of keynote lectures and artistic performances, interspersed with parallel sessions and concluded by a panel discussion bringing together the five main disciplines represented at the event. We are currently planning on furthering the productive potential of this plurality of perspectives, as well as the tensions that arose from the discussions over the two days, in a collection of essays based on the papers given at this conference.

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Birgit Breidenbach, Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies

## Fourteenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research

'Reflecting the Parish' Saturday 7th May 2016

This year's meeting was truly international and multi-disciplinary in nature. Speakers from Germany, the United States and the UK represented archaeology, history, history of art and literary studies. In his introduction, Warwick co-host Beat Kümin (History) explained that – following a series of themed events – this meeting aimed to reflect on the role of parishes more generally. He also highlighted new features on the Parish Network Website <http://my-parish.org>.

The keynote was delivered by symposium co-organiser Ellen K Rentz (Claremont McKenna College, USA; pictured). 'In the Nave with Chaucer' revealed that the Canterbury Tales shed light not just on fourteenth-century parish life and the interface between the temporal and the spiritual spheres but on poetic form as well. She showed how a critical reading of literature allows new insights into the physical and spiritual structure of the late medieval church.

The morning panel, 'Parish and Family', included a paper on the new post-Reformation phenomenon of clergy wives, while the afternoon session 'Parish, Place and Identity' featured themes as diverse as South German parish registers and the archaeological study of parish churches in Swedish Gotland. Finally, Andrew Foster (Kent) presented a new collaborative project, 'Parish registers in the Interregnum', inviting all scholars to contribute information on source survival in the archives of England and Wales.

Beat Kümin concluded the meeting by thanking all participants and the Humanities Research Centre for its continued support of the Symposium. Next year's theme is likely to be 'Parishes and Migration'.

<http://my-parish.org/events/parish-symposium-2016-reflecting-the-parish>

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Ruth Barbour,  
Department of History

## Fate and Fortune in Renaissance Thought

Friday 27th May 2016

The concepts of fame and fortune in Renaissance thought seem to remain out of a particular scholarly interest. While having a significant medieval background in the theological texts and in *The Consolation of Philosophy* and other philosophical treatises, these concepts received new life during the Renaissance period. The cause was a renewed interest in Cicero's treatises, as well as in Alexander of Aphrodisias and Stoic philosophy. On the other hand, the question of fate and fortune played an important role in artistic, political and astrological debates in that time.

This interdisciplinary conference brought together both young and prominent scholars working in different fields including art history, political history, humanism, Renaissance philosophy and literary studies. While both keynotes lectures given by Professor Dilwyn Knox (UCL) and Dr Stephen Clucas (Birkbeck) dealt with Renaissance philosophy, the session papers observed various aspects of the problem. Marina Gorbunova (Moscow) and Ovanes Akopyan (Warwick) examined the significance of the fortune iconography in the early modern period not only in Western Europe but also in seventeenth-century Russia. Donato Verardi (Paris) shed new light on fatalistic debates in respect of astrological controversies in the Renaissance, while Elisabeth Blum (Loyola University, Baltimore) explored the *fortuna* question in Giordano Bruno's *Lo Spaccio della Bestia Trionfante*. Finally, Anthony Ellis (Bern) and Orlando Reade (Princeton) revealed the reception of fate and fortune concepts in Henri Estienne and English Renaissance poetry respectively.

Apart from the scientific aspects of the conference, the discussion continued in a less formal atmosphere, during the coffee breaks and lunch. It is expected that the conference will lead to the publication of the proceedings, which is currently being under negotiation with Brepols. Several external scholars have already expressed their interest in contributing to the volume.

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Ovanes Akopyan,  
Centre for the Study of the Renaissance

# Conferences and Symposia

## Under Control. Childhood and Twentieth Century Dictatorships (1917-1991)

The aim of this one-day interdisciplinary conference was to bring together scholars from different disciplines to investigate how dictatorial regimes tried to control and mould children across Western and Eastern Europe as well as South America in the Twentieth century. This goal has fully been achieved. The conference gathered speakers from the UK, Germany, Portugal and Canada. Their papers tackled the topic from different perspectives (history, literature, education, visual culture) and covered several geographical areas (Eastern Europe, Portugal, Hungary, China, Iran, Germany, Italy, Spain and Argentina).

The event was organized into three sessions. The first one was devoted to the exercise of power through visual culture and examined comics, textbooks' illustrations and educational films as instruments of propaganda and indoctrination. The second one focused the impact of politics on the literary field, both in terms of its strategic use to convey suitable attitudes, ideas and ideologies and of its censorship to prevent cultural freedom. Finally, the third session centred on the pivotal issues of memory and trauma re-elaboration through a close analysis of authentic materials produced by school children and its literary representation by adults.

The three panels were framed by the two keynote speeches. Dr Nick Baron (Nottingham) opened the day talking about the strategies of child displacement and replacement that new East European states in the interwar period undertook to secure their status and future integrity. Prof. Alison Ribeiro de Menezes (Warwick) closed the conference exploring forms of children's resilience and coping strategies during post-war Spain and the Argentine dictatorship narrated in contemporary Spanish and Argentine fiction.

The conference was very well attended (30 people) and its development has been followed by a live institutional tweeting throughout the day (<https://twitter.com/UndControl2016>). We hope to carry on this research project and to publish a volume that would deepen and extend the ideas arisen from the conference around the three approaches illustrated above. In this respect, most of the speakers have already shown interest for future collaborations.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the support of Warwick's Humanities Research Centre, Research Student Skills Programme and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures in making possible such an invaluable opportunity for research networking and organizational skills development.

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**Valentina Abbatelli and Paola Roccella, Italian Studies, School of Modern Languages and Cultures**

## The Matter of Resistance

Our conference, The Matter of Resistance (organized by Joe Shafer and Sourit Bhattacharya), took place on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the University of Warwick. The conference sought to provide, in context of the contemporary struggle based resistances all over the world, an introduction to the appearances of "resistance" and "resistance studies" for a wide and diverse population. We invited keynote speakers who have long expertise in this field, both through personal research and public engagement - Prof Thomas Docherty (Warwick), who spoke on material theory and resistance, Prof Howard Caygill (Kingston University), who delivered a paper on the manuals of resistance from the Holocaust to current times, and Dr Priyamvada Gopal (Cambridge), who spoke on the role of the academic in today's neoliberal university space. The unique topic of resistance itself, within a materialist yet interdisciplinary frame, successfully added to existing discourses and sparked several hot discussions among scholars and participants.

We received an enthusiastic response from our open call for papers and selected a diverse lot. There were papers on comics, urbanity and resistance; resistant Baldiya theatre in Sri Lanka; performance and difference in stand-up comedy; participation/nonparticipation in the queer context in Romania; aboriginal riots in Australia; conflicted Arab borders and speculative fiction, and so forth, from a very diverse community of speakers, including the UK, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Australia, the USA, Romania, among others.

The approximately 80 attendees were engaging, asking questions, mingling with fellow participants and scholars, and enjoying the atmosphere. All of this could be possible because of the generous funding we received from the Humanities Research Centre, Research Students Skills Programme, Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature, and the Arts, and the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies at Warwick. We would like to particularly thank Mrs Sue Rae, centre administrator, HRC, for her invaluable suggestions and help, and Ms Heather Pilbin, academic administrator, English and Comparative Literary Studies, for her endless support, care, and advice.

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**Joe Shafer and Sourit Bhattacharya, Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies**



### The Musical Humanism of the Renaissance and its Legacy

The stated aim of this conference—hosted by the University of Warwick in collaboration with the RMA Music and Philosophy Study Group in Venice on 2-4 June 2016—was to examine how ‘Renaissance musical humanists extended the accessibility of classical literature on music, reshaped the ways in which this literature was understood, and, ultimately, radically transformed classical conceptions of the power of music’. Given this brief, it was not surprising that conference organiser Jacomien Prins (Warwick) was able to assemble a highly interdisciplinary program of nearly thirty papers delivered by musicologists, art and cultural historians, philosophers, classicists, and literature scholars.

Such interdisciplinarity is not too difficult to come by in early music studies. In the penultimate paper, Tomas McAuley (Cambridge) compared the concept of ‘relational musicology’—an interdisciplinary approach to musicology that is interested in the social relations necessary for the production of music—to a ‘pre-disciplinary’ orientation towards the study of music in the Renaissance. McAuley observed that, though the term may be new, many early music specialists have long been practicing relational musicology and, by extension, following in the footsteps of their Renaissance forebears.

A (non-exhaustive) sampling of presentations suffices to illustrate McAuley’s claim. Michael Allen (UCLA) and Tim Shepherd (Sheffield) gave papers on musical iconography and myth. Shepherd’s study of Orphic iconography ca. 1500 as an expression of music’s power to influence the passions found a bookend in Katherine Butler’s (Oxford) discussion of seventeenth-century Orpheus burlesques, which she read as a barometer of the waning belief in music’s miraculous effects. Wendy Heller (Princeton) considered the operatic afterlife

of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* in the sixteenth century through Anguillara’s sixteenth-century edition.

A number of papers dealt with education. Through archival records and artistic evidence, Bláithín Hurley (Warwick) examined attitudes toward, and the practice of learning and performing music in Venice. Giovanni Zanovello (Indiana) focused on musical education in Florentine religious institutions.

Gender was the central concern for Sigrid Harris (University of Queensland), who examined Renaissance anxieties about the corrupting effects of the female voice. Samantha Bassler (Westminster Choir College) overlaid gender with disability studies and presented on the feminising effect of madness and song in Shakespearean plays. ‘Madness’ returned in Andrea Korenjak’s (Austrian Academy of Sciences) contribution, wherein she tackled the ‘legacy’ part of the conference title and explored the humanistic principles behind musical-therapeutic programmes in nineteenth-century Viennese sanatoria.

Numerous papers dealt with musical esotericism. Frans de Haas (Leiden) explicated the roots of ancient thoughts in Agrippa. Prins examined the disagreements between Cardano and Scaliger in areas such as the senses and the impact of music on the soul. Teresa Rodriguez (Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, UNAM) explored the texture of Ficino’s thoughts on divine inspiration. Some looked beyond Greco-Roman sources of influence; Ovanes Akopyan (Warwick) and Hanna Gentili (Warburg) both touched on the Jewish thought evident in Zorzi and Ficino respectively. To this category, we can add Charles Burnett’s (Warburg) contribution on the lute in the Arabic-Islamic musical theory.

Lastly, music’s relationship to rhetoric and language was also a recurring topic, taken up by Isaac Louth (Princeton),

## Conferences and Symposia

who discussed the theme in Bacon's *Sylva sylvarum*; Daniel Rogers (Indiana), who revisited the concept of *imitatio* in composition; and Giuseppe Gerbino (Columbia), who analysed Platonic and Aristotelian confluences behind the different sonic pleasures derived from music and words according to Tomitano.

Musical rhetoric was brought to life by harpsichordist Catalina Vicens (Leiden/Orpheus Institute) in two excellent lunchtime concerts. She was joined by singer-harpist Patrizia Bovi (Leiden/Orpheus) in the second concert, which featured music of courtesans and other risqué songs. Videos of the performances have generously been made available online to the public on the official conference website (<http://bit.ly/296CtZl>).

As for 'musical humanism', the theme and title of the conference itself—a roundtable aimed to evaluate the heuristic value of existing scholarship on the subject. The session was prefaced by Stefano Mengozzi's (University of Michigan) paper earlier in the day, which distinguished between religious and classical authorities in the humanistic writings of Tinctoris. The roundtable itself was introduced by Penelope Gouk (Manchester), whose presentations mapped out the contributions of her mentor DP Walker to the study of musical humanism and rehearsed Tomlinson's 2006 typology of research directions on the topic.

In the roundtable discussion (and in the papers delivered throughout the conference), the plasticity of the concept 'humanism' itself was evident. It encompassed, most/ too narrowly, the recovery of ancient writings on rhetoric; something like a methodology of scholarship based on classical writing; and a set of commonly shared precepts (such as universal harmony). Some participants were weary of this very plasticity—'humanism' has even been adopted by some sub-fields in musicology as a contrast against 'not-human-ism'—and questioned the value of the term; would 'classicising,' for example, not be more precise and expedient? Other questions raised: To what extent was humanism an elite, top-down phenomenon? How many people on the streets partook of its fruits? Can we productively conceive of a second-hand humanism, where the rediscovered classical texts were disseminated and experienced as inter-text in commentaries? Did this engender a 'colloquial humanism'?

These remain questions in search of answers. If a volume of proceedings is to be produced, I suspect some clarity may emerge among its contents. While not every paper critically examined 'humanism' head-on, they do elliptically touch upon some aspect of the idea. Such diffusion, though, points to the strength and source of success of the conference: the abundance of interconnections between all the papers will inevitably foster a cross-pollination of ideas and advance our understanding of Renaissance musical thought.

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**Remi Chiu, Assistant professor of musicology at Loyola University Maryland**

## Medieval Material Matters

Held at the Wolfson Research Exchange in the University of Warwick library, this postgraduate research day in medieval materiality took place on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016, and was headed by a plenary lecture from Professor Catherine Brown of the University of Michigan on 'Manuscript is the New Digital'. Following this, two paper panels generated discussions on the broad themes of manuscripts and their material worlds, and the materiality of space and place as this applies to the study of medieval sources, including literature, art, architecture and archaeology. The final session of the day consisted of a materiality workshop led by Catherine Brown, in which participants discussed recent work by writers Tim Ingold and Andrew Cole in seminar format. Discussion for all panels during the day was enhanced by pre-circulated papers. In particular, debate focused on how materiality might be understood – and critiqued – in medieval contexts and how the digital environment in which medieval research increasingly takes place might affect our thinking about the materiality of cultural artefacts, objects, and spaces from and in the European Middle Ages. This comes at a moment when scholars across disciplines are beginning to think through the effects of New Materialism and its associated discourses.

The event, generously funded by the Warwick Humanities Research Centre and Department of French Studies, sought to bring together scholars from a variety of disciplines, with scholars from the UK, USA and Portugal attending. Likewise, the event would not have been the success that it was without funding for postgraduate travel provided by the Society for French Studies, which encouraged PhD students from the UK and further afield to travel to the University of Warwick.

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**Merryn Everitt and Liam Lewis,  
French Studies, School of Modern Languages and  
Cultures**



## Arts Faculty Postgraduate Seminar Series

Once again the HRC was able to sponsor the Arts Faculty Seminar Series enabling postgraduate students from the Faculty to meet for research seminars. The aim of the series is to broaden awareness of the doctoral work taking place within the faculty whilst creating a relaxed forum for young researchers to practice presenting their work. The seminars provide an opportunity for all students to offer valuable feedback on this work, strengthening their critical tools and expanding their inter-disciplinary experiences, and fostering a great sense of community. Despite a challenging year the following panels took place:

### Term 1

- ▶ "Philosophy of the Postcolonial Body", chaired by Mike Niblett.
- ▶ Andrew Stones (English), "The Postcolonial Machinic Unconscious: Dambudzo Marechera and the Textual Ecology of the Planet of Slums".
- ▶ Roxanne Douglas (English), "Articulating: The Body and Discourse in Egyptian and Lebanese Women's Writings"

### Term 2

- ▶ "Reappraisals of Renaissance Italy", chaired by Dr Louise Bourdua.
- ▶ Ovanes Akopyan (Renaissance Studies), "Controversies on Astrology in Renaissance Italy (late 15th and early 16th centuries)".
- ▶ Matteo Carpiello (History of Art), "Bartolomeo Montagna: Art and Business in Early Modern Vicenza"

## Eighteenth Century Centre Seminar Series 2015-16 and Workshop

### This year's programme was:

- ▶ Dr Kate Retford (Birkbeck, University of London): "Light Incidents': Humour and the Conversation Piece in Eighteenth-Century England'
- ▶ Prof. Paul Monod (Middlebury College): 'The Occult Revival in late 18th Century England'
- ▶ Dr David Taylor (Warwick, English): 'Looking, Literacy and the Printshop Window'
- ▶ Prof. Emeritus Penelope Corfield (Royal Holloway, University of London): 'Lauding Merit Over Birth: Intimations of a Coming Meritocracy 1700-1830'
- ▶ Dr Sarah Easterby-Smith (St. Andrews): 'The Emperor's New Cloves: Tipu Sultan, French Botany and Empire 1788'
- ▶ Prof. Farid Azfar (Swarthmore College): 'The Golden Age of the Assiento'
- ▶ Prof. Keith Baker (Stanford): 'Marat: Prophet of Terror'

In May, it was Warwick's turn to host the annual workshop held jointly with the University of Birmingham. This year's theme was 'The Eighteenth Century Past and Present' and it set out to explore how the C18th helps/hinders us to think about contemporary issues, how aspects of the C18th are presented/represented in any form now, parallels/discontinuities between past and present, and C18th issues which still have purchase on current debates. The keynote presentation by Steve Pincus (Yale) on 'Making a State in 1776: Political Economy, Imperial Politics and the Declaration of Independence' was followed by panels on The Culture of Objects, The Digital Eighteenth Century, and Historical Perspectives. Postgraduate researchers from both institutions had the opportunity to present alongside established scholars. 30 people took part and the day was judged a great success.

## Medieval Seminar Series

It has been another excellent year for the Warwick Medieval Seminar Series. The Seminar, which now supports around fourteen events every year, again hosted a mixture of internal and external papers, reading group sessions, and workshops. This year's external speakers included Marilyn Desmond (Binghampton), Adrian Armstrong (QMUL), Juan Miguel Valero Moreno (Salamanca), Thorlac Turville-Petre (Nottingham), and Daniel McCann (Oxford). Colleagues from a range of departments at Warwick also gave papers: Giorgio Tagliaferro (History of Art), Simon Gilson (Italian Studies), and Merryn Everitt (PhD candidate, French Studies). A number of speakers spoke about projects that intersected with postgraduate and undergraduate research across the Arts Faculty, generating interest in our events from students at all levels, as well as from more established colleagues.

In addition to our programme of talks, the Medieval Reading Group, coordinated by Sarah Wood, met regularly during the course of the year. Jane Sinnett-Smith and Louise Campion also ran an afternoon workshop on cannibalism and the Eucharist in medieval literature. Our final event of the academic year was a day workshop on *Medieval Material Matters*, organised by Merryn Everitt and Liam Lewis and generously funded by the HRC, the Society for French Studies, and the Warwick French Studies department. This workshop took place in the Wolfson Research Exchange on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016, and included a plenary lecture by Professor Catherine Brown (Michigan).

Looking forward to next year, two of our postgraduate organisers have secured HRC Doctoral Fellowship funding for an interdisciplinary conference on the transformation of the body in the Middle Ages (see page 20). We look forward to hosting this event, as well as our usual programme. Further information on our activities can be found on the *Medievalists at Warwick* webpage; there are also updates year-round on Twitter @medievalwarwick.

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Merryn Everitt and Liam Lewis,  
School of Modern Languages and Cultures



## STVDIO

### STVDIO Report 2015 - 2016

This year's STVDIO Seminar series brought together a distinguished selection of speakers from the UK and abroad. It was valuable in eliciting inter-disciplinary dialogue and in strengthening Warwick's links with other research institutions. We were delighted to jointly host speakers with other departments, thus enhancing the profile of the CSR across the Faculty of Arts at Warwick. Dr Jennifer Oliver's talk on machines in French Renaissance literature was co-hosted with the French Department and Professor Mark Greengrass's presentation on the Epistolary Reformation was jointly supported by the History Department and had a particularly broad audience.

The varied line-up of speakers fulfilled the CSR's brief to act as a forum for interdisciplinary thinking, crossing traditional boundaries between the early modern and the medieval. Ideas were traded on a variety of fields, from the role of gender in medieval cross-dressing narratives (Emma Campbell, Warwick) to the structure of parish government in fifteenth and sixteenth-century England (Gabriel Byng, Cambridge). Alessandra Panazelli (University of Oxford) drew our attention to the importance of networks of early book production in the fifteenth century and Grace Allen (Warburg Institute) spoke about Aristotelianism in fifteenth-century Italy. The seminar group was particularly grateful to Richard Serjeantson for an illuminating paper on Thomas More's *Utopia* which pointed to the text's connection with the genre of civic panegyric. Warwick's own staff had the opportunity to contribute to the series. In addition to Emma Campbell's paper, Dr Máté Vince spoke about Virgilian influence in the oeuvre of the Hungarian poet Miklós Zrinyi, opening up new literary horizons for his audience.

We were also pleased to host a paper by a former member of the CSR, Paola Tomè, who spoke about Greek authors in Giovanni Tortelli's *Orthographia*. The STVDIO series acts as an important venue for postgraduate and undergraduate students to deepen their studies, make contacts with academics from other institutions and share their own research with the academic community at Warwick. We are deeply grateful to the HRC and other institutions for enabling such a valuable opportunity for staff and students to meet and share ideas.

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Dr Alexander Russell,  
Centre for the Study of the Renaissance



## Sidelights on Shakespeare

2016 marks four hundred years since the death of Shakespeare, and to celebrate the anniversary *Sidelights on Shakespeare* teamed up with The Birthplace Trust and the IAS International Visiting Fellowship scheme to produce a special event in Stratford-Upon-Avon. In July eminent historian, Professor Carole Levin (Lincoln, Nebraska, USA) and exciting, interdisciplinary scholar, Dr Michael Winkelman (Owens Tech, USA) gave complementary papers on Shakespeare's Venetian plays. Prof Levin's lecture, 'I would not have given it for a wilderness of monkeys: Shylock's Turquoise, Queenship, and the Exotic', was followed by Dr Winkelman's contrasting talk 'To Preserve This Vessel: Jealousy, Evolutionary Biology, and Othello', thus ending another successful year for *Sidelights on Shakespeare*.

Our seminars this year began with Professor Gary Watt of Warwick School of Law who shared some thoughts on *As You Like It* from his forthcoming book *Shakespeare's Acts of Will: Law, Testament and Properties of Performance*. Stuart Elden, Professor of Political Theory and Geography at Warwick was our second speaker and his fascinating paper explored *King John* through the themes of majesty and territories. Lastly, Dr Velda Elliott, Associate Professor of English and Literacy Education, University of Oxford, discussed whether viewing *Hamlet* within the genre of 'Crime Fiction', as A Level students currently have the option to do, can be helpful and interesting.

*Sidelights on Shakespeare* has become a recognized feature of research life at Warwick, so we were keen to expand our open access policy for distance and part-time learners. This we have done, capturing seminars live and making audio versions available, as well as establishing an on-line chat room for those who wish to discuss our seminars further. 2016, a special year for Shakespeare scholars and next year we have exciting developments planned for *Sidelights on Shakespeare* - see our website for further details!

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[warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/pg/shakespeareresearchseminar](http://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/pg/shakespeareresearchseminar)

Stephanie Tillotson,  
English and Comparative Literary Studies

## 'More than meets the page: Printing Text and Images in Italy, 1570s-1700s'

Saturday 4th March 2017

### Key-note Speakers:

Dr Marika Keblusek (Leiden University)

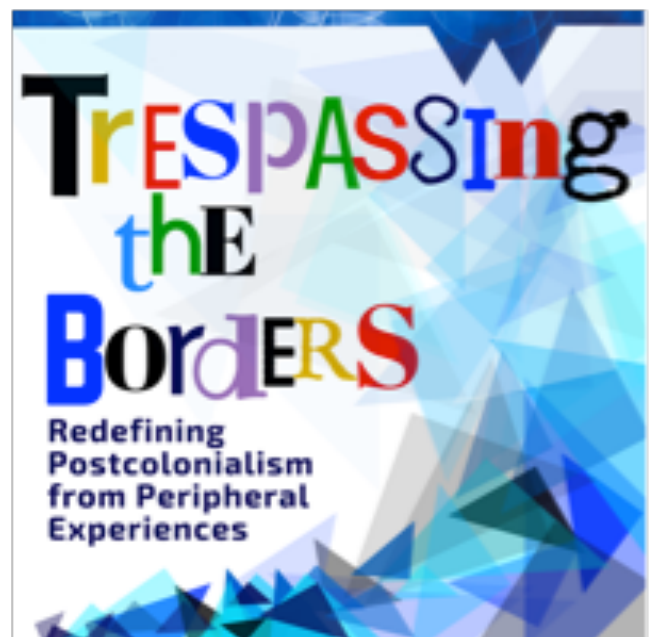
Dr Angela McShane (RCA/V&A)

For Italy, the 'long seventeenth century' was a period of considerable financial challenges. This was especially evident on the book market. Nevertheless, thanks to new techniques and formats which mutually related text and images within the same publication, innovative genres were born that were marketed towards both ends of the audience spectrum, from the learned to the illiterate, and throughout distant countries, between Italy and the rest of Europe. Moreover, various professionals and skilled workers earned their living thanks to the print market, from the production to the distribution of printed items, such as workshops of woodcutters specialized exclusively in book illustrations, and publishers representatives at book fairs. The new commercial items, moreover, contributed to the spread of cultural phenomena, for instance the *Grand Tour* through its souvenir prints that were sometimes incorporated in atlases.

This conference aims to investigate the ways in which the consolidation of the book and print trade influenced the development of such new book genres from the late sixteenth to the early eighteenth century by focusing on the products, audiences and professionals involved. By doing so, it sets out to lay the foundations for a shared history of printed products and markets in the early modern period and promotes a multidisciplinary perspective, bridging the gaps between art history, history of the book and other disciplines such as intellectual history and communication studies. Moreover, '*More than meets the page*' fits within the growing trend of Warwick-based research on early modern print culture by continuing the stimulating academic exchanges forged, for instance with '*Shaping*

*the Self*', an HRC-sponsored conference, held on 5th March 2016 and organised by 3rd year Warwick PhD students Matthew Coneys and Rebecca Pillière (School of Modern Languages and Cultures).

For further information: [warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/pti/](http://warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/pti/)



## Trespassing The Borders: Redefining Postcolonialism From Peripheral Experiences

Saturday 11th March 2017

'So, we ask, is the Postcolonial really dead?' By starting from this challenging question, 'Trespassing the Borders' would engage with new strands in Postcolonial studies. The main aim of the event is to connect different disciplines to study some dynamics that are shaping contemporary Europe. In so doing, the vicissitudes of

## Forthcoming Conferences 2016/17

some Countries that have been considered for decades 'marginal' cases in terms of the colonial/postcolonial experience (e.g. Italy, Germany, Greece) will be compared with examples which have received much greater scholarly attention (France, United Kingdom), in order to highlight mutual interconnections, differentiations and peculiarities.

The awareness of the distinction between the anticolonial thought and a more theoretical attitude formed in the metropolitan centres will be at the core of the event. At the same time, 'Trespassing the Borders' wants to be a forum where the term 'Postcolonial' will not be investigated in an extremely theoretically-oriented way: in so doing, the conference engages more politically-charged and possibly compromising terms, such as imperialism and neo-colonialism, in order to analyse the complexity of current issues and both their historical and ontological roots. This methodological awareness focuses the multifaceted study of representations as tools to reproduce some dynamics of power, and engages crucial concepts such as mobility, transnationalism, linguistic and cultural translation.

In this framework, Italy and other 'peripheral cases' offer a peculiar case-study due to the singularity of their colonial past, the complexity of their process of decolonization, the history of migration, and contemporary issues (refugee, neo-racism). All these intertwined phenomena push toward a redefinition of disciplinary theories and boundaries: 'Trespassing the Borders' will foster new perspective that encourages the investigation on both the different meanings of contemporary citizenship/belongings, and of related representational practices.

For further information: [warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/ttb/](http://warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/ttb/)

## Bodies in Flux: Rewriting the Body in Medieval Literature, Art and Culture 1000-1450

Saturday 20th May 2017

Featuring a roundtable discussion with Dr Miranda Griffin (Cambridge), Dr Robert Mills (UCL), and Dr Debra Strickland (Glasgow).

What is it to have a body? And to experience change and transformation through that body? A focus on the material body in critical theory and philosophy has, in recent decades, produced varied and stimulating challenges to the ways that we think about and engage with bodies, particularly in the fields of gender and sexuality, queer theory, posthumanism, disability studies, and the 'material turn'. Discussion of how bodies interact with, are situated in, or are delineated from social, political, and cultural phenomena illuminates our understanding of the experience of embodiment, and the representation of this experience. Similar debates, discussions, and anxieties were expressed in the Middle Ages. The study of changing bodies in medieval sources reveals how artists and thinkers perceived themselves and the world around them. It sheds new light on ways of reading and interpreting medieval works of art and literature, and can establish a useful dialogue with contemporary theory.



This interdisciplinary conference asks what the transformation of the body means for the conception of bodies of different kinds: human, nonhuman, animal, material, divine, and how the representation of these changes in different media reflects on and inflects the boundaries conventionally associated with the body. The conference will unite scholars working in any area of medieval studies, including literature, art history, history of medicine, and history of religion. The event will provide a forum for exchange among scholars working on medieval bodily transformation in its many forms.

For further information: [warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/bif/](http://warwick.ac.uk/hrc/confs/bif/)