BookFest 2014

The IAS is in full swing gearing up for BookFest, the 2014 University of Warwick Book Festival taking place at Warwick Arts Centre. Following on from the success of its inaugural event in 2013, this year the festival has been extended to a 3-day programme starting on the weekend of 17 and 18 May, followed by a school’s event on Monday 19 May.

The event will bring a wide range of authors to campus, including a special event on Friday 2 May with War Horse author Michael Morpurgo. Accompanied by highly acclaimed musicians John Tams and Barry Coope, this unique event brings together readings from War Horse with music specially composed by John Tams for the award-winning theatre production.

On the Festival weekend itself highlights include Louis de Bernières (author of Captain Corelli’s Mandolin) talking about his latest work, Tony Mendez discussing his life as a CIA Agent – his most famous escapade was depicted in the film Argo (2012) – and a panel of Guardian journalists and intelligence experts will debate whether Edward Snowden is a traitor or a hero. Top historical fiction writers Anita Mason, Andrew Crumey and William Palmer will discuss the rise of interest in historical novels, while Clare Mulley, author of The Spy Who Loved will lead a panel on women secret agents.

Tickets are currently on sale from Warwick Arts Centre box office. See the full programme at www.go.warwick.ac.uk/bookfestival and follow us on twitter@bookfestwarwick
IAS Bulletin Spring 2014

IAS Broadening Horizons

With the IAS’s emphasis on engaging with an interdisciplinary and international research field, fellows are encouraged to frequently step outside their normal research environment and this has resulted in a number of our Fellows travelling aboard to conduct research and attend conferences. In this issue of the Bulletin, IAS Global Research Fellow Tara Puri gives her account of a summer spent in India undertaking archival work, whilst IAS Early Career Fellow Greg Frame writes about his experience at a conference in the USA and the opportunities that arose from this.

In addition, the pre-launch event of BookFest 2014 gave an opportunity for one Theatre Studies undergraduate to broaden her horizons by contributing to the IAS ‘In Conversation’ event with Dr Oliver Sacks. The format of the evening involved several readings of Dr Sacks’ work by Becky Anderson, with a discussion between Dr Sacks with Dr Julie Walsh (IAS Global Research Fellow) following each reading, examining the setting and issues surrounding the passage. Below Becky summarises her experience.

Dr Oliver Sacks: In Conversation, A Reflection

Becky Anderson, 3rd Year Undergraduate, Department of Theatre Studies

As a Theatre and Performance undergraduate student at Warwick, I felt very privileged to read for the BookFest 2014 launch event with Oliver Sacks in conversation on January 22nd. In my time with the Theatre department it has often been pressed upon me the significance of the interdisciplinary potential of theatre and performance and, through this event, the Institute of Advanced Study gave me the opportunity to experience this in practice. To be a reader in such a setting is to be in a powerful, mediatory position and yet I believe that my experience at the event was that of the playing out of an exchange: I was stretched in my academic understanding by exposure to the content of Sacks’ work and the Institute’s critical perceptions whilst I simultaneously opened up a new point of aural access for the text. In my recitation I felt that I was able to contribute to the understanding of the text, by sounding nuances that are perhaps more poignant in the hearing of a piece than by textual analysis. This event was, for me, an eye-opener of what a reading can do; I have presented for events before and yet there was something vital and alive about the format of the conversation with Sacks that took me by surprise. The duality of content and comment heard in the same space was exciting and seemed to me to open up a new door for reflection and critique that a ‘post-show discussion’ never quite manages.

In pursuit of women’s magazines

Dr Tara Puri, IAS Global Research Fellow, Department of English

I spent a month last August in Delhi, spending as much time as I could at the library at Teen Murti Bhawan. Located in the grounds of the former residence of the first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, the Nehru Memorial Library is one of the most important archives for scholars working on modern Indian history. An elegant 1930s mansion, its sprawling lawns, long verandas, and ornamental arches recall ideas of imperial grandeur.

I was searching for Indian women’s magazines from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. As with all archival work, I encountered surprises, some less pleasant than others, but also made discoveries I hadn’t anticipated. The most exciting of these was coming across a magazine called The Indian Ladies’ Magazine, a wonderfully ambitious and unexpectedly moving periodical edited by the extraordinary Kamala Satthianadhan. Started in 1901 from Madras, the magazine announced its purpose on the first page of its first issue as ‘a monthly journal conducted in the interests of the women of India’. It aimed to contribute to debates on women’s education and their role in the rapidly changing nation and to this end proudly featured photographs of women graduates who had received degrees from the Universities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Contributors to the magazine included well-known names like Sarojini Naidu and Annie Besant, and in 1905 it published Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain’s now well-known English short story, ‘Sultana’s Dream’, an early feminist utopia.

But this library was for me a mix of the utopian and the dystopian, with a companionable silence rubbing against the bureaucratic processes familiar from experience, and from Kafka’s nightmares and Borges’ labyrinths. At times the cultural differences and working practices of the library were very different from other library encounters. As soon as I entered the library and deposited my bags with a bored security guard, I was sent to the librarian, who checked my credentials as a genuine researcher and gave me a temporary pass. Since the digital catalogue did not include periodicals, I had to rely on the handwritten one. The spidery handwriting pointed me first to a Hindi magazine available on microfilm. There are six microfilm readers on the first floor, which are
zealously guarded by two librarians. I arrived there on a rainy afternoon to find the two guardians buttressed behind their desks, soundly asleep, impervious to my loud feet-shuffling and purposeful coughing. Finally the man awakened and without listening pointed to his sleeping counterpart, ‘Ask Madam’, before nodding off again. When she awakened, I was allowed to use the microfilm machine, but reprimanded for not booking ahead. The machines are allocated according to a reservation system, and those who need them can sign up for either a morning or afternoon reading slot. Bizarrely, the library has a policy of switching off all film readers for 15 minutes every hour, to allow them to ‘rest’, or as the librarian helpfully told me, they might explode. But these enforced breaks for chai, though frustrating at first, did help me to slip into a different, slower rhythm of work where thinking takes up as much time as reading.

The Indian Ladies’ Magazine, along with other Hindi women’s magazines, became the core of a small grant application on my return, which has been successful. Funded by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, I am now planning to return to Delhi this summer, to look again for the throb of the real in yellowing pages barely held in by broken spines.

2013 Annual Film & History Conference

Dr Gregory Frame, IAS Early Career Fellow, Department of Film and Television Studies

In late November 2013, thanks to generous contributions from the Humanities Research Fund and the Institute of Advanced Study arising from my Early Career Fellowship, I travelled to Madison, Wisconsin, braving the freezing conditions to deliver some of my new research at the annual conference of Film & History. Having attended the previous year, it was a fantastic opportunity to solidify relationships and foster new collaborations with colleagues from the United States. Not only have I been approached by a senior academic with a view to putting together an edited collection on the subject of mainstream cinema’s political dimensions, the society’s journal welcomes speakers to submit their conference papers in article form for consideration. Furthermore, it was a privilege to hear the keynote address from one of the most distinguished scholars in Film Studies, David Bordwell. For any PhD or Early Career Researcher, I would highly recommend taking advantage of any possibilities to broaden your horizons beyond conferences in the UK as you never know what opportunities may arise.

IAS Current Award Schemes and Deadlines at a glance

For full details go to: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/funding_opportunities

INCUBATION AWARDS
19 May 2014

Incubation Awards are intended to provide initial funds for identifying and pump-priming new, Warwick-based collaborative research networks that are interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary in their methodology, agenda and personnel. Incubation Awards are designed to expedite scoping activities for collaborative research networks, not to sustain such networks beyond this start-up phase. Applications involve researchers from more than one department and are often deployed to bring researchers from other institutions, including international visitors, to the University to explore collaborative links with Warwick researchers.

RESEARCH GRANT ACCELERATION AWARDS
19 May 2014

These awards are intended to promote ambitious bids to external funders of an interdisciplinary nature. Funding is available to cover proposal development expenses relating to large grants or prestigious awards, typically over £300k. Awards will usually be spent on teaching replacement, research assistance to prepare the bid or proof of concept work.

EARLY CAREER FELLOWSHIPS
9 June 2014

This programme supports Warwick doctoral candidates in the transition phase as they move towards postdoctoral careers. Fellows are expected to write research publications, conference papers, job applications, and postdoctoral fellowship/grant proposals - while engaging with the interdisciplinary activities of IAS. Fellowships will last a maximum of 10-months, during which time award holders are asked to run a symposium or workshop on campus. The Fellowships are available on a part-time basis and many are held in conjunction with part-time employment within or outside the University. Eligible applicants will need to submit their PhD thesis between 1 May 2014 and 30 September 2014. Fellowships are expected to start on 1 October 2014.

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS
30 June 2014

The Visiting Fellowship scheme offers excellent opportunities to collaborate with outstanding researchers from around the world. We are especially keen to attract Fellows who can assist with impact-related projects that tie in to Warwick’s Global Research Priorities and additional resource will be available for this on a
Summary of IAS awards and deadlines

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Notice for final year PhD students

If you will be submitting your PhD between 1 May and 30 September 2014 and want to know more about the IAS Early Career Fellowship scheme come along to our information session. This will be held at the Wolfson Research Exchange, Warwick Library on Thursday 15 May 2014 at 2:30pm.

The primary aim of this scheme is to promote visits by highly distinguished researchers and intellectuals to Warwick. This includes policy makers, representatives of the arts, business, government and industry, artists and writers which will enrich the research landscape across the disciplines at Warwick and contribute to the University’s international reputation as a centre of research excellence and innovation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS
7 July 2014

Due to the rapid increase in demand for this scheme, we will be moving towards a call based system for events taking place from August 2014 onwards. The IAS Public engagement scheme promotes Warwick-based public engagement activities and is focused on the Research Excellence Framework (REF). The funding councils also highlight economic, social and cultural public engagement as a key research outcome for grant applications. Public engagement events may occur at Warwick, however we are especially keen to promote activities that engage with non-academic partners and which showcase Warwick research in London or other centres where there is ease of access for user-communities. Achieving public engagement is challenging and IAS is happy to advise on engagement with the Third Sector, with think tanks and the world of Whitehall, Westminster and beyond.

RESEARCH NETWORKS
15 September 2014

The IAS and the Wolfson Research Exchange are working together to expand the range and variety of cross-campus research networks. IAS plays an important role in assisting with collaborative, interdisciplinary networks, not only financially through Incubation awards, but also with resources such as the IAS Seminar Room in Millburn House and the IAS website where cross-disciplinary networks can be housed on a neutral IAS website rather than on any one department’s pages. Modest funding is available for one-day workshops and meetings for established networks.

VACATION SCHOOLS AND CONFERENCES
20 October 2014

This programme is designed to fund or co-fund research-oriented residential workshops or conferences at Warwick or Warwick’s conference location in Venice and Brussels. The events are geared toward early career (PhD and/or recent postdoctoral) researchers. Funded projects should be focused on specific research questions, methodologies and themes and normally extend over 5 days. The event should range intellectually beyond a single discipline or Warwick department. Successful proposals will allow Warwick-based PhD students and postdoctoral fellows as well as early career researchers drawn from a wider national or international pool to gain new understanding of emerging fields of scholarly analysis in dialogue with more senior researchers and presenters. The average award value is £15,000.

EUROPEAN FRONTIERS
Rolling deadline

Following the launch of the European Horizon 2020 funding programme, this scheme will continue to operate on a rolling basis. The scheme is intended to support the development of bids to a wide range of European schemes, including but not limited to: Horizon 2020, European Science Foundation grants, bilateral schemes between European and UK Research Councils, and network grants. This scheme is designed to facilitate meetings between Warwick researchers and European partners with a view to evolving new programmes of research and/or research networks, and developing funding applications.

SPECULATIVE LUNCHES
Rolling deadline

Speculative lunches are intended to offer a forum for informal discussion, enabling Warwick staff to discuss research ideas at an early stage of formulation, with a view to potentially establishing research collaborations around particular themes. The IAS will host up to two of these ‘blue skies’ events each term around the table of the IAS seminar room in Millburn House. They are open to all members of staff, as well as postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate students, across all faculties, departments and research centres. Coordinators are free to structure discussion as they wish and to set their own agenda. They are often used as a forum to respond to the specific thematic calls issued by UK Research Councils.