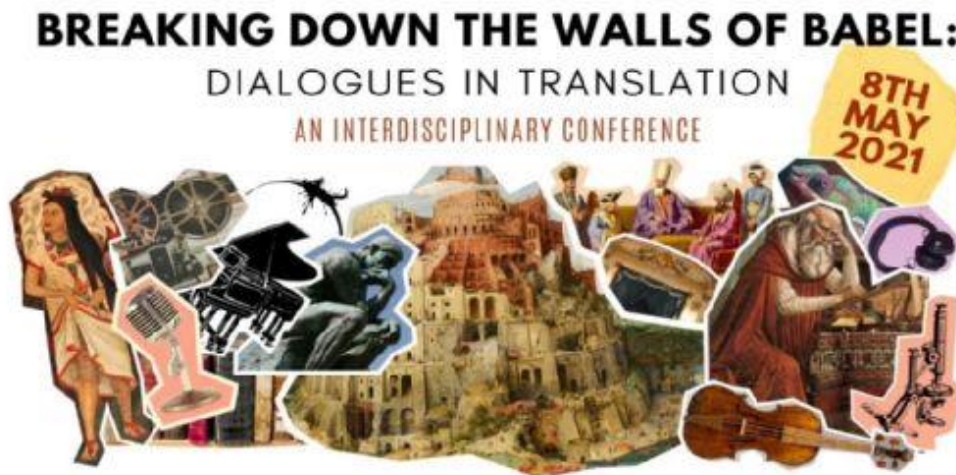




Humanities Research Centre  
Annual Report  
2020-21

In the course of the academic year,  
the Centre organised and supported a variety of conferences, lectures, seminars, and other events.  
Owing to the Covid 19 pandemic all events took place online via either Microsoft Teams or Zoom

Arianna Autieri and Lucia Collischonn (SCAPVC)  
'*Breaking Down the Walls of Babel: Dialogues in Translation*'  
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/babel/>



Translation Studies is a comparatively young scholarly discipline, often formally dated back to James Holmes 1972 essay "The Name and Nature of Translation Studies", and the place and role of translation in the university, particularly in the English-speaking world, is a matter of ongoing debate and negotiation. Is translation part of the Modern Languages curriculum? Or does translation belong to Applied Linguistics or Literary Studies? Is it merely a vocational pathway or can it also be a mode of thought within the humanities? Why are so many departments sceptical towards it? The difficult position of translation in academia seems somehow related to its interdisciplinary nature.

Translation theory and practice are in fact inherently concerned with different fields of enquiry (literature, linguistics, modern languages, politics, cultural studies, anthropology, philosophy). Not only is translation inherently multifaceted, it also seems to occupy a special position in relation to other fields. The humanities in general, the social sciences (including law and philosophy), media studies, and the natural sciences all necessarily engage with and communicate through translation, even if they do not always do this explicitly. Translation is also embedded in art and, in the context of globalization, increasingly encountered in everyday life. Interestingly, French translation theorist Antoine Berman wrote about the particular status of translation in relation to his own academic context at the Collège international de philosophie in Paris, but what he had to say is much more widely applicable:

"Of all the programmes at the Collège international de philosophie, the 'translation' programme has a particular status. This particular status resides first of all in the fact that all of the other programmes [...], irrespective of theme, are concerned with translation: wherever and whenever we look, our intellectual work encounters the 'problem' of the translation of certain texts. But the importance of translation for the Collège is more genuinely located in the fact that these various epistemologies or enquiries all encounter the question of translation (whether these are epistemologies that take an institutional form like philosophy, psychoanalysis, the sciences, law, literature and literary criticism, or the intersciences that exist only within the Collège)"<sup>[1]</sup>

While the interdisciplinary nature of translation and its necessary importance in other fields may potentially lead to an enriching dialogue between different areas of study, lamentably there is often a lack of communication between different fields of enquiry. Scholars and practitioners engaged with translation are often isolated in and by their areas of research and communication is often hindered by institutional structures. The aim of this conference is to offer a space where translation can take centre stage, and to further a dialogue between disciplines that engage with translation which may lead to the reciprocal enrichment of Translation Studies and other fields.

[1] Berman, Antoine. 2018. *The Age of Translation: A Commentary on Walter Benjamin's "The Task of the Translator"*. Translated by Chantal Wright. New York: Routledge, p. 19.

### **Conference Report - Drop-in session**

On Friday, the day before the event, we have had a successful drop-in session on Zoom for participants who wanted to test their presentation before the event, try the "sharing screen" feature on Zoom or had other questions about the technology. More than half of the participants were present that day and one of our keynotes joined us as well. During this session, we also had a special slot for the chairs; in this slot, we explained to them how things would work on the day: since they were responsible for some of the breakout rooms during the concurrent panels moment, we made sure that they could get familiar with all the "breakout rooms" features. Mark from the Warwick Conferences Team was with us that day from 9-12:00 and provided invaluable help: he explained to us all Zoom's functions and he also helped us to build a friendly atmosphere before the conference. This was also good for all the people who were a bit anxious about the technology, and for us who wanted to try out the break-out rooms' function. This drop-in session also provided us with a nice warm-up for the conference.

### **Breakdown of the day**

We started the day with an initial greeting by Lúcia, who spoke on behalf of both the organisers. Lúcia greeted all participants and explained some housekeeping rules. She also announced that two presenters would not be able to join on the day, due to medical reasons. One of the presenters in one of the breakout panels is based in India and was diagnosed with COVID so we also extended our best wishes to her and to all scholars based all over the world doing amazing research in difficult circumstances.

Then, our supervisor Chantal Wright opened the panel she was chairing, entitled "Babel displaced: translation out of place". This first panel was special: all of the panellists are full-time professors and some of them would have fit as keynote speakers. Because speakers' presentations in this panel focused on the state of the discipline and the role of interdisciplinarity in translation, these papers proved exciting and appropriate to start the discussions of the day. On this panel, we had Duncan Large (UEA) presenting his paper "Translation Beyond Translation Studies", followed by Dyonisios Kapsaskis (Roehampton) presenting on "Against Audiovisual Translation: Unlocking the Potential of the Translation of Films", and then Eugenia Kelbert (UEA) with her paper "Translation as Different: Literary Translingualism and the Translated Text". One of the presenters, Beata Piecychna, was not able to join and therefore we had more time for the paper presentations and following discussions. Everything ran smoothly and we finished punctually. During this first panel, we organisers also had some last-minute requests for links, and technical help was necessary for a few people, nonetheless, all people were able to join and engage in discussions with the panellists.

Following the first panel, we had the first keynote of the day "The Meaning of Dialogue in Literary Translation", presented by Professor Emeritus Clive Scott (UEA), Fellow of the British Academy, who kindly sent us two different versions of his recorded keynote beforehand so that we could play the video on the day and therefore avoid any problems with his internet connection; during the video and after the keynote, Clive responded live to all the comments and questions that people had for him. We are particularly grateful that Clive decided to join us right at the beginning of the conference and to stay with us throughout the day, providing an invaluable contribution to the discussions happening in all the panels he attended. His keynote was a perfect contribution to our event; he

focused on the meaning of “Dialogue” in translation and the role of interdisciplinarity in Literary Translation Studies, showing the audience some of his fantastic experimental and multimedial translations.

After the morning panels and keynote, we had a lunch break. For when we reconvened, we had planned a 10-minute explanation of how the breakout rooms for the concurrent panels would work. Arianna explained the functioning of the breakout room during the first 5 minutes and we remained in the main room for a few more minutes to help people to join the panels they were interested in. The first three concurrent panels of the afternoon were: Panel 2A, "Traductauthors: sound, voice and literary ploys", chaired by Arianna Autieri, Panel 2Bm "Translation, Philosophy and Politics", chaired by Melissa Pawelski, and Panel 2C, "Of Malinches and Dragomen: translators, colonialism and gatekeeping", chaired by Lúcia Collischonn. Since the two organisers were chairing two of the three concurrent panels this time, we are grateful that Warwick conferences team members Mark and Govindar could help us to redirect audience members and participants to their respective panels. Panel 2A started with Javier Adrada de la Torre's paper entitled "Translation in its broadest and most dangerous sense: Lord Byron's *Manfred*." After this, we had Gabriella Martin with her paper "Sub/versions: Exploring Deviant Translation", followed by Yasser Aman's presentation "What does a translation lose when the poet's voiced version of the poem is not considered? A study of Abdel Rahman el-Abnudi's 'Yamna' and by Qian Liu's paper "Bovarysm: the Obsession with Translated Love Stories in Early Twentieth-Century China". In Panel 2B, Ahmad Ayyad gave a paper entitled "Translation and political communication in times of conflict", Višnja Krstić spoke about "Confusion of Tongues at Balkan Babel: Multilingual Labels' Implications for Translational Relations", Stefania Taviano discussed "Migration politics and the invisibility of translation" and, finally, Kathleen Shields presented her work on "Translation and conflict: Ciaran Carson's translations of Jean Follain" In panel 2C, the first paper was by Peter Freeth and was entitled "Reader, gatekeeper, ambassador: Towards an understanding of the translator's role in the circulation of literature beyond questions of authorship"; this presentation was followed by Tingwen Xu's paper "Untranslatability, Literary Identity and Hospitality of World Literature" and Asseline Sel's presentation "Ainsi la tolérance du poète est vaste comme l'humanité: tolerance and Anglo-French reconciliation in François-Victor Hugo's French translation of *Henry V*". Somrita Ganguly, unfortunately, could not join this third panel, due to serious medical issues.

After these concurrent panels, our second Keynote, Professor Kathryn Batchelor (UCL), gave her presentation, entitled "The rise and fall of disciplines: translation studies in the spotlight". This presentation was a perfect fit for our conference, since Kathryn really "broke down the walls" of translation studies, deconstructing the history of the discipline and opening the way to alternative translation histories. We are grateful that Kathryn also joined us since the beginning of the conference, and her contribution to the whole event made many discussions during the day extremely interesting.

In the last part of our conference we had our last concurrent panels: panel 3A, chaired by Fernando Concha Correa, was entitled "Attitude, Performance and Mediamorphosis", and panel 3B chaired by Laura Penha Marion, was entitled "Blurring Translation's Borders: Competence, Cognition and Collaborative Science". In the first panel, the first speaker was Louise Dumont who discussed "A narratologically inspired approach to translation: the translator's presence in eighteenth-century tragedy"; subsequently, Magdalena Chiaravalli and María Laura Escobar Aguiar discussed their paper "Queer is Doubled on the Islands? The Construction of a Queer Ethos in the Translated Novel *The Adventures of China Iron*". Finally, Di Zhao presented on "May The Dao Be With You—Chinese Web Novels' Epic Victory in the West". In panel 2B the first speaker was Faustino Dardi, who presented on "Translating Linguistic Metaphors from English into Italian: A Cognitive-behavioural Approach", followed by Amy Therese Olen, with a paper entitled "Translation and Interpreting Studies in Transdisciplinary Pediatric Team Science: A Case Study". Finally, Christine Penman and Jane Wilkinson presented their paper "Breaking down disciplinary walls: redefining the teaching of Translation for Intercultural Dialogue".

Despite some minor delays in the last panels, everything ran smoothly and we managed to give together our closing remarks before 5 pm. During our closing remarks, we thanked Warwick Conferences, Mark, Govindar, and HRC and Sue, and received feedback from the audience. Participants seemed to be particularly happy about the conference: not only people expressed this during the closing remarks, but proved this to be true by intervening with questions and comments during the conference; many of them also wrote to us later to let us know that they had really enjoyed the event. We were also quite proud to have people join us from many different parts of the world and representing a variety of languages, as the theme of our conference and in general of Translation Studies asks for that diversity, interdisciplinarity and dialogue. We feel we were able to host a very enlightening and exciting academic event and people seemed to be interested and engaged throughout the eight hours of the event.

Hannah Dennett and Liz Egan (History)

*'At Home in Empire: Colonial Experiences of Intimacy and Mobility'*

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/ceim/>



What did "home" look like to men, women and children from London to Kingston to Calcutta? The aim of this conference is to bring together research across the fields of history, literature, geography, sociology, gender and queer studies and the heritage sector to reveal stories about the lived experiences of empire. Taking this interdisciplinary approach, we hope to advance new conversations about interracial relationships, lifecycles, and what it meant to belong against the backdrop of imperialism.

In his 1997 article 'Not at Home in Empire', Ranajit Guha explored the 'uncanny' experience of empire for white officers in India, proposing that colonial life was one marred by a sense of anxiety. Revisiting this argument, this conference seeks to reconsider the relationships between home and empire, bringing together researchers across the humanities and heritage sectors to ask new questions about the family, colonial childhoods, gender and race.

Reflecting on homemaking as a practice of resistance, as well as a space marked by colonial violence and racism, this conference asks how we can explore the varied meanings of home in empire?

Our core themes of intimacy and mobility are intended to centre the role of relationships, from the familial to the romantic, asking how transnational and interracial connections are woven into practices of homemaking. Developing discussions on gender, race and migration, these themes will offer new insight into how homes were made and remade across colonial and post-colonial settings. How have lived realities of home challenged dominant discourses? How is home represented in literature and art? How do these relate to the messiness of everyday life? In a post-Brexit Britain deporting the children of the Windrush generation, it is imperative that the historical relationship between race, home and nation comes under new scrutiny. Addressing conceptions of belonging and their relationship to race and gender, we hope to offer new insight into what it means to be at home at both the periphery and metropole while disturbing binary notions through our emphasis on mobility.

### **Conference Report**

*At Home in Empire: Colonial Experiences of Intimacy and Mobility* was a one-day interdisciplinary conference held online on 13 March 2021, and funded by a Warwick Humanities Research Centre Fellowship. The event was organised by Liz Egan and Hannah Dennett, both PhD candidates in the Department of History at the University of Warwick. Though originally intended to be a face-to-face event, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 led to the conference being changed to an online format. We held the conference via Zoom with the kind technical support of Warwick Conferences.

The main aim of the conference was to draw on research from across time and imperial spaces, to foster new conversations about the real and imagined home within the colonial context. The conference was framed around Ranajit Guha's 1997 article 'Not at Home in Empire', revisiting the anxiety and unhomeliness Guha identified alongside themes of mobility and intimacy. These themes offered a tight focus that encouraged ongoing conversations between papers and panels throughout the day. The first panel 'Curating and Collecting: Domesticity on Display' brought together research on the politics of museums, collecting, and photography within colonial and post-colonial contexts. Our second panel, 'Making and Remaking Home' explored ways in which individuals and communities navigated creating a sense of home, complementing our third panel 'Mobile Lives and Distant Homes'. Together these panels addressed questions of intimacy and mobility, drawing on family histories, the poetics of food, diaries, correspondence, and scrapbooks to cover geographies and periods from eighteenth-century Jamaica to contemporary refugee camps. Our final panel, 'Spaces of Encounter', moved between the kitchen and verandah to explore the home as a site of interaction where the binaries of coloniser and colonised could be both challenged and reinforced. We finished the day with a keynote from Dr Kate Smith from the University of Birmingham. Through the journals and scrapbooks of Sarah Elizabeth Amherst, the keynote drew together themes from across the conference panels to emphasise the anxieties and self-articulation at play in Amherst's experiences of nineteenth century India. As Amherst attempted to maintain her connections with "home" in Britain, Dr Kate Smith drew attention to the mutually constitutive relationships between metropole and empire.

Networking opportunities for delegates at the conference were seriously reduced through the move to an online format. However, the format change did facilitate the inclusion of speakers from around the world, including Finland, Canada, Australia, and Malaysia, who might otherwise not have submitted extracts for the conference. This allowed us to engage with research covering diverse geographical areas and different aspects of imperial experiences, enabling the development of a programme that was focused in its subject areas and rich in content. The conference also brought together several PGRs and ECRs with established researchers to promote new connections and opportunities. One hundred and fifty people registered for the conference, with several more

placed on a waiting list. On the day, the conference was consistently attended by between 40 and 50 delegates. The conference was also recorded by Warwick Conferences, and links to these recordings will be made available to all those who registered and by request, allowing us to reach a wider audience than would have otherwise been possible. Additionally, the conference was accompanied by live-tweeting, and we enjoyed active Twitter engagement.

Simona Di Martino (Italian)

*'The Remains of the Body: Legacy and Cultural Memory of Bodies in World Culture'*

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/body/>



Buonamico Buffalmacco, *Trionfo della Morte*, in Camposanto of Pisa, 1336-1341 (detail)

The question of corporeality has provoked and challenged critical thinkers across the centuries, and remains the subject of sustained and varied examinations, to which the burgeoning lists of new titles devoted to the body testify.

This event intends to tackle the current issue of how bodies are marked, organised and produced as cultural entities that leave traces in imagery after their total or partial material dissolution. The aim is to gather an interdisciplinary network of scholars to explore the ways in which the body, or part of it, is preserved and remembered over time through different aspects of representation, in order to evaluate its cultural impact. The conference's key concepts include: sacralisation/desacralization; the legacy of the body; the body as a relic of a past age; immortality or techniques for enduring posthumous fame/life; remembrance; memory; and commemoration. What is aimed to be explored is then, specifically, the relationship between the body, death and memory, thereby assessing the legacy of bodies.

The preservation of bodies/corpses, or parts of them, can be related to various and different cultural manifestations, such as religious beliefs, patriotism, and pledges of love. This event has thus been conceived as fully interdisciplinary, and intends to convene students, PhD candidates, early-career scholars and professors from both the humanities (literature, history of art, history, classical studies, film and media studies) and the social sciences (anthropology, philosophy, sociology, politics, popular culture/folklore studies, medical culture, and history of medicine), and would address various approaches (gender studies, fashion, Körperkultur, the making of the nation).

This conference is also meant to reflect upon the importance of remembrance and commemoration; as a consequence, the remains of the body are pertinent to issues such as: the tombs of unknown soldiers, which scatter our cities; the relics of saints and martyrs shielded in our places of worship; and the myriad gendered depictions of dead bodies in visual culture.

The discussion emerging from the conference should pose a series of questions, such as: how did different cultures depict dead bodies at different times, and how were they understood as important and valuable? In which way is the body of a male hero represented? How does this representation differ from the body of a dead woman? How much is the body important in issues of national identity and popular folklore?

The interdisciplinary conference *The Remains of the Body*, funded by the Humanities Research Centre of the University of Warwick and organised by Simona Di Martino, PhD candidate in Italian Studies, took place via MS Teams on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021. The event was very rich and hosted two keynotes and twenty speakers spread out in parallel sessions, for a total of six panels, out of sixty proposals received when the call for papers was open.

The range of attendees was amazingly wide and testified the shared interest in death and body studies among scholars from all over the world. Proposals came from Australia, Iraq, Turkey, Italy, India and so many other places around the globe, while among the accepted speakers there were scholars from the US, Puerto Rico, China, Russia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Belgium, and the UK.

The great success of the conference has been testified by the engaging discussions fostered by both delegates and the audience and the highlights shared on Twitter under the trend of @Remains2021.

The day started with the first keynote speech by Professor Andrew Smith from the University of Sheffield, whose talk entitled *A Warning to the Curious: M.R. James and the Ghosts of War* discussed a number of ghost stories by M.R. James, which show ghosts as ambivalent entities whose presence suggests that we should not forget their sacrifice, and yet they are also horrifying as they will not let the living go.

Then, the event continued with two parallel panels entitled “Unveiling the Undead: Ghosts, the Supernatural and the Gothic Body” and “Dismantling the Dead: Autopsy and Tortures”. The first panel explored the way in which the human body appeared in different forms, mixing narratologies of corporeality and ghostly presences, navigating British and Arabic Gothic fiction, but also investigating the embodiment of ghosts in pre-modern Britain and vanishing corpses in Ancient Greek hero-narratives. The second panel made us travel to China and allowed us to know about the role of midwives in conducting autopsies on corpses in the Ming and Qing Dynasties entangling both medical history and gender studies. Dissected and tortured bodies were the common thread of the entire panel, which took us to the Royal Albert Institute (1870-1920), told us the story of the near-superhuman messiah John Thom and his disappointing dead body, finally discussing the post-mortem punishments of the British 1752 Murder Act.

Patricia Phillippy, Professor of Material and Cultural Memories and Director of the Center for Arts, Memory and Communities at Coventry University was our second keynote speaker. Her research primarily deals with early modern women’s writing in multimodal forms and from an interdisciplinary and transnational viewpoint. Her speech, entitled *Memory, Climate, and Mortality: The Dudley Women among the Fields* fascinated the audience intertwining gender discourses with ecocriticism and providing pictures of monumental tombs located in St. Mary’s in the village of Stoneleigh (Warwickshire) and St. Giles in the Fields (then in rural Middlesex, now in Central London).

The second parallel panels, named “Celebrating the Dead: Political Stabilization through Memory” and “Remembering the Dead: Burials, Rituals and Deathly Terminologies” followed the second keynote speech and again teleported the audience very far away from the rooms from which we all were connected. The first panel embraced both Ancient Greek theatrical plays, discussing the political meaning of Sophocle’s tragedy *Edipus at Colonus*, and the photographic representation of dead Soviet leaders. At the same time, in the other panel engaging discussions about folklore and religion were happening. Indeed, the first talk examined the religious meaning and cultural uses of prone



burial and iron grave goods in Christian North America; the second one illustrated how families sought to maintain the respectability and bodily integrity of loved ones who died in the South Dublin Union workhouse (from 1872 to 1920); and finally, the third talk explored the meanings and emotions attached to dead bodies in urban China during the Late Qing and Early Republican period, explained through the study of the lexicon.

Finally, the last parallel panels “Broadcasting the Dead: Multimedial Cultural Memory” and “Portraying the Dead: Mourning and Dying in Visual Arts” dealt with visual representations of death. A very lively conversation sparked in the first panel where speakers discussed both the ubiquity and the absence of death in television, as well as tackling martyrdom, patriotic and political discourses in a 2003 chronicle event that has marked Italy, together with a literary analysis of eighteenth-century elegies on dead children, focused on the embodiment of sounds.

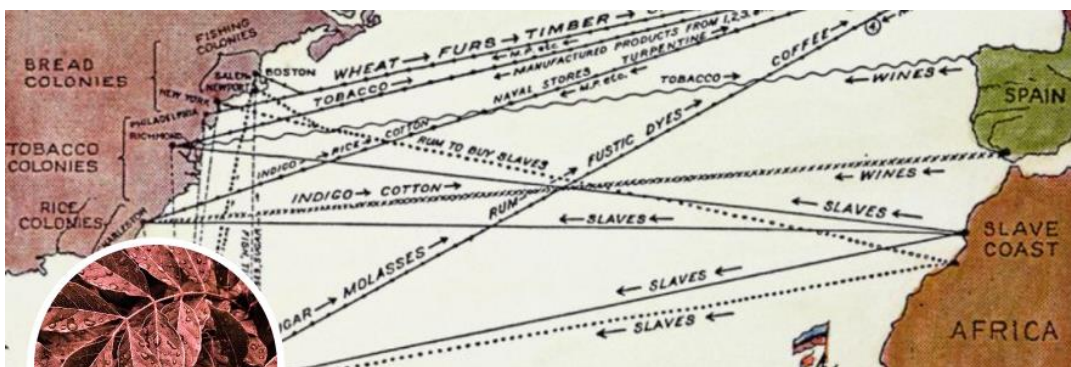
On painting, photography and sculpture was the last panel, which concluded the event bringing altogether in dialogue Mantegna’s colours, the great sensitivity of Nan Goldin, David Wojnarowicz, and Therese Frare, and Roden’s plasticity. The talks really spoke to one another, for the representation of mourners’ grief in Mantegna’s painting *Compianto sul Cristo morto* recurred in another talk dealing with photographic illustrations of AIDS, which in turn referred to Michelangelo’s *Pietà*, also recurring in the history of Roden’s dead bodies.

The event went well, the internet connection never failed us and, in the end, working on creating a well-scheduled Team on MS Teams paid off. It was certainly really a great discovery to see that there are so many death-enthusiasts among academic scholars willing to share their research and fascinate each other. The proceedings of the conference will be part of an edited collection and recordings of part of the event will be shared with the public soon.

“Blood on the Leaves/And Blood at the Roots”:

*Reconsidering Forms of Enslavement and Subjection across Disciplines*

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/research/conferences/bloodontheleaves>



This event aims to open a multicultural space beyond institutional and geographical boundaries to foster discussions and to listen to a variety of voices, addressing the problems of enslavement and subjection. In this space, this conference seeks to explore the various figurations and conceptions of enslavement and subjection across disciplines—from philosophy to literature, from the arts to the social sciences, to mention only a few— and beyond territories. Enslavement and subjugation are not only concerns of our past but urgent problems of our *present* and *future*. The title of the conference directly refers to Billie Holiday’s 1939 performance of *Strange Fruit* so as to emphasise both the human and environmental impact of forms of enslavement and subjection which have—literally and metaphorically—left “Blood on the leaves / And blood at the Roots.”

This exploration, as we intend it, takes the form of a reconsideration because we believe that enslavement and subjection need to be continuously ‘considered again’ and ‘rethought’ to extend and problematise understandings

and approaches to these key themes. Each time we return to these issues, we fix in our mind something that we ought not to forget and we learn something new that we ought not to neglect. In this conference, we would like to reconsider and return on the multiple facets of the problems of enslavement and its evolution in modern forms of subjections, taking with us and keeping in mind the following words:

“[E]ven as we experienced, recognized, and lived subjection, we did not *simply* or *only* live *in* subjection and *as* the subjected.” (2016:4)

In this quote, describing her family’s struggle as Black Americans in the 1950s US, Christina Sharpe’s words and italics highlight an insidious pitfall in methodological approaches to the study of slavery and its legacies in a number of academic disciplines. These approaches are often conducive to a consideration of subjected individuals and communities “*simply* or *only*” as ‘enslaved’ people. These subjected agents become objects of study only *as* ‘slaves’ rather than subjects endowed with their own agency, thinking and feelings, and this tendency continues in post-slavery and race studies. Hence, the very attempt to study and understand (post-)slavery and subjection poses the risk of falling back into another type of objectification and dehumanisation of ‘subjected subjects.’ As for example, Saidiya Hartman notes in relation to archival studies that “[t]he archive dictates what can be said about the past and the kinds of stories that can be told about the persons cataloged, embalmed, and sealed away in box files and folios. To read the archive is to enter a mortuary; it permits one final viewing and allows for a last glimpse of persons about to disappear into the slave hold.” (2007:17)

In light of these words and cognizant of this danger, the conference would like to propose a reconsideration of enslavement and subjection that aims to de-objectify and do justice to the humanity of what we have called the ‘subjected subjects,’ of the subjects of uneven (hi)stories of a brutally imposed condition, that is not just part of our past, but also continues to have disastrous impacts on our society and environment. Thus, we also aim to further consider the ecological dimension of enslavement and subjugation as tightly knit with the human one, promoting a de-reification of ‘nature’ and the ‘natural.’ Thereby our purpose is to illuminate systematic and structural issues of our current climates. The best way to carry out this reconsideration, in our view, is to create a space to listen and to discuss, bringing together diverse contributions across disciplines and institutions, within and without academia. We are convinced that only an inter-and-trans-disciplinary enterprise, which encourages human and intellectual diversity, enables a reconsideration of the problems of enslavement and subjection, as well as of the ways in which we approach these topics.

### *Remembering the Parish – Eighteenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research*

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020



For the first time since its inception in 2003, the Parish Symposium took place as a virtual gathering on Blackboard Collaborate, attracting nearly 100 researchers. BEAT KÜMIN (Warwick) welcomed speakers and participants and thanked the university’s Humanities Research Centre for their continuing support. This year’s conference theme was explored in five panels dedicated to 'Buildings', 'Communities', 'Records', 'Revolution' and 'Environments'. Speakers from the UK, Germany, Poland, and Canada explored a variety of written and material sources relating to parishes from the Middle Ages to the present. Contributions centred around acts and objects of memorialisation, collective and individual parishioners’

recollections of past events and their role in shaping and imagining the parish’s present and future. The question of who was in charge of remembering shed light on contested memories, identity formation processes and the overall significance of collective memory in the parish community.

NICOLA WHYTE (Exeter) delivered a keynote address in which she highlighted the social, spiritual, and economic importance of ancient boundaries and landmark features for both parish communities and individual households. Drawing on a rich and fascinating body of sources from Norfolk, including material traces in the landscape, maps, court records, and forged documents, she portrayed the making and unmaking of boundaries as a complex intergenerational social process in which memories were often tightly linked to space. Whyte noted that the number of post-Reformation court cases dealing with boundary disputes show that the preservation and formation of boundaries remained a significant part of local identities and parish policies. Addressing recent historiography and its focus on the creation of new boundaries (enclosure) in the early modern period, Whyte pointed out prevailing aspects of continuity, observing ancient patterns of boundary divisions, and revealing a complex network of jurisdictions inherited from medieval times.

The first panel looked at buildings. LYDIA FISHER (Exeter) examined nineteenth-century accounts of surviving medieval stained glass, which, due to its high replacement cost, had largely survived the reformation changes. Although many windows were altered or removed, Fisher was able to trace back the changes through comments in builder's accounts and Victorian surveys. Spanning epochs, she illustrated shifting attitudes towards stained-glass windows and their effects on the appearance of present-day churches, while, at the same time, adding to our understanding of original medieval parish church interiors.

MICHAEL ROTH (Kiel) explored the connection between church foundation stones and remembrance, making the comparison to twentieth-century time capsules. Drawing on early modern examples from the Holy Roman Empire, he described how builders and parishioners across Europe used foundation stones to convey information to a future generation. In anticipation of the potential destruction of the church, the foundation stone would often contain intentionally deposited objects and writings commenting on grain and wine prices, the deeds of individuals, and the political circumstances in which the church had been erected. Through a dedicated ritual and the active encouragement of young people to pass on their memories of the event, the laying of the foundation stone would become part of the parish's collective memory.

MICHAEL SEWELL (Essex) gave an example of how a church ruin could shape the collective identity of a parish throughout the long nineteenth century up until today. He illustrated how the Civil War legacy of the town of Colchester remained deeply ingrained in the collective memory of Saint Botolph's parish, who had lost their parish church during the siege of Colchester. A 'parish in exile', its congregation continued to mourn the absence of their church, keeping the ruins as a reminder of its presence. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the ruins became the focal point of Colchester's attempts to reinvent itself as a market town. And although meanings and uses changed over time, ranging from artistic and commercial activities to a meeting place 'for troublesome youth', their political significance remained, telling the story of an English town.

The second session dealt with communities. MARY CARRICK (Wawne) shared the results of her research on her home village of Wawne in East Yorkshire. She used probate inventories, dating from 1570 to 1732, to examine the agricultural innovations of Meaux Abbey and its changing priorities, including the Cistercian's water management and agricultural produce.

ALEXANDER HUTTON (London) then examined the influence of lower tier councils on the respective survival or disappearance of 'historic counties' in England which were subject to structural reforms in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1990s. Using the examples of Rutland and Huntingdonshire and their differing attitudes towards their local county councils, he reaffirmed the importance of a sense of belonging to one's county, while pointing to variations in regional affinities across rural England. Breaking with stereotypical images of local county-pride, Hutton painted a more complex picture of parish and county identities and resistance, referring to different social and economic preferences.

The third panel looked into records. JOHN CRAIG (Burnaby) described late Elizabethan London parish records as living documents which were read, re-read, and altered. They reveal details about the sense of a community and the lives lived within it and thus helped to imagine a community. A comparison between the scribes Robert Heaz and Thomas Harridance showed that writers had their own way of keeping records and adjusting to the community's needs, be it to manage growing numbers, pay tribute to loved ones or mark external events within a local context.

In the other contribution, STANISŁAW WITECKI (Kraków) examined priest's ego-documents in eighteenth-century Polish-Lithuanian parishes. In comparing techniques and the narratives in the diaries of laymen and clergy, he delivered a thick description of clergymen's everyday life experiences. He singled out the sacred and the profane and used quantitative analysis to trace changes in the social roles of pastors over time, always with special regard to the politico-ecclesiastical context in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The fourth panel turned to the theme of revolution. Following Ann Hughes' work on parish returns in the Commonwealth Exchequer Papers and John Walter's studies on churchwardens' accounts, IAN ATHERTON (Keele) demonstrated that a detailed study of parish registers can lead to similarly rich results on Civil War memory in the localities. According to Atherton, parish registers did not only function as chronicles but also as repositories of personalised memories. They can reveal processes of negotiation and communal attempts to deal with trauma. His paper, furthermore, marked out different frames of time keeping used in parish registers, with one example being key events in the life of a community.

FIONA McCALL (Oxford/Portsmouth) shared loyalists' memories of parish religious practice during the 1640s and 1650s recounted in letters written two generations later. She offered a glimpse into the memories of families and servants of the clergy who had resisted godly reforms to complement a history which, according to McCall, is still largely informed by a Whig perspective. She further described later political attempts to gather information from the localities and instrumentalise accounts of loyalists' experiences during the Interregnum to defend the state of the Church of England under Queen Anne and thus shape the historical consciousness of the nation.

IMOGEN PECK (Coventry) then argued that national and local veteran commemorations existed well before the nineteenth century. Her case study of St Botolph Aldgate in London showed that Civil War soldiers kept a sense of community long after the fighting had ceased. Peck analysed a conflict in the Parish of St Botolph where annual celebrations to mark the victory of the Battle of Newbury interfered with the politics of the parish, revealing the distinctive nature of local war remembrance, which cannot be described as top-down and which reflected the particular military engagement organised at parish level.

The fifth and final panel explored environments. HANNAH REEVE (Newcastle) stressed that the custom of perambulations survived the appearance of maps and enclosures and continued well into the eighteenth and, in some cases, nineteenth centuries. This was due to the large social dimension and the multiple functions of 'beating the bounds' which ranged from solving legal disputes to the symbolical inclusion of homes on the very edges of the parish boundaries.

HÀIGHLÈÀGH WINSLADE (Winchester) combined an archaeological and a historical approach to examine the embedding of churches within their surrounding landscapes in the weald and downland of South East England. She considered soil properties and access to resources, such as water, to explain the delineation of parishes and the placing of churches. In tracing connections between recusant Catholic families and their affiliation with parish churches across the borders of Hampshire and Sussex, she was able to show that parish communities could extend beyond county borders.

The symposium concluded with a comment by Nicola Whyte who reflected on the 'prospective', future-oriented exploration of the past and the complex dynamics of contestations as recurring themes, speaking of the 'power of the past in the past'. Reminded of the fact that parishes were never fixed entities, she was particularly intrigued by

the different layers explored throughout the days and the composition of parishes as both physical and imagined places.

The contributions complemented each other very well, and a rich variety of methodologies (e.g. material culture studies, historical anthropology, and archaeology) and sources (places, buildings, maps, letter, diaries etc.) enabled a fruitful and in-depth discussion. Several interventions pointed to the potential of a collaborative project on maps as seen throughout the conference. Such visual evidence illuminates period meanings of space and allows us to trace changes over time. One participant asked whether the use of maps for perambulations became necessary once parish relations started to become too complicated to memorise; or whether it was merely us as historians who rely on documentary evidence. Are we placing too much importance on records as compared to orality? On the whole, the symposium highlighted the crucial role of parish communities in local memory, however, with the caveats that regional disparities need to be taken into account and that, in terms of the British Isles, more work needs to be done on the larger parishes with multiple chapelries in northern England.

[Parish, Power and Politics – Nineteenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research](#)  
Webinar on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Parishes have always been about more than religion. Aspects like the election of representatives, allocation of pews or administration of funds moved communal concerns well into the political sphere. We know much about processes of social and confessional differentiation, but what exactly were the power relations in parish communities? How did localities negotiate their dealings with manorial lords, city councils and state authorities? To which extent were parishes instrumentalized for secular purposes like local government or even resistance?



The 19th Warwick Symposium on Parish Research took the form of a webinar with over 100 attendees on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Proceedings were co-organized by [Beat Kümin](#) (Warwick) & [Marjolein Schepers](#) (IAS Fernandes Fellow/VUB), with the help of Warwick research students Daniel Gettings & Maria Tauber.

[HRC Conference Archive](#)



[Humanities Book Launch – HRC Special Event](#)

This year we showcased publications from Humanities academics via our 'Rolling Virtual Bookshelf':

[Tim Lockley - Military Medicine and the Making of Race](#)

This book demonstrates how Britain's black soldiers helped shape attitudes towards race throughout the nineteenth century. The West India Regiments were part of the British military establishment for 132 years, generating vast records with details about every one of their 100,000+ recruits which made them the best-documented group of black men in the Atlantic World. Tim Lockley shows how, in the late eighteenth century, surgeons established in medical literature that white and black bodies were radically different, forging a notion of the 'superhuman' black soldier able to undertake physical challenges far beyond white soldiers. By the late 1830s, however, military statisticians would contest these ideas and highlight the vulnerabilities of black soldiers instead. The popularity and pervasiveness of these publications spread far beyond British military or medical circles and had

a significant international impact, particularly in the US, both reflecting and reinforcing changing notions about blackness.

#### [Alice Leonard - Error in Shakespeare: Shakespeare in Error](#)

Error in Shakespeare: Shakespeare in Error approaches error from literary, political and textual perspectives. Its central work is to re-value error not just in the material text but as a way of interpreting Shakespeare's literary style as heavily digressive and figurative, reconnecting error to its earlier meaning not just of mistake but wandering. It examines the different aspects of error to be found within Shakespeare's drama, including the politics of attributing error to particular social groups such as women and foreigners, and the editorial history of the treatment of error in the texts of Shakespeare. Prof. Neil Rhodes described the book as 'An illuminating and original approach to a subject of major importance' (St Andrews).

#### [Upamanyu Pablo Mukherjee - Final Frontiers: Science Fiction and Techno-Science in Non-Aligned India](#)

Final Frontiers is path breaking not only in being the first book-length study of non-Anglophone Indian science fiction, but also in Mukherjee's provocative consideration of the form alongside the "combined and uneven" historical axes of Cold War Non-Alignment, Nehruvian techno-scientific policy, and Indian modernization in the twentieth-century world-system. This intelligent, sophisticated, and scrupulous book makes a muchneeded contribution to postcolonial studies, science fiction studies, world literature studies, and cultural studies and will no doubt inform scholarly conversation in these fields for some time to come.'

#### [Alberica Bazzoni - Gender and Authority Across Disciplines and Time](#)

This edited collection investigates the relationship between gender and authority across geographical contexts, periods and fields. Who is recognized as a legitimate voice in debate and decision-making, and how is that legitimization produced? Through a variety of methodological approaches, the chapters address some of the most pressing and controversial themes under scrutiny in current feminist scholarship and activism, such as pornography, political representation, LGBTI struggles, female genital mutilation, the #MeToo movement, abortion, divorce and consent. Organized into three sections, "Politics," "Law and Religion," and "Imaginariness," the contributors highlight formal and informal aspects of authority, its gendered and racialized configurations, and practices of solidarity, resistance and subversion by traditionally disempowered subjects. In dialogue with feminist scholarship on power and agency, the notion of authority as elaborated here offers a distinctive lens to critique political and epistemic foundations of inequality and oppression, and will be of use to scholars and students across gender studies, sociology, politics, linguistics, theology, history, law, film, and literature.

#### [Rebecca Earle - Feeding the People: The Politics of the Potato](#)

Almost no one knew what a potato was in 1500. Today they are the world's fourth most important food crop. Feeding the People traces the global journey of this popular foodstuff from the Andes to everywhere. The potato's global history makes visible the ways in which our ideas about eating are entangled with the emergence of capitalism and its celebration of the free market. The potato's story also reminds us that ordinary people make history in ways that continue to shape our lives. Potatoes, in short, are a good way of rethinking the origins of our modern world. Feeding the People tells the story of how eating became part of statecraft, and provides a new account of the global spread of one of the world's most important foods.

#### [Giada Pizzoni - British Catholic Merchants in the Commercial Age, 1670-1714](#)

British Catholic merchants in the long eighteenth century occupied an ambiguous social space. On the one hand, their religion made them marginal and suspect figures in a nation increasingly defining itself by its Protestantism against the Catholic powers of Europe. On the other, their Catholicism, particularly as national rivalries erupted into outright war, afforded them access to markets and contacts overseas which their Protestant competitors found it increasingly difficult to reach. Drawing on extensive original research on the business papers of one prominent

Catholic merchant family, the Aylwards, Pizzoni maps a complex network of merchants emanating from trading houses in London, Cadiz and St Malo and linking Britain and Ireland, continental Europe, the Levant and colonial America. She reveals the high level of cooperation between these Catholic houses and their Protestant trading partners – a cooperation which seems to have overridden even such political perils as the Jacobite rebellion – and shows the increasing role played by smuggling and privateering in keeping the wheels of legitimate commerce turning in time of war. A final chapter looks particularly at the business activities of Roman Catholic women, who mostly inherited their husbands' businesses but in many cases developed and expanded them through new activities and investments.

#### [Philippe Le Goff - \*Auguste Blanqui and the Politics of Popular Empowerment\*](#)

*Auguste Blanqui and the Politics of Popular Empowerment* offers a major re-evaluation of one of the most controversial figures in the history of revolutionary politics. The book draws extensively on Blanqui's manuscripts and published works, as well as writings only recently translated into English for the first time. Through a detailed reconstruction and critical analysis of Blanqui's political thought, it challenges the prevailing image of an unthinking insurrectionist and rediscovers a forceful and compelling theory of collective political action and radical social change. It suggests that some of Blanqui's fundamental assumptions – from the insistence on the primacy of subjective determination to the rejection of historical necessity – are still relevant to politics today.

#### [Silvija Jestrovic - \*Performances of Authorial Presence and Absence\*](#)

This book takes Roland Barthes's famous proclamation of 'The Death of the Author' as a starting point to investigate concepts of authorial presence and absence on various levels of text and performance. By offering a new understanding of 'the author' as neither a source of unquestioned authority nor an obsolete construct, but rather as a performative figure, the book illuminates wide-ranging aesthetic and political aspects of 'authorial death' by asking: how is the author constructed through cultural and political imaginaries and erasures, intertextual and intertheatrical references, re-performances and selfreferentiality? And what are the politics and ethics of these constructions?

#### [Alastair Phillips - \*The Japanese Cinema Book\*](#)

*The Japanese Cinema Book* provides a new and comprehensive survey of one of the world's most fascinating and widely admired filmmaking regions. In terms of its historical coverage and broad thematic approach, it is the largest and most wide-ranging publication of its kind to date. Ranging from renowned directors such as Akira Kurosawa to neglected popular genres such as the film musical and encompassing topics such as ecology, spectatorship, homemovies, colonial history and relations with Hollywood and Europe, *The Japanese Cinema Book* presents a set of new, and often surprising, perspectives on Japanese film. As such, *The Japanese Cinema Book* provides a groundbreaking picture of the different ways in which Japanese cinema may be understood as a local, regional, national, transnational and global phenomenon. It argues there is no single fixed Japanese cinema, but instead a fluid and varied field of Japanese filmmaking cultures that continue to exist in a dynamic relationship with other cinemas, media and regions.

#### [Nicolas Whybrow - \*Contemporary Art Biennials in Europe\*](#)

*Contemporary Art Biennials in Europe: the Work of Art in the Complex City* examines five urban situations in diverse parts of Europe. Roughly tracing a central horizontal trajectory from the western to the eastern edges of the continent, the events and cities covered are the Folkestone Triennial in the UK, Sculpture Projects Münster in Germany, the Venice Biennale in Italy, Belgrade's Mikser Festival in Serbia and the Istanbul Biennial in Turkey. After thirty years of a global 'biennial boom', this timely and expansive book interrogates the extent to which biennial events and their artworks seek to engage with the socio-cultural and political complexity of cities, in particular the work that is involved in this relationship. With its focus on Europe, the book also tells a composite story of

continental difference at a moment of high tension, centring on matters of migration, political populism and uncertainty around the future form of the European Union.

#### [Anne Gerritsen - \*The City of Blue and White: Chinese Porcelain and the Early Modern World\*](#)

We think of blue and white porcelain as the ultimate global commodity: throughout East and Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean including the African coasts, the Americas and Europe, consumers desired Chinese porcelains. Many of these were made in the kilns in and surrounding Jingdezhen. Found in almost every part of the world, Jingdezhen's porcelains had a far-reaching impact on global consumption, which in turn shaped the local manufacturing processes. The imperial kilns of Jingdezhen produced ceramics for the court, while nearby private kilns manufactured for the global market. In this beautifully illustrated study, Anne Gerritsen asks how this kiln complex could manufacture such quality, quantity and variety. She explores how objects tell the story of the past, connecting texts with objects, objects with natural resources, and skilled hands with the shapes and designs they produced. Through the manufacture and consumption of Jingdezhen's porcelains, she argues, China participated in the early modern world.

#### [Angela McShane - \*Marking Time: Objects, People and Their Lives 1500 - 1800\*](#)

The period from 1500 to 1800 in England was one of extraordinary social transformations, many having to do with the way time itself was understood, measured, and recorded. Through a focused exploration of an extensive private collection of fine and decorative artworks, this beautifully designed volume explores that theme and the variety of ways that individual notions of time and mortality shifted. The feature uniting these more than 450 varied objects is that each one bears a specific date, which marks a significant moment—for reasons personal or professional, religious or secular, private or public. From paintings to porringers, teapots to tape measures, the objects—and the stories they tell—offer a vivid sense of the lived experience of time, while providing a sweeping survey of the material world of early modern Britain.

#### [Stefan Bauer - \*The Invention of Papal History\*](#)

How was the history of post-classical Rome and of the Church written in the Catholic Reformation? Historical texts composed in Rome at this time have been considered secondary to the city's significance for the history of art. *The Invention of Papal History* corrects this distorting emphasis and shows how historical writing became part of a comprehensive formation of the image and self-perception of the papacy. By presenting and fully contextualising the path-breaking works of the Augustinian historian Onofrio Panvinio (1530-1568), Stefan Bauer shows what type of historical research was possible in the late Renaissance and the Catholic Reformation. Crucial questions were, for example: How were the pontiffs elected? How many popes had been puppets of emperors? Could any of the past machinations, schisms, and disorder in the history of the Church be admitted to the reading public? Historiography in this period by no means consisted entirely of commissioned works written for patrons; rather, a creative interplay existed between, on the one hand, the endeavours of authors to explore the past and, on the other hand, the constraints of ideology and censorship placed on them. *The Invention of Papal History* sheds new light on the changing priorities, mentalities, and cultural standards that flourished in the transition from the Renaissance to the Catholic Reformation.

#### [Nadine Holdsworth - \*English Theatre and Social Abjection\*](#)

Focusing on contemporary English theatre, this book asks a series of questions: How has theatre contributed to understandings of the North-South divide? What have theatrical treatments of riots offered to wider debates about their causes and consequences? Has theatre been able to intervene in the social unease around Gypsy and Traveller communities? How has theatre challenged white privilege and the persistent denigration of black citizens? In approaching these questions, this book argues that the nation is blighted by a number of internal rifts that pit people against each other in ways that cast particular groups as threats to the nation, as unruly or demeaned citizens – as 'social abjects'. It interrogates how those divisions are generated and circulated in public discourse and



how theatre offers up counter-hegemonic and resistant practices that question and challenge negative stigmatization, but also how theatre can contribute to the recirculation of problematic cultural imaginaries.

#### [David Lines - Spheres of Conflict and Rivalries in Renaissance Europe](#)

This volume is devoted to the spheres in which conflict and rivalries unfolded during the Renaissance and how these social, cultural and geographical settings conditioned the polemics themselves. This is the second of three volumes on 'Renaissance Conflict and Rivalries', which together present the results of research pursued in an International Leverhulme Network. The underlying assumption of the essays in this volume is that conflict and rivalries took place in the public sphere that cannot be understood as single, all-inclusive and universally accessible, but needs rather to be seen as a conglomerate of segments of the public sphere, depending on the persons and the settings involved. The articles collected here address various questions concerning the construction of different segments of the public sphere in Renaissance conflict and rivalries, as well as the communication processes that went on in these spaces to initiate, control and resolve polemical exchanges.

#### [Gaby Mahlberg - The English Republican Exiles in Europe during the Restoration](#)

The Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660 changed the lives of English republicans for good. Despite the Declaration of Breda, in which Charles II promised to forgive those who had acted against his father and the monarchy during the Civil War and Interregnum, opponents of the Stuart regime felt unsafe, and many were actively persecuted. Nevertheless, their ideas lived on in the political underground of England and in the exile networks they created abroad. While much of the historiography of English republicanism has focused on the British Isles and the legacy of the English Revolution in the American colonies, this study traces the lives, ideas and networks of three seventeenth-century English republicans who left England for the European Continent after the Restoration. On the basis of sources from a range of English and continental European archives, Gaby Mahlberg explores the ideas and lived experiences of these three exiles - Edmund Ludlow in Switzerland, Henry Neville in Italy and Algernon Sidney, who travelled widely across Europe until he finally settled in the south of France – for a truly transnational perspective on early modern English republicanism.

#### [Linda Paterson - From Chanson de Geste to Epic Chronicle: Medieval Occitan Poetry of War](#)

In this collection of essays Gérard Gouiran, one of the world's leading and much-loved scholars of medieval Occitan literature, examines this literature from a primarily historical perspective. Through texts offering hitherto unexplored insights into the history and culture of medieval Europe, he studies topics such as the representation of alterity through female figures and Saracens in opposition to the ideal of the Christian knight; the ways in which the narrating of history can become resistance and propaganda discourse in the clash between the Catholic Church and the French on the one hand, and the Cathar heretics and the people of Occitania on the other; questions of intertextuality and intercultural relations; cultural representations fashioning the West in contact with the East; and Christian dissidence in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Written in an approachable style, the book will be of historical, literary and philological interest to scholars and students, as well as any reader curious about this hitherto little-known Occitan literature.

#### [Mark Storey - Time and Antiquity in American Empire: Roma Redux](#)

Brings canonical and popular writers and artists from across US history together, along with journalism, film, and photography

Intervenes in debates about history, reading, and critique vital to today's questions around the value and future direction of literary and cultural studies

Combines classical reception, American literature, and the philosophy of history

## Doctoral Fellowships

This year the Centre was able to sponsor two (internal) Doctoral Fellowships. The Fellows contribute to the life of the HRC by organising a one-day postgraduate interdisciplinary conference and are given financial support for their PHD dissertation research. The fellowships were awarded to:

This year's winners (and the conferences they will organise next year) are as follows:

Imogen Knox and Francesca Farnell (History)

*The Supernatural: Sites of Suffering in the Pre-Modern World*

May 2022 - tbc

[The Supernatural: Sites of Suffering in the Pre-Modern World \(warwick.ac.uk\)](http://warwick.ac.uk)



*Image credit: Art Institute of Chicago Creative Commons CC0 1.0*

The concept of 'the supernatural' has consistently proven itself to be a lively and fertile ground for academic debate and exchange. Across the globe, countless societies and cultures, both past and present, have their own distinctive mythologies and faiths to which unusual or inexplicable phenomena can be attributed. An ever-present theme in such supernatural narratives, irrespective of their contextual setting, is that of suffering. For often when faced with hardship, it is to the supernatural that many turn in seeking to explain, perform, or resolve the anguish they find themselves experiencing. Whether this suffering is personal or collective, physical or mental, 'real' or 'imagined', other-worldly narratives offer a unique window into understanding humanity's complex relationship to suffering when worldly explanations or expressions of it fall short.

*The Supernatural: Sites of Suffering in the Pre-Modern World* will be a one-day interdisciplinary conference that brings together scholars in an effort to disentangle this symbiosis of suffering and the mystical, magical and metaphysical. Our objective is to weave together the various strands of research into the supernatural, the study of which is often segmented. Our mission to promote wider interdisciplinary exchange is happily facilitated by the broad epistemological fluidity of the supernatural.

While this conference takes the supernatural as its primary analytical theme, and as such is pitched towards scholars of the supernatural and related religious phenomena, the implications of such research expands far beyond this field. Supernatural events bespeak the concerns and anxieties of the temporal and geographical contexts in which they are located, and thereby offer possibilities for wider studies of individuals, societies, and cultures.

Camilo Uribe Botta and Cheng He (History)

*Following Living Things and Still Lives in a Global World*

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022

[Following Living Things and Still Lives in a Global World \(warwick.ac.uk\)](http://warwick.ac.uk)



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What was the relationship between the trade in living tropical orchids and their botanical illustrations in Victorian England? How did people understand the relationship between the lacquer that flowed as sap from trees, and lacquer as the surface of art objects in early modern period? The aim of this conference is to follow both natural and artificial objects across global boundaries and between the disciplines of history, history of art and history of science. This will reveal the very different paths and meanings natural objects acquire once they leave their natural habitats and transition from living materials to objects of trade, science and art.

When we approach history of trade and exchange, especially when it comes to natural products, there could be a boundary between living or 'dead' material, between a living thing and a 'still life'. One opposition refers to the mobility of materials, the other touches upon living and dead matter. Tackling the definition of 'living things' and 'still life' from history of art, our purpose is to challenge the frontiers between natural and artificial objects, including plants and animals, to problematize the particularities of their exchange in a global world. Moreover, is it possible to follow this object through the artistic and scientific representations of it? We ask ourselves if the real object and its representation can be exchangeable and, in that case, how a 'still life' can lead us to follow natural and artificial objects in a global world. In a broad sense, this is also a good opportunity to consider the methodological boundaries between history and history of art.

This conference will discuss the theme with both theoretical and methodological approaches. We want to focus on the objects and its paths and representations around the world. Researchers that touch upon different geographical and temporal spaces are welcomed.

### Student Blogs

To accompany the *At Home in Empire: Colonial Experiences of Intimacy and Mobility* conference, HRC doctoral fellows [Hannah Dennett](#) and [Liz Egan](#) wrote blogs reflecting on their own research, the themes of the conference, and the practicalities of putting together an interdisciplinary event.

All blogs available here: [Humanities Research Centre blog, University of Warwick](#)

#### **At Home in Empire? Whiteness and Jamaica in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries**

In the first part of this series, Liz explores how the themes of home and mobility interact with her PhD research 'Constructing and Challenging Creole Whiteness in Jamaica, 1865-1938'.

#### **Intimacy and Mobility in Empire: Black Experiences and the Metropole**

In the second blog accompanying the *At Home In Empire: Colonial Experiences of Intimacy and Mobility* conference, [Hannah Dennett](#) examines how the records of the Foundling Hospital can highlight black experiences of intimacy and mobility in eighteenth-century London.

## **Top Tips for Conference Planning**

In the third blog accompanying the *At Home In Empire: Colonial Experiences of Intimacy and Mobility* conference, [Hannah Dennett](#) and [Liz Egan](#) share their experience of planning a conference.

## **Introducing our Panels**

### **A Conversation with Dr Kate Smith**

As the day of the conference draws near, we are delighted to introduce our keynote speaker Dr Kate Smith and hear more about her work and thoughts on the themes of the conference. [Kate Smith](#) is a Senior Lecturer in Eighteenth-Century History at the University of Birmingham. She completed her PhD at the University of Warwick in 2010, followed by a fellowship at the University of Milwaukee. She was a Research Fellow on the Leverhulme Trust-funded *East India Company at Home 1757-1857* project before joining the University of Birmingham in 2014.

### **At Home in Empire Conference – Reflections on the Morning Panels**

The *At Home in Empire: Colonial Experiences of Intimacy and Mobility* Conference 2021 has now taken place, and having had several weeks to digest and reflect upon the fantastic papers given by our speakers, we thought this blog would be a good place to share some of the exciting research and thought-provoking ideas that were highlighted during the conference.

### **Reflecting on the Afternoon: Mobility and Intimacy**

### **A Conversation between the Conference Organisers**

In this final blog post of the *At Home in Empire: Colonial Experiences of Intimacy and Mobility* conference series, Hannah and Liz reflect on their experience as conference organisers and the impact of the conference on their own PhD research.

## **Newsletter**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of SPECTRUM (the newly relaunched HRC Newsletter) was postponed and we hope to publish a bumper edition online later in 21/22. The Newsletter showcases research being carried out by the arts and humanities community at Warwick as well as advertising forthcoming HRC events. It contains articles about conferences and events as well as information about external awards made to Faculty members and a section introducing new academic staff.

[..\..\Newsletter\Previous Editions\Spectrum Issue 2.pdf](#)

## **Publishing opportunities**

We are pleased to announce that the HRC now has secured two book series showcasing the best current work in the Arts faculty.

### **Warwick Series in the Humanities (with Routledge)**

This series will publish the varied and multidisciplinary outcomes of the projects funded by the HRC. By definition, all conferences and seminars sponsored by the HRC are interdisciplinary, and by design such events draw from the full gamut of the Faculty's strengths: literary, historical, linguistic, visual, philosophical; ancient and modern of all temporalities; British, European, and global. Events typically highlight the work of scholars established, new, and in training; the work itself is inflected by modes and models of thinking that show the humanities as alive, well, and intimately and intricately embedded in the wider culture.

We hope those receiving funding from the HRC (including doctoral fellowship conferences) will seriously consider publication in this series. In addition, the Series will accept proposals from the Faculty community in general, with the proviso that any such proposals are interdisciplinary.

<https://www.routledge.com/series/WSH>

### Warwick Studies (with Anthem Press)

This is a new series that partners the HRC with Anthem Press, a small independent publisher offering a high quality list aimed at the academic community. Unlike the Warwick Series in the Humanities which is explicitly interdisciplinary, the Warwick Studies will have more of a discipline-specific focus, and thus will be marketed as Warwick Studies in Literature, Warwick Studies in History etc.

<http://www.anthempress.com/>

### Published (Routledge)

- **Classicism and Romanticism in Italian Literature: Leopardi's Discourse on Romantic Poetry (1)**

Fabio Camilletti (Italian)

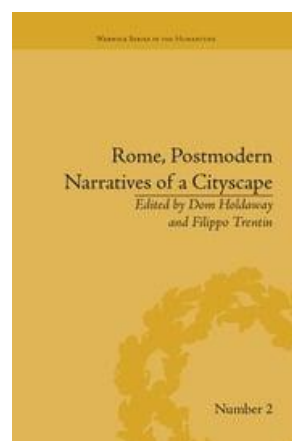


The 'Discourse of an Italian on Romantic Poetry' is a literary manifesto written in 1818 by the twenty-year old philologist, philosopher and poet Giacomo Leopardi, which remained however unpublished since the early twentieth-century. Inspired by the quarrel between Classicists and Romantics that was engulfing post-Napoleonic Italy, Leopardi's 'Discourse' articulates an original and thought-provoking reflection on the possibility itself of making literature in modern times, rejecting both the Classicist's precepts of sterile imitation and the Romantics' yearning for absolute newness in terms of themes and formal choices. Fabio Camilletti's *Classicism and Romanticism in Italian Literature* takes Leopardi's 'Discourse' as a starting point for reflecting on the Classicist-Romantic quarrel as a field of tension in post-revolutionary Italy, and for reconfiguring a critical analysis of Leopardi's thought in a quintessentially comparative perspective. Enriched by the first complete translation of the 'Discourse' by Gabrielle Sims (New York University), the book aims to be a reference work for all scholars interested in Romantic literature as a trans-national phenomenon.

- **Rome, Postmodern Narratives of a Cityscape (2)**

Dom Holdaway and Filippo Trentin (Italian)

Until the mid-twentieth century the Western imagination seemed intent on viewing Rome purely in terms of its Classical past or as a stop on the Grand Tour. This collection of essays looks at Rome from a postmodern perspective, including analysis of the city's 'unmappability', its unity, and its iconic status in literature and film.



- **Gender and Space in Rural Britain 1840 – 1920 (3)**



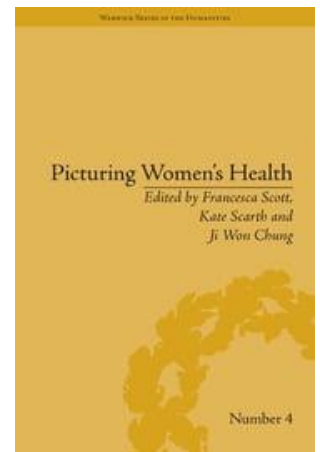
Gemma Goodman and Charlotte Mathieson (English)

The essays in this collection focus on the ways rural life was represented during the long nineteenth century. Issues of national vs regional identity, class, gender and sexuality are discussed. Contributors bring expertise from the fields of history, geography and literary studies to present an interdisciplinary study of the interplay between rural space and gender during a time of increasing industrialization and social change.

- **Picturing Women's Health (4)**

Fran Scott, Kate Scarth and Ji Chung (English)

Women's lives changed considerably over the course of the long nineteenth century. As new roles and behaviours became available to them, the ways in which they were represented also increased. The essays in this collection examine women in diverse roles; mother, socialite, prostitute, celebrity, medical practitioner and patient. The wide range of commentators allows a diverse picture of women's health in this period. Findings are discussed within the historical, medical, sociological, literary and art historical contexts of the period to make a truly interdisciplinary study.



- **Knowing Nature in Early Modern Europe (5)**

David Beck (History)

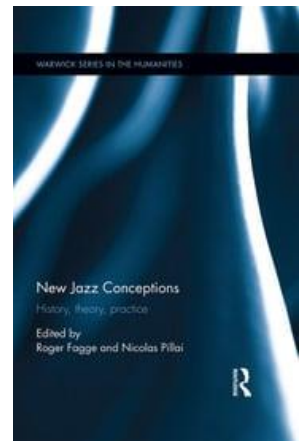


Today we are used to clear divisions between science and the arts. But early modern thinkers had no such distinctions, with 'knowledge' being a truly interdisciplinary pursuit. Each chapter of this collection presents a case study from a different area of knowledge, including the acceptance of the Gregorian calendar, Shakespeare's use of science and magic in *The Tempest*, and the use of scripture to refute Descartes' claims in *A Discourse on Method* (1637). The book comes out of an ongoing project, *Scientiae*, examining the nexus of Renaissance Europe and the history and philosophy of science.

- **New Jazz Conceptions: History, Theory, Practice (6)**

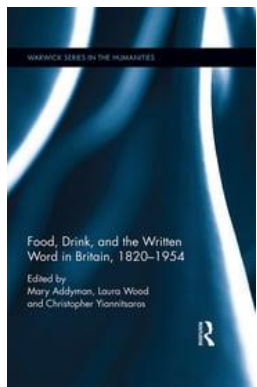
Roger Fagge (History) and Nicolas Pillai (Birmingham City University)

This volume builds on recent studies by considering the production, reception, adaptation, and survival of jazz. It captures the vibrancy of British-based jazz studies in the early 21st century, highlighting the developing methodologies and growing interdisciplinary nature of the field. In particular, the collection breaks down barriers between jazz historians, theorists, and practitioners, questioning popular American-centered narratives of jazz, and casting fresh light on the cultural processes and economic circumstances that make the music. Essays explore the role of the musician and administrator, the critical and historical reception of jazz, the saliency of its recorded legacy, its situation within debates on trade and labour, its pedagogic and educative role, its interaction with broadcast media, and its persistent survival as a digital artefact. This book promotes a critical and democratic



- **Food, Drink and the Written Word in Britain, 1820–1954 (7)**

Mary Addyman, Laura Wood and Christopher Yiannitsaros (English)



This volume explores the intersection between culinary history and literature across a period of profound social and cultural change. Split into three parts, essays focus on the food scandals of the early Victorian era, the decadence and greed of late Victorian and Edwardian Britain, and the effects of austerity caused by two world wars.

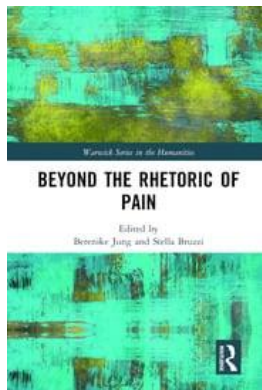
- **Sing Aloud Harmonious Spheres: Renaissance Conceptions of Cosmic Harmony (8)**

Jacomien Prins (CSR) and Maude Vanhaelen (Italian)

This is the first volume to explore the reception of the Pythagorean doctrine of cosmic harmony within a variety of contexts, ranging chronologically from Plato to 18<sup>th</sup>-century England. This original collection of essays engages with contemporary debates concerning the relationship between music, philosophy, and science, and challenges the view that Renaissance discussions on cosmic harmony are either mere repetitions of ancient music theory or pre-figurations of the 'Scientific Revolution'. Utilizing this interdisciplinary approach, *Renaissance Conceptions of Cosmic Harmony* offers a new perspective on the reception of an important classical theme in various cultural, sequential and geographical contexts, underlying the continuities and changes between Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. This project will be of particular interest within these emerging disciplines as they continue to explore the ideological significance of the various ways in which we appropriate the past.



- **Beyond the Rhetoric of Pain (9)**



Stella Bruzzi and Berenike Jung (Film and TV Studies)

Beyond the Rhetoric of Pain presents a fresh, interdisciplinary approach to the current research on pain from a variety of scholarly angles within Literature, Film and Media, Game Studies, Art History, Hispanic Studies, Memory Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Philosophy, and Law. Through the combination of these perspectives, this volume goes beyond the existing structures within and across these disciplines framing new concepts of pain in attitude, practice, language, and ethics of response to pain.

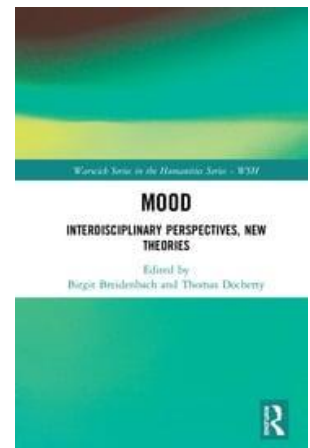
Comprised of fourteen unique essays, *Beyond the Rhetoric of Pain* maintains a common thread of analysis using a historical and cultural lens to explore the rhetoric of pain.

Considering various methodologies, this volume questions the ethical, social and political demands pain makes upon those who feel, watch or speak it. Arranged to move from historical cases and relevance of pain in history towards the contemporary movement, topics include pain as a social figure, rhetorical tool, artistic metaphor, and political representation in jurisprudence.

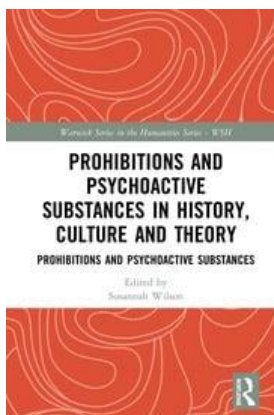
- **Mood, Interdisciplinary Perspectives, New Theories (10)**

Birgit Breidenbach and Thomas Docherty (English)

Mood is a phenomenon whose study is inherently interdisciplinary. While it has remained resistant to theorisation, it nonetheless has a substantial influence on art, politics and society. Since its practical omnipresence in every-day life renders it one of the most significant aspects of affect studies, it has garnered an increasing amount of critical attention in a number of disciplines across the humanities, sciences and social sciences in the past two decades. *Mood: Aesthetics, Psychology, Philosophy* provides a comprehensive theoretical and empirical exploration of the phenomenon of mood from an interdisciplinary angle. Building on cutting-edge research in this emerging field and bringing together established and new voices, it bridges the existing disciplinary gap in the study of mood and further consolidates this phenomenon as a crucial concept in disciplinary and interdisciplinary study. By combining perspectives and concepts from the literary studies, philosophy, musicology, the social sciences, artistic practice and psychology, the volume does the complexity and richness of mood-related phenomena justice and benefits from the latent connections and synergies in different disciplinary approaches to the study of mood.



- **Prohibitions and Psychoactive Substances in History, Culture and Theory (11)**



Susannah Wilson (French)

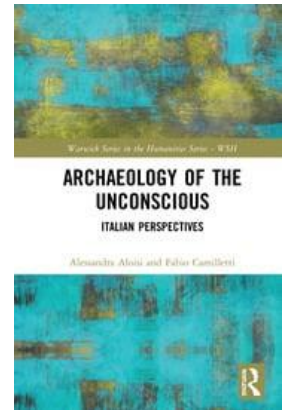
This volume is a new contribution to the dynamic scholarly discussion of the control and regulation of psychoactive substances in culture and society. Offering new critical reflections on the reasons prohibitions have historically arisen, the book analyses "prohibitions" as ambivalent and tenuous interactions between the users of psychoactive substances and regulators of their use. This original collection of essays engages with contemporary debates concerning addiction, intoxication and drug regulation, and will be of interest to scholars in the arts, humanities and social sciences interested in narratives of prohibition and their social and cultural meanings.



- **Archaeology of the Unconscious Italian Perspectives, 1st Edition (12)**

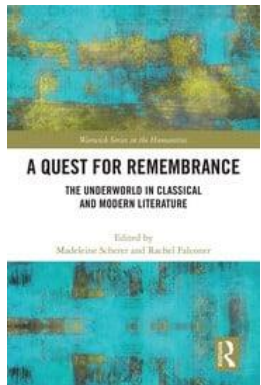
Alessandra Aloisi and Fabio Camilletti (Italian)

In reconstructing the birth and development of the notion of ‘unconscious’, historians of ideas have heavily relied on the Freudian concept of *Unbewussten*, retroactively projecting the psychoanalytic unconscious over a constellation of diverse cultural experiences taking place in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries between France and Germany. *Archaeology of the Unconscious* aims to challenge this perspective by adopting an unusual and thought-provoking viewpoint as the one offered by the Italian case from the 1770s to the immediate aftermath of WWI, when Italo Svevo’s *La coscienza di Zeno* provides Italy with the first example of a ‘psychoanalytic novel’. Italy’s vibrant culture of the long nineteenth century, characterised by the sedimentation, circulation, intersection, and synergy of different cultural, philosophical, and literary traditions, proves itself to be a privileged object of inquiry for an *archaeological* study of the unconscious; a study whose object is not the alleged ‘origin’ of a pre-made theoretical construct, but rather the stratifications by which that specific construct was assembled. In line with Michel Foucault’s *Archéologie du savoir* (1969), this volume will analyze the formation and the circulation, across different authors and texts, of a network of ideas and discourses on interconnected themes, including dreams, memory, recollection, desire, imagination, fantasy, madness, creativity, inspiration, magnetism, and somnambulism. Alongside questioning pre-given narratives of the ‘history of the unconscious’, this book will employ the Italian ‘difference’ as a powerful perspective from whence to address the undeveloped potentialities of the pre-Freudian unconscious, beyond uniquely psychoanalytical viewpoints.



- **A Quest for Remembrance The Underworld in Classical and Modern Literature, 1st Edition (13)**

Madeleine Scherer (English) and Rachel Falconer (Lausanne)

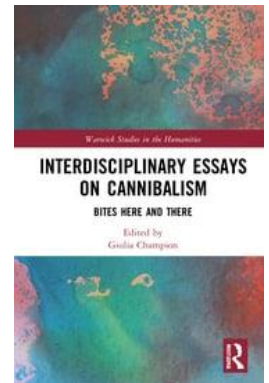


A Quest for Remembrance: The Underworld in Classical and Modern literature brings together a range of arguments exploring connections between the descent into the underworld, also known as *katabasis*, and various forms of memory. Its chapters investigate the uses of the descent *topos* both in antiquity and in the reception of classical literature in the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries. In the process, the volume explores how the hero’s quest into the underworld engages with the theme of recovering memories from the past. At the same time, we aim to foreground how the narrative format itself is concerned with forms of commemoration ranging from trans-cultural memory, remembering the literary and intellectual canon, to commemorating important historical events that might otherwise be forgotten. Through highlighting this duality this collection aims to introduce the descent narrative as its own literary genre, a ‘memorious genre’ related to but distinct from the quest narrative.

- **Interdisciplinary Essays on Cannibalism - Bites Here and There (14)**

Giulia Champion (Warwick)

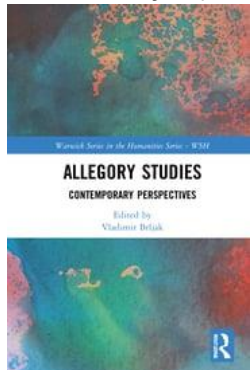
*Interdisciplinary Essays on Cannibalism: Bites Here and There* brings together a range of works exploring the evolution of cannibalism, literally and metaphorically, diachronically and across disciplines. This edited collection aims to promote a conversation on the evolution and the different uses of the tropes and figures of cannibalism, in order to understand and deconstruct the fascination with anthropophagy, its continued afterlife and its relation to different disciplines and spaces of discourse. In order to do so, the contributing authors shed a new light not only on the concept, but also propose to explore cannibalism through new optics and theories. Spanning 15 chapters, the collection explores cannibalism across disciplines and fields from Antiquity to contemporary speculative fiction, considering history, anthropology, visual and film studies, philosophy, feminist theories, psychoanalysis and museum practices. This collection of thoughtful and thought-provoking scholarly contributions suggests the importance of cannibalism in understanding human history and social relations.



### Forthcoming (Routledge)

- **Allegory Studies: Contemporary Perspectives**

Vladimir Brljak (Warwick)



*Allegory Studies: Contemporary Perspectives* brings together some of the most compelling current work in allegory studies, by an international team of scholars from a range of disciplines and specializations in the humanities and cognitive sciences. The volume tracks the subject across established disciplinary, cultural, and period-based divides, from its shadowy origins to its uncertain future, and from the rich variety of its cultural and artistic manifestations to its deep cognitive roots. Allegory is everything we already know it to be: a mode of literary and artistic composition, and a religious as well as secular interpretive practice. It is, however, much more than that—much more than a sum of its parts. Collectively, the phenomena that we now tend to subsume under this term comprise a dynamic cultural force which has left a deep imprint on our history, whose full impact we are only beginning to comprehend, and which therefore demands precisely such dedicated cross-disciplinary examination as this book seeks to provide.

### Visiting Speakers' Fund

The Visiting Speakers' Fund assisted arts departments wishing to bring in high profile external speakers to Warwick. This scheme was postponed but will be reinstated for 21/22.

### Warwick PhD and Early Career Research Fellowships

Warwick has long-standing links with many North American universities, and in order to strengthen and deepen those ties the HRC instituted a Research Fellowship programme in 2013. The scheme was postponed this year to enable the students from last year who were unable to travel due to Covid. With financial support from the CRS the HRC awarded 3 fellowships for Warwick PhD students and early career scholars to spend a short period conducting

research at a variety of high-profile North American universities and colleges including the Newberry Library, Johns Hopkins University and Princeton.

The 3 students making their postponed trips in 21/22 are:

Anna Cruse-Marshall – Johns Hopkins’ Singleton Centre for the Study of Premodern Europe

Aidan Norrie – Newberry Library

Martina Russo – Columbia University

We hope this successful scheme will be running normally again next year. Details are available online

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/irf/wtf/>

## Future Events and Plans

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

Postcolonial Italian Cinema – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

[Following Living Things and Still Lives in a Global World](#)- Saturday 12th February 2022

[The Supernatural: Sites of Suffering in the Pre-Modern World](#) - Date Spring 2022 tbc

Writing the Parish – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (20<sup>th</sup> Warwick Parish Research Symposium)

## Newberry Library

The HRC remains committed to Warwick’s continued involvement with the Newberry Library via the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance. Each year the HRC shoulders part of the annual financial commitment that Warwick makes to be part of the Newberry consortium. In addition we reserve one of the Warwick PhD and Early Career Research Fellowships to be held at the Newberry.

## Johns Hopkins Fellowship

The HRC will continue to partner with the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance to offer a fellowship linked to Johns Hopkins University, along similar lines to the one already offered at the Newberry Library in Chicago. The fellow will be working on an early modern topic and make use of the facilities and expertise at JHU.

## We will offer continuing support for the following Faculty Seminars:

- Early Modern and Eighteenth Century Centre Seminar
- Environmental Humanities Network (new for 20/21)
- Italian Research Seminar
- Institute for Southern Studies
- Medieval Seminar Series
- Parish Research Symposium [History]
- STVDIO Seminar [Renaissance]
- Warwick Workshop for Interdisciplinary German Studies
- Caribbean Studies Seminar

### Social Media and Twitter

Our @HRCWarwick Twitter account attracted over 340 followers during the course of the year and moving forward we will continue to tweet about HRC events, programmes and funding opportunities.

### Concluding Remarks

COVID-19 has continued to have a huge impact on our activities, which have all been online. This is a trend that is likely to continue for some time. Therefore, we will keep allocating some funding towards professional support from the Conferences team and extend the blogging element of the Doctoral Fellowship Competition to increase opportunities for virtual engagement. One of my main goals for 2021-22 will be to reach out to those parts of the Faculty of Arts that have been less engaged with the HRC's activities in the past.



Professor David Lambert, July 2021  
Director  
Humanities Research Centre

### Contact us

For further information on the activities of the HRC, please contact Sue Rae:  
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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)  
Twitter: @HRCWarwick