



University
of Exeter



HASS Research Report 2022-23

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Introduction from Susan Molyneux-Hodgson

Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Impact, HASS

The 2022/23 academic year was one of much change for colleagues and the institution. Maintaining HASS research activity has been a huge achievement by academic and support colleagues.

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Many congratulations to colleagues for the year's application endeavours and grant successes, generating a great outcome for our first year as a larger collective of research-active staff. We were aiming to reach £11.4m income (the sum of existing income targets from the previous two Colleges) and we achieved £17.9m. We maintained success with EU funding and saw other new funding streams start up. Attention to the themes of greener, healthier, fairer is clear. With many newly formed Departments and new structures for research support, the potential for novel conversations and research relationships is still growing.

As we look forward to the 2023/4 year, we will see attention turn to planning for the next REF, with submission expected mid-2027 and results in 2028. During Term 1, Departments will begin reviewing our outputs, aiming to take an early stock-take of our position. There will be some 'calibration' workshops which we hope will enable colleagues to learn how the review process works and how quality gets measured. Following the hugely successful monograph day held in May 2023, we will continue to focus on 'Project Monograph' so that our best writing finds the best outlets. The number of successful book launches held this year is testament to colleagues' great efforts in this arena.

Another priority in the coming year will be expanding our Research Culture activity to be inclusive of non-academic contributions to the research endeavour e.g. working with our Faculty Technician teams to ensure their work is recognised and valued. The past year saw a wide range of research culture activity, including an amazing cross-Campus event held outside St Austell.

Not all our research activity can be represented in this summary report, it serves only as a heavily sampled overview. We know that different stories could have appeared, from Social Justice panel seminars and Plant Humanities events hosted by SCI to the Digital Societies Growhouse project supported by IIB. Directors of Research and Impact have been busy with coffee drop-ins to discuss the bidding process, creating staff & PGR research newsletters, attending to individual needs and running whole group impact workshops. I want to give a personal thanks to all the DoRIs who are not only doing great service to their Departments but have formed an amazing team and support network across the whole Faculty.

Roll on 2023/4!

Overview

2022-23 has been a fantastic start for the new Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Science. Across the 10 departments making up the Faculty we have:

- Secured £17.9m of funding to support research projects. We had planned to win around £11.4m so 157% of the target. More projects are subject to contract.
- Submitted applications totalling £70m¹
- Supervised 132 students to PhD completion
- Awarded 39 PhD scholarships (funded by the Faculty, Doctoral Training Partnerships and research grants)

¹ Applications & awards data as at 24th August 2023, subject to final changes.

Our Funders include:



Professional Pathologies, Causal Pathways and the Post Office Miscarriages of Justice

A landmark study into legal failings associated with the Post Office scandal aims to support improvements in culture and ethical practice to prevent similar injustices occurring in the future.

The Exeter team, Richard Moorhead and Rebecca Helm (both Law), alongside Karen Nokes, from UCL will deliver this £959,000 ESRC funded project, working with a professional partner LBC Wise Counsel, in-house lawyers and others.

The scandal, currently subject to a statutory judicial inquiry, has blighted scores of lives. Computer error, corporate incompetence, and potentially problematic lawyering led to hundreds of sub-postmasters and mistresses being falsely accused and sometimes convicted of criminal

offences. Many more were thrown out of their businesses, left in debt and had their livelihoods destroyed. To date, over 80 defendants have had their wrongful convictions quashed on appeal.

Lawyers were at the heart of this disaster as it unfolded over 20 years. The project team are working to discover more about the scandal, and the role of lawyers in it. The research will involve building a detailed case study of what happened during the Post Office scandal and identifying any professional or ethical failures that contributed to it.



Work by the research team has already led to the Post Office Inquiry being widened.

Children of War

Children are integral to contemporary humanitarian and human rights campaigns, both as subjects of intervention and as humanitarian icons. In the 1990s one form of child victim came to prominence: the child soldier.

Global estimates posited that over 300,000 child soldiers were fighting or had recently been demobilized, 120,000 of those in Africa. The iconographic image of 'the child soldier' was overwhelmingly African. Humanitarian campaigns in 1990s raged against this new 'child soldier crisis', depicting child soldiers as traumatized victims of adult abuse and the 'barbarism' of new hyper-violent, civilianized forms of contemporary warfare. However, contrary to these campaigns, child soldiering was not a new phenomenon: this project shows that children were a significant presence in African conflicts throughout the twentieth century, and their involvement was linked to wider patterns of warfare, child labour and modern slavery, and youth mobilization.

This three-year, £947,000 project, led by Stacey Hynd (A&H) delivers the first properly historical account of the development of child soldiering

in Africa, through a comparative analysis of children's involvement in warfare from the colonial to contemporary eras. It traces African child soldiering from the Second World War to anti-colonial insurgencies, through civil wars and Cold War proxy conflicts to the 'new wars' of the 1990s that made the 'African child soldier' the literal poster child of global advocacy. Key case studies will be Uganda, Angola, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) providing comparisons across time, region, forms of warfare, and varying forms of child recruitment and military use. There will be a strong critical focus on both gender and generational dynamics, with three levels of child soldiering analysed: youth as able-bodied force multipliers; as liminal covert agents; and symbolic militarized 'children', looking at direct and indirect participation throughout.



Research Infrastructure

We are increasingly seeing significant investment in infrastructure in HASS. In 2022/23, we have seen projects coming into fruition in some areas, and grant success in others.

Launch of Arab World Documentation Unit (AWDU)

Funded by the £2m DAME project the newly-refurbished AWDU space was officially opened on 26th October 2022.

There has been a hugely positive response to the newly refurbished study space and the return of the AWDU collections to the IAIS building from both staff and students. The collections are also being consulted by external researchers, with visitors from Oxford, London, Reading, the United States, UAE, Iraq, China and Japan, recently making appointments to travel here to work on our rare materials – all of which suggests that our reputation is continuing to grow.

Donations of rare printed materials – especially from the period after 2011 when acquisitions tailed off sharply – would be most welcome, particularly if colleagues are travelling to the Gulf and other MENA regions and are able to pick up unusual items such as institutional brochures, political leaflets, NGO reports or other cultural ephemera.



Hot Source! Targeted Digital Skills Development, from Artefact to Analytics

A group comprising Leif Isaksen, Charlotte Tupman (both CAHRT), Richard Ward and Helen Birkett (originally Lizzy Williamson) (both A&H)

have secured investment in Digital Arts & Humanities research excellence at the University of Exeter through the Hot Source! project. This £300,000 AHRC funded pilot project will prepare the ground for a regional and national iDAH training centre in Arts & Humanities Digital Skills and a step change in practice across the Southwest. It will expand the range of mainstream Arts & Humanities methodologies to unlock the potential of a rapidly transforming landscape of primary source materials, and help researchers to engage critically with the continuing impact of technology on cultural expression, dissemination and consumption.

Science, Heritage, and Archaeology Digital 3D Laboratory

Investment of £886,000 has been made in the Archaeology 3D Lab through the AHRC creative research



capability (CResCa) scheme. Under the ethos of 'preservation by 3D record', the Science, Heritage and Archaeology Digital 3D Laboratory (SHArD 3D) will become a centre of excellence for 3D preservation and analysis of both archaeological heritage and forensic science materials. The centrepiece of SHArD 3D is a new microCT scanner, which is the first humanities-led microCT facility in the South West. SHArD 3D will not only train the next generation of academic researchers, but enhance resources and support for our heritage partners, provide critical new capacity to forensic science, and transform the way collections are stored and presented. Among the partners supporting SHArD 3D are the Portable Antiquities Scheme within the British Museum and the National Board of Forensic Pathologists.

Cross-Disciplinary Working, Impact and Partnership

HASS research is cross-disciplinary, groundbreaking, and impactful. Examples of this include pioneering work to protect inventions as the use of 3D printing grows, the launch of a spinout company, Senseful AI, and recognition for HASS academics in both the New Year and birthday honours lists.

Research led by James Griffin (Law), is helping creators to know who accesses, prints and downloads their designs, allowing them to protect their intellectual property and tackle any copyright infringement.

The researchers have patented watermarking technology for use with 3D printing, and for this watermarking technology to be linked

to blockchain, to allow the licensing of 3D printed objects.

They have now launched a new website which acts as a platform to record this licensing. This will revolutionise how 3D printed objects can be distributed, traced and searched for. This will enable new forms of distribution and open new possibilities for licensing around the world.



Dr Griffin and colleagues recently showcased their research to more than 40 companies and 100 academics at two events in Shanghai and Ningbo

Senseful AI

A HASS spinout company, Senseful AI, pioneered by Bill Short (CAHRT) launched this year. The company has created a unique and powerful model of AI designed primarily for the B2B marketplace. Developed through years of linguistic research, Senseful AI has tested a unique information discovery model which works the way humans think – through concepts and conceptual relationships. Technically, it searches text at multiple levels of conceptual organisation and through different kinds of semantic, syntactic, and structural relationships. This advanced AI modelling technique can be used in a variety of use cases designed to assist businesses adapt to the challenges posed by the fast pace of AI driven change.

Bill's work has been recognised through the inaugural award for the new Blavatnik Prize for Innovation.

Honours

In addition to prizes, awards and accolades achieved by numerous colleagues across departments, two stand out and highlight out external impact.

David Lewis (SPSPA) was awarded an OBE for services to the development of UK Government policy in Eastern Europe and Russia in the 2023 New Year honours.

Pascale Aebischer (ECW), who led a major UK-wide research project to mitigate the impact of coronavirus on society, law, health, and culture was awarded an MBE in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours.

2022-23 has also seen three HASS Colleagues elected to the UK's prestigious national academy for the humanities and social sciences. Rebecca Probert, Debra Myhill and Tim Insoll are all now Fellows of the British Academy, joining a community of over 1,600 distinguished intellectuals.

Translating Cultures with UNESCO Cities of Literature

The Department of Languages, Cultures and Visual Studies, working with Exeter UNESCO City of Literature brought multiple Cities of Literature to Exeter for the fantastic Translating Cultures event. The packed programme included presentations and workshops from LCVS colleagues alongside guests from Cities of Literature from across Europe.



EU Funding Success

2022/23 has seen significant investment from EU funding schemes, including four European Research Council (ERC) awards for excellent frontier research, three Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral fellowships and several awards from the collaborative programmes.



Cultures of Philosophy: Women Writing Knowledge in Early Modern Europe (CultPhil)

Helena Taylor's (LCVS) ERC Starting Grant seeks to recover women's philosophical writing from the seventeenth century and to analyse the processes which have meant that such writing has often not been recognised as philosophy. It will examine case studies from the Dutch Republic, Italy, England and France, bringing together a team of core researchers, as well as participants from across Europe, Australia and the United States.

The five year project will enable Helena and her team of researchers, including three full-time post-doctoral researchers, to visit rare book

libraries and archives across Europe and look at a broader range of genres, including periodicals and poetry.

Learning Anglo-French: French Language-Learning Manuscripts in Britain, c.1200-c.1500 (LAF)

Thomas Hinton's (LCVS) £1.6m ERC Consolidator award will deliver a new study into how medieval British society created a culture of language learning through French. The five-year project will, for the first time, gather and examine the earliest known books used to teach a modern European language. LAF will explore whether there was a defined curriculum for teaching French, and consider related aspects, including what impact the Black Death pandemic may have had upon language acquisition. It will also harness cutting-edge archaeological techniques to analyse the manuscripts themselves, potentially revealing new insights into how they were produced and the people who handled them.

The first phase of LAF will establish a database of around 50 manuscripts that have been identified as containing material used for teaching. Their contents and contexts will be recorded, including where they were made and who owned them. The team will also visit archives across the UK in search of hitherto undiscovered learning books. With the expert input of Exeter archaeologists, the project will go on to conduct DNA analysis of some of the parchment used in the manuscripts to see whether further insight can be gleaned into the type of animals used in the production process, or the gender profiles of those reading the books.

Biodiversity and the Legacy of Anthropogenic Disturbance on Ecosystems in the Neotropics (BLADEN)

Mark Robinson's ERC Starting Grant, BLADEN, will address a critical knowledge gap studying how humans have shaped tropical forest composition and structure, and how biodiversity recovers following human disturbance by determining anthropogenic impacts on biodiversity in a Mesoamerican tropical forest over 13,000 years.

The destruction of tropical forests and loss of biodiversity is one of the greatest challenges humanity faces, threatening essential ecosystem services, including food security, the provisioning of medicines and the regulation of Earth's climate. Developing datasets to understand how humans shaped ecosystems and how biodiversity recovers following disturbance is critical for informed conservation strategies and securing global futures. Despite extensive evidence of past landscape impacts, processes of natural regeneration in response to the type, intensity, and duration of disturbance lack data. BLADEN will fill this knowledge gap.

Women's Transnational Theatre Networks, 1789-1914 (WOMENTHEATRENET)



The overlooked work of thousands of women who helped to shape the evolution of theatre during the 19th century is set to be the focus of a new international research programme.

WOMENTHEATRENET, an ERC Advanced Grant of almost €2.35m, led by Kate Newey (CDF), sets out to discover what a history of 19th-century western theatre might look like if the work of women were placed at its centre. Women have always been active in the theatre, but their work has been obscured by sexed and classed hierarchies of aesthetic value and entrenched historical approaches.

WOMENTHEATRENET will make visible transnational female-centred networks of creative and intellectual exchange. The project involves a team of 7 researchers, and an international network of visiting Fellows to the project. Kate and her team will also work with Cornwall-based feminist theatre company, Scary Little Girls to put women's plays into the rehearsal studio and eventually, back into our theatres.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral fellowships

Three Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral fellowships have been awarded to external candidates who will be based in HASS. We look forward to welcoming them all to Exeter!

Collaborative projects

Exeter HASS colleagues continue to work with partners across Europe. New projects launching this year included: Road-STEAMer (Kerry Chappell and Lindsay Hetherington - SoE); PushBackLash (Isa Engeli and Florian Stoeckel - SPSPA); REDIRECT (Dario Castiglione, Lise Herman, Alice Mosely and Oliver James - SPSPA).

Research Culture & Training

2022/23 was our first year as the HASS Faculty, and supporting research culture in the new departments has been a priority. The events below provide a snapshot of some of the fabulous activity that has gone on over the course of the year.



Cross-Faculty Research Culture away day
Coordinated by HaSS Cornwall, this was an opportunity to get together before the end of our first academic year in the new structure. The day provided an opportunity for colleagues

based in Cornwall and Exeter to meet, network, and learn more about shared research areas. It was rounded off with an excellent keynote by [Nicki Kindersley](#) from Cardiff University. The day was well attended, informative and enjoyable!



Silent Voices: Confronting the Hostile Archive
Creativity, collaboration, and clay... The 'Silent Voices' project held two workshops on 5 June, for staff and students, exploring how academics and creative practitioners can work together to uncover the experiences of those people whose voices aren't heard in the traditional archives. Postgraduate students and staff from across the Faculty took part, all working with marginalised groups, societies whose cultures don't produce written testimonies, or historical actors whose records have been lost. When the archive is hostile, or doesn't hold the answers we seek, what do we do? How can we go beyond the archive, to further our understandings of the past, and of the silent, or the silenced?

Three creative practitioners – [Russell Burden](#), [May Sumbwanyambe](#), and Ruth Moore – provided a range of artistic perspectives on these challenges. Working in different media, each explores silent voices in their creative practice, and has experience of working with academics on shared interests. Russell Burden led a material culture workshop, where participants used clay to imagine ways of working with non-written sources and experimental/practice research techniques, while engaging in discussion about both the theoretical and practical aspects of this kind of work. Later in the day, a lively roundtable

discussion between the creative practitioners and Ryan Hanley and Freyja Cox Jensen (both A&H) considered creative writing and visual/sound arts approaches to hostile or incomplete archives, with enthusiastic participation from the audience. For all parties, this was the beginning of a conversation that holds much potential for future work!

Monograph Day
A hugely popular event was held for academic staff and PGR students who are, or wish to be, engaged in writing books. It constituted the first part of a new programme of activities which are designed to support monograph writing in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (and across the university more broadly).

Each session was themed around a particular aspect of the writing and publishing process – from writing a proposal through to publishing with American university presses, transforming your PhD into a book through to writing for popular and academic audiences – with sessions presented by a stellar cast of HASS scholars who spoke about their own experiences of composing particular books.

The presentations can be accessed here – [RESEARCH \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

'I am a first-year PhD student, and this event (Monograph Day) is really motivating and helpful for me to organise my research. The presenters have shown their passions and their experiences, which really encourages me.'

PGR Community

Postgraduate Research Students form an integral part of our Faculty and building an inclusive research culture is vital.

Significant activity has been undertaken this year, including the appointment of 13 Peer-to-Peer Research Culture Assistants who have been keenly working to foster a strong research culture across HASS. They have co-ordinated and arranged various events and resources which have sat alongside Faculty organised training on how to work with the media, working with emotionally sensitive research, public engagement/impact and academic writing. Some examples from the successful Peer to Peer programme include:

- An event series including public speaking skills, on academic presentations, and work in progress meetings.
- Calling All Unpaid Carers
- Children's literature: an interdisciplinary reading group launch

- Study meets
- Online, Hybrid and Face to face Writing Retreats and Literature Review Workshops
- Gender and the Past: A discussion and well-being group for HASS PGRs
- BA and Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship Application Workshop
- 'Things I Wish I'd Known Earlier' PhD talks
- Visualising Dialogues: A HASS PGR Creative Submissions Conference
- Collaborative Doctoral Event at Devon and Exeter Institute.
- Interdisciplinary conference involving showcase/presentations of ongoing research through creative submissions

'I really liked the training; it was really helpful for me to understand some of the themes a bit better (trauma, privilege) and it felt empowering to understand these better... I was looking for ways in which to understand myself and my experience in the context of working with themes of exclusion and trauma and ways in which I could manage stress. For these things I thought the training was really good and I really welcomed the openness and friendly feedback.'



Alongside the work of the Peer-to-Peer assistants we have also hosted several events across Faculty and in Departments. Some examples include:

New Beginnings – Art History and Visual Culture PGR conference at the Phoenix with guest speakers taking part in a careers roundtable: Marek Golias, paintings conservator at the National Gallery; Sam Willis, broadcaster and naval historian; and RAMM curator Holly Carter-Chappell; as well as Phil Wickham from The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum.

CDF Deep Work and Writing Retreat, (hybrid) – some focused space to think and write together including approaches to writing developed by Helen Sword and Paul J Silvia, small writing support groups, and a talk on 'Deep Work' by James Lyons (CDF).

'Analysing qualitative data – which approach should you choose?' – A PGR workshop to discuss qualitative data analysis choices in empirical research

School of Education PGR Research Conference – encouraging networking, an opportunity to share research in progress, training, and information about post-doc funding.

Writing retreat at Buckfast Abbey – The 2023 PGR summer writing retreat in the grounds of Buckfast Abbey was a chance for students to spend dedicated, supported time with their peers and academic leads writing their thesis chapters. The retreat was a perfect opportunity for PGRs to boost their productivity, develop good writing habits and be inspired by a full programme of writing activities over three days.

Archaeology and History

Archaeology fieldschool at Killerton

This year the department ran a four-week archaeology fieldschool at Killerton near Cullompton, Devon, in partnership with the National Trust, tackling research questions relating to the history of the landscape prior to the creation of the 18th century parkland. The team excavated the remains of a settlement in the Front Park, with medieval finds showing it had a lengthy history, and found prehistoric ditches and probable late Bronze Age pottery near the hillfort.



The Material Culture of Wills: England 1540-1790'

Colleagues across A&H have secured a number of large research awards from a variety of funders. Amongst these are Jane Whittle and Laura Sangha's £495k Leverhulme Trust project to study 'The Material Culture of Wills: England 1540-1790' in collaboration with the National Archives. The project will digitally transcribe and analyse 25,000 manuscript wills to examine bequests of objects, illuminating how people's relationship with their material possessions changed over time in a period of rapid commercialisation and increased global trade. The project runs for four years and will employ two postdocs and fund two PhD students.

Prizes

Several colleagues, including two post-doctoral researchers, have won or been shortlisted for publication prizes. Emily Bridger's book *Young Women against Apartheid* won the 2022 RHS Gladstone Prize and the 2022 Society for the History of Children and Youth Grace Abbot Prize. James Fisher's book *The Enclosure of Knowledge: Books, Power and Agrarian capitalism in Britain 1660-1800*, has been shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's prestigious Whiffeld Prize. Sean Doherty and Naomi Sykes's article 'Redefining the Timing and Circumstances of the Chicken's Introduction to Europe and Northwest Africa' has won Antiquity's 2023 Ben Cullen Prize. The journal has also commissioned an animated film of their work.

Research Culture Workshops

A programme of interdisciplinary workshops has been undertaken including a research away day that focused on research centres and the design of some fabulous posters to showcase them.



Classics, Ancient History, Religion and Theology

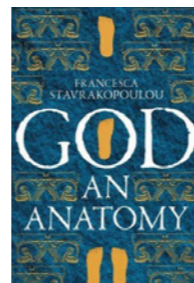
100 Black Women Professors Now: Amplifying Impact in Inclusive Research Culture in HASS

Out of 22,000 Professors currently in the UK, currently only 41 are Black women. In response to this, the University of Exeter is funding 7 Black female academics from within the institution to take part in the Women's Higher Education Network [100 Black Women Professors Now \(BWPN\) scheme](#). This event, organised by Olabisi Obamakin (PGR), Shades Chaudhary (Assistant Director (Culture and Inclusion)) and Louise Lawrence aimed to empower staff and PGR students to learn from Black Women's academic experiences, supporting their career and life in the South West.

This thought provoking-event provided an invaluable opportunity for staff and PGR students to hear first-hand about the experiences of Black Women within academia, and to be equipped to support them in their career development, and life in the South West. It included workshopping around the themes of inclusive research cultures, recruitment & representation and mentoring & support, alongside a panel discussion with WHEN scholars in Exeter. A short film, Empowering Black Women Academics, showcasing the event, is available to view [here](#).

Prizes

Francesca Stavrakopoulou won the [PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize 2022](#) for her book *God: An Anatomy*. The judges said: 'Exploring God from head to toe, *God: An Anatomy* is a revelatory and brilliant examination of the emergence of monotheism written with real verve and vitality.'



Widening participation and increasing access to Cultural Heritage Activities in Georgia: Magnifying Impact

Emma Loosley Leeming received AHRC Follow-on funding to further her work with Georgian partners promoting the peaceful co-habitation of disparate communities through an educational programme that highlights the centuries of co-operation and interaction in the Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli provinces. The 'Widening participation and increasing access to Cultural Heritage Activities in Georgia: Magnifying Impact' project builds on Emma and her partners previous work in the region. Further evidence of the impact of the project is the wonderful news that the team at the Georgian National Museum recently won the [Siletto Prize](#) for Museum of the Year in the field of Impact and Engagement.



Blavatnik Prize for Innovation

Bill Short's newly created business, Senseful AI, has become the first recipient of the Blavatnik Prize for Innovation, supported by South West focused venture firm QantX. The award recognises outstanding original thinking that can make a difference to the way the world works, something Senseful AI, which draws upon cognitive semantics, computational text analysis, and natural language understanding to remove the need for users to guess the correct words when conducting a search, certainly does.

Connecting Late Antiquities

Richard Flower and Charlotte Tupman's project [Connecting Late Antiquities](#), jointly funded by the AHRC and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), will see them working with partners in London and Bonn to create open, digital prosopographical resources for the Roman and post-Roman territories between the third and seventh centuries AD. The enterprise will dramatically improve access to information about late-antique people for all scholars of this period and allow the easy integration of prosopographical material with online geographical, textual, epigraphic and papyrological resources.

Communications, Drama and Film

Communities, Performance and Practice

Kerrie Schaefer (Drama) published [Communities, Performance and Practice: Enacting Communities](#) (Palgrave, Springer).

This book examines how a predominantly negative view of community has presented a challenge to critical analysis of community performance practice. The concept of community as a form of class-based solidarity has been hollowed out by postmodernism's questioning of grand narratives and poststructuralism's celebration of difference. Alongside the critique of a notion of community has been a critical re-signification of community, following the thinking of philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy who conceives of community not as common being but as being-in-common. The concept of community as being-in-common generates questions that have been taken up by feminist geographers, J.K. Gibson-Graham, in theorising a post-capitalist approach to community-based development. These questions and approaches guide the analyses in researched case studies of community performance practice. The book revises theoretical debates that have



defined the field of community theatre and performance and asks how the critical re-signification of community aligns with these debates and, at the same time, opens new modes of critical analysis of community theatre and performance practice.

Subtitling World Cinema

Film researchers are making lost and little-known world film available to English-speaking colleagues through subtitling and digitisation. 'Subtitling World Cinema' is led by Sally Faulkner, Will Higbee and Danielle Hipkins, with Eliana Maestri (Translation Studies), Ting Guo (Languages, Liverpool) and endorsed by writer/filmmaker Mark Cousins. 'Supported by the University of Exeter's Annual fund, this project significantly draws on the ongoing work in CDF on AHRC research projects and follow-on funding held by Will for '[Transnational Moroccan Cinema](#)' (AHRC), by Sally for '[Leading Women in Portuguese and Spanish Cinema and Television, 1970-1980](#)' (AHRC), and by Danielle '[A Girls' Eye-view: Girlhood on the Italian screen since the 1950s](#)' (AHRC). A range of underacknowledged films are now being shown to audiences, often with introduction from the researchers – for instance, in 2023, Sally has introduced new audiences to Cecilia Bartolomé at the [¡Viva! Spanish and Latin American Film Festival, Manchester](#); while Will's work on Farida Benlyazid's *Door to the Sky* has seen the film play since 2021 at numerous festivals in Africa, North America, South America and Europe, including as part of a retrospective of the director's work at the Marrakech International Film Festival in November 2022. An application (result pending) for an AHRC commercialisation grant has been made with a view to establishing a distribution label for lost classics of world cinema (Will and Jezz Vernon); this would facilitate the work of increasing the critical attention given to these important films.

Videogames: Time and Nostalgia

In May 2023, our Communications team ran a successful [conference](#) on the understanding of time in videogames, and how our experiences and engagements with them evoke nostalgia. Delegates from Japan, America and Europe spoke at the event, with keynotes from Chris Hanson from Syracuse, and Debra Ramsay from film studies at Exeter. The conference coincides with a new contract for a book series on 'Games and Contemporary Culture' with Routledge (Ewen, Deshbandhu, Taylor), beginning to establish CDF as a centre for the



study of videogames. The first book in the series, *The 21st Century in a Hundred Games*, written by Dr Aditya Deshbandhu, will be published later in 2023. This expertise underpins BA Communications shortlisting for 'Course of the Year' (University of Exeter Students' Guild).

Bill Douglas: A Film Artist

Bill Douglas (1934-1991) was one of the British cinema's most innovative auteurs. This [new book](#) is the first publication to examine Douglas's life and career through archive material recently made available to researchers. Curator of the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, film scholar Dr Phil Wickham worked with researcher Dr Amelia Watts, whose own PhD project, now awarded, draws on Bill Douglas's largely unseen Working Papers.

The book raises important questions about Douglas's status as an artist and reflects on his struggles within the film industry of the 1970s and 1980s. The volume also explores the wider legacy of this film artist, through the collection



on moving image history he assembled with Peter Jewell, which became the foundation of the [Bill Douglas Cinema Museum](#). The book was launched at the 25-year celebration for the museum, in November 2022.

English and Creative Writing

Creative Writing Celebration

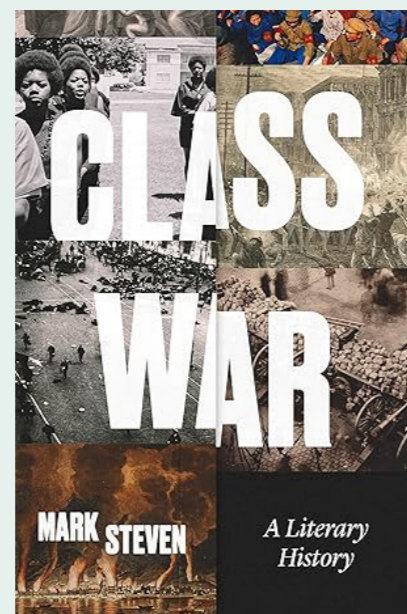
To celebrate the launch of the new Department of English and Creative Writing, the Creative Writing team held an evening of festivities and live readings at 1 Guinea Street in November 2022. The readers included Ellen Wiles (Motherwood), Ben Smith (Doggerland), Nazneen Ahmed Pathak (City of Stolen Magic), Andy Brown (Grace Notes), Vesna Goldsworthy (Iron Curtain), Aiysha Jahan (Dubai Calling), PJohn Clarke (Boy Thing), and Wendy O'Shea Meddour (Tisha and the Blossom), with an on-screen appearance by Sally Flint, live from Exeter's Creative Writing initiative at COP 27 in Egypt.

Inaugural Teagarden Lecture

A generous external donation has allowed the department to sponsor a new annual series of Teagarden Lectures, highlighting the research of BAME scholars. The inaugural lecture was delivered on Monday 22 May 2023 by Josie Gill (Associate Professor in Black British Writing, University of Bristol). In her talk, 'Black Lecturer', Dr Gill brought her own experiences of working in higher education into conversation with fictional and non-fictional writing about black British experiences of education.

Class War: A Literary History

One of LitHub's 'Most Anticipated Books of 2023', *Class War* weaves together literature and politics to chart the making and unmaking of social class through revolutionary combat. In a narrative that spans the globe and more than two centuries of history, Mark Steven traces the history of class war from the Haitian Revolution to Black Lives Matter. *Class War* surveys the literature of revolution from the poetry of Shelley and Byron to the novels of Émile Zola and Jack London, exploring the writings of Frantz Fanon, Che Guevara, and Assata Shakur.



Pandemic and Beyond

The final report of the [Pandemic and Beyond Project](#) led by Pascale Aebischer was published in December 2022. The report provides an overview of the impact and future opportunities of arts and humanities research in a national crisis, highlighting seven case studies. This spring, Pascale was awarded a further grant from the British Academy for her project 'Pandemic Preparedness in the Live Performing Arts: Lessons to Learn from COVID-19'. Working with partners from across the G7, the project will produce policy recommendations for performing arts professionals, government departments and arms' length bodies, actors' unions and third-sector organisations.

THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND ▶▶

The Arts and Humanities Contribution to Covid Research and Recovery



Fellowship Success

Fellowship awards this year demonstrate the breadth and strength of research in English and Creative Writing. Nick McDowell was awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship for his project, 'The Poetry of Civil War'. The project involves a close comparison between poets of mid-seventeenth-century England and twentieth-century Ireland, as well as a broader inquiry into civil war poetry as a genre with roots in classical Rome. Tricia Zakreski was granted an AHRC RDE Fellowship for her project, 'The Art of Fiction: Women's Writing and the Decorative Arts'. The project will examine the history of women's creative labour in authorship and the decorative arts 1850-1890. Ayesha Mukherjee was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for her project, 'Literary Geographies of Dearth in Early Modern India and Britain', and Peter Riley received a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for his project, 'Another Language/Another America: The German-American Renaissance 1848-1871'.

HaSS Cornwall

Grant Success

HaSS Cornwall have had **major funding success** across a diverse range of funders: Bryony Onciul, History (AHRC) £350k; James Muldoon, Politics (ESRC) £284k; Jeremy DeWaal, History (AHRC Early Career Research Development and Engagement Fellowship) £234k; and Jamie Hampson, History (BBSRC/UKRI) £225k.

Geographies of Renewal: Heimat and Democratization in West Germany, 1945-1990

Jeremy De Waal has secured a **publication contract** with Cambridge University Press for his book *Geographies of Renewal: Heimat and Democratization in West Germany, 1945-1990*.

External Partnership & Engagement

Two MoUs have been signed with **significant external partners**: the [National Maritime Museum](#), which now has an active research network – Coastal Communities/Morek, and [Kresen Kernow](#) – the Archives and Cornish Studies Service.



In March, the Institute of Cornish Studies **led the Cornwall Campuses' St Piran's Celebration**: a week of events and workshops that culminated in a series of short talks attended by around 80 external partners and colleagues from all disciplines. The talks focused on Cornish identity and heritage and celebrated the department's research and partnerships with local community, businesses, and heritage organisations. Notable guests at the talks and drinks reception were Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Chamber of Commerce, the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Queer Kernow, Black Voice Cornwall, the Chair of Cornwall Council and other councillors, and many others.

HaSS Cornwall, working with **Arts and Culture Cornwall**, hosted two Creative Fellowships on [Maritime Environmental History](#) (Tim Cooper) and [Exploring Environmental Justice](#) (Clare Saunders). Deborah McFarlane and Gill Juleff hosted the hugely successful visit of partners from the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka as part of the [Home/Land exhibition](#). More broadly, the Arts and Culture Cornwall team are supporting interdisciplinary research, KE, and impact on campus through their current Art Commission [As Soft As Stone](#) (Critical Minerals) and [FX Creative Exchange Project](#), working closely with ESI and Falmouth University.

Shadowlands: Life After Conflict in Lyari, Karachi

Nida Kimani's project was one of 18 small grant projects awarded funding of up to £25,000 under the EdJAM GCRF project. Nida's project [Memories of Conflict: Healing from Lyari's Violent Past](#) was located in Pakistan – involving filmmaking and ethnography to create the documentary film *Shadowlands: Life After Conflict in Lyari, Karachi*

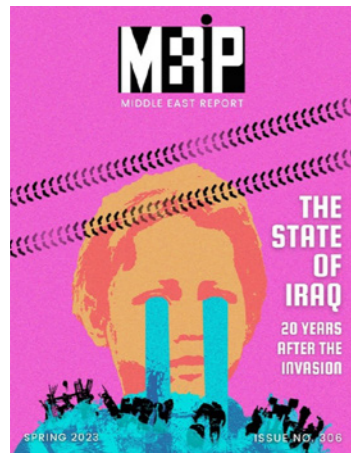
The film follows the stories of two residents of the area of Lyari in Karachi, Nawaz Laasi and Amna Baloch. Lyari is one of Karachi's oldest settlements and home to approximately 1.5 million people. It has also been labelled one of the city's 'no-go areas' because of on-going conflicts. Both Amna and Nawaz have lost family members as a result of the conflict. Nawaz has lost four sons, two to gang violence and two at the hands of the police, and Amna's husband was killed by the police. This documentary sheds light on the on-going ramifications of violence and questions whether peace can be achieved for the people of Lyari.



Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies

Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP) Partnership

Through its flagship magazine, [The Middle East Report](#), MERIP curate's thematic collections of accessible essays and reports that respond to critical events in the region. All the work is informed by rigorous on-the-ground research and developed through an iterative, high-touch editing process. MERIP's editorial team has been housed at IAIS since 2022 under the leadership of Executive Editor [Dr Katie Natanel](#) and Managing Editor [Dr Marya Hannun](#). The work and their authors were cited on major platforms, including the New York Times, Foreign Policy and Novara Media. Several articles were also reproduced in Arabic, through a collaboration with the Iraqi website [Jummar media](#). MERIP and IAIS also co-hosted two online roundtables, focusing on labour in the Gulf (related to the World Cup) and everyday realities of Iraq 20 years after the US-led invasion. Both events attracted large international audiences, with the latter available simultaneously in Arabic and English.



Centre for Kurdish Studies Conference

On 27-28 October 2022, Dr Farangis Ghaderi, joint director of the Centre for Kurdish Studies, co-organised an international conference entitled "[Kurdish Folklore as World Heritage: Language, Music, and the Archives](#)" in partnership with the Section of Kurdish Studies at Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland), the Kurdish Heritage Institute (Iraqi Kurdistan), Mezopotamya Foundation (Turkey), and the Ethnographic Museum of Krakow (see photo). The conference was the first international conference on Kurdish folklore and archives, bringing together 21 academics, folklorists, and archivists with expertise on Kurdish dialects of Kurmanji, Sorani, Hawrami, and Kalthori, and from Turkey, Iran, Iraqi Kurdistan, Europe, and the US. The language of the conference was English and Kurdish and it was held in partnership with the Kurdish Heritage Institute (Iraqi Kurdistan) with whom we have an MoU in place, Mezopotamya Foundation (Turkey), and the Ethnographic Museum of Krakow.



Indian Ocean World Archaeology Conference

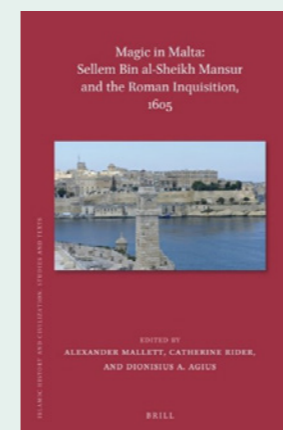
The 2nd international conference, **Indian Ocean World Archaeology (IOW-ARCH)**, was held in the IAIS Building on the 19th-20th December 2022, organised by the Centre for Islamic Archaeology and generously sponsored by the IAIS and was a great success. We welcomed approximately 50 in-person delegates and over 100 additional presenters and audience online. Some 50 papers over 10 sessions encompassed the archaeology, material culture and heritage of the Indian Ocean

(defined as from East Africa to Japan, including Australasia) from the first millennium BC to the contemporary era.

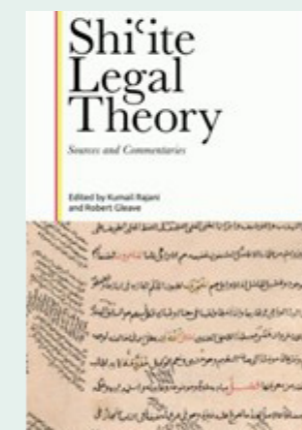


Notable Publications

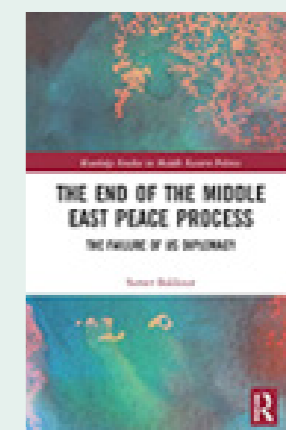
Several important publications have been authored and/or edited by IAIS colleagues over the past year. These include:



Mallett, A., Rider, C., and Agius, D. (eds.), *Magic in Malta: Sellem Bin Al-Sheikh Mansur and the Roman Inquisition, 1605* (Brill)



Rajani, K., and Gleave, R. (eds.), *Shiite Legal Theory: Sources and Commentaries* (Edinburgh University Press)



Bakkour, S., *The End of the Middle East Peace Process: The Failure of US Diplomacy* (Routledge)

Languages, Cultures and Visual Studies

Grant Success

LCVS have had a fantastic year for grant success across several funders. In addition to the European Research Council awards noted earlier in the report these include:

The Europe that Gay Porn Built, 1945-2000

João Florêncio's £1m AHRC funded project will examine, for the first time, the ways in which post-war gay erotica and porn magazines helped forge a pan-European gay male constituency built on processes of identification, solidarity and subcultural distinction, a specifically homosexual and sexualised form of European identification that developed in the context of post-war geopolitics. It will tell a unique new history of "Europe," one capable of decentring its hegemonic narratives by means of identifying and mappings its subcultural homosexual enunciations in post-war gay erotica and porn magazines, and its dissemination via the latter's transnational networks of production, circulation, and consumption.

Reading Bodies: Narrating Illness in Spanish and European Literatures and Cultures (1870s to 1960s)

Katharine Murphy's AHRC Fellowship analyses cultural narratives of ill-health in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century. Drawing together specialists in Modern Languages, Health and Psychology, the project will trace the development of narratives of illness from 1870s to 1960s, and their legacy in the present day, with particular attention to the gendered representation of psychological and physical conditions. The £272k project will contribute new understanding of the cultural phenomenon whereby diagnostic terminology is employed to describe communities during periods of upheaval

and introspection. Burnout and its antecedents (aboulia, neurasthenia) have contemporary resonance across professional occupations, from health care and academia, to those on zero hours contracts. Defined by WHO as a strictly occupational phenomenon resulting from chronic workplace stress, the term burnout has been subject to much broader cultural conceptualisation, and is often associated in the press with economic precarity, the 'double shift' of carers, and 24/7 technology. The Fellowship will critique gendered, ideological models of resilience that place unequal responsibility for caring, alongside economic and social health, on particular social groups.

Indiennes, Toile de Jouy and France's Global History of Printed Cotton Textiles

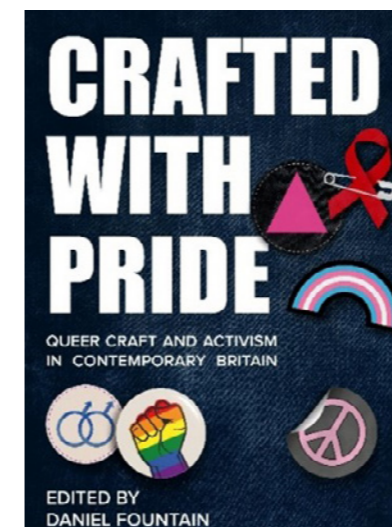
Melissa Percival's book project explores French printed cotton textiles, from colourful 'indiennes' imported from Asia from late sixteenth century, to distinctive 'toile de Jouy' designs produced in France from the mid-eighteenth century onwards that became synonymous with French national style and hold that place today. The study decentres a narrative of good taste and industrial prowess by showing that French production was subject to complex international supply chains, slave and migrant labour, and colonial struggles. Funded through a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship, it identifies and contextualizes a set of tropes, emotions and imaginative responses to the fabrics, from solipsism and nostalgia to radical energy. Drawing attention to the incredible vibrancy and diversity of the fabrics themselves, the book also explores the mobility of designs to and from literature and other visual and decorative arts, and across national boundaries.

Object and Affect in the early modern period

Object and Affect in the early modern period offers an innovative multi-disciplinary reassessment of one of the most famous painters of the seventeenth century, Sir Anthony van Dyck. This Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship study by Meredith Hale is the first in-depth analysis of a unique body of works, a group of no fewer than forty oil sketches for Van Dyck's print series known as the Iconography at Boughton House, Northamptonshire. Through new technical analysis, extensive archival research and a dynamic interdisciplinary approach to material engagement, this study constitutes a fundamental reappraisal of the artist's contribution to visual and material culture in the early modern period.

'WINK WINK' Exhibition

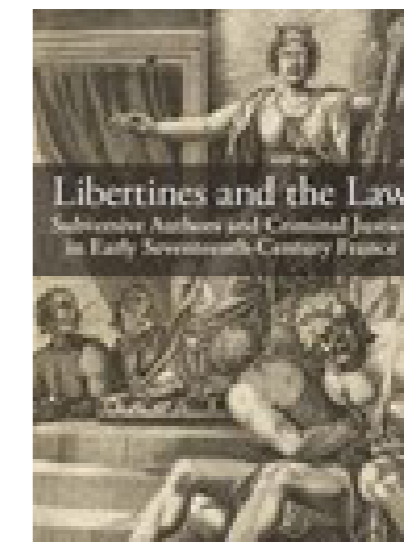
Daniel Fountain's artwork has been selected for 'WINK WINK' – a major art exhibition exploring queer materials and cultures which took place at The Whitaker Museum and Art Gallery from 18 May to 24 July. Daniel's work was displayed alongside leading contemporary artists including the likes of Derek Jarman and Sunil Gupta.



Daniel has also launched his book *Crafted With Pride: Queer Craft and Activism in Contemporary Britain*.

2022 Literary Encyclopedia Book Prize

Adam Horsley won the 2022 Literary Encyclopedia Book Prize for his OUP monograph *Libertines and the Law*. The judges described the book as 'an outstanding work of scholarship within the fields of literary studies, criminology, and political and religious history. [...] Horsley's meticulous archival study and expert analysis of legal arguments and practices reveals with extraordinary acuity how this society sought to define freedom of thought and action, whether in political and religious matters or in social conduct, and how to repress it.'



Law School

Socio-Legal Studies Association prize 2023

Natalie Ohana won the prestigious Socio-Legal Studies Association Article prize 2023 for her article '[The politics of the production of knowledge on trauma: the Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#)' 48(4) Journal of Law and Society 497-523

This article drew on Natalie's work on Law and Trauma working with art therapists and victims of the Grenfell Tower fire and the wider Grenfell community.

Fellowship of the British Academy

Rebecca Probert, was elected a [Fellow of the British Academy](#). Already a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FACSS), Rebecca now adds the prestigious FBA to the letters after her name and the Law School are of course extremely proud to have such an eminent legal historian among their number.

Digital access and artificial intelligence in healthcare

Technology is increasingly being used to transform the treatment of disease and illness. But these tools don't reach people equally, and those in rural areas, the elderly and poorer communities are not as likely to have access to them.

Robin Pierce is investigating the implications of the digital divide for health outcomes, now and in the future. Her work [was presented](#) as part of the Sense about Science Evidence Week in Parliament in July, and is a great example of the external impact of research happening in the Law School.



Article 8 ECHR, Family Reunification and the UK's Supreme Court

Helena Wray published her new book Article 8 ECHR, Family Reunification and the UK's Supreme Court (Bloomsbury: 2023). It addresses how courts reconcile protecting family life with immigration control in human rights cases, given the right to respect for private and family life in Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Her formal book launch on May 24th was also an excellent event chaired by Prof Nick Gill (Geography) and ROUTES Network co-director. Helena was joined by Professor Marie Dembour (University of Ghent), Professor Betty de Hart (VU Amsterdam) and Dr Jo Wilding (University of Sussex) for a discussion of the book's approach to understanding the European Court of Human Rights' approach to family in this migration context. Praise for the book and its themes was fulsome!

UK-EU couples after Brexit: migrantisation and the UK family immigration regime

In addition to her book, Helena has also been awarded an ESRC grant, working with Katharine Charsley (University of Bristol). Their £890k project will document how UK-EU couples respond to the intrusion of immigration regulation into their intimate family lives; and the impact on political and legal discourses of this expansion of the population affected by immigration regulations.



School of Education

Metatalk for Writing

Funded by the ESRC (New Investigator), Ruth Newman, in collaboration with 7 English teachers from different secondary schools in the South West of England, is investigating how high quality metalinguistic talk (talk about language) supports the development of students' writing. The teacher-researcher team presented pedagogical strategies to practitioners at an ESRC Festival of Social Sciences event in November 2022, and the team will be leading a workshop again at the 2023 UKLA conference. In an educational context of persistent underachievement in writing, findings arising from this project will contribute to theoretical understandings of metalinguistic talk and learning transfer in writing instruction, whilst the resulting pedagogical model will support teachers and learners in implementing metalinguistic talk.



South-West Social Mobility Commission

A new Commission chaired by the university's Chancellor Sir Michael Barber has been launched with the aim to transform life prospects for less advantaged young people across the South-West peninsula. The Commission was created in response to a report on social mobility in the South-West by Centre for Social Mobility researchers Lee Elliot Major and Anne-Marie Sim. This found that the region has some of the worst educational outcomes for disadvantaged young people in the country.

Knowledge Exchange & Impact

Pallavi Banerjee has co-authored a paper with practitioners, 'Articulate' widening participation intervention aimed at improving soft skills and HE aspirations of students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds - recently published in BERA's flagship journal, Review of Education. The paper is expected to be of particular interest to regulators, practitioners, and activity providers involved in delivering widening participation programs. The evidence-based practice presented in the paper sets a good example for colleagues involved in similar work.

Pallavi has also recently had the final project report for a commissioned piece of work published. The goal of the project was to evaluate and provide evidence-based research that would enable Go Higher West Yorkshire to tailor their approach to different settings and effectively meet learner needs.



Promentors International Conference, 09-12 May 2023, School of Education, University of Exeter.

The Promentors Erasmus+ project convened its final international conference at the School of Education, University of Exeter, from 09-12 May 2023. Participants from England, Israel, Poland, Finland and Romania took this opportunity to reflect on and celebrate over three years work on the development of new mentor training programmes for those involved in the mentoring of new teachers in Israel. For many of us, this event was the culmination of 6 years of working together on Erasmus funded knowledge exchange and capacity building projects (Proteach and Promentors) designed to improve the retention of high-quality teachers by establishing Multi Agency Induction Teams (MITs) in Israel and launching an innovative model of mentor training.

Rethinking Public Dialogue

Professor Brahm Norwich with Dr Rob Webster, University of Portsmouth secured a UKRI-RSA Rethinking Public Dialogue project grant to pilot a citizen panel between Oct 2022 and June 2023 to **enhance the participation of young people with SEN/D in a deliberative dialogue about inclusion in school education**. It is believed to be the first citizen panel using deliberative democracy approaches about improving the English school system. The team worked with the Sortition Foundation on the panel recruitment in the Portsmouth area and the Involve Foundation in designing and facilitating the citizen panel. A 2 phase programme to better enable the participation of young people (YP) ages 12-16 years with SEN / disabilities has been carried out: Phase 1 for YP with SEN/disabilities and their parents was online; and phase 2 for YP with SEN/disabilities and without, their parents / carers and teachers was online and in person (30 on panel). The evaluation research report will be published in October 2023.

Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Anthropology

Notable Publications

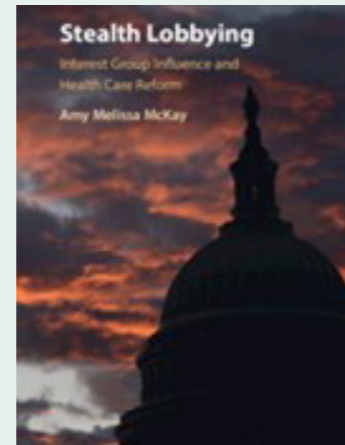
Colleagues across the department have published many significant books and monographs this year including:



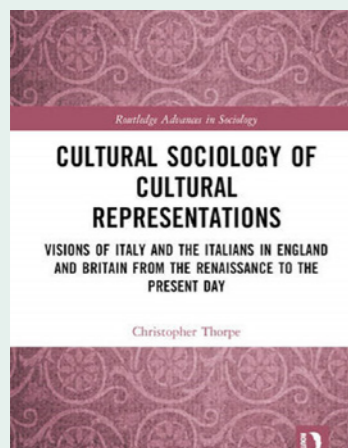
Adam Toon, *Mind as Metaphor: a defence of mental fictionalism* (Oxford University Press)



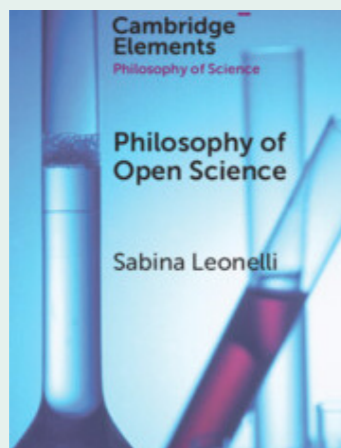
Alex Prichard, *Anarchism. A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)



Amy McKay, *Stealth Lobbying Interest Group Influence and Health Care Reform* (Cambridge University Press)



Christopher Thorpe, *Cultural Sociology of Cultural Representations. Visions of Italy and the Italians in England and Britain from the Renaissance to the Present Day* (Routledge)



Sabina Leonelli has also published a short monograph '*Philosophy of Open Science*' with Cambridge University Press.

Impact and Dissemination

During the May local elections this year, Hannah Bunting was in the studio for the Sky News election coverage, on air for 7 hours overnight and for lunchtime the next day. She also appeared on their podcast and did an Instagram live on their page. Hannah uses her research on British elections, voting behaviour, political parties and trust to analyse and interpret the results as they come in. The following week, Hannah took part in the Local Elections Workshop, led by SPSPA colleagues, where she presented her initial results. She also did a UK in a Changing Europe live seminar, and the week before a preview with the Local Government Information Unit.

The work of the [Centre for Rural Policy Research](#) (CRPR) has featured in an important [report](#) from the cross-party Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee on their inquiry into rural mental health. Written evidence based on extensive research by Rebecca Wheeler, Caroline Nye and Matt Loble, together with Honorary Associate Professor Peter Aitken, is used to highlight significant issues concerning poor mental health within the agricultural community and to support the committee's recommendations.

Along with Prof Katrina Wyatt in the Medical School, Robin Durie was part of the leadership team supporting the delivery of an ambitious

relational community engagement initiative by the WHO in its Western Pacific region. At the end of the initiative, Katrina & Robin were commissioned to conduct an [evaluation](#) of the whole programme of work – with the aim of capturing outcomes from the research teams delivering the work (in Cambodia, Lao PDR & Malaysia), alongside outcomes from the programme as a whole; offering a theoretical analysis of the dynamic processes underlying the overall initiative; & finally, making a series of recommendations to WHO about how to build on the achievements of the initiative, & how to “mainstream” the relational community engagement approach into all of its public health facing activities worldwide.

Prizes/Awards

John Dupre has been elected to [The American Philosophical Society](#), one of the USA's most prestigious academic organisations.

Lorien Jasny became the vice-chair of the American Political Science Association's section on Political Networks, and will become Chair in August 2023.

Katharine Tyler has been invited to be the [British Science Festival President](#) for Sociology 2023.

Strategy 2030: HASS research creating a sustainable, healthy and socially just future

HASS led research plays a pivotal role in delivery of the University's Strategy 2030. We have colleagues in all our disciplines working on research supporting the strategy goal to promote a healthier, fairer and greener future. In addition to the many projects featured earlier in this report, some additional examples of HASS research in each of these key areas are below:

The Exeter Centre for Environmental Law (ExCEL)

The Exeter Centre for Environmental Law (ExCEL) was established at the end of 2021 to stimulate interdisciplinary internal partnerships with centres within the University. The purpose of ExCEL is to provide an intellectual environment to create a Worldwide Environmental Law and Policy Research Network with international academic partners, such as Duke, QUEx, and CUHK. In parallel, it is aimed to engage with international, national, and local stakeholders. In addition to being an attraction centre for law researchers willing to conduct their research in Cornwall, it is also one of the goals of ExCEL to support members with achieving impact through policy workshops and training, as well as PR and marketing.

The Centre focusses primarily on:

- promoting the study and development of environmental, climate, and marine law and policy;
- stimulate debate, collaboration, and networks in response to the most pressing needs of international, European, and local environmental matters; and
- support teaching and training in the fields of environmental, climate, and marine law.

Taking Tea

Research into the historic and contemporary representation of Indian and Sri Lankan tea plantations and the people who work in them informed an innovative online event for the general public. Taking Tea offered a free virtual tour and exploration of some of the issues surrounding tea production in Darjeeling and Sri Lanka, drawing upon field visits and archive research conducted by academics at the University of Exeter and partners in the two countries.

Working with Kolkata company Immersive Trails as part of the British Academy-funded project, Cathy Turner (CDF) and Gillian Juleff (Cornwall) designed the online experience as an alternative to traditional 'tea tourism', which has a tendency to romanticise the people, their work, and the landscape.

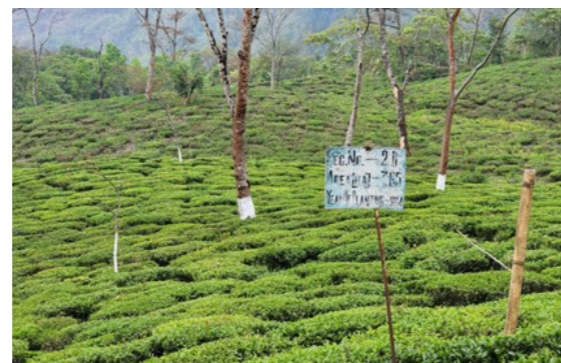


Photo by Tathagata Neogi

Independent Evidence Review on Dartmoor

Matt Lobley (SPSPA) has been appointed to an expert panel which will advise an Independent Evidence Review on Dartmoor how to improve Dartmoor's Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Along with other panel members he will make recommendations on the most effective grazing and management regime(s) to protect the sites, while also allowing agricultural production, public access and cultural and natural heritage. The panel will engage with farmers, land managers and commoners to understand their views and experience about living and working on the moor and consider all available evidence to provide an independent perspective on the management of protected sites on the moor.

RENEW

Funded through NERC, the Community Action Theme of the £10m RENEW project is led by Catriona McKinnon (SPSPA). The team's work on community action recognises that many communities feel disconnected from biodiversity renewal activities and its benefits.

Individuals have the greatest effect on renewal when acting together with others. Collective action by people in communities of place and of interest can unlock effective and fair biodiversity renewal. This theme is working to identify and put into practice strategies to accelerate nature-positive collective action at the community level from urban to rural areas. This includes work to understand how identity and cultural norms inform the value communities place on biodiversity and its renewal, as well as examine ways to reduce environmental injustices suffered by communities who can be nature-marginalised by institutions and norms – renewal must be fair and equitable for all. Members of the team will work with communities to help identify how community dynamics can encourage renewal, e.g. by utilising social tipping points. Overall, the insights learnt, and applied through the partnerships, will help improve the effectiveness of future renewal programmes.

Forensics in HASS

Within HASS there are researchers exploring the use of forensics in a number of ways. Dana Wilson-Kovacs (SPSPA) is examining, among other things, the use and role of digital forensic in policing and the criminal justice system. Arely Cruz-Santiago's (SPSPA) Leverhulme Trust Fellowship focusses on forensic grassroots practices that have emerged in Argentina and Columbia, and Ernesto Schwartz-Marin's (SPSPA) research experiments with alternative ways to imagine and practice techno-science and citizenship in order to bring social justice.

Supporting Teachers: Resilience and Wellbeing, Slovakia

Lenka Janik Blaskova (SoE) leads the "Supporting Teachers: Resilience and Wellbeing, Slovakia" (STRAW_S), funded by the AHRC IAA, with Liz Winter (SoE) as the co-investigator. This pilot actively involves Slovak teachers in co-creating and testing experiential training to enhance their wellbeing and resilience. The study outcomes will inform the Ministry of Education, which is currently deploying educational reforms.

After the end: Lived experiences and aftermaths of Diseases, Disasters and Drugs in global health

Laura Salisbury (ECW) and Dora Vargha (A&H), working as part of a Wellcome Discovery Award led by the University of Oxford are studying lived experiences and aftermaths of Diseases, Disasters and Drugs in global health. Global health is defined by narratives of a clearly discernible and singular end. Official announcements of 'the end', however, are often arbitrary and unstable. Furthermore, they can distract from important counter-narratives and undermine social, environmental, political and epistemic justice when those 'left behind' are excluded from discussions of whether the end has been achieved, or is achievable, and if so when and how. Today, uncertain trajectories, the 'slow violence' of environmental degradation, passive attrition of many diseases, and drug resistances question ideas of a singular extinction event and finality. This timely and important research will draw on an interdisciplinary approach involving historians, sociologists, epidemiologists, psychologists, bioethicists, literary and legal scholars, philosophers and policymakers.

Further Information

The University Research Toolkit can be found [here](#), and information about many of the projects featured in this report, along with others can be found on the University's [Research and Innovation](#) pages.

For HASS information please look at the HASS intranet site - [Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences - Staff Intranet - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)



Some of Team Research: Jess Hurrell (Head of HASS, IIB), Kevin Sales (HASS Cluster Lead, Research Services), Suzie Masterman (Research Services, IIB and Doctoral College Partner for HASS) & Susan Molyneux-Hodgson ((Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research & Impact), HASS))

Funder Guidance

Links to applicant guidance from some major funders are below. Please be aware individual schemes will have different and specific rules and guidance.

British Academy - [Funding | The British Academy](#)

European Research Council - [Funding | ERC: European Research Council \(europa.eu\)](#)

Horizon Europe - [Horizon Europe | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Leverhulme Trust - [Our approach to grant-making | The Leverhulme Trust](#)

Nuffield - [Research Funding | Apply for Funding | Nuffield Foundation](#)

Wellcome Trust - <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding>

UKRI - [Before you apply - UKRI](#)



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