

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

..... NEWSLETTER



..... NOVEMBER 2020



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PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

Margot Finn reflects on the ongoing work of the RHS in representing the views and supporting the work of Members and Fellows



Four years ago, looking forward (with considerable trepidation) to taking on the RHS presidency after Peter Mandler, I worried about many things. A global pandemic was not one of them. Now preparing to hand the Society's reins to Emma Griffin, I'm very conscious of the stiff new challenges learned societies, cultural organisations, schools and universities face, and the negative impact COVID-19 is having on the lives of so many individual historians. Every career stage is bearing this brunt, but for early career researchers (ECRs), the burden is especially acute.

Against a background marked by pandemic disease, rising political populism and environmental crisis, no one working within the RHS is complacent about the conditions in which History teaching, research and public engagement are now conducted in the UK and internationally. Nor are we complacent about the Society's initial responses to the new corona-context in which we all now live and work. For a voluntary organisation with a very small (albeit very able!) staff cohort, extracting unpaid labour from colleagues in full employment (mostly in the university sector) is challenging at the best of times. In the new normal of seemingly 24/7 workplace Zoom and Teams meetings, keeping the RHS in a healthy and dynamic state is an especially demanding task. That said, the RHS has (touch wood) weathered the storm well to date—not least thanks to generous contributions of time, labour, strategic thinking and funding offered by key individuals and organisations. Here and in the wider newsletter, we sketch for you a few highlights of the past 6 months and year, and provide advance notice of developments we are planning for the future.

The Society's membership continues to rise, providing a solid financial foundation for our day-to-day operations. In September 2016, the RHS had 2,131 Fellows; in September 2020, the Fellowship numbered 2,352. Across all categories of membership, our numbers rose from 3,947 to 4,228 in that period. Our new Early Career Membership status, launched in 2020, is recruiting well: we now have 144 ECR Members,

and look forward to welcoming these new entrants as subscribing Members and Fellows as they enter historical workplaces and professions.

Mindful that demand for our standard grants for PhD students and recent recipients of the PhD—awards that fund ECRs to travel to archives and libraries, perform fieldwork and attend conferences—would be severely limited by public health restrictions, the Society mobilised rapidly in the spring to launch new schemes better fitted for our times. Our Hardship Grants scheme attracted 116 applications, and provided abundant evidence of the pandemic’s deleterious impact on the part-time employment that funds so many History PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, not to mention its impact on these ECRs’ mental health. Combining our own resources with £2,517 donated to our Just Giving campaign and £5,000 donated by the Past & Present Society, we were able to make 56 Hardship awards of £500 each over the summer, supporting 48% of Hardship applicants. Thanks to a speedy and supportive response by Adam Matthew Digital publishers to my preliminary inquiry about access to their collections of digitised primary materials, the RHS was also able to award 62 ECRs free, year-long subscriptions to Adam Matthew’s cornucopia of archival material and printed texts. Between these two new schemes, the RHS provided assistance to PhD students and recent postdocs associated with 41 universities across the four nations—from Aberdeen, Belfast, Birkbeck, Birmingham, Brunel and Cambridge to St Andrews, Swansea, UCL, Warwick, Winchester, Wolverhampton and York.

Moving the Society’s events online has been taxing for staff and speakers alike but has allowed us to reach much wider national and international audiences than our standard programme. The online Curriculum Conference in April enabled a productive exchange of information and ideas between History teachers in schools and universities to develop over several days. Our video-rich virtual annual Prize Awards ceremony lacked some of the convivial sociability of the usual event in UCL Cloisters, but allowed more extended showcasing of the excellent research and teaching recognised by the awards. Our online lectures have connected the Society with new national and international audiences. In July, for example, the audience that joined us for Derek Peterson’s lecture on ‘The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Making History in a Tight Corner’ was based in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa, Uganda, the UK and the US. The download figures for the first titles of our New Historical Perspectives book series—which has now produced its first five titles—likewise attest to the ability of our open access resources to reach wide audiences rapidly. In just under a year since our first book in the series was pub-

lished, 12,747 readers have accessed these new titles, which you can find at the following web address: <https://www.history.ac.uk/publications/ihr-books-series/university-london-press>.

Online publication of our policy papers (with no paywall) has continued a practice—in inaugurated prior to the exigencies of COVID-19—which also encourages easy access by wide audiences. Published in July, Research & Communications Officer Katherine Foxhall's *Data Protection and Historians in the UK* reflects substantial research as well as collaboration with experts in the archive sector, and offers working historians at all career stages sage advice on navigating GDPR requirements. Launched in late September, *LGBT+ Histories and Historians: Report and Resources* reflects many months of research, analysis and writing generously undertaken by a working group led by Vice-President Frances Andrews, augmented by expert commentary from leading LGBT+ historians. Both sets of resources can be accessed from <https://royalhistsoc.org/policy/>. The Society's work on race, ethnicity and equality continues apace. Our first Past and Present Society-funded postdoctoral fellow on this initiative, Dr Shahmima Akhtar, was appointed to a permanent Lectureship at Royal Holloway in September 2020; readers can learn about her successor, Dr Diya Gupta, in this newsletter.

None of these achievements would be possible without the Society's staff, elected Council members and Officers. I am immensely grateful to every one of them for support, guidance, good humour and good grace over the past four years. Without this support, the Royal Historical Society would be unable to support and defend History in schools, universities and cultural organisations. Instead, pandemic notwithstanding, we are well placed to continue to contribute to research, teaching, self-scrutiny and public engagement in our discipline in exceptionally challenging times.

To contact the President:
president@royalhistsoc.org





You are cordially invited to

**The Royal Historical Society
AGM & Presidential Address 2020**

Friday 27 November 2020 on Zoom

AGM

17.00 - 17.30 GMT. Registration is not required. Full details will be emailed to all Fellows and Members

Presidential Address

Professor Margot Finn

‘Material Turns in British History IV:
Erasures: Empire in India, Cancel Cultures and the Country House’

18.00 - 19.30 GMT. Please register in advance for the Lecture:

royalhistsoc.org/events



WELCOMING A NEW RHS PRESIDENT



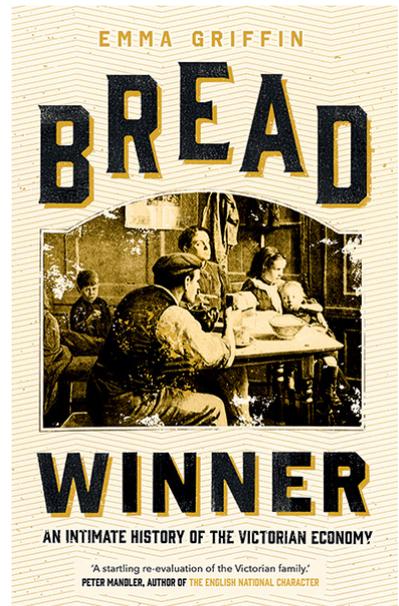
*Introducing Professor
Emma Griffin*

On 27 November 2020, Margot Finn will formally hand over to a new RHS President. Emma Griffin is a Professor of Modern British History at University of East Anglia, specialising in the social and economic history of Britain during the period 1700-1914. She is an editor of the *Historical Journal*, and a current Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, having previously served as Honorary Director of Communications and a Council Member.

Emma is a social and cultural historian of eighteenth and nineteenth century Britain, focusing in particular on the ‘industrial revolution’, and its consequences for ordinary people. Most recently she has written *Bread Winner*, published by Yale University Press earlier this year. Looking at Victorian Britain, it uses working-class autobiography to rethink assumptions about rises in wages and living standards over the nineteenth century by looking at families and the ownership of money within them.

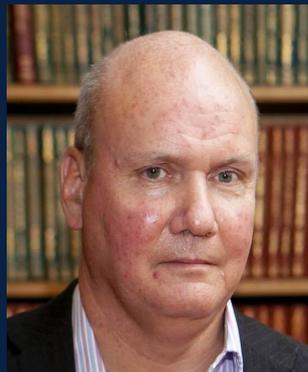
Since her appointment as President-Elect in November 2019, Emma has been shadowing Margot Finn, and working with the current officers, councillors and staff of the RHS to find out more about the Society’s priorities and ongoing projects.

“It is with great enthusiasm that I take up this position as a representative of the historical discipline and I look forward to encouraging and supporting historians at all stages of their careers.”



TRANSACTIONS

*RHS Literary Director
Andrew Spicer looks ahead to
2022 and beyond*



For more than a century, the papers read at the society's London meetings have been published in the *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*. Lectures delivered during RHS visits around the country as well as those given by speakers at sponsored conferences have appeared, together with contributions from prize winners. Recent efforts have broadened the range of subjects covered and ensured a more representative programme. Adapting to the restrictions associated with COVID-19 has demonstrated the high level of interest in the society's lectures. While RHS visits and symposia had to be cancelled or postponed, the Zoom presentations have been watched by hundreds of viewers. This format has also opened up the programme to papers from fellows based outside the UK.

As *Transactions* approaches its 150th anniversary in 2022, it is a good time to reassess the journal and its role. Does *TRHS* truly reflect the breadth and diversity of historical research and the profession in the twenty-first century? Is it representative of the Fellowship and Membership of the society? There are significant challenges for academic journals, for example Open Access and Plan S, and publishing models are also changing. How sustainable is *Transactions* in this environment? With a circulation of 4,000 and more than 175,000 article downloads per year, *Transactions* is perhaps better placed than other publications to adapt and meet these new publishing pressures.

As the journal of the Royal Historical Society, *Transactions* enjoys a certain cachet and has a reputation for publishing articles by leading and highly respected scholars. Nonetheless being an invitation-only publication limits the scope of the journal and sits uneasily with the society's commitment to 'work towards greater equality, inclusion



Clayton and Bell stained glass window at 2 Temple Place, London. Image © Acabashi, Creative Commons CC-BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

and representation in historical practice, research and teaching'. While RHS lectures including the Prothero and Presidential lectures will continue to be an important part of *Transactions*, from 2021 it will also include articles that have not been read to the society. Publication in the journal will become accessible to RHS Fellows and Members in the UK and further afield. The high standards of *Transactions* will be maintained through rigorous peer review supported by an online submission process. A representative editorial board will be appointed to oversee the implementation of these changes and the journal's future development.

Opening up *Transactions* will allow the journal to reflect more fully the diverse approaches and innovative research undertaken across the discipline. Alongside research articles, pieces that engage with pedagogy and key issues facing the profession would be welcomed. It will provide a platform for pieces related to the RHS policy initiatives, which have in the past appeared in other history journals. Moving to continuous online publication will enable *Transactions* to address such issues more swiftly than in its current form, although there will still be an annual volume. These are significant but necessary developments to ensure the journal's future.

Fellows and Members interested in contributing to *Transactions* should email Andrew Spicer at:

trhs@royalhistsoc.org.

WELCOMING A NEW PAST & PRESENT FELLOW

*Introducing Diya Gupta and her
research*



In October, we were delighted to welcome Dr Diya Gupta as the new Past & Present Fellow: Race, Ethnicity & Equality in History, 2020-22, which is a joint post at the RHS and the Institute for Historical Research. Dr Shahmima Akhtar, the previous holder of the post, has taken up a permanent lectureship in the Department of History at Royal Holloway. Dr Gupta in this role will develop and support the work of the RHS Race, Ethnicity & Equality Working Group (REEWG). Here, Diya introduces herself and her research:

I am working on my first book, based on my doctoral research (2015–2019) at King’s College London, where I studied Indian experiences and literature of the Second World War.

Two-and-a-half million men from undivided India served the British during this war. Their experiences and emotional lives are little remembered today, either in the West where a Euro/US-centric memory of the war dominates, or in South Asia, which largely privileges nationalist histories of independence from the British Empire. What did it feel like, fighting for the British at a time when the struggle for India’s freedom from British rule was at its most incendiary?

My book places Indian emotions, both veteran and civilian, at the heart of the Second World War. Alongside colonial photographs, I analyse letters, memoirs, political philosophy and literary texts in English and Indian languages – principally Bengali and Hindi – to reveal the intensity and influence of these Indian war emotions.

I am also developing my next project on hunger, violence and empathy, which investigates literary and visual representations of hunger in col-

onised India, focusing on the man-made, war-induced Bengal Famine of 1943 with its three million victims.

I am strongly committed to public engagement with my research. Recent feature commissions include an article on 'forgotten' Indian prisoners in the Second World War for BBC *World Histories* magazine, and my recent article 'Why remembrance of Indian soldiers who fought for the British in World War II is so political' received over 150,000 hits in the online portal *The Conversation*.

I have been interviewed for Channel Five documentaries and BBC Asian Network about my research, and was co-convenor of the 2019 'Teaching Empire and War' project for British schoolchildren (<https://teachingempireandwar.wordpress.com>). You can find out more here: <https://www.diyagupta.co.uk>.



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*If you would like to write for the
Historical Transactions blog,
please contact the Historical Transactions
editor, Katherine Foxhall by email:*

k.foxhall@royalhistsoc.org



RHS LGBT+ HISTORIES & HISTORIANS REPORT

*Vice President Frances Andrews
reflects on the launch of a major
RHS report*



On 28 September 2020, the RHS published *LGBT+ Histories and Historians*, the fourth of our reports on equality in the History profession. Professor Frances Andrews, the first RHS Vice President for Equalities who chaired the LGBT+ Working Group, reflects on how her role has developed over the past five years, and the process of writing the report.

I was elected Vice President in 2015, starting in 2016. Most VPs begin with a clear remit, but my particular role in the many activities of the Society took shape slowly. As well as serving on Council, which covers the full range of the Society's business, I started out as one of the panellists for the Gladstone Book Prize, an intense but life-enhancing encounter with the work of new historians. Next came chairing the Research Support committee, evaluating the very large number of applications received from postgraduate and early career historians. Both showed the strength, variety and scale of historical research being undertaken, the creative and ambitious projects – and the real need for financial support.

It was great to be able to table suggestions on the grounds that I would see them through. This included creating prizes for Teaching to complement the Society's longstanding awards for research, a recognition of the critical importance of how we teach to the success of the discipline. It was a delight to name one of these in honour of the first female president of the Society, Dame Jinty Nelson and to see the first brilliant teachers winning them.

The RHS pursues an impressive series of activities researching and developing better policies for historians and it was an honour to serve as the first Vice President with an Equalities, Diversity and

Inclusion portfolio (from 2018). I started by learning from colleagues in the working groups who were completing the Society's second Gender report (the first was published in 2015) and the Race Report as well as talking to the honorary staff of the Society about new and more effective equalities monitoring of award and membership applications.

Over the past twenty months, my main task has been the LGBT+ report, and my term as Vice-President was extended for a year to help get it over the finishing line. Collaborating with a skilled working group and leading experts in the field was both rewarding and tough. As we have reported in these pages before, we had the highest ever response to an RHS survey (852) last summer, but the responses made sometimes painful reading. I think all of the working group would agree that we learned a lot: about LGBT+ lives and historical research, about how to run a working group and about ways to keep going in a very tough year, despite everything the world could throw at us, from industrial action to lockdowns. I am forever indebted to the outstanding efforts of all those involved in researching and writing the LGBT+ report.

The report has now been live for over a month and has attracted substantial interest despite the weight of other news in all our overflowing inboxes, with over 2300 people accessing the website that hosts the report and the online resources that accompany it.

The LGBT+ report, as with all the RHS equalities reports, is one step in an ongoing discussion, but it is an important one. It will remain a live document to be updated and expanded in years to come.

Find out More and Access the
**RHS LGBT+ Histories and
Historians Report**

at www.royalhistsoc.org/lgbt/



RESPONDING TO 2020

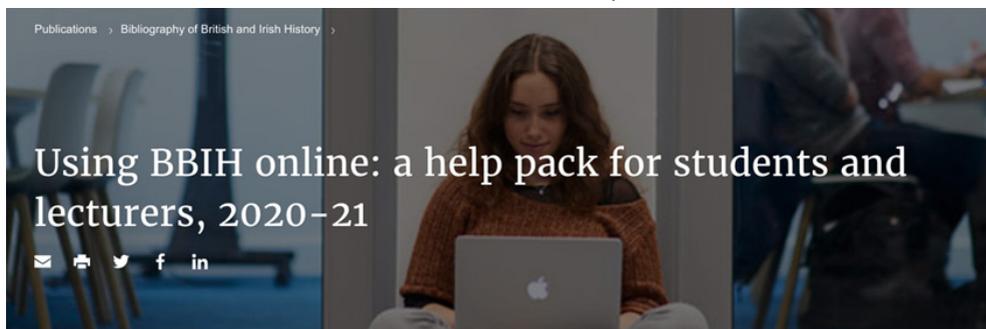
Six months at the Bibliography of British and Irish History

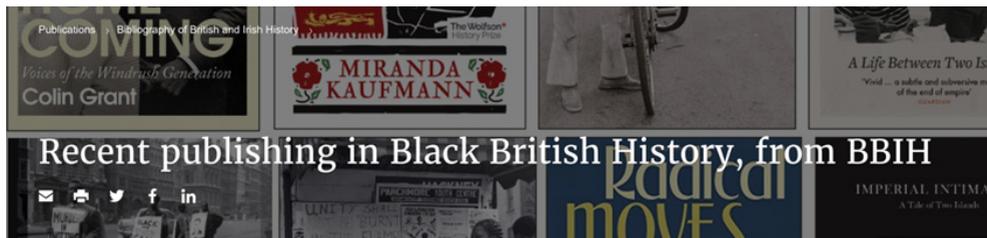
This year's forced closure of libraries and archives has left researchers, and especially early career historians, hard hit. In response, editors at the Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH) have been undertaking a series of initiatives to help as best they can. This comes alongside their regular work of recording the hundreds of new history titles that continued to appear during 2020.

The Bibliography is the largest and most comprehensive record available of what's been published in British and Irish History, and the former British empire—as well as on histories of migration, gender and race. BBIH provides detailed records of 625,000 books, articles and chapters, including thousands that were published this year. It's a joint research and publishing project of the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), the RHS and the academic publisher Brepols, and for many it's the first port of call when exploring a new topic in British and Irish history.

Given its comprehensiveness and regularity of update, BBIH is widely used in university teaching as well as research. By summer 2020 it was clear that teaching during the coming year would look very different, and draw extensively on online and pre-prepared resources. Between August and October, the Bibliography's IHR-based editors—Sara Charles assisted by Simon Baker—created an online 'help-pack' for teachers and students, with a series of short video guides on classroom applications of BBIH: from first-year undergraduates learning to navigate libraries and different forms of academic publishing, to PhD students seeking help with a literature review.

A further set of videos, all of which can be included in VLEs, show how the Bibliography is both a record of publishing and a finding aid for useful titles: with links from individual records to journal articles and ebooks





in library collections—helping librarians to enhance the discoverability and use of their subscription content. The videos, and accompanying guides (including one for the RHS’s new teaching portal) have all been ‘road-tested’ prior to launch by history undergraduates from the University of Leicester who participated in the IHR’s summer programme of virtual internships.

The Bibliography’s extensive coverage also makes it a rich source for historical perspectives on our current situation. In May 2020 editors selected and made freely available records of nearly 600 recent titles (published between 2010 and 2020) related to histories of infectious and contagious disease, as indexed in the Bibliography’s rich taxonomy.

The selection demonstrates BBIH’s chronological and geographic reach, and included (to mention several of the most recent): Richard Unger’s ‘English energy consumption and the impact of the Black Death’, from the *European Review of Economic History* (2020); Kevin Siena’s *Rotten Bodies: Class and Contagion in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (2019); David Arnold’s 2019 *TRHS* article, ‘Death and the modern empire: the 1918-19 influenza epidemic in India’; and Janet Weston’s ‘Sites of sickness, sites of rights? HIV/AIDS and the limits of human rights in British prisons’ in *Cultural and Social History* (2019).

In October editors put together a second selection of BBIH content relating to Black British History, with a listing of 412 monographs, articles and chapters. Chosen titles again highlighted recent publishing since 2010: from Colin Grant’s *Homecoming: Voices of the Windrush Generation* (2020) and Hazel V. Carby’s *Imperial Intimacies: a Tale of Two Islands* (2019) to Kennetta Hammond Perry’s *London is the Place for Me. Black Britons, Citizenship and the Politics of Race* (2016) and Lara Putnam’s 2013 *Radical Moves: Caribbean Migrants and the Politics of Race in the Jazz Age*.

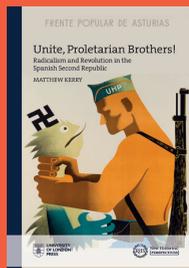
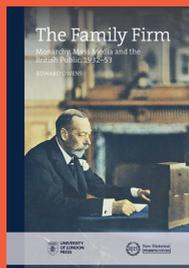
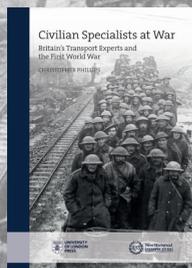
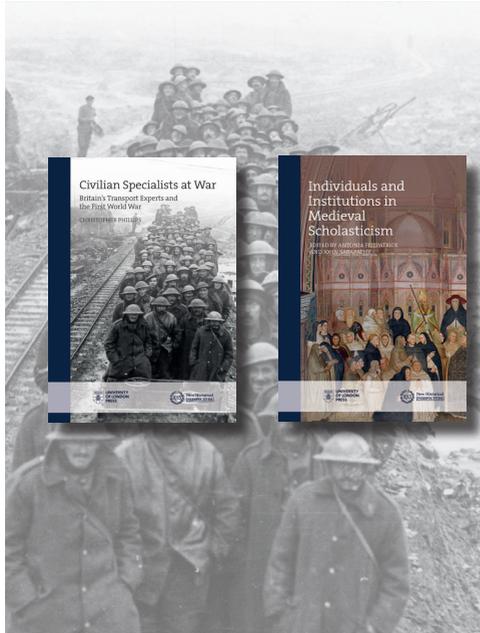
As before, and where possible, titles in these free BBIH listings link to article abstracts and texts on the publisher’s website, providing quick access to many titles in the selection. Such initiatives, which editors intend to continue, help bring the Bibliography’s extent and range to the attention of students and researchers and, it’s hoped, provide some assistance in this most challenging of years.



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NEW HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Matthew Kerry, introduces Unite, Proletarian Brothers! Radicalism and Revolution in the Second Spanish Republic



In the early hours of 5 October 1934, the sound of dynamite exploding echoed through the coal valleys of the northern Spanish region of Asturias, signalling the start of a revolt. Thousands of left-wing militants took up arms and battled government forces. In the rear-guard committees introduced revolutionary measures, including banning the use of money, while retooling the local steel industry to fight a developing small-scale civil war. Yet isolated and without support, the insurrection was doomed to fail and was defeated by the army within two weeks. The uprising cost around 1,500 lives. Mass arrests, imprisonment and the widespread use of torture followed the army's occupation of the coalfields.

In my new book—*Unite, Proletarian Brothers! Radicalism and Revolution in the Spanish Second Republic* (September 2020)—I set out to understand why the Asturian revolt occurred, and to ask why so many left-wing Spaniards took up arms against the state? The socialist leadership in Madrid had hatched plans for a hazily defined nationwide 'revolutionary movement', yet their conspiring cannot fully account for the actions of men and women in Asturias—the only region in which the conspiracy led to mass insurrection.

Spanning the period from the proclamation of the Second Republic in April 1931 to the outbreak of civil war in 1936, my book examines the nature of politics and conflict in the Asturian coalfields before, during and after the insurrection. It locates radicalism not only in strikes but also boycotts, gossip and late-night drunken brawls. Moving away from the classic, oversimplified depiction of the valleys as black for their coal and red for their politics, I emphasise the importance of local frictions and clashing notions of community. The radicalism that fuelled the insurrection can be traced back through a range of interlocking factors. These include culture wars over religion and secularism, intra-left political struggles, and fears over the rise of fascism across Europe and its possible manifestation in Spain. In addition came escalating protest at perceived transgressive, aggressive policing by

the state security forces. These assaults and the left's response eroded affective links between the left-wing working-class population of the coalfields and the Republican state.

On one level this story is peculiar to the northern coal valleys, particularly as an industrial area in a largely agrarian country, that supported a well-developed culture and network of left-wing institutions and politics. Yet *Unite, Proletarian Brothers!* aims to tell a wider story of the Spanish Second Republic. The term 'radicalisation' has long been a by-word that explains the origins of the Asturian October, but is under-researched empirically and inadequately theorised. My book also sheds light on the shifting and contested understandings of the Republic which are a key feature of 1930s Spain and central to our comprehension of political dynamics at this time. All of this is folded into the contextualisation of Asturias and the Republic within interwar Europe, for the story of radicalism lies in the interplay of the local, national and international context.

The world was a very different place when I began the research for the thesis that underpins my book. In 2011 public discussions of radicalisation were closely tied to terrorism and removed from the questions that concerned me. The subsequent emergence of Podemos and Corbynism, along with the rise of right-wing populism, made the themes of my research much more relevant. In particular, the questions that taxed Asturian socialists in 1933 and 1934— how fascism would translate into the Spanish context, and how to distinguish it from the wider political right—have become common in debates since 2016. As I write this piece in October 2020, attention has turned to the US presidential election. This is a contest whose legitimacy has been questioned by its 2016 victor, in a country that's witnessing paramilitary groups on the streets and accusations of fascism from some of their opponents. Claims of this kind may be politically or historically questionable, and the risk of anachronism remains very real. Even so, such scenes make it increasingly hard to avoid parallels with the 1930s, and in Spain with the prelude to and aftermath of the Asturian October.

The New Historical Perspectives series is Open Access, and all the books in the series are available both as high-quality hard copy books and as PDFs available to download in full without charge. Work is published at no cost to authors. Formats include monographs, edited collections, and longer or shorter form works that can be single or multi-authored. Anyone who is within ten years of getting a doctorate from a university in the UK or Republic of Ireland is eligible to submit a proposal.

NEW HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Sarah Goldsmith, introduces Masculinity and Danger on the Eighteenth-Century Grand Tour



The eighteenth-century Grand Tour was experienced by generations of Britain's aristocratic and gentry men. Its principal purpose was to maintain the power and privilege of Britain's elite by educating, forming and testing its youthful participants. My new book, *Masculinity and Danger on the Eighteenth-Century Grand Tour* (November 2020) looks beyond the conventional focus on Italy, aesthetics, France and politeness to open up how the relationship between the Tour and eighteenth-century elite notions of masculinity was rationalised within aristocratic and gentry communities. Archival records show that the scope, ambition, routes and itineraries of the Grand Tour were much more complex, varied and extensive than existing interpretations allow. This rich diversity gives rise to a question that deserves careful consideration: how does re-evaluating the Grand Tour's rationales and agendas as dedicated to more than the formation of polite, refined masculinity contribute to our wider understanding of what it meant to be an elite man in this period?

My book explores this by focusing on the set of itineraries, activities, agendas and identities that coalesced around travellers' encounters with danger, hazard and hardship. Continental travel comprised hours, days and months invested in physical exercises, hunting, playing sports, attending live military sites, jolting in carriages, inching alongside precipices, scrambling around glaciers and mountains, and arduously ascending Vesuvius: activities that were all united by a frisson of danger. Rather than avoiding danger, eighteenth-century British elite culture was inclined to embrace and utilise it as a tool in the formation of elite masculinity. Danger was a *jeux de société*: a game to be cheerfully chanced, gambled with and even enjoyed. This attitude was rooted in the enduring concept of a military service elite and related notions of honour as something to be proven, affirmed and defended through actions of courage, prowess and leadership. In this context, danger and hardship operated as transformative challenges to be confronted. By chancing danger on battlefields, hunting runs, perilous roads, Alpine glaciers and the slopes of Vesuvius, Tourists partook in a gamble that

could elevate or destroy their physical health, Britishness and budding reputations as men of honour, courage and virtue.

The Grand Tour was undertaken by real men struggling to attain an ideal. Studying them therefore brings an element of 'real-life' complexity to the celebration of aspirant elite masculinity. Acts of genuine or foolhardy courage were undoubtedly mixed with fear, reluctance and avoidance. Here, written narratives, commissioned artwork and careful self-presentation were crucial in glossing over such limitations. As R. W. Connell puts it, successful masculinity really was (or is) a matter of providing 'a fairly convincing' corporate and individual display of the ideal. Moreover, while a hardy, martial masculinity was an important part of eighteenth-century elite men's conception of themselves, it was not the hegemonic ideal. Ultimately, a successful elite male was a man of many parts that hinged upon the core values and virtues of what it meant to belong to the aristocracy and gentry. This diversity was the foundation of any Grand Tour as individual men continually moved between multiple masculine identities and behaviours while remained united by a profound sense of shared social superiority.

Masculinity and Danger has had a long genesis dating back to my third-year Special Subject, where Ross Balzaretto introduced me to the vibrant history of British travel to Italy. Immersed in numerous accounts of travel, I was quickly struck by the disparity surrounding experiences of danger: fear either dominated entire narratives or was completely absent. After pondering elements of this in my undergraduate and Masters dissertations, I started a PhD at the University York. Here, my supervisor, Catriona Kennedy, introduced me to the history of masculinity and in doing so, fundamentally reshaped my research. Perceptions of and responses to danger are highly nebulous categories. Analysing them in terms of how they related to masculinity provided an important framework to my research and started to show me how my work could contribute to debates well beyond travel history.

The chance to redevelop my work after my PhD has been invaluable. Chapters have been cut, split apart and re-distributed. Having focused on demonstrating the importance of non-Italian destinations for my doctorate, I have since been able to fill the 'Italy-shaped hole' pointed out by my examiners (Roey Sweet, Mark Jenner), and to fill it with a large, sometimes erupting, volcano. I also faced the vexing challenge of articulating a wider eighteenth-century mentality of risk and danger with, I hope, more satisfactory results. Aided by my mentor, Roey Sweet, and by the New Historical Perspectives editorial approach, this process of breaking down, expanding and rebuilding my work has been lengthy, challenging but ultimately deeply satisfying. Through the process of peer review, author workshop, and the support of Philip Carter as my editorial contact, the editorial team has provided me with rigorous, dedicated support, working with me closely to ensure that my first monograph reached its full potential.

RHS EARLY CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Chair of Research Support Clare Griffiths introduces a new funding scheme



Covid-19 has disrupted the RHS, the historical profession, and the higher education sector in multiple, unanticipated ways, and we have decided to launch a new funding scheme, aimed specifically at Early Career members of our community, in response to new pressures. Sector-wide decisions to slash departmental budgets for part-time, temporary and sessional teaching work has caused a contraction of the employment opportunities that formed a bridge for many PhDs hoping to progress into permanent employment. Working with President Elect Emma Griffin, we have therefore agreed to repurpose some of the Society's funds to help ECR historians affected by this situation. Adopting a different approach from the hardship fund that we ran through the summer of 2020, which supported ECRs with £500 grants to address conditions of immediate financial hardship, we will provide larger sums to a smaller number, with a focus on supporting career-building research or activities for applicants.

Under the new scheme, we will make £40,000 available, in individual awards of up to £2,000 each. Applicants must be within three years of their PhD viva, be normally resident in the UK, and not hold a full-time academic post. An online application system will be launched by the end of 2020. Applicants will need to outline a small, discrete research goal, such as completing a research article, submitting a book proposal, enhancing their research skills through training courses. Applications will be assessed on the quality of the proposal, whilst also taking the applicant's financial circumstances into account. Awards may be used to cover living expenses/childcare or other research expenses (copyright or copying fees, conference attendance, trips to libraries and archives (UK only), subscriptions to online resources, skills training).

All our successful applicants will be asked to contribute to the RHS blog at the end of their award so the broader fellowship will in due course be able to learn more about how the awards have been spent.

TAKING THE RHS ONLINE IN 2020

*Research and Communications
Officer Katherine Foxhall discusses
the RHS response to some of this
year's challenges*



In mid-March, in the space of a week, the RHS office team moved the Society's entire operations online. From our base in the wood-paneled rooms of UCL's main library, we moved to home offices and kitchen tables to remain active in support of the sector. By May, the RHS had conducted its first virtual Council meeting, launched two rapid response schemes to support vulnerable scholars, and held our first virtual conference and lecture events.

Along with millions of others across the world, these moves were forced on us without much planning, and it's been a big challenge at times. But as we've had a chance to begin to reflect on what we got right, what didn't work, and how our Members, Fellows and the wider public have responded to our efforts, we've realized that some of these changes also offer long-term opportunities to better connect with historians around the world, as well as many closer to home, for whom access to central London is not possible or desirable for a whole number of reasons.

Taking Events Online

From 23-30 April 2020, the RHS hosted its first Virtual Curriculum conference, and then in July, Professor Derek Peterson joined us from Michigan, USA, to present a Distinguished Lecture on 'The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Making History in a Tight Corner'. Attendees joining in live from Canada, USA, South Africa, Uganda, The Netherlands and Western Australia, this first lecture event confirmed the inclusive possibilities of virtual events, particularly in the live Q&A discussion that followed. Social media responses from attendees for both events confirmed that for colleagues with young children,

with work commitments, or for whom attending events in person is impossible for other reasons, these opportunities can provide an important opportunity to take part in regular Society events. Holding events online also provides an opportunity to record and provide subtitles for events and to make them permanently available. As one-off virtual events develop into a longer-term series, they will continue to expand our online podcast and video recording archive - a resource that we hope will prove useful for research and teaching, as well as personal interest.

Celebrating historians

In July, as we considered how to celebrate our annual book and essay prizes, we wanted to showcase all of our shortlisted authors. We were grateful that nearly all of our authors agreed at very short notice to record short videos introducing their books. Responses after the event made it clear that extending the celebrations and showcasing the breadth of work that the judges were considering had made a real difference to the authors. This combination of virtual and in-person celebration is certainly something that we intend to continue.

Taking Access further

In September, new regulations requiring public sector bodies to make their websites accessible came into force. While as a charity the RHS is not bound by these requirements, this new legal context combined with our broader attention to access, was the impetus to also rethink our publications. It is for this reason that our new *LGBT+ Histories and Historians* report has a slightly different, more modern look. Our designer, Julia Mills, developed a format that we hope is more accessible both visually, and for automatic screen readers. A second version of the report offers a low-ink “print-friendly” version, and the reports are embedded within a series of resources, that are designed to be updated.

Making the RHS a more inclusive, accessible organization in all aspects of our work is an ongoing commitment. We would be pleased to have feedback from Members and Fellows as we continue this process. Please do get in touch!

You can contact Katherine Foxhall by email at the following address:
k.foxhall@royalhistosoc.org

STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS

Honorary Co-Director of Communications Andrew Smith summarises a strategic review of the RHS response to this year's challenges



Theorist Henri Bergson noted how past conditions can be forgotten in experiencing the tumult of time, and I proposed a strategy review of the RHS COVID-19 response as a way of recognising and reflecting on this moment of adaptation with one eye on the future. As Bergson noted, we cannot let that experience slip past. Instead, he exhorts us to recognise that even as the present moment presses inexorably forward “new ideas are arising, new feelings are on the way to flower.”

In our previous article, Katherine Foxhall outlined some of the main activities of that RHS response, and the review highlighted some of the specific characteristics which helped the Society to maintain operations, react to crisis, and innovate in our sectoral role. Research for the piece involved 15 structured interviews with RHS staff, officers and Council members, as well as wider reading around relevant literature, and the review was considered at the RHS Council meeting of 17th September 2020. This short article summarises the proposals made in that full 13,000 word report.

Proposal 1: Supporting flexible working with the right resources

The RHS sees itself as “punching above its weight” for an organisation of its size, although the COVID-19 crisis has perhaps made clearer what that demands of individuals. The RHS response to COVID-19 has relied on the goodwill and loyalty of staff and volunteers with competing demands working at high capacity. Combining the efforts of the salaried employees in the RHS office with the volunteers which make up its officers and council members is a delicate balance. This can best be supported by being a flexible employer, allowing for balance between different work locations and some flexibility around working hours, though crucially in a planned and well-supported way.

Proposal 2: Creating collegiality and access

The shift to the virtual world has been eased by strong existing relationships between RHS staff, officers and council members (as well as their networks beyond the organization). Yet, this is not a normal period of “working from home”, and so we need to be conscious of where new norms need to be established if we are to continue to serve our Fellows and Members. We are keen to ensure that Council members and Officers beginning their terms have ample chances to meet others in informal settings, so will look to arrange for opportunities to support this. We also want to ensure that in offering virtual events for the short term we make these available to the widest range of people possible and have put in place new measures to assess this in the planning stage. By maintaining a clear focus on creating collegiality and ensuring access to digital spaces, the RHS can ensure that it embodies the values it has promoted in its work representing history and historians.

Proposal 3: Developing Digital Maturity

The Society’s resources for enabling flexible working and efficient virtual collaboration should be reviewed to ensure that we are able to effectively deliver virtual events and meetings, at least until physical meetings can resume safely. This will involve investment in upgrading the infrastructure of the RHS Council room and office in order to ensure that the possibility of blended meetings can take place (allowing both physical and virtual attendance). It will also mean a more mature and informed approach to planning events will need to be undertaken, both to balance resources and staff time whilst ensuring that equalities, diversity and inclusion are considered at the planning stage.

The staff, officers and council members of the RHS have shown considerable inventiveness and flexibility in responding to the challenges of COVID-19. On a positive note, staff noted that they felt well supported and empowered to take on many of these challenges. Much of this owed to the tireless work of the President in considering and addressing staff needs both in a practical and pastoral sense. Reviewing our response and making sure that we learn lessons for the future presents a valuable opportunity to keep the RHS in fine condition for its next 150 years.



NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS AND FELLOWS

ELECTED JULY 2019.

Fellowship:

Gemma Allen, BA, MSt, DPhil

Dayna Barnes, PhD

Tobias Becker, MA, PhD

Matthew Bingham, BA, MDiv, PhD

Hilary Carey, BA, DPhil

Jeng-Guo Chen, PhD

Rebekah Clements, BA, LLB, MA,
PhD

Pamela Clemit, BA, MPhil, DPhil

Guillemette Crouzet, BA, MJA, PhD

Judith Curthoys, MST, PGCHA,
DAA

Johanna Dale, MA, MPhil, PhD

Jennifer Davey, BA, MA, PhD

Coleman Dennehy, BA, MLitt, LLM,
PhD

Karey Draper, BA MSt, PhD

Hugo Drochon, PhD

Katherine East, BA, MLitt, PhD

Margaret Ezell, BA, PhD

Anna Greenwood, BA, MPhil, PhD

Ryan Hanley, PhD

Katherine Harloe, MA, MPhil, PhD

Catherine Hindson, BA, MA, PhD

Natasha Hodgson, BA, MA, PhD

Tom Hulme, BA, MA, PhD

David Jordan, MA, PhD, FRAeS

Louise Kettle, PhD

Miles Larmer, PhD

Grace Lees-Maffei, BA, MA, PhD

Victoria Leonard, BA, MA, PhD

Michael Maddison, Bed, Cert Ed,
PhD

Kirsten McKenzie, BA, MA, DPhil

Dwayne Menezes, MA, PhD

Emily Michelson, PhD

Cai Parry-Jones, BA, MA, PhD

Stephen Sandford, MSc, PhD

Lucy Santos, BA, MA, MRes

Sally Sheard, BA, PhD

John Slight, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD

Diana Spencer, BA, MA, PhD

Michael Talbot, BA, MA, PhD,
PGCE

Clare Taylor, BA, PhD, PGCE

Seth Thevoz, MA, PhD

Boris Volodarsky, PhD

Rob Waters, MA, MSc, PhD

Stefan White
Keira Williams, PhD
Man Kong Wong, PhD

Membership:

Rosamaria Alibrandi, MA, PhD
Matteo Bonifacio, PhD
David Brazendale, BA, PGCE
Timothy Causer, MA, MLitt, PhD
Bettina de Cosnac, PhD
Steven Driver, BA, PGCE, MSt
Esther Freeman, BA
Marion Gibson, BA, MA, PhD
Alexander Hutton, BA, MPhil, PhD
Caroline Laske, MA, LL.M, PhD
Neil Murphy, PhD
J C Niala, BSc, MSt, MSc
Jason Payne, BA
Edward Reid-Smith, BA, DipEd,
Med, Med, MBus, PhD EdD, FCLIP
Uttara Shahani, BA, MA, PhD
Swati Shashtri, PhD
Shutaro Takeda, PhD

ELECTED DECEMBER 2019

Fellowship:

John Allison, PhD
Karen Bauer, MA, PhD
Chiara Beccalosi, PhD
Ann Benson, BSc, Med, MA, PhD
Sara Bernard, MA, PhD
Nandini Bhattacharya, PhD
Elleke Boehmer, BA, MPhil, PhD
Keagan Brewer, PhD

Adam Bronson, BA, MA, MPhil,
PhD

Luc-Andrè Brunet, BHum, MA,
PhD, PGCE

Barbara Burman, BA, MA

Valerie Burton, BA, MA, PhD

Michael Carr, BA, MA, PhD

Alison Carroll, BA, MA, PhD

Michael Carter, BA, MA, PhD

Vinayak Chaturvedi, BA, MA, PhD

Sabine Clarke, BSc, MSc, PhD,
PGCE

Christopher Colvin, BSc, MSc, PhD

Matthew Cook, BA, MA, PhD

Kate Cooper, BA, MA, PhD

Adam Crymble, PhD

Selena Daly, BA, MA, PhD

Santanu Das, BA, PhD

Filippo De Vivo, PhD

Mario Draper, PhD

Fiona Edmonds, MA, MSt, DPhil,
FHEA, FSA

Marion Gibson, BA, MA, PhD

Daniel Grey, BA, MA, PhD, FHEA

Vivienne Guo, PhD

Duncan Hardy, BA, MSt, DPhil

Sally Holloway, BA, MA, PhD

John Howlett, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD

Jason Kelly, PhD

Prashant Kidambi, BA, MA, MPhil,
PhD

Amdrew Kloes, PhD

Jane Lawson, BA, MDiv, MLn, FSA

Christopher Lee, BA, MA, PhD

Leni Liapi, MA, PhD

Daniel Livesay, BA, PhD
 Anne Logan, BA, MA, PhD, PGCE
 Jessica Lutkin, BA, MA, PhD
 Dolly MacKinnon
 Neil Maher, PhD
 Carig Mantle, PhD
 Lucinda Matthews-Jones, BA, MA, PhD
 Steven Maughan, MA, PhD
 Lynn McDonald, PhD
 Richard McKay, BA, MSc, DPhil
 Jeffrey Meriwether, BA, MA, PhD
 Alex Mold, BA, PhD
 Samuel Moyn, PhD, JD
 Catriona Murray, MA, MSc, PhD
 David Olusoga, BA, MA
 Timothy Peacock, MA, MLitt, PhD
 Frederik Pedersen, MA, MA, PhD
 Guy Perry, BA, MA, MSt, DPhil
 Kennetta Perry, PhD
 Nicholas Piercey, BA, MA, PhD
 Anna Plassart, BA, MPhil, PhD
 Ronald Po, PhD
 Justin Pollard, BA, MA
 James Poskett, BA, MPhil, PhD
 George Pratt, BA, MA, PhD DTheol, LTh
 Volker Prott, PhD
 Naomi Pullin, PhD
 Andrew Ralston, MA, DPhil
 John Rees, BA, PhD
 Edward Roberts, BA, MA, PhD
 David Rundle, BA, MA, DPhil, SFHEA, FSA

Juliet Simpson, MA, DPhil
 Michael Smith, PhD
 Noémi Tousignant
 Angus Vine, BA, MPhil, PhD
 Stephanie Ward, BA, MA, PhD
 Elizabeth Williams, BA, MA, PhD, PGCE, ILM
 Ian Worthington, BA, MA, PhD
 Karin Wulf, BA, MA, PhD

Membership:

Stefan Aloszko
 Julie Beniams, BA, MA
 Marina Bezzi, BA, MPhil, PhD
 James Buckman, BA, MA
 Jane Card, BA, MA, MSc, PGCE
 Luke Daly-Groves
 Elizabeth Eger, PhD
 Allegra Fyyxell, BA, MPhil, PhD
 Timothy Gasby, MA, MSc, PGCE
 Andrew Godefroy, PhD
 Laura Hampden, BSc
 Katarzyna Hollis
 Sharon Howard, BA, MA, PhD
 Robert Hughes-Mullock,
 Ian Hunter, BA
 Mojlum Khan, BA, PGCE
 Lucy Kilfoyle, BA, MA, PhD, PGCE
 Cora Knowles, BA, MLitt, Med, MA, PhD
 Maria Kostaridou, PhD
 Jack Lennon, BA, MA, PhD, FHEA
 Teng Li, PhD
 Rose Luminiello, PhD

Robert MacKinnon, BA, MSc, PGCE
 Hilary McLaughlin-Stonham, MA, PhD
 Eoghan Moloney, BA, MA, PhD
 Jo Ann Moran Cruz, BA, MA, PhD
 Elizabeth Olusoga, BA, PhD, PGCE
 Nicola Pickering, BA, MA, PhD
 Evgeniya Postovalova, MSc
 Robert Power, BA, MA, DPhil
 Helen Rutherford, LLB, MA, PGCE
 Chander Shekhar, PhD
 Mallikarjun Shetty, MA, MPhil, PhD
 Donald Spaeth, BA, MA, PhD
 Christopher Zembe, PhD

ELECTED FEBRUARY 2020.

Fellowship:

Aurelie Basha I Novosejt, BSc, PhD
 Lorenzo Benadusi, ASN
 Sean Bottomley, BA, PhD
 Stefan Brink, PhD
 Matthew Broad, BA, MA, PhD
 Joanna Cohen, PhD
 Shijini Das, PhD
 Cheryll Duncan, BMus, MA, PhD, PGCE
 Susan Edgington, BA, PhD, PGCE
 Flora Fraser, BA, DLitt
 Clarisse Godard Desmarest, PhD
 Michael Gould, BA, PhD
 Elizabeth Hurren, BA, PhD
 Islam Issa, PhD
 Rachel Leow, BA, PhD
 Dan Lomas, BA, MA, PhD

Máirín MacCarron, BA, PhD
 Erin Maglaque, DPhil
 Alistair Malcolm, MA, DPhil
 Hannah Malone, PhD
 Julia McClure, BA, MA, PhD
 Farah Mendelsohn, BA, MA, PhD
 Bill Mihalopoulos, PhD
 Hannes Obermair, PhD
 Pamela Roberts, MA
 Samuel Robinson, MA, PhD
 Joshua Searle, BA, MA, PhD
 William Selinger, BA, PhD
 Samantha Shave, BA, MSc, PhD
 Kathryn Smith, BA, MA, PhD
 Ian Stewart, BA, MA, PhD
 Marcella Sutcliffe, PhD
 Ajayan Thankappannajr, PhD
 Laura Tisdall, PhD
 David Tomkins, BA, MA
 Claire Trenergy, BA, MA, PhD
 John Tweeddale, PhD
 William Westerman, BA, PhD
 Mark White, BA, MA, PhD
 Emily Winkler, BA, MSt, DPhil
 Gillian Wright, BA, PhD

Membership:

Damon Adams, BA, PhD
 Stefanie Bellach, MA
 Morwenna Blewett, BA, LLB
 Martyn Cornell, BA, MBA
 Amelia Dowler, BA, MSt, DPhil
 Elizabeth Doyle, BA, MA

David Liebler, PhD
 Richard Light, BA
 Anna Maguire, PhD
 Sherra Murphy, BA, MA, PhD
 Arthur Needham
 Mara Oliva, PhD
 Imogen Peck, BA, PhD
 Fausto Scarinzi, PhD
 Louise Tythacott, PhD

ELECTED MAY 2020

Fellowship:

Seth Anziska, NA, PhD
 Michael Berdine, BA, MA, PhD
 Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, MPharm,
 BA, MSt, PhD, AFHEA
 Ane Mari D'Arcy, BA, MS, PhD
 Rebecca Darley, BA, MA, PhD
 Arthur der Weduwen, BA, MLitt,
 PhD
 Katie Donington, BA, MA, PhD
 Pieter Francois, BA, MA, PhD
 Brian Hall, BA, MA, PHD
 Charlie Hall, BA, MA, PhD
 Nigel Hinton, MA
 Joel Houston, PhD
 James Kelly, BA, MA, PhD
 David Kenrick, BA, MA, DPhil
 Christopher Kissane, BA, MA, DPhil
 Peter Larson, BA, MA, DPhil
 Daniel Lee, BA, MA, DPhil
 Natasha Loges, PhD
 Amy Miller, BA, MA, PhD
 Markian Prokopovych, PhD

Hilary Sapire, BA, PhD
 Bruce Strang, PhD
 Steven Wagner, DPhil
 Ashley Walsh, MA, PhD
 Alexander Watson, MA, DPhil
 Carsten Weerth, BA, MLaw, MA

Membership:

Nicholas Cambridge, MD, MRCS,
 LRCP, FSA, FLS, FRSA
 Ken Farnhill, BA, PhD
 Darragh Gannon, DPhil
 Marek Laskiewicz, PhD
 Mary-Ann Middelkoop, BA, MSc,
 PhD
 Rachel Murphy, PhD
 Rebecca Olds, BA
 Marie Ruiz, PhD
 Clare Sandford-Couch, PHD
 Gavin Schwartz-Leeper, BA, MA,
 PhD
 Simone Selva, PhD
 Emma Tinniswood, BA, MLitt

Early Career Membership:

Shahmima Akhtar, PhD
 Aaron Andrews, BA, MA, PhD
 Safya Anisimova, BA, MA
 Frank Blair, BSc, BA, MA, MBA
 Jacob Bloomfield, PhD
 Stephanie Brown, BA, MPhil
 Jan Burzclaff, MA, MPhil
 Rachel Calder, BA, MA
 Emily Chambers, MA

Joe Chick, MRes
Will Clement, BA, MSt, DPhil
Adam Cook, BA, MRes
Marco Cristini, BA, MA
Charlton Cussans, BA, MA
Steven Daniels, BA, MA
Gisele de Almeida, PHD
James Downs, BA, PHD
Lucie Dutton, BA, MA, PhD
Callum Easton, MA, MPhil
Joshua Ehrlich, PhD
Louise Falcini, MA, PHD
Georgina Fitzgibbon, PHD
Laura Flannigan, BA, MA
Lachlan Fleetwood, PhD
Jeremiah Garsha
Robert Granger, BA, MA
Katie Hawks, MA, MPhil, PGCE
Lotte Houwink ten Cate, BA, MA,
MSc, MPhil
Samuel Hume, BA, MLitt
Jemima Jarman, BA, MA
Natalie Johanson, BA, MA
Amy King, BA, MA, PhD
Lubomir Krastev, PhD
Alba Lopez, MD
Helene Maloigne, MA
Rebecca Mason, PhD
Andrew McTominey, BA, MA, PhD
Aydin Mucek, BA
Supriyo Mukherjee, DPhil
Russell Newton, MA, MTh, PhD

Juan Neves-Sarriegui, MA
Laura Noakes, LLB, MA
Madeleine Pelling, BA, MA, PhD
Sophie Pitman, BA, MA, PhD
David Prasanna, MPhil
Aditya Ramesh, BA, MA, PhD
Matthew Raven, BA, PhD
Johanna Rustler, BA, MSc
Louise Ryland-Epton, MA
Harry Sanderson, BA, MA
Andrew Seaton, BA, MA, MPhil
Alireza Shams Lahijani, BA, MSc
Mark Shearwood, BA, MA
Ellen Smith, BA, MA
Leanne Smith, BA, MA
Baiyu Song, MPhil
Donna Taylor, BA, MRes, PhD
Louise Tingle, BA, MA, PhD
Mikko Toivanen, BA, MA, PhD
Chika Tonooka, MA, PHD
Emiliano Travieso, BA, MA, PhD
Margot Tudor, BA, MRes
Elizabeth van Wessem, BA, MA,
PhD
Alexander Wakelam, BA, PhD
Emma Watkins, BSc, MSc, MA,
DPhil
Benjamin Whitlock, BSc, MA
Matthew Winfield, BA, MA, PhD
Anna Wright, BA, MA

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NOVEMBER 2020