



# URSS/EURSS in the Department of History

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# Why do a URSS or EURSS

- Insight into research
- Bursary- experience of winning funding for your research (v. important if you are thinking about a research career)
- Learn new skills
- Make contacts and enhance future career. Good for career development and personal development.
- Enhance your degree performance. Research shows that students who do URSS/EURSS get better degree qualifications.
- Build self-confidence
- Get international research experience

Patrick Vasy de la Cruz'  
[Trails of Sustainable Living](#) and [background information about this project.](#)





# How to take your research further.

- Participate in Undergraduate research conferences (eg. BCUR and ICUR)
- Present at the annual showcase (at Warwick in September) or at a CoLeCo meeting
- Publish research
- Public engagement

[BCUR](#)

[Urban Catastrophes CoLeCO](#)

[Legal History CoLeCo](#)

[URSS Showcase](#)



# How to apply: groundwork



- **4 February 2024 deadline**

- Identify research area.

See showcase for an idea of what students have done in the past: <https://urss.warwick.ac.uk/>

History specific

here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/urss/>

If you are in a Eutopia CoLeCo, you may want to extend the work you have already started.

- Approach academic to supervise (for EURSS from two partner institutions)
- Check departmental/ CoLeCo web pages
- Join ongoing projects
- Talk to former EURSS/URSS participants-at History Showcase next Wednesday-on [WHH](#)
- Identify organisations, NGOs etc.





## Ongoing projects in History

- Something on Germany for <https://www.barricades.ac.uk/> supervised by Mark Philp
- Website about BREXIT (for someone with tech skills), supervised by Mark Philp
- [Liberation Theology in Mexico](#) – Vatican Archives, supervised by Rosie Doyle
- An early-modern diarist, supervised by Naomi Pullin
- Women's history in Modern Britain, supervised by Etaiyo Oihane Ballesteros

# Ongoing Projects in History Contd.

## **Queer Proletarians: same-sex desire and practice in working-class London, c. 1880-1900**

- **Dr Laura Schwartz**, Reader in Modern British History, is looking to work with students on a URSS project relating to her own research on 'Proletarian Countercultures – an untraditional history of the British working class' which looks at women workers, workers of colour, migrant workers and working-class cosmopolitanism and queer cultures.
- She would like to work with a student/s on using the recently digitised Charles Booth archive <https://booth.lse.ac.uk/notebooks>. Charles Booth and his team carried out one of the earliest sociological surveys, investigating the living conditions, work, food, income, culture, crime and religion of working-class Londoners. The notebooks are packed with fascinating detail about the everyday lives of people who are too often ignored by the historical record, and about which is often hard to find other archival material. Students will be using these notebooks to uncover the history of queer/same-sex/homosexual desire and practice among working-class Londoners. They will be making an original contribution to queer history, which, in part because of a lack of archival sources, usually tends to focus on the lives of upper- or middle-class people.

# Queer Proletarians: same-sex desire and practice in working-class London, c. 1880-1900

## Contd.

**Laura Schwartz** will mentor the students to help them develop the following skills:

- Archival research skills, especially reading nineteenth-century handwriting.
- Reading archives ‘against the grain’ – the Booth notebooks were written by middle-and upper-class people who were both concerned about working-class poverty and invested in a broader project of social control of the ‘dangerous classes’. How do we approach sources representing working-class people which have been shaped by such attitudes?
- An introduction into queer history, in particular a central historiographical debate regarding how we identify LGBT+ people in a period before categories such as ‘homosexual’ or ‘lesbian’ had entered into common culture, and when a person’s identity was not necessarily bound up with their sexual preference. Students will therefore gain the skills of reading archival material for codewords and identifying non-normative sexual desires and practices in a period when they had very different language and meanings attached to them than they do today.

# Queer Proletarians: same-sex desire and practice in working-class London, c. 1880-1900

## Contd.

The student(s) will be encouraged by **Laura Schwartz** to produce a short online resource discussing their experiences and outcomes of the research. If they like, this can be hosted on or linked to the '[Writing Labour History in Brexit Britain](#)' Network webpage in order to access a wide audience.

This project would particularly suit students who have an interest in and/or some experience of:

- modern British history
- queer history
- working-class history
- close and meticulous analysis of handwritten archival sources

Laura is happy to supervise a group of students on this project.



# How to apply: completing the proposal

- Complete the proposal and application form here: <https://myadvantage.warwick.ac.uk/Form.aspx?id=3120898>
- Make your application clear and concise. Readers and assessors may not be in your field.
- Make sure your project is achievable in the time and on the budget. Applying for less money doesn't mean you are more likely to get it. Money is for accommodation, travel and archive costs, not equipment.
- Impact is an important part. Why are you doing it? How are you hoping that your skills will be improved?
- Complete application in conjunction with your supervisors. Contact your supervisors in plenty of time before the deadline so that they have time to comment on your proposal and write their supporting comments.



# A note on ringfenced funding via [Pathways](#)

- **Undergraduates:** [URSS \(Undergraduate Research Support Scheme\)](#)
- **Who is it for?** Warwick undergraduate students.
- **About:** We will add new ring-fenced [URSS](#) funds (25 awards) for black students.
- This is a scheme provides Warwick undergraduate students funds to carry out research in the summer, under supervision of academic staff at Warwick.
- **For further information, please email**  
[ResearchCulture@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:ResearchCulture@warwick.ac.uk).

# A student URSS – ‘Birmingham and the Birth of the World Snooker Championship’



The Crucible Theatre, home of the current World Snooker Championship

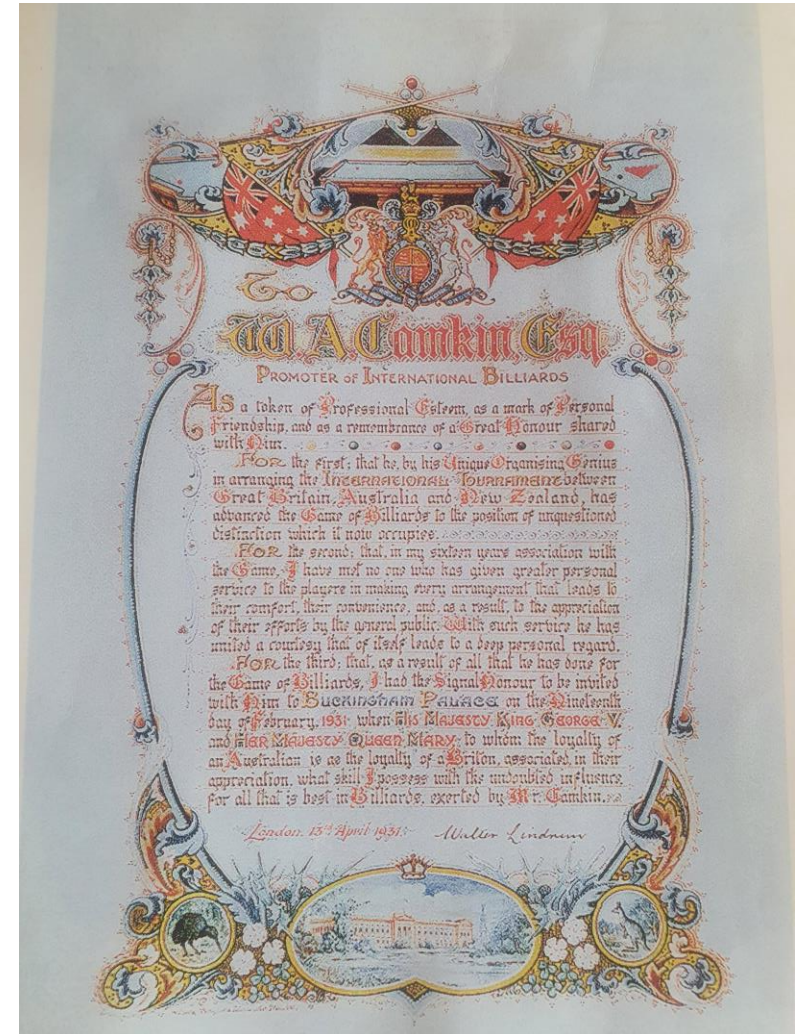


The site of the first World Snooker Championship final, on John Bright St, Birmingham





Bill Camkin, organiser and promoter of the first World Snooker Championship final



Royal invitation to Camkin and one of his players, Walter Lindrum, to attend Buckingham Palace and play in front of George V in 1931

# Public engagement and what's next

