

Humanities Research Centre
Annual Report
2015-16

**In the course of the academic year,
the Centre organised and supported a variety of conferences, lectures, seminars, and other events:**

The Musical Humanism of the Renaissance and its Legacy

Fate and Fortune in Renaissance Thought

Under Control. Childhood and Twentieth-Century Dictatorships (1917-1991)

The Materiality of Mourning

Warwick Parish Symposium - Reflecting the Parish

Mood - Aesthetic, Psychological and Philosophical Perspectives

The Matter of Resistance

Let's Hear it for the Girls: Girlhood, Media and Popular Culture, 1990 - Present

Shaping the Self: Print culture and the construction of collective identity (1460-1660)

Activism in 2016: art, land and technology

Prohibition: Perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences

Vichy and the everyday: new perspectives on daily life under German Occupation, 1940-1944

The Space Between: Connecting Microhistory and Global History

The Short Story Cycle: Circling Around a Genre?

Rome Open City: Examining the Legacy after 70 years

Nineteenth-Century American Studies in the Twenty-First Century

Kafka and the Human Animal

Spying on Spies: Popular Representations of Spies and Espionage

Iran and the West: Converging Perspectives

Arts Faculty Postgraduate Seminar Series

Once again the HRC was able to sponsor the Arts Faculty Seminar Series enabling postgraduate students from the Faculty to meet for research seminars. The aim of the series is to broaden awareness of the doctoral work taking place within the faculty whilst creating a relaxed forum for young researchers to practice presenting their work. The seminars provide an opportunity for all students to offer valuable feedback on this work, strengthening their critical tools and expanding their inter-disciplinary experiences, and fostering a great sense of community. Despite a challenging year the following panels took place:

Term 1

"Philosophy of the Postcolonial Body", chaired by Mike Niblett.

Andrew Stones (English), "The Postcolonial Machinic Unconscious: Dambudzo Marechera and the Textual Ecology of the Planet of Slums".

Roxanne Douglas (English), "Articulating: The Body and Discourse in Egyptian and Lebanese Women's Writings"

Term 2

"Reappraisals of Renaissance Italy", chaired by Dr Louise Bourdua.

Ovanes Akopyan (Renaissance Studies), "Controversies on Astrology in Renaissance Italy (late 15th and early 16th centuries)".

Matteo Carpiello (History of Art), "Bartolomeo Montagna: Art and Business in Early Modern Vicenza"

Eighteenth Century Seminar Programme of Events

- **Dr Kate Retford** (Birkbeck, University of London): "Light Incidents': Humour and the Conversation Piece in Eighteenth-Century England"
- **Prof. Paul Monod** (Middlebury College): 'The Occult Revival in late 18th Century England'
- **Dr David Taylor** (Warwick, English): 'Looking, Literacy and the Printshop Window'
- **Prof. Emeritus Penelope Corfield** (Royal Holloway, University of London): 'Lauding Merit Over Birth: Intimations of a Coming Meritocracy 1700-1830'
- **Dr Sarah Easterby-Smith** (St. Andrews): 'The Emperor's New Cloves: Tipu Sultan, French Botany and Empire 1788'
- **Prof. Farid Azfar** (Swarthmore College): 'The Golden Age of the Assiento'
- **Prof. Keith Baker** (Stanford): 'Marat: Prophet of Terror'

In May, it was Warwick's turn to host the annual workshop held jointly with the University of Birmingham. This year's theme was 'The Eighteenth Century Past and Present' and it set out to explore how the C18th helps/hinders us to think about contemporary issues, how aspects of the C18th are presented/represented in any form now, parallels/discontinuities between past and present, and C18th issues which still have purchase on current debates. The keynote presentation by Steve Pincus (Yale) on 'Making a State in 1776: Political Economy, Imperial Politics and the Declaration of Independence' was followed by panels on The Culture of Objects, The Digital Eighteenth Century, and Historical Perspectives. Postgraduate researchers from both institutions had the opportunity to present alongside established scholars. 30 people took part and the day was judged a great success.

Freedom of Speech Week - November 2015

This series of events was organized to mark the HRC's 30th anniversary as well as the University's 50th birthday. We hosted Attorney General (and local MP) Jeremy Wright talking on Freedom of Speech today; a roundtable on Warwick's involvement in the World University Service; a workshop on Histories of Freedom of Speech Ancient and Modern; and a session on Contested Archives.

Sidelights on Shakespeare – Seminar Series

2016 marks four hundred years since the death of Shakespeare, and to celebrate the anniversary *Sidelights on Shakespeare* teamed up with The Birthplace Trust and the IAS International Visiting Fellowship scheme to produce a special event in Stratford-Upon-Avon. In July eminent historian, Professor Carole Levin (Lincoln, Nebraska, USA) and exciting, interdisciplinary scholar, Dr Michael Winkelman (Owens Tech, USA) gave complementary papers on Shakespeare's Venetian plays. Prof Levin's lecture, 'I would not have given it for a wilderness of monkeys: Shylock's Turquoise, Queenship, and the Exotic', was followed by Dr Winkelman's contrasting talk 'To Preserve This Vessel: Jealousy, Evolutionary Biology, and Othello', thus ending another successful year for *Sidelights on Shakespeare*.

Our seminars this year began with Professor Gary Watt of Warwick School of Law who shared some thoughts on *As You Like It* from his forthcoming book *Shakespeare's Acts of Will: Law, Testament and Properties of Performance*. Stuart Elden, Professor of Political Theory and Geography at Warwick was our second speaker and his fascinating paper explored *King John* through the themes of majesty and territories. Lastly, Dr Velda Elliott, Associate Professor of English and Literacy Education, University of Oxford, discussed whether viewing *Hamlet* within the genre of 'Crime Fiction', as A Level students currently have the option to do, can be helpful and interesting.

Sidelights on Shakespeare has become a recognized feature of research life at Warwick, so we were keen to expand our open access policy for distance and part-time learners. This we have done, capturing seminars live and making audio versions available, as well as establishing an on-line chat room for those who wish to discuss our seminars further. 2016, a special year for Shakespeare scholars and next year we have exciting developments planned for *Sidelights on Shakespeare* – see our website for further details!

For further information: <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/shakespeare>

Doctoral Fellowships

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

Rebecca Carnevali and **Gloria Moorman** (Centre for the Study of the Renaissance)
'More than meets the page: Printing Text and Images in Italy 1570s-1700s'

Liam Lewis and **Jane Sinnett-Smith** (French)
'Bodies in Flux: Rewriting the Body in Medieval Literature, Art and Culture 1000-1450'

Gianmarco Mancosu (Italian)
'Trespassing the Borders: Redefining Postcolonialism from Peripheral Experiences'

Newsletter

The 13th issue of the HRC Newsletter was published. The Newsletter showcases research being carried out by the arts and humanities community at Warwick as well as advertising forthcoming HRC events. It is mailed out to the arts and humanities departments of every major UK HEI as well as other arts organisations and many overseas institutions.

Publishing opportunities

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

Warwick Series in the Humanities (with Routledge)

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

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

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

Warwick Studies (with Anthem Press)

This is a new series that partners the HRC with [Anthem Press](http://www.anthempress.com/), a small independent publisher offering a high quality list aimed at the academic community. Unlike the Warwick Series in the Humanities which is explicitly inter-disciplinary, the Warwick Studies will have more of a discipline-specific focus, and thus will be marketed as Warwick Studies in Literature, Warwick Studies in History etc.

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

Published

- [Classicism and Romanticism in Italian Literature](#)
- [Rome, Postmodern Narratives of a Cityscape](#)
- [Gender and Space in Rural Britain, 1840–1920](#)
- [Picturing Women's Health](#)
- [Knowing Nature in Early Modern Europe](#)

Forthcoming

- [New Jazz Conceptions: History, Theory, Practice](#) (Edited by Roger Fagge, Nicolas Pillai)
- [Food, Drink and the Written Word in Britain, 1820–1954](#) (Edited by Mary Addyman, Laura Wood, Christopher Yiannitsaros)

Summer Research Fund

The HRC with funding from the International Partnership Fund and the IAS were able to offer small amounts of funding for Warwick academics to undertake overseas research trips over the summer vacation. 24 awards were made to support research visits to Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia.

Visiting Speakers' Fund

The Visiting Speakers' Fund assisted arts departments wishing to bring in high profile external speakers. Some speakers were part of a conference at Warwick, while others spoke at a regular seminar series.

The following 4 scholars were brought to Warwick under this scheme in 2015-16: Catherine Brown (Michigan), Susan Gillman (California, Santa Cruz), Daniel Javitch (NYU) and Jack Zipes (Minnesota).

Warwick Transatlantic Fellowships

Warwick has long-standing links with many North American universities, and in order to strengthen and deepen those ties the HRC instituted a Transatlantic Fellowship programme in 2013. The scheme continued this year. With financial support of the IAS, the International Office, DARO, CRS and the Caribbean Centre the HRC awarded 10 fellowships for Warwick PhD students and early career scholars to spend a short period conducting research at a variety of high-profile North American universities including the University of Pennsylvania, the Newberry Library, Swarthmore College, the University of Ottawa, Columbia University, UCLA, the University of Minnesota and NYU.

This successful scheme will run again next year. Details are available online

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

Future Events and Plans

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

- Manuscript Workshop on Social Rights - Friday 23rd September 2016
- Disorder and Popular Politics in Early Modern Venice - 6th - 7th October 2016
- BPPA Masterclass on Naive Realism and Its Challenges - Saturday 8th October 2016

- Spectrum Ends in World Literature: Early Modern, Contemporary and World-Ecological
- Literary Journalism in Times of Crisis and Transition (1870-1970) - October/November 2016 (date tbc)
- More than meets the page: Printing Text and Images in Italy, 1570s-1700s - Saturday 4th March 2017
- Trespassing the Borders: Redefining Postcolonialism from Peripheral Experiences - Saturday 11th March 2017
- Broadcasting War - Saturday 6th May 2017 – This 1-day workshop in May 2017 will bring together scholars interested in how war has been broadcast to the public in the 20th and 21st centuries. From the early use of radio, through to newsreel, television, 24-hour news, and now social media, the ways in which war has been broadcast has constantly evolved. Not only has the media changed, the sources of broadcasts now include state broadcasters, international corporations and citizen journalists. We hope to understand the forces driving changes in the way war has been broadcast, and how it is remediated and remembered via the media, and how the public have both received and participated in those developments.
- Bodies in Flux: Rewriting the Body in Medieval Literature, Art and Culture 1000-1450 - Saturday 20th May 2017
- A Quest for Remembrance: The Descent into the Classical Underworld - Saturday 20th May 2017

We will offer continuing support for the following Faculty Seminars:

- Arts Faculty Postgraduate Seminar
- Eighteenth Century Centre Seminar
- Italian Research Seminar
- Medieval Seminar Series
- Millburn Research Seminar [Theatre/Film/History of Art]
- Parish Research Symposium [History]
- Sidelights on Shakespeare
- STVDIO Seminar [Renaissance]
- Warwick Workshop for Interdisciplinary German Studies
- Caribbean Studies Seminar

Newberry Library

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

Concluding Remarks

This annual report demonstrates that the HRC continues to offer a great deal of support for research and scholarship in the Humanities, using its resources strategically and efficiently. I'd like to record my thanks to the HRC committee and administrator for their help and support.



Professor Tim Lockley, July 2016.