



# Modern Activism

27-30 June 2012, Liverpool

## General Call for Papers

This interdisciplinary conference is a joint initiative between SOLON at Liverpool John Moores, the Centre for Contemporary British History at KCL, ESRC, and Liverpool University, addressing a range of issues relating broadly to modern activism. The three broad strands are Activism, Rights and Conflict (managed by SOLON); Criminal Justice's History, and Activism (managed by Liverpool); and Contemporary Activism and Its Impacts (managed by the CCBH).

A common thread running through is a concern to understand twentieth century activism positively, as more than a series of case studies relating to particular themes, events and regions; it is also a major global and domestic phenomenon with significant political, economic and cultural impacts relating to other areas of enquiry and practice, including war crimes, access to justice and philanthropy, past and present. Each strand will be seen as complementary, and there will be joint plenaries and a number of joint sessions. However, each strand is also internally cohesive, enabling a concentration on issues of particular interest to delegates/speakers. For general enquiries contact Judith Rowbotham or George Mair: for Activism, Rights and Conflict, please contact the SOLON Directors above or Frank McDonagh and Lorie Charlesworth. For Contemporary Activism and Its Impacts, contact the CCBH's Michael Kandiah or Virginia Preston. For Criminal Justice's History and Activism, contact Helen Johnston or Barry Godfrey. We welcome papers from academics working all disciplines, and particularly encourage contributions from practitioners/ activists/campaigners.

### *Activism: Rights, Conflict and Crisis*

This strand examines modern activism as a global/domestic reality in crisis and post-crisis/conflict and post-conflict situations, inviting papers considering the targets and motivations for activism in these contexts, including links between activism and promotion of justice; activism as agent for positive change; and the role of activism in guaranteeing human rights. We are also interested in papers exploring particular regions and case studies such as activism and the arms trade, the presentation (in the media etc) of activism and conflict, and in papers exploring the particular campaigns and their impacts

### *Criminal Justice's History of Activism*

This strand examines the activism of the law in tackling issues relating to the delivery and the guaranteeing of access to justice for individuals and communities. We encourage papers on the use of courts and tribunals, along with the activities of quasi-official legal agencies including law clinics, advice bureaux, individual campaigns seeking better justice for those afflicted by various forms of discrimination, those in prisons etc and we are especially interested in the use of historical data to challenge contemporary criminal justice situations.

### *Histories of Contemporary Activism and Its Impacts*

This strand examines histories of contemporary activism and their local UK impacts in particular. Who are the activists and what is their motivation? What constitutes modern activism? What has been the history of activism in the twentieth century and how has it related to earlier periods? What are the political and economic dimensions? What have been the socio-cultural contexts in which activism has developed and been received?

To submit a proposal, for SOLON send to [SOLON@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:SOLON@plymouth.ac.uk); for the CCBH, to [Virginia.Preston@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Virginia.Preston@kcl.ac.uk); for Liverpool send to [h.johnston@hull.ac.uk](mailto:h.johnston@hull.ac.uk). Closing date: 21 December 2011