Literary Leicester showcases College Research

The curtain has come down on another Literary Leicester festival, which this year proved to be a great platform to showcase college research. At Gaddesby Primary School for instance, Liam McCarthy communicated our own historical research findings to schoolchildren about African American GI children who attended the school during WWII.

Many new and exciting research projects feature in the final bulletin of 2017 including two projects with international significance. One about early settlement in Morocco’s Draa Valley (David Mattingly) and the other about China’s urban history (Toby Lincoln).

Back in Britain meanwhile, Jo Story and colleagues will use AHRC funding to complete the nation’s corpus of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture. Better futures are envisaged, and promoted by, a series of new projects: a child-led history and writing project about Britain’s colonial countryside (Corinne Fowler), a programme of creative empowerment for Vietnamese women (Maria Gasparin) and a project to raise awareness of hate crime in the HE sector (Stevie-Jade Hardy and Neil Chakaraborti). Matt Hopkins tackles uninsured driving, Deborah Toner and collaborators will promote cross-cultural dialogue through food stories, Steve King has received major funding for contesting the New Poor Law (1834 – 1900), Ross Parry has launched a major project to improve digital literacy in UK museums, and Elke Schwarz’s project will inform international discussions about ethical values in military operations.

This issue’s featured project is Richard Sandell’s Prejudice and Pride, which memorably brought the National Trust’s hidden LGBTQ history to public attention.

EU-focused projects include an investigation of trade union futures (Heather Connolly), authorisation processes for the use of pesticides in all 28-member states (Olivia Hamlyn). Meanwhile, our college continues to pioneer new methodologies. Richard Thomas and colleagues will conduct a bioarchaeological investigation of Anglo-Saxon farming, David Gentilcore is reassessing the Mediterranean past via a history of water, and there are fresh approaches to assessing crime risk (Andrew Newton) and discovery-led learning (Agnetta Svalberg and Jim Askham).

New tiger teams focus on women’s experience of digitised diagnosis during maternity care (Nicola Mackintosh; Sarah Cis Gong and Nervo Verdezoto) and prison research (Tammy Ayres, Matt Tonkin, Kate Gooch and Emma Palmer).

If you have research stories to include in the next bulletin, please email: cssahbulletin@le.ac.uk

African American GIs stationed at Gaddesby village in Leicestershire
School of Archaeology and Ancient History

Mattingly, David (with CIs Martin Sterry and Youseff Bokbot.) British Academy Small Grant (£10,000). ‘The Middle Draa Project (Morocco)’. The project is investigating early oasis settlement in the Draa valley (Moroccan Sahara) through a combination of satellite image analysis and fieldwork. Work in 2015-16 has identified many thousands of pre-Islamic burials and hundreds of early occupation sites. The new grant will support a short survey expedition to explore hitherto unvisited areas in the northern part of the valley, where the earliest settlement and early mining activity is thought to have been concentrated.

See more

Thomas, Richard; Hamerow, Helena (University of Oxford), with Dr Amy Bogaard (University of Oxford) and Dr Mike Charles (University of Oxford) as Co-Is. European Research Council (EUR 1.94 million with £85,000 to Leicester). ‘Feeding Anglo-Saxon England (FeedSax): The Bioarchaeology of an Agricultural Revolution’. Between the 8th and 13th centuries, the English population soared to unprecedented levels. This could not have happened without a corresponding boom in agricultural production. But when, where and how were the crucial developments in farming achieved? Feeding Anglo-Saxon England sets out to address these questions through the application of bioarchaeological techniques.

See more

School of Arts

Fowler, Corinne. Colonial Countryside: British Country Houses’ Caribbean and East India Company Connections (crowd-funded for phase 1). A child-led history and writing project in partnership with the National Trust and Peepal Tree Press. Colonial Countryside will create a new generation of BAME historians and commentators. Ten-year-olds will work with historians, writers, editors and curators to bring country houses’ colonial connections to public attention.

Svalberg, Agneta M-L and Askham, Jim. Leicester Learning Institute, Stream A: Pedagogic Research on Strategic Developments (£10,928). ‘Exploring the effects of a discovery oriented approach on the engagement with language of adult foreign language learners at the University of Leicester’. Four Languages® Leicester classes and teachers, representing four target languages, participate in this intervention study of a discovery oriented approach to learning. Audio-recorded student interaction, observations, teacher and researcher journals, and student and teacher interviews will be analysed, with a focus on learner engagement with language, and teachers’ perspectives.

See more

School of Business

Connolly, Heather British Academy Mid-career Fellowship (£113,500). ‘Trade Union Futures: Representing Precarious Workers in Europe’. This research seeks to better understand, and communicate to a broad audience, the possible futures of trade unions in France and the UK, and in particular, the ways in which they seek to represent precarious workers – the ever-increasing number of workers who are at the margins of, or are excluded from, established systems of collective and legal regulation and protection.

Gasparin, Marta British Council (£10,000) College Development Fund, RED seeds funding, CAMEo seeds funding (£10,500 total). ‘Crafting Futures: Vietnam’. The programme aims to foster empowerment through the development of creative social enterprise and design-led skills for female artisans and designers, promoting social innovation, fair and ethical collaborations, and an appreciation of cultural heritage.

The goal is to create more inclusive opportunities for women in sustainable and ethical craft-based production.

Department of Criminology

Hardy, Stevie-Jade and Chakraborti, Neil. Higher Education Funding Council for England (Catalyst Fund) (£94,000). ‘Standing Together Against Hate’. This project will be delivered collaboratively with the University of Leicester Students’ Union, Student Support Services, Estates and Campus Services and the Equalities Unit to enhance awareness of hate crime and online harassment and to improve responses at the University. The project is set to have national impact on tackling hate crime in many forms in higher education.

See more

Hopkins, Matt. Motor Insurers Bureau (£94,000). ‘Exploring the reasons for uninsured driving’. The aim of the research is to conduct an online survey with uninsured drivers in order to ascertain: (1) What the key reasons are for not having valid vehicle insurance; (2) Driver attitudes towards car insurance; and (3) To identify any strategies that might reduce the number of uninsured drivers on the road.

Newton, Andrew. Consumer Data Research Centre (Innovation Fund) – ESRC big data centre: http://www.cdrc.ac.uk/ (£59,911.88). ‘Urban Mobility and Crime: Examining consumer data to better measure crime rates in urban centres’. This study examines the utility of CDRC transport, retail and footfall data, and mobile data (twitter and crowd sourcing data) to better assess crime risk (rates) and for the police to better target resources in local crime hot spots in time and place, given the underlying urban mobility patterns present.

School of Media, Communication and Sociology

Mackintosh, Nicola; CIs Gong, Sarah and Verdezoto, Nervo. University of Leicester Tiger Team award (£5,000). ‘DEPAC: Digital enablement, promise and uncertainty in maternity care’, and its uniformity’. The project analyses the mediation of digitised diagnosis in maternity care by examining how technologies shape women’s experiences of pregnancy. This will reveal vital insights for current management of serious complications in maternity and for understanding relationships between risk and uncertainty, society and digital technologies.

Leicester Law School

Hamlyn, Olivia. European Parliament (EUR 15,000). ‘Assessing Member States’ capacity for reliable authorization of plant protection products’, and its uniformity’. This project concerns the authorisation of pesticides in all 28 EU Member States. It seeks to map and understand the
diversity of authorisation procedures implemented by Member States as well as their independence and transparency and the extent to which they reflect the principles of precaution, sustainability and substitution.

School of History, Politics and International Relations

Abbots, Emma-Jayne (University of Wales, Trinity St David); Co-I, Toner, Deborah. Arts and Humanities Research Council (c. £91,000 (FEC); reclaimable from AHRC c. £73,000). ‘Fostering Cross-Cultural Dialogue Through Food’. Food, and its narratives, can help to translate the histories and cultures of different parts of the world to one another, encouraging reflection on culinary heritage and cultural identity. Food Stories will promote such cross-cultural understandings through cookery workshops, a cookbook, and café-style seminars in Bradford, Coventry and London.

See more

Gentilcore, David. European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) fellowship programme, European Commission (EUR 38,000 living allowance). ‘The Best of All Things. Drinking Water in the Mediterranean, 1400-1900’. The year is devoted to beginning a major new research project, on cultures of water in Italy and the Mediterranean, from the late Middle Ages to the modern era, viewing water as a physical, cultural, social, economic and political resource. In particular, I shall be focusing on drinking water, as both substance and practice, from a variety of different approaches and disciplines and using a wide range of different but complementary sources.

See more

King, Steven. Arts and Humanities Research Council (£820,638) ‘In Their Own Write: Contesting the New Poor Law 1834-1900. In partnership with the The National Archives.

Lincoln, Toby. Arts and Humanities Research Council (£200,817). ‘Post war Urban Reconstruction in China, 1938 – 1958’. This project researching how urban reconstruction in China during and after World War II laid the foundation for the country to become the world’s largest urban society. The outputs will include a network of scholars and professionals in China interested in wartime heritage, and a website of teaching materials.

Schwarz, Elke. British Academy/Leverhulme Small Grants Award (£8,464). ‘Moral agency and meaningful human control: Exploring military ethical values for alignment in the use of autonomous weapons systems’. This project examines how technologically advanced militaries view moral agency and ethical values vis-à-vis new autonomous and intelligent technologies. It seeks to (1) provide a clarification of ethical values and moral agency in military operations, and (2) open an interdisciplinary dialogue on the topic to help shape policy and industry guidelines.

Story, Joanna E. Arts and Humanities Research Council (£53,000 to Leicester from a grant of £779k to Durham University). ‘Worked in Stone: Completing the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture’. The Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture is a long-running, flagship project for the British Academy. This AHRC award funds the completion of the corpus, including volume 14 cataloguing the pre-Conquest sculpture of the East Midlands (Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough) which will be authored by Prof Jo Story and Dame Professor Rosemary Cramp (Durham).

See more

School of Museum Studies

Ross, Parry. Arts and Humanities Research Council (Standard Grant) (£503,000). ‘One by One: building the digital literacies of UK museums’. ‘One by One’ leverages interdisciplinary scholarship to deliver a transformative framework for museum workforce digital literacy. It is an ambitious 2.5-year collaboration of 17 partners (including Arts Council England and the Museums Association), involving a network of ‘Digital Fellows’ leading action research projects within six museums across the UK.
New books and journals

School of Archaeology and Ancient History

Harris, Oliver and Cipolla, Craig. (Royal Ontario Museum – formally University of Leicester). Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium. (Routledge). This book explores the current state of archaeological theory, challenging more traditional narratives of disciplinary thought. It charts the emergence of the new emphasis on relations as well as exploring the implications of the latest strands of thinking. It acts both as an accessible introduction to the most current schools of thought, and an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches.

See more

Mac Sweeney, Naoise. Troy: Myth, City, Icon. (Bloomsbury). This book explores the significance of Troy from a mythic, an archaeological, and a cultural perspective. From the palaces of Homeric epic to the ancestral seat of Roman emperors, and from condom branding to reggae records, through the centuries Troy has been a word to conjure with.

See more

Cooper, Lynden P. and Ripper, Susan. Fishing and Managing the Trent in the Medieval Period (7th–14th Century): Excavations at Hemington Quarry (1998–2000), Castle Donington, UK. Archaeological monitoring of gravel extraction in the Middle Trent floodplain revealed palaeochannels with waterlogged conditions that preserved rare evidence of Medieval riverine structures relating to fishing and river management. The results have contributed to the designation of the Hemington reach on List A of Historic England’s Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage Inventory.

ISBN: 9781407316178

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School of Arts

Barefoot, Guy. (2017). Trash Cinema: The Lure of the Low. This volume explores the paradoxical appeal of the lower reaches of the cinema. It looks at films from the B-movies of the 1930s to the mockbusters of today, and from the New York Underground to Turkey’s Ye İçcam studios, examining the reasons for studying, denigrating or celebrating the detritus of film history. (Wallflower Press/ Columbia University Press).

See more

Cooke, Barbara. (2017) A Little Learning. Part of the new Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh (43 vols, 23 editors), the first scholarly edition of Waugh’s work, will contain all his (unexpurgated) diaries, letters (85% of which have never previously been published), visual art, novels, short stories, travelogues, biographies, essays, articles and reviews. Supported by a £822,000 AHRC grant, it is the largest edition of any 20th author. (Oxford University Press).


Les écrits autobiographiques abordent des aspects intimes de la vie, notamment les relations complexes entre le biologique et le social. Ce chapitre explore les mémoires d’une personne intersexe du 19ème et comment ce texte porte la trace de conflits, d’ambigüités et de censures et affiche la réalité d’une identité violée.

See more


School of Business

Arjaliès, Diane-Laure, Grant, Philip, Hardie, Iain, MacKenzie, Donald and Svetlova, Ekaterina. (2017), Chains of Finance: How Investment Management is Shaped. (Oxford University Press). Investor’s money today flows through a ‘chain’, a sequence of intermediaries. The book explores what goes on in that chain and demonstrates how connections between different actors influence their decisions and practices. It provides a thorough analysis of the asset management industry from a social science perspective based on in-depth field research.

Department of Criminology

Hardy, Stevie-Jade and Chakraborti, Neil. (2017) Hate Crime: Identifying and Dismantling Barriers to Justice, Leicester: Centre for Hate Studies. Available at

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School of History, Politics and International Relations

Johnstone, Andrew. (edited with Andrew Priest). US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy: Candidates, Campaigns, and Global Politics from FDR to Bill Clinton. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy examines how the relationship between foreign policy and electoral politics evolved through the latter half of the twentieth century. Covering all presidential elections from 1940 to 1992, the contributors demonstrate that while international concerns were more important in some campaigns than others, foreign policy always matters and is often decisive.

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School of Media, Communications and Sociology

Morgner, Christian; Luhmann, Niklas; Davies, Howard; Raffan, John; Rooney, Kathryn; King, Michael. (2017) Trust and Power (Wiley).

See more

Rovisco, Maria and Veneti, Anastasia. (Bournemouth University) (2017). Picturing Protest – Visuality, Visibility and the Public Sphere. Visual Communication, vol. 13, issue 3. This special issue is concerned with how and why certain visual images picturing protest events and social movements are rendered visible or invisible in the public sphere. ‘Picturing Protest’ responds to the growing interest in a new protest culture and activisms, ranging from Arab revolts to the Occupy Movement, and anti-austerity protests in Europe.

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In this book, Tufte calls for a fundamental rethinking of what it takes to enable citizens’ voices, participation and power in processes of social change. Drawing on examples from social movements to international development cooperation, he presents cutting-edge debates about the role of media and communication in enhancing social change. Cambridge: Polity Press.

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The October 2017 issue of the Journal of Communication features a Section on Communication and Collective Action edited by Rafael Obregon and Thomas Tufte with articles on Spain’s Indignados, environmental activism in China, documentaries for social change, LGBT activism in the US, and public hearing in India.

See more
Prejudice and Pride is a collaborative research project between the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries and the National Trust that explores and reveals LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) connections across the Trust’s properties and experiments with new ways of engaging audiences around these largely untold and hidden histories. Working closely with a cohort of properties and key staff, the project team is seeking to generate new insights for the burgeoning international field of queer public heritage through the following research question:

How can we offer diverse audiences (new and existing) authentic, engaging and meaningful experiences and purposefully engage the public in debates surrounding LGBTQ history, culture and equality by researching, acknowledging and presenting the LGBTQ histories and associations in the places, stories and collections of the National Trust?

As well as supporting properties across England and Wales to research and present their LGBTQ stories, the RCMG team has worked especially closely with a smaller number of sites to experiment with new ways engaging audiences around histories of same sex love and desire and gender diversity. These include Felbrigg Hall in north Norfolk where researchers created a short film, narrated by Stephen Fry, that tells visitors the story of the last squire and an immersive installation at Kingston Lacy that supports visitors to make connections between the history of the house and contemporary LGBTQ lives. The collaboration has stimulated considerable debate in the national media and amongst many tens of thousands of visitors who have experienced Prejudice and Pride at a Trust property or at one of the many Pride events held across the UK in 2017. In depth research into audience engagement and response is currently being carried out to explore the impact of the project on visitors’ thinking and attitudes around contemporary LGBTQ equality. Richard Sandell, who is leading the project, is currently working with performer David McAlmont to create a unique research-led performance, which will premiere in May 2018 at an international conference run in collaboration with the National Trust.
News Round-up

Appointments

Department of Criminology
Dr Lisa Smith has been elected to the role of Editor-in-Chief for ‘Science and Justice’. Science and Justice is the official journal of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, and Lisa will hold the Society Council position of Honorary Editor for a 3-year term.

Events

School of Arts
Literary Leicester 2017 saw full houses for Yours Faithfully, Edna Welthorpe (Mrs): A Tribute to Joe Orton (Emma Parker) and Green Unpleasant Land: Rural Racism (inspired by the work of Neil Chakraborti).

At Gaddesby Primary School, Liam McCarthy communicated our own historical research findings to schoolchildren about African American GI children who attended the school during WWII. (See image).

Meanwhile, in a public lecture, David Olusoga brilliantly demonstrated that British history and black British history are one and the same. As highlighted in the session, our own archaeological, historical and literary research is contributing to an evidence-based reassessment of British history, a history which – as Olusoga argues – is fundamentally global. A playlist of Literary Leicester podcasts will be available shortly.

Department of Criminology
Dr Sam King delivered a keynote talk on the latest evidence on what makes high quality offender management and what can be implemented to reduce reoffending, at a forthcoming conference on Transforming Rehabilitation. Sam has published widely on probation work and desistance theory, and has helped CRCs to implement innovative offender management tools to measure offender motivation. Details of the event can be found here.

Professor Neil Chakraborti has delivered a number of keynote presentations on hate crime victimisation, perpetration and policy in recent months. This includes specially convened events at the University of Oxford (9 November), De Montfort University (15 November) and a Professorial Inaugural Lecture here at the University of Leicester alongside Professor Teela Sanders (18 October). He was also invited to give oral evidence to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review into the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates (12 September) and to Turkey’s Minister for EU Affairs (13 September).

School of History, Politics & International Relations
Andrew Futter, took part in a New York Roundtable discussion hosted by the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. The panel was called ‘Mutually Assured Disruption: Framing Cybersecurity in Nuclear Terms’.

Liam McCarthy gave a talk to pupils at Gaddesby Primary School
Awards

School of Media, Communication and Sociology


Collaborations

Department of Criminology

Talks are in progress to establish a new research partnership with survivors of rape and gender based violence. Wangu Kanja, a Kenyan activist who survived a harrowing rape and carjacking, and went on to establish the Wangu Kanja Foundation http://www.wangukanjafoundation.org/ meets with researchers at our University and practitioners at Leicester Rape Crisis. (See image above).

New Tiger Team

Kate Gooch (Law) will lead a new Tiger Team on Prison Research along with Tammy Ayres and Matt Tonkin (both Criminology) and Emma Palmer (Neuroscience, Psychology & Behaviour). The aim of the network is to work towards the development of a Network application.

School of Media, Communication and Sociology

Christian Morgner is an invited fellow at the University of Leuven and recently delivered two research seminars there:

Corinne Fowler, ‘Was Emily Bronte’s Heathcliff Black? The Conversation.

TV Programmes

School of Archaeology and Ancient History

‘In the Footsteps of Caesar’

The SAAH Leverhulme Trust project led by Colin Haselgrove has found the first Roman fort from Julius Caesar’s invasions of Britain. Located on the Kent coast the site is interpreted as the base of the fleet in 54 BC. Broadcast on 29 November, BBC 4 ‘Digging for Britain’. Watch on iPlayer (until 30th Dec 2017):