



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



ANNUAL REVIEW | 2018–19



48

research networks



10

major research programmes

55

knowledge exchange fellows



10

global south visiting professors and fellows



350+

research-led events with audiences totalling over 18,000 people



ABOUT TORCH

Launched in May 2013, TORCH stimulates, supports, and promotes research activity of the very highest quality that transcends disciplinary and institutional boundaries and engages with wider audiences.

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WELCOME



Professor Louise Richardson



Professor Karen O'Brien



Professor Daniel Grimley



Professor Philip Ross Bullock

Professor Louise Richardson Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

This is an exciting time for the Humanities at Oxford. At a time of widespread societal change and technological development, the questions posed by Humanities researchers have never been more relevant.

Since the beginning of TORCH six years ago, I have watched with delight as it has grown into a powerhouse of Humanities research, supporting and developing researchers across the Humanities Division. With the establishment of new networks, programmes and projects geared towards exploring the role of the Humanities in today's world, TORCH now supports even more researchers as they examine how the Humanities contribute to society. This is of particular relevance as we continue to explore the new and thrilling fields of Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Humanities.

As announced in June 2019, the University has received a landmark £150 million gift from philanthropist and businessman Stephen A. Schwarzman. The Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities will give Oxford's Humanities a new home with state-of-the-art academic, exhibition and performance spaces. The donation will help to further the work of researchers across the Humanities, as they demonstrate the essential role the Humanities play in helping society confront and answer the most pressing questions of the 21st century. Over the coming years, the support of TORCH in delivering these aims will be fundamental.

I look forward to welcoming collaborations between members of the public, partner institutions and researchers as TORCH develops its public engagement programme even further, maintaining the University of Oxford's reputation as a world-class institution.

Professor Karen O'Brien Head of Humanities Division, University of Oxford

As Head of Humanities at Oxford, I have been delighted to see TORCH support and facilitate researchers across the Division over the past six years. In addition to providing seed funding, support and opportunities for collaboration with external partners, TORCH delivers a wide range of support to enable researchers to develop their public engagement programme.

Knowledge Exchange (KE), led by Professor Wes Williams, is a vital part of what TORCH does. KE initiatives such as the Knowledge Exchange Fellowships and the National Trust Partnership are key in facilitating mutually beneficial knowledge exchange. With the *Humanities & Performance* Annual Headline Series, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the John Fell Fund, TORCH has also furthered links between researchers and Oxfordshire theatres and theatre-makers. This initiative provides opportunities for researchers and theatre-makers alike to benefit from a valuable cross-pollination of ideas.

Several TORCH researchers and staff members were recognised in the 2019 Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards, including Professor Sally Shuttleworth of the *Diseases of Modern Life* project and Dr Vicky McGuinness, Head of Research Partnerships & TORCH Manager, for their spectacular Victorian Light Night event in November 2018. Similarly, the annual AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement with Research Summer School received a commendation for providing a valuable opportunity for early career researchers to develop their experience in public engagement.

In addition to the individual achievements above, the success of TORCH is a collective endeavour, built on a strong network of dedicated professional and research staff. My particular thanks go to Professor Philip Ross Bullock for leading TORCH with such vision and expertise since his appointment as TORCH Director in 2017.

As we move into the next academic year, I look forward to seeing how Stephen A. Schwarzman's generous and unprecedented donation to Oxford Humanities enables TORCH to broaden the scope of its activities, bringing the public into conversation with Oxford research in new and exciting ways.

Professor Daniel Grimley Deputy Head of Humanities Division, University of Oxford

TORCH continues to provide a richly productive collaborative research environment that fosters links across disciplines and is instrumental in furthering the world-leading work that takes place within the Humanities at Oxford.

TORCH retains as its core purpose the capacity to enable researchers to develop interdisciplinary networks across widely divergent fields, and to forge ground-breaking collaborations with partners from different institutions, groups and organisations. These collaborations and their impact will form a central part of our submission to the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF) at the end of 2020.

As well as supporting researchers to develop links between disciplines, I've been delighted by the way that TORCH has benefitted from working with the Business Engagement and Partnerships team shared with Social Sciences, alongside colleagues in the Creative Industries and Heritage Engagement (such as the National Trust). We will continue to build and expand upon these strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders, not least as part of our mission to bring Oxford research in the Humanities to the attention of the widest possible audience and to have a genuinely transformative effect upon the world around us.

TORCH encourages researchers to engage with ever wider audiences in a mutually beneficial knowledge exchange. *Professor Karen O'Brien*

Professor Philip Ross Bullock TORCH Director (2017 onwards), University of Oxford

It has been an immense pleasure to serve as TORCH Director since 2017 and I look forward to the wealth of events and activities planned as we move into the next academic year. I have greatly enjoyed seeing TORCH grow and flourish since its inception in 2013 and have learned much from getting to know the academics who lead its programmes, networks and other projects. The wide and varied audiences who attend TORCH public events have been unwavering in their support, and it has been wonderful to have the opportunity to engage with them further.

In recent years, TORCH has expanded its programme of international events, establishing collaborations with academic institutions across the globe with initiatives such as the TORCH Global South Visiting Professors and Fellows scheme. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this scheme welcomes world-leading academics from the global south to the University of Oxford. Global South Visiting Professors and Fellows, and Oxford researchers alike, benefit from the fruitful exchange of knowledge and ideas that this scheme supports. My particular thanks go to those Oxford academics who have hosted Fellows in support of this programme. We have also partnered with the Africa Oxford Initiative (AFOx) for the first time and were privileged to be able to co-host three outstanding academics from the continent during the summer of 2019.

Nearer to home, TORCH has also contributed to the cultural landscape of Oxford this year through the newly established Theatres Seed Fund. This funding promotes links between Oxford researchers and the theatre community of Oxfordshire and beyond, providing opportunities for academics and theatre-makers to collaborate on mutually beneficial Knowledge Exchange projects.

Interdisciplinarity, collaboration and inclusivity are in TORCH's DNA; it is this visionary, innovative approach to research that marks TORCH out as a leading hub in the humanities.

I am thrilled to be part of such a dynamic enterprise, working with the TORCH team, colleagues in the Humanities Division and researchers across the Humanities Faculties to broaden the TORCH academic community. As we progress with the development of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities over the next few years, I greatly look forward to seeing how TORCH will continue to support and champion the Humanities at Oxford.



NOVEMBER 2018 | Victorian Light Night

More than 2,500 visitors converged on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter on 16 November 2018 for TORCH's Victorian Light Night. The event was part of the national Being Human Festival and Oxford's Christmas Light Festival. TORCH and researchers from the ERC-funded 'Diseases of Modern Life' Project teamed up with the award-winning Projection Studio for a spectacular 3D projection and sound show onto the original Radcliffe Infirmary. The evening featured stalls, games and performances by researchers from the 'Diseases of Modern Life' Project, all themed around the Victorians' concept of the 'speed of life'.

NOVEMBER 2018 | What is a Decolonial Curriculum?

TORCH hosted a captivating panel discussion and workshop exploring practical and theoretical ways of decolonising the academic curriculum. Panellists included Professor Supriya Chaudhuri (Jadavpur University), Professor Kwame Dawes (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Professor Jok Madut Jok (Loyola Marymount University), Dr Nana Oforiatta Ayim (ANO Institute of Arts & Knowledge), Professor Peter McDonald (English), Mia Liyanage and Blue Weiss (Common Ground).



JANUARY 2019 | Pelicans, Shepherds and Palaces

In January 2019, the Oxford Psalms Network hosted a concert with performances by the Worcester College Chapel Choir and guests, directed by Thomas Allery and supported by Dr Matthew Cheung Salisbury. The concert was guest-conducted by the Emmy-, BRIT-, and BAFTA-award-winning composer Howard Goodall, CBE. The event included a conversation between Howard Goodall and Professor Sue Gillingham of the Faculty of Theology and Religion and the TORCH Psalms Network.



MAY 2019 | Gaz Coombes: Charity Concert at the Sheldonian Theatre

Mercury Prize- and Ivor Novello-nominated artist Gaz Coombes played a charity concert at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre to celebrate 350 years of this key Oxford institution. Oxford alumni composer Luke Lewis conducted and arranged the music. All proceeds from the concert were donated to two local charities: Yellow Submarine, which supports people with learning difficulties, and the Young Women's Music Project (YWMP), with Suzy Bowtell of YWMP opening the show. This event was created by musician Nick Fowler, and brought together many people, including Liz Green from the Music Faculty, and the TORCH team.

MAY 2019 | Jeff Koons in Conversation with Martin Kemp

From monumental metallic sculptures to subversive large-scale paintings, contemporary artist Jeff Koons is known for pushing the boundaries of art. This event brought the artist into conversation with the University of Oxford Emeritus Professor of Art History, Martin Kemp. In a wide-ranging talk, Koons and Kemp discussed inspiration, application, the politics of contemporary art-making, and the idea behind Koons' famous bright orange, three-metre high, \$58m balloon dog creation. The talk was hosted in collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum and was free and open to the public with local schoolchildren invited to attend the talk and pose questions to the artist.

MAY 2019 | Closing the Door: Complaint as Diversity Work

Renowned feminist academic Sara Ahmed delivered an impactful lecture, as part of the English Faculty's project, *Writers Make Worlds*, led by Professor Elleke Boehmer. Ahmed's lecture arose from her work interviewing staff and students who have made complaints about unfair, unjust, or unequal working conditions and abuses of power within universities. She contends that complaint should be viewed as a form of diversity work and that we are all responsible for creating environments in which the other can be both heard and accommodated.



MAY-JUNE 2019 | People's Landscapes

People's Landscapes: Beyond the Green & Pleasant Land was a series of free, public roundtable events convened by the University of Oxford's National Trust Partnership. The events brought together 20 experts and commentators from a range of institutions, professions and academic disciplines to explore people's engagement with and impact upon land and landscape in the past, present and future. This event was part of the National Trust's 2019 'People's Landscapes' National Public Programme.



JUNE 2019 | Black Female Intellectuals in the Historical and Contemporary Context

This invigorating discussion brought Professor Barbara D. Savage, 2018-19 Harmsworth Visiting Professor at the Rothermere American Institute (Oxford), and the playwright, novelist, critic, and broadcaster Bonnie Greer, OBE into conversation. Their discussion focused on the similarities and variances in their lives as black female intellectuals both inside and outside of the academy and arts. Dr Becky Fraser (UEA) chaired the event which was hosted by TORCH as part of the *Black Female Intellectuals in Historical and Contemporary Context* project, led by Dr Fraser and Dr Imaobong Umoren (LSE).

JUNE 2019 | Life and Death at the Offbeat Festival

Four Oxford University researchers joined forces for a night of extracurricular entertainment at Oxford's Offbeat Festival, run by Arts at the Old Fire Station and the Oxford Playhouse. Researchers JC Niala, Deborah Cameron, Will Watson and Paul Lodge explored life's big questions through drama, comedy and live music.



JUNE 2019 | Transgender Refugees and the Imagined South Africa

Bodies over Borders and Borders over Bodies

JUNE 2019 | Transgender Refugees and the Imagined South Africa

The TORCH Queer Studies Network and the African Studies Centre welcomed Dr B. Camminga to Oxford to present on their recent book, *Transgender Refugees and the Imagined South Africa: Bodies Over Borders and Borders Over Bodies*. This first in-depth study of the lives of transgender asylum seekers from the African continent living in South Africa centres on the experiences and narratives of people it terms 'gender refugees', gathered through a series of life story interviews.

NETWORKS

We have supported over 50 research networks, which reach across disciplines to build communities of scholars from a range of career stages to work together on innovative projects. For information about all of our networks please visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk/networks

- Globalising and Localising the Great War
- Poetry, Song and Performance
- Conversations on Identity, Ethnicity and Nationhood
- Oxford Psalms Network
- Oxford Comics Network
- Gender and Authority
- Rethinking the Contemporary
- Queer Studies
- Theatre and Performance
- Negotiated Texts
- Violence Studies
- PastNet
- Diplomacy in the Early Modern Period 1400-1800
- Migration and Mobility
- Oxford Critical Theory Network
- Colonial Ports and Global History
- Early Medieval Britain and Ireland
- Life Itself in Theory and Practice
- Pilgrimage Studies Network
- New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World
- Futures Thinking Network
- SciPo2019
- Ancient Music and Theology
- Image and Thought
- Climate Crisis Thinking in the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Silence Hub
- Armenian Genocide Research Network

Futures Thinking

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/futures-thinking

Launched in February 2019, the Futures Thinking network has provoked myriad conversations about the application of Humanities methodologies to future-oriented technologies and concerns. We've hosted several workshops and lecture seminars on topics such as *Gender and AI* with Professor Gina Neff, *Writing with Robots* with Kinga Jentitic of PublishDrive, and *Creativity and AI* hosted in partnership with the Rhodes Artificial Intelligence Lab (RAIL). In May we launched the Call for Papers for our inaugural conference to be held in October 2019, which will explore the future of reading and narratives of the self in a digital age, with keynotes by Marcus du Sautoy and Molly Flatt.

Following on from the theme of Gender and Creativity in 2018-19, in Michaelmas 2019 we will concentrate on the theme of the Environment and Smart Cities. We have also begun work on a new project: *Speculation Percolation*. This will be an audio-visual reading list on the topics that the network addresses, drawing on the expertise of social scientists, mathematicians, philosophers, literary scholars, creativity theorists and others. Our blog is also expanding and we are looking forward to an engaged and engaging 2019-20, beginning with the Futures Thinking conference, the Ideas Festival, and Being Human, and heading towards our creatively curated programme of seminars, workshops and lectures that explore more human and humane ways to think about the future we are co-creating.

Chelsea Haith (DPhil in English)

Queer Studies Network

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/queer-studies

Oxford's first interdisciplinary Queer Studies Network, launched in November 2017, offers a rich programme of well-attended events opening up new avenues of engagement for queer theory and LGBTQIA+ experiences, arts and activism.

Since January 2019, we are delighted to have hosted Director of UK Black Pride and Stonewall Trustee Lady Phyll Opoku-Gyimah and activist makeup artist and writer Umber Ghauri. We have met for seminars on 'The Activism of Black Feminism and the Aporia of Racial Grief' (Dr Surya Nayak, Salford), 'Lesbian Mothers and Practices of Conception in Post-War Britain' (Dr Rebecca Jennings, UCL), 'Bodies in Constitution'

(Professor Neville Hoad, UT Austin) and 'Transgender Refugees and the Imagined South Africa' (Dr B Camminga, Wits).

Our end-of-year screening of *MAJOR!* was preceded by a discussion on incarceration, police brutality, 'race', and trans/gender identity, and a number of less formal events have provided a space for network members to discuss research and seek advice.

Our collaborative events have included a free three-day Colloquium on Queer Black Performance featuring eleven internationally-renowned scholars and artists; a discussion of the language of lesbian desire in 19th-20th Century archival sources; a series of 'Alternative Pride Talks'; an evening curated by youth group 'My Normal'; and a workshop on queering existing museum and heritage collections.

Mara Gold (DPhil in History) and Ruth Ramsden-Karelse (DPhil in English)

Oxford Pilgrimage Studies Network

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/pilgrimage-studies

Pilgrimage is a practice shared by all the world's major religions, taking place across the globe and from antiquity to the present day. Regardless of where or when they occur, pilgrimages engage with some fundamentally human endeavours: attributing significance to objects and places, understanding our participation in historical traditions, developing and reconfiguring ideas of the sacred, and shaping conceptions of ourselves and others. The Oxford Pilgrimage Studies Network, launched in January 2019, brings together colleagues across the Humanities and Social Sciences to discuss any and all aspects of pilgrimage studies.

In its first term the network hosted a bi-weekly academic reading group and partnered with Oxford Medieval Studies on a local pilgrimage day, consisting of a walk from Abingdon to Oxford and an evening lecture by Guy Hayward, co-founder of the British Pilgrimage Trust. In June the network sponsored "Pilgrimage and the Senses", an international and interdisciplinary conference exploring how pilgrimages across cultures and time periods shape and are shaped by sensory experience. We are looking ahead to a lively second year, including a lunchtime panel, a seminar series, another reading group, another local pilgrimage day, and a postgraduate symposium.

Helena Guzik (DPhil in History of Art)



New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World Network

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/byzantine-world

This network was conceived to discuss a spectrum of theoretical approaches to the study of the Byzantine world in its broadest sense. The principal aims of this network are to promote critical and self-reflexive thinking, both about the sources for the Byzantine world (whether text, image, or the built environment) and how our thinking about the Byzantine world is structured and governed by regimes of knowledge (imperialist, orientalist, gender essentialist, etc.) and the institutions which produce academic work on the region. Our network features seven collaborators based in three countries (UK, Turkey, and Austria) and at six different institutions, as well as international contributors.

Over the course of this first year we have organized three small-scale webinars with public reading lists open to all on Balkanism, Hegemony and the Subaltern, and Gender in both the Byzantine world, and in the academic field of Byzantine Studies. We also held our first full-day workshop, entitled *Imperialism, Colonialism and Post-Colonialism in the Byzantine World*, which featured a discussion chaired by leading postcolonial theorist Robert J. Young. In the year to come, we already have scheduled another webinar on gender theory in October, as well as confirmed a public lecture by established scholar Professor Diana Mishkova on the topic of her forthcoming book with Cambridge University Press, *National Byzantiums: Narratives of Empire in the Historiography of Southeastern Europe*.

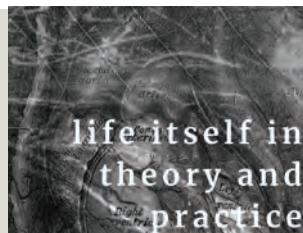
Mirela Ivanova (DPhil in History) and Dr Alexandra Vukovich (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Life Itself in Theory and Practice

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/life-itself

Life Itself in Theory and Practice was founded in October 2018 as a way of bringing together scholars and practitioners in the humanities, arts, and sciences who share an interest

NETWORKS CONTINUED



in the contemporary meanings and uses of “life”. From the legacy of vitalist philosophies to global strategies of health management, the social impact of digital afterlives to the political ramifications of synthetic biology, the Life Itself network fosters lively cross-disciplinary enquiry into this most ambiguous and ill-defined of subjects.

We are one of the few networks working actively to bridge the traditional disciplinary divide between the Humanities and sciences; acknowledging that life refuses to stay still, we are convinced of the need for intellectual work that roams boldly across boundaries and develops vibrant new ways of thinking about the modern world.

Since Michaelmas 2018, Life Itself has grown into a stimulating intellectual space. Twice-termly seminars have brought together linguists, anthropologists, biologists, philosophers, and more from across the University for wide-ranging discussions touching on everything from Henri Bergson to the humble sea monkey. Our guest lectures were delivered by Dr Martin Crowley (Cambridge), Professor Deborah Levitt (New School, NY), and the prize-winning visual artist Salvatore Arancio, whose discussion of his surreal, biologically-inspired artwork was a highlight of a fascinating first year.

Sam Gormley (DPhil in Medieval and Modern Languages), Madeleine Chalmers (DPhil in Medieval and Modern Languages), Yaron Wolf (DPhil in Philosophy), and Dr Kitty Wheeler (School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography)

Colonial Ports & Global History (CPAGH)

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/cpagh

The CPAGH network fosters new collaborative thinking about colonial ports and global history, creates a diverse hub of knowledge exchange, and brings together scholars and practitioners across a range of career stages and cultural backgrounds. CPAGH’s co-founders, moreover, take a particular interest in postcolonial theory and decolonial praxis, notably the ways these can pluralistically and democratically enrich the practice of global history beyond its western-centric paradigms.

Since its inception in 2018, CPAGH has organised a multimedia launch with position statements and live music from colonial ports; public engagement talks at the Pitt Rivers Museum; and an international interdisciplinary conference titled ‘Sensing Colonial Ports and Global History: Agency, Affect, Temporality’. CPAGH’s launch at St Luke’s Chapel attracted a full house with a lively provocative discussion. The Pitt Rivers object handling afternoon, with its focus on the senses, highlighted such phenomena as slavery and colonial collecting practices to visitors from multiple age groups. CPAGH’s conference, with its World Café workshop, themed panels and two keynotes, gathered participants from five continents and brought into conversation their cutting-edge expertise. These activities proved a success of an outcome in terms of the enthusiastic reception garnered, and their wider impact generated in and beyond the academy.

Dr Elisabeth Bolorinos Allard (Medieval and Modern Languages) & Dr Angela Flynn (History)

Oxford Critical Theory Network

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/critical-theory

Putting the words ‘critical theory’ and ‘Oxford’ together genuinely surprises some people. But there is clearly a hunger for their conjunction in our institution – the fact that over 80 people attended our launch event back in October 2018 attests to this. We marked the occasion by bringing together three distinguished academics for a panel on ‘Critical Theory at Oxford’; Professor Alice Crary (Philosophy), Dr David Dwan (English) and Dr Mathura Umachandran (Classics) began what has been a breath-taking year of critical theory events. We have since run an aphorism writing workshop where attendees studied the philosopher Theodor Adorno’s poems about Oxford, invited Isabel Waidner (English, Roehampton) to give a keynote at Oxford’s Queer Modernisms III conference and interviewed the eminent critical theory historian Martin Jay (Berkeley) for our podcast. This upcoming year promises to be just as exciting: Ellen Brewster (DPhil in English) and I will be running a ‘Theories of Reading’ study day this upcoming October, which includes ‘reading’

artworks in the Ashmolean and a ‘Theory Lucky Dip’ activity. Watch this space!

Lillian Hingley (DPhil in English)

Theatre and Performance

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/theatre-and-performance

The TORCH Theatre and Performance Network continues to provide a space for researchers at all career stages and in several different Faculties to come together with theatre-makers and scholars both in Oxford and from around the world to share ideas and practices – a particularly vital resource in the absence of a drama department at Oxford. Our second year has seen a wide variety of events, many of them organized by our very active postgraduate co-convenors Hannah Greenstreet, Katherine Gurnos-Davies, Hannah Simpson, and Alex Thomas. In Michaelmas 2018 they organized a one-day symposium on ‘Collaboration in Contemporary Theatre’, with keynote speaker Dr Duška Radosavljevi on heterarchical models in theatre collaboration and ensemble directing. Practitioner speakers included John Terry (Artistic Director of The Theatre Chipping Norton), James Dacre (Artistic Director of the Royal & Derngate), Zarema Zaudinova from Teatr.doc, and playwright Bryony Lavery and director Melly Still on their adaptation of *The Lovely Bones*. In Hilary 2019, we had two thought-provoking lunchtime talks: Professor David Wiles on ‘Gesture in the Theatre’ and Dr Stefan Aquilina on ‘Researching Early 20th-century Russian Theatre’. Trinity 2019’s events included two international workshops held at Wolfson College: ‘Found in Translation: Bringing Russian and Punjabi Culture to British Stages’ and ‘Staging Queer Lives in Russia and Ukraine’, organised by Professors Julie Curtis and Philip Bullock, together with colleagues from Oxford and Manchester’s two OWRI research projects. In addition, Lucy Clarke organised a practice-as-research

workshop exploring *A Warning for Fair Women*, with particular attention to the locations at which crimes were committed in the play and how the perpetrators were tried. The graduate-led Reading Group continued to meet biweekly during term-time, exploring topics including violence, intertheatricality, ecocriticism, and documentary theatre. We are always open to suggestions for new topics and especially for new members to join us so please do get in touch.

Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr (English)

Negotiated Texts

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/negotiated-texts

Many foundational texts of the modern world were written by formal processes of negotiation, and often over extended periods of time. Famous examples include the American Constitution of 1787 and the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights, but treaties between nations, and much national legislation fall into the same category. The Negotiated Texts Network has brought together researchers from a range of disciplines to understand the challenges these texts pose and how we might improve digital tools and workflows in order to enhance research and public engagement.

This year a number of themes have emerged from our workshops, including the need to rethink the traditional digital edition; an increased focus on the general public as the end-user, rather than the researcher; and the limitations of current technological/AI solutions. As a result, a working group is now exploring the contribution Oxford might make to the development of new digital archives and editions. Meanwhile, the relevance of these materials was highlighted by the opportunity to hold workshops with law clerks to better understand their approach.

NETWORKS CONTINUED



'Section of the Berlin Wall with Graffiti' by Rachel Kowalski (2016)



We are grateful for the funding which has enabled the Network and have every confidence it will continue to be a forum for improving understanding of negotiated texts on.

Dr Nicholas Cole (History) and Dr Alfie Abdul-Rahman (King's College London)

Violence Studies Oxford www.torch.ox.ac.uk/violence

In October 2018, Violence Studies Oxford and the University of Exeter's Centre for the Study of War, State and Society co-hosted 'The Micro-Dynamics of Violence', a two-day multi-disciplinary conference which brought together scholars of violence from various universities and research institutions. 25 academics, from PhD students to professors of history, anthropology and social science drew on their various areas of expertise to debate two primary questions: firstly, how we as scholars write about violence, and secondly, how we understand violence as a phenomenon in its own right. The event was extremely fruitful and was well received by the speakers and those who attended in an audience capacity.

In the spring of 2019, Violence Studies organised a series of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of 'The Battle of the Bogside' (August 1969) - one of the first major confrontations of the Northern Ireland Troubles. There was a multi-media performance by poet and musician Steafán Hanvey, and academic seminar papers from Dr Simon Prince, Dr Edward Burke, Professor Gavin Schaffer and Dr Maggie Scull. Those featured in this series are the subject of a new podcast series to be launched by the network in mid-August.

The forthcoming academic term will see Violence Studies hosting further panel events, seminar papers, and podcast episodes featuring Oxford University's postgraduate student body as well as academics from various universities.

Rachel Kowalski (DPhil in History)

PastNet Network

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/pastnet

Throughout the academic year 2018-2019, PastNet hosted a range of networking activities and workshops on topics as diverse as networks approaches to human evolution and futurology. But by far most of our energy was invested on our conference, in 2018, and in a hackathon workshop, in 2019.

PastNet hosted a two-day international interdisciplinary conference held at the Taylorian Institute and Trinity College. The reaction to the event has been overwhelming: more than 60 research teams from a wide range of Humanities and STEM disciplines submitted abstracts, of which only 30 could be accepted to present papers to ensure a single session track and allowing sufficient time for debate. 120 people from Europe and the US as well as a small number of colleagues from Asian countries attended the conference. It was preceded by a two-day practical workshop held at the Faculty of History, to teach 20 archaeologists and historians computational network science techniques.

We also hosted a hackathon event to stimulate the creation of cross-disciplinary teams and future research lines on the topic of network research of the past. Here as well we brought over researchers ranging from applied mathematics, social data science and artificial intelligence to history, archaeology and anthropology. A range of data mining and analysis techniques were taught during the first half of the event, after which groups of delegates developed short research projects on topics as diverse as mental health research, roads of the Roman Empire and how knowledge is created on Wikipedia. All teams were awarded prizes at the hackathon, and seed funding for follow-on research projects was made available to encourage longer-term collaborations.

Dr Tom Brughmans (Archaeology), Yayoi Teramoto (DPhil in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics), Dr Chico Camargo (Oxford Internet Institute)

Diplomacy in the Early Modern Period 1400-1800 www.torch.ox.ac.uk/diplomacy

The TORCH Network on Diplomacy in the Early Modern Period (1400-1800) brings together scholars from History, Modern Languages, Art History, English, International Relations, and Philosophy. We investigate key questions relating to early modern diplomacy through a series of seminars and reading groups.

This year, we were particularly interested in questions relating to cross-confessional diplomacy, diplomatic personnel, and the creation, use and storage of diplomatic documents. We took these as broad themes structuring the 16 seminar papers we heard across the year and inspiring the choices of recent thought-provoking literature for our 6 discussion sessions. Papers addressing the ways in which cross-confessional concerns impacted diplomatic relations ranged from Ottoman anti-Safavid diplomacy to dynastic marriage in the Holy Roman Empire, from Spanish information networks during the Dutch Revolt to Swedish diplomats in Constantinople and a diplomatic clash over an Orthodox church in Ragusa.

Diplomatic personnel were the focus of papers on cooperation and competition between rival diplomats, the links between diplomatic networks and the spread of medical knowledge, and James VI/I's less than pacifistic efforts in the Holy Roman Empire. Speakers explored various aspects of diplomatic texts, including the diplomatic archive and history writing, ambassadorial letterbooks and self-fashioning, and print culture and diplomatic knowledge. Several seminar papers examined more than one of our themes, most notably those on the *jus gentium* in the Mediterranean and that on public diplomacy in the early seventeenth century. We are also pleased to say that the *International History Review* will be publishing a special issue on Gender and Diplomacy arising from the conference the network held in 2018; Dr Ruggero Sciuto and Dr Florian Kühnel have been busy editing the articles.

Dr Tracey Sowerby (History)

Migration and Mobility www.torch.ox.ac.uk/migration-and-mobility

In this second year of our TORCH-funded Migration and Mobility Network, we further extended our reach within

the University. A huge highlight has been our annual Oxford Migration Conference, co-organised with the fantastic student-led Oxford Migration Studies Society: the theme 'Spaces of Im/Mobility' brought together diverse and interdisciplinary panels of researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners to discuss how migration/mobility can be mediated from above and below.

We regularly circulated migration-related information and events happening across the University to our mailing list to attract attendees from across the departments. In spring 2019 we further launched a website, www.migration.ox.ac.uk, which gives details about migration research happening at Oxford and who is involved in it.

We are excited to continue to consolidate our network in the coming years with the help of the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity (GEMS), while continuing our partnership with TORCH!

Dr Lena Rose (Centre for Socio-Legal Studies)

Oxford Comics Network www.torch.ox.ac.uk/comics

The purpose of the network is to create a space for the discussion of comics by those who make and research them. Our approach is therefore broad in terms of chronology, geography, and disciplinary. Talks this year have covered topics as diverse as comics and architecture, horror, documentation and representation of social protest in Mexican comics, and the First World War; we also hosted a successful event with the comics creator, Tom Gauld, in Blackwell's, allowing us to reach a much wider audience. In July 2019, the network hosted its conference, Moving Images: Comics & Travel, which attracted around 60 delegates from a number of different countries and disciplines, with keynotes by Joe Sacco and Paul Gravett; plans are being laid for an edited volume arising from this conference, addressing issues around movement and travel that resonate strongly in the contemporary climate. We look forward to continuing this work with another strong series of events in 2019/20.

Dr Leen Van Broeck (RHUL), Dr Enrique Del Rey Cabero (Medieval and Modern Languages) and Dr Michael Goodrum (Canterbury Christ Church University)



PROGRAMMES

Our 10 research programmes bring together existing major research groups and individuals working in the same field to collaborate and incubate new ideas. For information about all of our programmes please visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk/programmes

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Race and Resistance across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/race-and-resistance

The Race and Resistance network with the support of TORCH has put on an exciting programme of diverse events relating to the broad topics of race and resistance within Oxford and beyond. With these events we have aimed to bring together like-minded students, researchers, and faculty members from departments across the University as well as providing a space for the academy to connect with Oxford's local community.

Highlights from the past academic year have included a Rhodes Must Fall book discussion between authors of the newly released chronicle of the movement, and current student activists working to continue its legacy. Another memorable event was our Prison Abolition panel discussion which brought together academics and activists to discuss the history, challenges, and future of the movement to eradicate the carceral state. We also held a screening of 'Four Days in May', a documentary about the May 2010 Tivoli Incursion and its effect on local residents in Kingston Jamaica, followed by a Q&A with co-producer and community psychologist Dr Deanne Bell, Caribbean scholar Michael Joseph and Rhodes House Director of Leadership and Change Nadiyah Figueroa. This event, which brought together Oxford's Caribbean



community, was one of the stand-out events in this year's programme.

Beyond lectures and discussions, Race and Resistance has also held a host of book launches, reading groups, and 'academic speed-dating' events to help create conversations and provide opportunities for networking.

Sage Goodwin (DPhil in History)

Women in the Humanities

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/wih

On 14 December 2018, as part of an ongoing initiative to commemorate the centenary of women's suffrage, Women in the Humanities (WiH) drew their centenary celebrations to a close by inviting all Oxford colleges,

halls and University buildings to fly a reproduction of a suffrage banner that was made and displayed by the Oxford Women's Suffrage Society from 1908. The Oxford suffrage flag which depicts the city's patron saint, St Frideswide, was recreated for the centenary based on a pencil sketch that featured in the Oxford Times. The initiative was extremely successful, with more than 30 Oxford colleges flying the flag, as well as a number of University departments and some local schools. In addition to this event, WiH also launched a series of freely downloadable and printable pamphlets and a timeline that highlighted the history of the women's suffrage movement in and around Oxford.

In February, WiH and Oxford Women in Politics (OxWiP) co-hosted a roundtable event that focused on 'Fighting Sexual Violence and the Politics of Power'. The panel, which included Ann Olivarius, Mara Keire, Rahila Gupta, Chloe Lewis, and Senia Paseta, discussed the campaigns against sex-based violence, the impact and legacy of the #MeToo campaign and initiatives to tackle the politics of power that underlie institutional structures.

Hilary term also saw the continued work of WiH with MaD Theatre Company and their production, *It's the Wrong Way to Tickle Mary*. The play, which commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the First World War and the passing of the Representation of the People Act, travelled to Oxford on 28 February 2019 and audience members were given the opportunity to see cast members perform selected scenes from the play.

In March, WiH celebrated Women's History Month by inviting those who had previously flown the Oxford Women's Suffrage flag to do so again in recognition of International Women's Day on 8 March 2019. The beginning of March also saw the WiH research programme team up with historians from Oxford University's History Faculty, in a special panel for the National Trust's 'Women and Power: Redressing the Balance' conference. That panel reflected upon the links between women's history, public engagement and the commemoration of the centenary of the Representation of the People Act across the cultural, heritage and academic spheres. The two-day 'Women and Power' conference ended with a drinks reception at St Hugh's College, where the Oxford Women Students' Society for Women's Suffrage banner (commissioned by WiH and created by Annabel Docherty) was unveiled by St Hugh's College Principal Elish Angiolini, University Registrar Gill Aitken, Senia Paseta, and Annabel Docherty.

PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

In Trinity Term, WiH were thrilled to invite Helen Lewis, former editor of the *New Statesman*, Staff Writer for *The Atlantic* and WiH Honorary Writing Fellow, to host a feminist history writing workshop. Helen Lewis is currently working on a new book, *Difficult Women: An Imperfect History of Feminism*, which will be published in spring 2020 by Jonathan Cape. During the workshop, the attendees had the opportunity to engage in a Q&A session and to analyse a chapter from Helen's book. The workshop encouraged scholars to think collectively about the intellectual, methodological and political contexts in which we write feminist history.

Dr Alexandra Hughes-Johnson (History)

Oxford Medieval Studies

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/oms

Oxford Medieval Studies has had another hugely productive year, sponsoring a range of events and bringing a large number of students, academics and members of the public into conversation about all things medieval. At the heart of the programme are three main activities: the termly Interdisciplinary Medieval Studies lecture; the sponsorship of early-career and graduate-organised conferences, workshops and other events via the Small Grants scheme; and the annual Medieval Studies Roadshow – an opportunity for the recipients of Small Grants to showcase their events and for medievalists of all stripes from across the University to meet and make plans for future collaboration.

The Hilary term Interdisciplinary Lecture, hosted by the Taylorian, was delivered by Professor Simon Gaunt (KCL) on 'Babel and the Language(s) of Universal History in the Middle Ages'. The Trinity term Interdisciplinary Lecture was delivered by Professor Kathryn M. Rudy (St Andrews) on 'Four Ways to use Technology to Spy on the Past', hosted by St Edmund Hall. Both lectures were very well attended by a mixture of graduate students, postdoctoral students, faculty members and members of the public. The medieval studies booklets have been downloaded from Oxford Medieval Studies starting page torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies over 1500 times last



Opening of the Medieval Mystery Cycle (March 2019) with Creation happening in front of the chapel at St Edmund Hall

term, the weekly newsletter has over 500 subscribers and the Twitter feed @OxMedStud has cracked the 2,000 mark.

The major OMS event of this reporting period was the debut of the Medieval Mystery Cycle. On 27 April 2019 a purpose-made cycle of medieval mystery plays was staged across locations at St Edmund Hall by a variety of groups linked to the Oxford Medieval Studies programme, directed by Henrike Lähnemann (Co-Director of OMS/Medieval German) and Lesley Smith (Professor of Medieval History, Harris Manchester) and organised by Eleanor Baker (DPhil student in English and one of the organisers of OMS's successful Church Crawl and Pilgrimage Day). At midday, God rang the chapel bell before she announced from the Old Library window her intention to create the world. From there the story of mankind unfolded, with the Old Testament acted out in the Front Quad (with stops at the well for the sacrifice of Isaac, and the Old Dining Hall for the Flood) and the New Testament taking place at various points around St Peter-in-the-East. The event was a roaring success, with over 400 members of the public in attendance and hugely positive feedback. The plays were filmed and are now available on a dedicated archive which includes the professionally filmed plays, introductions to the productions, texts and more, and which will become a repository for future documentation: www.seh.ox.ac.uk/mystery-cycle. A well-attended screening of selected highlights was held at St Edmund Hall after Professor Rudy's lecture, with introductory talks by participants on the background to each production.

OMS provides vital financial support and publicity for annual reading groups on Anglo-Norman, Medieval Italian, and Middle English and regularly sponsors interdisciplinary events such as the annual Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference and the Early Medieval Britain Seminar. Among the many events organised by ECRs and graduate students benefitting from the Small Grants scheme were conferences and symposia including: in medias res: Convention, Conclusion, and the Performance of the Text, c. 1050-1500; Navigating the

Text: Textual Articulation and Division Across Cultures; Medieval Studies and Far-Right Medievalism; Women and Violence in the Late Medieval Mediterranean; Old Norse Poetry in Performance: Text and Texture; Anglo-Saxon Metre and Literary Studies; Medieval Fanfiction; and Scholasticism in Late Medieval and Early Modern History. Other activities supported by OMS this year included a Medieval Italian Reading Group, Medieval Pilgrimage walk and church crawl, and a summer school on Old Frisian. OMS also hosts a friendly weekly coffee morning in the Weston Library for Oxford-based medievalists and visiting academics.

In 2018 Professor Vincent Gillespie (English) stepped down as Co-Director of OMS and was replaced by Dr Francis Leneghan (English). We warmly thank Professor Gillespie for his stewardship of OMS during this period.

Professor Henrike Lähnemann (Modern Languages) and Dr Francis Leneghan (English)

Medical Humanities

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/medical-humanities

Dr Sally Frampton, a historian, has been appointed to the new post of Humanities and Healthcare Research Fellow. Her role is to promote and support research collaborations between humanities and other disciplines to address healthcare challenges, working closely with Louie Fooks supporting on policy engagement. Our first networking and support event took place in June 2019, attended by over 40 researchers and professional staff. The meeting demonstrated a strong appetite for strengthening medical and health humanities at Oxford and for developing new cross-disciplinary research and policy collaborations.

The Humanities and Healthcare team also led a successful bid to the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) for a project to develop a medical humanities curriculum within the fifth year of Oxford's undergraduate medical curriculum from July 2020. The curriculum will incorporate innovative modes of assessment and interweave humanities research with teaching on neurology, psychiatry, palliative care and pain.



Image by Joshua Hordern

School and university students also had the opportunity to explore medical humanities at Oxford's first Medical Humanities Summer School in July 2018, led by Professors Laurie McGuire and Peter Friend. The course, funded by Green Templeton College, the Van Houten Fund, TORCH, the ISSF and the English Faculty, included students from science, humanities and other disciplines and ran again in summer 2019.

The Humanities and Healthcare team have also worked with Dr Andrew Papanikitas (Primary Care Health Sciences), Professor Joshua Hordern (Theology and Religion), and others to re-establish the Inter-Collegiate Ethics Forum (ICEF) on behalf of the royal medical colleges. The ICEF's first order of business has been to establish topics of common and overlapping concern in healthcare practice.

Dr Papanikitas also worked with Dr John Spicer of Health Education England (HEE) on a project to understand the learning needs of qualified doctors with respect to doing the 'morally right thing'. They have engaged with a variety of stakeholders, including HEE, the General Medical Council, the Royal Society of Medicine and the Institute of Medical Ethics, to explore and make recommendations about how ethics education can be strengthened in postgraduate medical education.

The Humanities and Healthcare Team is funded by Research England's Higher Education Innovation Fund and the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund.

Professor Joshua Hordern (Theology and Religion)

Digital Humanities

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/digital-humanities

The TORCH Digital Humanities programme has enjoyed another successful year working across the University-wide Digital Humanities at Oxford network.

Our flagship event, the Digital Humanities Oxford Summer School, enjoyed its ninth year with nearly 300 participants and speakers, from 30 countries, converging on Keble College for a week of research and practice in Digital Humanities. This year we ran nine themed workshops, adding Applied Data Analysis and When Archives become Digital to the longstanding and popular Introduction to Digital Humanities,

PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

Introduction to the Text Encoding Initiative, Linked Data for Digital Humanities, Text to Tech, Digital Musicology, Crowdsourced Research in the Humanities and Humanities Data. Our annual TORCH lecture was given by Professor Rob Iliffe (History) on the ideas and principles that have guided the design and management of the Newton Project over more than two decades.

Digital Humanities (DH) intersects with many TORCH networks and programmes, and a new programme of TORCH Graduate Seminars in DH reflects our commitment to early career researchers. We were also pleased to welcome as a new member to our network the Maison Française d'Oxford (MFO), embracing Digital Humanities in its interdisciplinary and international programmes in the humanities and social sciences.

Professor David de Roure (Oxford e-Research Centre)

Environmental Humanities

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/Environmental-humanities

This year, the Environmental Humanities programme's main activities centred on the now well-established lunchtime seminar series, with a wonderful diversity of talks, from medieval whale imagery to the disturbing environments of the 'feel bad' film to the ground of the English novel and representations of light in Scandinavian painting. We were especially pleased to begin the year with a talk by Dame Marina Warner on the flying house of Loreto. We concluded the year with a performance of *Anthropometamorphosis*, a work related to the research of our graduate student representative, Anya Gleizer, on Oxford scholar Maria Czaplicka's 1915 expedition to Siberia. With Ruskin colleague and musician Andrea Fortier, Anya explored the transformation, loss and reconciliation that has taken place within the landscape of Evenkia, Siberia within the last century. Anya also founded the Flute and the Bowl, an Oxford-based society for art and ecology.

The Environmental Humanities programme has close links with Oxford's National Trust Partnership. We were excited to have the opportunity to participate in the National Trust 'People's Landscapes' seminar series,



Image by Nicole Gipson

which was held in Oxford at St Luke's Chapel, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, and ran for four weeks, covering 'Contested Landscapes', 'Creative Landscapes', 'Living in Landscapes', and 'Future Landscapes'.

The programme's leaders were also involved in a number of environmental humanities public engagement activities. Our director, Daniel Grimley, won a Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Award for 'Digital Delius: Interpretation, Performance, and Analysis', a project that explored the cosmopolitan connections of the composer and his creative affinity with the landscapes and cultures of other countries. Fiona Stafford, who chairs the Environmental Humanities programme steering group, was invited to give a public lecture at the Oxford Museum of Natural History on the 200th anniversary of John Ruskin's birth. Her lecture on 'Ruskin's Trees' provided the finale of an exciting day conference on 'John Ruskin, Science and the Environment'. Peter Davidson spoke at the Turl Street Festival about writing about place and creative non-fiction, reading from his new book, *The Lighted Window*. He also spoke at the Flute and Bowl's 'Diffracting Matters' at the North Wall Arts Centre about Ruskin as an observer of season and weather and about both Ruskin and Hopkins as observers of the evening sky, and as early watchers for the signs of a changing climate. Allison Adler Kroll published an essay on Beatrix Potter's conservation efforts and her involvement in the National Trust, and we welcomed Nina Kruglikova from Anthropology as a new committee member to the programme.

Professor Fiona Stafford (English) and Dr Allison Adler Kroll (DPhil in History)

Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT)

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/occt

It is July in Santiago, Chile: OCCT has been invited, together with research centres from the University of Western Cape, South Africa, and the University of California, Irvine, to join the University of Chile in a Global



Anya Gleizer and Andrea Fortier in Anthropometamorphosis. Image by Fiona Stafford

Humanities Institute funded by the Mellon Foundation. The topic is the Challenges of Translation: five of us are locked into a fortnight of intense workshopping of ideas and examples, from processes of transitional justice after apartheid, and after Pinochet, to nineteenth-century Iranian travellers in Europe, to Dryden's translation of Virgil, to the multilingual practices of contemporary world literature. It is an inspiring and mind-expanding experience.

Back in Oxford, OCCT has been preparing for the arrival of the first year-group of students taking our new Masters degree in Comparative Literature and Critical Translation. Our postgraduate-led discussion group has been investigating the translation of lesser-known literatures into English. Our research strands on Fiction and Other Minds, and Prismatic Translation (funded by the AHRC as part of its programme in Creative Multilingualism) have continued their work: visit the website prismaticjaneeyre.org to explore interactive maps and visualisations of more than 500 translations of Charlotte Brontë's novel into more than 50 languages. Our literary festival Oxford Translation Day again attracted large audiences, whose comments included: 'brilliant', 'challenging' and 'a lot of fun!'

Professor Matthew Reynolds (English) & Dr Eleni Philippou (English)

Heritage

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/heritage

Now in its second year, the TORCH Heritage programme continues to grow and broaden the range of researchers and external partners it works with. Of most significance has been the creation of a Heritage Seed Fund, enabling researchers to have conversations, develop workshops, and deliver small projects in partnership with UK and international heritage organisations. Projects funded include developing a video game pilot to explore the Villa Stiassni in Brno, Czech Republic (Professor Daria Martin, Ruskin School of Art) and supporting the Museum of Oxford in creating a new 'Oxford at War' Gallery (Hanna



Smyth, Faculty of History). This Seed Fund, combined with the new Oxford University Heritage Network, supports heritage-related research, and demonstrates our institutional commitment to developing mutually beneficial partnerships.

The Heritage programme works with colleagues across Oxford to incubate

and test ideas through small amounts of seed funding, a conference, or a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship. We help to nurture and develop mutual understanding and benefit with external organisations. This helps our academic colleagues to develop and refine their research questions, and to include heritage partners in grant applications. The programme is delighted that Abigail Green has been successful in securing a major AHRC research grant for a multi-year, multi-partner, pan-European exploration of the Jewish Country House. She is working closely with heritage partners: the AEPJ, the National Trust, Strawberry Hill House and Waddesdon Manor. Our ambition is to work with other colleagues to enable them to secure similarly close working relationships and significant levels of grant funding in 2019-2020 to support their fascinating and important research.

Running alongside our support for senior faculty members is the Heritage Pathway, designed to support graduate and early career researchers in developing the skills and connections required for a career in the heritage sector. One notable outcome was Franziska Kohlt's (DPhil in English) role as exhibition consultant to 'The Marvellous Mechanical Museum' at Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park; a connection made through Heritage Pathway. Working closely with the Careers Service's Internship Programme has also been invaluable in creating paid student placements.

Imelda Dooley Hunter has co-ordinated a successful pilot year exploring how Oxford researchers can collaborate with the Creative Industries, and has secured HEIF funding to support a further year's work, concentrating on themes including storytelling at heritage sites. Oliver Cox wrote the concluding essay to *The Country House Past, Present and Future* (Rizzoli, 2018) and acted as the historical consultant and editor for the *Treasures from Chatsworth* exhibition at Sotheby's New York.

Dr Oliver Cox, Heritage Engagement Fellow

EARLY CAREER

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/earlycareer

The Humanities Division's researcher development and training team continues to expand and enhance the range of development opportunities available to early career researchers. We work with TORCH to ensure that the programme of training remains relevant, useful and aligned with the priorities of researchers in the Humanities, whatever their aspirations.

This year, in collaboration with the Creative Industries Officer, Imelda Dooley Hunter, and the University of Oxford Careers Service, we launched a new Creative Industries training pathway, providing researchers with opportunities to learn about the creative industries from professionals working in the sector, equipping researchers with the skills to move into roles in the creative industries, and laying foundations for potential research collaborations. This pathway complements our Preparation for Academic Practice, Heritage, and Teaching pathways in providing a curated selection of skills-enhancement opportunities that directly correspond to the career interests of our researchers.¹

In response to demand, we have increased the provision of peer support opportunities such as writing 'bootcamps' and early career lunches. Demand for interdisciplinary methods training is growing, and we are working closely with the Researcher Development team in Social Sciences to develop and deliver new offerings that meet the needs of those who work at, across, and beyond disciplinary boundaries. In addition, a number of the core workshops offered through our training pathways are designed, delivered or facilitated by DPhil students and postdoctoral researchers, supported by the Divisional training team. These opportunities offer valuable skills development and employment experience for our researchers.

¹ Sector interest data is gathered systematically from postgraduate research students during enrolment at the beginning of each academic year.

Dr Caroline Thurston, Humanities Researcher Development and Training Manager



AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund and Public Engagement with Research Summer School

We are proud that experiential, hands-on learning continues to be the foundation of the researcher development and training programme. This year, the AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund, Student Peer Review College, and Public Engagement with Research Summer School were coordinated with great proficiency and professionalism by Sumner Braund (DPhil in History) and Glenn Cahilly-Bretzin (DPhil in English). In turn, these initiatives equipped nearly 100 researchers from three institutions with the resources and opportunities to run conferences, create podcasts, design and deliver public engagement events, learn and apply peer review technique, and much more.

In 2018-19, the AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement with Research Summer School received a second commendation from the Vice-Chancellor in the 'Building Capacity' category of Oxford's annual Public Engagement with Research Awards. The award was received by Hanna Smyth and Dr Lidia Zanetti Domingues (2017-18 Graduate Project Coordinators) and Dr Caroline Thurston (Humanities Researcher Development and Training Manager), and demonstrates TORCH's commitment to embedding public engagement into humanities research at all career stages.

Baillie Gifford Writing Partnerships Programme

This programme pairs up graduate and early career scholars in the Humanities Division with a writing partner for regular writing meet-ups, working independently in each other's company. As programme coordinator, I match participants



Image by Sybilla Pereira



according to their meet-up preferences (time, place, and frequency) as well as research interests, career stage, and other needs. I also offer:

- a basic template for the first writing meet-up
- weekly writing tips – topics have included: learning from hearing your writing read aloud by your partner, how to plan a conference talk, and how to conduct a regular professional review or map out the roles and goals that matter to you
- writing-related readings and thoughts for the week
- writing breakfasts and bootcamps, involving timed writing sessions with goal-setting and review, exploratory tasks, guided stretching, plus admin, computer-housekeeping, or work-sharing sessions
- the option to meet me in person for one-to-one planning or troubleshooting conversations.

In 2018-19, 43 Masters students, 58 DPhil students, and 11 postdoctoral students took part in the scheme. The strongest benefits participants reported were: feeling better about how much writing they get done, improving their ability to focus, adding structure to their week, and enhancing social connectedness. The single most helpful or revealing element mentioned most often was the practice of goal-setting for a defined length of time, and learning how much you can get done in a set time protected from distractions.

Anxiety, lack of focus, and social isolation are prevalent problems in the academic world, and this is one practical but also profound way of addressing them, by starting small and very concrete.

Participants said:

"It has been reassuring to know that there is one morning a week where I can expect to get a solid amount of work done. The experience of a focused and productive writing session gives me a feeling of security as I go through different arcs of work during the rest of the week."

"Writing had become a fraught process for me at Oxford because of health problems, and on my own I was just frustrating myself further into a rut I was trying to get out of. I knew I needed to try something new, and the programme was definitely something new to try at the right time. I liked the practical tone of the ad, particularly knowing that matching was done by the coordinator (no social pressure), and that a potential match would be doing a different subject."

"I benefited enormously from this experience. I feel like I'm slowly starting to regain my confidence in my own ability to work, and this bootcamp and my writing partner meetings have had a lot to do with that. Thanks for putting together such a thoughtful programme. I'm not terrified of my writing goals this term, for once!"

"The bootcamp had many benefits small and larger. Many thanks for the reminder about setting a principle to follow this term. The structuring and goal setting provided both a window into my overestimation of what was achievable and the opportunity for reflection to adjust and learn. Good stuff!"

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCHERS



Dr Michelle Degli Esposti Department of Experimental Psychology

I have recently completed my DPhil in Experimental Psychology, which was generously supported by TORCH, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Clarendon. My DPhil was funded in collaboration with a DPhil historian (Jono Taylor) and focused on understanding the risks associated with childhood adversity. This included mapping out yearly rates of child maltreatment in the UK from the 1850s to today using multiple sources of government data. We found that, overall, national levels of child maltreatment have significantly

decreased by around 90% - a promising finding that suggests we are getting better at protecting our children. This unique interdisciplinary research is now published in *PLoS One* and the *Lancet Public Health*.

Working within TORCH has been a privilege. Fellow researchers and the TORCH administrative team have been nothing but supportive. A special thanks to Dr Vicky McGuinness for being the guiding force behind our DPhils. I will miss working alongside everyone and having one of the best offices in Oxford (!). TORCH has been an invaluable stepping stone in my research career and I hope it is not the last time I work in the TORCH research community.

Working within TORCH has been a privilege. Fellow researchers and the TORCH administrative team have been nothing but supportive.

Dr Michelle Degli Esposti



Image by Jane Wynyard

Associate Professor Liz Frood Faculty of Oriental Studies

I've been involved in TORCH in one way or another since its inception, mostly as a member of the management committee. This is a very privileged place to be, not only for the opportunity to contribute to overall direction and vision, but also to bear witness to the extraordinary diversity of interdisciplinary research taking place across the Humanities, and the University more broadly. It is all very inspiring. And it is inspiring for me in very particular ways, not only because my subject area, Egyptology, is by its nature cross-disciplinary (for me, intersecting archaeology, anthropology, and philology), but also because of my own recent personal history.

I returned to the University in 2016 after a serious illness in 2015 that left me with life-changing injuries. I was immediately brought back into the TORCH fold, and this

has supported my slow and (somewhat) steady return to research activity. Participation in the TORCH Disability and Curriculum seminar series developed by Marie Tidball in 2017 gave me an opportunity to think about how I might return to my fieldwork projects in Egypt, and how this in itself would open up new research questions and methods. I have been working on ancient graffiti (hieroglyphic, hieratic, and figural) in the temple of the god Amun at Karnak, a sprawling complex on the east bank of the Nile, in Luxor. In 2018 I returned to Egypt and restarted those projects, and now see so many possibilities opening up; I am sure these will be involving TORCH in the future.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCHERS



Dr Jono Taylor Faculty of History

I have recently completed my DPhil in History, which was generously supported by TORCH, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Clarendon Fund.

My DPhil formed one half of an interdisciplinary project which involved working closely with fellow student (now Dr!) Michelle Degli Esposti. Michelle's research background, in Experimental Psychology, in combination with her amazing can-do attitude, meant that she was ideally placed to help interpret historical data sets which concern national levels of child maltreatment. The findings of this collaborative research proved invaluable when writing my DPhil thesis which concerned the experiences of looked after children, in England, in the middle-decades of the twentieth century.

TORCH provided a wonderfully supportive environment in which to conduct my research. Training and outreach initiatives, organised by the amazing TORCH team, in combination with opportunities to meet academics working in a wide range of disciplines, have provided me with a wealth of skills and experience. I'd love the opportunity to collaborate with TORCH in future research projects!

TORCH provided a wonderfully supportive environment in which to conduct my research.

Dr Jono Taylor



Associate Professor Marion Turner Faculty of English

I've recently written a biography – *Chaucer: A European Life* – which came out with Princeton University Press in April 2019. It is the first full biography of the poet for a generation and the first biography of Chaucer by a woman. Many people think of Chaucer as the 'father of English literature,' the head of the canon, but this doesn't reflect how people thought about him during his lifetime – he was experimental, international, and in many ways radical. His life and his intellectual influences were European, and indeed global. In order to explore his imaginative development in new ways, I decided to approach his life through places and spaces. The art and objects that Chaucer saw, the buildings in which he worked, the books he read, the structures in which he lived his life, are all part

of his story. I'm really delighted that TORCH is featuring the book as a Book at Lunchtime event on 30 October 2019, with a fantastic interdisciplinary panel.

I've recently become more involved with TORCH as I was awarded a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship – in Michaelmas term 2019 I am going to be working with a local educational arts organization, and also Creation Theatre, on projects that focus on bringing Chaucer's work to new audiences. Chaucer's poetry both speaks to many of our contemporary concerns and allows us to make an imaginative leap to a very different time and place.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



TORCH continues to foster and develop a rich spectrum of Knowledge Exchange (KE) projects as part of its mission to explore and extend the possibilities for interdisciplinary research and engagement activities. The KE Seed Fund, KE Fellowships, and a range of other KE related activities have all attracted strong numbers of applications from faculties across the Division, and indeed across the University, productively working with an exciting, diverse, and complex group of external partners.

This past year we were able to award a further nine KE Fellowships, with highlights including *Chaucer Here and Now*, a project led by Dr Marion Turner (English) exploring the contemporary resonance of Chaucer's multi-lingual, multi-medial work, through collaboration with Flash of Splendour, an arts organisation that works in innovative ways with local schools; *HIV/AIDS in Greece: A Political Archive*, a project led by Associate Professor Dimitris Papanikolaou (Medieval and Modern Languages), in collaboration with Thetiki Phoni (Positive Voice), investigating archives, politics, and identity in times of crisis in an effort to establish 'how (not) to write the history of Greek homosexuality'; and *The Egypt Music Project* led by Dr James Whitbourn (Music), in collaboration with the 'revolutionary and powerfully atmospheric' band of musician-researchers known as Oxford Maqam.

Having been engaged with KE in its various forms for several years, I took on the role of KE Champion at the start of 2019. It has been a roller-coaster ride, as news of the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, with a vibrant KE Hub at its core, emerged over the past few months. We have held a number of enormously productive meetings with local cultural partners in Oxford(shire), all of whom who have been generous with their time, their advice, and their excitement about the way ahead. We have also continued to develop and extend understanding of KE amongst colleagues within the Humanities, with workshops for graduates alongside information sessions and 'surgeries' for both early career and long-established researchers. Everything we do is powered by, and grounded in Humanities research, which is itself enriched and transformed (sometimes loudly, sometimes quietly) by the process of engagement with external partners: this is what makes the efforts of all those involved in KE through TORCH worthwhile.

**Professor Wes Williams (Medieval and Modern Languages),
Knowledge Exchange Champion**

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange



Knowledge Exchange Fellowships Music Egypt Project

This two-part project focusses on the music of Egypt – Ancient Egypt and Modern Egypt. Both parts include the Egyptian soprano Fatma Said as performing artist. Based on the texts of Ancient Egypt, Part 1 sees the creation of a new musical work composed to form part of the centenary celebrations of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. Part 2 re-imagines and sets out an important but now-threatened genre of Egyptian music that flourished in the 20th century. By collaborating with Oxford Maqam, we bring scholars and performing artists into a single framework.

For the new composition, the collaboration takes a practical form, drawing on the expertise of the specialist instrumentalists taken from the Oxford Maqam ensemble, helping to define the sound palette through workshops and improvisation.

The twentieth century study looks to the music of Abdel Wahab and others, and lays the foundations for a follow-on that sees the creation of a set of practical, accurate and scholarly materials of newly-arranged scores for musical performance which can be published in sheet music form and also through recordings and broadcasts.

Fatma Said has already completed a residency in Oxford in order to work with the Griffith Institute and with Professor Richard Parkinson. I will travel to Cairo later in 2019 in order



Image courtesy of Thetiki Foni (www.positivevoice.gr)

to meet with collaborators and experts there. In Cairo, we will also work through legal matters of copyright and performance rights to ensure as much work as possible can be given public access.

Dr James Whitbourn (Music)

HIV/AIDS in Greece: A Political Archive

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/hiv-aids-in-greece-a-political-archive

Both a public engagement programme and a queer archive project, this Knowledge Exchange Fellowship enables Dimitris Papanikolaou and a team of researchers to work together with Greek HIV/AIDS NGO Thetiki Foni (Positive Voice), in order to create the foundations for a community-run 'HIV/AIDS archive' in Greece.

In the first instance the project addresses a common observation among activists and scholars, that secrecy regarding the disease in the 1980s and 1990s and the absence of sustained public engagement with its impact on the lives of individuals and the Greek queer community, belie deeper anxieties over public health, and sexual and dissident identities. It also points towards a tendency of kinship networks to substitute and close(t) down functions of the public sphere. AIDS in Greece very much remained "a family matter", and the secrecy often surrounding it also meant a lack of public mourning for its victims, as well as the disavowal of the political ramifications a more public fight against HIV/AIDS could have had in Greek society. Retelling the cultural and social history of HIV/AIDS in Greece today, therefore, also means remembering efforts that have tried to render the fight against the disease more public in the past, as well as their official or unofficial undermining; reconstructing important scenes of (community) trauma, stigma and survival; collecting unclaimed memorabilia, cultural texts, testimonials. The current project cannot exhaust all these undertakings, but it can certainly open the discussion, and lay the foundations for a public and

participatory archive. The initial steps of the fellowship have also helped us realize that such an undertaking directs itself to a series of interrelated (and similarly disavowed) archives, among others:

- an archive of gender and kinship and their role in Greek society
- an archive of homophobia and (often institutionalized) racism
- an archive of queer subcultures and community
- an archive of gender violence
- an archive of feelings.

For all those reasons, the social history of HIV/AIDS cannot but be thought of as a political archive, whose importance and topicality become all the more felt today in Greece; only last March, for instance, Thetiki Foni's main checkpoints in Athens became the target of an arson attack by unidentified assailants.

In public talks and roundtables that will take place throughout 2019-20 (culminating in March-June 2020), the project will therefore address this perceived lack in the public history of HIV/AIDS in Greece. It will ask why this lack occurred in the first place. It will try, through activist engagement, scholarly exchange and public dialogue, to add to the existing narratives of the impact of the disease on Greek society with a specific reference to the queer community. Last, but not least, it will contemplate the difficulties of addressing this history today, and its political ramifications.

Two further undertakings will be the main objectives of the project during the year:

- a) The publication and ongoing development of a website (that will first go live in September 2019 and will be further built up during the year of the fellowship). It will provide short bibliographical essays on various aspects on HIV/AIDS in Greece (from an overview of published scholarship, to a discussion of literature, theatre and cinema; from accounts of past community projects to overviews of media panics and official campaigns). The website, at the same time, will serve as a hub for the collection of further material, testimonials and written reflections.
- b) The foundation of an archival collection run by Thetiki Foni; it will document its own history and activities, but also expand to include material and testimonies related to HIV/AIDS in Greece since the 1980s. The aim of the fellowship is to help Thetiki Foni decide on the status and exact nature this collection will take, and to learn from the experience and the difficulties of its

foundation. It is hoped that the full organization of such a larger and expansive archive will be the objective of a future related research project.

Dr Dimitris Papanikolaou (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Chaucer Here and Now

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/chaucer-here-and-now

Chaucer's texts are studied at university and A-level (and occasionally by younger children), but today they are generally seen as 'difficult' and often perceived as inaccessible. Usually, younger children do not have access to Chaucer, and members of the public are not presented with 'ways into' Chaucer's texts (in contrast to Shakespeare). While there have been brilliant adaptations, re-writings, and performed versions, much more could be done to bring Chaucer's work to wider audiences.

My KE project – 'Chaucer Here and Now' – involves working with an educational arts organisation, Flash of Splendour, to develop school workshops and to write a major funding bid. We are going to be focusing on this work in Michaelmas term 2019. Long-term, we hope to gain significant funding from an external organisation for a Chaucer Day, incorporating newly commissioned plays and other interpretations of Chaucer's works, while also involving local schools including children with SEND. The Chaucer Day would also utilise the Bodleian's exceptional manuscript and early print resources in an exhibition. Short-term, we are developing workshops to be trialled in schools this autumn by Flash of Splendour, based on individual *Canterbury Tales*, focusing on reaching children who otherwise do not have access to Chaucer's poetry.

Flash of Splendour will encourage creative and innovative responses to the material from the students.

Building on our successful KEF application, I have gained further funding from Jesus College to work with Creation Theatre. This autumn we will be producing a pilot collaboration: a dramatic performance of



Participants in the Transforming Baltic Food Systems meeting in Riga, Latvia

the 'Pardoner's Tale' in a newly commissioned adaptation, which will be staged in various locations around Oxford, including pop-up performances in places such as pubs and shopping centres. While much of my work involves Chaucer in the classroom, these projects aim to place him everywhere – and to underline what Chaucer means here and now.

Dr Marion Turner (English)

Evaluating the Ethics of State-Based Strategies for Reducing Per Capita Meat Consumption

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/reducing-meat-consumption-ethics

My project is focused on working with the World Health Organization to examine the ethical aspects of using policy approaches to reduce meat consumption for health and environmental reasons. Early on in the project, I had a wonderful opportunity to take part in a workshop in Riga, Latvia, organized by the WHO, with a theme of "Towards Healthy Food Systems in the Baltic Region." The workshop showcased a number of different opinions from various stakeholders, from local chefs to nutrition experts to environmental advocates, and offered a helpful glimpse into how the WHO views policy discussions. One especially interesting aspect of the meeting was that the nearby Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, and Finland) are all leaders in using policy approaches to influence health and the environment, and the Baltic region is very open to these ideas despite being in very different cultural and economic circumstances.

Back in Oxford, I presented about my project to a team meeting of the Livestock, Environment and People (LEAP) project, and have been engaging in dialogue with them about different research ideas. I met with Kremlin Wicksramasinghe and Joao Breda of the WHO along with Mike Rayner of Oxford to discuss a future workshop on the topic. I also organized a meeting between Peter Singer, who was visiting, and local Oxford researchers to debate the idea of a "meat



The Jewish Country House II: la grande bourgeoisie juive à la campagne – réseaux, familles, patrimoine

tax." In November, Katrien Devolder and I are organizing a workshop on Gene Editing and Livestock, which also has been suggested as a method for alleviating health and environmental concerns, and I also presented on this topic to the Nuffield Council of Bioethics. Early in 2020 Oxford will host a workshop with the WHO specifically about using policy to influence health choices.

Dr Adam Shriver (Philosophy)

The Jewish Country House in Europe

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/jewish-country-house-in-europe

This ambitious project aims to establish 'Jewish' country houses as a focus for research, a site of European memory and a significant aspect of European Jewish heritage and material culture. Building on the successes of a 2017-18 Fellowship in partnership with the National Trust and Historic England, this second KE Fellowship has enabled PI Abigail Green to open up a properly European dimension to the project, in partnership with the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Heritage and Culture (AEPJ). The Fellowship also allowed us to continue our work with the National Trust, through dedicated training sessions, and to bridge the gap between internal seed-funding and a major research grant.

The centrepiece of this year's activity was a conference held at Villa Kerylos in France, hosted and co-funded by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux. This exciting event allowed heritage professionals from across Europe to learn from each other and encounter cutting-edge research by scholars based in Britain, France and the US, serving as a platform to launch a pan-European network of 'Jewish' country houses with research and touristic dimensions. We shall continue this work within the framework of a four-year AHRC funded research grant: "'Jewish' country houses – objects, networks, people'. The grant is a collaboration between the Universities of Oxford, Cardiff and Durham, with a total project cost of just under £1,000,000. Working closely with our project partners (the AEPJ, the National



Trust, Strawberry Hill House and Waddesdon Manor), we aim to transform practice in the heritage sector across Europe by developing an intellectual framework and practical resources to enable heritage professionals in often under-resourced properties to better engage the 'Jewishness' of these properties and their often-contested histories.

Professor Abigail Green (History)

Ubharte Rehnuma: Prospects and Pathways for Muslim Family Law in India

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/ubharte-rehnuma

My Knowledge Exchange project is supporting an ongoing collaboration with some Muslim women's rights organisations in India. For two years, I have worked with a women's rights group known as the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (Indian Muslim Women's Movement) on a knowledge exchange programme called 'Ubharte Rehnuma' (Arising Leaders). This programme has led to two workshops, both funded by the AHRC, which were designed to provide knowledge to equip women's activists and social workers who work with women at the grassroots level. They focused on a range of subjects including the values of the Indian constitution, social development and Islamic law.

This KE Fellowship will fund a third 'Ubharte Rehnuma' with the same core team of participants. Once again, we will recruit session leaders to deliver sessions on subjects felt to be of most value. In particular, we will discuss the Muslim Women's Protection of Rights on Marriage Act, which has recently been passed and has abolished a controversial form of divorce known as *talaq-i-bid'ah* (or 'instant triple-talaq'). This workshop will mark a major opportunity to discuss the law and its consequences; it will consider what the law means, how it is being used, and what might be the next steps for advancing women's rights. I will bring my background knowledge on Indian law and Islamic divorce law to this discussion.

Professor Justin Jones (Theology and Religion)





The White Rose Project

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/white-rose

In 1943 five students and a professor at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich were arrested, interrogated, tried, and executed. They were members of The White Rose (Die Weiße Rose), a clandestine group who wrote and distributed political leaflets calling on Germans to resist Hitler. These leaflets ('Flugblätter') draw on a range of philosophical ideas and urge readers to open their eyes to the atrocities being committed in the name of the Nazi regime. They denounce the persecution of European Jews and call for an end to the war. The final leaflet was smuggled out and, in the summer of 1943, Allied aircraft dropped millions of copies of it over Germany.

The White Rose is a household name in Germany but is little known in the UK. The White Rose Project aims to make the story of this hidden history better known here. The Project has already curated a display in the Bodleian's Proscholium and published a new critical translation of the Leaflets by a team of Oxford undergraduates, in the same age group as those whose work they have translated. As a KE Fellow I will work with the Munich-based White Rose Foundation (Weiße Rose Stiftung), whose mission is to uphold the group's memory and 'to contribute to civic courage and individual responsibility and to promote democratic consciousness'. Through a series of podcasts and a public engagement event in spring 2020, we will raise awareness of the history and legacy of the White Rose, contextualising them in a much larger story about the power of the written word, and how culture can inform political action.

Find out more at www.whiteroseproject.org.

Dr Alex Lloyd (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Knowledge Exchange Projects

Labelling Matters: Activating Objects

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/labelling-matters

The Labelling Matters project explores the often problematic language (textual and pictorial) used within the Pitt Rivers Museum. The labelling within the Museum is in itself historic, thus the project is seeking ways to create interventions within the Museum that does not erase the history of those labels but uses them to explore the processes, such as colonialism, that uphold hierarchical ideologies and stereotypes. The Pitt Rivers Museum seeks to confront uncomfortable histories and the Labelling Matters project has outlined new and innovative forms of interpretation to subvert traditional narratives of the collections within the Museum.

Labelling Matters: Activating Objects is a part of the wider Labelling Matters project, in the form of a partnership with Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford Spires Academy and Chrome Media to create a series of short broadcast-quality podcasts with students from Oxford Spires Academy interacting with items in the collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum, exploring the use of language and text and the challenges presented in that context by the Museum's colonial origins. The students will work with the Museum to refine a pilot framework for recognizing said colonial ideas that appear through the Museum's use of language. This will bring new voices and perspectives into the Museum in a popular format and will instead counteract the tipp-exing of history by adding nuanced layers.

Marenka Thompson-Odlum (Pitt Rivers Museum)

Oxford and War

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/oxford-and-war

The Museum of Oxford is in the midst of a multi-year HLF-funded redevelopment of their permanent gallery space. This is allowing them to expand the range of Oxford stories they tell; including a new section "Oxford and War", which will examine how Oxford responded to and was affected by 20th-century wars. The Oxford and War addition poses a challenge for the museum, because none of the artefacts slated to appear in it have ever previously been on permanent display. This means that, unlike for example Oxford's medieval and Anglo-Saxon history – which both featured heavily in the museum's former permanent galleries – for Oxford and War the museum has no existing research or label content to draw upon to interpret these objects for visitors, and the museum has no permanent curatorial staff.

Hanna's role is to conduct research on the people and objects of Oxford's war stories. She will be both diving deeper into stories the museum has already identified, and also searching out new ones to tell us about Oxford and its war history in different ways. She is a recent DPhil History student, having submitted her thesis on First World War memorials and cemeteries in April 2019.

Thousands of people, locals and tourists alike, visit the Museum of Oxford each year to learn more about this city. Thanks to this Heritage Seed Fund grant, Oxford's war history – a very important part of its story – has the opportunity to be critically researched and engagingly interpreted to become a fundamental part of the story Oxford tells about itself to the world.

Hanna Smyth (DPhil in History)

Journeys to Oxford

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/journeys-to-oxford

JC Niala is working with the Museum of Oxford on their Journeys to Oxford permanent exhibition as the museum prepares to re-launch in 2020. Journeys to Oxford is an exhibition featuring the lives of people who have moved to Oxford and have left their mark on the city. Using a mixture of traditional display cabinets and listening posts, visitors to the museum will receive a guided experience of the City of Oxford from a diverse and inclusive perspective. The exhibition will bring to the fore the fascinating but often lesser-told history of the city.

JC is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology with a passion for Oxford's social history. The City of Oxford is her research field site and previous projects include Women in Oxford's History Podcast series, contributing to the Out in Oxford museums trail and a mini-ethnography of a street in Summertown. The collaboration between JC and the Museum of Oxford is also a means for knowledge exchange with Oxford residents.

JC Niala (DPhil in Anthropology)

RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS



collaborations between researchers and educational institutions from across the world through seed funding and supporting networks.

TORCH also facilitates research partnerships within the business and cultural sector. Dr Hannah Coleman Manktelow supports collaborations between researchers, theatres and theatre-makers in Oxfordshire and beyond; Imelda Dooley Hunter provides opportunities for researchers to connect with organisations from within the creative industries; the National Trust Partnership, led by Alice Purkiss, promotes links between researchers and colleagues from the National Trust; and the Business Engagement & Partnerships team, led by Esther Brown, encourages and facilitates connections between academics and partners in industry. TORCH also fosters links with local charities and cultural bodies, with recent projects in collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum, the Young Women's Music Project, the Pitt Rivers Museum, and Yellow Submarine, an Oxford-based charity supporting people with learning disabilities and autism.

Mutually beneficial research partnerships are at the heart of what TORCH does. Here we share with you a selection of some of our key research partnerships from the past year.

Dr Victoria McGuinness, Head of Research Partnerships

Public Engagement with Research www.torch.ox.ac.uk/per

Humanities researchers regularly involve the public with their research, and, through TORCH, we aim to foster and facilitate Public Engagement with Research (PER) collaborations and opportunities for Oxford researchers. By creating and supporting these opportunities, we can share and involve a broader range of people in research at Oxford. TORCH aims to engage as wide an audience as possible, with a particular emphasis on events that are free and open to everyone.

Throughout the year, TORCH hosts a number of large-scale public events, facilitating a valuable two-way exchange of knowledge and ideas. Events such as Victorian Light Night, a spectacular festival-style evening involving projections, activities, talks, stalls and games for all ages, are a fantastic way of engaging the public with research. The stunning sound and light show, designed by the award-winning Projection



Studio (Ross Ashton and Karen Monid), was projected onto the original Radcliffe Infirmary building, now Radcliffe Humanities. Following a competition at Cheney School and their 'Rumble Museum', the designs of three winners were also incorporated into the projections. There was particularly enthusiastic engagement between researchers and members of the public, in the spirit of the Being Human Festival.

Events such as the flagship Book at Lunchtime series, in which a multi-disciplinary panel of experts discuss a recently published book by an Oxford scholar, attracts an enthusiastic local audience. The discussions are recorded and freely available on the University's Podcasts website, meaning their scope reaches ever wider audiences. TORCH also collaborates with local partners to extend the scope of their public engagement, with events as wide-ranging as a Harry Potter tour of the Ashmolean Museum with Dr Beatrice Groves, and a charity concert by former Supergrass frontman Gaz Coombes. Similarly, TORCH partnered with the Ashmolean Museum at an event at the Sheldonian Theatre with artist Jeff Koons in conversation with art historian Professor Martin Kemp, enabling local school, college and university students to attend this fascinating discussion free of charge. These initiatives are key to ensuring research remains relevant and open to all.

Humanities and Policy Engagement

Researchers and academics across the Humanities Division are actively engaged in policy work. Achieving policy impact is increasingly important in research funding and assessment and many researchers find it an exciting way to enrich and expand their work.

While some may assume humanities have less to offer policy than – for instance – science, technology and data-driven subjects, humanities researchers find their perspectives are much sought-after by policy makers. The disciplines can offer insights into ethical debates, bring a human perspective to tech development and data interpretation, and provide compelling narratives and case-studies to illustrate problems.

Researchers in the Division approach policy engagement in a variety of ways. Some have established strong partnerships with policy makers and are actively influencing their agendas. Others respond opportunistically to requests to share their research or contribute expertise at a particular moment in the policy process. Many more share research beyond academia through knowledge exchange or public engagement, which may be the first step to policy work.

For Katrin Kohl, Professor of German Literature and Principal Investigator on the 'Creative Multilingualism' project, awareness of the deepening UK languages crisis prompted her to first pursue policy work. Talking to language teachers Kohl learnt that difficult GCSE and A level papers, harsh marking, and anomalies in grading were driving students out of the subject. She therefore focused on pushing language teaching up the political agenda to create an environment where modern foreign languages could flourish in schools and universities.

Initial engagement with the exam regulator Ofqual did not achieve change as its objective was to keep grades stable over time. Kohl subsequently analysed exam papers and Ofqual's policy documentation to demonstrate the issues



Image by John Cairns

with grading, built relationships with the Chief Regulator and Schools Minister, and presented to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages. It is not yet clear whether this will bring change to the teaching and assessment of languages, but by building her evidence base and developing relationships with policy makers, Kohl has effectively positioned herself to influence policy in future.

Other examples of policy engagement in the Humanities Division include (but are not limited to):

- **Emeritus Professor John Broome** has contributed a philosophical perspective to the climate change debate and was one of two philosophers on the 800-strong panel of authors of the International Panel on Climate Change's 2014 report, which was the basis for the Paris Agreement in 2015.
- **Professor Helen Small's** research into the meanings and value ascribed to old age has helped frame the debate about how we respond to the implications of an ageing society.
- **Dr Jeremy Howick's** application of philosophical approaches to health science has helped clarify what counts as high-quality evidence in evidence-based medicine.
- **Dr Joshua Hordern** has worked with the Royal College of Physicians to identify the skills, values and attributes essential to modern medical professional practice, and with Oxford University Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust to embed these in clinical training.
- **Dr Sally Frampton** and colleagues are developing medical humanities content for Oxford's undergraduate medical curriculum with a view to influencing the teaching of medical humanities more widely.
- **Professor Elleke Boehmer's** research into early Indian migration has improved the evidence base for policy makers interested in the impact of immigration in the UK.

Louie Fooks, Humanities and Healthcare Policy Officer



Business Engagements and Partnerships

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/bep

The Business Engagements and Partnerships (BEP) team operates across the Humanities and Social Sciences, working with a variety of external partner organisations from the private, public, and third sectors to expand knowledge exchange and broaden research impact.

A number of funding schemes, such as the BEP Seed Fund and the Knowledge Exchange Fellowships (Business and Industry), support researchers to build mutually beneficial partnerships with external stakeholders. Meaningful and productive two-way discussions with businesses, industry bodies and not-for-profit organisations provide valuable opportunities to explore key sector-specific challenges that, if addressed, will raise productivity and economic growth through innovation.

The BEP team also supports the development of collaborative research and development applications for funds relating to the Industrial Strategy. The Industrial Strategy is the UK government's long-term plan to raise productivity and earning power in the UK by investing in world-leading research and highly innovative businesses. The purpose of the Industrial Strategy is to address the biggest industrial and societal challenges today: future of mobility; clean growth; artificial intelligence and data; and an ageing society. Each of these challenges will focus on a specific problem, bringing government, businesses and academics together across the country.



Creative Industries

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/creative-industries

The creative sector represents one of the fastest growing areas of the UK economy, with a value of £101.7 billion. Over the past year, TORCH has supported a number of initiatives in collaboration with the sector, led by Imelda Dooley Hunter, Creative Industries Officer for the Humanities Division. Imelda supports and develops collaborative research projects with the creative sector, including running the learning and development programme, the 'Creative Industries Pathway'.

Recent and emerging projects include: prototyping of an Artificial Intelligence storytelling platform that creates retellings of Shakespeare plays as a narrative teaching tool; an Augmented Reality experience of Howard Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun; and an Augmented Reality intervention in which a Victorian schoolmistress interacts with visitors at the Ragged School Museum in East London. The work has also contributed to The Heritage Alliance's whitepaper on the intersection of Heritage and the Creative Industries, and led to a student placement with immersive experiences company Factory 42.

National Trust Partnership

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/ntp

Launched in 2018, the National Trust Partnership facilitates interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange, public engagement and training across a range of disciplines and career levels between the University of Oxford and the National Trust. The partnership is founded upon mutual benefit and two-way knowledge exchange: it facilitates new research into National Trust places and collections, which in turn is embedded into public-facing interpretation and programming. Meanwhile, access to the charity's buildings, collections and landscapes is



National Trust visitors look at the wooden drawers in the Muniment or Evidence Room at Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire. © National Trust Images/John Millar.

opened up to researchers alongside opportunities to learn from its staff, engage with its vast public audiences, and to develop more impactful research projects. Activities take place through a range of workstreams including research placements and consultancy, conferences, workshops, public events, staff training, PhDs and student internships.

In January, a new TORCH Knowledge Exchange Fellowship, led by Dr Alexandra Hughes-Johnson, began mapping connections between suffrage and colonial histories at National Trust properties. In

March the two-day 'Women & Power: Redressing the Balance' conference brought together over 130 researchers and heritage professionals from 50 different institutions to reflect on the centenary of the Representation of the People Act. In May and June the four-part 'People's Landscapes: Beyond the Green & Pleasant Land' public lecture series welcomed 20 speakers and over 190 attendees to explore people's engagement with, and impact upon, land and landscape in the past, present and future. Throughout July, 13 student 'micro-interns' supported a research project for Powis Castle, led by Dr Kieran Hazzard, which is seeking to re-examine the Clive Collection of Indian Artefacts.

Additional activities have included knowledge exchange workshops on a range of themes, a data science project exploring the impact of weather and climate change on heritage sites, the creation of three new collaborative PhD studentships, the development of an AHRC Network Grant, the design and delivery of new staff training programmes by Oxford graduate students at ECRs, and new articles for Trusted Source (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/trusted-source).

The cultural change driven by the partnership continues to open-up opportunities for impactful research and knowledge exchange across a range of subjects and provides new ways of exploring the commercial value of research to the UK economy. This success has been acknowledged by two industry and university award wins in the past year (Praxis Auril KE Partnership of the Year, 2019; Oxford University Vice Chancellor's Innovation Awards, 2018), in addition to the partnership's inclusion as a case study in the 2019 'State of the Relationship' report, published by the National Centre for Universities and Business.

Alice Purkiss, National Trust Partnership Lead; Vanessa Moore, National Trust Partnership Support Officer (until June 2019); Hanna Smyth, National Trust Partnership Support Officer (from August 2019)



International Engagement

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/international-engagement

In 2019 TORCH expanded its International Engagement activities widely, by introducing new funding opportunities and recruiting a new member of the team, the International Officer, to manage international collaboration projects.

TORCH International Fellowships

In the academic year 2019-19 three opportunities were available for international scholars wishing to spend time in Oxford working with local Humanities researchers. The TORCH Global South Visiting Professorships and Fellowships allowed seven leading academics from the Global South (such as Puerto Rico, India, and South Sudan) to spend at least one term in Oxford working on a research project, while at the same time sharing their findings with students, colleagues and the general public.

In Trinity term, TORCH was delighted to welcome three new Global South Professors and Fellows. The first to arrive, Professor Joy Owen, is the Head of the Anthropology department at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The Puerto Rican author, artist and researcher Eduardo Lalo was also a Global South Visiting Fellow. Lalo has also been Professor of Literature in the Faculty of General Studies at the University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras campus) for the past three decades.

Finally, at the time of writing, Nur Laiq is in Oxford as a Global South Visiting Fellow. She is a public policy expert from India and has worked for UN Department of Political Affairs, Policy Planning Unit, New York, with a focus on sustaining peace.

TORCH is delighted to announce that one more fellow from Argentina will come to Oxford in Michaelmas term 2019.

In addition to those listed above, two visiting fellows, from Tunisia and Brazil respectively, were awarded TORCH International Fellowships for shorter periods, through which

they engaged with a variety of audiences via conferences, lectures, and mentoring. The TORCH International Fellowship Scheme does not have geographic restrictions, and applications were received from candidates from five continents wishing to stay in Oxford for a period of approximately six weeks.

A third International Fellowship scheme was launched by TORCH in 2019, in collaboration with the Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx). Thanks to the AfOx-TORCH Visiting Fellowships, three academics from Nigeria and Kenya were able to come to Oxford for eight weeks during the long vacation, to work on their research in collaboration with leading local professors. Unlike the other International Fellows, the AfOx-TORCH Visiting Fellows were not required to have any prior connection with Oxford academics, and were welcomed during their stay by colleges as members of their Senior Common Room. They were thus able to fully participate in college life and share their research with the wider Oxford community through talks, interviews, and other initiatives.

TORCH International Partnerships

The International Partnership scheme enabled Oxford researchers to start collaborations with colleagues from international academic and cultural institutions. Grants were awarded to projects including summer schools (such as the Old Frisian Summer School, a collaboration between the Universities of Oxford and Groningen), doctoral workshops (for example Creative Cities, a series of workshops on the History of Science and Technology involving students and academics from Charles University, Prague), conferences and public engagement events. A total of eleven projects took place in 2019, and more received funding for events scheduled for the following academic year. The scheme managed to attract candidates from a variety of departments in the Humanities Division and beyond, including Philosophy, Oriental Studies, Linguistics, Anthropology and Classics. Oxford academics teamed up with a variety of partners to organise their international collaborations: these included not only universities, but also renowned cultural institutions such as Literaturhaus Berlin and the Fondazione Giorgio Cini of Venice.

With the latter, TORCH already had a long-standing relationship through Professor Richard Scholar, which was strengthened in 2019 thanks to the renewal of the Oxford-Venice Initiative scheme. This partnership allowed students, researchers and professors from the University of Oxford to receive support to spend time in Venice to carry out research on the Fondazione Cini's rich archival and library holdings.

Dr Lidia Zanetti Domingues, TORCH International Officer (2018-2019); Dr Anbara Khalidi, TORCH International Officer (from 2019)

BOOK AT LUNCHTIME

Book at Lunchtime is a series of bite-sized book discussions held fortnightly during term-time, with commentators from a range of disciplines. The events are free to attend and open to members of the University and the public alike, featuring books from a wide range of subjects.

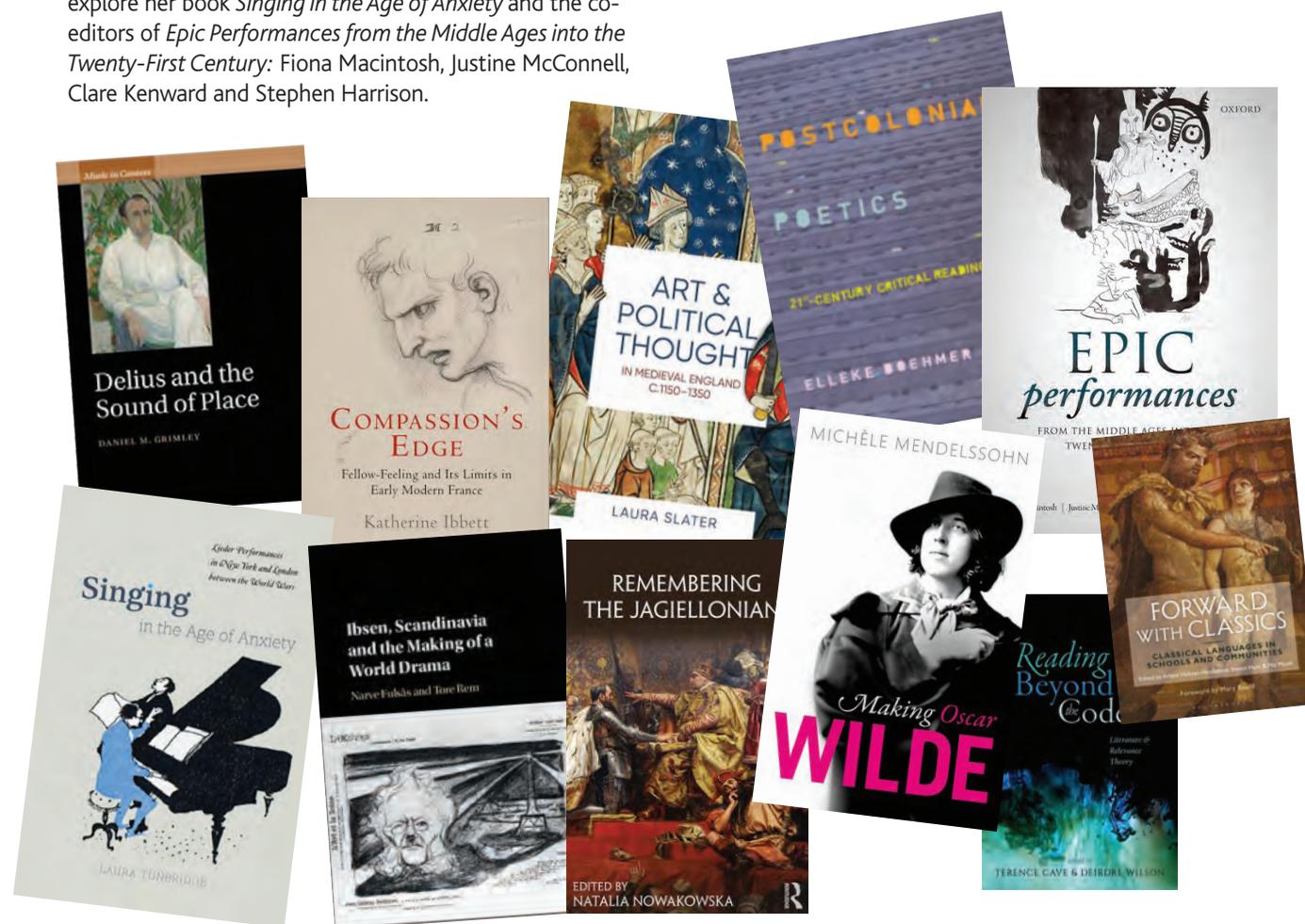
Michaelmas term 2018 began with a discussion of Reading *Beyond the Code*, edited by Terence Cave and Deirdre Wilson, before moving onto Natalia Novakowska's *Remembering the Jagiellonians*, Mai Musié and Steven Hunt's *Forward with Classics* and Michèle Mendelssohn's *Making Oscar Wilde*.

In Hilary term 2019, TORCH welcomed Tore Rem and Narve Fulsås to talk about their book *Ibsen, Scandinavia and the Making of a World Drama*, Elleke Boehmer to discuss her recently published *Postcolonial Poetics*, Laura Tunbridge to explore her book *Singing in the Age of Anxiety* and the co-editors of *Epic Performances from the Middle Ages into the Twenty-First Century*: Fiona Macintosh, Justine McConnell, Clare Kenward and Stephen Harrison.

Finally, in Trinity term 2019, TORCH hosted panels to discuss Laura Slater's *Art and Political Thought in Medieval England c. 1150-1350*, Katherine Ibbett's *Compassion's Edge: Fellow-Feeling and Its Limits in Early Modern France*, Kate McLoughlin's *Veteran Poetics: British Literature in the Age of Mass Warfare, 1790-2015* and Daniel Grimley's *Delius and the Sound of Place*.

As we move into the next academic year, we look forward to showcasing even more outstanding works by a diverse range of authors.

For suggestions for our Book at Lunchtime series, contact the TORCH Communications and Events Officer, Sarah Wright (torch@humanities.ox.ac.uk).



TORCH | ANNUAL HEADLINE SERIES

HUMANITIES & IDENTITIES

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/annual-headline-series

The Annual Headline Series provides a framework for TORCH research activities throughout the year. In Michaelmas term 2018, we continued to support events and opportunities relating to the Annual Headline Series 2016-18, *Humanities & Identities*. With funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the series focuses on multiple research areas relating to diversity, including race, gender, sexuality, disability, poverty, class, religion and inequality. *Humanities & Identities* brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, creative thinkers and wider communities interested in forms of self-identity past, present and future, with a number of exciting events and opportunities, some highlights of which are outlined below.

The TORCH-Pitt Rivers Museum Knowledge Exchange Fellowship, funded via *Humanities & Identities*, enables Professor Michèle Mendelssohn to work with the *Beyond the Binary: Queering and Questioning Collections and Displays* team at the Pitt Rivers on a fascinating research project, 'Queer students of colour at Oxford from 1900 to the present day'. In June 2019, we welcomed historian Professor Barbara D. Savage and writer Bonnie Greer, OBE for a captivating discussion focussing on their lives as black female intellectuals inside and outside of the academy and arts.

The Women's Spaces, Pleasure and Desire in the Belle Époque conference explored how different forms of women's space competed and co-existed around the world at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, and how these represented, structured or suppressed women's experiences of desire and pleasure. In July 2019, the *Activist Histories of Ireland: Historical, Transnational, and Contemporary Perspectives* conference examined the role of 'activism' in Irish history, drawing together both historians and contemporary activists in a dialogue about the historical contexts and parallels of recent campaigns, as well as examining the political and 'activist' role of historical scholarship itself. Moving forwards, TORCH continues to support activities relating to the *Humanities & Identities* Annual Headline Series.



Humanities & Performance

2019 saw the launch of our most recent Annual Headline Series, *Humanities & Performance*. This research theme celebrates the many existing partnerships between Oxford academics and leading arts organisations and seeks to position Oxford as a leading voice in the local, national and international performing arts world. At present, Oxford researchers are profoundly engaged in significant academic collaborations with the performing and creative arts, and the University is a powerful incubator for the careers of many of the UK's most notable performers and creative artists, whether in music, drama, cinema or visual culture.

Since the beginning of the *Humanities & Performance* Annual Headline Series, TORCH has supported a wide range of events and opportunities relating to the theme. For *Schumann at 200*, a concert co-hosted with the Faculty of Music, the Oxford University Orchestra undertook a rare performance of Clara Schumann's first piano concerto, under the direction of conductor Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey with pianist Carson Becke. In January 2019, the Oxford Psalms Network welcomed composer Howard Goodall, CBE to Worcester College for *Pelicans, Shepherds & Palaces*, a concert and talk on psalm-setting.

TORCH supported researchers to perform at Oxford's Offbeat Festival, with researchers JC Niala, Deborah Cameron, Will Watson, and Paul Lodge exploring life's big questions through drama, comedy and live music. Former Supergrass frontman Gaz Coombes performed a charity concert at the Sheldonian Theatre in aid of Yellow Submarine and the Young Women's Music Project, with an orchestra arranged and conducted by composer Luke Lewis. In collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum, TORCH supported an event with artist Jeff Koons and Professor Martin Kemp, discussing Koons' major exhibition at the Ashmolean.

Bringing together musicologists, modern linguists and cultural historians, the *Song Beyond the Nation: Translation,*

Transnationalism and Performance conference examined the work of four major poets – the Persian Hafiz, the German Heine, the American Whitman, and the French Verlaine – and how their verse has been set to music by a wide range of composers. The Trio Owon, trained at the Paris Conservatory, performed a lunchtime concert at the Holywell Music Room in February 2019, with plans to return for a further concert in 2020, and the same venue played host to the legendary singer Shahram Nazeri with the Mana Ensemble for *The Language of Love*, a Persian music concert.

Still to come, the TORCH-St Edmund Hall Writer in Residence scheme is designed to bring a BAME writer to the University of Oxford for Hilary term 2020 to work on a personal project of their choosing, collaborating with TORCH and St Edmund Hall networks to provide opportunities for budding writers.

We look forward to supporting more events on the *Humanities & Performance* theme in 2019-20, with highlights including a concert and Q&A with the Chineke! Ensemble and a panel discussion on *AI & Creativity* with Professor Marcus du Sautoy, composer Emily Howard and the RSC's Director of Digital Development, Sarah Ellis.

Humanities & Identities Projects funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

TORCH welcomed proposals from Oxford researchers in the Humanities or in collaboration with Humanities scholars for workshops and conferences relating to the headline theme of Humanities & Identities. Below are a selection of the successful bids.

Classical Theatre and the Middle East: 'Greek drama and the "classic(s)" in the Arab-speaking world and Iran' – Professor Fiona MacIntosh (Classics)

Learning to be Human? – Dr Victoria Elliott (Education)

The Historiography of Queer Cosmopolitanism – Colton Valentine (English)

New Voices in the History of War: II – Hannah Simpson (English)

Queer Modernism(s) III: Queer Networks – Lloyd Houston (English)

Talking Tibetan Identities – Dr Clare Harris (Pitt Rivers Museum)

Activist Histories of Ireland: Historical, Transnational and Contemporary Perspectives – Dr Andrew Phemister (History)

Women & Power: Redressing the Balance – Alice Purkiss (Humanities Division)

Autofiction - Theory, Practices, Cultures - A Comparative Perspective – Hannie Lawlor (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Armenia and Byzantium: Perspectives on Cultural and Political Relations – Dr David Zakarian (Oriental Studies)

Comics & Travel Conference – Dr Enrique Del Rey Cabero (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Women and Violence in the Mediterranean, ca. 1100-1500 – Dr Lidia Zanetti Domingues (History)

Women's Spaces, Pleasure, and Desire in the Belle Époque – Dr Rhiannon Easterbrook (History)

Paper Empires, Written Nations: Constitution-Making from the American Revolution to the Present – Dr Kieran Hazzard (Pembroke College)

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

Changing Lives: childhood experience, cumulative adversity, and supportive environments across the life course

We owe our interdisciplinary collaboration to the inspiration and support of TORCH. We were both appointed to our first permanent jobs, as associate professors at Oxford, in 2014 and met through being tutors at the same college. We realised we had a shared interest in the impact of adversity on children, and how this affects the people they grow to become. Yet, we work in utterly different disciplines – as an experimental psychologist with a background in social and genetic epidemiology and as an historian of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain with interests in social change and

identity. A few months after we met, TORCH advertised the opportunity to apply for a pair of Andrew W. Mellon doctoral studentships, designed to encourage researchers in the sciences and humanities to work together on a new shared research question. We were fortunate to be awarded the studentships for our project 'Childhood adversity and lifetime resilience'. The project examined the impact of childhood neglect and abuse across the life-course. This opportunity allowed us to gradually develop methodologies to bring quantitative and qualitative approaches into dialogue with



each other in examining the impact of childhood abuse and neglect.

The TORCH doctoral students, Michelle Degli Esposti and Jono Taylor, have now successfully completed their theses and are publishing articles from their research. They have both been appointed to their first postdoctoral roles as researchers. The warm and inspiring intellectual space offered by TORCH has been essential to their success. Their publications include a co-authored journal article, which describes an important new data source 'iCoverT'. By combining their skills as a statistician and an historian, the resource will enable researchers to explore long-term trends in child maltreatment in England and Wales. Our initial research collaboration has also grown, through the award of further funding from the Wellcome Trust and the Economic and Social Research Council, so that we have been able to develop important knowledge exchange partnerships with policy-makers and practitioners.

In addition to on-going invaluable support from TORCH, from 2019, our research has also been funded by the Calvea Foundation. This allows us to develop our interdisciplinary project 'Changing Lives: childhood experience, cumulative adversity, and supportive environments across the life course' at a much larger scale. Two postdoctoral researchers and two new DPhil students from October 2019 are expanding our research into how adversity and inequalities shape people's lives in modern Britain. We are also working with one of the project's postdoctoral researchers, Aoife O'Higgins, on a separate TORCH-funded project that examines carers' involvement in education and outcomes of children in care. Without the flexible and innovative support of TORCH, none of this would have been possible.

'Changing Lives' is original in combining evidence and approaches from psychology, epidemiology, and history to investigate how cumulative adversity and inequalities shape people's lives. We know that exposure to early life adversity is associated with poor psychological and physical outcomes across the life course. Yet, importantly, not all children who experience adversity are affected in the same way or to an equal extent – or indeed, statistically, at all. We have remarkably little evidence about the types of social and individual support, as well as the potential turning points, that make a difference across the life-course.

This project has three research strands. The first is an in-depth epidemiological analysis of detailed longitudinal databases in order to examine the relationships between early experiences of adversity and adult mental and physical health outcomes, and to identify potential mechanisms of change. The second is a deeply contextualised qualitative study of the lives of

children born in mid-twentieth-century south London. This will use archival records, including children's own writing, to explore how early experiences, family relationships, and support structures across the life course influence the health and well-being of older adults. The third strand, is an investigation of childhood adversity and inequalities, using psychological and historical evidence to think about what best supports children growing up in the most difficult circumstances.

Our research brings together the strengths of historical and psychological approaches in pioneering ways, to explore the deeply contextualised, quantitatively and qualitatively measured, life-long impacts of cumulative adversity in childhood. In so doing, the collaboration engages with two central challenges within our own disciplines – of how to integrate social and historical context into psychological and epidemiological analyses of individual characteristics; and of how to take seriously individual diversity and subjectivity within our studies of society. Our goal is to ensure, as far as possible, that the voices and experiences of children and young people are heard. We hope that the findings of our research will also help to provide important evidence for policymakers and practitioners who work to provide the best support for young people growing up in adverse circumstances today.

Dr Lucy Bowes (Experimental Psychology) and Dr Siân Pooley (History)

Medieval Science

The collaborative efforts of the Medieval Science Project this past year has seen an impressive co-authored research publication in *Bulletin de Philosophie Médiévale*, and a number of ongoing developments.

The project's most recent publication was researched and written by the DPhil students leading the project, Joshua Harvey (Experimental Psychology) and Timothy Farrant (Theology), under the title: 'Washington D.C.: "Aspectus and Affectus. Robert Grosseteste, Understanding and Feeling".' Following two well-received papers delivered at Georgetown University the year previous, Joshua and Timothy had co-authored a short publication (of a similar name) by invitation in *Revista Española de Filosofía Medieval* – and given its positive reception by the journal's editor, they were invited

to prepare an expanded version of the conference report for consideration in the prestigious *Bulletin de Philosophie Médiévale*. This offered Joshua and Timothy the opportunity to reflect upon the intersection of medieval theology and science in a formal publication (on the aspects of their work that relate to the collaborative efforts of the, connected, Ordered Universe Project). It further allowed their project to gain exposure in a widely-read venue in their shared discipline. The piece was accepted, and was published under *congrès terminés* in vol. 59 of the journal in the summer of 2018.

The co-authored publication's emphasis on the intersection of science and theology reflects the ongoing research work of Joshua and Timothy in their respective fields, and their shared interest in ideas surrounding perception in the Middle Ages. This is seen in Joshua's doctoral, and postdoctoral, work in the fields of sensory perception and information processing, and has resulted in three publications on sound, light, and imaging in the peer-reviewed journals *Applied Optics*, *Optics and Lasers in Engineering Science*, and *Perception*, as well as several abstracts and posters presented at conferences. By providing a deeper understanding of the psychological mechanisms underpinning perceptual observations and scientific theory in the Middle Ages, these publications shed new light on medieval natural philosophy, and demonstrate the value of collaborations between historians and scientists to both disciplines.

From a theological standpoint, Timothy has also developed approaches to medieval observations of the natural world within the context of Creation, reading, and biblical exegesis. This has seen him develop a coherent plan for the remainder of his thesis which explores the reception of Augustinian theology in twelfth-century texts on scripture and animals. In many ways, these interests have developed out of collaborative efforts, exploring the way medieval intellectuals perceived and 'read' nature on a semiotic level, in order to achieve a deeper sense of reality. The implications of reading medieval texts in this way has seen the publication of a peer-reviewed article exploring (in part) the significance of Augustine's hierarchy of celestial vision in the Middle Ages. The article appeared in print in *Philosophy and Theology* in the summer of 2019. It has also resulted in an invited paper given at the 2019 International Association of Anselm Studies Conference, presented at the University of Durham – a paper that aimed to reinterpret a section of Alexander Neckam's *De naturis rerum* in light of twelfth-century approaches to scripture.

The work of Joshua and Timothy has additionally seen their continued involvement in the Ordered Universe Project and its exploration of the writings of Robert Grosseteste. This has

involved attendance at conferences and symposia, as well as a sustained interest and involvement in outreach efforts such as Oxnet's Access Summer School at Pembroke College, Oxford (which impact has seen two years of students benefit from the project's work).

Given the impact of Joshua's publications especially, it is likely that he will continue to play a part in the direction of the Ordered Universe Project, alongside Principle Investigator, Professor Giles Gasper (Durham), and Co-Investigators Professor Hannah Smithson (Oxford) and Professor Tom McLeish (York). Joshua's close involvement with the project's developments, from 2018-19 especially, has seen his participation in several Ordered Universe events. This includes the 2019 International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds where, through four chaired panels, and a round table discussion, the project exhibited advancements in knowledge in relation to a range of Robert Grosseteste's treatises including *On light*, *On colour*, *On the Rainbow*, and *On the Generation of Sounds*.

Both Joshua and Timothy are extremely grateful for the generous support of the Mellon Fund which has enabled a fruitful collaboration, a deeper interdisciplinary appreciation of medieval scientific thought, and has already resulted in a number of significant research outputs. Without the kindness and continued interest of the Mellon Fund, none of these achievements would have been possible. For this reason, outreach and impact have become priorities of the project's members as they continue their careers in academia. priorities of the project's members as they continue their careers in academia.

Timothy Farrant (DPhil in Theology and Religion) and Joshua Harvey (DPhil in Engineering)



DONATING TO TORCH

TORCH is funded by various sources, including the University's John Fell Fund, with additional support from Trusts and Foundations, as well as private donors. TORCH is grateful to have also received funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as well as other donations, totalling over £3 million for the years 2013–2020.

TORCH has now completed its sixth full year in operation (2018–19) and continues to support, facilitate and encourage interdisciplinary research. As part of the University of Oxford's Humanities Division, TORCH is based in the Radcliffe Humanities building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

By providing small amounts of seed-funding to new research networks, TORCH has become an invaluable testing ground for innovative research projects. These projects are supported by TORCH's infrastructure, which offers free rooms for events, website hosting and advice, and investment from the TORCH team. Selected on a highly competitive basis, funding for networks lasts for up to two years, after which many networks apply for further external funding, bringing in valuable research grants to the University. Many networks go on to be more established research programmes at TORCH, using new approaches to tackle some of the challenging questions of our time.

TORCH is a very young institution in the University of Oxford's 900-year history, but it has already made a great impact in the University, in the UK, and internationally and, with support, its impact will continue to grow.

The TORCH vision immediately inspired me and I felt compelled to contribute from the beginning. At a time when so much research is becoming so highly specialised and inaccessible to the layman, it is critical that we support initiatives that will break down the barriers and refashion the way in which the humanities are presented, taught, thought about and communicated to future generations.

*Julian Schild, alumnus,
Pembroke College, Modern History*

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters. If you would like to give a gift to TORCH, please contact Dr Victoria McGuinness (Head of Research Partnerships): victoria.mcguinness@humanities.ox.ac.uk or online via the University campaign:

www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/torch

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EDITORIAL INFO

Edited by | Sarah Wright, Dr Justine Shaw,
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Design | Windrush Group www.windrushgroup.co.uk

Print | Oxuniprint www.oxuniprint.co.uk

Image credits: John Cairns | Stuart Bebb | Ian Wallman |
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