

## Timetable

**10.30-11.00 Coffee and registration**

**11.00-11.15- Welcome and co-convenors report by Lucinda Matthews-Jones and Jamie Wood**

**11.15- 12.00- Plenary paper one**

Stefan Collini (Cambridge), 'In the valley of its saying: on not "justifying" the humanities'

**12.00-12.45- Plenary paper two**

Karen Salt (Nottingham), 'Equity, Justice and the Necessity of Radical Thought'

**12.45-1.30- Lunch**

**1.30-1.45- Conferring new delegates to the Steering Committee**

**1.45-3.15- Roundtable and delegate discussion**

Sara Barker (Leeds) 'Thinking about the Past for the Future: students and the study of history'

James Baker (Sussex) 'Born Digital Archives'

Sihong Lin (Manchester) 'Diversifying Public History: A Medievalist's Perspective'

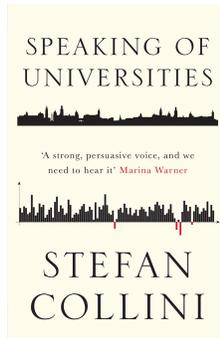
**3.15-3.30 Coffee**

**3.30-5.00 AGM meeting and SC meeting.**

## Speaker Biographies

### Plenary Speaker One: Stefan Collini, 'In the valley of its saying: on not "justifying" the humanities'

A short summary: 'Attempts to "justify" the humanities are too often simultaneously defensive and over-ambitious. In this lecture, Stefan Collini argues that we need to adopt different strategies for different audiences, and that by focussing on the merits of good work in individual disciplines we can hit a note that is at once more modest but also more confident.'



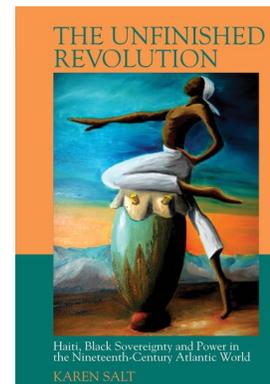
Stefan Collini is Professor Emeritus of Intellectual History and English Literature at Cambridge University, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He is the author of, among other books, *Public Moralists* (1991), *Matthew Arnold: a Critical Portrait* (1994), *English Pasts: Essays in History and Culture* (1999), *Absent Minds: Intellectuals in Britain* (2006), *Common Reading: Critics, Historians, Publics* (2008), and *Common Writing: Literary Culture and Public Debate* (2016), as well as a frequent contributor to *The London Review of Books*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, and other publications. His 2012 book *What Are Universities For?* and its sequel *Speaking of Universities* (2017), have become major points of reference in international debates about higher education.

### Plenary Speaker Two: Karen Salt, 'Equity, Justice and the Necessity of Radical Thought'

A short summary: In order to create just, equitable futures, we must re-vision our world using tools (and creating new ones) that embrace radical hope and critical reflection.

Dr Karen Salt has over 26 years' worth of experience working in and with communities, organisations, charities and governmental bodies, including running non-profits and engaging in community development work. Based at the University of Nottingham, she directs the Centre for Research in Race and Rights and leads the university's Black Studies PhD programme—the first interdisciplinary programme of its kind in Europe. An expert on sovereignty, power, collective activism and systems of governance, she leads and collaborates on a number of research projects, including the AHRC-funded "Geographies of Black Protest" that formed part of the larger networks funded as part of the UN Decade for People of African Descent.

She is a member of the Arts & Humanities Research Council Advisory Board where she advises on the development and implementation of strategic approaches to funding which reflect the challenges and opportunities arising for arts and humanities research and those that engage with it. She is also Deputy Chair of the UKRI's External Advisory Group for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. She is a sought after national speaker and



frequently works with arts and cultural organisations on transformational social justice and institutional change. Her monograph, *The Unfinished Revolution: Haiti, Black Sovereignty and Power in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World*, will be published by Liverpool University Press in Nov 2018. She is also working on new projects, including, *States of Blackness: Debt, Nationhood and Power in Haiti, Liberia and Abyssinia*.

## Roundtable and delegate discussion

### Sara Barker (Leeds), 'Thinking about the Past for the Future – students and the study of history'

A Short summary: For the paper the themes are:

- why students continue study history, seemingly in the face of popular misconceptions of what historians do and who they are. She will also take into account some of the concerning issues raised by the recent RHS report into Race Ethnicity and Equality
- skills our graduates develop
  - ways we can both encourage students to articulate those skills and get those outside the academy to recognise the value of a history degree.



Sara Barker is historian of early modern print culture, particularly news, translation and pamphlets. Very slowly writing a book about this. Deputy Director of Student Education at the University of Leeds, where she has particular interest in the transition between school and university, personal tutoring, employability and innovative assessments. She co-authors a blog on Student Education things with Dr Claire McCallum

(Exeter) – HE History Hub. She is also interested in crafting and sewing, as you might have seen from Twitter– very proud of the craft group I co-run with Dr Jessica Meyer at Leeds, called The Historians Craft.

### James Baker (Sussex), 'Born Digital Archives'

A short summary: My talk is on the fundamental changes to our primary sources that have been caused by computers, the fact that our sources have become 'born digital'.

James Baker is a Senior Lecturer in Digital History and Archives at the University of Sussex and at the Sussex Humanities Lab. He is a Software Sustainability Institute Fellow, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and holds degrees from the University of Southampton and latterly the University of Kent, where in 2010 he completed his doctoral research on the late-Georgian artist-engraver Isaac Cruikshank.

James cares about how people in the past interacted with things. His published research has focused on topics as diverse as long eighteenth century British satirical art and near contemporary information technologies. He is an expert in the history of the printed image and his monograph *The Business of Satirical Prints in Late-Georgian England* was published



in 2017. His curatorial practice focuses on born-digital objects, personal digital archives, and digital forensics.

Current funded research projects focus on digital forensics in the historical humanities (European Commission), the preservation of intangible cultural heritage (British Council and British Academy), curatorial voice in descriptions of art objects (British Academy), and decolonial futures for museum collections (Arts and Humanities Research Council).

Prior to joining Sussex, James held positions of Digital Curator at the British Library and Postdoctoral Fellow with the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. He is a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College, a convenor of the Institute of Historical Research Digital History seminar, a member of The Programming Historian Editorial Board, and a committee member of the Archives and Records Association (UK) Section for Archives and Technology.

## **Sihong Lin (Manchester), 'Diversifying Public History: A Medievalist's Perspective'**

A short summary: I will discuss what I think are the challenges and opportunities of doing public medieval history, drawing upon my experiences in engaging with the wider public through various platforms.

Sihong is a PhD student at the University of Manchester working in cross-cultural connections between Western Europe and the eastern Mediterranean in the seventh century. I completed a BA in History and a MSc in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies at the University of Oxford (2011-2015), with a special focus on cross-cultural exchanges in late antiquity. This remains my focus during my PhD and I am interested in all aspects of movement and transnational exchange, particularly in integrating concepts from the social sciences into historical studies.

## Co-Convenors' Reports

Welcome to our AGM event 'The Future of the Humanities'. This expands on last year's plenary on collaboration, history and social justice.

We are pleased to report that we have had a busy year. We continue to diversify our programme and to think further about how we can expand our reach. More details of individual activities will be heard at the AGM and SC meeting.

Firstly, we would like to thank Peter D'Sena and Heather Shore for their hard work in putting together our teaching workshop on Transitioning in History from School to University. Here we heard stimulating papers from Barbara Hibbert and David Ingledew. This was followed by an introduction to A Level History from OCR's history lead, Mike Goddard. Finally, a practical case study on student-led inductions was delivered from Olivia Saunders. On this theme, Lucinda Matthews-Jones attended on our behalf the RHS New to School Curriculum event where both Peter D'Sena and Jamie Wood were speakers.

The introduction of a research officer to the Steering Committee meant that this year we ran our first research workshop. Neil Fleming, together with Lucinda Matthews-Jones, organised a research grant workshop with speakers from the British Academy and AHRC. We were also joined by Emma Griffin, Kieran Fenby-Hulse and Martin Johnes.

We are pleased to see that the Academic Job Bootcamp continues to be a cornerstone event of our work. The Academic Job Bootcamp provides ECR academics and PhD students first-hand experience of the academic recruitment process. They submit a letter and CV to us before the event. On the day itself they then have an interview with members of the Steering Committee, who also provide feedback. This year over 15 people took advantage of this opportunity. One of the attendees, Amy King, reported, 'It's not often that training allows for one-to-one sessions and advice for each and every attendee, but the Boot Camp gave us just that... I'm absolutely sure this training helped me to get the job!'

We also supported the Royal Historical Society with their New to Teaching Event in September at the IHR. This was once again ably organised by Peter D'Sena.

The University of Lincoln hosted our co-sponsored our event 'Working with the British Library's Digital, Data and Services for your teaching and research' with the British Library's Labs scheme. There were well over 50 attendees across the course of the day, with contributions (in addition to

the BL) from Melodee Beals (Loughborough), Bob Nicholson (Edge Hill), Eleni Kotoula (Lincoln), Jennifer Batt (Bristol) and Hazel Sadler (an MA student from Lincoln).

We worked in partnership with The National Archives to research and produce a guide to collaborative working between the HE and archives sector. This was launched at an event at TNA in the summer and has been promoted widely. We are continuing to work in partnership with TNA and, as you will see below, are contributing to a series of workshops that they are planning for the coming year around the issue of HE-archival partnership.

We will continue to keep an eye on HE developments in 2019. We were the first history subject organisation to release a statement supporting colleagues striking over the restructure of the USS pension scheme. We co-signed, with other Art and Humanities Alliance members, a letter to Alistair Jarvis and Universities UK. We have responded to REF and AHRC surveys. Lucinda Matthews-Jones represented us at the Ofqual A Level Evaluation workshop on in December 2017.

We have a number of plans for next year. This includes

- A teaching event on 'Empowering the History Classroom' at Liverpool John Moores University
- Research Event: To be decided (provisionally, September 2019)
- A co-organised 'Meet the Funders' event with The National Archives and Independent Research Organisation Consortium (November 5<sup>th</sup> 2018)
- Sponsoring a panel on digital heritage at *Heritage Dot* conference in Lincoln (June 2019)
- Mental Health and Wellbeing event with partners from other subject areas
- Academic Bootcamp (May 2019)
- New to Teaching event with the RHS (September 2019)
- Another collaborative event with British Library Labs
- A series of events in partnership with TNA on collaborations between the archival and HE sectors.

We are pleased at this event to announce our new funding opportunities. History UK is keen to support events hosted by subscribing members in the area of higher education policy and issues affecting the subject area of History and is therefore making grants of up to £500 available to subscribing institutions. Please do take a look at a more detailed call for funding document on page 8.

In the meantime, we ask you – as our SC and AGM representatives- to consider the following:

- We are looking for partners to host and help organise events on our behalf. Please let us know if you and your department would be interested in running (or contributing towards):

- a) British Library Digital Labs
- b) An event on collaboration between archives and HE
- We are putting together a panel on [digital heritage](#) for Heritage/dot conference 3-4 June 2018? Can you or someone in your department contribute?
- Do you want to apply for event funding?

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the hard work of the Steering Committee in attending events, partaking in our growing programme and patiently dealing with our correspondence.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Heather Shore, who was co-convenor of History UK for the past two years. She worked tirelessly on behalf of the organisation. Many of the reforms and expansion of the society's work was achieved under her diligent and watchful eye.

We are pleased that Jamie Wood has taken over from Heather as co-convenor. This will be Jamie's first AGM as co-convenor. I hope you will join me in extending a warm welcome to him. Jamie has played a fundamental role in the Executive Committee as the Media Officer, a title that did not do justice to the work that he put into promoting the organisation. It has been a pleasure to work with Jamie as co-convenor for the past couple of months. I am pleased to formally welcome him to the position at this meeting.

We are looking forward to the day and hearing papers from Professor Stefan Collini, Dr. Karen Salt, Dr James Baker, Dr. Sara Baker and Sihong Lin. Finally, thank you for attending our plenary and AGM today. We hope you find the papers stimulating.

## History UK event funding

History UK is keen to support events hosted by subscribing members in the area of higher education policy and issues affecting the subject area of History and is therefore making grants of up to £500 available to subscribing institutions. We have opened this funding call to promote greater dialogue over:

- The profile of History in higher education and beyond.
- The state of the profession, particularly the recruitment and career development of undergraduates, postgraduates, researchers and staff.
- Research culture, including the research resources available to historians and the impact of the REF.
- Audit culture, to ensure that the demands of external audit and quality measurement are appropriate to the discipline.
- Teaching culture in universities.
- Equality and diversity (BAME, disability, gender, sexuality and age).
- Connections between History and other disciplines.
- Links between History in HE and the broader discipline (in schools, colleges and societies).

We will consider applications for events that explore Higher Education issues in relation to the discipline of History. We will also consider applications that request funding to cover costs of panels or speakers at academic events, such as conferences. (Note: we will not fund attendance of individuals at research conferences or provide support for the organisation of such events, except where they explicitly address the themes outlined above).

### Funding requirements

- Applications must be made by a subscribing institution, and signed off by the relevant head of department.
- Applications must include a description of the event that is being proposed and explain its alignment with History UK interests and activities. A budget should also be included.
- Length of application: max. 500 words.
- Amount: up to £500.
- Successful applications will be expected to (a) write a report for our blog on the event (this should include images, links and quotes; we would expect around 500 words) and (b) note our support at the event itself, and in paper and digital event materials (including our logo and web address).

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Lucinda Matthews-Jones ([l.m.matthews-jones@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.matthews-jones@ljmu.ac.uk)) or Jamie Wood ([jwood@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:jwood@lincoln.ac.uk)).

Deadline for applications: April 30<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> at 4.00 pm. All applications should be sent to Sue Davison at [Sue.Davison@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Davison@sas.ac.uk).

Applications will be reviewed by a panel composed of members of the HUK Steering Committee. Outcomes will be communicated one month after application submission. History UK reserves the right not to award funding in any given year. We might decide to award part of the requested money and not the full amount if we feel that the amount is not fully justified. We may also approach applicants for more details after the application has been submitted.

## **AGENDA**

The Annual General Meeting of History UK will take place on 3 November 2018 at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London.

- 1. Matters arising**
- 2. Nomination of new Steering Committee members**
- 3. Treasurer's report**
- 4. Media Officer's report**
- 5. Research Officer's report**
- 6. Any Other Business / Date of Next Meeting**

## Reports for the Steering Committee

### Research Officer's report

#### 1. History UK Research Grant Workshop

The one-day Research Grant Workshop held on 4 September 2018 was a resounding success. It was aimed principally at MCRs, though PhD students, ECRs and representatives of university research schools were among the 32 registered to attend. They heard and questioned representatives from the AHRC and British Academy, and expert contributions from Professor Emma Griffin (East Anglia), Dr Kieran Fenby-Hulse (Coventry), and Professor Martin Johnes (Swansea). Held at the Institute of Historical Research, attendees were charged £10 to cover catering expenses.

The success of the Workshop suggests that there is demand among MCRs for similar events. I would recommend therefore that History UK hosts a similar event in September 2019. Drawing on the feedback for this event, the focus could be on writing and handling 'Impact' in research grant applications, and again include expert contributions from the funders and awardees.

#### 2. Consultation Exercise on REF 2021 Draft Guidance and Criteria

History UK was unable to submit a response that focussed on the position of historians as no one on the Steering Committee was in a position to submit a response by the deadline (28 September 2018).

#### 3. Open Access Monographs and the REF

As discussed at a previous meeting of the Steering Committee, there is a proposal that monographs entered for REF2027 must be OU compliant. I continue to liaise with the Royal Historical Society which has expressed a number of concerns about the practical implications of such a policy on historians and HE institutions. The Society's briefing paper can be accessed via its website: <https://royalhistsoc.org/oa-briefing-march2018/>

Universities UK has since published its own report: <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/UUK-open-access-recommendations-and-guidelines-for-best-practice.aspx> In contrast to the RHistS, UUK focusses on facilitating rather than critiquing or scrutinising the transition to OU monographs. This appears to be borne out by UUK's event on 'Open Access and Monographs for Learned Societies and Subject Associations', held at the British Academy on 11 September 2018. As I was unable to attend, the Treasurer, Dr Richard Hawkins, kindly did so on behalf of History UK. His full and comprehensive

report is found below. The following are the key points raised on the day:

1. It would appear that only limited institutional funding is available to support the publication costs of OA monographs. The implication is that if you do not have a research grant which covers this cost you might have to find perhaps £10,000 out of your own pocket to publish your OA monograph. This would disadvantage post-1992 academics in particular. But it would appear this is also an unresolved issue at elite Russell Group HEIs too.
2. It would appear that several Russell Group universities together with other pre-1992 universities have established university presses to publish their academics' OA monographs. These presses have the same standards as traditional presses – i.e. e.g. peer review. It would also appear that these new OA monograph focussed university presses are being subsidised by their HEI founders.
3. Several university librarian delegates pointed to the inconsistent university of OA repository practice across the sector; there is a need for the establishment of a national standard for University OA repositories.

Having read Richard's report, below, it is reassuring to see that the practical consequences of moving to OA monographs were raised in discussion at the UUK event, not least by the RHistS representative. It is clear that the proposal has potentially far reaching consequences, for all types of HEI and career stage. I am particularly concerned with the potential financial impact on post-doctoral job seekers (or part time or zero hours employee) trying to secure a book contract for the ultimate purpose of securing employment.

## HUK Media Officer report for AGM

Jamie Wood, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

- The website is in the process of being updated as University of Lincoln has changed its blog platform. We are also switching over the final elements of hosting from the University of London to Lincoln. I hope that this will be resolved in the next month but at the moment I'm not able to access the relevant admin section of the website to check stats, but Google Analytics suggests that we're getting about 150-200 visits per month, with a high of around 750 in May (boot camp etc.).
  - We've managed to generate a steady stream of blog posts from participants in events over the past year. More are always welcome.
  - We have nearly 2800 followers on Twitter.
  - All in all, we've seen significant growth in usage over the past year. Once the website is back up and running I'd hope that we can build on this further.
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## **Education Officer's report for the History UK meeting on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

### **New to Teaching (NTT) Conference/Workshop, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Twenty participants attended this year's NTT. There was the usual varied programme with sessions about curriculum development and decoding the disciplines (Peter D'Sena); small group teaching (Jamie Wood); using Social Media (Helen Rogers); Digital Humanities (James Baker); the history lecture (Max Jones); and job applications (Catherine Armstrong). The event was funded by the RHS and hosted (at normal cost) by the IHR. There will be a discussion at the next RHS Education Policy Committee about an event for next year and it may be that a different venue will be chosen. Thoughts welcome. Useful to remember is: staff volunteer their time for free to lead sessions at this event (travel paid only); the proceedings are not fixed in stone – new personnel/subjects are always considered and welcomed; History UK very generously allocated up to £500 to support travel of participants who came from further than 100 miles. That is something that has been done, now, for the past two years.

### **Launch of the RHS booklet, *Race, Ethnicity & Equality in UK History: a report and resource for change* (October 2018)**

This absolutely excellent report, which actually makes for really grim reading, was launched on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October. The talks at the launch obviously focused on the high/lowlights. Here I point to just a few of them.

1. The report contains a number of useful statistics about undergraduate and postgraduate engagement with the discipline and breaks them down by ethnicity.
2. Additional data is generated from interviews carried out with over 700 historians.
3. There are a number of recommendations, sensible and unsurprising, including: the need for training; the need for improved data collection; the use of positive action; and the need for curriculum change because of a white-centred and Eurocentric curriculum is a racial problem within the discipline (p. 23).

Racial and ethnic privilege are difficult to address. Basic figures for 2018 give an indication of representation as: 93.7% of staff are white; 6.3% are BME; 0.5% are black. All-in-all, staff and student percentages are far less than in other disciplines (as a rule of thumb, about half – see figures on p. 22). The overall conclusion is that 'Historical and Philosophical Studies' is one of the whitest subjects in UK HE; and is one where the widely publicised 'why is my professor not black' agenda worth discussing.

Also in the report are brief analyses about the school curriculum; the issues associated with funding bodies and conference themes; the intersectionality with gender and class; the impact of micro-aggression in the workplace; and legal obligations and contexts.

I'm really skimming the surface about the contents of this report, but the long and short of it is that in my view as an organisation we need to develop and express a position about everything is has reported on in order to move the sector forward. For me, the most telling sentence in the

whole report is about the most fundamental question of all: ‘Who really wants to be alerted to a structural system that benefits them at the expense of others?’ (p. 11).

In summary, this will be a useful report for departments to use in discussion – in fact it is recommended that all departments should do this. Perhaps we should play a role in ensuring that this happens. I recommend that everyone reads this report.

**Peter D’Sena, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

### **Simon Peplow ECR Representative report**

While I have unfortunately had less time to donate to this role recently than I would have liked – due to relocating to a different university and meeting a book final deadline – over the past few months I have had discussions with Sarah Holland regarding potential collaboration between History UK and History Lab Plus. We will continue to discuss this, and I hope to be able to report further developments soon. Also, I have confirmed a number of ECR and PhD colleagues to contribute blog posts for the website to address a range of subjects, such as balancing teaching and research, experiences of postdoc projects, public impact, and options available to PhD graduates outside of academia. These should begin to appear within the next month.