



INSTITUTE OF
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

2023 HISTORY AND ARCHIVES IN PRACTICE

Collecting Communities: Working together and with Collections

#HAP23

Wednesday 29 March 2023
Institute of Historical Research



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10.00 - 10.10 Introduction to #HAP23 and welcome to the morning

Claire Langhamer (Director, Institute of Historical Research)

10.10 - 11.10 Session 1: REDISCOVERING: histories in archives

Chair: **Kaja Marczevska** (The National Archives)

- Communicating Women's Work in the Historical Archive
Helen Williams (Northumbria University and The Stationers' Company)
 - Lloyd's and Historic Slavery: Using the past to change culture in the present?
Victoria Lane (Lloyd's of London)
 - Charity Records at Risk: Highlighting interventions and initiatives in a neglected archives sector with a case study of the Woodcraft Folk archive
Paul Beard (University College London)
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11.10 - 11.30 Break

11.30 - 12.30 Session 2: CREATING: contemporary collections

Chair: **Andrew Smith** (Royal Historical Society)

- Scottish Political Archive, Scottish Politics and Contemporary Collections
Rosie Al-Mulla (Scottish Political Archive, University of Stirling)
 - Feeling the Heat: Historical Research and Archive Creation in the Context of Climate Crisis
 - **Kathy Davies** (Sheffield Hallam University)
Everyday Life: Engaging, Archiving and Researching the Contemporary with Mass Observation
 - **Kirsty Pattrick** (Mass Observation Archive, University of Sussex)
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12.30 - 14.00 Lunch (provided)

Attendees are invited to attend one of two extra demonstration/handling sessions (30 minutes each)

- Local Nurse, National Story: The Power of Biographical Collections in Public Engagement
Francesca Elliott and **Kelly Swaby** (Pennine Heritage and University of Huddersfield) **Room: N304**
 - 'Performance Archivist' of the Contemporary
Martin Brown (Staffordshire University) **Room: Pollard N301**
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14.00 Welcome to the afternoon

Emma Griffin (President of the Royal Historical Society)

14.00 - 14.40 Session 3: LOCATING: places with archives

Chair: **Catherine Clarke** (Institute of Historical Research)

- Exploring Ancestral Place and Family Heritage and in the Archives: Making connections to people with diasporic connections to Punjab
Chandan Mahal (Queen Mary University of London & Royal Geographical Society)
 - Walking with Constable: A Stroll in the Park or a Quantum Leap?
Andy Corrigan (Cambridge Digital Humanities) and **Elenor Ling** (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge)
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14.40 - 15.25 Session 4: DIGITISING: archives and collections

Chair: **Justin Colson** (Institute of Historical Research)

- Our Heritage, Our Stories: Linking and searching community-generated digital content to develop the people's national collection
Stefan Ramsden and **Hannah Barker** (University of Manchester)
 - The Avebury Papers: Digitising, Expanding and Sharing a 20th-Century Archive
Fran Allfrey (University of York)
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15.30 - 16.00 Session 5: CO-CREATING: as communities

Chair: **Mollie Clarke** (The National Archives)

- From Mark IV Tank to World War One Crater: How film and community methods can support history and archives in practice
Fiona Graham and **Paul Ottey** (Staffordshire University)
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16.00 - 16.15 Break

16.15 - 16.45 Session 6: COLLABORATING: with historians and archivists

Chair: **Philip Carter** (Royal Historical Society)

- Research Catalyst and the Edge Hill University Archive (leading to wider audience discussion)
Alyson Brown and **Dan Copley** (Edge Hill University)
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16.45 - 17.00 Conference Round-up and Close

Pip Wilcox (The National Archives)

Projects featured at #HAP23

Communicating Women's Work in the Historical Archive

The British Academy Innovation Fellowship 'Communicating Women's Work in the Historical Archive' is a collaboration between academic Helen Williams and archivist Ruth Frendo. It reconsiders the 600-year old archive of the Stationers' Company, the guild historically responsible for the training of book trade personnel. Through the feminist recovery of women's labour in the book trades, it makes visible to public audiences those women and their work through a co-designed knowledge exchange project with the Stationers' Company Archive. The project produces an online exhibition, a finding aid, an archival guidance document, a training course for communications professionals and interested members of the public, a CPD workshop, and an online roundtable. It thereby aims to improve the visibility of diverse heritage in one of the UK's major livery companies and to foster more inclusive research and archival practices within academia and the wider archives community.

<https://womenmakingbooks.wordpress.com/projects/>

Lloyd's Historic Slavery

Lloyd's is the world's leading insurance and reinsurance marketplace. From 1640 to the early 19th century, an estimated 3.2 million enslaved African people were transported by Britain's vast shipping industry – and Lloyd's was the global centre for insuring that industry. In 2020 Lloyd's apologised for its role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and committed to understanding its part through researching links to enslavement in its collection. The legacy of enslavement is racism, and Lloyd's is also examining how it can change racial inequalities in our culture through confronting this history.

<https://www.lloyds.com/about-lloyds/history/the-trans-atlantic-slave-trade/>

Charity and Voluntary Sector Archives

Georgina Brewis is Director of 'Archiving the Mixed Economy of Welfare', which is a British Academy Research Project that promotes the preservation and use of the archives and records of charities, NGOs, voluntary and community organisations. A collaborative, interdisciplinary infrastructure project that has been running since 2014, we work closely with The National Archives Sector Development Team through an AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award on charity archives at risk (held by Paul Beard) and as a key partner in the Charity Archives Development Plan launched by The National Archives in 2022 to address the many challenges facing charity archives.

<https://www.voluntarysectorarchives.org.uk/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/advice-and-guidance/running-your-organisation/charity-archives-development-plan/>

Scottish Political Archive

The Scottish Political Archive (SPA), based at the University of Stirling, was conceived in 2010 as a research project to explore the devolution referenda of 1979 and 1997. Having this key research focus, and building on a lack of primary material for these events, SPA turned to contemporary collecting – conducting oral history interviews, open calls for material and gathering ephemera – to create a coherent collection. The Archive today maintains its strong focus on Scottish devolution and independence. It continues to practise contemporary collecting in addition to accessioning the papers of key figures, organisations and campaigns related to Scottish politics.

<https://collections.stir.ac.uk/archive-collections/archive-collections-a-z/scottish-political-archive/>

JUSTHEAT: a social and cultural history of home heating

JUSTHEAT is an interdisciplinary research project exploring the social and cultural history of home heating in post-war Europe. Through oral history interviews and archival research in case study locations across the UK, Romania, Sweden, and Finland, the project is illuminating the lived experiences of keeping warm and feeling the cold at home. The project seeks to understand how past changes to home heating have impacted everyday life across different communities, to inform public conversations on energy policy and to help shape a fairer transition to net-zero.

<https://chance.org/justheat/>

Mass Observation and Mass Observing COVID-19

Mass Observation (MO) specialises in material about everyday life in Britain. It contains papers generated by the original MO social research organisation (1937 to early 1950s), and newer material collected continuously since 1981 (Mass Observation Project). The Archive is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, in the care of the University of Sussex, housed at The Keep (www.thekeep.info). In March 2020 as the UK went into 'lockdown' MO called on its national panel of volunteers to record their experiences as events unfolded. With subsequent open calls for diaries, over 10,000 documents were amassed. This includes narrative life-writing in the form of survey responses and diaries, photographs, and illustrations.

www.massobs.org.uk

Local Nurse, National Story: South Pennine Archives

In this interactive session, participants have the chance to explore a new addition to the South Pennine Archives – the biographical collection of nurse Mary Atack – through the eyes of the school children with whom we are engaging for a new workshop. Participants will get hands-on with highlights from the collection while learning about the collaborative process behind the workshop, and the value of biographical collections for engaging young children. As a small community archive, we hope to demonstrate that archives of any scale can benefit from collaboration with academic researchers, providing enriching opportunities for academics and

valuable outcomes for our community. This project is the result of a 2022 Public Engagement Fellowship with the British Society for the History of Science.

<https://www.pennineheritage.org.uk/south-pennine-archives/>

Martin Brown - Performance Archivist

I teach and live in Stoke-on-Trent, an area also known as 'The Potteries' for its ceramics industry and heritage. My session relates to the conference themes of 'Collecting the Contemporary' and 'New Ways of Engaging with Archives'. I have a contemporary archive, including ephemera and objects, on 'Art, Architecture and Regeneration in the Potteries, c. 2000 to the Present'. I have developed a self-styled role as a 'Performance Archivist', and the session provides a demonstration of this role that includes a handling session. I have developed ways of taking archive materials out into the community for new forms of engagement. The session reflects on the 'in-between' status of the archive, and how I select materials and perform with them in different community settings outside the university.

Exploring Ancestral Place

The collections of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers, RGS-IBG) include extensive archival material about the Punjab, from maps, to photographs and travellers accounts. This project draws on research carried out with people of Punjabi descent from London who took part in workshops using the collections. Working collaboratively, participants examined material in the context of ancestral place, residence, displacement and migration, to consider what questions are raised about family heritage, place and identity and how the colonial presence in some of these collections has been significant to their pasts. Participants used the archives to confront and explore their personal histories along with events such as the Partition of India in 1947. The project considers how participants constructed and questioned their own family archives through oral histories, objects and heirlooms alongside the public archives.

Walking with Constable

'Walking with Constable' is a research project developed by Cambridge Digital Humanities in collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum and Cambridge University Libraries. It explores the challenges and opportunities that the digital transformation of archives and collections present, and how we can respond to these in fresh and productive ways. John Constable's connection with the countryside and intimate familiarity with rural life is evident in every aspect of his life and work. The project is inspired by Constable's own innovative approach, he provides us with an ideal opportunity to exploit the possibilities of digital tools and techniques, finding new perspectives and new ways to research. Instead of using the digital as a form of distant reading, we use it to enable a form of slow looking and close reading that embraces a physical connection to the place that made both the artist and his work.

<https://walking-the-landscape.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/>

Our Heritage, Our Stories

'Our Heritage, Our Stories' is a Discovery Research Project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, as part of the 'Towards a National Collection' programme. 'Our Heritage, Our Stories' responds to the urgent challenges of discovery and sustainability that Community-Generated Digital Content (CGDC) presents. It brings innovative post-custodial and Artificial Intelligence solutions to link community digital collections to The National Archives, to other Independent Research Organisations, to national libraries and archives, and to local and national heritage organisations in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

<https://ohos.ac.uk>

The Avebury Papers

The Avebury Papers is a four-year Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project to develop, explore, and digitise the multimedia archive of Avebury's Neolithic origins and its subsequent life-history. The research team comprises Professor Mark Gillings (PI), Dr Colleen Morgan (Co-I), Dr Ben Chan (PDRA), and Dr Fran Allfrey (PDRA), with Dr Ros Cleal (National Trust, project partners).

<https://www.aveburypapers.org>

From Mark IV Tank to World War One Crater

This project explores methods to create and archive history for museum content with support from communities in France and the UK. A short film journey explains the history of the exhibit D51 'Deborah', a Mark IV tank, and drone content explores the iconic Hawthorn crater blast. The presenters show how film and co creation methods with communities can create content for archives, and have supported museums in the UK and France.

Research Catalyst and the Edge Hill University Archive

Research Catalyst is a research group, based at Edge Hill University, and formed of academics and learning services professionals. The group collaborates to encourage internal and external use of the university's archive. Research Catalyst capitalises on the many skills and different roles of its membership: as researchers, collegiate research supporters, collections experts, and as research supervisors, financiers and managers.

<https://sites.edgehill.ac.uk/researchcatalyst/>

Speakers at #HAP23

Fran Allfrey (presenter): Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of York

Rosie Al-Mulla (presenter): Archivist, Scottish Political Archive, University of Stirling

Hannah Barker (presenter): Professor of British History, University of Manchester

Paul Beard (presenter): AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award Candidate, University College London and The National Archives

Alyson Brown (presenter): Professor of History, Edge Hill University

Martin Brown (presenter): Senior Lecturer in Architectural History and Theory, Staffordshire University

Philip Carter (chair): Academic Director, Royal Historical Society

Catherine Clarke (chair): Professor and Director, Centre for the History of People, Place and Community, Institute of Historical Research

Mollie Clarke (chair): Academic Engagement Manager, The National Archives

Justin Colson (chair) Senior Lecturer in Urban and Digital History, Institute of Historical Research

Dan Copley (presenter): Archivist, Edge Hill University

Andy Corrigan (presenter): Cambridge Digital Humanities Associate and Digital Library Co-ordinator, Cambridge University Libraries

Kathy Davies (presenter): Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Sheffield Hallam University

Francesca Elliott (presenter): Heritage Manager, Pennine Heritage & Knowledge and Transfer Partnership Associate, University of Huddersfield

Kelly Swaby (presenter): PhD Researcher, University of Huddersfield

Fiona Graham (presenter): TV Producer and Development Producer, and Associate Professor, School of Digital, Technologies and Arts, Staffordshire University

Emma Griffin (host): President, Royal Historical Society, and Professor of Modern British History at the University of East Anglia

Victoria Lane (presenter): Archivist, Lloyd's of London

Claire Langhamer (host): Director, Institute of Historical Research, and Professor of History, University of London

Elenor Ling (presenter): Senior Curator, Prints & Drawings, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Chandan Mahal (presenter): Learning Projects Manager for Unlocking Our Sound Heritage, British Library

Kaja Marczevska (chair): Head of Collections Research, The National Archives

Paul Ottey (presenter): Cinematographer and Senior Lecturer, School of Digital, Technologies and Arts, Staffordshire University

Kirsty Pattrick (presenter): Research Manager, Mass Observation Archive, University of Sussex

Stefan Ramsden (presenter): Research Associate, University of Manchester

Andrew Smith (chair): Director of Liberal Arts, Queen Mary University of London, & Hon. Secretary, Royal Historical Society

Pip Willcox (host): Head of Research, The National Archives

Helen Williams (presenter): Associate Professor of English Literature at Northumbria University and British Academy Innovation Fellow with the Worshipful Company of Stationers

Projects shown as videos at #HAP23

Kent Maps Online

Kent Maps Online is a digital humanities project which provides a set of themed essays about the county of Kent. Framed by the idea of 'writers and their times', the project is researching historic, literary and geographical records to create an interactive experience seen through multi-disciplinary lenses.

<https://www.kent-maps.online/>

Homelands: Photography from Hull during the 1940s

Homelands: Photography from Hull during the 1940s is a travelling exhibition co-created by Dr Nick Evans (University of Hull) and members of the Hull Afro Caribbean Association, that opened at Hull Museums in 2022. This strategic work was funded by Arts Council England, Hull Museums and the University of Hull, and showcases the rich culture and history of Hull's only twin city: Freetown in Sierra Leone. Seeking to move beyond traditional depictions of Sierra Leone, the exhibition is part of joint work between the University of Hull and Hull Museums to help make heritage.

<https://hullwhatson.com/events/homelands-photography-from-sierra-leone-in-the-1940s/>

Paper Trails

Paper Trails is an open-access, interdisciplinary publication that aims to enable collaboration and offers space for contributions both from practitioners who study the past, as well as those who make the study of the past possible. Contributions explore the work and methodologies of educators, librarians, historians, curators, collections managers, and archivists. Paper Trails reflects on practice, sources and materials. Published with UCL Press, our 'living book' features content in four streams: Research Stories, Co-production, Engagement, and Collection Profiles. Our video outlines the history and future directions of the project, reflecting on lessons about collaborative interdisciplinary working, open-access publishing, and new ways of engaging with archives.

<https://www.uclpress.co.uk/papertrails>

A Story of the Great War: Will Bradshaw's Journal

This visual essay tells the story of how three artist-academics responded to a donation to the Edge Hill University archive. This consisted of a journal detailing its author's experiences as a soldier in World War I. It was accompanied by a number of photographs and a small collection of news clippings, cards and military papers dating from the same period. Reflections are here offered regarding working creatively with history, archives, and public engagement, as well as the emotional knowledge and impact generated, and how such work can advocate for archives. We offer, in addition, a brief excerpt from the finished film.

<https://sites.edgehill.ac.uk/researchcatalyst/archive-showcase/research/>

Slavery, Law, and Power

'Slavery, Law, and Power' is a digital humanities project that brings together an edited collection of sources connected to histories of Atlantic slavery, struggles over power, and the law. In our video we introduce our project, providing an overview of how we select documents and show users how they might use our website for research and teaching. We also discuss our emerging partnership with The National Archives, including the need for more collaboration between humanities scholars and archivists and roadblocks that stymie collaborative work.

<https://slaverylawpower.org/>

Video Presenters at #HAP23

Sarah Aitchison (video presenter), Head of Special Collections, University College London

Holly Brewer (video presenter), Professor of American Cultural and Intellectual History, University of Maryland

Michelle Crowther (video presenter), Learning and Research Librarian, and Co-Lead Kent Maps Online, Canterbury Christ Church University

Nick Evans (video presenter), Senior Lecturer in Diaspora History, University of Hull

Helen Newall (video presenter), Professor of Theatre Praxis, Edge Hill University

Andrew Smith (video presenter), Director of Liberal Arts, Queen Mary University of London

Next event: April 27th 2023

Join Us: at 12.45pm on Tuesday 27 April we'll be holding a follow-up event (online) bringing together historians and archivists involved in these five additional projects. We hope you'll be able to join us, and them, to continue the discussion.

Further details of this extra event will be sent to you after today's event at the IHR.

For further information:



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