



INSTITUTE OF
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Metropolitan History: Remembering Derek Keene

28 September 2022
Chancellor's Hall, Senate House

history.ac.uk

Derek Keene (1942-2021) was one of the leading figures in medieval and urban history over the past forty years. He was the founding director of the Centre for Metropolitan History at the IHR from 1988, and led the centre until 2002 when he became Professor of Comparative Metropolitan History. He remained at the IHR, ever active, until his retirement in 2008.

This symposium event brings together a diverse range of scholars to reflect upon Derek's career as a historian, his impact upon urban history, and most importantly new research directions in the field. Derek was a pioneer not only in economic and social approaches to urban history, through large-scale projects such as the 'Social and Economic Study of Medieval London' (1979-1984), but also in the interface between history and archaeology, and environmental history.

There will be three roundtable panels through the afternoon, with discussants focusing on different aspects of Derek's legacy, broader impact, and, new directions in today's research that build upon his insights. To embody and promote Derek's values as a person and scholar, this is framed broadly and inclusively, looking across disciplinary and national boundaries, and encompassing both traditional and practice-based approaches.

The roundtables are structured to encourage conversation and contributions from all. We hope to welcome everyone, whether you have personal memories of Derek, or simply found his work inspiring.

The afternoon roundtable symposium will be followed by a reception, and open discussion, hosted jointly by the IHR and the Keene family.

Wednesday 28 September 2022

14.00–14.20 Registration

Outside the Chancellor's Hall, Senate House.

14.20 –14.30 Welcome

Justin Colson (Senior Lecturer in Urban and Digital History, IHR)

14.30 –15.15 Session 1: Reflections on Derek as a Historian

Comments from those who worked with Derek, reflecting on the importance of his work

- **Vanessa Harding** (Birkbeck)
 - **Matthew Davies** (Birkbeck)
 - **David Bates** (UEA)
 - **Alex Werner** (Museum of London)
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15.15 –16.15 Session 2: Shaping Urban History: Derek's Broader Legacy

Contributions focusing on the ways Derek's work has influenced the wider field of urban history.

- **Maryanne Kowaleski** (Fordham) – North American Perspectives
 - **Marc Boone** (Ghent) – Comparative Urban History
 - **Christian Liddy** (Durham) - Systems of Governance
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16.15 –16.45 Break

17.00 –17.45 Session 3: Building bridges: Making Connections in Urban Research

Roundtable discussion: Speakers will reflect on how Derek's research has shaped their field and their own practice. The session will also be guided by Derek's values, including supporting the next generation of scholars, inclusivity, and conversation both across disciplines and beyond the academy.

- **Jim Galloway** (Independent) - Hinterlands and environments
 - **Kate Weikert** (Winchester) Archaeology & History
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17.45 –18.00 Closing remarks

18.00–19.30 Reception

Hosted jointly by the IHR and the Keene family

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