The Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies: connected collaboration, connected communities and connected impact

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Congratulations to Professor Matthew Hilton on his AHRC £197,984 grant to establish an archive of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, based on the depositions of the papers of leading figures associated with the Centre, beginning with the papers of Stuart Hall.

The Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (CCCS) is one of the biggest 'brands' of modern British academia. It inspired the creation of a disciplinary field. The year 2014 will mark the 50th anniversary of its launch. The University of Birmingham has committed to marking this event by hosting a conference to assess the work and impact of the Centre. It has also begun to establish a CCCS archive, based on the depositions of the papers of leading figures associated with the Centre, beginning with the papers of Stuart Hall.

This project will focus on extending the archive in order to enable an examination of the working practices of CCCS. While its outputs are well known, less appreciated is the extent to which the collaborations made by CCCS staff were fundamental to how their research was produced, their findings disseminated and the impact they had on the city and nation. The project will be based in the Centre for Modern and Contemporary History and is conceived as a collaboration with the Cadbury Research Library (Special Collections). The papers relating to CCCS will be archived and catalogued and then presented in an online form that is most suited to research and public use. Likewise, the academic research into the working practices of CCCS will be undertaken in conjunction with the work of the archivists: the oral histories will become an accessible part of the archive and materials will be analysed which will then be included in an exhibition at the new Midlands Arts Centre.

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