

# MODERN BRITISH STUDIES 2026, JUNE 3-5, Alan Walters and Muirhead Tower– University of Birmingham

**WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE (All AWG03)**

**With thanks to the British Academy for sponsoring the opening day.**

Time	Event
9 - 9.45	Registration and refreshments
9.45 - 10	Welcome remarks
10 - 12	Panel 1 (capital and capitalism)  Tehila Sasson, Kevin O’Sullivan, Jonathan Saha, Erika Rappaport
12 – 1	Lunch
1 – 2.30	Panel 2 (environment and the global)  Chris Otter, Catherine Mills, Rohan Deb Roy
2.30 – 3	Break and refreshments
3 - 5	Panel 3 (teaching and the future of British Studies in the academy)

	Sarah Crook, Tom Hulme, Margot Finn, Tamson Pietsch
5-5.30	Modern British Studies Association - Launch Event

**THURSDAY 4 JUNE**

**\*Please note that this is a developmental workshop and contains pre-circulated papers. Delegates are welcome to attend but are requested to read the papers in advance. Please contact [Sam.Rutherford@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Sam.Rutherford@glasgow.ac.uk) for details.**

Time	AWG03	AWG11	AW103	AW111	AW112	MUIR
9.30-11.00	Selling Security: Private Policing in Modern Britain	Race and sexual reproductive health in post-war Britain	New Second World War Histories	The Export of British Culture and State-Merchant Relations	Britain as a 'Nation of Refuge'	British Participation in Interwar International Conferences
Break						
11.15-12.45	Rethinking 20 <sup>th</sup> Century British History through New Histories of the North	Crises (or not) in Modern British Studies	Race, Mobility and the Migration State	Moral Economies, Inequalities, and Political Economy in Modern Britain	Social Science and British Government in the 1990s: Sex, Deficits, and Futurology	Writing Public Histories of Modern Britain
Lunch						
1.45-3.15	Black Glocalities: Settlement, Community and Resistance in the Everyday	Environmental Histories of Britain and the World	Reflections on Radical Public History	Post-Feminism and Gender Politics	Playful Pasts and Polycrises: Absence, Presence, and Imagination	Developmental Workshop: Modern British Trans History *
Break						
3.30-5	Mass Observation and Vernacular Understandings of Crisis	Historicising 1990s Britain	Green politics and activism	Abundance and Instability: Modern British history, born-digital sources, and going 'online'	Colonialism, Belonging, and the British Empire	Developmental Workshop: Modern British Trans History*
5.30-7	Keynote – Catherine Hall					
7-8	Drinks reception					

**FRIDAY 5 JUNE**

Time	AWG03	AWG11	AW103	AW111	AW112
9.00-10.30	Transnational Histories of Trans Britain	Crises of care: the value of a long view in rethinking children's social care in modern British history	Mapping the Worlds of James Baldwin in Britain	Politics and Religion in Twentieth Century Britain	Energy transitions
Break					
10.45-12.15	Trauma, Memory, and Care	Writing Everyday Whiteness	New Legal Histories of Late Modern Britain, c.1970-2010	Cultural Histories of Climate in Modern Britain and Ireland	Sexual Cultures in Britain, c.1950s-1990s
Lunch 12.15-1.45	Publishing workshop (12.30-1.30)				
1.45-3.15	Encounters with Nature	Politics, Society, and the Body	Belonging in Post-War Britain	Political Movements and the Afterlife of Empire	Women, Oral History, and Policy
Break					
3.30-5	Decolonising British Urban History	Class and Negotiations with the State	Passing and Modern British Studies	With all Due Respect... On repellence, distress, and the ethics of engaged research as crisis	Crises of Sexual Health in Modern Britain

## **Wednesday 3 June:**

Capital and Capitalism: Tehila Sasson (Oxford), Kevin O'Sullivan (Galway), Jonathan Saha (Durham), Erika Rappaport (University California, Santa Barbara)

Environment and the Global: Chris Otter (Ohio State), Catherine Mills (Stirling), Rohan Deb Roy (Reading)

Teaching and the Future of British Studies in the Academy: Sarah Crook (Swansea), Tom Hulme (Queens University Belfast), Tamson Pietsch (University Technology Sydney), Margot Finn (UCL)

## **Thursday June 4 June:**

### **1. Selling Security: Private Policing in Modern Britain**

David Churchill (Leeds), Francis Dodsworth (Kingston University London), Rebecca Orr (Cambridge)

Professor David Churchill: Contesting the commodification of security in postwar Britain

Dr Francis Dodsworth: Security entrepreneurs and the politics of protection in late 20th century Britain

Dr Rebecca Orr: The Global Expansion of British Private Security Companies, c.1960-c.1980

### **2: Race and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Post-War Britain**

Caroline Rusterholz (Geneva Graduate Institute), George Severs (Geneva Graduate Institute), Naomi Samake-Backert (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Prof. Caroline Rusterholz: South Asian women and sexual and reproductive health services in postwar Britain

Dr George Severs: Experiential histories of sexual and reproductive health in postcolonial Britain

Naomi Samake-Bäckert Sexual and reproductive policing: Black women's groups and medical surveillance in the 1970s and 1980s

### **3: New Second World War Histories: Global Narratives and Individual Subjectivities**

Diya Gupta (City St Georges, UoL), Wendy Ugolini (Edinburgh), Jean Smith (KCL)

Dr Diya Gupta: The 1943 Bengal Famine: Witnessing the Violence of Hunger in the Second World War

Professor Wendy Ugolini: Mobility, Containment, and the 'Male Gaze': British servicewomen narratives of Second World War Egypt and Sri Lanka

Dr Jean Smith: Beyond the GI bride: Transnational wartime marriage across the British Empire during the Second World War

#### **4: The Export of British Culture and State-Merchant Relations, 1810- 1985**

Claire Arnold (Chicago), Holly Swenson (Northwestern), Katya Maslakowski (Northwestern)

Dr Claire Arnold: "Very Strange and Objectionable Proceedings:" State and Merchant in Conflict in the Empire of Free Trade, Argentina, 1810- 1850

Dr Holly Swenson: What Value Empire? Commercial Cultural Exports Within and Beyond the British Empire (1900-1970)

Dr Katya Maslakowski: "Our Arms Traffickers," Post-Colonial Habits of Empire in the Defence Export Marketplace (1970-1985)

#### **5: Britain as a Nation of Refuge**

Monja Stahlberger (Reading), Amy Grant (Reading), Ellen Pilsworth (Reading)

Dr Monja Stahlberger: Conditional Welcomes: Young Refugees and the Limits of British Hospitality in the 1930s/40s

Dr Amy Grant: Legislating Belonging: The 1981 British Nationality Act and Britain's Polycrisis

Dr Ellen Pilsworth: 'Our Government hasn't been particularly spectacular on this matter': Reading Mass Observation Responses to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

#### **6. British participation in interwar international conferences**

Lucy McCormick (Birmingham), Jade Burnett (Birmingham), Brittany Gittus (Oxford)

Lucy McCormick: "The true spirit of internationalism which pervades the meetings of the Alliance cannot be described; it must be felt": Sensory experiences of international women's suffrage congresses

Jade Burnett: "This is an experience which I shall never forget": British communist women's attendance at conferences the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s

Brittany Gittus: "Palestine stands upon a footing of its own": Britain's Management of Mandatory Palestine and the Evian Conference of 1938

## **7. Rethinking Twentieth Century British History Through New Histories of the North**

Eve Pennington (Worcester), Rachel Collett (Liverpool), Jo Laycock (Manchester), Charlotte Wildman (Manchester)

Dr Charlotte Wildman: “A veritable hotbed of fraud:” Crime as Social Justice in Northern England and Northern Ireland

Dr Eve Pennington: Gingerbread Women: single mothers, local self-help groups, and grassroots activism, 1970s-1990s

Rachel Collett: Home Link and Feminist Activism in 1970s Liverpool

Dr Jo Laycock: Reading RAP with my parents: Re-thinking the history of a northern town

## **8. Crises (or not) and Cultural Politics**

Matthew Franks (Warwick), Alexander Curtis (Nottingham), David Geiringer (QMUL)

Dr Matthew Franks: Drama in an emergency: responses to the British state’s crisis messaging since WW2

Alexander Curtis: Allegories of Crisis: Dystopias of the 1970s

Dr David Geiringer: An age of anti-crisis? 1990s Britain in the historical imagination

## **9: Race, Mobility, and the Migration State: Britain, 1945-1955**

Kalathmika Natarajan (Exeter), Freddy Foks (Manchester), Somak Biswas (Cambridge)

Dr Kalathmika Natarajan, Mediating the ‘Coolie Class’ in Birmingham: Race, Caste, and ‘Unskilled’ Indian Migration to Postwar Britain

Dr Freddy Foks: (Un)bordering Britain after the Commonwealth Immigrants Act, 1962

Dr Somak Biswas: AIDS and the Racialisation of Mobility: Britain, 1985-1995

## **10: Moral Economies, Inequalities, and Political Economy in Modern Britain**

Emily Jones (Manchester), David Cowan (Manchester), Colm Murphy (QMUL)

Dr Emily Jones: “The ‘Two Nations’ Metaphor and Vocabularies of Inequality in Twentieth-Century Britain”

Dr David Cowan: “The Moral Economies of Economic Reward in Mid-Twentieth-Century Sociological Research”

Dr Colm Murphy: “‘Buy British’ to ‘Fair Trade’? Moral economy, territory, and consumption in Britain since the 1970s”

### **11. Social Science and British Government in the 1990s: Sex, Deficits, and Futurology**

Lise Butler (City St George’s), Peter Sloman (University of Cambridge), Jacob Ward (Maastricht University)

Dr Lise Butler: Sociology, Sex, and Social Democracy: the politics of intimacy in the British Third Way

Professor Peter Sloman: John Major’s £50bn Problem: The Mid-1990s Fiscal Crisis and the Limits of Thatcherism

Dr Jacob Ward: Strategic Futures: Science Policy, Management Consultancy and Futures Thinking under New Labour

### **12. Writing Public Histories of Modern Britain (roundtable)**

Emily Baughan, Kieran Connell, Helen McCarthy

How do you write engaging history books for a general readership? In this roundtable session, Dr Emily Baughan, Dr Kieran Connell and Prof Helen McCarthy talk about their recent experiences of writing and publishing trade history books, and in other forms of public media. The speakers will discuss their approach to writing style and composition, and discuss the kinds of stories will appeal to agents, editors and trade publishers. They’ll also discuss the practicalities and pitfalls of writing history for a general audience, and the trade-offs between academic and public writing.

### **13. Black Glocalities: Settlement, Community and Resistance in the Everyday**

Destinie Reynolds (Manchester), Jake Gandy (Manchester), Jack Webb (Manchester)

Destinie Reynolds: Urban Roots, Imperial Routes: Racialised Labour, Building Community and Resistance in Manchester’s Early African and Caribbean Communities c1891 – 1921

Jake Gandy: ‘Welcome to Little Harlem:’ Racism and Resistance in Manchester’s Moss Side, c.1945-1970

Dr Jack Webb: Diasporic Citizens in Tiger Bay: Towards a Non-English Black British History in the 1980s and 90s

### **14: ‘Environmental Histories of Britain and the World’**

Andrew Seaton (Manchester), Julia Laite (Birkbeck), Max Long (Oxford)

Dr. Andrew Seaton: 'Coal, Nylon, and Returning to the "Affluent Society"'

Professor Julia Laite, 'Hyper-extraction, Negligent Colonialism, and the Destruction of the Beothuk World'

Dr. Max Long, 'The Little Owl Controversy in Twentieth-century England: Gamekeepers, Protectionists, and Contested Environmental Knowledge'

### **15: Reflections on Radical Public History Initiatives in Manchester, UK**

Alexandre Campsie and David O'Rourke (Manchester and Independent), Jason Hao Ran Lee (Independent), Parise Carmichael-Murphy (Manchester), Kerry Pimblott (Manchester)

Dr Alexandre Campsie and David O'Rourke: Public history in the Medlock Valley, Manchester, England

Jason Hao Ran Lee: Keep The Flame Burning: Reigniting History Making For our Movements

Dr Parise Carmichael-Murphy: Open Access, Open Methods: Making Black History Public in Manchester

### **16: Post-feminism and gender politics at the turn of the millennium**

Sarah Crook (Swansea), Hannah Charnock (Bristol), Charlotte Lydia Riley (Southampton)

Dr Sarah Crook: "She was always just trying so hard like modern women": Princess Diana and postfeminist narratives of empowerment

Dr Hannah Charnock: 'You gotta get with my friends'? Teenage girls and post-feminist friendship

Dr Charlotte Lydia Riley: Backlash: masculinity, men, and the remaking of feminism in the 1990s

### **17. Playful Pasts and Polycrises: Absence, Presence, and Imagination (workshop)**

Isabel Davis (Natural History Museum), Tracey Loughran (Essex), Emily Robinson (Sussex)

This workshop enacts creative and participatory engagement with history as a mode of thinking, spurring different questions and perspectives, and so potential answers. The workshop centres on three themes: the tension between absence and presence in historical research; the generative potential of disruptions to linear historical narratives; and the status of historical knowledge as a collaboration between historian, evidence, and audience. The workshop facilitators will each provide short contributions in response to prompts – but the exact order, format, and even contents are not predetermined. The audience will become participants, creating and sharing their own histories of absence, making new and unpredictable connections, and reassessing how makers of historical knowledge work together.

## **18: Mass Observation and Vernacular Understandings of Crisis in Modern British Studies**

Claire Langhamer (IHR), Rebecca Goldsmith (Cambridge), Nick Clarke (Southampton), Alex Hill (Sussex), Jonathan Moss (Sussex)

Professor Claire Langhamer: 'Everyday Temporality in Times of Crisis'

Dr Rebecca Goldsmith: "On the edge of a great new world"? Vernacular ideas of crisis and visions of the future in the Second World War'

Professor Nick, Dr Alex Hill, Dr Jonathan Moss : 'Understanding Crisis Across the Life Course: Mass Observation and the Financial Crisis'

## **19. Historicising 1990s Britain**

Liam Ryan (Oxford), Justin Bengry (KCL and Oxford), Matt McDowell (Edinburgh)

Dr Liam Ryan: Britain in the 1990s: An Audit Society?

Dr Justin Bengry: 'The Ideal Homo Show': Gay Capitalism and its Failures in 1990s Britain

Dr Matt McDowell: Birmingham and the 1992 Olympics: roads not taken in British neoliberalism

## **20. Green politics and activism**

Aoife O'Leary McNeice (Galway), Nathan Cardon (Birmingham), Contesting Fossil Capitalism, Charlotte Call (KCL)

Dr Aoife O'Leary McNeice: The Irish Border-Biome and the River Erne Hydroelectric Scheme

Dr Nathan Cardon: Contesting Fossil Capitalism in Birmingham, England, 1970-2000

Charlotte Cull: The Revolutionary Rural - British Anarchist Environmentalism 1938-1952

## **21: Abundance and instability: Modern British history, born-digital sources, and going 'online'**

Christine Grandy (Lincoln), Laura Carter (Paris), Stephanie Decker (Birmingham)

Dr Christine Grandy: Spammed: Email, sociability, and productivity in Britain, 1990-2006

Dr Laura Carter: Urgently unstable archives: secondary education, social change, and social media in the United Kingdom since 1945

Dr Stephanie Decker: Writing the history of the 21st century: Digital cornucopia or the new dark ages?

## **22: Colonialism, 'belonging', and the British Empire in the long nineteenth century**

Ben Jackson (Manchester), Ellen Smith (Manchester), Esme Cleall (Sheffield)

Dr Ben Jackson: Serving Church and Company: East India Company chaplains and the politics of belonging 1787–1857

Dr Ellen Smith: Co-producing Colonial Family Identity in Britain and Ceylon: Letters and their Traces in the Imperial Archive, c.1870-1917

Dr Esme Cleall: 'Fairly useful, but very slow': disabled children in the imperial classroom, c. 1880-1939

## **Friday 5 June:**

### **23: Transnational Histories of Trans Britain**

Jo Brydon-Dickenson (Independent), Rebecca Jane Morgan (Independent), Brell Wilson-Morris (Birkbeck)

Dr Jo Brydon-Dickenson: Sexual Literature and the Trans Imagination in Early Twentieth-Century Europe

Dr Rebecca Jane Morgan: Global influences on UK trans rights movements, from the 1990s to the 2020s

Brell Wilson-Morris: Global influences on UK trans rights movements, from the 1990s to the 2020s

### **24. Crises of care: the value of a long view in rethinking children's social care in modern British history**

Claudia Soares (Newcastle), Ruth Beecher (Birkbeck), Kate Wilson (Newcastle)

Dr Claudia Soares: Crises of care: the value of a long view in rethinking children's social care in modern British history

Dr Ruth Beecher: The crisis of over-diagnosed children: from 'maladjusted' to 'ADHD'

Dr Kate Wilson: Housing, social reproduction and children's social care: roots and resistance

### **25. Mapping the Worlds of James Baldwin in Britain**

Douglas Field (Manchester), Kennetta Hammond Perry (Northwestern), Isabel Taube (Manchester)

Professor Douglas Field: James Baldwin and Britain: A Portrait of the Artist as a Global Citizen

Dr Kennetta Hammond Perry: James Baldwin, David Oluwale and Britain's Archive of State Violence

Dr Isabel Taube: Baldwin and the 1980s: Witnessing the Thatcher Era

## **26. Politics and Religion in Twentieth Century Britain**

John Maiden (Open University), Robert Saunders (QMUL), Hannah Elias (RHS and Oxford), Alana Harris (KCL)

Professor John Maiden: Charismatic Christianity and practices of reconciliation on the island of Ireland during the Troubles

Dr Robert Saunders: 'Prayer and Political History: What Should Historians Do With Prayer?'

Dr Hannah Elias: Multi-faith activism: organising against racial and religious discrimination across faith traditions, 1970-1995

Professor Alana Harris: Faith, Food, and the Politics of Fasting: CAFOD and Catholic Internationalism in Decolonising Britain

## **27. Energy transitions**

Jim Tomlinson (Edinburgh), Amber Ward (Independent), Richard Power-Seyeed (KCL)

Professor Jim Tomlinson: A "just transition?": Industrial nostalgia and the future of employment

Amber Ward: Left behind? Language and the invention of a 'post-industrial' locality in Scotland, 1980s-1990s

Richard Power-Sayeed: Energy comes first: a new account of the origins of statist capitalism and the energy transition in the early polycrisis

## **28. Trauma, Memory, and Care in 'Oral' History and Contemporary Archives**

Kirstie Stage (Independent), Lee Dibben (Royal Holloway), Syeda Ali (Cambridge)

Kirstie Stage: Trauma, Consent, and Care: Ethical Frameworks for Disabled and Deaf Histories in Modern Britain

Syeda Ali: After the Fact: Trauma, Memory, and the Retrospective Interpretation of Section 28 'Oral' Histories

Lee Dibben: Beyond victimhood: Denaturalising trauma in queer youth histories

## **29: Writing Everyday Whiteness**

Benjamin Bland (York), Liam Liburd (Durham), Christian Pederson (University of Southern Denmark), Jessica White (Liverpool)

Dr Benjamin Bland: Transatlantic Whiteness, Letter Writing, and Jazz Culture in Late Imperial Britain

Dr Liam J. Liburd: 'Private racists in public institutions': Enoch Powell and the Heathrow immigration officers, 1968-1976'

Dr Christian D. Pedersen: British "Friends of Apartheid" and New Political Histories of Whiteness from Below

Dr Jessica White: 'I feel that I am steadily being pushed into an extreme right-wing position': immigration and exasperation among white women in post-war Britain

## **30. New Legal Histories of Late Modern Britain, c.1970-2010 (roundtable)**

Camilla Schofield (Kings College London), Grace Whorrall-Campbell (Oxford), George Severs (Graduate Institute), Sam Cole (Birmingham), Katherine Milliken (Kings College London), Ellen Durban (Independent), Brett Morrill (Cambridge).

Unlike many other national historiographies, modern British history has been slow to theorise the shifting role, reach and popular understanding of the law, legal institutions and civil protections in public life. While there is a robust historical literature on the passage of 'permissive legislation' and its consequences (1957-1969), the field's focus on 'permissiveness' has tended to frame the history of legal reform as a history of moral norms, secularisation and sexual mores. In order to build new legal histories in our field, we need to turn to research in Criminology, Feminist Legal Theory and Socio-Legal Studies, which since the 1970s have explored the ways in which legal processes and access to justice are embedded in cultural norms, economic power and state authority. We can also learn from early modernists, who have developed methods for reading court records against the grain and are keenly aware of the political, social and emotional dimensions of Britons' encounters with legal authority.

In this panel, we will bring our own research to bear on the question of how to understand the causes and consequences of a legal revolution in British public life, a revolution that looks increasingly precarious in our contemporary moment of crisis.

## **31. Cultural Histories of Climate in Modern Britain and Ireland**

Jacob Fredrickson (Edinburgh), Erika Hanna (Bristol), Chris Pearson (Liverpool), Anna Bocking-Welch (Liverpool)

Dr Jacob Fredrickson: Heatwaves, hot blood, and hot passions in twentieth-century Britain

Dr Erika Hanna: Weather diaries and the history of the rain in twentieth century Ireland

Professor Chris Pearson: From “Costa Evesham” to 40C: Postwar Britain in Heatwave

Dr Anna Bocking-Welch: Do not stifle the baby’: vulnerability, responsibility and mothering in the heat

### **32. Sexual Cultures in Britain, c.1950s-1990s**

Rebecca Jennings (UCL), Samantha Barker (LJMU), Bethan Downs (Birmingham)

Professor Rebecca Jennings: Entangled histories: Popular understandings of sex, gender and sexuality in post-war Britain

Dr Samantha Barker: Performing Health: Tailoring and Leigh Bowery in the UK AIDS Crisis

Bethan Downs: ‘What makes us lesbians’: Lesbian sex and desire in Quim magazine’

### **33. Encounters with Nature**

Ben Mechen (UCL), Yingying Zhang (Edinburgh), Sydney Stitt (Cambridge)

Dr Ben Mechen: ‘No Trespass’: The Photography of Ingrid Pollard and the Black Countryside in 1980s Britain

Yingying Zhang: Nature-Based Tourism: A Study of Ben Nevis

Sydney Stitt: “Imagining the Hunt: Tigers and Environmental Consciousness in Imperial Childhoods of the Late Victorian Period”

### **34. Politics, Society, and the Body**

Rochelle Rowe (Edinburgh), Laura Beers (American University), Sydni Zastre (Birmingham)

Dr Rochelle Rowe: The 'West African Village': romancing Scottishness at the National Exhibition of 1911

Dr Laura Beers: Making Babies: The Politics of Assisted Reproduction

Sydni Zastre: Writing the pregnant body in Britain, 1918-1945

### **35: Belonging in Post-War Britain**

Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite (UCL), Rob Waters (QMUL), Matthew Hilton (QMUL)

Dr Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite: ‘And they Call this Welfare.’ Two Homeless Families, London, 1958

Dr Rob Waters: Citizen and non-citizen: Stephen Lawrence and Joy Gardner

Professor Matthew Hilton: Small towns since 1945: photography and the Calder Valley

### **36. Political movements and the afterlife of empire**

Alfie Hancox (Birmingham), Olivia Wyatt (Edinburgh), Owen Dowling (Cambridge)

Dr Alfie Hancox: Decolonizing the 'Industrial Centres of Babylon': The Labour Politics of British Black Power and Metropolitan Class Reformation After Empire

Dr Olivia Wyatt: Model Migrants: Empire and Conservatism in Modern Britain

Owen Dowling: Quintessential Key to Changing the World": Guerilla Warfare and the British New Left's Anti-Imperialist Imaginary, 1959-1975

### **37. Women, Oral History, and Policy (roundtable)**

Emma Barrett (Birmingham), Aleena Din (Manchester), Amy Edwards (Bristol), Eve Worth (Exeter), Helen McCarthy (Cambridge)

By drawing together a range of historical research, this roundtable will examine the significance of women's oral testimonies in shaping policy and cultivating meaningful social change. The roundtable will consider how women's testimonies unveil new pathways for policy intervention, and how oral history has been used to evidence new policy directives. In addition, the roundtable will consider how women narrated their experiences of inequality, and how their lives pushed up against policy interventions that attempted to address their unmet needs, with varying degrees of success. The panellists will reflect on the outcomes of co-productive research in fostering mutually beneficial relationships between academia and policymaking, as institutions increasingly prioritise knowledge exchange, co-production and public engagement as part of their research agendas.

### **38. Decolonising British Urban History**

Claire Wrigley (Virginia), Sonali Dhanpal (Colombia), Sam Wetherell (York)

Dr Claire Wrigley: Remaking Glasgow: Planning for the End of Empire in Postwar Britain

Dr Sonali Dhanpal: An Architectural History of Gentrification: Obsolescence and the Expendability of Occupants and Buildings

Dr Sam Wetherell: Decolonisation and Black Health in Liverpool: Thinking Beyond the NHS

### **39. Class and Negotiations with the State**

Richard Huzzey (Durham), Freya Willis (Oxford), Charlie Bell (KCL)

Dr Richard Huzzey: Communities of Exclusion in Twentieth-Century Petitioning

Charlie Bell: The invisible crisis of food poverty in 21st century popular discourses

Freya Willis: A class by any other name: class labels, hierarchy, and resistance in social care 1979-2010

#### **40. Passing in Modern British Studies (roundtable)**

Olivia Wyatt, Leila Sellers, Aleph Ross, Helen McCarthy, Benjamin Bland, Beckie Rutherford, Rochelle Rowe, and Eve Worth

Using ‘passing’ as a lens to study Modern Britain Across modern British history, individuals from oppressed groups have sought to conceal their marginalised identities in an attempt to assimilate into the dominant culture. Their motivations have ranged from economic gain to social mobility and political recognition, and their strategies have involved everything from religious conversion to the use of makeup and the development of new patterns of speech. Contrary to common conceptualisations of ‘passing’, concealing an aspect of one’s identity has not only operated as a survival tool of the dispossessed. As a precursor panel at Queen Mary’s British History Today conference explored, passing has allowed historical actors to shed their race or gender privilege as often as it has allowed them to adopt it. While it is an undertheorised feature of the history of identity in Britain, passing has performed innumerable social functions for a myriad of different groups. Following the enthusiastic reception of the previous panel, this roundtable places that research into dialogue with a wider range of perspectives. We bring together scholars from across social history, working on themes such as race, disability, gender identity, age and social class, to explore the idea of passing within different contexts, and amongst different groups. Collectively, we will explore these histories in relation to the dynamics of visibility and concealment, the processes and practices of self-fashioning, and the mutability of identity in nineteenth and twentieth-century Britain.

#### **41. ‘With all due respect . . .’: On repulsion, distress, and the ethics of engaged research as crisis**

Jenny Crane (Bristol), Hannah J Elizabeth (Strathclyde), Gareth Millward (Southern Denmark)

Dr Jenny Crane: Freebirth, personal trauma, and Britain’s crisis of reproductive care

Dr Hannah J Elizabeth: Writing about the ‘Silenced or ridiculed’ – a UK history of AIDS denial

Dr Gareth Millward: ‘Has he fallen off yet?’ – Fathers 4 Justice and the margins of fatherhood

#### **42: Crises of Sexual Health in Modern Britain**

Anne Hanley (Birmingham), Claire Martin (Birmingham), Joseph Price (Warwick)

Dr Anne Hanley: ‘They knew he didn’t want to hear’: Historical silence and historiographical scrutiny in sexual health

Dr Claire Martin, University of Birmingham Women's Sexual Health in Crisis: Medicine, Morality, and Gender in Postwar Britain

Joseph Price, University of Warwick Archives of Student Sexuality: Practicalities and Challenges of Researching Postwar Student Sex Lives

### **Developmental Workshop: Modern British Trans History**

**Please note that this is a developmental workshop and contains pre-circulated papers. Delegates are welcome to attend but are requested to read the papers in advance. Please contact [Sam.Rutherford@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Sam.Rutherford@glasgow.ac.uk) for details.**

Chair: Dr Sam Rutherford (Glasgow)

Celyn Eldr (Birmingham): Charles Wilson and media coverage of transmasculine individuals in nineteenth-century Britain

Dr Rebecca Jane Morgan (independent scholar): The Gender Recognition Act as a plank in New Labour's constitutional reform platform

Prof Mo Moulton (Birmingham) & Prof Onni Gust (Nottingham): Book proposal: British trans history textbook

Leila Sellers (Northeastern): 'Transvestite' identities and heteronormative marriages in 1970s Britain

Dr Brell Wilson-Morris (Birkbeck): On trial for 'gender fraud': homophobia and the spectre of the transsexual body in 1990s England / or, homophobia's transphobic refraction