



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



ANNUAL REVIEW | 2015-16



20+
research networks



major
research
programmes

10

19

knowledge
exchange fellows



early
career
fellows

36



350+
research-led events
with over **13,000**
attendees

ABOUT TORCH

Launched in May 2013, TORCH stimulates, supports and promotes research activity of the very highest quality that transcends disciplinary and institutional boundaries and engages with wider audiences.

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CONTENTS

Welcome	4–5
Moments	6–7
Networks	8–13
Programmes	14–19
Early Career	20–25
Knowledge Exchange	26–29
Engaging with Museums and Galleries	30–32
Book at Lunchtime	33
Annual Headline Series	34–35
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	36–37
Humanitas	38–39
Giving to TORCH	40



WELCOME

Professor Louise Richardson
Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

For centuries Oxford has been renowned for the calibre of its work in the Humanities. For the past three years The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, TORCH, has been shining a bright light on the extraordinary talent that resides in the Humanities Division. It has also been doing much more. TORCH brings together expertise and diverse perspectives from across the Humanities and serves as a catalyst for interdisciplinary work and innovative exploration of new and long-standing problems.

It is no exaggeration to say that TORCH has reenergised Humanities at Oxford and facilitated a more outward-looking approach as well as a clearer eyed evaluation of what we do internally. Collaboration now occurs not only across Faculties but also across Divisions. The impact of the work is evident in the awarding of several prestigious and highly competitive grants as well as the ever growing attendance at public events. My colleagues and I look forward to watching the growth and development of TORCH in the years to come.

Professor Chris Wickham
Head of the Humanities Division,
University of Oxford

Now into its third year, TORCH continues to be a hub for the humanities and for all kinds of interdisciplinary research, a place to try new ideas and approaches, and to forge often unexpected collaborations both within and beyond the academy. It is thrilling to be able to work with it.

Fundamentally, what TORCH does is facilitate and support humanities researchers from different disciplines, to help them to work together. It does this by seed-funding over 20 networks and 10 major research programmes, all of which are led by over 300 researchers from a range of career stages. In the last year, TORCH supported over 350 research events, with audiences of over 13,000 people. It has hosted a range of interdisciplinary projects, collaborating with all 10 Humanities faculties, as well as departments in the sciences, and cultural organisations across Oxford. There is always something exciting going on there.

TORCH brings together research and a wider public, and it tackles wider social issues. It was used as a case study for its work in facilitating interdisciplinary research in the recent report by the British Academy, 'Crossing Paths'. TORCH has proven itself as a key player on a global stage.

It is also fantastic to hear that TORCH will be the Festival Finale for 'Being Human' 2016 – again demonstrating its relevance in Oxford's public engagement with research.

Professor Elleke Boehmer
TORCH Director, University of Oxford

It has been a real pleasure and privilege to direct TORCH across this past year, in which we have seen the centre increasingly become a core part of Humanities research activity here at Oxford.

It is now inconceivable to set up interdisciplinary humanities projects without the platform of engagement and innovation both within the University, and more widely, that TORCH offers. This has been a significant achievement for us. TORCH is always researcher led and involves everyone keen to make new connections as scholars, to involve a diversity of audiences and to share insights and ideas within an interdisciplinary forum.

For one year only, I combined the role of Director together with that of Associate Head of Research (Humanities), which was demanding and yet also extremely constructive. This “two-hatted” exercise usefully shed light on how much collaboration we already do here in Humanities, as well as how we might facilitate broader institutional link-ups and conversations as part of our strategic plans for the next three to five years.

It has been fantastic to see TORCH participate fully in some of the major debates about the curriculum and diversity that have confronted the University across the year, and we are taking these big questions forward with our far-reaching Headline Theme for 2017 “*Humanities & Identities*”. We would like to collaborate as widely as possible and invite researchers at all career stages to join us.



Professor Louise Richardson



Professor Chris Wickham



Professor Elleke Boehmer

MOMENTS



The Lord of the Rings: Tolkien's Legacy

At the Bodleian Library, TORCH hosted an exhibition of drawings from the J.R.R. Tolkien archive to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the publication of *The Return of the King*, with a panel discussion on reactions to Tolkien's storytelling and scholarship.

'It was fitting to see Tolkien's literary achievement celebrated by his University and the city which was his home for most of his life. The legacy of *The Lord of the Rings* and Tolkien himself covers literary genres and medieval studies and both were tackled admirably by the speakers.' DR STUART LEE, LECTURER, FACULTY OF ENGLISH AND DIRECTOR OF COMPUTING SYSTEMS AND SERVICES (OUCS)

OCTOBER 2015



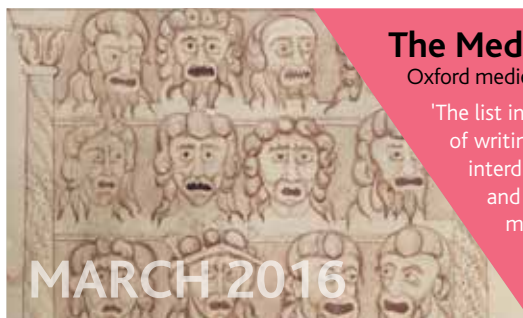
What Does it Mean to Be Human in the Digital Age?

The opening event of our headline series on Humanities and the Digital Age brought together experts from journalism, literature, museums, and libraries, to think about how digital technology is shaping human experience and human thought.

'This is such an important and topical theme, for all of us, whether we're in the University, in cultural roles, in schools, or simply as citizens and human beings – and whether we're digital natives or, like me, a digital immigrant.'

DAME LYNNE BRINDLEY, MASTER OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE

JANUARY 2016



The Medieval List: Oxford Medieval Studies Workshop

Oxford medievalists came together for a day discussing lists – from poetry to tables of content.

'The list in all its variety is one of our dominant tools for organising lived experience—one of writing's most common reactions to time and space. In this Oxford Medieval Studies interdisciplinary workshop, Oxford medievalists explored a wide variety of powerful, subtle and interesting medieval lists, ranging from lists of martyrs to tables of contents in various manuscripts or literary lists created in poems in Old English or chronicles in Arabic.'

PROFESSOR SOPHIE MARNETTE, PROFESSOR OF MEDIEVAL FRENCH STUDIES

MARCH 2016

#OxBard

Brevity really is the soul of wit! As part of the Shakespeare 400 celebrations the Bodleian Libraries and TORCH asked for summaries of people's favourite Shakespeare play in 140 characters or less.

'The Bodleian is delighted that the OxBard Competition generated such creative, clever, and humorous tweets. If Shakespeare were alive today he might well have enjoyed the responses! TORCH and the Bodleian are natural collaborators, and this project was a perfect way for us both to engage in a dialogue with the public over humanities research and the Bodleian's collections, utilising new technologies.'

PROFESSOR RICHARD OVENDEN, BODLEY'S LIBRARIAN

MAY 2016



Ford Foundation Inequality Seminar

The Ford Foundation-funded seminar, 'Perceptions of Inequality: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue', took place over two days at St. Anne's College. It formed a thoughtful, interdisciplinary investigation of inequality by scholars whose work relates to it, its drivers and representations. Speakers were asked to consider the ways that inequality has been theorised in their own discipline, the broader field of inequality studies across disciplines, and the key factors of, and challenges to, local, national and global inequality both today and in the future, in order that a more complex set of solutions can emerge.



JUNE 2016

Some of our highlights from 2015-16



The Oxford Dodo: Culture at the Crossroads

A panel discussion springing from the famous dodo in the collections of the Oxford Museum of Natural History, considering its role as the poster bird for extinction.

'Museums are all about storytelling, and a small number of extraordinary objects have the ability to tell a great diversity of stories. One such example is the Oxford Dodo, which informs our understanding of 16th-century global exploration and trade, and of island ecosystems and human induced extinction, and then intersects with children's literature and film. The 'Culture at the Crossroads' event looked at all of these aspects, and more.' PROFESSOR PAUL SMITH, DIRECTOR OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Wharton in Wartime

This roundtable, supported by the Women in the Humanities programme, celebrated the launch of Dr Alice Kelly's critical edition of First World War reportage by Edith Wharton (Fighting France: From Dunkerque to Belfort - EUP, 2015).

'[It] was a roundtable discussion with a panel of Wharton experts, including Professor Dame Hermione Lee (Wolfson College), Dr Shafquat Towheed (Open University), Dr Alice Kelly (TORCH), and Professor Elleke Boehmer (TORCH Director). Wharton was discussed not only as a war writer, but also her fascinating wartime writings and relief work.'

DR ALICE KELLY, WOMEN IN THE HUMANITIES POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

FEBRUARY 2016



Planned Violence

The Leverhulme-funded international research project on Post/Colonial Urban Infrastructures and Literature concluded with an annotated exhibition of urban photography.

'The exhibition powerfully presents cities as diverse as Oxford, London, Mumbai, Johannesburg, Delhi and Jerusalem – the vertical line of observation works as a powerful metaphor of social difference.'

CLAUDIA GUALTIERI, EXHIBITION ATTENDEE

APRIL 2016



Digital Unwrapping

Part of the Digital Humanities Summer School this event brought together two academics Brent Seales (Professor of Computer Science, University of Kentucky) and Dirk Obbink (Associate Professor in Papyrology and Greek Literature, University of Oxford) to discuss their use of digital technologies.

'I'm an example of what happens when true collaboration goes forward. It changes you.'

PROFESSOR BRENT SEALES, PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

JUNE 2016

Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop

We hosted the leading African diaspora scholarly organisation for their annual creative writing workshop.

'The Callaloo group enjoyed the week at TORCH. The staff made us feel welcome and remained available to us throughout our stay. Callaloo's needs are high: three groups work in three genres and need three distinct spaces to function. TORCH met those needs with rooms equipped for comfort and learning with technology. We look forward to a long working relationship with TORCH.'

FRED D'AGUIAR, POET, NOVELIST AND PLAYWRITE, CALLALOO



JULY 2016

NETWORKS

We currently support over 20 research networks, which reach across disciplines to build communities of scholars from a range of career stages to work together on innovative projects. For information about all of our networks please visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk/networks

#SocialHumanities

Ancient Dance in Modern Dancers

Comics and Graphic Novels: The Politics of Form

Enlightenment Correspondences

Fiction and Human Rights

Gender and Authority

Globalising and Localising the Great War

Global Brazil

inHabit: Text, Object and Domestic Space

Inheritance and Cooperation

The Long History of Identity, Ethnicity, and Nationhood

Medieval and Early Modern Mysticism

Nordic Network

Oxford Phenomenology Network

Oxford Psalms Network

Oxford Song Network: Poetry and Performance

Rags to Riches?: Experience of Social Mobility since 1800

Rethinking the Contemporary: The World Since the Cold War

Romanticism and Eighteenth-Century Studies Oxford

Unconscious Memory



Gender and Authority

torch.ox.ac.uk/genderandauthority

Created to sustain the conversations initiated by the January 2016 Women and the Canon conference, the Gender and Authority Research Network aims to explore and question received notions of social and cultural authority, specifically as they intersect with issues of gender. Provoked initially by the idea of the canon, 'the list of works considered to be permanently established as being of the highest quality' (OED), we wish to consider three points: how do social and gender norms determine 'quality'? How permanent is authority? What is 'work'? We propose an expansive definition of work that includes all forms of cultural production, individual or collaborative. We also seek to examine spaces in which gender, as it intersects with other vectors of power, has led to the marginalisation of intellectual and artistic creation or labour, or other forms of gendered work. In the academic year 2015-16 we convened three seminars, featuring speakers from English, Film, Modern Languages, Music, and Social Anthropology. We currently have three further seminars and a roundtable discussion scheduled for the academic year 2016-17. Our seminars foster interdisciplinary and inter-institutional dialogue



by pairing two speakers from different universities and different disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Our roundtable, to be held in Michaelmas 2016, will bring together Oxford-based researchers from a range of backgrounds and career levels in order to discuss the continuities, differences, and comparative advantages of framing one's research in terms of 'Gender studies' or 'Women's studies'

Adele Bardazzi, David Bowe, Natalya Din-Kariuki, and Julia Caterina Hartley

Globalising and Localising the Great War

torch.ox.ac.uk/greatwar

GLGW commemorates the centenary of the First World War (FWW). In our second year, we have expanded our network of graduate students, researchers and visiting academics, extended our events programme and obtained external funding.

2015-2016 began with an international conference in honour of Professor Sir Hew Strachan. It continued with five master classes, ten seminars, two joint Balliol College / GLGW lectures, an Oxford University / Oxford Brookes joint event, an Oxford / Sorbonne postgraduate workshop, and a two-day international graduate conference. GLGW was established to support new researchers. This has been achieved through two fully funded graduate scholarships at Merton College (from October 2015) and Jesus College (from October 2016). GLGW has also obtained external funding through into 2019, so ensuring that not only the war, but also the peace process will be studied. The AHRC funds the three-year project 'The First World War and Global Religions', which includes two postdoctoral positions, and a two-year ECR project, 'Rebellion and Mobilisation in French and German Colonies,

NETWORKS *CONTINUED*

1914-1918'. The Leverhulme Trust funds a three-year International Network Grant, 'Hunger Draws the Map: Blockade and Food Shortages in Europe, 1914-1922', and also a two-year Visiting Professorship.

Future plans include a culminating international conference in June 2019 and a multi-site (including virtual) exhibition, which will fully engage with local communities and schools, so ensuring that GLGW fulfils its remit of being local as well as global in its research, engagement and commemoration.

Dr Jeanette Atkinson

The Long History of Identity, Ethnicity, and Nationhood

torch.ox.ac.uk/identity

The main goal of TORCH Research network 'The Long History of Identity, Ethnicity and Nationhood', established by Ilya Afanasyev and Nicholas Matheou in June 2015, is to rethink the field of ethnicity and nationalism studies beyond the existing theoretical, chronological and regional divisions. In the academic year 2015-6, the network organised 5 major academic events in different formats. We inaugurated the network with the public lectures on the construction of collective identities in pre-modern/modern China and early medieval West, delivered by Pamela Crossley and Mary Garrison. This was followed by a one-day



roundtable on Armenian, Iranian and Kurdish identities before modernity. We also hosted a two-day conference on the interplay between urban and ethnic identities, a roundtable on nationhood and empire from Ancient Rome to postcolonialism, and, finally, a two-day conference on the role of religion in the construction of ethnicity and nationhood in Islamic, Jewish, Christian and Hindu traditions. These conferences and workshops have produced not only academic outcomes, but also allowed us to record a series of podcasts on collective identities in history to reach the widest audience possible. On the basis of academic cooperation with several leading institutions in Europe, North America and Asia, established in the network's first year, the core team is now preparing a major grant application to set up a wider network, focused on the difficult problem of the long-term reproduction of collective identities.

Dr Ilya Afanasyev



Nordic Network

torch.ox.ac.uk/nordic

The Nordic Network provides an interdisciplinary home for Nordic studies at Oxford. Our primary focus is to examine the critical tensions in the notion of a European centre and Nordic periphery, which has previously characterised much scholarship in this area.

With this in mind, this year's events have centred around interrogating the idea of Nordic "cosmopolitanism". We've hosted speakers from Musicology, Literature, Languages, Anthropology, Art History, and Philosophy, as well as practitioners, from architects to musicians. Our academic year began with a day-long symposium on the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, placing him in a broader cultural context that looks beyond his symphonies. Since then we've held seminars on the relationship between cosmopolitanism and the Norwegian writer Knut Hamsun's works; rethinking Nordic Fairytales in light of research that looks beyond their national contexts; and exploring the relationship between Nordic architecture and notions of a social democratic ideal. Peter Davidson lectured on the idea of "North" and how this manifested itself in nineteenth-century art and literature, arguing that artistic depictions of the Northern hemisphere are profoundly influenced by awareness of light conditions and adverse weather. Meanwhile Stephen Leonard's lecture on the Inugguit

language expanded our geographical boundaries to North-West Greenland, a region peripheralised even within Nordic studies, talking on the connection between language and social expression.

Next year will involve an event in collaboration with the Race and Resistance network, as well as seminars on Northern aesthetic democracy, photography and fin-de-siecle body culture, and contemporary feminism in Sweden.

Professor Daniel Grimley, Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr, Professor Philip Bullock, Leah Broad, Eveliina Pulkki, Stephen Leonard

Oxford Phenomenology Network

torch.ox.ac.uk/phenomenology

This year has been all about collaboration, between disciplines and between institutions. Our Network is fast becoming the go-to community for those wishing to engage in open, convivial dialogue with fellow phenomenological thinkers and practitioners from a variety of backgrounds. As well as continuing our successful seminar series, featuring international speakers spanning Theology, Philosophy, Psychiatry, Psychotherapy, English Literature, Neuroscience, and

NETWORKS *CONTINUED*

Art History, we hosted a workshop on 'Phenomenology and Literature' and co-hosted a symposium entitled 'Cross-Disciplinary Phenomenology: A Readiness for the Questionable'. 2016 also saw the start of a new graduate-led reading group focusing on the phenomenological writings of philosopher, Martin Heidegger.

Our workshop, convened by myself and Oxford's Dr John Scholar and Erin Lafford, featured some of the top scholars in the fields of phenomenology and literature: Dr Elizabeth Barry (University of Warwick), Dr Carole Bourne-Taylor (University of Oxford), Professor Maximilian De Gaynesford (University of Reading), Dr Ulrika Maude (Bristol University), and Dr David Nowell Smith (University of East Anglia). Our discussions were so rich and stimulating that we have decided to continue our dialogue through further workshops; our next meeting will be co-hosted with the University of Warwick in Spring 2017. The 'Cross-Disciplinary Phenomenology' symposium was our first event hosted collaboratively with another institution – the University of Kent. Together with Dr Ariane Mildenberg and Dr Matthew Carbery of Kent, Oxford Phenomenology Network welcomed internationally and disciplinarily diverse phenomenologists to Canterbury for lively, genial debate on a wide range of topics.

Dr Cleo Hanaway-Oakley

The Oxford Song Network: Poetry and Performance

torch.ox.ac.uk/oxford-song-network

It has been an enjoyably busy year for this new TORCH network. We began Michaelmas Term with two study days held as part of the Oxford Lieder Festival – one (organised in collaboration with the Open University) on the theme of 'Words into Music', and the other on the



question of song and translation. Both of these included talks given by members of the network and were open to members of the public, as well as of the university. In Hilary Term, things took a more practical turn. Helen Abbott and Natasha Loges led workshops on French and German song that were designed for undergraduate and graduate performers and linguists in the university, and in March, members of the network spoke on the topic of 'Song as Performance' as part of the Oxford Lieder Festival's Spring Weekend of Song. In Trinity Term, Nicole Panizza organised a concert of arrangements and settings of Bob Dylan's poetry in the Holywell Music Room in collaboration with the Rothermere American Institute. Laura Tunbridge also spoke about the work of the network at the AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement Summer School in July. Over the long summer vacation, the network also helped support the work of two important conferences – the Biennial International Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music and a conference on 'Lyric and Lyricism', hosted by the Ertegun Scholarship Programme and the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama.

We look forward to continuing the work of the network in 2016-17. Confirmed plans include a further collaboration with the Oxford Lieder Festival, a study event on vocal ensembles, and a vocal masterclass and public conversation/Q&A with baritone Roderick Williams to be held at Wolfson College on 24 April 2017.

Professor Philip Bullock, Dr Alex Lloyd, and Professor Laura Tunbridge



Romanticism and Eighteenth-Century Studies Oxford

torch.ox.ac.uk/recso

RECSO is a graduate-led initiative for scholars across the Humanities Division. Our aim is to provide a platform for graduates and academics from various disciplines to discuss and share their research into the 'long' eighteenth century. It also facilitates the development of projects, workshops and larger events that relate to the research interests of our growing body of members.

In Michaelmas term RECSO ran a seminar series entitled 'Reading Images' organised in collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum. Speakers from various disciplines discussed their research in relation to prints, drawings and objects from the museum's collection, which illustrated or complemented an aspect of their research.

The network also supported two projects through our 'Project Support Scheme'. The first was a conference at the Maison Française entitled, 'What is politics? Exploring the history of a concept across the Euro-Islamic World'. The second event organised by the opera company Theatron Novum included a lecture given by Professor Tiffany Stern and a singing masterclass with soprano Dame Emma Kirkby at Somerville Chapel.

In June, RECSO organised a one-day interdisciplinary conference with Dr Catherine Redford from the English Faculty entitled 'Imagining Apocalypse'. Eighteen speakers from within Oxford and beyond discussed their research on the theme, 200 years after 'the year without a summer' in 1816. The conference was followed by a showcase of artistic and literary imaginings of the Last Man at St George's Crypt at Oxford Castle where some of the texts and pieces of music discussed during the day were brought to life by a group of performers.

Emily Knight

PROGRAMMES

Our nine research programmes bring together existing major research groups and individuals working in the same field to collaborate and incubate new ideas.

Dance Scholarship Oxford

Digital Humanities

Enlightenment

Environmental Humanities

Institute of Visual Research (IVR)

Medical Humanities

Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT)

Oxford Medieval Studies

Race and Resistance Across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century

Women in the Humanities



Environmental Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/envirohum

This has been another very strong year for Oxford's cross-disciplinary research in the Environmental Humanities, with a number of important ongoing individual and collaborative projects covering a wide range of topics, methodologies, and materials. The past year has built on Oxford's existing research activities across the broad areas of biodiversity, climate change and water supply, ecocriticism and environmental management, and the role of the arts and humanities in interpreting and reflecting upon issues of landscape and environment.

TORCH was delighted to sponsor three major scholarly events during 2015-16. 'Controlling Environments' was a one-day interdisciplinary workshop held at the University of Oxford School of Geography and the Environment in October. The event hosted a range of international speakers who were interested in the



resurgence in informationally rich approaches toward environmental regulation and policy. The aim of the workshop was to trace the genealogy of this current enthusiasm back to earlier attempts at environmental protection and resource conservation under the logics of postwar cybernetics. An international panel of speakers from a wealth of disciplines enjoyed a day of provocation, discussion, and scholarly bonhomie, and plans are already under consideration for a follow-up event in this emerging field.

The Conference on 'Unencompassing the Archipelago' was held on 14 November at Somerville College. The day was introduced by a short presentation on the work of the Atlantic Archipelago Research Consortium (AARC) by Professor John Brannigan, before the first plenary lecture given by the Royal Academician and marine artist, Norman Ackroyd. Delegates participated in panels devoted to the culture, identity and environment of different regions - North, South, East and West. The second plenary was given by award-winning travel writer, Philip Marsden, and the Conference concluded with a tribute to the work of the cultural historian and cartographer, Tim Robinson (who sadly could not attend in person). The day concluded with an evening of readings and music relating to the magazine, *Archipelago*. The AARC has since expanded its membership and held a follow-up meeting at Land's End in June, and further research, meetings and publications are in the pipeline.

On 4 December, 14 researchers and practitioners from diverse disciplinary backgrounds met to discuss human-predator encounters. Funded by a TORCH Oxford workshop grant and convened by Simon Pooley, the meeting was hosted by David Macdonald's WildCRU at Tubney Hall. The workshop's goal was to

develop a novel, comprehensive, interdisciplinary framework for tackling adverse human-predator encounters. Participants each gave a 10-minute talk in the morning, the goal being to harvest as wide a range of relevant ideas as possible. After lunch, the workshop broke out into three groups to analyse and develop summaries of key issues and

approaches, which were then integrated into 6 themes; these formed the basis of a position paper now under review with the interdisciplinary journal *Conservation Biology*.

Environmental Humanities leaders Jamie Lorimer and Daniel Grimley have also continued to conduct their own research in the field. Lorimer has published articles in leading peer-review journals including *Dialogues in Human Geography* and the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*; Grimley convened the final meeting of his Leverhulme Trust funded *Network Hearing Landscape Critically* in April.

Professor Daniel Grimley and Professor Jamie Lorimer

Medical Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/medhum

TORCH Shines a light on the medical humanities

This year has seen an unprecedented level of activity under the banner of Medical Humanities at Oxford, including disciplines as diverse as anthropology, theology, cancer medicine, genomics and primary healthcare, and this brief section cannot hope to do it justice... but here is an amuse bouche.

The activities have taken three broad forms: the humanities as direct therapy/healing, the humanities enhancing the understanding of health, illness and disease, and the humanities in the understanding of healers and healing. Some initiatives have tackled all three; the annual series of medical humanities lectures

PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

at Green-Templeton College organised by Prof Laurie Maguire, and the Healthcare Values Partnership (www.healthcarevalues.ox.ac.uk) led by Prof Joshua Hordern have become beacons drawing interest, as has the Oxford Phenomenology Network. In May, Prof Shepherd and colleagues opened the Oxford Science Museum to the public for an exhilarating evening of performance from the history of medicine through contemporaneous art, music and theatre, demonstrating the long-standing societal interest in the drama of problematic health. More directly therapeutic in ethos is the Poetry in Medicine work led by Prof Sophie Ratcliffe, where clinicians use poetry to reflect on aspects of their professional lives. An offshoot of this work was the best-selling poetry anthology, *"Stressed, Unstressed."* In a different way, Prof Hordern and colleagues have been running compassion workshops in local healthcare settings such as Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and end-of-life care contexts. Participants have reflected on 'feeling better' when a space and tools for reflection on practice are offered. This was brought home last autumn when the bestselling author Samuel Shem, told TORCH and audiences in London, Oxford and Glasgow that in nearly 50 years as a novelist his central theme has always been 'The risk of isolation and the healing power of good connection.'

The understanding of health, illness and disease is evidenced by a variety of initiatives: this includes tools for evaluating films about global health, as well as the work of Prof Worth with the Royal Colleges that oversee obstetrics and midwifery on the history of midwifery and childbirth – the Partnership sets public fascination with childbirth in a broad historical context, featuring debates and controversies from early printed midwifery texts to the present day. As with many of the above initiatives it brings to light important material that might otherwise be buried in the archives of institutions. History and philosophy have also been applied by Profs Salvulescu and Harrison and their co-workers to infectious disease and the human response to outbreaks.



There has been focused TORCH illumination on healers and healing. The personalised and precision medicine project led by Prof Hordern and Prof Tim Maughan (Clinical Oncology) examines the promise, hype and pitfalls which surround genomic medicine, with attention to questions of research ethics, risk, personhood, data sharing, resource allocation and global justice. Susskind and Susskind have been exploring a different aspect of the 'Brave new world' in considering whether machines will replace professionals. A series of collaborations have explored the role of 'market' concepts in how healthcare is provided, including a joint conference with the Royal Society of Medicine – these have linked into other projects with questions like 'Is there a market for compassion?' and 'Is there a market for ethics?' As the autumn approaches healthcare workers will be the focus of a medical humanities conference, 'Seeking the welfare of healthcare workers' which will consider the humanity and lived experience of those who provide care and healing. Like other humanities endeavours the outputs of this work are intrinsic (knowledge exchange and deeper understandings of what it means to be human) and instrumental (the flourishing of all publics in the context of healthcare). This year's activities have achieved the dual feat of engaging with policymakers, providers and the public at large (publics) and being translational (research that engages with the possibilities for public good outside the academy, whilst furthering understanding of that complex process). We hope to see you at a TORCH event soon!

Dr Andrew Papanikitas and Professor Joshua Hordern



Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation

torch.ox.ac.uk/comparativecriticism

A collaboration between TORCH and St Anne's College Research Centre.

The Comparative Criticism and Translation programme researches literature as it moves across languages and cultures and germinates between them. We view translation not as an adjunct to literature but as a fundamental literary process, and we are interested in how linguistic difference helps generate new ideas and cultural forms.

One of our key themes this year has been Prismatic Translation i.e. the idea that the multiple versions generated by translation should be welcomed and explored rather than regulated as right or wrong. We held an international conference that investigated instances from hieroglyphics to contemporary digital art, and worked out the theoretical ramifications in collaboration with the International Comparative Literature Association in Vienna; the project has now won four years of funding as part of a large grant to the Humanities Division from the AHRC's Open World Research Initiative.

Another focus has been on borders and migration. We've produced a book, *Minding Borders: Resilient Divisions in Literature, the Body and the Academy*, which looks at the newly complex but still aggressive ways in which borders are asserted in politics, theories of selfhood and the practice of academic research. In collaboration with Marina Warner, the Weidenfeld Visiting Professor of

Comparative Literature, we held workshops to explore how narrative can respond to the cultural and linguistic circumstances of the refugee crisis.

Graduate students and early career academics are crucial to our programme and we have always been keen for our research to trace through into teaching. This year the University has accepted our proposal for a new, cross-Faculty Masters Degree in Comparative Literature and Critical Translation: we hope to welcome our first students in 2018. Our media are at www.occt.ox.ac.uk, [facebook.com/compcritoxford](https://www.facebook.com/compcritoxford), @OxfordCCT and of course the TORCH website: do follow us!

Professor Matthew Reynolds

Oxford Medieval Studies

torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies

Oxford Medieval Studies brings together over 200 scholars at all stages of their careers across the University. It is one of the largest forums in the world for interdisciplinary humanities scholarship on the Middle Ages, a period of a thousand years (c.500-c.1500) which, contrary to modern stereotypes, saw huge social change, political upheaval, technological revolution, intellectual debate, and artistic innovation across Europe and the wider world. Medieval studies have continued significance in the modern world; it is a key part of our mission to use Oxford's unique resources to foster activities which make that relevance plain – often in unexpected ways.



PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

(<http://medievalculture.org/>), the annual Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference, and a conference on Celts, Romans, Britons: Classical And Celtic Influence in Britain, 55 Bc – 2016 AD. We also contributed to important events with visibility across the University, such as the Medieval Manuscript Masterclass on the occasion of the Inaugural Lecture of Henrike Lähnemann, Professor of Medieval German Literature and Linguistics.

Our OMS website now offers blogs to showcase our activities as well as a very active twitter account (@OxMedStud) and a link to the termly 'Medieval Booklet' (the catalogue of all things medieval happening in Oxford). We have also created a chat list for postgraduate students.

Professor Sophie Marnette

Women in the Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/womenandhumanities

It has been another lively and productive year for WiH. In December, WiH jointly hosted a talk by Ann Pettifor, the Director of Policy Research in Macroeconomics, on 'The Global Rentier Economy and the Rise of Inequality', and in February we hosted a very well-attended roundtable event on Women in Publishing, featuring Rachel Calder (Literary Agent), Dr Sunny Singh (London Metropolitan), and Karen Shook (Book Review Editor, *Times Higher Education*).

Our celebration of International Women's Day in March explored the theme of 'Women in the Academy' with a panel discussion featuring Professor Patricia Daley (University of Oxford), Professor Dame Hermione Lee (University of Oxford), Dr Lisa Mckenzie (London School of Economics) and Professor Diane Reay (University of Cambridge). This event, which considered the successes and ongoing challenges for women in academic careers, drew nearly one hundred participants and was followed by a lively discussion.

Last year saw OMS graduating from being a TORCH network to a programme. This was marked by an innovative launch event in December: 'Crossing Boundaries: Medievalists in Cross-Disciplinary Conversation'. In March 2016, we organized a workshop for postdocs and postholders, aimed at planting seeds for future collaborative interdisciplinary research. On the theme 'The Medieval List', eight Oxford colleagues discussed material showing diverse ways of atomising, organising, and presenting information in contexts ranging from *'The List of Martyrs in the Nuremberg Memorbuch'* (Prof Anna Sapir Abulafia) to *'Making Sense of Senseless Lists in Old English Poetry'* (Prof Andrew Orchard) or *'Text and Paratext: The Tables of Contents of the Cantigas de Santa Maria'* (Prof Stephen Parkinson).

We continued to organize our termly Interdisciplinary Seminars in Medieval Studies and offered two rounds of postgraduate/ECR small grants, funding projects such as 'Introductions to Medieval Culture' workshops



In May and June we were joined by our first WiH Visiting Professor, Abosede George (Barnard College, New York). Professor George gave a lecture entitled 'Home to Lagos? Free Black Migrations in the 19th-Century Atlantic World', participated in 'The Global Pursuit of Equality' conference, and met with students in History and reviewed their work. Our next two Visiting Professors, Lynn Abrams (University of Glasgow) and Mary Luckhurst (University of Melbourne) will join us in the 2016-17 academic year. WiH funded a highly successful graduate conference on the topic of Women's Responses to the Reformation that took place in June and was organised by Charlotte Hartmann, Mary Boyle, Edmund Wareham, graduate students in Medieval and Modern Languages and History. Alice Kelly was the recipient of a WiH Research Grant, which enabled her to undertake primary research in the US on a newly discovered collection of letters by a First World War nurse.

WiH hosted five lunches throughout the academic year to enable women in the humanities to get to know one another. 'Gender (In)Equality in the Humanities', was led by two DPhil students, Hannah Kinney (History) and Julia Hamilton (Oriental Studies). The second working lunch, on Gender Equality Schemes at Oxford, was led by Adrienne Hopkins, the Senior Equality Advisor of Oxford's Equality and Diversity Unit. Our first WiH social, held over pizza and wine at the end of Hilary Term, was a roaring success.

In the past academic year, WiH has offered small grants for academics at different stages in their career to develop research ideas, write up research and develop teaching on women in the humanities. This year WiH was joined by Dr Imaobong Umoren, WiH's first three-year JRF, a position held jointly with Pembroke College, and Dr Alice Kelly and Dr Laura Paterson, WiH's first Postdoctoral Writing Fellows. All three fellows have been very productive, working on their own research projects, teaching women's history, and organising events on behalf of or sponsored by WiH. These events include 'Wharton in Wartime', a roundtable event in February organised by Dr Alice Kelly to mark the launch of her critical edition of Edith Wharton's *Fighting France*; a lecture entitled 'Re-thinking Slavery and Freedom: Or What is a Man?' by Professor Catherine Hall (UCL) and a graduate and early career workshop in March, and a one-day conference on 'The Global Pursuit of Equality: Women, Networks, and Networking 1800-2000' in May, both organised by Imaobong Umoren. Our Fellows have enjoyed great success in their careers: Laura Paterson has been awarded a three-year British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, Alice Kelly has been awarded a three-year JRF in Oxford, and Imaobong Umoren has won a British Academy Rising Star Award.

All in all, a brilliant year of activity and progress for WiH as our programme continues to grow and develop. Here's to the next year...!

Professor Senia Paseta, Professor Selina Todd and Dr Alice Kelly

EARLY CAREER

The Division's training team works with TORCH in order to help humanities early career researchers hone and develop the skills they use for their projects, gain first-hand experience engaging in collaborations and make the first steps towards pioneering and influential career paths. Designed to resonate with TORCH's research themes for the year, the programme has offered early career researchers opportunities to explore their entrepreneurial potential in the Oxford Saïd Business School's Launchpad, to meet with commissioning editors from Routledge and Palgrave during publisher matchmaking events, and to consider how their research might benefit from interaction with a public audience.

Experiential, hands-on learning is the cornerstone of our approach, with student- and early career researcher-led initiatives and projects being generated and supported through our AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund, the AHRC-TORCH Student Peer Review College, and the AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement Summer School. All of these mechanisms are in turn run (with support from the Training team) by early career researchers themselves, namely Rhea Sookdeo Singh (DPhil History) and Emily Knight (DPhil History of Art), our TORCH Graduate Project Coordinators.

AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund

The AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund is a student-led initiatives fund with a twist: that is, students can apply for funding for public engagement-related initiatives but the fund is also governed by the students themselves. By giving students experience of the other side of the funding fence, the fund aims to improve their ability to write funding proposals and to seek out funding for their projects, and to offer opportunities to develop and put into practice a range of transferable skills involved in leading, selecting and organising academic projects both for the students leading the Fund and the award recipients. More than ten exciting projects received funding in 2015-16.

Public Engagement Summer School

The AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement Summer School (18-22 July 2016) consisted of 5 days of skills workshops, lectures and small group sessions designed to furnish its participants with the skills to integrate public engagement

*Dr John Miles,
Humanities
Training Officer*



into their research. Sessions on online skills and presentation skills helped prepare attendees to construct and deliver a pitch for their own public engagement project on the final day of the School and a chance to receive funding to pursue it in the coming year. For the first time in 2016 we were delighted to welcome participants from Cambridge and the Open University, and to deliver the programme in partnership with the University Museums, holding several sessions at the Ashmolean. One highlight of the week was hearing about the progress of projects funded from last year's Summer School, such as those led by Ushashi Dasgupta and Lucy Busfield.

How to Live Together

Ushashi Dasgupta (DPhil English) is working with the Dickens Museum and with the University's outreach team in order to run a project entitled 'How to Live Together',



inviting local schools to the Museum in summer 2016. Through creative and stimulating academic workshops, the project explores the nature of the home, cohabitation, neighbourliness, personal space and shared space, and asks what Dickens can teach us about these ideas, introducing young audiences to the latest original academic research.

Introduction to Reading Old Handwriting

Between January and July of 2016, Lucy Busfield (DPhil Theology) led a series of public workshops on how to read early modern English handwriting, in collaboration with Essex County Record Office. Lucy was helped in this task by six other doctoral students and early career researchers, drawn from the faculties of History, Theology, English and Medieval and Modern Languages. Lucy's project engaged local families in the business of transcribing early modern texts held in the Record Office's archives, as both a crowdsourcing initiative and a family day out.

Postdoctoral Training Coordinator

In the new role of Postdoctoral Training Coordinator, Dr Emily Troscianko has run a varied series of events and schemes to support postdoctoral researchers in their complex professional lives, on the spectrum from the work- and career-focused to the welfare-orientated. Alongside workshops on 'Coping with Complexity', 'The Life of the Mind and the Body', and 'Academic Community Building', Emily has established a successful Writing Partnerships and Peer Mentoring scheme which has complemented a very popular Academic Writing Group led by Dr Alice Kelly.

torch.ox.ac.uk/earlycareer



TORCH-OCLW CONFERENCE GRANT

Collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing

The 'Speaking in Absence: Letters in the Digital Age' Conference (21 June 2016) was held at the Weston Library and Wolfson College. This one-day conference consisted of panel discussions, a practical demonstration, a visual tour, research poster presentations, and a conference dinner. Generously sponsored by TORCH, Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, Bodleian Libraries and Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute, and further involved the participation of Oxford University Press and Blackwell's, the conference rationale was to establish the place of written correspondence in an age when this mode of communication has become increasingly obsolete.

The interdisciplinary nature of the conference attracted attendees from a variety of academic disciplines to professions and institutions, including the general public. Some of the highlights from the day included: Professor Christopher Ricks who provided the keynote address 'The errors of our ways when editing letters'; multiple award winning film editor Sabine Krayenbühl and photographer Zeva Oelbaum presented their documentary film *Letters from Baghdad*; and Dr. Alison Pearn discussed the Darwin Correspondence Project. In fitting fashion, author (and panelist) Georgina Ferry tweeted a message of thanks to the conference organisers, adding that "letters have a bright future".

Michaela Crawley, DPhil Candidate in History

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER PROFILES

Dr Imaobong Umoren TORCH-Pembroke Career Development Fellow in Women in the Humanities

My current research focuses on the international travels of a group of Caribbean and African American women intellectuals in the mid to late twentieth century. TORCH has been central to my academic life in Oxford since I arrived as a DPhil student. In 2013 I co-founded the Race and Resistance programme with a group of colleagues from the humanities, and as part of my fellowship I am also involved with the Women in the Humanities programme. Through my roles in both programmes, I have helped to organise weekly seminars, film screenings, book launches, roundtable discussions, and workshops. In September 2016, I am organising a two-day interdisciplinary international conference on the theme of women's equality and networks across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The conference hopes to bring scholars from different countries together to explore the role of networking in promoting gender equality. It will include two keynote speakers from the humanities and social sciences. In all

of the activities that I have been involved with, TORCH has given much needed support in terms of providing space in the Radcliffe Humanities building, publicizing the events on the TORCH website and social media, and ensuring that logistics run smoothly. The TORCH administrative team has been immensely helpful and is a fantastic team. What I enjoy the most about being at TORCH is the collaborative nature of working with scholars and students from different disciplines.

I am really looking forward to continuing my involvement with TORCH especially as the 2017 TORCH headline series 'Humanities and Identities' overlaps with my research. The theme of the headline series is of great importance, giving contemporary debates about politics, culture and identity not just in Britain but also around the world. The events that are lined up for the series are very exciting, especially those that are geared towards engaging with the public. Over the remaining years of my fellowship, I hope to become more involved in public engagement as it's an area where researchers get a chance to share their research with and learn from the public.



Dr Imaobong Umoren



Dr Robin Whelan



Dr Justine McConnell



TORCH has provided a fantastic scholarly base for me to pursue these multiple strands and collaborate with colleagues from across the university. *Dr Justine McConnell*



Dr Robin Whelan

Hulme University Fund and John Fell OUP Research Fund Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities

I've been a postdoctoral research fellow at TORCH and Brasenose College since October 2014. In those two years I've had the chance both to revise my PhD thesis for publication as a book and to make progress on a completely new project. I'm currently researching Christian ideas of the state and political office in the Roman Empire and its successors. TORCH is a great place to work, because, as a historian of late antiquity (roughly the period from 250-700 CE in Europe and the Middle East), I'm always having to hop between Classics, History, Theology, Oriental Studies and Archaeology (among others).

As a committee member of the Oxford Medieval Studies programme (OMS) within TORCH, I've helped to organize our launch event, run an ECR workshop on 'Heresy from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages' and put together two sessions on 'Forming Christian Authority in Late Antiquity' for the International Medieval Congress at Leeds. In this coming year, I'll be one of the organizers for OMS's contributions to the 'Humanities and Identity' strand in TORCH.

What I've appreciated most about TORCH is being part of a supportive community of ECRs. I've benefited from so many conversations with my office mates, who are always happy to compare notes on teaching, research and career plans.

Dr Justine McConnell

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

I've been a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at TORCH for two years, working on contemporary African, Caribbean, and ancient Greek poetics. My research crosses disciplinary boundaries, particularly drawing from the fields of Classics, English Literature, and Performance Studies, so being in a truly interdisciplinary environment has been ideal. TORCH has provided a fantastic scholarly base for me to pursue these multiple strands and collaborate with colleagues from across the university. The 'Race and Resistance Across Borders' Programme, for example, which we co-founded in January 2013, has been a crucial research forum for me, as have the many TORCH events that I've participated in.

In terms of public engagement, I've been lucky enough to work with performance poets Kate Tempest and Caleb Femi, and with the Almeida Theatre, which have been very enjoyable and illuminating experiences.

While working on my second monograph, I have co-edited two volumes over the last couple of years, both of which have an interdisciplinary perspective: *The Oxford Handbook of Greek Drama in the Americas* (edited with Kathryn Bosher, Fiona Macintosh, and Patrice Rankine, 2015) and *Greek Myth in World Fiction since 1989* (edited with Edith Hall, 2016).

From September, I'll take up a permanent post at King's College London as Lecturer in Comparative Literature, and have no doubt that my time at TORCH and the opportunities I've had here have helped make that possible.

Early Career Researchers - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dr Jan Machielsen - Lecturer in Early Modern History at Cardiff University

The year I spent at TORCH was one of the happiest and most productive of my life. I arrived as part of the first cohort in 2012 and even got to pick out my desk (close to a window, but not facing the door in case someone saw me checking Facebook). I was nervous as I had never worked in an open office before but soon learned that seeing your colleagues at work (working), rather than only at lunch increased one's productivity. I aimed to get in before everyone else (not difficult because we weren't with many and one, Lorenzo, was a nocturnal vampire) and I had 11am tea breaks in the kitchen with my friend Clare. I essentially wrote my first book that year, without which I would not hold the permanent post I do now. In a way, I owe TORCH my career.

Dr David Birks – Senior Research Fellow at Institute for Experimental Medicine at University of Kiel

Following my Junior Research Fellowship based in the Philosophy Faculty at Oxford, I accepted a Senior Research Fellowship at the Institute for Experimental Medicine, at the University of Kiel, in northern Germany. For many reasons, it's an incredible place to work, even setting aside the enriching German culture, and our campus bakery, with its 5 metre length display of peculiar and delicious cakes. Rather, my Institute employs fellows from a variety of disciplines to contend with issues in law, medicine, and philosophy together. This has been incredibly helpful, and my experience at TORCH has held me in good stead, particularly given TORCH's Science and the Humanities theme in 2015. Still, I'm delighted to maintain close ties with TORCH

as an Early Career Research Fellow. In the last year, we produced a short cartoon focused on my work on punishment. I also gave a talk at the Ashmolean/TORCH Halloween event, addressing the question 'What's So Bad about Dying?' where I considered whether we have reason to be terrified about as unexpected, sudden, and painless death. I hope to maintain close links with TORCH over the coming year, particularly as the research theme is 'Humanities & Identities', a topic very close to my interests.

Dr Ruth Scobie – Teaching Associate in 18th and 19th-century English Literature at University of Sheffield

Over the last year as an ECR at TORCH, Ruth Scobie has supported research activities through the TORCH Celebrity Network, including a symposium on literary fame and political activism, and a conference on life-writing and celebrity, in collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing and King's College London. She also launched and managed the Oxford Diversifying Portraits project. This project researches, catalogues and publicizes portraits at the University which show its historical and present-day diversity; and has also commissioned a series of new artworks showing a range of living subjects making a difference to Oxford and the wider world. Its aim is to create a more visually inclusive and welcoming environment for students, staff and visitors, and to explore the role of portraits in representing and encouraging academic diversity.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, Ruth will be working at the University of Sheffield, teaching eighteenth- and nineteenth-century English literature, and continuing her research.

I essentially wrote my first book that year, without which I would not hold the permanent post I do now. In a way, I owe TORCH my career.

Dr Jan Machielsen, Lecturer in Early Modern History, Cardiff University

Dr Justine McConnell – Lecturer in Comparative Literature at Kings College London

Over the last year, I've been focusing on the Caribbean side of my research. I've worked with the Library of the Spoken Word at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, whose unparalleled holdings include recordings of literary greats such as Derek Walcott, Kamau Brathwaite, Louise Bennett, and Mutabaruka.

In November, I was the Academic Consultant on the Almeida Theatre's day-long reading of Homer's *Odyssey*, performed on everything from a bus, to a boat, to the London Eye. It was a terrific experience, and a chance to use my research on performances of epic, which I carried out with Fiona Macintosh at the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama (APGRD).

I'm now looking forward to taking up the post of Lecturer in Comparative Literature at Kings College London in September 2016.

Dr Will Abberley - Lecturer in Victorian Literature at Sussex University

I am now a lecturer in the School of English at the University of Sussex. In September 2015, I organized an international conference on the theme of representations of underwater environments in science, art and literature, and I am now assembling an essay collection based on this event. I have finished my Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship on animal mimicry and deception in Victorian literature and culture, and have the monograph for this in the pipeline. I have appeared numerous times on the BBC Radio 3 programmes *Freethinking*, *The Verb* and *Proms Extra*, and my documentary "Who's Afraid of Anthropomorphism?" went out on Radio 3 last autumn. I've also presented on my research at conferences in Chicago and Munich.

Dr Arthur Dudley – Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at University of Cambridge

Dr Arthur Dudley left TORCH in September 2015 to take up a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge. His current project, "Making Persianate People: Histories of Literary Education Beyond Iran," considers how literary Persian was spread and maintained in the vast region where it had cultural currency but was not a mother tongue. This follows on from the research into Persian lexicography in Mughal India that was the focus of his work at TORCH. He also taught an undergraduate course on Mughal history in the Department of History, SOAS.

Dr Danica Salazar - World English Editor for the Oxford English Dictionary.

Danica Salazar is World English Editor for the Oxford English Dictionary. She works as part of the OED's New Words team, writing and researching new entries for the dictionary. She is also involved in shaping OED policy for world varieties of English, and represents the dictionary in the media and in international conferences. She continues to write and lecture on English and Spanish lexicography and phraseology, and has recently published a monograph titled *Lexical Bundles in Native and Non-native Scientific Writing*.

Dr Alice Kelly - Harmsworth Junior Research Fellowship on the History of America and the First World War, Rothermere American Institute and Corpus Christi College

I arrived at TORCH in October and established our twice-weekly Academic Writing Group, which encourages healthy writing practices for graduate students and ECRs, and has grown over the year into a supportive and encouraging community. In November 2015 I published 'The Field of Honour' an unknown First World War story by Edith Wharton, in the *Times Literary Supplement*, and the article – to my surprise – went viral. The story has now been translated into multiple languages and adopted on university syllabi in the UK and the US. In December my critical edition of Edith Wharton's *Fighting France: From Dunkerque to Belfort* was published by Edinburgh University Press and has since been reviewed positively in a number of literary journals. Wharton in Wartime, a roundtable discussion with a panel of Wharton experts that I organised in February 2016, was a great success. In April my research trip to the US, funded by a Women in the Humanities Research Grant, allowed me to gain access to some newly discovered letters by an American First World War nurse at Johns Hopkins' Medical Archives.

I will give an invited lecture on these letters in Baltimore in September 2016. During my research trip I appeared on *World War One: The Cultural Front* on BBC Radio Four, where I was interviewed about Wharton in 1916. In June I co-organised the interdisciplinary Inequality Seminar with our TORCH Director Elleke Boehmer, which gave me insight into other disciplinary perspectives. I also submitted a book chapter on First World War letters and a journal article on Katherine Mansfield's wartime letters, and made headway on my monograph. Phew! A great year, facilitated and encouraged by the productive research culture at TORCH.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



TORCH continues to support, encourage, and expand on its innovative Knowledge Exchange activities.

Knowledge Exchange takes many forms at TORCH, led by the KE Fellowships scheme which has attracted record numbers of applications this year from across most of the faculties in Humanities. The fellowships are funded by HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Fund) and provide teaching buy-outs and other kinds of support for University of Oxford academics seeking to establish collaborative partnerships with external organizations. Our KE fellows come from all career stages and work with a wide range of partners, including theatres, museums, medical organizations, charities, schools, and NGOs. This year, in addition to supporting seven new KE fellows, we have introduced "extension awards" to enable existing fellows to continue to develop their partnerships. This is partly in response to the findings of the KE Evaluation study we commissioned which indicate the need for longer-term funding to support successful KE collaborations as they develop. Along with the KE Seed Fund, which provides small amounts of funding to kick-start exploratory projects that might lead to longer-term KE partnerships, these new "extension awards" show the Humanities division's commitment to KE and the broad spectrum of support that now exists to enable it.

This year we also enhanced our regional involvement, continuing to explore ways to strengthen Oxford's roles within local communities. I joined the steering committee of the LEP, helping to shape its strategy and the document that launched at Blenheim Palace in July 2016. We also initiated two AHRC Cultural Engagement projects led by postdoctoral fellows working alongside Humanities professors: "Connecting Oxfordshire Theatres" led by Dr Selena Wisnom, exploring how we can better connect with local theatre organizations, and "Multilingualism in Schools" led by Dr Benjamin Schaper using drama to help teach modern languages in local schools.

For me, the role of KE Champion has been a deeply fulfilling and exciting one. It has been extremely rewarding to work closely with colleagues in the division, particularly Andrew Fairweather-Tall and Cleo Hanaway-Oakley, supported so ably by the TORCH team of Victoria McGuinness, Laura Miller, Hannah Penny, and Sarah Bebb. Together we have worked toward expanding and embedding KE in the Humanities division, building on the solid foundations established by my predecessor in the role of KE Champion, Professor Abigail Williams. It has been a delight to see this happen and to engage with the many forms of KE pioneered by our colleagues from the writing of a new opera for children to the recreation of an 18th-century King Lear to the exploration of the Science Museum London's 19th-century pharmacy objects and much, much more.

Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr, Knowledge Exchange Champion

torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange

Celebrating 500 Years of Pregnancy and Birth

torch.ox.ac.uk/birth

2015-16 saw the full launch of a Knowledge Exchange Partnership between myself, the Archives and Library Service of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives (London), and the De Partu History of Childbirth group. We held two seminars, one at the Royal College in September 2015 and one at TORCH in Oxford in May 2016. Both attracted a very wide range of UK and international delegates: midwives, doctors, early years experts, archivists, academics from humanities and social sciences, and some recent mothers. The common theme was using the history of childbirth as a lens onto current debates, including birthing positions, the delayed clamping of the umbilical cord, developments in antenatal and postnatal care and support for new parents, the many developments in midwifery textbooks and the recording of oral histories from midwives who practised in the 1930-60s. The May seminar concluded with a fascinating glimpse behind the scenes from Terri Coates, the midwifery adviser to the BBC's popular series 'Call the Midwife', which has boosted recruitment to midwifery courses significantly!

In addition, together with Janette Allotey (research historian and Lecturer in Midwifery at the University of Manchester), I curated an exhibition of posters featuring striking images from the library holdings and photographic archives of the Royal Colleges, which were displayed in their Education Centre for six months. I took copies of some of these to discuss with midwifery students at Oxford Brookes University, leading to some lively discussions about how diverse religious beliefs and cultural practices can have a place in the birthing room. Then, on a Saturday morning I joined some 200



junior doctors at the Royal College for talks about specialist careers in 'obs and gynae', before discussing the posters in the Education Centre with them: Renaissance images of caesarean section (before anaesthetic) and a seventeenth-century model of a stillborn foetus prompted searching ethical reflections.

Over 2016, I have focused my own research on the historical understanding of sterility and fertility, a scientific field that is changing with incredible speed as I discovered on a visit to the lab of Kevin Coward, Director of the MSc in Clinical Embryology at the University of Oxford. Scientists and doctors face the challenge of conveying the most recent information sensitively and effectively to patients, and it is this public provision of information that provides a common thread for the historian across print and photographic archives, oral histories and present-day medical practice.

Professor Valerie Worth

Mediating Modern Poetry

torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/mediatingmodernpoetry

This year has seen MMP go from strength to strength but also develop in new directions. There have been bilingual readings with Michael Krüger in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, as well as a memorable evening in Oxford with Ulrike Draesner and Ulrike Almut Sandig. Events have included appearances at Cheltenham Literary Festival with Salman Rushdie; Reading Literary Festival, BBC Proms Extra, with Jo Shapcott in Cork; and with Don Patterson at the first Lutonia! Festival. One of the highlights of the year was a gala event with Poet in the City: 'Paul Celan Sounds and Visions', with Edmund de Waal, Grete Tartler and the Aurora Orchestra to a sell-out audience at King's Place. But MMP has also been involved with the nitty gritty of translation with workshops in Oxford, and London at the Free Verse Festival and a discussion with Stephen Romer and Jamie Mckendrick for Oxford Translation day. MMP was especially pleased to play a part in a spectacular days of events in Oxford to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the journal Modern Poetry in Translation, founded by Ted Hughes.

Acclaimed German poet Ulrike Draesner has spent the year in Oxford in New College and TORCH as first MMP poet in residence, giving readings, seminars and lectures in Oxford and beyond, as well as workshops in local schools. An international symposium on her work culminated with a specially commissioned bilingual reading and a booklet of her 'radical translations' of Shakespeare's sonnets was made for the Bod's #sonnet2016 project.

Publications from the project continue to appear in prestigious journals and volumes, but it is especially gratifying that the judges of the Popescu Translation Prize 2015 honoured both Volker Braun's *Rubble Flora* with a commendation and Jan Wagner's *Self Portrait with a Swarm of Bees*, trans. Iain Galbraith with the top prize. What is more, Karen Leeder's translations of Ulrike Almut Sandig's *Thick of it* commissioned for the project won two awards: an English PEN New European Voices award and a PEN America PEN Heim award 2016.

See films from the Symposium and MPT@50 as well as details of all the events on mmp.mml.ox.ac.uk

Professor Karen Leeder

Pharmacy as a Laboratory of Modernity

torch.ox.ac.uk/pharmacy

The Pharmacy project is a collaboration with the Science Museum London and it draws on the Museum's vast Wellcome Collection to trace the story of medicines and the technological conditions of their discovery. The background to the collaboration is the redesign and expansion of the Museum's medicine galleries which are due to re-open in 2019 and which attract over three million visitors annually. The core idea behind the new exhibition is a focus on the ideas, people, technologies, and events that have affected human lives over the last 500 years. As a KE Research Fellow funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, I have been located in the Museum's state of the art DANA research centre working alongside the project's curatorial team where I have been conducting research on pulmonary illness and its treatment in the 19th century and providing advice on pharmaceutical history in this period. Lung disease was a key issue in the period and here the smallest objects and seemingly simple technologies (pills, medicated steam, inhalation devices) enable powerful and provocative accounts of both the private and socio-historical dimensions of medicine.

Besides advising the curators, I have worked with experimental scientists to test historical inhalation devices and will be publishing two articles from this collaboration this year. Alongside organising workshops with various stakeholders in the inhalation sector such as Asthma UK, I will also be co-organising a strand on medical history at the Ashmolean Museum as part of the Being Human Festival in November 2016, and will be organising a workshop on Medical Objects at the Science Museum in early 2017.

Professor Barry Murnane

Staging Nahum Tate's King Lear

torch.ox.ac.uk/Tate-lear

Thanks to a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship, I was able to collaborate with the Hidden Room Theatre Company in Austin, Texas. Our aim was to stage an 'original practices' ('o.p.') production of Nahum Tate's 1681 *King Lear*: an adaptation of Shakespeare's play with a happy ending in which Lear lives, Cordelia marries Edgar, and only the bad die. As Tate's play replaced Shakespeare's for over 150 years – it was the version that first made it to the US – we wanted to see how it would perform now intellectually, practically and emotionally.

By examining pictures and engravings of the time on the one hand and manuals and accounts of gesture on the other, I was able to talk to the actors about period-specific performance issues (with graduate student Dionysios Kyropoulos, I ran a workshop at TORCH on some of these discoveries). Rehearsals, which I attended on Skype, investigated how seventeenth-century methods can be made to work in contemporary theatre. The resultant production, which refreshingly removed Shakespeare from the world of high art into the world of the vernacular, was vivid, immediate, funny and surprisingly moving. Reviews called it 'an absolutely brilliant piece of theatre history and a glorious achievement by a dedicated troupe of actors and academics'. The production, which we are hoping to bring to the UK (our last collaboration, a *Hamlet* puppet show, performed at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse), combined 'now' with 'then', and suggested new directions both for research and performance.

Professor Tiffany Stern





Unlocking Late Schumann

torch.ox.ac.uk/unlocking-late-schumann

Unlocking late Schumann is a collaboration between Knowledge Exchange Fellow Laura Tunbridge and the Oxford Lieder Festival, which in its eleventh year is celebrating the songs and chamber music of German Romantic composer Robert Schumann (1810-1856).

Professor Tunbridge's

research has focused on the music from the last four years of Schumann's creative life, which is much less well known than his earlier works. The Festival is an ideal opportunity for audiences, performers and scholars to place Schumann's late works in context, considering not only the impact of the composer's final illness on his productivity, but also the challenges and rewards of engaging with this unfamiliar repertoire. As well as a conference co-organised with the Royal College of Music, German Historical Institute and the Wigmore Hall (12-14 February 2016), *Unlocking late Schumann* presents a series of podcasts produced in conversation with singers Sarah Connolly and James Gilchrist, pianists Tim Horton and Roger Vignoles, and the Festival Director Sholto Kynoch, introducing some of Schumann's late works and debate the issues. On 28 October there will also be a Study Day, Late Style and Legacy, with Professor Tunbridge in conversation with Dr John Spicer about Schumann's medical situation, and composers Martyn Harry and Robin Holloway discussing Holloway's *Fantasy Pieces on the Heine Liederkreis of Schumann*.

Further information about the 2017 Oxford Lieder Festival, which runs from 14-29 October, can be found at <http://www.oxfordlieder.co.uk/>

Professor Laura Tunbridge

AHRC Cultural Engagement Fellows

This year has seen the creation of two dynamic new Cultural Engagement projects in drama, led by our two Cultural Engagement Fellows, and funded by £50k from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to celebrate its tenth anniversary. These three-month projects sought

to link up academic research with the wider cultural world, enhancing both in innovative ways.

For the project Connecting Oxfordshire Theatres with Research, Knowledge Exchange Champion Kirsten Shepherd-Barr and Cultural Engagement Fellow Selena Wisnom brought together researchers and theatre practitioners from around Oxfordshire. Workshops have showcased successful partnerships, and explored possibilities for the future, aiming to consolidate collaboration between theatres and the University and create exciting new venues for creativity.

Supporting language learning in local Oxfordshire schools, the project Multilingual Drama in Schools focused on the educational potential of cultural institutions such as theatres and arts centres. Cultural Engagement Fellow Benjamin Schaper and project leader Katrin Kohl were building a case study of cooperation between theatre performers, teachers, and academic researchers.

Knowledge Transfer Partnership

Trusted Source is a government-funded partnership project bringing together the National Trust and University of Oxford academics to work on new ways of presenting historic places to the public. Like other Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (which until now have usually been established to make use of scientific research), it aims to benefit both sides of the partnership. Dr Oliver Cox, the project's manager, explains that the project provides the National Trust with a means of accessing the world-leading expertise of Oxford historians to inform new visitor displays in country houses and gardens. But it will also develop researchers' knowledge and skills. "Academics will work with experts in public engagement and visitor experience at the National Trust," he writes, "and hopefully this will feed back into teaching and graduate seminar programmes."

Alison Evans, the National Trust's Assistant Director of Operations in London and the South-East and Project Lead for the KTP said: "We're very excited about this partnership with the humanities academics at Oxford University – their research will help us enrich and add depth to the stories we can tell about the special places in our care. The wealth of data amassed in the project will be consolidated into pithy, easily understood articles about history, culture and the natural environment. The information will then be shared throughout the National Trust to be used in staff and volunteer induction training, by room guides in houses, for interpretation at our places and in guidebooks. It will also be shared on the internet for everyone to access."

ENGAGING WITH MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES



One of TORCH's core strategic aims is to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration through creative research environments. Museums are fantastic places to communicate research and engage wider and public audiences.

Victoria McGuinness, TORCH Business Manager

Public Engagement with Research

TORCH helps research projects become far greater than the sum of its parts: by facilitating connections between researchers who would not have met otherwise,

TORCH stimulates new, ground-breaking research. It also enables scholars to reach out beyond the academy and work with external partners, nurturing collaborations with cultural organisations, policymakers, media and charities, both locally and nationally.

TORCH draws on what Oxford has long been celebrated for – its world class researchers –and multiplies their impact in innovative ways.

TORCH regularly and actively partners with museums and cultural institutions as natural places to innovatively share and collaborate in researchers' projects.

By engaging with museums and galleries, the benefit to researchers and their research projects is huge. They enable larger and more diverse audiences and create a new wave of impact for researchers. Collaborations have been in the UK and beyond, including all the Oxford Museums, joining together with Humanities researchers.

Ashmolean LiveFridays

TORCH has become a regular part of the excellent Ashmolean Museum Live Fridays (Dead Friday in October 2015, Heroes and Villains in January 2016, and Framed Friday in May 2016) where the museum opens late to thousands of visitors of all ages.

DEADFriday saw 25 academics give TORCH Bitesize Talks throughout the night, including a range of topics related to the collections, such as gravediggers, Hong Kong death rituals, death masks, and Victorian children's literature.

For Heroes and Villains six academics gave Bitesize Talks covering topics from *Game of Thrones* to the Alfred Jewel, to the *Iliad*. There were four object trails throughout the museum, with academics standing by objects so they could discuss the importance and symbolism behind the objects.

What does your image say about you? Framed Friday was the grand finale for the final weekend of the Ashmolean's Andy Warhol exhibition. This LiveFriday focused on portraits across the Museum and beyond and included bitesize talks from Professor Simon Palfrey, Victoria McGuinness, Emily Knight, Dr Ruth Scobie, Eleri Watson, and Sarah Hook.

The Oxford Dodo: Culture at the Crossroads

TORCH, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and the Story Museum collaborated for a day of events exploring creative and scientific responses to the Dodo. The day included a workshop for school groups from New Marston and North Hinksey primary schools and an evening panel discussion with speakers from a range of disciplines exploring the dodo. It also included a creative writing competition for 7-14 year olds, in partnership with The Story Museum, Blackwell's Bookshop, and the University Museum of Natural History. TORCH received over 170 entries from 36 schools around the UK.

Speakers included the Director of the Museum, Paul Smith along with Pietro Corsi (Historian of Science), Jasper Fforde (Author of the Thursday Next series), Paul Jepson (Environmental Researcher) and Kirsten Shepherd-Barr (Literary Scholar). The event was part of Being Human 2015, the UK'S only national festival of the humanities.

'The dodo: an icon of extinction, and a powerful symbol of humanity's impact on the environment. It crosses disciplinary lines, encompassing literature, science, the arts, geography. It haunts our imagination, from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* to David Quammen's *The Song of the Dodo* to the Natural History Museum's very own exhibit on this extraordinary and elusive creature.'

Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr

Oxford Open Doors

As part of Oxford Open Doors, we open up the building in which TORCH is based. Originally the Radcliffe Infirmary for Oxford, it was a hospital from 1770 and is now a Humanities building in the centre of Oxford.

Oxford Open Doors is a fantastic opportunity to reach out to our local communities, keep the history of the former Radcliffe Infirmary alive and showcase some of the research that is taking place at Radcliffe Humanities.

"Too valuable to die?" Debate with the Museum of the History of Science

Silke Ackermann (Director, Museum of the History of Science) Liz Bruton (Co-curator, "Dear Harry"... Henry Moseley: A Scientist Lost to War) and Nigel Biggar (Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, University of Oxford) discussed the ethics of scientists going to war in response to the Museum of the History of Science exhibition exploring the life and legacy of talented English physicist Henry Moseley.

London Science Museum Fellowship – Professor Barry Murnane

TORCH collaborated with the London Science Museum to support high-quality research on the Science Museum's collections and related to the Museum's Exhibition Programme. The exchange enables Oxford academics to bring their approach to the Science Museum by studying their collections, and the Museum benefits as the collections are interpreted from a Humanities perspective, which in turn feeds back into the academic's research.

We encouraged proposals from scholars in the humanities who were interested in interdisciplinary research, involving the broader cultural, social and political aspects of science.

'Pharmacy as a Laboratory of Modernity' Gallery (opening 2019)

For this Fellowship project, the research will focus particularly on pulmonary disease and its treatment in the 1800s. Lung disease was a key issue in 19th-century discourse and here the smallest objects and seemingly simple technologies (pills, medicated steam, inhalation devices) enable powerful and provocative accounts of both the private and socio-historical dimensions of medicine. The research focused on





the Science Museum's Wellcome Collection of medical history. Emerging from Professor Murnane's research on the links between literature and pharmacy in the 18th and 19th centuries, this collaboration would enable him to benefit from the Museum's expertise in reconstructing histories of material culture while he contributes to a guiding narrative of medical and pharmaceutical developments for the galleries/exhibition.

Professor Barry Murnane

Engaging with Heritage

Knowledge Transfer Partnership: 'Trusted Source'

The Thames Valley Country House Partnership (TVCHP) continues to grow and provide opportunities for researchers, at whatever stage of their career, to work on collaborative projects with a range of partners in the heritage sector.

An exciting development is the appointment of Alice Purkiss in February 2016 as Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate, who manages 'Trusted Source' (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ktp). This project, co-funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the National Trust, will see Oxford academics working with the National Trust to explore ways of using research to improve visitors' enjoyment of, and engagement with historic places – helping millions of visitors to understand the big ideas behind the National Trust's special places. Alice has embedded Trusted Source within the research community at Oxford, presented the collaboration at a range of conferences including the AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement Summer School, and generated huge interest from both the university and heritage sectors.

In addition to Trusted Source, our collaborations with the National Trust have also included: an exciting re-interpretation of the Tudor mansion, The Vyne, working with three Early Career Tudor historians; a Public Engagement with Research award for 'Story Interventions' at Ham House; a new project to place '2 Willow Road' in its European context; and ongoing advice on the development of a new research strategy.

A new partnership with Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute was highlighted in April 2016 by the discovery of a new Shakespeare First Folio. Five interns from the University of Oxford spent the summer of 2016 on Bute, helping to bring other treasures from this collection into the public domain.

We're also proud to have launched an innovative smartphone app, TalkAbout Guides (www.talkaboutguides.co.uk), after incubation funded by Oxford University Innovation.

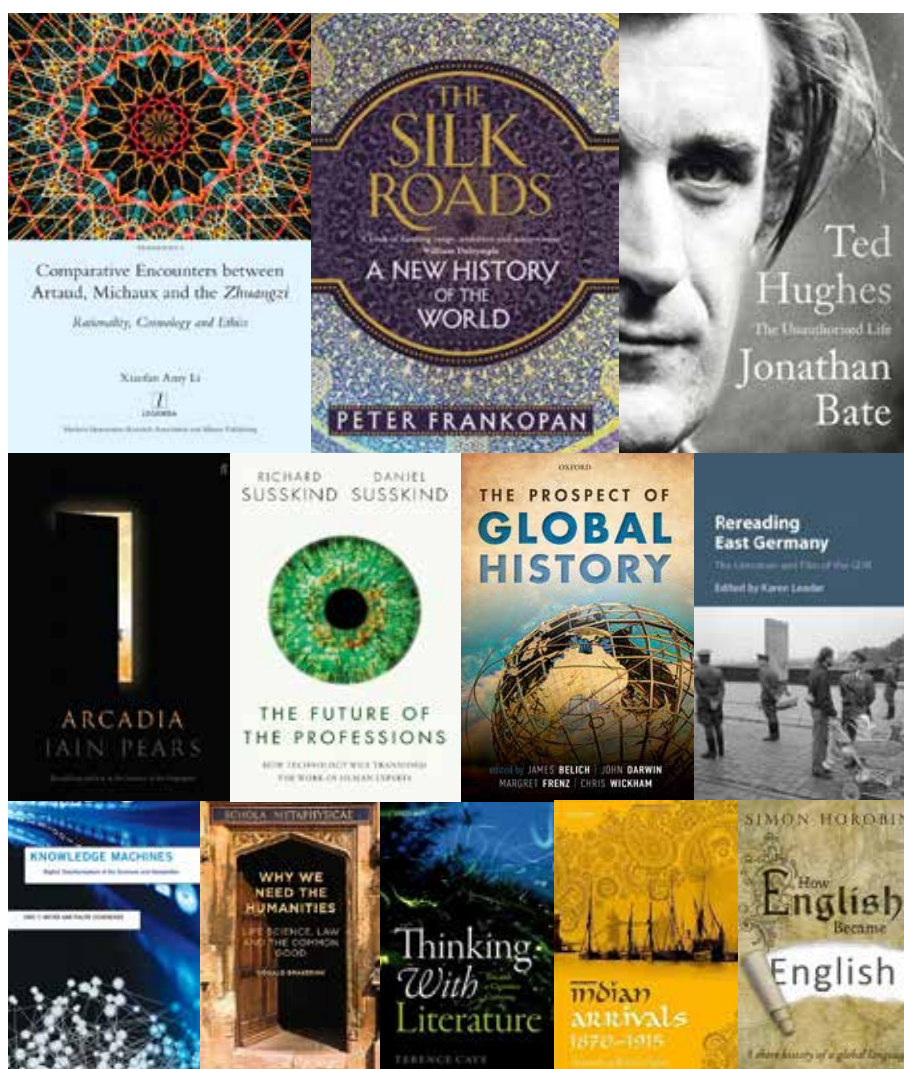
Dr Oliver Cox has been heavily involved in 2016's tercentenary celebrations of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, delivering high profile public lectures for the World Monuments Fund, ICOMOS-UK, CountryFile Live and appearing on BBC Radio 4. Together with Emily Knight (DPhil researcher, History of Art Department), he curated 'The English Garden: Views and Visitors at the Bodleian Library'. He was also a Visiting Professor in Public History at Texas State University, and delivered sold-out lectures for the Royal Oak Foundation in Philadelphia, Boston and New York.

Dr Oliver Cox and Alice Purkiss

BOOK AT LUNCHTIME

'We greatly enjoy the TORCH lunch event. At the early stages of publication of our book, it was a fine opportunity, in front of a well informed audience, to face robust challenges to our book, *The Future of the Professions*.'

Richard Susskind and Daniel Susskind



Scholarship and research underpin everything TORCH does. The 'Book at Lunchtime' series celebrates the latest Humanities research by highlighting new books by Oxford academics. Each term we feature books from a wide range of subjects, and in spring we highlighted books that bridge the humanities and the digital age to mark the Annual Headline Series. Unusually for book events, the author does not give a talk. Rather, commentators from different disciplines give their perspectives on the book, followed by discussion with the author and the audience (with lunch provided).

Professor Elleke Boehmer, Director of TORCH, said:

"Book at Lunctime discussions are among the highlights of the TORCH term and keep our interdisciplinary interests alive and thriving across the year. I always enjoy hearing a range of experts talking about a book from their different standpoints, and then generally finding a range of surprising areas of interest in common."

TORCH | ANNUAL HEADLINE SERIES

Humanities and the Digital Age

In the spring of 2016, we launched our exciting new series, Humanities and the Digital Age, which allowed us to explore areas of convergence between the humanities and the digital, and to consider the creative and disruptive potential of this convergence. Building upon TORCH's vibrant Digital Humanities programme and the wider Digital Humanities at Oxford network, the series took the broadest possible approach to the question of how the digital is transforming the humanities, and how the humanities allow us to create, interpret, and shape our increasingly digital world.

Our opening debate, 'What does it mean to be human in the digital age?' brought together experts from across the humanities and the cultural sector to examine how the digital age has shaped, and will continue to shape, the human experience and the humanities, including Diane Lees CBE (Director-General of the Imperial War Museum Group), Professor Emma Smith (Fellow and Tutor in English, University of Oxford), Dr Chris Fletcher (Professorial Fellow at Exeter College, Member of the English Faculty and Keeper of Special Collections at the Bodleian Library), Tom Chatfield (author and broadcaster) and Dame Lynne Brindley (Master, Pembroke College and Former Chief Executive, British Library). The discussion broke apart the familiar conflict between human and artificial intelligence, considering instead harmonious interactions between human and technological memory, the power of the digital to reconnect us with the material, and the potential for human-machine interactions to force us to ask difficult questions about what humanity is.

Following this rousing opening event, which was attended by 360 people and live-streamed all over the world, we continued to consider the impact of the Digital Age through a series of lunchtime discussions, bringing together experts from across the University and beyond, representing the humanities, social, information and computer sciences, as well as digital makers, writers, and museum professionals. We took over TORCH's excellent Book at Lunchtime series, and organised the first App at Lunchtime, discussing with Iain Pears his groundbreaking app-turned-novel *Arcadia*,

along with a panel of academic experts. Through student-organised conferences, special lectures and expert panels, we discovered how the digital is transforming the study of epistolary networks, how the digital can allow us to un-wrap and read ancient texts and understood some of the complexities of studying life-writing in the era of social media.

The series has been a celebration of scholarship at scale, innovation in methods, engaging citizens, and building interdisciplinary scholarly capacity. Using the latest methodologies and state-of-the-art digital technologies, crossing disciplines and breaking down traditional barriers to scholarship and accessibility, this innovative and resourceful community is creating new multidisciplinary approaches to the past, present and future.

Dr Kathryn Eccles

The presentations were lively, interesting, presented the research problems and solutions in a way that recognized the multi-disciplinary nature of the audience.

*Attendee, Digital Unwrapping:
Homer, Herculaneum, and the Scroll from Ein Gedi*





Headline Series for 2016-17: Humanities & Identities

Following a significant grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund, TORCH's Headline Series, 'Humanities & Identities', will focus on multiple research areas relating to diversity.

'Humanities & Identities' will bring together researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, creative thinkers and wider communities interested in forms of self-identity past, present and future. We welcome innovative ideas for projects from researchers working across the humanities and beyond on areas that link to all aspects of diversity and inclusivity.

The Headline Series will include a launch event in January 2017, which will be followed by a series of high profile talks, workshops, performances, conversations, and a diversity-themed Book at Lunchtime series throughout the year. These events will showcase research and provide opportunities for involvement at all career stages, including graduate and early career scholars.

'Oxford Alternative Stories'
Innovative app project with the Pitt Rivers Museum

Working with the University Mobile app team and the Pitt Rivers Museum, TORCH is creating two mobile apps which aim to highlight and braid together these alternative, fringe and lesser known stories relating to people and places in and around Oxford, as well as enable Students to create their own trails at the Pitt Rivers Museum.

<http://torch.ox.ac.uk/identities>



Daniel Susskind @danielsusskind
@richardsusskind & I are talking with @oxfordhvp, @Viliele, & @jwajcman1 on Wed about our new book @TORCHOxford -- torch.ox.ac.uk/future-profess...



Kathryn Eccles @KathrynEccles
Brilliant lunchtime talk on #KnowledgeMachines with @etmeyer @jamesmithies @LucieCBurgess @TORCHoxford Too busy talking to tweet!



James Smithies @jamesmithies
@LucieCBurgess @Kathryn Eccles @etmeyer @TORCHoxford Many thanks for discussion about #KnowledgeMachines. Crucial topics / food for thought



Lucie Burgess @LucyCBurgess
@LucieCBurgess @Kathryn Eccles @jamesmithies @TORCHoxford thanks for great discussion, congrats Eric on fascinating book #KnowledgeMachines

HUMANITIES & SCIENCE PROJECTS

ANDREW W. MELLON
FOUNDATION FUNDED
DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIPS



THE MENTAL AND MATERIAL LABORATORY OF THIRTEENTH -CENTURY SCIENCE

The overwhelming misconception of modern science graduates is that, prior to the development of the scientific method during the 16th-century, natural philosophy was dominated by dogma, religious authority and superstition. On the other hand, Crombie has made the bold and widely propagated claim that the father of western experimental science was Robert Grosseteste, who in the 13th-century wrote magnificent works on topics including light, colour, the rainbow, sound and the movement of the celestial spheres, describing an ambitious framework for understanding natural phenomena using all the resources available to him. In this project we will seek a deeper appreciation of 13th-century accounts of natural phenomena by understanding the interplay between the intellectual and material environments of the period.

In order to experience these environments through the same lens as the contemporary scholars, this project will develop an integrated understanding of inherited frameworks of knowledge and the available material world. This will be done through an interdisciplinary approach led by students with a background in science (Joshua Harvey) and medieval theology (Tim Farrant). We will complement textual analyses with physical reconstructions of the materials and observational tools available in the 13th century, recreating and analysing relevant phenomena with careful consideration of those resources which may have been available to the medieval scholar, supplemented where appropriate by more modern techniques.

An important aspect of the research will be to understand the balance between inherited knowledge and original observation, exploring what might be termed the mental 'laboratory' of 13th-century scientific writers. The influence of Aristotle and his Islamic and Jewish commentators takes the bulk of attention in this field, but we will also consider the important contributions of Augustinian influences, which are often undeservedly forgotten. By combining this

with the physical reconstructions, we will develop a deeper appreciation for the intellectual processes that led to the medieval explanation of natural phenomena as explained in the texts, allowing us to interpret the discussions as they would have appeared to contemporary scholars. Thus we will not judge the content of the texts in modern terms, but gain a deeper appreciation of the logic and thought processes of the authors and their contemporaries.

The supervisory team will consist of Carol Harrison (Theology), Clive Siviour (Engineering) and Hannah Smithson (Experimental Psychology), Giles Gasper (Medieval History, University of Durham), combining an understanding of the intellectual framework of the period, practical manufacturing resources and modelling expertise, and the ability to objectively quantify human sensory discriminations, which would have been the primary measurement tool available at the time. The project presents outreach opportunities through engagement with organisations such as Oxford Archaeology and publications for a more general audience. We will also interact closely with the AHRC-funded Ordered Universe Project, which deals more specifically with the work of Grosseteste. The project will culminate in a public exhibition that will immerse the visitor in the medieval scientific world, where the story is told through parallel presentation of relevant texts and hands-on demonstrations, with broader descriptions of the intellectual inheritance of the age.

Without the generous support of the Mellon Foundation a project of this nature would have been almost inconceivable, and we are eagerly looking forward to the unique opportunities afforded by such highly interdisciplinary research.

Professor Clive Siviour



CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY AND LIFETIME RESILIENCE

The task of summarising how our work has developed in 2015-16 highlights how enriching it has been to mould, slowly, an interdisciplinary collaborative research project. Childhood Adversity and Lifetime Resilience was born, with remarkable speed and ease, at TORCH early in 2015, when Dr Lucy Bowes and Dr Siân Pooley, then newly appointed lecturers in experimental psychology and history, were awarded a pair of Mellon Foundation doctoral studentships. In Michaelmas 2015 Michelle Degli Esposti and Jono Taylor began working towards DPhils in experimental psychology and history respectively.

Our project seeks to alter how we understand, and what we know, about children who grew up in adverse circumstances in modern Britain. We examine how people experienced, understood and were affected across the course of their lives by relationships, environments and actions that since the 1880s were understood to be harmful to children in their historical and cultural context (such as violence, neglect or sexual abuse). With a shared focus on individuals' changing lives, our research connects historical work on social inequalities and subjectivity to psychological analyses of early life stress and resilience; we use textual, statistical and longitudinal evidence to understand the diverse ways in which people made, and make sense of, their lives.

An unexpected highlight of the year has been routine monthly meetings. It is through these critical friendships that collaborative interdisciplinary work has most fundamentally altered how we think. The generous provision of desk space at TORCH has also had a transformative impact on what it means to be a DPhil student. History and experimental psychology have strikingly different strengths (and weaknesses). What has emerged most clearly is that our collaboration succeeds when we work as rigorously as possible to develop these

disciplinary strengths and to interpret the challenging disjunctures that emerge, rather than to sit comfortably in a consensual middle.

Arising from a recent meeting, Michelle Degli Esposti and Jono Taylor have begun tracing the number of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect in Britain since the 1930s. A recent article in *The Lancet* mapped policies and trends over the last forty years and, controversially, concluded that there are few signs of a decline in the prevalence of child maltreatment in the UK. By piecing together evidence from primary sources that are familiar to historians but a mystery to the field of psychology, it becomes possible to place data in a much longer time-frame, which is also attuned to changing official recording practices. Simultaneously, this statistical analysis offers historians novel ways to gauge the impact of the long-familiar chronology of the making of the welfare state: were national policies implemented so as to transform local child protection services or to change social norms within communities and families?

This has important implications for how we fund and focus state provision for children today. We are developing partnerships with providers of children's health and social care, so as to think together about the relationships, environments, actions, resources and interventions that support children to thrive when growing up in adverse circumstances. By sharing knowledge with providers and practitioners, we hope that our research uses evidence, answers questions and communicates findings in ways that are most likely to contribute to improved care for children in contemporary Britain.

Dr Lucy Bowes, Michelle Degli Esposti, Dr Siân Pooley and Jono Taylor

HUMANITAS

TORCH was home to the Humanitas programme at Oxford for the past 5 years. The programme brought leading practitioners and scholars to Oxford and Cambridge to address major themes in the arts, social sciences and humanities. All events are open to the public and available as podcasts, allowing the discussions to reach a diverse and world-wide audience. In 2015-16 TORCH hosted 5 Visiting Professors, including award-winning playwright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard, world-renowned historian Simon Schama, and the innovative guitar duo Sérgio and Odair Assad. They came to Oxford from around the globe to explore topics as diverse as the history of Adam and Eve, the musical *Hamilton*, conducting, and the role of the playwright. The events have drawn together thousands of audience members to watch unique performances, participate in debates, and hear about the latest discoveries in different fields.

The programme was founded by Lord Weidenfeld and is funded with the support of generous benefactors through the Weidenfeld-Hoffman Trust. The programmes are managed by TORCH in Oxford and CRASH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities) in Cambridge.

Prof Simon Schama incidentally also introduced his lecture with what we think might be the first use of hip-hop musical theatre in the Sheldonian

James McDougall



Humanitas Visiting Professors 2015–16:

Sérgio and Odair Assad | Classical Music and Music Education
Stephen Greenblatt | Museums, Galleries, and Libraries
Simon Schama | Historiography
Tom Stoppard | Drama Studies
Christian Thielemann | Opera Studies

Previous Humanitas Visiting Professors include:

Midori | Classical Music and Music Education
Renée Fleming | Opera Studies
Dr Rowan Williams | Interfaith Studies
Michael Govan | Museums, Galleries, and Libraries
William Kentridge | Contemporary Art
Michael Winterbottom | Film and Television
Professor Sir Christopher Bayly | Historiography
Vanessa Redgrave | Drama Studies
Mark Thompson | Rhetoric and the art of Public Persuasion





Two of the Academic Directors from the Humanitas Visiting Professorship programme reflect on their events

Dr Sos Eltis (Brasenose College), Academic Director for the Humanitas Visiting Professor in Drama Studies

"Sir Tom Stoppard's has been a highly enjoyable, stimulating and thought-provoking professorship, drawing full audiences and producing great excitement across Oxford among students, staff and members of Oxford's wider community. He gave a lecture at in the Natural History Museum's theatre, attended by a full audience, including graduates and undergraduates, faculty and some substantial parties from local schools. The 'In Conversation' with Professor Dame Hermione Lee, who is currently researching and writing his biography, was wonderfully dynamic, informative and lively. In addition to these scheduled events, Tom also met with a group of twenty undergraduates, answering their questions with great openness and kindness. He was immensely generous with all the students he met, spending a long time signing copies of his plays, having photos taken with the cast and director of a student production of *Arcadia*, and answering a host of questions with humour and slow consideration."



Professor James McDougall (Trinity College), Academic Director for the Humanitas Visiting Professor in Historiography

"Prof Simon Schama took part in a very busy schedule of public and private events. The headline lecture, 'History's Audience', at the Sheldonian Theatre was attended by members of the University and of the general public. He gave a lecture that was both dense and witty, tracing the relation between historical writing as public performance and as silent study from Herodotus to AJP Taylor (and incidentally also introduced his lecture with what we think might be the first use of hip-hop musical theatre in the Sheldonian). The Oxford Museum of Natural History was the venue for the second public event, a roundtable discussion in which Prof Schama was joined by Prof Craig Clunas, FBA, the University's Professor of the History of Art and a Fellow of Trinity, and Prof Margaret MacMillan, Professor of International History and Warden of St Antony's (in the chair), to talk about 'The Past and its Publics'. The lecture theatre was pleasingly full for this event... The discussion, which focused on history education, current controversies in the public (mis)understanding of history, and the professional historian's responsibilities in the public sphere, was wide-ranging and stimulated a good number of interventions from the audience."

GIVING TO TORCH

TORCH has now completed its third full year in operation (2015-16) and continues to support, facilitate and encourage interdisciplinary research. As part of the University of Oxford's Humanities Division, TORCH is based in the Radcliffe Humanities building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

TORCH is funded by various sources, including the University's John Fell Fund, with additional support from Trusts and Foundations, as well as private donors. TORCH is grateful to have also received funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as well as other donations totalling over £1.6 million for the years 2013-2018

By providing small amounts of seed-funding to new research networks, TORCH has become an invaluable testing ground for innovative research projects. These projects are supported by TORCH's infrastructure, which offers free rooms for events, website hosting and advice and investment from the TORCH team. Selected on a highly competitive basis, funding for networks lasts for up to two years, after which many networks apply for further external funding, bringing in valuable research grants to the University. Many go on to be more established research programmes at TORCH, using new approaches to

tackle some of the challenging questions of our time.

An investment in TORCH goes a long way. I have supported TORCH for over two years now, and it has been wonderful to see it back so many innovative projects and people in that time. TORCH is a very young institution in the University of Oxford's 900-year history, but it has already made a great impact in the University, in the UK, and internationally, and with support I believe its impact will continue to grow.

Michael Hoffman

The TORCH vision immediately inspired me and I felt compelled to contribute from the beginning. At a time when so much research is becoming so highly specialised and inaccessible to the layman, it is critical that we support initiatives that will break down the barriers and refashion the way in which the humanities are presented, taught, thought about and communicated to future generations.

Julian Schild, alumnus, Pembroke, Modern History

TORCH–Pembroke Career Development Fellowship

A new Career Development Fellowship in women in the humanities has been established jointly by The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities (TORCH) and Pembroke College, thanks to the generosity of a private donor. The three year post has been taken up by Dr Imaobong Umoren, following a very competitive selection process.

On receiving news of her appointment Dr Umoren was delighted, explaining that the post 'will provide me with time to develop two research projects on African, African American, and Caribbean women's history in the twentieth century. Being based at TORCH and Pembroke College will strengthen my interdisciplinary approach and allow me to interact and

collaborate with a number of scholars in the fields of history, literary studies, psychology, anthropology and theology. It will also enable me to organise academic and public events. During the fellowship, I am also excited to take part in Pembroke College's award-winning Access scheme.'

Dame Lynne Brindley, Master of Pembroke, commented: 'Pembroke is delighted to welcome Dr Umoren, a talented and impressive academic whose research and writings on black women's history in the twentieth century are already adding much to her field. We look forward to the contribution she will make to our activities and to academic debate here in College.'

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters. If you would like to give a gift to TORCH, please contact Antony Green, Head of Development (Humanities) antony.green@humanities.ox.ac.uk or online via the central campaign: www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/torch