

Public History in an Age of Anxiety

Annual conference of the Centre for Public History. Queen's University Belfast

9-11 September 2025

conference programme

Tuesday 9th

- 09.00-09.50** registration (PFC foyer)
- 09.50** *Welcome*
- 10.00-11.00** **Panel 1: Global Anxieties and Public History Responses** (PFC02/026)
- Suparna Banerjee**, *Reviving Dalit Culinary Traditions: A Case Study on Public History in India*
- Andrew Nunes**, *Historical Symbols and Political Anxieties: The Portuguese Case*
- 11.00-11.20** Tea/Coffee
- 11.20-12.50** **Panel 2: The Personal is Historiographical** (PFC02/026)
- Niamh Cullen**: *Ages of anxiety and possibility: biography, familiarity and writing the 1930s and 40s in the 2020s*
- Emma Reisz**: *Reflexivity, positionality and the (human) historian's craft*
- Ioannis Tsioulakis**: *Standing with: an ethnomusicologist as music colleague in the field*
- Briony Widdis**: *Ethics of care: positionality and the stewardship of colonial family archives*
- 12.50-1.30** lunch
- 1.30-2.30** **Panel 3: Precarity in the Public History Professions** (PFC02/026)
- Chair: Leonie Hannan**
- Maurice Casey**, *Can I simply be a historian? Instability and opportunity as a freelance public historian'*
- Emma McAlister**, *Museum Professionals at Risk: Doing Public History in the Age of Anxiety*

2.30-3.30 MA Lightning Talks (PFC/02/026)

Sandipana Dhar (Hyderabad - remote), *Contest, Emotions, and Marginality: Revisiting the Santhal Rebellion of 1855.*

Charo Havermans (UCL): *Everyday Histories to Bridge Our Differences*

Eibhlín Nic Cormaic (QUB): *Feminism and the Irish language among women republican prisoners*

Shannon Chance (UCL): *The Oregon Trail: Representation of Indigenous People, Co-creation, Inclusive Narratives.*

Archishman Biswas (Hyderabad): *The different histories of Aurangzeb: Public history in a digital age*

Laura Michael (NYU): *Official Archives and Storytelling in Guatemala and Saudi Arabia*

3.30-3.50 Tea/Coffee

4.00-5.00 Annual Keith Jeffery Lecture in Public History (Emeleus Lecture Theatre)
Professor Ludmilla Jordanova (University of Durham): *Portraits as Public History: Visual Culture and Ages of Anxiety*

5.00-6.00 Wine reception (Senate Room)

Wednesday 10th

09.30 – 11.00 Panel 4: Place, environment and eco-anxiety (PFC02/026)

Catherine Kerr, *A Dying Art on a Dying Planet: The role of Dioramas and Tapestries within museum spaces in a time of eco-anxiety.*

Liam Campbell, *A Wake for Lough Neagh – Ecoanxiety and its Public (and not so) History*

Tommy Greene, *"Bitterly alive": how the nets, openings and unravellings of history inform the tragedy of Lough Neagh*

11.00-11.30 Tea/Coffee

11.30-12.45 Roundtable: Ethical and Equitable Community Co-production and Public Histories. (PFC/02/026)

Chair: Olwen Purdue

William Blair (National Museums NI)

Lisa Rae Currie (Community engagement specialist)

David Huddleston (PRONI)

Adriana Lopez (Ulster University)

Paul Mullan (National Lottery Heritage Fund)

Emma Reisz (Queen's University Belfast)

12.45– 1.30 Lunch

1.30-2.30 **Keynote 2: Dr Amy King (University of Bristol)** *Classrooms of Resistance: Antifascist Pedagogies as the Far-Right Rises* (PFC/02/026)

2.30- 3.30 **Panel 5: Public history and far right ideology/political anxiety** (PFC/02/026)

Lisa Goff, *Public Historians Push Back: Trump's Erase-and-Replace Strategy to Whitewash American History*

Catherine Fletcher, *Transforming Humanities in a Time of Gun Violence*

Panel 6: Recovering voices and traditions (PFC/02/011)

Róisín Nic Liam, *Employing community-based practices to recover contested narratives in post-conflict society: the case of the Irish-language Reclamation Movement in Béal Feirste.*

Alex Iannou, *Actively reframing Eryri: Explorations in collective anticipatory histories in North Wales*

3.30-4.00 Tea/Coffee

4.00-5.30 **3.45-5.15 Panel 7: Asian/American Public History in an Age of Anxiety** (University of California, Santa Cruz) (PFC/02/011)

Meleia Simon-Reynolds and Steve McKay, *Watsonville is in the Heart*

Alexyss (Lex) McClellan-Ufugusuku and Alan Christy, *Okinawa Memories Initiative*

Alice Yang and Clara Bergamini, *Grappling with the legacy of Japanese American Redress*

6.15pm Conference dinner (Millar's Brasserie. £30 - advance registration essential)

Thursday 11th

09.00 – 10.00 Workshop: Making Meaning through the Material. Leonie Hannan (QUB) and Liza Thompson (Bloomsbury Publishing) (PFC/02/026)

10.00 -11.30 Panel 8: Traumatic Pasts, Contested Memories, Radical Hope. (PFC/02/026)

Beatrice Bernardino, *Healing in the Midst of Injustice: Confronting Wartime Sexual Violence through the War & Women's Human Rights Museum*

Alexandra Zaremba (online), *Managing Memory and Post-war Anxieties: Negotiating Public History of the Recent Past in Socialist Yugoslavia.*

Beatrice Leeming (online) *'I thank God for a free South Africa': Translation in Holocaust Memorial-Site Visitor-Books, 1990-2024*

11.30-11.45 Tea/coffee

11.45-1.15 Panel 9: Marginalised voices, difficult pasts #1 (PFC/02/026)

Anna Zadora, *The Europeanization of Holocaust Memory in Belarus as the example of silences voices place and societal changes.*

Marta Gałuszka, *Participation without Democracy: Rethinking Museum Engagement through Socialist Case Studies*

Ellinor Forster, *Expanding the focus of city tours and reducing anxiety by treating migration as a natural process*

1.15-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 Panel 10: Marginalised voices, difficult pasts #2 (PFC/02/026)

Keira Gomez, *"I wouldn't have spoken to her about it otherwise": the family oral history interview as a catalyst for change*

Niall Herron, *United and Divided: Negotiating Narratives on Queer Experience During the Troubles*

Shu Wan, *Th Oops... The Omission of Information and Implications in the Covid-19 Pandemic Oral History is not Occasional*

Panel 11. From One Age of Anxiety to Another: Navigating Difficult Public Histories of Interwar Britain During the Current Permacrisis (PFC/02/011)

Julie V Gottlieb, *A History of Within of the Munich Crisis: (Re)Creating "The Nervous State" to reach diverse audiences*

Emily Calcraft, *The 'Horrors' and 'Glamours' of War: Historicising British Pacifism for the Classroom in the Face of International Conflict*

Kevin Harris, *Challenging Mosley's Legacy: The Politics of Archiving the Far-Right*

3.30-4.30 **Keynote 3: Prof Jasmine Alinder (University of California, Santa Cruz)** *The Recontested Past: Public History & Japanese American Incarceration During World War II* (PFC/02/026)