

# PUBLIC HISTORY IN AN AGE OF ANXIETY

## Annual conference of the Centre for Public History

Queen's University Belfast

9-11 September 2025

### Tuesday 9 September

09.00-09.50	Registration	PFC foyer
09.50	Welcome: <b>Professor James Davis</b> , Head of the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy & Politics	PFC/02/026
10.00-11.00	<b>Panel 1: Public history and political anxiety</b> Chair: Nik Ribianszky <b>Catherine Fletcher</b> , <i>Transforming Humanities in a Time of Gun Violence</i> <b>Lisa Goff</b> , <i>Public Historians Push Back: Trump's Erase-and-Replace Strategy to Whitewash American History</i> <b>Andrew Nunes</b> , <i>Historical Symbols and Political Anxieties: The Portuguese Case</i>	PFC02/026
11.00-11.20	Tea/Coffee	PFC foyer
11.20-12.50	<b>Panel 2: The Personal is Historiographical</b> <b>Niamh Cullen (Chair)</b> : <i>Ages of anxiety and possibility: biography, familiarity and writing the 1930s and 40s in the 2020s</i> <b>Emma Reisz</b> : <i>Reflexivity, positionality and the (human) historian's craft</i> <b>Ioannis Tsioulakis</b> : <i>Standing with: an ethnomusicologist as music colleague in the field</i> <b>Briony Widdis</b> : <i>Ethics of care: positionality and the stewardship of colonial family archives</i> <b>Keira Williams</b> : <i>Ancestors and Anxiety in the Archives</i>	PFC02/026
12.50-1.30	Lunch	PFC foyer
1.30-2.30	<b>Panel 3: Precarity in the Public History Professions</b> Chair: Leonie Hannan <b>Maurice Casey</b> , <i>Can I simply be a historian? Instability and opportunity as a freelance public historian</i> <b>Emma McAlister</b> , <i>Museum Professionals at Risk: Doing Public History in the Age of Anxiety</i>	PFC02/026

2.30-3.30	<b>MA Lightning Talks</b> Chair: Crawford Gribben <b>Charo Havermans</b> (UCL): <i>Everyday Histories to Bridge Our Differences</i> <b>Sandipana Dhar</b> (Hyderabad), <i>Contest, Emotions, and Marginality: Revisiting the Santhal Rebellion of 1855.</i> <b>Archishman Biswas</b> (Hyderabad): <i>The different histories of Aurangzeb: Public history in a digital age</i> <b>Eibhlín Nic Cormaic</b> (QUB): <i>Feminism and the Irish language among women republican prisoners</i> <b>Shannon Chance</b> (UCL): <i>The Oregon Trail: Representation of Indigenous People, Co-creation, Inclusive Narratives.</i> <b>Laura Michael</b> (NYU): <i>Official Archives and Storytelling in Guatemala and Saudi Arabia</i>	PFC/02/026
3.30-3.50	Tea/Coffee	PFC foyer
4.00-5.00	<b>Annual Keith Jeffery Lecture in Public History</b> <b>Professor Ludmilla Jordanova (University of Durham)</b> <b><i>Portraits as Public History: Visual Culture and Ages of Anxiety</i></b>  Opening remarks: Andrew Holmes, Head of History, QUB Chair: Olwen Purdue, Director, Centre for Public History	Emeleus Lecture Theatre
5.00-6.00	Drinks Reception	Naughton Gallery

### Wednesday 10 September

09.30 – 11.00	<b>Panel 4: Place, environment and eco-anxiety</b> Chair: Will Megarry (NBE) <b>Catherine Kerr</b> , <i>A Dying Art on a Dying Planet: The role of Dioramas and Tapestries within museum spaces in a time of eco-anxiety.</i> <b>Liam Campbell</b> , <i>A Wake for Lough Neagh – Ecoanxiety and its Public (and not so) History</i> <b>Tommy Greene</b> , <i>"Bitterly alive": how the nets, openings and unravellings of history inform the tragedy of Lough Neagh</i>	PFC/02/026
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11.00-11.30	Tea/Coffee	PFC foyer
<b>11.30-12.45</b>	<b>Roundtable: Ethical and Equitable Community Co-production and Public Histories</b> Chair: Olwen Purdue <b>William Blair</b> (National Museums NI) <b>Lisa Rae Currie</b> (Community engagement specialist) <b>David Huddleston</b> (PRONI) <b>Adriana Lopez</b> (Ulster University) <b>Paul Mullan</b> (National Lottery Heritage Fund) <b>Emma Reisz</b> (Queen's University Belfast)	PFC/02/026
12.45– 1.30	Lunch	PFC foyer
<b>1.30-2.30</b>	<b>Keynote 2: Dr Amy King (University of Bristol)</b> <i>Classrooms of Resistance: Antifascist Pedagogies as the Far-Right Rises</i> Chair: Niamh Cullen	PFC/02/026
<b>2.30-3.30</b>	<b>Panel 6: Recovering voices and traditions</b> Chair: Liam Campbell <b>Róisín Nic Liam</b> , <i>Employing community-based practices to recover contested narratives in post-conflict society: the case of the Irish-language Reclamation Movement in Béal Feirste.</i> <b>Alex Iannou</b> , <i>Actively reframing Eryri: Explorations in collective anticipatory histories in North Wales</i>	PFC/02/026
3.30-4.00	Tea/Coffee	PFC foyer
<b>4.00-5.30</b>	<b>Panel 7: Asian/American Public History in an Age of Anxiety</b> Chair: Keira Williams <b>Meleia Simon-Reynolds and Steve McKay</b> , <i>Watsonville is in the Heart</i> <b>Alexyss (Lex) McClellan-Ufugusuku and Alan Christy</b> , <i>Okinawa Memories Initiative</i> <b>Alice Yang and Clara Bergamini</b> , <i>Grappling with the legacy of Japanese American Redress</i>	PFC/02/026
6.15pm	Conference dinner (£30 - advance booking essential)	<a href="#">Millar's Brasserie</a>

**Thursday 11 September**

<b>09.30 – 10.30</b>	<b>Workshop: Making Meaning through the Material</b> <b>Leonie Hannan</b> (QUB) <b>Caroline Sumpter</b> (QUB) <b>Liza Thompson</b> (Bloomsbury Publishing) <b>Kate Arthur</b>	Lanyon/0G/074
10:30-10:45	Tea/coffee	PFC foyer
<b>10.45 – 12:15</b>	<b>Panel 8: Traumatic Pasts, Contested Memories, Radical Hope</b>  Chair: Briony Widdis  <b>Beatrice Bernardino</b> , <i>Healing in the Midst of Injustice: Confronting Wartime Sexual Violence through the War &amp; Women's Human Rights Museum</i>  <b>Alexandra Zaremba</b> (online), <i>Managing Memory and Post-war Anxieties: Negotiating Public History of the Recent Past in Socialist Yugoslavia.</i>  <b>Beatrice Leeming</b> (online) <i>'I thank God for a free South Africa': Translation in Holocaust Memorial-Site Visitor-Books, 1990-2024</i>	PFC/02/026
<b>12:15-1:15</b>	<b>Panel 9: Whose history? New perspectives on belonging</b>  Chair: Kieran Connell  <b>Camilla Portesani</b> , <i>Youth Participation and the Politics of Historical Narration in Museums</i>  <b>Ellinor Forster</b> , <i>Expanding the focus of city tours and reducing anxiety by treating migration as a natural process</i>	PFC/02/26
	<b>Panel 10: Addressing silences through public history</b>  Chair: Maurice Casey  <b>Anna Zadora</b> , <i>The Europeanization of Holocaust Memory in Belarus as the example of silences voices place and societal changes.</i>  <b>Marta Gałuszka</b> , <i>Participation without Democracy: Rethinking Museum Engagement through Socialist Case Studies</i>	PFC/02/011
1.15-2.00	Lunch	PFC foyer
<b>2.00-3.30</b>	<b>Panel 10: Marginalised voices, difficult pasts</b>	PFC/02/026

	<p>Chair: Jack Crangle</p> <p><b>Keira Gomez</b>, <i>"I wouldn't have spoken to her about it otherwise": the family oral history interview as a catalyst for change</i></p> <p><b>Niall Herron</b>, <i>United and Divided: Negotiating Narratives on Queer Experience During the Troubles</i></p> <p><b>Shu Wan</b>, <i>Th Oops... The Omission of Information and Implications in the Covid-19 Pandemic Oral History is not Occasional</i></p>	
	<p><b>Panel 11: From One Age of Anxiety to Another: Navigating Difficult Public Histories of Interwar Britain During the Current Permacrisis</b></p> <p>Chair: Sophie Cooper</p> <p><b>Julie V Gottlieb</b>, <i>A History of Within of the Munich Crisis: (Re)Creating "The Nervous State" to reach diverse audiences</i></p> <p><b>Emily Calcraft</b>, <i>The 'Horrors' and 'Glamours' of War: Historicising British Pacifism for the Classroom in the Face of International Conflict</i></p> <p><b>Kevin Harris</b>, <i>Challenging Mosley's Legacy: The Politics of Archiving the Far-Right</i></p>	PFC/02/011
<b>3.30-4.30</b>	<p><b>Keynote 3: Prof Jasmine Alinder (University of California, Santa Cruz)</b></p> <p><i>The Recontested Past: Public History &amp; Japanese American Incarceration During World War II</i></p> <p>Chair: Leonie Hannan</p>	PFC/02/026
<b>4.30</b>	Closing Remarks: <b>Dr Leonie Hannan</b> , Deputy Director, Centre for Public History	