Staff news:

A warm welcome to Dr Leonie Hannan, who has recently joined the Institute for Collaborative Research in the Humanities at Queen’s as a research fellow in History.

Leonie works on the social and cultural history of 17th- and 18th-century England, Ireland and North America with a focus on gender, intellectual life and the early modern household. She completed her doctoral research at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2009. This project explored the role of letter-writing in women’s engagement with the life of the mind and argued that the material processes of correspondence affected the traffic of ideas in this period. This study culminated in a book, which is forthcoming with Manchester University Press. Since 2009, she has expanded her investigation of epistolary practices in two ways: by looking at the material culture of writing and by examining how epistolary networks supporting antiquarian enquiry functioned socially and geographically. Leonie’s current research focuses on the practice of scientific enquiry as it took place in the 18th-century home. Whilst histories of science have identified the genteel household as an important site for scientific experiment, they have tended to do so via the particular biographies of important men of science. This study will, instead, take the material culture of the home as its starting point and investigate the tools within reach of early modern householders in their search for knowledge. For more information and contact details, see:
http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/InstituteforCollaborativeResearchintheHumanities/StaffProfiles/DrLeonieHannan/

- Congratulations to Professor Fiona Magowan, who was presented with an award for Doctoral Supervisory Excellence by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick Johnston, at one of the Graduate School’s opening events on 12 May (right). These inaugural awards, made to two supervisors in each of the three faculties, constitute a new initiative of the Graduate School. Postgraduate research students across the university were invited to nominate supervisors and submit citations on supervisory excellence together with supervisors’ philosophies and practices of engagement.

- A team of History staff ran the Belfast Marathon Relay on 1 May in a School record time of 3 hours and 37 minutes. Brian Kelly, Paul Corthorn, Alex Titov, Sean O’Connell and Chris Marsh also raised £400 for the Nepalese Earthquake relief fund.

Student news:

- Congratulations to Jonathan Best (PhD History), who has been award the AHSS Faculty prize for Best Research Poster in the Graduate School’s inaugural PhD Poster Competition.
Congratulations to Barry Sheppard (MA History) on receipt of a £4000 Giving Northern Ireland bursary for research into philanthropy. Barry, who is completing the MA part time, will use the award to support his research on the history of land movements during the 1930s Depression period that took thousands of people away from the industrial cities and retrained them in small subsistence farming. His objective is to look at practical ways to learn from some of the movements of the past that helped deal with economic depression and how this can relate to modern society through philanthropic organisations. He is examining aspects of urban regeneration in terms of the allotment movements of that period and looking at parallels to today where hard-hit communities are seeking out alternative economic systems as a reaction to recession and austerity.

- Congratulations also to Stuart Irwin (PhD History), who is Joint winner of the History of Medicine in Ireland Essay Prize, 2015, sponsored jointly by Ulster University’s Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland (CHOMI) and the Ulster Society for the History of Medicine (USHM).
- Andrew Murray (BA History) was one of winners in this year’s National Student Survey (NSS) Prize Draw. Thanks to all our students who participated – an impressive 78% of our eligible final year students responded this year.

Research news:

Publications – books:


Film, History and Memory examines the relationship between film and history, exploring the multiplicity of ways in which films depict, contest, reinforce or subvert historical understanding. This volume broadens the focus from 'history', the study of past events, to 'memory', the processes – individual, generational, collective or state-driven – by which meanings are attached to the past. This approach acknowledges how the significance of the historical film lies less in its empirical qualities than in its powerful capacity to influence public thinking and discourses about the past, whether by shaping collective memory, popular history and social memory, or by retrieving suppressed or marginalized histories.

This book originates in the AHRC research project ‘Documentary film and the public communication of historical knowledge in Northern Ireland’ (2012-13), in which Fearghal McGarry was PI and Jenny Carlsten research assistant. More info at http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/film-history-and-memory-fearghal-mcgarry/?isbn=9781137468949

Publications – articles and chapters:

- Ciara Breathnach and Elaine Farrell, “‘Indelible characters’: tattoos, power and the late nineteenth-century Irish convict body”, Cultural and Social History, xii, no. 2 (2015), pp 235-54.
- Peter Gray, “‘The Great British Famine of 1845 to 1850’? Ireland, the UK and peripherality in famine relief and philanthropy”, in D. Curran, L. Luciuk and A. Newby (eds), Famines in European Economic History: The Last Great European Famines Reconsidered (London: Routledge, 2015), pp 83-96.
- **John McCaul** (BA History and Politics), ““Lighting the touch paper”: the Scottish independence referendum, Northern Ireland and constitutional futures”, in *Queen’s Political Review*, III (2015), pp 33-43

Conferences, seminars and public lectures:

The 2015 *Wiles Lectures in the History of Civilisation* were given this year by **Professor Lyndal Roper**, FBA, Fellow of Oriel College and Regius Professor of History at Oxford, on the theme ‘Luther, Subjectivity and Biography’. Professor Roper is completing a major biography of Martin Luther and her lectures addressed a number of themes relating to Luther’s personality and life, including his dreams, ‘the power of names’, his masculinity and ideas on gender.

We would like to thank Professor Roper and her guests, **Dr Jenny Spinks** (Manchester), **Dr Bridget Heal** (St Andrews), **Prof Joel Harrington** (Vanderbilt), **Prof Ulrike Strasser** (UC San Diego), **Dr Gadi Algazi** (Tel Aviv), **Dr Kat Hill** (UEA), **Prof Renate Dühr** (Tübingen) and **Prof Alex Walsham** (Cambridge), and our academic trustees **Prof Steve Smith** (Oxford) and **Prof Colin Kidd** (St Andrews) for sharing with us their knowledge and insights into the personal and intellectual life of Martin Luther, and how these shaped his leading role in the German Reformation. (above: Prof Roper and guests with Prof Smith and HOS).

- **Immo Warntjes** co-organised (with colleagues from NUIG and UCD) the conference ‘Making Europe: Columbanus and his Legacy – Identity in Early Medieval Europe’ in Bangor, 22-24 May, which is part of a tripartite conference series to mark the 1400th anniversary of St Columbanus’ death, followed by two further conferences in Luxeuil (France) and Bobbio (Italy); he also presented at the said conference a paper on ‘Easter and Identity’.
- **Dominic Bryan** was the main speaker at an event jointly organised by the Institute or Irish Studies and the Irish Association entitled ‘The Historical and Social Impact of Flags and Symbols on Society’, in the Canada Room, QUB; he was the keynote speaker at a student led conference ‘Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Conflict Transformation and Social Justice’ sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social. His paper was titled: ‘The Flags Project and conflict transformation in Northern Ireland: struggling with impact’.
- **Keiran Connell** gave a paper at the Cultural Studies Association annual conference, Riverside, Los Angeles on ‘Stuart Hall and the working practices of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies’.
- **Crawford Gribben** gave a paper on ‘John Owen, Lucy Hutchinson and the experience of defeat’ at the University of Leicester.
- **David Hayton** spoke on ‘“Alan must have fireworks”: Taylor and Namier’ at a conference on ‘A. J. P. Taylor’s Struggle for Mastery in Europe sixty years on’, at the University of St Andrews; on ‘Dissenters at the polls in Ireland, 1692–1760’, at the Seminar on Dissenting Studies at the Dr Williams’s Centre for Dissenting Studies, Queen Mary University of London; on ‘In search of Namier’ at the Modern British History seminar at Cambridge University; and on ‘Representations of monarchy in early eighteenth-century Ireland’ at a Study Day on Dublin court culture organised by the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies at QUB.
- **Andrew Holmes** spoke on ‘Why Scottish religion matters in Ireland’ at a conference on ‘Religion in Scotland: at home and abroad’, at QUB.
Catherine Jamieson (PhD History) spoke on “Being so closely linked together on the field”: an exploration of Irish constructions of the relationship between Scottish mission societies and the Irish Presbyterian Mission in Gujarat and Manchuria, 1840-1900 at a conference on ‘Religion in Scotland: at home and abroad’, at QUB.

Brian Kelly lectured on ‘Teaching history with online resources’ and led a graduate seminar at the University of Central Florida, and lectured on ‘The politics of respectability in the Post-Reconstruction South’ at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

Sean O’Connell presented a paper on ‘Oral history and people’s history: the view from Belfast’ at the Cross-currents in British and Irish Working Class Life conference at QUB.

Dev Pathak (South Asian University, New Delhi) gave the India Lecture ‘Many Mahatma Gandhis! Politics of Cultural (re)Configurations in Contemporary India’ in the Great Hall. Dr Pathak is our current visiting Charles Wallace Fellow.

Ioannis Tsioulakis gave a paper at a conference on ‘Songs of Social Protest’ (University of Limerick) entitled ‘So much noise, so few songs: the deafening non-musicality of the Greek crisis’.

Joe Webster spoke on ‘The sacred power of the parade: Orange domination, for a moment or two’ at a conference on ‘Religion in Scotland: at home and abroad’, at QUB.

Research projects and awards:

Many congratulations to Elaine Farrell who has been successful along with Dr Leanne McCormick (Ulster) in their joint research funding bid to AHRC for the project ‘Bad Bridget: Criminal and Deviant Irishwomen in North America, 1838-1918’. The grant is valued at £208k.

‘Past, present and future: connecting communities with shared histories’, an AHRC research project on which Kieran Connell is the CI, officially began on 5 May. The project is based around the work of Janet Mendelsohn, a student at the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies who used photography as a means of undertaking academic field research. Right: one of Janet Mendelsohn’s Balsall Heath photographs, c.1966-68.

The Research Group ‘Reshaping Security in Conflict and beyond’, which is co-led by Merav Amir (GAP) and Evi Chatzipanagiotidou, and funded by the ISCTSJ, held an international conference on ‘(In)Security in Conflict and the Everyday’ at QUB. The keynote lectures were delivered by Professor Mark Duffield (University of Bristol) and Professor Rema Hammami (Birzeit University, Palestine).

Congratulations on their success in the 2015 Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Awards competition to: Dr Stuart Aveyard, who will take up a two-year postdoc in UCD, and to Dr Tim Watt (PhD History, 2014), who will take up a postdoc in TCD.

Rachel Wallace (PhD History) has been awarded a research fellowship for 2 months at the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. www.hrc.utexas.edu/press/releases/2015/fellowships.html

PhDs completed:

Lisa O’Connor (History), ‘Connecting tastes: foodways and the creation of the Irish Atlantic in the twentieth century’ (supervisor: Crawford Gribben).

Knowledge transfer / research impact:

Evi Chatzipanagiotidou facilitated the visit of the High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus, Euripides Evriviades, to Queen’s and chaired the High Commissioner’s meeting with the ISCTSJ and academics across the university working on international politics, human rights, conflict, peace-building and the EU.

Marie Coleman published a policy paper on “Troubled compensation”: awarding pensions after political conflict in Ireland’ for the History and Policy unit at King’s College London. It looks at how plans to award pensions to victims of
the Northern Ireland troubles could benefit from examining pensions awarded in the 1920s after the Irish revolution. It is available on the History and Policy website: http://www.historyandpolicy.org/policy-papers/papers/troubled-compensation-awarding-pensions-after-political-conflict-in-ireland

Marie also organised a public briefing on the Government of Ireland’s plans for commemorations in 2016 in QUB on 20 May. The briefing was delivered by Mr John Concannon, Director of Ireland 2016: http://www.ireland.ie/ in conjunction with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

- Scott Dixon has been serving as the historical consultant for a proposed BBC2 four-part series on the European Reformation under the supervision of producer Abigail Carr.
- John Wilson Foster launched the republication of Benedict Kiely’s Proxopera on 7 May at the Irish Writers Centre, Dublin. The launch talk was published in the Irish News as ‘Modern Ireland Shackled by Past’, 21 May.
- Liam Kennedy contributed to a discussion on Sunday Sequence, BBC Radio Ulster, on the Human Rights Act, 17 May.
- Ida Milne did a live interview with Patty Bolger about working as a maid in country houses in the 1930s and 1940s, at the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (C SHIHE)’s 13th annual conference on ‘Women in the Big House’ at Maynooth University.
- Sean O’Connell was interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland’s ‘Good Morning Scotland’ on the demise of the Littlewoods mail order catalogue on 14 May. On 15 May he was interviewed by BBC 5 Live’s ‘Breakfast Show’ on the same theme.
- Ioannis Tsioulakis performed Turkish music for the Centenary commemoration of the Gallipoli Campaign organised by History Hub Ulster at Belfast Port, an coinciding with the visit of a Turkish naval vessel (right).

International engagement:

Our inaugural International Module / Maymester on ‘Civil Rights in Northern Ireland and the American South, c.1955-72’, organised jointly with our partners in Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, ran 4-29 May. Full report in the next newsletter. Left: the joint QUB-Vanderbilt student cohort at the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN.

On 15 May Dominic Bryan participated in a workshop in conflict transformation with students from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, along with Brice Dickson, Kieran McEvoy, Marny Requa and Alex Schwartz; The Institute of Irish Studies ran a five day course in Conflict Transformation for 30 students from the University of Dayton, Ohio, included trips to Derry and talks from the Orange Order, Coiste na n-Iarchimí, Inter-Action Belfast, Oh Yeah Music Centre and the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts. Dominic also gave a special lecture to visitors from John Carroll University, Ohio, on 20 May and Jon Evershed and Dominic gave a talk to students from Duke University, North Carolina, on 22 May.

- Prof. JCD Clark (University of Kansas) visited the School and gave a postgrad seminar and lecture on Thomas Paine.

External appointments:

- Scott Dixon has been appointed to the editorial board of the journal Persecution, Tolerance and Coexistence (Amsterdam)
- Sean O’Connell has been appointed as an editor of the journal Oral History (http://www.ohs.org.uk/journal.php)
- Immo Warntjes and Marie Coleman have been elected Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, of the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies, for 2015-16.

Teaching news:

- On Thursday 21 May the MA History Public History Internship class held a successful poster presentation and wine reception to showcase the work they had carried out during their internships. This was well-attended by staff, students and
representatives from a range of public history and heritage institutions. We would like to thank the following for hosting our intern students this year: Armagh Public Library; Belfast City Council; Lissan House; PRONI; QUB Special Collections; the Servite Priory, Benburb; Subfish Media; Titanic Foundation; Ulster-American Folk Park/MCMS; Ulster Folk and Transport Museum; Ulster Museum

On 4 May one of our Public History students, Pete Hodson, along with Titanic Foundation, hosted a special Harland & Wolff reunion event in the historic H&W Drawing Offices. Those who attended contributed to an oral history collection being developed in relation to shipbuilding in Belfast. This very successful event will hopefully be the first of many.

- The Annual Public History Field Trip - By Sarah Riblet

Over the weekend of 8-9 May, postgraduate students from the MA Public History Internship module participated in a residential field trip to three historic sites in West Ulster. On Friday our group received a tour of the Ulster American Folk Park from Dr Patrick Fitzgerald, Lecture and Development Officer at the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies. As rain started to fall, we wrapped up the tour and retired to the Centre where we discussed many subjects, including the risks and benefits of depicting the past via reconstructed buildings and live guides. The conversation continued over dinner and throughout a very convivial evening in the Folk Park’s residential centre.

Bright and early on Saturday morning, Dr Neil Watt (PhD History 2014) welcomed us to Lissan House & Demesne (above). Dr Watt was extremely kind to describe to us not only the long and colourful history of the house itself, but also the challenges of maintaining such a property and keeping it open to the public in the present day. We even got a sneak peek into some behind-the-scenes areas! We paused for lunch and conversation in the County Londonderry village of Moneymore, before heading on to Springhill. Once there, our guide Sarah took us through the house and pointed out some points of overlap in the histories of Springhill and Lissan, including their physical proximity and intermarrying families. However, we also felt that taking the very polished tour of a busy National Trust property, like Springhill, provided an interesting counterpoint to a place like Lissan House, which is still run by a private trust. We continued debating the relative merits of these two approaches to preservation on the ride back to Belfast and in reflecting upon our internship experience since.

The students would like to thank Dr Olwen Purdue and Dr Patrick Fitzgerald for planning and facilitating such an enjoyable trip, as well as our guides and the staff at the Mellon Centre, the Folk Park, Lissan House and Springhill for sharing their precious time and abundant knowledge with us. All of these sites are hosting several special events over the coming summer months, and each place is well worth a visit.

- Students on the level 2 module Recording History (HIS2063) attended the BBC on 15 May to pitch ideas for potential radio documentaries to producers from Radio Ulster. This year’s students have worked on collecting oral histories about the Holyland. They developed the following pitches:

  - Ryan Heaney, Amy Cushley and Shauna Feeney, ‘Have you ever swung around a lamppost’: a proposal for a nostalgic documentary about children’s games. Promotional plans for this include a family fun day, in Botanic Gardens, with a historical theme.
  - Conor Boyle, Amy Hannigan Kirsty Kee and Tara Shields, ‘A day in the life of 34 Damascus Street’: a proposal for a documentary exploring social change in the Holyland since the 1940s. Planned content includes the transformation of a traditional working class community into one inhabited by Belfast’s sub-cultures ( punks, goths etc.) before reaching its present day status as home to large numbers of students.
  - Michael Kerr, Shannon Downey, Ashling Magee, Catriona Gallogly, ‘Two fingers up to the establishment’. This documentary would also focus on the Holyland’s reputation as home to anti-establishment sub-cultures.
  - Brendan Corr, Neola Canning, Sarah Andrews, Jonathan McClurg and Kirsty McAuley, ‘Changing the tune’. Modelled on the award-winning BBC radio series The Listening Project, this pitch featured a series of proposed 5
minute programmes in which individuals talked about their musical passions and would cover the history of a number of musical genres.

- **Ciara Devlin, Conor McKay, Mark Thompson, Kim Pelling** and **Ruth Drenning**, ‘We’re well off for cinemas.’ This documentary promised to bring Cinema Paradiso to Belfast via the social history of cinema-going at the Apollo and Curzon cinemas in the 1950s and 1960s.

- **Alice Foyles, Jonathan Mehaffey, Conor McKillen** and **Oonagh Nugent**, ‘Heaven help the Holyland’. This documentary offers an exploration of the history of the Holyland, explaining demographic and social changes in the district to provide a richer understanding of the recent controversial history centred on student culture.

The BBC Panel were Michael Tumelty (Factual Editor, BBC Radio Ulster), Louise McCreesh (Producer, BBC Radio Ulster), and Regina Gallen (Producer, BBC Radio Ulster). They were very impressed with the pitches and are now considering if any one of them will be commissioned as a documentary.

- On 5 and 7 May students in ‘**Deviant moments in Britain and Ireland, 1700-1900**’ level 1 module (HIS1002), led by **Elaine Farrell** participated in a lively walking tour of the city. Students were required to identify and research particular crimes that happened in 19th-century Belfast and to present their findings to their peers at the crime scene locations. The fascinating (and often heart-breaking) tales included vicious murders, domestic abuse, street assaults, a riot and a tea robbery. The cases revealed much about gender, class, violence, alcohol, neighbourhood relations, crime and punishment. We won’t look at certain Belfast buildings, alleyways or streets the same way again!

- **Brian Kelly** was nominated for a **QUB Student Union Teaching Award** in ‘Most Inspiring/Motivating Lecturer’ category, and **Elaine Farrell** was also nominated in ‘Best Feedback’ category.

**Student societies:**

As the academic year draws to a close, the **History Society** has been planning ahead for the beginning of the new semester. At the AGM **Courtenay Mercer** and **Alexa Campbell** were elected to the incoming committee; congratulations to them! As part of the 2nd year Maymester option students from Vanderbilt University, Nashville have been working alongside QUB students in a comparative study on Northern Ireland and American Civil Rights. To welcome the Vanderbilt students to Queen’s the History Society arranged a pizza evening in the SU, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Finally, the History Society was proud to attend the SU Awards, where we were nominated in the categories 'Best Academic Society', and 'Society of the Year'. Entertaining and inspirational, the evening demonstrated the fine work of all clubs and societies at the University. It was a privilege to receive nominations and attend! The committee would like to thank everyone for their involvement and hard work this year, and a big congratulations to all of those who are graduating and good luck for the next academic year!

Remember, the biggest waste of an opportunity is to go to university to solely study.....

**Alumni news:**

- **Anna Decatur** (MA Irish History 2013) is now working as a **Development Officer** at the **Art Institute of Chicago**. Originally from Duluth, Minnesota, Anna studied at Carleton College, MN, and Suffolk University, Boston, before joining Queen’s in 2012. Her responsibilities at the Art Institute have involved development work (fundraising, negotiating loans etc) for its current exhibition ‘**Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design, 1690-1840**’ ([http://www.artic.edu/ireland-crossroads-art-and-design-1690-1840](http://www.artic.edu/ireland-crossroads-art-and-design-1690-1840)), which is a landmark exhibition of Irish art and material culture in the long eighteenth century. She has also had the privilege of guiding the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and his wife around the exhibition in March this year.

- **Elaine Doyle** (PhD History, 2010) has been appointed as an **Exhibitions Research Officer** at **Marsh’s Library**, Dublin, to work on its forthcoming Irish Revolution exhibition.
Natalie Foster (BA History 2013) was featured on the University’s ‘Student Career Stories’ page. Natalie is now working as an Analyst at the Belfast office of FinTrU (Financial Transparency Utility) Limited, which provides outsourcing of skilled, human-capital intensive and client-facing processes for financial clients. For more info, see http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/StudyatQueens/UndergraduateStudents/CareerProspects/StudentCareerStories/

- Andrea Garcia Gonzalez (MA Social Anthropology 2014) was awarded Runner Up for Best Paper, at the ‘Postgraduate Symposium on Occupation, Transitional Justice and Gender’, organised by the Transitional Justice Institute of the University of Ulster. Andrea will start a PhD in Anthropology at the University of Brighton in September 2015.

- Clare Rothwell (BA English and History, 2010), Barrister-at-Law, presented a paper on ‘Magna Carta – from there to here’ at the conference Magna Carta: 800 Years, hosted in Belfast by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

Forthcoming events in June 2015:

- 2.6 @1pm Irish Studies Seminar: Liam Kennedy (QUB), ‘Who was responsible for the Northern Ireland “Troubles”, 1969-1998? Seminar room, Institute of Irish studies, 8 Fitzwilliam Street.

- 4.6 @4pm Book Launch: Prof. Robert Savage (Boston College) will be launching his new book The BBC’s ‘Irish Troubles’ (Manchester University Press) in the Seminar Room of the Institute of Irish Studies, 8 Fitzwilliam Street.

- 25-26.6 International Symposium ‘The Interwar Kulturkampf: Transnational Struggles over Secularism’, (Old Staff Common Room/Senate Room). For more information contact t.weir@qub.ac.uk Or see http://royalhistsoc.org/calendar/symposium-interwar-kulturkampf-transnational-struggles-secularism/