

# Centre for Gender History

Autumn 2024

*Newsletter eleven*





# Centre for Gender History events

## *Leverhulme Public Lecture*



On Wednesday 18 September, Dr Annie Pohlman from the University of Queensland in Brisbane delivered a Leverhulme Public Lecture on 'Continuity in state-sponsored sexual and gender-based violence in modern Indonesia'. In her talk, she compared the forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) perpetrated by the Indonesian security services in two periods: the Indonesian genocide of alleged Communists in 1965–1966 and the thirty-year separatist conflict between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the Republic of Indonesia (1976–2005).

Her central argument was that despite the differing periods, contexts and actors, the specific forms of SGBV used against women and men display a striking stability. A fascinating discussion followed the lecture, exploring why this might have been the case, with contributions from scholars working in numerous fields, as well as Indonesian students and a visiting film-maker. Overall, the lecture provided a fascinating insight into a challenging but important history, made accessible by Annie's expert and sensitive handling of the topic.

The public lecture marked the end of Annie's Leverhulme Visiting Professorship at Glasgow. She joined us in September 2023 and has made a huge contribution to the teaching and research culture at the Centre for Gender History and at the University of Glasgow more broadly. We have benefitted from her expertise in seminars and workshops on gender and genocide and oral history methods. Also, at a Centre research seminar, we heard more about her joint research project with Dr Erin Jessee on symbolic violence amid the genocides in Bosnia, Indonesia and Rwanda, the findings of which will be published in book-form next year with Oxford University Press. We wish Annie well as she returns to Brisbane, and hope that she visits the Centre again soon!

## *Centre for Gender History Dissertation Prize*

The annual Centre for Gender History Dissertation Prize was awarded to Honours student Elsa Bruce-Gardyne this year, for her excellent dissertation on 'The Impact of Cultures of Silence on Irish Magdalene Women'. Well done, Elsa!



## *Debbie White Prize for the best undergraduate dissertation in Gender History*

A prize has been established in memory of Debbie White, a graduate research student within the Centre for Gender History who is remembered as a vibrant, curious and intellectually rigorous friend and colleague. Debbie was an outstanding History student here at Glasgow, awarded a first-class degree and garlanded with prizes in 2014, moving on to complete an MLitt in Medieval History and then being awarded an AHRC doctoral grant for her PhD project on 'Theorising the early Anglo-Saxon Nunnery: Gender, Authority and the Religious experience of the Anglo-Saxon nun'.

Fizzing with ideas, Debbie successfully presented her research at conferences in Oxford, St Andrews, Leeds while actively participating in the work of History and the Centre for Gender History here. Testimony to the quality of her research is in her fine article, 'Navigating Boundaries in the Merovingian Monastery: Gender, Authority and Regulae Mixtae', *Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies*, 7 (2018). The prize was made possible by the fundraising efforts of Dr Iona Baker, whose PhD research was completed at Glasgow in 2023 on 'The epistolary mechanics of power: royal and aristocratic women's letters to the English Crown, 1216-1307.'

## *Annual Welcome Event*

The Centre held its Annual Welcome Event for staff and students on Wednesday 9th October. We were fortunate to be hosted again this year by the Hunterian Art Gallery. We started in the lecture theatre, and in the first hour, were brought up to date on the work of the Centre, including the Hufton Postgraduate History Network, before hearing about the research currently being undertaken by three Centre members: Dr Sam Rutherford, Prof Sarah Richardson and Dr Tanya Cheadle.

The Curator of Art Collections at the Hunterian, Dr Lola Sanchez-Jauregui Alpanes, then took us upstairs to the gallery, highlighting a new case entitled 'No More Nice Girls'. This was designed to cast a critical eye on how art reflects women's status in society and contained works selected in collaboration with previous students on the MSc Gender History. Drinks finished off the event, which proved an excellent start to what we hope will be a productive and enriching year of research and teaching for all staff and students affiliated to the Centre!



*Images from the 'No More Nice Girls' exhibition*



# Hufton Postgraduate History Network

The Hufton Postgraduate History Network is an interdisciplinary space for postgraduate researchers and students in history and the wider humanities to discuss their research, take part in skills-based workshops, and socialise. This is a space where we can share our ongoing work in a comfortable and supportive environment.



Hufton was established as a postgraduate-run group based in the Centre for Gender History in 2007, taking its name from pioneer of social and women's history Olwen Hufton. The group continues to be inspired by gender and feminist approaches to historical research. Hufton PG History Network is open to all postgraduate students and researchers in the humanities, with specific events for Gender History students too. The Hufton convenor is PGR Ashley Brown.

## Semester One saw Hufton run the following events:

- Friday 04/10/2024 – Hufton Presents: Careers and Options after the PhD – ARC, Studio 2 and Zoom, 16:30-18:30
- Thursday 10/10/2024 – Gender History coffee and cake (for students involved in Gender Studies) – Café Go-Go, 14:00-16:00
- Tuesday 29/10/2024 – Glencoe Pottery Workshop – Molema Building, Conference Room, 15:00-16:00
- Wednesday 13/11/2024 – Coffee morning – 10 University Gardens, McKechnie Room, 10:00-12:00
- Friday 22/11/2024 – Staying Put Writing Retreat – ARC, Studio 2 and Zoom, 15:00-18:00

## Keep an eye out for Semester Two's events by following the Hufton Postgraduate History Network's socials:

[join our mailing list](#)

[@huftonrg](#) on X

[@huftonpghistory](#) on Instagram



# Publications

Rebecca Mason, “‘Scottish Portias’ Revisited: Women in the Courts in Early Modern Scottish Towns’, in *Gender in Scotland, 1400-1800: Place, Faith and Politics*, ed. by Mairi Cowan, Janay Nugent and Cathryn Spence (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2024), pp. 31-47.

Gender influenced every aspect of life in medieval and early modern Scotland. This new collection, featuring contributions from researchers from the Centre for Gender History, illuminates how gendered expectations and experiences influenced people’s relationships with where they lived, what they believed and how they exercised power.

Bringing together the latest research from public and academic historians, archaeologists and literary scholars, these essays in honour of Elizabeth Ewan draw upon a wide range of sources – including many previously neglected – to present familiar topics in new ways and open up unexpected vistas for our historical sight. Chapters range from innovative interpretations of well-known figures and events to examinations of the thoughts and activities of ordinary Scots and how people from the past are publicly commemorated today.

Rebecca’s chapter reflects on Ewan’s 1992 ‘Scottish Portias’ essay by returning to the treatment and position of Scottish women in legal sources to better understand early modern women’s varied interaction with the burgh (town) courts in daily life. Rebecca completed her PhD in the Centre for Gender History under the supervision of Professor Alexandra Shepard, with her thesis uncovering women’s property rights and legal relationships in early modern Scottish towns.

Katharine Jenkins, *Feminist Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024)

This month (October 24th) saw the publication of my short book, 'Feminist Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction', with Oxford University Press. I'm hoping it will be useful to a wide range of scholars, students, and prospective students!

Kristin Hay, “‘The doctor made clear his utter contempt of me and I can remember it still’’: unmarried women’s experiences of accessing the pill in Scotland, 1968-1980’, accepted for publication by *Social History of Medicine*. Available on [pre-print](#).

Kristin Hay, ‘Where’s Scotland’s reproductive health agenda?’, *The Herald*, 30 October 2024 (available [here](#)).



# Fellowships and workshops

## *Erin Jessee*

A warm congratulations to Erin Jessee on securing a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship to pursue her project, 'Writing women back into Rwandan history: A public oral history project':

*This fellowship will allow me to produce an innovative new public-facing book, 'Writing women back into Rwandan history,' which uses graphic novels to engage students in African/Rwandan history, gender studies, and the use of qualitative methods in historical research. It is grounded in original research conducted since 2017 with Rwandan researchers, community stakeholders, and the Rwanda Cultural Heritage Academy, and draws on archived oral traditions and interviews with elders and related experts about otherwise overlooked women who made significant contributions to the nation's antecedent Nyiginya Kingdom (~1700-1962). The book will also include relevant primary sources and teaching materials co-created with Rwandan secondary school and university teachers. Its transformative potential for educators and researchers is two-fold: it adds much-needed nuance to current understandings of historic Rwandan gender norms; and it advances the Rwandan government's gender equality policies by demonstrating the ample historical precedence that exists for women in leadership positions.*

## *Lynn Abrams*

I was given the chance to spend 4 weeks on an international fellowship at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland in August/Sept. Our former PhD student Dr Hannah Yoken is a postdoctoral fellow there. Aside from spending time in a beautiful country in gorgeous weather, the visit was an opportunity to network with academics there working on issues of gender, singleness, feminism, craft and textiles and oral history. I'll be back there in November to speak at the Finnish Oral History Network conference when no doubt there will be snow on the ground.

## *Tanya Cheadle*

In June, myself and Dr Justine Bakker from Radboud University, Nijmegen, hosted a 4-day workshop at The Burn in Glenesk. The topic was 'Normative Esotericism', or the ways in which alternative spiritualities have rearticulated normative ideas around Whiteness, Masculinity and Heterosexuality. We were joined by colleagues from across Europe and the US, who were very impressed by the Jane Austen-like surroundings and the unusually sunny Scottish weather! The papers were precirculated and assigned discussants ahead of the workshop, allowing for really rich and informed discussions. The next stage in the project is an edited collection to be published in 2026, with contributions from scholars working in a range of fields, including religious studies, literature and anthropology, as well as gender history and the history of sexuality. The project is generously funded by the Radboud-Glasgow Collaboration Fund.



*Pictures taken from the Normative Esotericism workshop*





## Conferences and events

### *Maud Bracke*

Research seminar at University of Edinburgh, 20 November: Reproductive freedom or racialised anti-natalism? The introduction of contraception the French Antilles (Guadeloupe & Martinique, 1960s)

Lecture at University of Padua, Italy, 3 December: Women and the Reinvention of the Political: Feminism in Italy 1968-1983

### *Kristin Hay*

Reproductive Health Histories Working Group: Kristin presented at the inaugural Reproductive Health Histories Working Group workshop at the University of Edinburgh on July 15th. The working group is comprised of scholars working on reproductive health across the UK and the US/NA. Supported by the consortium of Histories of Science, Technology and Medicine, this one-day in-person event provided space for speakers to reflect on 'histories of the personal' and brainstorm network activities for the year ahead. Colleagues interested in joining the group can contact Kristin, or search the CHSTM websites.

One-Parent Families Vulnerability Network conference: Kristin presented at the One-Parent Families Vulnerability Network conference at Caledonian University on September 18th. Organised by Dr Janet Greenlees, this conference brought together historians and NGOs working in around single parenthood from the UK, Ireland, America and Australia. Kristin presented on the ethics and risk assessment of 'difficult topics', particularly around the issue of vicarious trauma, alongside Dr Laura Kelly and Dr Dierdre Foley.

## Internships



### *Alana McPake*

I'm currently undertaking a SGSAAH-funded internship with the charity Creative Lives, writing a report on sustainability in community crafts and theatre. I get to spend a few days a week visiting groups around Scotland to see how they approach their work with a 'green' ethos. It's a great opportunity to spend some time crafting, and an excellent companion project to my thesis 'Make-do and Mend' to 'Reduce, reuse, recycle': Attitudes towards clothing production and consumption in post-war Britain.



# Calls for contributions

## *Status of Young Women in Scotland 2024-25*

Each year, The Young Women's Movement investigate an important issue facing young women in Scotland as part of their ongoing research project, the Status of Young Women in Scotland (SYWS). The results directly inform their research, campaigns and policy work by generating intersectional, gender-disaggregated data and evidence that influences change and platforms the voices of young women and girls across Scotland.

This year, to celebrate their centenary birthday as a standalone organisation in Scotland, the Status of Young Women in Scotland (SYWS) 2024-25 report will explore how young women understand, access and advocate for their human rights in Scotland, uncovering what barriers they might face when attempting to realise their rights in everyday life.

The SYWS 24-25 project starts with [an online survey](#) collecting these experiences; the results will then be used to inform focus group discussion. We would appreciate if you would be able to share the survey with any young women that you work with as we are keen to have respondents from all areas of Scotland. This survey closes on **Friday 6th December 2024**.

This survey is open to:

- Those aged 16-30 and living in Scotland
- Young women and young people of other marginalised genders\* (\*including trans or non-binary people, and gender-fluid/non-conforming individuals who feel comfortable in a space that centres the experiences of young women and girls.)

Please email their Research and Policy Lead, Dr Rebecca Mason on [rebecca@youngwomenscot.org](mailto:rebecca@youngwomenscot.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

<https://www.youngwomenscot.org> <https://www.instagram.com/youngwomenscot/>

## *Queer Pasts: What's Queer in Queer History? (21-23 May 2025)*

The Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at the University of Copenhagen will host the international conference *Queer Pasts: What's Queer in Queer History?* next year.

The conference aims to discuss and critically explore the “queer” in queer and trans history. We invite dialogues about and engagement with methodologies, temporalities, theories and analytical approaches that interpret, imagine and preserve queer and trans history as queer. Calls for contributions are due by **10 January 2025**. Full details are available on their website [here](#).



## *International Women's Day 2025: 'Women in History'*

UK Higher Education students are invited to take part in a poster competition to help promote our 'Women in History' International Women's Day 2025 event, which will be held on 8th March 2025 in Linlithgow, Scotland. The event will offer a series of public workshops highlighting women's contributions in history, archaeology, and linguistics. We are asking students to design posters that specifically highlight the achievements of Scottish women—whether historical figures, activists, scientists, artists, athletes, or everyday heroes. These A3 posters will play a key role in promoting the event in the lead-up and on the day of the event.

All mediums are welcomed (digital, hand-drawn, or mixed) and posters should be accompanied by your chosen woman's name and a brief description (max. 250 words) of why she inspires you. Submissions are due via [this form](#) by **6 January 2025**.

For more information, contact [a.parker-banks.l@research.gla.ac.uk](mailto:a.parker-banks.l@research.gla.ac.uk) or [leila.araar@york.ac.uk](mailto:leila.araar@york.ac.uk).

## *Annual College of Arts and Humanities PG Conference 2025*

Each spring, the College of Arts & Humanities hosts a Postgraduate Research Conference. This is an international, interdisciplinary and fully funded conference, organised by our own Glasgow PGR students. Recent overarching themes have included Space[s], Voice in Literature, Culture and the Arts, Metamorphosis, and Afterlives.

All interested PGR students are encouraged to attend a preliminary meeting to be held via Zoom on **Monday 2 December, 11am-12noon** where we will provide more information and answer any questions you have. If you would like to attend this meeting, please register on Eventbrite. Registering your interest does not commit you to getting involved and you can wait to find out more at the preliminary meeting before making a decision.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the PG Conference, but are unable to attend the preliminary meeting, please do still let us know by emailing [gradschool.arts@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:gradschool.arts@glasgow.ac.uk) with the subject heading PG Conference.

Conference Proceedings for the 2021 PG Conference on Metamorphosis can be viewed here: [University of Glasgow - Colleges - College of Arts - Graduate School - News, Events and Publications - Postgraduate Research Conference](#).



# Upcoming events

## Book launch

You are warmly invited on **Tuesday 10 December, 7-9pm** to the upcoming launch event for two timely short books by Glasgow philosophers that seek to engage a broad audience: 'Moral Blackmail: Coercion, Responsibility, and Global Justice' (Routledge), by Prof. Ben Colburn, and 'Feminist Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction' (Oxford University Press), by Prof. Katharine Jenkins. More details on both books below. All welcome, no ticketing, venue accessibility information available [here](#).

Katharine Jenkins offers an introduction to feminist philosophy, giving the reader an idea of what it is, why it is important, and how to think about it. She explores key topics such as gender oppression, beauty, objectification, and sexuality.

Moreover, she considers questions about the relation between the personal and the political, what it is to be a woman, whether there is a distinctive kind of women's knowledge, and what feminist philosophy can bring to our understanding of such aspects of our world as justice, work, and the environment. This Very Short Introduction takes a richly intersectional approach, recognizing the combined impact of such factors as race and class as well as gender.

Ben Colburn identifies a novel kind of forced action, yet one that is relatively neglected in ethics and moral philosophy. Moral blackmail occurs when someone is forced to do something because someone else has made all its alternatives morally unacceptable. Ben Colburn explores moral blackmail by first examining existing theories of coercion, responsibility, and voluntary action, and defending its existence from various sceptical metaethical arguments, before arguing that moral blackmail's significance is not limited to the interpersonal: it is also endemic in the structures of distribution and decision-making at the largest scale. To show this, he considers two problems in intergenerational and international justice: the problem of 'passing the buck' in environmental and population policies in the former, and the problem of 'taking up the slack' in situations of partial compliance with the demands of the latter. Recognising these as instances of moral blackmail writ large offers novel solutions to these long-standing philosophical problems, as well as offering proof in use of the account Colburn proposes.





## *Motherhood and Maternity in 20th century Britain: Reflections on research and research-led teaching*

*How does research become research-led teaching? How does teaching shape our research agenda?*

Join scholars from Economic and Social History in the School of Social and Political Sciences for a 2-hour interactive workshop on **Friday 6 December (11am-1pm)**, reflecting on researching and teaching histories of motherhood and maternal health in the 2020s.

Drs Kristin Hay (Lecturer in Economic and Social History), Felicity Cawley (Lecturer in Political & International Studies) and Vanessa Cook (Lecturer in Political & International Studies), all from the University of Glasgow, will be joined by Dr Livi Dee (Research Fellow) from Queen's University Belfast to discuss their research and its application to teaching both inside and outside the university.

All are warmly welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided. Please email [kristin.hay@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:kristin.hay@glasgow.ac.uk) for more information.



### **Motherhood and Maternity in 20th century Britain**

Reflections on research and research-led teaching.

 Eventbrite / Dec 6



## Save the date

Our annual public lecture in Global Gender History will be held on **Wednesday 14 May 2025** and we're delighted to announce Julie Hardwick as our speaker.

Julie Hardwick is the John E. Green Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working on a project on the intimate history of racial capitalism in an eighteenth-century French port city.

## Updates

CGH information is shared on the group's Moodle page and through this newsletter. News is periodically collected in via a Microsoft Form and we're making a switch to Instagram as our main form of comms. See you there!



*Images from the 'No More Nice Girls' exhibition*