

## ***WOMEN'S HISTORY SCOTLAND NEWSLETTER*** **(December 2010)**

### **Happy Holiday Season to all WHS members!**

Please send items for inclusion in the next newsletter by the end of the month to Elizabeth Ewan at [eevan@uoguelph.ca](mailto:eevan@uoguelph.ca)

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### **1. Activities of WHS**

The Steering Committee will hold a 'Blue skies' meeting in December 2010 to discuss future directions and initiatives for Women's History Scotland.

### **2. Calls for Papers**

#### **1) Historical Perspectives Seminar Series 'Work in Progress'**

**Venue:** University of Glasgow Jan – July 2011

Historical Perspectives is a student-run group that brings together postgraduate students and provides a platform for them to present their research in a friendly and supportive environment. Whether you have just embarked on a PhD or Masters in a subject relating to History or are well advanced in your studies, we would love to hear from you.

We are currently looking for postgraduate students to present 20 minute papers for our seminar series starting in January 2011. The seminar series aims to provide a comfortable environment within which postgraduate students can present their research, receive vital feedback and hopefully generate discussion and explore ideas with their peers (along with a supply of free wine, soft drinks and nibbles provided by Historical Perspectives). It is also a great opportunity to carry out a trial run of a paper before presenting to the wider academic community. If you would like to present a paper at the University of Glasgow sometime between January and June 2011 please email us at the

following address, detailing your research topic and when you would be available to present: [histper@arts.gla.ac.uk](mailto:histper@arts.gla.ac.uk) For more information about the seminar series, our annual conference, the society itself or a link to join our facebook group take a look at our website: [www.histper.co.uk](http://www.histper.co.uk)

We hope to hear from you!

Kind Regards,

Eilidh Macrae, Seminar Convenor, Historical Perspectives,  
Lilybank House, University of Glasgow.

## 2) **\*20 Years of the Women's History Network\* /Looking Back - Looking Forward/**

**Venue:** 9-11 Sept 2011 The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University

**Deadline for abstracts:** TBA

The WHN annual conference will look at the past 20 years of writing women's history; asking the question where are we now? There will be four plenary sessions consisting of two panel sessions and two individual speakers, featuring key names from the initiation and development of women's history in the UK. Speakers include Kathryn Gleadle, Sheila Rowbotham, Sally Alexander, Anna Davin, Krista Cowman, Jane Rendall, and Helen Meller.

**A call for papers will be sent round in the New Year.** In the mean time keep an eye on this web page for updates of what is shaping up to be a particularly wonderful celebration of WHN's 20th Anniversary

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary/aboutthecollections/research/womens-history-network-conference-2011.cfm>

## 3) **The Second World War, Popular Culture and Cultural Memory**

**Venue:** 13-15 July 2011, University of Brighton

**Deadline for abstracts:** 31 Jan 2011. Send abstracts of no more than 300 words to [ww2conference@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:ww2conference@brighton.ac.uk)

Few historical events have resonated as fully in modern British popular culture as the Second World War. It has left a rich legacy in a range of media that continue to attract a wide audience: film, TV and radio, photography and the visual arts, journalism & propaganda, architecture, music and literature. The war's institutionalised commemoration and remembrance fuels a museum and heritage industry whose work often benefits from the latest internet technology for maximum dissemination to educational institutions and the general public. In fact, the popular culture of the war is a cornerstone of its afterlife.

This interdisciplinary conference will examine popular culture of the Second World War on the home front and in British theatres of war abroad. Defining popular culture in its widest sense – as both a 'way of life' and as 'cultural texts' – the conference will explore both wartime popular culture and its post-war legacy. We invite established scholars, museum curators, media practitioners and postgraduate researchers from a wide range of

disciplines to contribute to a lively debate about the role and meaning of popular culture both during the war and in the cultural memory of the Second World War in Britain and elsewhere.

Keynote speakers: Professor Jim Aulich (Manchester Metropolitan University) Professor Susan R. Grayzel (University of Mississippi), Professor Gill Plain (University of St Andrews)

We welcome proposals for 20 minute papers as well as submissions for panels of three speakers and a chair. Possible topics and panels may include but are not limited to:

- Popular culture in commemorative and museal practices
- Popular culture in/of combatant, POW and internee life
- Posters, propaganda, broadcasting
- Entertainment in WW2
- WW2 in children's literature and media
- Contemporary merchandising of WW2 culture and memorabilia
- Total war, war culture and popular culture
- The 'people's war' in lived experience and in cultural texts
- Representations of national identity and 'the enemy'
- Death, grief and bereavement in wartime and post-war popular culture
- Material culture of the war and its afterlife
- Representations of the British popular culture of the war abroad
- Fashion, food and retro-merchandising
- Neo historical novels, war films, 'militainment'
- Forgotten aspects of wartime popular culture

There may be bursaries for postgraduates and independent scholars

Conference organisers Dr Lucy Noakes (Brighton), Dr Juliette Pattinson (Strathclyde), Dr Petra Rau (Portsmouth)

#### **4) Yorkshire WHN: Inaugural One Day Conference: Women on Others/Women as Others**

**Venue:** 25 June 2011, Leeds Trinity University College

**Abstract deadline:** 3 Dec 2010 – papers 200-250 words, panel sessions (no longer than 400 words) Send to Karen Sayer, Associate Principal Lecturer in History, Dept of Humanities, Leeds Trinity University College, Brownberrie Lane, Leeds LS18 5HD

Email: [k.sayer@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:k.sayer@leedstrinity.ac.uk)

Tel: 0113 2837212

See November 2010 newsletter for more details of conference

#### **5) West of England and South Wales WHN: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: 'For love or money: historical perspectives on gender and emotional labour'**

**Venue:** 2 July 2011, University of the West of England, Bristol

**Abstract Deadline:** 31 Jan 2011 – up to 250 words to Dr Kath Holden,

[Katherine.Holden@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Katherine.Holden@uwe.ac.uk)

Papers must have a historical focus but can address any aspect of this subject including: Familial relations and relationships, Paid and unpaid service work, Vocational work, Carer and caring relationships, Friendship, Philanthropic and charitable work, Social action, and Therapeutic and psychoanalytic work and relationships. Key speakers include: Professor Leane Davidoff (Essex), Professor Michael Roper (Essex), Dr Janet Fink (Open University), Dr Lucy Delap (St Catherine's Cambridge).  
For more information: <http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/swhisnet/swishnet.htm>

### **6) Rational Recreation? Histories of Travel, Tourism and Leisure**

**Venue:** 1 Feb 2011, University of Manchester

**Deadline for abstracts:** 3 Dec 2010 – send abstracts (up to 300 words) to Chloe Jeffries and Rebecca Conway at [historiesoftravel@gmail.com](mailto:historiesoftravel@gmail.com)

Keynote speaker: Professor Dave Russell (Leeds Metropolitan University) Proposals are invited for a one-day postgraduate conference. It will bring together postgraduates and early-career researchers working on travel, tourism and leisure histories from a wide range of methodological perspectives. The conference will focus on the cultural practices of travel, tourism and leisure. This broad theme embraces a spectrum of topics from rational recreation, through to the culturally liminal and carnivalesque. We would particularly like to encourage interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and international approaches to the theme. Suggestions for proposals include: Case Studies, Theories and Frameworks, Individuals and Crowds, Visualising Travel/Tourism/Leisure

### **7) From the Sources to the Discourse. Postgraduate Research Seminar Series**

**Venue:** University of Strathclyde

The postgraduate communities of the University of Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian University are organising a series of seminars/workshops to allow postgraduates a forum to discuss their work. These will run in the coming academic year. This series will be sponsored by both the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare and the Modern British History Network. Tentative dates for 2011 are 3 Feb, 3 Mar and 7 April. Please email [linsey.robb@strath.ac.uk](mailto:linsey.robb@strath.ac.uk) for further details

### **8) The Eighth Conference of the European Federation of Centres and Associations of Irish Studies: Ireland: Arrivals and Departures**

**Venue** 1-4 Sept 2011, University of Salford

**Abstracts Deadline:** 31 Jan 2011. Submit abstracts for papers (maximum 250 words accompanied by short biographical sketch) or proposals for themed panels, poster session etc to Dr Scott Brewster, School of English, Sociology, Politics and Contemporary History, Crescent House, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT  
Email: [W.S.Brewster@salford.ac.uk](mailto:W.S.Brewster@salford.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 295 2850

A decade ago, with its economy and cultural confidence surging, and with new political alignments possible in the North, Ireland seemed to have 'arrived' on the world stage. Yet the recent financial storms and accompanying social pressures are a reminder of the

challenges as well as the opportunities of leaving behind old certainties and becoming 'global'. We invite contributions on the theme from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. Topics may include but are not limited to: Ireland and globalization, economic crisis and its social impact, social transformation, comparative approaches.

### 9) **Women's Sport in Africa**

**Venue** 7 Mar 2011, University of Oxford

**Abstract deadline:** 31 Dec 2010 (no more than 300 words) to Professor John Bale:  
[jrbkeele@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jrbkeele@yahoo.co.uk)

Catherine Ndereba, Tegla Loroupe. Caster Semenya. These names are widely recognised both in Africa and around the world. However, despite the importance of sport in the lives of many Africans, women's sport in an undeveloped area of academic research. In order to create a forum for interdisciplinary discussion of this topic, the organisers invite papers that offer new accounts and interpretations about the emergence of women's sport in Africa, and especially encourage authors to consider how women's sport might serve as a lens through which to explore other social and economic themes. Contact Michelle Sikes – [michelle.sikes@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.sikes@lincoln.ox.ac.uk) with informal expressions of interest  
 For more information see [www.womensportinafrica.com](http://www.womensportinafrica.com)

### 10) **Anglo-American Conference of Historians 2011: Health in History**

**Venue** 29th June - 1st July 2011, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London

**Deadline for abstracts: 10 Dec 2010**

The history of medicine and of human society of sickness and health is an ever widening window through which the present can view the past. The study of the ways in which societies over time and at war and in peace have defined and treated their 'sick', the changing content and status of medical expertise and ethics, and those episodic moments when the globe has been transformed by epidemic, panic and panacea is now an integral part of mainstream history. The field of medical history stretches from palaeopathology through to contemporary political debates over health care and genomics. And the medical humanities are now critically placed in most cultures at the meeting point of research and social policy. The 80th Anglo-American Conference of Historians will feature papers and panels across all periods and areas of the history of medicine. Topics which will be particularly welcome are medical practitioners and spaces, mental health, disability, old and new technologies of medicine, alternative medicine, public health, nutrition, ageing, addiction, death and disease.

Our plenary lecturers include David Arnold, Joanna Bourke, Samuel Cohn, Mary Fissell, Monica Green, Helen King and Paul Starr. The conference will also feature a postgraduate panel hosted by History Lab. Postgraduate students will be eligible for bursaries - for further information, please contact the Events Office at [IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk](mailto:IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk). Individual papers and/or panels of papers for the 2011 Anglo-

American conference are invited from scholars at all levels from the UK and overseas. Proposals should be sent to [IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk](mailto:IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk) and should be submitted no later than Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Successful applicants will be notified later that month. Registrations will open on 1st March 2011, with early bird discounts available. For further information, please visit [www.history.ac.uk/aac2011](http://www.history.ac.uk/aac2011) or contact Manjeet K Sambhi at [Manjeet.sambhi@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Manjeet.sambhi@sas.ac.uk).

### 3. Seminars and Workshop Series

#### 1) **Scottish masculinity in historical perspective.**

Three workshops addressing historical and contemporary approaches sponsored by the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

#### **Workshop 2: men and the family**



**Friday 14 January 2011, in Edinburgh**  
**University Library ([Room 1.07, Main Library](#))**

#### **Contemporary perspectives**

- Katie Buston (MRC), Concepts of fatherhood amongst marginalised males: findings from a qualitative study with young offenders
- John MacInnes (Sociology, Edinburgh) Title TBC
- Lynn Jamieson (CRFR, Edinburgh) Title TBC
- Peter Hopkins (Social Geography, Newcastle), Youthful Muslim masculinities in contemporary Scotland

#### **Historical perspectives**

- Hilary Young (Open University), From Son to Father: talking about Glaswegian masculinities mid 20th century
- Eleanor Gordon (Glasgow), Men at home: husbands and fathers in 19th and early 20th-century Scotland
- Katie Barclay (Warwick), Patriarchs? Men, power and the family in historical perspective
- Alex Shepard (Glasgow), Fatherhood and masculinity in the premodern past
- John Stewart (Glasgow Caledonian), Men, their wives, and their children: evidence from Scottish child guidance clinics in the inter-war period

## General discussion session on methodological challenges

Programme, registration details and map from

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/history/research/currentresearchprojects/scottishmasculinityinhistoricalperspective/>

Postgraduates: to apply for a travel bursary, please email research interests and reasons for wishing to attend to [Christelle.Leriguer@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Christelle.Leriguer@glasgow.ac.uk) by Friday 17 December 2010. To register: email [Christelle.Leriguer@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Christelle.Leriguer@glasgow.ac.uk) by Friday 17 December 2010. Lunch and refreshments provided

2)



# Scottish Oral History Centre

## Workshops 2010/11

Our workshops aim to explore all aspects of oral history theory and practice, and seek to provide a friendly, supportive and informal atmosphere in which to engage with, discuss and seek advice on all areas of oral history. These workshops are free and open to everyone, whatever your knowledge (if any) of oral history.

**When?** Mondays @ 5.30pm

**Where?** McCance 4.02, University of Strathclyde

### December 13

#### Christmas Social

Wine and nibbles will be served. All welcome.

### January 31

Eilidh Macrae, University of Glasgow

**'Exercise and Education: Understandings of the young female body in Scotland, 1930-1960.'**

& William MacDougall, Glasgow Caledonian University

**'Past or Present?: Oral history and the pressure group.'**

For more information or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Alison Turnbull, University of Strathclyde ([Alison.turnbull@strath.ac.uk](mailto:Alison.turnbull@strath.ac.uk)) or Linsey Robb, University of Strathclyde ([linsey.robb@strath.ac.uk](mailto:linsey.robb@strath.ac.uk)). You can find out more about the Scottish Oral History Centre on our website:

[www.strath.ac.uk/history/research/sohc](http://www.strath.ac.uk/history/research/sohc)

## 4. Conferences

### 1) **West of England and South Wales WHN Study Day- Whose History? Women's political activism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Venue: 4 Dec 2010 University of the West of England, St Matthias Campus, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2JP

A study day open to all members of the network and anyone interested in women's or gender history. Speakers include: June Hannam (UWE) 'Writing Women into Labour Party History: post-war autobiographical writings of women activists' and Elaine Titcombe (UWE) 'Rewriting Greenham's history: women activists and the cold war'. To be followed by a round-table discussion on the general theme of the workshop. There is no charge for this workshop. For further information, email [Katherine.Holden@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Katherine.Holden@uwe.ac.uk) or see: <http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/swhistnet/swhisnet.htm>

### 2) **"Idle and Disorderly Persons" The Representations and Realities of the Mobile Poor in Early Modern England**

Venue: 12 Mar 2011, University of Warwick

To book your place, go to [www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/idp/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/idp/)

Drawing on the expertise of scholars in history and literary studies, this conference will showcase the current state of scholarship in both social history and literary studies on the subjects of vagrancy, migration and mobility, the criminal history of petty offenses, and studies of the contemporary perceptions of poverty and deservingness. Practices of literary criticism and textual analysis will be intertwined with social and legal history, in order to produce a set of interdisciplinary perspectives. Broad yet undemanding themes such as 'transience in early modern culture', 'the poor as social threat'. And 'new understandings of early modern migration' will allow participants to cross disciplinary boundaries, expand possible research horizons and blend academic approaches to the past. The intended audience would be any scholar or student invested in the analysis of early modern social experience, especially among subordinate groups

## 5. Public Lectures, Exhibitions and Events

### 1) **Sistershow Revisited, an exhibition about the history of feminism in Bristol 1973-1974, is being supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

The history of Sistershow, a Bristol-based feminist group who used theatre to communicate political messages, will be collected and preserved thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it was announced in September. The £10,000 grant will be spent on creating an exhibition, a publication and subsequent educational activities that will take place at Centrespace Gallery, 6 Leonard Lane, Bristol 5th -26th May, 2011.

By 1973 the Women's Liberation Movement (WLM) in Britain had mobilised thousands

of women to challenge sexism in their everyday lives. Many local groups emerged to support an ever-growing social movement. Bristol was no different. Women were involved in setting up women's centres, publishing their own media such as newsletters and the local Bristol WLM journal, 'Enough,' as well as finding new ways to spread the message of Women's Liberation. Sistersshow was part of this. The group used humour, dramatics and art to explore the feminist issues of the time. They challenged stereotypes about the humour-less feminist whilst exploring new forms of gender and sexual identities.

Sistersshow Revisited will enable new audiences to take a fresh look at Bristol's feminist past. There are opportunities to help volunteer on the project by conducting research, learning about oral histories, updating the project blog (<http://sistersshowrevisited.wordpress.com>), developing educational activities and exhibition plans. There will be regular meetings throughout the project to engage volunteers, the next will be taking place on Tuesday 7th December at Cafe Kino.

For further information please contact Project Co-ordinator Dr. Deborah Withers 07940 320 113 [sistersshow@hammeronpress.net](mailto:sistersshow@hammeronpress.net); <http://sistersshowrevisited.wordpress.com>

[www.debi-rah.net](http://www.debi-rah.net)

[www.hammeronpress.net](http://www.hammeronpress.net)

## 2) Hidden Herstories

### Life Stories of Deaf/Disabled Women

**Friday 12 November - Friday 3 December | 10am-5pm**

**Venue: St George's Heritage Centre, St George's Hall, Liverpool L1 1JJ**

**Tickets: Free**

This work by the Disabled Women's Arts Project captures and preserves the history of D/deaf and disabled women in Merseyside for future generations.

It explores the social history of this group of women, whose experiences have been largely missing from the records and archives. The life stories and experiences of 25 Merseyside D/deaf or disabled women have now been recorded using sound and film, supported by personal photographs and documents.

The interviewees range in age from early twenties to early seventies, providing a fascinating insight into how the experience of living as a D/deaf or disabled woman in Merseyside has changed, or not, over the last 70 years.

The stories reveal universal themes of friendship, families, work and education but also experiences that are unique to D/deaf and disabled women: segregation and separation, identity, the health and social care system, discrimination, Deaf community and political

activism/disability culture. These are stories of everyday struggles, of celebration and resilience.

### 3) **Women Make Film History**

Venue: 4 Dec 2010, 2-4 pm, Women's Library. Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT

To book: [moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk](mailto:moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk)

Or phone 020 7320 2222

In collaboration with the Women's Film History Network, the Women's Library presents a series of feminist films which examine the ways that women have used filmmaking to explore the world and bring gender issues into a public forum. This event examines women's relationship with the cinema. Films include: 4 militants suffrage comedies (c.1910); 'They Also Serve' (1940), 'To Be A Woman' (1951), 'Through the Glass Ceiling' (1994), 'No Offence' (1996)

## 7. Prizes

### 1. **Women's History Scotland Essay Prize (last call for 2010 award)**

**Deadline for submission:** 17 Dec 2010.

Forms of work that may be submitted include: undergraduate dissertation, postgraduate work (eg Masters dissertation or chapter of PhD) or a piece of original research by an independent scholar. The essay must be principally focussed on some aspect of Scottish women's or gender history but may deal with any time period. The submission should be written in English and in a form suitable for publication. It should be between 8000 and 10000 words in length (including references). Longer or shorter submissions will not be considered. The essay should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. To be eligible to submit an essay the candidate must not be in permanent academic employment.

The essay will be considered by a panel of judges set up by the Steering Committee of WHS and the prize will be presented at one of the WHS conferences. The winning essay may be put forward to be considered for publication in the *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*. Queries about eligibility of the entrant or essay topic should be addressed to Deborah Simonton ([dsimonton@language.sdu.dk](mailto:dsimonton@language.sdu.dk)) English Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Engstien 1, 6000 Kolding, Denmark. An electronic copy (PDF) of the completed essay should be sent to Deborah Simonton at the above address. Please include full name and contact details.

2. The Committee of the *Economic & Social History Society of Scotland* awards an annual **postgraduate Prize for a Research Essay** on a Scottish Theme in the general area of economic, social and cultural history. The winner's or winners' essay(s) will be automatically considered for publication in the *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*. **The closing date for the next prize is 31 December 2010.** Postgraduate researchers are encouraged to make submissions - see the ESHSS website for more details.

## 8. Information Requested

From Nina Baker:

In my role as a city councillor here, I am working with the cross party heritage group on a proposal to put up a plaque to commemorate the life and work of The Heroine of Matagorda, Agness Reston (nee Harkness), whose grave is in the Glasgow Southern Necropolis. There is a certain amount published about her and members may have caught the lengthy letter in the Herald recently

(<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-letters/letters-saturday-25-september-2010-1.1057388>). Has anyone done any more detailed research about her, or scotswomen like her during the Peninsular Wars? I would also find it helpful to be in touch with anyone with knowledge of the Glasgow poor house or the Royal hospital in Parliamentary road at that time.

Dr Nina Baker, Research Support, Room AR332/F25 [1st floor]  
Department of Architecture. 131 Rottenrow, University of Strathclyde.Glasgow G4 0NG  
<http://personal.strath.ac.uk/nina.baker/>  
<http://www.constructionhistory.co.uk>

## 9. Other News

The 11,500 hours of recordings of Scottish traditional culture housed in the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh have been digitised by a project called Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches, making material that was previously locked away accessible to the general public. . About 5000 hours will be accessible on a searchable website that goes live shortly. It is hoped that funding will be raised to catalogue and put on line the remaining 6500 hours. The website will also include the Canna Collection, gathered by Gaelic scholars John Lorne Campbell and Margaret Fay Shaw, dating back to the 1930s. Among the women included are Mary Brooksbank, the Dundee jute mill worker and author of 'Oh Dear Me', and the McPake sisters of Peebles who were tweed darners. The website will allow musicians, as well as historians and writers and ordinary members of the public, to hear material that previously was locked away.