

‘LIFE AFTER THE PHD’ PROGRAMME

Tea and Coffee will be provided from 11am

11:20 – Welcome and Introductions

By Dr Sarah Wride (co-Chair, History Lab Plus) & Olivia Garro (Chair, History Lab)

Session 1: Post-PhD Pathways (11:30 – 13:00)

This session will feature short talks by recent history PhD graduates who have had a range of experiences within and beyond the university. It will be followed by a Q&A and discussion. Chaired by Olivia Garro & Tom Cryer (Seminar Convener, History Lab)

Dr Beth Kitson, Research and Policy Analyst, Pro Bono Economics

Dr Beth Kitson is a Research and Policy Analyst at [Pro Bono Economics](#), a think tank that works to support the social sector and to tackle low wellbeing across the UK. Before moving into policy work, Beth received her PhD in History from the University of Oxford. Her thesis, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, explored the experience of migration over the life course of Irish women in the nineteenth century, and its impact on their wellbeing. Alongside her doctoral research, Beth was the Coordinator for the Centre of Gender, Identity and Subjectivity, and taught gender and economic history. Beth also has a MPhil in Economic and Social History from the University of Cambridge, and a BA in History from University College London.

Dr Kathy Davies, Postdoctoral Researcher

Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, Sheffield Hallam University

Dr Kathy Davies completed her PhD on the *Manchester Guardian* at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) between November 2017 and November 2021. Alongside her doctoral studies, Kathy gained extensive experience in undergraduate teaching, including module leadership and dissertation supervision, and worked part-time as a Research Associate at the University of Manchester. Kathy also founded the Postgraduate Research Society at SHU. Post-PhD, Kathy worked part-time in public engagement at the John Rylands Library in Manchester alongside a research position at the University of York, before securing her current role as a Postdoctoral Researcher on the JustHeat project. [JustHeat](#) is a pan-European interdisciplinary project exploring the history of domestic energy transition. Kathy is also co-Chair of HistoryLab+.

Dr Joe Stanley, Senior Education Outreach Officer, University of Leeds

Dr Joe Stanley is a Senior Education Outreach Officer in Educational Engagement at the University of Leeds. He works with schools and colleges across the UK to develop research and study skills amongst sixth formers to 'bridge the gap' between A-Level and university-level study. Prior to this Joe was the Northern Schools Liaison Officer at Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he managed the college's outreach programme in West Yorkshire. Joe completed his PhD in economic and social history in 2020 at Sheffield Hallam University. He previously studied at the University of Cambridge and the University of Durham. He is on the executive committee of the Society for the Study of Labour History and he is also part of the sub-committee that organises the annual Chartism Day, a celebration of all things connected to Chartism and the Chartists.

Dr Melissa L Gustin, Curator of British Art at National Museums Liverpool

Dr Melissa L Gustin is the Curator of British Art at National Museums Liverpool. She earned her PhD from the University of York, working on women sculptors in nineteenth-century Rome, and has previously taught at the University of Essex and University of York. She has held fellowships at the Watts Gallery—Artists Village and Henry Moore Institute. She is writing a book on the Victorian painter G F Watts and art history, and is curating exhibitions for National Museums Liverpool on women artists at the Lady Lever Art Gallery and Walker Art Gallery this spring.

LUNCH (13:00 – 14:15)

Lunch cannot be provided, but coffee will be available before the next session begins.

Session 2: Higher Education Today: The Debate (14:15 – 15:45)

In this session, discipline-leading historians will debate the realities of working in higher-education, the present state of the higher-education sector, and what both do or might mean for early-career historians. This will be followed by a Q&A and discussion. Chaired by Prof. Claire Langhamer (Director, Institute of Historical Research).

Professor Margot Finn, Professor of Modern British History, University College London

Prof. Margot Finn is Director of Research for History at UCL. She currently researches, teaches, and supervises in topics relating to British colonial and imperial history, with particular emphasis on the family, gender, material culture, and transnational encounters 1750-1914. Prof. Finn is a Trustee of the Migration Museum, co-edits the 'Modern British Histories' series for Cambridge University Press, and co-convenes the Institute of Historical Research's British History in the Long-Eighteenth Century research seminar. She was President of the Royal Historical Society 2016-20 and served on the REF2014 and (as Deputy Chair) on the REF2021 sub-panels for History and as a Trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum 2012-18. Prof. Finn co-wrote three pioneering Royal Historical Society reports on equality in UK History departments and teaching: 'Race, Ethnicity and Equality in UK History' (and updates) (2018-20), 'Promoting Gender Equality in UK History' (2018), and 'LGBT+ Histories and Historians' (2020). She has also written a number of guidance papers and reports for historians about open-access and open-science practices.

Professor Matthew Hilton, Professor of Social History, Queen Mary, University of London

Prof. Matthew Hilton is Vice-Principal for Humanities and Social Sciences and Chair of the Mile End Institute Advisory Board. His current research focus is the history of British humanitarian charities, particularly their role in the alleviation of global poverty at a time of decolonisation and development. Prof. Hilton co-edits *Past & Present* and sits on the editorial boards of *Contemporary British History*, *Contemporary European History*, and the *Journal of Consumer Culture*. He has served on both the REF2014 and REF2021 sub-panels for History and on the Advisory Board of the AHRC. In 2022, Prof. Hilton was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize.

Professor Rohan McWilliam, Professor of Modern British History, Anglia Ruskin University

Prof. Rohan McWilliam is Course Leader for BA (Hons) History at ARU and Director of the Labour History Research Unit. He is now researching the development of pleasure districts and culture industries, with a particular focus on the history of London's West End 1800-present. Prof. McWilliam serves on the executive committee of the British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS), the editorial boards of the *Journal of Victorian Culture*, for which he is Reviews Editor, and *London Journal*, and as a Trustee of the London Record Society. He also co-edits two book series, 'Becoming Modern: New Nineteenth-Century Studies', for the University Press of New England, and 'New Directions in Social and Cultural History', for Bloomsbury Publishing. Prof. McWilliam was President of BAVS 2012-15.

15:45 – Closing remarks

By Dr Sarah Wride & Olivia Garro