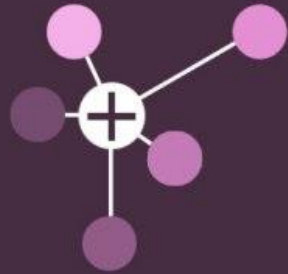




THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

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***Hello, hello History Lab Plus community!** It's been a few months now since our last newsletter. While we try to get this out monthly, it's a bit tricky over summer as our (voluntary) committee are juggling – as we all do – and most importantly (!) trying to find a bit of down time to recalibrate. We hope you've found a bit of rest this summer so far, too.*

There's been a lot going on the past few months, but we are summing it up here –

Our big updates for this issue are:

1. **Concluding the Teaching in a Time of Crisis Conference** – a team effort with History Lab (our PhD cousins) and History UK, the national organisation for history teaching.
2. The success of our online **'Historical Research and Policymaking'** event with speakers from the UK Parliament Knowledge Exchange Unit, History & Policy (IHR), and HE institutions across the UK.
3. Our website – it's under construction until the end of August but has a fabulous new domain name – **Historylab.plus** – huge thanks to our Comms Officer, Dr Dave Steele, who is currently working on our new digital platform – and for the new logo!
4. Finally! Upcoming events include **HL+ Network Northern Ireland 2025**, which will bring together the ECR history community together in Belfast.

Teaching in a Time of Crisis Conference

We concluded our 'Teaching in a Time of Crisis' conference with online sessions in June. There was great discussion from the panel focussed on researching 'historical truth' in Canada, and questions around indigenous land and languages. Dr Jack Hepworth (Newcastle University) gave a fantastic keynote on teaching public history – it was brilliant. We are frustrated we did not record it but want to thank Jack again for his generosity of time.

This conference was led by Tom Cryer (Chair, History Lab), Simon Peplow and Liz Egan (History UK), and the History Lab Plus team. It was an important focus of discussion and valuable collaboration. We hope to work together again.

Historical Research and Policymaking

Mid-June we convened a workshop about how historical research and historical researchers are valuable within national policy spheres. It was a long, hot afternoon, but attended by over 50 people. Our speakers gave sage insight, and we thank them again for their time.

There were so many takeaways from the event, but we want to share further details/ links for those looking to get involved in policymaking –

Connect with [UK Parliament Knowledge Exchange](#)

Add yourself to the [History and Policy Database](#).

Thank you again to our speakers –

Helen McCabe and Sarah Foxen, UK Parliament Knowledge Exchange Unit

Abigail Fletcher, Scottish Parliament

Phillip Murphy, History and Policy (IHR)

Henry Irving, Leeds Beckett University

Tom Kelsey, University of Oxford

Ana-Maria Sichani, University of London

And our HL+ members and chairs who contributed.

WEBSITE: Historylab.plus

Our website is under construction. We are excited that our new site under the fabulous domain name – historylab.plus – will be launched next academic year. Dr Dave Steele is working away to scrub up our online presence and we look forward to sharing our new look soon.

<https://historylab.plus>

Reminder that you can follow us now on BlueSky: @historylabplus

HL+ Network Northern Ireland 2025

The next academic year is knocking already, and we have been busy planning for it. Our first event is a big one. Hello Belfast!

Network Northern Ireland 2025 will be a day of connection for history postdocs and late-stage PhDs based in Northern Ireland. The programme of social opportunities and academic and public history sessions will bring the ECR community together in Belfast.

Programme

11:15 onward - ECR coffee morning @McMordie Room, Queens University, Belfast

A chance to network with other early career historians and hear more about History Lab Plus.

12pm – Lunchtime seminar @ McMordie Room

Researching History and Teaching Liberal Arts: From ECR to Senior Lecturer

Dr Sophie Cooper, Senior Lecturer in Liberal Arts, Queens University Belfast

1pm – Lunch

3pm – Tour of Ulster Museum and walk around the gardens

Including an introduction to the history of Ulster Museum, curator tours of two temporary art exhibitions – the Okamura and the Art of the Possible – and guided viewing of The Troubles and Beyond exhibition and the latest instalment of the Belfast Archive Project exhibition.

Due to limited spaces you will need to register for this part of the day separately. Please email Dr Kathy Davies (co-Chair, History Lab Plus) if you would like to join the tour.

From 6:30pm – History Open Mic Night @ The Pavillion Pub with Dr Maurice Casey and Special Guests

Grab a drink, settle in, and hear about the work and working lives of historians in Belfast. Maurice Casey (QUB) will be on the mic welcoming special guests from across the history scene and inviting the audience to share their research stories. Will you volunteer to do a ‘turn’? Free drinks for contributors.

This is an open session and all are welcome but there will be limited seating.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Kathy Davies via email:
kathydavieshistorian@gmail.com

Register your attendance here: <https://www.history.ac.uk/news-events/events/hl-network-northern-ireland-2025>

Other news and updates from our members:

The Society for Court Studies are accepting blogposts for "The Court Observer". Link here: <https://courtstudies.org/about/scs-blog-the-court-observer/>. Other publishing opportunities with SCS, as well as resources, membership details, and more listed here: <https://courtstudies.org/>

History Lab Plus Committee:

Chairs: Kathy Davies, Mike Reeve
Treasurer: Sarah Wride
Secretary: Roslyn Irving
Communications Officers: Jess Kebbell, Dave Steele
Membership Officer: Amelia Clegg
UK Regional Ambassadors:
Lauren Theweneti, George Higgins, Duncan Hamilton,
Alex Riggs, Maxine Beuret
International Ambassadors: Sam Hosein, Kristen Engel

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