

*Research Clusters associated with the Leeds Humanities Research Institute  
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*Below is a selection of established and newer research clusters based in the Faculty of Arts at Leeds.*

*Print, Culture and Society: From Woodblock to Web*

This newly formed group examines five research areas:

- The Rhetoric of Communications Revolutions — examining the often utopian language, whether visual or verbal, in which new communication technologies are advertised, debated, and legitimised.
- Print Revolutions in a Global Perspective — charting the differing experience of the transition from non-print to print media, and the comparative cultural impact of shifts to new print technologies.
- Print, Knowledge and Power — exploring the relationship between the control, structure and power of media and its use to organise and manipulate political and religious cultures and access to information in different societies.
- Media and Audiences — seeking comparisons between and within different genres of print media (e.g. books, pictures, advertising, newspapers, websites) as they develop over time and in different contexts.
- Digital Transformations — seeks to analyse and empower the transformation of print culture studies made possible by new digital techniques.

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*Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies (ICPS)*

One of the leading research centres of its kind in the UK, The Leeds Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies (ICPS) is a major cross-disciplinary forum for research into colonial pasts and their continuing impact on the contemporary globalised world. Based in the Faculty of Arts, it currently has representatives from the Schools of English, History, and Modern Languages and Cultures, and from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. It also has associations with other Schools and Departments university-wide. The ICPS is particularly keen to support postgraduate activity in colonial and postcolonial studies, both across and beyond the university, and it holds a postgraduate conference in Leeds every year.

Contact: Graham Huggan , [g.d.m.huggan@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.d.m.huggan@leeds.ac.uk)

*Popular Cultures Research Network*

The Popular Cultures Research Network (PCRN) is a gathering of academic staff and postgraduates at Leeds and elsewhere who have teaching and research interests in popular culture. We are based in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures (SMLC) but our membership extends beyond Languages, beyond Arts disciplines generally, and indeed beyond Leeds. We promote an open, pluralistic and evolving sense of what is meant by ‘popular culture’. We also encourage dialogue between modern languages disciplines and the well-established perspectives of Anglophone cultural studies.

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*Centre for Canadian Studies (CCS)*

A leading regional research centre, the Leeds Centre for Canadian Studies (CCS) supports multi- and cross-disciplinary research in Canadian studies at the university and beyond. With representation from a number of different Schools and Departments university-wide, the CCS hosts conferences and workshops, supports research in Canada through student/faculty exchange and travel grants, and invites distinguished speakers from Canada and elsewhere.

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### *Institute for Religion and Public Life*

The aim of the Institute is to foster research into the immensely important, and increasingly contentious, role of religion in public life in the world today. Leeds has long been a centre for world-leading research in contemporary religion, and has recently been outstanding successful in attracting grants under the AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society research programme. The Institute draws together theological, sociological, anthropological and historical approaches and has a strong track record of collaborative work beyond the academy.

Contact:

Kim Knott, Professor of Religious Studies, [k.knott@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:k.knott@leeds.ac.uk)

### *White Rose East Asia Centre*

The White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC) is one of five new collaborative centres set up to create a world class pool of researchers who will enhance the UK's understanding of the Arabic-speaking world, China, Japan and Eastern Europe, including areas of the former Soviet Union. An in-depth understanding of these areas is of cultural, political and economic importance to the UK, and the development of necessary language skills will be central to the work of the centres. The Centre has an ambitious programme of seminars and conferences planned to involve international and British-based scholars, and specially designed workshops for the user community, including business, and the public and voluntary sectors. It has already signed formal agreements for academic cooperation with various European universities and is currently negotiating other agreements.

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### *Cultural Memory and The Resources of The Past, 400-1000 AD*

This is a HERA-funded project with input from Ian Wood and collaborators in Vienna, Utrecht and Cambridge. The project will explore the eclectic uses of the resources of the past in the post-Roman successor states of western Europe in the early middle ages. The aims are two-fold:

1. to determine the role played by the resources of the past in forming the identities of the communities of early medieval western Europe
2. to identify the process by which the new discourses, ethnic identities and social models of early medieval Europe have come to form an essential part of modern European national and transnational identities.

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### *Medicine and the Everyday*

Professor Stuart Murray is putting together a Wellcome Trust application entitled 'Medicine and the Everyday' and comes in the wake of the WT's redefinition of Medical Humanities. It is based in English, looking at literary and cultural narratives of the medical everyday from the medieval period to the present, but also has links to scholars and educators in Health Sciences in Leeds, as well as clinical practitioners and regional public health bodies. Specific areas of interest within the overall umbrella title include mental health and cognitive difference (psychology/psychiatry/neurology), disability, narratives of medical research/scientific 'progress', cultural locations of medical knowledge (in Europe and Africa especially) and medicine and metaphor. Professor Murray would be happy to hear from anyone interested.

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### *The Centre for Aesthetics*

The Centre for Aesthetics pursues world leading research in aesthetics and the philosophy of the arts (rated joint 4th in the world by the Philosophical Gourmet Report). Current interests range from

aesthetic contextualism and relativism to creativity and the values of art. It was recently awarded a £650,000 AHRC research grant 'Method in philosophical aesthetics: the challenge from the sciences' (jointly with Nottingham) and is closely involved in public impact and outreach work (e.g. with Tate Britain).

Contacts:

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#### *The Centre for Metaphysics and Mind (CMM)*

The Centre for Metaphysics and Mind (CMM) promotes world-class research in contemporary metaphysics (e.g. modality), the philosophy of mind and action (e.g. free will), and logic and language (e.g. vagueness). We were rated 8th in the world for metaphysics, and 11th in the world for philosophy of action, in the recent Philosophy Gourmet report. Research activity is supported by weekly research seminars, international visitors, workshops and grant-application assistance. We maintain a particular focus on the development of early career researchers and graduate students.

Contact:

Robert Williams, Director of the Centre for Metaphysics and Mind, [phljrgw@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:phljrgw@leeds.ac.uk)

#### *The Centre for History of Science and Philosophy of Science*

The Centre for History of Science and Philosophy of Science in the Philosophy Department carries out world-class research in both History of Science and Philosophy of Science. (a) Historical topics range from c. 1600 to the recent past, in the history of science, technology and medicine. A joint project with Bristol (£364,000 AHRC-funded), "Owning and Disowning Invention", explores the origins of scientific intellectual property; other areas of historical research include Francis Bacon, the scientific book, and genetics. The Centre also collaborates with several museums and is developing its own Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine. (b) Central philosophical themes include the realism-antirealism debate, the role of mathematics in science, and the nature of scientific representation. In addition, the department is a notable centre for philosophy of physics (e.g. metaphysical issues in quantum theory), and innovative work is being done in the philosophy of biology, the philosophy of the human sciences, and the history of the philosophy of science.

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#### *Leeds Centre for Dante Studies*

This is a Centre devoted to the interdisciplinary study of Italy's national poet, Dante Alighieri, with a special research focus on Dante's theological thought; the Centre is undertaking the world's first overview of Dante's theology, in collaboration with fifteen colleagues internationally. The Centre is also particularly interested in developing the connections between research, learning and teaching, and knowledge transfer. It runs national study days in the UK and in the Republic Ireland for undergraduates and is looking at ways in which research-led study of Dante can connect with students' development of employable skills; it also runs a podcast for students and the general public which both introduces Dante and offers an accessible account of research themes and has recently run a KT programme of events on Dante, including a concert, public lectures and workshops.

Contact: Matthew Treherne, [m.treherne@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.treherne@leeds.ac.uk) and <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/italian/centrefordantestudies.htm>

#### *The Centre for Translation Studies*

The Centre for Translation Studies is involved in a range of research activities related to translation and multilingual communication in the modern world. Our current areas of research and knowledge transfer include:

- \* Evaluation of machine translation quality in different contexts
- \* Quality standards in translation and in conference interpreting
- \* Corpus-based explorations of translation equivalence
- \* Automatic identification of equivalent terms in comparable corpora

- \* Acquisition of foreign-language reading skills using corpora
- \* Analysis of genres in the multilingual web

Past and current projects involve English and Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian.

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*The Phonetics of 'R'-sounds ('Rhotics')*

This group includes Barry Heselwood and Leendert Plug at Leeds, plus phoneticians at the universities of York, London City, Edinburgh, Queen Margaret (Edinburgh), Newcastle, Glasgow. The group is currently working on a bid for the AHRC Research Network Scheme which will expand it to include US phoneticians at the U of Arizona and Duke Uni, and in Canterbury NZealand. The focus of the group is on the phonetics of 'r'-sounds ('rhotics') using instrumental, perceptual and behavioural-psychological methods.

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*The Mixed Cinema Network*

The 'Mixed Cinema Network', involves scholars from Leeds (Prof Lúcia Nagib and Dr Irena Hayter), Sheffield (Dr Mika Ko and Dr Jonathan Rayner) and York (Prof Duncan Petrie and Prof Andrew Tudor), and led by Prof Lúcia Nagib. The Mixed Cinema Network is developing two parallel research lines. The first of them, supported by the White Rose Consortium, refers to interdisciplinary and intercultural approaches to Japanese Cinema. The second looks at interdisciplinary and intercultural approaches to World Cinema. In order to access expertise on Japanese arts beyond the audiovisual media and reinforce our interdisciplinary profile, the Network will hold seminar series, three workshops and one large international conference at the partner universities, with specialists from the UK, Japan, Australia, the US, Denmark and other countries. These events are aimed at forming further research partnerships and producing high-standard outcomes. MCN works in close collaboration with the White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC).

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*From Honour to Respect: Violence and Identity – Trans-historical Perspectives*

This project compares representations of violent crime in the eighteenth century and the present in a range of socio-cultural texts across the two periods, including: newspapers, court proceedings, police interviews and coroners' records. We ask: what is the role of 'honour' in eighteenth-century duelling and does this speak to current attitudes of 'respect' among young men? Our aim is to gain an understanding of the relationship between masculinity and violent crime through an analysis of the language used to represent attitudes and behaviour. Our work will engage with the police, schools and scholars across the academic community. We have already made preliminary contact with the Royal Armouries (Leeds), which has a 'Weapons Awareness Project', and West Yorkshire Police, who have a project entitled: 'Think Life not Knife'.

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*"Poetics of Resistance"*

PoR is a fledgling network of researchers, activists and cultural producers from Europe, Latin America, and the U.S. The members of the network are committed to a long-term counter-hegemonic research project into the dominance of and resistance to neoliberal politics, practices and ideology in the areas of cultural production, knowledge production, and higher education. The group has so far organised symposia in Leeds and Santiago de Compostela and has two essay collections in preparation; its steering group consists of Dr Ben Bollig (UoL), Dr Cornelia Graebner (Lancaster), Professor William Rowe, Birkbeck College, London, Professor Arturo Casas, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, and Santiago Chávez, web designer, musician and activist, Mexico/Argentina.

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