Beyond the digital humanities: integrating digital approaches into the research lifecycle

Big data: exploring open data and web archives with new methodologies

Interdisciplinary research: bringing humanities and life sciences together

Undesirable and unreturnable: stimulating debate on excluded asylum-seekers
Above: SAS graduands at the 2014 graduation ceremony held at Senate House.
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The School of Advanced Study: 20 years of exploring innovative ways to support humanities research

The School of Advanced Study (SAS) has a unique mission in UK higher education:

- to champion the cause of humanities research in the UK, ensuring that its social, cultural and economic benefits are publicly recognised
- to provide world-class support to individuals, networks and organisations conducting humanities research, nationally and internationally
- to identify and lead debates that stimulate new agendas and innovative thinking
- to show creativity in developing research services, resources and research training.

The School celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2015. On 15 March 1995, SAS was officially opened by Sir Anthony Kenny as a federation of the University of London’s research institutes. In the two decades since then, the School has established itself as the UK’s national humanities hub, publicly funded to support and promote research in the humanities nationally and internationally.

Our mission stems from the special role and funding for research promotion and facilitation across the UK and internationally that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has given to the School. It is supported by the University of London and underpinned and enhanced by the internationally-recognised research produced by our academic staff, and by outstanding taught postgraduate programmes leading to University of London degrees.

Our annual review for 2014–15 highlights just a few examples of what the School has been doing to fulfil its mission. This year, we focus particularly on the role of SAS both in promoting a national and international debate about the future of digital humanities, and in providing outstanding digital resources.
Promoting the creation of digital resources

The School has played a leading role in promoting debate about the implications and future of digital humanities. In May 2015, it hosted a major international conference, Beyond the digital humanities (p.18), in collaboration with the Arts & Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) ‘Digital Transformations’ and ‘Science in Culture’ themes. It explored the transformative effects of digital humanities and open data on conventional scholarship, policymaking, creativity and cultural heritage.

The School has established its own central initiative, DH@SAS (p.16), to coordinate activities in this area that are already taking place across its institutes, to foster collaboration with national and international partners, and to promote public awareness of digital resources. Several institute-led activities fit under this central initiative. In February 2015, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) established an Information Law and Policy Centre to examine the implications of the growth of digital communication and how data is shared and restricted. Meanwhile, the Institute of Philosophy (IP) has witnessed Philosophers and psychologists exploring our senses digitally (p.26), with Dr Ophelia Deroy conducting ground-breaking new research with the Oxford Experimental Psychology Department on multisensory experience in a digital age.

IALS continues to make available digital research tools of international significance including Case Papers from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and Historic Scottish Law Reports (p.22). The issue of ‘big data’ has also been a major theme of research activity within IALS. The institute was a partner in a recently-completed project on Big Data for Law (p.22) funded by the Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities initiative of the AHRC. The project has produced a ‘big data toolkit’ including new open data, tools and research methodologies. For the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), this was also A year of big data (p.28), with three separate major projects underway: the AHRC-funded Big Data for the Arts and Humanities which examines the archive of UK web space from 1996–2013; Digging into Linked Parliamentary Data, a collaboration with the Universities of Toronto, King’s College London and the History of Parliament Trust; and another AHRC-funded programme, Traces through Time: Prosopography in Practice across Big Data in collaboration with The National Archives. Meanwhile, IHR’s British History Online (p.24) digital library continues to go from strength to strength. It currently covers more than 1,250 volumes and attracts around 10.7 million page views per year.

Other SAS institutes have also made significant contributions. The Institute of Commonwealth Studies has been digitising the volumes in its British Documents on the End of Empire Project (p.30), making tens of thousands of documents on decolonisation freely available online. The Exile Archives Project (p.20) database developed by the Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR) covers a substantial number of archive collections relating to the experiences of British-based German-speaking exiles from Nazi-occupied Europe. IMLR has also hosted other initiatives from digital storytelling through a conference on Experimental Narratives (p.25) to enhanced digital technologies in Linking Venus, a collaborative project with The Warburg Institute.
Championing the humanities through public engagement

Digital humanities was also prominent at the inaugural Being Human festival of the humanities (p.31) in November 2014. The festival demonstrated the School’s capacity to coordinate public engagement in the humanities on a national scale, attracting a combined audience of around 18,000 people to 163 events organised by universities and independent research organisations across the UK. The festival’s launch event in Senate House considered the perils of ‘information overload’ in a digital age. The 2015 Being Human festival has built on this success, with more than 300 events across the UK staged by 63 partner organisations.

SAS recognises that effective public engagement also involves working creatively with a range of non-academic bodies across the country. As such we were particularly proud of the Cotton to Gold (p.33) exhibition organised by staff at the Institute of English Studies (IES) and the Courtauld Institute of Art in partnership with three museums in the north-west of England: the Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Townley Hall in Burnley and Accrington’s Haworth Museum and Art Gallery. The project culminated in a major exhibition of treasures from these repositories at 2 Temple Place in London, which attracted 35,000 visitors and enthusiastic reviews in the national press. The success of this venture has led to the establishment of a formal academic partnership between the Blackburn Museum and IES.

As evidence of this commitment to public engagement, the School appointed Professor Sarah Churchwell (p.13) as its first chair in public understanding of the humanities. She will work with colleagues in SAS and beyond to develop new initiatives to build and enhance the public profile of UK humanities research.

Promoting interdisciplinary research

The School has launched a number of important initiatives to foster ground-breaking interdisciplinary research. One important new development is the creation of a Centre for Postcolonial Studies (p.37) led by Professor Andrew Hussey OBE. As the legacies of the European empires continue to make themselves felt in contemporary politics and society, the Centre seeks to encourage a dialogue between scholars, community groups and policymakers about the nature of ‘postcolonial’ challenges. Meanwhile, the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) published an important Report on the State of UK-based Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (p.38). The report seeks to encourage funding bodies, decision-makers and subject associations to strengthen UK-based research in the region.

SAS continues to conduct pioneering work promoting collaboration between scholars from the humanities and the life sciences. A striking example of this was the first of a series of workshops hosted by the Institute of Classical Studies (ICS) as part of the AHRC-funded programme Cognitive Science meets Ancient Religion (p.36). The project draws on cognitive science to explore the emotional states and physiological responses of participants in ancient religious ceremonies. An interdisciplinary approach is also a feature of The Warburg Institute’s well-established Fellowship Policy (p.39). The wide scope of interdisciplinary research undertaken by the institute has become a distinctive feature of The Warburg, above and beyond its well-established reputation for the study of the classical tradition in medieval and modern times.
Providing innovative research training and postgraduate teaching

This interdisciplinary theme is reflected in the research training and teaching offered elsewhere in the School. An important example was the day-long workshop Thinking through fieldwork in Latin America (p.44) organised by ILAS in May 2015, which brought together expertise from a range of relevant disciplines. And The Warburg has continued to build on its long history of fostering interdisciplinary research in its highly successful teaching initiatives such as the MA in Art History, Curatorship and Renaissance Culture (p.41). Recognising that the internet will play an increasingly important role in the provision of research training, SAS launched PORT (Postgraduate Online Research Training) (p.43) in January 2015. This ground-breaking free resource is aimed specifically at meeting the needs of postgraduate students and early career researchers.

We also realise the significant potential of the internet for the provision of Master’s courses. This year saw a landmark development as SAS launched its first distance-learning MA, in partnership with the University of London International Programmes. In its first year, the MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies (p.40) attracted a strong cohort of 54 students from countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Brazil and Australia.

This year also brought a host of new appointments to enrich the School’s academic capacity (p.15). These appointments in areas ranging from urban history to postcolonial studies, to law and information policy, digital classics and experimental aesthetics were made possible by continued investment from HEFCE and increased financial commitment from the University of London. As the School aims to become an indispensable component of the UK humanities research infrastructure, this investment in academic staff will play a key part in achieving that mission.

Ensuring impact beyond the academy

The School continues to place particular value on research that reaches out beyond the academy and offers insights into some of the most pressing problems facing contemporary policymakers. None is more urgent than government responses to global migration. Directly addressing a complex aspect of this issue, the School’s Refugee Law Initiative in collaboration with the Center for International Criminal Justice at the Free University, Amsterdam, has launched a major AHRC-funded international networking project: Undesirable and Unreturnable? Policy Challenges around Excluded Asylum-Seekers and Migrants Suspected of Serious Criminality (p.45).

Roger Kain CBE FBA
Dean and Chief Executive
University of London, School of Advanced Study
The School of Advanced Study Institutes

Advanced Legal Studies
The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) supports and leads legal research in its broadest sense, both nationally and internationally. Founded in 1947, it houses specialist research centres and innovative partnerships and is home to an active community of researchers, fellows and postgraduate students. It promotes new research agendas in specialist and interdisciplinary areas of law with direct effect on policy and practice. It provides research training and online services, a meeting place for organisations and legal scholars from around the world, one of the world’s great legal research libraries and a busy programme of seminars and public events.

Classical Studies
The Institute of Classical Studies (ICS) is the national centre for the promotion and facilitation of research in Classics and related disciplines throughout the UK and abroad. Founded in 1953, it runs an extensive events programme, comprising seven standing seminars, guest lectures, workshops, conferences and public events. The ICS also publishes a Bulletin (BICS) with a supplement series, hosts web resources for the national classics community and (together with the Hellenic and Roman Societies) runs a major research library. The ICS also hosts research projects, offers graduate teaching and training, and is the meeting place for the UK’s main classical societies.

Commonwealth Studies
The Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICWS) is the only postgraduate academic institution in the UK devoted to the study of the Commonwealth. Founded in 1949, its purpose is to promote interdisciplinary, inter-regional and policy-orientated research on the Commonwealth and its member nations, primarily in the fields of history and politics. Its areas of specialism include British imperial history, the history of decolonisation, international development, human rights, north–south relations and conflict and security. The institute also hosts the School of Advanced Study’s Human Rights Consortium and is home to two interdisciplinary MA programmes in human rights and decolonisation, democracy and development.

English Studies
Founded in 1999, the Institute of English Studies (IES) facilitates advanced study and research in English studies for the benefit of the national and international academic community. Its extensive seminar and lecture programme covers topics from medieval manuscripts to modernism. The institute offers an MA/MRes programme in the history of the book and runs research training activities in the areas of palaeography, print history, textual scholarship and digital publishing.

Historical Research
Founded in 1921, the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) is at the centre of the study of academic history. It provides a stimulating research environment supported by its two research centres, the Centre for Metropolitan History and the Victoria County History, and its own digital and publications department. It is also home to The Wohl Library, an outstanding collection of open access resources, hosts events and seminars and has a dedicated programme of research training.

Latin American Studies
The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), founded in 1965, is a national coordinating centre dedicated to serving the UK’s Latin American and Caribbean studies community. Internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for research facilitation, it serves the wider community through organising academic events, providing online research resources, publishing scholarly writings and hosting visiting fellows. It possesses a world-class library dedicated to the study of Latin America and is the administrative home of the highly respected Journal of Latin American Studies.
Modern Languages Research
The Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR) was established in 2004 by the merger of the Institutes of Germanic Studies and Romance Studies, founded in 1950 and 1989 respectively. It is committed to supporting, initiating and promoting dialogue and research in modern languages for the academic and wider community across a range of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields in the humanities. IMLR publishes the much-respected *Journal of Romance Studies* and ‘imlr books’ series as well as other important publications.

Philosophy
The Institute of Philosophy (IP), founded in 2005, promotes and supports high-quality research in philosophy, making it available to the widest possible audience both inside and outside the UK’s academic community. It is home to three active research centres: the Centre for the Study of the Senses, the Centre for Logic and Language and the London Aesthetics Forum (sponsored by the British Society of Aesthetics).

The Warburg Institute
Incorporated in the University in 1944, The Warburg Institute is the premier institute in the world for the study of cultural history and the role of images in culture. Initially concerned with the survival of classical antiquity in Renaissance art, its range swiftly expanded. It is dedicated to the history of ideas, the dissemination and transformations of images in society, and the relationship between images, art and their texts and subtexts, of all epochs and across the globe. As its motto – *Mnemosyne* – and its Library make clear, it was the forerunner of current concerns with memory and material culture.
IMR moves to Royal Holloway

The Institute of Musical Research (IMR) has been welcomed into the fold of Royal Holloway University of London, and has settled in its new home. Until July 2015 it was part of SAS, but after a feasibility study the University of London’s Board of Trustees reluctantly decided in January that the IMR should not continue as a SAS institute.

Very much still a national institute, it continues to foster high-quality research, has a new director and, through ongoing links with the School and the University of London, has access to space at Senate House in which to host and publicise events including seminars, conferences and book launches. Future plans include discipline-specific research training for PhD students and events to promote public understanding of musical research.

Refugee Law Initiative joins international government project’s advisory board

In March 2015, SAS’s Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), led by Dr David Cantor, was invited to advise an international government process to address the issue of cross-border displacement in the disaster context by joining the consultative committee of the inter-governmental Nansen Initiative. The first of its kind, the Nansen Initiative was set up by Norway and Switzerland in 2012 to help states resolve how to protect those forcibly displaced across borders. In the past six years this has amounted to some 160 million people. The expertise provided by the consultative committee, which includes representatives from research institutions like the RLI, non-governmental organisations and international organisations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is crucial. It will allow the Nansen Initiative to respond to the legal gaps and develop a consensus on a protection agenda.
HEFCE Catalyst funding will stimulate research on the human mind

In July 2015, The Human Mind Project, hosted by SAS as an international effort to define the major intellectual challenges in understanding the nature and significance of the human mind, received a significant boost from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), to help move it on from its pilot phase. A substantial grant from HEFCE's Catalyst Fund will enable the project's team to fulfil its objective of promoting a highly innovative approach to the study of the mind across conventional disciplinary boundaries.

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies hosts new Information Law and Policy Centre

A new Information Law and Policy Centre at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies hosts research on the way in which law both restricts and enables the flow of information in global society. In its first year, speakers included a former UN special rapporteur on freedom of expression and numerous practitioners and academics specialising in information rights. Visiting fellows shared research on the reach of freedom of information, data protection and the handling of digital criminal evidence.

Opened in spring 2015, the Centre is led by director Dr Judith Townend, whose research focuses on access to information and the relationship between media and information law and social practice, and it is advised by an expert panel of leading legal and media practitioners and academics.

Talking Humanities: SAS launches online humanities hub

On 5 May 2015, SAS unveiled Talking Humanities, a new hub for comment and analysis of research, events, training and policy in the UK humanities. A blog written by academics from around the world, Talking Humanities provides a variety of thought-provoking articles on the things that matter to humanities researchers.

It aims to reflect subject diversity highlighting the breadth of the humanities, encompassing everything from history to languages, legal studies, philosophy, the classics, the arts and politics. This new online hub is an important step towards the School's national mission to support research in any number of humanities disciplines, and facilitate discussion, debate and knowledge wherever possible.
Institute of Historical Research gets royal reopening

The IHR was officially reopened on 14 October 2014 by The Chancellor, HRH The Princess Royal after a three-year renovation project. The refurbishment was made possible by a University of London investment of more than £10 million. Charitable foundations, individual benefactors and the many historians who use the IHR’s library and attend its research seminars made further contributions.

The institute has always been the focus of a rich historical culture in London since its foundation in 1921 and now the many improvements to its premises, equipment and facilities will further enhance its national and international roles as a centre for historical studies.

Malaysian Inns of Court Fellow considers fundamental liberties in multi-religious societies

Appointed in September 2015, Mr Justice Azahar bin Mohamed, a Malaysian federal court judge, became the first from his country to be offered an Inns of Court Fellowship at IALS. His tenure runs from 9 October to 31 December.

On accepting the fellowship, Justice Azahar bin Mohamed, who studied for his Master of Laws degree at the London School of Economics, said Malaysia’s multicultural and multi-religious society brings ‘obvious challenges and inherent difficulties’. During his time in London he will investigate the impact of parallel legal systems on fundamental liberties in multi-religious societies, inquiring into the jurisdictional conflict in Malaysia and other jurisdictions.

Institute of Historical Research fellow’s expertise features in media

In July 2015, Dr Karina Urbach, IHR senior research fellow, was in the media spotlight after the publication of her acclaimed book, Go-Betweens for Hitler, coincided with a major news story on a related subject. Dr Urbach’s book, which is published by Oxford University Press (July 2015), explores how Emperors, elected politicians and dictators used go-betweens for secret missions throughout the inter-war period. One focus is on Hitler’s deployment of aristocratic go-betweens to bring about an Anglo-German alliance in the 1930s.

In the month the book was released, The Sun newspaper revealed a home movie showing the Queen performing a Nazi salute in the 1930s. Urbach was approached by the paper in advance and is extensively quoted in the resultant article. The footage, she commented, ‘should have been
in the public domain 50 years ago. The story was covered by a range of national and international publications including, *The Times, The Guardian, The Telegraph, the Daily Mail, the Mirror, Russia Today, CNN, The Washington Post* and the *International Business Times*.

**CenSes research on edible insects features in media**

In May 2015, Dr Ophelia Deroy, researcher at SAS’s Centre for the Study of the Senses (CenSes), authored a report based on an exhaustive survey of all the recent research done on eating insects. Contributing to a more sustainable means of feeding the world’s growing population, the report revealed that people will only be persuaded to eat insects if they seem appealing. This finding goes against previous efforts by groups like the United Nations that emphasised the environmental benefits and nutritional value of insects. Rather, the report urges messages that focus on the good flavour, smell and appearance of insects as food. Dr Deroy’s findings made headlines both in the UK and the US with mentions in *The Washington Post, US National Public Radio, BBC World News, Nature* and others.

**MEDIA MENTIONS**

The School was mentioned in the media 206 different times in 2014–15, representing a reach of more than 200 million readers, listeners and viewers.

Each institute was mentioned at least once and 39 different academic staff members were mentioned, many of whom were in the media several times throughout the year. Several (11%) of the 112 outlets that mentioned the School have a reach of more than 1 million people. While mentions spanned a wide variety of mediums – from daily newspapers to online blogs, radio and TV – the School was most frequently mentioned in *The Guardian* (17 times) and *The Conversation* (16 times), closely followed by BBC Radio 4 (14 times) and the *Times Higher Education* (10 times).
School announces new directors

Professor David Freedberg was appointed director of The Warburg Institute in March 2015. A highly distinguished scholar, Professor Freedberg has taught at Columbia University since 1984, where he is Pierre Matisse Professor of the History of Art, and is director of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America. His commitment to cross-disciplinary work in the sciences, anthropology and the arts was instrumental in the establishment of the Academy’s neuroscience and humanities project.

“...The Warburg Institute is one of the great centres for the study of cultural history in the world. It has a distinguished past, and retains the potential to make a powerful contribution to interdisciplinary studies across the globe. The extraordinary intellectual vision of its founder remains critically relevant to current work in the humanities, and continues to offer exceptional – and still underexploited – opportunities to make The Warburg the leading institution for the revitalisation of the study of cultures in the 21st century.”

Professor David Freedberg, newly-appointed director of The Warburg Institute

Professor Rick Rylance was appointed director of the Institute of English Studies in May 2015. Previously chief executive of the Arts & Humanities Research Council and chair of the Research Councils UK executive group, Professor Rylance has extensive experience of English studies. He was chair of the English sub-panel of the RAE 2008, a founder member of the English Subject Centre’s Advisory Board, a past chair of the Council of College and University English (CCUE), and a current member of the Higher Education Committee of the English Association.

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SAS neuroscientist wins prestigious medical prize

Professor Sir Colin Blakemore, director of the Centre for the Study of the Senses, was awarded the prestigious Lennox K Black International Prize in Medicine in March 2015, which focuses on the importance of international collaboration in medical research. He is the first neuroscientist to receive this accolade, and travelled to Philadelphia, USA, as a guest of the Thomas Jefferson University to deliver the keynote address at a one-day symposium. The prize is given every two years and carries a cash award of $15,000.

SAS appoints new chairs in digital history and public engagement

Professor Jane Winters, head of digital publications at IHR and responsible for the IHR's publishing and scholarly communications strategy, was appointed to a personal chair in digital history in December 2014. Professor Winters has been exploring how to transform the way we work with large datasets through ground-breaking projects like the Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities, Digging into Linked Parliamentary Metadata and Traces through Time: Prosopography in Practice across Big Data.

Professor Sarah Churchwell, author, literary prize judge, journalist and one of the UK’s most prominent academics, was appointed as the School’s first chair in public understanding of the humanities in July 2015. Professor Churchwell, who received her BA from Vassar College and MA and PhD from Princeton University, will work with colleagues in SAS and beyond to develop new initiatives to build and enhance the public profile of UK humanities research.

Professor Imre Demhardt, a geographer and historian with expertise in the history of cartography, was based at the School from February to July. Professor Demhardt currently holds the Garrett Chair within the transatlantic history PhD programme at the University of Texas at Arlington, USA. Internationally, this is one of the few programmes

ST Lee Visiting Professorial Fellow for 2014–15

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offering a structured postgraduate degree in the history of cartography. As a prominent figure in his field, Professor Demhardt has helped coordinate cartographic conferences and exhibitions, and has written a number of scholarly papers on post-Enlightenment exploration and cartography of Europe, Africa and the Americas. He is also co-editor of *The History of Cartography Encyclopaedia, Vol. 5: Cartography in the Nineteenth Century*.

**Professor Linda Newson recognised in Queen’s Birthday Honours**

Professor Linda Newson, director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Latin American Studies in June 2015. Professor Newson obtained her BA and PhD from the department of geography at University College London. With extensive academic publications in both English and Spanish, Professor Newson was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2000, where she also serves on its International Policy Committee.

**NZ–UK Link Foundation Visiting Fellows 2014–15**

Each year, the NZ–UK Link Foundation Visiting Professorship programme enables a high-calibre New Zealand professor to spend three months in the School with access to extensive research facilities and the appropriate academic specialists, as well as the opportunity to deliver a series of public lectures.

**Professor Michael Baker**, a public health physician and professor in the University of Otago’s public health department and New Zealand’s leading infectious disease epidemiologist, has more than 20 years of research experience focusing on pandemic infectious diseases. He also consults for the World Health Organisation and leads continuing professional development for the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine.

**Professor Jacques Poot**, professor of population economics at the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis at New Zealand’s Waikato University, is only the second academic from Waikato to secure this prestigious visiting professorship. After studying econometrics at the Free University Amsterdam, Professor Poot gained a PhD from New Zealand’s Victoria University of Wellington. He has lectured in Japan and is currently Fellow-in-Residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Eminent lawyer and acclaimed artist receive honorary doctorate from SAS**

One of the most senior Government lawyers and an acclaimed surrealist painter received honorary University of London degrees from the School in December 2014, continuing its recognition of outstanding contributions to education and research. **Sir Stephen Laws, KCB, QC** (right) who was the first non-Oxbridge graduate to hold the post
The Warburg Institute.

Mr Jon Newbury, associate publisher for open access at Elsevier, was appointed publishing and production manager for IHR, IALS and SAS.

Dr Sue Onslow, senior research fellow at ICWS, has been appointed senior lecturer in Commonwealth studies.

Dr Dominic Glynn, formerly at the University of Oxford and the Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, joined IMLR as early career lecturer in French studies.

Dr Claire Launchbury, previously lecturer in French and cultural studies at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, and research fellow at the University of Leeds, joined IHR and IMLR as postdoctoral research fellow in city studies and modern languages.

Dr James Hadley, former visiting scholar in translation studies at Nanjing Agricultural University in China, joined IMLR as early career researcher in translation / translingual studies.

Dr Catherine Gilbert, formerly of the University of Nottingham, joined the School’s Centre for Postcolonial Studies as research officer in postcolonial studies.

Dr Gabriel Bodard, previously principal investigator on the SNAP-DRGN project, networking ancient prosopographies, has been appointed as the UK’s first reader in digital classics at ICS.

Dr Tom Hulme, research associate at King’s College London, joined IHR as early career lecturer in urban history.

Ms Christina Angelopoulos, from the Institute for Information Law at the University of Amsterdam, joined IALS as early career researcher in law and information policy.

New posts enrich academic capacity

Thanks to continued investment from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), increased financial commitment from the University of London and its own earned income streams, SAS has been able to make a number of important new appointments. They include:

Stephen Neale, distinguished professor of philosophy at City University of New York (CUNY), will be attached to the Institutes of Philosophy and Advanced Legal Studies as part-time professor in language and law.

Vittorio Gallesse, professor of human physiology at Italy’s University of Parma, joins IP as part-time professor in experimental aesthetics.

Dr Joanne Anderson, previously lecturer in Renaissance art history at Birkbeck, was appointed lecturer in 13th–17th-century history of art at The Warburg Institute.

Patrick Hughes (left), received the Doctor of Science honoris causa recognising research using his paintings with an MRI scanner to determine the parts of the brain which process spatial clues.

of First Parliamentary Counsel – one of the three most senior lawyers in the Civil Service – received a Doctor of Laws honoris causa. Patrick Hughes (left), received the Doctor of Science honoris causa recognizing research using his paintings with an MRI scanner to determine the parts of the brain which process spatial clues.

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Digital humanities at SAS: DH@SAS

The School of Advanced Study has a long history of digital research and innovation. Well-established highly-regarded initiatives developed at the School include British History Online, Victoria County History, and recently funded research on Big Data, and Web Archiving, all developed by the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) in collaboration with partners from academic and heritage organisations around the world. The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) has enabled access over many years to large-scale digital resources for research. The Institute of Philosophy developed PhilPapers and PhilEvents, the discipline’s key digital tools comprising a subject repository with bibliographic features and an international calendar of events, searchable by topic, person or region.

In addition, recent strategic appointments have underlined the emphasis the School places on digital humanities: over the last year, as well as the School’s own chair in digital humanities, IHR has a chair in digital history, the Institute of Classical Studies has appointed a reader in digital classics, and The Warburg Institute created a digital libraries post. Other institutes have

DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN NUMBERS

The School hosts 235 digital and information platforms, attracting 97.3 million page views by 11 million unique users a year.

Moving beyond digital humanities, the year’s flagship digital humanities event, brought together 15 speakers from 11 different institutions representing 8 countries across Europe.

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII), www.bailii.org, hosted at IALS, is the most popular free website with legal content for both teaching staff and students. In August 2015, BAILII included 78 databases covering seven jurisdictions. Weekly users come from about 3,000 domains and usage is around 2.6 million (page requests).

The Institute of Historical Research (IHR) launched British History Online (BHO) almost 12 years ago. It now has a new design, improved usability and more than 1,250 volumes and 10.7 million page views a year, making it one of the most important digital resources for British history.
developed funded research with digital content and methods at its core, and key appointments have been made in digital publishing. Senate House Library is also developing initiatives in this area, especially through the appointment of a head of commercial licensing and digitisation.

The key strategic DH@SAS objectives will enable development in digital humanities to contribute to the mission of the School, and will include:

1. Building a digital research infrastructure that is fit for purpose for all aspects of access to, and sustainability of, research outputs, research data management, and for digital collections
2. Developing digital and scholarly communication initiatives, including the publication, dissemination, and re-use of digital publications, especially the exploration of new forms of publication that do not merely replicate print formats digitally
3. Conducting outreach and public engagement to raise awareness and build collaborations
4. Building capacity through research training
5. Recruiting visiting fellows active in strategic areas of interest central to the development of DH@SAS
6. Supporting postgraduate recruitment and development through integration of DH@SAS approaches, methods and tools, and the strategic recruitment of PhD students to work on digitally-enabled research
7. Generating revenue from external sources through research and development fundraising
8. Enhancing internationalisation through collaborations on projects, training and development, and attracting international applicants for fellowships
9. Focusing on interdisciplinarity to bring together the scientific and engineering disciplines, heritage organisations, and other disciplines including medicine, the sciences, engineering, and computer science

“The School of Advanced Study strives to be an accessible, publicly engaged organisation determined to champion debates fundamental to humanities research, such as those relating to open access and other digital humanities innovations.”

Professor Roger Kain, Dean, School of Advanced Study
Moving beyond digital humanities

Initially, digital methods in the arts and humanities were developed and deployed by a relatively small community but now they are more mainstream, they can’t be treated as separate specialised activities. Moreover, research questions, primary materials and interfaces are increasingly intertwined, causing a shift in emphasis from presentation to interpretative tools. In addition, the relationship of digital humanities to more orthodox academic disciplines and creative practice is complex and unclear.

Against this backdrop, SAS hosted a major international conference on digital humanities with the AHRC themes: ‘Digital Transformations’ and ‘Science in Culture’. It was the final event of the European Science Foundation Network for Digital Methods in the Arts and Humanities, NeDiMAH (www.nedimah.eu).

It reflected on how the rich range of activities that has fostered European digital humanities can be situated in the wider ‘post-digital’ era: What is the impact of the digital humanities on research, policy, creativity, cultural heritage and genres of scholarly knowledge production? How is the rich landscape of the digital humanities, with its
emphasis on collaboration, trans-national work and interdisciplinary, effecting transformations in the production of knowledge? The presentations and discussions explored the themes related to a range of core digital humanities methods, including visualisation, open linked data, large scale data analysis and scholarly communications. Activities revealed the diversity of practice around Europe, the collaborative and trans-national nature of digital humanities, and the integration of digital approaches into the research lifecycle.

Attempts to define the digital humanities can be contentious, but NeDiMAH revealed digital humanities is essentially understood through practice, and that a critical framework for digital research within the ‘big tent’ of digital humanities, must be based on a reflection of the diverse and rich work already done.

Speakers included Lucy Kimbell (University of Brighton), who discussed the potential relationship of digital humanities to policymaking, and the need for research in these areas to be highly visible to communities that can benefit from it. Brett Bobley, NEH Office of Digital Humanities, highlighted the underlying infrastructures of digital humanities which he said are also human connections and communications, not just technology. The benefits of digital humanities to other communities and agendas were also emphasised by other presenters.

As the landscape around research cultures across the disciplines shifts, SAS will continue to address the essential questions as we move beyond the ‘digital humanities’ into ‘digital research’ and finally, just ‘research’.

SPEAKERS

- Lucy Kimbell, University of Brighton, AHRC Research Fellow in the Cabinet Office Policy Lab
- Alessio Assonitis, The Medici Archive Project, Florence; Helle Porsdam, University of Copenhagen; Jon Pratt, Arts Council England; Teal Triggs, Royal College of Art; Susan Schreibman, University of Maynooth
- Brett Bobley, National Endowment for the Humanities
- Sean Ryder, NUI Galway, Chair of HERA; Keri Facer, University of Bristol, Theme Leader Fellow for ‘Connected Communities’ programme; Jacqueline Hicks, Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies; Catherine Moriarty, University of Brighton; Jessica Parland von Essen, University of Helsinki
- Lorna Hughes, School of Advanced Study, University of London, NeDiMAH Chair; Andrew Prescott, University of Glasgow, AHRC Theme Leader Fellow for ‘Digital Transformations’; Barry Smith, School of Advanced Study, University of London, AHRC Theme Leader Fellow for ‘Science in Culture’; Patrik Svensson, Umeå University; Milena Zic-Fuchs, Zagreb University, European Science Foundation, European Research Council

TOPICS

- Policymaking in a digital world
- Creativity and cultural heritage
- The trans-Atlantic platform and new international collaborative initiatives
- New forms of data and collaboration
- Genres of scholarly knowledge and production

Artwork by CreativeConnection.co.uk, artist: Isolde.
Exile archives speak

Funded by the Martin Miller and Hannah Norbert-Miller Trust since 2012, the Institute of Modern Languages Research’s (IMLR) Exile Archives Project made significant strides in its mission to open up access to the archives of British-based German-speaking exiles from Nazi-occupied Europe through the creation of high-quality digitised finding aids. The Germanic Studies Archives holds a substantial number of exile-related archive collections, including the personal papers of writers, theatre directors and other cultural figures, the records of the Anglo-Austrian and Anglo-Austrian Music Societies, and a fascinating series of oral history interviews with refugees from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia from the 1990s.
of the records than ever before, allowing researchers to easily identify who created them, used them or is referenced in them. The data can also be extracted and supplied for importing into other national or international databases, such as the one currently being drawn up by the Holocaust Commission, a project supported by the Prime Minister’s Office. In this instance, cataloguing data was supplied to the Commission in early 2015 following a request for information about oral histories of refugees for inclusion in a national audit of testimonies of British Holocaust survivors and liberators.

In addition to the cataloguing of the material, the project aims to raise awareness of the collections with public engagement activities and events using digital media. Digitised audio recordings of rare WW2 radio broadcasts from the collections have formed the centrepiece of successful public engagement events such as Exile Archives Speak, held to complement an in-house exhibition in May. A blog featuring digitised images of exile theatres in London, which has had over 8,000 views, has sparked particular interest in the collections from academic and heritage bodies in Germany and Austria. This has led to a rare 1937 photograph from one of the collections being supplied to the Jewish Museum in Vienna for inclusion in an exhibition on Vienna’s Ringstrasse, and digital images and audio recordings from the collections were provided for an education project on exile for sixth formers run by Salzburg University.

These digital projects are opening up the collections to a far wider potential user base than was previously possible. They are also generating more interest from potential donors, who can now see how their treasured papers can be made accessible to researchers and engaged with by the wider community. Over the next two years the project will continue to enhance access to the exile archives, and will have as its legacy digital resources which widen public awareness of the challenges and achievements faced by refugees in the 1930s and reflect the individual and shared histories behind the records.

“...The exile archives have opened my eyes to a new world of Austrian refugees in London in the 1940s and the work they have done in the arts, such as the BBC broadcasts. Thanks to the digitisation of the audio resources, one is able to listen to Karl Kraus readings, Martin Miller and much else. The blog of the archivist is informative as it provides updates on the collections and snippets into the lives [of exiles], such as Jura Soyfer and Martin Miller. Overall, it has been and still is very helpful to my own personal research and I can highly recommend this catalogue.”

Sarah Putz, MA student, Queen Mary University of London
IALS Digital law projects increase access to research with new tools and data sets

Digital projects at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) have increased access to a wide range of data and provided new tools in understanding and using that data in a meaningful way. Three key areas of digital work were undertaken at the institute this last year, including projects relating to access to and tools in legislation research, as well as expanded access to primary legal materials.

Big data for law
IALS was a partner in the research consortium that succeeded in receiving over £550,000 under the Digital Transformations in the Arts & Humanities initiative of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project, Big Data for Law, transformed how we understand and use current legislation by delivering a ‘big data toolkit’. This includes new open data, new tools and new research methodologies, made available through a new service: www.legislation.gov.uk/projects/big-data-for-law.

The project put big data technologies into the hands of non-technical researchers for the first time. It derives new open data from closed data sets, providing more of the data that researchers need. For example, potentially personally identifiable user data from legislation.gov.uk cannot be made available as open data, but could be processed using big data tools to identify clusters in legislation, or ‘recommendations’ datasets of ‘people who read Act A or B also looked at Act Y or Z’. The project looked at new ways of codifying and modelling the architecture of the statute book to make it easier to research in its entirety.

It explored the concept of a ‘pattern language’ in legislation, which is simply a method of describing good design practices, structured around problems or issues, with a solution. Patterns are not created or invented. They are identified as good design based on evidence about how useful and effective they are. The project identified a number of patterns, for example the regulatory pattern or the offences pattern.

Co-led by Professor Helen Xanthaki, professor of law and legislative drafting at IALS and director of the Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies, in collaboration with The National Archives, the project has recently come to a close, but there is every intent in pursuing follow-up funding.

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute
The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII), www.bailii.org, hosted at IALS, provides access to the most comprehensive set of British and Irish primary legal materials that are available, for free and in one place, on the internet.

According to the annual Society of Legal Scholars and British and Irish Association of Law Librarians survey of academic law libraries, BAILII is the most popular free website with legal content for both teaching staff and students. In August 2015, BAILII had 78 databases covering seven jurisdictions. Weekly users come from about 3,000 domains and usage is around 2.6 million (page requests per week).
BAILII is also constantly adding historic materials for research. It has recently created a database of historic Scottish Law Reports comprising more than 20,000 reports from 1540 to 1861.

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council case papers
IALS also holds copies of case papers of appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC). Papers from 1935 to 1985 and selected papers from earlier cases of special interest to researchers have now been digitised. There are appeals from over 35 other countries on cases of the highest importance in the legal development of each of the countries and the development of the common law shared by many countries worldwide. Over 5,000 documents have been digitised, thanks to SAS funding. IALS is working with BAILII to prepare these documents and records for online access. The digitised case papers are being made available as searchable PDF files alongside the judgment texts already freely available on BAILII and will also appear in the US co-operative LLMC Digital service.

This will deliver access to rare and valuable documents from this historic court. Utilising IALS academic contacts, leading experts in the study of the role of the JCPC, a commentary will be added for selected cases demonstrating the significance of the decision. The project is being led at IALS by Steven Whittle. Nimal Vitharana, who has joined the IALS information systems team assisting with its ongoing project work, is particularly involved in the Privy Council case papers digitisation project.

These projects will benefit the research community and public knowledge on several levels, and make a valuable contribution to facilitating further initiatives in the UK and overseas in the areas of Commonwealth legal and cultural development. Additionally, they will extend the scope of wider open access information delivery.
British History Online grows reach with redesign

Almost 12 years ago, the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) launched the pilot of British History Online (BHO), a digital library of key printed primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland. It started off with materials from its own research centres, the Victoria County History and the Centre for Metropolitan History, and was designed to support national and international researchers by increasing their accessibility of these texts. It now has a new design, improved usability and more than 1,250 volumes and 10.7 million page views a year, making it one of the most important digital resources for British history.

Although BHO evolved gradually, in January 2014, it became apparent that the needs of the users had outstripped the architecture of the site. There followed a year-long process of redesign, while maintaining a balance between addressing the expectations of current users, and building an environment that would address the needs of future users.

The new website features two main points of access into the materials, and has been designed with future improvements and enhancements in mind. The catalogue allows users to see BHO’s entire collection. Organised by series or by single volume, it reveals BHO’s holdings quickly and clearly. Users can narrow down their focus by selecting from categories to the right of the catalogue. The second point of access is through the search feature using keyword, title or a combination of the two. Results can be narrowed down by the same parameters used in the catalogue, and users can combine multiple layers of facets to achieve highly specialised results.

In 2015, BHO looks very different, but the project’s mandate to support and enable the study of British history by improving accessibility and searchability of key historical texts, remains the same. BHO’s longevity and excellent reputation as a digital resource is equally due to its commitment to respond to the needs of this broad research community, and its position within the IHR and the School. This position has allowed it to be sustainable in the notoriously difficult-to-sustain world of digital academic projects. As a project with a national and international remit to support researchers, BHO’s place within the School is fitting. It is hard to imagine it anywhere else.

Since the launch of the rebuilt website in December 2014, BHO’s momentum has not slowed at all. In 2015, the project is both old and new; the eagerness to experiment and grow remains as fervent as it did 12 years ago. This year has already seen a flood of new content and the team continues to improve usability, develop new tools and expand into new areas.
Exploring experimental narratives and digital technologies

The Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR) has organised two key projects this year as a part of its commitment to facilitating, initiating and promoting dialogue and research for the modern languages community.

The first, an international conference sponsored by the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA), explored the theme of ‘narrative experimentalism’ from the novel to digital storytelling. It attracted scholars from different disciplines and countries including Denmark, Germany, Argentina, Italy, France, the US and the UK. The event, organised by Dr Godela Weiss-Sussex, Dr Jordana Blejmar, Dr Sam Merrill and Dr Emanuela Patti, included four keynote speakers: Dr Florian Mussgnug (University College London) on early definitions of literary experimentalism; Professor Claire Taylor (University of Liverpool) on cyber literature and digital genres; Professor Bronwen Thomas (Bournemouth University), on narrative and social media; and Marie-Laure Ryan on digital narrative between experimental writing and popular culture.

Papers ranged from experimental fiction in the sixties to hybrid narratives across literature and new media, with a special focus on new forms of digital writing, readership of e-novels, and transmedia storytelling. The conference, which was enthusiastically followed on Twitter, emphasised the importance of a comparative perspective on narrative experimentalism across cultures that will be further explored in a special issue of the *Journal of Romance Studies*.

Another successful IMLR ‘digital’ initiative included a collaborative project with The Warburg Institute. Dr François Quiviger (The Warburg) and Dr Emanuela Patti (IMLR) have investigated how digital technologies can enhance the resources and iconographic database of The Warburg Institute Library. The hypothesis of their paper, *Linking Venus. New Technologies of Memory and Reconfiguration of Space at The Warburg Library*, published in the international journal of comparative studies *Between*, was that the late Aby Warburg’s idea of *Kulturwissenschaft* lends itself to interesting reflections in the context of what, in digital humanities, we refer to today as the technology of linking and the visualisation of complex systems.

There are numerous affinities between Warburg’s method of work and the visual developments of the semantic web, starting from the idea of connecting discrete areas. This suggests that digital technologies could enhance the resources of The Warburg Library and iconographic database in ways that might reflect and also expand the original plan of its founder. The two main questions addressed in Dr Quiviger and Dr Patti’s article are: how the ‘narrative space’ of the Library can be ‘remediated’ through new techniques of visualisation; how Linked Data and new techniques of visualisation can support and augment Warburg’s approach to cultural history. It concludes with a case study: the mythological figure of Venus, its presence in the Library and iconographic classification, its potential for linking and visualising, and the anticipated impact of such an approach on knowledge production and on scholarly research.
Philosophers and psychologists exploring our senses digitally

Smartphones and tablets are not just communication devices, they are also research tools that provide the potential to gather data on the experience and behaviours of millions of people in natural settings. Their range of sensors – microphones, cameras, GPS – that can capture different aspects of people's experience allow for rigorous quantitative analysis. Observing human subjects' protections processes allows researchers to harness this power to build new research tools. Together with psychologists, philosophers at the Centre for the Study of the Senses have been exploring the consequences of the ‘mobile age’ and contributing to key studies involving these new digital resources to look at multisensory experience in a cross-cultural way.

These new applications enable subjective questionnaires to be smarter: questions can be easily randomised, or their order varied automatically depending on people's previous responses. Interfaces can be adjusted to people's devices, sensory capacities or preferences. Responses also get smarter.

Using a questionnaire app, Dr Ophelia Deroy, the Oxford experimental psychology department and Dr Andy Woods of Mobile Exp conducted a series of studies exploring how people associate apparently unrelated sensory features such as taste and shapes, smells and sounds, shapes and colours. The studies showed a large cross-cultural agreement in these correspondences, supporting the hypothesis that they do not depend on language. Importantly, the new techniques used in these studies can record response times as an indicator of the spontaneity of the responses. Responses made within two seconds will correspond to intuitive choices, while longer response times indicate more reflective choices, more likely to be influenced by linguistic habits.
These tools point to new ideas about where research is conducted and who it is relevant to. For instance, versions of the cross modal correspondence tests were designed especially for the Science Museum’s Craving Exhibition. Questionnaires and scenarios were crafted by Charles Spence, Heston Blumenthal and colleagues, and researchers at the Centre for the Study of the Senses, and within a couple of weeks, more than 17,000 responses were received. The feedback showed these studies attracted new audiences curious about the rationale behind the questions and keen to understand the connection to their own experiences.

For publishing strategies though, a careful comparison of the digital and non-digital models always remain a concern. Philosophers and psychologists are working intensely on the concept of immersion or on the epistemology of digital information. A big challenge, to which the work done at the Institute of Philosophy will continue to contribute, is to understand both computer–human and human–data interactions. An example is the joint project between Dr Deroy and Merle Fairhurst from the AHRC Rethinking the Senses project and Tate Galleries, where the same tests are administered to visitors at Tate Britain and online. In their real or virtual tour, each visitor is given a randomly assigned combination of voices and speech style for a series of ten portraits. The digital data collected can highlight the role of the information delivered through audio guides on people’s attention to, and memory of, artworks – be it a distracting or a helpful role. The results will enhance understanding of memory in vision and audition, and help the gallery rethink their online and on-site engagement techniques.

These novel research methods are beginning to shape new relations between disciplines as well as fundamentally changing the involvement of the public in our research. People are not just participants in research but help to co-create it in a way that connects to their own experience. By developing these projects and bringing new partners to collaborate with its centres, the Institute of Philosophy is a pioneer in the design and piloting of new research tools for crowdsourcing and co-creation of knowledge.
A year of big data

With three major projects ranging from web archives to parliamentary data to using digital tools to solve research challenges, 2014–15 has been a year of big data at the Institute of Historical Research (IHR).

Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities (funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council), is concerned with the archive of UK web space from 1996 to 2013 – all 65 terabytes of it. The archived web is very different from the live web, and there is not yet the expertise or the tools to work with it effectively. Both the data itself and the process of collection are poorly understood, and it is possible to draw only the broadest of conclusions using current analytical tools. Working with researchers and developers at the British Library, the Oxford Internet Institute and Aarhus University, this group has begun to develop a theoretical and methodological framework for analysing this vitally important primary source. Ten researchers, from arts and humanities disciplines, were awarded bursaries to work with the dataset, under the guidance of the project team. Their proposals ranged from analysing Euro-scepticism on the web to studying the Ministry of Defence’s recruitment strategy, from examining the history of disability campaigning groups and charities online to looking at Beat literature in the contemporary imagination. The case studies produced demonstrate some of the challenges posed by the archived web, but also its value and significance.

The project has resulted in one of the largest full-text indexes of web archive (WARC) files in the world, and also a sophisticated interface which supports complex query building and gives researchers the ability to create and manipulate corpora derived from the larger dataset. The tools and knowledge developed during the project have
already influenced provision of and access to web archives at the British Library, and the software and processes have informed similar work in Denmark and Canada. The project is beginning to transform how researchers interact with this essential part of our digital cultural heritage.

The second project, Digging into Linked Parliamentary Data (funded under the Digging into Data Challenge 3), involves IHR, the universities of Toronto and Amsterdam, King’s College London and the History of Parliament Trust. Like so much work in the digital humanities, it is notably interdisciplinary, with historians, political scientists, computational linguists and information scientists working together to analyse parliamentary proceedings from the UK, Canada and The Netherlands – over a period of 200 years. Key subjects for exploration are left/right ideological polarisation in parliamentary discourse, the way in which migration has been discussed since 1800, and the influence of gender on the language and topic of debate and discussion. The School and its institutes are uniquely placed to host and facilitate large-scale collaborations of this kind, and to ensure that a humanities perspective informs big data research. And in keeping with the School’s remit to promote and facilitate research both nationally and internationally, all of the data produced by the project will be open for re-use and sharing.

Finally, Traces through Time: Prosopography in Practice across Big Data, funded by the AHRC and led by The National Archives (TNA), is addressing the problem of how you securely identify individuals – or instances of individuals – within and across large datasets. Ultimately the aim is to embed some of the tools developed in The National Archives Discovery service. As TNA digitises more and more of its collections and continues to add data to its catalogue, at the very least there is the potential to help a large number of users manage and refine their searching. If this problem of identification can even partially be mitigated, researchers can begin to reveal the lives hidden in the records and continue to explore history from the bottom up as well as the top down.

“The arts and humanities have a great deal to offer a big data economy and society ... But the most important contribution [they] are able to make is that, through working with communities through shared memories and cultures, the arts and humanities will help to ensure that a big data society is one which retains a human perspective.”
Andrew Prescott, AHRC Theme Leader Fellow for Digital Transformations
New digital resource developed to benefit Commonwealth scholars

The Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICWS) has developed an important new digital resource – the British Documents on the End of Empire Project web portal – which will benefit scholars worldwide.

The Project, which began in 1987, has produced a series of volumes of an annotated selection of official documents charting British withdrawal from its colonial territories from the British National Archives. It became one of the UK’s largest, most successful historical research projects, described by the British Academy in 1996 as ‘an outstanding academic success’.

Despite these early achievements, it was recognised that serious problems remained regarding the dissemination of the volumes. Published in accordance with the standard dissemination methods of the time, the volumes were only available in comparatively expensive hard-copy versions and remained relatively little-known in the countries whose decolonisation processes they covered.

ICWS embarked on a project to digitise these volumes in collaboration with Senate House Library, generously supported by an award from the School’s Strategic Development Fund. A web portal was constructed by the institute’s early career academic Dr Chris Moffat to host the digitised volumes. The web portal also provides an extensive list of resources with supplementary or expanded information on the material within the collected volumes, and as a result, represents a unique advancement in the quantity and quality of resources available to scholars on the end of the British Empire and the process of decolonisation. It will be particularly beneficial for those researchers who are unable to visit The National Archives in London. More thematically linked digital resources will be added in the future.

The resource series contains a wealth of material, and digitisation opens up an opportunity for this scholarly research project to enrich the field of decolonisation studies nationally and internationally. A series of workshops is planned for 2015–16 aimed at journalists, teachers and the diplomatic community to introduce the British Documents on the End of Empire as a resource, widening the reach of this project beyond academic researchers.

The issues covered in these volumes remain relevant to the work of policymakers in the UK and across the Commonwealth, and their dissemination to these stakeholders will be facilitated by ICWS. The timing of the development of this digital resource and wider access to these documents comes at a time when the legacies of the end of the British Empire are increasingly felt, not just in former colonial countries, but at the heart of the imperial metropole, as a number of individuals from former colonies have brought cases against the British government, the best-known of these being the Mau Mau reparations case, settled in 2013.

The British Documents on the End of Empire Project website is available at www.bdeep.org.
Being Human festival of the humanities back for a second year

In 2014, SAS launched Being Human, the UK’s first national festival of the humanities, in partnership with the Arts & Humanities Research Council and the British Academy. In its first year this initiative, designed to broaden public understanding of the humanities and take research in that area to the broadest possible audience, exceeded all expectations with events in more than 50 universities and places of learning. Being Human returned in 2015, bigger and better than ever, for 11 days of free activities held by more than 60 leading organisations in over 30 UK towns and cities. With the Wellcome Trust as a new partner, and a programme ranging from ‘shanty mobs’ in Liverpool pubs to urban exploration of Senate House’s hidden spaces, 2015 was a vintage year to ‘be human’.

Building on success
The 2014 Being Human festival was launched as a pilot to assess the public’s desire for a national festival of the humanities. The first call for participation attracted a staggering number of applications resulting in 250 events attended by around 18,000 people. The festival, directed by Professor Barry Smith of the Institute of Philosophy, was described by one event organiser as, ‘A previously missing avenue to connect the public with humanities research’. The festival succeeded in highlighting the diversity and creativity of the humanities, and helped to foster new partnerships between researchers and staff at museums, galleries, arts organisations and community groups.

As one event attendee put it: ‘The whole point of having a university nearby is to hear from people themselves talking about academic subjects. They make academic ideas more accessible without having to pay for the books or go to university.’

The festival also provided an opportunity for researchers and others working in the humanities to challenge themselves and to find new ways of communicating their research. Many of the organisers who engaged with the festival found this to be an inspiring process.
Being Human 2015

The 2015 festival had a tough act to follow, but people across the UK responded to the challenge with enthusiasm and commitment. Following a national competition, 41 higher education and cultural institutions were awarded grants of up to £5,000 to participate. Many more joined in with unfunded event offerings, and in its second year, the festival boasted more than 300 events organised by 63 universities or research organisations in over 30 towns and cities.

The festival also sought to reach new audiences in 2015, particularly younger people and those in communities traditionally more distant from the humanities and from humanities research. Working closely with five ‘Festival Hubs’ – in Aberdeen, Swansea, Sheffield, Nottingham and Northumbria – the programme featured a huge range of events that reached out to individuals and communities with whom the humanities have sometimes struggled to connect.

Being Human demonstrates SAS’s commitment to making public engagement a core part of its national mission to promote, facilitate and support research in the humanities. From attempts to rebuild the architecture of Hull using 3D construction software Minecraft, to ‘zombie’ walks in the footsteps of Mary Shelley in Dundee, to poetry performances in public places in Bristol, to ‘augmented reality’ tours of Belfast, the festival supported events right across the UK that opened up and celebrated humanities research.

“...It is a great opportunity for a team to unite, work together and present complex/varied research in a coherent fashion with a strong narrative that demonstrates the significance and relevance of our work. When members of the public engage with, and contribute to your research, it reminds you why you got into arts and humanities research in the first place. It’s joyful!”

Lead participant

VISITOR COMMENTS

The findings of an evaluation exercise showed that many of the activities changed visitors’ perception of humanities research, and that they were surprised to find that academic events could be so accessible, relaxed and welcoming. Others said they felt inspired, informed and enthused by the content and delivery of events and therefore inclined to do further research and reading on the topic. More importantly, some of those surveyed confirmed the festival had showcased the intrinsic value of humanities research for them personally, and for wider society.
Cotton to Gold engages new audiences, spurs partnership

Two Temple Place is a Grade I listed building on the London Embankment that opens to the public with free admission for three months of the year. During this time, a major exhibition is held to highlight collections from regional museums, and to give emerging curators the chance to mount an important London show. The 2015 exhibition, Cotton to Gold, was co-curated by Dr Cynthia Johnston of the Institute of English Studies.
The exhibition brought together collections from three museums in England’s north-west: Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Towneley Hall in Burnley and Accrington’s Haworth Museum and Art Gallery. Each of them hold important collections bequeathed by the ‘cotton barons’ who made fortunes from the cotton boom in the early 19th century. Many of these collections are not displayed by the museums for reasons of both security and economy.

Cotton to Gold featured 11 different collectors, whose fortunes came either directly from the cotton, or by association. The best example of this associated profit is the collection of R.E. Hart, a Blackburn rope maker, whose Lambeth Power Ropes were supplied to cotton mills all over the world. With this great fortune, R.E. Hart built an important collection of more than 800 books, including 21 medieval manuscripts, 350 incunables and many hundreds of early printed books. Hart’s coin collection includes the only complete run of Roman Imperial coins outside the British Museum.

Blackburn Museum also provided two major collections given to the museum by Thomas Boyes Lewis, the owner of the Springfield Cotton Spinning Mill. Lewis collected Japanese prints, over a thousand of them, and orthodox Christian icons. The range of prints stretches from the early 1700s to the 19th century. Some of the most renowned artists of the period are included: Hokusai, Hiroshige and Kunisada. Lewis’ icons come from Greece, Russia and the Eastern Mediterranean and range from the late 1600s to the early 1800s. The exhibit also included a collection of Turner watercolours held by Blackburn Museum, engravings after the work of Landseer, and Blackburn’s collection of Arthur C. Bowdler’s preserved beetles.

From the Haworth Museum, items were displayed from Europe’s largest collection of Tiffany glass, given to the museum by Joseph Briggs, a former Accrington mill worker. Briggs emigrated to America where he became the manager of the Tiffany Glassworks in New York. Townley Hall in Burnley loaned the Booth Collection of taxidermied birds as well as the ivory collection of George Eastwood, Peruvian artifacts collected by W. T. Taylor, and book illustrations from the collection of more than 500 items given to the museum by James Hardcastle. Each of the museums involved in the Cotton to

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AT SAS

Public engagement at the School ranged from open debates and talks to social and philosophical experiments that invited contributions from the public. In 2014–15, nearly half (40%) of all SAS events had some level of public engagement. While public engagement typically occurs during SAS events, contributions from SAS collaborations and partners, about half (45%) of which represent non-HEIs, also play an important role.
Gold exhibition have reported increased visitor numbers, and there is keen interest in Blackburn to fund a major renovation of the museum and its displays. In addition to this tangible outcome, the work of IES on the exhibition has also spurred an academic partnership between Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery and the institute.

The aims of the partnership are to bring together scholars and the Blackburn community. Over the course of the next two years, the partnership will fund the research trips of invited scholars to work on the Hart collection, and to present a lecture in the museum to the public.

The first of these lectures was given by Emeritus Professor Nigel Morgan, Corpus Christi (Cambridge) on the medieval manuscripts in the Hart collection. It attracted a capacity audience of 60 people. Subsequent events included a lecture by John Goldfinch, the world’s leading expert on incunables, formerly of the British Library, to speak on the Hart incunables and a reconstruction of the museum’s ‘Columbian’ printing press by Claire Bolton. This will enable the museum to demonstrate this technology to the public, and will form an important contrast to the 3D printing technology proposed for the building adjoining the museum.

Cotton to Gold is now open at the Blackburn Museum as the first part of its run in the north-west. In summer of 2016 it will open in Townley Hall in Burnley. In Blackburn, Dr Cynthia Johnson gave a lecture on R.E. Hart as part of the Blackburn Heritage Festival. SAS has also won a Train and Engage grant funded by University College London to produce a podcast on the Hart collection, which will be available in early 2016.

Attracting about 35,000 visitors, the exhibit was reviewed in national and international media including The Guardian, The Independent, the Evening Standard, the Financial Times, Time Out, Apollo Magazine, Country Life and The Oldie. The exhibit was also featured by Samira Ahmed for Radio 4’s Front Row programme and by Robert Elms for his Radio London programme, with an audience of 500,000 listeners. The weekend after this interview Two Temple Place had record-breaking visitor numbers.
Cognitive science meets ancient religion

Classics is sometimes described as the original interdisciplinary subject. An undergraduate degree in the subject might combine elements of archaeology and philosophy, literature and history, linguistics and art history. Political theorists still begin from Plato and Aristotle, and their discussions of democracy and citizenship continue to be rooted in the experiences of ancient Athens and Rome. During the 70s and 80s Hellenists and Latinists took on critical theory and gender studies, while ancient historians engaged primarily with the social sciences, especially anthropology, sociology and economics. But now the cutting edge is with the life sciences.

A good example is the Arts & Humanities Research Council research programme Cognitive Approaches to Ancient Religious Experience (CAARE), which held its first workshop in the Institute of Classical Studies this July. The project is led by Dr Esther Eidinow (Nottingham) and Professor Armin Geertz (Aarhus) and aims to examine the nature of individual religious experience in antiquity, drawing on cognitive science, religious studies and classical scholarship. Traditional approaches to ancient religions tended to focus on what ancient texts said about the gods, their temples and their ceremonies, in registers that were variously theological, philosophical or even ethnographic. This project is as interested in the emotional states participants entered into, in their physiological response and it draws on new strands of cognitive science that examine how rituals activate and depend on different ways of thinking and acting from those we employ in everyday life.

The project builds on two workshops also hosted by ICS in recent years with funding from the British Academy. Run by Dr Eidinow and Professor Tom Harrison (Liverpool), these meetings established a network of researchers from fields as diverse as Egyptology and evolutionary anthropology. Both the current ICS director and his predecessor Professor John North were among those giving papers. The workshops leading into the project demonstrates the role of the ICS as an incubator for research collaborations.

The first workshop of the new project, CAARE, was focused on identifying the symptoms of religious experience. Speakers addressed both the frames of experience – the spaces, boundaries and performative contexts of religious action – and then explored particular rituals and sensations ending with mystical experiences, ecstasy and divine epiphany. Among the speakers was one of the pioneers of applying cognitive psychology to the study of ancient religions, Professor Luther Martin of the University of Vermont. Collaborations of this kind involve a great deal of mutual education, since participants often do not share even the more basic grounding in each other’s subjects. Some rewards are almost immediate, offering new imaginations of ancient religious rituals and new insights into classical texts that describe them. But sustained conversation and debate is really essential. The group meets next in Aarhus in March 2016.
New centre to serve as national hub for research in postcolonial world

In an important initiative, SAS has launched a Centre for Postcolonial Studies (CPCS) under the direction of Professor Andrew Hussey OBE, an internationally-renowned expert on France and North Africa.

The project’s aim is two-fold: to provide a national hub which will promote and advance research into the postcolonial world; and to facilitate dialogue between policy-makers and academic researchers. It will also publish *Francosphères*, the University of London’s bi-annual journal of transcultural and intercultural French studies, edited by Professor Hussey and published by Liverpool University Press. Its operations are based both in Senate House in London and in Reid Hall in Paris, enabling it to reach out to a wide range of collaborators.

The research promoted by the new Centre will not be limited to critical theory, which has up to this point tended to be the dominant prism through which scholars have viewed the postcolonial world. Rather, this ambitious project also seeks to engage with empirical research in the fields of law, media, governance, counter-terrorism, health studies and business. The uniqueness of the CPCS is that it aims to be very much a hybrid and interdisciplinary organisation, working on the principle that the complexity of the contemporary world cannot be understood by any one discipline alone. It seeks to elucidate what the French thinker, Georges Bataille, called ‘the politics of atmosphere’, which underlies many of the political and geo-political shifts taking place in the world today.

This mission to reach out beyond the academy is exemplified by the work of Professor Hussey himself. As an essayist, broadcaster and public speaker, he communicates this research far beyond academic audiences. His work has led to debates about the contemporary significance of French and North African cultures in the 21st century. The first public manifestation of the CPCS was at the Hammamet Conference, a major think-tank organised by the British Council. Its first ‘hands-on’ activity was to work with journalists in Tunis who had witnessed, and sometimes helped make, the ‘Arab Spring’. 2015 saw the publication both of a paperback edition and a French translation of Professor Hussey’s highly-praised international bestseller, *The French Intifada*. He published articles in *The Observer*, the *New Statesman*, *The Guardian* and the *New York Times*, and has lectured at the Royal College of Defence Studies and the Institut Fritz Bauer, Frankfurt. Professor Hussey also wrote and presented documentaries for Channel 4 and BBC Radio 4.

www.sas.ac.uk/about-us/centre-post-colonial-studies
Report outlines challenges, future of Latin American and Caribbean research

As a part of its role as a centre for research facilitation, the Institute of Latin American Studies published and launched a report highlighting the state of UK-based research on Latin America and the Caribbean.

The aim of the report is to renew awareness of the importance of this research and to encourage funding bodies, academic decision-makers and others to strengthen and develop research on the region.

Reflecting the contribution of more than 100 people from universities, government departments, funding agencies, and non-governmental organisations, the report outlines key findings in the scope and pattern of research, the challenges faced by the research community and reflections on what the future holds.

The study grew out of three considerations:

- First, there were concerns that the Latin American studies discipline was becoming increasingly vulnerable due to the closure of some of the five original centres of Latin American studies and senior scholars facing retirements.
- Second, Latin America was figuring more prominently in UK foreign policy considerations, especially with regard to increased trade and investment, as well as cultural and educational partnerships.
- Third, there was increasing recognition that Latin America was pioneering innovative policies, particularly relating to social assistance and social protection, conflict resolution, constitutional reform and human rights legislation, as well as developments in bio-fuel and biodiversity research.

In 2009, at the instigation of the British Academy’s Latin American and Caribbean Panel, chaired by Professor Linda Newson, the Academy agreed to fund research on the state of UK-based research on the region. This was led by a steering group chaired by Professor Antoni Kapcia at the University of Nottingham.

The report produced mixed findings. It found that there are more scholars than ever researching in the field of Latin American studies. Research and teaching is now found in a vastly increased range of institutions, well beyond the original centres.

However, the demise of a number of centres and the dispersion of scholarship across discipline-based departments makes the field more vulnerable to changes in government or university policies. Dedicated Latin American institutes therefore play an important role in ensuring the health of the discipline.

The report aims to galvanise academic leaders, policymakers and others to seek solutions to them; by articulating the benefits that the research brings to the UK, the report also provides a compelling case for why research in the field should be preserved and strengthened.

The Report is available free online at bit.ly/lacreport
Interdisciplinarity and fellows at The Warburg Institute: a long history and a promising future

The wide scope of interdisciplinary research promoted by The Warburg Institute has become a distinctive feature of the place, above and beyond a well-established reputation for the study of the classical tradition in medieval and modern times. Facilitated by unparalleled scholarly resources – 350,000 volumes, a unique assemblage fostering interdisciplinary research, a photographic collection of 350,000 images, with an impressive iconographic arrangement – and attracting researchers from all over the world, The Warburg Institute prides itself on a deep pool of unique academic wealth and original cross-disciplinary exchanges.

Thanks to generous financial contributions, especially from the late Dame Frances Yates, the institute has also fostered the work of young scholars through scholarships. The otherwise unlikely concurrence of a variety of disciplines, scholars and schools of thoughts all make the institute an ideal forum for the creation of new and hybrid topics. In 2014–15, Dr Cecilia Muratori’s project, Carnivores against Vegetarians: Scaliger and Cardano on Diet (Frances Yates Fellowship) or Aileen Das, Medicine, Philosophy and the Rhetoric of Genre in the Arabic Middle Ages (Frances Yates Fellowship), to name but two, illustrate the kind of vibrant interdisciplinarity incubated by the institute.

Attracting top international scholars committed to excellence, The Warburg Institute has made its mark as an ideal laboratory and observatory of interdisciplinary research. The study of cultural history, art history, the history of influences, civilisations and cultures, on a global scale, covers an impressive spectrum of research in the humanities and unearth new and innovative approaches.

The recent arrival of a new director, Professor David Freedberg, has set the tone for interdisciplinary research at the institute and across SAS. The Pierre Matisse Professor of the History of Art and director of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America will strengthen the ties with other institutes such as the Institute of Philosophy and particularly its Centre for the Study of the Senses. A world-renowned interdisciplinary scholar, Professor Freedberg’s career-long engagement goes beyond the humanities, embracing the sciences and social sciences as well.

PROMOTION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION AT SAS

The School organised around 2,000 events in 2014–15. Demonstrating its role as the national centre for the humanities, SAS events are increasingly interdisciplinary with more than half covering multi-disciplinary fields. Drawing on its large network of collaborators, a significant proportion (36%) of the School’s events were collaborative in nature. Over half (55%) were with other higher education institutions and 45% were with organisations outside of the higher education sector. Over a third (38%) of the 2014–15 visiting fellows cohort were pursuing interdisciplinary research while at the School. While journals served both disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields nearly equally (60/40), this year’s institute publishing activities focused on disciplinary topics.
First of its kind, MA offers distance learning in refugee protection, forced migration studies

The School’s Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), in collaboration with University of London International Programmes, has developed an innovative new distance-learning MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies.

Launched in October 2014, the programme attracted a strong cohort of 54 students in its inaugural year. The demographic is wide, including students based not only in high-income countries such as Australia, Canada and the UK, but also in locations as diverse as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil and Sudan. Dr David Cantor, director of the RLI, said: ‘We want to make this programme accessible to students all around the world in order to attract people from a wide range of regional and professional backgrounds, including many working directly in the field as they study.’

The current student cohort includes practitioners and legal officers, government officials and humanitarian workers from national and international agencies and from within the United Nations.

The distance-learning format of the MA, the first collaboration between the School and University of London International Programmes, has also enabled the RLI to draw on its extensive network of leading specialists in the field of refugee studies, who contribute to the programme by convening and running modules in their areas of expertise. As the programme director, Dr Sarah Singer, explains: ‘The distance-learning format of the MA means we’re able to bring together tutors from all over the globe, and provide a level of specialisation which simply wouldn’t be possible for an on-campus programme.’

Following the success of the first year of the programme, a scholarship has been established to support outstanding students who might not otherwise be able to gain access to the MA, particularly those who are nationals of and residing in low- and middle-income countries. These awards are named the Guy S. Goodwin-Gill Scholarships to celebrate the achievements of the renowned refugee law expert Professor Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, a close friend and supporter of the RLI since its inception.

www.londoninternational.ac.uk/refugee-migration
Art history at The Warburg Institute

Created by a distinguished art historian more than a century ago, The Warburg Library holds one of the most extensive collections in the world devoted to the history of art in the medieval, Renaissance and modern ages. The institute offers open access to more than 350,000 books, organised by the principle of the good neighbour within a bespoke cataloguing system, and 3,180 specialised periodicals. In addition, the institute also hosts a unique documentary resource on art history and iconology with 350,000 photographs. This impressive library and collection, as well as its unique organisation, allow art historians to conduct research in a dynamic, interdisciplinary way.

But it is not just the Library that makes The Warburg Institute a premier art history institution. The institute also hosts leading scholars in art history and fosters new researchers through its graduate programmes. Collaboration with the Courtauld Institute of Art dates to the arrival of Aby Warburg’s library in London from Hamburg in 1933 and created a solid foundation for partnerships with other cultural institutions.

As an example, the institute has recently extended its interests and institutional collaborations with a new postgraduate degree in art history. The MA in Art History, Curatorship and Renaissance Culture is offered in partnership with the National Gallery and aims to prepare the next generation of academic art historians and curators. This prestigious programme provides students with in-depth knowledge of Renaissance art in historical context and how such works are cared for and studied in the museum environment. Teaching and supervision are provided by members of the academic staff of the institute and by National Gallery curators, conservators, scientists and archivists. Significantly, this MA
combines the study of Renaissance artworks with a strong training in the skills necessary to undertake original research. It places value on imagery in its cultural context, as well as the intellectual practices of curatorship and confidence in the use of archives. The languages of the Renaissance are also at the heart of this degree. It gives students the choice of learning a new language and developing existing competency. The final dissertation topic is an opportunity for students to develop their own interests in art history in the tradition of the institute which investigates Renaissance culture in its widest application.

The institute offers three core modules and two optional modules as part of an interdisciplinary programme of study. In 2014–15, the core courses offered were art history and iconology; language, paleographical and archive skills; and curatorship in the National Gallery. A large range of options was offered during spring term, including Islamic authorities and Arabic elements in the Renaissance; Music in the later Middle Ages and the Renaissance; Renaissance art literature; Renaissance material culture; Renaissance philosophy and the challenges of representation; and Sin and sanctity in the Reformation. Students also benefited from additional training sessions and reading classes, museums and galleries visits as well as weekly work-in-progress seminars, public lectures, conferences and symposia.

The MA has proven its success by attracting brilliant students. Graduates of the first year have either secured relevant employment or enrolled for doctoral research. Their testimonies speak to the thrill of working in two venerable institutions and the exciting opportunities to study Renaissance art in a fluid way. The MA is thus core to the institute, reinforcing its art-historical roots while also being part of its future. The institute has recently appointed a lecturer in art history to convene the MA and develop new course offerings. The institute is committed to increasing its presence on the cultural map to become the choice of UK and international students for Renaissance art history at the highest level.

“[The MA] has been a wonderful experience. The Warburg Institute’s Library is a formidable tool that enhances and challenges one’s curiosity and is indispensable for one’s research. The classes taught by the staff, such as Iconology, Palaeography, Material culture and Sin and sanctity in the Reformation helped me broaden my knowledge.”
Lorenza Gay, Italy, MA student in 2013–14
PORT: online research training opportunities for arts and humanities postgraduates

The opportunity for postgraduate students in the arts and humanities to learn whatever skills they require for their research is no longer restricted to the classroom and library books.

The internet offers a variety of options for learning the essential and enhanced skills that are needed to undertake detailed, complex and unique study. These range from simple guides and short articles to MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and virtual learning environments such as that offered by the Open University’s OpenLearn and now the School’s Postgraduate Online Research Training (PORT).

Most training offered online is directed toward either the undergraduate level or business professional. In keeping with the School’s remit to offer facilitation opportunities specifically for postgraduate study at a national level, PORT is focused very much on the needs of the postgraduate population and the early career researcher. Current course topics include palaeography, databases, text mining, qualitative methods, modern languages research, data preservation and managing your research project from start to finish. More short tutorials are to follow on social media, interdisciplinarity and source analysis, and larger training resources on legal studies, scholarly editing and material culture.

Since its launch, PORT has been increasingly used to support student studies across the UK and internationally. By the end of July, PORT had been visited by more than 7,000 users, with monthly numbers increasing from about 700 in January to more than 1,000 in July. Visitors are mainly from the UK, followed by the US, Colombia, Australia, and Canada. In total, at least ten users have visited PORT from 49 individual countries, and at least one from 113 countries.

SAS is perfectly placed to provide high-quality and unique training that is not necessarily available in individual institutions in the UK. The School’s experience and expertise in cross-disciplinary research and growing digital humanities focus, for example, allow an offering of courses that are generally unavailable in all higher education institutions.

PORT brings together the expertise of the School’s institutes in a unique way. Researchers from different institutes, involved in research that often cross interdisciplinary boundaries, are now talking to each other about creating online training materials, forging new links and creating new collaborations. Already, collaboration between SAS Central and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies has made it possible to run a series of staff training workshops specifically meant to aid development of online content for PORT by SAS staff. The InScribe palaeography tutorial involved collaboration between the Institute of Historical Research, Institute of English Studies and The Warburg Institute, allowing for a series of modules that reflect practices in both English studies and history.
Thinking through fieldwork in Latin America

Bringing together historians, political scientists, anthropologists and others, the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) held a day-long fieldwork training session for scholars of Latin America. The training combined practical sessions on engagement with archives, oral interviewing techniques and participant observation with reflective sessions examining the distinct socio-economic contexts in which research in Latin America was being undertaken.

These later sessions contextualised the diverse communities with which scholars of Latin America might be engaged, and encompassed topics ranging from ethnographic research on violence, conflict and displacement, to working with Afro-descendant and indigenous communities. With input from scholars from various institutes within the School, the multi-disciplinary training day aimed to enable scholars to draw on the knowledge, expertise and particular considerations of disciplines they might not otherwise encounter. ILAS’ stipendiary and visiting fellows played a key role in organising, developing and coordinating the training day, giving these early career scholars experience in providing doctoral training.

After the training, doctoral and early career scholars commented on how practical the session was and how it would benefit their research. The hands-on nature of the day and the fact that it was led by a range of scholars working in different disciplinary areas and using different parts of Latin America and the Caribbean as their case studies added to the richness of the day. Initially conceived as a training session for those still forming their research projects, scholars from pre- to post-doctoral level were able to strengthen their research projects, enriching Latin American studies as a discipline.

This training day builds on the institute’s previous delivery of research training activities for the benefit of researchers of Latin America. These include a workshop on ‘Bridging the gap: academia and the media’, held in collaboration with the Latin American Bureau, which sought to introduce scholars to the most effective ways to disseminate research to a wider audience. Led by experienced journalists, the workshop was tailored to the concerns of researchers of Latin America and included a session on how researchers could take advantage of social media to help create a greater impact. ILAS has also held a workshop on archival research and digitisation skills – ‘Bringing the archive home’ – in collaboration with The Warburg Institute and the British Library for a number of years. This workshop is aimed at scholars undertaking research overseas or in remote archives who need to quickly produce high-resolution digital images of archival resources. It guides attendees through all steps of the process, from taking photographs to organising and storing them securely for future retrieval.

ILAS will continue to develop its well-received programme of research training tailored to scholars in Latin American and Caribbean studies at various levels in their research careers in 2015–16.
Undesirable and unreturnable?

The Refugee Law Initiative (RLI), in collaboration with the Center for International Criminal Justice at Free University Amsterdam (CICJ), has embarked on an ambitious two-year international research networking project: ‘Undesirable and unreturnable? Policy challenges around excluded asylum-seekers and migrants suspected of serious criminality but who cannot be removed’.

The project, funded by a grant from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), brings together a network of academics, policymakers and policy bodies to stimulate new cross-border and interdisciplinary debate on the challenges posed to national and international public policy by excluded asylum-seekers and other migrants who are suspected of serious criminality but cannot be removed from the territory of a host state.

As Dr Sarah Singer explains: ‘States may face many obstacles when seeking to remove “undesirable” migrants from their territory. These can include legal obstacles such as human rights standards, or practical problems in securing return to their country of origin. While these cases are comparatively rare, they tend to attract significant public interest. One need only think of the attention paid to the removal of Abu Qatada in the UK to see that this question raises real issues for state migration control, the protection of those seeking international protection and the bringing to justice of perpetrators of serious crimes.’

Following the project’s launch, a one-day preliminary workshop was held at Free University Amsterdam which brought together academics, state officials and experts from international policy bodies. An international network conference will be held at the School in January 2016, followed by the publication of a research report and a range of dissemination activities aimed specifically at policymakers, practitioners and other interested sectors.

Principal investigator for the project Dr David Cantor said: ‘The variety of measures adopted by different countries, and their often ad hoc nature, suggest that states do not know how to respond effectively to this issue. The aim of this project is to bring stakeholders together to develop solutions addressing the challenges posed by non-removable migrants.’

To develop this research network, the RLI drew on its established network of doctoral affiliates and senior research associates as well as its wider network of practitioners and state officials. The project also draws on Dr Singer’s extensive research on asylum seekers suspected of serious criminality, recently been published as a monograph: Terrorism and exclusion from refugee status in the UK: asylum seekers suspected of serious criminality (Brill, 2015). She notes that British interest in the issue of non-returnable migrants is likely only to increase in coming years, as ‘the Conservative government’s plans to “scrap” the Human Rights Act appear to revolve squarely around the issue of foreign criminals resisting deportation on human rights grounds’.

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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS SUPPORTED BY SAS

In 2014–15, SAS supported 403 networks, with 18,331 individual participants and 11,231 member-institutions. Almost half (47%) were national networks and 55% were interdisciplinary.
Research from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) is being used by the United Nations (UN) to inform an initiative on global sustainability. The initiative, Habitat III, is leading to a new global agenda for cities and metropolitan areas facing the challenges of post-2015 development. Professor Helen Xanthaki, director of the Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies, is quoted in the Habitat III issue paper, which expresses the UN point of view regarding the state of affairs in urban law. Additionally, the UN Task Team for Habitat III, which consists of multiple UN agencies, has adopted Professor Xanthaki’s conceptual framework for the quality of law as an important indicator for the state of urban law. The issue paper, having been circulated to all member states of the UN for their consideration in the deliberations leading to Habitat III, is now being considered in an online dialogue that will be concluded at the end of July.

The paper is linked to the UN Habitat conference, but will, hopefully, also be considered by member states in reviewing their own situations and challenges. It is hoped that quality of law as a concept will be recognised in the outcome document and, therefore, become at least soft international law. IALS also has an ongoing agreement with the UN Habitat agency based in Nairobi, Kenya to facilitate actively applicable research and fund PhD research in the field of urban law.

WORKING TO BUILD LASTING PEACE IN NEPAL

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal works to pursue equitable and sustainable human development goals. Currently the overarching priority of their work in Nepal is to help the government and its people build a lasting peace. Nepal’s ongoing peace process is anchored in the principles of democracy and access to justice as well as the fundamental human rights to equality, inclusion, and participation. Among the many initiatives to strengthen the institutions and systems for running democratic elections, facilitate the provision of justice, safeguard human rights, and enable central level planning is the project to strengthen the rule of law through revised legislation to meet international standards and treaty obligations. As a part of this effort, IALS has partnered with UNDP to offer a course in legislative drafting and international treaties. Funded by the UNDP and delivered by IALS to Nepalese officials, the course is now in its second year and is taught by Professor Helen Xanthaki and Dr Constantin Stefanou, who use a combination of in-house training sessions and study visits to deliver instruction. For example, study visits have been undertaken to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, the Tax Simplification Office, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The course is building up the capacity of the Ministry of Law and Justice to draft laws and support the drafting of new criminal and civil legal codes, with an ultimate aim of restoring the rule of law, and ensuring access to justice for all citizens is essential to building a lasting peace.
Selection of staff publications, 2014–15

MONOGRAPHS

Terrorism and exclusion from refugee status in the UK
Sarah Singer (Brill | Nijhoff, 2015)
ISBN: 9789004292079

Exclusion from refugee status for the suspected commission of serious crimes is a topic fraught with political and legal controversy. Terrorism and exclusion from refugee status in the UK provides an unprecedented and thorough analysis of the UK’s approach to asylum seekers suspected of serious criminality.

London Quakers in the Trans-Atlantic world: the creation of an early modern community
Jordan Landes (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)
ISBN: 9781137366672

Based on a thesis written as a student in the Institute of Historical Research, Jordan Landes argues that the advantages of London’s position as an international city enabled the exchange of the materials needed to survive in the colonies and for the movement of people between the colonies and London.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Extreme energy, fracking and human rights: a new field for impact assessments?
Damien Short with J. Elliot, K. Norder, E. Lloyd-Davies and J. Morley
International Journal of Human Rights, 11th May, 2015
This article explores the potential human rights impacts of the production of shale gas, known colloquially as ‘fracking’. Utilising recent secondary data from the US and Australia, combined with the preliminary findings of ethnographic fieldwork in the UK, the article outlines a prima facie case for investigating fracking through a human rights lens.

Eat insects for fun, not to help the environment
Ophelia Deroy
Nature 2015, vol. 521, issue 7553
Nature, the international weekly journal of science, rarely features work by philosophers, but Ophelia Deroy’s piece on entomophagy (the practice of eating insects) drew media attention with its conclusion that while insects are an excellent source of sustainable protein, people will only be persuaded to eat them if they seem appealing.

“...this book is genuinely thoughtful and thought-provoking and should be read by all concerned with what the media should be and how near or far we are from redressing the current range of problems it faces.”
Jacqueline Harrison, University of Sheffield, on Media power and plurality
Selection of publications produced in 2014–15

Institute of Classical Studies

Emotions between Greece and Rome
ISBN: 9781905670536

In this innovative collection, nine leading scholars investigate the emotions of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds: differences between the Greek and Roman emotional repertoires; the semantic fields and scripts covered by comparable Greek and Latin terms; the impact of bilingualism; the fate of emotion terms in translation; and the way Roman authors deal with the emotional aspects of their Greek literary models.

Menander Perikeiromene or The shorn head
ISBN: 9781905670598

Menander set Perikeiromene, or the ‘Woman with shorn head’ in Corinth, famous for its beautiful women, at a time when the city’s troubles were at their height owing to the Macedonian conquest of Greece. The story reflects in miniature some of the turbulence of the times. Discoveries of fragmented manuscripts of this play in the twentieth century have brought it back to life.

The afterlife of Ovid
Peter Mack and John North (eds.) (2015)
ISBN: 9781905670604

Ovid was the most influential and widely imitated of all classical Latin poets. This volume publishes papers delivered at a conference on the Reception of Ovid in March 2013, jointly organised by the Institute of Classical Studies and The Warburg Institute. It focuses on the afterlife of the Metamorphoses but also publishes for the first time a Latin verse life of Ovid composed around 1460 by Bernardo Moretti.

Institute of Historical Research

Healthcare in Ireland and Britain from 1850: voluntary, regional and comparative perspectives
Donnacha Seán Lucey and Virginia Crossman (eds.) (2015)
ISBN: 9781909646025

This volume explores developments in health and social care in Ireland and Britain during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It highlights the role of voluntarism in healthcare, examines healthcare in local and regional contexts, and provides comparative perspectives. It includes two synoptic overviews by leading authorities in the field, and ten case studies focusing on particular aspects of voluntary and/or regional healthcare.

The Victoria History of Essex: Newport
ISBN: 9781909646056

This book explores Newport over eleven centuries. It examines the changing patterns of landownership, social structure and economy of the village and its institutions, not least its 16th-century grammar school. It also discusses the part played, especially in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, by the owners of Shortgrove Hall, within the parish, and Quendon Hall, a few miles to the south.

Institute of Latin American Studies

Obama’s Washington: political leadership in a partisan era
Clodagh Harrington (ed.) (2014)
ISBN: 9781908857101

This volume contains a set of insightful essays which examine the challenges facing the Obama administration, and the president himself. The common theme throughout is the issue of governing in a fractured, fractious political environment, and the difficulties that accompany this.
Packed with detail and yet highly accessible, this volume will appeal to those interested in American politics, history and the political process.

**A liberal tide? Immigration and asylum law and policy in Latin America**
David James Cantor, Luisa Feline Freier, Jean-Pierre Gauci (eds.) (2014)
ISBN: 9781908857149
This book is the first to describe and critically examine the new liberalism in Latin American law and policy. Does this apparent ‘liberal tide’ of new laws and policies suggest a new approach to the hot topics of migration and refugees in Latin America distinct from the regressive and restrictive attitudes on display in other parts of the world?

**Intercultural and intertextual encounters in Michael Roes’s travel fiction**
Seiriol Dafydd (2015)
ISBN: 9780854572427
This book investigates a specific aspect of travel literature – the fictional travel novel – and one practitioner of that sub-genre – the contemporary German author Michael Roes (b. 1960). The intertextual processes underpinning his novels are shown to be a vital element in the way Roes approaches questions that fascinate contemporary European society: identity, (homo-)sexuality, race and racism, gender, and relations between the West and Islam.

**The Warburg Institute**
**The legacy of Arnaldo Momigliano**
Tim Cornell and Oswyn Murray (eds.) (2014)
ISBN: 9781908590480
In 2008–09 a group of Momigliano’s disciples met at the Warburg Institute to celebrate the centenary of his birth and to explore the significance of his legacy. By doing this in a critical rather than a laudatory way, they have provided a map of the sources and the current state of classical history at the beginning of the 21st century.

To order any of these publications visit sas.ac.uk/publications_as.html
## Financial summary

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<td>1,513,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
<td>1,841,764</td>
<td>1,936,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>3,775,466</td>
<td>3,623,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of London contribution</td>
<td>1,387,530</td>
<td>3,242,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment income and interest</td>
<td>349,589</td>
<td>397,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>17,371,736</td>
<td>19,264,043</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**      |         |         |
| Staff costs          | 7,289,198 | 8,382,958 |
| Library services *   | 1,229,337 | —        |
| Other operating expenses | 996,996 | 1,247,534 |
| Professional fees    | 278,034 | 172,370 |
| Academic expenditure | 2,514,739 | 2,426,474 |
| Administration expenditure | 1,116,465 | 1,111,125 |
| Internal charges (e.g. space, Finance, HR, IT) | 4,130,047 | 5,264,600 |
| **Total Expenditure**| 17,554,816 | 18,605,061 |

Balance before transfers to/from reserves

-183,080

658,982

**NOTE TO THE ACCOUNTS**

* In 2013–14, Library services monies were shown as additional income in the funding council grants line, with expenditure shown in library services expenditure. In 2014–15, Library services income is part of the funding council grants line and expenditure is part of the internal charges line.
### Staff and fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcount of School staff:</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visiting research fellows:</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(average stay at School: 5.49 months)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of research fellows and associates:</td>
<td>678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Digital resources and information platforms provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of digital resources and information platforms:</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits made to digital resources and information platforms:</td>
<td>23.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of page views requested:</td>
<td>97.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of unique users:</td>
<td>11 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research networks and collaborations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of networks led or administered by the School:</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of networks of which the School holds membership:</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants in networks led or administered by the School:</td>
<td>29,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conferences, seminars and workshops held

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of research dissemination events, including library events:</td>
<td>2,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of speakers and participants: (across UK: 59,268; rest of world: 6,808)</td>
<td>66,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of podcast views and downloads:</td>
<td>332,007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Publications produced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of print and online publications produced by the School and its staff:</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of print and digital journals published, many of which are open access:</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of e-journal page views requested:</td>
<td>1.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research training provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of research training events:</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours:</td>
<td>1,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants: (across the UK: 5,510; rest of world: 400)</td>
<td>5,910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of registered readers: (across the UK: 14,426; rest of world: 3,624)</td>
<td>18,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits:</td>
<td>213,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of volumes in stock:</td>
<td>950,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of acquisitions of volumes:</td>
<td>10,553</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Last word

We in the School of Advanced Study believe passionately in the importance of research in the humanities, broadly defined.

We work to support, facilitate and promote excellent humanities research wherever it is found.

Do please tell us what we are doing right but, more importantly, let us know what we might do differently!

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Email: sas.info@sas.ac.uk
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