



SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

*[sas.ac.uk](https://sas.ac.uk)*

**Annual  
Report and  
Review 2024**

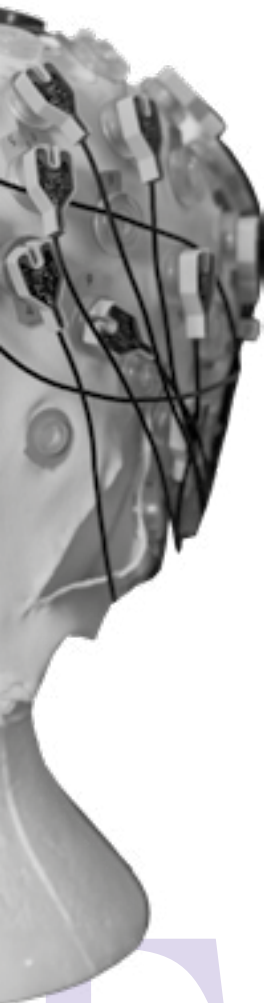


MILLESTONES

Championing the cause  
of humanities research  
in the UK and providing  
world-class support to  
individuals, networks  
and organisations  
conducting humanities  
research, nationally  
and internationally.



# MILES



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# TRONES

The School of Advanced Study (SAS) is a national centre for the promotion and support of research in the humanities. SAS, its member institutes and specialist centres offer unparalleled resources, facilities and academic opportunities across a wide range of subject areas for the benefit of the national and international scholarly community

# The School of ADVANCED STUDY



## Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) aims to promote, facilitate and disseminate advanced study and research in the field of law – both in the UK and internationally.

The Institute's library is one of the world's great legal research libraries and is widely regarded as the UK's national law library, attracting practising lawyers as well as UK and international researchers. It has more than 300,000 volumes, the majority of which are housed at the Institute site in Bloomsbury, and includes the UK's most extensive collection on foreign and international law.

**IALS** INSTITUTE OF  
ADVANCED  
LEGAL STUDIES | SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

## Institute of Classical Studies

The Institute of Classical Studies (ICS) is a national and international research centre for the study of the languages, literature, history, art, archaeology and philosophy of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. It is also home to one of the world's leading research libraries, developed in collaboration with the Societies for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and Roman Studies.

The Institute runs an extensive events programme throughout the year, including guest lectures and conferences with distinguished speakers from the UK and around the world. It also facilitates a series of Research Projects and provides valuable research training for postgraduate students.

**ICS** INSTITUTE OF  
CLASSICAL  
STUDIES | SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

## Institute of Commonwealth Studies

The Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICWS) sits at the crossroads of research, policy, human rights practice and international relations. Its vision is that people around the world, including throughout the modern Commonwealth, live in societies grounded in democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Institute contributes towards this vision by bringing people together to develop effective, evidence-based policy solutions to the challenges facing the Commonwealth; supporting the Commonwealth's global network of civil society; engaging with Commonwealth stakeholders, including its member countries; and offering ground-breaking Masters courses in human rights.

The Institute's Library is an international resource holding more than 190,000 volumes, with particularly impressive Caribbean, Southern African and Australian holdings and over 200 archival collections.

**ICWS** INSTITUTE OF  
COMMONWEALTH  
STUDIES | SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

### Institute of English Studies

The Institute of English Studies (IES) is an internationally renowned research centre specialising in the history of the book, manuscript and print studies, and textual scholarship. It hosts major collaborative research projects, provides essential research training in book history and palaeography, and facilitates scholarly communities in all areas of English studies.

Its mission is to promote research in English Studies to academic communities nationally and internationally, working in collaboration with other academic and cultural institutions and supporting the research of scholars at all stages of their career.



### Institute of Historical Research

The Institute of Historical Research (IHR) is dedicated to training the next generation of historians, and to producing and facilitating ambitious, innovative historical research. It offers a wide range of services that promote and facilitate excellence in historical research, while its own academic staff and research centres produce internationally regarded scholarship.

The Institute helps foster public understanding of history and its social, cultural, and economic importance, advocating for the long-term future of the discipline. It engages directly with policy makers through the History and Policy Network.

The Wohl Library houses a reference collection of more than 200,000 books and journals and the IHR is also a leading centre for the creation of digital resources for historians.



### Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies

The Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies (ILCS) supports research in the integrated study of languages, cultures, and societies.

Though its strengths are primarily within the fields of French and Francophone, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American/Caribbean studies, it also supports the transnational study of languages and cultures and collaborates with organisations that focus on cultural and linguistic experience in other global contexts.

Working closely with other organisations in the field, the ILCS is committed to creating a culture that nurtures Early Career researchers and providing cutting-edge training for the wider research community.



## Institute of Philosophy

The Institute of Philosophy (IP) is a world-class research institute that aims to promote and facilitate high-quality research in philosophy. The Institute is committed to demonstrating the value of Philosophy research by making it available to the widest possible audience both inside and outside the UK's academic community.

It offers a range of events, including lectures, seminars, and conferences that are open to both academics and non-academics. It also hosts visiting and postdoctoral research fellows from all over the world and provides support for researchers at all stages of their career, including digital resources and information for graduate students.



## The Warburg Institute

The Warburg Institute is one of the world's leading centres for studying the interaction of ideas, images and society. It is dedicated to the survival and transmission of culture across time and space, with a special emphasis on the afterlife of antiquity.

The Institute hosts research projects and offers a range of public programmes. At the heart of the Warburg Institute's interdisciplinary research is its open-stack library of more than 380,000 rare and modern volumes, as well as a Photographic Collection with more than 400,000 images and one of the most complete archives of any research centre in the humanities.



## Digital Humanities Research Hub

The Digital Humanities Research Hub supports a variety of digital approaches to the Humanities within the University of London, across the UK and internationally. The multi-disciplinary team in the Hub includes academics with strong connections to subject areas including Classics, English, History and Modern Languages and Cultures, as well as practitioners and researchers from technical backgrounds.

The Hub promotes the use of digital techniques in humanities scholarship; provides infrastructure and support for the digital humanities community; offers training and teaching in digital methods, approaches and tools; and carries out its own interdisciplinary research and supervision.

**A catalyst  
for understanding  
what it means  
to be human**

VIEW  
FROM  
THE  
TOP

There are too many  
milestones to list here –  
each one a step leading us  
to where we are now:  
a national centre for  
the humanities.



## Milestones

### **2024 marked the 30th anniversary of the School of Advanced Study.**

To celebrate this momentous occasion, the School produced a timeline of its significant milestones from its formation in August 1994 to the present.

So much pioneering work has taken place during those three decades: from the Institute of Historical Research's first eSeminar in 1996, the establishment of the Institute of English Studies in 1999 to the first postgraduate online training portal in 2006, SAS open journals in 2012, the first Chair in Digital Humanities in 2014 and shortly after the first chair of the public understanding of the humanities. Being Human, the UK's festival of the humanities, launched in 2014, the Digital Humanities Research Hub was created in 2021, followed by its maker space in 2022, and the reopening of the Warburg Institute with new public exhibition capabilities in 2024.

There are too many milestones to list here – each one a step leading us to where we are now: a national centre for the humanities.

Institutes have come and gone, been reshaped and renamed, and new strategies mapped onto an ever-changing research landscape. Indeed, what is striking about the timeline is just how innovative and forward-thinking the School and its institutes have been: a living lab of experimentation for the humanities, a place of collaboration, a home for our disciplines in turbulent times.

Innovation of this kind can only be achieved through determined collaboration: working together, in the School and beyond it, has become the defining feature of the value we add to humanities research.

This annual review brings together the outstanding work of the School and its Institutes in supporting, promoting and facilitating research in the humanities across the UK, work which could not take place without the generous support of Research England and the University of London. With challenging times for colleagues across the sectors we work with and work for, this support is now more important than ever.

Leonard Bernstein once said that 'To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan and not quite enough time'. The School has a bold and ambitious plan for its future; but for me, as Dean, the time has come to an end – never quite enough time to achieve all that one had hoped, but just enough to appreciate what an extraordinary community exists here, all in service of something most precious.

In the words of our honorary graduate for 2024, the actor Chiwetel Ejiofor: 'Arts and Humanities are just critical to the way that we see the world, the way that we interact with each other, the way that we understand each other, humanities are able to engage our intellect, our spirit, our soul'. And that is surely something worth fighting for.

#### **Professor Jo Fox**

Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & Engagement and Dean, School of Advanced Study

# NEWS

## Review

### University of London appoints Professor Claire Gorrara as Dean of the School of Advanced Study



**The University of London is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Claire Gorrara as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Public Engagement) and the Dean of the School of Advanced Study (SAS) from 1 September 2025.**

Professor Gorrara joins from Cardiff University, where she has served as Dean of Research and Innovation for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences since 2021, supporting the research ambitions of 10 academic schools across the full range of humanities disciplines.

Professor Gorrara brings with her extensive experience in research leadership and advocacy for the humanities. She is the co-founder of the Wales Arts and Humanities Alliance and is a newly appointed member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) Advisory Board, where she advocates for the value of arts and humanities research and the benefits it can deliver for people and place.

A champion of widening participation in higher education, Professor Gorrara is a regular advocate for multilingualism and language learning, working with policymakers, educational institutions and learned societies across the UK and internationally,

**Professor Claire Gorrara said:**

**"I am thrilled to be joining the University of London. I look forward to developing further the work of the University, which is a sector-leading champion for the arts and humanities. As a career-long advocate for the transformative power of arts and humanities, I am excited to work with colleagues and connected communities in the outstanding institutes for humanities research within the School of Advanced Study."**

including the British Academy. She founded the MFL Mentoring project in Wales. The project, which trains university student mentors to inspire language learning among secondary school learners, was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Award for Widening Participation in 2021.

In recognition of her contributions to French language, culture and multilingualism, Professor Gorrara was awarded the prestigious Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite by the French Government in 2023.

Professor David Latchman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, said: "Professor Gorrara's appointment is an exciting new chapter for the School of Advanced Study and our ongoing commitment to advancing humanities research at the highest level. Her exceptional track record in research leadership, combined with her passion for demonstrating the real-world impact of humanities scholarship, makes her ideally suited to lead SAS as we continue to strengthen our role as a national centre of excellence for the humanities."

Professor Christopher Smith, Executive Chair of the AHRC, said: "The School of Advanced Study offers critical resources to the national capability for arts and humanities research through its libraries, its public engagement activity, and its world-class centres and institutes. AHRC looks forward to working with Professor Gorrara to develop the School's role as an international centre of excellence and a key infrastructure and resource for our disciplines."

Professor Colette Fagan FAcSS, Research England Council member and Vice-President of Research at the University of Manchester, said: "As the recently appointed chair of the Research England Advisory Group for the School of Advanced Study I am delighted to welcome Professor Claire Gorrara's appointment. I look forward to working with Claire and her team."

The School of Advanced Study celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024. It brings together eight internationally renowned institutes for humanities research and receives special funding from Research England for its national role in promoting and facilitating humanities research. Through its constituent institutes, SAS provides advocacy for humanities disciplines, contributes to policymaking, delivers research training and fellowships, maintains world-class library and digital resources and leads extensive public engagement and publishing programmes.

In her role as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Public Engagement) and Dean of the School of Advanced Study, Professor Gorrara will also oversee the University of London's Senate House Library, one of the UK's largest academic libraries for arts, humanities and social sciences, and the University of London in Paris, with its interdisciplinary programmes in French Studies and International Politics.

## 30th Anniversary of SAS

**In 2024 The School of Advanced Study celebrated 30 years of supporting, promoting and advocating for the humanities in the UK.**

The anniversary was marked with a celebratory event held at Senate House on Wednesday 12 June, which was attended by the University's Chancellor, HRH The Princess Royal.

The event featured an exhibition that explored key milestones in the School's 30 year history and a reception with representatives from a selection of the School's current projects and initiatives.

SAS research and engagement was also on display, with representatives from the Centre for the Study of the Senses, the Victory County History, Layers of London, Beyond Notability and Cultivate MSS.

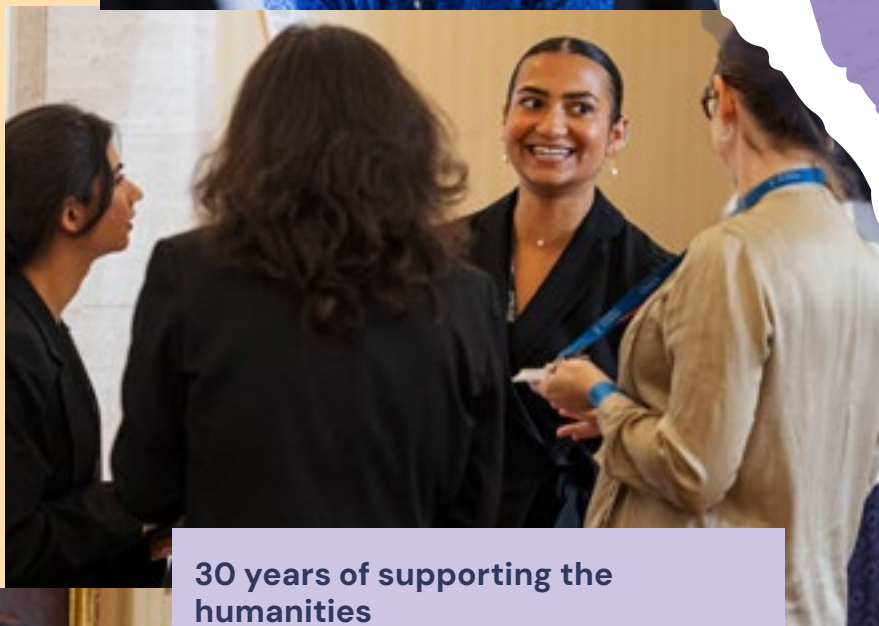


Speaking at the event, Professor Jo Fox, Dean of the School of Advanced Study, commended the School on its contribution to sustaining the arts and humanities over the past 30 years, and highlighted the important role that the humanities will play in addressing the various challenges we face in the modern world.

She said: "The world has changed a great deal since the School was formed in 1994. And, while our world may be more connected than ever before, it is also a more divided, more fraught, and in many ways, a more precarious one.

"A critical, creative, and human approach is not only valuable in addressing [these] global challenges – it is indispensable. The humanities offer not only diagnoses, but increasingly we offer solutions. We see this every day in the research we support across the UK."

During the event, the Chancellor met with staff from across the School and discussed their achievements and future endeavours. In her remarks at the close of the event, she congratulated SAS on its 30th anniversary and commended the staff on their dedication to its mission.



### 30 years of supporting the humanities

Founded in August 1994 as a federation of nine of the University of London's research institutes in the humanities, SAS was created to facilitate advanced study in the humanities for the benefit of the national scholarly community, and to act as a catalyst for individual and collaborative research in the United Kingdom and beyond.

Over the last 30 years, SAS has expanded this role and delivered a wide-ranging programme of research promotion and facilitation that has supported generations of researchers. Through the provision of key resources, research training and pioneering programmes of public engagement and digital innovation, the School has established itself as a vital component of the national infrastructure for humanities research in the UK.



## Being Human Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024

**The Festival featured another full programme of more than 230 free events and activities which took place in 147 venues and locations, from clubs and bars to libraries and museums, in 58 towns and cities across the UK.**

114 event organisers and researchers from 64 universities and research organisations led events and activities as part of the festival.

With an overarching theme of 'Landmarks', a series of events were organised, with topics as diverse as overlooked sites in Leeds with connections to Black history, literature and culture, the relationship between microbiomes and the human body, the history of the Essex accent and dialect, and how gender roles are portrayed through puppetry.

Researchers and public engagement teams delivered numerous creative and innovative event formats including a sensory visualisation around food and drink, musical theatre performances, a tidal island walking tour and museum lates, welcoming over 21,000 people throughout the festival.

Professional development is a key aspect of the festival. The Being Human training programme was expanded in 2024, including new sessions on creative engagement, partnerships and working with the press and media. Training sessions were complimented by a refresh of the suite of toolkits and new case studies provided varied learning journeys for researchers.

Internationally, the University of Melbourne again delivered a Festival Hub in November, expanding their programme to be the most ambitious yet. 2024 also saw the inaugural Being Human Festival US in April, led by the National Humanities Center, with 8 events organised across the US.

Across the 10 years of Being Human Festival, researchers around the UK have delivered an incredible array of public engagement events – that's 2875 free events in 175 towns and cities. 280,000 people have attended the festival over the last 10 years, which continues to develop and grow.





## Secured Five-Year Funding from Research England

**In 2024 national funding body Research England confirmed a further five years of funding for the School of Advanced Study.**

The award follows a review of the School, which reconfirmed the School's special funding status and backed an ambitious new strategy.

The review, which was carried out by the Research England Advisory Group (REAG), found that SAS has successfully achieved the strategic goals set out in its 2018 review, describing the school as "an important component of the national infrastructure for humanities research in the UK."

In confirming the funding at the time, Professor Dame Jessica Corner, Executive Chair, Research England, said: "We are delighted that the outcome of this review cements Research England's relationship with the School of Advanced Study, University of London, for a further five years.

**"The School is a unique and important component of the national infrastructure for Humanities research in the UK and to the critical role it plays as an advocate for humanities research and in strengthening the impact it can have internationally as well the wide contribution of these vital disciplines to research and innovation."**

**"an important component of the national infrastructure for humanities research in the UK"**



# Relaunch of Institute of Commonwealth Studies in presence of HRH The Princess Royal

On 25 April 2024, the School of Advanced Study hosted a relaunch event and reception for the Institute of Commonwealth Studies on its 75th Anniversary, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal Chancellor of the University of London.

The Institute’s forward-looking vision, including its focus on strengthening the rule of law, combating climate change and promoting freedom of expression and digital rights, was shared by the Director, Professor Kingsley Abbott.





## 2025 marks the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Refugee Law Initiative, a specialised centre at the School of Advanced Study, University of London

**The RLI is the only centre of its kind in the UK exclusively to address refugee law, and the largest in the world. Bridging the gap between academia, practice and government, it is a national focal point for leading and disseminating research in refugee law, and drafting and influencing international policy.**

Launched in 2010 by its founding Director, Professor David Cantor, the RLI is now made up of more than 600 academics, teaching and administrative staff, research affiliates, students and clinical legal practitioners.

The RLI connects academics from around the world to practitioners, policy makers and refugees themselves. It collaborates with the world's main refugee organisations, NGOs and governments – particularly in the global south – to disseminate research, train and support researchers in their countries, and provide policy input nationally and

internationally. It also hosts the intercollegiate Refugee Law Clinic, which provides award-winning legal support for some of the most vulnerable refugees in the UK, and trains and supports the world's future advocates for the fair treatment of refugees.

2025 also marks ten years of the RLI's successful MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies. The world's only distance Master's programme in refugee law, and the largest in the world, with over 200 students from more than 60 countries studying part-time at any time. Since its launch in 2015 this course has trained around 800 students, made up mainly of mid- to high-level humanitarian professionals.

A dedicated 15th anniversary conference in June 2025 with the theme 'Refugee Law and Forced Migration Studies: Connections and Tensions', replaced the RLI's usual annual conference, drawing hundreds of participants.

# University of London Press reaches one million downloads of Open Access titles

**UoL Press has achieved the historic milestone of securing more than one million global downloads of its books, demonstrating the benefits of open access publishing in increasing access to important new research.**



The Press's shift to being a predominantly open access publisher for researchers and institutions began in 2018 but has ramped up in recent years, with about 75% of its new books each year now being published as open access, with a goal to increase this to 85% within the next few years.

The Press has also undergone a rebrand, seen the launch of its new website, the introduction of a new interactive online reading platform, and a new strapline, **'Opening up humanities research'**, which summarises its mission of widening access to humanities research to diverse audiences through open access, as well as other innovative publishing models. This mission also reflects the integral role it plays as part of the School of Advanced Study, supporting the School's national role to promote and facilitate research, impact and engagement in the humanities.

## New MA in Languages and Cultures Across Borders

**The Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies (ILCS) and its partners in the federal University of London (KCL, UCL, QMUL, RHUL and ULIP) are proud to introduce a unique new MA in 2025, beginning in September.**

Through this programme students will explore and engage with a range of societal issues, including climate change, the legacies of colonialism and cultural memories, approaching them within the framework of transnational linguistic and cultural studies.

It further allows students to try their hand at translating, creative writing, curating a physical or digital exhibition and podcast making, with state-of-the-art facilities.

Colleges from across the University of London federation are joining forces to help students develop in-depth knowledge and hone practical skills under the guidance of internationally renowned scholars in the field, acquiring a range of transferable skills and preparing for a wide range of specialist career paths, including beyond academia.

## Real-World Experience through Internships at IES

**At the Institute of English Studies, we are really proud to offer our students a distinctive internship module that bridges the gap between academic study and the professional world.**

Designed to complement our postgraduate programme in the History of the Book, the internship provides students with the opportunity to apply their skills in live working environments—whether cataloguing rare books, assisting with conservation efforts, or contributing to public exhibitions.

What sets the IES internship apart is its unique access to a network of exceptional institutions and practitioners. Our students are currently gaining hands-on experience at a range of organisations across the UK and Ireland, many of whom are partnering with IES for the first time in 2024-25, including Norwich Cathedral Library, Pembroke College, Oxford, Marsh's Library in Dublin, the London Archives (formerly London Metropolitan Archives), the Charles Dickens Museum, London's radical bookshop, Housmans, and the Royal College of Surgeons in England. These placements reflect the breadth and richness of our partnerships, as well as the trust these institutions place in our students' capabilities.

Internship projects are as varied as the host organisations themselves. Some of our students are immersed in the cataloguing of elephant folios and early printed books; others are researching and preparing material for public display, or working closely with conservators to identify and stabilise fragile bindings. These are not generic placements, but tailored experiences that allow students to deepen their knowledge of book history, material culture, and curatorial practice—while making meaningful contributions to the work of the institutions that host them.

Riel, one of our current students interning at the Royal College of Surgeons in England, says:

*"I'm thrilled to be starting my internship at the Royal College of Surgeons this term. As the sole intern, I'll gain hands-on experience working closely with their library team—from assisting with special collections to drafting posts for the RCS blog and learning about archival work behind the scenes. It's the perfect opportunity to apply my Book History studies in a professional setting, and I'm particularly looking forward to learning more about their remarkable medical collections."*

Isabel, who is interning at Marsh's Library in Dublin, writes:

*"My internship involves working with the Medieval books held in Marsh's Library, Dublin. This has already led to some fun discoveries, including a Mummy Cupboard (currently sans Mummy) and a Psalter with doodles of dogs in the margins from Syon Abbey. This work will lead onto a catalogue and an exhibition held at the library."*



Our longstanding relationships with industry leaders such as Maggs Brothers—one of the world’s oldest antiquarian booksellers—ensure that students are exposed to best practices in the handling, description, and sale of rare books. These experiences often open the door to future opportunities, and we are delighted to see our alumni go on to distinguished careers as rare booksellers, cataloguers, archivists, museum curators, librarians, and publishers.

We are also immensely grateful to our host institutions and colleagues, who so generously share their time, expertise and collections. The internship programme is a true collaboration between academia and industry, one that benefits not only our students but the wider bibliographical and heritage communities. And as the internship module continues to grow, so too do our ambitions for it. We are always looking to expand our network of partners and welcome inquiries from colleagues across the School and the University who may wish to collaborate or connect students to relevant opportunities.



# The Institute of Classical Studies (ICS) celebrated 70 years since its foundation on Monday 16 October 2023

**The ICS is a national and international research centre for the study of the languages, literature, history, art, archaeology and philosophy of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds.**

The Institute has transformed greatly over the past 70 years. Established in 1953 as a home for the Hellenic and Roman Library and a point of connection for advanced classical researchers across London, the ICS is now the UK's national centre for the promotion and facilitation of research in classical studies and related disciplines.

Its world-leading library and visiting fellow programme draws scholars from as far afield as Brazil, Korea, and Australia. Changes in technology and communications have transformed the ways in which users can access the Institute's resources, while its seminar and events programme draw national and international audiences.

ICS Director, Professor Katherine Harloe reflects:

*"What's so special about this place is its core mission: to connect and support researchers in Classics at all levels. The ICS exists to give scholars space and opportunities to meet, swap ideas and pursue their research projects, and to support Classics and classicists nationwide and internationally. I will make it my mission to ensure that the Institute continues to make the past relevant to the present long into the future."*

Among many highlights in the ICS's history, the story of how Michael Ventris decoded a series of 3,000-year-old tablets from Crete is one of the most exciting. Building on the work of predecessors, such as Alice Kober, in 1952 Ventris announced the discovery that the hitherto undeciphered inscriptions of the Linear B tablets were in a form of ancient Greek. His ideas were debated and developed in seminars in the Institute, and many of the earliest discoveries of Ventris and his collaborators appeared first in *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies*, the Institute's journal. Following his untimely death in 1956 the Michael Ventris Memorial Fund was founded in 1957 in appreciation of Ventris's twin interests in Aegean Bronze Age studies and architecture. It continues today under the administration of the ICS and The Architectural Association and makes annual awards for new work in these areas.

Another highlight is the 70th Anniversary of the *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* (BICS) in 2024. BICS is the flagship publication of the Institute of Classical Studies and has been a forum for classical studies since 1954. The journal publishes research that drives forward intellectual debate by disseminating scholarship at the cutting edge of classical research. It marked the Anniversary with the publication of a special edition.

The ICS focuses not only on the past but also on the role of Classics in interacting with the present as exemplified in the work of many of the Institute's visiting fellows. These include Professor Mark Fleishman, an academic and theatre director from South Africa and leader of a major research project on Reimagining Tragedy from Africa and the Global South, and Dr Manuel Álvarez-Martí-Aguilar from Spain, whose research into cultural reactions to ancient environmental catastrophes holds up a lens to present responses to natural disasters.

The ICS welcomes faculty, academic visitors, students, and interested parties to engage with the Institute's [events programme](#); apply for relevant [Fellowships, Grants, and Awards](#); [visit or join its Library](#); and read the [journal](#).



# LHub: A new hub of Law and the Humanities at IALS



**How is this fascinating scholar related to Law and the Humanities? What and where is “law” for them? Which areas of humanities do they work on? What are they trying to understand in their research?**

At the beginning of this academic year, ten LHub Visitors joined IALS in a group event that attempted to answer these questions. Our visitors are an extremely diverse group of scholars with an equally diverse range of research and academic interests and expertise. From ethnographic research of contemporary trans experience; humour, satire and law; copyright law, its theory and practice in relation to photography, film, fashion and the visual arts to legal and political responses to police violence in 19th century Britain.

This range of expertise and creativity is brought together in LHub to imagine exciting futures for law and the humanities. The hub was established as Professor Anat Rosenberg joined IALS, to foster academic expertise, creativity and intellectual leadership in the field.

LHub is conceived as a national resource within the remit of the School of Advanced Study. It welcomes collaborations with IALS fellows and associates, SLS members, as well as cross-institutional and international collaborations.

LHub’s activities are geared toward joy and inclusivity through a range of engagement modes, which will gradually create common languages across the diversity that is Law

and the Humanities today, encouraging community and collaboration, and supporting the challenges of interdisciplinarity.

On four LHub Days each academic term, LHub Visitors work together, asking new questions on content and form in Law and the Humanities, and planning new projects in and outside the hub. During the first term, Jonah Miller convened a day on Radical Legalisms that asked how radicals approach law, and what radicalism means in that context. The day on Law, Fiction, and the Visual, convened by Parashar Kulkarni, began by discussing a draft of Kulkarni’s *Cow and Court*, a fictional trial conceived as a counterfactual to evidence-based research. We finally considered the visual turn in law, to rethink beyond text in legal research. Law’s Places and Spaces, convened by Andrew Bricker, asked us: Where does (the) law happen? Where does it take place—and also takes space? As Christmas lights appeared, we experimented with a Popup Talk from Prof. Gary Watt on Shakespeare and the Law, bringing Law and the Humanities to the public square. Popups speak to a simple insight that LHub embraces: Law and the Humanities is relevant wherever life is, and should be for everyone

The LHub seminar invites scholars and artists to present new and emerging work, and in the process respond to our questions of introduction: How do you place your work in the wider field of Law and the Humanities? What and where is “law” in your work? These questions help us draw some contours to our field – or at least consider the range of possible contours, and examine its rich visions of law.

# “The hidden histories of the Pinochet case”: an IALS lecture by David Sugarman, 6 February 2024

**A large and diverse audience filled the IALS Council Chamber to hear Professor Sugarman present the most comprehensive behind-the-scenes account to date of the London judicial proceedings in the Pinochet case and, more briefly, Pinochet’s release on health grounds.**

Those present included a former Law Lord and UK Supreme Court Justice, a former head of the Judicial Office of the House of Lords, government and other lawyers, representatives of NGOs and Chilean exiles, archivists, journalists, filmmakers, academics, students and members of the general public.

Drawing on more than 250 interviews conducted in 10 countries during and shortly after the case with the key judges, lawyers, politicians, victims and NGOs, Professor Sugarman exposed the clash of different viewpoints in the UK’s top court, and the substantial divergences between the approaches of the individual judges. Most striking was his account of the judgments in the case assembled from a selection of the judges who wrote those judgments, and the senior administrators, lawyers and NGOs most closely involved. These and allied revelations cast new light on the law and politics of the case, and its larger significance.

The event was chaired by the IALS Director, Professor Carl Stychin. A lively and wide-ranging discussion followed the lecture as Professor Sugarman took questions from the audience. The session closed with a brief and moving address from audience-member Ana María Pelusa, a Chilean refugee who came to the UK in 1974. She was one of the hundreds of Chilean exiles who campaigned during Pinochet’s detention in London for his swift extradition to Spain. She explained that her current focus is on keeping memory alive through the ‘Ecomemoria/Ecomemory’, a project that consists of planting a tree for each of the disappeared – detainees and executed-political prisoners – in a woodland in the South of Chile, an initiative she invited the audience to support.



## Born-Digital Collections, Archives and Memory



### **The Digital Humanities Research Hub (DHRH) hosted a major international conference on Born-Digital Collections, Archives and Memory at Senate House in April.**

Drawing hundreds of delegates both in person and online, the inaugural conference brought together researchers and practitioners involved in accessing or developing born-digital collections and archives, and those interested in exploring the novel and transformative effects of born-digital cultural heritage.

### **New Forms, New Methods**

Born-digital material includes anything that was originally created in digital form. This can include websites and other internet-based material, but also extends to emails, electronic literature, spreadsheets, software, and the digital and physical environments on which all of this material lives.

Dr Naomi Wells, Senior Lecturer in Languages and Digital Humanities and member of the conference organising committee, explains: "In recent decades, our cultural and social practices have increasingly moved to digital spaces, such as the internet and social media. As a result, we have seen the rapid expansion of cultural materials that originate in a digital form."

**"we have seen the rapid  
expansion of cultural materials  
that originate in a digital form"**

Researchers studying born-digital culture come from a wide range of disciplines – including digital preservation, history, languages, game studies, and computer science – and so this conference formed part of a wider effort to bring them together to share best practice, explore common challenges and discuss the evolving research landscape.

### Ongoing Investments

Researchers at the School of Advanced Study have long been at the forefront of this field and were key contributors to the AHRC-funded project Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities. This aimed both to develop a theoretical and methodological framework within which to study the archive of the UK web from 1996–2013 and to engage scholars in the co-design of new analytical tools. The project produced what was then one of the largest full-text indexes of web archive (WARC) files in the world.

More recently, several PhD graduates from the Hub have made born-digital culture the focus of their research. Staff from the Hub also work closely with partners in the cultural heritage sector, including with the UK Web Archive at the British Library and UK Government Web Archive at The National Archives, to help build capacity in the sector for working with born-digital material.

### Building New Communities

The conference featured a diverse range of presentations and workshops, from Danish video games to TikTok archiving. It also provided unique networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with thought leaders and innovators from prestigious institutions such as the Internet Archive, Digital Preservation Coalition, National Library of Norway, Royal Danish Library, Smithsonian Institution, Art Gallery of New South Wales, British Library, Science Museum Group, V&A, National Theatre and National Archives.

The keynote of the conference was a public lecture by Dorothy Berry, Digital Curator for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Her talk captured many of the ideas at the heart of the conference, notably highlighting that – despite the novelty of born-digital objects – many of the challenges facing born-digital archives are similar to those working with physical collections.

There was such an enthusiastic response to the conference that the DHRH plans to make it a regular event. Support from the School of Advanced Study for events such as these demonstrate the School's ongoing commitment to fostering interdisciplinary humanities research at the cutting edge.



# Professor David Olusoga gives the inaugural National Humanities Lecture

**On 4 February 2025 Professor David Olusoga delivered the first National Humanities Lecture. In a thought-provoking address, Professor Olusoga made the argument for the value of the humanities through personal reflections and a discussion of the present and future state of the disciplines.**

Professor Olusoga questioned why humanities subjects often have to justify their value, and criticised criteria that would prevent him from teaching history in a British classroom, despite having written history books and lesson plans used in curricula across the country. In a powerful argument for the humanities, he pointed out that the "suspicion, at times the hostility, shown to the humanities subjects clashes with the often unacknowledged and unrecognised enthusiasm for the humanities in everyday life." For example, he said, the rise of genealogy and the popularity of ancestry websites, demonstrates the strength of public appetite for such involvement.

The event marked the award of the School's new Public Humanities Fellowships, which were awarded to Professor Olusoga and:

- Professor Carenza Lewis, Professor of Public Understanding of Research at University of Lincoln
- Dr Adam Rutherford, President of the British Humanist Association and Science Writer and Broadcaster
- Professor Lyndsey Stonebridge, Chair of Humanities and Human Rights, University of Birmingham
- Erica Wagner, Author and Distinguished Fellow of the Writers Centre, Goldsmiths, University of London

The Fellows will work with the School to advance the public humanities agenda within the United Kingdom and around the world, supporting the School's mission to advance and promote the humanities.

The poster for 'The National Humanities Lecture' features a portrait of Professor David Olusoga on the left. The background is a vibrant blue with two large, overlapping circles in light blue and red. Text on the poster includes the School of Advanced Study, University of London logo, the title 'The National Humanities Lecture', the subtitle 'Celebrating the public value of the humanities', the date '4 February 2025', the venue 'University of London Senate House London WC1E 7HU', and a bio for David Olusoga as a 'Historian, author, award-winning filmmaker'. A small credit 'Credit: Karen Robinson' is at the bottom left.

**SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**The National Humanities Lecture**  
Celebrating the public value of the humanities

**4 February 2025**  
University of London  
Senate House  
London WC1E 7HU

**David Olusoga**  
Historian, author,  
award-winning  
filmmaker

Credit: Karen Robinson

# UKRI-funded Centre for Public Engagement

**The School has opened a new Centre for Public Engagement Practice in Arts and Humanities, to enable projects aimed at building public participation in research through innovative networks, tailored advice, dynamic training resources and interdisciplinary collaborations.**

The new Centre, which is funded by UK Research Innovation, will invest £450,000 in engagement projects humanities researchers, practitioners, as well as a wide range of research, cultural and community organisations. It will foster connections with other disciplines to create interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of how public engagement can be effectively developed and supported.

AHRC Executive Chair Professor Christopher Smith said: "Everything humans have ever thought, said, designed or performed falls into the remit of arts and humanities. We study what it is to be human, and the conditions that allow us to flourish or falter.

**"We are delighted to support this Centre and look forward to seeing it take forward our vision of co-created and co-designed research and innovation through arts and humanities."**



Discover the extraordinary individuals at the heart of the School of Advanced Study, whose talents and dedication are core to our success as a national centre for humanities research



# PEOPLE

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## Dr Olivia Labwukuna

**Joins the Institute of  
Commonwealth Studies**



Dr Olivia Lwabukuna has joined the Institute of Commonwealth Studies as Senior Lecturer, bringing 17 years of experience across law, academia and policy in Africa and the UK. A Tanzanian lawyer and former SOAS lecturer and Deputy Director of Learning and Teaching, Olivia's expertise in development, governance, human rights, and rule of law will significantly support the Institute's mission, especially in engaging civil society and policymakers in the Global South.

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## Professor David Cantor

**Joins Lancet**



Professor David Cantor, Director of the Refugee Law Initiative, has joined the Lancet Commission on Health, Conflict, and Forced Displacement as a Commissioner and Co-Lead of the Ethical and Legal Frameworks Working Group. The Commission aims to reshape the humanitarian system with a focus on health in the context of conflict, displacement, and global challenges. Its final report is expected in 2025.

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## Matthew Harle

**Appointed as  
Curator of Artistic  
Programmes at  
Warburg**



Matthew Harle has joined the Warburg Institute in February as its first Curator of Artistic Programmes. Formerly Curator of Public Programme at the Barbican, he has led major cross-arts initiatives and archival projects. Matthew's curatorial work spans institutions like BFI, South London Gallery, and Raven Row, and includes collaborations with artist Rita Keegan. A writer and editor, his published and forthcoming works explore themes from archives to urban culture.

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## Professor Sarah Singer

**Becomes an  
International Journal  
of Refugee Law**



Professor Sarah Singer, an expert in refugee law and Programme Director for the MA in Refugee Protection, has been appointed Joint Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Refugee Law*, published by Oxford University Press. The journal is a leading platform for scholarship on forced migration and international refugee law. Sarah brings extensive expertise on asylum, immigration detention, and LGBT refugee protection to the role.

# FEATURES

## Institute of Commonwealth Studies Leads Global Delegation to CHOGM in Samoa

The Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS) facilitated a delegation of 12 experts from across global civil society and the justice sectors to lead and support several events at the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which took place in Apia, Samoa.

At the CHOGM and the parallel Commonwealth People's Forum, the Institute and its partners held four events which aligned with the Institute's three primary areas of focus and sought to influence Commonwealth member countries' policy development and justice sector reform in the following key areas:



- ▶ Resilient Futures: Shaping Environment and Climate Justice Across the Commonwealth;
- ▶ Decriminalising Poverty and Status: Breaking chains and building resilient societies across the Commonwealth;
- ▶ Protecting Freedom of Speech and Expression in the Commonwealth; and
- ▶ Decriminalise! A human rights-based approach to criminal law in the modern Commonwealth.



# The Guide addresses the global, growing trend towards the wrongful criminalisation of conduct associated with poverty, homelessness and status by presenting a human rights-based approach to criminal law

The Institute's delegation included members from a diverse range of countries from New Zealand, Samoa, Barbados, Mauritius, Singapore, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and France.

At the event on decriminalising poverty and status, the Institute, together with its partners, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), launched a detailed [Practitioners' Guide on Decriminalisation of Poverty and Status](#).

The Guide addresses the global, growing trend towards the wrongful criminalisation of conduct associated with poverty, homelessness and status by presenting a human rights-based approach to criminal law, based on general principles of criminal law and international human rights law and standards.

A first of its kind, the Guide aims to serve as a practical tool and comparative law casebook to justice sector actors and others – such as legislatures, government officials, policy-makers, national human rights institutions, oversight bodies, victims' groups, human rights advocates, civil society

organizations and academics – offering a clear, accessible and operational legal framework and practical legal guidance on a human rights-based approach to criminal law.

The Guide was produced following consultations with civil society and justice sectors across [Asia](#), [the Caribbean](#) and [Africa](#) following a presentation at the 2024 [Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Zanzibar](#). The next phase of this program is to raise awareness of the Guide and deliver training to civil society and justice sectors across Commonwealth regions.

CHOGM Samoa 2024 was significantly the first CHOGM to be held in a Pacific Small Island Developing State themed "One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth" by Samoa.

A feature on the ICWS's presence at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in September 2024, including director Kingsley Abbott's comments regarding question of reparations for transatlantic slavery, and advocacy for climate justice and international law.

# Being Human in the Age of AI

**Advances in artificial intelligence have developed rapidly in the last three years with the deployment of Large Language Models like Chat GPT, Claude and Gemini.**

AI assistants are entering the workplace as digital colleagues and the home as digital tutors. They are treated as digital companions or therapists. But should we be treating them as colleagues or just tools, and what are the risks and challenges of our increasing reliance on AI in everyday and working lives?

These were just some of the questions that were tackled at Being Human in the Age of AI, the second of our now annual series of AI and Philosophy conferences run by the Institute of Philosophy. The first conference in 2023, *Chat GPT and Other Creative Rivals*, featured

now Nobel Prize winner Geoffrey Hinton, frequently described as the godfather of contemporary AI. At that event, the speakers and audience drawn from industry and academia explored the way human creativity was being challenged and extended by these new AI tools. After the conference, Google DeepMind researcher, Murray Shanahan, and historian Catherine Clarke, from the Institute of Historical Research, went on to write an article together on the way Chat GPT could be used creatively to produce historical fiction that brought the first-person voice of marginalised figures, and especially women, in Medieval England to light. Others worried about the practice of producing an extended digital life for deceased relatives.

At the 2024 conference, the focus was on what it is to be human in the age of AI. Should we insist that the development of AI technology be aligned with human values, and should we be worried about the more and more human-like behaviour of AI assistants? Senior Research Scientist from Google, Geoff Keeling, raised challenges of safety and alignment when artificial agents have greater autonomy and may no longer comply strictly with the developer's intentions. Such systems may not be bounded by human instruction and may be open to misuse by malign actors. Keeling proposes a larger conversation about alignment and sees it as a four-place relationship between the AI agent, the user, the developer and the society in which it is deployed.

The first keynote speaker was Professor Shannon Vallor, philosopher and co-director of AHRC's BRAID programme, who set out themes from her recent book, *The AI Mirror*, comparing our interactions with AI assistants with the myth of Narcissus where we become captivated by the illusion of interacting with something we admire and believe it will think about us, remember and care about us. Vallor rightly puts stress on the way we are shaped by our interactions with AI and not





vice versa. This is a powerful reminder that large language models like Chat GPT learn to echo back to us an image of ourselves that may mirror or distort who we are and thus limit the way we think and develop. That is why thought must be given to the responsible deployment of AI technology and this is a theme addressed in the UK-wide programme that Vallor co-directs. Bridging Responsible AI Divides (BRAID) explores the possibilities and challenges of a responsible AI ecosystem aiming to bridge academic, industry, policy and regulatory work on AI. Working in collaboration with the Ada Lovelace Institute, BRAID fosters interdisciplinary collaboration drawing on expertise from human-computer interaction, moral philosophy, art, design, law, the social sciences, journalism and AI.

The last speaker and our other keynote was Matt Clifford, now the Prime Minister's Advisor on AI, who set up ARIA and organised the UK's AI Safety Summit in 2024. Clifford set out where we are in the current research landscape and how AI is becoming a primary focus in research and development funding and public policy. Clifford firmly believes that London is the second most important centre for AI development after Silicon Valley and that it is important that the UK seizes the opportunity to foster AI talent and start

up as well as leading on issues of diplomacy and governance. We need international agreements about what counts as dangerous capabilities in AI and we are just in the early days of AI model evaluation. The AI Safety Institute, now the AI Security Institute, was the first to reach agreement with frontier AI developers that they would be allowed early access to their models to test and audit their safety. In this way, academics and industry can work together sometimes ahead of public policy and the call for regulation. Clifford also sees a role for public consultation and the need to ensure the public on whom the latest technologies will be deployed, are aware of its capabilities and understand the consequences for all of us of adopting it. But he is optimistic that this can be achieved with positive benefits for us all.

As Shannon Vallor has recently put it, responsible AI "requires the voices and expertise of engineers and designers, creators and regulators, citizens and policymakers, corporations and entrepreneurs. Above all, it requires knowledge held by the communities and publics whose immediate, lived experience of AI's impact is often neglected until it is too late." It is time that conversation began and the humanities can play a key role in facilitating it.

# Information Law and Policy Centre

## The Future of Biometric Technology for Policing and Law Enforcement

**The ILPC has completed another successful and busy year as a national and international hub in its research, promotion, and facilitation of information law & policy thanks to its thriving academic community and international networks.**

In 2024 topics explored and debated by UK and international experts included the future of UK AI regulation and the EU AI Act, Freedom of Information, and the effects of emerging technology in the transparency of the criminal justice system. The ILPC also co-hosted with the Law Commission of England and Wales their Public Consultation on the Commission's 'Contempt of Court Project'.

Our flagship events, the ILPC Annual Conference and ILPC Annual Lecture, took place in 2024 for the ninth consecutive year. The ILPC Annual Conference attracts delegates from across the UK and worldwide. As always, expertise and policy insights discussed and debated encompassed a broad and diverse range of voices from law, social sciences and humanities, STEM, industry, policymaking, regulators, and civil society. The ILPC's two-day annual conference focused on the rapidly developing AI landscape, with the theme of AI and Power: Regulating Risk and Rights.

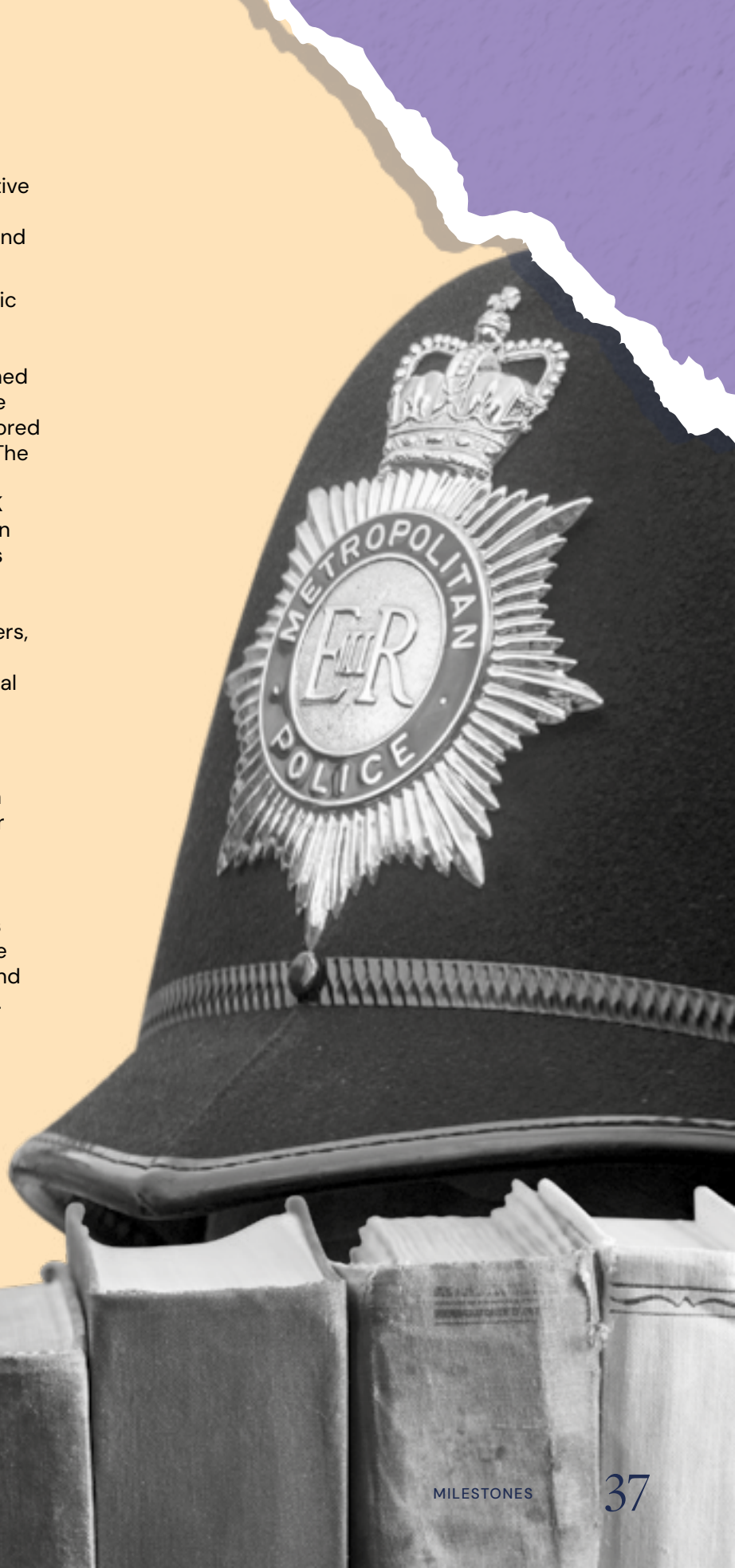
Danah Boyd, a Partner Researcher at Microsoft and Visiting Distinguished Professor, Georgetown University, delivered this year's Annual Lecture, entitled: 'Interventions not solutions in an era of AI



Policymaking'. This insightful and provocative presentation launched the two-day ILPC Annual Conference with a keynote panel and discussion by leading experts in the field..

The ILPC Director Dr Ni Loideain's academic work and publications in 2024 focused on facial recognition and human rights law, Brexit and cross-border transfers (published by Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press). In addition, she co-authored a report with the Alan Turing Institute on 'The Future of Biometric Technology in Policing and Law Enforcement' which examined UK AI regulation and emerging technologies in law enforcement and intelligence. She was invited to present her work at prominent international academic conferences and institutions, including the Annual Computers, Privacy, Data Protection, AI Conference (CPDP-AI) (Brussels), the Australian National University College of Law (Canberra), and the UN AI for Good Conference (Geneva).

On policy engagement, Dr Ni Loideain provided advice to the UK Government on numerous policies in her role as a member of the UK Home Office Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group (BFEG). In 2024, she was appointed to the Generative AI Academic Advisory Group which provides advice and expertise to the National Police Chiefs' Council on deepfake technology and the threat it poses to UK law enforcement. Dr Ni Loideain also contributed to the UK Parliament briefing report on 'Biometrics data: Misuse, use, and collation' published by the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in September 2024.



# IES Anniversary

2024 marked the 25th anniversary of the Institute of English Studies.

**Warren Chernaik was the first director of the Centre for English Studies, which became the Institute of English Studies in 1999. Warwick Gould, Sandra Clark, Wim Van Mierlo, Rick Rylance and Andrew Nash have all served as directors or acting directors of the IES.**

The IES has been fortunate too in our Institute managers and administrators, including Conor Wyer, Jon Millington, Chris Adams, Helen Bhandari and Ellie Hardy.

As the UK's only national institute for research promotion, facilitation and advocacy in English Studies, the IES plays an important role in the research landscape of the Arts and Humanities. 2024 was not an easy year for English Studies or the Humanities nationally, however. Funding for research and teaching in the Humanities continued to contract and the impact on English Studies is ongoing.

In 2025, encouraged by the support of the IES Advisory Council, the IES will continue to advocate for the public benefits – social, economic, creative and cultural – of English Studies in an increasingly digital and AI world, alongside the English Association and University English, the other two major national organisations for English. And we will continue to promote English Studies as a creative, critical, historically informed, future-facing, and technologically aware discipline.

Collaboration and co-operative support for the discipline together with creative, critical and cultural innovation are hallmarks of the IES. In 2025 we will advance and sustain co-created, engaged, practice-informed research and research training with HEI partners, learned societies, the GLAM sector (galleries, libraries, archives and museums) and our colleagues in the School. We will develop further researcher training in book and manuscript studies through the London Rare Books School, the London International Palaeography School, the MA/MRes in the History of the Book and our PhD programme (with its notable success at attracting collaborative doctoral awards). And, through the IES Fellowship programme, externally-funded postdoctoral fellowships, research seminars, workshops and conferences, we will continue to provide spaces for researchers to do the necessary work of advanced thinking and engaged learning essential to research and to research-led teaching.

Advancing research through shared learning is central to research practice in the Institute as well. Towards the end of 2024 two



We will continue to promote English Studies as a creative, critical, historically informed, future-facing, and technologically aware discipline.



with museums and libraries in the North West of England to unlock their cultural heritage through collections research and arts practices. Her work is a model of what place-based research can achieve.

As these and similar achievements over the last 25 years have shown, while the IES may be small when judged by some metrics, it is bold in its ambitions for English Studies, a discipline which is creative and language-focused, literary and critical, technological and historical, and alive to the intersections between the cultural and the commercial.

There is no more important a time to attend to the past, present and future of reading, writing, speaking, making, thinking and learning; these are at the core of all scientific knowledge, after all.

innovative collaborative research projects neared completion: Laura Cleaver's ERC-funded project on the trade in medieval manuscripts in the first half of the twentieth century (which supported 5 postdoctoral Fellows and 3 PhDs); and Andrew Nash's co-PI in the Leverhulme-funded project on the early history of the Society of Authors 1884-1914 (which also brought a fully-funded PhD to the Institute). Both projects demonstrate how the history of information, knowledge production, both cultural and creative, and the trade in books and objects can also help address the increasingly complex circuits of knowledge production today.

Autumn 2025 will see the re-opening of the Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery and the launch of *The Art of the Gothic*, curated by Cynthia Johnston. The exhibition is the next phase of Johnston's long engagement



# The Falerii Novi Project

**EHRH: The Environmental Humanities Research Hub (EHRH) at the School of Advanced Study (SAS) is a new and exciting initiative that is breaking new ground in interdisciplinary research and collaboration.**

The city of Falerii Novi lies buried beneath agricultural fields and olive trees. Located 50 km north of Rome, it sits astride a major ancient Roman road, the Via Amerina. According to historical sources, Falerii Novi was founded by the Romans around 241 BCE after their conquest of a nearby indigenous Faliscan town. Only the city's monumental defensive circuit walls and gates are still visible, along with the monastery and church of Santa Maria di Falleri, founded by Cistercians in the 11th century.

Since 2021, an international project led jointly by the Institute of Classical Studies with the British School at Rome, University of Toronto and Harvard University has sought to redefine our understanding of this crucial site. For one month each summer, a team of more than 40 students and researchers worked across several areas of the city using archaeological excavation and specialist approaches.

The Falerii Novi Project explores the social and economic daily life of this ancient city, while also interrogating the impact of Roman imperial expansion and withdrawal in this central part of the Empire. The project integrates results from excavation and a range of specialist scientific analyses.

Digging has so far focused on four areas within the city walls: a macellum (Roman meat market); domus (house); tabernae (shops) on the edge of the city's forum (central piazza); and a streetside intersection just inside the south gate on the Via Amerina. Across these areas, the assessment of thousands of pieces of ceramic potsherds reveals occupation from the third century BCE shortly after its founding through to the eighth century CE when the city was gradually abandoned. Large ceramic transport jars (amphorae) that contained wine, olive oil and fermented fish sauce from across the Roman Empire,





including North Africa, Portugal, Spain and the Levant, show its place in an extensive and highly organised trade network. Fragments of coloured and incised glass illustrate connections with the city of Rome just down the Tiber River, while well-preserved coins bear the faces of emperors and highlight other economic patterns.

The project also prioritises a programme of environmental archaeology. Bulk samples of soil are consistently taken from excavation trenches and processed through a flotation machine that separates organic materials, including animal bone, shell, charcoal and seeds. Pollen samples are also taken and analysed microscopically. This combines to reveal how the surrounding landscape was exploited and its change over time.

Alongside its intellectual aims, the Falerii Novi Project also provides a platform to train the next generation of Mediterranean archaeologists. Funding from the School of Advanced Study enables students and early career researchers to join each year, gaining crucial funded fieldwork and specialist experience and becoming embedded in the project's extensive international network.

A feature on the long-running collaborative project with British School at Rome (and others) into excavations of the ancient Roman town of Falerii Novi, with findings and plans for future.



# Collaborative project between ILCS and A New Direction's Good Growth Hub running participatory workshops in Hackney Wick on climate activism, arts and languages

**'Everyday Eco Activism: Language, Art and Climate Change' aims to amplify the voices of communities on climate from one of the UK's most culturally and linguistically diverse spaces in the UK – the London Olympic Legacy Boroughs – Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.**

Working in collaboration with A New Direction's Good Growth Hub, based in Hackney Wick, the project team ran three creative participatory action workshops between February and March 2025 with young creative co-researchers (aged 18–30), who were all recruited from within the local area.

The workshop objectives were to explore connections between the diverse experiences and knowledge of communities and the conceptual languages of climate change in scientific, political and public discourse, with a view to emphasising how local perspectives both understand and contribute towards wider debates on questions of climate.

The co-researchers created a series of Zines – small pamphlet-like publications made up of collected and appropriated materials – to channel their own creative practices of eco-activism which reflect a set of challenges to dominant forms of research and knowledge-making around the theme of climate change.

A key focus for this work was exploring what methods and approaches the experimental and participatory humanities, and languages and cultures specifically, can both bring to and, crucially, learn about global challenges such as climate change when those challenges are re-framed through a 'bottom up' and shared collaborative process of knowledge production.

Next steps include a collaborative practice-based peer-reviewed article in the journal, *Environmental Humanities*, and a bid to the AHRC's Catalyst Award.

ught together scholars from a variety of disciplines to discuss the challenges and opportunities of working with modern archival collections.



# Reshaped

**In May of this year, the School of Advanced Study launched a new free online training platform for humanities researchers at any level.**

Between September 2022 and September 2024, the Doctoral Centre developed a requirement for a new VLE into a prospect that will significantly reshape the research landscape of the humanities.

RESHAPED (Researchers in the Humanities and Arts' Platform for Enhancement and Development) provides free and accessible training resources designed to support the lifelong learning needs of humanities researchers across the UK and beyond. The peer-reviewed resources are written and curated by experts from the School and elsewhere and are aimed at equipping researchers with the crucial interdisciplinary knowledge and skills needed in a rapidly changing research landscape.



Alongside a range of individual online courses and toolkits, RESHAPED also includes thematic hubs that draw together materials from across the platform, as well as suggested learning journeys, links to related training events and signposts to external resources that can further develop researchers' knowledge and skills.

The flexibility offered by the platform provides a variety of ways to collaborate with other institutions, encouraging everything from signposting and hosting redeveloped materials to inviting a partner to curate a hub.

RESHAPED will empower humanities researchers to build their own learning experiences, make connections across and beyond their subject specialisms, and diversify their skillset as they progress through their research careers.

Current subject areas on the platform include Public Engagement, Digital Humanities, Interview Research Methods and Open Access Publishing, with a range of new content currently in development to be released soon. The development team welcome suggestions for new content from the humanities research community.



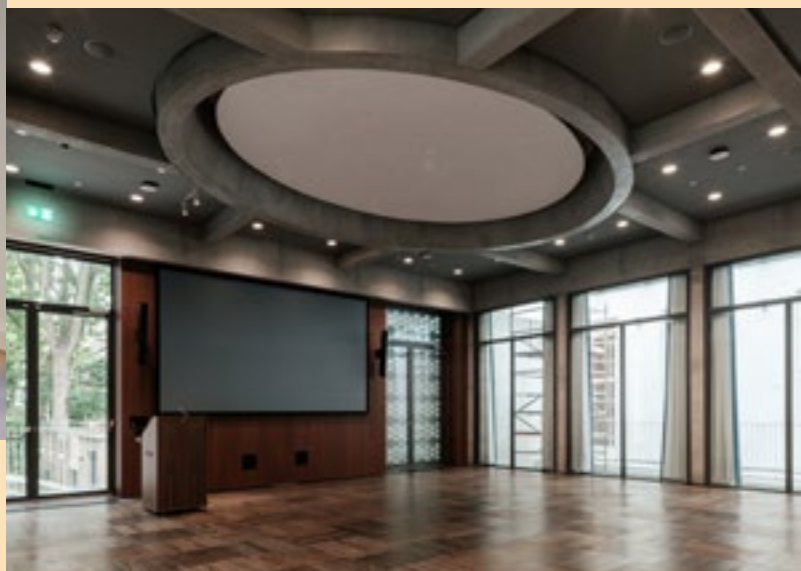
# The Warburg Renaissance

The Warburg Institute is one of the world's leading centres for the study of global cultural history and the role of images in society.

**Founded in Hamburg at the turn of the 20th Century by the pioneering historian Aby Warburg (1866–1929), the Institute was established to trace the roots of the Renaissance in ancient civilisations and ended up changing the way we see the world around us.**

The legendary Library, Archive and Photographic Collection form a holistic, associative engine for exploring the histories of the arts and sciences, linking the textual and the visual, the intellectual and the social, the scientific and the magical. Building on Warburg's belief that the memory of the past activates the present, the Institute's collections, courses and programmes examine the movement of culture across barriers—of time, space and discipline.

The Warburg Institute owes its mission—indeed its very existence—to the open movement of people, collections and ideas. Sent into exile when the Nazis came to power, the Institute was transferred to England in 1933 and became part of the University of London in 1944. Since 1958, the Warburg has been housed in the last building designed by Charles Holden as part of the University's original Bloomsbury masterplan. In 2016, the University allocated £9.5m for refurbishment and agreed a plan for repairing the building. In 2018, the Warburg Renaissance project was launched, turning a historic obligation for restoration into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for transformation. The new budget was set at £14.5 million (with the extra £5 million to come through fundraising), and a new brief was created for a competition to select the architects.



# Sent into exile when the Nazis came to power, the Institute was transferred to England in 1933 and became part of the University of London in 1944.

The project was called the 'Renaissance' not only because that was the period most intensively studied by Aby Warburg but also because it carries his conviction that the past shapes the present. In thinking about its own re-birth, the Institute considered what it would need to flourish in the future and what had been lost or abandoned along the way. While this included more room for books, more space for students, an upgraded digital infrastructure and a more sustainable building, it also involved reviving Warburg's radical vision for the integration of research and display and completing Charles Holden's unfinished plan for the site.

True to the spirit of the Warburg Renaissance, Haworth Tompkins (the winning firm) have not only built stunning new spaces but have revealed

the beauty and utility that was hiding in the existing building. The Warburg Renaissance will ensure that the Warburg Institute is secure, vibrant and open to new audiences and future generations. It will allow us to grow and show our holdings, expand our teaching programmes and host the practitioners-in-residence who have always been interested in the Institute but have never been given access. It will restore Warburg's original blueprint for a collaborative laboratory combining discovery, display and debate. Thanks to the support of the University of London and our generous donors, we can now share Aby Warburg's vision with the wider world, from a building that feels well and truly re-born.



# Layers of London

## Discovering and making London's history, together

**Imagine stepping into London's rich and diverse history and discovering the hidden stories the city has to tell... Layers of London, an innovative online hub, based at the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), invites everyone to do exactly that – and to join in with the exciting project of mapping the city's heritage.**

The website, [www.layersoflondon.org](http://www.layersoflondon.org), is a portal into London's past – and the heritage celebrated by its communities today. Visit to discover 370 historical map layers, from a reconstruction of medieval London to the famous Booth Poverty Map or World War 2 bomb damage maps, and most recently a uniquely detailed US spy satellite image

of 1970s London. Follow the development of today's city across plans and views from Roman archaeology to today, trace underground rivers, or get to know favourite trees across the capital, through a map layer created in partnership with Natural England.

Beyond maps, 12,750 pins and collections tell London's historical stories, in their places. Shared by individuals, communities and organisations across London, these pins often reveal less visible heritage – or the surprising stories behind familiar locations. Collections include London pubs, corner shops, Greek-Cypriot restaurants, early medieval archaeology, mosques and their heritage, and much more. Layers of London is all about people sharing their own stories and sources, enriching and deepening our understanding of the city and its history.



Layers of London content is also now available to access on specially curated trails around the city.. From early modern street food to London's first Muslim places of worship, these trails bring history to life around you.



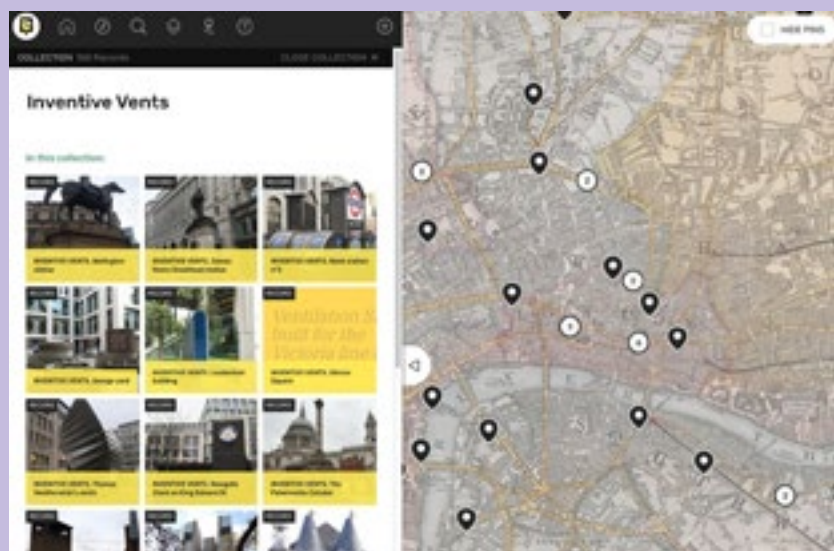
Initially funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and led by Director Professor Matthew Davies, Layers of London is now supported by the University of London in its home in the IHR's Centre for the History of People, Place and Community. And it's a bustling, expanding hub for history.

Engagement with the site has continued to grow since Lottery funding ended in 2021, with **1.5 million** page views and **403,000** unique visits in 2024 alone, plus thousands of new user-generated records.

Crucially, Layers of London is more than just an online resource: it's a network for activities, projects and collaborations. Co-creation is at the heart of the project, bringing together archives and institutions across London, community groups, special interest projects, and individuals who are passionate about their place and its history.

Recent collaborations include a map layer with the Everyday Muslim Project, Lambeth Palace Library and the Courtauld Institute's photography library. Layers of London has also worked with the Mayor of London's Commission on Diversity in the Public Realm. It has provided skills development and training for hundreds of people, empowering them to share their own heritage – ensuring it's recorded and preserved for the future.

In 2024, Professor Catherine Clarke, Director of the IHR's Centre for the History of People, Place and Community, undertook commissioned research for the British Academy's 'Social and Cultural Infrastructures' programme, focused on urgent challenges around place and belonging, and using Layers of London as



a case study. The published analysis found that digital infrastructure for community-led place-based heritage 'has important potential for widening participation in place, making diversity visible, and renewing and revitalising the civic'. Layers of London shows this in action.

The IHR team, together with colleagues across the UK, are now exploring possibilities for 'scaling up' Layers of London and building it into a UK-wide resource – so that communities right across the country can share the stories of their own places.

# Celebrating generous donations to SAS

## The Warburg Renaissance

Thanks to its incredible supporters, September 2024 saw years of continued generosity and dedication culminate in the successful reopening of the Warburg Institute's striking, stunning and unique home on Woburn Square.

The Warburg Renaissance project has driven the restoration of the Institute, focusing on recreating and enhancing the original blend of discovery, display, and debate. Through the project, the Institute has also opened its unique resources and academic expertise to a new and much wider audience. Transforming the Institute's academic resources and teaching spaces, the £15million renovation has created new facilities for special collections, exhibitions, and events.

Read more at The Warburg Institute – **Welcome to the Warburg Renaissance**

## Senate House Library acquires rare magician's 'blow book'

Thanks to philanthropic support, Senate House Library has acquired a unique new addition to its Special Collections.

The Friends of the Nations' Libraries and the University's longstanding friend and supporter Mark Storey have helped us secure an extraordinarily rare example of a conjurer's blow book, dating from c.1775. The book, *Ambigué Magique*, which would have been a key item in any contemporary conjurer's box of tricks, has strengthened Senate House Library's world-leading collection related to all aspects of magic, and introduces a brand new item to the Harry Price Library of Magical Literature within the Library's Special Collections.



# PHILA

## Professor Thomas C Fischer legacy gift

The estate of Professor Thomas C Fischer and Mrs Brenda A Fischer honoured the University with a major gift to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS). This incredible donation of over £1.6million will support our unique IALS Library, providing essential, ongoing funding ensuring its bright and healthy future.

A distinguished American legal academic, Professor Fischer's relationship with the University of London began almost 30 years ago. He first spent a year in residence after being awarded an Inns of Court Visiting Fellowship to IALS in 1996. During his time at the Institute, Professor Fischer furthered his groundbreaking research in the area of international law and globalisation.

## Supporting access to education

In March 2023, thanks to generous support from friends and family of the late William St Clair, the University was proud to establish the William St Clair Fellowship in his memory.

William, who was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of English Studies (IES) at the time of his passing, enjoyed a career as a civil servant, scholar, bibliophile, and author. The William St Clair Fellowship supports early career researchers applying to undertake research at IES, the Institute of Classical Studies (ICS) and/or the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies (ILCS).

During 2023–2024, the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust generously supported two students studying on the MA Understanding and Securing Human Rights programme at the School of Advanced Study.

Scholarships like these are vital to students, enabling them to more fully participate in university life and complete their studies without financial anxiety, which can be a significant barrier to success.

For more information about supporting SAS and its Institutes, please visit [sas.ac.uk/about-us/support-sas](https://sas.ac.uk/about-us/support-sas) or contact [philanthropy@london.ac.uk](mailto:philanthropy@london.ac.uk)



# PROPY

# University of London Press: Opening up humanities research

**Between September 2022 and August 2024, the University of London Press has significantly advanced its mission to “open up humanities research,” building on the momentum of its rebranding and transformational work in 2021–2022.**

A major milestone was the 2023 launch of the [Press's new website](#), which now includes a dedicated 'Training Hub' featuring webinars on topics such as open access and journal publishing from the Press's publishing sessions included in SAS's Research Training programme. The team also launched its instance of [Manifold](#), a digital scholarly publishing platform that supports the dissemination of interactive, media-rich monographs. This platform offers benefits for readers and authors, and complements the Press's website by offering open access titles through a “read online” feature. The platform also facilitated an experimental open peer review process for early material from forthcoming title, [Living with Machines](#).

The Press's growing influence was highlighted in [The Bookseller's University Press special issue](#), where Head of Publishing Paula Kennedy discussed open access and the evolving landscape of humanities publishing. In early 2024, the Press hosted a flagship event at Senate House to mark the launch of its new website and branding, fostering dialogue on the future of humanities publishing. This was followed by a major achievement: surpassing [one million downloads](#) of its open access books.

Institutional collaboration has been a cornerstone of the Press's recent activities. It became a founding member of the [Open Institutional Publishing Association \(OIPA\)](#), a new community of practice dedicated to supporting open access publishing within UK universities. Paula Kennedy was elected as Co-Vice Chair, reinforcing the Press's leadership in

the sector, and OIPA developed relationships with leading open access organisations, UKRI and international publishing networks.

The Press also played a prominent role in the [School of Advanced Study's 30th anniversary celebrations](#), including a showcase event attended by HRH The Princess Royal. The high quality of the Press's books was demonstrated through multiple awards. [Freedom Seekers](#) by Simon P. Newman, published in 2022, received the inaugural [ACLS Open Access Book Prize and Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award](#), and was joint winner of the prestigious Frederick Douglass Book Prize. Additionally, [Becoming a Historian](#), published with the [Institute of Historical Research](#), was named a [CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title](#).

The Press expanded its publishing programme, with the launch of the new '[Reimagining Law and Justice series](#)' (in partnership with the [Institute of Advanced Legal Studies](#)), and the relaunch of its '[Critical Human Rights Studies series](#)' (published with the [Human Rights Consortium](#) and the [Institute of Commonwealth Studies](#)). Both series underscore the relevance of humanities research in addressing contemporary societal challenges.

Training and outreach remained central to the Press's mission. Alongside the Press's training sessions, the Press team also contributed to sessions hosted by [external partners](#) such as Jisc, Cara, the M25 Consortium, and the Universities of Sussex and Southampton.

Finally, the Press continued to explore sustainable funding models which offer alternatives to Book Processing Charges (BPCs). It was successful in securing additional financial support directly from libraries through Jisc's [Open Access Community Framework](#), the [Knowledge Unlatched](#) scheme, and its new inclusion in the [Open Book Collective](#), reinforcing its commitment to equitable and sustainable open access publishing models.

# Selection of books produced by University of London Press



## **Law, Humanities and the COVID Crisis**

**Series title:** Reimagining Law and Justice

**Published in association with:** Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

**Edited by:** Carl F. Stychin

**Paperback:** 9781911507307; £29.99

**Hardback:** 9781911507390; £90.00

**Open access:** 9781911507291; £0.00

**Publication date:** January 2023

This book views the COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of the law, history, ethics, technology, economics and gender studies. By focusing on the implications of the virus in a wider interdisciplinary context, and looking at responses to the virus in Europe, South America, Asia and beyond, these essays set out a framework for understanding the COVID-19 virus beyond its epidemiological constraints, asking us to question the very definition of what it means to be human.



## **Anti-Communism in Britain During the Early Cold War**

*A Very British Witch Hunt*

**Series title:**

New Historical Perspectives

**Published in association with:**

Royal Historical Society;

Institute of Historical Research

**Author:** Matthew Gerth

**Paperback:** 9781914477355; £29.99

**Hardback:** 9781914477348; £90.00

**Open access:** 9781914477386; £0.00

**Publication date:** April 2023



## **Before Grenfell**

*Fire, Safety and Deregulation in Twentieth-Century Britain*

**Series title:**

IHR Shorts

**Published in association with:**

Institute of Historical Research

**Author:** Shane Ewen

**Paperback:** 9781914477256; £14.99

**Open access:** 9781914477263; £0.00

**Publication date:** July 2023



## The Optics of Ibn al-Haytham Books IV–V

*On Reflection and Images Seen by Reflection*

**Series title:**

Warburg Institute Studies & Texts

**Published in association with:**

Warburg Institute

**Author:** Abdelhamid I. Sabra

**Prepared for publication by:**

Jan P. Hogendijk

**Hardback:** 9781908590589; £90.00

**Publication date:** July 2023



## Gender, Emotions and Power, 1750–2020

**Series title:**

New Historical Perspectives

**Published in association with:**

Institute of Historical Research;  
Royal Historical Society

**Edited by:**

Hannah Parker and Josh Doble

**Paperback:** 9781915249166; £29.99

**Hardback:** 9781915249159; £90.00

**Open access:** 9781915249197; £0.00

**Publication date:** November 2023



## International Handbook on Clinical Tax Education

**Series title:** Observing Law

**Published in association with:**

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

**Edited by:**

Amy Lawton, with Annette Morgan,  
David Massey and Donovan Castelyn

**Paperback:** 9781911507352; £29.99

**Open access:** 9781911507369; £0.00

**Publication date:** December 2023



## Mapping Post-War Italian Literature

*Boom and Aftermath (1956–1979)*

**Series title:** IMLR books

**Published in association with:**

Institute of Languages, Cultures  
and Societies

**Author:** Giulia Brecciaroli

**Paperback:** 9780854572847; £24.99

**Open access:** 9780854572854; £0.00

**Publication date:** January 2024



## Talking History

*Seminar Culture at the Institute of  
Historical Research, 1921–2021*

**Published in association with:**

Institute of Historical Research

**Edited by:** David Manning

**Paperback:** 9781915249043; £29.99

**Hardback:** 9781914477614; £90.00

**Open access:** 9781915249050; £0.00

**Publication date:** May 2024



## The Victoria History of Middlesex: St George Hanover Square

**Series Title:** VCH Shorts

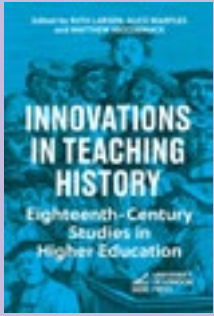
**Published in association with:**

Institute of Historical Research

**Author:** Francis Boorman

**Paperback:** 9781912702848; £15.99

**Publication date:** May 2024



## Innovations in Teaching History

*Eighteenth-Century Studies  
in Higher Education*

**Published in association with:**  
Institute of Historical Research

**Edited by:** Ruth Larsen, Alice Marples  
and Matthew McCormack

**Paperback:** 9781908590602; £18.99

**Hardback:** 9781908590619; £45.00

**Open access:** 9781908590633 £0.00

**Publication date:** June 2024

The study of the eighteenth century has been a growth area in university research and teaching in recent decades. Although widely taught in history departments, the eighteenth century also presents challenges, including new students' unfamiliarity with the period, the theoretical and interdisciplinary nature of the critical writings, and extensive online source material requiring digital skills for its evaluation. Grounded in real academic practice, this is a valuable guide for all history educators, whether specialising in the eighteenth century or beyond.



## Designed for Play: Children's Playgrounds and the Politics of Urban Space, 1840–2010

**Series title:** New Historical Perspectives

**Published in association with:**  
Institute of Historical Research;  
Royal Historical Society

**Author:** Jon Winder

**Paperback:** 9781914477492; £29.99

**Hardback:** 9781914477485; £90.00

**Open access:** 9781914477508; £0.00

**Publication date:** July 2024



## More-Than-Human Histories of Latin America and the Caribbean

*Decentring the Human in  
Environmental History*

**Published in association with:**  
Centre for Latin American  
and Caribbean Studies

**Edited by:**

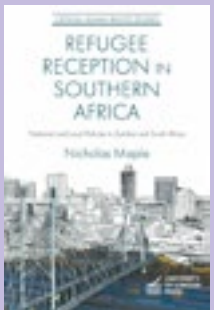
Diogo de Carvalho Cabral, André  
Vasques Vital, Margarita Gascón

**Paperback:** 9781915249517; £29.99

**Hardback:** 9781915249500; £90.00

**Open access:** 9781915249524; £0.00

**Publication date:** July 2024



## Refugee Reception in Southern Africa

*National and Local Policies in Zambia  
and South Africa*

**Series title:** Critical Human Rights Studies

**Published in association with:**  
Institute of Commonwealth Studies;  
Human Rights Consortium

**Author:** Nicholas Maple

**Paperback:** 9781908590756; £29.99

**Hardback:** 9781908590749; £90.00

**Open access:** 9781908590763; £0.00

**Publication date:** July 2024

# SAS in Numbers

## Combined 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

Digital resources	
Number of digital resources and information platforms	125
Visits	57,188,469
Page views	217,358,734
Unique users	21,741,065
Downloads	15,708,518
Events	
Number of events	2,920
Number of speakers and participants	136,669
Across the UK	103,342
Rest of world	35,141
Number of podcast record views and downloads	over 900,000

Publications	
Number of publications since 2018	128 books
Total downloads of UoL Press open access books	over 1 million
Research Training	
Events	305
Number of speakers and participants	47,965
Across the UK	34,592
Rest of world	13,372
RT digital platforms' page views	558,865
Research training – views (YouTube) since 2014–2015	over 145,000
Library	
Registered readers	28,273
Visits	216,204
Acquisitions	16,144

Staff	
Headcount	218
Students (headcount)	
PGT	143
Research	153
Total	296

Fellows and visiting students	
Number of visiting fellows	97
(average stay/months)	8
Number of visiting students	60
(average stay/months)	5
Total number of research	
Fellows and associates	752
Live research projects	30

# Financial Summary

## 2022–2023

Income	£
Academic fee income – SAS	1,463,621
Bursaries and other grants	72,205
Donations	508,264
Finance and endowment income	537,826
Library income	186,697
Other earned income	1,638,792
Research grants	1,923,044
Revenue grants	9,909,152
Subscriptions from colleges	1,107,900
<b>Total income</b>	<b>17,347,501</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Academic and research course costs	84,728
Lecturers, examiners, temp costs	1,005,053
Bursaries and scholarship awards	1,025,705
Events	271,804
External recharges	5,372
Information technology	456,289
Legal and professional fees	367,303
Library expenditure	1,692,510
Marketing costs	104,823
Other admin expenditure	225,572
Premises related costs	53,110
Staff costs	11,597,717
Travel and subsistence	410,074
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>17,300,060</b>

## 2023–2024

Income	£
Academic fee income – sas	2,022,889
Bursaries and other grants	63,843
Donations	279,218
Finance and endowment income	931,702
Library income	177,231
Other earned income	1,117,720
Research grants	2,265,470
Revenue grants	10,100,000
Subscriptions from colleges	1,233,000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>18,191,075</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Academic and research course costs	44,821
Lecturers, examiners, temp costs	1,274,459
Bursaries and scholarship awards	936,095
Events	13,649
External recharges	515,121
Information technology	201,596
Legal and professional fees	326,409
Library expenditure	1,567,047
Marketing costs	96,000
Other admin expenditure	303,677
Premises related costs	67,287
Staff costs	12,209,774
Travel and subsistence	330,917
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>16,856,613</b>

**sas.ac.uk**

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Please contact: [special.arrangements@london.ac.uk](mailto:special.arrangements@london.ac.uk)**

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