




THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



ANNUAL REVIEW | 2013-14

A photograph of a wooden door with a brass handle and a decorative plaque, set against a blurred background of a library or study. The door is made of dark wood and features a large, ornate brass handle with a sunburst design. Above the handle is a rectangular brass plaque with a decorative border. The background shows a blurred interior space with bookshelves and a desk.

Above all, TORCH is about making even better something for which Oxford has always been respected: a non-hierarchical, collaborative and interdisciplinary culture of humanities research.

ABOUT TORCH

Launched in May 2013, TORCH stimulates, supports and promotes research activity of the very highest quality that transcends disciplinary and institutional boundaries and engages with wider audiences.

CONTACT US

TORCH
The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities
Humanities Division, University of Oxford
Radcliffe Humanities
Radcliffe Observatory Quarter
Woodstock Road
Oxford
OX2 6GG
UK

torch@humanities.ox.ac.uk
www.torch.ox.ac.uk



www.facebook.com/TORCHOxford



www.twitter.com/TORCHOxford

CONTENTS

Welcome	4-5
Highlights	6-7
Networks	8-13
Programmes	14-19
Early Career	20-22
Knowledge Exchange	24-27
Annual Headline Series	28-29
Humanitas	30-31
Financial Summary	33

WELCOME

Professor Andrew Hamilton Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

One year ago I had the great pleasure of hosting the launch of TORCH, as a centre to stimulate and promote interdisciplinary research within the humanities. In a very short space of time, TORCH has become an integral part of the University, with a growing reputation in interdisciplinary research and with an international reach.

In January I hosted a TORCH event that brought together leading figures from the sciences, the arts and in policy development, to consider the role of the humanities in addressing contemporary challenges. It was attended by university students and staff, the wider public, and by school students, and was an overwhelming success.

That meeting revealed the immense appetite for interdisciplinary research in Oxford. It is an appetite that is evident also in the wealth of cross-disciplinary research activity that has found a home at TORCH during its first year. This Annual Review gives an introduction and overview of some of this research and of TORCH's many achievements. I believe that building on this extraordinary foundation, TORCH will become even more exciting and successful in the years ahead.

Professor Shearer West, Head of the Humanities Division, University of Oxford

Although only a year old, TORCH has already become a hub of intellectual energy, innovative ideas and collaborative working for Oxford humanities researchers and their colleagues both within and outside the academy. During this past year, TORCH has hosted 374 events involving 7,500 people, has supported 300 affiliated researchers, 24 Early Career Fellows, 21 networks and 8 programmes, and has raised so far £520K in grants and philanthropy to develop its exciting projects. However, mere numbers (impressive though they are) do not tell the whole story of how TORCH has provided an incubation space for original collaborative projects that cross disciplinary boundaries and have a reach well beyond the academy.

TORCH inspires experimentation, conversation, new forms of collaborative engagement and lateral thinking. One of the most invigorating aspects of the culture of TORCH is the way it has drawn together researchers at all career stages and is becoming a locus for the ideas of new generations of academics. With humanities at the heart of all its activities, TORCH gives us the possibility of a new kind of research centre for the 21st century.



*Professor Andrew Hamilton,
Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford*



*Professor Shearer West, Head of the
Humanities Division, University of Oxford*

Professor Martin Conway, Associate Head of Research, Humanities Division, University of Oxford

The academic world has seen many grand new ventures launched in recent years; some have proved to be successful, while others less so. TORCH, however, is different. It is not about the pomp and ceremony of global conferences, or trying to claim ownership of some new frontier of scholarship. It is instead about making much easier and much more visible what Oxford humanities scholars have done for a very long time: working together on exciting themes and projects, often across interdisciplinary borders.

The underlying rationale of TORCH is therefore academic-led interdisciplinary research, bringing together scholars from the constituent faculties of the Humanities Division, but also enabling collaborations with other divisions, and with those outside of the university and elsewhere in the academic world. Already in its initial period, TORCH has proven its value, by hosting important speakers and enabling the organisation of stimulating conferences and workshops, but above all by providing a forum where doctoral students and early career scholars as well as more senior generations of scholars have been able to launch informal collaborations and programmes. It is, thus, above all, about making even better something for which Oxford has always been respected: a non-hierarchical, collaborative and interdisciplinary culture of humanities research.



Professor Martin Conway, Associate Head of Research, Humanities Division, University of Oxford

Professor Stephen Tuck, TORCH Director

TORCH's aims are very modest: to provide a place for humanities researchers to work across disciplines, and generations, and with non-academic partners. But the results have been remarkable, a dizzying range of high quality research projects. Many of the projects have brought performance and research together. Many involved scientists in leadership. And many have developed partnerships with public and private organisations. Perhaps most striking, looking back on the first year, is how many of the research projects have addressed contemporary challenges: individual well-being, the public good, the environment, gender and racial equality, war crimes, to name but a few. At a moment when there seems to be an interminable debate about the relevance (and status and funding) of the humanities, the research conducted at TORCH during its first year provides a very clear answer.

Compiling this report has been a challenge as well as a pleasure -- how to capture the quality, diversity and perhaps above all, the energy of the research during this past year? To that end, we've included snapshots of some of the highlight events, as well as reports from new research networks and larger research programmes, and from the Knowledge Exchange and Early Career teams.

TORCH promotes collaboration -- it is also the product of widespread collaboration. There is not space to thank all of those who have helped TORCH develop from an idea and an acronym into a research centre, by providing advice, oversight, and funding.

Suffice to say that TORCH is entirely dependent on the leadership and ideas of Oxford's humanities researchers, and so we offer this report with a heartfelt thank you to all those involved in TORCH during its first year.



Professor Stephen Tuck, TORCH Director

MOMENTS



Mind the Environmental Gap

An Environmental Humanities conference organised in collaboration with the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment.

"What a remarkable idea to bring people from all the Humanities together with scientists and policy makers to think and talk about environmental issues. The best part, for me, was hearing the thoughtful questions from people of so many disciplines and life experiences – to wrestle with the serious issues of how humanity can live sustainably with our fellow creatures and the planet that supports all life, and to celebrate the wonder and beauty of nature was truly a gift."

T. A. BARRON, AUTHOR AND CONSERVATIONIST SEE PG. 15 FOR MORE INFORMATION

OCTOBER 2013

Callaloo Conference: The Transatlantic, Africa & its Diaspora

We hosted the leading African diaspora scholarly organisation for their annual conference, which was held in Europe for the first time.

"To speak from Oxford University, the world's capstone of learning, of the vital importance of the African Diaspora to the new discourse on the Trans-Atlantic is to command the world to listen, as it has done for over five centuries, particularly because Oxford, however directly or indirectly, engaged the world in the conception and formation and codification of the African Diaspora and its tragic consequences."

DR CHARLES ROWELL, EDITOR, CALLALOO

SEE PG. 12 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ngũgĩwa Thiong'o



NOVEMBER 2013



In Everyone's Interests:

What it Means to Invest in the Humanities

The opening event of our headline series *Humanities and the Public Good* brought together figures from the arts, sciences, policy and media to consider the role of the humanities in addressing contemporary challenges.

"One thing Oxford has always excelled at is finding bridges between disciplines. *Humanities and the Public Good* was an exemplary example of this cross-disciplinary approach to research. It was exciting to kick off the series and as a mathematician to share the stage with a biographer, social historian, arts correspondent and educationalist telling our stories and finding connections."

MARCUS DU SAUTOY, CHARLES SIMONYI PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
SEE PG. 28 FOR MORE INFORMATION

JANUARY 2014

Activist Humanities in the World

The culmination of the *Humanities and the Public Good* series, which brought together 30 leading scholars, activists and practitioners from every continent to discuss the active role of the humanities in a comparative and connected global context.

"For us, who came with a particular history and a current climate of neglect of the humanities in universities in India, the conference was an excellent learning and sharing experience. As a first meeting it exceeded all promise, allowing for a wide representation of the histories, politics and practices of humanities studies in so many parts of the globe – a vital and necessary session of ice-breaking and exchange of knowledges."

PROFESSOR BRINDA BOSE AND PROFESSOR PRASANTA CHAKRAVARTY
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, INDIA SEE PG. 28 FOR MORE INFORMATION



MARCH 2014



UNIQ Summer School

UNIQ is a programme of free residential summer schools for Year 12 students currently studying at UK state schools. We were delighted to host the History courses in "Gender and Identity" and "Race and Protest" and a new interdisciplinary conference on the First World War.

"The highlight of the experience for me was the talk from the activist Eric Huntley. I had never come across the idea of a 'British civil rights movement' before, so to hear about it first-hand from Mr Huntley was incredible. He was remarkably perceptive about the state of race in the late twentieth century, and for him to give such a positive light on Britain despite the hardship he experienced was extremely humbling."

RACHAEL BEATY, STUDENT, QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNE 2014

Some of our highlights from 2013-14

Book at Lunchtime discussion of *Band of Angels* by Professor Kate Cooper

We hosted a fortnightly series of bite size discussions exploring new books by humanities scholars at Oxford. Each discussion starts with comments from three scholars in different fields to provide a range of perspectives. The series will continue in 2014-15.

"We now know that as a species we are driven not just to have great ideas but to communicate them. TORCH offers a brilliantly stimulating forum to do just that; our cross-discipline discussion on the role of women in the early church was enjoyable and enlightening - a panel session I did not want to end."

DR BETTANY HUGHES, PUBLIC HISTORIAN

NOVEMBER 2013

Dr Rowan Williams

Humanitas Visiting Professor in Interfaith Studies

Dr Williams participated in a series of events exploring "Faith and Power", which attracted audiences of over 900 people.

"I was privileged to be able to take part in the Humanitas programme as a Visiting Professor, and was very pleased with the breadth and diversity of the audiences and the quality of questions and discussions. The seminar with graduates was particularly helpful to me. The level of organisation and welcome was impressive, and I was happy to have had this opportunity."

DR ROWAN WILLIAMS, FORMER ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY SEE PG. 30 FOR MORE INFORMATION

JANUARY 2014

Behind the Veil: Humour and Mental Health

Dr Earl Lewis, the acclaimed historian of global civil rights, reflected on the ways African Americans have mobilised humour as a survival and empowerment tool with respondents including renowned author Ben Okri and historian/comedian Dr Anne-Marie Angelo

"I learned a great deal, as an empirical social psychologist, from the opportunity to respond to Earl Lewis' rich, interpretive analysis of fictional characters and imagined lives of anonymous black Americans during the Jim Crow era. Historical and psychological approaches complement each other in understanding how humour can be a way to deal with an inhumane world."

PROFESSOR MILES HEWSTONE, DIRECTOR, OXFORD CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERGROUP CONFLICT

JANUARY 2014

Race and Resistance Seminar

A roundtable discussion of the OUSU (Oxford University Student Union) Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality, and the "I, too, am Oxford" campaign.

"TORCH debates offer students and staff a safe space to discuss issues that they are passionate about and are willing to highlight the changes needed within the institution of Oxford. While I was at Oxford as the Race Advisor I was pleased to be able to share a platform with the 'I, too, am Oxford' campaigners who were brave and eloquent in their demand for change within the Oxford quads - not gradual change, which can often get lost, but change that is meaningful and sustainable."

SHAKINA CHINEDU, FORMER EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ADVISOR, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD SEE PG. 12 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ahdaf Soueif

MAY 2014

Museums in the Digital Age

A lecture by Dr Martin Roth, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, exploring how museums can develop in the digital age and use digital tools and resources to democratise access to collections. Part of the Digital Humanities Summer School.

"TORCH provided the ideal forum for blue-sky thinking on the power of digital technology to reinvent the way museums preserve, study and display material culture. Giving the annual digital humanities lecture on this topical issue was both an honour and an opportunity to move the debate forward."

DR MARTIN ROTH, DIRECTOR OF THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

JULY 2014

NETWORKS

We currently support 21 research networks, which reach across disciplines to build communities of scholars from a range of career stages to work together on innovative projects. For information about all of our networks please visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk/networks.

Affections and Ethics

Ancient Dance in Modern Dancers

Celebrity Research

Culture and Experience in the Age of the German Reformation

Early Modern Catholicism

Embodiment and Materiality

Enlightenment Correspondences

HiCor: a Cross-Disciplinary Network for History and Corpus Linguistics

The Ibsen Phenomenon

inHabit: Text, Object and Domestic Space

Orientophilia: Indic philosophy in post-Romantic thought

Oxford Phenomenology Network

Medieval and Early Modern Mysticism

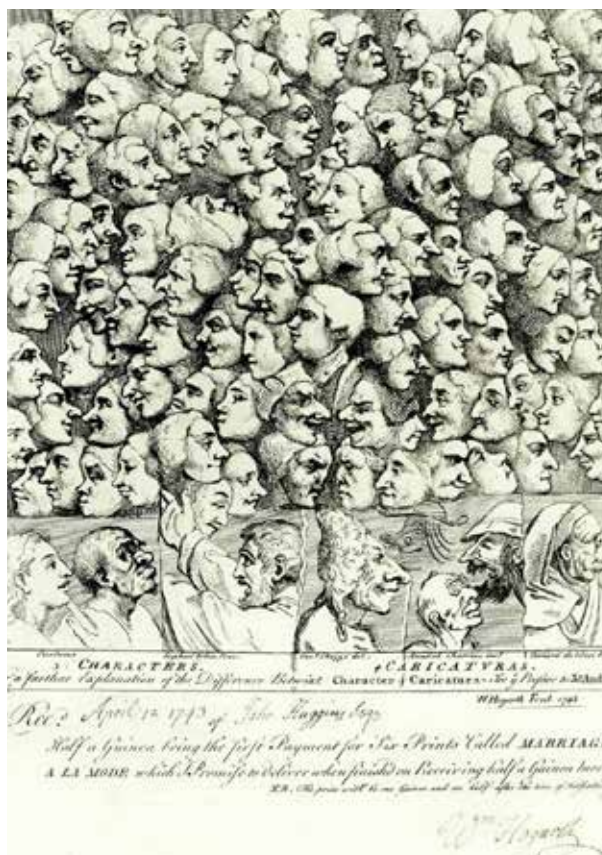
Oxford Medieval Studies

Race and Resistance Across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century

Rags to Riches: Experiences of Social Mobility since 1800

Romanticism and Eighteenth-Century Studies Oxford

War Crimes Trials and Investigations



Affections and Ethics

torch.ox.ac.uk/affectionsethics

Colleagues from theology, philosophy, public policy, literature and political theory - to name but some of the disciplines - have been collaborating over the course of the last year to explore the significance of affections and emotions in ethics. We have benefited from a strong line-up of papers covering the work of figures as diverse as Kafka, Hume and Melancthon, many of which are moving towards publication. But what has been particularly valuable has been the surprising convergence on topics of interest from amidst the diversity. These have been several, but two of the most prominent have been political theory and conscience. Various seminars have focused on political themes - including papers on penal theory, religious affections and liberalism, loyalty in Islamic and Christian political thought and the affective infrastructure of democracy. Moreover, we were particularly thankful for the success of the conference on 'Conscience and Moral Consciousness' in June 2014. With paper-givers from Europe and the USA, as well as many strong papers from UK-based scholars, it was a fitting climax to the year's work.

Dr Joshua Hordern



Celebrity Research

torch.ox.ac.uk/celebrity

A growing number of commentators have argued that 'celebrity' is one of the defining characteristics of western modernity. Yet definitions of fame and celebrity remain elusive and often vague. The principal aim of this initiative is to deepen and enrich thinking about the concept by drawing together a range of new perspectives spanning different periods.

This year questions about the place of individual celebrity within knowledge exchange programmes have been a particular focus, especially during a very well-received seminar run in partnership with the Bodleian Library on material culture, literature, and fame past and present. A second popular seminar, with the arresting title "Celebrity Beasts", included participants working in public museums as well as academics from a range of fields from Oxford and beyond. Central to the work of the network this year have been two day-long workshops, bringing together interested graduate students and scholars for extended discussion across disciplines and fields. These have been very successful in drawing attention to common ground between research communities, but also in prompting researchers to interrogate and refine the concepts and vocabulary we use to talk about fame and celebrity.

Dr Ruth Scobie



Early Modern Catholicism

torch.ox.ac.uk/emc

The network brings together researchers from across the humanities to explore questions of belief and belonging, conflict and coexistence, and state and society in the early modern Catholic world. Throughout, a particular focus has been on defining the limits of the early modern Catholic world, as we have considered Catholicism in continental Europe alongside Catholic missions to North America and Southeast Asia as well as Britain. A lively, well-attended workshop on Early Modern Catholic Life-Writing brought these themes together, involving historians, theologians, and literary scholars in a series of discussions about how Catholics made sense of their lives. Speakers crossed Europe and the Atlantic world, looking back to the late middle ages and forward into the eighteenth century. Having secured generous external funding, the network has ambitious plans to expand its activities in 2014-15.

Dr Nicholas Davidson

NETWORKS *CONTINUED*

Embodiment and Materiality

torch.ox.ac.uk/embodimentmateriality

The network has explored subjects as diverse as the tactility of knowledge within instrument making; the relationship between gesture and emotion from the perspective of human evolution; psycho-cultural aspects of peak experience, or 'flow states', in contemporary life; material engagement theory; embodied interactions in the study of ancient textual artefacts; and perspectives on the mind-body relationship in modern dance. Our wide-ranging discussions have been particularly valuable in understanding various disciplinary positions and methodologies, challenging underlying assumptions, and identifying new directions for future research.

Professor Eric Clarke and Emily Payne

The Ibsen Phenomenon

torch.ox.ac.uk/ibsen

The Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen is acclaimed, performed, read, and studied the world over as "the father of modern drama". His impact on literature and theatre from the 1890s onwards has been profound and unquestioned. Plays such as *A Doll's House* and *Ghosts* form part of university modern drama courses everywhere, and new productions of his plays appear regularly all over the world.

But the institutional structure here at Oxford means that Ibsen (and modern Scandinavian literature generally) falls between the cracks: he figures only tangentially in lectures in Modern Languages, and neither Norwegian nor Danish is taught here. He is only a faint presence in the English Faculty, where the undergraduate degree is in "literatures originally written in English" and where modern drama is optional. The establishment of the Ibsen Network in 2013 finally gave Ibsen a home at Oxford, providing a base for scholars and students in several faculties within the Humanities Division interested in Ibsen and/or Scandinavian literature and the arts, and forging links with our Norwegian network partners at the Centre for Ibsen Studies in Oslo and at the University of the Arctic in Tromsø.

The network began with a one-day workshop on "The Ibsen Phenomenon" exploring Ibsen's impact in light



of new research that is radically challenging long-held assumptions about the literary, theatrical, and economic contexts out of which Ibsen arose, enabling us to rethink the relationships between periphery and centre, between Ibsen's native Norway and the many "elsewheres" in which his works have been received. Guest speakers included Professor Tore Rem (University of Oslo and editor of the forthcoming Penguin Ibsen translations), Professor Frode Helland (Head of the Centre for Ibsen Studies at Univ of Oslo), Professor Narve Fulsås (Univ of Tromsø and author of Henrik Ibsens Skrifter, the online database of Ibsen's writings), and Simon Stephens, award-winning playwright whose adaptation of *A Doll's House* recently ran to critical acclaim in London. Since that initial workshop the network has held regular meetings every term, including sessions on *Peer Gynt* and "Not Just Ibsen: Scandinavian Literature and the Modern" with guest speakers from disciplines including Music, Dance, English and Modern Languages.

The network has many plans for the coming year. They include exploring Ibsen and acting with Julie Holledge and Frode Helland, looking at Ibsen's dialogue in light of cognitive studies, and comparing Brecht and Ibsen, two playwrights not normally considered side by side (and both the subject of brand new translations to be published in 2015). We are also planning to involve the network in two major conferences, one on Scandinavian music (organised by Professor Dan Grimley) and the Ibsen conference in Oxford in 2018 (organised by Dr Kirsten Shepherd-Barr and Dr Sos Eltis). Meanwhile, the Ibsen network continues to provide an invaluable and stimulating intellectual space that would not otherwise exist without the support of TORCH.

Dr Kirsten Shepherd-Barr



Orientophilia

torch.ox.ac.uk/orientophilia

The network investigates the ways in which Western philosophical canons may have been significantly influenced by Indian or 'Oriental' schools of thought. It asks whether, and the extent to which, Indic thought has been a source of inspiration (sometimes explicitly, often unacknowledged) in the work of post-Enlightenment French and German philosophers and theologians. By tracing a consistent fascination with Indic philology and philosophy in European intellectual history, Orientophilia has begun to work towards a global genealogy of ideas not limited to the Continent. Early work in this area has started to shed light on the social histories of European nationalism, the theoretical antecedents of French structuralism, and the disciplinary trajectories of comparative studies of religion, the self, and the mind.

In its first year, Orientophilia has built a steadily growing number of students and scholars interested in the network, through its study days and seminars, and has collaborated with the Centre for Modern European Thought and the British Centre for Durkheimian Studies. Next year, the Orientophilia network will continue its work with a seminar looking at the literary representations of the Orient in 19th century Europe.

Dr Sondra L. Hausner and Professor Johannes Zachhuber

Oxford Medieval Studies

torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies

The network was established to foster greater interaction across the tremendous range of research into medieval culture, from late antiquity to the early modern period, at the University of Oxford. Oxford already rejoices in a great wealth of medieval subject seminars; through TORCH, seminar convenors agreed to establish a new pattern of joining together in seventh week of each term for an integrated interdisciplinary event, which enjoyed great success in 2013-14 and has an exciting programme lined up for 2014-15. The network also helped to support new and existing cross-disciplinary reading groups on gender, the Bestiaire d'amour, the Roman de la Rose and Anglo-Norman texts. To further develop our work, we are engaging early career researchers, and we were delighted to be successful in gaining association with a new post-doctoral fellowship jointly funded by the John Fell Fund and the Hulme Fund (through Brasenose College), who will work alongside the existing TORCH-hosted Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Medieval Studies. We look forward in 2015 to organising activities around the 800th anniversary of the Fourth Lateran Council. We welcome approaches from medievalists across all faculties and research units interested in organising new projects or events through the network.

Dr Helen Swift

NETWORKS *CONTINUED*

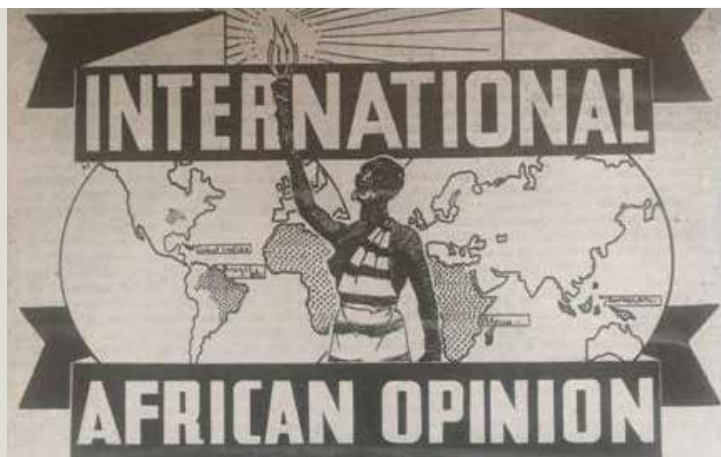
Race and Resistance Across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century

torch.ox.ac.uk/raceresist

Founded in February 2013, in the first round of TORCH networks, we are delighted that the network has quickly become a key forum in Oxford to explore ideas about race, and resistance to racist structures, during the twentieth century. It is a forum that brings together researchers in the history, literature, and culture of anti-racist and anti-imperialist movements in the Caribbean, United States, Europe, Africa and beyond. In an institution like Oxford in which race studies have not, until recently, been carried out in an interdisciplinary way, the network has successfully made important links between groups and departments within and beyond the humanities, with scholars beyond Oxford, and with activists outside the academy, in a way that raises new questions about this vitally important subject.

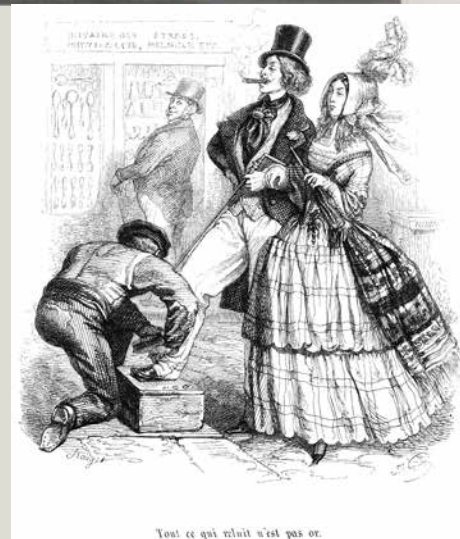
Over the last year, the network has organised varied, lively, and well-attended weekly seminars. The seminars usually consist of short research presentations from staff and students, foundational disciplinary readings, film screenings and book launches. Scholars from outside Oxford have been invited to present their research and we have had the pleasure of hearing work-in-progress talks from Dr Leslie James (University of Cambridge), Assistant Professor Minkah Makalani (University of Texas at Austin), Dr Hakim Adi (University of Chichester), and Professor Stephen Clingman (University of Massachusetts).

Additionally, the network has collaborated with a number of other groups to organise larger events. The highlight was the annual four-day Callaloo conference -- the premier association of African diaspora scholarship, based in the U.S. -- which was held in Europe for the first time. The theme was the transatlantic relationship and the African diaspora. The conference, held in November 2014, brought a remarkable group of award-winning literary and academic figures to Oxford, including Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o who delivered the keynote address, U.S poet laureate Natasha Tretheway, and the Nigerian-British writer Ben Okri, to name just a few. In conjunction with the main conference, the network held



a Postgraduate/Early Career Workshop, attracting scholars from the UK, US and Africa, which we hope will be repeated annually.

In January 2014, the network was honoured to welcome Dr Earl Lewis, President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to discuss his research on race, humour, and mental health. At the seminar, a panel chaired by Professor Elleke Boehmer, and comprising Ben Okri, on a return visit, Professor Miles Hewstone (psychologist, University of Oxford), and Dr Anne-Marie Angelo (comedian and historian at University of Sussex) acted as respondents to Lewis' paper, which challenged current assumptions about the history of mental health.



Other events the network held this year included a tribute to the pioneer of cultural studies, Professor Stuart Hall, who passed away in February 2014. During this session, members reflected on the impact that his research has on their own work. The network also hosted a range of fascinating events including a session with Oxford University Student Union's Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE) and the 'I, too, am Oxford' campaign, which recently hit mainstream media.



Katyn, 1943: Nazi investigators demonstrate their evidence to international observers

Looking ahead, we are delighted that Callaloo's influential journal has commissioned a special issue on Europe and the African diaspora, and that publisher Peter Lang has offered to create a monograph series on race and resistance across borders in the long twentieth century -- in both cases, network leaders will be the editors. The network will also be applying to external foundations for grants to pursue major collaborative research projects and provide postdoctoral opportunities. In the meantime, we look forward to an exciting range of events this coming year, from the use of the classics to hip hop! Highlights include major conferences on planned violence and reflecting on Malcolm X's visit to Oxford 50 years ago.

Imaobong Umoren and Professor Elleke Boehmer

Rags to Riches: Experiences of Social Mobility since 1800

torch.ox.ac.uk/socialstatus

The network explores qualitative analyses of social mobility, both upward and downward. We have gathered together scholars interested in social mobility from history, sociology, anthropology and educational studies and have spent the year working together to extend our collective and individual understanding of the different theories and methods these disciplines have applied to the study of social mobility. This has helped us identify some significant gaps in the literature, as well as some substantial differences in the way our respective disciplines approach the subject, sometimes generating a productive tension within our discussions. We will continue to reflect

on these gaps and disparities over the coming year with the intention of building up to a collaborative workshop bringing in specialists from outside Oxford. Ultimately, we hope to produce an edited collection of essays reflecting on these discussions which we hope will be of interest across the disciplines and beyond academia.

Dr Christina de Bellaigue

Trials and Investigations: An Integrated Approach to the Study of War Crimes Prosecutions

torch.ox.ac.uk/warcrimes

We both work in different ways on war crimes trials and investigations, and in the process of discussing our respective projects we realised that we were constantly confronted with issues requiring expertise outside of our disciplinary comfort zones.

We therefore set out to create a space in which it was possible to discuss this constructively without fear of embarrassment or within the context of conferences organised for more general and diffuse subjects. We applied to TORCH, which is the ideal environment for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue; we secured additional funding from the John Fell Fund (Oxford University Press). The generous funding we received enabled us to organise two workshops with participants from the UK, Europe, the USA and South America. We decided to have two workshops so that in the first we could identify points of convergence and misunderstanding; how terminology differs between fields; and to challenge the implicit assumptions made by each discipline. After a period of reflection, the second workshop will provide the forum in which to develop this work into new, integrated approaches, culminating in a coherent edited volume.

This volume aims to fill the gap which we faced at the start of our own work by providing detail on particular disciplines' approaches, shortcomings, and how greater interdisciplinary awareness and interaction can develop and strengthen each field. It will therefore offer an invaluable point of orientation for scholars of all disciplines approaching the complex subject of war crimes trials and investigations.

Dr Jacques Schuhmacher and Dr Jonathan Waterlow

PROGRAMMES

Our eight research programmes bring together existing major research groups and individuals working in the same field to collaborate and incubate new ideas.

Comparative Criticism and Translation

Dance Scholarship Oxford

Digital Humanities

Enlightenment

Environmental Humanities

Humanities and the Public Good

Medicine, Science and Humanities

Visual Research

Women and the Humanities



Women and Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/womenandhumanities

The Humanities Division at Oxford is home to over one hundred colleagues working on some aspect of women and gender studies – the largest such group globally. There is also a thriving, well established, internationally recognised, interdisciplinary Master of Studies programme, which is delivered by teachers from Classics, English, History, Modern Languages and Philosophy. The Women and Humanities programme brings this exciting work together, provides opportunities for new, co-ordinated research projects, and begins to build a proper research identity on top of the teaching programme.

During its first year, the programme held a number of workshops, seminars and conferences. At a one-day conference 'Coming Off Clean' cultural practitioners and academics reflected on female sexual autobiography in contemporary art and literature. The 'Gender, Literature and Culture' seminar series returned to the question 'What is Women's Writing?' in the context of third wave feminism and especially recent thinking in queer studies, transgender theory, feminist race studies and development studies. The series culminated in a major international conference on 'Women Writing Across Cultures: past, present and future'. Papers from the seminars and conferences will be published as an edited collection by Routledge.

Alongside more traditionally academic activities, the programme hosts workshops and seminars featuring writers and performers, which often explore contemporary issues faced by women around the world. The event 'Syria Trojan Women' invited filmmaker Itab Azzam and producer Georgina Paget to discuss their extraordinary project bringing together ancient drama and the real lives of women fleeing the atrocities in Syria (www.syriatrojanwomen.org). A symposium on female genital mutilation in Senegal and Liberia



*'Durable Plastic, Fragile Life',
Victoria Ferris (winner of the
Art Category in the Mind
the Environmental Gap Prize
for Creative Work on the
Environment)*

explored the findings of the charity 28 Too Many and the Oxford University Lawyers Without Borders society, considering maternal health, NGO approaches, and law, policy and enforcement.

The programme also aims to confront the continuing problem of the 'gender gap' in professional academia and research. The well-attended event 'Gender Equality Now!' began with proposals from four leading humanities academics who want to make universities a fairer place for all, followed by workshop sessions to design a manifesto for gender equality in the academy. It is unusual, as a humanities academic, to find yourself up-close with the issues of the day, but the Women and Humanities programme is unusually well positioned to do that: to mediate between humanities scholarship, with all of its vigour, sophistication and intellectual sweep, and the realities that many people live with on a day-to-day basis. Being involved with the programme is a wonderful experience: rich, rewarding and (in the best sense) challenging.

Professor Tim Whitmarsh and Dr Selina Todd

Environmental Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/envirohum

Global environmental questions are increasingly at the heart of academic and political debate. Analysing and addressing environmental issues requires an understanding of the reciprocal relationship between nature and culture, and between sciences, social sciences, and humanities. This is important not only in order to insert environmental issues more centrally into the humanities, but also for scientists to be cognisant of the way in which human cultures shape environmental

impacts, debates and regulation of all kinds. Research in the Environmental Humanities at Oxford is undertaken by a wide range of individual scholars, research groups, and large-scale projects. The Environmental Humanities programme aims to provide a platform for these individuals and groups to work together, while also nurturing new initiatives.

The programme was launched with an interdisciplinary conference in October 2013 entitled Mind the Environmental Gap, jointly organised with the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford. Led by Julie Hudson from the Smith School, the event stimulated considerable interest and discussion. The opening keynote was given by Professor Jonathan Bate, whose pioneering work in the environmental humanities has been widely influential. Other speakers included the novelist and environmental campaigner T. A. Barron and the writer and ecocritic Richard Kerridge. An equally striking feature of the conference was the presence of the creative arts, stimulated by a competition for the best piece of creative work addressing issues of environmental concern and which attracted prize-winning entries from literature, music (including composition), and the visual arts (see above for winner).

As an adjunct to the conference Professor William Beinart organised a day workshop on the 'History of Relationships between Humans and Animals'. Eight presentations were given and covered Africa, North America, and Europe. The workshop was a follow up to a conference on 'Wild Things: Nature and the Social Imagination', which also resulted in a publication edited by William Beinart, Karen Middleton and Simon Pooley.

PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

Postgraduate students have played a key role in developing the programme's activities this year. DPhil students Lewis Daly, Theresa Miller, Luiseach Nic Eoin and Katherine French won the competitive TORCH Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference Competition and organised a two-day conference on Botanical Ontologies, which explored the construction, transmission and use of ethnobotanical knowledge. Music graduate student Cayenna Ponchione also won funding from Cornell University, Merton College and TORCH to organise a graduate conference exchange project on Art, Science and the Thirsty World. The conference brought together a diverse range of scientists, environmental campaigners, musicians and creative practitioners to discuss current global water supply concerns as well as their historical legacies. Led by Professor Gail Holst-Warhaft from Cornell University, the meeting was remarkable for its range of disciplinary coverage and its combination of historical depth and urgency in the face of contemporary challenges. The second meeting will take place at Cornell University.

Professor Daniel Grimley and Professor William Beinart

Dance Scholarship Oxford (DANSOX)

torch.ox.ac.uk/dansox

The programme provides a major forum for dance scholarship, promoting dialogue between prominent academic disciplines and the worlds of dance theory and practice and fostering links within the UK, Europe and the US. It was established following a highly successful centenary celebration of *The Rite of Spring* (2013) at St Hilda's College, which drew a capacity audience committed to promoting dialogue between prominent academic disciplines including music and history and the worlds of dance theory and practice. The programme gives access to international enquiries into all forms of dance and disseminates ideas through workshops, functions, and the website presence. DANSOX explores the ways in which the role of choreographic practice reveals its essential contribution to innovations across academic fields, theatre and performance.

The inaugural DANSOX event 'Twentieth-Century Collaborations' (February 2014) focused on the

relationship between James Joyce, Merce Cunningham, and John Cage. In May, the renowned British choreographer, Siobhan Davies, brought her work to the Jacqueline Du Pré Theatre at St Hilda's to initiate an ongoing series of 'Choreographers Talks'. Davies consistently works closely with collaborating dance and visual artists to ensure that their own artistic enquiry is part of the creative process. In Oxford she spoke about and illustrated her core philosophy in her work, *Manual*. Davies introduced her practice in conversation with colleagues, Eckhard Thiemann, international arts producer, and the dancer, Helka Kaski, and her practical work was experienced as an art gallery installation. The interactive event invited audience participation in the instruction and communication of basic physical activities, and the process created a stimulating dialogue between dancer and audience members.

Further events supported by DANSOX included workshops in the 'Ancient Dance in Modern Dancers' TORCH network, and a seminar led by former Royal Ballet Director, and Patron of DANSOX, Dame Monica Mason, on the relevance of ballet as an enduring art form in the twenty-first century, including discussion of the groundbreaking 'Metamorphosis: Titian 2012' at the Royal Opera House, a collaboration between the National Gallery and choreographers, poets, designers, artists, and composers.

Events scheduled for the academic year 2014-15 include Marnie Thomas talking about the work of Martha Graham (in collaboration with Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama); Jane Pritchard, dance archivist of the Victoria and Albert Museum on 'Archiving Dance'; Professor Lynn Garafola (Barnard, Columbia University) on Bronislava Nijinska; Professor Mark Franko (Temple University) on Serge Lifar.



Dancer Helka Kaski



Looking to the future: preliminary discussions for a conference exploring the meanings and representations of 'grace' in all its cultural forms took place between dance and literary scholars and academics including Dr Jennifer Homans (NYU), Dr Alex Goody (Oxford Brookes) and Dr Ita Mac Carthy (Birmingham). Discussions with the Royal Ballet for collaborations on dance and narrative are ongoing (with choreographers Christopher Wheeldon, Wayne McGregor, and Kim Brandstrup). We also plan further joint projects with the 'Ancient Dance in Modern Dancers' network, and a newly formed group on the processes of exploring 'Embodied Knowledge' through round-table discussion and movement practice. Siobhan Davies is keen to return for a discussion of movements between mind and body with neuro-scientist Professor Jonathan Cole. I am in conversation with Dr Homans to establish a formal link between dance activities of TORCH and New York University.

Dr Susan Jones

Core group: Professor Fiona Macintosh (Classics), Dr Helen Slaney (Classics), Dana Mills (Politics).

Enlightenment

torch.ox.ac.uk/enlightenment

The programme grows out of the Besterman Centre for the Enlightenment, a research group which brings together scholars at Oxford working in eighteenth-century history, literature, philosophy, theology, classics, music and art history. The Besterman Centre is closely linked with the long-established Voltaire Foundation and hence with two publishing programmes: the *Œuvres complètes de Voltaire*, edited by Professor Nicholas Cronk, of which the print version will be completed by 2018; and the monograph series *Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment*, founded in 1955. It

arranges a series of workshops on eighteenth-century topics, and an annual lecture which was given by Professor Céline Spector (Bordeaux) in 2013 and in 2014 by Dr Joachim Whaley (Cambridge).

The Enlightenment programme promotes conferences and colloquia that bring together academics from a variety of disciplines: most recently the conference 'Isaiah Berlin's Enlightenment' (Wolfson College, Oxford, March 2014), which attracted a large and partially non-academic audience, and which will form the basis for a book currently in preparation. Future plans include a conference on Science in the Enlightenment, and, further ahead, a large international conference to mark the completion of the print edition of the Complete Works of Voltaire. The programme is linked with Enlightenment-based research undertakings such as the "Electronic Enlightenment", based in the Bodleian Library, which aims to digitise eighteenth-century letter collections, and the Rameau Project on the operas of Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764) directed by Professor Graham Sadler with Dr Jonathan Williams and Professor Alain Viala. Its long-term mission is to promote academic study and public understanding of the Enlightenment as a Europe-wide (and American) phenomenon with vital importance for present-day society.

Professor Nicholas Cronk and Professor Ritchie Robertson

Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT)

torch.ox.ac.uk/comparativecriticism

Literature has always circulated and germinated between languages, cultures and media: now, in our multi-lingual and multi-media world, it is doing so more than ever before. Through seminars, workshops, a graduate-led discussion group, and an annual conference, OCCT explores the challenges to understanding and the new possibilities for scholarly practice and teaching that arise. Key events this year have included a session with Oxford experts in film, literature, fine art and music, debating the role of criticism; a discussion with the Franco-Algerian writer Salim Bachi; and an investigation into how literature and cognitive science envision non-human minds, led by Professor David Hermans (Durham).

PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

OCCT believes that scholarly and creative work are intimately related, so that research must reach out beyond the university. Highlights in this vein have been the Make an Aria project, in collaboration with the Music Faculty and Music Theatre Wales, and Oxford Translation Day, in collaboration with the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize. OCCT has built a new website which includes podcasts and a graduate review journal; we have constructed a Masters module in comparative criticism; we are launching a book series, Transcript; we have secured match funding from St Anne's College; and we are collaborating with the Sorbonne (Paris III) and the National University of Singapore. Our last conference, 'Comparative Criticism: Histories and Methods', has become a special issue of the journal *Comparative Critical Studies*. Our next conference, 'Minding Borders' explores how new conceptualisations of borders in geography can change how we think about borders between languages, media, art forms and academic disciplines.

Professor Matthew Reynolds

Digital Humanities

digital.humanities.ox.ac.uk

Digital Humanities projects and expertise are widespread in the departments, services, institutes and colleges of Oxford. While some other institutions have taken the route of creating a Digital Humanities department, Oxford's approach has been to nurture the adoption of digital research methods across the institution, crossing boundaries so that scholars can embrace new methods of research and address entirely new questions. These methods range from citizen science and scholarly social machines to hyperspectral imaging and Linked Data. They build on the tremendous content resources we have in our libraries, collections and Press, together with the longstanding expertise in computing in the humanities established through many successful endeavours like the Text Encoding Initiative, the Oxford Text Archive and the British National Corpus. To this end the University of Oxford Digital Humanities Strategy, led by a group convened by TORCH, has been adopted in Humanities Division and elsewhere including the



Bodleian Libraries, IT Services, Oxford e-Research Centre and Oxford Internet Institute. Having identified our substantial portfolio of digitally-influenced projects, we have closed the year by putting in place a co-ordinated Digital Humanities Network and a Digital Humanities Champion, to be proactive in building on this success and to broaden the influence and benefit of Digital Humanities for all stakeholders in the coming years.

Professor David de Roure

Promoting Interdisciplinary Engagement in the Digital Humanities

dhcrowdscribe.com/events

This Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project hosted two successful workshops designed to introduce doctoral students and early career researchers to a range of digital methods and projects. "Building Scholarly Resources for Wider Public Engagement" attracted over 40 delegates and gave rise to a social media storm with over 500 tweets by mid-afternoon on the day of the workshop. The programme included valuable insights on copyright and privacy issues from legal advisers to Yahoo and Disney and the New Zealand government, and talks from digital experts from Zooniverse, City University, the British Library and the experts from the Academic IT Group at Oxford. The second workshop hosted over 70 participants and was held at the British Library. The day began with an introduction from Dr Adam Farquhar, Head of Digital Scholarship at the British Library, and a keynote address from Professor Melissa Terras, Director of UCL Centre for Digital Humanities, and was followed by presentations on big data, visualisations of literary texts and chamber music, Shared Canvas, the Virtual Mappa



Project, and closing keynotes by Oxford's Chris Lintott and journalist Dr Rosemary Bechler. Both the digital and interdisciplinary aspects of both programmes were very well received and we have been approached by other institutions wishing to partner in future training events.

Emma Goodwin, Principal Investigator

Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School (DHOxSS)

DHOxSS is the annual training event at the University of Oxford. It is a chance for lecturers, researchers, project managers, research assistants, students, and anyone interested in Digital Humanities to learn new skills and find out about the research taking place in Oxford. DHOxSS delegates are introduced to a range of topics including the creation, management, analysis, modelling, visualisation, or publication of digital data for the humanities. Each delegate follows one of the five-day workshops and supplements this with additional keynotes and morning parallel lectures.

This year DHOxSS attracted 109 delegates and an additional 58 speakers over five parallel workshops, 12 additional lectures, and 5 evening events. One of the highlights was the TORCH Open Lecture featuring Dr Martin Roth from the Victoria & Albert Museum. 68% of the registered delegates were female and they mostly came from the UK, USA, and Europe, but some came all the way from South America. Contributions were made from across the Humanities Division, and IT Services, the Bodleian Libraries, the Oxford e-Research Centre, and Oxford Internet Institute.

Dr James Cummings, Director of DHOxSS

Institute for Visual Research

torch.ox.ac.uk/visualresearch

The institute's mission is to explore the plurality of visual culture in all its aspects: its history, practice and politics of display as well as its theoretical and philosophical dimensions and its current impact in a global context. It is meant as a platform for scholars and practitioners from the Oxford community and beyond to exchange thoughts about topical issues, in particular those on the intersection of academic, artistic and curatorial practice.

Our first event provided us with a fascinating insight on the state of art history in contemporary art and culture in China by curator and art critic Carol Yinghua Lu and artist Lui Ding, who were interviewed by Ros Holmes, specialist in contemporary Chinese art and DPhil candidate in History of Art. Our second event was a very lively and productive seminar and lecture by Jack Halberstam, Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity Gender Studies at the UC Southern California, who is a specialist in Feminism and Queer Studies. Respondent to Professor Halberstam's lecture was Nina Wakeford, DPhil student at the Ruskin School of Art.

The inaugural international symposium of the Institute of Visual Research (supported by TORCH and the John Fell Fund) took place in June 2014. The topic was 'Art Out of Time: Challenging Periodisation' and it brought together a wide range of artists, curators and scholars from Canada, the US, Europe and the UK to explore the extent to which early modern visual culture should be rethought in light of contemporary art practice, and vice-versa. In addition to more traditional presentations, the symposium included alternative formats such as a panel comprising of 10-minute presentations on a single object and parallel workshops geared towards advanced DPhil students and early career scholars. The event provided a rich display of wide-ranging perspectives and included a preview of the Barbara Kruger exposition in Modern Art Oxford. Next year's topic is Visual Politics.

Professor Hanneke Grootenboer

EARLY CAREER

It was such an eye opener, and I really benefited from it. I'm looking forward to the other training sessions this term.

TORCH Early Career workshop participant

The Humanities Division's training team works with TORCH to provide weekly lunches and workshops for postdoctoral researchers which are tied into the research themes of the Centre and also into broader training provision in the Division. TORCH's 'Humanities and the Public Good' theme led to workshops considering topics such as 'Impact' and 'Promoting Public Engagement'. The series was entitled 'Humanities and Public Engagement' and included, among others, the following lunchtime events for postdoctoral researchers, each with expert speakers:

- Making the first steps in Public Engagement with Knowledge Exchange Fellows (Dr Lucy Jackson and Dr Oliver Cox) and University Outreach team (Dr Eleanor David, Dr Jamie Castell and James Slattery)
- Making your own media - Conceptualising Video (ex-BBC journalist, Charlotte Stacey)
- Getting your message across on TV and Radio (Newsnight-style filmed interviews with ex-BBC producers Claire Bolderson and Caroline Finnegan)
- Pitching your ideas to the media (Dr Samir Shah, former BBC Head of Current Affairs and Chief Executive of Juniper TV)
- Palgrave Publishing workshop (Paula Kennedy, Head of Humanities, Palgrave)

AHRC-funded Medieval Storytelling Workshops

In April 2014 early career researchers from around the UK came to Oxford to be trained in the art of storytelling. Professional storytellers provided dedicated workshops that honed the participants' story adaptation and performance skills. The organisers Hannah Ryley and Gareth Evans will be



*Dr John Miles
Humanities Training Officer*

working with local primary schools on the next phase of this AHRC funded project, which will place graduate storytellers with the local schools.

Postdoctoral Writers' Workshop

This workshop, run by an early career researcher, Dr Céline Sabiron, has been set up to help early career researchers from the Humanities Division who are about to submit an article to a high-profile journal and who wish to get some constructive feedback from their peers before sending it to be reviewed. The group provides a very friendly atmosphere for discussion, and its interdisciplinary make-up helps to bring the challenges of communicating across disciplines into focus.

TORCH competitions for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers

TORCH also runs competitions, such as the Humanities Poster Competition and the Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference Competition, to further incentivise doctoral researchers to take ownership of their personal and professional development via experiential means, and to produce engaging research-related events and content while doing so. Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers are also invited to judge these competitions in order to enhance their experience of peer review.

The 2014 TORCH Interdisciplinary Conference Competition attracted twenty-five proposals, each from a team composed of at least five researchers. Two conferences were awarded funding and a further five took place with TORCH logistical support, after gaining momentum from the competitive process and securing funds from elsewhere. Four of these conferences are described here.



Botanical Ontologies

This conference explored the construction, transmission and use of ethnobotanical knowledge. Bridging the humanities and social sciences, the conference brought together a variety of post-grads and professionals conducting research across the globe, from the UK to Yugoslavia and South Africa.

Art, Science and the Thirsty World

This innovative one-day interdisciplinary conference brought together graduate students from across continents and disciplines. Twelve students at Oxford and Cornell University in faculties of the arts, environmental sciences and engineering were put into teams in order to present creative collaborative projects at twin conferences held in Oxford and at Cornell.

Evil: Interdisciplinary Explorations

This conference brought together thinkers from a variety of disciplines and traditions in order to illuminate this shared feature of human experience and academic reflection. It provoked dialogue between heterogeneous approaches to the issue, from attempts at definition in moral philosophy to those modern philosophers who seek to go beyond evil, to literary, theological, and historical approaches, and received coverage on BBC Radio Oxford and in Times Higher Education.

Migration, Faith, and Action: Shifting the Discourse

This conference sought to identify dominant discourses regarding migration, as well as to explore ways in which faith can contribute to shift negative perceptions in this matter. The conference highlighted the contributions and challenges of faith-based organisations in supporting migrants throughout the world, and gathered scholars from the UK, Europe, and the US, who exchanged ideas and experiences on faith and migration. Twenty-nine papers on different topics around faith and migration were offered in several break-out sessions.

torch.ox.ac.uk/earlycareer

Early Career Fellows

Dr William Abberley

Dr Ilya Afanasyev

Dr David Birks

Dr Amelia Bonea

Dr Clare Copeland

Dr Oliver Cox

Dr Melissa Dickson

Dr Arthur Dudley

Dr Sally Frampton

Dr Lorenzo Greco

Dr Seth Hindin

Dr Sarah Hitch

Dr Lee-Von Kim

Dr Stanislava Kuzmová

Janet McKnight

Dr Giedrė Mickūnaitė

Dr Eleanor Parker

Dr Matthew Parrott

Dr Céline Sabiron

Dr Danica Salazar

Dr Elisa Schaar

Dr Ruth Scobie

Dr Cathryn Setz

Dr Jennifer Wallis

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER PROFILE

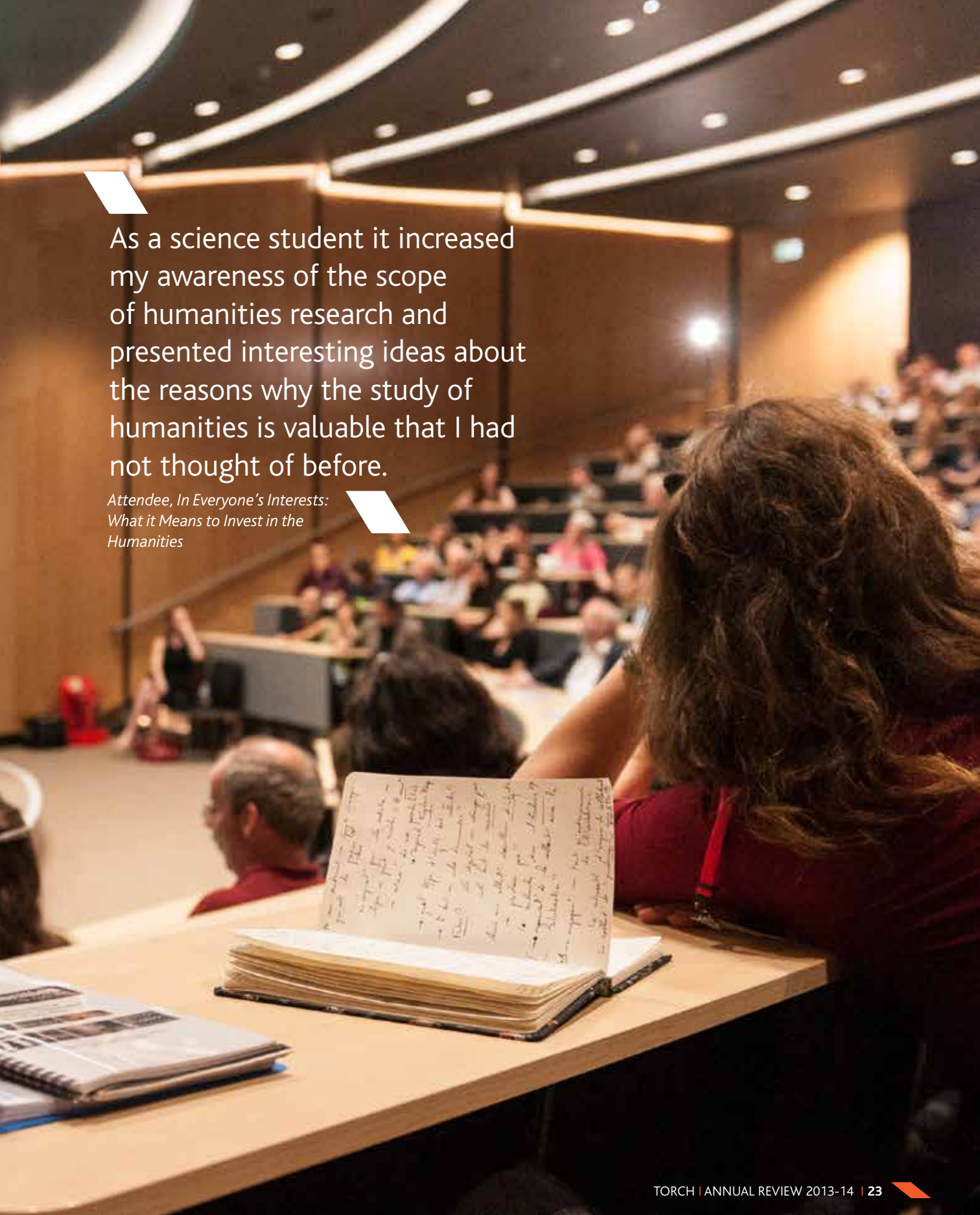
Dr Will Abberley

Since I began my fellowship at Oxford in October 2013, TORCH has been an excellent resource for achieving my research goals, and will continue to figure in my work in 2015. This year, as part of my fellowship, I have organised an exhibition and public lecture at the Oxford Natural History Museum on the history of natural mimicry, which attracted some media attention (BBC Radio Oxford interviewed me about it). In May 2014, I was an invited speaker for TORCH's film screening and roundtable discussion of the work of Jean Painlevé. I also set up a new, regular Literature and Science Forum at TORCH specifically aimed at postgraduate and early career researchers.

TORCH's community of interdisciplinary researchers has proved an encouraging and productive environment for me. Helped by some media training at the centre, I was selected as a 2014 BBC New Generation Thinker. This competition gives a broadcasting platform for upcoming academics in the humanities, and I have already broadcast my first piece on the BBC Radio 3 arts and ideas programme Freethinking. In November 2015, I will broadcast a longer piece as part of Radio 3's Freethinking Festival.

I have some exciting plans for events at TORCH next year which will tie in with the 'Humanities and Science' theme. In Spring 2015, I will be holding a workshop on the topic of mimicry in the history of science and medicine, hopefully drawing delegates from across the world. Later, in the summer, I will be holding a two-day conference at TORCH on the topic of 'Underwater Worlds: Aquatic Visions in Art, Science and Literature'. In October, I will give a public interactive talk at Oxford's History of Science Museum as part of the national Festival of the Humanities. I have also been invited as a speaker at a symposium on replication in literature and culture at the University of Arizona in April 2015.





As a science student it increased my awareness of the scope of humanities research and presented interesting ideas about the reasons why the study of humanities is valuable that I had not thought of before.

*Attendee, In Everyone's Interests:
What it Means to Invest in the
Humanities*



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Over the past year, TORCH has worked hard at increasing the volume, quality, and awareness of knowledge exchange activities taking place in the Humanities Division.



Our flagship programme has been the Knowledge Exchange Fellowship scheme, funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF). This scheme creates placements for researchers to work alongside external organisations, businesses or charities on collaborative projects that benefit both the researcher and the external partner. The Knowledge Exchange Fellows come from faculties across the division, and are working with a wide variety of external groups, from local theatres to health charities and audio companies.

The Fellows are drawn from all career levels, from recent doctoral graduates to mid-career researchers and senior postholders. This diversity will help embed knowledge exchange activity throughout the humanities, and we hope that the projects stimulated through the scheme will create positive examples of the ways in which we can all benefit from external collaboration.

Other highlights of the year have included our first successful Arts and Humanities Research Council Collaborative Doctoral Award in the Humanities, led jointly with the Geffrye Museum, London; a pitching competition with production company Juniper TV, resulting in two successful commissions from Radio 4; developing a partnership with Pegasus Theatre, Oxford; working with Oxford Council's Cultural Development Team; an interdisciplinary 'Breath Festival' in partnership with Oxford hospitals, Oxford Contemporary Music (OCM), and the University museums; and the Thames Valley Country Houses Partnership (TVCHP) run by Knowledge Exchange Fellow Dr Oliver Cox.

It has been fantastic to see the Knowledge Exchange programme be embraced by colleagues in Oxford, our external partners and the public. Their generosity and enthusiasm reflects the wider demand for more thoughtful engagement activity in higher education and signals an exciting new era in the academy's history.

Professor Abigail Williams, Knowledge Exchange Champion

torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange

Knowledge Exchange Fellows

Compassion in Healthcare

torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/compassion

I am working in partnership with the Royal Society of Medicine Open Section, represented by the Open Section's president, Dr Andrew Papanikitas. The challenge of maintaining compassion and the negative consequences of its erosion for patients, individual practitioners, the NHS, and society are at the front of the public's mind. The logic of the project is that theological and philosophical enquiries into compassion in healthcare, if they are to serve the public good effectively, must be conducted in long-term conversation with colleagues in healthcare. At the same time, the pressure of healthcare can tend to leave practitioners without the space to evaluate ideas, practices and institutions and explore new opportunities. Through a series of workshops held in September-December 2014 in Oxford and London, our project will take on these issues, producing academic and non-academic research which will serve the public good.

Dr Joshua Hordern

Medea

torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/medea

I am working with the National Theatre in the lead up to their critically acclaimed production of Euripides' Medea. Working closely with the NT's Archive, Learning and Digital departments, I am drawing on my knowledge of ancient drama to enrich and broaden a programme of events that will take place during the run of the play. I have been producing resources for the NT's education pack and during the first two weeks of the run I'll



Helen McCrory as Medea, Jason Bell



be delivering workshops to school students, teachers and interested members of the public.

In exchange, I have been able to deepen my contextual knowledge of contemporary productions of ancient drama staged both at the NT and at other UK venues, as well as witnessing at first hand the process of producing an ancient drama. Even as a fairly regular theatre-goer, I could not have imagined the number of elements that go into staging a new production. Everyone at the NT has been incredibly generous, letting me sit in on key conversations amongst the creative team and answering all my questions about contemporary theatre-making.

Dr Lucy Jackson

Mediating Modern Poetry: Reception and Dialogue

[torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/
mediatingmodernpoetry](http://torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/mediatingmodernpoetry)

I have been working with the Southbank Centre, London, to curate a series of events exploring aspects of modern European poetry and its transmission. At the biannual festival 'Poetry International', which presented over 100 poets from all over the world, a specially curated evening exploring the reception of Rainer Maria Rilke brought together Sujata Bhatt, Durs Grünbein, Patrick McGuinness and Don Paterson for a reading of wide-ranging responses to the poet and his life (translations, versions, new poems). In addition a large-scale post-show discussion event and two masterclasses offering hand-on opportunities to learn about and engage in translating Rilke were sold out. Some of the newly commissioned poems were published in *Modern Poetry in Translation* (July 2014) and were recorded as podcasts for their website.

Part of the aim was always to travel the project and there have already been spin off events in Rome and Berlin where I have worked with Ulrike Almut Sandig and Volker Braun - two poets who will come to the UK later in the year, as part of the Fellowship. But exciting and unexpected new avenues also seem to be opening up and there are already invitations to Cheltenham Literary Festival, Aldeburgh Poetry Festival and the Goethe Institute, London, and Berlin (again) as well as a planned series of discussions about poetry and translation, and an invitation to become involved in a new series of themed journals on poetry, translation and reception of modern European poetry.

Professor Karen Leeder



Basildon Park, a TVCHP partner

The Thames Valley Country House Partnership (TVCHP)

torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/countryhouse

TVCHP explores the variety of ways in which Oxford University expertise can be shared more widely with external partners in the heritage sector. This partnership work has been invigorating, exciting and hugely enjoyable. I currently work with 19 houses that collectively attract 1.5 million visitors a year. The partnership has organised training days for country house volunteers led by university experts, established internships working on country house archives and developed enrichment events around the country houses' displays. This has been incredibly beneficial for both the country houses and the university's students and academics, who have used the projects to enhance their own research.

The project has received two extra grants from the Knowledge Exchange seed fund, negotiated a grant from the Sanderson Fund in the History Faculty, been instrumental in a six-figure NESTA R&D award for a colleague in the Said Business School, and submitted two AHRC funding bids. Its work has been featured as an Oxford Impacts Case Study, in Research Fortnight, The Oxford Mail, and by the Historic Houses Association.

Dr Oliver Cox

Early Mother Tongue Literacy for Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

torch.ox.ac.uk/early-mother-tongue-literacy

This project will develop a mutually beneficial partnership with NGO Saide (South African Institute for Distance Education) to contribute research expertise to the African Storybook Project (ASP), to provide stories in local (and



other) languages to assist children to read initially in their own languages and develop multilingual literacy. Almost half of primary school-aged children in Sub-Saharan Africa reach adolescence without achieving basic literacy and numeracy skills. Because children can more easily learn to read in a language they know, mother tongue literacy represents the best foundation for acquiring proficiency levels needed for understanding school materials, and learning additional languages to access wider opportunities and participate in life beyond their communities. Literacy in local languages is key to sustainable development because literacy is a core component of the right to education and an indispensable prerequisite to lifelong learning.

ASP will rely on open access and innovative digital publishing models to promote use of stories and encourage development of new reading practices in classrooms and communities beginning in 2014 with three pilot countries - Kenya, Uganda and South Africa.

Professor Suzanne Romaine

Theatre Production and Performance


[torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/
theatre-production-and-performance](http://torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange/theatre-production-and-performance)

I am working with the Artistic Team at the Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton. The ambition is to bring together the research rich culture of Oxford

with expertise in devising and delivering relevant and challenging theatre to a local audience and to understand how active scholarship might better inform the entertainment and educational purposes of theatre. I have been involved in a new adaptation by Mike Poulton of Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities* and a contemporary reworking of a farce by Georges Feydeau, writing articles for programmes, attending rehearsals and providing research notes in relation to *A Tale of Two Cities* for actors and director. As I have settled into the role and been able to be involved in productions as they are developed, I have been busy arranging consultancies and workshops in Oxford and Northampton to support scriptwriting, research and adding literary value to productions. A new play based on Arthurian legends about 'Merlin' and a new theatrical adaptation of Pat Barker's *Regeneration* connect productively with the work of Oxford medievalists and scholars who work on war poetry and the wonderful Oxford digital project of the Great War Archive.

I have always believed that as scholars we have deep relationships with the material we research. This can sometimes, paradoxically, inhibit our capacity to build relationships with other people. Meeting over our enthusiasm for theatrical literary texts and exchanging research understanding – as I do regularly when I meet with my partners at the Royal and Derngate - makes the relationship with each other grow and thrive.

Professor Ros Ballaster



It has been fantastic to see the Knowledge Exchange programme be embraced by colleagues in Oxford, our external partners and the public.

Professor Abigail Williams, Knowledge Exchange Champion

TORCH | ANNUAL HEADLINE SERIES

Humanities and the Public Good

In early Spring 2014, TORCH hosted a special series of events bringing together leading scholars in the humanities and sciences, and influential figures beyond academia, to consider the role of the humanities in addressing contemporary challenges. The opening event, which focused on humanities funding, began with a presentation by Dr Earl Lewis (President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation), followed by a round-table discussion between mathematician Professor Marcus du Sautoy, biographer Professor Hermione Lee, journalist and writer Charlotte Higgins, and Director of the Higher Education Policy Institute Nick Hillman. The appetite for debate in this area exceeded our expectations, as we filled Oxford's largest lecture theatre with over 400 people (and still had a queue of people hoping for returned tickets outside). It was a joy to bring together voices from not only a range of scholarly disciplines, but also from different walks of life, with 100 sixth form students from around the country joining the conversation. The discussion continued through online channels, reaching around the globe to countries including Norway, the United States and Australia, and allowing us to build new partnerships with humanities centres internationally.

The global conversation was developed at the "Activist Humanities in the World" conference, the grand finale of the series, which was organised in partnership with the School of Oriental and Asian Studies, the University of Delhi, the University of Virginia, and Nanjing University, and supported by the British Council and Ertegun House. It brought 30 leading activists, academics and artists from every continent together to consider the active role of the humanities in a comparative and connected global context.



This event was truly special; a refreshing celebration of the humanities in a global conversation that has become largely defensive.

*Attendee, In Everyone's Interests:
What it Means to Invest in the Humanities*





Excellent. Remarkable bringing together of speakers and thinkers from many countries. Enlightening and at times moving.

Attendee, Activist Humanities in the World

Headline Series for 2014-16: Humanities and Science

With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation we are pleased to announce our new programme designed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between the sciences and humanities. We will be supporting new doctoral scholarships aiming to collate, enhance and promote the interdisciplinary approach to Humanities and Science research. As well as developing new partnerships, the programme will gather together existing research in this area.



Emily Rutherford

@echomikeromeo

Prof. West highlights humanities' critical-thinking abilities and imagination/creativity; communication skills. [#publicgood](#)



Sophie Goldsworthy

@Sophie_Gee

Sitting in room where I sat my humanities finals. Invited along as a humanities publisher. Investment in the humanities? I'm in. [#publicgood](#)



Janet Remmington

@janremm

Marcus du Sautoy: sciences benefit from the modes of the humanities, the narratives of discovery & exploration [#publicgood](#) @OxHumanities



Kathryn Eccles

@KathrynEccles

Never felt happier to be a Humanities scholar. Inspiring stuff at the first of @OxHumanities TORCH series on Humanities and The Public Good.



Lucy CM Jackson

@LucyCMJackson

One thing is clear. Change is a coming and us Humanities students *should* already be good at adapting @OxHumanities [#publicgood](#)



Humanities Division

@OxHumanities

Charlotte Higgins @guardian 'never have we needed more to keep our minds open to the other' this is the role for [#Humanities](#) [#publicgood](#)



Tim Whitmarsh

@Twhittermarsh

The big question we're not asking is WHO should invest in the humanities. [#Publicgood](#)

HUMANITAS

TORCH is home to the Oxford arm of the Humanitas Programme, which brings leading practitioners and scholars to Oxford and Cambridge universities to address major themes in the arts, social sciences and humanities. All events are open to the public and available as podcasts, allowing the discussions to reach a diverse and world-wide audience.

In 2013-14 TORCH hosted nine Visiting Professors, including former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams, virtuoso violinist Midori, and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency General Michael Hayden. They came to Oxford from around the globe to explore topics as diverse as faith and power, musical education and community engagement, and Intelligence in the 21st century. The events have drawn together thousands of audience members to watch unique performances, participate in debates, and hear about the latest discoveries in different fields.

The Programme was founded by Lord Weidenfeld and is funded with the support of generous benefactors through the Institute for Strategic Dialogue. The programme is managed by TORCH in Oxford and CRASH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities) in Cambridge.

The Rowan Williams lectures and his “In Conversation” with Jon Snow were an enormous success. Both intellectually stimulating and spiritually inspiring.

Professor Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History

Humanitas Visiting Professors 2013- 14:

Midori | Classical Music
Vik Muniz | Contemporary Art
Professor Roger Myerson | Economic Thought
Kelly Reichardt | Film and Television
Professor Lynn Hunt | Historiography
General Michael Hayden | Intelligence Studies
Dr Rowan Williams | Interfaith Studies
Michael Govan | Museums, Galleries and Libraries
Renée Fleming | Opera Studies

Previous Humanitas Visiting Professors include:

Imogen Cooper | Classical Music
Don Paterson | Comparative European Literature
William Kentridge | Contemporary Art
Gregory Doran | Drama Studies
Vanessa Redgrave | Drama Studies
Professor Stanley Fisher | Economic Thought
Michael Winterbottom | Film and Television
Professor Sir Christopher Bayly | Historiography
Professor Lorraine Daston | History of Ideas
Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks | Interfaith Studies
Ivo Mesquita | Museums, Galleries and Libraries
Gerard Mortier | Opera Studies
Mark Thompson | Rhetoric and the Art of Public Persuasion



The wonderful thing about this Humanitas occasion is that we can take a little time to exchange.

*Vanessa Redgrave,
Previous Visiting Professor in Drama*





20+
research
networks



8 major
research
programmes

24
early career
fellows



300+
research-led
events with more than
7,500 attendees



8
knowledge
exchange fellows



9
humanitas
visiting professors

TORCH | THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES

Finance Report 2013-14

TORCH has completed its first official year in operation (2013-14), after a period of 'setting-up' from October 2012. As part of the University of Oxford's Humanities Division, TORCH is based in Radcliffe Humanities in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. TORCH is funded by the University's John Fell Fund, with additional support from trusts and foundations, as well as private donors. TORCH is grateful to have received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the *Humanities and Science series* 2014-16 and other donations totalling over £520,000 for years 2013-18.

Income (August 2013 – July 2014)	
University of Oxford Fell Grant	£121,956
Private Donations for Research Projects and Groups	£35,376
Trusts and Foundations	£190,000
AHRC Cultural Engagement Fellowship 2013 (Knowledge Exchange)	£40,000
TOTAL	£387,332

Expenditure (August 2013 – July 2014)	
Staff and running costs	£142,992
Research Projects and events	£242,939
TOTAL	£385,931

TORCH TEAM

Professor Stephen Tuck, Director |
stephen.tuck@history.ox.ac.uk | 01865 615363

Victoria McGuinness, Business Manager |
victoria.mcguinness@humanities.ox.ac.uk | 01865 615362

Hannah Penny, Communications and Events |
hannah.penny@humanities.ox.ac.uk | 01865 280101

Sarah Bebb, Humanitas Programme Officer |
sarah.bebb@humanities.ox.ac.uk | 01865 615335

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Professor Abigail Williams, Knowledge Exchange Champion |
abigail.williams@ell.ox.ac.uk | 01865 278901

Dr Cleo Hanaway-Oakley, Knowledge Exchange Facilitator |
cleo.hanaway-oakley@humanities.ox.ac.uk | 01865 280308

Daphne Cunningham, Knowledge Exchange Support Officer |
kesupport@humanities.ox.ac.uk | 01865 280308

TRAINING

Dr John Miles, Humanities Training Officer |
john.miles@humanities.ox.ac.uk | 01865 280566

Akiko Frellesvig, Training Administrative Assistant |
training@humanities.ox.ac.uk | 01865 615332

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Guido Bonsaver | Martin Conway |
Elizabeth Frood | David De Roure | Andrew Fairweather-Tall |
Daniel Grimley | Miles Hewstone | Helen Small |
Shearer West | Tim Whitmarsh | Abigail Williams

EDITORIAL INFO

Edited by | Victoria McGuinness and Hannah Penny
Design and print | Windrush Group www.windrushgroup.co.uk

Image credits: Stuart Bebb | Jason Bell | Daniel Carey |
John Cairns | Oliver Cox | Robert Day | Victoria Ferris |
Bruno Guastalla | Sam Javanrouh | Rob Judges | Hannah Penny |
Michael Taylor | Jessica Thorn | Wikimedia Commons

Giving to TORCH: We are extremely grateful to all our supporters. If you would like to make a gift to TORCH, please contact Antony Green, Head of Development – Humanities, antony.green@humanities.ox.ac.uk, 01865 731135. This annual review arises from research funded by the John Fell Oxford University Press (OUP) Research Fund.