

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES



# UCL



## IAS ANNUAL REVIEW 2016





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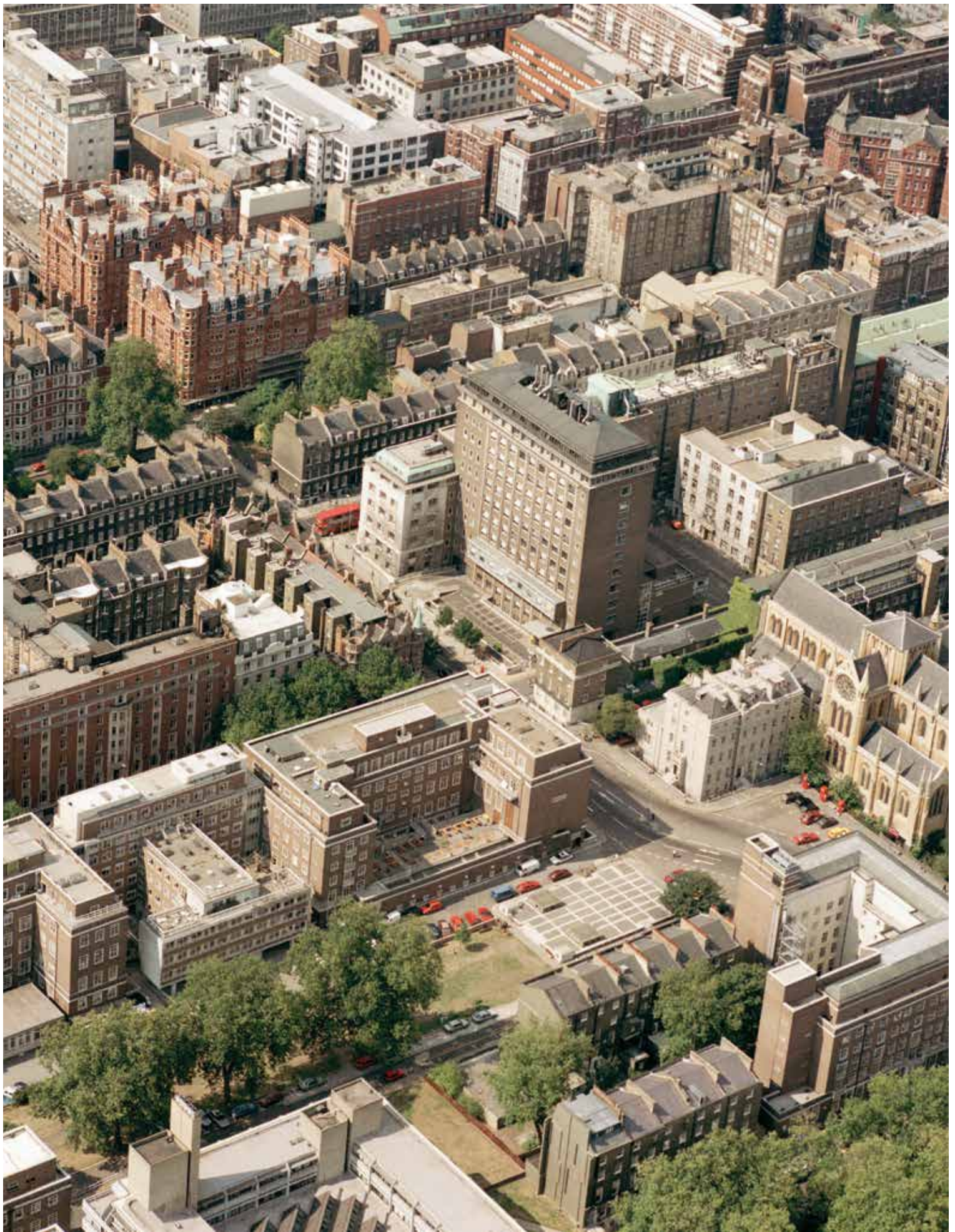
# About UCL

**Founded in 1826, UCL is one of the world's leading universities. It is a diverse intellectual community, engaged with the wider world and committed to the integration of education, research, innovation and enterprise for the long-term benefit of humanity.**

UCL attracts students from around 150 countries and has active exchange and research links with nearly 300 overseas universities. 52% of the nearly 36,000-strong student community is engaged in graduate studies, with nearly a third of these graduate students pursuing research degrees. Based in the heart of London, students and research staff benefit from the immediate accessibility of the internationally significant resources of the British Library and British Museum as well as Senate House and the University of London Library. Being a student at UCL is a genuinely cosmopolitan and metropolitan experience and students enjoy the rich combination of being on campus as well as engaging with one of the world's great capital cities. Individual departments benefit from being situated in London and have developed strong relationships and special agreements with a range of industry-specific contacts, cultural institutions, businesses, governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the House of Lords, Marie Curie Cancer Care, the Wellcome Trust, the Imperial War Museum, the Institute of Philosophy, the National Gallery, Tate, the Institute of Fiscal Studies, along with a number of embassies representing countries from Colombia to China and across the Middle East.

UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies is closely aligned with the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social & Historical Sciences. Together, these faculties form a renowned centre of excellence where research of world-leading quality feeds directly into programmes of study within traditional discipline-based departments, as well as those with an area focus or a consciously cross-disciplinary approach. The IAS has a central place in an outward facing, globally orientated university devoted to developing and protecting the research cultures of both 'arts' and 'sciences', and to seeking points of interaction and dialogue across traditional institutional and disciplinary boundaries.







**In its inaugural year, the Institute of Advanced Studies has grown from an ambitious plan in the minds of two visionary Deans to a vibrant research community located in UCL's South Wing in the Wilkins Building. At its heart is 'Common Ground', our communal space, which provides a physical setting for discussion and critical debate at the same time as signalling our ethos as committed to thinking together, here and now.**

**Professor Tamar Garb  
October 2016**

UCL's IAS is a unique forum for cross- and interdisciplinary inquiry that harnesses the research strengths of colleagues and research students across the humanities and social sciences. All affiliated academics at UCL are automatically part of the IAS and are encouraged to participate in its research culture as well as use its resources to foster dialogue across departmental/ disciplinary borders. We welcome collaborations from further afield and encourage conversations across the conventional domains of the 'arts' and 'sciences', theory and practice. Over the past twelve months the IAS has hosted nearly one hundred research-focused events, as well as having provided a 'home' for five Junior Research Fellows, eleven Visiting Research Fellows and a number of UCL interdisciplinary research centre co-ordinators. In addition, therefore, to the university-wide and public facing activities that we generate, we have formed a strong residential grouping, comprising scholars from all over the world, in which new work can be supported and challenged at weekly seminars, informal gatherings, regular panels and workshops. Desk space is provided for centre administrators and research fellows, and bookable seminar rooms provide intimate spaces for research-related activities. Research in the IAS is both driven by annual themes and initiated by colleagues from across the joint faculties of Arts & Humanities and Social & Historical Sciences.

In 2015–16, we focused on four themes: Materialities and Technologies, Health and Humanities, Identities and Voices, and Conflict, Confrontation and Justice. We host nine interdisciplinary research centres as well as having consolidated UCL's area-based research under the overarching rubric of 'Area Studies Re-mapped'. In addition, we have initiated the 'Talking Points' seminar series that places in-depth discipline-specific scholarship in conversation with cross-/multi-disciplinary perspectives as well as a book launch programme that celebrates new UCL work by engaging with the author's arguments and materials. The IAS is committed to fostering early career research that is creative, innovative and ambitious, and our Octagon Friday Forum is designed to showcase and facilitate such work. We also have an open call to support wide-ranging, curiosity-driven and expansive enquiry that need not conform to our themes. Our lively website chronicles and records all our activities and is constantly being updated and revised.

The pace of development and innovation in the IAS has been breathtaking this year. With the generous support of the Provost as well as administrative and academic staff across UCL, we have turned a dream into a reality at breakneck speed. It has been an exhilarating and energising process. We are now truly open for business and looking forward to expanding and developing our programme in the years ahead.



IAS Common Ground,  
FRINGE Centre IAS Launch,  
3 December 2015

# Research Themes

In 2015–2016 the IAS supported four Junior Research Fellows, each in one of the following themes:

- > **Conflict, Confrontation and Justice**
- > **Health and Humanities**
- > **Identities and Voices**
- > **Materialities and Technologies**

These themes were designed to be wide-ranging and inclusive. Crucial was the capacity for each to generate broad, issue-based thinking in order to bring colleagues from across the joint faculties into dialogue with one another. The fellowships attracted nearly 300 applications of a staggering range and complexity. The work we ended up supporting emerged from anthropology, philosophy, art history and history, but our four incumbents, in addition to delving deep into their own fields, fostered a lively context of shared thinking, putting pressure on each other's habits of inquiry, modes of analysis and forms of writing. Each JRF convened a series of research-focussed events in keeping with their own interests but also found ways of working together. Their collaboration culminated in a shared platform on the theme of 'Writing About Others: The Problem of Representation in Academic Research' which they initiated and organised as their final event of the year.

IAS Residential Seminar





## Conflict, Confrontation and Justice

The theme of Conflict, Confrontation and Justice explored the violence of the state, the resistance of the colonised and the racial basis of legal systems.

Seminars included:

- > *Sex in the City*, which examined the injustices in sex health treatment in Britain.
- > *Representation and Form in Art and Politics*, which discussed how we can understand the critique of representation within social practice as founded not only upon a deconstruction of artistic form, but also one that makes assumptions about the relationship between artistic and political representation.
- > *Short Histories of the British Empire, 1816–1856* conference, with Visiting Research Fellow, Dr Sascha Auerbach, a day-long event that asked how approaches from disparate regions and fields might fruitfully inform one another.

## Health and Humanities

The project *Looking, Feeling, Knowing. The Politics of Seeing in Medical Collections of Human Remains After the Human Tissue Act* developed into the six-strong Bodily Matters seminar series, which was themed around the utilisation, ethics and aesthetics of human biomatter in modern and contemporary art practice, and culminated in a two-day international conference.

Seminars included:

- > *Postmortem Portraits: Likeness, Technologies & Ethics*, which examined questions of likeness, ethics, artistic practice and aesthetics in relation to representations of the post-mortem face in forensic and contemporary art contexts.
- > *Liminal Matter: Skin & Hair*, which explored the most visible markers of gender, race, social class, age and health, skin and hair as both important sites for the inscription of social identity and sensory and cultural mediums of expression.
- > *Emotive Matter: Blood & Tears*, which explored the myriad emotional states that provoke human tears, and their unique and surprisingly aesthetic microscopic formations.

## Identities and Voices

The monthly research forum on the theme of Identities and Voices had a focus on concepts and theories of Recognition. The aims included initiating an interdisciplinary discussion on issues such as: recognition and identity, the psychology of recognition, the politics of recognition, social visibility and invisibility, recognition and ethics.

Seminars included:

- > *Recognition & the Paradox of Representation: The Case of Tribal Politics*, which looked at how seeking recognition is to make oneself visible in a specific way.
- > *'Banned in China' – Post-Mao Chinese Literature & the Politics of Recognition in World Literature*, which discussed the position of post-Mao Chinese literature in world literature.
- > *Fourth Wave Feminism in Schools: Exploring the discursive and affective constitution of feminist groups in and around secondary school spaces*, which presented research conducted in the light of theories that we are witnessing a 'fourth wave' of feminism.

## Materialities and Technologies

The Materialities and Technologies research group explored key ideas around the theme, drawing different participants across departments at UCL and universities in London and providing an intellectual environment where disciplinary and regional boundaries were able to be transcended. Key concepts included: Scale & Temporality, Embodiment & Corporeality, Information & Knowledge, Infrastructures & Urbanism and Poetics & Politics.

Seminars included:

- > *Sunken Time: The Politics of Dams, Memories and Justice*, which looked at what infrastructural technologies, dams and other hydroelectric power plants built in Egypt, Romania and Turkey, can tell us about politics, science, memory, time, justice and the environment.
- > *The Interrogator and the Prisoner – The Violence of Evidence during the Korean War*, which used the prism of military interrogations rooms during the Korean War to refract the competing claims of the United States, North Korea and India regarding their abilities to recognise the post-colonial subject.
- > *Neo-Ottoman Legacies, Post-Ottoman Erasures: Sites of memory in Istanbul, Thessaloniki and Budapest*, which drew on Pierre Nora's concept of 'sites of memory' to explore the material textures and political effects of Ottoman legacies and Neo-Ottoman ideologies in three locations.

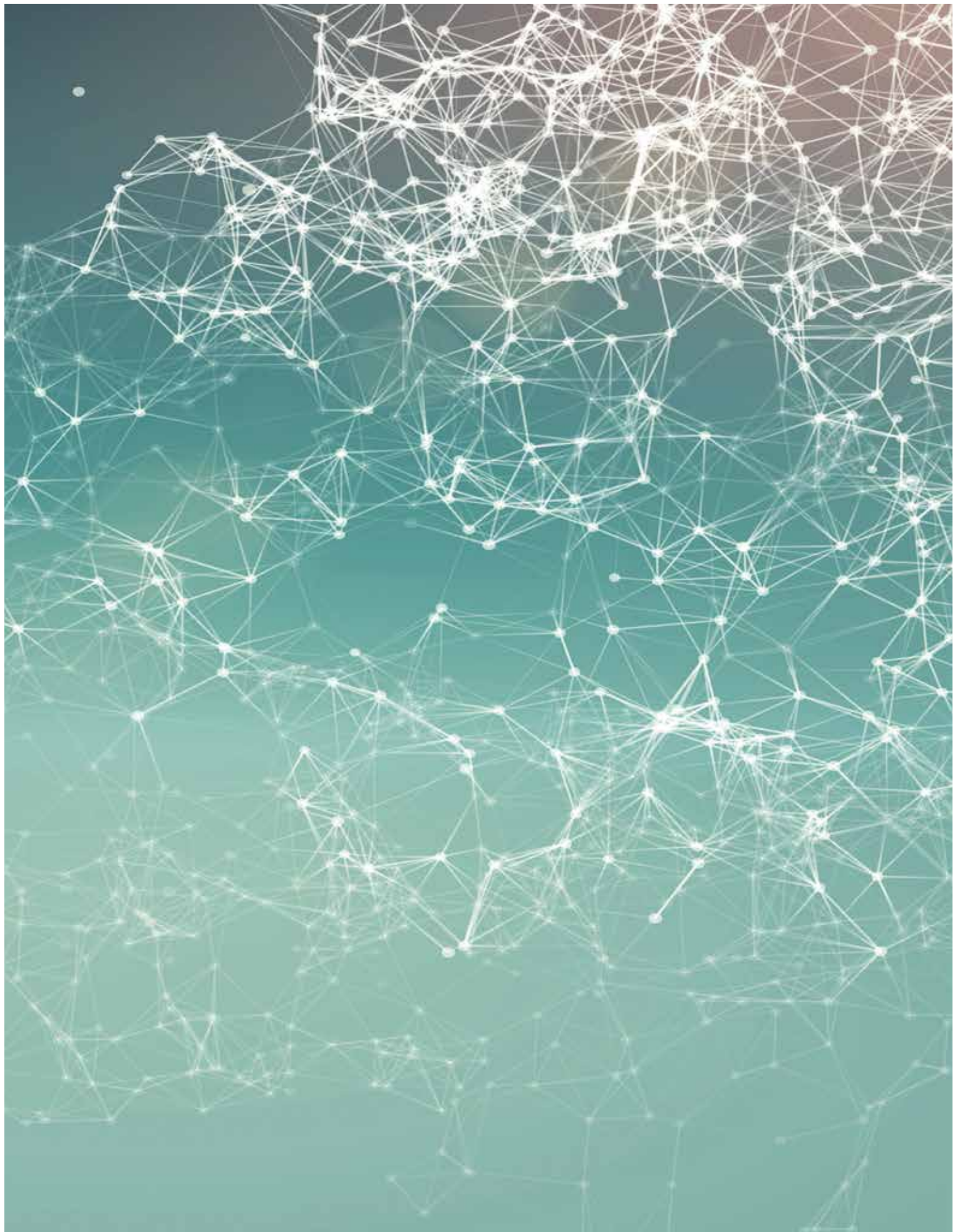
# Research Centres

The IAS has provided a home for already established research networks as well as newly formed initiatives. There is no uniform model for IAS Research Centres and they include the research element of extensive frameworks (e.g. CMII), externally funded units (e.g. SSS), experimental forums (e.g. FRINGE) and thematically driven research clusters (e.g. CCVHGS and CREDOC).

The IAS provides a home for the LGBTQ network (qUCL) as well as the Gender and Feminism Research Network. In addition, the IAS is working to consolidate and coordinate the extensive work across Health and Humanities currently being undertaken at UCL. Each research centre brings colleagues, research students and visiting speakers from multiple disciplines, periods and geopolitical contexts into dialogue with one another.

- > Centre for Early Modern Exchanges
- > Centre for Multidisciplinary & Intercultural Inquiry
- > Centre for Research into Dynamics of Civilisation
- > FRINGE Centre
- > Gender and Feminism Research Network
- > Health Humanities Centre
- > qUCL
- > Secularity and Secularism Studies
- > The UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies





## Centre for Early Modern Exchanges

The Centre for Early Modern Exchanges studies the dynamic interactions between places, cultures and societies within Europe and beyond in the period from approximately 1500 to 1800, asking how these processes of exchange produced the states, vernacular literatures, cultures and material textures of the modern world. From translation to trade, it is engaged in developing more complex models to account for the transformation of the globe across these three centuries. It hosts the interdisciplinary and interdepartmental Masters Programme in Early Modern Studies, runs seminars, workshops and conferences and provides a home for the early modern at UCL.

The year in began with a major two-day conference on 'Samuel Daniel, Poet and Historian' held jointly with the Royal College of Music.

**Events for the  
autumn of 2016  
include a celebration  
of the 500th  
anniversary of  
the birth of Mary I,  
perhaps England's  
least favoured queen.**

In October 2015, CEME welcomed back the leading historian Geoffrey Parker for a lecture on 'Incest and the Habsburgs', in which he showed how the index of consanguinity of the Spanish Habsburgs by the 17<sup>th</sup> century meant that some royal couples were more closely related than if they had been siblings, with the disastrous attendant consequences for the dynasty—its extinction. The third in our series of symposia held jointly with the Department of Greek and Latin addressed the issue of 'Oratory and Rhetoric', from the evidence about the ways that schoolchildren were taught how to argue to the ambivalence surrounding Cicero's representation as a rhetorician in the early modern period. There were papers on *La Celestina* and the early Tudor book trade, the use of machines and technology in Rabelais, revolution in Hamlet and the biopolitics of roguery.

The main seminar programme for the year was brought to an end with Paul Salzman's paper on the early Victorian Alexander Dyce's *Specimens of British Poetesses* from 1825, an anthology of early modern women's writing much of which was allegedly rediscovered after feminism's second wave, despite the fact that Dyce and his readers had been familiar with them for over a century and a half. In the graduate student work in progress strand, CEME heard about purse hoards, the piety of the Bianchi religious movement in Italy, clothing as a representation of natural knowledge, parasitic discourse in Shakespeare, Francis Bacon's medical ideas, Renaissance optics, the physiology of youth and freedom of movement in the early modern Hispanic world.



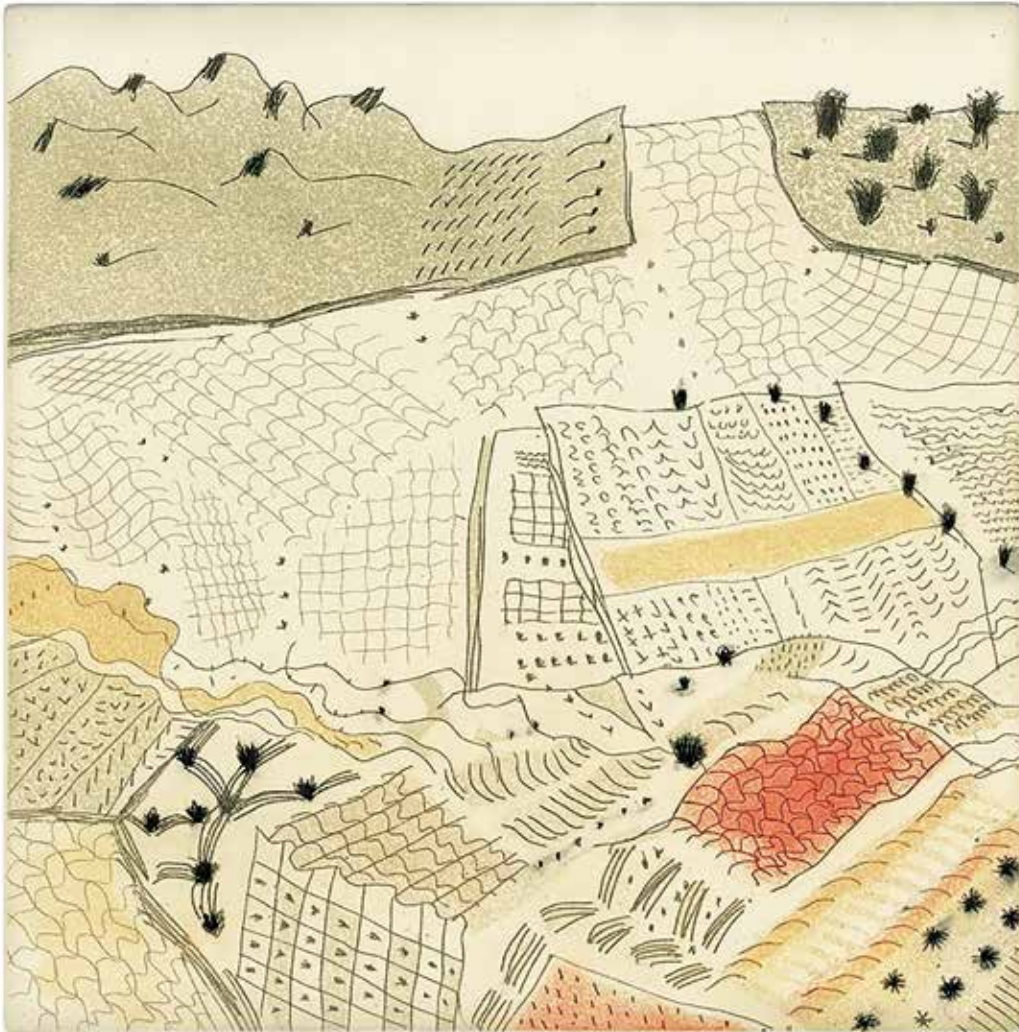


Image used for Visual Storytelling:  
Examples from Italy Symposium  
(2 March 2016)

## Centre for Multidisciplinary & Intercultural Inquiry

CMII is an important centre for multidisciplinary post-graduate programmes and related research areas. It draws on expertise at UCL from diverse fields including literature, art, film, history, geography, anthropology and population health. CMII houses Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Film Studies, Gender Studies, African Studies, European Studies, Health Humanities and PPE of Health. It fosters research projects such as the AHRC-funded 'Reverberations of War in Germany and Europe since 1945', 'Colonial Film' and the Cine-Tourist. It encourages research collaboration between colleagues at UCL as well as nationally and internationally, and participates in the Hermes consortium for literary and cultural studies, the British Comparative Literature Association, The Screen Studies Group and the Bloomsbury Gender Network.

## Centre for Research into Dynamics of Civilisation



Image used for Civilisation in  
Time & Space Workshop  
(1–2 July 2016)

CREDOC seeks to understand the social phenomenon of *civilisation* and to challenge the often politicised role it is being made to play in the modern world. 'Civilisation' describes a social phenomenon greater than the nation. It has been identified by materials, languages, institutions and habits that are spread over time yet remain linked to one another as an integrated system. Civilisation appears on the map of modern political debate, whether in international policy (where it is used to build transnational political structures) or in the popular and controversial idea of a 'clash of civilisations'. Yet what is a civilisation? How does such a category still have value despite its compromised usages in the past? And why and how is it being utilised now in regions such as Africa, China, India or the Middle East to challenge and to remap social and political geographies?



CREDOC's recent conference, *Europe from the outside in?* considered how ethnographic collections of the exotic facilitated the emergence of a distinct European social imaginary and it reflected also on the potential role for such museum collections today. *Deep Pasts, Deep Cultures* explored the unique political traditions, artistic corpora, musical styles and oral literatures that make up the African civilisations of the Sub-Saharan. CREDOC also welcomed the celebrated essayist Pankaj Mishra to debate the dangers inherent in the popular thesis that the globe's primary conflicts arise from a clash of civilisations.

In 2015–16, CREDOC awarded grants to conferences on Hannah Arendt, War in the Ancient World, Latin-American identity, Baltic-Nordic regionalism, and fieldwork in China.



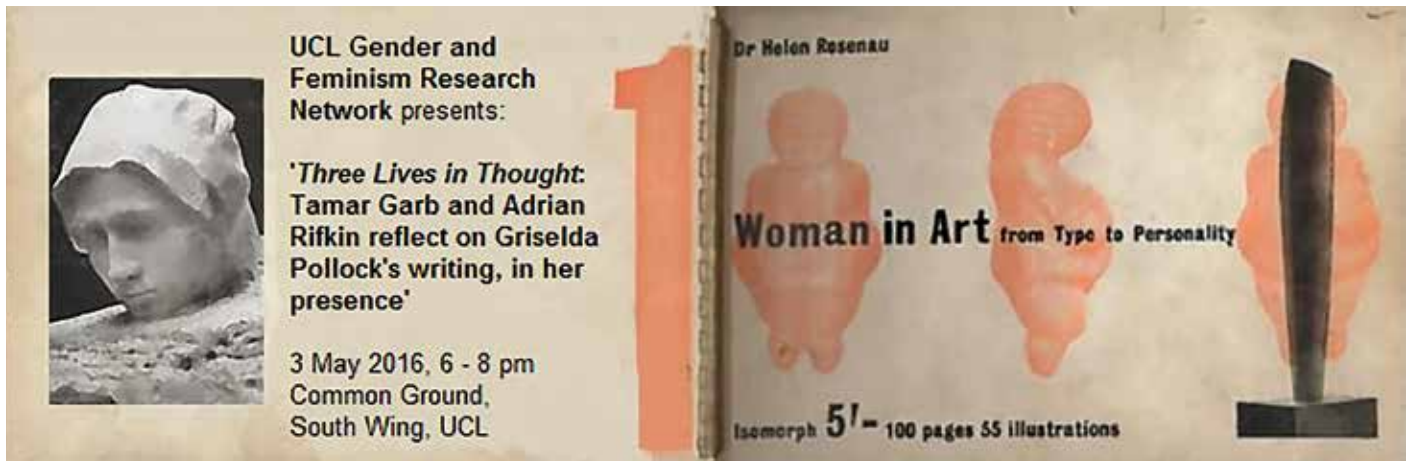


Image used for Three Lives in Thought: Tamar Garb and Adrian Rifkin reflect on Griselda Pollock's writing, in her presence event (3 May 2016)

## Gender and Feminism Network

The IAS recently revived the Gender and Feminism Network, an initiative designed to provide a focal point for UCL (as well as other London-based and international) scholars conducting research in and teaching about gender and feminism from across the humanities and social sciences. It aims to bring a wide range of expertise and knowledge from across faculties, schools and institutes into productive interdisciplinary dialogue. In doing so, the Network seeks to enhance the core mission of the IAS to sponsor critical thinking and engaged enquiry within and across conventional institutional boundaries. So many scholars at UCL are involved in their scholarship and daily lives with questions of gender, sexuality and feminist politics and the Network showcases and shares this work. Early in the academic year, the Network hosted a meeting to explore and make visible UCL-based research with presentations including discussions of girls' education, the sexual politics of food, the gendering of war and violence, trafficking in women and literary/pictorial constructions of gender and sexuality. Key events included a public conversation with feminist art historian Griselda Pollock (Leeds University) and a schedule of regular fortnightly seminars is planned for 2016–2017.

## FRINGE Centre

The FRINGE Centre (UCL's Centre for the Study of Social and Cultural Complexity) explores the roles that complexity, ambivalence and immeasurability play in social and cultural phenomena. A cross-area-studies and cross-disciplinary initiative bringing together scholars from the humanities and social sciences, FRINGE examines how seemingly opposed notions such as centrality and marginality, clarity and ambiguity, can shift and converge when embedded in everyday practices.

Image used for FRINGE Centre Squatting in East and West Europe (13 June 2016)





## Health Humanities Centre

The UCL Health Humanities Centre draws together staff from different disciplines, departments and faculties engaged in teaching and research on matters relating to health, illness and well-being. Staff are currently based in the departments of History, Science and Technology Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Philosophy, Mental Health, Population Health, Global Health, Laws, Political Science, History of Art, The Institute of the Americas, Geography, Political Science, The Slade School of Fine Art, the School of European Languages, Culture and Society and the Medical School. It provides a UCL forum for teaching and research in the health humanities, through Masters programmes, conferences, seminars, workshops, and public engagement. It draws upon UCL's disciplinary strengths, while fostering further interdisciplinary collaborations.

The Health Humanities Centre was established in 2015 through joining together the Centre for Philosophy, Justice and Health, the Centre for the History of Psychological Disciplines, and the former History of Medicine Centre. It forms part of the IAS and is supported by UCL's Science, Medicine and Society Network. The IAS also has a focus on medical humanities in Africa addressing how this field translates in the context of sub-Saharan African settings,

**The Health Humanities Centre was established in 2015 through joining together the Centre for Philosophy, Justice and Health, the Centre for the History of Psychological Disciplines, and the former History of Medicine Centre.**

and exploring what can we learn from those sites. In the spirit of 'theory from the South', we are investigating the ways in which African humanities scholars, artists and activists interact with and transform medical practice in what are often resource-poor settings characterised by medical pluralism. This forms part of a larger five-year project, generously funded by the Wellcome Trust on the history of chronic and non-communicable disease in Africa. We work collaboratively with the University of Ghana, the University of Witwatersrand, and the University of Malawi, as well as with the Africa Health Research Institute in South Africa in which UCL is a key partner.

**qUCL is a university-wide network of staff and students that brings together teaching and research across UCL.**



Image used for Queer without Borders Workshop (above) and in action (below) (21 June 2016)



qUCL is a university-wide network of staff and students that brings together teaching and research across UCL on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* and queer (LGBTQ) equalities, identities and histories. It launched in October 2015 with a reading group on the queerness of nonsense poetry, the first of six sessions led by students and staff in History, English, History of Art, the Slade School of Fine Art and the Institute of Archaeology. In November 2015, it co-hosted a high profile panel debate, chaired by the Provost of UCL, on Global LGBT+ Issues and Universities. In February 2016, qUCL helped support a conference on LGBT Spaces in Soho (recordings now on SoundCloud). A particular highlight was 'Queer Wars' in May 2016, a panel discussion featuring Dennis Altman, Henrietta Moore and Jeffrey Weeks, organised as part of UCL Festival of Culture. The year culminated with 'Queer Without Borders' in June 2016, which provided an exciting platform for colleagues across UCL with interests in LGBTQ studies and related fields to share research across disciplinary boundaries.



## Secularity and Secularism Studies

The IAS houses UCL's new multidisciplinary Secularity and Secularism Studies (SSS) centre, launched in Spring 2016. SSS is the first dedicated intellectual centre in the UK for research in this field, and draws on expertise from across UCL.

In its first year, SSS has been home to the Scientific Study of Non-religious Belief (SSNB) project (funded by the John Templeton Foundation) and hosted the first of the SSNB lecture series, with talks from Professor Courtney Bender (Columbia University) and Ann Taves (University of California Santa Barbara). The lecture series will continue in the autumn with contributions from Conrad Hackett (Pew Research Forum), Andrew Copson (CE of the British Humanist Association), David Voas (UCL Social Science, Head of Department), and many others.

SSS also works in collaborating with researchers of secularity, secularism and religion from across UCL and in its first year has collaborated with the School of Public Policy's Religion and Political Theory Centre (RAPT). Centre publications include the *Oxford Dictionary of Atheism*, written by SSS Director Dr Lois Lee and IAS Visiting Research Fellow, Dr Stephen Bullivant. SSS activities have already attracted media attention, in relation to Dr Lee's work with the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network and her expertise on nonreligion, and international coverage of Dr Bullivant's recent research, covered in *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *Time* magazine.

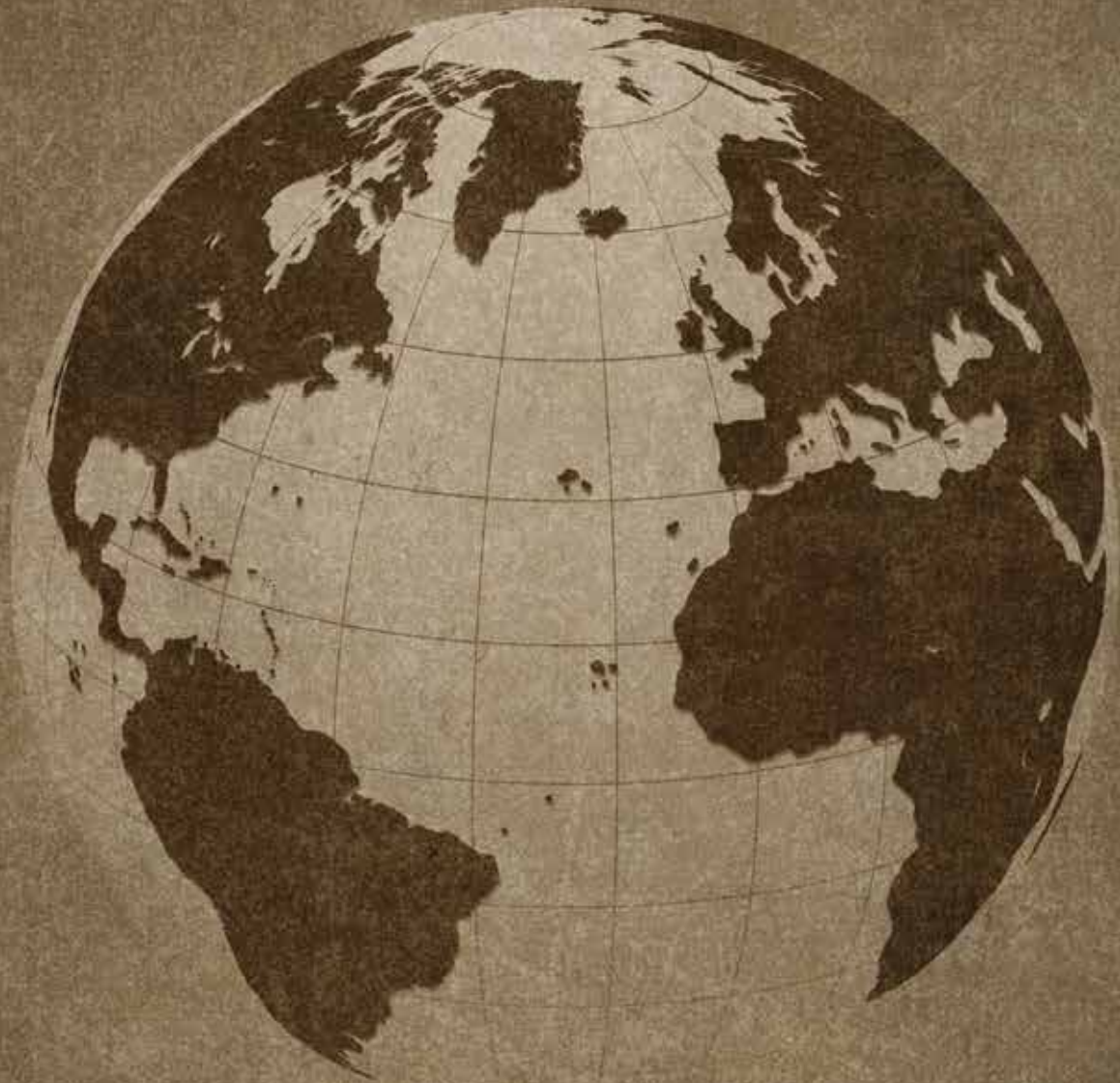
## The UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The UCL Centre for Collective Violence and Genocide Studies adopts multi-disciplinary approaches to understanding underlying processes and implications of collective violence.

It has held regular seminars throughout the year with colleagues talking about their current work. A particular highlight was the interdisciplinary workshop in February, featuring talks by Stephanie Bird, Mignon Nixon, Tejendra Pherali, Michael Stewart and Sherrill Stroschein.

The Centre's Research Fellow, Stefanie Rauch, has made considerable progress in analysing and cataloguing for wider use and access a unique collection of filmed interviews with people 'on the perpetrator side' in the Third Reich.

As one of only a handful of collections of such testimonies world-wide, the collection is of international significance. Once completed, this work will contribute important insights by investigating patterns of self-representation in accounts given by people who were witnesses to or participants in Nazi violence.



# Area Studies Re-mapped

The IAS is looking at redefining area studies, by examining its traditional histories, political underpinnings and inherited structures while exploring changing configurations of place, border, boundary and locale.



Image used for SSEES  
Area Studies in the 21st Century  
without Borders Conference  
(9 November 2015)

This ongoing research project engages UCL scholars from SSEES and the Institute of the Americas as well as newly established programmes like African Studies and informal networks like The Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Indian Ocean World. European Studies is also a key participant in this extensive project of troubling received notions of ‘area’ and ‘identity’, ‘self’ and ‘other’ in a rapidly changing and migrating world. One of the most interesting initiatives of 2015–2016 has been the establishment of the research network ‘Refuge in a Moving World’ (in collaboration with UCL’s Institute for Global Prosperity). It has taken as its focus the current migration and refugee crisis by convening seminars and conferences bringing together academics, policy makers, artists, writers and politicians to confront the urgent issues of ‘hospitality and hostility’ that face us in the world today. Thinking ‘area’ is at the heart of an ethical and intellectual engagement with notions of nationhood and belonging that are at the forefront of current debate. Conversations are ongoing about setting up similar research centres relating to East Asia and the Middle East.



Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Indian Ocean World Logo



## Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Indian Ocean World

The Centre was conceived by its co-directors, Tariq Jazeel (Geography) and Jagjeet Lally (History), in 2014–15 as part of the discussions surrounding the establishment of the IAS. In its maiden year, the Centre sought to bring together UCL's large, but until now disparate and disconnected, community of scholars of South Asia (conceived broadly). The inauguration of a successful fortnightly term-time research seminar series in early 2016 with speakers from across departments, and a Post-graduate Researcher's Workshop in June, served this end and highlighted the enthusiasm for the Centre as a meeting-ground for South Asianists at UCL and in London. The Centre also serves as link within UCL Global Engagement Office's new South Asia Regional Network.



Image used for Deep Pasts, Deep Futures – Mande, Yoruba and Kongo Symposium (6 November 2015)

## African Studies Research Centre

This academic year began with a collaborative symposium hosted by the African Studies Research Centre (ASRC) and CREDOC on African Civilisations, with a broad range of visiting scholars from Africa, the USA and the UK speaking on both deep time and contemporary trajectories in the Mande, Yoruba and Kongo socio-political traditions.

The highly successful UCL African Voices programme took place in January under the direction of Dr Ben Page (Geography) with the collaboration of the ASRC, the UCL African Caribbean Society and UCL Global Challenges – the organisation which funded these events. African Voices was focused on talks and debate by five high-profile visiting colleagues from universities in Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal and South Africa.

Throughout the year, a new joint lecture series of the ASRC and the Royal African Society brought together large audiences, many from outside the university. The series focussed on issues of Heritage and Politics in Africa. Perhaps the year's most exciting lecture event – a dual presentation by Olivette Otele (Bath Spa) and Johnny Pitts (Writer and Media Commentator) about African identity in Europe – brought in a full house and passionate debate.

Finally, UCL African Studies sponsored three sessions and a panel at summer 2016's African Studies Association UK conference – focusing on African Urbanism.



Image used for The Impact of WWII on European Society and Culture Conference (23–24 June 2016)

## European Institute

This was a very busy year for the UCL European Institute. A natural emphasis fell on the UK's relationship with the European Union. It hosted policy panels on issues as diverse as the role of national parliaments, emerging scenarios for the energy sector, and the impact of EU membership on science. The Institute also curated a 'Brexit Division' series analysing the campaigns; ran two guest-edited weeks on Open Democracy; edited a bespoke blog ([www.britain-europe.com](http://www.britain-europe.com)) and published several policy briefs. But there was life beyond Brexit, too, with a fascinating conference on the legacy of WWII, the launch of a new series on Conceptions of Freedom; and a cluster of activities for its Passionate Politics project, to name but a few. The European Institute collaborated with the IAS to host a panel on 'Extreme Violence' in the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks in December 2015 with participation from political scientists, psychoanalysts, historians, literary scholars and others.



Image used for What is Latin about Latin America—Elite Culture, History, and the Making of a Continental Identity Public Symposium (21 May 2016)

## Institute of the Americas

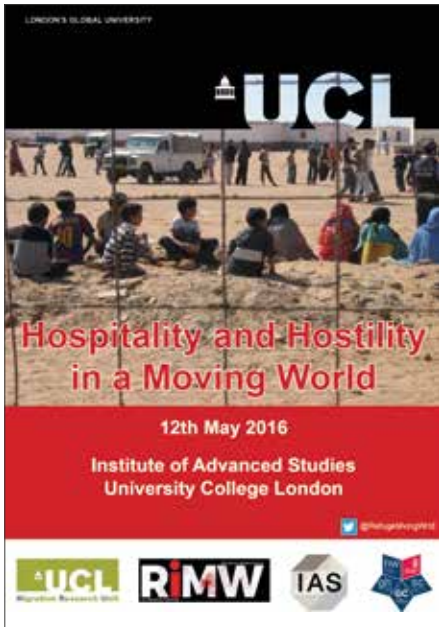
UCL Institute of the Americas (UCL Americas) has organised, hosted and/or funded 74 public events as well as eight other events (workshops, symposia, etc.) by invitation only during the academic year 2015–16. These events ranged from international conferences to regular seminar series, from specific topics to interdisciplinary encounters, covering all geographical areas of the American continent, the issues they face and the domains of academic expertise present at the Institute, by way of its permanent staff, visiting fellows and student body.

Most of these events have been convened and organised by programme directors and academic events co-ordinators, but the Institute has also given ample opportunity to its students (PhD candidates, MA and MSc students, and

student-led research networks) to show their initiative and bring us academically-relevant events for the enrichment of student life at UCL Americas. It continues to collaborate with government bodies (notably the FCO), embassies and high commissions, NGOs and other UCL departments.

In line with UCL's mission of openness and public engagement, the vast majority of these events were free to the public and were widely advertised, and UCL Americas has also organised a number of workshops by invitation only, targeting mainly experts available in other HE institutions in the UK, the EU and further afield.





Hospitality and Hostility in a Moving World  
Conference poster  
(12 May 2016)

## Refuge in a Moving World

Since its birth in autumn 2015, the Refuge in a Moving World research network has drawn together the wide-ranging research expertise of over 30 academics from across UCL— from disciplines as wide-ranging as Architecture, Anthropology, Childhood Studies, Global Health, History, Literature, Politics, and Urban Planning – to critically discuss the nature and implications of, and representations around the world. In addition to a major Roundtable and its keystone Seminar Series, the network convened its first major conference, Hospitality and Hostility in a Moving World, in May 2016. Attended by over 100 people, the conference included 24 presentations by academics humanitarian practitioners and leading artists, with the opening plenary, by Michaël Neumann, offering a critical reflection on Médecins Sans Frontières’ experience of responding to the ‘migration crisis’ in Europe in 2015–2016. The conference’s final plenary session, entitled Art in a Moving World, interwove leading artist Zineb Sidera’s critical reflections on the aesthetics and politics of representing different forms of migration, mobility and conflict, with screenings of her feted artworks. A Special Seminar was led by IAS Visiting Research Fellow, Professor Evthymios Papataxiarchis, who discussed the unfolding of the ongoing refugee crisis, and the politics of hospitality and solidarity with refugees in Skala Sykamnias in Greece, and a major Public Conversation brought renowned authors Eva Hoffman and Jonny Steinberg in conversation with Tamar Garb, to discuss the ethical and moral imperatives that the current refugee crisis has provoked and the role of writing in recounting and relaying personal tales and testimonies.



Rare Books and Maps, SSEES Library

## School of Slavonic and East European Studies

In collaboration with the IAS, a large group of SSEES scholars is engaged in a multi-year programme on redefining area studies. In several projects (including two contracted edited volumes, workshops, and conference presentations) we are working to answer such questions as: Where is (East European) area studies now? How reflexive have we really been about the definitions of genealogies of our areas, and what can we do to convert reflexivity into real-life frontier-shifting and boundary-dismantling, with influence in the policy making world? How long will we hold onto bounded ‘container’ concepts of areas, in a world where previously close ties within and between cultural and geographical units are loosened? How does the current practice of area studies challenge or reproduce inequalities in the circulation and production of knowledge, particularly between academic systems in the Global North and those in regions that are studied in area studies programmes? How do we translate the pieties of comparative and interdisciplinary work into our daily practice as researchers and teachers? What heterodox, counter-canonical mappings and imaginaries of area can we draw on?



# Our People

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## ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



### **Professor Tamar Garb**

Tamar Garb is Durning Lawrence Professor in the History of Art and a Fellow of the British Academy. She joined UCL in 1989 after obtaining a BA (Art) from the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, and post-graduate degrees from London University's Institute of Education (1980) and the Courtauld Institute (1982, 1991). Her research interests have focused on questions of gender and sexuality in nineteenth and early twentieth century French art. Key publications include *Sisters of the Brush: Women's Artistic Culture in Late Nineteenth Century Paris* (Yale University Press, 1994); *Bodies of Modernity: Figure and Flesh in Fin de Siecle France*, (Thames & Hudson, 1998) and *The Painted Face, Portraits of Women in France 1814–1914* (Yale University Press, 2007). She has also published on questions of race and representation and co-edited (with Linda Nochlin) a volume of essays, *The Jew in the Text: Modernity and the Construction*

*of Identity* (T&H, 1995). Her interests have shifted recently to post-apartheid culture and art and the history of lens-based practices in Africa, and in recent years she has turned to curating. Shows have included *Land Marks/Home Lands; Contemporary Art from South Africa* (2008), *Gauguin Maker of Myth* with Belinda Thomson, (Tate, 2010); *Figures and Fictions: Contemporary South African Photography* (V&A, 2011); *Distance and Desire: Encounters with the African Archive* (Walther Collection, New York and Ulm, 2013). Tamar has supervised over 25 PhD students and taught across BA and MA modules at UCL for the past three decades. From 2008 to 2012, she was the Head of Department of History of Art. She is enormously excited by the challenge (both intellectually and administratively) that the Directorship of the IAS presents and sees her new role as 'midwife' to innovative work, exploratory thinking and open-ended, engaged enquiry in a genuinely inclusive and collaborative environment.



## VICE DEAN (INTERDISCIPLINARITY)

**Faculty of Social & Historical  
Sciences and Professor of  
African History and Health**

### **Professor Megan Vaughan**

Megan Vaughan was formerly Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History at the University of Cambridge and Professor of Commonwealth Studies at the University of Oxford. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Historical Society.

Megan Vaughan joined the Institute of Advanced Studies in October 2015 as Professor of African History and Health. Her work, which crosses disciplinary boundaries, has focused on the history of medicine and psychiatry in Africa, on the history of famine, food supply and gender relations, and on slavery in the Indian Ocean region. Most recently she held a major AHRC award on the history of death and death practices in Eastern and Southern Africa. She is now working on a Wellcome Trust-funded history of epidemiological change in Africa, focusing on 'chronic' diseases. She began her career at the University of Malawi and maintains strong links there and elsewhere in the region. She is committed to working collaboratively with African scholars and institutions and is a past President of the African Studies Association of the UK.

Professor Vaughan holds a five-year Wellcome Trust Investigator Award in Medical Humanities to research *Chronic Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa: a critical history of an 'Epidemiological*

*Transition'*. The study is being carried out collaboratively with colleagues in Ghana, South Africa and Malawi and aims to produce a clearer historical analysis of the rise in incidence of non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and a critical account of epidemiological change, contextualising this within a larger environmental, economic and social history. This is an interdisciplinary project involving public health experts, social epidemiologists, social psychologists, historians and anthropologists. Among the issues to be addressed are changing nutrition, the incidence of diabetes mellitus, obesity and 'metabolic disorders'; the experience of co-morbidities; changing patterns of cancer in Africa; environmental health, 'exposures' and the role of epigenetics; the history of hypertension and heart disease and the relationship between infectious and non-communicable diseases. The project works closely with the University of Ghana at Legon (Professor Ama de Graft Aikins, Vice-Dean of the School of Graduate Studies); Professor Moffat Nyirenda, Director of the Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Unit, Lilongwe, Malawi; Medical Humanities at Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), directed by Professor Catherine Burns; and the Africa Centre for Population Health, Mtubatuba, South Africa, directed by Professor Deenan Pillay.



## ADMINISTRATOR AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Catherine graduated in History from King's College London and has previously worked in university administration for the former Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School, the Institute of Historical Research and Cass Business School, City University, as well as having been a teacher of English as a foreign language in Finland and Sweden. Catherine's role encompasses all administrative aspects of the Institute, including planning and development, promotion, recruitment, external and internal relationships, and financial management. She has also developed and maintained the Institute's website and runs the events which take place in the Common Ground.

# Our People

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## JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS 2015–16



### **Laurent Dissard**

“During 2015–2016, I led the IAS research group on Materialities & Technologies bringing in scholars and students from across the UK to speak on the ‘Global Politics of Infrastructures’. I pursued this theme further in collaboration with Vanesa Castan-Broto of UCL’s Development Planning Unit during the ‘Critical Perspectives of Urban Infrastructure’ conference from 13 to 17 June 2016, bringing together more than 30 scholars from across the world. This intensive workshop will eventually result in a special issue of an Urban Geography journal. Outside these activities, I made significant progress on my book manuscript, *Submerged Stories*, and submitted different articles to the *International Journal of Islamic Architecture*, *Jadaliyya*, *International Water Power & Dam Construction* and *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*.”

### **About Laurent**

Before joining the UCL Institute of Advanced Studies, Laurent completed his PhD in Near Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley (2011), received a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Penn Humanities Forum at the University of Pennsylvania (2013) and was Associate Researcher at the Institut Français d’Études Anatoliennes in Istanbul (2014).



### **Mohammed Rashed**

As a Junior Research Fellow at the IAS, I was able to make good progress with my research in philosophy and political activism in mental health. Through the stimulating academic environment of the IAS, I had many opportunities to present my research and refine ideas in conversation with colleagues from various disciplines. I also organised a seminar series and a conference on topics related to the theory and politics of recognition and, more broadly, the theme of identities and voices. In addition, I benefited from attending many seminars and symposia at the IAS, reflecting the interdisciplinary and topical nature of the research conducted here by fellows and affiliated academics.

### **About Mohammed**

Mohammed read for a master’s degree in the philosophy of mental disorder at King’s College London (2008), before completing his PhD at University College London in humanities and mental health (2012). Subsequently, he received a fellowship from the Division of Philosophy & Ethics of Mental Health, University of Pretoria (2013–2015). He is a medical doctor with postgraduate training in psychiatry.





### **Ellen Filor**

“My theme of Conflict, Confrontation and Justice has allowed me to explore the violence of the state, the resistance of the colonised, and the racial basis of legal systems. With IAS Visiting Research Fellow, Dr Sascha Auerbach, I organised Short Histories of the British Empire, 1816–1856, a day-long event that asked how approaches from disparate regions and fields might fruitfully inform one another.

During my time as a Junior Research Fellow at the IAS, I have had the opportunity to develop my own research into corruption in the East India Company and organise a seminar series with colleagues from numerous disciplines. This funding has allowed me to undertake extensive archival research in the India Office Records at the British Library and write two articles on the impact of corruption in nineteenth-century India. My seminar series, run under the broad theme “Conflict, Confrontation and Justice”, covered topics as diverse as the injustices in sex health treatment in Britain to the conflicts in Sierra Leone. Ultimately, the inter-disciplinary nature of the IAS has pushed my work, thinking and practice in multiple and fruitful directions.”

### **About Ellen**

Ellen has history degrees from the University of York and the University of Warwick. She completed her PhD in 2014 at University College London. Since passing her viva, she has been a Scottish Studies Fulbright Scholar at the University of Michigan.



### **Gemma Angel**

“Over the course of 2015–16, I was able to conduct in-depth ethnographic research at a number of key pathology and anatomy museums and collections across London. The primary focus of the research has been UCL pathology collections, where I have utilised a number of key specimens to work within the context of public engagement and seminar activities at the IAS. The fellowship at UCL IAS has allowed me to complete and submit a number of publications developed from my PhD. I have a forthcoming book chapter in an edited collection on Tattoo Archaeology, as well as an invited article for *Victorian Review* on the theme of the 19th century modified body. In addition, I have been invited to act as guest editor of a special issue of *Human Remains and Violence* on the ethics of display of human remains, as well as two research articles in preparation for the *Journal of Conservation and Museum Studies*, and *Oxford Art Journal*. Following the success of the IAS seminar series and international conference *Bodily Matters*, I am now working on an edited collection on the theme of contemporary biomaterial art practice.”

### **About Gemma**

Gemma Angel is an interdisciplinary scholar specialising in the history and anthropology of the European tattoo, and medical museum collections of human remains. She completed her doctoral thesis at University College London in collaboration with the Science Museum in 2013. Prior to joining the UCL Institute of Advanced Studies, she received a Wellcome Trust ISSF Postdoctoral Fellowship to study anatomical collections at the University of Leeds Humanities Research Institute (2015).



### **Stefanie Rauch**

#### **The UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies**

“I have been working on opening up a significant oral history collection of perpetrator testimony, newly acquired by UCL, for wider research and use in education by assessing its content and relevance, making it discoverable through indexing and cataloguing, and creating a collection guide for future users. Based on this collection, I have developed a new research project exploring the consequences and long-term impact of war and genocide on people on the Nazi perpetrator side in relation to questions of self and identity, agency and justice, the first results of which will be presented at conferences in Utrecht and Jerusalem in August and December 2016. Events which I organised in 2015–16 include a book proposal workshop in April 2016 jointly organised with fellow IAS JRF Laurent Dissard, the first two seminars of a new UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies seminar series, and I secured funding to host a workshop on Perpetration, Collaboration and Complicity at the IAS in October 2016.”

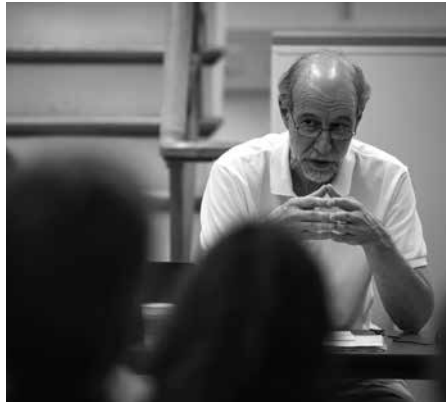
### **About Stefanie**

Stefanie Rauch received her master's degree in Modern History from Humboldt University Berlin (2009), before completing her PhD in History at the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Leicester (2014). Prior to taking up her Junior Research Fellowship at UCL, she worked in the field of publishing (Digital Humanities) on the commissioning of digital archive projects.

# Our People

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## SENIOR VISTING RESEARCH FELLOWS 2015–16



### **Professor Evthymios Papataxiarchis**

During his time in the IAS, Professor Papataxiarchis worked on the local ramifications of the European refugee crisis in the border region of the Eastern Aegean islands. His anthropological project examines how the historical consciousness of difference informs the production of 'humanitarian governance' from below and affects the restructuring of the regime of border management.

#### **About Evthymios**

Evthymios Papataxiarchis studied Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics. He received a BSc (Econ.) in Social Anthropology with First Class Honours in 1978 and a PhD on the basis of extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Aegean Greece in 1988. He is also a graduate of the School of Law of the University of Athens. Since 1987 he has taught Social Anthropology at the University of the Aegean, where he has also been advisor to the Governing Body of the University for the establishment of the first Department of Social Anthropology in Greece.



### **Professor Stuart Elden**

Professor Elden's main focus during his time at the IAS was on completing the manuscript of *Foucault: The Birth of Power*, which is the second of two linked Foucault books, to be published by Polity Press in January 2017. This work was presented as an IAS lunchtime seminar and at a UCL Geography seminar.

Professor Elden's secondary focus was on a manuscript under the draft title of *Shakespearean Territories*. He presented a draft chapter at a 'Talking Points' seminar, and used material from another chapter for a roundtable event on 'Representation'.

#### **About Stuart**

Stuart Elden is Professor of Political Theory and Geography at University of Warwick and Monash Warwick Professor at Monash University. He is the author of five books, including *The Birth of Territory* (University of Chicago Press, 2013). His next book is *Foucault's Last Decade* (Polity Press, 2017). He has been involved in editing several collections of Henri Lefebvre's writings, including *Metaphilosophy* (Verso) and has edited or co-edited books on Kant, Foucault and Sloterdijk. He runs a blog at [www.progressivegeographies.com](http://www.progressivegeographies.com)



### **Professor Yves Sintomer**

Whilst at the IAS, Professor Sintomer worked on a project entitled *New Political Representative Claims: A Global View (England, France, Germany, Brazil, China, India)*, which compared representative claims at the national level in England, France and Germany with Brazil, India and China. As part of this research, he gave a Talking Points seminar on the future of democracy and convened a lunchtime panel discussion on the theme of representation.

### **About Yves**

Yves Sintomer is a Senior Fellow at the French University Institute, and Professor of Political Science at Paris 8 University. He has or has held academic positions at a number of institutions: Neuchâtel, Lausanne, Bask country, Harvard, Tsinghua (Beijing), Frankfurt, Madrid, Louvain-la-Neuve, Catania and the Marc Bloch Center (Berlin). His writings have been published in 18 languages, and include *Participatory Budgeting in Europe; Democracy and Public Governance* (with C. Herzberg and A. Röcke), Ashgate, London, 2016 (in print).





# Our People

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## VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS



### **Dr Sascha Auerbach**

Sascha is a Lecturer in the History Department of the University of Nottingham. He worked on two research projects at the IAS. The first, a book manuscript titled *Armed with Sword and Scales: Courtrooms, Culture and Law in Modern London*, examines legal culture and the relationship between everyday courtroom practice and social relations in London from the late-eighteenth century to the early-twentieth, on which he gave a Talking Points seminar. The second project is an historical re-assessment of indentured labour in the nineteenth-century British Empire. It focuses on the contrasts and similarities between how the system operated in disparate regions and on how Chinese and Indian migrants contested the dynamics of work and governance in the Caribbean, southern Africa, and the Indian Ocean World. Related to this project, Sascha co-organised a conference entitled 'Short Histories of the British Empire, 1816–1856' with Junior Research Fellow, Dr Ellen Filor.



### **Dr Nishat Awan**

Nishat is a Lecturer in Architecture at University of Sheffield. Her research interests include the production and representation of spaces of migration, including borders, and she explores how these can be addressed through spatial practice. At the IAS, she worked on a project entitled 'Migrant Narratives of Citizenship', which aimed to uncover lived narratives of citizenship that describe modes of European belonging beyond the traditional norm of birth right and gave the Talking Points seminar 'Stories of Migration and Belonging from the Edges of Europe' based on her fieldwork.



### **Dr Stephen Bullivant**

Stephen is Senior Lecturer in Theology and Ethics, and Director of the Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society, at St Mary's University, Twickenham. He (along with the IAS's Dr Lois Lee and colleagues from Coventry and Queen's, Belfast) worked on 'The Scientific Study of Nonreligious Belief' project, funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Among other outputs, this will involve co-authoring *The Oxford Dictionary of Atheism* with Dr Lee. He also worked on researching and writing a monograph, provisionally titled *Mass Exodus: Catholic Disaffiliation since Vatican II*, focusing on 'former Catholics' in Britain and the USA, as well as co-editing books on poverty and charity in the Bible and the present day, and the continuing significance of *Humanae Vitae*.



### **Dr Katharina Donn**

Katharina is a Lecturer and post-doctoral academic fellow at the University of Augsburg. Her research in the field of trauma studies uncovers the paradox of intimate vulnerability and globalised spectacle in the aftermath of terror. At the IAS, she worked on completing the manuscript of her book, *A Poetics of Trauma after 9/11: Representing Vulnerability in a Digitized Present*, and gave a Talking Points seminar on it. This work contributes to the most recent turn in trauma theory that looks to pluralise this concept and its research.



### **Dr Martin Edwards**

Martin worked for over 30 years as a GP in South London and recently retired from clinical practice. At the IAS, he researched therapeutic bed rest, which for over a century formed a significant part, if not the mainstay, of therapy for a wide variety of ailments, yet has received scant attention from historians. He examined factors underlying the popularity of bed rest from the mid-nineteenth century and its decline from the middle of the twentieth, utilising a variety of sources, including contemporary literature, to elicit patients' perspectives of bed rest, and ways in which both practitioners and patients might have exploited the power transactions and tensions inherent in one party confining the other to bed for prolonged periods. He worked closely with UCL's Health Humanities Research Centre.

# Our People

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## **Dr Michael McEachrane**

Michael has a PhD in Philosophy from Åbo Akademi University in Finland and is a visiting assistant professor of postcolonial studies at the University of Bremen in Germany. He is also a seasoned international activist in the areas of anti-racism and reparatory justice. His research focused on the concepts of 'colonial legacies' and 'reparatory justice' for such legacies by exploring why and how it is significant to speak of injustices of racial stratification, domination and exploitation in Europe, its former colonies and international relations as colonial legacies, as well as how such legacies legitimately are in need of reparatory justice.



## **Dr Niklas Olsson Yaouzis**

Niklas obtained a PhD in Practical Philosophy from Stockholm University in 2012 and his main research interests are in philosophy of the social sciences and political philosophy. At the IAS, he examined an answer to the question of how highly oppressive and unequal societies survive. According to the theory of ideology, unequal societies persist because ideology prevents the members of these societies from acting on their real interests. The theory also claims that unequal societies produce the ideology that contributes to the society's persistence. Many philosophers and social scientists have been suspicious of the second claim. He used recent developments in epistemology, philosophy of language, and philosophy of the social sciences to dispel these worries.



## **Dr Asmaa Soliman**

Asmaa is a Teaching Fellow and Pathway Representative for Societies at UCL's Arts and Sciences Department and Visiting Fellow at the LSE European Institute. Her research project at the IAS was European Muslim Female Artists & Their Identity Expressions in the Arts, which aimed at analysing gender-related themes in European Muslim women's identity expressions within the arts, and on which she gave a Talking Points seminar entitled '*Controlling our Bodies: Muslim women artists speak out*'.



# IAS Initiatives

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In addition to the interdisciplinary 'Talking Points' seminars, the IAS has supported five book launches as well as many one-off research focussed events. These are all listed in the IAS archive on our website.

We have also convened the Octagon Friday Forum, where early career scholars and PhD students arrange symposia and workshops for the broader UCL community.

Our activities have ranged from big public lectures to small in-house reading groups convened in an eclectic and exploratory environment. At the same time, we have provided a 'home' for cutting-edge individual research that has benefitted from the constructive and critical engagement of our residential community and its weekly lunch-time seminar.



# Looking Ahead

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We will continue to build on and expand existing research initiatives that are both thematically driven and open ended. Our themes for 2016-2017 are 'Planetary Futures' and 'Sense and Sensation', and four new JRFs have been appointed to carry out their research and galvanise thinking in these areas. Calls will go out for applications to organise related research events as well as open initiatives.

We will also be hosting approximately twenty visiting research fellows in the IAS in the year ahead and will continue building our 'area-studies re-mapped' agenda with partners across the globe. New collaborations with Middle Eastern and East Asian scholars are being explored and China, in particular, is likely to become the focus for sustained and ongoing research development in the future. But as with all our area studies initiatives, we will be seeking to question and trouble inherited notions of area, to track their formation as well as explore the connections (physical, political, epistemological) that undermine fixed boundaries and borders.

The IAS will continue to support the work of our interdisciplinary research centres and help to build on the successes of the previous year.

We will be staunch advocates for the importance of the social sciences and humanities both within the university sector and in society at large and hope to build partnerships to strengthen and extend the kind of open-ended, intellectually and ethically driven research that we value.

# Find Us

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