

A large, high-contrast black and white portrait of Eric Hobsbawm. He is an older man with white hair, wearing thick-rimmed glasses. His right hand is raised to his forehead, with fingers spread. The background is dark and out of focus.

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BIRKBECK'S MAGAZINE REVIEW 2012

REMEMBERING ERIC HOBSBAWM

**Magnificent historian,
colleague, friend**

**BIRKBECK'S
SECOND HOME
New Stratford campus**

**RESEARCH & TEACHING
From Bloomsbury
to Uzbekistan**

A year of change



2012 has been a momentous and successful year for Birkbeck during an uncertain and challenging time for universities.

Higher education has been transformed by the Government's decision to raise tuition fees, and many prospective students have been left confused by this new reality. Birkbeck has responded by making unprecedented efforts to simplify the new system of fees and loans by providing advice at open evenings and workshops, and via webinars and social media. True to its original mission, the College has championed part-time study throughout, and continues to liaise with major stakeholders (including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Student Loans Company) to improve information, advice and guidance for part-time students (pp13-15).

London 2012 was one of the highlights of the year for many, including Olympic silver medal-winning rower and Birkbeck alumnus Rob Williams, and volunteers from Birkbeck's community (pp20-21). The excitement and energy linked to the celebration of sport has transformed east London, and Birkbeck is also playing its part in local regeneration by offering educational opportunities. University Square

Stratford – Birkbeck's new campus in Stratford (pp10-11) – will open to students this autumn as part of an innovative collaboration with the University of East London.

2012 was also marked by sadness for the Birkbeck community with the passing of Professor Eric Hobsbawm (a lecturer at Birkbeck since 1947 and its President for the last 10 years), Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge (former Chairman of Governors), and Professor George Overend (former Master). Much of this magazine is dedicated to their memory.

Colleagues pay tribute to Eric's extraordinary achievements as a world-leading historian, inspirational teacher, and friend (pp6-9, 51 and 54). A passionate supporter of part-time education, Eric based his celebrated trilogy about the nineteenth century on lectures delivered at Birkbeck to inspire students in the evenings. Lord Marshall (pp50-51) greatly supported the College by combining his interest in adult education, passion for London and extensive business experience.

This magazine provides a snapshot of the activities and research undertaken by Birkbeck's community. We hope you enjoy the range of articles, from developing an app about Bloomsbury (p33) to training lawyers in Uzbekistan (p41), and from an alumna combining surgery and writing (p44) to the launch of the Be Birkbeck lecture and library membership scheme (p45). Visit the links for more information online, and please do send us your thoughts.

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MASTER'S REPORT PROFESSOR DAVID LATCHMAN CBE



This has been another successful year for Birkbeck. In the National Student Survey (NSS) our teaching was once again highly rated by our students and we maintained our position as the highest ranked multi-faculty institution in London. Moreover, the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), granted us the right to award our own degrees. Although we intend to continue to award University of London degrees, this provides a significant safeguard for the future.

Moreover, the QAA recommendation was made following extensive review and represents a significant external recognition of our teaching and assessment processes. We also appeared once again in the top 200 universities in the world in the *Times Higher Education* ranking of what it refers to as the “global elite” or “top one per cent of universities in the world”.

These academic successes are paralleled by a strong financial position. In 2011–2012, as in 2010–2011, we recorded a surplus of over £6.5m. This is all the more remarkable coming so soon after the substantial financial losses due to the withdrawal of Government funding for students studying for an Equivalent or Lesser Qualification (ELQ). Moreover, this has been achieved without compromising the essential mission of the College in terms of flexible learning and research intensiveness.

These academic and financial successes are of particular importance as the College faces more difficult

circumstances in 2012–2013, when the entire university sector receives substantially decreased Government funding. The College, in common with all other universities, has had no choice other than to substantially increase its undergraduate fees.

These increases have been mitigated by the success of our campaign for part-time students, resulting in their being able to obtain student loans. Unfortunately, however, there have been significant problems in the introduction of such loans, with students often being given incorrect information by the Student Loans Company (SLC) as to their availability.

Similarly, applications for loans from part-time students were only accepted by the SLC much later in the year than from full-time students and had to be made via paper-based forms rather than online. These various problems led us to introduce the “Our Promise to You” campaign, in which we indicated to students that if we regarded them as eligible for a loan, we would allow them to start their studies and not pursue them for their fees while the SLC processed their loan application.

Despite this, we have seen a significant downturn in enrolments for our four-year degree programmes compared to last year’s record. However, this downturn has been partially compensated by a significant increase in the numbers enrolling on our three-year degree programmes, which allow students to work during the day but complete the course in the same time as a conventional full-time student. These three-year courses were first introduced two years

ago and are now available in around 20 subjects with more courses being introduced next year. They clearly represent an example of the College being innovative and responding to changes in the market.

Interestingly, a significant proportion of students on these degrees come from east London boroughs adjacent to Stratford, where we have been working in collaboration with the University of East London. Our new joint building is progressing well and will be completed in time for the



Clockwise from left: Torrington Square, with Birkbeck's main building right; My Birkbeck Helpdesk; the new Stratford building; Birkbeck's Open Evening; a Birkbeck student

“ ”

The sound academic and financial performance in the last few years provides us with a very solid base to meet the challenges of the future.

2013–2014 academic year. This will allow us to continue to develop our work in an area with very low participation in higher education.

The impact of the Government’s reforms of higher education will not be limited to undergraduates. In three years’ time, the first students will graduate with £27,000 of tuition fee debt and will be reluctant to pay additional sums for full-time Master’s degrees. I believe that this represents a significant opportunity for Birkbeck. We need to differentiate our Master’s

programmes from those in other institutions, indicating that they can be taken both over two years or one year (equivalent to full-time) by studying in the evening. Our one-year students therefore benefit from studying alongside working Londoners but are also themselves free to work during the day, if they wish to do so. This is obviously a unique situation that would not occur with one-year full-time students elsewhere, and our Master’s degrees may therefore become increasingly attractive to

those graduating with a large undergraduate debt.

As always, changes in higher education produce threats to Birkbeck and to its unique mission. I believe, however, that the sound academic and financial performance in the last few years provides us with a very solid base to meet the challenges of the future, particularly when combined with our ability to be innovative and to introduce new flexible forms of learning in accordance with the mission of Birkbeck.



A distinctive and magnificent historian

Professor Eric Hobsbawm (1917–2012) displayed principled and clear-sighted historical vision. Professor David Feldman describes these insights and recounts his experiences working with one of history's greatest intellectuals

Eric Hobsbawm – or, rather, E.J. Hobsbawm as I first knew him – was unavoidable from the moment I had any ambition to think seriously about history. I bought *Industry and Empire* – Eric's crystalline economic history of Britain from the industrial revolution to the mid-twentieth century – at the very start of my sixth form career and it was supplemented, inevitably and quickly, by *The Age of Revolution*. But it was another 20 years before I met Eric. I had recently arrived at Birkbeck College as a history lecturer, excited by the department's connection with the Hobsbawm name. By then, Eric had retired from teaching but he was still a regular presence in the department, collecting mail, chatting to the secretaries and gathering company for lunch in the College canteen.

It was immediately clear that Eric inspired affection as well as respect. This was interesting. Grand old historians, in my experience, had turned a more rebarbative face to the world. Eric was a model of how to grow old well. His interests remained omnivorous. Lunch conversation would usually begin with him asking something like, "What are you working on these days?" I would tell him. Invariably, Eric would set off, convinced he knew just as much, or more, about the subject as I did. Invariably he was right. He was quiet on just one occasion. I had been

looking at nineteenth-century non-conformist Christianity. "That's not something I ever much looked at," he replied. And we left it at that. The history of nationalism marked the limits of Eric's sympathy but not of his interest, and he wrote with insight on the subject. The history of religion, perhaps, marked the limits of both sympathy and interest for him.

In 2003 Eric was awarded the Balzan Prize for his work on the history of Europe in the twentieth century. The honour gave him almost £250,000 to spend on a research project of his own choosing. Eric chose as his subject the reconstruction of Europe in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War and he asked Mark Mazower and me to direct the project. I remember meeting Eric for a drink and his insistence that we examine the process of physical reconstruction: the bricks, mortar, steel and concrete. This was easier said than done. That sort of economic history is less practised now than 50 years ago. More colleagues now write about the history of citizenship, culture and identities – what Eric would once have called the superstructure – than about the history of material life. Yet this was a moment when Eric was admirable. Above all, there was his principled and clear-sighted historical vision. For Eric the research project was important, because it would explore how communism as much as capitalism

contributed to the re-creation of Europe from the ashes of war. There was also his insistence, both obstinate and luminous in the face of intellectual fashion, on the importance of economic history. And, equally apparent, was Eric's consideration and curiosity. He had made his intellectual point, and Mark and I respected it as much as we felt able. But it did not limit us and Eric never protested. He was an ideal presence: appreciative, engaged and ready to intervene sharply at the workshops and conferences we organised.

I had not always revered Eric in the way I came to regard him over these last two decades. Having read him in the sixth form, in my first term as an undergraduate 'Hobsbawm' was there again. I had to write an essay on the living standards of workers during the industrial revolution. Eric was at the heart of a dispute which combined an ideological charge with an approach that, at the time, I found dry and excessively technical. As a graduate student I encountered Eric in person for the first time, albeit across a room. Living in London I sometimes attended his seminar at the Institute of Historical Research. One particular afternoon I remember. The paper was given by Raphael Samuel and the sight of Eric and Raphael side by side, and my angle of vision from the corner of a packed room, led me to wonder why it was both these Marxist historians had



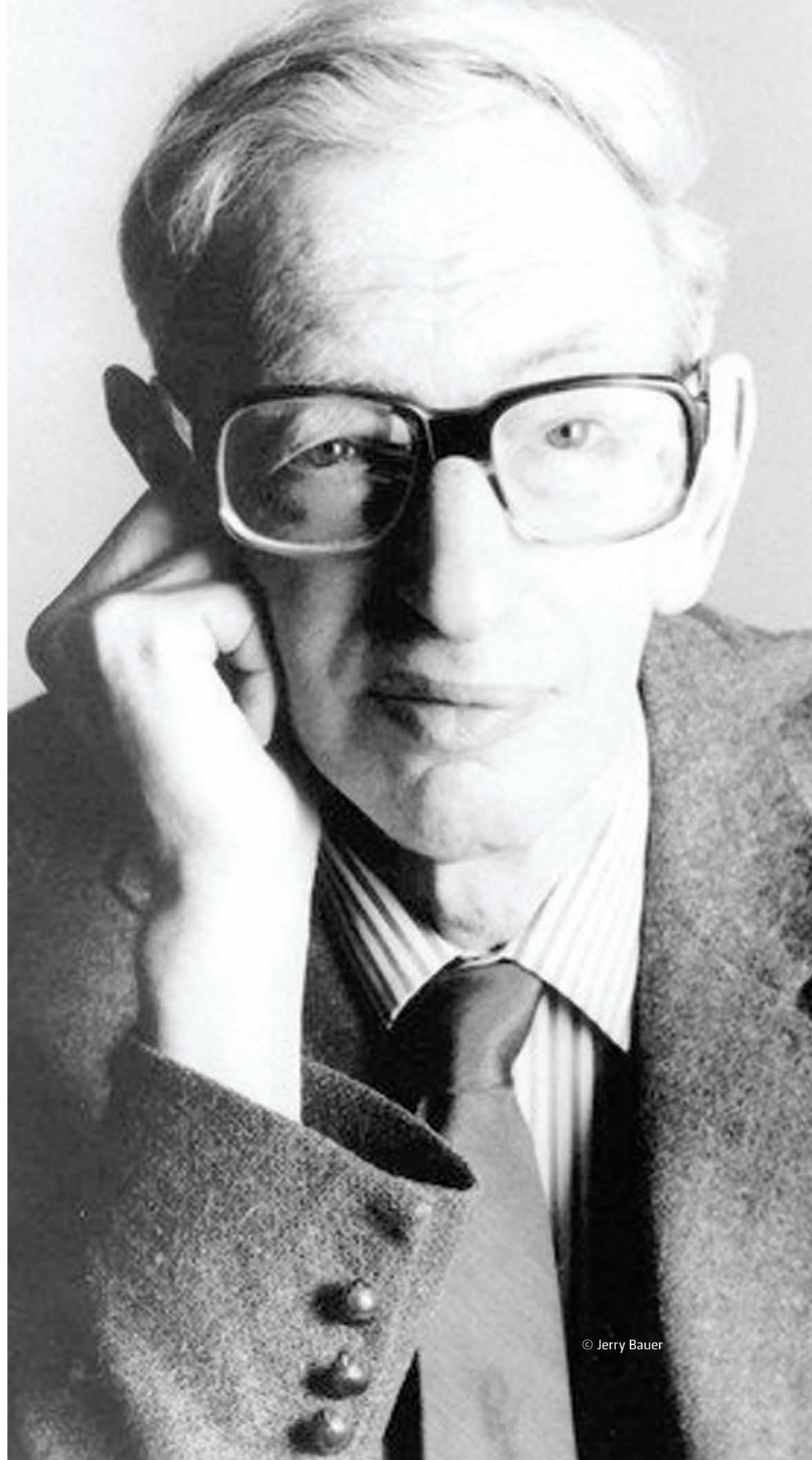
For more tributes to Eric Hobsbawm, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/erichobsbawm

adopted extravagant versions of the Bobby Charlton comb-over.

Eric, then, was inescapable, but in common with many others of my generation I was attracted to the work of more romantic Marxist historians such as Edward Thompson. In recent decades, as the appetite and capacity of historians to account for change in the long term has diminished, Eric's contribution has appeared all the more distinctive and magnificent. The degree of austerity, the refusal of sentimentality, all of which I had found a little off-putting when a student, now appear among his great strengths as a historian. As he acknowledged in his 1993 Creighton Lecture, as a Communist he was on the losing side of history. Movingly he tried to recuperate as a historian what had been lost politically. Winners, he suggested, rarely asked the interesting questions. How could they? Their victory so often seemed right or inevitable or both. In his last decades, when I knew him, having lost, Eric was able to ask how it was things turned out the way they did.

A shorter version of this article was published by *The Observer*. It is reprinted with kind permission.

David Feldman is Professor of History at Birkbeck, and Director of the Birkbeck-based Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism.



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Living history

Professor Eric Hobsbawm was a much-loved, inspiring and inquisitive colleague. Professor Frank Trentmann pays tribute to his intellect and collegiality

In the National Portrait Gallery hangs a picture (above) of the historians of *Past and Present*, the journal which more than any other transformed historical research in this country and beyond. In the 1999 painting, by Stephen Farthing, all the giants assembled in a book-lined study are looking intently at the viewer – except Eric Hobsbawm. Standing, characteristically, on the far left, Eric has his head slightly turned: he is talking on the phone – appropriately, because Hobsbawm the great communicator – was always connected. In fact, you might say that he created a wireless connection between past and present.

Much has been written about the role of the inter-war crisis in the making of Eric as a historian, not least by Eric himself. In my view, it is equally important to pay tribute to the qualities that kept him going and sustained him at this unsurpassed level for the last half-century of what was a uniquely creative life. Three characteristics, I believe, came together: a sense that history mattered and needed to be communicated as widely as possible; an openness to the world; and the literary as well as intellectual talent to connect individuals and

their lives to the 'big' forces of history.

I first met Eric when I was an undergraduate, at a seminar in 1988 at the Institute of Historical Research, a stone's throw from Birkbeck, performing alongside Reinhart Koselleck, the German doyen of conceptual history. The contrast between those two masters could not have been sharper; I did not know then that their relationship went back all the way to 1947, when Eric interviewed Koselleck and other returning German prisoners of war. Koselleck began with a highly analytical paper on 'crisis'. Then came Eric. He talked freely but with clarity, vigour and direction, as if addressing the nation via the BBC, moving effortlessly between periods, continents and classes. To be honest, I was not sure what to make of it at the time. His talk burst the convention of the standard seminar paper. It respected neither the chronological nor national boundaries of my courses. Nor were there any 'isations' or other fancy terms which academics often use to signal who is 'in' and who is 'out'. I felt I had an appointment with history itself.

Over a decade later, good fortune brought me back to London as a lecturer at Birkbeck, with the bonus of an office just around the corner from Eric's. "So what are you working on?" "What do you make of X?" "What, you think so?" Surely, I felt, he must have something more important to do than to find out what I thought. In fact, Eric did not care whether you were a junior colleague or a student, as long as you took history seriously. History was a mission, not a job, and he did not let his reputation stand in its way. His door was always open, no matter how large the mailbag with prestigious invitations, correspondence, books and off-prints from all over the world. When students asked him to come and talk to them, he would do so, long after retirement. Because the argument, like history itself, never stopped. Talking and walking with Eric was like being whizzed away by the spirit of history, as he outpaced the traffic, with his scarf blowing in the wind, and sometimes flying away.

His gift was to let us into his mind to follow its journey. "The first thing to observe about the world of the 1780s," he writes in *The Age of Revolution* (1962), "is that it was at once much

smaller and much larger than ours." Here, in a single sentence, he has pulled us into the world on the eve of the "dual revolution", before then taking us through it, step by step. The argument was always transparent, giving a reader the chance to weigh the factors at work for themselves before reaching a conclusion. "Nevertheless ...", he would often conclude – rarely has this word been put to greater effect in historical writing.

It is well to see Eric's literary talent in relation to his uniquely capacious vision of social history. In the 1960s and 1970s, war in the social sciences spilled over into history, splitting the profession into those who championed 'big' forces and structures and those who pressed for a 'history from below' with 'ordinary' people centre stage. Eric's achievement was to successfully resist such a division. For me, his work is at its most impressive where he moves between scales. In *The Age of Empire* (1987) – dedicated to "the students of Birkbeck College" – he takes us from labourers to the bourgeoisie, from local to global, from the Worker Rabbit Breeders to Richard Strauss' *Elektra*.

"Men make their own history," Karl Marx

“
To all those who take history seriously, Eric's legacy is immense. His life exemplified the virtuous chain between teaching, research and writing.
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Left: Historians of *Past and Present*, Stephen Farthing (© National Portrait Gallery). Standing, left to right: Eric Hobsbawm, Rodney Hilton, Lawrence Stone, Sir Keith Thomas. Sitting, from left to right: Christopher Hill, Sir John Elliott, Joan Thirsk
Below: Eric Hobsbawm at the 90th birthday party arranged for him at Birkbeck, with Frank Trentmann far right

wrote in 1852, "but they do not make it as they please." Eric took this famous line by a thinker he greatly admired to a higher level. People were not simply victims of modern capitalism, but nor was it wise to treat them in isolation from it. Peasants and workers left their mark on the course of history, even if, like the socialist project itself, they sometimes walked into a cul-de-sac.

To all those who take history seriously, Eric's legacy is immense. His life exemplified the virtuous chain between teaching, research and writing. It is thanks to him that history books aimed at "the intelligent and educated citizen", as he put it in *The Age of Revolution* – note "citizen" not mere reader – became respectable in the profession. Eric showed why critical history and argument were just as important to life and democracy as food and shelter. He explained how people helped make history and thus bore responsibility for it. Today, Government and higher education authorities have the Research Excellence Framework to measure 'impact' and 'key performance indicators'. For Eric, I believe, the entry would have been as simple as unmeasurable: "Hobsbawm: made people think."

Frank Trentmann is Professor of History at Birkbeck.

For more tributes to Eric Hobsbawm, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/erichobsbawm





Birkbeck's second home

London 2012 brought unprecedented regeneration to the east of the capital. Birkbeck's new campus will be another major addition to this booming part of town

2013 will be a milestone in Birkbeck's history, as it will see teaching activities expand in east London with the birth of a new campus.

Opening in the autumn, University Square Stratford will enable Birkbeck to increase its provision of part-time evening tuition in a young and booming part of London associated with low participation rates in higher education. This exciting departure is the first time in its 190-year history that Birkbeck will have its own dedicated building outside central London.

Courses at all levels and covering many subjects (including Law, Business and Languages) will be offered to people living and working in east London at the new five-storey building situated in

the heart of Stratford's Cultural Quarter. University Square Stratford is an innovative £33m partnership between Birkbeck and the University of East London (UEL). The state-of-the-art 8,600 square metres of facilities will cater for up to 3,400 students. They include a 300-seat lecture theatre, a learning centre, a performing arts rehearsal and theatre space, a student support centre, seminar rooms and administrative offices, all surrounding a light-filled atrium. The opening of the new campus will be the culmination of a seven-year project, and will enable Birkbeck to increase its student numbers in Stratford (Birkbeck students in Stratford are currently taught at UEL premises).



“Stratford really is the place to be” says an alumnus and transport expert

Terry Hill CBE is enthusiastic about Birkbeck's new campus being located in one of the most well-connected parts of London.

An engineer specialising in transport and infrastructure, Hill has been associated with Stratford projects for much of his career at Arup – the 11,000-strong global firm of engineers, planners and designers. In 1991 the Government chose Arup's route for High Speed 1 – the £5.8bn, 67-mile railway from the Channel Tunnel, via Stratford, to St Pancras – and Hill was heavily involved in turning this plan into reality.

As Chairman of Arup from 2004 to 2009, and now as Chair of Arup's Board of Trustees, Hill has also seen the results of Arup's major contracts for London 2012. As well as the infrastructure and landscaping for the Olympic Park, Arup staff designed the Aquatics Centre, the Olympic Village, and the iconic 115-metre ArcelorMittal Orbit sculpture in collaboration with artist Anish Kapoor.

Hill says: “I have seen Stratford over a long, long time, and, therefore, it has been one of the great sources of pleasure and satisfaction to see that transformation. Stratford really is the place to be.”

Hill completed an MSc in Economics at Birkbeck in 1984.

The excitement and expectation about the new campus have been increasing, especially since the success of London 2012. In September 2012, Birkbeck staff attended the ‘topping out’ ceremony to mark the completion of the main structure of the building.

The following month, staff joined Birkbeck's Olympic rower Rob Williams to run or cycle the nine miles from Stratford to Bloomsbury as part of the inaugural Birkbeck Square Route to raise money for the Student Hardship Fund.

Professor Philip Dewe, Vice-Master of Birkbeck, says: “Our work in Stratford carries forward George Birkbeck's mission statement of ‘universal access to the blessings of knowledge’ and represents the strategic significance of

Stratford, and our place as part of the east London community. Birkbeck is contributing to the transformation of the area, by providing local residents with the opportunity to improve their education, expand their horizons, and increase their employability.”

University Square Stratford is financed by Birkbeck, UEL, £8m from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), £4m from the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC), a significant donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and generous support from the Wolfson Foundation, alumni and other individual donors.

By Guy Collender



For more information visit:
www.universitysquarestratford.ac.uk

CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS HARVEY McGRATH



During 2011–2012 Birkbeck has dedicated extraordinary effort and resource to making sure that prospective part-time students understand the new fees and funding system, and we have continued to work with, and lobby, Government to ensure that these new arrangements appropriately accommodate part-time students. We have also expanded our full-time course offering, providing busy Londoners with flexible ways of fitting study into their lives, and over the next year we will continue to build the profile of part-time and flexible learning across the sector.

Development and alumni relations

This year we raised over £850,000 to provide student financial support and for other cross-College projects. Seventeen new members were welcomed to our Master's Circle (for those giving £1,000–£4,999 annually). We continue to strive to find new, meaningful ways to engage donors at all levels, and will launch our 1823 Circle for supporters giving £5,000–£24,999 per year.

Our Alumni Fund had another record-breaking year, both in the number of supporters and the value of donations. This year 1,400 alumni donated a total of £152,850, proving that even in these difficult times our alumni still value our mission of making higher education accessible to

all. For more information on giving to Birkbeck, see page 52.

In June the Lady Mayoress, Liz Wootton, hosted an event at the Mansion House in the City of London. Our guests heard not only from the Master and I but also from our alumni, who are better placed than anyone to inspire others about the impact that a Birkbeck education, and financial support from donors, can have on a student's career, confidence and day-to-day life.

This year we launched 'Get Talking', an initiative to facilitate meetings between alumni and prospective students. Prospective students are able to ask questions and talk through concerns, and alumni offer advice from their own experience at the College. So far, 65 meetings have taken place, with positive feedback from both students and alumni.

College finances

Year on year, the total income of the College increased by £4,972,000 (5.6 per cent). Income from academic fees and support grants was up £8,640,000 (24 per cent), reflecting the healthy growth in our student numbers, and thanks to strong financial management the College ended the year with a surplus of £6,760,000. The College's audited Financial Statements for 2011–2012 will be published in January 2013.

Green agenda

Greening, the environmental

programme in which we are engaged with four other Bloomsbury Colleges, has gone from strength to strength. We have an active group of staff and student Green Champions and will offer training to staff over the next year.

Last year I reported that we had met phase 1 of the BS8555 Environmental Management System standard. This year we were assessed for phases 1–5 of the standard, and were found to have met them all, well ahead of our target date of July 2013.

We have been incorporating environmental objectives into College operations. Established improvement projects include efficient boilers and signing up to 100 per cent renewable electricity for all College buildings.

In recognition of this work, Birkbeck has been nominated for a Green Gown Award from the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges this year.

Outlook

The coming year will undoubtedly present new challenges, as we move into the first year of the new fees and loans system. However, Birkbeck's strong leadership, effective management and strong financial position, together with our ability to develop new and innovative courses and study structures, gives me every confidence that the College will continue to flourish despite the challenging environment.

“
Our Alumni Fund had another record-breaking year, both in the number of supporters and the value of donations.
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2012

A year of change

The new fees and loans meant student recruitment took place in challenging circumstances. Turn over to find out how Birkbeck took up the challenge.

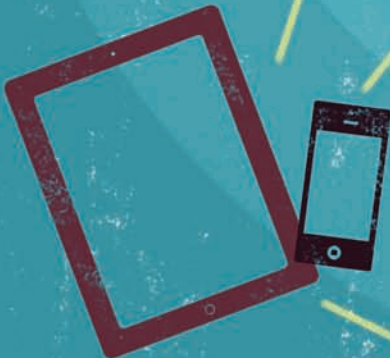


Illustration: Matt Thomas



New fees and loans for part-time students

Birkbeck has long campaigned for part-time higher education to be given the same level of attention and resources as the full-time sector.

Over the last two years we have seen campaigning success: tuition fee loans for part-time students introduced; the eligibility threshold for a loan reduced from 33 per cent to 25 per cent of a full-time course; and, after a long campaign, the repayment date for part-time loans was moved from 3.5 years after the loan is taken out to 4.5 years, meaning that the majority of Birkbeck undergraduate students will complete their degree before beginning to repay the loan.

These successes help to remove some of the barriers that our students face. However, as we began recruitment for the first intake of students eligible for the new loans, we did so against a challenging backdrop.

The benefits of part-time study

In October 2012, a report by Claire Callender, Professor of Higher Education Policy at Birkbeck, showed that part-time students begin to see the benefits of study in their careers before they graduate. Three years into a part-time undergraduate degree, 69 per cent of students said their course had improved their confidence at work and that their job performance had improved, half said they were taking on more responsibilities and 66 per cent reported that they had used what they had learned in their jobs.

However, as tuition fees have risen, the number of employers paying some or all of their employees' fees has fallen. There are concerns that this will restrict opportunities, particularly for students who want to re-skill or update their skills.



To view the report, *Futuretrack: Part-time higher education students (2012)*, visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/futuretrack

The 2012 challenge

Media coverage of tuition fees was highly negative and the Government television and radio campaign was aimed squarely at full-time traditional students. Information with the right tone and messages for our non-traditional, mature students was scarce, difficult to find and frequently inaccurate.

At the first open evenings this year we saw huge queues of people waiting to ask us about the loans and fees. One student told us: "I went to the DirectGov website, but for me, the key question on funding was 'am I eligible?' – and it was difficult to establish that."

Knowing that our prospective students were struggling to find the information that they needed, the College embarked on a two-pronged action plan.

Our promise to students

The first part of our approach was to launch a campaign to simplify the loans information, and to give students the confidence to apply for their courses, knowing whether they were eligible for loans. Face-to-face advice is particularly important for our students, who are more likely to have complicated circumstances, such as having taken out a student loan for part of another degree that they were unable to complete. We have developed a comprehensive series of workshops and webinars to explain the system and the application process.

Sustained lobbying

The second line of action was to continue lobbying of Government,

Face-to-face advice is particularly important for our students. We have developed a comprehensive series of workshops and webinars to explain the system and the application process.



**Nicola Shelley
Law (LLB)**

For many years, Nicola Shelley had been thinking about university study. She received a leaflet from her daughter's primary school to say that Birkbeck would be giving a talk about studying as a mature learner.

Nicola explains: "After the talk at my daughter's school I came to several of the talks at Birkbeck and found out more about the fees and finance. I had no idea about the finances before, but once it had been explained, I knew that taking the loan was the best option for me. When it was explained that I won't have to repay any of the loan until after I finish studying, and even then, only if I am earning over £21,000, I realised that, although I don't really want to have the debt, it works out better for me. I hadn't realised until we did the calculations that the monthly repayments would be so low. That made me confident that I would be able to manage them."

Nicola concludes: "It's important for me that my kids see me study. They're extremely excited for me – my daughter has been telling everyone. No-one in the family's ever had a degree – it'll be a first."

For information about fees and loans, visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/fees
To find out about talks for prospective students, visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/tryit

the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and relevant higher education bodies, particularly Universities UK (UUK), UCAS and the Student Loans Company (SLC).

Timeliness and clarity of SLC loan application processes and visibility of part-time courses on UCAS are key objectives for our campaign. Both UCAS and the SLC have shown themselves responsive to Birkbeck's concerns.

Support from our community

This year we saw the power of our alumni community. In April we

launched a social media campaign to highlight the poor experience being provided to part-time students. Many alumni added weight to the message by tweeting their support, and a group of illustrious Birkbeck alumni wrote a joint letter, which was published in *The Guardian*, setting out why they supported our campaign.

As we come to terms with the 2012 year of change, we are delighted that BIS has commissioned UUK, the umbrella organisation representing the higher education sector, to set up a commission, which will look at the complex issues surrounding the

mainstreaming of part-time study and produce a set of recommendations. We are particularly pleased that Professor Eric Thomas, President of UUK and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol, will lead the commission, on which Birkbeck will be represented.

As we head into the second year of recruitment under the new system we will work with this commission, and continue our broader campaign to ensure that second-chance students are not given a second-rate experience as they start out on their student journey.

By Bryony Merritt

Events on campus

From poetry to policing, the subjects discussed at Birkbeck's public lectures have inspired debate and online coverage. Here are some of last year's highlights

Arts Week

"Birkbeck Arts Week 2012 was a chocolate box of assorted events for an arts enthusiast to pick from, a platform for students and tutors across the arts courses to engage in a more open setting, with tutors expressing the very latest research through a particular theme or object for their session," wrote MA Cultural Studies student Rosalyn Croek, on the Birkbeck Events blog, in a post about the week's final event: *Cross Dressing in Silent Film: Ernst Lubitsch's I Don't Want to Be a Man!* Rosalyn was one of many students, alumni and guests who wrote about this year's events on Birkbeck's new Events blog.

Loose Muse: Four Women Poets
By Emily Best, MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature – edited blog post

The debate rages on about whether there is a 'canon' of women writers. During Birkbeck Arts Week, in a little room at 43 Gordon Square, four lady wordsmiths made their case in favour. The event was a showcase for some of the finest she-poets in the capital to showcase their work amongst a small audience, discuss their poetry and open up the floor.

The event opened with Birkbeck lecturer Kate McLoughlin, whose poetry collections *Plums* is a response to William Carlos Williams' great American fridge-note-poem *This is Just to Say*. Kate's 58 variations on a reply to Williams, which also allude to Picasso's reimagining of Velázquez' *Las Meninas*, explore the variances and nuances of domestic interaction. Kate moves beautifully and sensitively from flippant to epic, on occasion nearing parody, engaging wholly with Williams' poem but at the same time reclaiming what Williams leaves unsaid and open-ended.

Following Kate was Agnes Meadows – a force of energy in the room, inspiring



and welcoming. Agnes went from recounting the fear of sleeping through bombs in Palestine in *They're Bombing the Port Again at Gaza* to the pain of watching a sibling get your man in *Juliet's Sister*. The passion and sensitivity in these poems tell of a woman who has lived and of a poet who feels and writes to the tips of her fingers.

In a complete change of pace, Sally Blackmore came next. Her son, who is in the army, recently got sent to Afghanistan and Sally found that her writing provided a tool for dealing with this. The first poem she read, *Soldier*, had a bittersweet wariness and grace to it that seemed borne of a mind that had always worked in verse. Here was a woman who took pain and fear in her hand like a proverbial nettle and refigured them as something good. The final poet on the bill was

Camilla Reeve. Again, Camilla brought a different energy to the room.

Though Camilla has an aura of earnest seriousness about her, her poetry had a lyrical, tender and humorous quality. *Winter Angel* was a particular favourite and, on further research, I discovered *Dark Bird Turning* and fell a little bit in love. Camilla's poetry concerns itself with trajectories of emotion and the rudiments of relationships between people and places and things. It is entirely and only what it needs to be.

I left feeling that the four women proved, each in their own way, that every voice is there to be reclaimed and used as necessary; and at a time when women are still fighting for those voices, reclamation is as important as ever.


For more blogs from
Arts Week, visit:
[www.bbk.ac.uk/
eventsblog/
artswEEK](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/eventsblog/artswEEK)

 To read the full blog post, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/loosemuse



Business Week

Blueprints for economic recovery and successful entrepreneurship were shared during a busy Business Week in June 2012. Leading economic commentator Will Hutton, Principal of Hertford College, University of Oxford, and Chair of the Big Innovation Centre at The Work Foundation, emphasised the consequences of ‘bad capitalism’ and explained during his lecture how ‘good capitalism’ can solve these problems. Hutton called for fairness, productive entrepreneurship, and transparency, and said that the future lies in the knowledge economy.

Professor Andrew Pettigrew, of the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, called for stronger links between academia and business, when he delivered the Alec Rodger Memorial Lecture. He said academics should be aware of the social, political and economic context relevant to their research.

Popular events involving Birkbeckians included lectures about volatile commodity prices (Professor Hélyette Geman), Birkbeck’s Computer Science Department (Dr Roger Johnson), and there was a panel discussion about innovation and entrepreneurship in London (Professor Helen Lawton Smith and Dr Pierre Nadeau).

Professor Philip Powell, Executive Dean of Birkbeck’s School of Business, Economics and Informatics, says: “We were privileged to hear from many influential speakers about today’s economic challenges and possible solutions.”

Law on Trial

The latest thinking on popular protest, policing tactics and the London riots of 2011 were all discussed during Law on Trial – a week of legal talks in June 2012.

The lives and motivations of people on the streets during the riots were explored in a lecture by Professor Tim Newburn, of LSE, about the Reading the Riots research project conducted by LSE and *The Guardian*. He spoke of anti-police sentiment, looting and criminal damage, and warned that riots are “more, rather than less,

Far left: Promotional image for Arts Week

Left: Business Week logo

Below: Law on Trial took its theme from the London riots in the summer of 2011
(© Jess Hurd/reportdigital.co.uk)



For more blogs about our events, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/eventsblog

To find out about Science Week, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/scienceweek

likely” in future, because underlying conditions have not changed.

Professor John Pitts, of the University of Bedfordshire, assessed the impact of living in gang-affected neighbourhoods and analysed during his presentation the evidence influencing policy. Lawyers also challenged controversial UK police tactics against protestors, such as kettling, during a discussion chaired by Birkbeck’s Professor Bill Bowring. During his inaugural lecture, Birkbeck’s Professor Matthew Weait explored how HIV and AIDS have been constructed as a legal problem, despite being first and foremost a public health issue.

Professor Mike Hough, Co-Director of Birkbeck’s Institute for Criminal Policy Research, says: “This year’s Law on Trial offered many insights into the 2011 riots, showcasing research that implicated social injustice and deficits in police legitimacy as significant causal factors.”



Hacking away at the truth

Professor Jennifer Hornsby gave evidence to the Leveson Inquiry, and considers what it means to have the right to freedom of expression



Anyone with doubts about the need for an Inquiry into the Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press has only to view, listen to, or read Alan Rusbridger's 2011 Orwell Lecture at Birkbeck. One learns from it not only of ethical failures there have been, but also of the value of authentic investigative journalism.

The Leveson Inquiry began with briefing sessions and seminars in autumn 2011. Hearings followed, and it ended with sessions involving panels of academics presumed to have relevant expertise of one sort or another. Work that I've done on conceptions of free speech fitted me to a philosophy panel, which gave evidence on Monday 16 July. With me were Professor Susan Mendus, Professor of Political Philosophy at the University of York, and Professor John Tasioulas, Professor of Jurisprudence at University College London.

I was made slightly nervous by an invitation to give evidence. I needn't have been. Both Lord Leveson and Robert Jay (QC to the Inquiry and, deservedly, Barrister of the Year for 2012) were, despite their exhausting schedule, extremely good humoured: they joked about being reminded of the classroom, but genuinely seemed eager to hear what we had to say. The atmosphere in the court will have been very different from the more frenzied, newsworthy days when Leveson had summoned witnesses in order to enquire into the conduct of relations between politicians and the press, and into the extent of unlawful or improper conduct on the part of various institutions. Our session was concerned with matters more abstract.

Until I received the invitation, I hadn't studied The Editors' Code of Practice, 'enforced' by the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). I was pleasantly

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I was pleasantly surprised by the Editors' Code of Practice, even if not by the discovery that any newspaper editor can opt out of it, should it suit them.

Professor Jennifer Hornsby

surprised by its contents, even if not by the discovery that any newspaper editor can opt out of the Code, should it suit them. If the Code were followed, then journalists would always strive for accuracy and would report in anti-discriminatory fashion; and, save for a sustainable public interest defence, they would respect everyone's right to privacy, avoid harassment of individuals, appreciate the special interests of children, not resort to subterfuge. 'Save for the public interest' is evidently crucial. According to the Code, the public has a variety of interests, including an interest in freedom of expression itself.

My invitation to give evidence came on the day that the Education Secretary Michael Gove gave his oration to the Inquiry. I was already alert to his opinions: "A chilling atmosphere towards freedom of expression emanates from the debate around Leveson", Gove had told a parliamentary Press Gallery lunch. I couldn't help but wonder whether his being pals with one Rupert Murdoch might explain why Gove felt a chill. But he had things of his own to say in explanation. For one: "Free speech doesn't mean anything unless some people are going to be offended some of the time". With this, we can surely all agree: many pieces of free expression are unwanted by some – as journalists' exposures of wrongdoing well illustrate.

But in the context of a debate provoked by Leveson, the indubitable right to free expression seems to me something of a red herring. In recent years, newspapers have not defended themselves against allegations of violations of privacy rights by invoking their right to free expression. And so far as I know, it hasn't been suggested by any of Leveson's many witnesses that there should be curbs on expression beyond what existing statutes require. A concern

Pressing matters



For more information about Alan Rusbridger's Orwell Lecture, visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/orwell-2011-news

Alan Rusbridger (pictured above), Editor-in-Chief at *The Guardian*, gave a gripping account of his newspaper's exposé of the *News of the World* phone-hacking scandal in his delivery of the George Orwell Memorial Lecture, hosted by Birkbeck in November 2011.

"Orwell would have been deeply interested in the broader story – not of how you regulate the press, but of how one man [Rupert Murdoch] and one corporation came to have such sway over British political, commercial and cultural life," Rusbridger told a packed audience.

His lecture, entitled 'Hacking away at the truth', examined the implications of the scandal and called for a new independent press regulator "with teeth".

Earlier the same day, News International Executive Chairman James Murdoch had faced further questioning by MPs over the extent of phone hacking at the UK's biggest-selling Sunday newspaper.

The corporation had shut down the paper

in July, in the same week that Prime Minister David Cameron announced an inquiry into illegal practices in the press.

On 14 November 2011, four days after the Orwell lecture, Lord Justice Leveson opened his Inquiry into the Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press. Over nearly nine months of hearings, 650 witnesses testified in person or in writing, generating 6,000 pages of evidence for the first phase of the Inquiry.

On 29 November 2012, Lord Leveson published his 2,000-page report. In it, he recommended the introduction of an independent regulator, backed by legislation, to uphold press standards. Immediate political reaction was mixed, both across and within Government. Prime Minister David Cameron said he had "serious concerns" over the idea of statutory regulation, while Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said changing the law was the only way to ensure that a new regulator remained independent.

of the more abstract discussion in which I was involved had been to understand the *point* of a right to free expression as it is found in a democracy.

Gove's other theme was that the criminal law takes care of crimes. But then one wants to know why the relevant authorities did not follow up allegations of criminality. Presumably the PCC's failure to recognise abuse stemmed in part from its lack of powers either to investigate or to sanction. Yet one is bound to wonder whether there has not also been a more systemic malaise. Did News International's vast financial resources prevent them from being called to account many years sooner than actually they were? Is that organisation's political clout in this nation compatible with the workings of our democracy, and

with a free market in ideas?

As I write (mid-November 2012), it remains to be seen how much of the Leveson Inquiry's report might be informed by Alan Rusbridger's wisdom. It is unlikely that it will agree to the letter with his suggestions for a Press Standards and Mediation Committee. But whatever recommendations come out of Leveson, I'm more confident that I'll approve of them than that the present Government will welcome them.

Jennifer Hornsby is Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck. She has been a Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, Oslo, since 2007. She researches and teaches in philosophy of action, mind and language, in metaphysics, and areas of feminist philosophy.

London 2012

ROB WILLIAMS

Olympic silver medallist,
rowing; Birkbeck alumnus
PhD, Electron microscopy

“The racing conditions were very tough, and the wind made the course really variable. It’s a shame we’ve barely ever lost to the team that beat us, but it’s good fun to be part of a good race. We did not realise how close it was until we saw the video footage afterwards. We were a quarter of a second off winning in the lightweight men’s four category, but it was a home Olympics with 30,000 people cheering us on; you’ve got to be happy with a silver. The feeling gets better every day.

“The Olympics were incredible. It is really hard to describe what it was like to be in that environment: living in the Olympic village, being part of Team GB, and watching the other sports. It is something I will never experience again. Even if I go to Rio, it will be completely different.

“I will probably take a year out from rowing and then decide whether to carry on for three years or not. I went

to Beijing as a spare in the 2008 Olympics, then we won the World Championships in 2010, and now I have a silver Olympic medal. I’ve got to look at what else I want to achieve in the sport.

“My supervisor at Birkbeck, Professor Gabriel Waksman, was instrumental in enabling me to balance my PhD in electron microscopy with my rowing. I was awarded my PhD from Birkbeck and UCL’s Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology just weeks before competing in London 2012. Electron microscopy is one of the ways in which we look at very small objects, and my research was about furthering our knowledge of how bacteria cause disease by studying Type 4 secretion systems that secrete macromolecules.

“Birkbeck allowed me to go part-time in the summer, so that I could concentrate on rowing, and then I would study full-time in the winter. I jokingly described it as juggling when you could only concentrate on one ball at a time; you had to throw the other one high enough so that you bought enough time to focus on the one in your hand.”



PROFESSOR LYNDA NEAD

Games Maker volunteer, Boxing;
Pevsner Chair of History of Art,
Birkbeck’s Department of History of
Art and Screen Media

“The atmosphere was incredible at the Excel, and volunteering really took over my life for those 12 days. My role included looking after the corner of the ring: maintaining the area where the coaches sat during the fight, wiping down the canvas, and swinging the stool round for the boxers between rounds. I found it exhilarating and intense but I could not have had a better seat. I was in the blue corner when Team GB’s Nicola Adams won gold – the first woman ever to win a gold medal for boxing at the Olympics. It was historic and thrilling to feel part of it.

“The Olympics showcased women’s boxing, and amateur boxing is a great technical sport. I have been a boxing coach for the past six years at the Peacock Gym in east London, and being a



From left to right:
Rob Williams, Professor
Lynda Nead, Rebecca
Gillett, Darren David,
Jocelyn-Jane Taylor

From the razzamatazz of the Opening Ceremonies to winning a silver medal, students, staff and alumni played their part in London 2012. Five Birkbeckians share their experiences of the greatest sporting show on Earth

Games Maker will probably be the highlight of my involvement in amateur boxing. Nowadays boxing training does not have to be full contact; it is also about balance, coordination and power. I was definitely the only professor volunteering in the 'field of play' team, and I met so many people I wouldn't have met otherwise and with whom I will stay in contact. It was a great experience and made an impact on my academic life! Six weeks later I gave conference papers on the aesthetics of boxing photography at international conferences in Glasgow and Porto."

REBECCA GILLETT, DARREN DAVID, JOCELYN-JANE TAYLOR

Performers at the Opening Ceremonies; staff from External Relations at Birkbeck

Rebecca said: "We all committed our time and energy to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The months and months of evening and weekend rehearsals were hard work, but were definitely worth

it. I danced in the Olympic Opening Ceremony alongside 1,600 other volunteers as part of an energetic routine choreographed by renowned hip hop and street dance choreographer Kenrick Sandy. Taking part was amazing, and the coverage that followed was overwhelming."

Darren added: "It was fantastic to be involved in both Opening Ceremonies. It was quite surreal to be in the middle of the stadium, surrounded by a wall of people, lights, cameras and sound. In the Olympic Opening Ceremony I was in the Green and Pleasant Land section at the beginning. All the movements were meticulously rehearsed. Just weeks later, I was in the Paralympic Opening Ceremony in the Empowerment section dancing to Ian Dury's *Spasticus Autisticus* – a cult song criticising patronising attitudes towards disabled people."

Jocelyn-Jane said: "I was lucky enough to be cast in the Paralympic Opening Ceremony in the spectacular dance piece entitled 'Gravity'. It included an intricate maze on the central stage, vividly avant-garde costumes and styling, tandem and wheelchair dancers and giant Newtonian apples ascending into the sky! I will always remember leading my row of dancers past the athletes and onto the stage.

A further highlight for me was being in the Stadium on the last night of the athletics to watch my countryman, blade runner Oscar Pistorius, win a gold medal in triumphant fashion in the 400m."

Interviews by Guy Collender

For more information, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/olympics



Sarah Waters visits Birkbeck

The acclaimed author discusses *The Little Stranger* at the first collaborative event with the Booker Prize Foundation



© Charlie Hopkinson

In November 2011, Birkbeck was delighted to welcome award-winning author Sarah Waters to read from and discuss her novel *The Little Stranger*, which was shortlisted for the 2009 Man Booker Prize. The event was organised as part of the Booker Prize Foundation's Universities Initiative, which aims to introduce undergraduate students from all disciplines to high-quality contemporary fiction. Prior to the event, all first-year undergraduates were offered a free copy of *The Little Stranger*.

Sarah, whose novels include

Fingersmith, *The Night Watch* and *Tipping the Velvet*, read extracts from the novel, which is set against a backdrop of the crumbling English post-war class system and provides the evocative thrills of the haunted house genre.

Sarah and Professor Russell Celyn Jones, creative writing lecturer at Birkbeck and former Man Booker judge, then entered into a wide-ranging discussion of her work processes and the influences in the novel. They covered her interest in

historical writing and how she came to be especially interested in periods of great social change, such as the late 1940s. They also discussed gothic influences, and works which had preceded hers and to which she alluded throughout the novel.

Sarah then took questions from the enthusiastic audience, made up of over 800 Birkbeck students and alumni.

Professor Hilary Fraser, Executive Dean of Birkbeck's School of Arts, said: "I see many similarities between the Man Booker Prize and Birkbeck, in that they are both about making the very best intellectual and cultural experience accessible to a wide audience. This is the basis for an excellent collaboration. We are delighted to have been able to welcome Sarah Waters to Birkbeck and participate in this fantastic initiative. The discussion was illuminating and enriching and allowed our students to gain a deeper understanding of the novel and Sarah's writing processes."

Following on from the enormous success and popularity of the inaugural Man Booker event, Birkbeck will continue this collaboration with the Booker Prize Foundation, and we look forward to welcoming other distinguished authors to these events.



For more information and a video of the event, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/sarahwaters

By Bryony Merritt

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The Man Booker Prize and Birkbeck are both about making the very best intellectual and cultural experience accessible to a wide audience.

Professor Hilary Fraser

New professors

“”
Birkbeck is an inspiring institution in which to teach, learn and practise.
Professor Rob Swain

Anthony Bale

Professor of Medieval Studies
Professor Bale is currently leading a study entitled ‘Remembered Places and Invented Traditions: Thinking about the Holy Land in the Late Medieval West’, which focuses on the post-crusade artefacts that Western Europe created while holding onto the memory of crusades and negotiating the cultural consequences of the loss of the Latin kingdom.

Charlie Bristow

Professor in Sedimentology
Professor Bristow uses observations of sediment erosion and deposition in deserts, rivers and along the coast to inform modern habitat management as well as interpretation of ancient sedimentary rocks. In summer 2012, Professor Bristow went to Siberia to investigate glacial outburst floods from the Altai Mountains. Closer to home, he is collaborating on a study of peat bog restoration in Yorkshire, funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Ian Crawford

Professor of Planetary Science and Astrobiology
Professor Crawford’s lunar research includes both the remote sensing of the Moon from orbiting spacecraft and the laboratory analysis of lunar samples. He also has long-standing interests in astrobiology: the study of the astronomical context of the origin and evolution of life, and what this tells us about the possible prevalence of life elsewhere in the Universe. His research group is studying extreme environments on Earth as potential Mars analogues, and in 2011 they

This year eight members of Birkbeck staff were promoted to the post of Professor



Clockwise, from left:
Professors Ian
Crawford, Nazanin
Derakhshan,
and Penelope
Gardner-Chloros



conducted fieldwork at Kverkfjöll, a subglacial volcano in Iceland.

Nazanin Derakhshan

Professor of Psychology
Professor Derakhshan investigates how cognition and emotion interact and how positive or negative emotions can affect cognitive processes such as attention, working memory and cognitive performance. Her research group is currently looking at the effect of emotions on attentional control, cognitive effort and cognitive performance. This work has implications in clinical settings, with the aim of enhancing attentional control in

reducing anxiety and depression, and enhancing resilience in the face of adversity.

Penelope Gardner-Chloros

Professor of Sociolinguistics and Language Contact
Professor Gardner-Chloros is currently working on a comparison of multicultural London English and multicultural Paris French. By comparing language variation and change in the two locations, Professor Gardner-Chloros and colleagues will attempt to identify general processes of language contact and language variation and change in large multicultural metropolises. The project will lead to a better

understanding of sociolinguistic aspects of language contact and also social questions connected with migration and the consequences for education.

Gerald Roberts

Professor in Earthquake Geology
Professor Roberts’ research looks at active normal faults in Italy and Greece that have hosted devastating earthquakes, using field mapping, structural analysis and radiometric and cosmogenic dating to constrain rates of earthquake recurrence. He also studies faults on Mars to provide new insights into the understanding of terrestrial fault lines.

Rob Swain

Professor in Contemporary Theatre Practice
Professor Swain is a practising theatre director and the programme director of Birkbeck’s MFA Theatre Directing. His research work particularly focuses on the development of new pieces of theatre, involving innovative uses of music and plays based on real lives.

Carol Watts

Professor of Literature and Poetics
Professor Watts’ research focuses on eighteenth-century literature and contemporary poetics. She runs the innovative Voiceworks project with colleagues at Guildhall Conservatoire, bringing together Birkbeck postgraduate writers with composers and singers to produce songs performed annually at Wigmore Hall.

Professor Watts’ current research explores the connections between poetic practice and surgery, working with a surgical team from Imperial College.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The impact and achievements of Birkbeck academics have been recognised by funding bodies and academic organisations

Awards

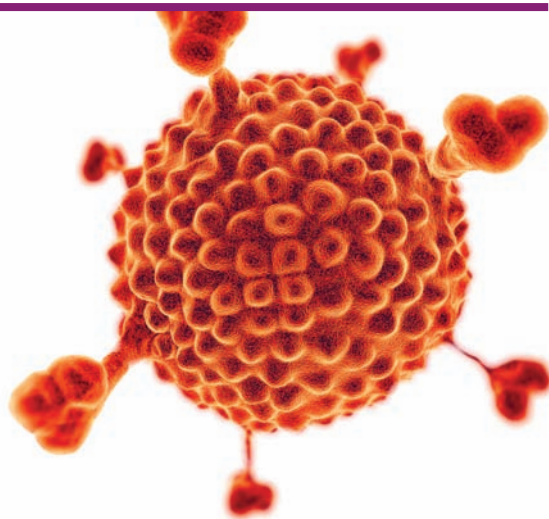
A project looking at ‘micromuseums’ – small, independent museums devoted to single subjects and themes – by Dr Fiona Candlin, Senior Lecturer in Museum Studies, has won a 2012 Leverhulme Research Fellowship. Dr Candlin has begun touring the British Isles to visit these museums, many of which are located in private houses. The objects they contain are rarely conserved or labelled, but these museums do, however, offer visitors the chance to talk to the curator, to handle objects and to enjoy a different ambience to major museums. Her work will consider how an analysis of the sites, displays and practices might provide fresh perspectives on established debates, and prompt new avenues of museological enquiry.



Sue Jackson, Professor of Lifelong Learning and Gender, has received a Doctoral Programme Award for 2012–2013 from the Higher Education Academy. The Award was given for research into the impact of retention strategies on part-time mature students. Despite most higher education institutions having developed retention strategies, knowledge is sparse about the impact of such strategies on all students, and particularly regarding mature students studying part-time. Professor Jackson says: “In the new world of higher education, with high fees but with student loans now also accessible to part-time students, it is more important than ever for policymakers and practitioners to take seriously matters of retention.”

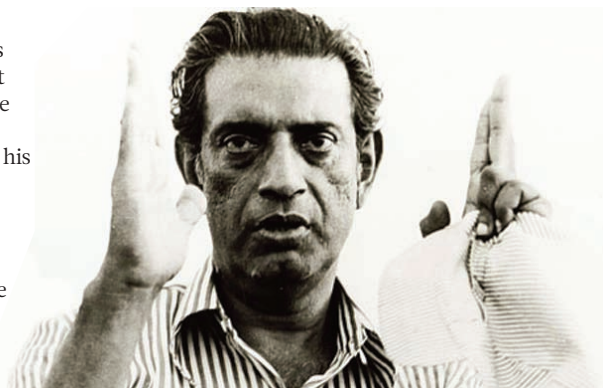
The Leverhulme Trust has awarded a three-year Major Research Fellowship to Chandak Sengoopta, Professor of History, to support his research into acclaimed Indian filmmaker, writer and designer Satyajit Ray. Professor Sengoopta will be writing a comprehensive biography of Ray, using rarely accessible manuscripts and archival material made available by Ray’s son, Sandip.

“While much has been written about Ray’s films over the years, there is no critical study of all his major creative endeavours,” says Professor Sengoopta. “I plan to give prominence to the many



incarnations of Satyajit Ray that have been forgotten or underrated by the West.”

A team of researchers led by Helen Saibil, Bernal Professor of Structural Biology, has been awarded a £2m European Research grant to further its studies into how proteins and membranes interact. The grant will enable the use of the latest imaging technology to create 3D images to help understand how pathogens and the immune system carry out their functions. Both the immune system and pathogens use proteins to penetrate cellular membranes in order to kill target cells, or allow passage of pathogenic organisms such as malaria parasites. The five-year project,





Images (clockwise from bottom left): Mundesley Maritime 'micromuseum' (Fiona Candlin); Computer artwork of an adenovirus, showing the surface structure of the virus's outer protein coat (Science Photo Library); Girl with Down's syndrome (iStockphoto); Peruvian flag (iStockphoto); Boy communicating on telephone (iStockphoto); Handcuffs (Wikimedia Commons); Satyajit Ray (Wikimedia Commons)

Membrane Attack, is part of a collaboration with Leicester University and Monash University in Australia.

Annette Karmiloff-Smith, Professorial Research Fellow at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, is part of a consortium of teams from four London research institutions to have been awarded £2.5m from the Wellcome Trust to research the links between Down's syndrome, learning disabilities and dementia. A five-year interdisciplinary research project by the new London Down Syndrome Consortium (LonDownS) aims to understand why people with Down's syndrome are much more likely than the general population to develop dementia. The researchers will work with US and European colleagues to develop similar assessments for babies and adults, focusing on individual differences and sub-groups within Down's syndrome. The research will examine these groups at cellular, genetic and cognitive levels to explain why the Down's syndrome behavioural and cognitive profile varies so much.

Staff at Birkbeck's Institute for Criminal Policy Research are one of 13 research teams from 11 European countries being funded in a three-year



€2.7m project to help develop new ways of tackling emerging forms of Europe-wide crime. The FIDUCIA ('trust' in Latin) research will look at alternatives to arresting and punishing offenders involved in trafficking of drugs and alcohol, people trafficking, cyber-crime and crimes associated

with the policing of migrant and minority groups. A central idea for the project is that public trust in systems of justice is closely related to our ability to build a peaceful and harmonious society, as this translates into respect for public institutions and compliance with the law.

Recognitions

William Rowe, Anniversary Professor of Poetics in the Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies and Co-Director of the Contemporary Poetics Research Centre, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Catholic University of Peru, in recognition of his contribution to the study and understanding of Peruvian literature and culture.

Professor Gabriel Waksman, Head of Birkbeck's Department of Biological Sciences and Director of the Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology at Birkbeck and UCL, has been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society. Fellowship is made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and Commonwealth. The main focus of the research conducted in Professor Waksman's laboratory is to gain insight into the structural and molecular basis of secretion in Gram-negative bacterial pathogens, which cause infections in humans.

The British Psychological Society's 2012 Spearman Medal has been awarded to Dr Angelica Ronald, Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development and Director of the Genes Environment Lifespan laboratory.

Given annually to an early-career psychologist for outstanding published work, the Medal was awarded in recognition of Dr Ronald's work on autism.



The Academy of Social Sciences has conferred the award of Academician on Edward Melhuish, Professor of Human Development and Director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues. Professor Melhuish's research looks at communicative development in childhood, with particular

regard to environmental influences, such as parenting, pre-school care and education and their long-term consequences both for the individual and for society. His two major studies, the Effective Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education project and the National Evaluation of Sure Start, have had a significant influence on the development of early years policy in the UK.



BIRKBECK BOOKS

2011–2012

A selection of titles authored or edited by our academic staff

London In The Eighteenth Century: A Great and Monstrous Thing

Jerry White, The Bodley Head

In this finale to his acclaimed history of London over 300 years, Professor White (Visiting Professor of History) introduces shopkeepers and prostitutes, men and women of fashion and genius, street-robbers and thief-takers, as they play out the astonishing drama of life in eighteenth-century London. The century was a period of vigorous expansion, of scientific and artistic genius, of blossoming reason, civility, elegance and manners. It was also an age of starving poverty and exquisite fashion, of joy and despair, of sentiment and cruelty.

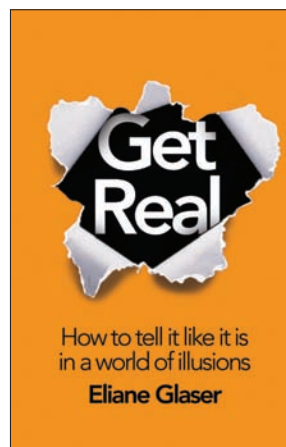
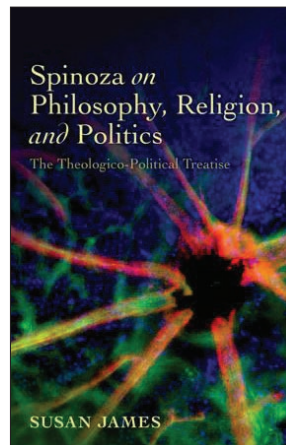
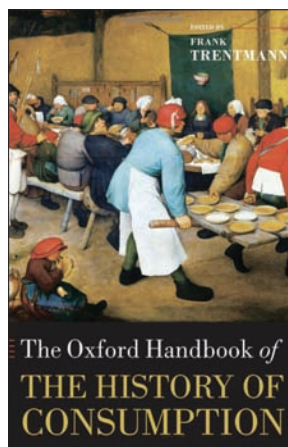
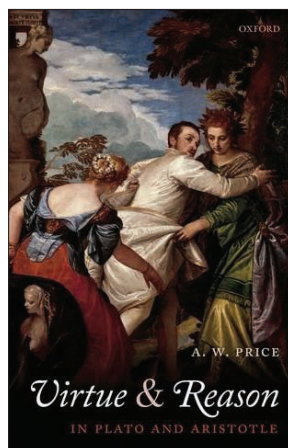
Critical Legal Theory 4 Volumes (Critical Concepts in Law series)

Costas Douzinas (co-edited with Colin Perrin), Routledge
Critical Legal Theory has conventionally been traced to the social, political and philosophical movements of the 1960s and, before that, to the early-twentieth-century 'realist' critique of modern jurisprudence. However, its origins go back to classical and pre-modern thought, and to their acknowledgement of the centrality of law in attempts to conceive of the good life, or the just polity. Co-edited by Professor Douzinas (Professor of Law), this landmark four-volume collection meets the need for an authoritative reference work to make sense of a rapidly growing and complex corpus of literature.

The Oxford Handbook of the History of Consumption (Oxford Handbooks in History series)

Edited by Frank Trentmann, Oxford University Press

The study of consumption – the desire, acquisition, use and disposal of goods and services – has been the subject of major historiographical debates: did the eighteenth century bring a consumer revolution? Did the



twentieth century see the triumph of global consumerism?

Edited by Professor Trentmann (Professor of History), this first guide to the historical literature on consumption from ancient Greece to the contemporary world brings together 35 experts to consider questions of consumption that have become defining topics in all branches of history, from gender and labour history to political history and cultural studies.

Spinoza on Philosophy, Religion, and Politics: The Theologico-Political Treatise

Susan James, Oxford University Press

This insightful study of one of the great modern thinkers offers a new interpretation of a classic text. Professor James (Professor of Philosophy) makes the arguments of the Treatise accessible, and their motivations plain, by setting them in their historical and philosophical context. She draws together philosophy, political theory, theology and history to illuminate how the relations between religion and politics developed in early modern Europe.

Social Research After the Cultural Turn

Sasha Roseneil and Stephen Frosh (eds), Palgrave Macmillan

The editors (Sasha Roseneil, Professor of Sociology and Social Theory; Stephen Frosh, Professor of Psychology) explore contested meanings and diverse practices of social research in the context of contemporary theoretical debates in cultural and social theory. This collection brings together leading scholars from a range of disciplines to ask fundamental questions facing those working in the social and human sciences today. What are the possibilities and challenges for social research after the 'cultural turn'? What distinguishes social research from cultural studies and the humanities?



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There is such a diverse and vibrant culture of creative writing at Birkbeck today. It's been a privilege to see the kind of talent that is emerging from the BA programme, having played a role in building the degree over the last few years.

Benjamin Wood

Political Demography: How Population Changes Are Reshaping International Security and National Politics

Jack A Goldstone, Eric P Kaufmann, Monica Duffy Toft (eds), Paradigm/Pluto
The field of political demography – the politics of population change – is underrepresented in political science. This neglect contrasts with the enormous interest coming from policymakers and the media. This book, co-edited by Eric Kaufmann (Professor of Politics), begins to fill the gap from a global and historical perspective, with the hope that scholars and policymakers will use its insights to develop enlightened policies for our collective future.

Get Real: How to Tell it Like it is in a World of Illusions

Eliane Glaser, Harper Collins
Multinational oil corporations trumpet their green credentials. Public-spending cuts that target the poor are billed as 'giving power to the people'. Casually dressed employees play table football in airy open-plan offices, but work longer hours than ever before. These are all examples of the growing gap between appearance and reality in modern life. Dr Glaser (Honorary Research Fellow, Department of English and Humanities) explores a world in which reality is spun and crude vested interests appear in seductive new disguises in this guide to decoding the delusions we live under.

Virtue and Reason in Plato and Aristotle

A W Price, Oxford University Press
This authoritative and insightful new interpretation of Plato and Aristotle by Professor Price (Professor of Philosophy)

examines human action within the context of the question of what makes a life good, and illuminates fundamental aspects of human life: reasoning, virtue, character and emotion. The author maintains that it is their emphasis on the centrality of action within human life that makes the reflections of these ancient philosophers perennially relevant.

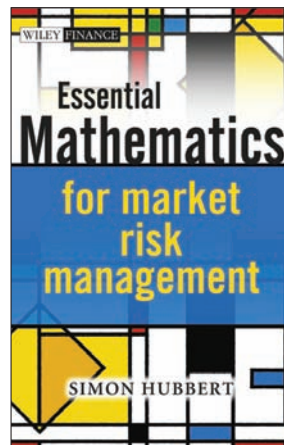
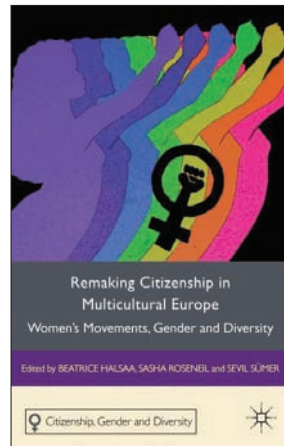
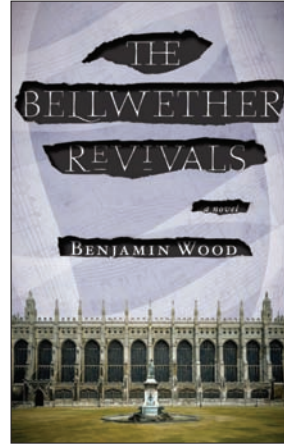
The Bellwether Revivals

Benjamin Wood,
Simon and Schuster

This first novel by Benjamin Wood (Lecturer in Creative Writing) is set amid the colleges of Cambridge and explores the conflicts that arise between logic, religion and blind faith. Billed by its publisher as reminiscent of Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, this tale of murder, ruined relationships and potential medical miracles has been widely and enthusiastically reviewed, with *The Observer* newspaper listing Benjamin as one of six new authors to watch. The novel was also shortlisted for the 2012 Costa First Novel Award, with the winner due to be announced in January 2013.

Remaking Citizenship in Multicultural Europe: Women's Movements, Gender and Diversity (Citizenship, Gender and Diversity)

Beatrice Halsaa, Sasha Roseneil and Sevil Sümer (eds), Palgrave Macmillan
Offering a ground-breaking analysis of how women's movements have been remaking citizenship in multicultural Europe, Professor Roseneil (Professor of Sociology and Social Theory) and her co-editors present the findings of a large-scale, multi-disciplinary, cross-



national feminist research project, called FEMCIT. This develops an expanded, multi-dimensional understanding of citizenship as practice and experience, and considers answers to two questions – what difference have women's movements and feminism made to experiences and practices of citizenship, and how can we assess the state of citizenship in contemporary Europe from the perspective of women?

The Photobook: From Talbot to Ruscha and Beyond

Patrizia di Bello, Colette Wilson, Shamoon Zamir, I.B.Tauris
Dr di Bello (Lecturer in History and Theory of Photography) and her co-editors bring together practising photographers and writers across several fields of scholarship to share fresh approaches to reading the photobook, developing new ways of understanding how meaning is shaped by an image's interaction with its text and context, and engaging with the visual, tactile and interactive experience of the photobook in all its dimensions.

Essential Mathematics for Market Risk Management

Simon Hubbert,
John Wiley and Sons
As a director of a financial engineering programme, Simon Hubbert (Lecturer in Mathematics) brings industry experience to this practical approach to risk analysis. He captures the essential mathematical tools needed to explore many common risk management problems and examines the crucial relationship between the risk and the potential reward of holding a portfolio of risky financial assets.

America v itself



Barack Obama's re-election as President of the US in 2012 represented more than just a triumph of election strategy and shrewd campaign tactics. It also reflected the changing demographics of America and illuminated the policy consequences accompanying those changes. However much the US remains, by European standards, a centre-right nation, the differences between the two continents are becoming steadily fewer and less pronounced at the same time as the differences among Americans are becoming entrenched. While many Americans remain philosophically conservative – anti-statist and anti-government – most are operationally progressive: keen to accept the benefits, services and protections that government confers on them.

On most political scientists' models of voting behaviour, Obama's victory should never have occurred. No President since Franklin D. Roosevelt had been re-elected with an official unemployment rate as high as 7.9 per cent, most Americans convinced that the nation was headed in the wrong direction, and anaemic levels of economic growth. But Obama won the battle of campaign frames. Mitt Romney's inconstant efforts to cast the election as a referendum on Obama fell a poor second to the President's successful framing of 2012 as a clear choice between dramatically divergent visions of the American social compact, the role of government, and America's place in the world.

That the President prevailed in this battle was testimony to a remarkable campaigner with a decidedly mixed record in governing. Obama's first four years in the White House proved something of a paradox. In legislative terms, Obama was extraordinarily successful. Few presidencies have seen such major pieces of legislation enacted: economic stimulus measures, healthcare reform, financial regulatory overhaul, the end of 'don't ask, don't tell' towards gays in the military, and anti-discrimination legislation on pay equality. All of these represented substantial achievements. Moreover, many were passed in the face of overwhelming, and sometimes unanimous, opposition from congressional Republicans. In addition, and for the first time since JFK and Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s, the Democratic presidential candidate in 2012 possessed the advantage on national security and foreign policy. Obama's record of bringing the Iraq war to a close, beginning to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan, killing Osama Bin Laden, toppling Colonel Gaddafi and restoring respect for US leadership in much of the

Professor Robert Singh explores the entrenched divisions within US politics

world confirmed that he passed the '3am test' of crisis management. Yet, at the same time, domestic opposition to Obama was widespread and intense, and no amount of legislative productivity succeeded in ameliorating this. If anything, it simply galvanised an ideologically-driven conservative coalition intent on opposing the President on all fronts. As the Harvard political scientist Theda Skocpol argues, the first-term Obama presidency was "accomplished but embattled".

It is tempting to explain such antipathy by reference to race. The most powerful opposition to Obama reliably came from the states of the old confederacy, while elements of the Tea Party's fierce antagonism towards the President were tinged by barely concealed racism. Moreover, the 2012 election was not only an expression of partisan polarisation but also represented the most racialised contest in decades. An essentially white Republican Party faced off against a rainbow coalition of minorities supporting the Democrats, with some 89 per cent of Romney's vote coming from whites, while Obama claimed over 92 per cent of black and 70 per cent of Latino votes.

But, while the racially-tinged aspects of the contest were undeniable, such an explanation is too partial to be persuasive. While America remains divided by race, it is far less clear that it is divided because of race. Rather, the Obama years represented merely the latest example of an American political system, and a broader society, mired in a state of deep dissatisfaction and broad division.

In this sense, Obama is merely the latest President to encounter the polarised politics that are the hallmark not only of contemporary Washington politics but of America as a whole.

Romney's disparaging campaign comment about the '47 per cent' of Americans dependent on government whom he could do nothing for was an inadvertent recognition of a more enduring reality – that leaders of both parties, far from being post-partisan figures above the fray, are profoundly partisan actors. Just as few Democrats approved of the job that George W. Bush did, so few Republicans thought well of Obama. Partisans of both sides tend to see an enemy, not just an opponent, occupying the Oval Office. And such attitudes in turn reflect the divergent world views and lifestyles of Democratic and Republican identifiers. As the Pew Research Center reported in 2012, the values gap between Democrats and Republicans is now greater than attitudinal divides based on gender, race, age or class.

Perhaps even more worryingly, the current US system features an 'asymmetrical' polarisation. While both parties have moved apart from the centre, the Republicans have shifted considerably further to the Right than Democrats have to the Left. With quasi-parliamentary parties operating in a separated system of government that demands compromise and consensus in order to function, disagreement and dysfunction instead constitute the default positions.

While compromise may yet be possible, the 2012 results augur badly for the prospects of the US taking the urgent and painful fiscal measures to restore economic growth, reform entitlement

programmes and cut the national deficit and debt by trillions of dollars. Although both parties know full well the adverse consequences that attend obstruction, neither faces sufficient incentives or sanctions to abandon positions cherished by their activist base and key

campaign donors. With most general elections a non-event, the main concern of the majority of nationally-elected officials is a primary challenge – making them especially attentive to the concerns of the more hard-line activists than ordinary voters. Whether the grave crises facing the US can be met in a second Obama term remains to be seen. It will require major acts of statesmanship that career politicians more typically eschew than embrace.

Robert Singh is Professor of Politics at Birkbeck. His book, *Barack Obama's Post-American Foreign Policy: The Limits of Engagement*, was published by Bloomsbury in 2012.

Warriors of the plains

Dr Max Carocci curated
a fascinating exhibition
at the British Museum
about the lives, objects
and symbols of the
Native American Indians

Since prehistory, wars and warfare have existed among North American Indians. With the arrival of Europeans, violent conflicts surged as the Indians fought to protect territory and access to resources.

By the late eighteenth century, Native American warriors had begun to form societies around powerful symbols. Dr Max Carocci, who has studied American Indian cultures for over 30 years, explains: “The quest for power is an important aspect of Native American culture. Indigenous North American peoples realise that everyone has a certain amount of power, but by accumulating objects which carry their own inherent force, they can become more successful in life.”

Native Americans believe that objects are living things, imbued with a permeating spirit that lives in all things – skin, feathers, wood, or even stone.

The symbols around which Native American societies formed were revealed to men and women by their spirit guides, during vision quests. A group of people who had visions of the same animal might come together to form a society. Societies were often formed by groups

of warriors. Each society had entry requirements – valiant deeds that warriors would be required to complete in order to enter at the lowest level of the society. They could then work their way up the echelons of power by completing brave deeds.

The societies and the symbols and objects which were associated with them became very important for the maintenance of cultural and tribal identities among Native Americans throughout their history.

With the end of the Indian wars in the late nineteenth century the societies disintegrated. The year 1890 saw the last bouts of resistance in the northern plains, culminating with the Massacre of Wounded Knee, when 700 Native American women, children and some men were killed by the US army. Warfare on the plains came to an end. Native

Americans were confined to reservations, and by the beginning of the twentieth century there were only a few echoes of these brave deeds performed by old-time warriors, which were recounted orally or pictorially, by warriors now living in reservations.

During both the World Wars, older generations of Native Americans volunteered

for the US army in large numbers. This was an opportunity for them to reclaim their warrior culture. Dr Carocci explains: “An underlying subtext was to reaffirm their inherent masculinity and prove themselves as valiant warriors. In the reservations they could no longer be validated by becoming warriors and society leaders.”

After World War Two, a number of tribes began to resurrect the Warrior Societies of old. Dr Carocci says: “With increasing numbers of people coming back from major wars there was a renewed sense of pride in being Indian and tribal people. What were once warriors became modern soldiers, and vice versa. Modern soldiers were nothing but a translation of what a warrior used to be. Today they are simultaneously an American and an Indian, and therefore a soldier and a warrior.”

Many contemporary Native American soldiers continue the practices of their ancestors and take war-related objects that they have received in vision quests to war. Dr Carocci adds: “The fact that Warrior Societies disappeared in the nineteenth century and weren’t revived until the mid twentieth-century doesn’t mean that the old belief systems collapsed completely. Modern soldiers continue to talk about spirit guides providing guidance when needed, and many take amulets and personal medicines (protection) into war. *continued overleaf*”

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**Indigenous North American
peoples realise that everyone
has a certain amount of power,
but by accumulating objects
which carry their own
inherent force, they can
become more successful in life.**
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Assiniboine men wearing weasel tails on their
belts; studio photograph, Canada, mid-late 1800s.
© Trustees of the British Museum



Late 1800s feather bustle. © Trustees of the British Museum

Despite the fact that they are in a completely different context of modern warfare, the attitude is very much the same.”

As well as taking traditional objects into warfare, modern-day narratives have also started to appear in traditional ceremonies. Dr Carocci continues: “The revived societies are bringing back traditional practices, but in a different form. The objects and ceremonies that they employ use modern-day symbols of power and bravery on traditional regalia. For example, an old-style tepee, used in a homecoming ceremony, will now have a visual representation of helicopters and tanks, which traditionally would have been images of horse raiding or killing and scalping enemies.”

These homecoming celebrations are an incredibly important part of the new societies’ role in contemporary Native culture. They represent a counterbalancing of what soldiers may have lost in battle with what they have gained, which is pride, legitimisation of their own bravery and acknowledgement from their community of what they have contributed in defending them.

The Education Department at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, where the Warriors of the Plains exhibition was displayed from September 2012 to January 2013, organised a series of meetings with UK veterans of recent wars. Dr Carocci says: “It was interesting to see how veterans from the UK have responded to hearing about the Native American experiences. They identified a contrast between their own homecoming, where they may have had support from family and close friends, but no validation from the larger community. This exhibition has highlighted differences between the post-conflict processes and ways of dealing with war and homecoming.

“The exhibition is not, therefore, simply a

window onto past customs, but also a way of illuminating new ways of looking at experiences across cultures and trying to make audiences see the relevance of some of these objects for us in Europe. The educational programmes are a good reminder of what can be done across cultures, but also of what old material can do for contemporary life.

“I did not just want to offer a snapshot in time,

and for precisely this reason we included contemporary objects in the exhibition, so people could see that Native American cultures are still very much alive and part of contemporary life.”

Dr Max Carocci is Programme Director of Birkbeck’s Certificate in World Arts and Artefacts, and teaches the core course, Indigenous Arts of the Americas. His book, *Warriors of the Plains*, was published in 2012 by McGill-Queen’s University Press. The Warriors of the Plains exhibition will be on display at Manchester Museum from May until mid-November 2013.

By Bryony Merritt



Powwow competition, photograph by Simona Piantieri

Using an app to plot environmental improvements

Dr George Roussos writes about how his team has developed an app about green initiatives in Bloomsbury



The latest smartphone technology is ideally suited to showing how local businesses are taking steps to improve the environment on our doorstep. Birkbeck was approached to undertake this exciting project by inmidtown – a Business Improvement District representing the interests of businesses in Holborn, Bloomsbury and St Giles. I led a team of staff and students from the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, and we have now been working on the map-based app for the past year. There are more developments planned for 2013.

We worked with inmidtown to help realise its objectives to raise awareness of environmental initiatives, enhance the commercial viability of the area, and further strengthen the area's academic reputation. Members of inmidtown have a large and diverse green portfolio,

“We worked with inmidtown to help realise its objectives to raise awareness of environmental initiatives, enhance the commercial viability of the area, and further strengthen the area's academic reputation.”

ranging from strong environmental policies and certifications to sustainable architecture. Some projects, such as zero-to-landfill policies and bee-keeping, which are shown on the app, are provided to businesses by inmidtown. Inmidtown has been awarded two Environmental Excellence awards from Camden Council.

I utilised the team's experience with Participatory Cyber-physical Computing to help develop the app. Such systems link the virtual and physical world by enabling the integration of a user's actions and movements. Smartphones have become the main means to facilitate such participation in the production and consumption of local data and are the ideal vehicle for the delivery of these services.

Mitch Steprans, Business Manager at inmidtown, says: “We're so pleased to have worked with Birkbeck on this project and to have had the expert input of George on developing this app. There are multiple pioneering initiatives taking place across our district that we want people to be aware of and the app will be a great resource for spreading the message of sustainability in an area that might otherwise be seen as highly polluted and carbon heavy.”

The Birkbeck team will now continue the collaboration with inmidtown by adding new features to the app, such as real-time pollution information. Patterns in vehicle and pedestrian traffic will also be identified and this data will inform sustainability initiatives that improve the environment, and ultimately, the well-being of the population in the district.

Dr George Roussos is a Reader in Pervasive Computing at Birkbeck.

Image: iStockphoto

You can download the inmidtown eco-app from: <http://ow.ly/fTUTb>

Psychoanalysing the Nazis



How the Allies attempted to understand the psychology of the German people through the minds of their leaders

In May 1941 the Allies were presented with an extraordinary opportunity to delve into the Nazi psyche when Rudolf Hess, Deputy Führer of the Nazi Party, was taken prisoner in Scotland. Hess claimed to have flown to Britain on a serious peace mission, but his captors did not believe this, and he was moved to England as a prisoner of state. Over the next four years, as Hess's physical and mental symptoms grew more bizarre, British army doctors closely studied his behaviour, communications and ideology, growing ever more interested in what their patient could tell them about the psychopathology of Nazism itself.

Professor Daniel Pick has studied archived



medical notes written about Hess and other prisoners during the 1940s and at the Nuremberg trial, and published a book entitled *The Pursuit of the Nazi Mind: Hitler, Hess and the Analysts*. He explains: “During the war the Allies used psychoanalysis, psychology and psychiatry to try and understand the mindset of the Nazi leaders. Intelligence officials wanted to explore not only the military threat from Nazism, but also the underlying psychological states that led people to embrace Nazi ideology. Analysts believed that by building in-depth psychological studies of Hitler and his acolytes, as well as collective portraits of the fears and wishes of the ‘masses’, they would be able to

better understand how Hitler and his entourage would behave in the closing phase of the war and why they gained such extraordinary levels of support during the 1930s. By understanding the popular attractions of fascism, they sought ways of entrenching liberal democracy and ‘denazifying’ Germany after the war.”

Hess was one of many German prisoners considered through a psychiatric and psychoanalytic lens during this period; because of his closeness to the Führer, he was a particularly significant subject, seen, on the one hand, as abnormal, on the other as a ‘pointer’ to prevalent attitudes. Henry Dicks was the wartime doctor who most closely analysed Hess, and attempted to decipher his phobias, erotic feelings, and system of beliefs. Dicks wanted to understand what had attracted Hess to authoritarianism and what Hitler meant to him unconsciously. Professor Pick says: “Dicks concluded that for men such as Hess, Nazism was not so much the expression of a rational political calculation, but more like a symptom of mental confusion: an affliction masquerading as a ‘choice’. Hitler, Dicks believed, solved a psychological problem for Hess, not only by providing him with the authoritarian leadership he craved, but also by standing in, unconsciously, for an all-powerful father figure he could serve and revere, whilst all sense of weakness, mess, and chaos was blamed upon, and projected into, the Jews and other reviled groups.” Dicks, and other psychiatrists at that time brought to the fore the idea that political ideologies played upon people’s inchoate terrors and desires, and might well express a kind of madness. Dicks also speculated that certain Germans might be unconsciously envious of the English character and suffering from an ‘inferiority complex’. Like many clinicians in this period, he drew on Freudian ideas such as ‘the superego’, and reached for the language of sadism and masochism, to understand the dynamics of Nazi emotional ties.

While Hess was being assessed in England, in the United States agents from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of the CIA, were attempting a similar analysis of Hitler, albeit at a distance and with no direct clinical experience of their subject. They believed that an understanding of Hitler’s mind would shed light on the psychology of the German people who had succumbed to him. Such a swift intellectual move between accounts of individuals, groups and nations

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For men such as Rudolf Hess, Nazism was not so much the expression of a rational political calculation, but more like a symptom of mental confusion.

would be regarded as highly problematic nowadays, but were viewed as part and parcel of intelligence work at the time.

Although it is hard to be sure what precise difference the psychological work of Dicks and his counterparts at the OSS made to the military effort, it was the start of a longstanding relationship between the field of psychoanalysis and political profiling, and it influenced a host of post-war psycho-social studies of ‘the authoritarian personality’ and inquiries into the popular lure of militarism, racism, and populist demagogues.

Professor Pick concludes: “Psychoanalysis sought to reveal how under Nazism people’s unconscious longings could be mobilised and to consider how the regime was able to appeal to powerful infantile feelings of hatred, love, grievance, envy and sadism. The analysts explained how a collective psychology of fascism was created and delved into the unspoken motivations, as opposed to the stated intentions, of the political subjects who rallied to the cause of the Duce and the Führer after the First World War. Such precursors of contemporary psycho-social studies were sometimes incautious in their generalised claims to have plumbed the true psychic meanings of political choices, but they were surely right to argue that neither liberalism nor Marxism had as yet satisfactorily explained fascism. Politics, they proposed, entailed both conscious and unconscious processes, and all too easily played upon mad forms of idealisation and ferocious demonisation, extreme ‘splitting’, manic ‘solutions’, a drive towards death and destruction, and an utter dehumanisation of the other. These processes, of course, have not gone away; whilst psychology can never be a self-sufficient substitute for history, economics, anthropology or sociology, psychoanalytic accounts of unconscious fantasy and the Freudian language of the mind remain of acute political relevance today.”

Daniel Pick is Professor of History at Birkbeck. His book, *The Pursuit of the Nazi Mind: Hitler, Hess and the Analysts*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2012. Professor Pick’s research was supported by the Wellcome Trust.

Explore the archive:
www.bbk.ac.uk/thepursuitofthenazimind

By Bryony Merritt

Eyes right



Studying babies' brain activity has led to a world-leading breakthrough in detecting autism

The possibility of detecting autism in babies as young as six months made headlines around the world in January 2012, after a team from Birkbeck's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (CBCD) and the Institute of Education published their ground-breaking research in the science journal *Current Biology*.

There are currently no reliable methods of predicting autism in children under the age of two. Diagnosis relies on detecting symptoms, such as impaired social and communication skills, or rigid and repetitive behaviour, that typically develop in a child's second or third year. Detecting autism at an earlier age may potentially lead to ways of better supporting a child during his or her early development, improving their life chances.

Previous research had shown that typical infants' sensitivity to eye gaze in the first year of life predicts a range of social and communication skills that emerge later. In this new study, led by Professor Mark Johnson, Head of the CBCD, the research teams looked at a group of six- to 10-month-old babies at greater risk of developing autism because of a family history of the condition.

The scientific research is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the charity Autistica; the MRC has also provided significant

Left: Baby wearing EGI Geodesic Sensor Net (Helena Riberio)

Right: Baby playing in Birkbeck's Babylab (Helen Maris)

financial support for other projects at the internationally-recognised CBCD.

The researchers placed passive sensors on the babies' scalps to register brain activity while the babies watched an image of an adult's face whose eyes moved from looking away from the baby to directly at them, or vice versa. The researchers then considered whether there was a relationship between differences in brain activity in response to these eye movements at six to 10 months old and the development of autism in the same children at three years old.

Babies who did not develop autism later showed large spikes in brain activity when they saw these so-called 'dynamic eye-gaze shifts'. Much smaller spikes in brain activity were detected in the infants who went on to develop autism, raising the prospect that autism could be identified much earlier than is currently clinically possible.

"The study is only a first step toward earlier diagnosis, but our findings demonstrate for the first time that, in their first year of life, babies who will go on to develop autism are already processing social information in a different way," says Professor Johnson.

"While the CBCD study highlights a potential early method of identifying children who are likely to develop autism, the tests were not 100 per cent accurate at predicting outcome. Developing this type of test into something that can be routinely used to detect autism in infants will require more research on larger groups of infants," adds Professor Johnson.

Encouraging opportunities lie ahead, however. In March 2012, the CBCD learned that it would be a key part of European Autism Interventions – a Multicentre Study for Developing New Medications (EU-AIMS), a five-year €29.6m project to investigate autism. The project, the largest single grant for autism in the world, is bringing top scientists from 14 European centres of excellence together with major industry partners and autism charities including Autism Speaks.

"This is an unprecedented research



collaboration," says Professor Johnson. "We're delighted to be part of it because it's vital that we can expand our studies. Our role is to further the basic understanding of the original causal factors or brain problems that might cause autism. We are looking for those early warning signs."

"The more we understand about the core science of autism, the more chance we have to develop other treatments. If we want to be able to intervene, we need to target babies at highest risk. This is where basic research is translated into clinical work."

"We have already begun this process; we are now working with colleagues in Manchester to develop an early parent-mediated intervention programme for babies at risk, which is applied before the onset of behavioural symptoms. Hopefully, preliminary results for this trial will become available next year."

By Fiona MacLeod

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**In their first year of life,
babies who will go on to
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in a different way**
”



Protecting the past

Sri Lanka's colonial past
is igniting public
controversy, says
Dr Zoltán Biedermann

Ending a civil war is a gigantic challenge by any standards. But building a lasting peace after the guns have ceased to resound can be even more difficult. When Sri Lankan government troops crushed the last pockets of Tamil Tiger resistance in 2009, they won a victory that few had considered possible even a year before. The conflict, raging since 1983, had already cost around 70,000 lives.

As the Sri Lankan army finally pushed forward and defeated the Tigers, the news was received with a mix of euphoria and surprise. And yet it came at a price: another 20,000 or more lives lost in the final stages of the war, widespread shelling of civilian populations and tens of thousands of ethnic Tamils forced into camps. Peace may have been achieved militarily, but healing the wounds of a war-torn society will prove more challenging.

In post-war Sri Lanka, free speech is increasingly challenged by Government agencies and minorities are under pressure. Journalists have been murdered, union leaders receive death threats, and even such venerable institutions as the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (now in the hands of radical nationalists) or the University of Colombo (still resisting the siege) have come under attack. The battle for Sri Lanka's future is being fought not only by politicians, but also by anthropologists, sociologists, linguists – and of course, historians.

History has become a prime subject of debate in Sri Lankan newspapers, blogs and other public outlets. Under such conditions, a seemingly obscure research subject has suddenly become one of the hottest topics around. Books on the impact of Portuguese imperialism – the first instance of European power building in Asia – are selling by the thousands.

The problem is that the past is misused and heavily distorted to make statements about the present. When history is mobilised to put pressure on minorities – Tamils, Catholics, Anglicans, Muslims – and tell them they are 'less Sri Lankan' than the country's Sinhalese, predominantly Buddhist majority, then scholars need to raise their voice. Sri Lanka has a multi-ethnic past that it needs to embrace, not reject.

In 2012 I travelled to Colombo to present papers at a history workshop organised by the American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies and at a public event organised by the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, an independent think-tank.

Talking to wider audiences and feeling that my work really matters has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I had people in the audience who travelled all the way from Kandy in the central highlands and even Batticaloa on the east coast just to hear an independent opinion about the introduction of Catholicism to Sri Lanka. In Batticaloa, there are still people speaking a Portuguese Creole dialect. They are a threatened minority, and for them the past is a lifeline, something they can cling to in order to survive as a community.

The next decade will decide, I believe, which way Sri Lanka will go as a society: towards an open, democratic and assumedly multi-religious future or towards an oppressive, majority-culture-oriented regime. In this battle, the re-writing of history will play a crucial role.

Zoltán Biedermann is a lecturer in Iberian Studies at Birkbeck, and teaches courses on empire, art, maps and travel literature. His book, *Connected Empires: Sri Lanka, Portugal and the Making of Iberian Imperialism in Asia*, will be published in 2013.



A Buddhist monk contemplates the Ocean at Colombo's Galle Face Green. Behind him, a British cannon and signs of the post-war economic boom (Zoltán Biedermann)

Marsquakes and the search for life on Mars

With NASA's Curiosity Rover landing on Mars last summer, our knowledge of the Red Planet has received much attention over the last year.

In February 2012, a team of Birkbeck scientists, led by Professor Gerald Roberts, published a paper showing strong evidence that Mars experiences quakes in the same way as we experience earthquakes. The existence of marsquakes is an indication that conditions on Mars could include active processes associated with heat and the melting of ice to produce liquid water, a resource thought to be a prerequisite for life on the planet.

Professor Roberts' team used High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) equipment to examine boulders along a fault system known as Cerberus Fossae. Their analysis of the way that boulders had fallen and rolled during avalanches showed compelling evidence that the avalanches were caused by marsquakes, rather than by changes in temperature, which can also cause avalanches.

Professor Roberts says: "Both the size of the boulders and the frequency of the boulder falls decreased from a central point along the Cerberus Fossae fault system over a distance of approximately 100km. This is consistent with the hypothesis that boulders had been mobilised by ground-shaking, and that the severity of the ground-shaking decreased away from the epicentres of marsquakes."

The team compared the pattern of the boulder falls, and the faulting of the surface of Mars, with those seen in central Italy, after the 6.3 magnitude earthquake near L'Aquila, in 2009, where boulder falls occurred up to approximately 50km from the epicentre. This comparison shows that the marsquakes were likely to have had a magnitude greater than 7.0 due to the 200km-wide area of displaced boulders.

The discovery of marsquakes is significant in the ongoing search for life

Evidence shows that Mars has quakes in the same way that we have earthquakes



Professor Gerald Roberts

on Mars, because if the faults along the Cerberus Fossae region are active, and quakes are driven by subterranean volcanism, the energy provided in the form of heat from the igneous dikes might melt ice, creating liquid water, and thus providing habitats that might support life. Professor Roberts explains: "It is this link between life, volcanism and active faulting that makes the boulder data we have collected so intriguing."

The InSIGHT Mars mission

Professor Roberts has been appointed as a project scientist on a joint Mars mission by the UK Space Agency and NASA. The InSIGHT mission, scheduled for 2016, will send a seismic experiment to collect data on marsquakes and meteorite impacts, and map the activity and layered nature of the subsurface of Mars.

Aside from further investigation of marsquakes, the experiment will try to determine whether the centre of Mars is liquid or solid, investigate how the planet is cooling, and determine how much the planet moves on its axis. The data collected about Mars will enable the team to compare the internal structure of Mars with that of Earth and understand more about how both planets came to be formed and ultimately how life evolved.

Professor Roberts says: "I'm very excited to be involved in this very important mission. Seismology proved to be fundamental to understanding the internal structure and evolution of the Earth, and recently the Moon; it may be that soon we will have such data for Mars. The discovery of seismicity on Mars would heighten our expectation that active volcanism is present, with the potential for supporting habitats for liquid water and microbial life."

Gerald Roberts is Professor of Earthquake Geology at Birkbeck.

By Bryony Merritt

Training lawyers in Uzbekistan

Professor Bill Bowring writes about his efforts to eliminate torture

Allegations of the use of torture in the former Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan, in Central Asia, are not new. They hit the UK headlines in October 2004, when the British Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Craig Murray, was sacked following outspoken criticism of torture by the Uzbek government, and complaints of Britain's complicity in sharing evidence obtained through torture.

Such allegations continue: in February 2008 the UN's Committee Against Torture once again reported numerous, ongoing and consistent allegations of the routine use of torture by Uzbek police and investigators, and failure to investigate complaints.

Against this background, I was invited by the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in March 2012. I was one of two lecturers leading a two-day training course for Uzbek trial lawyers on the use of international human rights law in preventing torture. More than 30 experienced trial lawyers, women and men, from all the major cities of Uzbekistan took active part in the training. These courageous defence lawyers play an indispensable role in identifying and pursuing the use of torture.

The other lecturer during the course was the Russian advocate Olga Tseitlina from St Petersburg. She works with the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre – a project I founded in 2003. She has successfully represented, at the European Court of Human Rights, refugees from



Uzbek prison guards line up in Jaslik jail (Reuters)

Uzbekistan to Russia, preventing their return to Uzbekistan, where they would face torture.

My latest visit to Uzbekistan was the continuation of quite a few years of experience. I have trained lawyers in the Uzbek cities of Tashkent, Urgench and Ferghana.

One of the participants on the course in March 2012 was well known to me. In 2002 she was a member of a large group of Uzbek lawyers who visited the UK, with the financial assistance of the British Embassy (Craig Murray was still the Ambassador). I lectured

to this group during their two-week stay, when they attended lectures on human rights and torture prevention, and visited police stations, courts and prisons in London.

I teach human rights, including the prohibition of torture, at Birkbeck, and since 1992 I have been an active Trustee of the London-based Redress Trust, which works for reparation for torture survivors, and for the elimination of torture worldwide.

Bill Bowring is a Professor of Law at Birkbeck.

“”
These courageous defence lawyers play an indispensable role in identifying and pursuing the use of torture.

Intellectual property and the dazzling object of desire

Professor Daniele Archibugi and Andrea Filippetti uncover the impact of recent legal cases

On 24 August 2012, a jury in California ruled that Samsung had infringed several Apple patents. The jury decided for mega compensation: more than US\$1bn to be paid by Samsung to its rival. The fact that the controversy involved highly desired products, such as the iPhone and the iPad, magnified the case, making it a favourite subject for late summer conversations.

On 12 September, less than one month after the verdict, a new version of the iPhone was released, with a higher price tag than any other mobile on the market. Despite the price, consumers queued outside shops to hold the fresh dazzling object of desire. Willing or unwilling, the judgment had become part of a spectacular marketing strategy: wasn't the super compensation the best proof of the intrinsic value of the iPhone?

Legal cases are currently taking place in at least 10 other countries and the judgments have already taken a different tone. The Seoul Central District Court anticipated the verdict of their American colleagues and released a more Solomonic judgment, according to which both companies copied each other. The courts are keen to protect the interests of national companies but with notable differences: in the USA, penalties for infringement of intellectual property are much higher than anywhere else.

The Korean court demanded that Samsung pay Apple US\$22,000 and that Apple should pay Samsung US\$35,500: peanuts in comparison to the US court ruling.

Over the last two decades, American companies, actively supported by the US Government, have created a dangerous trend: making intellectual property rights tougher. In principle, this should have led to more investment in research and development and innovation.

In reality, it has increased rents and, above all, litigation and legal costs. Each contract involving the generation or exchange of knowledge is now scrutinised by an increasing number of lawyers and attorneys, often at the expense of researchers and engineers.

Companies go to court only as a last resort. In most cases, deals are done confidentially, as companies prefer to avoid consumers knowing the profit margins associated with their product innovation. In front of the Cupertino court in California, Samsung admitted that it cashes US\$460 for each tablet. Apple does even better and makes US\$558 for each iPad sold. We already knew that innovative products bring in extra profits. But the consumers still queuing to buy the latest gadget may eventually wonder whether the current intellectual property legislation is protecting their interest or not.

Daniele Archibugi is Professor of Innovation Governance and Public Policy at Birkbeck. Andrea Filippetti is a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Management at Birkbeck.

Image iStockphoto

Rethinking wills

Highlighting the joys of will-writing might incline more of us to write them, says Daniel Monk

'Make a Will Week' is now a regular fixture in the UK. But a report by the National Consumer Council, which found that most adults do not have a will, suggests that it continues to fail to capture the imagination. Similarly, proposals to reform the intestacy rules (which stipulate what happens when you die without a will) are currently being debated in Parliament, but have attracted little attention.

This is a pity, for scholarship across a range of disciplines reveals that in the past, questions about inheritance had a far higher profile and wills offer creative possibilities for us all.

In Ancient Rome, wills were revised frequently, and as expressions of political, as much as personal, commitments attracted great interest. Both in post-revolutionary France and the US following the War of Independence, passionate political and philosophical arguments about inheritance laws were central to the project of 'nation-making'. And the abundance of fictional wills in both English and French nineteenth-century literature reflected an awareness that these curious 'last words' could simultaneously communicate both individual moral character and social and political values. But while a literary critic in 1897 quipped, "Goodness only knows what novelists and dramatists would do without wills", the same could not be said today. The reading of the will has provided high drama in television soaps such as *Dynasty* and *EastEnders*, but wills are now rarely utilised by 'serious' novelists.

Reading real-life wills as social and cultural texts, rather than as purely functional legal documents, raises particular challenges. For example, Shakespeare's notorious bequest to his wife Anne of his "second best bed" continues to provoke conflicting interpretations. And while it is sometimes hard to identify the testator's relationship with a named beneficiary, it is almost impossible to discover the identity – often equally significant – of those not mentioned at all. But wills can sometimes provide – intentionally or unintentionally – a unique insight into the life and mind of an individual. And in doing so, they complement but also trouble the genealogical certainties of birth, marriage and death certificates.

One such will is that of the writer EM Forster. Overshadowed by his posthumously published novel *Maurice*, his will has received little attention. Yet its 19 pecuniary legacies can be read as a careful reflection by Forster on his complex web of friendships, carers, lovers and biological as well as chosen or alternative families. Together with his gifts to the National Trust and to King's College, Cambridge, the will speaks to both a public and private readership and provides a form of autobiographical self-representation that performs and expresses a

commitment to a particular ethic of care and form of intimate citizenship. Like *Maurice* it too can be read as a posthumous publication.

Forster's will is written in impersonal, conventional 'legalese', but it demonstrates the creative and expressive potential of wills and how will-writing can be a positive affirming practice in the negotiation of kinship and the making of personal identity. Perhaps highlighting the joys of will-writing, rather than focusing on the consequences of not making them, might incline more of us to write them.

Daniel Monk is a Reader in Law. His article, 'Sexuality and Succession Law: Beyond Formal Equality' was published in *Feminist Legal Studies* in 2011 and 'EM Forster's will: an overlooked posthumous publication' will be published in *Legal Studies* in 2013.



EM Forster Getty Images

A pioneer at the sharp end of medicine

Studying Creative Writing helped alumna Margaret Ghilchik document the history of female surgeons



A consultant surgeon, mother-of-four, and author – Margaret Ghilchik is a remarkable woman. She overcame prejudice to become one of a handful of female surgeons more than 50 years ago, and, aged 77, she is still performing operations today.

Not content to work only with a scalpel, Ghilchik – a Fellow of the

Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) since 1967 – has also taken up the pen to document the lives of other female pioneers in the medical profession. Her book *The Fellowship of Women: Two Hundred Surgical Lives* (2011) was published to mark the centenary of Eleanor Davies-Colley becoming the first female member of the RCS.

Ghilchik is now writing a novel, and her literary interests and skill can be linked to a Creative Writing course at Birkbeck.

Ghilchik was born in China, where her father was a Methodist missionary. After her schooling in Australia and England, she completed her medical training at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

All types of surgery soon followed, from circumcisions to thoracic operations, during the 'cutting years' at Harold Wood Hospital in Essex. Ghilchik says: "In those days you got very good experience early on. At the end of two years I had hardly left the hospital. It was a tremendous experience and very enjoyable." She became a consultant surgeon in 1971 and worked until 2000 at St Charles' Hospital in London. Other posts followed and she now works at St George's Hospital in London.

One of Ghilchik's proudest achievements has been her ability to combine her successful career with family life. She adds: "I worked until the day my children were born and then I took my six weeks' holiday. That way one tried to diffuse any criticism from male colleagues."

The pursuit of literary ambitions followed with a Certificate in Creative Writing at Birkbeck in 2003. Ghilchik was inspired by her classmates, her tutor Shelley Weiner, and a visit by double Man Booker winner Hilary Mantel. She says: "I was trying to move away from scientific and medical writing to write in a more literary and creative way. When you start it is quite daunting, but Birkbeck certainly transforms you."

Her new departure succeeded, and she wrote *The Fellowship of Women*, which recounts the struggle of women to be accepted as Fellows of the RCS. The book details the professional and personal lives of the first 200 women, including herself, to join the RCS.

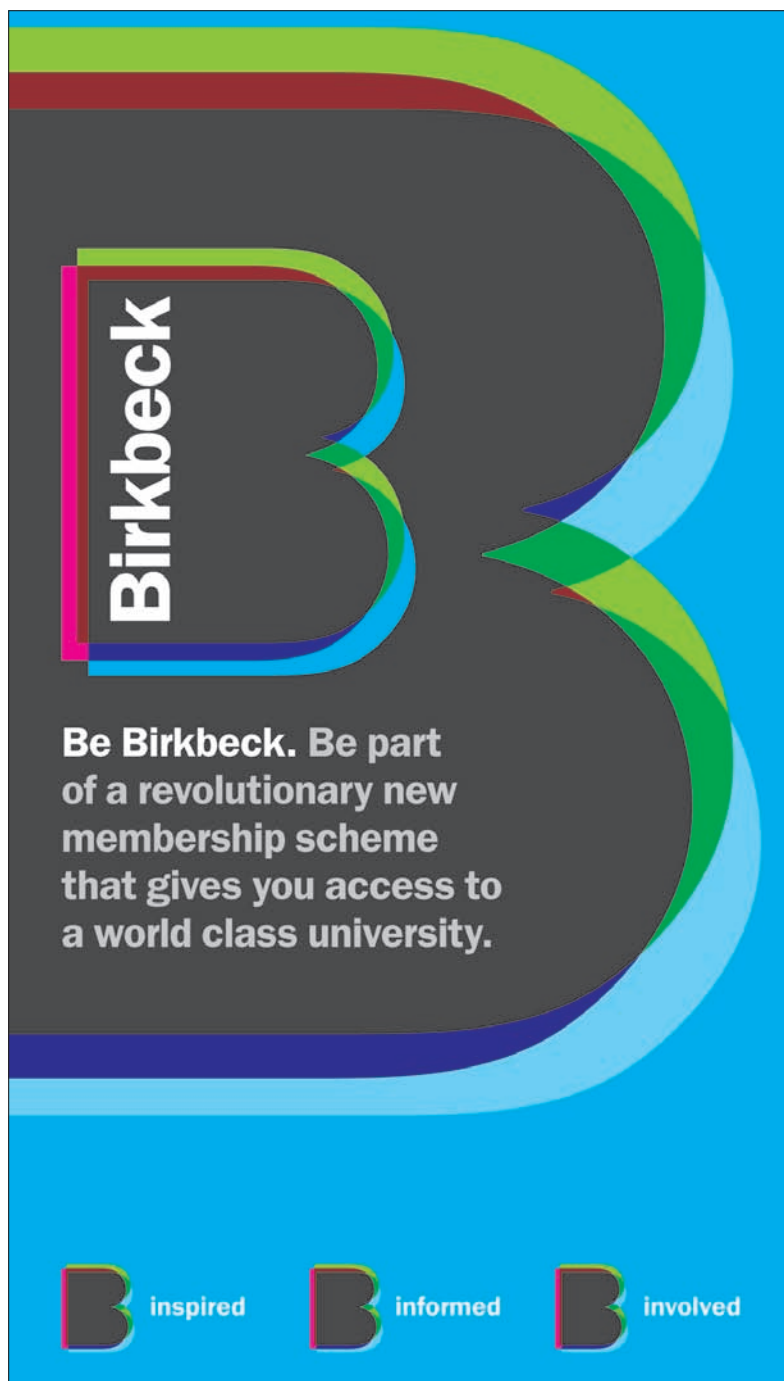
By Guy Collender



For more information about *The Fellowship of Women*, visit: <http://ow.ly/fQvn2>

Be Birkbeck

Professor Miriam Zukas introduces
Birkbeck's new membership scheme



Birkbeck

**Be Birkbeck. Be part
of a revolutionary new
membership scheme
that gives you access to
a world class university.**

B inspired **B** informed **B** involved

Be Birkbeck is a brand new membership scheme, launching in April 2013. As far as we know, it is the first such scheme in the country. We have developed the scheme for two reasons: first, Birkbeck has a unique mission to provide part-time higher education which meets the changing educational, cultural, personal and career needs of adults, in particular those who live or work in the London region. Second, we want to share our research and our expertise through teaching, publication, partnerships with other organisations and through the promotion of civic and public debate.

While our current provision responds to a wide diversity of educational needs, more recently we have found that the needs of lifelong learners and people who want to engage in higher education without signing up to a degree, or want to continue to engage following completion of their degree, are not being met by universities. Be Birkbeck will enable those individuals to be part of Birkbeck's academic community, to engage with like-minded people and to have the opportunity to discuss and debate ideas.

So what will membership of Be Birkbeck include? Everyone will be able to come to six lectures across a range of academic disciplines offered at Birkbeck. But these lectures will be designed with broader educational participation in mind: pre-lecture reading will be available to members as well as online discussion groups following each lecture. They will be linked thematically each year. Our first year, 2013, is the 190th anniversary of when George Birkbeck established the Mechanics' Institute. To celebrate his controversial decision to offer education to working Londoners, the first lecture series will consider controversies in arts, science, law, social science and business.

Members will also be able to access a number of events, which Birkbeck will organise in collaboration with partner organisations. A regular newsletter will keep members informed and up to date about the developing programme of events.

We will have three tiers of membership, which starts at £5 per month. The first tier will include lectures, a newsletter and access to a number of collaborative events. The second tier will also include the use of the library (without borrowing rights). At the highest tier, members will also be able to borrow from the library. So members of Be Birkbeck will be able to decide on the level of engagement that suits them.

I look forward to welcoming many of you as Be Birkbeck members in the coming year.

Professor Miriam Zukas is Executive Dean, School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, at Birkbeck.



For more information, and to register your interest, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/bebirkbeck

OUR COMMUNITY OUR STUDENTS



“
**The knowledge I
have gained will definitely
help me achieve my
career aims.**
”

Cemal Erksun (above)
MSc Sports Management and the
Business of Football
Cemal, a former athlete with
experience working for the
Turkish Basketball Federation,
says: “The MSc programme
content was very attractive, and
the fact that Birkbeck is part of



For more
student profiles,
visit:
[www.bbk.ac.uk/
student-profiles](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-profiles)

an internationally recognised and
respected university, was also an
important factor. As an additional
bonus, I am living in London, which
is an amazing city.”

In the future, Cemal hopes to go
back to Turkey and continue working
in sports management. He says:
“Studying this programme has
broadened my perspectives and helped
me to understand the modern sports
management sector. The knowledge
I have gained will definitely help me
achieve my career aims, and I will use
it to do good things for my country.”

Loubna Garrett (below left)
Certificate of Higher Education
Legal Methods

Loubna, originally from Morocco,
has always had a passion to study
Law. Having lived in the Middle
East, Loubna would like to use
her legal experience to work for
a humanitarian organisation.

“Coming to do the certificate at
Birkbeck was the first step on
what I hope will be a long
journey. I’ve used my
certificate to prepare me for
the LLB Law at Birkbeck but
I also hope to go on to an
LLM and even a PhD – I want
to take it as far as possible.

“I get so much out of
studying – I feel that this
is my time and that
Birkbeck has given
me the opportunity
to achieve my
ambition. The
opportunity to



work and study has been great for me
and I couldn’t let that opportunity go –
I’m so glad I did it!”

Nana Agyeman (above)
Certificate of Higher Education HEIS –
Nursing, Midwifery and Health
Studies Pathway

“I really wanted to retrain in nursing but
I was working full-time, so there was no
way I could have done a full-time access
course. Birkbeck’s evening modules fit
around my daily routine and I was very
happy that I could gain a University of
London qualification that would be
recognised wherever I go. Doing the
certificate was great preparation for
going on to do a BSc degree.

“I was quite daunted about going
back into a classroom. However, before
the class started we had an induction
and when I met other students and
realised that we were all in the same
boat, it gave me a lot of confidence.
And the support was there when
I needed it.”

Bridget Fuller (above right)
BA History of Art

“Studying at Birkbeck has given me
so much more confidence in myself.”

Bridget did not enjoy school and was
left with a feeling that education
wasn’t for her and that she would
never achieve academically. However,
her desire to try university study grew
stronger and stronger. Birkbeck
was the perfect solution for Bridget,
who needed to carry on working to
support herself throughout the degree.

Bridget says: “I’d done so badly at



“
I’d been waiting for a long
time to do my degree –
Birkbeck enabled me to prove
to myself that I could do it.
”

school that I was really frightened about starting the degree. But I really wanted to have a go, so I thought I’d just enrol and see if I got thrown out at the end of the first term. I didn’t get thrown out though. I lasted until the end of the course.”

“Now I’m starting my MA at Birkbeck and if I get to the end of that I’d like to

go even further. I will keep working as hard as I can until I reach my limit!”

James Wilper (below)

PhD German

“I wanted to study in London after gaining my undergraduate degree in the USA, living in Germany and then in Scotland. I especially like how courses are taught by different lecturers and professors, so you get a fantastic synthesis of knowledge and expertise. At Birkbeck you get such diverse views on one course.

“Within the School of Arts the PhD students support one another and have a lot of contact. Having that contact with other graduate students was very important.

“Personally I want to be an expert in my field and I feel that through the College and the people I’ve met, I’m well on my way.”



“
Very few people can truly say
that they’ve made their dream
come true, but that’s what’s
happened to me.
”

Gerald Nathanson

BA History

Gerald Nathanson was born in 1934. His education was disrupted by the Second World War and by the time he left school, aged 15, he had been to 11 different schools. Gerald says: “I’ve always felt very conscious that I didn’t have an academic education and my one dream was to be properly educated”.

Age 74, Gerald was accepted onto Birkbeck’s BA History. He recalls that the first weeks were a real struggle, but with the support of his tutors Gerald began to get to grips with academic study. He says: “All of the tutors were wonderful. I’ve dedicated four years to doing this, but I felt so privileged to be able to do it. From the moment I walked through the College doors, I was smiling, and people smiled back.

“My wife, Carole, put aside everything to help me get my degree. I covered the dining room with books, and articles and notes.”

The day that Gerald found out he’d passed the degree was full of emotion. He says: “When I saw the results on the screen, I called Carole in and we both cried. I couldn’t believe that I’d fulfilled a lifelong ambition. I still can’t believe it.”

OUR COMMUNITY NEW FELLOWSHIPS

Baroness Sal Brinton's interest in education, skills and learning stems from a 20-year career in the education sector. Since being made a life peer in 2011, she has championed the cause of part-time students in Parliament. Baroness Brinton says: "I am a great admirer of the work Birkbeck is doing to bring world-class higher education to east London. I live in the heart of Watford, and know what a powerful and positive role education can play in people's lives."

Joining Birkbeck as a Lecturer in English in 1979, Professor Steven Connor became Professor of Modern Literature and Theory in 1994. He served as Pro-Vice-Master for International and Research Students, and as College Orator from 2001 to 2012. Through his writing and radio work, he has enlarged the scope of English studies and opened up new methods and subjects in cultural history. In October 2012 he became Grace 2 Professor of English at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Peterhouse. "Fellows of Birkbeck have the opportunity to represent its work and ideals in the world of education and beyond, an opportunity I am eager to seize," he says.

Philanthropist and businessman Dr Naim Dangoor first came to the UK from Iraq in the 1930s to study at the University of London. In the 1960s, following political unrest, he was exiled to the UK and built up a successful property development business. He also established The Exilarch's Foundation, a charitable trust that helps educational projects internationally. Now aged 98, Dr Dangoor was made a CBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours list. His £1m gift for university scholarships in 2005 fulfilled a promise Dr Dangoor had made to himself decades earlier: that he would find a way to thank the country that gave his family refuge after escaping Baathist Iraq. With his Eliahou Dangoor scholarships, worth over £4m including



matched government funding, Dr Dangoor has ensured that students across the country are able to benefit from what is estimated to be the largest private scholarship scheme of its kind in the UK.

Sir Peter Hall is the Bartlett Professor of Planning and Regeneration at The Bartlett, University College London, and President of the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA). Knighted for his services to the TCPA in 1998, he is a Fellow of the British Academy. Renowned for his work on the economic, demographic, cultural and management issues that face cities around the globe, Professor Hall began his career at Birkbeck in 1957 as an assistant lecturer in geography. He had an early fascination with the historical development of London and its traditional industries in the East End. "While at Birkbeck I took my students on field trips around Brick Lane, walking streets that hadn't changed since the 1890s," he says. "It was a tremendous time of reconstruction for a deprived area, so I think what Birkbeck is doing now in Stratford is wonderful. While the Birkbeck I taught at 55 years ago was a very different place, its mission remains essentially unchanged."

Professor Michael Hunter, Emeritus Professor of History at Birkbeck, is the world's foremost expert on Robert Boyle, the seventeenth-century scientist who was one of the founding members of the Royal Society. His biography of the scientist, *Boyle: Between God and Science*, won both the Samuel Pepys Award and the Roy G Neville Prize. A historian of international stature, Professor Hunter has made an incomparable contribution to the understanding of early modern science. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2007. He says: "Having taught at Birkbeck for virtually my entire academic career, I am delighted to be appointed a Fellow of the College."

Honorary Fellowships are awarded to individuals who: have attained distinction in the arts, literature, science or public life; have rendered exceptional service, which may include philanthropic support, to Birkbeck; have, or have had, a close association with Birkbeck

Obituary Professor George Overend



Appointed an independent Governor of Birkbeck in 2001, Mr Garth Pollard served as Deputy Chair of Governors from 2008 to September 2012. He was a partner at Clifford Chance for 26 years, becoming Executive Partner and Chief Operating Officer before retiring in 2001. "For me, one of the things that makes Birkbeck remarkable, besides its academic distinction, is the relationship between staff and students. It's truly interactive – you see an amazing mix of people of all ages and backgrounds, who have come together because they want to learn and to expand their horizons – often overcoming real difficulties to achieve this.

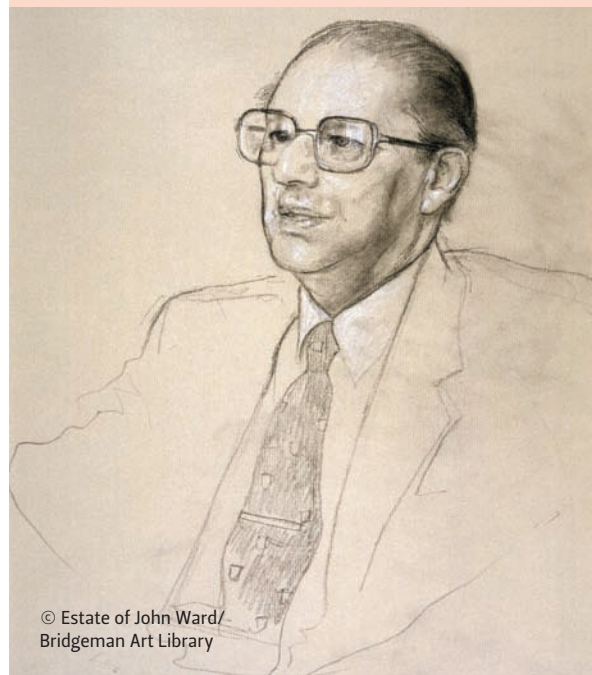


"I have very much enjoyed my time with Birkbeck and am happy to be continuing my relationship with the College as a Fellow," he adds. "I particularly look forward to the Be Birkbeck membership scheme coming to fruition."

Head of the Department of Media and Cultural Studies up to her retirement in March 2012, Professor Mary Wood is Emeritus Professor of European Cinema at Birkbeck, and has played a pivotal role in the College's development over the past 30 years. She built Birkbeck's film and media programme from 12 to 100 courses in 10 years, making it one of the biggest media studies programmes at that time. Its distinctive combination of film and media theory, and the opportunity to acquire screenwriting, practical journalism, TV production and multimedia skills, continues to attract many students. A renowned scholar, her research in Italian film studies and the European film industry is extensively cited and taught in film studies courses in the UK and abroad.



Clockwise, from top left:
Baroness Sal Brinton, Professor Michael Hunter,
Garth Pollard, Professor Mary Wood,
Sir Peter Hall, Dr Naim Dangoor (right),
Professor Steven Connor (left)



Birkbeck heard with sadness of the death of Professor William George Overend on 18 September, 2012, aged 90.

Professor Overend was Master of Birkbeck from 1979 to 1987. He first joined the College in 1955 as a Reader, becoming Head of the Department of Chemistry in 1957, Vice Master in 1974 and finally Master, as well as Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of London in 1978. He was made a Fellow of the College on his retirement in 1987.

During his time in office Professor Overend worked tirelessly to uphold Birkbeck's reputation as a centre of excellence in part-time adult education and postgraduate research. Patricia Stroud, who worked for him for many years, including as his PA during his last year as Master, says: "George Overend was the most even-tempered man I have ever met, and I cannot remember a single occasion on which he lost his equanimity ... He was one of the most egalitarian of men, fairly formal in manner but kind and unpatronising to all who worked for him."

Birkbeck Fellow Dr Ron James, a former student of Professor Overend, says: "Professor Overend was head of Chemistry at the time I took my degree at Birkbeck, and I was fortunate to attend a series of lectures by him in my final year that pulled together various parts of the chemistry we had learned throughout the course into a coherent whole.

"I remember he was fond of saying things like: 'It's no use knowing all about bricks if you do not know how to use them to build a house'. He taught me a lot."

Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge (1933–2012)

A tribute to an influential former Chairman of Governors



Birkbeck noted with sadness the death of Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge on 5 July 2012, aged 78. Lord Marshall was a distinguished Chairman of Governors at Birkbeck from 2003–2010 and a Fellow of the College.

Professor David Latchman, Master of Birkbeck, said: “Lord Marshall was a great friend and supporter of Birkbeck in many ways: personally, philanthropically and politically. He had a strong interest in adult education and this, together with his lifelong passion for London and his extensive

business experience, made him an ideal advocate of the College.

“He was an outstanding Chairman, who understood the nature of the relationship between the Chairman and the Master. It was a pleasure for me to work with him and learn from him.

“He used his skills and influence in a range of spheres on behalf of the College during a critical period in higher education.

“In particular, he helped Birkbeck to respond rapidly to a major change in

government policy in 2007 concerning Equivalent or Lower Qualification students. He helped Birkbeck to lobby successfully for Government support with the changes, and to develop a strategic plan to address the loss of funding caused by them. We owe him a great deal.”

Lord Marshall began his international business career with the Orient Steam Navigation Company. He spent more than 20 years working first for Hertz and then Avis, before joining British Airways in 1983 as Chief Executive and finally non-executive Chairman. Following his retirement from BA in 2004 Lord Marshall became Chairman of Nomura International plc.

He was President of the CBI from 1996 to 1998, while other voluntary activities included chairmanship of Britain in Europe and presidency of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council.

A Londoner by birth, Lord Marshall was one of the founders of London First and became the inaugural chairman of London First Centre, the capital’s inward investment agency. He also helped to create and then chaired the London Development Partnership, the prototype for the London Development Agency.

Colin Marsh Marshall was born on 16 November 1933 and educated at University College School in Hampstead, London. He was created a Life Peer as Baron Marshall of Knightsbridge in the 1998 Queen’s Birthday Honours, having been made a Knight Bachelor in 1987, and he held honorary degrees from a number of universities.

“ ”

Lord Marshall was a great friend and supporter of Birkbeck in many ways: personally, philanthropically and politically. We owe him a great deal.

Professor David Latchman

Working together for Birkbeck

Professor David Latchman recognises the major contributions to College life made by Professor Eric Hobsbawm and Lord Marshall

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, Birkbeck sustained two significant losses in 2012 with the passing of our President, Professor Eric Hobsbawm, and of Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, who was Chairman of Governors from 2003 until his retirement due to ill health in 2010. I had the great pleasure of working closely with both of them and experiencing their dedication to Birkbeck and its mission.

In November 2012, I attended the Memorial Service for Lord Marshall. Both HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Prince Andrew were represented and I was surrounded by captains of industry representing amongst others the companies of which Lord Marshall was Chairman, including British Airways, Nomura and Pirelli.

As I sat listening to the tributes to Colin and to the poetry and music which he loved, I reflected that those attending from Birkbeck were probably the only people in the congregation who would also be present at the Memorial Meeting we are organising for Eric Hobsbawm in the spring of 2013. This led me to the further reflection that only Birkbeck could unite Eric Hobsbawm, the Marxist historian and academic, with Colin Marshall, the leading industrialist who was admired by Mrs Thatcher for his key role in



the modernisation of British Airways.

Yet, united they were in their passion for Birkbeck and their desire to help it flourish. Eric, of course, came to Birkbeck as a lecturer in 1947 and demonstrated his commitment to its ideals over a 65-year association. In contrast, Colin left school at 16 and, as he put it, “ran away to sea” as a cadet purser. Although he subsequently had an extraordinarily successful business career, without going to university, Colin was a passionate believer in the importance of access to higher education at all ages. This, combined with his passion for London, made him accept the Chair of Governors position at Birkbeck, even though he had refused similar positions at other universities. As Chair, he not only worked directly for the College but also introduced us to many of his contacts, who became our supporters. Indeed, several of our current Fellows developed their links with Birkbeck after first being introduced by Colin.

The legacy of Eric Hobsbawm and Colin Marshall will therefore live on in Birkbeck. Eric via the staff and students whom he personally inspired and will continue to inspire via his many books, and Colin via the example he set for those of us who worked with him and via the many individuals whom he introduced to the College and who became its dedicated supporters.

“
**The legacy of Eric
Hobsbawm and Colin
Marshall will therefore live
on in Birkbeck.**
”

Why I give

Peter Zinkin, Birkbeck governor, explains why he gives to provide financial support for Birkbeck students

I believe that as members of the governing body at Birkbeck, if we expect other people to give, then we must be willing to lead by example. If those of us who are in a position where we are able to give don't do so, then how can we expect it from those for whom it is more difficult?

Higher education is a great enabler. If you have a university education, then suddenly your range of life choices expands. There are very few things that you can do in life that will increase the opportunities open to you in that way.

We need a culture change, with expectations being set when students embark on their studies, so that if you take advantage of the opportunities made available to you by a university education and do well, then you are under an obligation to give something back. In the United States, 10 per cent of university alumni give to their institution, compared to one per cent in the UK. They have a much stronger culture and expectation of giving than we do. Birkbeck alumni are perhaps better placed than more traditional students to understand the value of their university education, and I am pleased to say that in the last year, three per cent of Birkbeck alumni gave to the College, although we are still some way off the US figure.

Of course, giving is not always about

money. Birkbeck is lucky to have many alumni who give their time to act as mentors to our undergraduates and as volunteers at events. For many people, giving of their time is another equally, if not more, valuable way to give back to the institution and its students.

We know that there are students who struggle with their finances while studying, and given the importance of higher education as a way of opening up choice (which is one of the best things we can do for people), I believe that universities have an obligation to work with their alumni, be it to ask for money or for time. If they don't do this, they will be wasting a valuable resource which could be helping to widen choice and opportunity for others. The support provided by alumni can be the difference between finishing a degree or not for many students. It enables them to access opportunities that would not otherwise be open to them and to transform their lives.



To donate, visit:

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Donating to Birkbeck

Birkbeck students rely on philanthropic support now more than ever before. Our Alumni Fund (donations of £1–£999) provides financial support, as well as books and equipment, for those students who need it most.

The Master's Circle is a community of Birkbeck's close friends who donate £1,000–£4,999 per year to the College. Membership of the Master's Circle has almost doubled in the last year. Donors are offered various benefits, such as an invitation to the Annual Master's Circle Lecture. In 2013 we will be launching our annual tour and installing a donor board in the reception area of our main building.

In order to respond to the growing number of donors already giving £5,000–£24,999 each year, the 1823 Circle will be launched in 2013. This group will receive an invitation to the Master's Foundation Day Dinner, and an exclusive Birkbeck history tour, as well as the other benefits available to Master's Circle donors. Thank you to all our supporters for helping to build a culture of philanthropy at Birkbeck.

Above: Peter Zinkin at the 'topping out' ceremony for the new University Square Stratford building

“ ”

**In the United States,
10 per cent of university alumni
give to their institution, compared
to one per cent in the UK.**

Student statistics

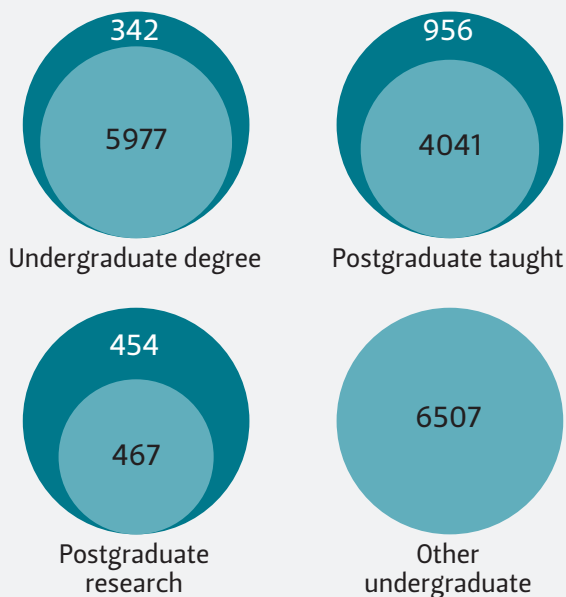
2011–2012



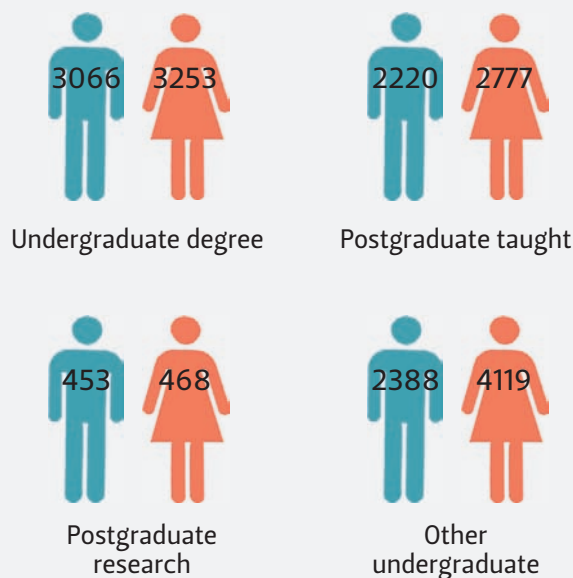
Full financial statistics for 2011–2012 are available at: www.bbk.ac.uk/fin/reporting/statements

Students

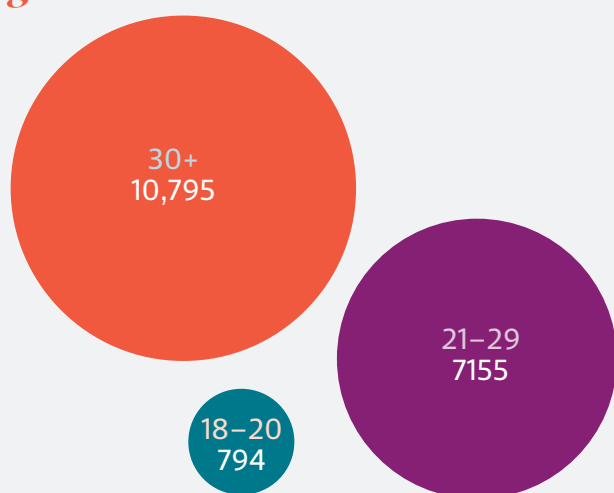
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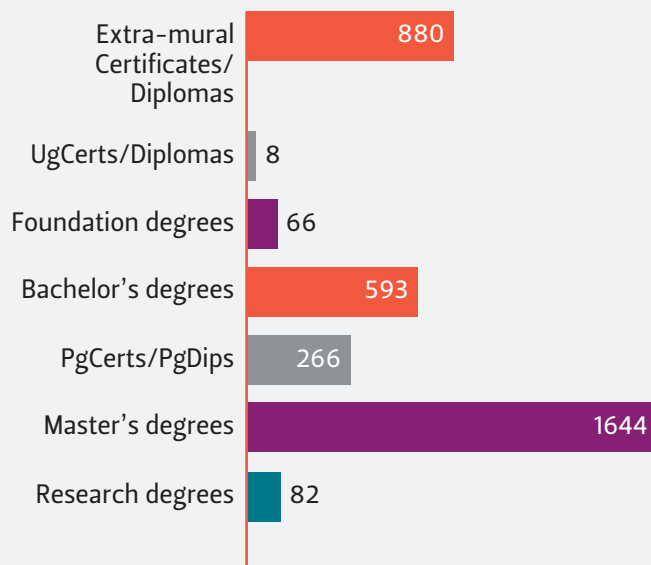
Gender



Age



Qualifications awarded



Sources: HESA 1 December student headcount numbers and HESA Student Return 2011–2012

LAST WORD

ERIC'S GOLDEN AGE



Professor Roy Foster pays tribute to Professor Eric Hobsbawm in an extract from the eulogy he delivered at Eric's funeral

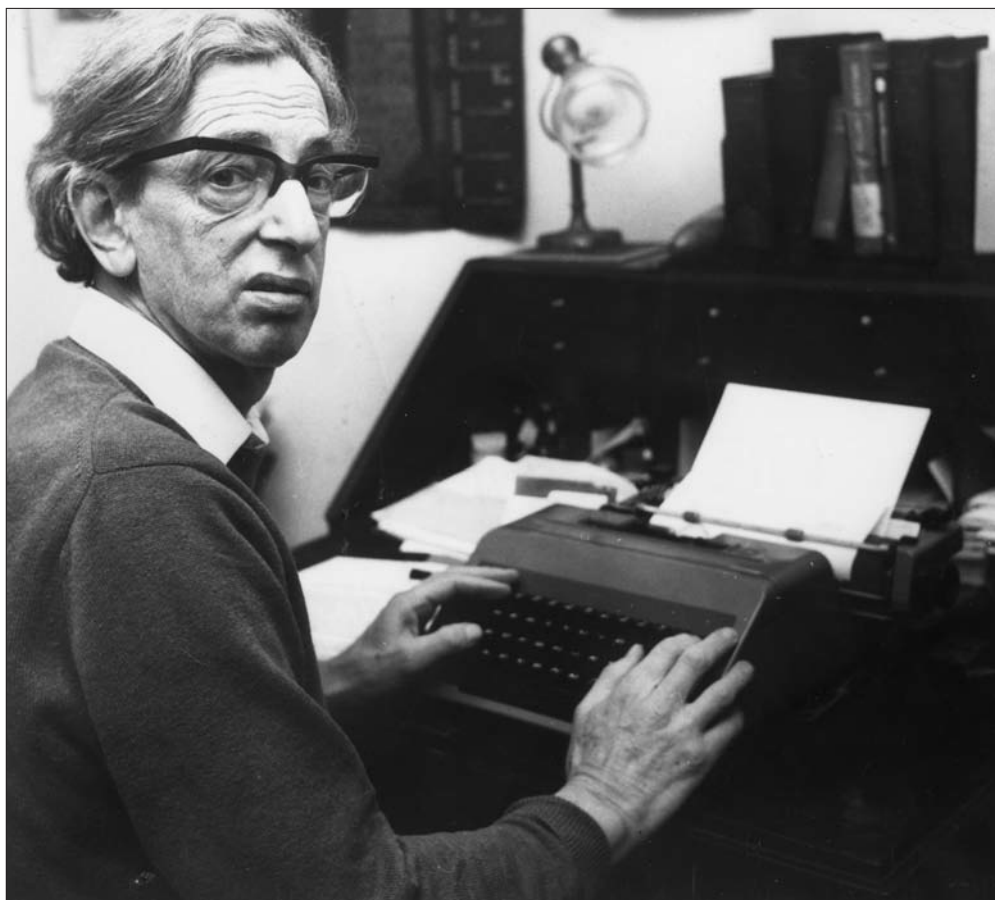
I'm speaking as a friend of Eric's for 37 years, and for several of them, a colleague. When I spoke at Eric's 90th birthday, I said that a suitable Hobsbawmian title for this stage of his life, might be the 'Age of Apotheosis': five years later, the reaction to his death has borne that out. It's as if a President had died: a President, perhaps, of that platonic, cosmopolitan world of historical letters where Eric

exercised such dazzling authority.

I'd like to pay tribute to a man who generated huge affection as well as admiration; and whose understanding of the meaning of friendship and fellowship was as consummate as his comprehension of the gearing that drove the motor of history. Eric once wrote that a line must be drawn between personal relations and political views, and the breadth of his own circle



For more tributes to Eric Hobsbawm, visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/erichobsbawm



bore this out. He also once said that, if the chance had come his way, he'd rather have been an anthropologist than a historian. Eric's lively and quizzical interest in cultures, in people, and in the paradoxes of their lives, made him a wonderful companion, and a legendary teacher. Among the many tributes, I was struck by a letter from a Birkbeck student, remembering his enthralling lectures, his sympathetic supervisions, and an unexpected phone call to congratulate her on a brilliant dissertation. Many could tell such stories. Birkbeck was rightly proud of Eric, and he was rightly proud of it. Its ethos of fellowship and equality of opportunity matched him perfectly – not to mention the evening-teaching which enabled him to live the night-owl schedule so suited to a jazz-man and party-goer.

There's much that's inspirational about Eric's life: from the insecurities, upheavals and unhappiness of his youth, through to the extraordinary achievements of his maturity. He knew that history was more than 'what actually happened' and he did *not*, as he put it in *Interesting Times*, give up on the Grail, while all the time knowing that searching for it was what mattered, not the impossibility of finding it. What he found in his personal life with Marlene and his family underpinned all that he so generously shared with his friends: that overwhelming appetite for life and thought and good company, which lasted to the end. To know Eric was to be touched with gold. And that sense of fellowship, of partaking in a golden age, will endure, along with so much else that he gave the world – a world which is suddenly and sharply poorer without him.

Roy Foster (above) is the Carroll Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford. A Fellow of Birkbeck, he taught at the College from 1974 to 1991.



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We hope you have enjoyed reading about our year in this edition of *BBK*. There are many ways that you can stay connected with us throughout 2013 and beyond.

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