



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics

History Newsletter

Winter 2020

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Welcome to QUB History!

After a nearly six-year absence, the History Newsletter is back! This issue is the first in what we hope will become a biannual series celebrating the QUB History community: students, staff, and alumni.

History continues to thrive at Queen's in 2019-2020. This academic year, 52 Single Honours and 101 Joint Honours undergraduates began their studies. At MA level, the History programme welcomed 40 students, and 18 students enrolled in the Public History course. Fifteen new PhD students enrolled, working on topics as wide-ranging as medieval English barber-surgeon guilds; religion and gender in Hellenistic Asia Minor; female American Civil War soldiers; and diabetes in Northern Ireland in the late twentieth century. We also welcomed three new members of staff: **Ann-Marie Foster** (British/Public History); **Milan Pajic** (Medieval History); and Prof. **Diane Urquhart** (Irish/Gender History).

Several recent events have also highlighted the strength and range of History research, teaching, and public engagement activities. In September 2019, Queen's was delighted to host representatives from the **British Museum, British Library, National Gallery, National Museums of Scotland, National Archives, National Galleries of Scotland, National Trust, Historic Royal Palaces, Historic England, and English Heritage**. As part of this event, looking to develop future collaborations and doctoral partnerships, collaborative research projects from **Olwen Purdue** (on her collaboration with the Titanic Centre) and **Christopher**

Marsh (on hit ballads from the 17th century) were presented, and the guests were also shown around the new Troubles gallery at the Ulster Museum.

In October, the School of HAPP hosted a conference marking the retirement of Prof. **Mary O'Dowd** and celebrating Gender History at Queen's. The conference featured talks by **Elaine Farrell** and **Diane Urquhart**.

In November, sixth form students from across Northern Ireland attended a conference hosted by History staff in the Whitla Hall. They heard lectures from experts on German, Irish and Russian history.

Also in November, the **Centre for Public History** was shortlisted for the Vice-Chancellor's Research Award for Research Culture. The video produced for the awards ceremony, and featuring public historians **Olwen Purdue**, **Ann-Marie Foster**, and **Darragh Gannon**, can be viewed [here](#).

In December, the Centre for Public History hosted its annual conference on the theme of '**Imperialism, anti-imperialism and their legacy in public history**'. Plenary speakers were Professor Catherine Hall (University College London), Professor Hakim Adi (University of Chichester) and Professor Martin Thomas (Australian National University/University College Dublin). Professor Hall delivered the annual Keith Jeffery Memorial Lecture at the Ulster Museum during the conference.



The Centre for Public History conference, featuring a plenary lecture by Hakim Abdi.

In December, MA graduates in History and Public History received their degrees at QUB Winter Graduation.



Olwen Purdue with new MA Public History graduates.

‘What can I do with a History degree?’

This issue’s featured alumna used her History degree as a foundation for further study and a career at a leading multinational corporation:

Hanorah Hardy graduated with a 2.1 in History and English in 2018. She continued straight into her MA in International Human Rights Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She found her time at Queen’s to be the most important years educationally and socially, and she was able to develop the skills and qualities that allowed her to pursue an MA in a new subject. After graduating from NUI in 2019, she got a job as a Financial Crime associate at **PwC** here in Belfast. She reports that the PwC recruiters emphasized the desirability of her History degree, which gave her extensive preparation in the research and analysis of historical documents that is critical in her current line of work. She hopes to continue her education in the future, perhaps pursuing a PhD in History.

Student News

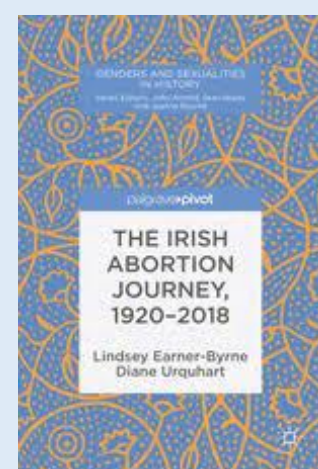
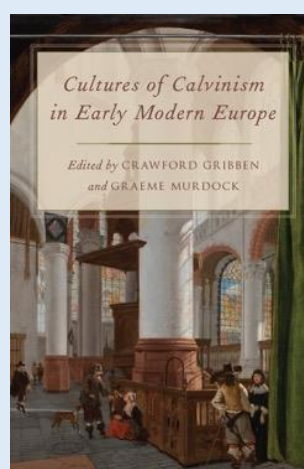
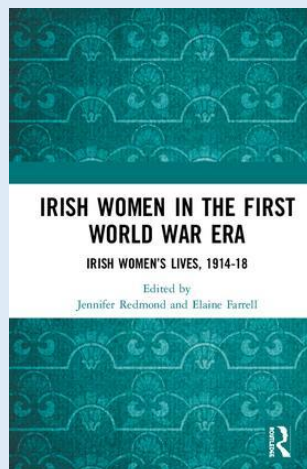
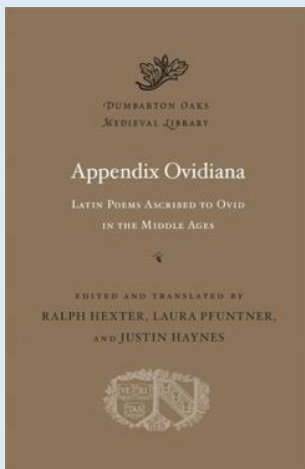
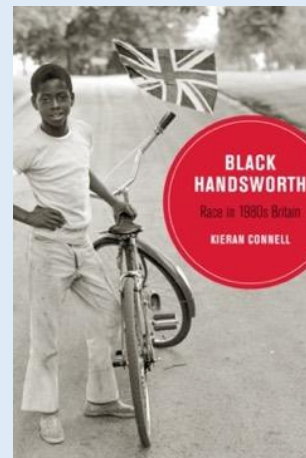
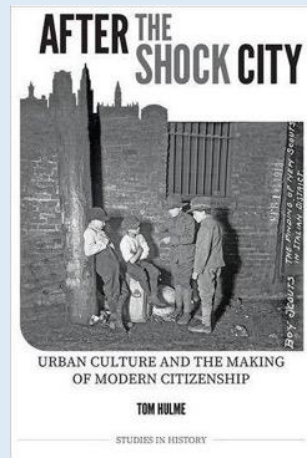
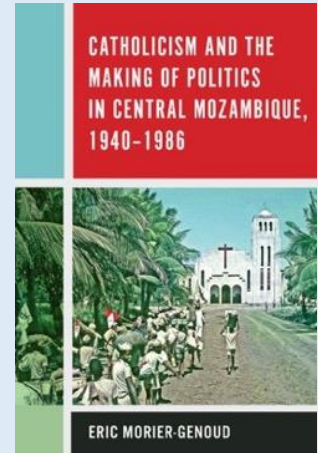
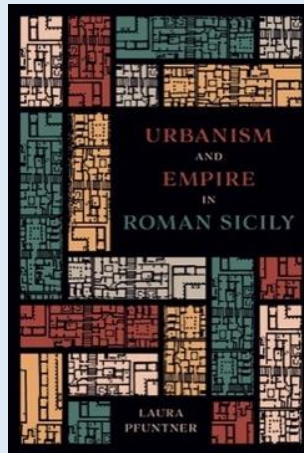
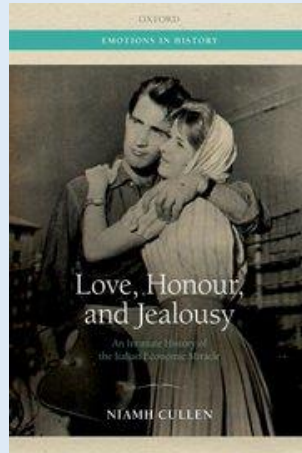
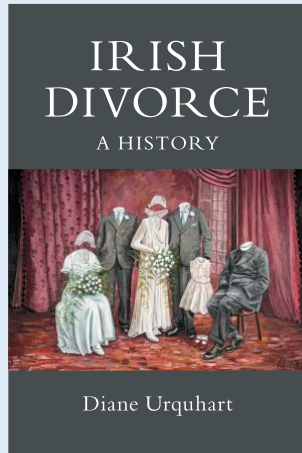
Laura Gillespie, PhD student, gave a paper entitled ‘African Americans and the Struggle for Democracy during the American Civil War’ at the Postgraduate Symposium for the Irish Association for American Studies at University College Cork in November.

PhD student **Eliza McKee** was invited guest speaker at the Conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on the subject of 'Labour and Northern Ireland: Foundation and Development'. She presented a paper on 'Clothing the working class, c.1920' at The MAC on 5 October. With **Elaine Farrell** and **Pauline Prior (emerita)**, she designed and delivered a lecture series on Crime and Punishment at the Downpatrick Museum in September and October. She also published an article, 'The origins and development of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 1922-1948' in *Archives and Records*, xl, no. 2 (2019).

Christopher Hubble was highly commended in History by the Global Undergraduate Awards (2019).

Staff News

New Books by QUB Historians



James Davis published 'Towns and trade', in S. Rigby and S. Echard, eds, *Historians on Gower* (Cambridge, 2019) and 'The economy of work', in Valerie L. Garver, ed., *A Cultural History of Work in the Medieval Age* (London, 2019). He presented a paper,

'Discrimination and stratification in the medieval English marketplace' at an international symposium on **'Certifying Inequalities'**, University of Turin, Italy, 12-13 December.

Elaine Farrell was named Distinguished Research Fellow in Irish Studies, College of Charleston, South Carolina, for 2019-20. She gave the papers **'Infanticide as contraception'** at Feminism, fertility and reproductive rights, NUI Galway, 5 December; **'Bad Bridget: Irish immigrant women and perceived sexual immorality in North America, 1838-1918'** at Maynooth University, 7 November (with Leanne McCormick); **'Bad Bridget: Criminal and Deviant Irish Women in North America, 1838-1918'**, DU History Society, Trinity College Dublin, 16 October (with Leanne McCormick); and **"A gang of coiners": surveillance, reputation and the Carroll family home'**, AHRC Network Grant, Challenging Domesticity in Britain, 1890-1990, 'Crime and the home', Pankhurst Centre, 20-21 September.

Peter Gray has been involved with the **'Paul Strzelecki and the Great Irish Famine'** project, funded by the Embassy of Poland in Dublin. In November he was invited by the Embassy of Ireland in Poland to give two public lectures on Strzelecki in Ireland; these were delivered at an event co-hosted by the Pedagogical University and Jagiellonian Universities in Krakow, and by the Irish Vice-Consulate at the City Hall, Poznan. This trip also involved visiting heritage sites associated with Strzelecki, including the school at his native village of Gluszyna, and his grave site in Poznan. Gray also spoke on the subject at an event in Armagh organised by the project **'For Your Freedom and Ours'**, a shared history programme using creative forms of education and storytelling to explore Polish-Northern Irish relations. He was also appointed to the Board of EFACIS (European Federation of Associations and Centres for Irish Studies) and he became an Advisory Board Member on the **'Heritages of Hunger'** project (funded by Netherlands Research Council, NWO 2019-24), based at Radboud University Nijmegen, Wageningen University, and NIOD (Amsterdam).

Crawford Gribben wrote **'Lucy Hutchinson's theological writings'**, *Review of English Studies* (2019); **'Calvin and Calvinism in early modern England, Scotland and Ireland'**, in R. Ward Holder, ed., *John Calvin in context* (Cambridge, 2019); **'The experience of dissent: John Owen and congregational life in revolutionary and Restoration London'**, in Michael Davies, Anne Dunan-Page and Joel Halcombe, eds, *Church life in seventeenth-century England: Pastors, congregations, and the experience of dissent* (Oxford, 2019); and **'Literature'**, in George D. Chryssides and Stephen E. Gregg, eds, *The Bloomsbury handbook to studying Christians* (London, 2019). He was a speaker at the international Jonathan Edwards conference at Yale University in September. He also became a Manchester Wesley Research Centre Visiting Research Fellow.



Leonie Hannan, with collaborators in the University of Exeter and Oxford Brookes, ran their public consultation event at the Phoenix Theatre in Exeter on 20 September, pitching their project on Family Care Across Time and Culture to an audience of family carers, arts and advocacy groups. This was the culmination of a Wellcome Small Grant Award, which funded a series of three two-day workshops to co-create plans for a major funding bid in 2020.

Hannan also organised a conference at QUB on 30-31 August, 'Uncovering Material Knowledge'. The conference was interdisciplinary (historians, geographers, art historians, literary scholars, artists and makers) and it included three experimental workshops: one where delegates made wax fruit, another with artist Aisling O'Beirn on the material culture of the Maze/Long Kesh prison and a third held in Queen's Special Collections, which challenged delegates to take an embodied approach to the archive. The conference had delegates from the USA, the Netherlands, Finland and Germany, as well as from across these islands.



Delegates at 'Uncovering Material Knowledge' and the wax fruit-making workshop.

Danny Kowalsky wrote 'Looking Back on Operation X: Stalin and the Spanish Republic, 1936-1939', in Choi Chatterjee et al, eds, *The Global Impacts of Russia's Great War and Revolution, Book 2: The Wider Arc of Revolution, Part 2* (Bloomington, Indiana, 2019). He gave the invited plenary address 'Stalin, the Pact, Peace and War, 1936-1939' at the Colloquium 'From Munich to Paris, 1938-1940: From the Spanish Civil War to the new German Europe', at the Memorial Museum of Exile, La Jonquera, Catalonia on 31 May. He also gave an invited lecture at the NI War Memorial, 'The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Eighty Years On' on 22 August.

Christopher Marsh wrote 'Best-selling ballads and the female voices of Thomas Deloney', *Huntington Library Quarterly* 82.1 (2019). He was also recently elected to the Council of the Royal Historical Society.

Fearghal McGarry was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy, Ireland's leading body of experts in the humanities and sciences. Membership is by election and considered the highest academic honour in Ireland. McGarry also gave a talk on 'Communism, sex and all that jazz: popular anxieties in 1930s Ireland' for the Greystones La Touche Legacy Festival of History in September. He spoke on 'Irish and Korean nationalists in 1919: a Wilsonian moment?' at the Ireland, the Revolution and First World War conference at the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, in June, and a talk on 'Ireland's Global Revolution' at the 2019 Douglas Hyde Conference, in Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon in September.

Eric Morier-Genoud gave the papers 'Aquéologia da insurreção em Cabo Delgado. A dimensão religiosa' at the conference 'Islamist insurgencies in Africa', Maputo, 6 December; 'Researching the global Catholic Church from the periphery: archives, concepts and transnational connections' at the History Seminar, Maynooth University, 17 October; 'Donal Lamont. A northern Irish Bishop in Africa?' at the QUB Wiles Colloquium, 13 September; 'A Igreja Católica em Moçambique: Diversidade & Complexidade', at the conference *A Igreja em Moçambique: ontem e hoje*, Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos, Maputo, Mozambique, 22 August; and finally, 'The Catholic Church and the Third Portuguese Empire' at the Conference 'Global Portuguese', School of Advanced Study, University of London, 18 June. Additionally, Morier-Genoud took part in a Roundtable entitled 'Suisse missionnaire, Suisse coloniale? L'ambivalence des relations Nord-Sud au prisme des missions du 19e siècle' in Lausanne, Switzerland on 16 November. He also organized two events, the Wiles Colloquium 2019 'Ireland and Missions. Identity, Nation & Empires, 19-20th Century' at Queen's from 12-13 September and the conference 'A Igreja em Moçambique: ontem e hoje' at the Instituto de Estudos Sociais & Económicos, Maputo, Mozambique, on 22 August.

In August, **Sean O'Connell** (working with Leanne McCormick of Ulster University) submitted a report on the history of mother and baby homes and Magdalene laundries in Northern Ireland. This work was commissioned by the Department of Health following pressure from the United Nations, Amnesty International and victims' and survivors' groups. It is anticipated that the report will be published in early 2020. O'Connell has delivered a number of papers reflecting on the difficult role faced by the historian when commissioned to write history for the state. He has spoken on this theme at PRONI, the George Washington University, and Groningen University, and it was the subject of the annual lecture of the Oral History Network of Ireland at the National Library, Dublin.

Nik Ribianszky began collaborating with *Enslaved: Peoples of the Historic Slave Trade*, a project housed at Matrix: The Center for Digital Humanities & Social Sciences at Michigan State University, in partnership with the MSU Department of History and scholars at multiple institutions. One of the products of the partnership with this consortium is an essay, 'Natchez in Freedom and Enslavement: A Methodological Reflection on the Establishment of a Database Documenting People of Color, 1779-1865', in an edited collection as well as the online publication of the database (forthcoming 2020). She is

also serving as an editor for the sister project of Enslaved, the Enslaved Publishing Platform (EPP), and will be involved in the reviewing process for other database projects.

Diane Urquhart was appointed to the committee of the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies in August and to the editorial board of *Women's History Review* in December. She gave the plenary JC Beckett lecture, 'Ireland's divorcing minority' at the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies at PRONI on 6 June; the plenary paper 'Irish divorce and domestic violence' at a conference to celebrate gender history at QUB and the career of Prof. Mary O'Dowd on 25 October; 'An exotic in ungenial social: divorce in the Northern Ireland parliament, 1921-39' at the QUB History Research Seminar, 8 November; and the plenary, 'Ireland's criminal conversations: the making of a reform' at the University of Ulster's annual History Project Conference on 22 January 2020.

Keira Williams received the British Association of American Studies Founders' Travel Award in June.

QUB History in the Media

Niamh Cullen gave a talk at the National Theatre, London on 8 January to tie in with the play 'My Brilliant Friend' on love and marriage in 1950s Italy and wrote a feature article in the February 2020 issue of *History Today*, 'That Terrible Thing called Jealousy'.

Peter Gray co-wrote an exhibition on 'Paul Strzelecki and the Great Irish Famine' that was launched by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, at the Royal Irish Academy in May. The exhibition is currently touring libraries in the Republic of Ireland, and is partially available [online](#).

Crawford Gribben wrote: "[Working for a better world: Thanksgiving book reviews,](#)" *Wall Street Journal*, 23 November; "[Katy Perry and the evangelicals,](#)" *QUB Public History Blog*, 21 October; "[Behold, the end of Protestant Ulster,](#)" *The Article*, 22 July; and "[Hibernian heritage: My Father Left Me Ireland review,](#)" *Wall Street Journal*, 13 July.

In October, **Christopher Marsh** was interviewed in London by Lucy Worsley for a series entitled 'Britain's Greatest Royal Myths', to be broadcast in 2020. In it, he teamed up with folksinger John Kirkpatrick and performed a ballad about the Spanish Armada of 1588.

Shannon Devlin contributed to BBC NI's [Family footsteps](#), which aired on 28 October.

Diane Urquhart's book *The Irish Abortion Journey* was reviewed in the *Irish Times*. She also appeared on Northern Voice TV (NVT) [History Now](#) series, interviewed on the history of Irish divorce by History PhD student **Barry Shepherd** in January.

Fearghal McGarry's research project, A Global History of Irish Revolution, 1916-1923, published *The Irish Revolution: A Global History*, a special commemorative

supplement of [History Ireland](#), Ireland's leading history magazine. The publication assesses the Irish revolution in its global context. It is supported by a programme of podcasted *History Ireland* Hedge Schools across Ireland, Scotland and the USA. Josepha Madigan, the Irish Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, ensured that a copy was sent to every secondary school in the Republic of Ireland to promote understanding of the international dimension of Ireland's Revolution. **Darragh Gannon**, research fellow on the project, edited a series of essays on aspects of Ireland's Global Irish Revolution hosted by the [RTE Century Ireland website](#).

Kiera Williams is staff writer for [PopMatters](#), which provides academic essays and reviews of popular culture.

Teaching News (at Home and Abroad!)

Level 3 students studying the module 'The Peasants' Revolt, 1381' taught by **James Davis** will go on a one-day field trip to **London** at the start of February. This will re-trace the entry and targets of the rebels from June 1381, from London Bridge to the Tower of London, and from the Savoy to Smithfield. This follows on from the first such field trip in March 2019.

Under the direction of **Peter Gray**, an Irish Studies Staff/Postgrad Exchange between the QUB Institute of Irish Studies and the Center for Irish Programs at **Boston College** was agreed for 2019-2022.

A new, **interdisciplinary module**, 'Questions for an Ageing World' was co-convened by **Leonie Hannan** and Gemma Carney (SSESW) in semester 2 of 2018/19, and received excellent student feedback. Freddie Finlay, who was commended by the Global Undergraduate Awards, commented that: 'It was a real honour to have my work be highly commended by the Global Undergraduate Awards. I feel this was largely down to Dr Carney and Dr Hannan for making the module so engaging and unique. I'm really glad to hear that they will be running it again this year.' Gemma Carney also won a Teaching Award which was partly based on the innovation of this module.

Annual staff mobility continues through Erasmus: **Danny Kowalsky** will teach one week in April at Univ Paris XII-Créteil, and will host one visiting professor from Paris XII in March. This will be the fifth year of exchanges with Paris XII.

PhD Graduates

Congratulations to the History PhD students who completed their degrees between December 2018 and September 2019: **Robert Cotter, Jack Crangle, Scott Eaton, Peter Hodson, Matthew Houston, Stuart Irwin, Michelle McCann, Fergal O'Leary, Andrei Psarev, Rachel Wallace, and David Whitla**. They produced theses on topics as wide-ranging as Byzantine religion, witchcraft trials in seventeenth-century England, a nineteenth-century

Irish coroner, and gay life in Boston and Belfast in the 1970s. Their employment destinations include the University of Manchester, Ulster University, HSCNI, Falkirk Council, Loyola University New Orleans, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary (Jordansville, NY), and Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Pittsburgh, PA).



Bridget Harrison (supervised by **Mary O'Dowd** and **Elaine Farrell**), *Public perceptions of Irish Roman Catholic religious women, 1849-1907*, passed her Viva on 19 November.



New PhDs **Jack Crangle** and **Pete Hodson** with supervisor **Sean O'Connell** at Winter Graduation.

Alumni Notes

Mary Hatfield's first monograph *Growing Up in Nineteenth-Century Ireland: A Cultural History of Middle-Class Childhood and Gender* (Oxford, 2019) was launched by **Diane Urquhart** at the Institute of Irish Studies on 11 November.

Recent PhD **Dan Patterson** has taken up a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Huddersfield, and **Tim Somers** has just started a prestigious British Academy postdoctoral fellowship (he is working on early-modern humour and is based at the University of Newcastle).

Since graduating with a BA in History and Politics in 2019, **Jason Tang** has begun to pursue a career in the art world. In July, he worked at the Armagh Robinson Library, where he identified more than 800 books in need of conservation. He began a Postgraduate Diploma in the History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art in September 2019, and he has also been taking part in London's dynamic art scene. He had a work placement in the Post War and Contemporary Art Department at Christie's and in 2020, he will be volunteering at Two Tempe Place for the 'Unbound: Visionary Women Collecting Textiles' exhibition.

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And please send any updates to the newsletter editors:

Nik Ribiansky (n.ribianszky@qub.ac.uk) and Laura Pfuntner (l.pfuntner@qub.ac.uk).