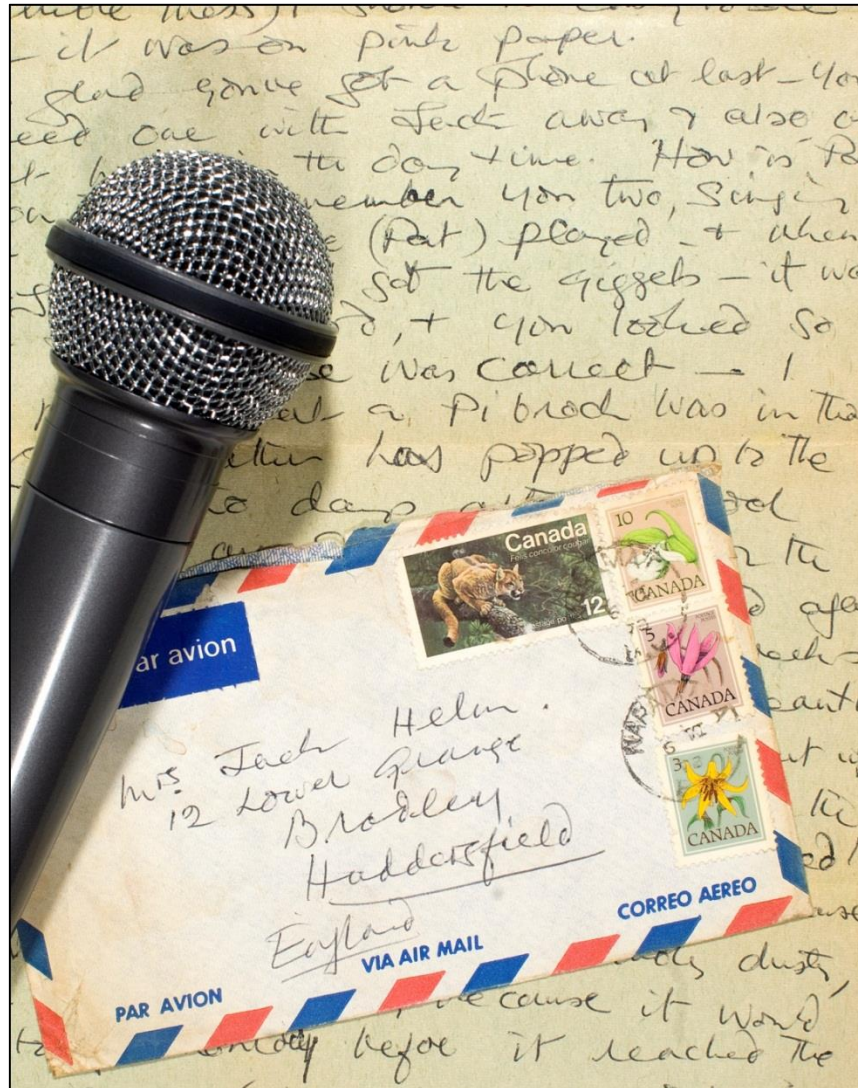


US

University of Sussex

Centre for Life History & Life Writing Research



ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE
WRITING RESEARCH 2014

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MISSION STATEMENT

Life history and life writing research uses life story - whether in the form of oral history, personal narrative, autobiography or biography - as a primary source for the study of history and culture.

Life history and life writing research uses life story - whether in the form of oral history, personal narrative, autobiography or biography - as a primary source for the study of history and culture. Life stories capture the relation between the individual and society, the local and the national, the past and present and the public and private experience.

Research involves grappling with theories of memory, relationship and self-representation, and with debates about literacy and orality. Many disciplines contribute to the field, including history, sociology, anthropology, literary philosophy, cultural studies and psychology. Life history and life writing researchers present their work in many forms. As well as academic publications, we contribute to radio and television documentaries, auto/biographical drama, reminiscence work, digital and video presentations and exhibitions. Life history and life writing research is, of necessity, concerned with ethics and power relationships, and with the potential for advocacy and empowerment.

Selected current and past research projects

- [Hearing her: Oral histories of women's liberation in China and the United Kingdom](#)
- [Sacred Communities: Connected Practices Across Place and Time](#)
- [Places for All? A Multi-Media Investigation into an English City](#)
- [Our Hospital, Our History: Voices from Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals](#)
- [Ivy Benson and Her All-Girls Band](#)
- ['Deprived White Community'? Social Action in Three Norwich Estates. 1930-2005](#)
- [Integrating history and ecology to sustain a living landscape](#)
- [Archiving and Reusing Qualitative Data](#)
- [Biodigital Lives: making, consuming and archiving the lives of techno-science](#)
- [Deaf Life Histories](#)
- [Fifty Voices, Fifty Faces: The Oral History of the University of Sussex](#)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

This year we have relaunched from the School of Media, Film and Music after many years in the Centre for Continuing Education. This has allowed new colleagues and research synergies, including in sound studies, public culture and documentary practice. We have also strengthened ties with Gender Studies, Art History and History, cooperating on research events and developing a postgraduate network with school representatives. The longstanding partnership with the Mass Observation Archive and Special Collections has also been invigorated, with a new short course and masterclass series. Our Visiting Fellow this year, Dr Jenna Bailey of the University of Lethbridge, has brought cooperation with Canadian scholars, and her work in the area of public and literary life history affirmed our ongoing community engagement.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The budget for the CLHLWR remains healthy. We brought forward a balance, accrued through research funds generated by the Director, and profit made from conferences. In line with other Research Centres funded by MFM, we also received annual core funding towards events and running costs, for which we are very grateful. Careful management and separation of rollover from annually given funds means that we look forward to continuing a full programme of activities in 2014-15, particularly in relation to strategic partnerships that will generate further research.

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Stable funds and support from MFM has enabled hire of two part time administrative assistants this year, Dr Alexandra Loske, an art historian with specialisms in biography and life history documents, and Angela Campos, an oral historian with specialisms in the history of war. Their work has been invaluable to the flourishing of the CLHLWR this year, including in developing a social media presence.

LOOKING AHEAD

In addition to our regular programme of seminars, short courses and conferences, next year will see the renewed development of research bids, including developing the oral history of the BBC, to cooperate further with Chinese scholars who partnered with us in 2012-13, and to strengthen our research on human rights and life narrative. Our annual conference will be on art historical uses of life narrative. We welcome all who would like to get involved in the challenge and fun of life story-based art, method and analysis.

Dr Margareta Jolly
Director
June 16, 2014

CROSS-UNIVERSITY SEMINAR SERIES

Tuesday 28 January,
12.30-2.00pm, A108

Dr Jenna Bailey,
CLHLWR Visiting
Fellow:

**'Playing on the
Margins of History':
Ivy Benson and Her
All-Girls Band.**

This event was co-
sponsored by the
Department of History.

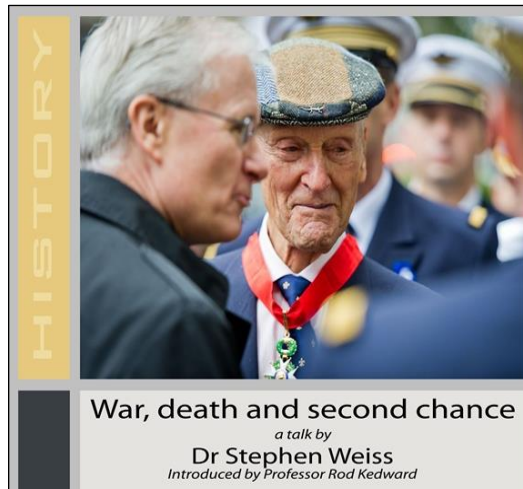
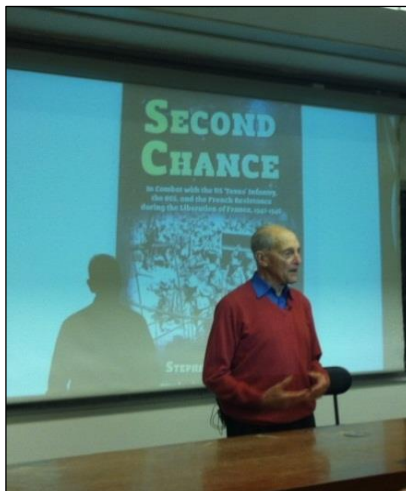


Wednesday 12 February, 12.30-2.00pm, Richmond Lecture Theatre

Dr Stephen Weiss: 'War, Death and Second Chance'

Presented in association with the Centre for the History of War and Society.

Introduction by Professor Rod Kedward.



War, death and second chance

a talk by

Dr Stephen Weiss

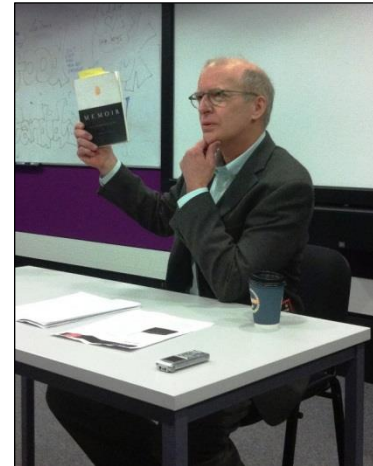
Introduced by Professor Rod Kedward

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

Thursday 6th March, 12.00-1.45pm, SB 309

Professor G. Thomas Couser: 'Why Memoir Matters'

Prof. Couser is the author of *Memoir: An Introduction* (OUP, 2011) and a leading author of many books on family memoir, disability and the ethics of life writing.

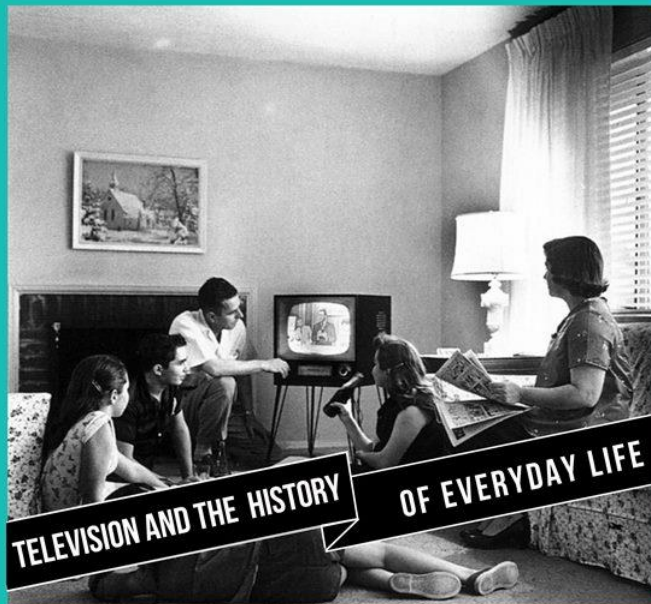


Wednesday 19th March 12.30-1.45pm, Friston 117

Professor Paul Thompson and Dr Margaretta Jolly, 'Feminist Pioneers of Social Research and of Everyday Experiment: An Oral History Perspective'

MFM RESEARCH SEMINAR.

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLIC CULTURE HUB AND THE CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH.



Wednesday 9th April 2014,
Jubilee Building Room G22,
16.00-17.30pm

In this informal paper Joe Moran will discuss the process of writing his latest book, *Armchair Nation: An Intimate History of Britain in Front of the TV* (Profile 2013). In particular he will focus on the problems and opportunities presented by writing a book aimed partly at non-academic audiences, and he will relate his history of watching television to the field of media history and his own more general research on histories of the everyday. He will end with a short reading from the book. Joe Moran is Professor of English and Cultural History at Liverpool John Moores University. His other books include *Reading the Everyday*, *Queuing for Beginners* and *On Roads: A Hidden History*. His latest project is a cultural history of shyness.

Chair: David Hendy
Respondent: Margaretta Jolly.

Free, no need to book, disabled access.

Wednesday 9th April 2014, Jubilee Building Room G22, 16.00-17.30pm

Professor Joe Moran: 'Television and the History of Everyday Life'

This seminar was organised in conjunction with the [Public Culture Research Hub](#).

Thursday 22 May 2014, 12.30-1.45 pm
Arts A001

Centre for Life History
& Life Writing Research

US
University of Sussex

Woman's Hour. Telling History, Being History, Making History

Dr Kate Murphy will share her inside knowledge of life at one of the nation's defining sites of women's representation.

Date:
**Thursday
22nd May 2014**

Time:
12.30-1.45pm

Venue:
Arts A Lecture
Theatre A001

**All welcome
No need to book
Disabled access**



Dr Kate Murphy: 'Woman's Hour: Telling History, Being History, Making History'. This event was co-sponsored by the [Centre for Gender Studies](#).

CLASSES, COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Wed 19 March 4-5.30pm, Silverstone SB 121

Postgraduate Masterclass: 'Oral History Interviewing From the Inside'

A Conversation with Paul Thompson and Joanna Bornat.

**Centre for Life History
& Life Writing Research**



This masterclass was organised as an open discussion of classic oral history methods and themes, including the particularities of oral history interviewing, ethical issues, themes for research, reanalysis and archiving.

An Oral History Perspective

The CLHLWR is proud to present two of the UK's leading oral historians in two free events on 19 March.



Prof Paul Thompson



Prof Joanna Bornat

Date:

**Wednesday
19 March 2014**

Times and venues:

**Lunchtime semina
12.30-1.45pm
Friston 117**

Friday 4 April 10.30 - 5.30pm, Creativity Zone,
Pevensey III, Room C7.

Public and Personal Archives: Creative Negotiations

This free workshop explored the relationship of public and personal in different life story projects which prioritize listening, sound and voice. The aim of the event was to generate discussion around the work by allowing hour-long slots for each presentation.

Presentations: Nicky Bird (Glasgow School of Art), Melanie Friend, Ed Hughes, Lizzie Thynne and Margaretta Jolly. Presented by the Family Ties Network and Centre for Life History and Life Writing. Supported by the Leverhulme Trust.



CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

Fridays March 21st and 28th, April 4th and 11th, at *The Keep*.

Short open course: 'An Anthropology of Ourselves: Exploring Mass Observation for Creative Projects'

Tutor: Dr Sam Carroll

What students said...*"lateral thinking, finding the tiny details of lives" ...*
"superb primary evidence, ideal for a writer" ... "thoroughly enjoyable, enriching"

Friday 2nd May 2014, 1.30pm, The Keep

The Mass Observation Diaries with Penny Summerfield and Dorothy Sheridan This event comprises two talks by Penny Summerfield and Dorothy Sheridan, along with a chance to look at some original diaries from the Mass Observation Archive.



Researching uniqueness

How life history research entails singular questions and special outcomes

The 6th Annual Brighton-Sussex Postgraduate Conference
Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research (University of Sussex)
Centre for Research in Memory, Narrative and Histories (University of Brighton)

6th June 2014
The Keep
Woolards Way, Brighton BN1 9BP

Life history methods across disciplines offer special challenges but they also offer uniquely rich results. This conference will focus in particular on the tension between analysing the individual's unique experience and understanding the social or collective contexts which define it. It will also more broadly address the complexity and variety of its methods as it is used across disciplines, from qualitative social sciences to literary autobiographical studies, to oral history, the documentary arts and narrative psychology. It will consider the experience of the researcher as we find ourselves steered in unique investigative directions, thus shaping the way knowledge develops in particular ways. It will acknowledge how researchers working in this field are more likely to encounter and tackle challenging, underexplored or unexpected themes not always present in mainstream narratives or 'traditional' sources.

We invite postgraduate participants to present at this conference their contributions on why it was pivotal to prioritise the life history methodology in answering initial research questions and how this approach subsequently shaped and impacted their research and findings.

Lunch provided and workshop-style presentations encouraged.

Please send a 300-word abstract, a brief biography (including name, degree, year and research interests), 5 keywords, and your contact details to a.d.c.ferreira-campos@sussex.ac.uk by 2nd May 2014.

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University of Brighton
Centre for Research in Memory, Narrative and Histories

Friday 6 June 2014, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., The Keep

'Researching Uniqueness': How Life History Research Entails Singular Questions and Special Outcomes

The 6th annual Brighton-Sussex postgraduate conference

Jointly organised with the *Centre for Memory, Narrative, Research, University of Brighton*.

CLHLWR Working Party 2014

<u>1</u>	Dr Sara Jane Bailes	s.j.bailes@sussex.ac.uk	School of English and Drama; MO
<u>2</u>	Jenna Bailey	jenna.bailey@gmail.com	University of Lethbridge, Visiting scholar, History
<u>3</u>	Angela Campos	adcf20@sussex.ac.uk	Administrator and Researcher CLHLWR
<u>4</u>	Dr Sam Carroll	s.carroll2@brighton.ac.uk	Oral historian; Representative from Memory, Narrative, History U of Brighton
<u>5</u>	Dr Katie Grant	c.grant@sussex.ac.uk	Film, Editor of Reframe, School of Media and Film
<u>6</u>	Fiona Courage	f.p.courage@sussex.ac.uk	Special Collections Manager (The Keep)
<u>7</u>	Prof. Ben Highmore	b.highmore@sussex.ac.uk	MO; everyday life; School of Media and Film
<u>8</u>	Dr Celia Hunt	C.M.Hunt@sussex.ac.uk	Life writing; Independent scholar/CCE
<u>9</u>	Dr Margaretta Jolly	m.jolly@sussex.ac.uk	Life writing, oral history; MO; CCE
<u>10</u>	Prof. Claire Langhamer	c.l.langhamer@sussex.ac.uk	MO, Head of History
<u>11</u>	Dr Alexandra Loske	A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk	Administrator and Researcher CLHLWR, Art Historian (School of HAAP)
<u>12</u>	Prof. Stephanie Newell	S.Newell@sussex.ac.uk	Life writing, School of English
<u>13</u>	Dr Kate O’Riordan	K.ORiordan@sussex.ac.uk	Multimedia life story; School of Media and Film
<u>14</u>	Kirsty Patrick	K.Patrick@sussex.ac.uk	Manager of Mass Observation (The Keep)
<u>15</u>	Dr. Lucy Robinson	l.robinson@sussex.ac.uk	Digital documentary; life history; School of History
<u>16</u>	Prof. Ben Rogaly	B.Rogaly@sussex.ac.uk	Oral history; School of Geography
<u>17</u>	Dr. Deborah Schultz	d.schultz@sussex.ac.uk	Visual life story; Holocaust history. Centre for German Jewish Studies
<u>18</u>	Prof. Dorothy Sheridan	d.e.sheridan@sussex.ac.uk	MO Trustee and former director; life history; QueenSpark Books

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

<u>19</u>	Dr Lorraine Sitzia	sitzia@tiscali.co.uk	Community Oral historian; Historian of QueenSpark Books
<u>20</u>	Prof. Lyn Thomas	lynjthomas@sussex.ac.uk	Life narrative in art/art history; School of Media and Film
<u>21</u>	Dr. Simon Thompson	s.j.thompson@sussex.ac.uk	Life history methods in educational research; MO; School of Education
<u>22</u>	Lizzie Thynne	L.Thynne@sussex.ac.uk	Documentary; biography; filmmaker; School of Media and Film
<u>23</u>	John Walker	j.walker@sussex.ac.uk	Deaf life history; School of Languages

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

<u>1</u>	Rose Holmes	r.holmes@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in History; oral history
<u>2</u>	David Geiringer	d.geiringer@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in History; oral history
<u>3</u>	Oliver Glave	o.glave@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in MFM; multimedia activism/film;
<u>4</u>	Hannah Vincent	h.vincent@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in English; memoir
<u>5</u>	Louise Ronnestad	mlr28@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in Philosophy; self and identity

Social Media

In December 2013 CLHLWR set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account in order to increase global networking, promote our events, widen our target audience, and to provide other channels for disseminating information about our events and related activities. It is proving a very useful tool indeed and the followers are increasing steadily.

Facebook 'likes': 72 (as of 16 June 2014)

Twitter followers: 182 (as of 16 June 2014)

E-listserve: 428 members (as of 16 June 2014)

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research
University

72 likes

Aprilia Zank, Clare Best and 34 others like this.

Reach a new milestone
100 Likes
Promote Page

Invite your friends to like Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research

Tamar Yoseloff

Anne Berkeley

Post Photo / Video

Write something on this Page...

Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research
Posted by Alexandra Loske [?] · 13 June

Just come in: one more nice impression from our 'Researching Uniqueness' conference.

Recent: 2014, 2013

CLHLWR
@CLHLWR

The Centre for Life History & Life Writing Research at the University at Sussex explores life narrative as art, history and social practice.

University of Sussex
sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr

21 Photos and videos

TWEETS 118 PHOTOS/VIDEOS 21 FOLLOWING 344 FOLLOWERS 176 FAVORITES 8 More

Who to follow: Winsor and Newton, National Gallery, V&A

Trends: #GameBeforeTheGame, #Tony2014, #TonyAwards, XGames, England, World Cup

Tweets and replies

CLHLWR @CLHLWR · 12h

The morning panelists at last week's CLHLWR and @CRMNH 'Researching Uniqueness' conference at @TheKeepArchives

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

US

University of Sussex

Centre for Life History & Life Writing Research



The CLHLWR team

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CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

The screenshot shows the website for the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research. The browser address bar displays <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/>. The page features a navigation menu with links for About, Seminar series, Publications, Research, News and events, Courses and training, Links, and People and contacts. The main content area includes a paragraph defining life history and life writing research, a section for the latest news (dated 31 March 2014 and 14 January 2014), a section for latest events (dated 27 June 2014), and a mailing list sign-up. There are also several featured articles and book announcements, including one about a conference programme and another about a new book titled 'We Shall Bear Witness: Life Narratives and Human Rights'.

**TO SEE WHAT WE'RE PLANNING FOR
2014, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW
US ON TWITTER**



@CLHLWR

The Centre for Life History & Life Writing Research
at the University at Sussex explores life narrative as
art, history and social practice.

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr>