



University of Sussex

Centre for Life History & Life Writing Research

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research



About	Seminar series	Publications	Research and conferences
News and events	Courses and training	Links	People and contacts

Contents

Director's Report	1
Summary of projects, publications and year's events	2-17
CLHLWR Membership and social media report	18-22
CLHLWR Team and Contact Details	23

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. 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, media and 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. It has evolved complex methodologies which use as well as analyse the life narrative in all its forms. Our general aims are therefore to:

- Develop a research agenda that address questions of both national and international significance through life narrative methods or through analysing life narrative as aesthetic, social or political object;
- Focus on research that draws in scholars, practitioners and curators from across the University community and beyond;
- Address research in partnership with external organisations and individuals;
- Support the next generation of life narrative scholars through postgraduate training and postdoctoral opportunities;
- Produce outputs that result in critical and ethical engagement with academe, government, policy makers, business and community.

Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

Life writing and creative critical life narrative practice are growing areas of research, and not only in literature departments. Enabling analysis of self and social identity as well as art, this field has been a highlight for the CLHLWR this year and is explored in publications especially by Professor Lyn Thomas, Dr Hope Wolf and Dr Alexandra Loske. We have hosted public events on diary writing and an annual conference, **Life History and Life Writing Research: Critical and Creative Approaches**, bringing together scholars from Humanities and Social Sciences in a truly inter-disciplinary exchange. Life narrative practice also features in **Creative Interruptions**, a large AHRC-funded project on how marginalized communities use the arts. Professor of Human Geography, Ben Rogaly, CI to the project, uses it to pursue questions of belonging and identity which are ever more timely in the context of Brexit and populist nationalism.

This year we also celebrate a major AHRC grant award for **BBC Connected Histories**. This ground-breaking collaboration between the BBC and the University of Sussex brings digital humanities techniques to open up the BBC's hitherto little known oral history, in time for its centenary in 2022. Led by Professor David Hendy, and with Professor Tim Hitchcock and Dr Alban Webb of the Sussex Humanities Lab, the CLHLWR is partnering as advisor, including in new oral history interviews to complement the existing archive.

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

We have a healthy budget due to consultancy and event income as well as our policy of match funding for conferences and events. We are grateful to the **School of Media, Film and Music** for annual core funding. Operations have been much helped by Dr Alexandra Loske, an art historian with specialisms in biography and life history documents, and Professor Lyn Thomas, who served as Acting Director for the Autumn Term. Lyn will remain a research associate of the CLHLWR, principally as director of the exciting new initiative **Life Writing Projects**. Dr Rose Holmes is joining us as oral historian, while Dr Ângela Campos will remain connected to us from Portugal where she will now be based. [Dr Jenna Bailey](#) remains an associate in Canada where she is developing oral history programmes at the University of Lethbridge.

LOOKING AHEAD

Projects in train for 2017-18 include the launch of Oral History of Art History and partnership with two community projects: **A Woman's Place**, with curators Day&Gluckman, and **Hastings Cultural Trail**, an oral history-infused photographic history led by the artist Maxine Beuret. We also plan work with Sussex Traditions in investigating 'women in the folk', partnering with the Department of Music and the English Folk Song and Dance Society. While these should engender further research and impact, they also tell us once again that life narrative goes beyond the page and the spreadsheet. Join us next year in a creative as well as critical exploration of life storying – read it, sing it, dance it!



Dr Margaretta Jolly, Director, July 2017

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS AND YEAR'S EVENTS

Selected Sussex research projects in life history or life writing

Full details of related publications, funding, partnerships and impact for members' research are at the links below and also available through their faculty profile pages.

Creative Interruptions

The three-year (2016-19) Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded research project of £1,214,115, focuses on how marginalised communities use the arts, media and creativity to challenge exclusion. Led by Professor Sarita Malik at Brunel University, the project's outputs focus on grassroots interests, thus includes a theatre production, films, a photo exhibition and digital installations, many of which draw on life narrative. Professor Ben Rogaly in the CLHLWR is CI, using oral history and digital films as participatory methods. Professor Rogaly is also Writer-in-Residence at MetalPeterborough and describes his ongoing oral history work there: <http://www.metalculture.com/artists-area/ben-rogaly/>



Home

Ben Rogaly in the Cheltenham Science Festival – Populations and People, June 9th 2017

Populations and people

by Ben Rogaly

This article first appeared on [MetalCulture's website](#).

"Since I started doing academic research I have specialized in listening to people, especially people who maybe don't think they have a story that's worth listening to, or that others would be interested in.

There is a scientific phrase for the kind of work I do: biographical oral history. Oral historians have long debated how to work with memory, which is necessarily selective, and of course fallible. People recall different things at different times, and their memories are triggered by conversations in certain spaces or with particular people. The relationship between interviewer and narrator matters a lot in oral history. Both are people; both may be transformed. There is less onus on expert knowledge. Authority is shared.



<http://creativeinterruptions.com/>

BBC Connected Histories

BBC Connected Histories is creating a new digital catalogue of hundreds of rarely seen audio and video interviews with former BBC staff – from those in the corridors of power to those at the broadcasting coal face.

Notable interviewees recorded over the years include Sir David Attenborough, the drama director Sydney Newman (creator of Doctor Who) and the pioneer of political programming Grace Wyndham Goldie. Also featured are BBC Directors-General and Chairmen, politicians involved in the nation's broadcasting policy including Harold Wilson and Tony Benn, as well as less establishment figures, such as telephonists who worked at the BBC's Savoy Hill headquarters in the 1920s.

The screenshot shows the 'History of the BBC' website. The main navigation bar includes 'About the BBC', 'Home', 'Inside the BBC', 'Media Centre', 'Partners & Suppliers', 'Careers', 'Help & Feedback', and 'A-Z'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Anniversaries', '100 Voices', 'Collections', 'Buildings', 'Research', and 'BBC Charter Archive'. The main content area features the title '100 Voices that made the BBC – Elections' and a subtitle 'A collaboration with the University of Sussex, commentary texts by Dr. Alban Webb and Professor David Hendy'. The central image is a woman in a black jacket in front of a BBC studio. To the right, there are three smaller images with captions: 'Invention: 1922-1950', 'Invention: 1951-1959', and 'Invention: 1960-...'. At the bottom, there are three more images with captions: 'Party Political Broadcasts', 'The interview', and 'Behind the scenes'. The website has a teal and white color scheme.

This unique archive will be enriched by expert curation from Professor David Hendy and colleagues from the Sussex Humanities Lab and the CLHLWR at the University of Sussex, framing the archive in a wider societal context. They will also create thematic online collections on key subjects such as War, Entertainment, and Britishness, building on earlier successful pilot collections on Elections and Early

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

Television. More widely, the team of researchers will transform the archive search options through innovative data tagging and data-mining tools. The resulting digital catalogue will allow historians, scholars and the general public - with their own memories of the BBC - to search for the first time ever this archive for a myriad of links between people, places and events, spanning decades of broadcast history.

The **BBC Connected Histories** project will run for nearly five years in the lead-up to the Corporation's centenary in 2022, and is being funded by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) totalling nearly £790,000.

The project is also supported by key partners in the field: the BBC itself, the Science Museum Group (which includes the National Media Museum in Bradford), the **Mass Observation Archive** based in Brighton, and the British Entertainment History Project. All will be providing vital access to additional archive materials and resources, as well as collaborating on technological design and helping to develop the potential for further research activities.

BBC Connected Histories will be adding to the catalogue of BBC interviews, too. "We will be creating a completely new set of oral history interviews, with 25 leading broadcasters speaking frankly and in depth about their life and work for the BBC," explains Professor Hendy. Professor Hendy added:

"The BBC's oral history collection is an extraordinary, though underused, treasure trove, providing unique ringside accounts of the history of the BBC. Being able to see and hear these key figures in the BBC's past tell their stories to us directly helps to bring the written history alive, but more importantly reveals the 'hidden wiring' of broadcasting – the way personal convictions, character, and emotions helped shaped this profoundly influential public institution."

Professor Tim Hitchcock, Professor of Digital History and Co-Director of Sussex Humanities Lab as well as CLHLWR member, underlined other aspects of the collaboration: "The Sussex Humanities Lab is excited to be contributing to this project; and we believe it represents a unique opportunity to harness the new tools of big data and digital analysis, to the study of an internationally important archive of twentieth century lives."

Professor Hendy has written extensively on broadcasting history and culture in the past and Professor Hitchcock has previously worked on major projects including the Old Bailey Online.

Joining them on the Connected Histories project are Dr Margaretta Jolly, Director of the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research at Sussex and Dr Alban Webb, a lecturer in Digital Humanities and leading historian of the BBC World Service.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/historyofthebbc/100-voices>

Further selected Sussex research projects

- [Victorian colour researcher Mary Merrifield's epistolary travel diaries - in collaboration with The Keep and Brighton Museum \(2017/18\)](#)
- [Sussex Art History at 50: The oral history of the department of Art History at Sussex \(2016/17\)](#)
- [GIDDY - A community heritage and oral history project, led by young people from Longhill High School, Brighton \(2016/17\)](#)
- [You can't move history - You can secure the future. Engaging youth in cultural heritage. An interdisciplinary AHRC funded project.](#)
- [Curating Childhoods: Developing a Multimedia Archive of Children's Everyday Lives](#)
- [New Pathways: A Psychogeographical Exploration of Lewes 2014/15](#)
- [True Tales from the Old Hill: Lewes Life Writing 2014/15](#)
- [Public and Personal Archives: Creative Negotiations, University of Sussex, 4 April 2014](#)
- [Hearing her: Oral histories of women's liberation in China and the United Kingdom](#)
- [Claire Langhamer: The English in Love: The Intimate Story of an Emotional Revolution](#)
- [David Hendy: The BBC: a Century in British Life, an authorised one-volume history of the Corporation](#)
- [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](#)
- [Sisterhood and After: The Women's Liberation Oral History Project](#)
- ['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](#)
- [The Committee of 100: An Oral History research project](#)
- [Biodigital Lives: making, consuming and archiving the lives of techno-science](#)
- [Ivy Benson and Her All Girls Band - Jenna Bailey Project](#)
- [Women and Work: Progression Through Learning](#)
- [Deaf Life Histories](#)
- [The Genome Incorporated: Constructing Biodigital Identity](#)
- [Fifty Voices, Fifty Faces: The Oral History of the University of Sussex](#)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS in 2016/17

For a more comprehensive list of publications see: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/publications>

- Brade, Laura E. and Rose Holmes, 'Troublesome Sainthood: Nicholas Winton and the Contested History of Child Rescue in Prague, 1938–1940', *History and Memory*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2017), pp. 3-40. Indiana University Press
- Campos, Ângela, *An Oral History of the Portuguese Colonial War: Conscripted Generation* (Palgrave Studies in Oral History, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)
- Haran, Joan and O'Riordan, Kate (2017) *Public knowledge-making and the media: genes, genetics, cloning and mass observation*. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*. ISSN 1367-5494
- Hendy, David (2016) *Distant echoes: evoking the soundscapes of the past in the radio documentary series 'noise: a human history'*. *The New Soundtrack*, 6 (1). pp. 29-49. ISSN 2042-885
- Highmore, Ben (2017) *Cultural Feelings: Mood, Mediation, and Cultural Politics*, Oxford and New York: Routledge (ISBN: 978-0415604116 hbk; 978-0415604123 pbk), pp. 192.
- Highmore, Ben (2017) *The Art of Brutalism: Rescuing Hope from Catastrophe in 1950s Britain*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art (ISBN: 978-0-300-22274-6) pp. 304.
- Hitchcock, Timothy (2017) 'The body in the workhouse: death, burial, and belonging in early Eighteenth-Century St Giles in the Fields.' In: Braddick, Michael J and Innes, Joanna (eds.) *Suffering and happiness in England 1550-1850: narratives and representations: a collection to honour Paul Slack*. The Past and present book Series. Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 153-173. ISBN 9780198748267 (Accepted)
- Holmes, Rose (2017), 'Love, labour, loss: women, refugees and the servant crisis in Britain, 1933–1939', *Women's History Review*, DOI: 10.1080/09612025.2017.1327096
- Jacques, Juliet (2017), 'Forms of Resistance: Uses of Memoir, Theory, and Fiction in Trans Life Writing', in: *Life Writing* (Issue 14, 2017: *The Limits of Life Writing*). Published Online: 05 Jul 2017.
- Jolly, Margaretta (2017), 'After the Protest: Biographical Consequences of Movement Activism in an Oral History of Women's Liberation in Britain.' In *The Women's Liberation Movement: Impacts and Outcomes*, edited by Kristina Schulz. (Oxford: Berghahn).
- Jolly, Margaretta. "Biography and Autobiography." In *Oxford Bibliographies Online: British and Irish Literature*, Online. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012/2017. At <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199846719/obo-9780199846719-0006.xml>
- Kant, Tanya (2016) *Making it personal: web users and algorithmic personalisation*. Doctoral thesis (PhD), University of Sussex.
- Langhamer, Claire (2016) 'Amours, seductions et désir.' In: *Histoire des émotions*, Volume 3, L'empire de l'émotion (1880-2013). Le Seuil, Paris.
- Langhamer, Claire (2016) 'An archive of feeling? Mass observation and the mid-century moment.' In: *Insights*, 9. ISSN 2048-7754

- Langhamer, Claire (2017) 'Feeling, women and work in the long 1950s'. In: *Women's History Review*, 26 (1). pp. 77-92. ISSN 0961-2025
- Loske, Alexandra (2017), 'Aquarell', in: Clare Best and Mary Anne Aytoun-Ellis, *Springlines. Exploring hidden and mysterious bodies of water*. (Dorchester, Little Toller) pp.52-53. ISBN 9781908213525
- Loske, Alexandra (2016) 'Mary Philadelphia Merrifield: color history as expertise.', *Visual Resources: an international journal on images and their uses*, 32. ISSN 1477-2809
- Page, Jeremy (2016) *Stepping Back: Resubmission for the Ordinary Level Examination in Psychogeography* (Lewes: The Frogmore Press). ISBN978-0957068865
- Robinson, Lucy and Cofield, Laura (2016) 'The opposite of the band' fangrrrling, feminism and sexual dissidence. *Textual Practice*, 30 (6). pp. 1071-1088.
- Robinson, Lucy (2016) Collaboration in, collaboration out: the eighties in the age of digital reproduction. *Cultural and Social History*, 13 (3). pp. 403-423.
- Robinson, Lucy and Jones, Benjamin (2017) 'Queering the grammar school boy: class, sexuality and authenticity in the works of Colin MacInnes and Ray Gosling' In: Bentley, Nick (ed.) *Teenage Kicks*. Palgrave.
- Rogaly, Ben (2017) 'Contesting Neoliberal Common Sense: Bottom-up History and the Struggle over Urban Space'. At <http://www.metalculture.com/artists-blog/contesting-neoliberal-common-sense-bottom-up-history-and-the-struggle-over-urban-space/>
- Shadrick, Tanya & Rachel Playforth (eds.) (2017) *Watermarks. Writing by Lido Lovers & Wild Swimmers* (Lewes: The Frogmore Press/Pells Pool) ISBN 978-0957068872
- Stanley, Liz, and Margaretta Jolly (2017) "Epistolarity: Life after Death of the Letter?". a/b: Auto/Biography Studies 32, no. 2 (2017): 229-33.
- Thomas, Lyn (2016) *Clothes Pegs: A Woman's Life in 30 Outfits* <http://www.clothespegs.net/>
- Thomas, Lyn (2016), 'Sharing experiences of "suspect" communities in Britain: Irish Catholic and Muslim Women's "Voices in Harmony"' in *Contemporary Encounters in Gender and Religion*, Gemzöe, L. Keinänen, M.L. and Maddrell, A. (eds) Palgrave.
- Thomas, Lyn (2016), 'The Archers and its Listeners in the Twenty-First Century: Drama, Nostalgia and the Rural Everyday'. In: Cara Courage, Nicola Headlam and Peter Matthews (eds), *The Archers in Fact and Fiction: Academic Analyses of Life in Rural Borsetshire* (Oxford: Peter Lang).
- Thomson, Rachel (2016) 'Youth and reflexive life management.' In: Furlong, Andy (ed.) *Handbook of youth and young adulthood* (second edition). Routledge, London.
- Walsh, Katie (2016) *Transnational Migration and Home in Older Age*. Co-edited with Lena Näre, University of Helsinki, Finland.
- Wolf, Hope and Kilian, Eveline, eds. (2016) *Life writing and space*. Routledge, Ashgate.
- Wolf, Hope (2017) *Scaling war: poetic calibration and mythic measures in David Jones's In Parenthesis*. In: McLoughlin, Kate and Das, Santanu (eds.) *The First World War: literature, culture, modernity*. British Academy.
- Wolf, Hope (2016) *Strandlines: eccentric stories, thoroughfare poetics and the future of the archive*. In: Wolf, Hope and Kilian, Eveline (eds.) *Life Writing and Space*. Ashgate, London.

Cross-university events and seminar series

Diaries of the Outside: Annie Ernaux's urban journals and Tanya Shadrick's Wild Patience Scrolls

14 November 2016, University of Sussex

This seminar introduced the concept of the *journal extime*, or diary of the outside, pioneered by prize-winning French writer Annie Ernaux.

The speakers, Professor Lyn Thomas and Lewes writer Tanya Shadrick explored how the project of the *journal extime* redefines the diary and act of writing, as well as discussing the role of the writer as ethnographer of a space / time; and the impact of women writers 'occupying' public space.

Lyn Thomas discussed Ernaux's diaries of her encounters in the urban spaces of Paris and the nearby new town, Cergy-Pontoise where she lives: *Journal du dehors* and *La vie extérieure*. A more recent diary of Ernaux's visits to her local hypermarket, *Regarde les lumières mon amour* was also examined. Quotations were read in French and translations were provided.

In May 2016, Tanya Shadrick embarked on a year-long site-specific feat of 'distance' writing at Pells Pool in nearby Lewes. Called Wild Patience: Laps in Longhand, her work — done under the public gaze, on her knees, while inviting visitors to engage with the process — seeks to offer up the role of writer for examination. She spoke about the sources and events which fed the work and discussed the challenges for a woman writer embodying her work in public.

This event was jointly organised by the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research and the Sussex Centre for Language Studies, University of Sussex.



Nicoletta Demetriou: 'Collecting music, collecting life stories: The Cypriot Fiddler project'

8 February 2017, University of Sussex

Nicoletta Demetriou is Research Fellow in Ethnomusicology and Life Writing, Wolfson College, University of Oxford

Nicoletta Demetriou on The Cypriot Fiddler project: 'In this seminar, I discuss The Cypriot Fiddler project, my attempt to record the stories of Cyprus's last surviving traditional fiddlers both in writing and in a documentary. I talk about what musicians' life stories can tell us about the music and society we are looking at, and about the importance of letting musicians tell their own story, in their own words. Finally, I show extracts from The Cypriot Fiddler documentary, released in April 2016, and made possible with funding entirely collected through an online crowd-sourcing campaign.'



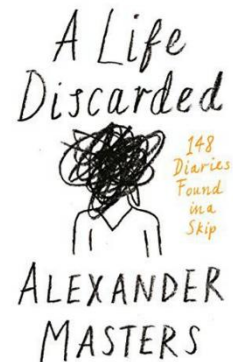
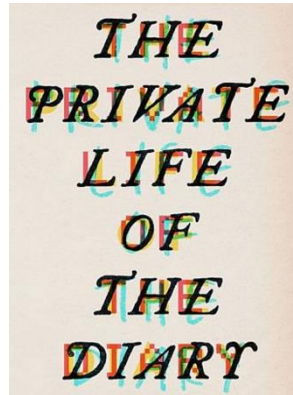
This seminar was organised in collaboration with the Media Film and Music seminar series and the Department of Music at the University of Sussex.

The Public Life of the Private Diary: Alexander Masters and Sally Bayley

22 February 2017, University of Sussex

In this packed-out seminar on 'The Public Life of the Private Diary', Sally Bayley and Alexander Masters reflected on two very different diary-related projects.

In *The Private Life of the Diary: From Pepys to Tweets* (Unbound, 2016), Bayley tells her own coming of age story through diary writing, and mixes memoir with reflections on the diaries of famous literary figures such as Woolf, Plath and Orwell. She also discusses political diarists: Pepys himself, John Adams and the more recent musings of Alan Clark and Tony Benn.



In *A Life Discarded: 148 Diaries Found in a Skip* (Harper Collins, 2016), Alexander Masters is seduced by the unique project of writing the biography of a person he encounters only through reading a random selection of her diaries, found by a close friend, in a skip. With some reluctance, he eventually uncovers the identity of the diary-writer - but what are the ethics of playing detective with a real person's life and writing?

Both projects explore the gendered boundaries between public and private lives, our fascination with diaries and our relationship with their writers, who in some sense become intimate friends. They are both experimental in form, weaving the author's own stories through that of their subjects.



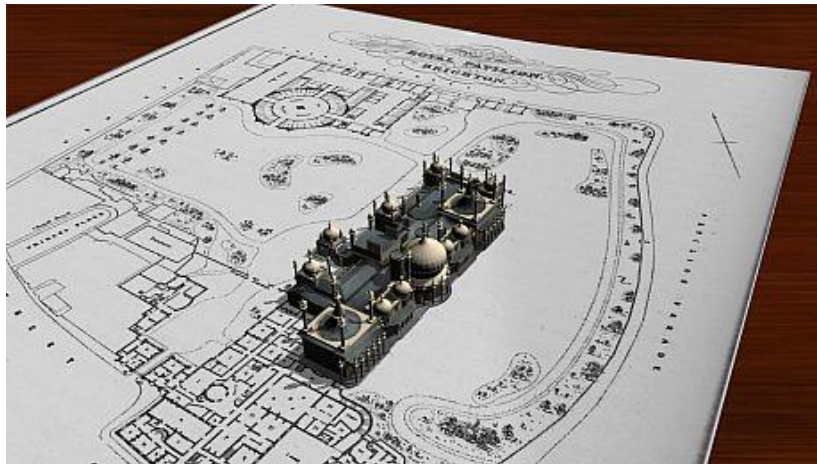
This seminar was presented in collaboration with the English Colloquium seminar series, University of Sussex, and the Mass Observation Archive.

Classes, courses and conferences

MA Masterclass - Digital Stories from the Royal Pavilion Archives: How can digitised museum collections be turned into rich narrative content?

18 October 2016, University of Sussex

With Dr Alexandra Loske, Curator, and Kevin Bacon, Digital Manager, Royal Pavilion & Museums,
Brighton & Hove.



A digital image of the Royal Pavilion, created by Colin Jones

Royal Pavilion & Museums' Kevin Bacon and Dr Alexandra Loske discussed ongoing work on digitising the Royal Pavilion Archive, and making it accessible beyond the researcher bubble. This was a chance to learn more about the history of Brighton's most famous building, find out about the Royal Pavilion & Museum's digital ambitions, and discuss the challenges of turning data into historical narratives.

This MA Masterclass was organised by the CLHLWR in collaboration with the School of Media, Film and Music, University of Sussex.



Rebels in the archives: Stories of sexism, sisterhood and struggle

Panel discussion with Jill Liddington, Abi Morgan, Heidi Safia Mirza and Deborah Withers

Wednesday 8 March 2017

The British Library Knowledge Centre, London

The British Library celebrated International Women's Day with a panel conversation on the power and potential of archiving stories of sexism, sisterhood and struggle. Jill Liddington, Abi Morgan, Heidi Safia Mirza and D-M Withers discussed their engagement with archives of activism. Margaretta Jolly, project director of *Sisterhood and After: An Oral History of the Women's Liberation Movement*, chaired this panel of influential feminists as they debated questions of politics, representation and preservation.



See a summary at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxtjnO3qTsw>

Life History and Life Writing Research: Critical and Creative Approaches 16 June 2017, University of Sussex (The 9th annual Brighton-Sussex postgraduate conference)

Co-organised by the Centre for Research in Memory, Narrative and Histories (CRMNH, University of Brighton) and the CLHLWR, partnered with Voicing Experience: The 4th British Conference of Autoethnography, organised by Sociology, University of Sussex.

Life history and life writing have opened the door to creativity in universities across disciplines – politically, poetically, philosophically, playfully. Questioning impersonal and dislocated theory by radical scholars of gender, sexuality, race and class has created a space for academics to bring their own histories into their work, or even become life writers. Simultaneously creative life writers are increasingly speaking to academic concerns with representation and the self. This conference aimed to reflect and respond to this convergence. Selected contributions will be published in a forthcoming CLHLWR / REFRAME collaboration: 'Life Writing Projects'.



CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

Keynotes:

Clare Best and Professor Lyn Thomas, 'Life-writing, photography and the resilient body: Clare Best's *Self-portrait without Breasts* and Annie Ernaux's *L'Usage de la Photo*'

Dr Deborah Madden, 'Sacred Geographies and Empire-Building: Perspectives on Gender, Temporality and Religion in the Life Writings of Elizabeth Bowen Thompson (1812-1869)'

Other speakers included:

César Correa-Arias, Sally Bruce-Lockhart, Teresa Brus, Alison Child, Katherine Collins, Jenni Cresswell, Sarah Hesketh, Debbie Parker Kinch, Simon Lovat, Marlon L. Moncrieffe, Abigail Mynett, Diego Oliveira, Tom Ottway, Derbhile de Paor, Ken Pratt, Yana Pavlovna Sholokhova, Aisling Sharkey, Dave Simpson, Karoliina Sjö, Marguerite Styles, Carina Westling.



Dr Margaretta Jolly and Prof Lyn Thomas



Projects and partnerships

Life Writing Projects



Following on from 'New Pathways: A Psychogeography of Lewes' (2016) **Life Writing Projects** is a new collaboration between The Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research and Reframe. It was devised and is curated by Professor Lyn Thomas and designed by Dr Tanya Kant with the invaluable support of Reframe Managing Editor Professor Catherine Grant.

Life Writing Projects is about creative representations of lived experience that set their own rules rather than following the conventions of genres such as memoir or biography. The projects selected for publication here all involve writing, but they may also explore the relationship between writing and photography, sound or visual art, film, or video.

Our contributors, who include new and established writers, artists and poets, embrace the concept of life-writing as a project, working within a set of self-imposed constraints, in order, in Michael Sheringham's words 'to allow something unforeseen to happen'. They explore their lives and the lives of others through the lens of clothes; body; books and place.

The site will be published in early September 2017, and will continue to evolve through 2017-18.

<http://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/lifewritingprojects/>

Sussex Art History at 50

The oral history of the art history department of the University of Sussex



Documents, publications, photographs and ephemera provided by one of the interviewees of the Sussex Art History at 50 project.

Over the last 12 months the CLHLWR has been advising and working with the Department of Art History on carrying out an oral history of the department in preparation for its 50th anniversary. The project is directed by Dr Flora Dennis with Dr Alexandra Loske as researcher, who has so far been interviewing twelve current and former members of faculty, support staff and students, including Marcia Pointon, Maurice Howard, Penny Jones and David Allan Mellor. The artist Julian Bell provided memories of his father Quentin Bell's time at Sussex University in the first years of the Department of Art History.

The project explores questions such as the role of Sussex in the development of Art History over the past 50 years and the ways in which Art History at Sussex has been shaped by its interdisciplinary context. It asks participants to discuss what for them is distinctive about Art History at Sussex. CLHLWR is now working with the Department of Art History related celebratory events, the creation of a public-facing web presence and the further development of the project.

Victorian colour researcher Mary Merrifield's epistolary travel diaries

A research project in collaboration with The Keep Archives and Brighton Museum & Art Gallery

From January 2017



Display at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, Spring 2017

Mary Philadelphia Merrifield [née Watkins] (b. London 1804, d. Cambridge 1889) was a remarkable, self-taught woman who spent most of her life in Brighton. She wrote about colour, dress history, marine algae and was actively involved in the shaping of the natural history collections at Brighton Museum in the later 19th century. She left a significant mark on color research and literature, and was one of only a few women working in this field in the 19th century.

In 1844 Merrifield was commissioned by the Royal Commission on the Fine Arts, under the government of Prime Minister Robert Peel (1788–1850), to travel to France and Italy, in order to identify and transcribe manuscripts on colour, and research the make-up of early pigments and Italian methods of painting. The epistolary diary of Merrifield's research journeys to France and Italy between 1844 and 1846, in the form of letters to her husband and other family members in Brighton, has only recently been discovered at The Keep Archives in East Sussex. These letters are in the process of being transcribed by Dr Alexandra Loske, art historian and oral historian at the University of Sussex, with the help of volunteer researcher Natasha Romanova. They provide a wealth of information about her personal circumstances, how she used her professional connections and drew on previous research and publishing experience, as well as the support of her immediate family members. They also reveal her particular interests, her character, professionalism and organizational skills, and how she acquired further specialist knowledge in the field of colour history.

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

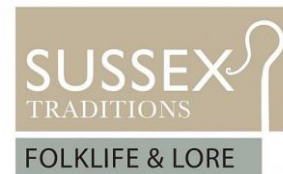


Mary Merrifield's 1840s letters and a photograph of the author, c1870s

As part of this project, Alexandra Loske curated a temporary display on Merrifield's life and work at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery (Spring 2017) and gave a talk at The Keep on 29 March 2017: *In Search of Colour in the 1840s: Mrs Merrifield's continental journey*.

Sussex Traditions - Folklife and Lore

Founded in 2015, Sussex Traditions aims to gather and share traditions handed down by the people of the county: arts and activities, beliefs customs and crafts, songs and stories. Sussex Traditions will connect local communities to their past, provide them with a fascinating learning resource, and encourage them to develop, nourish and sustain the culture of Sussex and its people into the future. The University of Sussex is proud to be custodians of The Copper Family Archive as well as the archive of Dr Reg Hall, folk and popular song collector and commentator, both held in Special Collections and involving significant use of oral history.



THE COPPER FAMILY ARCHIVE,
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX



The Copper Family, originally from Rottingdean, are deservedly the most famous traditional singers from Sussex, and their family archives contain numerous recordings of family members and friends from the last sixty years. Bob Copper was also a fieldworker for the BBC in the 1950s and recorded numerous singers in both Hampshire and Sussex. He was also an award winning writer and received an MBE in 2004. The photo shows the cousins Bob [L] and Ron Copper standing in front of the fireplace at the Central Club in Peacehaven.

www.thecopperfamily.com

With thanks to Sussex Traditions and the Copper family for use of this photograph

CLHLWR is delighted to support this exciting the HLF-funded local community project and cultural charity "Sussex Traditions". We will together celebrate 'women in the folk' as story-tellers, balladeers and sound artists with a public event in 2018, co-sponsored by the UoS's Department of Music and the English Folksong and Dance Society.

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

CLHLWR MEMBERSHIP

The CLHLWR's Working Party involves scholars at different career levels across the University, with a growing number of professors. They participate in the Centre to promote publications, seek grant partners or share expertise, for example in creative life narrative practice, life history methods in education, or oral history projects. They also support the Centre as a network for postgraduate students.

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/people/list/group/centre-working-group>

Students are welcomed as 'student associates', and are encouraged to present at the annual postgraduate conference which we organise in collaboration with the University of Brighton's Centre for Memory, Narrative, Histories. <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/people/list/group/student-associates>

We also maintain a small group of external advisors with international reputations in the field, who may be called upon for further support in grant applications, conference planning, connection with the [International Auto/Biography Association](#) or [International Oral History Association](#).

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/people/list/group/advisory-group-contacts>

Visiting Fellows may apply, subject to approval: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/research/fellowships>

We hold an Annual General Meeting at which year plans are presented by the Director for discussion, generally in December.

Working party 2017

1.	Dr Sara Jane Bailes	s.j.bailes@sussex.ac.uk	School of English and Drama; MO
2.	Jenna Bailey	jenna.bailey@gmail.com	Visting Fellow, Oral history, biography, memoir
3.	Joanna Callaghan	J.Callaghan@sussex.ac.uk	Deconstruction, Film as philosophy, Film production, Practice-based research
4.	Dr Angela Campos	adcf20@sussex.ac.uk	Administrator CLHLWR. Research Fellow SPRU. Oral historian.
5.	Dr Sam Carroll	s.carroll2@brighton.ac.uk	Oral historian; Representative from Memory, Narrative, History Centre, University of Brighton
6.	Rachel Cole	R.S.Cole@sussex.ac.uk	The Frogmore Press, <i>True Tales from the Old Hill</i> , Editor, Sussex Centre for Language Studies
7.	Prof. Andrea Cornwall	a.cornwall@sussex.ac.uk	Life story telling for development; School of Global Studies
8.	Dr Catherine Grant	c.grant@sussex.ac.uk	Film, Editor of Reframe, School of Media and Film
9.	Dr Fiona Courage	f.p.courage@sussex.ac.uk	Special Collections Manager (The Keep)

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

10.	Dr Sue Currell	S.Currell@sussex.ac.uk	Reader in American Literature (English, Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies, American Studies)
11.	Dr Flora Dennis	F.Dennis@sussex.ac.uk	Art and design, Domestic interiors, Early modern Italy, History of sound, material culture, Music, Dept. of Art History
12.	Professor David Hendy	d.j.hendy@sussex.ac.uk	Oral histories of the BBC; media historian; sound studies
13.	Prof. Ben Highmore	b.highmore@sussex.ac.uk	MO; everyday life; School of Media and Film
14.	Prof. Tim Hitchcock	t.hitchcock@sussex.ac.uk	Digital lives; big data and life history; 18 th century working class lives
15.	Dr. Rose Holmes	r.holmes@sussex.ac.uk	Postdoctoral researcher; History; Lives of German Jewish refugees
16.	Dr Celia Hunt	C.M.Hunt@sussex.ac.uk	Life writing; Independent scholar
17.	Dr Margaretta Jolly	m.jolly@sussex.ac.uk	Life writing, oral history; MO; MFM
18.	Dr Tanya Kant	T.Kant@sussex.ac.uk	Digital lives; designer for Life Writing Projects
19.	Dr Claire Langhamer	c.l.langhamer@sussex.ac.uk	MO, School of History
20.	Dr Alexandra Loske	A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk	Administrator CLHLWR, Researcher and Associate Tutor in Art History (School of HAHP)
21.	Dr Emma Newport	E.Newport@sussex.ac.uk	Therapeutic uses of life writing.
22.	Dr. Jacob Norris	J.Norris@sussex.ac.uk	Global history, Imperial/Colonial History, Middle East and African history, migration studies, Palestinian history
23.	Dr Kate O’Riordan	K.ORiordan@sussex.ac.uk	Multimedia life story; School of Media and Film
24.	Jeremy Page	J.N.Page@sussex.ac.uk	The Frogmore Press, <i>True Tales from the Old Hill</i> , Editor, Sussex Centre for Language Studies
25.	Kirsty Patrick	K.Patrick@sussex.ac.uk	Manager of Mass Observation (The Keep)
26.	Dr Lucy Robinson	l.robinson@sussex.ac.uk	Digital documentary; life history; School of History
27.	Prof. Ben Rogaly	B.Rogaly@sussex.ac.uk	Oral history; School of Geography
28.	Dr Darrow Schechter	D.Schechter@sussex.ac.uk	Reader in Critical Theory (History) Director of Student Experience (School of History, Art History and Philosophy)
29.	Dr Deborah Schultz	d.schultz@sussex.ac.uk	Visual life story; Holocaust history. Centre for German Jewish Studies
30.	Prof Dorothy Sheridan	dorothysheridan@gmail.com	MO Trustee and former director; life history; QueenSpark Books

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

31.	Prof. Lyn Thomas	lynjthomas@sussex.ac.uk	Memoir and creative life writing; Annie Ernaux; School of Media and Film
32.	Prof. Rachel Thomson	r.thomson@sussex.ac.uk	Life history methods; life course studies; School of Education
33.	Lizzie Thynne	L.Thynne@sussex.ac.uk	Documentary; biography; filmmaker; School of Media and Film
34.	John Walker	j.walker@sussex.ac.uk	Deaf life history; Sussex Centre for Language Studies
35.	Dr Alban Webb	a.webb@sussex.ac.uk	BBC oral history; School of Media, Film and Music
36.	Dr Russell Whiting	R.Whiting@sussex.ac.uk	Alternative Spiritualities/Religion; Use of life story in social work
37.	Dr Hope Wolf	h.wolf@sussex.ac.uk	Modernism and Life writing; psychoanalysis; diaries; e-diaries.
38.	Dr Rebecca Wright	R.K.Wright@sussex.ac.uk	Digital Mass Observation

STUDENT ASSOCIATES AND INTERNS

1.	Julius Baker	jb421@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in Anthropology
2.	Camilla Bostock	C.Bostock@sussex.ac.uk	Postdoc in History; oral history
3.	Laurence Clennett-Sirois	Graduated	Graduate in Digital Life Narrative
4.	Laura Catherine Cofield	lc397@sussex.ac.uk	PhD Student Representative
5.	David Geiringer	d.geiringer@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in History; oral history
6.	Juliet Jacques/Georgina Buckell	gjb22@sussex.ac.uk	Fiction and/vs life writing; trans representation
7.	Benjamin Jones	Graduated	Graduate in Oral History
8.	Tanya Kant	T.Kant@sussex.ac.uk	PhD Student Representative
9.	Katie Louisa Jane Leacock	kl278@sussex.ac.uk	Intern to the Centre for Life Writing and Life History With Frogmore Press: True Tales From the Old Hill
10.	Emily Priscott	ejp28@sussex.ac.uk	PhD Student Representative
11.	Yvonne Salt	y.salt@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in Geography: Love Migration and Narrative Methods

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

12.	Julie Samuels	jd255@sussex.ac.uk	Digital adoption life narratives
13.	Hannah Vincent	h.vincent@sussex.ac.uk	Creative life writing; New Writing South
14.	Rosalchen Whitecross	rw306@sussex.ac.uk	Creative life writing in prisons; Sociology
15.	Adam Whitehall	a.whitehall@sussex.ac.uk	DPhil in MFM; psychogeography, film; Lead for New Pathways project
16.	Sally-Shakti Willow	s.willow@sussex.ac.uk	MA in English; life writing; Intern Frogmore Press
17.	Shivaun Woolfson	Graduated	DPhil in History; Holocaust studies.
18.	Helen Dixon	h.c.dixon@sussex.ac.uk	Creative life writing; feminism; Nicaraguan/South American studies

PARTNERS

1.	Sara Clifford	inroadsproductions@me.com	Inroads Productions; site specific oral history-based theatre
2.	Maxine Beuret	maxine@maxinebeuret.com	Photographic artist; site specific oral history
3.	Graham Dawson	g.dawson@bton.ac.uk	Director, Memory, Narrative, History Centre, University of Brighton
4.	Lucy Day and Eliza Gluckman	http://www.dayandgluckman.co.uk/	A Woman's Place: Contemporary Feminist Art; life story involved
5.	Laura Hockenhull	laura@folkpitch.co.uk	Sussex Traditions Foundation; oral historian of folk music/life
6.	Sarah Hitchings	sarahhitchings@live.co.uk	Spoken Memories; oral history consultancy
7.	John Riches	john@queensparkbooks.org.uk	QueenSpark Books; Development Director; oral history, life writing in the community
8.	Veronica Stephens	veronica.stephens@hotmail.com	Zap Art; site specific oral history based theatre

CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

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 has since proven a very useful tool indeed, especially for promoting events and publications. Both social media accounts are managed by the Administrator Alexandra Loske. The number of Twitter and Facebook followers and general reach increased slightly but steadily, as is to be expected for an established social media network. Facebook activity in particular increases at peak academic year periods and when we advertise specific events and dips in the summer vacation, as can be expected. We promote reciprocal retweeting with institutions such as The Keep, Mass Observation, Brighton Museum, local publishers, other University of Sussex groups and national and international Oral History groups and organisations.

Facebook ‘followers’ or ‘likes’ (all organic, i.e. not paid for): 310 (as of 10 August 2017) – as compared to 277 in August 2016

Twitter followers: 456 (as of 10 August 2017) – as compared to 420 in August 2016

E-listserve: 473 members (as of 1 August 2016) – as compared to 451 in August 2016

Example of Facebook page posts’ “reach”:

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement
02/07/2017 19:36	Autobiography and Life Writing Programme 2017-2019. Course b			80	7 0
02/07/2017 16:26	Register here for the Mass Observation 80th Anniversary Conference			82	2 3
28/06/2017 23:46	Conference programme announced! The Mass Observation 80th			68	0 1
25/06/2017 21:26	Some photographic impressions from our 9th annual PG conference			82	34 0
14/06/2017 20:42	Starts tomorrow: Our sister conference at the Department of Sociology			239	14 18
13/06/2017 22:20	Our 9th Brighton-Sussex PG conference with @CRMNH is coming			224	12 9
11/05/2017 20:09	The annual Mass Observation call for 12th May day diaries is TO			280	31 14
21/04/2017 21:52	King's College London is currently sourcing speakers for an upcoming			87	3 1

Twitter page screenshot (10 August 2017):

CLHLWR
@CLHLWR
m.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/
Joined November 2013
102 Photos and videos

Tweets 399 Following 587 Followers 456 Likes 161 Moments 0

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

CLHLWR @CLHLWR · Aug 8
And another event at @TheKeepArchives next month:
Writing German Jewish Lives: Researching Family Archives

Writing German Jewish Lives: Researching Family ...
Date/Time Date(s) - 12/09/2017 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Location: The Keep Archives Category(ies) Workshop
German Jewish Family Archives In this one day work...
thekeep.info

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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PROF LYN THOMAS
ACTING DIRECTOR (SEPT 2016–
JAN 2017)



lynjthomas@sussex.ac.uk

TO SEE WHAT WE'RE PLANNING FOR 2018,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER or Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/clhlwr>



@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>