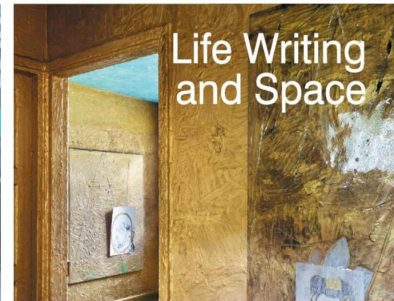


# Annual Report 2019/20



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**CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY  
AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH**

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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.

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 addresses 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 organisations and individuals beyond the University;
- 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, Silverstone Building, University of Sussex, Falmer,  
Brighton BN1 9RF T +44 (0)1273 873585 <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/>**

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2019/20 was unusual inside the CLHLWR and the University of Sussex, as it was in the world at large. In addition to ongoing global instabilities, the Covid-19 virus transformed everyday life as we know it. For us in the Centre and the University, a lockdown in the UK from March meant that many research plans and events had to be postponed. However, we were still able to celebrate some lively events in the earlier part of the year and to support the flourishing of new popular life narrative projects on living, surviving, and challenging life in 'Covid times'. We also learned and shared information on oral history interviewing in remote form. This report gives examples of these initiatives including:

- **Innovative research projects, adapting to social distancing requirements** (pages 2-13).
- **Exciting and informative free events**, open to the public (pages 14-15, 17-18).
- **Partnerships with community projects and courses** including Mass Observation's invitation to submit Covid diaries (see pages 20-25).
- **Developing researchers' capacity** through supporting visiting researchers, research fellows and postgraduates in projects and processes (pages 2, 11, 15-19).

### FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

We are grateful to the **School of Media, Film and Music** for core funding for the year 2019/20. **Dr Alexandra Loske** has continued to be a key to operations, as has **Dr Hope Wolf** as the **CLHLWR's Associate Director**. **Hannah Ludikhuijze** also continued as a research student associate and **Dr Lyn Thomas** as former director now leading Life Writing Projects, which publishes creative representations of lived experience with the open access publisher REFRAME.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Sussex invites all research centres to pursue impactful work. We have designed events which support this in engaging public audiences for research, strengthening public and community partnerships, and for creating conditions which enable collaboration and grant-making. This year we'll work with The Great Diary Project and inspiring diary-interpreters, including film makers To Be Continued.... We also continue our relationship with the Oral History Society and the British Library's Sound Archive, with its new online oral history training opportunities. Life narrative as a primary form of witness continues to serve in these strange times.



Professor Margaretta Jolly, Director, October 2020

## SUMMARY OF PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

### **Hannah Ludikhuijze's first year as life story doctoral research student and associate**

Hannah Davita Ludikhuijze is a postcolonial PhD researcher in the School of English, working on voluntourism in rural Malawi, East Africa. She takes a literary perspective and looks how voluntourism can be informed through reading practices among the volunteers and the host community. Her work combines literary analysis, participant observation, oral history and several different interview methods, including the biographic narrative interpretative method (BNIM).

Hannah has been intermitting over the past year, doing lots of different jobs, including with the CLHLWR. She will now re-start her PhD with CHASE funding for the coming two years.

While the past year has been a whirlwind, she particularly enjoyed organising the *New Daughters of Africa* event in October 2019, where the renowned publisher Margaret Busby spoke about her new anthology, with a lively reception afterwards. All copies of her book had been sold by the end of the night!

Hannah has also helped to bring the CLHLWR postgrad members together, and she remembers a lovely evening in the IDS bar, chatting about our projects. During the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic she has been maintaining the Oral History Canvas website, with a specific section on Covid-19 guidance. As Zoom events became the norm, Hannah's particular favourite was the CLHLWR 'First To Do It' event, which brought us all together again.

For details of related publications, funding, partnerships and impact for members' research see the links below, or review their faculty profile pages.



## SELECTED SUSSEX RESEARCH PROJECTS IN LIFE HISTORY OR LIFE WRITING

### Reanimating Data: Experiments with people, places and archives, led by Professor Rachel Thomson

*The Reanimating Data project is a collaboration between academics, archivists and activists interested in young women's sexual health and empowerment.*

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Transforming Social Science initiative and undertaken in collaboration with Niamh Moore (Edinburgh), Sharon Webb & Ester McGeeney (Sussex) and Alison Ronan (from the community archive, Feminist Webs), the project concerns 'Archiving, revisiting and reanimating the data from the 1988-90 Women Risk and AIDS project'. What's changed and what's stayed the same over 30 years for young women, feminism and sexual health?

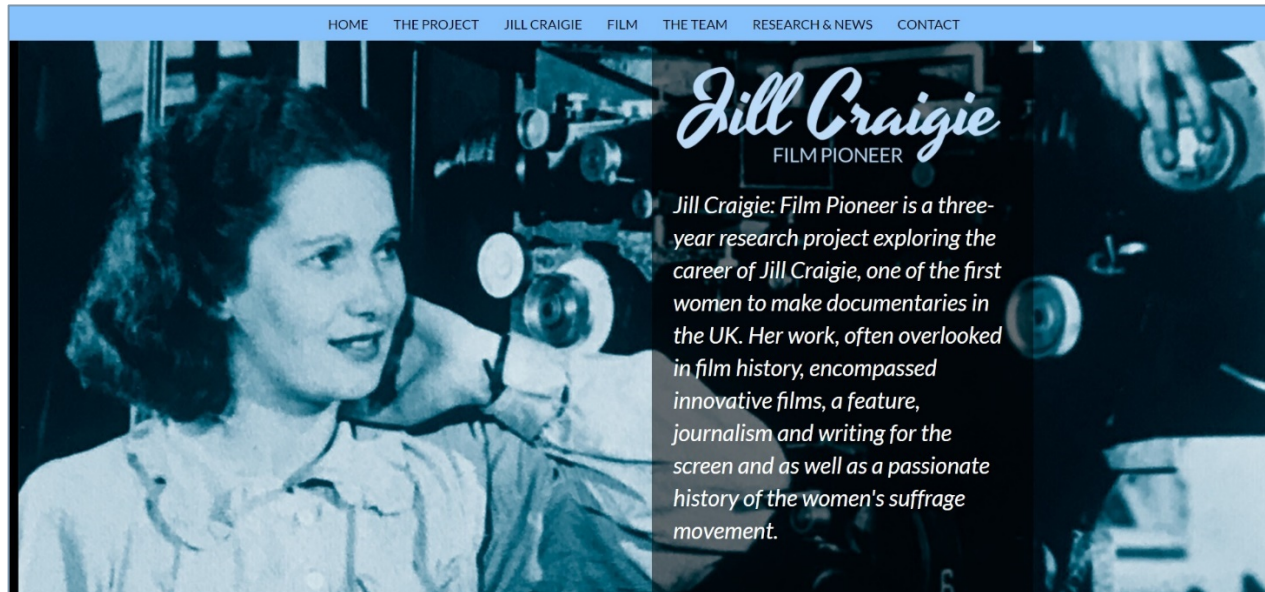
The aim is to archive, share and reanimate this material as a way of exploring change and continuities in intimate lives over a 30-year period.

Rachel Thomson is a sociologist whose research interests include the study of the life course and transitions, as well as the interdisciplinary fields of gender and sexuality studies. She is a methodological innovator and is especially interested in capturing lived experience, social processes and the interplay of biographical and historical time.

**Because of Covid-19 there have not been any events recently, but see here for resources, latest blog posts and more info: <http://reanimatingdata.co.uk/>**

## Jill Craigie: Film Pioneer, led by Professor Lizzie Thynne

*Since autumn 2018, Lizzie Thynne, Professor in Film, has been leading an exciting project on the life and work of Jill Craigie (1911–1999) in collaboration with Co-Is, Yvonne Tasker (UEA) and Sadie Wearing (LSE).*



Jill Craigie: Film Pioneer is a three-year research project (2018-21) exploring the life and career of one of the first women to make documentaries in the UK. Craigie's films in the 1940s and early 1950s were inspired by her socialist beliefs and the welfare reforms of the post-war Labour government. They looked at contemporary issues including postwar reconstruction, the mining industry and equal pay with documentary realism, wit and an eye to reaching mass audiences.

As well as directing, Craigie's career encompassed work as a screenwriter, journalist, and media personality, and later as a well-known historian of the suffrage movement. Her last film, on the Yugoslavian civil war, was made at the age of 83 after a 30-year break from filmmaking.

This year Lizzie Thynne and project research fellow Hollie Price have been working on *Independent Miss Craigie*, a feature-length biographical documentary which centres on Craigie (played by Mimi Haddon and narrated by Hayley Atwell, see photo next page) reopening an old suitcase and, prompted by its contents, exploring the memories of her life. Using her private papers, letters, photos and films, the documentary reveals Craigie's energetic struggles to get her radical films made and distributed, and explores her work beyond the film industry, for instance, as a journalist in 1930s London and as a contributor to early women's TV programmes at the postwar BBC. It illuminates tensions between the demands of her career, her domestic role as mother and, as the wife of the prominent Labour politician Michael Foot, who led the party from 1980/83.

## CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH



Juxtaposed with real interview footage of Craigie, the film's first-person account of her life is based on previously unseen private papers and archival materials – from sources including the Women's Library based at LSE, the BFI and the BBC Written Archives Centre.

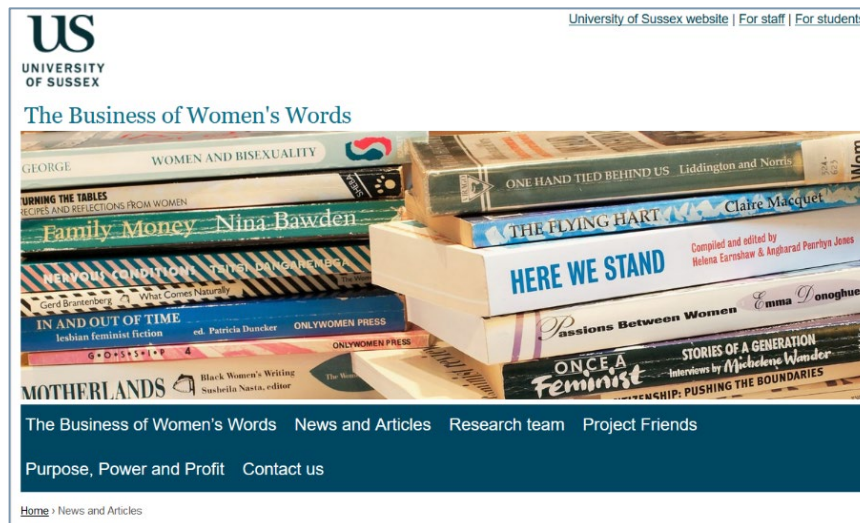
In the first year of the project, research fellow Adele Tulli completed a survey of the Jill Craigie collection at the Women's Library and made a pilot for the film. Since joining the project in 2019, Hollie has completed further research, drawing on her PhD and postdoctoral background in archival

research relating to British cinema in the 1940s and the Ministry of Information's wartime film programme. Arising from her research for *Independent Miss Craigie*, Hollie is now working on journal articles exploring aspects of Craigie's career including her work representing postwar girlhood onscreen and her contributions to broadcasting for women at the BBC.

*Independent Miss Craigie* is being entered for film festivals and will be featured in a BFI season and DVD of work by early women filmmakers in 2021/22. Further outputs will include a special issue of the *Journal of British Cinema and Television* on feminism, documentary and British film history co-edited by Yvonne Tasker, Sadie Wearing (co-Is) and Hollie Price, plus a co-authored book by Tasker and Wearing. Over the coming year the project team will engage in outreach activities including working with teachers on materials related to Craigie and women directors in British film and TV industries.

**For further details, visit the project's website <https://www.jillcraigiefilmpioneer.org/>, follow @craigieproject on Twitter, or *Independent Miss Craigie's* Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/craigiefilm>.**

## The Business of Women's Words: Purpose and Profit in Feminist Publishing 2018/2021, led by Prof. Margaretta Jolly



The dramatic story of the feminist publishing revolution during the UK Women's Liberation Movement [WLM] of the 1970s and 80s is our focus in a research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The study looks at the histories and fortunes of Virago Press and *Spare Rib* and explores how WLM activists called upon cultural and creative business activities to help promote their aims despite

feminists' general antipathy and sometimes hostility to capitalist methods and ideologies.

This groundbreaking account of feminist enterprise and business is led by Professor [Margaretta Jolly](#), [Dr Lucy Delap](#), Reader in Modern British and Gender History at the University of Cambridge and [Dr Polly Russell](#), formerly Lead Curator of Contemporary Politics and Public Life at the British Library and now Director of the Eccles Centre. Research Fellows [D-M Withers](#) and [Eleanor Careless](#) bring further expertise in feminist and women's history and culture.

This year's work has included interpreting oral history archives at the British Library and collecting new interviews of key figures in feminist publishing history.

Our summer Symposium at Cambridge University stimulated new conversations about lives in publishing. Read more about it on our blog:

<http://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/businessofwomenswords/>

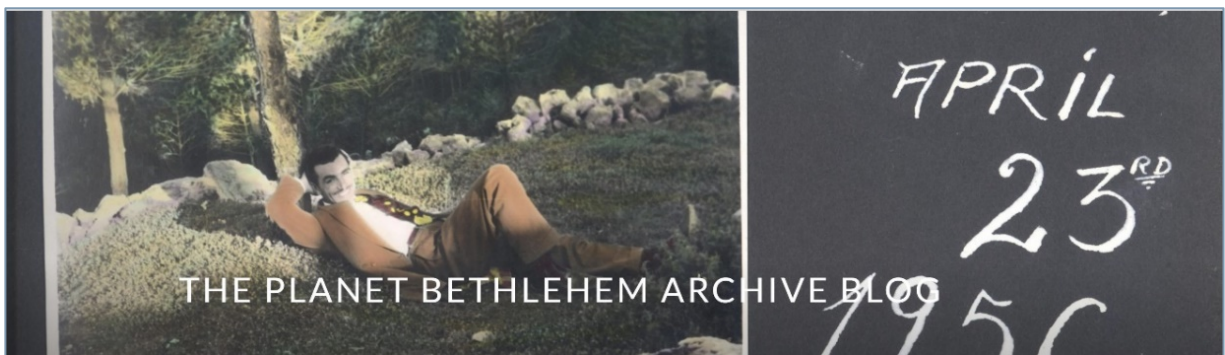
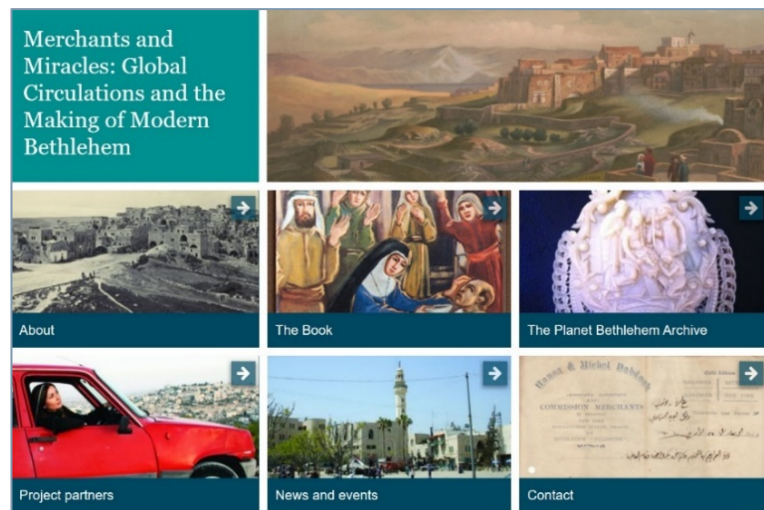


## Merchants and Miracles: Global Circulations and the Making of Modern Bethlehem, led by Dr Jacob Norris

*Merchants and Miracles is an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Leadership Fellows project led by Dr Jacob Norris at the University of Sussex. The project brings to life Bethlehem's modern history of global movement and exchange.*

*Merchants and Miracles documents the transformation of Bethlehem in the 19th and 20th centuries as a result of its residents' global circulations. In this period merchants from the town travelled the world selling devotional objects and souvenirs produced in Bethlehem.*

As well as producing an academic book, the project aims to create a new public history of Bethlehem. Jacob Norris has teamed up with Leila Sansour, an acclaimed film maker from Bethlehem, and their collaboration will use Bethlehem's global history to tell a new story about the Middle East and its relationship with the world, Project outputs will include a publicly accessible digital archive as well as educational materials, exhibitions and media engagement.



For updates on the archive's progress please visit the new project blog:  
<https://pbarchiveblog.wordpress.com>

## Connected Histories of the BBC, led by Professor David Hendy

*The Connected Histories of the BBC project is funded by the AHRC and will bring into the public realm some of the hidden treasures of the BBC's own oral history archive. Some 600 or so interviews with former members of staff, will become available for researchers or members of the public.*



BBC Connected Histories is also working with other three other partners - Mass Observation, the Science Museum Group, and the British Entertainment History Project – so it can enrich the BBC's own story by providing a new level of access to a wide range of other material and resources.

A key element is **100 Voices that Made the BBC**, which now includes six websites: Elections; The Birth of TV; Radio Reinvented; People, Nation, Empire; Pioneering Women and The BBC and World War Two. Two more will be created by the BBC's centenary year, 2021. Each feeds into debates about the BBC's role in and through public life. [Listen here to oral history clips and share your own memories of the BBC.](https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/100-voices/ww2/memories)  
<https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/100-voices/ww2/memories>

The project is based at the Sussex Humanities Lab (SHL) at the University of Sussex and is led by Professor David Hendy. Other University of Sussex researchers on the project include Dr Alban Webb of SHL, Professor Margaretta Jolly, Dr Anna-Maria Sichani, Tim Hitchcock, Professor of Digital History and Denice Penrose, Project Administrator. The project blog is here: <https://connectedhistoriesofthebbc.org/>

## Ben Rogaly, Professor of Human Geography (Sussex Centre for Migration Research), oral historian



Manchester University Press published a book based on Ben Rogaly's oral history research in Peterborough:

*Stories from a Migrant City: Living and Working Together in the Shadow of Brexit*

Following the cancellation of the author-meets-their critics session at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, planned for April 2020, the contributors continued to write reviews of the book and the result, including a response from Ben, was an *Antipode Book Review Symposium*.

An online reading from the book, followed by a Q&A session was organised by Manchester University

Press to coincide with publication and is available on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvqSBXXd09A>

Ben also wrote a blog on the publishers website: <https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/articles/key-workers-stories-of-exploitation-and-resistance/> as well as a piece for Discover Society here: *Working Class Unity*'

An interview all about how the research for the book was done appeared in The Moment magazine:  
<https://www.themomentmagazine.com/community/peterborough-tales/>

## Women in Colour History, led by Dr Alexandra Loske

Led by art historian and CLHLWR researcher, Dr Alexandra Loske, this project seeks to gather information about the lives and work of women who wrote about, engaged with, and taught colour from the eighteenth century onward.

Dr Loske has continued her research into women in colour history, such as the little-known British artist Mary Gartside (active 1780s-1810),

Victorian translator and polymath Mary Philadelphia Merrifield (1804-1889) and Carry van Biema (1881-1942), a Dutch-Jewish artist and art historian, whose life and work were obliterated by the Nazis.

During lockdown she unearthed the date and location of Gartside's death and was able to confirm that she lived long enough to enjoy the success of her publications. A dedicated webpage for the project is now in place. New additions to the project are poet, actress scientist and theosophist Beatrice Irwin (photo below left, and image her book *The New Science of Colour* (1915) and artist and writer Martha Bernstein-Neuhaus.

Research and conferences

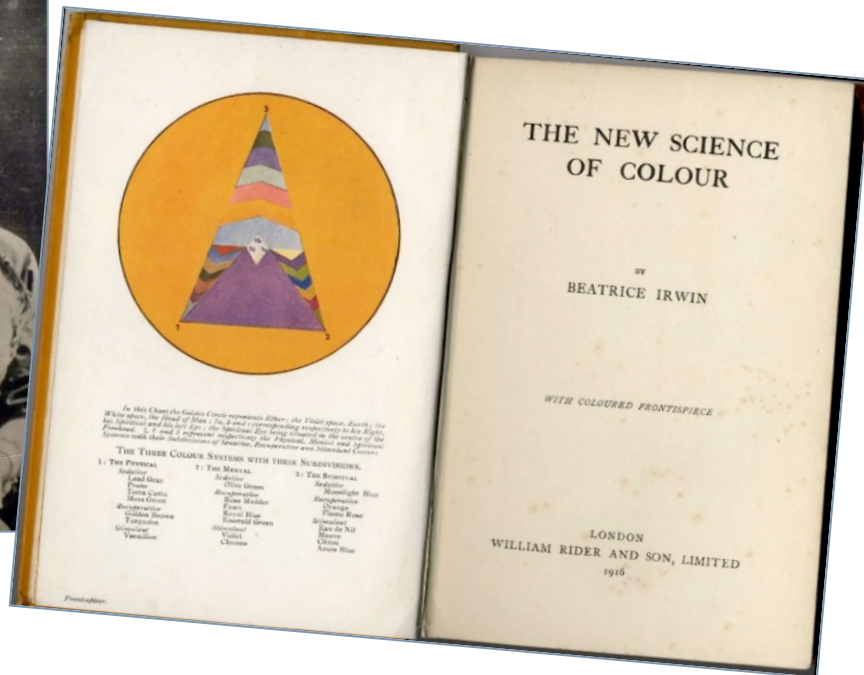
**Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research**

Squaring the Colour Circle: the lives and work of women in colour history

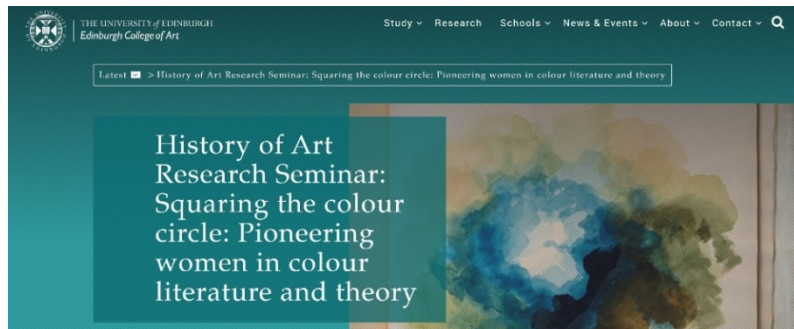
Mary Philadelphia Merrifield's (1804-1889) epistolary travel diaries	
Carry van Biema (1881-1942)	
Mary Gartside (1755-1810)	
Martha Bernstein-Neuhaus (1874-1950)	
Beatrice Irwin (1877-1953)	

**Squaring the Colour Circle: the lives and work of women in colour history**

Led by art historian Alexandra Loske, this project seeks to gather information about the lives and work of women who wrote about, engaged with, and taught colour from the eighteenth century onward. The aim is to create a hub for data, information and image material that will help us understand how women in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries managed to engage in a field largely dominated by men.



# CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH



In January 2020 Dr Loske gave a research paper on early women colour writers at the University of Edinburgh, during which she introduced the CLHLWR project website.

Following a display about Brighton-based Mary Merrifield at Brighton Museum in 2017/18, Loske curated

a second, smaller display on her life and research into colour and natural history at the Booth Museum of Natural History in Brighton, which was in place until February 2020.

## The Marvellous Mary Merrifield

May to December 2019  
Free admission

Mary Philadelphia Merrifield (1804–1889) was a remarkable self-taught artist, naturalist and writer who spent most of her life in Brighton. She made a significant contribution to colour and pigment research in the 1840s. Later she was actively involved in the creation of the natural history collections at Brighton Museum and became an expert in marine algae.

This small display celebrates Merrifield's contribution to scientific research by women in the 19th century.



Mary Merrifield

Loske was invited to contribute a section on women in colour history to a large exhibition on colour in art at Compton Verney, Warwickshire, due to show in Summer 2020, but postponed to 2021 because of the Covid-19 lockdown.

While in lockdown, Loske finished editing a volume on colour in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which will be part of the forthcoming *Bloomsbury Cultural History of Color* ([Bloomsbury Academic, December 2020](#)). It will discuss some of the women included in the project and is dedicated to Carry van Biema.

## The Afterlives of Protest, 2018-2020

*This AHRC-funded network, led by Dr Joanne Garde-Hansen, with co-investigator Dr Red Chidgey and Workshop Lead Dr Pollyanna Ruiz, brings together archivists, curators, heritage managers, artists, activists and researchers to explore the preservation of protest memories as civic, cultural and personal resources.*

The project takes a memory studies perspective on social justice struggles in order to understand how protest images, texts, materials and actions are recirculated and remembered. This interdisciplinary network is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, King's College London, the University of Sussex and the University of Loughborough.

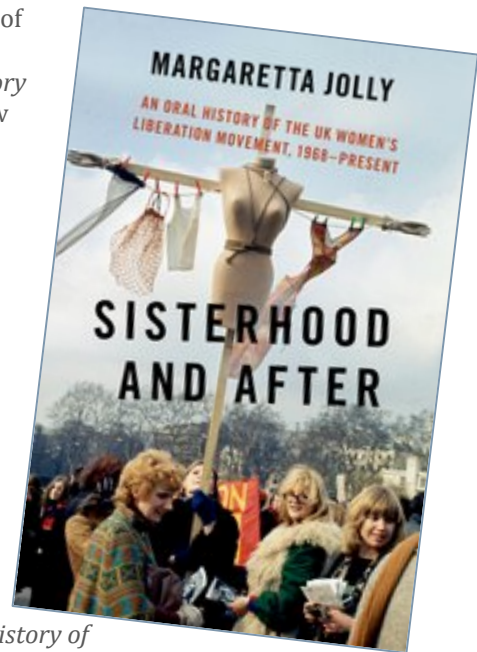


## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS 2019/20

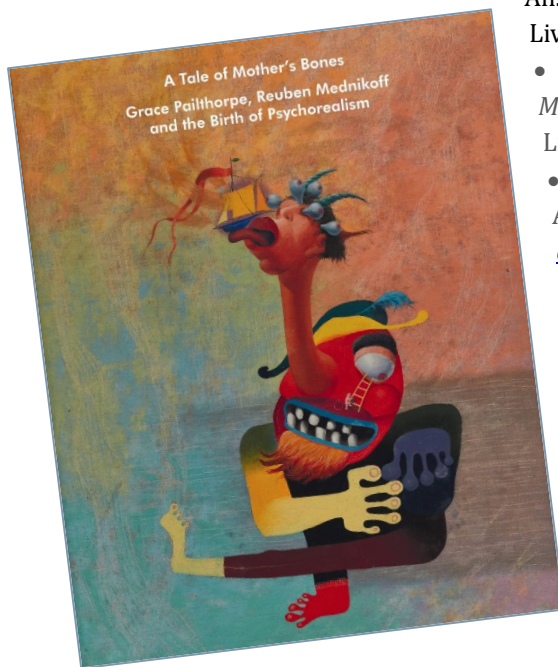
For a more comprehensive list of publications see: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/publications>

- Andersen, Ditte, Ravn, Signe and Thomson, Rachel (2020) [\*Narrative sense-making and prospective social action: methodological challenges and new directions\*](#). International Journal of Social Research Methodology, 23 (4). pp. 367-375. ISSN 1364-5579.
- Baker, James (2020) [\*GeoCities and diaries on the early web\*](#). In: Ben-Amos, Batsheva and Ben-Amos, Dan (eds.) The Diary. Indiana University Press, Indiana. ISBN 9780253046994.
- Barnes, Jamie (2020) [\*Stories, senses and the charismatic relation: a reflexive ethnography of Christian experience\*](#). Theorizing Ethnography . Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon. ISBN 9781138315297.
- Bassett, Caroline, Kember, Sarah and O'Riordan, Kate (2019) *Furious: technological feminism and digital futures*. Digital Barricades. Pluto Press, London. ISBN 9780745340494.
- Best, Clare (2019), *Each Other* (Waterloo Press).
- Buckell, Juliet (2019) [\*Variations: transgender memoir, theory and fiction\*](#). Doctoral thesis (PhD), University of Sussex.
- Callaghan, Joanna and Kerrigan, Susan (2019) The impact of filmmaking research. Media Practice and Education, 19 (3). pp. 229-242. ISSN 2574-1136.
- Decaires Narain, Denise (2020) [\*Dressing and addressing the self: Jean Rhys, Jamaica Kincaid and the cultural politics of self-fashioning\*](#). In: Lopoukhine, Juliana, Regard, Frédéric and Wallart, Kerry-Jane

- (eds.) Transnational Jean Rhys: lines of transmission, lines of flight. Bloomsbury, London. ISBN 9781501361319.
- Jolly, Margaretta (2019). *Sisterhood and After: An Oral History of the UK Women's Liberation Movement, 1968-Present*. New York: Oxford University Press.
  - Jolly, Margaretta (2019), "Survival Writing: Autobiography Vs. Primatology in the Conservation Diaries of Alison Jolly." *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* 34, no. 4 (2019).
  - Kassem, Ali (2020) [Coloniality, erasure, and the Muslim hijabi's lived experiences: Lebanon as a case study](#). Doctoral thesis (PhD), University of Sussex.
  - Langhamer, Claire (2020) 'Astray in a dark forest? The emotional politics of reconstruction Britain.' In: Noakes, Lucy, Langhamer, Claire and Siebrecht, Claudia (eds.) *Total war: an emotional history*. Proceedings of the British Academy, OUP.
  - Langhamer, Claire (2019) 'Trust, authenticity and bigamy in twentieth century England.' In: Barclay, Katie, Meek, Jeffrey and Thomson, Andrea (eds.) *Courtship, marriage and marriage breakdown: perspectives from the history of emotions*. Palgrave, London.
  - Langhamer, Claire, Noakes, Lucy and Siebrecht, Claudia (2019) *Introduction: total war: an emotional history*. In: Langhamer, Claire, Noakes, Lucy and Siebrecht, Claudia (eds.) *Total war: an emotional history*. Proceedings of the British Academy. Oxford University Press, Oxford. (Accepted).
  - Loske, Alexandra (2019) *Colour: A Cultural History* (Tate/Ilex) [with chapters on Mary Merrifield and Carry van Biema].
  - Loske, Alexandra (ed.) (2019) *Pale Fire - New Writing on the Moon* (The Frogmore Press).
  - Loske, Alexandra (2019) 'The female influence on George IV's taste and collecting habits'. In: Heard, Kate and Jones, Kathryn (eds.) *George IV: Art & Spectacle*. Royal Collection Trust, London, pp. 152-159.
  - Newport, Emma (2019), 'Intimate publics and post-hum[an]ous life writing: Digital Dismembering and Remembering in Cyberspace' *Life Writing & Death Cluster for the European Journal of Life Writing*, ed. by Clare Brant (2019).
  - Newport, Emma (2019), 'Brief Encounters: Curating GIFs, Memes and Social Media for Short Story Life Writing', *New and Unusual Ways of Writing Lives*, ed. by Jo Parnell (University of Newcastle, Australia), Palgrave-MacMillan (2019)
  - O'Riordan, Kate (2019) *Life and the technological: cyborgs, companions and the chthulucene*. *Auto/Biography Studies*. ISSN 0898-9575.
  - Rogaly, Ben (2020) 'Food-work city': oral history and the contested politics of place. In: Edensor, Tim, Kalandides, Ares and Kothari, Uma (eds.) *The Routledge handbook of place*. Routledge, London.
  - Rogaly, Ben (2020) *Stories from a migrant city: living and working together in the shadow of Brexit*. Manchester University Press, Manchester.



- Rogaly, Ben and Taylor, Becky (2020) 'Why should they draw if you don't draw yourself?' [Review] Passerini, Luisa (2018) *Conversations on visual memory*.IN: *History Workshop Journal*, 89. pp. 294-305. ISSN 1363-3554.
- Salazar, Manuela (2020) [A look into the picture-perfect fake life of Amalia Ulman's Excellences and perfections](#). *Excursions*, 9 (1). pp. 76-88. ISSN 2044-4095.
- Salgado, Minoli (2020) [Shattered selves and border witnessing: globalising trauma studies in Cambodian survivor narratives](#). *Textual Practice*. pp. 1-20. ISSN 0950-236X.
- Thomas, Lyn (2019) 'Voix blanche? Annie Ernaux, French feminisms and the challenge of intersectionality' in *Making Waves: French Feminisms and their Legacies 1975-2015*, Margaret Attack, Alison Fell, Diana Holmes and Imogen Long (eds), Liverpool University Press, 2019.



- Tyson, Helen (2020) 'Catching Butterflies': Marion Milner and stream of consciousness writing. *Literature Compass*, 17 (6). a12563. ISSN 1741-4113.
- Veijola, Soile, Höckert, Emily, Carlin, David, Light, Ann and Säynäjäkangas, Janne (2019) [The conference reimagined: postcards, letters, and camping together in undressed places](#). *Digithum: A Relational Perspective on Culture and Society*, 24. pp. 21-35. ISSN 1575-2275.
- Wolf, Hope (2019), *A Tale of Mother's Bones*. Gail Pailthorpe, Reuben Mednikoff, and the Birth of Psychorealism.
- Wolf, Hope (2019), 'Women's Work. Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft', in: *Burlington Magazine*, October 2019, 161:866-868



## CROSS-UNIVERSITY EVENTS AND SEMINAR SERIES

### War from the Inside: Oral histories from the BBC, 19 October 2019, The Keep

*An exploration of rare recordings from the BBC's vaults and the stories they tell about how our national broadcaster has reported war and helped us live through it.*



September 1939, the ponderous radio voice announces: 'we are at war'. To mark the 80th anniversary of the start of World War Two, the Mass Observation Archive teamed up with the BBC and the University to explore how the BBC helped shape the experience of war - at home, abroad, and in our minds.

We retraced landmark coverage of the Blitz and D-Day, but also lesser known behind-the-scenes stories : the 'secret war' of coded messages and secret beams, the

arguments over the hit-series *Music While You Work*, the strange life of siege experienced by a generation of broadcasters who felt themselves on the frontline. There was a chance to see new clips from the BBC's archive and hear from war correspondent Allan Little.

The event also offered a unique opportunity for attendees to contribute to the history by bringing their own memories and visiting a special pop-up TV corner to record reminiscences on film.

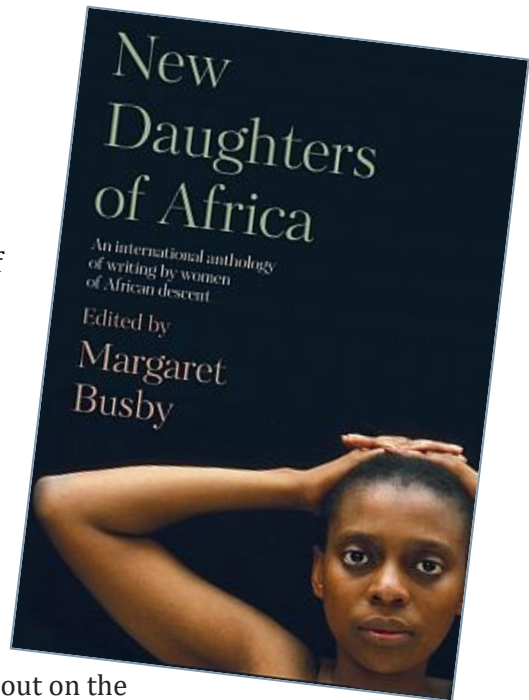
Image credit: Olive Shapley (producer) with Mrs Emerson in the colliery village of Craghead, County Durham BBC North region 01/01/1939 © BBC

## **New Daughters of Africa: A Cultural Industries Perspective, Wednesday, 30 October 2019**

***A unique opportunity to hear Margaret Busby, pioneering publisher and broadcaster, and editor of acclaimed anthology *New Daughters of Africa*.***

To explore the role of feminist and black publishing in showcasing the creativity of women of African descent, we were joined by Candida Lacey (Publishing Director of Myriad Editions) and Simidele Dosekun (Assistant Professor at LSE and formerly editor at Kachifo, publisher of Farafina Books).

The event was a collaboration between CLHLWR, The School of Media, Film and Music, and the Sussex Africa Centre. It was well attended and there were good questions from the audience, including from attendees who had set up a publishing house in Northern Nigeria and a magazine in Egypt. Copies of Margaret's book sold out on the night!



Below: impressions from the *New Daughters of Africa* event, by photographer Tunde Alabi-Hundeyin:



## Remembering Feminists and Brilliant Friends: Sisterhood and After, 12 February 2020

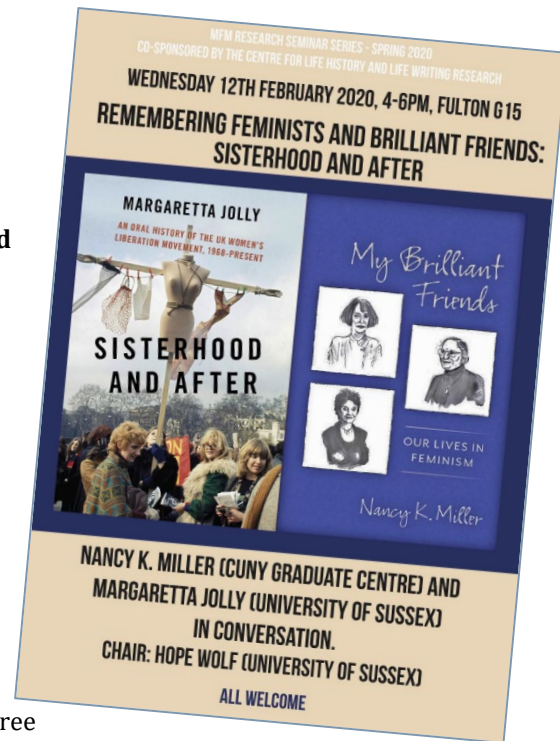
**Our last live event before Covid-19 lockdown featured Nancy K. Miller and Margaretta Jolly in conversation; with Dr Hope Wolf as respondent.**

What can we learn from the history of women's friendship in and outside women's movements? How should we listen to the intimate voices of feminist activists?

To offer some answers, Margaretta Jolly drew on her new book *Sisterhood and After: An Oral History of the UK Women's Liberation Movement, 1968-present*, in conversation with Professor Nancy K. Miller, author of *My Brilliant Friends: Our Lives in Feminism*, the story of three friendships with women that changed her life, beginning in the 1970s: Carolyn Heilbrun, Diane Middlebrook, and Naomi Schor.

Nancy K. Miller is the author or editor of more than a dozen books, including *Breathless: An American Girl in Paris* (2013), a memoir of her years living an expatriate dream in 1960s Paris. She lectures widely, both nationally and internationally, and her work is anthologized in popular volumes on feminism and life writing.

In 1983 she co-founded the Gender and Culture Series at Columbia University Press with the late Carolyn Heilbrun, and since 2004 co-edits the series with Victoria Rosner.



## First to do it! Celebrating pioneering women through portraiture and biography, 8 July 2020

After several months of COVID-19 lockdown, we organised a Zoom event celebrating pioneering women past and present, with acclaimed photographer Anita Corbin and historian and writer Dr Kate Murphy.

The event was introduced by Margaretta Jolly and chaired by Alexandra Loske. It was a great success, and even had attendees “zooming in” from the United States and South-east Asia. It was particularly exciting to have several of Anita Corbin’s ‘First Women’ joining us live at the event. We now feel encouraged to plan further online events, if lockdown restrictions continue to impact on live event.



**First to do it!**  
Celebrating pioneering women through portraiture and biography

Wednesday 8 July 2020  
4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.  
Location: ZOOM

Magicians, firefighters, DJs, politicians, broadcasters, fight directors...Join us for a Zoom celebration of pioneering women past and present, with acclaimed photographer Anita Corbin and historian and writer Dr Kate Murphy.

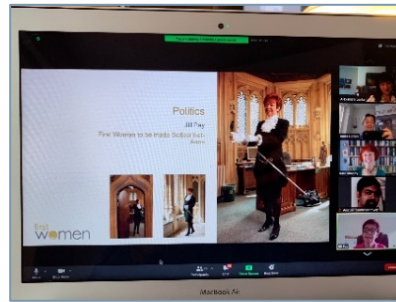
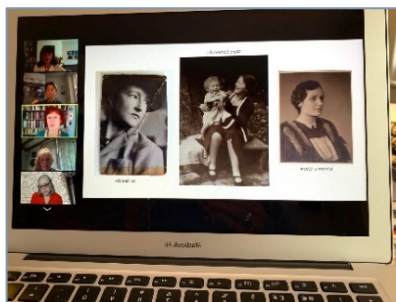
Anita's inspiring and informative exhibition of *100 First Women Portraits* showcases British women who were each 'firsts' in their field.  
Kate's book *Firsts: The Livewire Book of British Women Achievers* and her co-curated *Pioneering Women: 100 Voices of the BBC* also wonderfully reveal 'firsts'.

They will be interviewed by art historian Dr Alexandra Loske, whose research interests include the life and work of women in the arts and sciences from the 18th century onward.

Professor Margaretta Jolly, Director of the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research, will introduce the event.

This event is free of charge but **booking is essential**.  
Please contact Alexandra Loske [A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk).  
<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cihlwr/seminarseries/201920seminars/firsttodoit>

To book please contact  
Alexandra Loske  
[A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk)  
All welcome!



Impressions from our first ZOOM event, *First to Do It!*

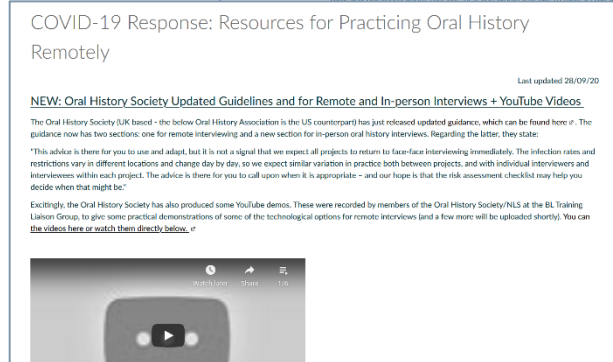
## CLASSES, COURSES & CONFERENCES

In the context of the pandemic, we were not able to support our usual public courses and conferences. However we have updated our Canvas teaching module with new resources on remote interviewing methods, following the guidelines of the UK Oral History Society.

Unfortunately this is only available to University of Sussex staff and students.

However visit

<https://www.ohs.org.uk/advice/covid-19/> for general advice.



## PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

### Life Writing Projects, led by Professor Lyn Thomas

Following on from *New Pathways: A Psychogeography of Lewes* (2016) *Life Writing Projects* is an ongoing collaboration between the CLHLWR 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 follow the conventions of genres such as memoir or biography. The projects selected for publication here all involve writing, but may also explore the relationship between writing and photography, sound or visual art, film, or video. The 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.



# CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

The site was published in September 2017 and continues to evolve. In 2019/20 Lyn Thomas has published a new array of creative and experimental representations of lived experience as curator of **Life Writing Projects**. The latest addition to the project is 'Traces', where life histories are explored through significant objects. In this new section Lyn gathers together life writing projects that are concerned with collecting, conserving and transforming *traces* of lives, our own, those of our parents, and others. Contributors include Mikey Cuddihy, Shelagh Doonan, Ruth Rosengarten, Miranda Waugh, and Olga Saavedra Montes De Oca.

There are also two new contributions on *Place* by Lewes poet and founder of The Frogmore Press, Jeremy Page, and Sussex-based writer Louise Kenward. Meanwhile Caroline Wright brought frequently silenced aspects of bodily experience into her creative life writing, and Hastings writer and creative writing teacher Andrea Samuelson contributed to the section on the role of books and reading in life.

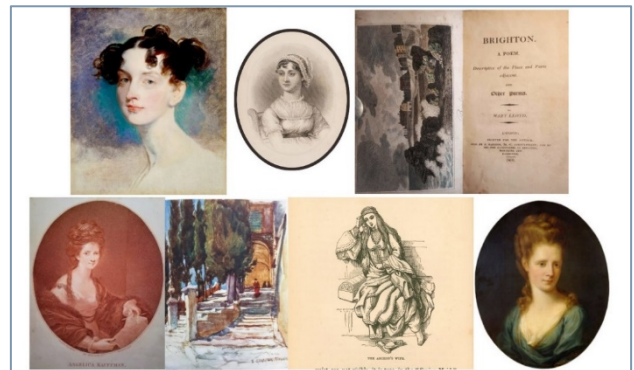
<http://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/lifewritingprojects/>

## Historical women's life stories, led by Alexandra Loske, art historian and curator

Alexandra continued her research into the life histories of women in history and was involved with Brighton Museum events linked to Anita Corbin's exhibition *100 First Women Portraits*, which opened in February 2020, but was soon forced to close because of the Covid-19 lockdown. From this connection we developed the first online CLHLWR event, **First to do it!** (see Seminar section above).

Loske contributed to the related museum blog project **100 Pioneering Women of Sussex**, to accompany Corbin's exhibition, focused on notable local women throughout history. Loske wrote about artist Angelica Kauffman, poet Mary Lloyd, cultural historian Mary Merrifield, writer Clarissa Goff, Regency diarist Princess Dorothea von Lieven, philanthropist Margaret

Marriott, and novelist Jane Austen (image right).



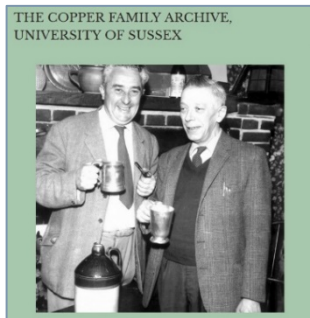
And following her contribution to a monograph on George IV (Royal Collection Trust, 2019) in the form of an essay on the influence of women on the monarch's taste and patronage, Loske was invited to the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, as a panellist at an event about women in the Georgian Age. Speaking alongside Flora Fraser and Stella Tillyard, she used Mary Gartside, Caroline Herschel, Angelica Kauffman, Mary Delaney and others as examples of Georgian women carving out successful careers in male-dominated fields.

## Sussex Traditions: Folklife & Lore

Building on our successful joint conference June 2018, CLHLWR has committed to continuing support for the local community project and cultural charity Sussex Traditions.



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 is also proud to be custodians of The Copper Family Archive and the archive of Dr Reg Hall, folk and popular song collector and

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](http://www.thecopperfamily.com)

commentator, both held in Special Collections and involving significant use of oral history. With thanks to Sussex Traditions and the Copper family for use of this photograph.

## Hastings Heritage and Art Trail

Launched in Autumn 2018, this is an interactive walking tour featuring ten central Hastings locations that have stayed largely unchanged for at least 25 years. The trail was created by Hastings-born artist Maxine Beuret, and each place has been chosen for its fascinating history with a focus on design. The trail is supported by 10 signs, a leaflet with a children's brass rubbing and social media.



Beuret photographed each location, with a research-based approach using elements of ethnography and design history, and an expressive response to place and aesthetics. At each trail location In Situ design collective has designed a unique cube display point featuring photographs & text – to create an engaging depiction of each

place in its own special atmosphere. Inspired by the trail, users are encouraged to create their own videos and photographs, which will also be displayed along the trail and on the website. The CLHLWR has been proud to support this project through offering oral history training with Sarah Hitchins from Spoken Memoirs. See <http://hastingsheritagetrail.co.uk/> Instagram: *hastingsheritagetrail*



## Highlights of Mass Observation activities over the year

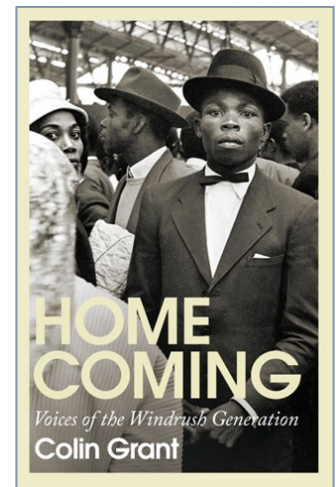
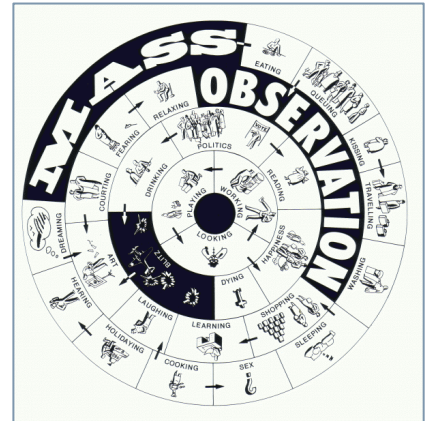
### **Life-Writing of Immeasurable Events at The Oxford Centre for**

**Life-Writing:** The Mass Observation Archive has partnered with The Oxford Centre for Life-Writing on their Life-Writing of Immeasurable Events project during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each week they send a creative prompt, which people will be free to interpret as they wish and submit a response to the Centre. More details can be found on [The Oxford Centre for Life-Writing's website](#).

**Observing the 1980s now on JSTOR:** Observing the 1980s brings together, for the first time, 'voices' from both the Mass Observation collections and the British Library oral history collections. This material offers a unique and inspiring insight into the lives and opinions of British people from all social classes and regions during the 1980s. This material is now available [on JSTOR's Open Community Collections](#).

**Homecoming by Colin Grant:** *Homecoming* draws on over a hundred first-hand interviews, archival recordings (including the Mass Observation Archive) and memoirs by the women and men who came to Britain from the West Indies from the late 1940s to the early 1960s. In their own words, we witness the transition from the optimism of the first post-war arrivals to the race riots of the late 1950s. We hear from nurses in Manchester; bus drivers in Bristol; seamstresses in Birmingham; teachers in Croydon; dockers in Cardiff; inter-racial lovers in High Wycombe, and Carnival Queens in Leeds. These are stories of hope and regret, of triumphs and challenges, brimming with humour, anger and wisdom. Homecoming by Colin Grant they reveal a rich tapestry of Caribbean British lives.

To keep up to date on our activities and collections please visit [www.massobs.org.uk](http://www.massobs.org.uk) and [www.thekeep.inf/events](http://www.thekeep.inf/events)





# 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 postgraduate conferences 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.

## Working party 2020

Dr Sara Jane Bailes	<a href="mailto:s.j.bailes@sussex.ac.uk">s.j.bailes@sussex.ac.uk</a>	School of English and Drama; MO
Jenna Bailey	<a href="mailto:jenna.bailey@gmail.com">jenna.bailey@gmail.com</a>	Visting Fellow, Oral history, biography, memoir
Joanna Callaghan	<a href="mailto:J.Callaghan@sussex.ac.uk">J.Callaghan@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Deconstruction, Film as philosophy, Film production, Practice-based research
Dr Sam Carroll	<a href="mailto:s.carroll2@brighton.ac.uk">s.carroll2@brighton.ac.uk</a>	Oral historian; Representative from Memory, Narrative, History Centre, University of Brighton
Rachel Cole	<a href="mailto:R.S.Cole@sussex.ac.uk">R.S.Cole@sussex.ac.uk</a>	The Frogmore Press, <i>True Tales from the Old Hill</i> , Editor, formerly Sussex Centre for Language Studies
Dr Fiona Courage	<a href="mailto:f.p.courage@sussex.ac.uk">f.p.courage@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Special Collections Manager (The Keep)
Dr Sue Currell	<a href="mailto:S.Currell@sussex.ac.uk">S.Currell@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Reader in American Literature (English, Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies, American Studies)
Dr Flora Dennis	<a href="mailto:F.Dennis@sussex.ac.uk">F.Dennis@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Art & design, Domestic interiors, Early modern Italy, History of sound, material culture, Music, Dept. of Art History
Prof. David Hendy	<a href="mailto:d.j.hendy@sussex.ac.uk">d.j.hendy@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Oral histories of the BBC; media historian; sound studies
Prof. Ben Highmore	<a href="mailto:b.highmore@sussex.ac.uk">b.highmore@sussex.ac.uk</a>	MO; everyday life; School of Media and Film

# CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

Prof. Tim Hitchcock	<a href="mailto:t.hitchcock@sussex.ac.uk">t.hitchcock@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Digital lives; big data and life history; 18 <sup>th</sup> century working class lives
Dr. Rose Holmes	<a href="mailto:r.holmes@sussex.ac.uk">r.holmes@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Postdoctoral researcher; History; Lives of German Jewish refugees
Dr Celia Hunt	<a href="mailto:C.M.Hunt@sussex.ac.uk">C.M.Hunt@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Life writing; Independent scholar
Prof. Margaretta Jolly	<a href="mailto:m.jolly@sussex.ac.uk">m.jolly@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Life writing, oral history; MO; MFM
Dr Tanya Kant	<a href="mailto:T.Kant@sussex.ac.uk">T.Kant@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Digital lives; designer for Life Writing Projects
Prof. Claire Langhamer	<a href="mailto:c.l.langhamer@sussex.ac.uk">c.l.langhamer@sussex.ac.uk</a>	MO, School of History
Dr Mark Leopold	<a href="mailto:m.a.leopold@sussex.ac.uk">m.a.leopold@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Biography in social anthropology; demonology and writing dictators' lives.
Dr Alexandra Loske	<a href="mailto:A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk">A.Loske@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Administrator CLHLWR, Researcher and Associate Tutor in Art History (School of HAHP)
Dr Liz McDonnell	<a href="mailto:e.j.mcdonnell@sussex.ac.uk">e.j.mcdonnell@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Sociology of personal lives; everyday life; asexuality and identity.
Dr Jonathan Moss	<a href="mailto:J.Moss@sussex.ac.uk">J.Moss@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Politics; oral histories of women at work; Trade Unions
Dr Emma Newport	<a href="mailto:E.Newport@sussex.ac.uk">E.Newport@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Therapeutic uses of life writing.
Dr. Jacob Norris	<a href="mailto:J.Norris@sussex.ac.uk">J.Norris@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Global history, Imperial/Colonial History, Middle East & African history, migration studies, Palestinian history
Prof. Kate O'Riordan	<a href="mailto:K.ORiordan@sussex.ac.uk">K.ORiordan@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Multimedia life story; School of Media and Film
Jeremy Page	<a href="mailto:J.N.Page@sussex.ac.uk">J.N.Page@sussex.ac.uk</a>	The Frogmore Press, <i>True Tales from the Old Hill</i> , Editor, Sussex Centre for Language Studies
Kirsty Patrick	<a href="mailto:K.Patrick@sussex.ac.uk">K.Patrick@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Manager of Mass Observation (The Keep)
Prof. Lucy Robinson	<a href="mailto:l.robinson@sussex.ac.uk">l.robinson@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Digital documentary; life history; School of History
Prof. Ben Rogaly	<a href="mailto:B.Rogaly@sussex.ac.uk">B.Rogaly@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Oral history; School of Geography
Dr Darrow Schecter	<a href="mailto:D.Schecter@sussex.ac.uk">D.Schecter@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Reader in Critical Theory (History), Director of Student Experience (School of History, Art History and Philosophy)
Dr Deborah Schultz	<a href="mailto:d.schultz@sussex.ac.uk">d.schultz@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Visual life story; Holocaust history. Centre for German Jewish Studies
Prof. Dorothy Sheridan	Email on request	MO Trustee and former director; life history; QueenSpark Books
Prof. Lyn Thomas	<a href="mailto:lynjthomas@sussex.ac.uk">lynjthomas@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Memoir and creative life writing; Annie Ernaux; School of Media and Film

# CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

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Prof. Lizzie Thynne	<a href="mailto:L.Thynne@sussex.ac.uk">L.Thynne@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Documentary; biography; filmmaker; School of Media and Film
John Walker	<a href="mailto:j.walker@sussex.ac.uk">j.walker@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Deaf life history; Sussex Centre for Language Studies
Dr Alban Webb	<a href="mailto:a.webb@sussex.ac.uk">a.webb@sussex.ac.uk</a>	BBC oral history; School of Media, Film and Music
Dr Russell Whiting	<a href="mailto:R.Whiting@sussex.ac.uk">R.Whiting@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Alternative Spiritualities/Religion; Use of life story in social work
Dr Hope Wolf	<a href="mailto:h.wolf@sussex.ac.uk">h.wolf@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Modernism and Life writing; psychoanalysis; diaries; e-diaries

## STUDENT ASSOCIATES AND INTERNS

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Juliet Jacques/Georgina Buckell	<a href="#">Graduated</a>	Fiction and/vs life writing; trans representation
Benjamin Jones	<a href="#">Graduated</a>	Graduate in Oral History
Emily Priscott	<a href="mailto:ejp28@sussex.ac.uk">ejp28@sussex.ac.uk</a>	PhD Student Representative
Yvonne Salt	<a href="mailto:y.salt@sussex.ac.uk">y.salt@sussex.ac.uk</a>	DPhil in Geography: Love Migration and Narrative Methods
Hannah Vincent	<a href="mailto:h.vincent@sussex.ac.uk">h.vincent@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Creative life writing; New Writing South
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Adam Whitehall	<a href="mailto:a.whitehall@sussex.ac.uk">a.whitehall@sussex.ac.uk</a>	DPhil in MFM; psychogeography, film; Lead for New Pathways project
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Helen Dixon	<a href="mailto:h.c.dixon@sussex.ac.uk">h.c.dixon@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Creative life writing; feminism; Nicaraguan/South American studies
Matthew Jones	<a href="mailto:Mj301@sussex.ac.uk">Mj301@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Oral History/History
Andrew Poole	<a href="mailto:a.c.poole@sussex.ac.uk">a.c.poole@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Education, oral history and life history
Hannah Ludikhuijze	<a href="mailto:H.Ludikhuijze@sussex.ac.uk">H.Ludikhuijze@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Creative life writing, African studies
Una Richmond	<a href="mailto:U.M.Richmond@sussex.ac.uk">U.M.Richmond@sussex.ac.uk</a>	Art history, oral history of women artists
Helena Aziz	<a href="mailto:T.Aziz@sussex.ac.uk">T.Aziz@sussex.ac.uk</a>	English; Creative-critical life writing

## SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

The CLHLWR Facebook page and Twitter account increase our global networking, promote our events, widen our target audience, and provide other channels for disseminating information and related activities..

The last year has been markedly different regarding our use of social media, as there were fewer projects and events to promote. The focus was much more on community and network building, and this seemed to work well. Our Facebook followers increased by 117. There was a higher increase in Twitter followers than in previous years (by 158), which suggests that Twitter has been a good medium for promoting specific events and for networking in general. Social media activity 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 and such as **The Keep, Mass Observation, Brighton Museum**, local publishers, other University of Sussex groups and national and international Oral History groups and organisations, as well as relevant projects, for example Anita Corbin's **111 First Women UK** or **Connected Histories of the BBC**.

**Facebook 'followers' or 'likes' (all organic, i.e. not paid for): 525 (as of 7 October 2017) –compared to 408 in October 2019**

**Twitter followers: 836 (as of 7 October 2020) –compared to 678 in September 2019**

**E-listserve: 432 members (as of 2 November 2020)**



Twitter page screenshot (7 October 2020)

# CENTRE FOR LIFE HISTORY AND LIFE WRITING RESEARCH

## THE CLHLWR TEAM

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**PROF LYN THOMAS  
EMERITUS  
DIRECTOR**



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TO SEE WHAT WE'RE PLANNING, VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND  
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>



University of Sussex

Centre for Life History & Life Writing Research