

Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research (CLHLWR)

2014 Programme



Cross-university seminar series, across terms:

Tuesday 28 January, 12.30-2.00pm, A108

Dr Jenna Bailey: 'Playing on the Margins of History: Ivy Benson and Her All-Girls Band'

Dr Jenna Bailey is the Visiting Fellow at the CLHLWR. Her best-selling book *Can Any Mother Help Me?* is based on letters in the University of Sussex's Special Collections (now *The Keep*), and was published by Faber and Faber in 2007. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of History.

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

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

Born in 1925, Weiss has an incredibly fascinating life story as a Second World War veteran who landed in Southern France in 1944, fought alongside the French Resistance, and subsequently became a psychoanalyst, academic researcher in war studies and military historian. One of the most internationally decorated World War Two veterans, on Armistice Day 2013 Dr Stephen Weiss was awarded the rank of Commander of the French Legion of Honour by the French Ambassador in London.

Presented in association with the Centre for the History of War and Society. Introduction by Professor Rod Kedward.

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

Professor G. Thomas Couser: 'Why Memoir Matters'

Though often confused with the novel, memoir is a distinct genre, in theory at least. As a result, we properly have different expectations of it. Memoir matters, in part, because it does different "work" than fiction does. Couser will explore the implications of this difference in the context of the history and present situation of memoir in the US. In particular, he will argue for the significance of memoir as a threshold genre, accessible to many, and rooted in practices of daily life.

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

Wednesday 19th March 12.30-1.45pm, Friston 117

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

This seminar will introduce two major oral histories recently archived at Qualidata and The British Library, *Pioneers of Social Research* and *Sisterhood and After: The Women's Liberation Oral History Project*. Thompson is internationally recognised as a pioneer of oral history-based research and oral history as a radical movement, and will, in dialogue with Jolly, discuss the impact of feminism on everyday lives of British public intellectuals, including of Stuart and Catherine Hall.

The seminar will be followed by:

Postgraduate Masterclass: 'Oral History Interviewing From the Inside'

Wednesday 19th March 4-5.30pm, Silverstone 121

This masterclass will be organised as an open discussion of classic oral history methods and themes, including the particularities of oral history interviewing, ethical issues, themes for research, reanalysis and archiving. Students and faculty are warmly encouraged to bring examples of projects, interviews or archives of their own to talk about.

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

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

Joe Moran is Professor of English and Cultural History at Liverpool John Moores University. His most recent book is the acclaimed *Armchair Nation: an Intimate History of Britain in Front of the Television*. He also wrote *Queuing for Beginners: The Story of Daily Life from Breakfast to Bedtime* and *On Roads: a Hidden History*, and describes himself as interested in 'the everyday, the banal and other important matters'.

This Seminar is being organised in conjunction with the Public Culture Research Hub.

Chair: David Hendy, Respondent: Margaretta Jolly.

Thursday 22 May 2014, 12.30-1.45 pm Arts A001 (Lecture theatre)

Dr Kate Murphy: 'Woman's Hour: Telling History, Being History, Making History'

Dr Kate Murphy is a Senior Lecturer in Radio Production at the University of Bournemouth. She worked at the BBC for 24 years, primarily as a Senior Producer for *Woman's Hour*, during which time she had responsibility for the history output, as well as carrying out extensive research into the programme's past. She will share her inside knowledge of life at one of the nation's defining sites of women's representation.

This event is co-sponsored by the Centre for Gender Studies.

Classes, courses and conferences:

Wed 19 March 4-5.30pm, Silverstone SB 121

Postgraduate Masterclass: 'Oral History Interviewing From the Inside'

A Conversation with Paul Thompson and Joanna Bornat.

Thompson and Bornat are internationally recognised as pioneers of oral history-based research and oral history as a radical movement, and will, in dialogue with Dr Margaretta Jolly, discuss the impact of feminism on everyday lives of British public intellectuals, including Stuart and Catherine Hall. This masterclass will be organised as an open discussion of classic oral history methods and themes, including the particularities of oral history interviewing, ethical issues, themes for research, reanalysis and archiving. Students and faculty are warmly encouraged to bring examples of projects, interviews or archives of their own to talk about. Part of the MA Masterclass series.

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

Public and Personal Archives: Creative Negotiations

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

Presentations: Nicky Bird (Glasgow School of Art), Melanie Friend, Ed Hughes, Lizzie Thynne and Margaretta Jolly

Presented by the Family Ties Network and Centre for Life History and Life Writing. Supported by the Leverhulme Trust

THIS EVENT IS FREE BUT PLEASE REGISTER WITH ALEXANDRA LOSKE: a.loske@sussex.ac.uk

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

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

Tutor: Dr Sam Carroll

Four day schools on Fridays, 10am to 4pm

The cost of the course is £95 or £45 for the unwaged or students.

Discover the unique [Mass Observation \(MO\) Archive](#) and its inspirational value both for creative arts and community projects, in the beautiful bespoke setting of [The Keep](#) archive. This course will suit writers, photographers, dramatists and anyone with an interest in setting up a creative community enterprise that engages with life history. Throughout this four week course you will be supported in and encouraged to nurture your own ideas for a project.

For more information and to book a place [follow this link](#).

Friday 2nd May 2014, 1.30pm, The Keep

The Mass Observation Diaries with Penny Summerfield and Dorothy Sheridan

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

Cost: £6 [Book here](#).

- ***Historians and the Diary: speaking for others and blurring boundaries***
Penny Summerfield, Professor of Modern History at University of Manchester
Penny will be reviewing the ways that social and cultural historians have used the diary as a historical source. Such historians value diaries for the intimate glimpses of everyday life that they offer, but they vary in their concerns with the 'representativeness' and 'reliability' of diaries as historical sources.
Penny has worked extensively with both oral history and Mass Observation in her research on the social and cultural history of the Second World War.
- ***Editing a diary for publication: the pleasures and pitfalls***
Dorothy Sheridan, University of Sussex and Mass Observation Archive Trustee and an Honorary Professor of History at the University of Sussex.
In the second talk, Dorothy will talk about the process of making a diary public, drawing on her own experience as editor of *Among You Taking Notes: the wartime diary of Naomi Mitchison 1939-45*.

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

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

The 6th annual Brighton-Sussex postgraduate conference

Life history methods across disciplines offer special challenges but they also offer uniquely rich results. This conference will focus in particular on the tension between analysing the individual's

unique experience and understanding the social or collective contexts which define it. It will also more broadly address the complexity and variety of its methods as it is used across disciplines, from qualitative social sciences to literary auto/biographical studies, to oral history, the documentary arts and narrative psychology. It will consider the experience of the researcher as we find ourselves steered in unique investigative directions, thus shaping the way knowledge develops in particular ways. It will acknowledge how researchers working in this field are more likely to encounter and tackle challenging, underexplored or unexpected themes not always present in mainstream narratives or 'traditional' sources.

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

~~Tuesday 10th June 2014, 2 – 5 p.m., Silverstone SB 309 Rescheduled for Autumn 2014~~

Symposium on Autobiographical Performances of Memory.

This panel discussion will look at performances of memory in film, writing and oral history produced by the panel members. We will examine the ways in which the narration of personal memory in our work reveals aspects of gendered social and cultural histories from the post-war period to the UK women's movement of the 1970s and 1980s.

The symposium will focus on how subjectivity is formed and performed through the construction of narratives of family history, particularly in relation to material objects – photographs, clothes, places, home movies. Media explored will include *On the Border* (Thynne, 2012) (an experimental family history on the director's Finnish family), *Clothes Pegs* is an autobiographical text by Thomas on class and identity as recalled through clothes) and interviews from [Sisterhood and After: The Women's Liberation Oral History Project](#) (a major oral history project led by Margaretta Jolly, archived at the British Library).

Chair: Lizzie Thynne (University of Sussex)

Presenters: Lizzie Thynne, Lyn Thomas (University of Sussex), Margaretta Jolly (University of Sussex)

Jointly organised with *Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies*

For more information see

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



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



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