



The Annual Conference of the Oral History Society in conjunction with the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research, University of Sussex



# CORPORATE VOICES: INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL ORAL HISTORIES

Venue: Fulton Building, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK  
Date: Friday 5th – Saturday 6th July 2013



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**Bruce Weindruch** (*Founder/CEO, History Factory, USA*)

Founded in 1979, History Factory is a US-based pioneer of 'heritage management': 'leveraging the collective memory of organisations – the stories told, the words used, and their commonly understood meanings – to help implement strategies and tactics that shape the future.' Working with clients as varied as Subaru, Campbell Soups, Prudential and Whirlpool, History Factory offers a range of products and services from publications and exhibitions to archival services and oral history.

**AbdelAziz EzzelArab**

(*American University in Cairo, Egypt*)

Professor Abdelaziz Ezzelarab directs the American University in Cairo's Economics and Business History Research Center, whose staff members have interviewed leading figures active in Egyptian business, industry, commerce, and government since the mid-twentieth century. He will introduce us to a unique oral history archive in Egypt, a land known for its business culture and also one which has been at the forefront of the Arab Spring.

● **What is the relationship between oral history and business?**

● **Why have so few oral historians explored the world of business and corporate culture?**

● **Why have institutions and businesses wanted to record their corporate histories? And how have they used that oral history?**

● **What are the ethical challenges for historians gathering personal testimonies in corporate environments?**

This conference opens up our traditional focus on community and domestic lives to explore the hidden histories of private companies and business, public institutions, hospitals, universities, museums, public utilities, local and national government, campaigning bodies and charities. What can interviews with those who work in businesses, institutions and organisations tell us about organisational history and memory?

This conference will bring together historians of business, education and health with oral historians who have been commissioned to work with and within institutions to create and document their oral history. There will be themed sessions on:

- The rise, decline, fall and closure of a business
- University oral histories
- Archives
- Individual memory versus corporate and institutional memory
- Methods and ethics
- Health/NHS
- Parliament, government and the public sector
- Community
- Factory lives: management, work and employment practices
- Museums and cultural institutions: creative industries
- Banking and finance
- Religion
- Family businesses and elites
- Science

**For a conference programme and booking details please go to <http://www.ohs.org.uk/conferences/2013.php>**