

# Institute of Scottish Historical Research *Newsletter*



## ISHR CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



*ISHR 2016/17 Group Photo*      *Photo credit: Ellen Colingsworth*

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## *A 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Message from Roger Mason*



It is hard to believe that 10 years have passed since the Institute of Scottish Historical Research was founded. It's been a challenging and stimulating decade! But

one that has seen ISHR firmly establish itself as the home and hub of a range of research activities that have enhanced St Andrews' reputation as a centre of excellence in Scottish Historical Studies.

It's been a pleasure and privilege to see the Institute develop both as an academic and a social community, its seminars, lectures and workshops – and of course its annual reading party – established fixtures in the lives of those who have participated in its activities.

The Institute's members are made up of staff, postdoctoral and doctoral students, MLitt students and occasional visiting scholars. It's a fluid community: some spend only a few weeks or months with us, others some years, before moving on to other things.

It seemed fitting to mark our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday by inaugurating this

*Newsletter* as a way of maintaining contact with that community, past and present, and we're grateful to the many 'alums' who have contacted us and are willing to share news of their subsequent careers, be it in academia or not. This issue features Dr Claire McLoughlin, now working in the UK civil service; but we would love to hear from others – including those many former students whose engagement with Scottish History at St Andrews predated the founding of the Institute in 2007.

We've also included some news of recent prize winners, the annual T.C. Smout lecture, and workshops and other events associated with the Institute. Future issues will carry a similar range of information and news, but if you have ideas about how the content could be developed further, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Indeed, by far the best 10<sup>th</sup> birthday gift we could ask for is continued contact with our friends and alums – so please send your birthday wishes to us at [ishrmail@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ishrmail@st-andrews.ac.uk)!

Roger Mason, Professor of Scottish History and founding director of the Institute, is retiring at the end of this year. Our next issue will include a feature on his successor as director, Dr Malcolm Petrie.



## *The Alumni Check In*

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISHR, we are checking in with former students. This issue, we hear from Claire McLoughlin (MA 2008; MLitt 2010; PhD 2014)

I love research and my PhD topic ('Scottish Commercial Contacts with the Iberian World, 1581-1730') excited me, but in 2012 and halfway through my thesis, I realised academic life was not for me. It can be a lonely profession and the scarcity of jobs as you progress through your career often increases this through strong competition. So using resources such as 'Jobs on Toast' to understand how to market my skills in the non-academic world I started looking at other options.

Given I enjoy research an advert recruiting for caseworkers to investigate asylum claims in the Home Office seemed a good fit. I applied and was offered the job while travelling to my viva!

Fascinating as working in asylum was, it was also emotionally very challenging. I would spend days interviewing traumatised people and then writing decisions on whether they met the international criteria for refugee status.

Staff don't last long in the role due to the emotional pressure and after a year I decided to look for another job. This time internal civil service vacancies were open to me and, interested in the challenge of decarbonizing energy, I applied to what is now the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to work on energy networks.



*Claire McLoughlin*

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I've been there ever since and worked in several high profile areas including National Grid's sale of their gas transportation networks and most recently the Government response to the Grenfell disaster. I've been to Number 10 and got to see COBR taking place (that's Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms, not COBRA, a snake).

I love working in energy and in the civil service. There are so many questions: how can our networks incorporate renewables most efficiently, how do we heat our homes if we're going to use less or even no gas, what about BREXIT? The skills I gained during my PhD are invaluable: public speaking, writing on complex subjects clearly, researching using different medias. I've progressed through the grades faster than the civil service graduate programme and doubled my salary in 3 years. Most importantly my work-life balance is better – I work few late evenings and no weekends. I've even managed to attend the odd history conference and been asked to write an article. I don't miss full-time academia though; the civil service is an amazing organisation with so many opportunities available so if you're looking for great non-academic career I'd highly recommend it!

- Claire McLoughlin

Send us your own Alumni stories (and photos) to  
[ishrmail@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ishrmail@st-andrews.ac.uk)



## ISHR Prize Winners



Ashley Atkins (right)  
Photo credit: RHS

**Ashley Atkins**, recently graduated MLitt student, received the **Rees Davies Prize** from the Royal Historical Society for his dissertation '*The Authorship, Function and Ideological Origins of the Claim of Right of 1989*'. The prize is awarded for the best dissertation submitted as part of a one-year full-time postgraduate Master's degree in any UK institution of Higher Education.

He was supervised by Professors Colin Kidd and Roger Mason. The judges described Ashley's argument as "thoroughly convincing, superbly demonstrated on the basis of a range of primary and secondary sources, and written with remarkable lucidity, elegance and panache."

**Dr Malcolm Petrie**, lecturer at St Andrews, received the **David Berry Prize**, also from the Royal Historical Society, for his essay 'Fear of a "Slave State": Individualism, Libertarianism, and the rise of Scottish Nationalism c.1945-c.1979'. The judges commented that "it is a profound work of scholarship with real historical significance on a subject that has received little scholarly attention. [...] The author does a wonderful job in providing a clear narrative in a style which both the academic and the lay reader can appreciate."



Malcolm Petrie



## **T.C. Smout Lecture**

*Thursday 5 October 2017, 5:30pm, Arts Lecture Theatre*

The annual T.C. Smout lecture was established in 2013 to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Chris Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland and patron of the Institute of Scottish Historical Research, and is now in its fifth year.

This year's speaker is **Dr Catriona MacDonald**, Reader in Late Modern Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, who will deliver a lecture entitled:

*'The Scotching of British History in the Nineteenth Century, or how a Scot (con)founded the Royal Historical Society'*

In her lecture, Dr MacDonald focuses on the life and controversial career of Scotsman (and son of the manse of Dunino in Fife), Charles Rogers (1825-1890), the principal founder of the Royal Historical Society. She identifies the roots of the Society in the traditions of Scottish associational culture and examines the consequences of Rogers' ultimate debacle for the future character of British History and its institutions. In so doing, she raises important questions about the intellectual limits of Unionist nationalism, the commercial opportunities borne of a new popular print culture, and the long shadows cast by reputation over Victorian Scottish men of letters.

The Deputy Principal, Prof Gary Taylor, will take the chair. The lecture is open to the public and will be followed by a wine reception.

**Dr Catriona MacDonald**, Reader in Late Modern Scottish History and Co-director of the Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies at the University of Glasgow, is a former editor of the *Scottish Historical Review* and one of the leading historians of modern Scotland. She is the author of a number of acclaimed books on the social and political history of nineteenth and twentieth century Scotland, including the Saltire Scottish History Book of the year (2010), *Whaur Extremes Meet*. Her recent publications address both Scottish literature and historiography, and she is currently working on a monograph on the history of Scottish history since 1832.



*Dr Catriona MacDonald*



## *Adventures in the Archives*



*Sarah Leith*

While researching Ronald Cant, who secured the teaching of Scottish history at the University of St Andrews between 1936 and 1974, first-year PhD student Sarah Leith (sjhl) made an amusing discovery among his papers. A muddied, handwritten poster calling for help to retrieve artefacts from an ‘emergency excavation’ on University grounds:



### COLLEGE GATE “DIG”

Volunteers are urgently needed to come and help: no experience needed – just strong backs and a liking for dirt...I should be grateful if students could see me on Thursday or Friday mornings of this week about their essays.

Otherwise contact me in the hole behind College Gate.

Even the exciting dig could not get in the way of university business!

Submit your own archive stories for the next issue of the *Newsletter*.



## Upcoming Conferences

### **Scotland and Ireland: A Conference**

The Institute is delighted to be joining the Royal Historical Society and the University of Edinburgh in sponsoring a one-day conference on ‘Scotland and Ireland: Connecting nations, unions and “diasporas” in the modern period’ to be held in St Andrews on Saturday 30 September.

Full details can be found at the conference website:

<http://scotirelandconference.wordpress.com/>

ISHR members, Sean Murphy and Piotr Potocki, who co-organised the event, will report on its proceedings in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

## Upcoming Workshops

### **Historical Conversations – University of Glasgow**

A public programme of talks, interviews and panel discussions hosted by the University of Glasgow running from September 2017 through May 2018. All events are free, but you must register to attend.

Of special note:

The programme kicks off with a conversation between T.C. Smout and Catriona MacDonald on September 19<sup>th</sup> (5:30 pm, Kelvin Hall)

Also look out for Roger Mason speaking as part of the Early Modern Panel on October 31<sup>st</sup> (5:30 pm, Kelvin Hall)



## Recent Workshops

### **The British-Dutch World in the Age of Elizabeth of Bohemia – Thursday 20 - Friday 21 April, 2017**

Elizabeth of Bohemia could justifiably be described as 'Britain's forgotten Elizabeth'. Born in Fife, daughter of James VI and Anna of Denmark, wife of Frederick, mother to Sophia, grandmother to George I, she provides the crucial link to our current monarch, Elizabeth II. If there had been no Elizabeth Stuart, there would be no Queen Elizabeth today. So why is she 'forgotten'? The seminar on 'The British Dutch World in the Age of Elizabeth of Bohemia' set out to address this imbalance.

The opening lecture on Thursday night by Dr Nadine Akkerman, whose biography of Elizabeth of Bohemia is forthcoming, set the stage to explore the background of this woman who is central to our current world. The workshop the next day saw the launch of 'Women's Early Modern Letters Online' (WEMLO) by Miranda Lewis. Together, they contribute to our understanding of Elizabeth and other key historical female figures from that period who too may be 'forgotten' or, as Dr Akkerman discovered, filed under their husbands or, worse still, as a woman, filed under 'miscellaneous'.

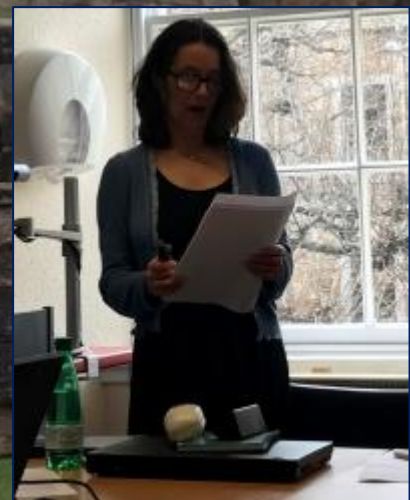
The British-Dutch connection is central to understanding Elizabeth, whose exile in The Hague shaped her life. This relationship between The Netherlands and the U.K. still remains strong today: Scotland's largest EU export market is with The Netherlands. The work of Andrew Little and Graeme Millen on the maritime and military worlds of that period provided context as did the work of Marika Keblusek and Esther Mijers on art and education, respectively. The world of early newspapers shaping Dutch/British viewpoints provided by Kirsty Rolfe and Arthur der Weduwen gave a fascinating insight into early press publishing, especially how 'weather' could determine the delivery of news.

Many thanks to Professor Steve Murdoch for putting the programme together!

- Catherine Stihler, MEP, University Rector



*Above: Visit from EU Commissioner King. Left to right: Catherine Stihler, Julian King, Nadine Akkerman, Roger Mason, Steve Murdoch*



*Right: Miranda Lewis introducing WEMLO*



**ISHR Seminar Series – Semester 1 Dates for 2017**

5:30pm in the New Seminar Room, St John's House, 71 South St, St Andrews

The Institute will host a welcome reception at the Undercroft of St John's House on Wednesday 27 September from 5-7 pm.

Thursday 5 October

T.C. Smout Lecture, Arts Lecture Theatre 5:30pm (*see page 4 for more*)

Dr Catriona MacDonald (University of Glasgow)

'The Scotching of British History in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; or, how a Scot (con)founded the Royal Historical Society'

Thursday 19 October

ISHR seminar, New Seminar Room, 5:30pm

Dr Linsey Hunter (University of the Highlands and Islands)

'#Medieval?: 19<sup>th</sup> century Highland Castle Architectural Aesthetics and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Responses'

Thursday 9 November

ISHR seminar, New Seminar Room, 5:30pm

Ms Laura Harrison (University of Edinburgh)

'Places of memory: The role of locality in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century commemorations of the Wars of Independence'

Thursday 23 November

ISHR seminar, joint with Reformation Studies, New Seminar Room, 5:30pm

Dr Chris Langley (Newman University, Birmingham)

'Disability, charity and the boundaries of Reformed discipline in early-modern Scotland'

Thursday 7 December

ISHR seminar, New Seminar Room, 5:30pm

Dr Adam Grimshaw (University of St Andrews)

'The Scots in 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Swedish Commerce'

<http://ishr.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/seminars/>

**Contact Information**

Website: <http://ishr.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/> Email: [ishrmail@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ishrmail@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Facebook Twitter: [@ISHRStAndrews](https://www.facebook.com/ISHRStAndrews)

Created and edited by Chelsea Reutcke