



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



ANNUAL REVIEW | 2016-17




20+
research networks



major
research
programmes



early
career
fellows



350+
research-led events
with over **15,000**
attendees



10 major
research
programmes



19 knowledge
exchange fellows



36 early
career
fellows

ABOUT TORCH

Launched in May 2013, TORCH stimulates, supports, and promotes research activity of the very highest quality that transcends disciplinary and institutional boundaries and engages with wider audiences.

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WELCOME



Professor Louise Richardson

Professor Louise Richardson Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

For many centuries Oxford has enjoyed an unrivalled reputation for the qualities of our research and teaching in the Humanities. It has therefore been a particular delight to witness the impact of TORCH on the already superb community of scholars and students in the Humanities. Since its inception, TORCH has given support to individual researchers and academics, as well as to collaborative projects and initiatives across the disciplines. It has encouraged and deepened conversations that will continue to ensure that the Humanities at Oxford thrive. For researchers at all stages of their careers, across faculties, departments and divisions, TORCH offers a creative and supportive space in which to come together and develop fresh, innovative approaches to interdisciplinary research.

I have watched with enthusiasm TORCH's support of Knowledge Exchange projects such as *Storming Utopia*, its commitment to public engagement with research showcased by its spearheading of *FRIGHTFriday* at the Ashmolean Museum, and its ongoing commitment to exploring what it means to be human in today's world through its *Humanities & Identities* series. The impact of TORCH's work in the wider community is palpable. As Vice-Chancellor of the University, I am delighted to see TORCH grow from strength to strength and, along with my colleagues, I look forward to seeing TORCH continue to strengthen and to invigorate the Humanities at Oxford.



Professor Karen O'Brien

Professor Karen O'Brien Head of Humanities Division, University of Oxford

Since becoming Head of Humanities at Oxford, I have been thoroughly impressed with the work that goes on at TORCH. TORCH has become an invaluable resource in supporting the great range and depth of humanities research that goes on across the Faculties and the Division. I would particularly like to acknowledge the leadership and vision with which Elleke Boehmer has directed TORCH through the last two dynamic years, and to record our thanks to her. Our thanks also to Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr for her role as acting director for part of this year, and also for her role as Knowledge Exchange Champion.

At its core, TORCH facilitates interdisciplinary research, and also wider and public engagement. Knowledge exchange and public engagement are flourishing within TORCH, and this is an area for which a record number of humanities researchers gained recognition in this year's Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research awards. For researchers at any career stage, TORCH offers support, collaboration, and seed funding. But it also does more than that through engaging with local community groups like Young Women's Music Project and the Ark T Centre, and bringing humanities research to life through public events like the Oxford city-wide *Gaps Between* Installation. Collaboration across faculties and departments, within the University and beyond is part of TORCH's ethos, and everyone involved, researchers and staff, continue to work to develop partnerships nationally and internationally to showcase and support the humanities at Oxford—something I am proud to be part of.

TORCH's Annual Headline Series, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has shown us all just how much interdisciplinary humanities research has to offer in how we understand and grapple with contemporary questions. *Humanities & Identities* demonstrates with great energy just how relevant, engaged and essential humanities research is to us all. As Head of Division, I look forward to the forthcoming exciting new developments through Medical Humanities, and other new collaborative projects.



Professor Daniel Grimley

Professor Daniel Grimley Associate Head of Humanities Research, University of Oxford

Looking back over the first five years of TORCH, it is clear to see that there is an appetite for this type of collaborative and supportive research environment. Looking forward, the outcomes from these collaborations will be a strong part of the environment and impact as part of the Research Excellence Framework (REF). By building genuine multidisciplinary networks and opportunities, TORCH has enabled cross-disciplinary conversations to grow and develop, as well as reaching new and wider audiences through knowledge exchange and public events and partnerships.

By supporting the Humanities at Oxford, TORCH facilitates both a wider reach and impact, as well as a deeper understanding of interdisciplinary research practice.

Professor Elleke Boehmer TORCH Director (2015–2017), University of Oxford

The last two years as Director of TORCH have been a true joy and privilege as TORCH has grown and become an intrinsic part of Humanities research activity here at Oxford.

Researchers, academics and the wider public attend the many different events that TORCH offers across the year. I've particularly enjoyed seeing how audiences have responded to and felt drawn in by the fresh, interactive approach to humanities research here. In a relatively short space of time, TORCH has fostered an at once collaborative, interdisciplinary and critical approach to humanities research which marks it out both within Oxford and beyond. I feel so proud to have formed a part of this across the past two years.

In 2016–17 TORCH has facilitated a number of major research projects, initiatives and partnerships. With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund, we have kick-started and curated an array of conversations on *Humanities & Identities* including on disability and



Professor Elleke Boehmer



Professor Philip Ross Bullock

curriculum diversity, on how migration, memory and identity are intertwined, and on Oxford's important but lesser-known cultural and political figures through the stunning *Gaps Between* installation.

We have supported a range of Knowledge Exchange projects including *Women and War: Female Activism during the English Civil War*. We have also seed-funded a range of new early career networks and programmes, and have brought public engagement with research to the fore through our momentous *FRIGHTFriday* event at the Ashmolean Museum.

As ever, we welcome ideas for collaboration within the University and beyond and hope you will continue to support us as we grow and develop further, and continue to engage with the most pressing questions of our time.

Professor Philip Ross Bullock TORCH Director (2017 onwards), University of Oxford

It is a pleasure to be joining TORCH as its Director in October 2017 at what is an exciting time for us. Over the past few years I have enjoyed seeing TORCH develop, particularly since I, have been co-convenor of the TORCH Oxford Song Network: Poetry and Performance. Establishing the network was a stimulating opportunity to bring together academics from across a number of disciplines to explore the interaction of music and words in the nineteenth- and twentieth century European song tradition and to work alongside performers and practitioners. It is this visionary, innovative approach to research that marks TORCH out as a leading hub in the humanities and of which I am thrilled to be part.

TORCH has always and will continue to work with Oxford academics across a range of disciplines, support and further interdisciplinary research, and promote collaboration and inclusivity. I am looking forward to working with the TORCH team, colleagues in the Humanities Division and all of the Humanities Faculties in broadening the TORCH academic community.



An Evening with David Lloyd at Pitt Rivers Museum

Comics artist David Lloyd, most famous for his collaboration on *V for Vendetta*, talked about his experience as an artist and the power of the comics form in this event convened by the Comics and Graphic Novels: The Politics of Form.

OCTOBER 2016



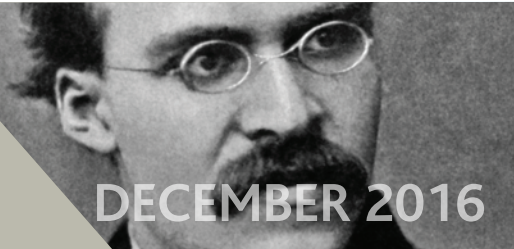
Being Human Festival 2016: FRIGHTFriday

TORCH led FRIGHTFriday in collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum—a special late night opening of the museum to explore the art and science of Hope & Fear. There were exciting live performances of dance and music, digital installations, film, workshops, interactive talks and exhibits, bringing the Ashmolean alive for a whole evening with humanities researchers converging with Ashmolean collections.

NOVEMBER 2016

A Crisis the Earth has Never Seen: Nietzsche, the 'War of Spirits' and Great Politics

New TORCH network Crisis, Extremes, and Apocalypse hosted a seminar with speaker Dr Hugo Drochon (University of Cambridge). This talk explored the notions of the 'war of spirits' and 'great politics', and tried to make sense of the crisis Nietzsche threatened and how it might help us make sense of the world we live in today.



DECEMBER 2016

What Does Diversity Mean to Me?

The opening event of our headline series *Humanities & Identities* brought together Professor Deborah Cameron, Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, Dr Maria Misra, Dr Jay Stewart, Professor Miles Hewstone, and the Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees. This event was chaired by Professor Elleke Boehmer.

JANUARY 2017



History, Vision, Ambition

The Humanities Division at Oxford has developed an exciting relationship with the National Trust, culminating in the Trusted Source Knowledge Transfer Partnership. Celebrating their collaboration, this interdisciplinary lecture series launched in February 2017 and explored the many challenges and opportunities facing the higher education and heritage sectors in the twenty first century, and highlighted the many points of connection between our two institutions from a number of perspectives.

FEBRUARY 2017

GREAT WRITERS INSPIRE AT HOME

Great Writers Inspire at Home

This workshop series on postcolonial reading was hosted jointly by the Oxford English Faculty and TORCH as the *Postcolonial Writing and Theory* seminar series in Trinity 2017. The seminars brought a number of contemporary British writers into conversation with readers to discuss how British postcolonial literature shapes our perceptions of the world today and our identities within it.

APRIL 2017

Roderick Williams

The TORCH Oxford Song Network hosted Roderick Williams (Baritone) at Wolfson College for a number of workshops, masterclasses, and in conversation. In collaboration with TORCH, the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, Oxford Lieder and Creative Multilingualism.

APRIL 2017



Volcanoes

The New Directions in Caribbean Studies Seminar, TORCH, the Race and Resistance Programme, the Fiction and Human Rights Network, and the Bodleian Library hosted a panel discussion on *Volcanoes: Natural Disaster Narratives and the Environment in Caribbean Literature*. This event accompanied the Bodleian Library exhibition and explored natural disaster narratives and the environment and how this shaped aspects of Caribbean literature.

MAY 2017



InHabit: People, Places and Possessions

Part of the TORCH Book at Lunchtime series, this event looked at how habitation is central to human life and experience, and how it can form a context for enquiry within many disciplines. Speakers included: Dr Antony Buxton (Continuing Education), Dr Linda Hulin (Archaeology) and Dr Jane Anderson (Architecture, Oxford Brookes University).

MAY 2017

Migration, Memory and Identity

Part of the TORCH Annual Headline Series *Humanities & Identities*, this event, co-hosted by TORCH and the Pitt Rivers Museum, looked at how identity, memory and migration are woven together and are explored through narratives that we see in literature, history, politics and current issues facing the world today. Speakers included Elleke Boehmer (TORCH Director), Gayle Lonergan (International Research Fellow, Centre for Historical Studies, Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg) and Karma Nabulsi (Professor in Politics and International Relations), and was chaired by Laura van Broekhoven (Director, Pitt Rivers Museum).



MAY 2017



The Gaps Between

This installation across Oxford City Centre highlighted 18 stories celebrating Oxford's alternative and often hidden stories, and featured photographs, artwork, and archival material installed across prominent railings on iconic buildings. Buildings included the Radcliffe Camera, the Sheldonian, the Oxford Union, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Christ Church, the History Faculty, Modern Art Oxford, and the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

JUNE 2017



Divided Cities

The Comics and Graphic Novels network co-hosted an event on *Divided Cities: Culture, Infrastructure and the Urban Future* along with the British Council USA. This full-day workshop focused on the themes of urban identity, top-down planning, environmental degradation and migration. It explored the ways in which cities and twenty first century urban cultures and infrastructures have come to embody wider global conflicts, inequalities and divisions, before asking how different cultural forms might allow us to imagine new urban futures.

JUNE 2017

NETWORKS

We currently support over 20 research networks, which reach across disciplines to build communities of scholars from a range of career stages to work together on innovative projects. For information about all of our networks please visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk/networks

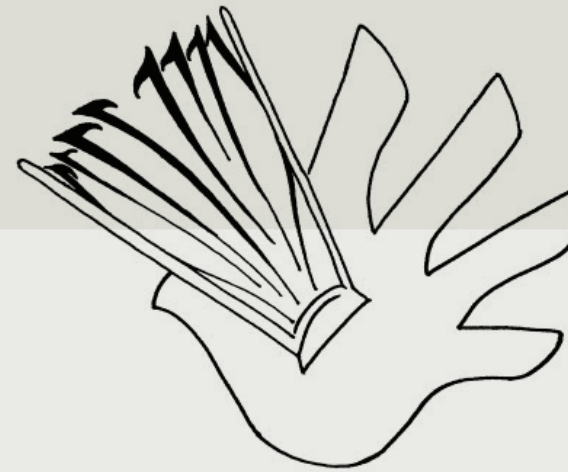
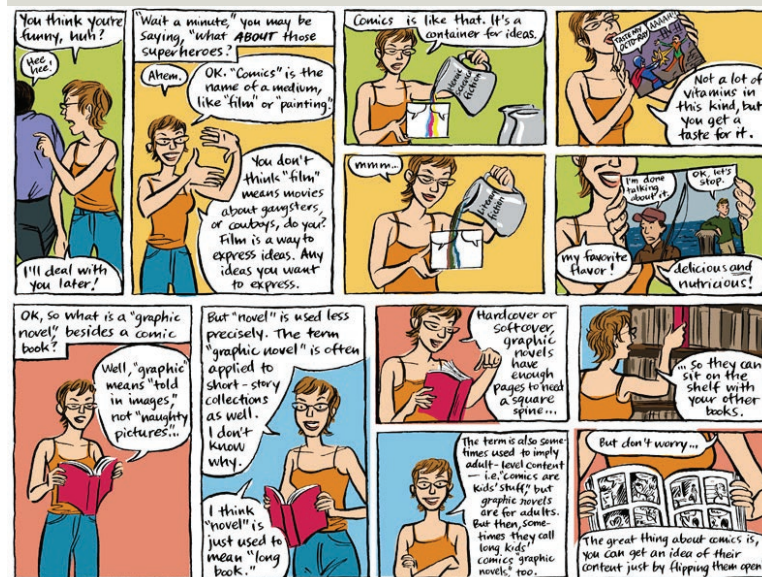
- #SocialHumanities
- Affections and Ethics
- Ancient Dance in Modern Dancers
- Comics and Graphic Novels: The Politics of Form
- Crisis, Extremes, and Apocalypse
- Critical Visualization
- Enlightenment Correspondences
- Fiction and Human Rights
- Gender and Authority
- Global Brazil
- Globalising and Localising the Great War
- InHabit: Text, Object and Domestic Space
- Inheritance and Cooperation
- The Long History of Identity, Ethnicity, and Nationhood
- Medieval and Early Modern Mysticism
- Migration and Mobility
- Negotiated Texts
- Nordic Network
- Oxford Phenomenology Network
- The Oxford Psalms Network
- The Oxford Song Network: Poetry and Performance
- The Queer Studies Network
- Rags to Riches: Experience of Social Mobility since 1800
- Rethinking the Contemporary: The World Since the Cold War
- Romanticism and Eighteenth Century Studies Oxford
- Theatre and Performance
- Unconscious Memory
- Urban Rhythms Network

Comics and Graphic Novels: The Politics of Form

torch.ox.ac.uk/comics

This network brings critics and practitioners from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds together to explore the power, politics and potential of comics, thereby promoting the academic study of this under-recognised form. Combining drawn and often painted panels with the written word to create a narrative form that is inherently interdisciplinary, comics demand critical approaches from multiple fields, from literary criticism and visual cultures to art theory and architecture. This network embraces comics in all their varied forms, from graphic memoir to comics journalism, exploring how they meld different artistic and literary techniques to create new narrative modes that have important cultural, social and political implications, whilst reflecting critically on the process of canonisation comics are currently experiencing. The network has comprised bi-weekly seminars featuring talks from comics critics and artists, and concluded its first year with an international symposium, *Documenting Trauma: Comics and the Politics of Memory*, which featured contributors from comics scholars from across the UK and abroad. The symposium concluded with a keynote given by Professor Hillary Chute, a leading world expert on comics and their relationship to memory, trauma and disaster, and a talk from comics artist Nick Sousanis, whose work *Unflattering* (2015) pushes the boundaries of comics scholarship.

Dr Dominic Davies (Faculty of English Language and Literature)



Crisis, Extremes and Apocalypse

torch.ox.ac.uk/themes/crisis-extremes-and-apocalypse

The Crisis, Extremes and Apocalypse research network was created in September 2016 under the aegis of The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) and aims to shed as many perspectives as possible on these themes from the early modern period onward (from music and philosophy to terrorism passing by Brexit, debates in early modern epistemology, revolutionary movements, religiosity in the modern world and even existential risks and artificial intelligence). The network's approach is inherently interdisciplinary and seeks to approach these themes meta-critically by understanding their various deployments.

In addition to a year-long seminar series, the network also hosts workshops on specific topics (including technologies of the future, Political Theology, and Terror during the French Revolution) and talks by several high-profile speakers throughout the year from and outside Oxford. The network's activities this year ended on a high note with an annual conference entitled *Rethinking Crisis* for early-career researchers.

One of the network's main achievements has been the gradual constitution of an audio database offering podcasts on various topics accessible to the Oxford community and general public alike. Furthermore, considering the high demand for this type of research, the network is currently in the process of launching a specialized academic journal.

Audrey Borowski (Faculty of History)



Fiction and Human Rights

torch.ox.ac.uk/fiction-and-human-rights

Fiction and Human Rights is Oxford's first collaborative network between the faculties of English and Law. Its specific focus is the relationship between the novel—in its many languages, forms and politics—and the legal/political discourse of human rights.

Our first event of the year was a panel discussion on *Law and Ethics in Kazuo Ishiguro's Never Let Me Go*. The speakers were Michelle Kelly (English) and Imogen Gould (Law). A similar collaboration took place in February, when Tessa Roynon (English) and Lucinda Ferguson (Law), gave presentations on *Law and Aesthetics in Ian McEwan's The Children Act*.

In other equally provocative events, we were pleased to host Professor Charles Forsdick of the University of Liverpool, who along with Jemima Paine (Oxford) gave a paper on the Haitian-American novelist, Edwidge Danticat. In March, we collaborated with the *Comics and Graphic Novels* network to present *Comics and Human Rights*, which featured guest speakers Benjamin Dix (SOAS, founder of PositiveNegatives) and Ruth Kelly (York).

In Trinity term, Michelle Kelly organized a two-part series on *Storytelling and the Law*. First, in April, Charles Foster (Law), Peter McDonald (English) and Michèle Mendelssohn (English) discussed Edward Carson's opening speech in the famous case of Oscar Wilde v the Marquess of Queensbury. In June, Rachel Clements (Law), Jonathan Herring (Law), David Russell (English) and Emelia Quinn (Wolfson) discussed the judgement of Lord Justice Leveson in the case of Justine McNally v the Queen, a case framed by the court as an alleged sexual assault involving a 'woman' purporting to be a 'man'. All of these events, and more, are reported on our blog.

Dr Tessa Roynon (Faculty of English Language and Literature), Professor Jonathan Herring (Faculty of Law)



Gender and Authority

torch.ox.ac.uk/genderandauthority

The Gender & Authority Network, jointly supported by TORCH and the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute, aims to explore and question received notions of social and cultural authority, specifically as they intersect with issues of gender. In the academic year 2016–2017 we convened several events, among which a Roundtable Discussion on the continuities, differences, and comparative advantages of framing one’s research in terms of Gender Studies or Women’s Studies. This event was in collaboration with the Centre for Gender, Identity, and Subjectivity and featured speakers from the International Gender Studies Centre. Our bi-termy seminars included speakers from a wide variety of disciplines and institutions: Rachel Delman, Annika Forkert, Victoria Van Hying, Yasmin Khan, and Sahba Shayani (Oxford), and Serena Alessi (British School at Rome), Jessica Frazier (University of Kent), Jennifer Griffiths (American University of Rome), and Matthew Hurley (Oxford Brookes). Another highlight of this year was the launch of our Podcast Series coordinated by Kira Allman. The year was concluded by our Annual Public Lecture delivered by Professor Deborah Cameron on *Language and the Problem of Female Authority*, chaired by Professor Louise Richardson, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, with a response by Professor Elleke Boehmer, Director of TORCH.

Adele Bardazzi (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages), Dr David Bowe (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages), Natalya Din-Kariuki (Faculty of English Language and Literature), Dr Julia Caterina Hartley (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages), Richard Williams (Faculty of Oriental Studies)

Globalising and Localising the Great War

torch.ox.ac.uk/greatwar

Created to provide fresh insights into the Great War and foster graduate and early career research, GLGW has now completed its third year. This has included an extensive seminar series; community collaborations; and working closely with the Rothermere American Institute (RAI) on a lecture series, film series and raising funds for a postdoctoral researcher and a graduate student.

During summer 2016, we started working with local Oxford historians to broaden out the ‘localising’ aspect of our project, while also focusing on the ‘globalising’. One very successful result of this was a large public engagement event at Botley Cemetery on 8 October. Working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and the Big Ideas Company, we commemorated the lives of nine New Zealand soldiers, who had died in the Third Southern General Hospital, Oxford and were subsequently buried in Botley Cemetery. Attended by the New Zealand High Commissioner and dignitaries, a service in the cemetery with army cadets and buglers was followed by lectures in the Botley Women’s Institute Hall (full report: <http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/aotearoa-oxford-commemorating-new-zealand-soldiers-buried-botley-cemetery>).

The coming year includes working with Mansfield and Somerville Colleges on a public engagement event, an Oxford-Belgian exchange, and inter-university and local history workshops.

Dr Jeanette Atkinson (Faculty of History)



Nordic Network

torch.ox.ac.uk/nordic

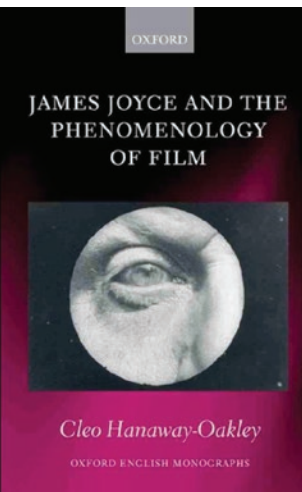
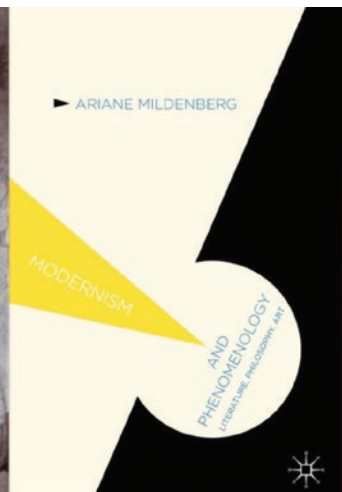
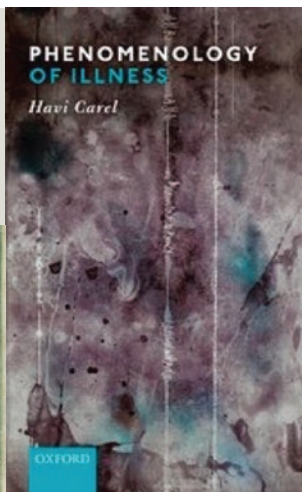
The Nordic Network enjoyed two dynamic years with an extraordinary range of events spanning every Nordic culture, artistic form, and literary genre, as well as most historical periods. Co-convened by DPhil students Leah Broad (Music) and Eveliina Pulkki (Modern Languages) and Professors Dan Grimley (Music) and Kirsten Shepherd-Barr (English), with input from Dr Stephen Leonard (Anthropology), the network’s 2016–17 events began with a joint seminar with the Race and Resistance Network on *Equality, Inequality, and Aesthetics* (October 2016) and a guest lecture by Dr Michael McEachrane (UCL) on *Reimagining Scandinavia in the World: Colonialism and Race* (November 2016). In Hilary the network held a symposium (generously co-sponsored by the University of Warwick) on *Literary and Visual Culture in Nineteenth Century Denmark* (January 2017) that connected scholars working on this vibrant period in Danish cultural history in the UK and Denmark. We also held a seminar on *Nordic Hospitality and Comfort through the Ages* (February 2017) that offered a unique historical perspective on that notoriously definition-resistant term ‘hygge.’ In Trinity term the network hosted Dr Kim Simonsen speaking on *Fields*

of Knowledge: Natural History, Antiquarianism, and the Discovery of the Romantic North (April 2017) and finished with a major one-day seminar on *The Nordic Voice* (June 2017).

The network has exemplified the diversity of Nordic studies, both methodologically and in terms of subject matter. It has established Oxford as a centre for cutting-edge Nordic studies at a time when the subject is under pressure elsewhere. While operating primarily in English for the sake of accessibility, it has featured as much as possible the original languages at its heart. The network’s legacy can also be seen in the many collaborations it has established that will continue to develop. Professors Grimley and Shepherd-Barr will be representing the Nordic Network as guest speakers for a BBC Proms talk on Carl Nielsen (30 August 2017), following on from Leah Broad’s successes as a BBC New Generation Thinker. *Nordisk Netværk længe leve!*

Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr (Faculty of English), Leah Broad (Faculty of Music), Professor Daniel Grimley (Faculty of Music), Eveliina Pulkki (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages)

NETWORKS CONTINUED



The Oxford Psalms Network

torch.ox.ac.uk/psalms

The Oxford Psalms Network examines the impact of the Psalms in the development of Judaeo-Christian culture, language and identity from the earliest times to the present day, encouraging interaction between academics, curators, and the wider public. At the same time, it points to ways that scholars working on the history of Psalms in Judaeo-Christian culture might fruitfully collaborate with scholars working on the impact of the Psalms on other world religions.

In its first year the Network organised a series of well-attended fortnightly public lectures by leading scholars, artists and illustrators, *New Perspectives on the Psalms*, hosted by Pusey House. Topics covered have ranged from the singing of the psalms in ancient Hebrew to contemporary rock music, from medieval German psalters to the Qur'an.

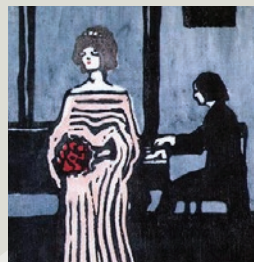
The Network also engages with a very wide audience through its twitter feed, @twitterpsalms. With almost 400 followers so far, this encourages discussion of the Psalter across cultures, faiths and interests. Our main activity so far has been producing an abbreviated twitter psalter, with each psalm verse taken from a different psalter—the end-product will be an online history of the Psalms through 150 psalters, freely available to the public.

Dr Helen Appleton (Faculty of English Language and Literature), Professor Susan Gillingham (Faculty of Theology and Religion), Dr Francis Leneghan (Faculty of English Language and Literature)

The Oxford Song Network: Poetry and Performance

torch.ox.ac.uk/oxford-song-network

The second year of the Oxford Song Network has been built around a series of practical and academic collaborations with the Oxford Lieder Festival. In October, Laura Tunbridge spoke at a series of events held as part of Oxford Lieder's Autumn Festival, which was devoted to the complete songs of Robert Schumann. Then, in March, Laura, Ceri Owen and Natasha Loges, joined by Susan Rutherford, examined questions of performance in a study day entitled *Hands, Gestures, Voices* and held as part of Oxford Lieder's Spring Weekend of Song. Between these two events, Frances Watson, a DPhil student in music at St Catherine's, hosted an evening of Japanese art-song in November. In April, we were lucky enough to be able to host the leading British baritone, Roderick Williams, in a masterclass with young singers from Oxford Lieder and the university, followed by a conversation with Philip Ross Bullock. In addition to these public events, network members have been involved in publications and podcasts. Philip, Ceri and Laura contributed articles to a special issue of *19th Century Music* on the theme of *Subjectivity in European Song*, and Philip, Laura and Alex Lloyd—the three co-convenors of the network—produced a podcast looking at issues of poetry, music and performance around Schubert's *Gretchen am Spinnrade*.



Professor Philip Ross Bullock (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages)

Oxford Phenomenology Network

torch.ox.ac.uk/phenomenology

Books abound! The past 12 months has seen the publication of three monographs by Oxford Phenomenology Network members, all of whom kindly thank the Network in their acknowledgements. Havi Carel, keynote speaker at our inaugural conference—*Phenomenology and Health* (March 2015)—published *Phenomenology of Illness* (Oxford University Press, 2016). Ariane Mildeberg, co-host of our 2016 *Cross-Disciplinary Phenomenology* symposium, brought out *Modernism and Phenomenology: Literature, Philosophy, Art* (Palgrave, 2017). Cleo Hanaway-Oakley, the Network's founder and lead convenor, published *James Joyce and the Phenomenology of Film* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

As well as continuing our successful seminar series, with talks on topics as diverse as radiology, technology, swimming, and love, we have had the pleasure of collaborating with Marcin Moskalewicz, Marie Curie Fellow in Oxford's Faculty of Philosophy. Marcin spearheaded several exciting events this year, exploring the relationship between mental illness and time from a broadly phenomenological perspective. In June, the Network presented an interdisciplinary panel at the British Association for Modernist Studies International Conference, and we continue to host the Friday

afternoon Heidegger Reading Group, led by graduate student Maciej Czerkawski. In December we will welcome the interdisciplinary *Life of Breath* project for a special workshop and in February Cleo's book will be discussed as part of TORCH's *Book at Lunchtime* series.

Dr Cleo Hanaway-Oakley (Research Services, University of Oxford)

Rethinking the Contemporary

torch.ox.ac.uk/rethinking_the_contemporary

Our aim in launching a seminar on *Rethinking the Contemporary* was to bring together Oxford students and faculty from across the university's divisions, faculties and colleges, who would not normally meet, to discuss some of the big questions of our times with a series of eminent scholars and public intellectuals from around the world. Over the past year, we organised well-attended events in which we heard from Arjun Appadurai on the anthropology of risk, Luc Boltanski on the economy of enrichment, Samuel Moyn on human rights and neoliberalism, Pankaj Mishra on the age of anger and Robert Young on Fanon's unpublished writings.

Dr Faisal Devji (Faculty of History) and Professor David Priestland (Faculty of History)

PROGRAMMES

Our ten research programmes bring together existing major research groups and individuals working in the same field to collaborate and incubate new ideas. For information about all of our programmes please visit torch.ox.ac.uk/programmes

Creative Multilingualism

Dance Scholarship Oxford

Digital Humanities

Enlightenment

Environmental Humanities

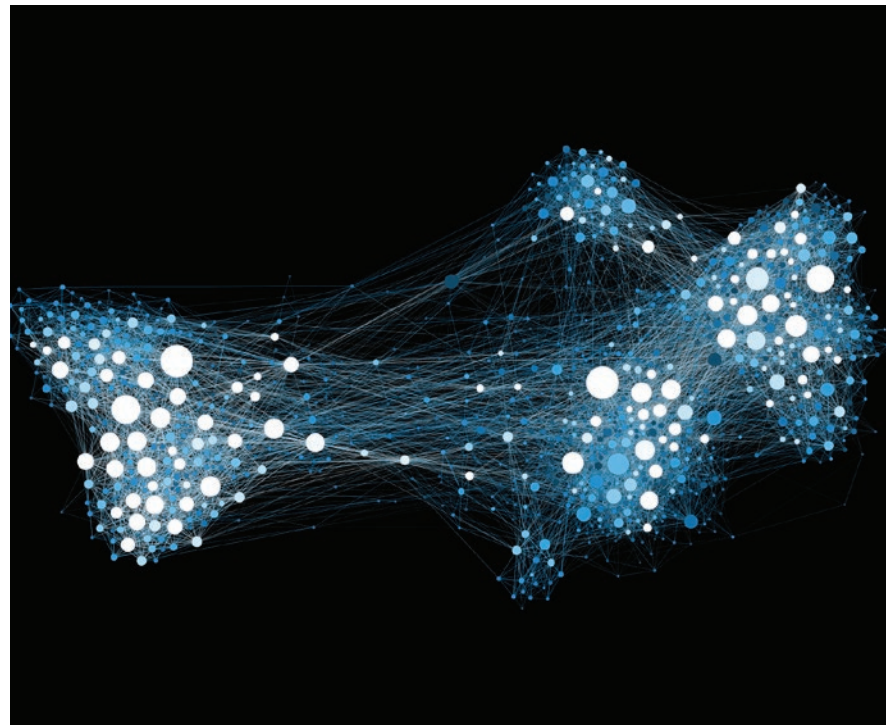
Medical Humanities

Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT)

Oxford Medieval Studies

Race and Resistance Across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century

Women in the Humanities



Digital Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/dighum

TORCH's Digital Humanities Programme has had another successful year working with the wider Digital Humanities at Oxford network. In addition to departments in the Humanities Division, the network includes the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford e-Research Centre, Oxford Internet Institute, IT Services and Oxford University Press, together with colleges. Two major workshops have developed key research priorities with local and global partners: Digital Research with OUP Data and Digital Research Strategies in Enlightenment Studies.

Our flagship event, the Digital Humanities Oxford Summer School, enjoyed its seventh year, with 185 participants from over 30 countries converging on St Anne's College for a week of research and practice in Digital Humanities. This year we ran eight themed workshops, including the very popular Introduction to Digital Humanities and our longstanding workshops on the Text Encoding Initiative, Linked Data and 'text to tech'. This was the third year for two very innovative workshops: Digital Musicology, and Social Humanities which was delivered with our colleagues from the Zooniverse citizen science platform. We again welcomed our colleagues from the iSchool at Illinois and their expertise in Humanities data, looking at all aspects of data processing and preservation. A new curriculum in Data Science for the Humanities included the emerging techniques of machine learning and neural networks applied to humanities data.



The international visibility of the programme is growing, with Oxford Digital Humanities researchers presenting ten papers to the international Digital Humanities Conference in Montreal in August. Topics included digital musicology, visualisation of negotiated texts, computer vision tools for the modern humanist, linking corpora, digital prototyping as close reading, and reading ancient scripts. This is an excellent demonstration of the breadth of our vibrant programme.

Professor David De Roure (Oxford e-Research Centre) and Dr Kathryn Eccles (Oxford Internet Institute)

Environmental Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/envirohum

With the aid of a generous Mellon grant and the support of Professor Fiona Stafford (English), the Environmental

Humanities Programme began a new seminar series this year on *Landscapes and Identities*. We had an excellent range of disciplines and several institutions were represented, both at an initial get together in March and in the lunch time seminar series that followed. Our speakers and audiences included researchers from many local and national universities as well as curators from the National Trust, and representatives of other conservation organisations. Professor Peter Davidson (English) launched our series with *A Map of Dissidence: 'Dark Corners' of the British Isles*, a wonderful talk which presciently brought together the philosophical, intellectual, and imaginative approaches to landscape and identity which motivated all of the subsequent presentations this term. The next meeting combined Romantic poetry, cloudscapes, mountains, and fens to suggest how eighteenth- and nineteenth century English poetry shaped and was shaped by changing perceptions of the environment. Our last two sessions

PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

revolved around Sussex lightscapes, the London Wildlife Trust's conservation of the Great North Wood, and the representation of Capability Brown's landscapes during the tercentenary celebrations.

We organised a postgraduate and early career researcher *Landscapes and Identities* study day on 3 August, which featured talks by an Oxford-based geography postgraduate working on New Forest deer management strategies, a practice-based art postgraduate from Bath Spa who incorporates the material of abandoned places to map and mark out connections between landscape and identity, two radical landscape tradition poets from Sheffield studying respectively the Moss Valley and UK shorelines for their creative writing based English doctorates, and a researcher from the Oxford Centre for Life Writing teasing out the nature of family memories through creative non-fiction centring on seaside holidays in New Brighton. The audience was as diverse as our speakers, and it was a fascinating afternoon with surprising synergy. Our *Landscapes and Identities* lunchtime series continues next year and we already have a number of promising talks scheduled.

Allison Adler Kroll (Faculty of History)

Medical Humanities

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/medhum

At TORCH, the Medical Humanities Programme operates as a collective of projects that comes from across all the Faculties in the humanities and into the sciences. Coming together as a broad range of research led projects, often focussing on the interaction between humanities and sciences, the Medical Humanities Programme is a group that acts as an umbrella for any researchers in the Humanities looking to share, expand, or further collaborate with others. This has involved themes led by individual researchers that focus on mental health, Victorian literature, ethics, and compassion in healthcare.

All projects are led by humanities researchers and have a Faculty home as their base. Through TORCH, there is the added value in broadening of that collaboration and ability to access new external partners, participate



OXFORD
COMPARATIVE
CRITICISM &
TRANSLATION

in wider and public engagement activities, and funding opportunities. New collaborative opportunities are often brokered and have included with the NHS, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and local mental health professionals and organisations.

To join the Medical Humanities mailing list, please email: medicalhumanities-owner@maillist.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT)

torch.ox.ac.uk/comparativecriticism

The Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation Programme (OCCT) researches how literature moves across languages and media. Our participants come from Modern Languages, Oriental Studies and English, and across the university and beyond. Our seminars focus on translation, on social and political contexts, and on cognitive approaches to literature; we have a wide-ranging, postgraduate-led discussion group; we run a literary festival, *Oxford Translation Day*; our website www.occt.ox.ac.uk hosts records of our work including a review journal; and we publish books in our series *Transcript*.

One focus this year has been on the groups and institutions that help literature come into being and circulate across languages. Workshops led by Peter Hill, an early career researcher in Arabic, thought comparatively across enlightenment literary salons, their North African counterpart the majali, and contemporary communal spaces such as online forums. Seminars led by our co-ordinator Eleni Philippou (English) and Kasia Szymanska, an early career researcher in Polish and German, looked at the processes by which translations get published and promoted globally, while a symposium organised by Adriana Jacobs (Modern Hebrew) in collaboration with Stanford and Ben-Gurion Universities, explored the relationship between poetry and 'currency' in the senses of both money and international popularity.

Among our publications this year are *Auto-exoticism*, a cluster of essays in the top American journal *PMLA*, and



Minding Borders: Resilient Divisions in Literature, the Body and the Academy (Transcript). Finally, we are developing a Masters Degree so that our cross-cultural vision of literature can be taught to new generations of students.

Professor Matthew Reynolds (Faculty of English Language and Literature) and Dr Eleni Philippou (Faculty of English Language and Literature)

Oxford Medieval Studies

torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies

Oxford Medieval Studies is an interdisciplinary programme which brings together over 200 medievalists from across the university, working in different faculties and fields, and at all stages of their careers.

We continued to host our termly interdisciplinary seminar, which this year presented talks from Professor Stephen Mossman (Manchester) on a devotional manuscript from Strasbourg recently acquired by the Bodleian, Miri Rubin (Queen Mary, London) on diversity in medieval cities, and Ann Giletti (Oxford) on philosophy and heresy in the thirteenth century. Our small grants for postgrad/ECR events helped to fund

workshops on *Mobility and Space in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, *Lords in the Landscape, 800-1300*, and *Authority beyond the Law: Charismatic and Traditional Authority in Antiquity and the Middle Ages*.

In March 2017, as part of TORCH's *Humanities and Identities* series, we ran our annual workshop, this year, on *Medieval Intersectionality*: that is, how medieval people experienced and thought about multiple forms of identity and marginalization. Talks ranged from ethnicity and confession in late ancient North Africa, through rape culture in medieval England, to queer identities in sixteenth century Islamic biography. An informal group has been set up to pursue further how this (increasingly ubiquitous) modern concept might help to open up issues of diversity and inequality in the middle ages.

You can keep up with our ongoing activities through our blog, our Twitter account (@OxMedStud), and our termly booklet of all the medieval events in Oxford (accessible through our TORCH page).

Professor Sophie Marnette (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages)

PROGRAMMES *CONTINUED*

Race and Resistance Across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century

torch.ox.ac.uk/raceresist

Highlights of this rich and busy year included February's lecture by Professor Marcyliena Morgan, director of the Hiphop archive at Harvard University. Professor Morgan's subject was *Hiphop, Knowledge and the Academy*. After her illuminating talk and formal panel discussion, she generously continued to answer questions throughout the drinks reception.

In May we hosted a fascinating talk by Professor Frank Gurdy of Columbia University, on *Sport and the Black Freedom Struggle*. Other visiting speakers have included Professor Deborah Posel from the University of Cape

Town (*Consumerism and the Pragmatics of Race in the Making of Apartheid*), Dr Tom Davies (Sussex) on *Mainstreaming Black Power*, Dr Michael McEachrane (UCL) on colonialism and race in Scandinavia, and Professor Myles Osborne (Colorado, Boulder) on *Mau Mau and Rastafar*'.

In March, History undergraduate Zahraa Salloo (Pembroke) organized a fabulous seminar in which five finalist historians gave presentations on their dissertation topics. Other research-in-progress seminars featured postgraduate students Lynne Foote (on Harry Burleigh) and Evan Matsuyama (on Japanese Internment Camps); and a lecture by our inaugural Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellow, Anne Castro, on CLR James. These events and more—such as the hosting of the Callaloo



Conference in November, and the panel on the Obamas organized by Imaobong Umoren—are all documented on our blog.

The year closed for us on a high note, with the launch of the first two volumes in our new book series at Peter Lang: *Fighting Words* (ed. Davies, Lombard and Mountford), and *Imperial Infrastructure and Spatial Resistance* (by Dominic Davies).

Dr Tessa Roynon (Faculty of English Language and Literature)

Women in Humanities

torch.ox.ac.uk/womenandhumanities

Women in Humanities has held two headline events this year. In October we hosted a workshop entitled *Challenging inequality: A workshop for women historians*

in UK Universities. It was attended by scholars from around the country and has resulted in a pioneering manifesto for achieving gender equality for historians in the academy. In March we co-hosted the University's official International Women's Day event with the Oxford Martin School on the theme of *Gender equality in Oxford: How far have we come?* The Vice-Chancellor Louise Richardson chaired this stimulating discussion. We have also continued the tradition of holding termly Women in Humanities lunches, and added new events such as a feminist reading group. Women in Humanities has hosted two postdoctoral writing fellows, Dr Leah Astbury and Dr Teja Pusapati, and a visiting fellow Dr Louise Hardwick. We have also supported the research of Dr Kerrie Thornhill.

Professor Senia Paseta (Faculty of History) and Professor Selina Todd (Faculty of History)

EARLY CAREER

The Division's training team works with TORCH in order to help Humanities early career researchers hone and develop the skills they use for their projects, gain first-hand experience engaging in collaborations and make the first steps towards pioneering and influential career paths. Designed to resonate with TORCH's research themes, this year's programme has offered early career researchers opportunities to meet with commissioning editors from Routledge and Palgrave during publisher matchmaking events, to pitch for radio and TV with local production companies, to immerse themselves in the world of Heritage and to consider how their research and teaching might be articulated through objects held in the University Museums, all via a series of pathways.

Experiential, hands-on learning is the cornerstone of our approach, with researcher-led initiatives and projects being generated and supported through our AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund, the AHRC-TORCH Student Peer Review College, and the AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement Summer School. All of these mechanisms are in turn run (with support from the Training team) by early career researchers themselves, namely Rhea Sookdeosingh (DPhil History) and Emily Knight (DPhil History of Art), our TORCH Graduate Project Coordinators. Rhea and Emily will hand over the reins to their successors, Hanna Smyth (DPhil English) and Lidia Zanetti-Domingues (DPhil History), for 2017–18.

Dr John Miles, Humanities Training Officer (until September 2017)

Public Engagement with Research Summer School projects

The Public Engagement with Research Summer School made several awards for 2016–17. Among the winners of funding to complete projects was Frances Watson (DPhil Music), whose research considers music in the Western Classical tradition composed by Japanese musicians. Frances' Public Engagement project explores the highly metaphorical nature of Japanese poetry in a series of short films, designed to be stumbled upon in art galleries, botanical gardens, or similar spaces. Frances aims to complete the videos in late 2017.



A new generation of thinkers: a few of our many early career successes

Led by Ben Westwood (DPhil English) and Emelia Quinn (DPhil English), *Towards a Vegan Theory* was an interdisciplinary student-led conference, the output from which has since been commissioned for publication by Palgrave. Ben's and Emelia's journey started with an application to our AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund, while their first contact with Palgrave was made during one of our publishing matchmaking events. Olivia Robinson (DPhil History) applied to our student-organised Graduate Fund, and after her application was reviewed by our Student Peer Review College was awarded funding to complete a podcast series entitled *Women in Oxford's History*. This podcast series has generated a website and conference and will lead to further outputs. Leah Broad's (DPhil Music) research is on Nordic Modernism and theatre music at the turn of the twentieth century. After attending training supporting applications to the New Generation Thinkers competition as part of our Public Engagement with Research training pathway, Leah made her application and was appointed a New Generation Thinker in May 2016. Leah's first appearance as part of the programme was at the Hay Festival 2016, contributing to an edition of Radio 3's *Free Thinking*.



Postdoctoral Training Coordinator

2016–17 saw the appointment of a new Postdoctoral Training Coordinator, Dr Laura Tisdall. Laura has run a series of lunchtime events for postdoctoral researchers, alongside a number of writing-related initiatives, including several 5-day 'bootcamps'. We are delighted to report that Laura has been appointed to a lectureship at Durham and will take up a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship next year. Laura's academic writing sessions have helped to engage researchers in a very popular academic writing group led by Dr Alice Kelly, whose reflections on the success of the initiative were recently published by the *Times Higher Education Supplement*.



torch.ox.ac.uk/earlycareer

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER PROFILES



Leah Broad

DPHil and BBC AHRC New Generation thinker (Faculty of Music)

My current research explores theatre music at the start of the twentieth century. My DPhil has focused on productions in the Nordic countries, looking at plays with music by composers such as Jean Sibelius. Extensive quantities of music were often commissioned for large productions during this period, but it remains a hugely under-researched area of music history.

I've spent a lot of time during my DPhil on research communication. For the past year I've been working with the BBC to translate my research for radio and TV shows, as one of the BBC/AHRC's New Generation Thinkers. Being part of this programme has been an incredible experience—I'd recommend it to all early career researchers. It's inspired me to put public engagement at the heart of my academic career.

For the last two years I've been co-leading the TORCH Nordic Network, which has provided an interdisciplinary home for Nordic Studies at the University. Thanks to the generous support of TORCH's research fund we've been able to host events from full-day conferences to afternoon seminars, to bring together researchers from across the globe. I'm hoping that some of the academics I've been lucky enough to meet through the network will come on as guests to my podcast on Nordic literature!

For the last two years I've been co-leading the TORCH Nordic Network, which has provided an interdisciplinary home for Nordic Studies at the University. *Leah Broad*

One of the best things about being involved with TORCH has been the opportunities to explore academic interests that are beyond my immediate area of specialism. *Natalya Din-Kariuki*

Natalya Din-Kariuki

Doctoral Student (Faculty of English Language and Literature), TORCH Management Committee member

My doctoral thesis examines the influence of classical rhetoric on the way that seventeenth century English travellers both experienced and wrote about life on the road. The study is comparative and interlinguistic in perspective, positioning rhetoric as a background in which to see cultural translation in sharper relief. With its dynamic and interdisciplinary intellectual culture, TORCH has played a key role in the development of this research. In addition to providing a great deal of professional mentorship and training, it has also connected me to researchers in other relevant disciplines (particularly History and Classics), enabling me to think about my work from new and illuminating perspectives.

One of the best things about being involved with TORCH has been the opportunities to explore academic interests that are beyond my immediate area of specialism. In 2016, I co-founded the Gender and Authority network with Adele Bardazzi, David Bove, and Julia Caterina Hartley, supported by TORCH and the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute. More recently, I have contributed an essay on the British-Nigerian author Helen Oyeyemi for the Postcolonial Writers Make Worlds project. I am glad that I will be continuing to work with TORCH next year, by joining its Management Committee in September 2017.



EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER PROFILES



Dr Dominic Davies

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow (Faculty of English Language and Literature)

I'm a postdoctoral fellow at the English Faculty and my current research project, now a book due to be published with Routledge in 2018, is entitled *Urban Comix: Collaboration, Reconstruction and Resistance in the Divided City*. It explores contemporary comics that depict cities marked by histories of division and ongoing forms of physical and social segregation, showing how comics are used by artists and writers to reconstruct more democratic and socially inclusive cities all over the world, from Beirut to Cairo and New Orleans to Cape Town.

For such interdisciplinary work, which straddles literary criticism, visual culture and urban studies, TORCH has been an invaluable platform. Their Network scheme has allowed me to set up a seminar series, *Comics and Graphic Novels: The Politics of Form*, designed to cultivate an open and inclusive environment where students, critics and practitioners from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds come together to explore the power, politics and potential of the comics form. Meanwhile, TORCH has also co-funded with the British Council US a coterminous research network, *Divided Cities: Culture, Infrastructure and the Urban Future*, which similarly brings urban theorists into dialogue with literary and cultural critics. As both of these evidence, TORCH is a place where the kinds of research that don't always 'fit' into specific departments can be sure to find a welcome and supportive home.

I am leaving Oxford in spring 2018 to take up a Lectureship in English at City, University of London, where I hope to introduce a number of comics and graphic novels into the curricular, along with other less conventional literary forms and texts.

For such interdisciplinary work, which straddles literary criticism, visual culture and urban studies, TORCH has been an invaluable platform. *Dr Dominic Davies*

What I have enjoyed the most about being part of TORCH and Pembroke College is being able to share my ideas with a range of other early career, mid and senior level colleagues and work with wonderful administrators. *Dr Imaobong Umoren*

Dr Imaobong Umoren TORCH-Pembroke Career Development Fellow in Women in the Humanities

From 2015–2017, I served as the joint Pembroke College-TORCH Career Development Fellow in Women in the Humanities. What I enjoyed the most about the postdoctoral position was that it gave me the opportunity to conduct research and teach undergraduates and postgraduates on topics including race, religion, and gender in the Caribbean and the US. Throughout the two years I was also able to play active roles within both the Race and Resistance and Women in the Humanities programmes. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to take part in widening participation programmes such as the UNIQ summer school on *Race and Protest in Modern Britain and America* and the Pembroke College's Access Summer School. Being based at TORCH was a great platform that enabled me to engage with the public, which I did in November 2016 when I participated in FRIGHTFriday at the Ashmolean and gave a talk on the theme of hope in relation to tenure of Barack Obama as President of the United States and Michelle Obama as First Lady. What I have enjoyed the most about being part of TORCH and Pembroke College is being able to share my ideas with a range of other early career, mid and senior level colleagues and work with wonderful administrators. The fellowship was critical in helping me to get the post of Assistant Professor of International Gender History at the London School of Economics, which I will start in September 2017. While I am no longer based in Oxford, I hope to continue to build on links I have made at TORCH throughout my career.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

TORCH continues to support, encourage, and expand on its innovative Knowledge Exchange activities.



Knowledge exchange is high on the agenda for Humanities at Oxford, and it continues to flourish and develop. We are very proud that two of our KE Fellows won the Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards this year, Professor Sophie Ratcliffe and Professor Armand D'Angour. The KE Fellowships programme again attracted high numbers of applications, and from a wide range of faculties. This year we were able to award nine fellowships varying from developing a sociolinguistic exhibition for the dialect of Bocchigliero, a remote town in southern Italy, to creating a European consortium in partnership with the National Trust and Historic England to support a Jewish country house heritage route.

Several KE fellows presented bite-sized talks at the Ashmolean Live Fridays throughout the year, and several entered the Humanities Innovation Challenge. We continued the AHRC Cultural Engagement project Connecting Oxfordshire Theatres with Research recruiting Dr Brian McMahon, as well as facilitating several new collaborations with regional theatres including Pegasus and the Theatre at Chipping Norton. A highlight was the Oxfordshire Science Festival event The Contagion Cabaret held at the Museum of the History of Science.

TORCH again collaborated this year with Overtone Productions—a local independent production company making radio programmes, mainly for the BBC—in running a Pitching Competition. Over a dozen entries made submissions to the BBC's commissioning round, with topics ranging from Walls and Latin America to Thinking about Utopia in the Age of Brexit. The next competition will run during Hilary 2018.

This past year I served as Acting Director of TORCH for a term as well as KE Champion and I will be continuing in my role as KE Champion until April 2018. I look forward to working closely with our KE fellows and nurturing knowledge exchange work across the Division and beyond.

Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr, Knowledge Exchange Champion

torch.ox.ac.uk/knowledge-exchange



Prince George of Denmark and his Admirals (1702-08)

torch.ox.ac.uk/george-of-denmark

The main objective of my Knowledge Exchange Fellowship was to showcase my research on the artistic patronage of Prince George of Denmark, consort to Queen Anne (r. 1702-1714) and Lord High Admiral). Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG) has been repositioning the Queen's House as a visitor destination, placing greater emphasis on royalty and portraiture. To further these efforts, we utilised my research on a group of portraits known as the Admirals series, commissioned by Prince George, and held by the National Maritime Museum. We also decided to explore George of Denmark's Scandinavian identity, in the context of foreign consorts as agents of cultural transfer.

In the course of the year I have helped curators to enhance their online catalogues,



given a paper on my research at a conference held at Greenwich, which will be published as an article, and in November 2017 I will be giving a public lecture on Prince George at the Queen's House. Furthermore, with financial support from the university, I have co-organised with my partners at RMG an international one-day workshop also at the Queen's House. This event will initiate a larger research project on Danish royal consorts in Britain.

Dr Julie Ferguson (Faculty of History)

Recreating the Music of an Ancient Greek Chorus: Euripides' Orestes

torch.ox.ac.uk/greek-chorus

The sound of ancient Greek music has been brought to life for the pleasure of the listening public, thanks to scholarly research by Prof. Armand D'Angour of Jesus College, using documents with notation preserved on stone and papyrus. Members of the Choir of Caius Cambridge, and musicians with instruments reconstructed scrupulously from ancient relics, gave a series of concerts in different venues including the British Academy, London, and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Their cutting-edge research used musicological and ethnographic expertise to bring to life haunting and appealing sounds that were first heard over two thousand years ago.



Concerts at the British Museum and the Ashmolean Museum, recorded by BBC Radio 3 and filmed by Oxford Digital Media, have already made an impact on the understanding of ancient Greek music. They have proved that ancient Greek music can be successfully realised for modern ears. Significantly, aspects of ancient Greek music such as the melodies of the Delphic Paean of 127 BC and the Seikilos Song of c.150 AD have clear stylistic connections not only to Gregorian plainsong that emerges around the ninth century AD, but to the oldest surviving score, a fragment of chorus from Euripides' *Orestes* dating to 408 BC.

Professor Armand D'Angour (Faculty of Classics)

Storming Utopia

torch.ox.ac.uk/themes/stormingutopia

There once was an island that was connected to a larger continent by a small but significant link. Then one day the citizens of this island decided to irrevocably separate themselves from the mainland, in order to pursue a dramatic and (some said) unrealistic vision of a better society.

A description of post-Brexit Britain? No, it's Thomas More's *Utopia*, the focus of an innovative Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement with Research project by Professor Wes Williams (St Edmund Hall) and Professor Richard Scholar (Oriol), *Storming Utopia*. They're exploring how



this sixteenth century political tract proves to be eerily relevant to our contemporary political moment.

A partnership between TORCH, Oxford's Pegasus Theatre, and the Cini Foundation in Venice, the project brought together a socially diverse group of people to devise and perform a new play, set in contemporary Oxford, which fuses elements of *Utopia* and Shakespeare's *Tempest*, while asking the question, 'If there was one thing you could change about where you live, what would it be?'

The project aims to fight the societal divisions that led to Brexit by enabling people from drastically different backgrounds to work out collectively what an ideal society might look like. Particularly rewarding has been the opportunity to bridge the generational divide by working with people whose age ranges from 7 to 67.

Professor Williams and Professor Scholar hope that their ongoing 'experiment in practical utopianism' will foster creative action in search of a better world and, most importantly, give hope that even the most intractable of differences can be overcome.

Francesca Moll, Freelance Writer
Writing on Professor Richard Scholar and Professor Wes Williams (both Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages)

Transforming the Operatic Voice

torch.ox.ac.uk/operatic-voice

Thanks to a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship this year, I was able to work with an amazing and forward-looking opera company McCaldin Arts to investigate the relationship between singing styles in popular music and opera. During the ten-month research period, Clare McCaldin (director of McCaldin Arts) and I spent a lot of time collecting a huge amount of data from recordings and performances, which was then put together into an hour-long radio show for 104.4 Resonance FM. This then led into a workshop where we explored the technical side of the research through an amazingly diverse selection of music, including songs by Handel, Cole Porter, and Adele! We challenged our open-minded singers to analyse what they did intuitively (or through training) in one genre and to apply this to music from a different vocal heritage, learning a huge amount in the process.

Clare and I then spent the summer in the recording studio putting the research into practice by creating a new song to really test the boundaries of opera and pop music, which will be premiered in concerts later this year. In addition, we are now putting forward an AHRC bid for a larger scale project, in order to focus more on the potential audiences for our new musical language and help to broaden the appeal of opera to a wider and more diverse demographic.

Dr Toby Young (Faculty of Music)



Trusted Source

torch.ox.ac.uk/trusted-source

Trusted Source is aiming to enhance public engagement with the National Trust's historic properties, landscapes and collections. Supported by InnovateUK and the AHRC, this innovative Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) is building an online bank of concise, engaging and accessible articles about history, culture and the natural environment, crowdsourced from 'trusted sources' in the academic community and the National Trust.

Rather than one-sided knowledge transfer, the partnership offers mutual benefit by supporting researchers at all career stages with opportunities for public engagement with research and networking, by raising public profiles and opening up interdisciplinary networks, in addition to offering access to the charity's inspiring places, archives and collections.

Now in its second year, *Trusted Source* is growing from strength to strength: the knowledge bank continues to expand, matched by the increasing number of contributors from Oxford and beyond (including the Universities of Sheffield, Bristol, King's College London, Newcastle, Leeds, Durham and Cambridge to date). The project recently won the *Research & Understanding Award* at the National Trust's annual Visitor Experience Awards, and was shortlisted for this year's Vice-Chancellors Public Engagement with Research Awards.

With *Trusted Source* built into Humanities graduate training and supporting events held across the University,

a culture of collaboration is being fostered to support both institutions' strategic aims while offering opportunities for individual researchers. Over the next year the project team hopes to establish a blueprint for collaboration to encourage further places and collections to be enriched through research.

See all *Trusted Source* articles and author profiles at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ktp

Dame Helen Ghosh, Director-General of the National Trust:

'We want to tell the stories of the collections and properties in our care in an engaging, accurate and inspiring way. Using the latest academic research, *Trusted Source* is helping us enhance the experience we give our members and visitors, uncover new information and deepen our understanding of the heritage in our care.'

Oxford History PhD student and Trusted Source contributor, Hanna Smyth:

'*Trusted Source* is an innovative project that I am excited to be involved with. One of its biggest strengths is its reciprocity: I was happy to contribute my knowledge for National Trust staff and visitors, and writing my contribution helped me think about how to communicate succinctly and with clarity. In contrast to the glacial pace of academic writing and publishing, writing for *Trusted Source* is also a more immediate way to have your research make a difference, and to reach a wider audience.'

Alice Purkiss (Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate, Trusted Source)

PUBLIC AND WIDER ENGAGEMENT



TORCH, at its core, operates as an agile-framework that supports researchers with multi-disciplinary research and wider and public engagement.

TORCH works with researchers to make their projects become greater than the sum of their parts: by facilitating connections between researchers who would not have met otherwise, TORCH stimulates new, ground-breaking research. It also enables scholars to reach out beyond the academy and work with external partners, nurturing collaborations with cultural organisations, policymakers, media and charities, both locally and nationally.

Drawing on what the University has long been celebrated for—its world class researchers—TORCH supports researchers to multiply their impact in innovative ways. TORCH regularly and actively partners with museums and cultural institutions as natural places to innovatively share and collaborate with research. By engaging with museums and galleries, the benefit to researchers and their research projects is huge. They help us reach larger and more diverse audiences and create a new wave of impact for researchers.

Here we share with you a selection of some of the events over the last year.

Victoria McGuinness, TORCH Business Manager

Inkpath

Since 2015 our Training Officer, Dr John Miles, has led a software development project which has produced *Inkpath*, a new personal and professional development platform for researchers with a smartphone app and desktop reporting interface. *Inkpath* has now raised over £650k in funding and external investment, and after a year's work with Oxford University Innovation the project spun out of the University as Inkpath Limited in July 2017 (www.inkpath.co.uk). John has also now 'spun out' with the company, and we wish him every success with this new venture!

Humanities Innovation Competition 2017

Dan Holloway, the Head of Administration and Finance in the Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, was the winner of the 2017 Humanities Innovation Challenge with *Mycelium*, a simple, fun tool for individuals, groups and businesses to train their creative skills. Other finalists included projects from researchers in languages, Experimental Psychology and from Oxford University Museums.

Quill Project

The Quill Project, led by Dr Nicholas Cole (History), aims to become the definitive source available for the study of the origins of the text of the Constitution of the United States and, subsequently, state constitutions. It will transform access to the founding documents of American constitutional law, by making available to a wider audience newly accurate and useful versions of the records of the

Constitution's creation. It will promote a new approach to the study of foundational, negotiated, legal texts and establish a software platform, *Quill*, that will have a significance for the study of a wide range of records. *The Quill Project* is linked with the Negotiated Texts TORCH Network.

www.digital.humanities.ox.ac.uk/project/quill-project

Tudor accidents: what happened next?

I had always thought that our ESRC funded research project on accidental death and everyday life in Tudor England would be of interest to the public, but had planned and begun our public engagement activities in conventional ways, with lectures to local history groups and interviews for newspapers, radio programmes and websites. Through TORCH, I have been able to develop new and interesting formats and collaborate in large events. We began with a bite sized talk at the Ashmolean late night 2015, linking accidents to museum objects, an approach we later repeated at the Museum of Oxford. We worked with TORCH at the Ashmolean again in 2016, inviting people to play a 'Tudor accidents: what happened next?' game, and then tried out a table-top version of the game at Curiosity Carnival and the TORCH Being Human Festival. These collaborations have given me a clearer idea of how to reach the public with my research and generated resources I can use to reach new audiences in future.

Steven Gunn, Professor of Early Modern History

Oxfordshire Science Festival: The Contagion Cabaret

Killer germs, superbugs, pestilent plagues, and global pandemics have fascinated writers, musicians and thinkers for centuries. Influenced by Professor Sally Shuttleworth's research project *Diseases of Modern Life*, researchers including Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr and a cast of actors from Chipping Norton Theatre came together to write and perform music and extracts from plays for a research-led evening at the Museum of the History of Science.

The Island

As part of a collaboration with the Chipping Norton and Pegasus Theatres, Professor Kirsten Shepherd-Barr brought together a panel for a post-show discussion and public Q & A on issues surrounding the extraordinary modern classic, *The Island* by Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona and directed by John Terry. Featuring three renowned Oxford University Professors—Elleke Boehmer, a biographer of Nelson Mandela whose research focus is on resistance and literature in sub-Saharan Africa, amongst other areas, and Oliver Taplin and Fiona Macintosh, experts on ancient Greek theatre and its remakings and receptions in modern times. They were joined on stage by members of *The Island's* cast and crew.





The Oxford city-wide Gaps Between Installation

Using prominent railings on iconic buildings in Oxford City Centre, the Gaps Between installation included images that celebrate Oxford's alternative and sometimes hidden stories, using photographs, artwork and archival material.

On the railings of the Radcliffe Camera, arguably one of the most recognisable buildings in central Oxford, there was a selection of three images including Professor Merze Tate. Professor Tate was selected by historian Dr Imaobong Umoren (History) because she was the first African American woman to attend the Oxford University as a student at St Anne's College in 1931 and was a world-class scholar.

The Gaps Between Installation highlighted and celebrated some of those people and stories, aiming to widen the perception of 'what is Oxford?'

torch.ox.ac.uk/behind-gaps-between-installation



Oxford Alternative Stories Mobile app

TORCH has collaborated with the Pitt Rivers Museum and the University Mobile App team to develop a platform to create apps for research and engagement. *The Oxford Alternative Stories* mobile app takes TORCH and researchers from a wide-range of disciplines to the city's streets and buildings to create an interactive app to reveal diverse stories and their links to Oxford's buildings, spaces, and places.

The aim is to highlight and braid together the alternative, fringe and lesser known stories relating to people and places in and around Oxford. Contributions from researchers can be in a range of formats including podcasts, interview fragments, videos etc.

The apps will be completed and launched in early 2018.

Bodleian-TORCH Temporary Displays

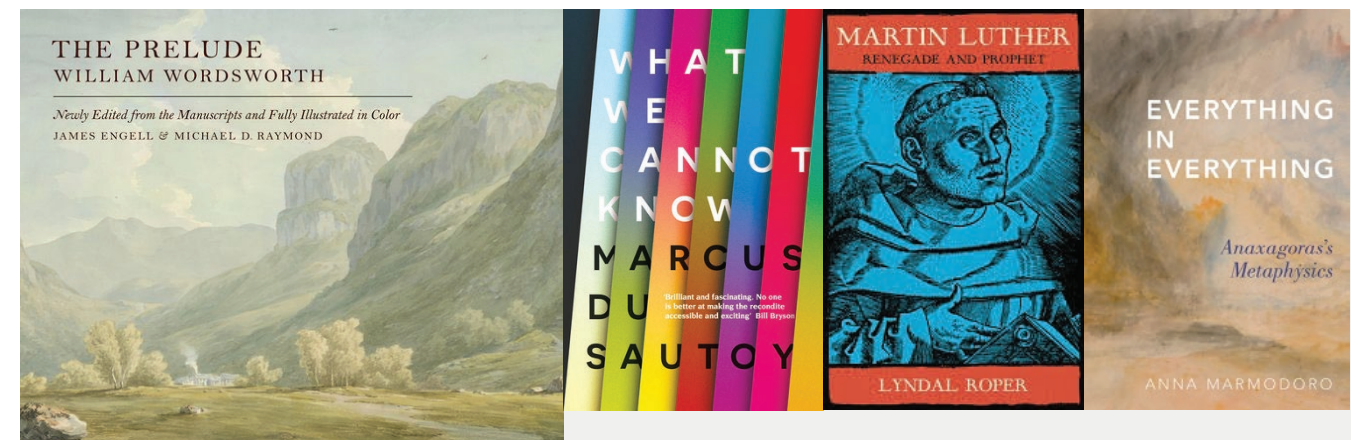
Thanks to the collaboration with the Bodleian, TORCH has facilitated opportunities for researchers to create temporary displays in the libraries. Three this year by Dr Ruth Scobie (Faculty of English) with *Portrait of a Lady*, Kieran Hazzard (History, King's College London) with *Writing the History of the Raj* and Professor Benjamin Bollig (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages) with Brave New Books showcased their research through and illustrated by the Bodleian Libraries' collections.



BOOK AT LUNCHTIME

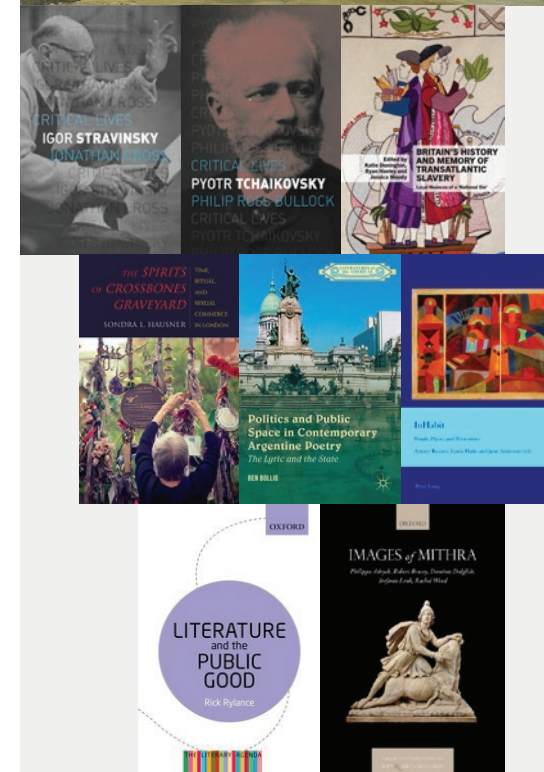
'This was a fantastic opportunity to discuss *Martin Luther – Renegade and Prophet* with a group of distinguished colleagues in the beautiful surroundings of St Luke's Chapel—and it sparked off the idea for a new project!'

Lyndal Roper (Regius Professor of History, University of Oxford)



Scholarship and research underpin everything TORCH does. The Book at Lunchtime series celebrates the latest Humanities research by highlighting new books by Oxford academics. Each term we feature books from a wide range of subjects, and this year Book at Lunchtime has followed the Annual Headline Series *Humanities & Identities* in theme. In particular, we welcomed the co-authors of *InHabit: People, Places and Possessions* back to TORCH in Hilary Term 2017 for a Book at Lunchtime discussion on their new book. Antony Buxton, Linda Hulin and Jane Anderson co-convened the TORCH inHabit: Text, Object and Domestic Space network in 2014-15 from which the book was a direct outcome.

Unusually for book events, the author does not give a talk. Rather, commentators from different disciplines give their perspectives on the book, followed by discussion with the author and the audience (with lunch provided). Professor Elleke Boehmer, Director of TORCH, said: Book at Lunchtime discussions are among the highlights of the TORCH term and keep our interdisciplinary interests alive and thriving across the year. I always enjoy hearing a range of experts talking about a book from their different standpoints, and then generally finding a range of surprising areas of interest in common.



TORCH | ANNUAL HEADLINE SERIES

HUMANITIES & IDENTITIES

In the autumn of 2016, TORCH launched *Humanities & Identities*, its Annual Headline Series for 2016–18. Following a significant grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund, the series aims to focus on multiple research areas relating to diversity and inclusion.

Humanities & Identities is bringing together researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, creative thinkers and wider communities interested in forms of self-identity past, present and future. We welcome innovative ideas for projects from researchers working across the humanities and beyond on areas that link to all aspects of diversity and inclusivity.

The series launch event *What Does Diversity Mean to Me?* was introduced by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson and brought a panel of experts from across the humanities and the cultural and political sectors together to discuss 'What does diversity mean to me?' This public event in January 2017 examined how diversity and inclusivity has shaped, and will continue to shape, the human experience and identity with speakers Deborah Cameron (Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication), Ellah Wakatama Allfrey (author and literary critic), Maria Misra (Lecturer, Modern History), Jay Stewart (co-founder of Gendered Intelligence), Marvin Rees (Mayor of Bristol) and Miles Hewstone (Professor in Social Psychology). The discussion was chaired by Elleke Boehmer (Professor of World Literature in English and TORCH Director).

Conversations and discussions on all areas of inclusivity from gender and sexuality to race, class, poverty, disability, and religion continued to be explored through the *Humanities & Identities* lunchtime seminar series. Throughout Trinity Term 2017, TORCH looked at some of the most pertinent issues of our time.

The seminars included *Migration, Memory and Identity* which looked at how identity, memory and migration are woven together and threaded through into narratives that we see in literature, history, politics and current issues facing the world today. Elleke Boehmer (Professor of World Literature



in English and TORCH Director) joined Gayle Lonergan (International Research Fellow, Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg) and Karma Nabulsi (Professor in Politics and International Relations) for this timely discussion which was chaired by Laura van Broekhoven (Director, Pitt Rivers Museum) and co-hosted with the Pitt Rivers Museum.

In April we hosted *LGBT+ 101* led by Dr Clara Barker (Department of Materials). The seminar sought to address misconceptions and provide a safe space to ask questions on LGBT+, and specifically transgender, people and issues in the press, media and everyday life particularly with terminology evolving at a fast pace and misinformation scattered around the internet.

In May, the New Directions in Caribbean Studies Seminar, TORCH, Race and Resistance Programme, the Fiction and Human Rights Network, and the Bodleian Library co-hosted *Volcanoes: Natural Disaster Narratives and the Environment in Caribbean Literature*. This panel discussion explored how the theme of natural disaster narratives and the environment shape other aspects of Caribbean literature. On the panel were Professor Richard Scholar, Annie Castro, Vanessa Lee, Jemima Paine (all Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages). Dr Imaobong Umoren (Faculty of History) chaired the event.

In June we discussed *Repositioning Women's Healthcare: Ebola Survivors in Sierra Leone*. Oxford Women in Politics (OxWip) and TORCH hosted this event with Fatou Wurie (Blavatnik School of Government) exploring designing a responsive health care system that places women's health at the centre and views them for their potential rather than as problems to be solved.

Complexity in our Multiple Identities: the 2017 Disability Lecture

The University of Oxford, as part of its commitment to equality and diversity, hosts an Annual Disability Lecture. This year, this public lecture spoke to the *Complexity in our Multiple Identities* and was co-hosted by TORCH and the Equality and Diversity Unit. Disability is one among our many possible identities, but it is one that is often hidden, necessitating constant choices about whether and how to share information. Marie Tidball (Faculty of Law), Dan Holloway (Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics) and Torø Graven (Department of Experimental Psychology) shared their individual approaches to disability in personal and professional spheres.

Disability and Curriculum Diversity Series

A series of 5 seminars with leading academics, practitioners, campaigners and commentators brought together to discuss disability issues, education and reform. This series launched in Trinity Term 2017 and will run until Hilary Term 2018.

The launch event *Diversifying the Curriculum: Disability Narratives and Histories* saw Professor Richard Sandell (University of Leicester) and Helen Hillman (Queen Mary, University of London) discuss disability as a conceptual lens in narrative and social history. The seminar was chaired by Dr Marie Tidball (Faculty of Law).

"With each event I attend, I realise that the Humanities now encompasses so much more than it did when I took my degree. The "opening up" and inclusion of so many different areas is like a zephyr...really refreshing." Attendee, *Diversifying the Curriculum: Disability Narratives and Histories*



MELLON HUMANITIES & IDENTITIES FELLOWSHIPS 2017-19



Knowledge Exchange

Through generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, TORCH was delighted to announce Dr Marie Tidball (Faculty of Law, University of Oxford) was awarded a Mellon *Humanities & Identities* Knowledge Exchange Fellowship. Marie's project will look at *Amplifying Inclusion: living disability narratives and law for the next generation*. Marie will work on knowledge exchange—as distinct from public impact or engagement—which encourages a two-way research relationship between academics and organisations, in either the public or private sector, and which are actively engaged in promoting diversity, broadly defined.

I am pleased to be joining TORCH and working with both Elleke Boehmer and Peter McDonald at this exciting time and for my research to be so warmly received by colleagues in the humanities at Oxford. I am looking forward to teaching and engaging with students and sharing ideas and perspectives.

Professor Rosinka Chaudhuri, Mellon Global South Visiting Professor

Mellon Global South Visiting Professorships

Marie will join Professor Rosinka Chaudhuri and Professor Marcio Goldman as incoming academics joining TORCH through the *Humanities & Identities* series.

The TORCH Global South Visiting Professorships Programme is designed to bring 10 world-leading figures to the University of Oxford for at least one term and be included in the teaching and research environment, hosted by leading academics in the humanities. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Programme is a collaboration between the Faculties of the Humanities Division and Colleges of the University of Oxford.

TORCH was delighted to announce Professor Chaudhuri was awarded this Professorship. Her work looks at nineteenth century Indian poetry in English and Bengali, on the Bengal Renaissance, on cross-culturalism, on poetics and world literature, and on literary history, amongst many other research interests.

Professor Marcio Goldman was also awarded a Global South Visiting Professorship. He works on Brazilian anthropology in particular, he has been a leading figure in exploring and developing the possibilities of a 'symmetrical anthropology'. He will be contributing on these new theoretical developments as well as his ethnographic research on Afro-American religions.

Mellon *Humanities & Identities* Conferences and Workshops 2016-2017

TORCH welcomed proposals from Oxford researchers in the humanities or in collaboration with humanities scholars for workshops/conferences relating to the headline theme *Humanities & Identities*. Below are a selection of those that were successful in their bids.

Class of 2017: A participatory creative life-writing workshop

- Dr Katherine Collins
- Dr Kate Kennedy

Two-way Tickets: Travel, Home, and War

- Dr Clare Broome Saunders (English)

Global and Comparative Feminism

- Kathryn Gleadle (History)

Whither Death

- Dr Helen Swift (Medieval and Modern Languages)
- Dr Jessica Goodman (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Women, Authorship and Identity in the Long Eighteenth Century

- Joanna Raisbeck (Medieval and Modern Languages)
- Kesley Rubin-Detlev (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Coetzee Conference

- Professor Elleke Boehmer (English)
- Dr Michelle Kelly (English)

The Book that Came in from the Cold

- Dr David Russell (English)
- Dr Annie Castro (English)

The Normans in the South

- Dr Emily Winkler (History)

Mobility and Space in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe

- Dr Luca Zenobi (History)

Mourning Italian Poetry

- Dr Jennifer Rushworth (Medieval and Modern Languages)

Medieval Intersectionality

- Dr Robin Whelan (History)

Language, Mobility and Belonging

- Kinga Kozminska (Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics)

You can keep up-to-date with the latest news, events and opportunities on *Humanities & Identities* through our Newsletter and website.

www.torch.ox.ac.uk/identities

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

Childhood Adversity and Lifetime Resilience

Childhood Adversity and Lifetime Resilience began in TORCH early in 2015, when Dr Lucy Bowes and Dr Siân Pooley were awarded two Mellon Foundation doctoral studentships. In Michaelmas 2015, Michelle Degli Esposti and Jono Taylor began working towards DPhils, in Experimental Psychology and History respectively.

Our project explores how we understand, and what we know about, children who grew up in adverse circumstances in modern Britain. We examine the changing ways people experienced, interpreted, and were affected by behaviours that have been understood to be harmful to children since the 1880s (such as violence, neglect or sexual abuse). With a shared focus on individuals' changing lives, our research connects historical work on social inequalities and subjectivity to quantitative analyses examining different pathways to resilience following early life adversities; together we use textual, quantitative and longitudinal evidence to understand the diverse ways in which people made, and make sense of, their lives.

One of the highlights of the year has been our ongoing Knowledge Exchange project, Changing Lives, funded by the University of Oxford's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account. A workshop in July, also supported by Magdalen College and TORCH, brought together experts from a diverse range of fields, spanning children's services, community health, national charities, and academic research to consider what enables children growing up in adversity to thrive in modern Britain. The event began a series of conversations from which we hope future collaborations will develop. Four important points emerged from the workshop: the benefits of working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries; the insights that can be drawn from past policies and practice; the importance of knowledge exchange with front line workers so that they are confident in supporting people who have experienced maltreatment; and the need to ensure that children and young people are at the heart of all conversations. The workshop also witnessed the launch of a new poetry exhibition, in collaboration with the national charity Coram Voice and

Pearson Publishing. Based in the Radcliffe Humanities Building, it has been wonderful to showcase a selection of poems and pieces of creative writing produced by children and young people in and from care.

The generous provision of desk space at TORCH, which has enabled the DPhil students to meet regularly and discuss ideas, in conjunction with routine monthly meetings, continues to be central to the success of the project. Michelle and Jono are now nearing the end of their collaborative research, which considers trends in reported incidents of child abuse and neglect in Britain since the 1880s. This work, which has involved trips to national archives (a new experience for Michelle!) and systematic, yet arduous, checking of data (a learning experience for Jono!) has consciously sought to respect our very different disciplinary strengths while uncovering findings which speak to both fields of study. From a psychological perspective, the research allows us to consider child abuse and neglect across a longer time-frame and helps us to explore the effects that interventions (e.g., child protection efforts) have had on the incidence of child abuse and neglect. Simultaneously, statistical methods, such as time series analyses, offer historians a more robust and consistent description of trends in identified abuse and neglect.

As the project enters its third year, we are continuing to develop partnerships with providers of children's health and social care, in order to think together about the relationships, environments, actions, resources and interventions that support children to thrive when growing up in adverse circumstances. By sharing knowledge with providers and practitioners, we hope that our research uses new evidence to answer key questions, and communicates findings in ways that are most likely to contribute to improved care for children in modern Britain.

Dr Siân Pooley (Faculty of History), Dr Lucy Bowes (Department of Experimental Psychology), Michelle Degli Esposti (Department of Experimental Psychology) and Jono Taylor (Faculty of History).



The Mental and Material Laboratory of Thirteenth-Century Science

After two years of research into our project on medieval science, we have made some exciting progress, developing research interests in psychological and theological responses to nature in the high middle ages. Joshua's work explores the sensory experience and conceptualisation of diverse natural phenomena, including light, colour, sound and speech. Untested medieval hypotheses are evaluated with current experimental methodologies, situating medieval observations and theories in modern physical and psychological sciences. Tim's work, on the other hand, is broadly concerned with the reception of patristic theology in the high middle ages, and how this shaped and informed conceptions of nature in didactic, hexaemeral, and encyclopaedic texts. As such his research is particularly interested in the theological purpose of the zoological, especially in England and Northern France at the turn of the thirteenth century. Collectively, though our individual approaches are distinct from one another, there also exists considerable overlap, allowing us to broach a holistic understanding of medieval science—the empirical and theological investigations of creation.

The past academic year has afforded a number of occasions for us to develop academically. Early in the year we both attended an Ordered Universe workshop at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Durham. The workshop provided a brilliant opportunity to delve deeper into the works of Robert Grosseteste—a key medieval thinker central to our research—as we worked on the first volume of the Ordered Universe Project's series of critical editions, commentaries and analyses. Following the Durham workshop, we were both invited to present papers at the *aspectus* and *affectus* conference at Georgetown University in Washington DC. Organised by Professor Neil Lewis, the conference attracted academics specialising in Grosseteste and medieval science from across the world. The prospect of presenting our ongoing research in this setting was, in many respects, formidable—though it was also an enriching and enlightening experience which offered an informed response to our continued research.

As we are both affiliated with Pembroke College, it was a pleasure to organise and host the Ordered Universe workshop there, in May. Welcoming more than 20 academics, including experts in fields of philology, medieval history, physics and psychology, over the course of three days we worked through two more texts from Grosseteste's impressive corpus on natural phenomena. In addition to the May conference, Pembroke College also served as the location for the inaugural Ordered Universe strand of the Oxnet Access Week summer school, providing sixth-form students with an immersive taste of Oxford life as an undergraduate. Looking through two of Grosseteste's texts—the *De luce* and the *De colore*—students were acquainted with the challenging yet richly rewarding interdisciplinary approach required to interpret medieval scientific texts, supplemented by a program of lectures, seminars and tutorials. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the week was the incredibly high standard of work the students produced and exhibited, which saw Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson, present a number of awards for excellence. This re-emphasised the importance of our work on medieval science, and its ability to engage the minds of the next generation.

Looking to the future, we are keen to continue to convey the work and findings of our interdisciplinary project through public engagement. To this end, we are organising an event on Exhibiting Ideas through various forms of media, to be held at TORCH in November, 2017. We are also working on a video documentary which should be finished in spring 2018. The documentary will provide a permanent record of our project's key findings, and will also feature as part of the Medieval Science exhibition later that summer. To find out more about our project and progress, please visit our blog and website (medievalscience.uk).

Tim Farrant (Faculty of Theology and Religion) and Joshua Harvey (Department of Engineering Science and Department of Experimental Psychology), Professor Clive Siviour (Department of Engineering Science) et al, Professor Hannah Smithson (Department of Experimental Psychology), Professor Carol Harrison (Faculty of Theology and Religion)

GIVING TO TORCH

TORCH is funded by various sources, including the University's John Fell Fund, with additional support from Trusts and Foundations, as well as private donors. TORCH is grateful to have also received funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as well as other donations totalling over £2 million for the years 2013–2020.

TORCH has now completed its fourth full year in operation (2016–17) and continues to support, facilitate and encourage interdisciplinary research. As part of the University of Oxford's Humanities Division, TORCH is based in the Radcliffe Humanities building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

'By providing small amounts of seed-funding to new research networks, TORCH has become an invaluable testing ground for innovative research projects. These projects are supported by TORCH's infrastructure, which offers free rooms for events, website hosting and advice and investment from the TORCH team. Selected on a highly competitive basis, funding for networks lasts for up to two years, after which many networks apply for further external funding, bringing in valuable research grants to the University. Many go on to be more established research programmes at TORCH, using new approaches to tackle some of the challenging questions of our time.

An investment in TORCH goes a long way. I have supported TORCH for over two years now, and it has been wonderful to see it back so many innovative projects and people in that time. TORCH is a very young institution in the University of Oxford's 900-year history, but it has already made a great impact in the University, in the UK, and internationally, and with support I believe its impact will continue to grow.'

Michael Hoffman

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters. If you would like to give a gift to TORCH, please contact Gordon Cox, Head of Development (Humanities) gordon.cox@humanities.ox.ac.uk or online via the University campaign:

www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/torch

The TORCH vision immediately inspired me and I felt compelled to contribute from the beginning. At a time when so much research is becoming so highly specialised and inaccessible to the layman, it is critical that we support initiatives that will break down the barriers and refashion the way in which the humanities are presented, taught, thought about and communicated to future generations.

*Julian Schild, alumnus,
Pembroke College, Modern History*

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