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White Rose

College of the Arts
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Universities of Leeds, Sheffield & York

Newsletter

Volume 3: Spring 2015

The Effective Researcher Colloquium—February 2015

On 25th February, Caryn, Clare and myself - and most of the first WRoCAH cohort - were at The Ridge in Sheffield for our first Colloquium. The focus of the day was on working with external partners and Researcher Employability Projects (REPs). These one-month projects are an important element of the training plan for most WRoCAH researchers, and those in receipt of AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards get the equivalent experience in other ways. The REPs are an amazing opportunity to gain a different experience, working with a cultural or arts organisation, for example, or visiting an overseas university. I wish I had been able to draw on such opportunities when I was a PhD researcher, whether I ended up researching collections in Barnsley, or the Washington Naval Museum! The WRoCAH core partners have also been extremely helpful in commissioning a wide range of projects. Over the next 6 months the first cohort will be identifying their projects and we are looking forward to seeing the range of things they elect to do. Thanks to everyone who helped with the day, for making it such a successful event.

Julian Richards, WRoCAH Director

WRoCAH Training plans

We have run three events now with our incredibly keen first student cohort. The first induction introduced students and supervisors to the new way of cohort development under the AHRC's Doctoral Training Partnerships including opportunities for internal funding schemes. The second event was a whole cohort training needs analysis to help students find appropriate solutions to their training needs, and identify where WRoCAH might provide training that could be available beyond the funded cohort. Students worked in groups to prepare specific proposals for training events which were then taken to the WRoCAH Training and Engagement Group for consideration.

As a result of this, a number of training events are being organised. These events will be available to the whole WRoCAH student cohort and also, where numbers permit, to students beyond the main cohort - either unfunded or from different funders. Events being planned are:

- **Managing video and sound sources**—15-16 April 2015 (2-day event across two sites being provided by the British Universities Film and Video Council)
- **Using static visual images**—Spring/Summer 2015 (The National Archives)
- **Fieldwork training, specifically object handling and cultural sensitivity**—Spring/Summer 2015 (in discussions with V&A)
- **Getting published in Arts & Humanities and specific sub-disciplines**—Autumn 2015 (Audit being undertaken of content of training already offered—make sure this training extends and adds value)
- **Managing conference technology**—Autumn 2015 (training from video streaming providers and opportunity for skills practice)
- **Research data management (practical skills for data collection)** - Autumn 2015 (In discussions with University of York Library as possible training provider).

Caryn Douglas, WRoCAH Manager

Student Profile — Nigel Walter



Phd title: All is Not Lost: Change, Narrative and the Community Ownership of Historic Buildings

By background I am a specialist conservation architect working predominantly with churches - everything from the conservation of medieval structures to substantial alterations and new buildings. My research arises from professional frustration at the way change to historic buildings is dealt with so badly, with buildings treated as completed works of art (so change is equated to harm and loss) rather than the usually robust, ongoing, intergenerational community narratives they have always been. My research therefore critiques current theory and practice, with the aim of finding a better guiding metaphor for conservation, which can then inform a more nuanced methodology.

The combination of an outstanding Conservation school in the Department of Archaeology, the Christianity and Culture Study Centre, and vibrant History, History of Art and Philosophy Departments make York the obvious base from which to explore these issues; on top of that, WRoCAH's wider networks and additional resources are a huge bonus. This magical mystery tour has already included the intimacies of archaeology, the playfulness of ecclesiastical jurisprudence and the heady joys of philosophical hermeneutics. What's not to like?

Partner Profile — Maney Publishing



As an academic publishing company with its founding office located right at the heart of the White Rose University Consortium Maney Publishing has a real empathy with the aims and objectives of WRoCAH and the dissemination of research in the arts and humanities.

Maney, working with scholarly societies, publishes many of the flagship journals that cover key areas that researchers will be working on during their time at the College. We hope one day to see the products of this research appearing in our journals for those that go on to follow a career in academia and professional practice.

The possibility of inviting WRoCAH students to undertake research projects within the Company is particularly exciting as it will give them the opportunity to see what the impact of publishing their research has on the scholarly community, and how, as a publisher, we are able to maximise readership, usage and citations; how we work with the mandates of the higher education funders and institutions; and how we explore new markets and technologies to continue to add value to our publishing services.

*Contributed by:
Liz Colquhoun, Publishing
Manager
Representative of the WRoCAH
Partnership Advisory Board*

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WRoCAH Network Update—Faith in Food, Food in Faith

The network got off to a good start at its first meeting on 21 October 2014 in York, hosted by Michelle Alexander (Dept of Archaeology). This was the first time that all nine team members met together. A direct outcome was our new student-run blog:

www.historicfoodscapes.wordpress.com.

Although still under construction, the blog will provide a mixture of research insights and skills support. Our second meeting will be in Leeds, at the School of Food Sciences, on 4 March.

York-based student Alice Toso is currently in Portugal, successfully building relationships with the curators of the medieval skeletal

collections that she needs to sample for stable isotope analysis of Muslim and Christian diet. Sheffield-based student Veronica Aniceti soon goes to Sicily to gather data for her study of medieval animal bone evidence for diet.

Leeds-based student Holly Hunt-Watts recently featured in a BBC news story (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-31313465>) in relation to previous research at Exeter, and will also appear in the BBC's *Digging for Britain*. Holly is now combining bioarchaeology, history and epidemiology to explore dietary patterns in industrial Britain.



*Contributed by
Dr Iona McCleery,
Network Lead
<http://wrocah.ac.uk/network/faith-in-food/>*

Student Led Forums—Profile on The Arts and Social Change Network

Asking Questions with the Arts and Social Change

January welcomed the very first meeting of the Arts & Social Change Network, which took place in York. At this inaugural meeting we explored participatory art and social change with the support of guest speaker Rhian Hutchings. Rhian recently left her post as Youth & Engagement Director of the Welsh National Opera to startup her own company Operasonic. She introduced the group to Wolf Brown's 'Audience Engagement Spectrum' which proved a useful vehicle for discussion around participation in arts experiences. The Arts & Social Change Network will be meeting monthly until June, with each session

featuring an inspiring guest providing different perspectives on the role of the arts in creating and sustaining social change. In March we discuss quality in relation to arts and social change with visual artist & researcher Melanea Warwick from The University of Brighton, and in April we explore the role of the museum & gallery in platforming social change with Tony Butler, director of the Derby Museums Trust.



*Contributed by
Jade French, AHRC CDA*

www.artsandsocialchangenetwork.com

Twitter: @ASCNetwork

WRoCAH Partners



Upcoming events

Finding and Using Moving Image and Sound Resources in Research
15 and 16 April 2015 at the Universities of Leeds and York

20 places are available on this two-day training event being funded by WRoCAH covering areas including finding and using audio-visual resources for academic research, best practice in citing any audio-visual item and assessing the validity and provenance of resources

To apply follow the link below:
bit.ly/wrocah-bufvc

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