

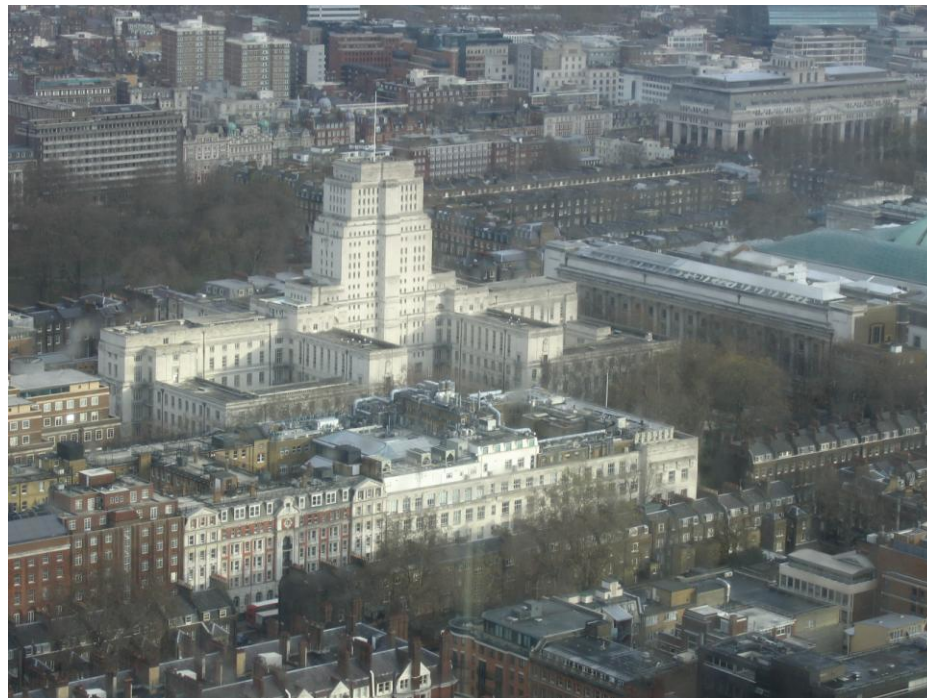
# Contemporary History Now

CCBH, Summer 2010

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[www.ccbh.ac.uk](http://www.ccbh.ac.uk)

Centre for Contemporary British History, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet St,  
London WC1E 7HU. Tel: 020 7862 8802 Email: [ccbhinfo@sas.ac.uk](mailto:ccbhinfo@sas.ac.uk)

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## CCBH staff moving to King's College London

CCBH staff are delighted to announce that they are moving to King's College London from 1 August 2010. The transfer includes CCBH's MA and PhD programmes and its witness seminars.

The staff look forward to working with colleagues at KCL as well as continuing all their existing collaborations with historians across the UK and abroad.

## MA in Contemporary British History

As part of the move, the MA in Contemporary British History will be offered as a King's College London degree from October 2010. As before, the MA will offer a thorough training in the history and historiography of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as the methods and sources for research. All the existing modules will be offered, together with two new exciting History & Policy modules. These new modules give students the opportunity to take a history MA with a unique and contemporary twist that is clearly relevant and applicable to the present. They are designed both for people who have worked in a policy or media-related field and want to pursue their historical studies in a format relevant to their career and for those looking to go on to doctoral research and be able to demonstrate the impacts of their research in the public sphere. It will consider how policy is made, how history can contribute to the policy-making process, and how it has been used to inform policy decisions.

Applications are now open for this course – go to

[http://www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/graduate/index/name/contemporary\\_british\\_history/alpha/c/header\\_search/](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/graduate/index/name/contemporary_british_history/alpha/c/header_search/) (live link) for full details on the course and how to apply.

For more information on the MA, please email Virginia Preston [virginia.preston@sas.ac.uk](mailto:virginia.preston@sas.ac.uk) or Pat Thane [pat.thane@sas.ac.uk](mailto:pat.thane@sas.ac.uk).

## PhDs in Contemporary British History

Professor Richard Roberts, Professor Pat Thane and Dr Michael Kandiah will be offering PhD supervision at King's College London. Students interested in applying for a PhD with one of them should start by emailing their prospective supervisor to discuss their research proposal. Applications should then be made via the KCL online application procedure. Go to

<http://www.ccbh.ac.uk/postgraduatestudy.php>

for information on studying for a PhD and here

[http://www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/research/index/name/history/alpha/h/header\\_search/](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/research/index/name/history/alpha/h/header_search/)

for information on research History degrees at King's and how to apply.

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## ***Student Spotlight: Psychiatric services for Korean War forces***

**Meghan Fitzpatrick, MPhil/PhD candidate, Department of War Studies KCL, graduate of the CCBH MA in Contemporary British History.**

My name is Meghan Fitzpatrick and I am an MPhil/PhD student in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. My thesis seeks to ascertain what psychiatric health services were available for Commonwealth forces during the Korean War (1950-1953) and whether or not treatment was an improvement or represented a failure to learn from past military performance.

My interest in military psychiatry originally stems from my time as an undergraduate. I was fortunate enough to come across an article by my current supervisor, Prof. Edgar Jones. The piece concerned the provision or lack thereof of mental healthcare services for RAF servicemen in the course of WWII. For some time I had been developing a keen fascination with military history. I wanted to approach the subject in a unique manner but was at a loss as to how I was to do this. The article opened up a whole new way of studying the military.

Psychiatry is a specialty dedicated to serving the health of the individual, whereas the military is a collectivist organization concerned with the effort of the whole. As such, they often have conflicting interests. The armed services are also a body with a deeply engrained masculine culture, in which mental illness has often been interpreted as personal weakness rather than as a recognized disorder. How psychiatry is viewed and implemented in the military can act as a sensitive barometer of changes in military medicine and culture.

Research that deals with the ongoing relationship of this odd couple seems especially pertinent now. Troops often return from Afghanistan and elsewhere and require the help of mental health professionals. The process of diagnosis and treatment is still far from perfect and it is based on the experience of twentieth century warfare. Those conflicts forged the current understanding of trauma. The better we understand how our paradigms were developed; the better off society and the military will be in the long run.

It may seem as if this form of historical work should be the remit of the psychiatrist. Undertaking interdisciplinary studies is an ongoing challenge. I am a historian and not professionally trained as a psychiatrist. In order to fully engage with my subject I had to begin learning the language and methodologies of psychiatry from the period I am studying. In short, it has been necessary to step far outside of my methodological comfort zone in order to do justice to my topic. Despite these obvious obstacles I do believe that interdisciplinary work of this nature is both possible and worth the effort for the determined historian. Historians frequently engage with unfamiliar worlds and are able to glean important observations and lessons from such engagement. We are often outsiders looking in on the activities of others. It is that position as an outsider that can be most advantageous when coming to conclusions that the initiate would not see clearly. Perhaps this is an idealistic viewpoint. Nonetheless, it is a view that I sincerely believe is of great value for my own research and the work of other historians engaged in similar activities.

## **CCBH Witness Programme: The Home Office and Crime Policy in England and Wales, 1980-2007**

As part of the long established witness seminar series, four witness seminars relating to the Home Office and crime policy will be held between May and July 2010, supported by a grant from the SAS Dean's Development Fund. The purpose of the witness seminars is to collect the kind of oral testimony from participants that is not captured in the formal written archives and which, if not captured, will be lost entirely to future historians.

A significant part of the United Kingdom's international reputation has been associated with the perception of its criminal justice system and its influence through the common law legal systems that have spread across the globe. Characteristics like an independent judiciary drawn from an independent bar, police forces possessing real operational independence, an accusatory and jury determined trial process, a prison service that has maintained high quality standards even under considerable pressure, and a developed system of innovative community punishment initiatives have all contributed. Long supporting policy innovation has been the internationally-rated Home Office social science research facility in its Research Unit.

The planned seminars will examine these achievements by looking at: the development of the Home Office Research Unit from 1957; the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; the Criminal Justice Act 1991; and the significant machinery of government changes which redistributed functions between the Home Office and a new Ministry of Justice in 2007. Whilst the latter changes particularly can be seen as modifying a British kind of exceptionalism, profound changes in the role of the judiciary and the influence of the European Convention on Human Rights and its Court have also seen the British system move closer in some ways to foreign models.

The first seminar focused on the Home Office & The 1991 Criminal Justice Act and was held in Birkbeck, University of London, Friday, 7 May 2010. Participants included: Graham Angel; Hon Sir Robin Auld; D. J. Bentley; Professor David Downes; Cedric Fullwood; Bryan Gibson; John Halliday; Dr R. M. Morris; Professor Rod Morgan; and Baroness Stern of Vauxhall.

The second seminar will examine the role of the Home Office Research Unit, at the LSE, 1-5p.m., Friday 14 May 2010. Confirmed participants include: John Croft; Professor David Downes; Professor Paul Ekblom; Professor Roger Hood; Professor Mike Hough; Professor Gloria Laycock; Professor Ian Loader; Professor Mike Maguire; Dr Rita Maurice; Pat Mayhew; M J Moriarty; Bob Morris; Joy Mott; Professor Tim Newburn; Chris Nuttall; Professor Paul Rock; and Professor Dr Jan van Dijk.

The final two witness seminars will be held on 2 July 2010 and will focus on the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984 & on Home Office organisational changes, 1995-2005. These witness seminars will be held between 10.30a.m. and 4.30p.m., in Birkbeck, University of London.

Anyone wishing to attend must contact the Witness Programme Director, Dr Michael Kandiah ([Michael.Kandiah@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Michael.Kandiah@sas.ac.uk)). Please note that audience places are strictly limited.

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## HISTORY & POLICY

[www.historyandpolicy.org](http://www.historyandpolicy.org)

### News

To mark the milestone of our 100th paper, H&P published a special, election-focused policy paper. Drawing on expertise and ideas from some of the previous 99 papers, Mel Porter and Alastair J. Reid explore what historians can contribute to today's major policy questions. In [Today's toughest policy problems: how history can help](#), they examine the knotty issues that will face the new government: the economy and finance, democracy and political reform, social policy, the NHS and public health, climate change and international security.

Other papers published recently include: [Unequal Britain: equalities in Britain since 1945](#) by Pat Thane, [The 'Idea of a University' today](#) by Robert Anderson, and [The legal profession and social activism: the Italian 'long 1968'](#) by Maria Malatesta.

H&P has published a range of opinion articles by historians on the election, including a call for proportional representation by Simon Szreter, a look at the role of nuclear weapons in British election campaigns by Matthew Grant, a discussion of public opinion and spending cuts by Henry Irving, and Jon Lawrence's history of political gaffes. Visit H&P's [Election 2010](#) page to read these articles and other comment by historians.

Research by H&P co-manager Richard Roberts was published in a recent report exploring the historical precedents for major cuts to public spending. In 'Sharpening the Axe', published by Lombard Street Research, Professor Roberts explores the so-called 'Geddes Axe' drive for retrenchment during the 1920s. He argues that the spending cuts achieved were not as swingeing as people have since assumed, and highlights the relevance of this largely unresearched episode for today's policymakers. The report is available from [Lombard Street Research](#). It was covered by the [Evening Standard](#), the [Independent](#) and the [Observer](#).

### Events

#### Unequal Britain: 60 years of equalities policy

H&P organised a discussion on 'Unequal Britain' at the British Academy on 25 March, to launch a new book edited by Pat Thane, ['Unequal Britain - Equalities in Britain Since 1945'](#), published by Continuum.

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The panel of speakers including Rob Berkeley, Trevor Phillips OBE, Peter Tatchell, Judith Okely, Baroness Sally Greengross and Pat Thane. You can listen to a podcast of the discussion on the [British Academy website](#).

## Free training for doctoral students, 25-26 May 2010, The National Archives, Kew

The successful H&P-TNA workshop, "Using archival sources to inform contemporary policymaking," will be running on 25-26 May, at TNA in Kew. Thanks to AHRC-funding the course is free for history (or related) PhD students, including expenses where required, but places are limited. This is an excellent course, with lots of practical tips on getting the most out of the resources at TNA and fascinating case studies from historians whose research is at the sharp-end of current policy issues, including David Edgerton, Sue Onslow, Michael Kandiah, Dennis Wheeler and Philip Withington. There will also be a session on influencing policymakers and the media with H&P External Relations Manager Mel Porter and David Turner of the Health Select Committee, and sessions with expert archivists from the TNA. For further details and the full programme, please see The National Archives website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/research-scholarship.htm>

## Keep up to date with H&P news

If you are not yet a member of the History & Policy mailing list and would like to join please register at <http://www.historyandpolicy.org/register.html>.

If you would like to unsubscribe from this list please go to <http://www.historyandpolicy.org/register.html> and complete the form using the email address you subscribed with.

If you're a tweeter you can now receive the latest H&P news as it happens through twitter. Follow us at <http://twitter.com/HistoryPolicy>.



# Contemporary History Now

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT CCBH**

[www.ccbh.ac.uk](http://www.ccbh.ac.uk)

## Contemporary British History Seminar, Summer 2010

Seminars take place in the Wolfson Room on the first floor of the Institute of Historical Research, at 5pm, unless otherwise indicated. All are welcome.

**28 April Alastair Reid (Girton College, Cambridge)**

**A model of British manufacturing success: shipbuilding, 1870-1950**

Chair: John Edmonds (former general secretary of the GMB).

Organized with the History & Policy Trade Union Forum, to launch Dr Reid's book, 'The Tide of Democracy: Shipyard Workers and Social Relations in Britain'

**12 May Liza Filby (Warwick)**

**'Doing God': Religious Conventions and Political Values in British Politics c. 1979-present.**

**26 May Marika Sherwood (Black and Asian Studies Association)**

**Black Political Activism in Britain, 1900-1965**

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## Reassessing the Seventies

### CCBH Summer Conference, 7-9 July 2010

The 1970s marked a watershed in post-war British history with economic crises and profound political and social discord precipitating major social, cultural, political and economic changes with enduring consequences. Three decades after the 'winter of discontent' and the election of Margaret Thatcher, and with the papers now fully open, this major interdisciplinary conference will reassess developments in this crucial decade, placing them in the context of postwar British history as a whole.

Speakers at the conference include: James Cronin, Jim Tomlinson, Andy Beckett, Sue Harper, Hera Cook. Frank Mort will give the Pimlott Lecture on Thursday 8 July, looking at the Permissive Society and London. The conference takes place in Senate House, University of London.

For booking form and programme details see the link on the CCBH website homepage or email Virginia Preston ([virginia.preston@sas.ac.uk](mailto:virginia.preston@sas.ac.uk)).

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See the **CCBH website for more forthcoming events: [www.ccbh.ac.uk](http://www.ccbh.ac.uk)**