

**Working Agenda**  
**HOTCUS PG & ECR Conference: “The Uses and Abuses of the American Past”**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October, University of Nottingham**

| <b>Registration</b><br><i>Humanities Building, Foyer</i><br>08:30 – 09:00   |   |
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| <b><u>Stream A: Humanities A2</u></b><br>09:00 – 10:30  | <b><u>Stream B: Humanities A3</u></b><br>09:00 – 10:30  |
| <b><u>Legal and Social Responses to Defining Moments and Texts in American History</u></b>  | <b><u>Foreign Policy and the Legacies of American Action</u></b>  |
| <p>“Whatever Happened to the ‘We’ in ‘We the People’?”<br/><i>Ashley Gallant, University of Nottingham</i></p> <p>“‘Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness’: The Declaration of Independence in the ‘Pro-Life’ Movement<br/><i>Verity Kahn, University of Aberdeen</i></p> <p>“‘Alternate History’: The Kennedy Assassination in the Era of ‘Alternative Facts’”<br/><i>Samuel Taylor, University of Manchester</i></p> <p>“The Legacy of <i>Furman vs Georgia</i> (1976)”<br/><i>Catriona Bide, University of East Anglia</i></p> <p><i>Chair: TBC</i></p>   | <p>“‘Nothing but a Dirty Word’: The Spectre of Yalta in the Early Years of the Eisenhower Presidency”<br/><i>Adam Boon, Queen Mary University London</i></p> <p>“‘Freedom for Others Means Safety for Ourselves’: The Concept of Totalitarianism After the End of the Cold War”<br/><i>Sophie Joscelyne, University of Sussex</i></p> <p>“Providing Substance in the South? The U.S., Britain, and the Creation of the No-Fly Zone over Southern Iraq in 1992”<br/><i>Liam David O’Brien, University College Cork</i></p> <p>“President Donald Trump, North Korea and the Ghost of George W. Bush: Failing to Learn the Lessons of the Past?”<br/><i>Matthew Gallagher, University of East Anglia</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Malcolm Craig, Liverpool John Moores</i></p> |
| <b>Coffee Break</b><br><i>Humanities, Foyer</i><br>10:30 – 10:45  |   |
| <b><u>Stream A: Humanities A2</u></b><br>10:45 – 12:15  | <b><u>Stream B: Humanities A3</u></b><br>10:45 – 12:15  |
| <b><u>Conservatism and the Contest to Shape American Historical Memory</u></b>  | <b><u>New Approaches to Assessing the History of Race in the United States</u></b>  |
| <p>“‘Lincoln would cry out in pain’: Civil War Memory, Civil Rights, and Barry Goldwater’s Republican Party”<br/><i>Tim Galsworthy, University of Sussex</i></p> <p>“Texan Textbooks: Cranks, Conservatives and the Contest for America in High School History, 1976-1991.”<br/><i>Rob Alex Fitt, University of Birmingham</i></p> <p>“Taking the Rose Garden on the Road: Reagan’s Re-election Campaign and his 1984 Tour of Europe”<br/><i>Sarah Thomson, University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>“US Gun Culture as Projecting the Politics of the Present”<br/><i>Josephine Harmon, University College London</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Mark Eastwood, University of Nottingham</i></p> | <p>“It was the Press What Won it: Commemorative Journalism and the Civil Rights Movement”<br/><i>Mark Walmsley, University of East Anglia</i></p> <p>“Popcorn, Peanuts, and the Melting Pot: How the early movie-theatre concession stand can be used to explore xenophobia and urban society during the 1920s”<br/><i>Lucy Hulls, University College London</i></p> <p>“‘We took a lot of the tactics and ideas from the successful struggles of our time’: Immigrant Organising and Historical Memory within Los Angeles’ Janitors”<br/><i>George Francis-Kelly, University of Leeds</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Rachel Pistol, King’s College London</i></p>  |

**Lunch Break**  
*Humanities, Foyer*  
12:15 – 13:00

**Developmental Roundtable Session: Beyond the First Year Seminar: Developing a Broad Teaching Toolkit**  
*Humanities A3*  
13:00 -14:00

*For the majority of PGs and ECRs, their initial experience of teaching is limited to first year undergraduate courses. Whilst this offers a great experience of teaching, it fails to give the breadth of experience many interview boards are looking for. This session aims to offer practical insights and experiences into more developed teaching practices in order to develop understanding and awareness of the more sophisticated requirements of many teaching roles.*

Maria Ryan, University of Nottingham: “Module Design”

Peter O’Connor, University of Nottingham: “Admin in Wonderland: Balancing Teaching, Research, and the Demands of Admin”

Tom Bishop, University of Lincoln: “Starting from Scratch: Building the University of Lincoln’s American Studies Degree Programme”

*Chair: Mark Eastwood, University of Nottingham*

**Coffee Break**  
*Humanities, Foyer*  
14:00 – 14:15

**Stream A: Humanities A2**  
14:15 – 15:45

**Women’s Struggle for Workplace/Labour Equality in Cold War America**

“The Female Recruitment Campaign for the Korean War”  
*Rebecca Crunden, University College Cork*

“Playdoc, M.D.: Medical Identities, Sexualities, and Playboy in American Medical College Yearbooks, 1967-73”  
*Elizabeth Evens, University College London*

“Social disorder: Publics, 1968, and the Amateur Photography of Vivian Maier”  
*Lucy Mounfield, University of Nottingham*

*Chair: Sarah Thomson, University of Edinburgh*

**Stream B: Humanities A3**  
14:15 – 15:45

**The Contested and Violent History of Race in the Contemporary Moment**

“Did the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) betray Japanese Americans during the internment, and is it relevant today?”  
*Blake Seares, University of Portsmouth*

“Japanese American incarceration during the Second World War, Trump’s travel ban, and the detention of migrant children – how the Japanese American community is leading the campaigns for justice”  
*Rachel Pistol, King’s College London*

“Confederacy ≠ Civil Rights: Segregated Memory, The Recovery of White Supremacy and the Battle for Moral Equivalency in South Carolina”  
*Tom Holmes, University of Nottingham*

*Chair: Matthew Gallagher, University of East Anglia*

**Coffee Break**

Humanities, Foyer

15:45 - 16:00

**Developmental Roundtable: The Issue of Casualisation**

Humanities A3

16:00 – 17:00

*Discussions and events at recent HOTCUS conferences have highlighted the startling issues of casualisation and precarious work in British academia. As the findings of the recent report on American history in Britain suggested, the popularity of American history in our universities can produce many teaching opportunities for PGRs and ECRs, but these positions are often exploitative and rarely lead to permanent positions. Recent industrial action in the sector has also raised the visibility of those on short-term contracts and highlighted a barrier of understanding that often exists between them and those in senior positions. In short, PGs and ECRs continue to bear the weight of current debates around the state of modern academia, despite often being marginalised institutionally.*

*In this panel discussion, we will offer and invite ideas as to how groups such as HOTCUS can develop a meaningful response to these issues and consider what an official HOTCUS stance on casualization and exploitation might look like.*

Megan Hunt, University of Edinburgh and HOTCUS ECR Secretary

Rebecca Stone, University of Warwick

Mark Walmsley, University of East Anglia

**Comfort Break**

17:00 – 17:10

**Keynote Session: “Looking at the Short Twentieth Century through the Lens of Legacy”**

Humanities A3

17:10 – 18:00

**Professor Michael Cullinane, University of Roehampton**

*The conference will be followed by a complimentary reception, courtesy of LSU Press*



*HOTCUS would also like to thank the British Association of American Studies and the Department of American and Canadian Studies at the University of Nottingham for their generous support*