



Pro-choice demonstrators march to the US Capitol, 1971

The Regulated Body

HOTCUS Postgraduate and Early Career Conference

**Rothermere American Institute
University of Oxford
18 October 2019**

HOTCUS would like to thank the Rothermere American Institute, the British Association for American Studies, and the Royal Historical Society for their generous support



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Welcome

Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the annual HOTCUS PG & ECR conference for 2019, our sixth annual event, to Oxford, and to the Rothermere American Institute. We are delighted to welcome attendees from all around the country to share research and exchange ideas about the history of the United States in the twentieth century. As with all our PG & ECR events, we are particularly grateful to the senior academics and industry experts joining us to share professional development and career advice in our roundtable session.

The entire committee would like to express its thanks to the Rothermere American Institute (RAI), the British Association for American Studies (BAAS), and the Royal Historical Society (RHS), whose generous support of the conference has enabled us to reduce costs for PGs and ECRs, and to offer a number of travel and accommodation bursaries. We would also like to thank all of you for joining us and contributing to what we hope will be productive and stimulating discussions over the course of the day. My personal thanks to fellow members of the committee for all their support in making this conference possible.

Please do consider joining us for our upcoming events, applying for one of our generous awards, or nominating yourself for the position of HOTCUS Postgraduate Secretary next year. More details are contained in this programme.

If you have any queries about anything to do with the event, please don't hesitate to ask me or another member of the HOTCUS committee.

Best wishes for a successful conference,
Emma Day (HOTCUS Postgraduate Secretary)



General Information

Location

All panels and refreshment breaks will take place at the RAI:
Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford
1A South Parks Road, Oxford
OX1 3UB

WiFi

Eduroam users may freely pick up WiFi at the RAI. Alternatively, please use the guest WiFi provided by the RAI

Twitter

@HOTCUS

Please feel free to tweet throughout the conference using the hashtag
#HOTCUSPG19

Work in Progress Meeting, 17 October

Attendees are also invited to join us the evening before the conference, on **Thursday 17 October**, for our second Work in Progress meeting at **Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford**.

Liam O'Brien (University College Cork) will be presenting a paper on **'Winning Back the Peace: The George H.W. Bush Administration, Operation Southern Watch, and a New "Game Plan" for Iraq, August 1992'** and Dr Megan Hunt (University of Edinburgh) will be presenting a paper on **"He was shot because America will not give up on racism': Martin Luther King, Jr. and the African American Civil Rights Movement in British Schools.'**

The meeting will take place in the Olga Pocock Room of the college between 5pm-7pm. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the meeting in order to receive the pre-circulated papers beforehand by emailing: hotcuspostgrads@gmail.com.



Conference Registration: 9.00-9.30

Panel One: 9.30-11.00

Medicine, Memory, and the Struggle for Reproductive and Racial Justice

Chair: Tim Galsworthy, University of Sussex

- Lizzie Evens, University College London: ‘Footprint all babies, fingerprint all mothers’: Gender, Forensic Science, and the Abandoning Mother in Mary Hamilton’s Campaign for Universal Fingerprinting
- Ella St George Carey, University of Oxford: ‘Do You Want to Start a Race Riot?’ The Creation, Operation and Environment of the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing 1921-1938
- Anne Stokes, University of Manchester: ‘Trapped on the Bus’: The Marginalized Memorialization of African American Women in the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements

Tea & Coffee: 11.00-11.15

Panel Two: 11.15-12.45

The Development of Surveillance: From the Streets to the State

Chair: Karen Patricia Heath, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford

- Grace Watkins, University of Oxford: Policing the Campus: The History of American Campus Police in the 20th Century
- Owen Walsh, University of Leeds: Japanese State Surveillance and the Making of Black Radicalism in the 1930s
- Noah Remnick, University of Oxford: To Protect and Observe: Copwatch and the History of Community Countersurveillance

Lunch break: 12.45-13.30

Panel Three: 13.30-15.00

Constructing Ideal Bodies

Chair: Thomas Tunstall Allcock, University of Manchester

- Vincent Chabany-Douarre, King’s College London: ‘To Glorify our Community’: Beauty Queens, the White Body, and the Racial Regulation of Suburbia



- Elsa Devienne, Northumbria University: Beyond Arnold: Legitimizing the Muscular Body in the Postwar US
- Olga Akroyd, University of Kent: John Randolph of Roanoke: An Unlikely Icon for Modern Times?

Tea & Coffee: 15.00-15.15

Developmental Roundtable Session: 15.15-16.15

Publishing: From First Article to Monograph

Chair: Emma Day, University of Oxford

- Dr Nick Witham, Associate Professor of United States History, UCL Institute of the Americas, and Co-Editor of the *Journal of American Studies*
- Robert Langham, Senior Publisher, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group
- Helen Gilmour, Portfolio Manager, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

Break: 16.15-16.30

Keynote Address: 16.30-18.00 *With the RAI American History Research Seminar*

Professor Douglas Charles, Penn State University: Researching *Hoover's War on Gays*: Uncovering Hidden History

Wine Reception: 18.00-18.45



Guidelines for Audiences¹

At HOTCUS, we are keen to foster a supportive, engaged environment for productive academic discussion. To that end, we would like attendees to think about the following guidelines when asking questions. Given the nature of a PG & ECR conference, this guidance is particularly pertinent. Some of our delegates are presenting their research for the first time. If you are a more experienced member of the profession, please think back to the first time you gave a paper!

The following guidelines for constructive questioning are adapted from a 2015 piece in *The Guardian*.²

The supportive question

Audiences can be silent for lots of reasons, so we appreciate the kindly souls who break the ice. We like questions that show you have actually listened to the presentation and those that address a specific point. Don't be afraid to ask for clarification – this gets the speaker to engage and explain, and can be particularly useful for researchers at the start of a project.

The selfless question

The questioner who focuses on a speaker's research is immeasurably more helpful than one who dwells on their own. Even better are questions that compare the work of several panellists. These turn the conversation into a three-way discussion between the questioner, the speakers on the panel and the audience.

The tough-but-fair question

These are the most rewarding ones. Tough makes us explain and clarify, and it can point out holes and inconsistencies. It can turn our research around. But it must be fair. If evidence poses problems, ask us to say a few words about solutions. Or try offering an exception to the case and ask us to reflect on it.

The practical recommendation

Everybody loves this question: we need to know what we have missed in the primary and secondary sources. But phrase it positively, please. Don't demand to know why the speaker has omitted classic work a, b, or c. It's far better to ask: "Have you consulted such and such? It reinforces your argument."

¹ A special thanks to Malcolm Craig for the participation and chairing guidelines.

² Joanne Begiato, Lorna Campbell, Steven Gray, and Isaac Land, 'Don't be a conference troll: a guide to asking good questions', *The Guardian*, November 11, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2015/nov/11/dontbe-a-conference-troll-a-guide-to-asking-good-questions>



The think-outside-the-box prompt

We like to look at our work from new perspectives, so these questions are always welcome. It shouldn't feel like an attack, however. Nor should it be about the questioner's own work. Ask us to think about a specific comparative case, or comment that our findings may be reflected in other fields or time periods – not only does this challenge preconceptions in a useful way, it may help us to think about expanding our work in new directions.

The tell-me-what-else-you-know question

We all cut lots out of our papers. Very often, speakers comment on this while delivering a paper, partly because we are so desperate to point out that we haven't missed something obvious. So we love an opportunity to flesh out details and demonstrate the depth of our research.

The I-couldn't-disagree-more question

What should you say when your disagreement is genuine and large – so much so that downplaying it would be an injustice to your intelligence and the speaker's? Staying civil is hugely important in this situation, so keep it brief. Try, as Jane Austen put it, to “unite civility and truth in a few short sentences”.

Register your dissent and the reasoning behind it without taking up too much time (or unleashing strong emotions). If your point is widely shared in the room, you won't need to labour it; if it is not, a lengthy intervention will not win you many converts. You can always discuss your issues after the session.

We don't necessarily want everyone to agree with us and praise us (although that can be nice). We want the audience to take us seriously, whatever career stage we are at. That means not dismissing speakers because they are in the early days of their research and have not yet read seminal works. Similarly, those of us at the other end of the spectrum need to be challenged on new approaches and techniques. Early-career scholars can offer much here, even if nervous about questioning senior academics.



Guidelines for Panel Chairs

Here are some useful guidelines for chairs of panels, again adapted from the *Guardian*.³

Be organised

Introduce yourself to your speakers in advance. Confirm their biography and paper title. Find out how they prefer to be addressed and check how to pronounce their names. In order to ensure seamless transitions, make sure that presentations are preloaded, and check that your speakers know how to find and open theirs.

Be inclusive

Do not give one speaker more prominence than the others, whoever they might be. In case of silence during Q&A, prepare your own question for each speaker, but don't hog the time. Scan the audience to ensure that early career researchers and more reticent colleagues have an opportunity to address the panel. Women are often under-represented amongst question-askers at conference, so be attentive to that, especially at the start of the Q&A. Try to make sure that all speakers get at least one comment or question.

Be selfless

Let the speakers take the spotlight. If you find links with your own work, or think of references that might help to inform speakers' research, talk to them or email them later. Encourage inexperienced researchers and speakers, and boost their confidence by thanking them for their presentation and showing an interest in their work.

Be attentive

You are the chair, in full view of the room, so listen attentively. When it's time for questions, stand to the side and scan the audience, leaving centre stage for your speakers. If multiple audience members raise their hands, make eye contact with each and nod discreetly so they know you have seen them.

Be firm

Always begin promptly and make sure you time each speaker's individual slot, so that each has his or her fair share of the session. However awkward it is, you must keep people to time. Agree in advance with your speakers about what sign you will use to alert them that they need to begin drawing their talk to a close.

³ Joanne Begiato, Lorna Campbell, Steven Gray, and Isaac Land, 'Don't be a conference troll: a guide to asking good questions', *The Guardian*, November 11, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2015/nov/11/dontbe-a-conference-troll-a-guide-to-asking-good-questions>



HOTCUS Conference Harassment Policy

HOTCUS is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone. We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. Harassment includes inappropriate and unwelcome comments, touching, attention, photography, stalking and intimidating behaviour. If you experience harassment, contact a member of the HOTCUS committee as soon as possible. Conference participants violating this policy may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference at the discretion of the organizers.

Attending HOTCUS Steering Committee Members

Emma Day (PGR Secretary)

Tim Galsworthy (PGR Secretary)

Megan Hunt (ECR Secretary)

Thomas Tunstall Allcock (Committee Secretary)

Karen Heath (Treasurer)

Uta Balbier (Vice Chair)

Kendrick Oliver (Chair)



HOTCUS 2020 Winter Symposium: Food, Health, and Welfare in U.S. History, Keele University, February 22, 2020

Plenary Speaker: Dr Nina Mackert (University of Leipzig)

The long twentieth century witnessed vital developments in American health and welfare provision at times of significant public health challenges, ranging from rediscoveries of domestic poverty, to AIDS, to current-day opioid addiction, food insecurity and financially ruinous healthcare options. Moreover, President Trump's apparent penchant for fast food and avoiding excessive physical exertion is just one of the visions of healthiness that emerged during this era. This symposium seeks to showcase the latest research on food, health, and welfare, and to reflect on the state of these fields today. We invite scholars of the United States since 1890 from every career stage interested in any aspect of American food, health, wellness, and/or welfare history to submit proposals to the symposium.

Potential topics may include (but are not limited to):

Food/health/welfare policy development

Gender, sexuality, and race dimensions

Literary and cultural representations of food/health/welfare themes

Food/health/welfare concerns and foreign relations

International and/or transnational perspectives

Changing perceptions of food/health/welfare

Health, sports, and recreation

Food, poverty, and/or diet

Please submit paper or panel proposals to David Ballantyne (d.t.ballantyne@keele.ac.uk) by **October 28, 2019**. Please limit proposals to 300 words per paper and provide a brief biographical description with your submission. To help the symposium organisers arrange panels, please note your gender with your submission.

HOTCUS values diversity and equality in its conference organisation. We strongly encourage and, where possible, give preference to panels that reflect the diversity of our field in terms of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, institutional affiliation and employment status. As permitted under s.158 Equality Act 2010, all-male panel proposals will not be accepted.



HOTCUS 2020 Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, 10-12 June, 2020
Plenary Speaker: Connie Chiang (Bowdoin College)

Our next annual conference will take place in the historic Scottish capital city of Edinburgh and will be hosted by the University of Edinburgh's School of History, Classics, and Archaeology.

Further information and a Call for Papers will be made available soon. If you have any queries about the 2020 conference, please contact Malcolm Craig at m.m.craig@ljmu.ac.uk

Awards

The HOTCUS Awards Programme offers two major forms of financial awards and prizes designed to recognise and support excellence in American twentieth century historical scholarship:

- The **Article Prize**, awarded annually to the best article in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal by a HOTCUS member.
- The **Postgraduate and Early Career Travel Awards**, which provide funding for research trips to the US and elsewhere.
- The **Postgraduate Paper Prize**, which recognises the best paper given each year at the HOTCUS annual conference by a postgraduate student.

Full details about the prizes, including schedules and deadlines, can be found at:
<https://hotcus.org.uk/awards/>

HOTCUS Committee Positions – Postgraduate Secretary

Each year, the existing members of the HOTCUS steering committee stand down. The vacant positions are then subject to a new nomination and – if necessary, election – process.

All HOTCUS members currently registered as PhD students are eligible to nominate themselves for the two-year term position of Postgraduate Secretary, and their nomination application form must be seconded by another HOTCUS member.

The role is a fantastic opportunity to work with brilliant people and gain valuable academic experience. Do not hesitate to contact Emma Day or Tim Galsworthy, the current Postgraduate Secretaries, if you have any questions about the position. Details of the election process are advertised each summer.