



The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH





# Contents

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Director's Welcome .....	4
Organisation & Governance .....	6
Advisory Board .....	6
Management Group .....	6
Institute Project on Decoloniality – Year 2 .....	8
Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond .....	11
The year at IASH .....	11
Making and celebrating books at IASH .....	16
IASH/Susan Manning Workshops .....	18
GENDER.ED .....	19
RACE.ED .....	22
Networks & Consortia .....	25
Fellows & Fellowships .....	26
Overview .....	26
List of 2022-23 Fellows .....	27
Ideas Grow: Looking Ahead to 2023-2024 .....	30
Thanks & Acknowledgements .....	31

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## Director's Welcome

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I am deeply honoured to be the new Director of IASH. In taking on this role, I am conscious that I am standing on the shoulders of intellectual giants such as Professors David Daiches, Susan Manning and Jo Shaw, amongst others. I'd like to extend a vote of thanks to the outgoing Director, Professor Steve Yearley, for his outstanding leadership of IASH over the past five years, not least through the difficult years of the Covid19 lockdown. I also want to thank Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson and Ms Pauline Clark for their welcome and for the care they have taken to ensure a smooth transition between Directors. Grateful thanks are also due to our many student interns and to the wisdom and support of our Management Committee and Advisory Board. It has been such a pleasure to join an Institute that is so well run. And, in that context, I am particularly delighted to announce that Ben has now been appointed to the newly created post of Deputy Director of IASH, and I offer him my warm congratulations.

Over the past half-century, IASH has played a critical role in the university as a crucible for inter-disciplinarity across the arts, humanities and social sciences, with an international reputation for ground-breaking research and for nurturing successive generations of outstanding scholars from across the globe. A key role of the IASH Directorship at this time is to ensure that this legacy endures against a backdrop of volatility and increased precarity in higher education both in the UK and beyond. IASH offers its Fellows the gift of time for deep engagement with their intellectual projects and, I hope, a feeling of collective joy and comradeship. During my first year in office, it has been especially inspiring to meet successive cohorts of both early career and more senior Fellows. This annual report serves to celebrate their research and the myriad of events which they have led. Here I have space to pick out only a few highlights from the past year.

The academic session began with the unveiling of a plaque to Dame Rebecca West by our special guest, the award-winning author Geoff Dyer, and our new Head of College, Professor Sarah Prescott. It was a reminder of how important Hope Park Square has become to IASH's own identity – a historic space dating from

the early eighteenth century and one which is shared with local residents – emblematic of the interconnections between town and gown which we cherish.

Throughout the year we have showcased the work of current and former Fellows, with a series of book launches including: Dr Dipali Mathur, Digital Scholarship Fellow 2022/23, *Available to be Poisoned: Toxicity as a Way of Life*; Dr Ali Kassem, Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellow 2021/22, *Islamophobia and Lebanon: Visibly Muslim Women and Global Coloniality*; and Dr Jolene Zigarovich, Visiting Research Fellow 2021, *Death and the Body in the Eighteenth-Century Novel*. A particular highlight was the launch at Summerhall of *Our Time Is A Garden*, an anthology of nature and landscape poetry from women and nonbinary writers of colour in Scotland. It was edited by our former Junior Anniversary Fellow Dr Alycia Pirmohamed, and contributors to the collection included co-winners of the 2022 Edwin Morgan Prize, Titilayo Farukuoye and Roshni Gallagher. We have also showcased the creative practice of Dr Thomas Metcalf, our current Junior Anniversary Fellow, with a concert of his works for piano (with pianist David Palmer) and the premiere of his composition *Message without a Code* at a concert of contemporary work for voice and flute, performed by Stephanie Lamprea and Richard Craig. The past year has also seen a very successful series of Susan Manning workshops on topics as wide-ranging as queer theory in Eurovision, Islamic manuscripts, and decolonial resistance and the political sovereignty of late liberalism. Fellows have also participated in a range of Festivals, including the Being Human Festival of the Humanities (exploring what it means to be human in an age of artificial intelligence) and the ESRC Festival of Social Science (on the theme of nationalism, narratives and New Scots).

A key priority for me as Director has been to bring the research undertaken at IASH to a wider set of audiences – both inside and outside the university. To this end, we have launched a new series of public engagement events. The theme for the series in 2022/23 has been Future Justice. It opened with a lecture from

IASH Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Mira Xenia Schwerda entitled 'The Role of Photography and Resistance in Iran Today', with a panel discussion chaired by Professor Nacim Pak-Shiraz. Our second event was on the impact of big pharma on climate justice and it took the form of a lecture by IASH Visiting Research Fellow Dr Christina Richie, followed by a discussion chaired by Jessamy Bagenal (Executive Editor, *The Lancet*) with Phil Mackie (Director of Public Health Scotland). Our third and final event for the academic session was on the role of reparations, restitution and restorative justice in countering colonial histories. Chaired by Dr Deval Desai from the School of Law, it featured the work of IASH Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Paola Vargas Arana, with keynote contributions from Onyekachi Wambu (Co-Executive Director of the African Foundation for Development) and Esther Stanford-Xosei (Coordinator General of the campaign, Stop the Maangamiziz: We Charge Genocide/Ecocide).

Recognising that the current higher education environment is especially challenging for early career researchers, this academic session has also seen the launch of our Fellowship mentoring and development programme. The aim is to support Fellows to navigate, succeed in, and ultimately help transform, that environment. We have brought learning and insight from IASH senior Fellows and alumnae/i into the programme. In doing so we hope to build a community of practice which spans generations of scholars and from which our Fellows will continue to benefit long after their time at IASH. Sessions so far have included tips on surviving the first five years in academia, building an academic career, peer review and writing for journals, and book publishing.

I am delighted to report that over the past year we have been able to extend our Fellowship programmes. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Witwatersrand to enable us to host two African Fellowships per annum for the next three years; we have also appointed our first RACE.ED Stuart Hall Fellow – Dr Marlo De Lara – with the aim of continuing our collaboration with the Stuart Hall Foundation

for the next ten years. I am particularly pleased that IASH is sponsoring a new GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellowship which will support a portfolio of interdisciplinary research on gender and sexualities studies, and next year will also see the appointment of our first public engagement Fellowship. The 2022/23 session has also marked the half-way point of our Institute Project on Decoloniality (IPD), with over 60 Fellows now appointed to work on themes as diverse as: queer melancholia, suicide and decoloniality; hospitals and healthcare architecture in Africa; and decolonial readings of gender-based violence in subaltern fiction in India. And we look forward this autumn to the launch of our first IPD publication of works in progress, under the series editorship of Dr Désha Osborne, an IASH alumna and now Chancellor's Fellow at the university.

In these uncertain and very fragile times, universities, I believe, bear a particular responsibility to contribute to global civic leadership: not only through the core business of research and education but also by utilising their convening power. The arts, humanities and social sciences are fundamental to the promotion of human flourishing and, as the output of scholars at IASH has ably demonstrated over many decades, they have a central role to play in tackling some of the most difficult and contested issues which face societies across the world today. Governments divest these disciplines to their own cost, not least because of the capacity of such disciplines to promote peace and reconciliation, trust and mutual understanding. Over my own career as an academic, I have always embraced the notion of praxis: knowledge for action. As a multi- and interdisciplinary institute, IASH is a key driver of the epistemic disruption that is so often the prerequisite for knowledge transformation. And I continue to be excited by the possibilities for impact which our collective scholarship can bring.

Professor Lesley McAra CBE FRSE  
IASH Director

## Organisation & Governance

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### ADVISORY BOARD

At the top level of oversight, our Advisory Board is drawn from diverse areas of academia and from civil society. The Board is chaired by Professor Sarah Prescott (Vice-Principal and Head of CAHSS, University of Edinburgh), and in 2022-23 the membership comprised:

- Dr Sam Alberti (Director of Collections, National Museums Scotland)
- Dr Olivier Bouin (Director of French Network of Institutes for Advanced Studies/EURIAS)
- Professor Rosi Braidotti (Founding Director, Centre for the Humanities, University of Utrecht)
- Ms Shreela Ghosh (Secretary, The Charles Wallace India Trust)
- Mr Allan Little (broadcaster; Chair of the Edinburgh International Book Festival)
- Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (Professor of Modern History, Trinity College Dublin; Parnell Fellow, Magdalene College, Cambridge)
- Ms Amina Shah (National Librarian, National Library of Scotland)
- Professor Sarah Skerratt (Chief Executive, Royal Society of Edinburgh)
- Ms Christine Wilson (Director Research & Insight, British Council)
- Dr William Zachs (Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh)

### MANAGEMENT GROUP

The IASH Management Group continues to ensure that we meet our strategic goals of excellence across our interdisciplinary remit and that we serve the needs of all Schools across the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS). Members are drawn from across the College and meet twice annually to consult on strategic and major operational matters.



The 2022-23 members were:

#### PROFESSOR RICHARD ANDREWS

Head of the Moray House School of Education and Sport. His research interests are in rhetoric, poetics and argumentation across the disciplines; in writing development; and in research methodologies in the digital age. Professor Andrews stood down in 2022.

#### DR PATRICIA ERSKINE

Head of Stakeholder Relations & Policy Officer for CAHSS. Patricia manages several of the University's collaborative relationships with Edinburgh's major festivals and cultural organisations, including co-ordination of the University's digital arts programme.

#### DR RADHIKA GOVINDA

Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Director of GENDER.ED, the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for gender and sexualities studies. Her research and teaching focus on gender politics of development, intersectionality, feminist movements and knowledge production.

#### PROFESSOR ED HOLLIS

Personal Chair in Interior Design and Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange at the Edinburgh College of Art. An architect and interior designer, Ed balances his own research with assisting staff across ECA to develop their own research interests and projects.

#### PROFESSOR LAURA JEFFERY

Professor of Anthropology of Migration in the School of Social and Political Science (SSPS), and Dean of Research in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Her research interests include migration and displacement.

#### PROFESSOR MICHELA MASSIMI

Professor of Philosophy of Science in the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. She works in the area of history and philosophy of science with a focus on topics such as realism, pluralism, perspectivism, and scientific models.

#### PROFESSOR LESLEY McARA

Director of IASH, Chair of Penology and Assistant Principal Community Relations. A past President of the European Society of Criminology, Lesley writes and teaches in the fields of youth crime and juvenile justice.

#### PROFESSOR JOLYON MITCHELL

Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues (CTPI), Professor of Communications, Arts and Religion, and former Academic Director of IASH. His research examines religion, violence and peacebuilding with particular reference to the arts. Professor Mitchell stood down in 2023.

#### PROFESSOR GREG WALKER

Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures and a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He specialises in the literary culture of the reign of Henry VIII and has also written widely on late-medieval drama and poetry and Renaissance literature.

# Institute Project on Decoloniality – Year 2

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Since our foundation, IASH has welcomed researchers examining colonialism, Empire and coloniality, but like most Global North institutions, our Fellowship appointments privileged White scholars and failed to encourage research rooted in formerly colonised nations. It is our recognition of this history that informs our £750,000 three-year research project, the Institute Project on Decoloniality 2021-2024 (IPD '24).

With an aim to decentre Whiteness in academia and mitigate the disproportionate favouring of White, English-speaking scholars, IPD '24 augments existing work by RACE.ED, UncoverED, the Centre for African Studies, the Centre for South Asian Studies, the Edinburgh Centre for Global History and many others. Following similar thematic campaigns led by IASH, such as the 1986 Institute Project on the Scottish Enlightenment (IPSE '86) and Technology, Communication and the Humanities 1988 (TeCH '88), IPD '24 largely concerns the inclusive and expansive study of decoloniality. The following is a working definition, not intended to exclude any decolonial scholars or theoretical frameworks:

*Informed by the work of a variety of writers in both the Global South and Global North, and spanning Indigenous rights, Africana thought, and movements for reparatory justice, decolonial inquiry contends that knowledge generated within what is termed a 'colonial matrix of power' has left us with a narrow, patriarchal and contested understanding of ourselves and the world. One means of addressing this is to challenge accepted theories of knowledge about the modern and the global, understood as 'epistemic disobedience', with a view to re-imagining and reconstructing our world, something in which university-based teaching and learning, research and wider community engagement is pivotal.*

Thus, IPD '24 scholarship predominantly explores issues regarding but not limited to:

- Decolonising gender and sexuality
- Decolonising the curriculum
- Anti-colonial and decolonial theory
- Intellectuals in and from the Global South
- Intersectionality and multiple inequalities
- Race and racialisation
- Decentring Western feminist knowledge production
- Scotland's role in the British Empire
- The University of Edinburgh's colonial legacy and alumni roles in the slave trade
- The histories of Edinburgh graduates and staff of colour

Each year, approximately 30 Fellows are appointed, and a writer or playwright commissioned to create work inspired by the themes above. During their time, Fellows are expected to give a work-in-progress talk about their work at IASH, with more senior Fellows expected to deliver a public lecture. Additionally, their work will be presented at annual conferences, with the proceedings published as part of IASH's Occasional Papers series.

Ultimately, IPD '24 will result in a major conference and a special issue of *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*.





Guided Tour, December 2022

IASH provides financial resources, office facilities, and most importantly, a safe space beyond individual schools for researchers from the university and the wider international academic community to collaborate and disseminate their responses to the themes. We hope the Institute Project on Decoloniality can begin to mitigate the disproportionate favouring of White, English-speaking scholars and serve as an opportunity to do better, with an aim of sustaining and enhancing this work beyond the three years of the Project as a critical friend of the university and a supporter of diverse and engaging scholarship.

34 of this year's Fellows were working within the Institute Project on Decoloniality. Here are some insights:

**Dr Bhakti Shringarpure was a 2022 IASH-SSPS Research Fellow, working on her project *Stories and Saviors: On Literary Humanitarianism***

My IASH project expands upon my critical engagement with humanitarianism through a focus on saviorist proclivities in literary, cultural and storytelling initiatives. Today, we see a proliferation of stories of single individuals perceived as victims in need of humanitarian support. These broadly tend to include women in the Global South, children, migrants and refugees, and survivors of persecution based on gender, sexuality, race and religion, among others. Such stories disseminate in various ways: on websites, newsletters and funding drives of humanitarian and rights advocacy organizations, as memoirs and novels, and as full-fledged initiatives that promote stories as a force for change. I use the term “literary humanitarianism” since these stories rely specifically on literary elements of craft such as narrative, setting the scene, plot and exposition in order to generate empathy and activate discourses of social change.

Literary humanitarianism becomes one node among many others that attempts to imbue human subjects with dignity, alleviate suffering and respond to emergency and non-emergency crises. Such humanitarianism certainly does not exist in a vacuum and can be traced back to educational and cultural projects imbued with civilizing mission ideologies that formed the backbone of European colonialism. In *Decolonising the Mind*, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o famously described colonialism as “the night of the sword and the bullet” that is “followed by the morning of the chalk and the blackboard,” referring precisely to the violence of educational, linguistic and cultural missions. Over time, and due to a range of factors, such projects also fundamentally altered the form of the “story” and the practice of “storytelling.” In the Cold War decades that followed, Euro-American soft power initiatives published and promoted “conversion narratives” that told the story of fleeing totalitarianism in the former USSR and embracing democracy, liberalism and freedom, at last, on the other side of the Iron Curtain. The practice of literary humanitarianism today extends colonial ideologies and simultaneously gives rise to an extractive ecology that relies upon victim stories for funding and sustenance of humanitarian initiatives.

This research is part of a short book on humanitarianism and saviors for a series that I edit called *Decolonize That! Handbooks for the Revolutionary Overthrow of Embedded Colonial Ideas* for OR Books, New York.



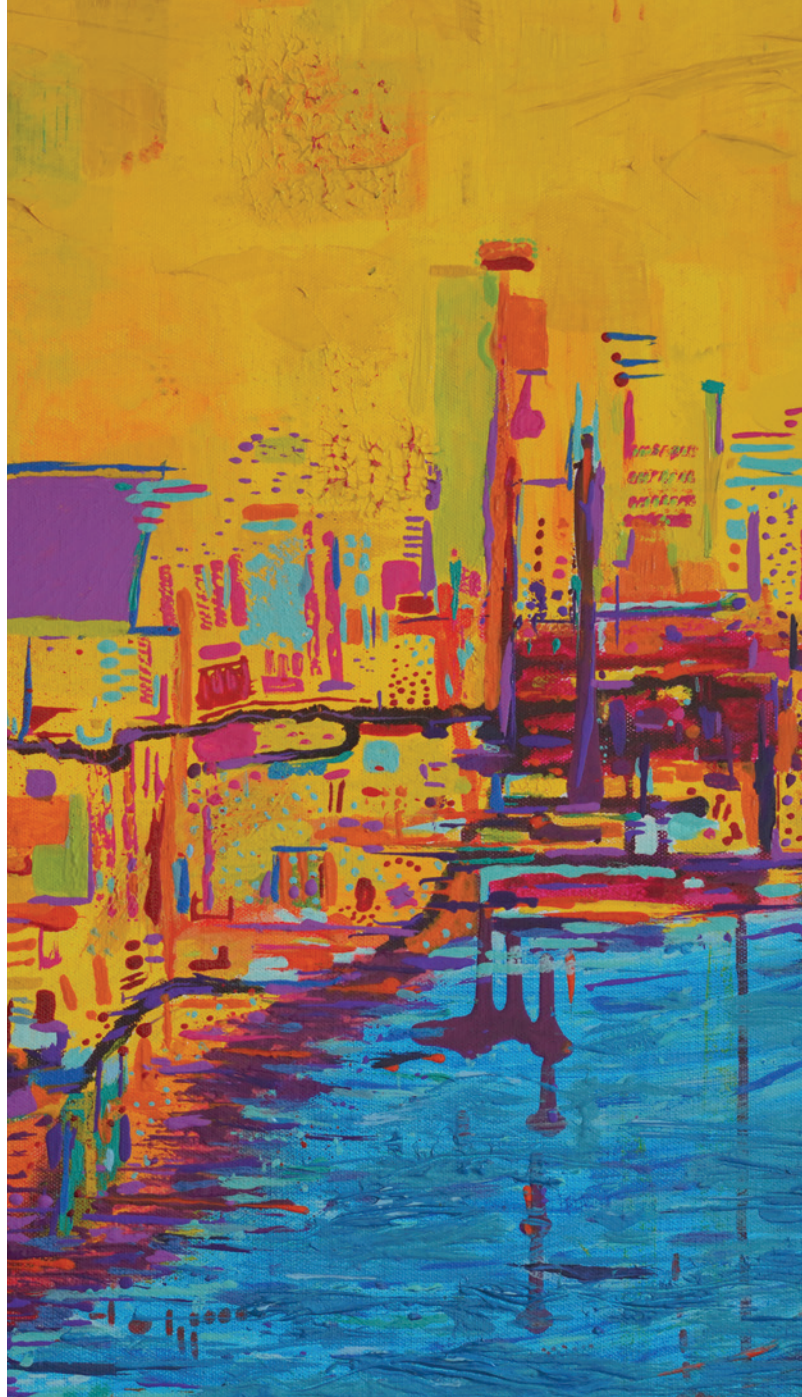
Prof. Nasar Meer & Prof. Nicola Rollock

Dr Yarong Xie is a Research Fellow (University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism) at IASH from 2022 to 2024.

I joined IASH in October 2022 to take on a research fellowship, which is part of the University of Edinburgh's commitment to begin a bold decolonization and reparatory justice programme dedicated to looking at 'Issues of race, contemporary racism, Eurocentric and Afriphobic aspects of our curriculum and features of the University's history'. Led by Professor Tommy Curry and Dr Nicola Frith, the research project looks into the University's historical links to colonialism and African slavery, and its institutional legacies today.

With a background in psychology, I am contributing to this project by gaining an understanding of the racial climate on campus at present. Working with Professor Nasar Meer, we are implementing two survey studies. One measures people's racial prejudice and attitude toward the Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) community. The other examines people's (of the BAME community) experiences of racism while pursuing their higher education and/or career in the University.

People's experiences of racism have been the focal point of my undergraduate and PhD research. My interest and commitment to tackling racism is 'inspired', unfortunately, by my personal and close friends' experiences of racial abuse. I am very honoured to be involved in this project, yet at the same time am aware of the weight on my shoulders! As a research fellow and a social scientist, I hope my humble input will be able to spotlight the prominence of race troubles in the University and the urgency to achieve racial equality. As a member of a minoritized community, I will continue to believe that equality is worth fighting for, and that we will get there.



Detail of *Origins* by Adebisola Ramsay  
[www.adebusolaramsay.com](http://www.adebusolaramsay.com)

# Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond

## THE YEAR AT IASH

### FELLOWS AT THE FESTIVALS

We were delighted that many current and former friends of IASH presented work across Edinburgh's many Festivals in summer 2022. From theatre to poetry to politics, these events captivated audiences in August.

Shatha Altowai and Saber Bamatraf, former IASH Fellows, brought their play *Saber Came to Tea* to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for two performances only. *Saber Came to Tea* is an entertaining short play with original music and magic that tells the story of one young woman's defiant stand against the constraining social norms of her family. A young Yemeni couple risk their family and their lives to be together.

Former IASH/Traverse Creative Fellow and playwright Peter Arnott's highly acclaimed *Tay Bridge* returned to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. A homage to the victims of the Tay Bridge disaster of 1879 realised as a series of set pieces, each of the seven characters tells a tale while the ensemble acts as a chorus. Apphia Campbell, IASH/Traverse Creative Fellow and playwright, also brought her critically-acclaimed piece *Black is the Colour of My Voice* to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe direct from sell-out shows, an extensive UK tour and London season. Apphia's as-yet-untitled new play - commissioned by IASH - received a rehearsed reading at the Traverse Theatre in October.

At the Book Festival, Dr Alycia Pirmohamed (IASH Junior Anniversary Fellow) debuted her new collection of poems at *Jay Gao and Alycia Pirmohamed: History, Memory, Poetry*. How does identity shift through generations? Can we ever write free from historical trauma? How do we live in the moment? These were just a few of the questions posed in the collection, *Another Way to Split Water* (Polygon 2022).



The Dame Rebecca West commemorative plaque at IASH

### DAME REBECCA WEST

An exclusive exhibition of personal effects and writings illuminated the connections between the feminist author Rebecca West (1892-1983) and the city of Edinburgh, focusing on her childhood home at 2 Hope Park Square. Timed to coincide with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in August, it also celebrated the centenary year of West's novel *The Judge* (1922), which reimagines the Hope Park Square of her childhood. The story of West's early years and Edinburgh relations, her suffragette campaigning, and her later literary eminence was told through photographs, journals, artworks, postcards and other items held by her literary estate. Rebecca West was one of the foremost feminist and political writers of the twentieth century. Her incisive studies of human nature, and the expressive qualities of her melodic prose style, continue to resonate powerfully today. This exhibition was curated by Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson and Dr Annabel Williams, exploring how Edinburgh provided a backdrop and inspiration for West's thinking, and how the city shaped an author once described by Time as 'indisputably the world's No.1 woman writer'.

### DECOLONIALITY AND THE POLITICS OF THE URBAN

Organised by IASH, the Geneva Graduate Institute and the Reversing the Gaze Project from the universities of Basel, Edinburgh and Zurich. IASH Fellows Dr Tana Trivedi and Dr Shakeel Anjum participated in the one-day seminar on 27 October alongside speakers from a number of universities.

What is the politics of the divide between the urban and the non-urban (semi-urban, peri-urban and the rural), in contemporary postcolonial and metropolitan





Leila Aboulela 2010

contexts, as well as historical colonial contexts? The divide is fundamental to the emergence of modern states as political-economic entities – European, colonial, and developmental. It expresses a politics of concentration/scale, productivity, specialisation, and movement to be governed. Crucially, colonial histories and categories of urban and rural and their relationship to productive and unproductive labour give shape to internal hierarchies of citizenship within states. The politics of these categories manifest themselves in historic rubrics of retribalisation, and contemporary politics of internal labour migration and populist resentment. The divide is of interest as at once a material site, political framework, and historical stage for the making of colonial and postcolonial states – and potentially for the continuation of an “unfinished project of decolonisation”.

#### AFRICAN WRITERS' LIVES: FOCUS ON LEILA ABOULELA

Dr Bhakti Shringarpure (IASH-SSPS Research Fellow 2022; University of Connecticut) delivered a lecture co-sponsored by IASH and the Centre for African Studies on 2 November. The event was chaired by Dr Terri Ochiagha Plaza, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, and was followed by a reception in the foyer of the Chrystal Macmillan Building.

Literary production by writers from the African continent has increased exponentially over the past two decades. With an exciting rise in digital platforms, awards, anthologies and lucrative publishing deals, the figure of the African writer has become the subject of much discussion and debate. However, a missing component in these literary circuits is a focus on African writers' lives. A turn to biography can facilitate interconnections

between writers and their worlds, and privilege intersections between historical and social context, and the emergence and consolidation of literary lives. Biographies help to articulate, assert and deepen the history of African literature. Dr Shringarpure presented ongoing research from her biography of Sudanese-Scottish writer, Leila Aboulela, illustrating the ways in which biographies can complicate, enrich and expand not just African literary histories but African studies more broadly.

#### NEW COLLEGE FESTIVAL OF BOOKS AND BELIEF

The festival, supported by IASH and others, ran from 3-5 November: the three-day festival featured a range of events and speakers, including former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, S.J. Parris, David Greig and James Robertson, as well as former IASH Fellows Jo Clifford and Dr Alycia Pirmohamed.

IASH sponsored two events on 4 November: Dina Nayeri (*The Ungrateful Refugee*) and Chritra Ramaswamy (*Homelands*) discussed some of the religious aspects of what it means to be a refugee today, chaired by Debora Kayembe, Rector of the University of Edinburgh. Later the same day, Man Booker Prize award winner Howard Jacobson reflected on his recent memoir *Mother's Boy: A Writer's Beginnings* and his religious and social roots.





Being Human Festival

## BEING HUMAN FESTIVAL

What does it mean to be human in the age of artificial intelligence? What if the world's most successful writer was an AI bot? How have storytelling and myth shaped our attitudes to robots? Should we worry about biases in the algorithms that read and write our lives? A panel of artists and researchers including playwright Oliver Emanuel explored singularities, new technologies and the blurred boundaries between art and the digital world in *Imagining Artificial Life: breaking through the screen* at the Traverse Theatre on 15 November.

## ESRC FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Also in November, *Imagining Scotland: Nationalism, Narratives and New Scots* examined nationhood, constitutions, borders and identities in light of the announcement of 19 October 2023 as the intended date of a second independence referendum. Playwrights, journalists and researchers from the UK and Ireland explored a host of radical ideas, controversial proposals and comedic satires on the twin themes of nation and identity. The event dug under the skin of nationalist movements, seeking to understand their emotional and psychological roots, and think together about how we build new communities in a connected digital world.

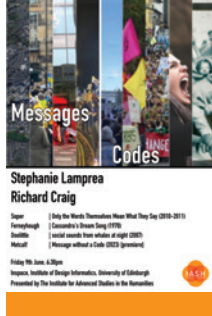


ESRC Festival of Social Science

## AN ADDRESS TO BALFOUR

To mark the centenary of the British Mandate in Palestine, the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), in partnership with RACE.ED, and in co-sponsorship with IASH, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, the Centre for Research Collections (CRC), History, Sociology, Politics and International Relations Middle East Research Group (PIR-MERG) and Islamic and Middle East Studies (IMES), presented Dr Salman Abu Sitta's *Address to Balfour* at the University of Edinburgh on Tuesday 8 November.

A renowned historian and cartographer, Dr Abu Sitta addressed Lord Balfour, who was Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh at the time of signing the declaration in 1917. This lecture reflected upon a lifetime of research arising from Balfour's legacy and what it has meant for Palestine and Palestinians, past and present. A full recording can be found on YouTube.



Messages/Codes



Image Politics



Big Pharma, Climate Change and Sustainability

## CONCERTS BY THOMAS METCALF

Our Junior Anniversary Fellow, composer Dr Thomas Metcalf, gave two concerts at the university this year. The first, *Piano Music*, was a collaboration between Dr Metcalf and pianist David Palmer on Tuesday 21 March in the magnificent Reid Concert Hall. The programme included the premieres of several works for piano, *Ennu(i)t*, *Disintegrated Bones* and *Melody for Elodie*, as well as older pieces. The concert explored the generation of musical material through non-musical phenomena, with a focus on hybrid notations and gestural rhetoric.

On Friday 9 June, Dr Metcalf curated *Messages/Codes*, four contemporary works for voice and flute themed around the concept of communication, performed by Stephanie Lamprea and Richard Craig. As a basic system of our culture and society, the way in which we communicate and derive meaning from our surroundings is at once immediate but also highly mediated – how do different media ‘speak’, and in what way do they reveal their strengths and weaknesses as a form of communication? The composers in this concert challenged this idea in varying and complex ways, ranging from photography, dreams, the written/spoken word, and nature. Works by Kate Soper, Brian Ferneyhough, Emily Doolittle and Thomas Metcalf were presented in the atmospheric Inspace (Institute of Design Informatics).

## IMAGE POLITICS: PHOTOGRAPHY IN REVOLUTION AND RESISTANCE IN IRAN TODAY

On Wednesday 19 April, Dr Mira Xenia Schwerda delivered a lecture as part of IASH’s Future Justice series, on photography’s role in resistance and revolution in Iran.

Photography has played a critical part in the current protests in Iran, sparked by the death of 22-year old Jina Mahsa Amini at the hands of the morality police in September 2022.

The circulation of photographic images of the protests, and of those injured or killed, has to be understood in the context of visual and photographic censorship by the Iranian regime. It can also be seen as a counterweight to the almost omnipresent state-sponsored imagery of religious leaders and war martyrs in the public sphere. Looking at the photographs related to the recent protests, sharing, printing, and publishing them is, therefore, an act of defiance and resistance in itself. While this engagement with the imagery obstructs any aim to distract from the violence taking place, it also raises questions regarding the selection and modification processes taking place. However, what is clear, is that the existence and reproduction of the photographs is not just an illustration in a media article, but rather a refusal to capitulate or to be made invisible.

The lecture was followed by a panel discussion, chaired by Prof. Nacim Pak-Shiraz and featuring Prof. Andrew Patrizio (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Ali Ansari (University of St Andrews) and Asst. Prof. Nancy Demerdash (Albion College). The event was presented by IASH and GENDER.ED.

## BIG PHARMA, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The next Future Justice event took place on Tuesday 2 May, with Dr Cristina Richie speaking on the environmental effects of Big Pharma.

Global pharmaceutical industry carbon emissions are more



Menstrual Justice in Scotland after the Period Products Act

than 50% higher than the automotive sector. Big pharma carbon is an ethical problem from both a biomedical and environmental perspective. The talk examined contributing factors to the immense carbon emissions of pharmaceuticals and discussed policies and practices for pharmaceutical carbon reduction. The short talk was followed by a conversation between Dr Richie and Phil Mackie, an NHS Consultant in Public Health and co-lead of the Scottish Managed Sustainable Health Network, moderated by Jessamy Bagenal, Executive Editor of *The Lancet*.

## MENSTRUAL JUSTICE IN SCOTLAND AFTER THE PERIOD PRODUCTS ACT

Our event on menstrual justice on Thursday 25 May was led by Prof. Marcy Karin. From tackling period poverty to stronger menstrual education standards and accommodations for menopause at work, the Scottish menstrual movement has both successfully obtained new law and policy provisions to address the menstrual cycle—from menarche through menopause—and to support current and former menstruators—and issued calls for more protections. We began with a salon about the state of menstrual justice in Scotland. It took stock of where things stand the year after the Period Products Act took effect, explored Scotland's role in the UK and global menstrual movements, and reflected on the need for additional supports, especially at school and work. This event was in collaboration with GENDER.ED and the Menstruation Research Network (UK). We were especially grateful that Monica Lennon MSP was able to join the panel at short notice. Since the event, Professor Karin's research into the Act and other legal approaches to overcoming structural barriers related to the menstrual cycle was featured in *The National*.



Northern Scholars

## NORTHERN SCHOLARS LECTURES

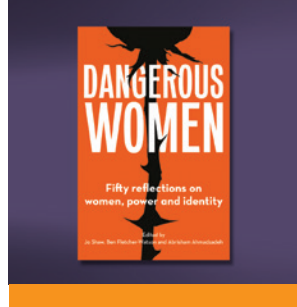
As part of the long-running Northern Scholars Lectures, which brings scholars from the Scandinavian and Baltic region to Scotland, Dr Anja Tröger (University of Edinburgh) and Rachel Rankin delivered two lectures on Thursday 29 June.

Dr Tröger's talk, 'Who is the Narrator? Reading Johannes Anyuru's *A Storm Blew in from Paradise* through the Lens of Postmigration and Postmemory', examined Anyuru's 2012 novel. She focused on the migratory journey of the protagonist P through different practices and contexts of violence depicted in the text, which offers an understanding of violence as cyclical, as well as insights into the effects of trauma on the individual person, particularly in the nexus of migration, violence and power.

Rachel Rankin's talk 'Commentator, Metapoet, Target-Language Writer: Three Approaches to Poetry Translation' focused on three particular approaches to poetry translation that can all be said to fall along the spectrum of (un)translatability, which can otherwise be described as the tension between instrumentalist and hermeneutic approaches to translation. She showed how the role of the translator – and, by extension, the translation itself – differs according to the translation approach in question, as well as outlining the value of practice-based research as a method for illustrating academic debates within a Translation Studies context.



*Under The Canopy* by Anupa Gardner  
[www.anupagardner.com](http://www.anupagardner.com)



*Dangerous Women*

## MAKING AND CELEBRATING BOOKS AT IASH

Since 1991, IASH has published the Occasional Papers series, bringing brand-new scholarship to the public in short, accessible pamphlets and paperbacks. Volumes this year included a radical response to Stuart Hall's call to formalize a theory for articulation – how relationships of subordination and dominance emerge, evolve, and are reproduced. *R/D: Articulation and Representational Divergence* by Dr Victor Peterson II was published in the autumn.

We also proudly produced *Our Time Is A Garden*, a collection of verse edited by Dr Alycia Pirmohamed and presenting new nature poems by women and nonbinary writers of colour. The book was released in February at a wonderful launch, where a host of contributors read their work to a sold-out audience at Summerhall.

In March, we published *Enduring Violence in America: Two Essays* by Prof. Theodore Louis Trost as volume 36 of our Occasional Papers series. The book examines the events of January 6, 2021 in Washington DC alongside the Beatles' *White Album* of 1968 as ways of exploring violence – gun violence in particular – as it appears in the USA.

*После третьего звонка [After The Third Bell]*, edited and translated by E.M., was our fourth Occasional Paper in 2022-23. The collection brings together stories of people's lives influenced by the war in Ukraine, authored by some of Ukraine's most well-known contemporary writers alongside diaries by ordinary people caught up in the current conflict. Unusually, the book is not available in English, but is instead published in Russian and made available for download as a free eBook. The aim is to offer Russian readers around the world a richer understanding of the ongoing war, as presented in contemporary fiction –

at a time when Ukrainian art and culture are increasingly inaccessible for many Russians. The anthology includes previously untranslated works by Oksana Zabuzhko, Maria Matios, Evgeniya Kononenko and Marianna Kijanowska written between 2017 and 2022.

All four volumes, as well as the archive of over 20 previous Occasional Papers, can be downloaded for free from our website.

*Dangerous Women*, our collection of essays on power, gender and identity emerging from the Dangerous Women Project, was selected for American release by Unbound, as part of a shortlist of recent successes. The volume was published in the USA and Canada to mark International Women's Day in March.

We hosted book launches for a wide range of new monographs by Fellows and alumnae/i at IASH throughout the year. Dr Jayita Sarkar's *Ploughshares and Swords: India's Nuclear Program in the Global Cold War* (Cornell University Press 2022) is a provocative new history with global implications. It shows how geopolitical and technopolitical visions influence decisions about the nation after decolonization.





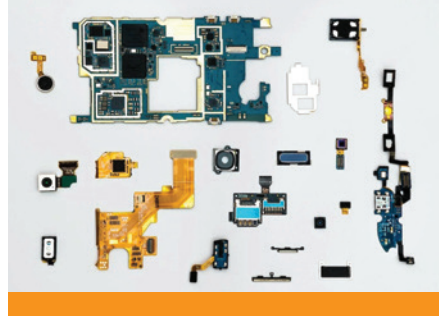
Dr Ali Kassem  
Book Launch March 2023

Dr Dipali Mathur's *Available to be Poisoned: Toxicity as a Form of Life* (Lexington Books 2022) contends that the saturation of the planet with toxic chemicals marks a deliberate and violent relationship with the Earth and its "others," born of colonialism and capitalism's entwined histories. Mathur offers the concept of "toxicity as a form of life" to signpost the normalization of toxic exposure and analyses how states use toxicity to control populations on the fringes of our global political economy by making them available to be poisoned.

*Islamophobia and Lebanon: Visibly Muslim Women and Global Coloniality* (I.B. Tauris-Bloomsbury Academic 2023) is the new book by Dr Ali Kassem, and we were delighted to welcome him back to the University of Edinburgh to celebrate its launch, joined by discussant Dr Shaira Vadasaria to explore the book's themes. Thinking through anti-, post-, and decolonial theories, *Islamophobia and Lebanon* examines, analyses, and conceptualises 'visibly Muslim' Lebanese women's lived experiences of discrimination, assault, wounding, and erasure. It discusses the convergences and divergences of anti-Muslim racism in Lebanon with anti-Muslim racism in other parts of both the Global North and the Global South.

*SPQR in the USSR: Elena Shvarts's Classical Antiquity* (Legenda 2022) by Dr Georgina Barker tells the story of dissident artist Elena Shvarts (1948-2010), who has earned a place in the canon of great Russian poets for the originality, riotousness, beauty, and deceptive erudition of her poetry. Many of Shvarts's greatest poems were inspired by classical antiquity – the literature, myth, and history of ancient Rome and Greece. In this in-depth study, Georgina Barker follows Shvarts' transcendental and escapist encounters with classical antiquity from wild youth to defiant old age, and discovers Shvarts shaping antiquity to fit herself.

Dr Jolene Zigarovich's *Death and the Body in the Eighteenth-Century Novel* (University of Pennsylvania Press 2023) demonstrates that archives continually speak to the period's rising funeral and mourning culture, as well as the increasing commodification of death and mourning typically associated with nineteenth-century practices. Drawing on a variety of historical discourses – such as wills, undertaking histories, medical treatises and textbooks, anatomical studies, philosophical treatises, and religious tracts and sermons – the book contributes to a fuller understanding of the history of death in the Enlightenment and its narrative transformation.



*Re-Materialising the Digital: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Actions, Challenges and Possible Futures*

## IASH/SUSAN MANNING WORKSHOPS

In 2022-2023, we continued the practice of supporting postdoctoral fellows to organise workshops, exhibitions and symposia, especially where they are able to secure complementary funding from other sources; these workshops are known as Susan Manning events in honour of Professor Manning's outstanding contributions as IASH Director (2005-2013).

### Topics this year included:

*Re-materialising the Digital: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Actions, Challenges and Possible Futures* (8 February, led by Dr Dipali Mathur)

*Notation, Decolonial Resistance, and the Political Sovereignty of 'Late Liberalism'* (12 April, led by Dr Shakeel Anjum and Dr Thomas Metcalf)

*Taking the Past into the Future: Studying, Preserving, and Understanding Islamic Manuscripts* (11-12 May, led by Dr Lucy Deacon and Dr Mira Xenia Schwerda)

*'Love Love Peace Peace': Political and Queer Theory in Eurovision* (19-20 May, led by Dr Elad Carmel)

*Words by the Boulder: Linguistic Efflorescence at Gállogieddi* (30 May, led by Dr Erika De Vivo)

*Reparation, Restitution and Restorative Justice: Countering Imperialism* (2 June, led by Dr Paola Vargas Arana) as part of the Future Justice series

*Brokering the Enlightenment: Scotland and the World* (16-17 June, led by Dr Philippe Bernhard Schmid)

*Decolonising Modernism(s)* (28 June, led by Dr Arka Chattopadhyay)

Reports for many of these workshops can be found on our website.

# GENDER.ED

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GENDER.ED is the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for showcasing and promoting excellence in teaching research and knowledge exchange and impact (KEI) in gender and sexualities. It is hosted by IASH and powered by the School of Social and Political Science (SPS) on behalf of a wider consortium of academics and students. GENDER.ED was set up in 2017 with Professor Fiona Mackay as Inaugural Director and this year marked GENDER.ED's fifth year since conception, providing a chance to reflect on our accomplishments.

GENDER.ED is led by a Core Team consisting of Dr Radhika Govinda as Director, Dr Hemangini Gupta as Associate Director and a Student-led Events and Communications Team consisting of Rhea Gandhi (PhD, Counselling Studies; Feb 2023 - ongoing), Sheher Bano (UG, Sociology; Feb - Jun 2023) and Amy Life (UG, French and Philosophy; Jun 2023 - ongoing) and Sambhavi Ganesh (May 2023).

Our website, directory of courses and researchers, blog, monthly newsletter and social media presence indicate the wide reach of GENDER.ED across the university as well as further afield. This past year has also seen a return to in-person activities, and we have hosted many well-attended events throughout the year, often in partnership with other centres and networks such as the Centre for African Studies, RACE.ED and CRITIQUE.

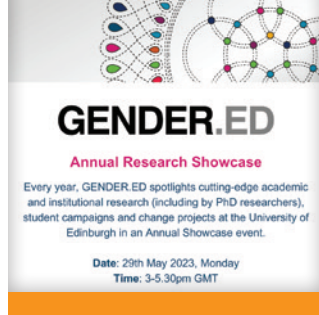


## KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2022-23

### *Promoting and Showcasing Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Design*

This year, GENDER.ED's flagship course *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World* recruited more than 280 first and second year students from across 75 different degree programmes. *Introduction to Queer Studies*, also open to ordinary years undergraduate students recruited similar numbers. Additionally, our Voices from the Early Days Project traces the history of feminist, women's and gender studies at the University of Edinburgh through the narratives of those who first introduced such studies at the institution. Its aim is to record the story of the origins of women's, gender and feminist studies at the university through reflecting on individual and collective journeys undertaken by feminist academics.

GENDER.ED also recognises and celebrates undergraduate achievements in gender and sexualities scholarship, advocacy and activism within and beyond the University of Edinburgh. GENDER.ED awards undergraduate prizes such as the Undergraduate Feminist Trailblazer Awards and the Yuan Changying Prize; this year, the Queer Futures Prize on the *Introduction to Queer Studies* course was introduced to mark GENDER.ED's fifth anniversary. In addition to awards, GENDER.ED runs a highly successful summer internship programme in partnership with IASH and this year has seen the expansion of this programme in partnership with the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, enabling us to offer two more summer internships.



## Annual Research Showcase

### *Supporting and Showcasing Excellence in Research*

Another important facet of GENDER.ED's work is supporting and showcasing excellence in research. Our searchable online directory brings together academics and courses from all over the university, providing an accessible resource for students and staff to engage in gender and sexualities studies. Since last year, we have been part of the Una Europa Gender and Equality Network (UGEN), providing us with new avenues to explore network-wide and bilateral collaborations.

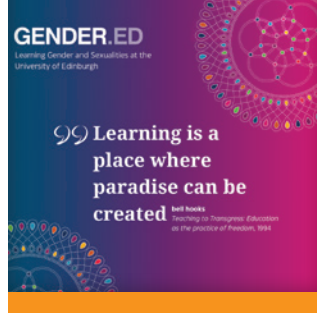
Our annual showcase once again provided the opportunity to celebrate the cutting-edge gender and sexualities research taking place across the university with over 15 research projects showcased. The showcase also included a roundtable discussion on "Feminist, Women's and Gender Studies at Edinburgh: Looking Back, Looking Forward".

### *Providing Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers*

Each year, we host a range of training and professional development opportunities for early career researchers. For example, this year saw the fourth iteration of the Scottish Graduate Schools-funded Feminist Research Methods Workshop for postgraduate research scholars. We have also held workshops for ECRs in academic writing for the public with a view to spotlighting their work on the GENDER.ED blog. The start of this calendar year saw the re-launch of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Reading Group which has now come into the GENDER.ED fold. This summer the reading group hosted the second iteration of Deep Dive, an opportunity to dive into the work of a renowned feminist theorist, fostering collaborative engagement with scholarship and work-in-progress. This year's theorist was Luce Irigaray.

Earlier this year, to mark our fifth anniversary, we launched the GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellowship programme, in partnership with IASH. We're very pleased with the high quality of applications received.





### *Being a Critical Friend of the Institution*

As a critical friend of the institution, GENDER.ED contributes to policy debates and ongoing gender and decolonial campaigns at the University and beyond. Key highlights in this regard include the Gender Sensitive Research Toolkit that GENDER.ED has developed to support researchers, especially in STEM fields, to integrate gender equality considerations into research bids, expert advice on the University's Future of Hybrid and Home-Working Group and the Gender Equality Sub-committee of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

### *Encouraging Interdisciplinarity*

With the goal of fostering interdisciplinary approaches to gender and sexualities studies, GENDER.ED hosts and co-badges a range of events in partnership with other institutes and networks. This year, GENDER.ED hosted book launches of *Brown Girl Like Me* (with Girl Up and the Centre for South Asian Studies), *Queer Politics of Postcoloniality* (with the Centre for African Studies and CSAS) and *Gender and Media in Jordan* (with the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies). Other highlights include seminars on 'Unexpected Callings: Ancestors and Queer Kinship in Zimbabwe' with the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships and 'Ecofeminism in Conversation with Degrowth' with CRITIQUE, as well as a pre-event reception hosted by GENDER.ED for Jenni Fagan's book *Hex* at the 2022 Edinburgh International Book Festival.



### *The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign*

### *Engaging with Real World Issues*

For the fifth consecutive year, we curated our 16 Days International Blogathon in collaboration with Ambedkar University Delhi and the University of New South Wales; the theme this year was Migration, Mobilities and Displacement. The blogathon brought together artists, academics and activists in contemplation of the theme in its relation to gender-based violence and journeyed through Australia, France, Greece, India, Ireland, Kenya, Tunisia, Nepal, Somalia, the USA, the UK and Syria. The theme for the coming year will be Understanding Issues of Sexual Harassment in Higher Education.

To join our online directories or the genderED mailing list, or to find out more, please email [gender.ed@ed.ac.uk](mailto:gender.ed@ed.ac.uk). Follow us on X at [@UoE\\_GENDER\\_ED](https://twitter.com/UoE_GENDER_ED) and Instagram [@uoe\\_gender.ed](https://www.instagram.com/uoe_gender.ed)

## RACE.ED

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RACE.ED is a network based at the University of Edinburgh in dialogue with scholars, activists, practitioners, and individuals interested in antiracist approaches to the study of race, racialisation and decolonial studies through a multidisciplinary lens. Our presence extends across the University, fostering spaces for knowledge exchange within the local community and across global and academic communities.

The RACE.ED Network is celebrating its third year, having our main platforms present as events, podcasts, blogs, and online seminars to bring current debates on race to the forefront for pedagogical, research and activist materials. These discussions dive into the complex historical and modern implications of race and colonialism, connecting viewpoints from the Global South to the Global North. The coordination and support of Michaelagh Broadbent and the SPS Comms Team, Podcast Assistant Sophia Hoffinger, and IASH/RACE.ED Communications and Events Intern Rutendo Hoto are instrumental in bringing our vision to life.

# RACE.ED

*Celebrates Our  
Third  
Anniversary!*



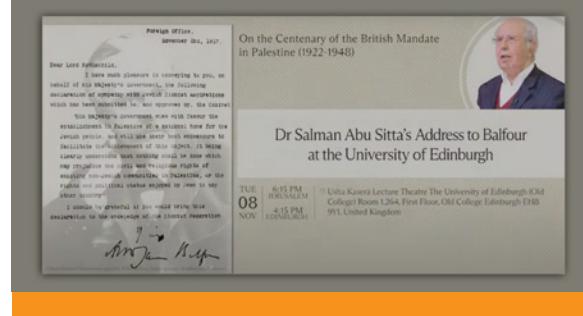
Third Anniversary Celebrations

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022-23

#### *Celebrating Our Third Anniversary*

To mark our third anniversary, RACE.ED co-directors Dr Katucha Bento and Dr Shaira Vadasaria reflected on the collaborative nature of the network in their introductory note to our Third Anniversary Newsletter. Since 2020, the RACE.ED Network has facilitated connections between over 100 academics, with more than fifty in-person and online events, published blogs and fourteen podcast episodes. It is with pride that we embark on the third year of our Fellowships, an essential component of IASH's Institute Project on Decoloniality 2021-2024. This initiative has been achieved through our collaboration with the Centre for Research Collections (CRC) and, since 2021, the Stuart Hall Foundation.

This year alone, we curated dialogues that resonate across political landscapes, covering nations such as Brazil, France, Lebanon, Palestine, and Turtle Island, among others. We held various intellectual conversations – ranging from the Afro-Brazilian migrant connection and Afro-Latin perspectives to delving into the Sudanese narrative through the University's partnership with the Sudanese Community in Edinburgh. We discussed radical pedagogies, grappling with integration, identity, Islamophobia, black spaces and dreaming, and black feminism. Notably, our accomplishment has been recognised through our nomination for a CAHSS Award in the Exceptional Team category. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our network for their steadfast support.



Dr Salman Abu Sitta's Address to Balfour

### Centring Race and (De)Coloniality in our Pedagogies

We continue to expand student access to the courses offered in various schools across the RACE.ED network by adding them to our RACE.ED directory. Since the 2018 campaign across the UK and with a global impact, the *#whymycurriculumwhite* idea does not address a revision of curricular inclusion of marginalised voices, but the approach to knowledge validation that is valuable to teaching as praxis and new paths for critical thinking. Alongside this purpose, there are many courses in undergraduate and postgraduate courses across the University of Edinburgh offering topics that centre race, racialisation and colonialism as central aspects of the teaching-learning experience. Our dedication to fostering student engagement remains strong as we enhance the RACE.ED teaching directory and expand our online visibility across different social media platforms. Our flagship course, Understanding Race and Colonialism, continues to be taught after its introduction in the 2021-2022 academic year. This interdisciplinary course offers an exploration of the multifaceted dimensions within the realm of race, racialisation, and decoloniality.

We are honoured to work with brilliant scholars and administrative staff supporting transformative pedagogical strategies for the critical studies on race and its intersections.

### Weaving Global North and Global South Conversations

Throughout the year, RACE.ED facilitated numerous impactful dialogues that explored the intersections with racism and its colonial roots. To highlight a few, we had the privilege of hosting distinguished Palestinian historian and cartographer Dr Salman Abu Sitta for a lecture “On the Centenary of the British Mandate Era in Palestine”. His insightful reflection delved into implications of the mandate on concepts of dispossession, Palestinian personhood, and the exercise of national self-determination, both historically and contemporarily. This event was hosted in collaboration with Identities Global Studies in Culture and Power (Identities), IASH, CRC, History, Sociology, Politics, and International Relations Middle East Research Group (PIR-MERG), and Islamic and Middle East Studies (IMES).

The transnational conversations were also locally situated, addressing the topics of reparations, repatriation and Stop the Maangamizi. The Edinburgh Sudanese community was at the centre of an important event *From 1898 to Now: Omdurman, Military Rule and Reparations* organised in collaboration with the Centre for African Studies and the Anatomical Museum. Reflections on the results of colonisation were raised, as the skulls of two Sudanese Shaheed from Omdurman have been held in Edinburgh for over 120 years. On this topic, the 15th podcast episode of *Undersong: Race and Conversations Other-wise* delves into debates on reparations and the maangamizi with Dr Nicola Frith, Professor Tommy Curry, and Zaki El-Salahi.

From a poetic perspective, Dayse Sacramento from the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Bahia (Brazil) discussed *Insubmissive Dialogues of Black*



## Sudanese Community Event

Women, addressing the erasure of Black women's voices in the knowledge validation and publishing processes. The talk was chaired by Dr Almiro Andrade (University of the Arts London).

Mridul Wadhwa, director of the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, led the conversation on Women's History Month by offering an intersectional perspective on strategies for promoting institutional inclusiveness. Her brilliant approach addressing gender-based violence brought students, scholars and activists together from various parts of Scotland and allowed the collaboration of networks and collectives from inside and outside the university, including the University of Edinburgh BAME Staff Network, Edinburgh Race Equality Network (EREN), University of Edinburgh Staff Pride Network, Womxn of Colour Collective, and Geographies of Embodiment (GEM) Research Collective.

## Book launches and Knowledge Production

The framework for our teaching also comes from references that are sharp in addressing social justice issues, and these are also related to the book launch events that we organised. Here is a list to acknowledge such important contributions and help those who are interested in insightful debates from decolonial and critical race studies perspectives:

*Decolonisation and Legal Knowledge: Reflections on Power and Possibility*, by Professor Foluke Adébiṣi, engages in the interdisciplinary exploration of decolonial perspectives within the legal realm. This event was co-hosted with the Centre of African Studies (CAS), CRITIQUE, The Edinburgh Law School, and the Race and Inclusivity in Global Education Network (RIGEN).



## RACE.ED podcast

*Islamophobia and Lebanon: Visibly Muslim Women and Global Coloniality*, by Dr Ali Kassem, addresses critical issues in the discourse of global coloniality. Co-hosted with IASH and the Alwaleed Centre. Together with CRITIQUE, we also organised an Author-Meets-Critics event, where Professor Nasar Meer dissected his book, *The Cruel Optimism of Racial Justice*.

*Black Oot Here: Black Lives in Scotland* by Francesca Sobande and layla roxanne-hill spotlighted the lived experiences of Black individuals in Scotland. Co-hosted with the Salisbury Centre.

*The Racial Code: Tales of Resistance and Survival* by Professor Nicola Rollock was co-hosted with *Identities Journal*, IASH, University of Lancaster Sociology, and the Centre for Alternatives to Social and Economic Inequalities (CASEI).

Migration took centre stage as we co-organised *Guantanamo's Legacy: From a Legal Black Hole to a Battleground in the Fight against Torture*, an event featuring Lisa Hajjar. Her reflections, drawn from her book *The War Court: Inside the Long Fight Against Torture*, shed light on the complexities of legal battles surrounding detainment at Guantanamo.

During Black History Month, we organised an event co-hosted with the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh Islamic Society and EREN, featuring Imam Mustafa Briggs, which delved into the connection between Black history and Islam. We also partnered with the School of Divinity to host a thought-provoking online seminar on *Contesting Muslim Legal Sovereignty in Colonial India*, with insights from Dr Sohaira Siddiqui of Georgetown University Qatar.





Geographiae Blavianae 1664 - Scotland

### Communities and Networks

RACE.ED is actively in dialogue with Global South and Global North organisations, with an open platform to continue the debates that promote critical thinking around social justice, decolonial and race politics. As we are in gratitude to all networks, collectives, organisations, scholars, students and activists who have collaborated with RACE.ED to make our activities possible, we extend our invitation to IASH members and the readers of this material as a platform to amplify research, work in progress and further dialogues on race, racialisation and colonialism.

## Networks & Consortia

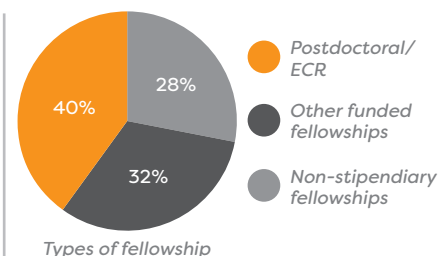
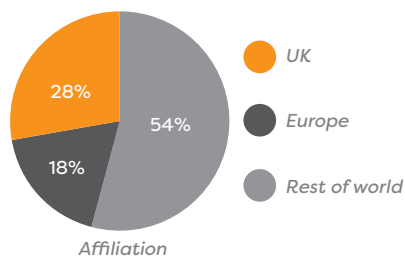
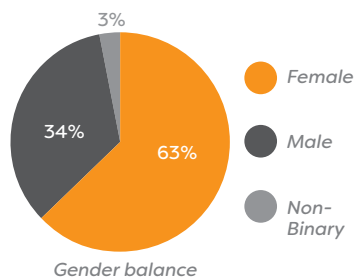
IASH supports researchers across the College to forge and strengthen international collaborations and is an active member of several consortia of peer institutes:

- UK Consortium of Institutes of Advanced Studies (CIAS)
- Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS)
- European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC)
- University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS)
- Consortium of Humanities Centers & Institutes (CHCI)

The Institute plays a leading role in the Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance (SAHA). The Alliance is a joint initiative of ten Scottish Higher Education institutions, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities. It was established to give a public and collective voice to the Arts and Humanities in the context of Higher Education and makes connections with work at a UK level to promote the value of SHAPE (social sciences, humanities and the arts for people and the economy/environment).

## FACTS & FIGURES 2022-23

TOTAL PERSON MONTHS  
381



## Fellows & Fellowships

In all, 67 Fellows were appointed this year, with visits totalling 381 person-months. This maintains IASH's position as the fourth largest Institute of its kind in Europe.

For 2022-23, the Institute received almost 300 applications for the Postdoctoral Fellowship programmes and other Fellowships. The success rate for Postdoctoral Fellowships remains around 6%. By retaining the 'feel' of a small and cohesive cohort, we have endeavoured to ensure that our investment in the next generation of academics delivers the benefits of its location in a world-class, internationally-oriented university.

Similarly, competition for places as Research Fellows continues to grow, with ever more incredibly well-qualified applicants at all career stages applying for our annual February deadline. We remain open for sabbatical applications from colleagues within the University of Edinburgh and for shorter-term Nominated Fellowships, intended to enable and intensify international collaborations.

New Fellowship programmes this year included the RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship in partnership with the Stuart Hall Foundation and RACE.ED, and the IASH-HCA Postdoctoral Fellowship, focusing on Archaeology.



*"I had a lot of serendipitous and hugely productive conversations with other Fellows from all over the world while I was there. I also had some great conversations with colleagues at Edinburgh who know my research area. Many conversations there helped me to see my research topic in new lights, and gave me lots of leads in terms of relevant literature in cognate fields that I would otherwise be unaware of. Best of all, the Fellowship at IASH provided me the time, space (and coffee!) to concentrate on uninterrupted reading and writing for a sustained period. My time at IASH was focussed, rejuvenating, and very productive."*

Dr Andrew Whelan, IASH-SSPS Research Fellow 2022 (University of Wollongong, Australia)

*"IASH has provided the most stimulating, supportive, and friendly environment I have experienced as an ECR."*

Dr Annie Webster, Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellow 2022-2023

*"IASH is a truly magical place – it's a melting pot for some of the sharpest minds in academia from all over the world with a shared passion for truly creating spaces of justice, equality and decoloniality. Even though the Fellowship itself was a short 6 months, IASH has given me the chance to meet some of the most brilliant scholars in academia doing inspiring research and has given me the privilege of calling them friends. I'm certain that I will have a life-long association with IASH and that it will forever hold a special place in my heart."*

Dr Dipali Mathur, Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellow 2022-2023

## LIST OF 2022/23 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Professor Nicole De Wet-Billings	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>Perpetuation of Household Food Insecurity During COVID-19 in South Africa</i>
Dr Khwezi Mkhize	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>A Home-Made Empire: South Africa's Imperium</i>
Dr Dineo Skosana	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>Compensating Mining-induced Dispossession and Intangible Loss</i>
Dr Anthony Neal	American Philosophical Association Edinburgh Fellowship	Mississippi State University, USA	<i>Violent Abstractions: the Rise of Scottish Skepticism</i>
Professor Anahid Nersessian	American Philosophical Society Fellowship	University of California, Los Angeles, USA	<i>House on Fire: The Cato Street Conspiracy</i>
Dr Lucy Deacon	Centre for Research Collections Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Edinburgh "Oriental Collection": Tracing Colonial Cultural Practice, and the Early Modern Circulation of Arabic and Persian Manuscripts</i>
Dr Philippe Bernhard Schmid	Centre for Research Collections Fellowship	University of St Andrews, UK	<i>Campbell's Cabinet: Manuscript Culture and the Brokering of Knowledge in the Early Scottish Enlightenment</i>
Dr Arka Chattopadhyay	Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship	Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, India	<i>The Bengali Avant-Garde Novel and World Form: Re-Inventing Modernism</i>
Dr Naomi Campa	CHCI-ACLS Fellowship	University of Texas at Austin, USA	<i>I Do What I Want: Freedom and Power in Classical Athens</i>
Dr Kateryna Budz	Combe Trust Fellowship	Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, Ukraine	<i>The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Galicia (1946–1968): Strategies of Survival and Resistance in the Underground</i>
Mrs Elena Marinicheva	Community Fellowship	Freelance translator, Ukraine	<i>Translating Works by Ukrainian authors</i>
Dr Tana Trivedi	CSMCH-IASH Visiting Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern and Contemporary History	Ahmedabad University, India	<i>The Counterfactual Republic: Towards Revisiting the "Deshi Rajyas" of Kathiawad</i>
Dr Elad Carmel	Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-Century Scottish Studies	Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel	<i>A Moderate Radical: Robert Wallace on Liberty, Equality and Slavery</i>
Dr Valerie Wallace	Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-Century Scottish Studies	University of St Andrews, UK	<i>The Case of William Macao: Alienness, Subjecthood and Legal Pluralism During Britain's Reign of Alarm</i>
Dr Dipali Mathur	Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Wollongong, Australia	<i>"Rematerializing" the Digital: Governmentality and the Environmental Consequences of Life Online</i>
Dr Annie Webster	Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship	SOAS University of London, UK	<i>Stories of the Syrian New Scots: Dispersed Geographies and Digital Storytelling in COVID-19 Refugee Arts</i>
Professor Nathaniel Dominy	Digital Scholarship Visiting Research Fellowship	Dartmouth College, USA	<i>PaleoVisions of Chauvet Cave: A Virtual Reality (VR) Experience at the Intersection of Art, Anthropology, and Digital Humanities</i>
Dr Kat Hill	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	Birkbeck College, University of London, UK	<i>Simple Shelter: Bothies, Environmentalism and Communities of Place</i>
Professor Marcy Karin	Fulbright Distinguished Visitor Award	University of the District of Columbia, USA	<i>Menstrual Justice at Work and School: Public Policy Lessons from Scotland's Period Products Law</i>
Dr Paul Newton-Jackson	Heritage Collections Research Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Mahogany, Ivory and Tortoiseshell: Towards a Political Ecology of Eighteenth-Century Keyboard Instruments</i>
Professor Sam Cohn	Honorary Fellowship	University of Glasgow, UK	<i>Epidemics: Waves of Disease, Waves of Hate, from the Plague of Athens to AIDS</i>
Professor David Purdie	Honorary Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Textual Enlightenment Project</i>
Dr Wassim Mroue	IASH-Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Drivers of Intra-Sectarian Relations in Civil Wars: A De-colonial Reading of Shia Politics in Lebanon</i>
Dr Peter S. Henne	IASH-Alwaleed Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Vermont, USA	<i>Using Network Analysis to Reclaim Regional Agency in the Study of Middle East Islamic Politics</i>
Dr Caleb Froehlich	IASH-CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Five Objects for Art and Peacebuilding: Facilitating Constructive Relationships between Ukrainian Refugees and British Hosts</i>

## LIST OF 2022/2023 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Andrzej Romaniuk	IASH-HCA Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Archaeology and Evolution: Molar Tooth Shape in Field Mice (apodemus sylvaticus) and House Mice (mus musculus) in Orkney</i>
Professor Noël Busch-Armendariz	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Texas at Austin, USA	<i>A Transnational Approach to Understanding Sexual Assault and Misconducts</i>
Dr Mark Paterson	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Pittsburgh, USA	<i>Figuring Difference and Inclusivity within Human-Robot Interaction Design: The Case of Socially Assistive Robotics in Edinburgh</i>
Dr Bhakti Shringarpure	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Connecticut, USA	<i>COVID-19 Journalistic Coverage of Africa and Decolonial Resistance</i>
Dr Andrew Whelan	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Wollongong, Australia	<i>The DASS-21 (Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale) in Institutional Ethnographic Terms</i>
Dr Thomas Metcalf	Junior Anniversary Fellowship	University of Oxford, UK	<i>Photography, Music and Ekphrasis</i>
Dr Chisomo Kalinga	Medical Humanities Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Creating a Critical Disabilities and Medical Humanities Hub and Symposium: Access, Equality and Inclusion in Health</i>
Dr Robert Chapman	Nominated Fellowship	Sheffield Hallam University, UK	<i>A Very Short Introduction to Neurodiversity</i>
Dr Gillian Dooley	Nominated Fellowship	Flinders University, Australia	<i>Music Culture in Britain in the Late Georgian period (1770-1820) as Reflected in Jane Austen's Writings and Music Collection of the Austen Family</i>
Dr Blanka Knotková-Čapková	Nominated Fellowship	Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic	<i>The Poetry of Rabindranath Thakur (Tagore)</i>
Dr Tadeusz Kopyś	Nominated Fellowship	Jagiellonian University, Poland	<i>Central European Emigration to Great Britain and Scotland</i>
Dr Margaret McAllister	Nominated Fellowship	Berklee College of Music, USA	<i>Explorations in Music and Words: An Experiment in Synergistic Composition</i>
Dr María Pilar Somacarrera Iñigo	Nominated Fellowship	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain	<i>Analogy and Transference between Gabriela Cunningham Graham and Teresa of Avila</i>
Professor John Plotz	Nominated Fellowship	Brandeis University, USA	<i>Laughter is from Mars: SF, Games and Satire</i>
Professor Ola Uduku	Nominated Fellowship	University of Liverpool, UK	<i>Hospital Architecture in Africa c.1900-1970s</i>
Dr Asha Varadharajan	Nominated Fellowship	Queen's University, Canada	<i>Archaeologies of Nonentity: The New Realities of Forced Migration and Involuntary Displacement</i>
Dr Danita Burke	Northern Scholars Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Southern Denmark, Denmark	<i>Moral Legitimacy and Stigma and Environmental Activism in the 21st Century: Greenpeace in the Arctic</i>
Dr Erika De Vivo	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy	<i>Gulak gus buzza? An Anthropological Study of Márkomeannu Festival as a Site of Linguistic Activism</i>
Dr Sara Forcella	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Independent researcher, Italy	<i>Looking Inward: A Decolonial Perspective on the Arab Criticism of The Thousand and One Nights</i>
Dr Lucy Hinnie	Postdoctoral Fellowship	British Library, UK	<i>A Scottish Querelle: The Monstrous Feminine of the Bannatyne MS (c. 1568)</i>
Dr Ioanna Korfiati	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Towards a Critical Sociology of Land Dispossession: Socio-Spatial Conflicts and the State on Crete's Contested Edge</i>
Dr Fraser McQueen	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Stirling, UK	<i>Colonial Continuities in the Literature of the French Far Right</i>
Dr Mira Xenia Schwerda	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Constitutionalist Image Making: Photographing Revolution in the Modern Middle East</i>
Dr Rory Scothorne	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Radical Left, Civil Society and the Scottish Nation, 1967-1983</i>
Dr Paola Vargas Arana	Postdoctoral Fellowship	King's College London, UK	<i>Life journeys of Africans in the Antioquia Gold Mines of New Granada During the British Asiento (1713-1750)</i>
Dr Shakeel Anjum	RACE.ED Archival Research Fellowship	Mahatma Gandhi University, India	<i>Frames of Sovereignty and Love: Palestinians, Jean Genet, and the Blacks</i>
Dr Emma Hill	RACE.ED Archival Research Fellowship	University of St Andrews, UK	<i>Archiving Somali-Scots Histories (ASSH) Project</i>



# LIST OF 2022/2023 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Marlo Jessica De Lara	RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship	AMDA College and Conservatory of Performing Arts, USA	<i>Displanting Routes: Sounding Philippine Diasporas</i>
Dr Simon Buck	Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism</i>
Dr Mishka Sinha	Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism</i>
Dr Yarong Xie	Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism</i>
Professor Siân Bayne	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Cognitive Enhancement: Smart Drugs and the Future of 'Misconduct' / Universities: From Ivory Tower to Factory to...What?</i>
Dr Rama Salla Dieng	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Contemporary Land Rush and Dynamics of Agrarian Change in Senegal (2006-2017)</i>
Professor Sotiria Grek	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The New Production of Governing Knowledge: Global Public Policy and the Quest for Data-driven Governance</i>
Dr Meryl Kenny	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Gender and the Scottish Parliament at 25</i>
Professor Catriona Seth	Senior Anniversary Fellowship	University of Oxford, UK	<i>Back in the Frame: Katherine Read (1723-1778)</i>
Dr Wen-Chi Li	Susan Manning Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Zurich, Switzerland	<i>Terribly Sorry for My Existence: Queer Melancholia, Suicide, and Decoloniality</i>
Dr Sudha Arunachalam	Visiting Research Fellowship	New York University, USA	<i>Language in Children with Autism: The Role Autistic Parents Play</i>
Professor Peggy Levitt	Visiting Research Fellowship	Wellesley College, USA	<i>Move Over, Mona Lisa. Move Over, Jane Eyre: Decentering the World's Museums, Libraries, and Universities</i>
Dr Emily McWilliams	Visiting Research Fellowship	Duke Kunshan University, China	<i>The Ontology of Epistemic Oppression</i>
Professor Mary Scholes	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>An Investigation of Social-Ecological Interactions in Landscape Studies</i>
Dr Priyanka Tripathi	Visiting Research Fellowship	Indian Institute of Technology Patna, India	<i>Optimizing Caste Intersectionality: A Decolonial Reading of Gender Based Violence in Select Subaltern Fiction in India</i>

Dormer Windows,  
 Hope Park Square  
 by Lucy Jones  
[www.lucyjonesart.com](http://www.lucyjonesart.com)



## Ideas Grow: Looking Ahead to 2023–24

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Here's a small taste of what's in store:

The third year of the Institute Project on Decoloniality will include research into the university's own entanglements with Empire, from the provenance and histories of our musical instrument collection and mediaeval manuscripts to the role played by Edinburgh historian A.B. Keith in India's journey to independence; we'll investigate what Latin American comics and geology notebooks can tell us about decolonial resistance; in the arts, we'll be supporting the creation of poetry, music, dance and theatre pieces inspired by research; we will unpick contemporary inequalities in labour, consider the need for reparations, and rethink the exchange of knowledge between Scotland and Africa. Fellows from Bahrain, China, Malawi, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Palestine, Peru, Poland and Ukraine will all join our community of researchers in Edinburgh.

A brand-new programme for new early career staff at the University launches in August 2023. IASH Affiliates will participate in our events, seminars, training sessions and workshops, building their networks and contributing their ideas. The first cohort of 25 Affiliates from across the University can be found on our website.

Our building at Hope Park Square will be closed in the autumn and winter for essential repairs and restoration, but we look forward to welcoming friends, staff and the public back to the Institute in the New Year. As part of the refurbishment, we'll be creating a new accessible entrance and two fully accessible offices, making IASH an even more welcoming environment. Our weekly seminars will continue during the closure and can all be watched live online – check out our website for details.

Forthcoming events include a panel on allyship at the Being Human Festival of the Humanities, workshops on reporting racism in school for the ESRC Festival of Social Science,

and the prestigious Fulbright Legacy Lecture in November, exploring important social topics. In the new year, we look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Edinburgh Women's Liberation Movement Conference, held just across the Meadows at James Gillespie's School back in 1974.

We're also working on a range of publications, most notably the first collection of essays emerging from the Institute Project on Decoloniality. Fellows are contributing chapters on decolonial queerness, decolonising teaching, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh's legacies of slavery, and much more. The book will be available in the autumn.

Please visit our website or follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with all our events and opportunities.

# Thanks & Acknowledgements

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The staff and Fellows of IASH would like to thank all those who make our work possible and fruitful, including: the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and its twelve Schools, which provide funds, professional services, governance and strategic direction for the Institute; various trusts and supporters, who fund Fellowships and support community activities for the Fellows; and our partners and stakeholders outside the University, who work with us on projects and events.



# The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

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