



The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



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Cover image: *Keening - Song of the Stranding*, performed on 12 July 2025 and featuring Dr Alex South. Photo credit Phil Hall.

Inside cover: The Meadows, Edinburgh. Photo credit: Chris Close.
Back cover: Gaelic book from the archive. © Whitedog Photography.



Director's Welcome

Professor Toby Kelly
IASH Director

A warm welcome to this year's annual report.

This is my first report as Director, and in my first few months in the role I have been blown away by the creativity and insights of the Fellows and staff. IASH really is an amazing place. Our beautiful old building is full of people carrying out inspiring work, and I am constantly delighted by the new things I learn and the people I meet. IASH's international reputation for innovative, interdisciplinary research is well-deserved. This is a place that is centrally committed to a vision of intellectual life as a public good, with an important role to play in advancing social justice and inclusion. IASH is also an essential part of the University of Edinburgh, bringing people and ideas together across disciplinary boundaries and creating opportunities for genuine and exciting intellectual exchange.

The academic year 2025/6 has been busy. Across this period, we have hosted 67 Fellows from 18 different countries. We have held fifty-one Work-in-Progress Seminars, as well as hosted ninety public events, attended by well over three thousand people. The reputation of the Institute can be seen in that we have had over one thousand applications for Fellowships from all over the world. Highlights of the year include the launch of two IASH books, *Women Who Dared* and *Essays on Decoloniality Volume 2*. We hosted multiple workshops, including on Women and Leadership in Higher Education, Utopian Futures, Rethinking Narratives of Neurodegenerative Conditions, and Grassroots Archiving, as well as a series of roundtables on our 2025-26 theme *Making a Nation*, where we explored the potential positives and pathologies of nation-building.

This year also marks ten years of the Dangerous Women Project. A decade later, the project has brought together more than 350 essays, three books, a wide range of events and a growing international community of writers. On International Women's Day 2026, IASH marked the anniversary with a celebration of its achievements. In the next year, we hope to launch a new multi-year project offering over £750,000 in Fellowship funding. We also have exciting plans to increase the mentoring and training available to our Early Career Scholars in particular.

At a time when the arts and humanities are under pressure across Higher Education, it is important to highlight the significant position that Institutes of Advanced Studies have across academic life. IASH was the UK's first institute of its kind and has continued to serve as a home for sharing ideas between a diverse range of scholars. We are particularly proud of our history of providing sanctuary to academics displaced by war and genocide, as well as to those facing growing pressures on academic integrity under authoritarian regimes. Across the board, Institutes of Advanced Study have an important role to play in encouraging international academic collaboration and we celebrate the range of countries and institutions from which our own Fellows originate. Institutes such as ours also provide a supportive setting in which postdoctoral Fellows undertake independent research. Such opportunities are crucial in helping emerging scholars establish their careers and in nurturing the next generation of academics. In bringing scholars together, across a range of disciplines and projects, IASH preserves a space for open-ended, speculative research, where scholars can pursue knowledge for its own sake. This kind of intellectual

freedom is essential to the development of new ideas that often underpin major scientific and intellectual breakthroughs. This is no 'ivory tower' though, and the Institute and its Fellows remain deeply invested in public engagement, with, for example, thirteen current or past Fellows performing at this year's Edinburgh festivals. I am deeply excited by the possibilities for wider impact that our collective scholarship brings, through opening fresh perspectives and asking new questions in relation to the most pressing questions of our time.

The success of IASH is the result of a collective effort, and I would like to end this Director's Welcome by thanking our Deputy Director, Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson, and the whole IASH team: Pauline Clark, Lauren Galligan, Tam Jardine and the many student interns who contribute to our work, including this summer's undergraduate intern Jayni Makwana. I am also very grateful to the members of our Management Group and international Advisory Board for their continued support, advice and expertise. I would specifically like to express my warmest thanks to my predecessor as Director, Professor Lesley McAra, for her exceptional leadership over the past four years. She leaves behind an Institute in excellent health and will be a very hard act to follow. It has been a pleasure to join an Institute that is so well run.

IASH is an immensely stimulating place to work, but more than that, it is a community carrying out important and ground-breaking work, developing ideas that will shape the way we see the world. I hope this annual report gives readers a sense of the breadth of the activities undertaken by our Fellows and of the difference their time at IASH has made.

Organisation & Governance

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 the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh), and in 2025-26 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) – stood down in November 2025
- Mr Allan Little (broadcaster)
- 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 (Head of Research and Engagement, British Council)
- Dr William Zachs (Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh)

Playfair Library.
Photo credit: Tricia Malley & Ross Gillespie

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.



Edinburgh University.

The 2025-26 members were:

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. Stood down in 2025.

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. Stood down in 2025.

RACHEL HOSKER

University Archivist and Research Collections Manager. Rachel originally trained as an archivist, and now manages archivists, librarians and curators responsible for the University's cultural heritage collections and welcomes IASH Fellows to the Centre for Research Collections at the University.

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 CBE

IASH Director since 2022, Chair of Penology and Assistant Principal Community Relations. Lesley is an Associate Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, as well as founder and co-convenor of the Leadership Foundation for Women in the Legal Profession. Stood down in 2026.

DR KAVERI QURESHI

Senior Lecturer at the Global Health Policy Unit at the School of Social and Political Science, and Co-Director of GENDER.ED. Her work lies between critical public health, anthropology and sociology, examining intersectional inequalities in health and work; family and intimate life; and relationships between health and family. Joined in 2026.

PROFESSOR DAVID SMITH

Deputy Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Previously Head of Moray House School of Education and Sport. He is a qualified Secondary Teacher who has also worked in local and national government as well as the University of Aberdeen.

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. Stood down in 2025.

10 years of Dangerous Women

8 March 2026 marked a decade since the Dangerous Women Project launched at IASH on International Women's Day 2016. Over 365 short essays explored, examined or critiqued the theme of 'dangerous women' including reflections from poets, playwrights and other creative writers, academics, journalists, commentators, artists, performers and opinion formers.

Three books have been published over the past ten years collecting and updating the essays. *The Art of Being Dangerous: Exploring Women and Danger through Creative Expression* (Leuven University Press, 2021) gathered together a range of pieces of visual art, poetry and creative writing, while *Dangerous Women: fifty reflections on women, power and identity* (Unbound, 2022) dealt with politics, law and sociology. *Women Who Dared: From the Infamous to the Forgotten* (Edinburgh University Press, 2025) provided a global view of feminist history, taking in every continent in a span stretching from antiquity to the 21st century.

Women Who Dared was launched with a reception at IASH in November 2025. Editor and creator of the Project, Professor Jo Shaw also led a panel discussion with contributors Dr Chisomo Kalinga and Dr Ioulia Kolovou as part of Aye Write Festival 2026 in Glasgow.

To mark the 10-year anniversary, IASH presented a new generation of writers offering short insights into their own favourite women from history. From educator and activist Chief Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti of Nigeria to priestess Baliana from the Philippines, not to mention Nancy Cunard, Marielle Franco and more, these stories of resistance and resilience added to the rich tapestry

A Decade of Dangerous Women.
Image by Emrah Atasoy.



Aye Write Festival, 8 November 2025.

woven since 2016. In the words of Mary Beard, the Project is "a great chance to explore what we expect of women, of how they should behave and of what counts as women 'stepping out of the line'."

A free eBook collecting some of the biographies presented at the anniversary will be available in autumn 2026.



Making A Nation

The Institute theme for academic year 2025-26 was *Making A Nation*, a year-long exploration of independence and nation-making, culminating in the 250th anniversary of the ratification of the US Declaration of Independence on 4 July 2026. Against this backdrop, the theme of nation-building raised deep, critical questions about the nature of legitimacy and the politics of identity: for whom and by whom nationhood is claimed. It also raised questions of land use and (dis)possession and the intricate relationship between territoriality and (de)coloniality. In a world beset by conflict, what might we learn from past examples of nation-making that enable a more positive and just vision of what it means to belong?

More than thirty of this year's Fellows engaged with the theme, including contributions to a series of lively roundtable discussions between January and June.

GOVERNING A NATION: ENERGY, RELIGION AND WELFARE (TUE 27 JAN)

A panel featuring Caryn Abrahams, A. Sophie Lauwers and Jacob Boswell, with Beth Cloughton as chair. Exploring citizenship and multi-level governance, we asked: how do states make decisions about key policies affecting their populations, from energy to religious tolerance? How do multi-level modes of governance combat inequality, further socio-spatial justice and foster ideas about what constitutes national identity? In what ways do governance and control operate – top-down, distributed, digital/'smart' – and how are policy-makers influenced by data, activism, research or individual citizens?



A NATION AT THE CROSSROADS: PALESTINE BETWEEN GENOCIDE, STATEHOOD RECOGNITION AND LIBERATION (FRI 13 FEB)

A panel featuring Toufic Haddad, Pietro Stefanini, Farah Aboubakr and Shaira Vadasaria, with Nicola Perugini as chair. This roundtable explored the question of Palestine in its current juncture at the crossroads of genocide, statehood recognition and liberation. It explored how 'making a nation' in the Palestinian context has entailed both making and unmaking 'the case' for Palestine and what this entails in terms of various acts of centring, framing, and performing.

CENSORING A NATION: FROM FREE SPEECH TO SEDITION AND OBSCENITY (TUE 25 FEB)

A panel featuring Yawen Li, Fatima Z. Naveed and Deepshikha Behera, chaired by Katherine Inglis. Using case studies from China, India and Pakistan, the event addressed contemporary censorship by the state: how can art be used to oppose oppression and disenfranchisement? How do religious ideology and the vestiges of colonial governance continue to shape cultural-civic discourse? In an era of increasing geopolitical tension and rising authoritarianism, what means are being used to forge collective resistance?



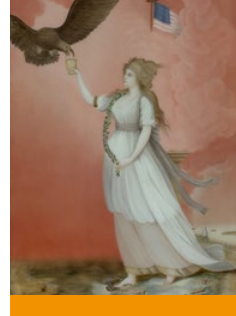
The Statue of The Resistance
by Falguière.

CULTIVATING A NATION: HOW BIODIVERSITY SHAPES COUNTRIES (TUE 24 MAR)

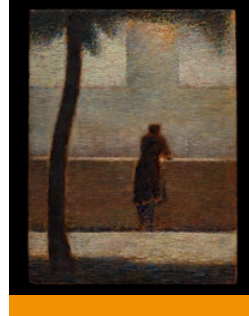
A panel with Alice Wolff, Diego Molina and Hilal Alkan, chaired by Molly Rose Bond. What stories do cultivation and land use tell us about the places where we live? From biodiversity loss in the medieval period to contemporary commodification of the global trade in trees, the routes and roots of plant species offer new ways of thinking about nationhood. The panel also examined innovations in archaeobotany, multispecies ethnography and plant humanities, to uncover the hidden histories of everyday flora around the world.

UNBOUNDING A NATION: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE EAST AND THE WEST (TUE 21 APR)

A panel with Sneha Roy, Elsie C. Albis and Paula Sledzinska, chaired by Hannah Halliwell. Exploring the need to decolonise national identity and belonging from postcolonial South Asian and Southeast Asian perspectives alongside Scottish and Irish constructions of national identities, this event brought together Eastern and Western conceptualisations of the role of cultural and epistemic borders. Thinking beyond physical boundaries between countries, in what ways do borderlands play a participatory role in enabling nationalism? From cultural modes such as music and theatre, to legacies of colonial negotiations like loyalties and memberships, how do borders shape people and how do people shape borders?



Liberty.



A Man Leaning on a Parapet,
by George Seurat.

CONSTITUTING A NATION: SCOTS AND 1776 (TUE 26 MAY)

A panel featuring Geoffrey Gorham, Deborah Cohn and Maeve Callan, chaired by Frank Cogliano, to mark the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence. A number of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence were Scottish emigrants or descended from Scots, but Scots also formed a large part of Britain's army in the Revolutionary War. From Cadwallader Colden, one of the last British governors of New York – and an Edinburgh graduate – to medieval Scottish identity's ongoing echoes in the 19th-century American confederacy, Scotland was bound up tightly with the establishment of the new American state. This event explored the interplay between the two nations, and asked, how interdependent are the USA and other countries' nation-building efforts?

PEOPLING A NATION: MIGRATION AND IDENTITY (TUE 23 JUN)

A panel with Vanessa Montesi, Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier and Emily Clifford. This event explored borders, trafficking, family migration and diasporas to discuss how nationhood and identity are formed and negotiated by those who have come from outside the UK. What does 'nation' mean, a decade on from the Brexit referendum? How do dual or multiple identities impact on belonging? What are the emotional, psychological, and social consequences of UK migration policies?

Our deepest thanks go to all our supporters and sponsors during Making A Nation, as well as the Fellows, Affiliates and colleagues from around the university for their superb contributions across the year.

Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond

THE YEAR AT IASH

Over 3,000 people engaged with our Fellows' work in 2025-26. Just prior to her retirement, IASH Director Lesley McAra led *Gender Equality: Transforming Leadership*, a collaborative project crossing three continents – Europe, Africa and Asia – to examine the barriers and enablers of women's leadership in politics, education, and industry. It aimed to understand why the 1979 United Nations Convention promoting the advancement and empowerment of women has consistently failed to meet its objectives, and what practical action is needed now to tackle deep-seated inequalities and breach the high glass ceilings that still exist in senior leadership. The project was organised by IASH with the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata and MIASA at the University of Ghana, and was kindly supported by a Royal Society of Edinburgh Collaborative Grant and GENDER.ED at the University of Edinburgh. Hundreds of scholars from around the world joined a series of webinars to discuss their experiences and share their thoughts.

Other major events included the International Women's Day Lecture by Caroline Criado-Perez, delivered by the Medical School as part of their 300th anniversary celebrations, as well as the Susan Manning Lecture by Cedric Tolliver.

FELLOWS AT THE FESTIVALS, AUGUST

Many current and former Fellows and friends of IASH graced the stages of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh Art Festival and International Book Festival in 2025 with a diverse array of offerings, including theatre, music, poetry, storytelling, readings and talks.

Playwright-in-residence Isla Cowan presented *Alright Sunshine* at the Pleasance, garnering a host of five-star reviews. Former Fellow Michael Carroll was the consultant on Ancient Greek for Company of Wolves' production of *The*



New College and the Mound, 2022.
Whitedog Photography.

Bacchae at Assembly. *Balfour Reparations* by Farah Saleh opened at Summerhall to great acclaim; Farah created the piece while at IASH, and offered a special performance at the Edinburgh Futures Institute for our 55th anniversary celebrations last year. AJ Taudevin's *Auntie Empire* was also at Summerhall – by turns an absurd and rambunctious bouffon comedy and a bloody, messy, sing-along satire on Britain and nationhood, the show was originally developed at IASH.

IASH also supported the Scottish Writers Community panel discussion at the Traverse. Chaired by Fergus Morgan (*The Stage's* Scotland correspondent and freelance theatre critic), the panel comprised Gareth Nicholls (Traverse Artistic Director), Michael John O'Neill (2025 IASH/Traverse Creative Fellow), Isla Cowan (2024 IASH/Traverse Creative Fellow) and Apphia Campbell (2021 IASH/Traverse Creative Fellow), discussing the future of Scottish theatre, contemporary theatre narratives and what writers want to address. This event opened with an excerpt from Michael John O'Neill's new work in development, *Headland*, which is a result of the IASH/Traverse Fellowship for 2025.

Our long-running links with the Edinburgh International Book Festival led to a splendid event with BBC broadcaster Naga Munchetty. In her new book *It's Probably Nothing*, she explores the difficulties women still face in getting diagnosed and treated, and provides actionable lessons to help women advocate for themselves in medical settings. She spoke with Devi Sridhar about the fundamental flaws in our healthcare system and the provocative conversations that inspired her book.



Archive Remix.

ARCHIVE REMIX: ERI-ETHIO TRAVELLING SOUNDS, 6 SEPT

Fellows travelled to Bathgate in September for a special event marking the conclusion of Dr Nina Baratti's project on the Jean Jenkins Ethiopian and Eritrean Sound Collection in the National Museum of Scotland.

After months of collaboration and learning, working closely with Ethiopian and Eritrean community members in Scotland, Dr Baratti and the team enjoyed an afternoon of music, stories, and shared experiences. The event featured contributions from the community members who made the project possible, Artlink Viva Boghall, and talented artists and musicians including LULA.XYZ and Gnawa Trance Fusion. The event was organized by Artlink West Lothian, and supported by IASH and the Hope Scott Trust.

DOORS OPEN, 27 SEPT

For the second time, IASH took part in Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old. We welcomed 60 people to our 19th-century square, usually not open to the public, with three exhibitions on display:

The Pill: Angry Chuckles offered a display of poems, interview excerpts, and artworks that reflect experiences of real individuals with contraceptives, sexual and reproductive health, and pregnancy and STI prevention. Curated by Dr Marie Larsson, the exhibition is part of a pilot project focusing on creative methods and interdisciplinary collaboration in contraceptive research.

Literary Lives at Hope Park Square explored the life of journalist and author Dame Rebecca West, who lived at 2 Hope Park Square, and featured the building in one of her



Pangala: Returning Home, a performance at the junction of Lake Menindee and the Barka River, 2023. Photo credit: Jackie Cooper, courtesy of the National Museum of Australia.

early novels. We also celebrated the Isabel Dalhousie series of books by Sir Alexander McCall Smith often including scenes at the Institute, and the array of scripts written at IASH by our playwrights-in-residence, from David Harrower's multi-award-winning *Blackbird* to Rona Munro's *The Last Witch*.

A Home for Research offered a display of recent books written at IASH by our Fellows, with cutting-edge research in history, literature, law, psychology, music, social science and much more.

MORE THAN A FISH KILL, 17 JAN

Two beloved rivers and more than 30 million dead fish brought artists, scientists and First Nations custodians in Australia together to turn ecological disasters into a journey of cultural healing. *More than a Fish Kill* is an inspiring short-form documentary produced by IASH Fellow Dr Vic McEwan, exploring how artists, fisheries managers and First Nations custodians came together in the aftermath of devastating fish kills along the Barka (Darling River) in far western New South Wales, Australia. These unlikely collaborators undertook a remarkable journey, turning these devastating ecological disasters into catalysts for cultural healing and revival.

The screening was followed by an interactive panel discussion chaired by Kirsten Wehner, with Dr Vic McEwan and First Nations artists Barbara Quayle, David Doyle and Cheryl Blore. The film was co-produced by the National Museum of Australia, the Cad Factory and Otis Filley Studios.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ANNUAL LECTURE, 7 MAR

The 2026 International Women's Day Lecture was delivered by Caroline Criado Perez, award-winning writer, broadcaster and feminist campaigner. Caroline is the author of *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* (2019), highlighting the systematic biases behind the data and assumptions impacting our everyday lives. Her first book, *Do it Like a Woman* (2015), introduced pioneering women from around the world and what it means to be female in a culture where power and basic freedoms are too often equated with being male. The lecture was sponsored by Edinburgh Medical School 300, ENDO1000, IASH, and GENDER.ED.

SHADOW WAR: THE ELLISONIAN COMPLEX OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SPY FICTION, 20 MAR

The Susan Manning Memorial Lecture 2026 was presented by Professor Cedric Tolliver (University of Oklahoma). Professor Tolliver delved into African American literary history as a means of considering an ever present, yet underexamined tension at the heart of the Cold War Civil Rights project of incorporating African Americans into the national security state apparatus. Susan Manning was Grierson Professor of English Literature and Director of IASH from 2005 until her unexpected death in 2013. This annual lecture commemorates Susan as an internationally renowned academic with wide interests, particularly in Transatlanticism, and as an inspiring influence for an international coterie of scholars in the humanities.



McEwan Hall projections. Photo credit: Neil Hanna.

STRIKERS BY DAVID DARAEI, 16 JUN

The Citizens Theatre in Glasgow, as part of Refugee Festival Scotland 2026, presented a work-in-progress playreading of *Strikers*, written and directed by former IASH Fellow Javad Daraei. The play explores labour, displacement, dignity, and resistance through stories shaped by lived experiences of survival and exile. The event was delivered in partnership with U Belong Glasgow.

The final roundtable discussion from our *Making A Nation* series, *Peopling A Nation: Migration and Identity*, was also a part of Refugee Festival Scotland 2026. The panel featured Fellows including Dr Vanessa Montesi and Dr Emily Clifford, and explored borders, trafficking, family migration and diasporas to discuss how nationhood and identity are formed and negotiated by those who have come from outside the UK. The event took place on the tenth anniversary of the Brexit vote, and in the year of the 75th anniversary of the Refugee Convention.



Louise Brangan book launch.

CELEBRATING WRITERS AT IASH

We hosted launch events for a plethora of new books by Fellows, friends and alumnae/i at IASH through the year, as well as our own publications via the Institute Occasional Papers series.

ESSAYS ON DECOLONIALITY, VOLUME 2
(INSTITUTE OCCASIONAL PAPERS)
EDITED BY BEN FLETCHER-WATSON, LESLEY MCARA
AND DÉSHA OSBORNE
9 OCT

*CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, 1872-1937:
CAMPAIGNER FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND PEACE*
(EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS 2024)
BY HELEN KAY AND ROSE PIPES
15 OCT

*WOMEN WHO DARED: FROM THE INFAMOUS
TO THE FORGOTTEN*
(EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS 2025)
EDITED BY BEN FLETCHER-WATSON AND JO SHAW
4 NOV

*LOVE AND ANTI-JUDAISM IN MEDIEVAL ENGLISH
ROMANCE: TYPOLOGIES OF VIOLENCE AND DESIRE*
(MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS 2025)
BY HOPE DOHERTY-HARRISON
25 NOV

*THE BBC'S LEGACY IN AFRICA:
CONTINUITIES AND CHANGE*
(ROUTLEDGE 2025)
EDITED BY ALBERT SHARRA AND OTHERS
5 DEC

*THE MIRROR OF ART: PAINTING & REFLECTION IN
EARLY MODERN VISUAL CULTURE*
(CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS 2024)
BY GENEVIEVE WARWICK
10 DEC

*GREENPEACE IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH:
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ANTI-SEALING ERA*
(ROUTLEDGE 2025)
BY DANITA CATHERINE BURKE
23 JAN

NEURODIVERSITY: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION
(OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2026)
BY ROBERT CHAPMAN AND
SUE FLETCHER-WATSON
6 MAY

*THE BOOK THAT TAUGHT THE WORLD TO ORGASM
AND THEN DISAPPEARED: SHERE HITE
AND THE HITE REPORT*
(MELVILLE HOUSE 2026)
BY ROSA CAMPBELL
14 MAY

*BETWEEN NOVEL AND NETWORK: TECHNOLOGY AND
LITERARY FORM IN FICTION AND FANFICTION*
(LSU PRESS 2026)
BY SUZANNE R. BLACK
5 JUNE

*PLAYWRITING AND THE CRAFT OF
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION*
(CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS 2026)
BY HELEN SHUTT
18 JUNE

*THE FALLEN: THE MAGDALENE LAUNDRIES &
IRELAND'S LEGACY OF SHAME*
(THE BODLEY HEAD 2026)
BY LOUISE BRANGAN
24 JUNE

In 2025-26, IASH also continued to host monthly meetings of the Writers of Colour Poetry Group with the Scottish BPOC Writers Network, led by Hannah Lavery.





CRC images of Empire
by Dr Sheelalipi Sahana.



Narratives of the Future, 1 May.



Canvas by
Dr Anthea Moys.

IASH/SUSAN MANNING WORKSHOPS

In 2025-2026, we were delighted to maintain our support for early-career and postdoctoral Fellows and Affiliates 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 workshops in honour of Professor Manning's outstanding contributions as IASH Director from 2005 to 2013.

Topics this year included:

- Digitality, Marginality and Plural Subjectivities 2-4 Feb
- AI, Decoloniality and the Ethics of Translating Low-Resource Languages, 19 Feb
- Frontiers of Repression, Resistance and Solidarity in a Time of Genocide, 26 Feb
- Remote work and (im)mobility: politics, practices, and imaginaries, 9 Mar
- 'Til Debt Do Us Part: family migration and reunion in the UK, 25-26 Mar
- 1725-2025: Historical & Contemporary Links Between Scotland and South Asia, 14 Apr
- Narratives of the Future, 11 May
- Cultures of Solidarity in Global Social Movements: Past and Present, 18 May
- Power, Knowledge and the Religio-Secular, 22 May
- Speaking with Care: Rethinking Narratives around Neurodegenerative Conditions, 22 May
- Narratives of the Future II, 12 June
- Critical Approaches to Open Qualitative Data 25 June

Reports for many of these workshops can be found at www.iash.ed.ac.uk/news

GENDER.ED

GENDER.ED is the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for promoting excellence in teaching, research and knowledge exchange and impact (KEI) in gender and sexuality studies. GENDER.ED is hosted by IASH and powered by the School of Social and Political Science on behalf of a wider network of academics and students.

This year, the GENDER.ED Core Team bid farewell to Dr Radhika Govinda as Director of GENDER.ED (2022-2025) and welcomed Dr Becky Hewer and Dr Kaveri Qureshi (former Associate Director) from the School of Social and Political Science as Co-Directors in January 2026. Professor Lesley McAra retired as IASH director in April 2026, after which Professor Tobias Kelly stepped into the role alongside becoming the next Chair of the GENDER.ED Steering Group and a Policy and Governance Advisor. Claire Edminson continued to work as our Network Coordinator and our Communications and Event Intern was Jayni Makwana (UG, Sociology and Politics; June-August 2026).

GENDER.ED



KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2025-26

SUPPORTING GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

GENDER.ED plays a leading role in supporting the study of gender and sexuality at the University of Edinburgh. GENDER.ED's flagship pre-honours course, *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World*, celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, reaching its quota of 285 students well before the beginning of term. Our other two pre-honours courses, *Introduction to Queer Studies* and *Gender and Visual Representations* recruited over 150 students combined.

Our searchable GENDER.ED Directory now has over 400 entries, including over 200 courses and almost 200 researchers. Alongside CAHSS, we have developed the first university-wide "tag" that allows researchers across the institution to "tag" GENDER.ED in their PURE profiles. This improves the visibility of gender and sexuality studies researchers within the University and facilitates research collaborations across disciplines.

UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

GENDER.ED recognises and celebrates undergraduate achievements in gender and sexuality scholarship, as well as advocacy beyond the University of Edinburgh.

We award undergraduate prizes such as the Yuan Changying Prize. Awarded in collaboration with the Gender Politics Research Group, it celebrates outstanding 'gender observations' written by students in the pre-honours course *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World*. This year's winners of the Yuan Changying Prize are Jenny O'Donnell (First Prize), Clare Graef (Second Prize) and



GENDER.ED Showcase,
May 2026

Malina Chiddo who received an honourable mention.

Another award is the Queer Futures Prize which celebrates excellence and originality in essay writing for students on the *Introduction to Queer Studies* course. This year's winners of the Queer Futures Prize are Irene Neophytou (First Prize), Lucy Wilson (Second Prize), and Elisha Sellick who received an honourable mention.

GENDER.ED also awards the Undergraduate Feminist Trailblazer Awards, which seek to recognise extraordinary commitment to feminist scholarship and change on campus. This year's winners are Elena Kerr (First Prize) and Kirsten Hay (Second Prize).

SUPPORTING AND SHOWCASING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

An important aspect of GENDER.ED's work is supporting and showcasing excellence in research. Our searchable online directory brings together academics from all over the university, providing an accessible resource for students and staff to engage in gender and sexuality studies.

GENDER.ED is a founding partner of the Una Europa Gender and Equality Network (UGEN). Members of the Una Europa Gender and Equality Network (UGEN) have continued to come together to write and explore teaching and research collaborations. As part of this, the Margherita Von Brentano Zentrum at Free University Berlin hosted a third workshop of the project "Archiving Feminist Knowledge Production in the Academy", culminating in a journal special issue being co-edited by Radhika Govinda and Anna Goral (Jagiellonian University).

In May 2026, our annual showcase once again provided an opportunity to celebrate the variety of gender and



One event held in collaboration with the Histories of Gender and Sexuality Research Group was a book presentation of *A Queer Scrapbook: Britain and Ireland since 1945*.

sexuality research taking place across the university. It was an invigorating evening, including presentations from both PhD researchers and undergraduate dissertation students, and a roundtable discussion on 'The Politics of Not Knowing: Gender, Sexuality and the Production of Ignorance'.

OFFERING RESEARCH TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GENDER.ED hosts a range of training and professional development opportunities for early career researchers.

In November 2025, we hosted a series of workshops on Feminist and Queer Research Methods. The workshops were inspiring and well-attended by both undergraduate and postgraduate students, who left the sessions with an improved understanding of methods to employ when designing their own projects.

In March 2026, we launched a podcast series featuring many GENDER.ED-affiliated researchers and teachers as part of the Feminist Pedagogy Project. This project identified, curated and developed resources for tutors teaching on gender and sexuality studies courses. It also included an extensive reading list and one-off workshop.

With support from IASH, we were able to host two 2025-26 GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr Helen Shutt and Dr Emily Clifford. Helen's research explores how creative practices can be used to shape care-centred research models, which she extends in her project "Interweaving Ethics and Aesthetics: Crafting a Care-Centred Model of Gender Research in Sierra Leone". Emily's project "Protect the (m)other: negotiating motherhood after trafficking in Britain" asks how the experience of human trafficking influences mothers' encounters with the nation state, contributing to work in feminist international relations and critical race theory.

FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARITY

GENDER.ED has continued to place an emphasis on co-creating non-hierarchical and non-adversarial spaces for engaging with scholarship and sharing work in progress through our Gender and Sexuality Studies Reading Group. This year's sessions included a Meet the Author session with former University of Edinburgh PhD Yanbing Er (NUS) as well as examining new readings on topics such as trans-gendering international relations and the contested science of maternal-foetal effects.

In addition to this, we have continued to host a wide range of well-attended events, often in partnership with other centres and networks including IASH, The Alwaleed Centre for Islamic Studies, and the Histories of Gender and Sexuality Research Group. We have also hosted events alongside university student societies, such as "Feminism Fascism and the Future: Tracing the Global Anti-Gender Movement" with the Gender and Politics Research Group and Women in Politics and International Relations student society. We have hosted various book launch events, such as for *A Voice of Their Own: Encouraging Caring and Ethical Practices in Trauma Screen Translation* by Professor Charlotte Bosseaux, which was organised in collaboration with LLC, IASH and the Edinburgh Futures Institute.

To join our online directories or the GENDER.ED mailing list, or to find out more, please email: gender.ed@ed.ac.uk

Stay up to date with our work by following us on Instagram at [@uoe_gender.ed](https://www.instagram.com/uoe_gender.ed) and Bluesky at [@uoe-gender-ed.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/uoe-gender-ed.bsky.social) and keeping an eye on our website: www.gender.ed.ac.uk



IASH Autumn 2025 Reception.



My time at IASH was a practice researcher's dream. The incredibly supportive environment provided the space – both mental and physical – to freely explore and play with different materials, linking theory with practice in alternative ways. I was provided an office space which very quickly transformed into a utopia, complete with a range of materials to assist my work as artist, researcher and facilitator... this has been one of the most enriching, enlivening, challenging, eye- and heart-opening experiences of my life. Spaces like IASH are rare and thus incredibly important.

Dr Anthea Moys
British Council 90th Anniversary
Research Fellow 2025



Dr Sheelalipi Sahana in the CRC Reading Room.



What I found at IASH was a space of debate, of hope, and of deep social commitment to making the world better. IASH represents a space of resistance – a place where intellectuals can say, loudly and without apology, that ideas matter, that diverse interpretations of the world matter, that books and academic exchange remain fundamental. To think about what makes us human, in all our beauty and our barbarism, is as essential today as it has ever been.

Dr Diego Molina,
Environmental Humanities
Research Fellow 2025-26

Fellows & Fellowships

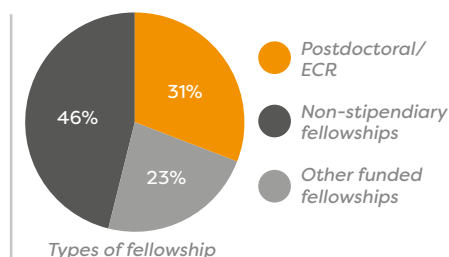
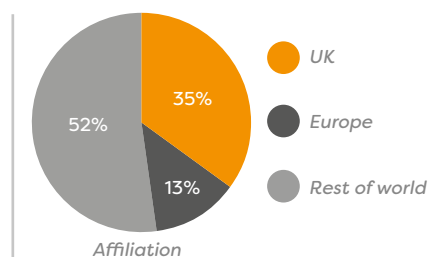
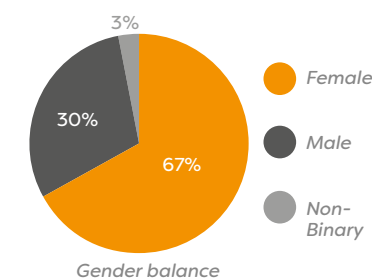
In all, 67 Fellows were appointed this year, with visits totalling 379 person-months. This maintains IASH's position as the fourth largest Institute of its kind in Europe.

We also continued our Affiliates programme for early-career researchers at the University of Edinburgh, providing access to funding, events, training and networks to help them establish their careers at the university. The Institute welcomed 24 Affiliates in 2025-26, across almost all schools in the College.

For 2025-26, the Institute received over 750 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.

FACTS & FIGURES 2025-26

TOTAL
PERSON
MONTHS
379



LIST OF 2025/26 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Caryn Abrahams	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>Mapping the Institutional Layering of Governance and Logistics of Decision-Making in the State</i>
Dr Nechama Brodie	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>Necrodata: How Counting Death Makes Deaths Count</i>
Professor Geoffrey Gorham	American Philosophical Association Fellowship	Macalester College, USA	<i>Cadwallader Colden (1688-1776)</i>
Professor Maeve Callan	American Philosophical Society Fellowship	Simpson College, USA	<i>Nostra Natio: Religion, Ethnic Amalgamation, and the Forging of the Scottish Nation</i>
Dr Mark Rhodes	American Philosophical Society Fellowship	Michigan Technological University, USA	<i>Writing the Nation: Literary Geographies of National Museums Scotland Publications</i>
Dr Elsie Albis	British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowship	Ateneo de Naga University, Philippines	<i>Translating The Tempest: Bicolisation of the Shakespearean Stage in the Philippines</i>
Dr Dustin Lalkulhpuia	British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowship	Maharaja Bir Bikram College, India	<i>The Indigenous Thinks: Relational Sovereignty and Epistemic Interventions from Northeast India</i>
Dr Divya Kannan	Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship	Shiv Nadar University Delhi-NCR, India	<i>Child-Welfare and International Humanitarianism in Twentieth Century India: Mary Clubwala and Indian Social Work</i>
Zakiya Sankara-Jabar	Community Fellowship	Independent researcher, USA	<i>Racism Towards Black Boys in the Non-Profit Sector</i>
Dr Amy Wilcockson	Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-Century Scottish Studies	University of Glasgow, UK	<i>The 'Edinburgh University Coterie': Networks of Cultural Influence in the 1790s and 1800s</i>
Dr Deepshikha Behera	Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship	Independent researcher, India	<i>Bridging the Orality-Digitality Divide in Generative AI: Decoloniality in/and 'Low-Resource' Languages</i>
Dr Hilal Alkan	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany	<i>Olive Displacements: Trees as Commodities in the Shifting Olivescapes of Turkey</i>
Dr Diego Molina	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	Royal Holloway, University of London, UK	<i>The Ornamental Exchange: Transatlantic Urbanism and Plants in the Andes and Europe</i>
Professor Lesley McAra	Fellowship of IASH	University of Edinburgh, UK	
Professor Jolyon Mitchell	Fellowship of IASH	Durham University, UK	
Professor Jo Shaw	Fellowship of IASH	University of Edinburgh, UK	
Professor Steve Yearley	Fellowship of IASH	University of Edinburgh, UK	
Mr Jacob Boswell	Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award	Ohio State University, USA	<i>Community-Based Distributed Energy Resources in Scotland: A Built Environment Inventory</i>
Dr Emily Clifford	GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellowship	City St George's, University of London, UK	<i>Protect the (M)Other: Negotiating Motherhood after Trafficking in Britain</i>
Dr Helen Shutt	GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Glasgow, UK	<i>Interweaving Ethics and Aesthetics: Crafting a Care-Centred Model of Gender Research in Sierra Leone</i>
Dr Emrah Atasoy	Heritage Collections Research Fellowship	University of Warwick, UK	<i>Archiving Futures: Utopia, Dystopia, Environmental Crisis, Identity, and Inequality in Edinburgh's Special Collections</i>

LIST OF 2025/26 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Heeral Chhabra	Heritage Collections Research Fellowship	University of Liverpool, UK	<i>Animal Welfare and Colonial-Global Connections: OneKind's Contestation of Animal Use and Abuse</i>
Dr Sheelalipi Sahana	Heritage Collections Research Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Capturing Empire: Scottish Colonial Tourism and the Visual Spectacle</i>
Dr A. Sophie Lauwers	IASH - Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellowship	KU Leuven, Belgium	<i>Islam, National Identity and the State: Rethinking the Politics of Recognition</i>
Dr Sneha Roy	IASH - CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Borders and Borderland People as Participatory Agents in the Making of a (Postcolonial) Nation, National, and Nationalism</i>
Dr Alice Wolff	IASH - HCA Postdoctoral Fellowship	Cornell University, USA	<i>Biodiversity on the Edge of Empire: Agricultural Plant Communities in Medieval Northumbria</i>
Dr Jack Abernethy	IASH - National Museums Scotland Fellowship	University of St Andrews, UK	<i>Scottish Mobility and Material Culture in the Dutch Republic, c. 1560 to 1750</i>
Dr Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier	IASH - SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Victoria, Canada	<i>Echoes from the Caribbean Diaspora in Edinburgh</i>
Dr Toufic Haddad	IASH - SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Exeter, UK	<i>Capturing Racial and Legal Dimensions of the Political Economy of the Gaza Genocide</i>
Dr Martina Karels	IASH - SSPS Research Fellowship	St Francis College, Brooklyn, USA	<i>From Open Data to Feminist Archiving: Reimagining Data Sharing for the Humanities and Social Sciences</i>
Jack MacGregor	IASH - Traverse Creative Fellowship	Playwright, UK	<i>Foil: A Play</i>
Professor Deborah Cohn	Nominated Fellowship	Indiana University Bloomington, USA	<i>American Studies Abroad and the U.S. Bicentennial: Cultural Diplomacy for a Nation (and Field) in Flux</i>
Dr Gillian Dooley	Nominated Fellowship	Flinders University, Australia	<i>Jane Austen's Music: A Continuing Project</i>
Dr Mario Faust-Scalisi	Nominated Fellowship	University of Bayreuth, Germany	<i>Comics as Visual Culture and Media</i>
Professor Marta Gravela	Nominated Fellowship	University of Turin, Italy	<i>Communities at the Margins? The Western Alps and State Formation in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Period</i>
Dr Umesh Kumar	Nominated Fellowship	Banaras Hindu University, India	<i>Translating Voices of Resistance: Gender, Society and Identity in the Stories of Sobati, Priyamvada and Bhandari</i>
Dr Maria Laura Pierucci	Nominated Fellowship	University of Macerata, Italy	<i>From Thomas Reid to William D. Whitney: The Scottish Way</i>
Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü	Nominated Fellowship	Social Sciences University of Ankara, Turkey	<i>Construction of Islamic Environmental Ethics through Sufi Narrative Traditions in Family Life</i>
Dr Raad Khair Allah	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Warwick, UK	<i>Contemporary Arab Diasporas: Reimagining Nationhood in Arab Cultural and Digital Feminism</i>
Dr Yawen Li	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Independent researcher, China	<i>Cultural Afterlives of Anticolonial Internationalism in Present-Day China</i>
Dr Vic McEwan	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Sydney, Australia	<i>River Stories</i>
Dr Fatima Naveed	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Exeter, UK	<i>Censoring a Nation: Blasphemy, Obscenity and Sedition in Pakistan</i>
Dr Pietro Stefanini	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Settler Colonial Humanitarianism: A Genealogy of the Settler Subject in Israel/Palestine</i>
Dr Georgi Gill	Public Engagement Fellowship	Independent researcher, UK	<i>Well Versed: Poetry Writing Groups for People Living with Neurological Illness</i>
Dr Vanessa Montesi	Public Engagement Fellowship	University of Sunderland, UK	<i>Loving Across Borders (LAB): Doing and Undoing Family Across the UK Border</i>

LIST OF 2025/26 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Jéssica Hipolito	RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship	Independent researcher, Brazil	<i>Colonial Collections, Repatriation and Restitution: Processes and Strategies for Reparation in the Black Atlantic</i>
Dr Kate Ash-Irisarri	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Mirth and Melody: Joy as Cultural Expression in Late Medieval Scottish Literature</i>
Dr Philip Cook	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Are Schools Required for Social Justice?</i>
Dr Charlotte Gleghorn	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Indigenous Cinematics</i>
Dr Radhika Govinda	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Feminist Knowledge Production in the Academy</i>
Dr Morag Grant	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Musical Art of War</i>
Dr Jared Holley	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Anticolonial Solidarity: a Global History of Political Thought</i>
Dr Katherine Inglis	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Obscenity and Quotation</i>
Dr Shari Sabeti	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Robert Louis Stevenson and His Contemporary Legacy in Both Sāmoa and Scotland</i>
Professor Jill Didur	Visiting Research Fellowship	Concordia University, Canada	<i>“Homo Sedimenta”: Deep Time, Habitability, and the Crawford Lake Case Study</i>
Dr Rathilung Elias	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Knowledge, Nature, and Power in the Indigenous (Digital) Landscapes: Public Theology from the Digital Frontier</i>
Dr Mary Hanlon	Visiting Research Fellowship	Okanagan College, Canada	<i>Fashioning Garment Worker Rights: A Canadian Archive</i>
Professor S. Karly Kehoe	Visiting Research Fellowship	Saint Mary's University, UK	<i>Activating Colonial Privilege: The Imperial Strategies of Highland Catholics, 1750-1820</i>
Professor Holli Levitsky	Visiting Research Fellowship	Loyola Marymount University, USA	<i>Judaism and the Concept of Nationhood in the Writings of Muriel Spark</i>
Dr Anna Oechslen	Visiting Research Fellowship	Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Germany	<i>Futures of Digital Work and Migration: An Examination of Overlapping Timespaces of Everyday Practice</i>
Professor Volker Stümke	Visiting Research Fellowship	Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr, Germany	<i>Analysis of the Adiaphoristic Controversy (1548-1555) in Peace Ethics Perspective</i>
Dr Sarah Sharp	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Aberdeen, UK	<i>Cottage Scottishness and the Homing of the Anglophone World: Planting an Ulster Kailyard?</i>
Dr Paula Sledzinska	Visiting Research Fellowship	Robert Gordon University, UK	<i>Playing Radical: National Theatre of Scotland in Times of National Crisis</i>

LIST OF 2025/26 AFFILIATES

AFFILIATE	SCHOOL
Dr Farah Aboubakr	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Kholoud Al-Ajarma	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr J.P. Ascher	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Jacob Bard-Rosenberg	Edinburgh College of Art
Dr Molly Bond	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Marion Boulicault	School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
Dr Malgorzata Bugaj	Centre for Open Learning
Dr Regan Burles	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Benedetta Catanzariti	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Beth Cloughton	Business School
Dr Patrick Errington	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Josephine Greenbrook	School of Law
Dr Hannah Halliwell	Edinburgh College of Art
Dr Katie Harling-Lee	School of Divinity
Dr Luke Li	School of Divinity
Dr Sayed Mahdi Mosawi	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Anna Pilz	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Susan Chen Qu	Edinburgh College of Art
Dr Marco Ruggieri	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Inma Sánchez García	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Sabina Savadova	Moray House School of Education and Sport
Dr Amalia Skilton	School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
Dr Hana Slieman	School of History, Classics and Archaeology
Dr Elizabeth Vander Meer	Moray House School of Education and Sport
Dr Karolina Watroba	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Yifang Xu	Moray House School of Education and Sport
Dr Tommaso Zerbi	Edinburgh College of Art

Ideas Grow: Looking Ahead to 2026–27



Image credit: Andrew Perry.

Here's a small taste of what's in store for the coming year:

Two of our recent IASH projects will release sequel publications – Dr Alycia Pirmohamed's research on radical landscape poetry during her Fellowship in 2021-22 led to a beautiful volume of poetry by local writers of colour, called *Our Time Is A Garden*. As this was by far our most popular book to date, with two print runs already, we're thrilled to announce that we'll shortly be publishing volume 2.

The first iteration of the project took place in 2022 and invited participants in Scotland to join five workshops over six months that were co-facilitated by artists and academics working in various areas of ecological writing. In 2025, Dr Pirmohamed collaborated with the Scottish BPOC Writers Network and the field notes collective to run the programme a second time, taking place as a two-day short course over a single weekend. This programme also aims to decolonise the literary arts in Scotland, primarily by supporting the development of, and creating space for, new nature writing by writers of colour, and by examining how writers from the Global Majority map multiplicity in terms of language, culture, nation and other intersecting aspects of identity.

The second book is a short volume of five essays celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Dangerous Women Project, due for release as a free eBook in the autumn. You can find out more in the section titled *10 Years of Dangerous Women* in this report.

We'll be returning to the Royal Society of Edinburgh's festival of ideas, known as RSE Curious, with a special session in September called *After the Storm: rebuilding cultural identity and local knowledge*. In this conversation, three Fellows will explore how culture, storytelling and collective memory can help shape national identity in times of recovery and change. Dr Viktoria Bavykina examines the

role of culture and the arts in Ukraine, and how it probes conventional historical narratives to offer a riposte to Russian imperialism. Dr Elsie Albis centres the experiences of survivors of natural disasters in the Philippines, highlighting their struggles in the context of climate change. Dr Dustin Lalkulhpuia explores how Indigenous ideas of care, dignity and continuity can help address some of today's most pressing global challenges.

In October, we are partnering with the National Theatre of Scotland, the British Academy, University of Aberdeen, Université Savoie Mont Blanc and Robert Gordon University to deliver a major Unconference marking the National Theatre of Scotland's twentieth anniversary. This one-day gathering invites participants from across academia, theatre, literature, politics, activism, as well as cultural and community organisations, to explore the role of theatre, literature, and cultural institutions in shaping democratic life in Scotland as a stateless nation. A follow-up event is planned at the Scottish Parliament to engage policymakers.

Our new website and application form will finally be released later in 2026, offering an improved and streamlined process for potential Fellows, as well as preserving our extensive archive.

Finally, look out for a major announcement in November as we unveil an exciting three-year research theme to take the Institute through to 2030.

We also look forward to connecting with our sister institutes around the world at meetings in Marseille and London, to share best practice and discuss new initiatives.

Thanks & Acknowledgements

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 many generous partners and stakeholders outside the University, who work with us on projects and events.

IASH Director Professor Lesley McAra retired in April 2026, and we wish to extend a special thanks to her for her superb leadership of the Institute since 2022, and for her many years of support before that.

Please visit our website or follow us on social media such as LinkedIn, BlueSky and Facebook to stay up-to-date with all our events and opportunities:

www.iash.ed.ac.uk

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bsky.app/profile/iashedinburgh.bsky.social

www.facebook.com/iash.edinburgh

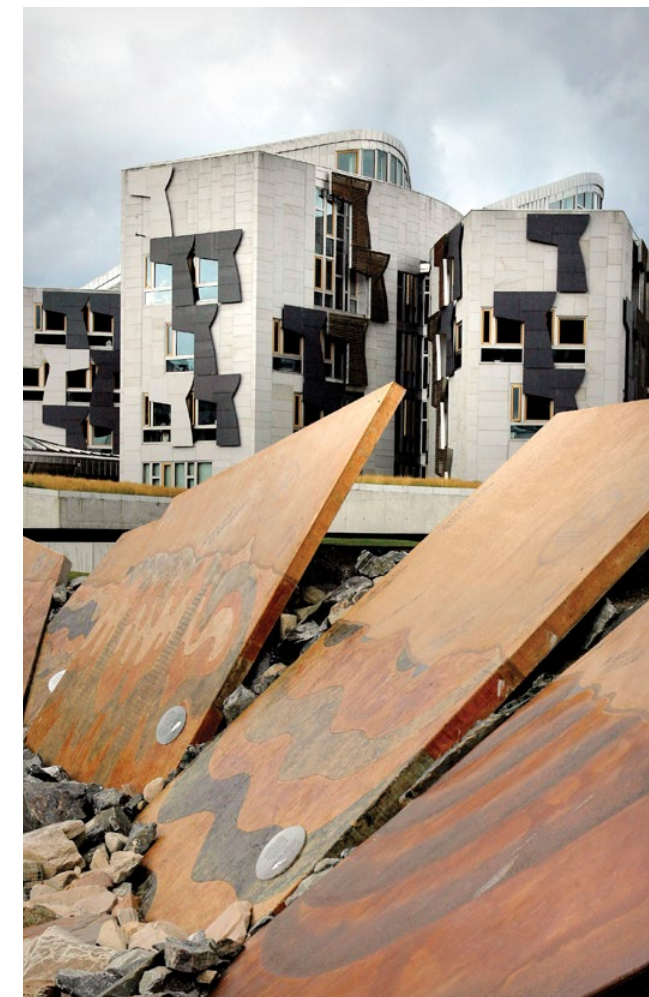


Image credit: Paul Dodds.

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