



The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH



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## Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond

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## Director's Welcome

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This is my fifth and final Director's Welcome since my secondment to IASH came to an end at the close of July 2022. In many ways this is a sad realisation for me; IASH has been a truly wonderful place to work and it will be hard to leave. Our small building is jammed full of researchers – mostly at the younger end of their careers – committed to imaginative and innovative work. I am strongly aware that IASH is helping them to bring their studies to completion or to publication, and I see a very high proportion of Fellows go on to long-term fellowships, lectureships and professorships. Many of them stay in touch and report on their continued successes and on their enduring fondness for Edinburgh and IASH. There are direct benefits for me too since, every month, I learn novel things – not just new arguments and fresh findings, but genuinely original academic insights. The final seminar I chaired, for example, taught me about holy visitors to pre-Viking Iceland as well as about new techniques for using volcanic ash layers for archaeological reconstructions. IASH represents a kind of ideal of an academic community.

Looking back over my five years working with Ben and Pauline, I see lots to celebrate. We have markedly increased the number of Fellows despite the recent impacts of the pandemic (up by 15-20% since 2017 depending on the metric used). Perhaps more importantly for the Fellows, we have increased the number of funded Fellowships and improved funding levels.

I won't attempt an exhaustive list, but since I started we have new Fellow schemes with the University Library's Centre for

Research Collections (CRC), with the Artist Protection Fund, with the School of Divinity, with the School of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA), with the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, with Edinburgh Global (our Africa Fellows), and in Digital Humanities. This growth has been good news for Fellows, but it has also tied IASH even more closely to the research culture of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, making IASH better known and better networked across the 12 Schools that make up the College.

The year 2021-22 was again a transitional time for IASH since it marked the gradual return to more or less normal working. We moved from no lunch meetings to somewhat awkward gatherings based around individualised lunch servings (no food-sharing allowed), and then finally graduated in the last few months to communal eating (with some precautionary measures in place). Our seminar room went from a maximum occupancy of only five (with lots of distancing) to being able to accommodate around 20 with comfort and confidence. The overall consequence of the pandemic and these changes in the regulations is that our Fellow numbers for 2021-22 were about equal to the pre-pandemic 'normal'. Though we still couldn't fill the building as much as usual, we were able to spread visitors across the year more thoroughly and also allowed some people to work remotely for some part of their Fellowship.

Perhaps most notably, we have established and completed the first year of the Institute Project on Decoloniality (IPD'24), directing more than half of our funding resources towards work

on decoloniality for three successive years. It was critical to the success of this first year that nearly all the IPD Fellows were able to be present in Edinburgh to do their work. I believe IPD has already been a significant success, stimulating new kinds of work at IASH, giving a great boost to the diversity of our Fellowship, and acting as a focal point for work on decoloniality within the whole College. We have seen some of our postdoctoral Fellows move straight from the IPD at IASH to lectureships related to decoloniality, thus beginning to change the outlook of academia more widely. And IASH has been selected by the University as the place to locate the Fellows and researchers working on the Principal's Historical Legacies of Slavery project examining the university's own role in empire, enslavement and inequality. Please do consult the IPD microsite at <https://www.iash.ed.ac.uk/ipd> to track developments. I feel certain their work will have a significant impact at the University, as well as marking a distinctive component within IASH's next half-century.

I have written before about the European network of Institutes of Advanced Study known as NetIAS. During the pandemic, NetIAS became a valuable resource for IASH. Instead of six-monthly in-person meetings, we met much more frequently on Zoom or Teams – exchanging ideas about how to cope with uncertainties in Fellow recruitment and travel. This year we continued to co-host a series of online NetIAS lecture events (IASH's lecture on digital humanities in June 2022 was particularly excellent) and we took the chance to bid to Horizon Europe for research funding.

IASH has also engaged more consistently in the public humanities. We have taken part in the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the ESRC Festival of Social Science, the Being Human Festival of the Humanities, and the Edinburgh Science Festival – in the last of these, in 2022 we engaged with thousands of citizens through our amazing visual display on vaccines and colonial history. We have also continued our partnership with the Traverse Theatre and there will be new work on stage before long.

There is clearly scope for the public humanities online too, and this year we initiated our series of Fellows' blogs and podcasts, mostly related to IPD. This kind of opportunity is clearly here to stay and we intend to make online outputs and events part of the culture and a routine expectation of all Fellows in future years.

Periodic change in management and leadership is important and beneficial. I am delighted to welcome IASH's next Director: Professor Lesley McAra CBE who specialises in penal law and law reform. Aside from her work in law, Lesley has recently been directing the Edinburgh Futures Institute (a far bigger beast than IASH); she is also Assistant Principal for Community Relations. Her qualifications for the role are exceptional and I'm flattered to hand over to her.

*Professor Steve Yearley  
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 Dorothy Miell OBE (Vice-Principal and Head of CAHSS, University of Edinburgh), and in 2021-22 the membership comprised:

- 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)
- Dr Robin Jackson CBE (former Chief Executive & Secretary, The British Academy)
- Mr Allan Little (broadcaster; former BBC Correspondent; Chair of the Edinburgh International Book Festival)
- Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (Professor of Modern History, Trinity College Dublin; Parnell Fellow, Magdalene College, Cambridge)
- Dr John Scally (Librarian and Chief Executive, National Library of Scotland)
- Professor Sarah Skerratt (Director of Programmes, Royal Society of Edinburgh)
- Ms Christine Wilson (Head of Research and Engagement, 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 2021-22 members were:

#### PROFESSOR RICHARD ANDREWS

Head of the Moray House School of Education and Sport. Richard's research interests are in rhetoric, poetics and argumentation across the disciplines; in writing development; and in research methodologies in the digital age. He joined the Management Group in 2020.

#### PROFESSOR CHRISTINA BOSWELL

Dean of Research, CAHSS and Professor of Politics. Christina works in the areas of Political Sociology, use of research in policy, immigration and asylum policy, the politics of immigration, and public policy.

#### 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.

#### 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 LESLEY McARA CBE

Chair of Penology, Director of EFI Studio Group & 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.

#### PROFESSOR FIONA MACKAY

Professor of Politics and Director of genderED. Fiona convenes the Gender Politics Research Group and co-directs the Feminism and Institutionalism International Network (FIIN).

#### 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 MARTIN PICKERING

Director of Research for the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. His research interests centre on the psychology of language and communication, including language production, language comprehension, dialogue, language and imagination, joint action, and bilingualism.

#### 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 1

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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 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 the output of a special issue of *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*.





*Black History Walking Tour*

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.

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

*Dr Alejandro Manuel Flores Aguilar was the 2022 CSMCH-IASH Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow in Modern and Contemporary History, working on his project **Raised Gaze in Ixil Time: Towards a Minor History of War (1936-2020)**.*

My IASH-CSMCH postdoctoral project aims at producing decolonising multimedia knowledge, building upon memorial repertoires of Maya-Ixil former guerrillas, from the northwestern highlands of Guatemala. This is the continuation of transdisciplinary research carried out in collaboration with the Ixil-University and the Ixil Ancestral Authorities since 2015. My project originally got the support of the Wenner-Gren Foundation's Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ethnographic Film, for the fieldwork period between 2020 and 2021. The result of the current phase will be to create the virtual infrastructure for archiving multimedia materials obtained during field research, as well as to prepare an edited volume about visual culture in Latin America, highlighting the clash of geopolitics with local struggles in the context of the Cold War.

A number of Ixil researchers have taken part in the reconstruction process of memory repertoires in their own communities. This epistemic practice builds upon the idea that Ixiles are not only subjects of study, but active producers of historic discourse (the minor history) that debate and dispute hegemonic metanarratives tending to flatten their local experience (the major history). This research highlights how binaries such as victims/victimisers can be constructively problematised, by paying attention to indigenous participation in local expressions of the larger Cold War geopolitical hermeneutics.

In the aftermath of the counterinsurgent war and the genocide against the Maya-Ixil people, most relevant historiographical and anthropological research focuses on human rights violations and the mechanisms implemented by the state to oppress and persecute civilians.

This line of research has been fundamental to support the victims of state violence during transitional justice trials. However, with some exceptions, there has been a lack of understanding of indigenous resistance, and its relevance in both local and national political history. The recovery of these — Maya-Ixil former guerrillas — repertoires of memory adds a relevant perspective to the debate around contemporary history of the Cold War not only in Guatemala, but also in the rest of Latin America.

Dr Alycia Pirmohamed was the 2021-22 Junior Anniversary Fellow, working on her project *Radical landscape poetry by racialised women and non-binary writers in the UK*.

I have long grappled with the question of landscape and nature writing: who gets to call themselves a nature poet? Whose bodies have a perceived access to natural spaces?

In his recent essay, 'Reclaiming Time,' Jason Allen-Paisant argues "the possibilities of landscape are underpinned by socio-economic dynamics rooted in a colonial history and its afterlives." My IASH project, 'Radical landscape poetry by racialised women and non-binary writers in the UK' investigates how place, body, history, and the page interact for writers of colour with a history of migration. Foregrounding inter- and trans-generational memory and experience, this project approaches landscape poetry from a postcolonial ecological perspective, simultaneously considering landscape poetry alongside the history of empire.

This research explores thematic and formal innovations of the Romantic tradition of landscape poetry by writers of colour across two strands: a critical research strand and an interdisciplinary, arts-based impact strand.

In partnership with the Scottish BAME Writers Network, and in my capacity as Junior Anniversary Fellow at IASH, I offered four online workshops, themed around radical landscape poetry, to racialised women and non-binary writers based in Scotland. Taking place in early 2022, these workshops explored how racialised bodies exist in relation to Scottish landscapes, and how these landscapes evoke history, memory, and cultural or inter-/trans-generational knowledge. They were co-facilitated by academics and writers working within the environmental sciences to ensure a strong knowledge

exchange component, including Vahni Anthony Ezekiel Capildeo. And, in collaboration with Dr Shari Sabeti, I am undertaking ethnographic research to explore how these workshops contribute to a sense of belonging and identity formation.

Overall, this work contributes to decolonising the literary arts in the UK, primarily by supporting the development of, and creating the space for, landscape poetry by women and non-binary writers of colour.

Professor Ronald A. Johnson was the American Philosophical Society Fellow at IASH from June to August 2021. He is Ralph and Bessie Mae Lynn Chair of History at Baylor University in Texas.

My IASH project, *A Checkered History of Black Freedom & Atlantic Slavery*, traces the life and achievements of U.S. diplomat Edward Stevens across three Atlantic world regions from the 1750s to the 1830s to examine the role of peer groups and academic institutions on decision-making around the Atlantic slave trade.

Stevens grew up as a white, non-slaveholding inhabitant of the Danish West Indies, went to college in New York and Edinburgh, practiced medicine on St. Croix and in Philadelphia, and served as U.S. consul general to Saint-Domingue during the Haitian Revolution. To this point in his life, he was a non-slaveholder and worked extraordinarily closely with the revolutionary Black administration of Toussaint Louverture. Upon Stevens's return to St. Croix, at the age of 48, he acquired several estates and enslaved Black residents of the island till his death there three decades later. Historians have produced one biography (Stacey Day, *Edward Stevens*, 1969) and made references to Stevens in other works (Ron Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 2004) to highlight primarily

Philadelphia's Yellow Fever epidemic and Alexander Hamilton's childhood.

My IASH research supports a current book project, *Shades of Color: Racialized Diplomacy and the Haitian Diaspora in Early America*, which will feature Edward Stevens's professional engagements with free Black people and his later embrace of slavery. The study seeks to employ the history of Stevens as a lens through which to analyze the complexities around emancipation and enslavement in the Atlantic world. I hope to show that the enslavement of Black people and the abolition of culturally and legally sanctioned human bondage stemmed, at some level, from personal decisions based upon influences of family expectations, geographical ideologies, peer groupings, and individual ambitions.



Work-in-progress seminar at IASH 2022

# Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond

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We were thrilled to see works by former IASH/Traverse Fellows Frances Poet and Julia Taudevin forming the core of the Traverse Theatre programme at the 2021 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

*Still* by Frances Poet (IASH/Traverse Creative Fellow 2018) was commissioned by IASH three years ago, and re-opened the Traverse Theatre after many months of closure. Full of tenderness and humour, and woven through with a live, folk-rock inspired, musical score, *Still* is a cathartic story of life, loss and joy. Set in familiar locations around Edinburgh, this stripped-back production draws audiences straight into the heart of the story.

Inspired by ancient keening rituals, *MOVE* by Julia Taudevin (IASH/Traverse Creative Fellow 2020) is about migration, loss and communal healing. Weaving storytelling, choral soundscape and Gaelic song, five women portray the ebb and flow of people across the globe throughout the ages. The show is the inaugural production from Disaster Plan, a new company led by Julia Taudevin and Kieran Hurley. Presented in partnership with epic theatre-makers Slung Low and the Traverse Theatre, *MOVE* was staged in a unique open-air performance at Edinburgh's Silverknowes Beach.

## EXPLORATHON 2021

On 20 September, IASH presented a panel discussion titled *Scot Land: dreaming of the future of landscapes, space, and culture*. We joined forces with Explorathon 2021, part of European Researchers' Night, a European Commission initiative to raise the profile of research and research careers. Over 60 attendees enjoyed a wide-ranging discussion about the ownership of Scotland's landscape, both imaginary and practical. The session explored urban imaginaries and rural utopias,



Gerry Mulgrew and Oguz Kaplangi in 'Still'



'MOVE' by Julia Taudevin

regeneration and land ownership, histories and futures of landscape, asking: Who gets to talk about Scotland? What opportunities do we have to change the way we think about land in this country? Whose Scotland is it anyway?

Chaired by Dr Hamish Kallin (Geosciences), the panel included IASH Fellows Professor Glenda Norquay and Dr Alycia Pirmohamed, and writer, researcher and activist Andy Wightman.

## SCRATCHED IDENTITIES

'Scratched Identities' was an exhibition by Yemeni artist-in-exile and IASH Fellow Shatha Altowai that talked about strong, successful women who are forced to hide their own identities due to the community constraints that are imposed on them. It ran from 11 October to 11 November at the Southside Community Centre near the university. Altowai gathered images of women from Yemen and Scotland, including MSPs Sarah Boyack and Monica Lennon, and systematically scratched and covered the faces in each photograph. The idea for the exhibition came to her when she was ten, after she saw the school certificate of an older friend who had covered her face with a sticker. This was her first introduction to a common cultural practice in Yemen in which women as young as 11 are forced to hide their faces in photographs.

While most women in Scotland do not have this experience, Altowai said many Scottish women she has met have empathized with the struggles of Yemeni women: "All women face the same pressure as one another, just on different levels. It's powerful to have solidarity and support from one woman to another woman, even if you come from the other end of the world".



Explorathon 2021



Maya and the Whale, COP26



Scratched Identities

Lennon said: “Shatha’s exhibition is a powerful visualisation of what happens when freedom is taken from women because of societal constraints. Being involved in the project has made me more determined to fight for gender equality.”

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE CHARLES WALLACE INDIA TRUST

IASH proudly presented a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Charles Wallace India Trust, recorded on 13 October 2021.

Supported by the Trust, IASH has hosted more than twenty CWIT Fellows from India since 1995, exploring topics as diverse as sepoys in the colonial era, sculptural art, the origins of chess, agriculture, yoga and contemporary Hindi fiction. The Chair was Professor William Gould of the University of Leeds. Speakers included former IASH/CWIT Fellows Dr Sabyasachi Dasgupta, Dr Piyush Mathur, Dr Sridhar Modugu and Dr Nilanjana Mukherjee. The event was introduced by Shreela Ghosh, Secretary of the Trust and member of IASH's Advisory Board.

## COP26

The Institute presented a special event connected to COP26 and IPD'24 on Tuesday 16 November. With the Centre for Modern and Contemporary History and the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, we co-sponsored *Dispatches from the Frontlines of Environmental Justice: a conversation on colonial resource extraction, gender violence and COP26*, featuring Indigenous activists Delee Nikal and Kati George-Jim.

First Nations activists Nikal and George-Jim travelled to Glasgow in November to participate in the activities of

COP26. In this special event, they shared their reflections on why global climate action must account for the ongoing role of colonialism, and the devastating impact this has for Indigenous women across Canada. The discussion considered the responsibility of the settler colonial state in Canada in these connected crises, and explored how Indigenous communities are attempting to bring about change. Finally, the speakers shared their reflections on participating in COP26 as Indigenous delegates in Glasgow.

Both activists have long campaigned to raise awareness of the links between resource extraction and violence against Indigenous women and girls, leading an action at COP26 for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). As land defenders, Nikal has been at the forefront of protests against the Coastal GasLink Pipeline in British Columbia, while George-Jim joined the Fairy Creek blockade to protect ancient forests on Vancouver Island from logging.

IASH was also proud to support the development of *Maya and the Whale*, a new play by Hazel Darwin-Clements, touring to Glasgow schools during COP26. The play was presented by Platform (Easterhouse) as part of their Dear Green Place Programme, and directed by IASH alumnus Lewis Hetherington.





*Rediscovering Feminist Histories*

## BEING HUMAN FESTIVAL: REDISCOVERING FEMINIST HISTORIES

This hour-long online discussion on Thursday 18 November explored how women's histories are often forgotten, overlooked or actively suppressed. Bringing together historians, lawyers and literature experts, we explored questions around who gets remembered, and what traces women have left behind. We showed how the audience could start to uncover women's lives from a variety of unusual sources: novels, photographs, digital archives, legal judgments, storytelling and oral history, and activist practices.

### The event featured:

Lois Burke (Edinburgh Napier University and IASH alumna) exploring the importance and connectedness of Scottish women writers of children's literature, and their child readers.

Joan Haran (University of Cardiff and IASH Fellow) on how stories about feminist activism and theory are continually retold in the effort to motivate further activism.

Melissa Highton (University of Edinburgh) on Wikipedia's 'women problem', and the ways the internet acts to uncover (or hide) women's histories.

Chloë Kennedy (University of Edinburgh) imagining how important legal cases might have been decided differently if the judge had adopted a feminist perspective.

The participants' bite-size provocations launched the discussion, challenging traditional narratives and opening the audience's eyes to new ways of finding evidence for female achievement in the past and present. The event



*Prof Devi Sridhar*

was followed by a Wikimedia editathon on Friday 26 November (as part of the University of Edinburgh's Women in Red Wikipedia workshops series), allowing attendees to learn more about addressing gaps in the record.

## FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: PROFESSOR DEVI SRIDHAR

IASH supported the Fulbright Distinguished Lecture on Friday 19 November, in association with the US-UK Fulbright Commission, the Fulbright Association and the Lois Roth Endowment. The event was livestreamed from Pembroke College, Oxford.

*Preventing the Next Pandemic: what have we learned about international health collaboration and what needs to change?*

To answer this question, Devi Sridhar, Professor of Global Public Health at the University of Edinburgh, examines the historical roots of international cooperation in health and the subsequent creation of the World Health Organisation in the aftermath of World War II. The WHO's existence is rooted in outbreak management across borders. And yet in the hyperconnected world of 2020-21, global cooperation broke down illustrated by divergent and nationally-driven strategies on COVID-response, vaccine nationalism and hoarding by rich countries, and tense political fractures over the origins of COVID-19. Can we rectify these gaps moving forward? That is what Professor Sridhar examined in this thought-provoking lecture that also offered reflections on how – when the next pandemic comes – we can do better.



Menstrual blood, artwork title "The Ribbon Rose". Beauty in Blood: Wellcome Collection. Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

## ESRC FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE: THE PRICE OF PERIODS: PRISONS, POVERTY, POLITICS

This panel discussion, held on the first anniversary of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill on Monday 22 November, explored new areas of menstrual health research, demonstrating how scholarship can inform and support bold policy moves to overcome menstrual inequality. Our interdisciplinary approach encouraged over 100 attendees to reflect on both global and local aspects of the topic, learning for example how cutting-edge research into menstrual bleeding disorders can help overcome stigmas and taboos, leading to new and inclusive policy-making affecting the lives of women, girls and people who menstruate worldwide.

The event featured Monica Lennon MSP, who discussed the 'period poverty' bill she successfully steered through the Scottish Parliament; Professor Hilary Critchley, Professor of Reproductive Medicine/Deputy Director of the Centre for Reproductive Health in CMVM, who examined under-recognised and under-reported aspects of menstrual bleeding disorders; Dr Laura Rossouw, IASH Fellow and Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, who spoke about the importance and economics of menstrual hygiene management and related period poverty in South Africa; and Miriam Vishniac, doctoral researcher in SSPS/Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, who discussed experiences of incarcerated women in the USA including difficulties in accessing menstrual health products.



Winter Tales Book Festival

## WINTER TALES BOOK FESTIVAL

The Winter Tales Book Festival was a festival of literature, religion and the imagination at New College, University of Edinburgh. Amidst a packed programme featuring the likes of Robert Harris, Sally Magnusson, Miles Jupp, Val McDermid, James Robertson and Mona Siddiqui, IASH was delighted to support an event linked to our Institute Project on Decoloniality.

On Saturday 4 December, we sponsored *In Conversation with Mara Menzies*. Mara is a Kenyan/Scottish storyteller and writer whose novel *Blood and Gold* originated from the stage show of the same name. Her new novel explores the legacy of colonialism and slavery through myth, legend and fantasy. Mara spoke about the inspiration for the stories and performed some of them in her unique, inimitable style.



Geographiae Blavianae 1664 - Edinburgh

## SCOTLAND'S COASTAL ROMANTICISMS

This one-day workshop on Saturday 5 February sought to expand our understanding of the coastal beyond aesthetic categories. Talks dived into the material reality and ecologies of coasts in cultural productions from domestic travellers to transnational visitors and explorers, from writers and artists to natural historians and geologists and all those drawn to the coast in order to highlight the richness of R/romanticisms, past, present and future. The event was organised by IASH alumna Dr Anna Pilz, supported by the European Commission's Marie Curie Actions (Grant Agreement No. 890850) and jointly hosted by Scottish Writing in the Nineteenth Century (SWINC) and IASH.

## DECOLONISING IDEAS

On Thursday 3 March, IASH launched a new podcast series, *Decolonising Ideas*, as part of the Institute Project on Decoloniality (IPD '24).

Informed by the work of a variety of IASH Fellows, *Decolonising Ideas* aims to introduce listeners to the theories and practice of decoloniality, explore the breadth of decolonial inquiry occurring at the Institute, and examine how IASH scholarship relates to broader issues of coloniality across the Global South and Global North.

Our first episode, 'Decoloniality and the Arab Majority World', features Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellows Dr Nadeen Dakkak and Dr Ali Kassem as they discuss their scholarship, lived experience, and how their work is informed by and relates to theories of decoloniality. You can find this episode on all major podcast streaming services, such as Spotify and Apple Podcast, and on our [website](#).



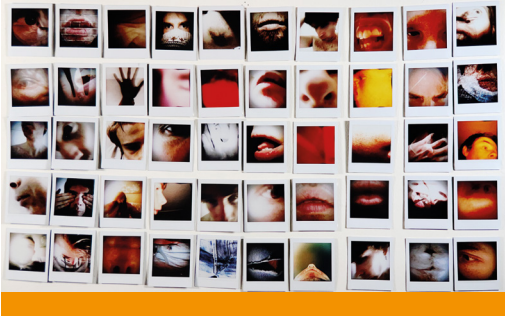
A diseased woman turning into a mermaid  
Wellcome Collection, Public Domain Mark

## VACCINE VOYAGES

An exhibition created for the 2022 Edinburgh Science Festival, *Vaccine Voyages* looked back at the first global vaccination campaign, and invited audiences to reflect on the legacies of colonial medicine today. How does colonialism echo into the lived experience of disease and its prevention globally? Can vaccines help reimagine future worlds, rather than remake colonial pasts?

In 1803, funded by King Carlos IV of Spain, a doctor used orphaned and enslaved children to incubate the vaccine for smallpox in their own bodies. They then travelled through the Caribbean, Mexico, the Philippines, China, and back to Europe, inoculating thousands along the way. Our outdoor exhibition explores that voyage, literally the first global health mission, showing how a miraculous new technology was rooted in exploitation, colonialism and the horrific Atlantic slave trade. The vaccines themselves were very different from today's quick jabs: lymphatic fluid was harvested from pustules that was then inserted directly into other people's arms. Using the human body to transport and incubate the cowpox virus allowed Western medicine to circle the globe under the auspices of humanitarianism. With the vaccine, colonial officials hoped to eradicate both disease and evidence of the violence of slavery.

*Vaccine Voyages* followed the story of the enslaved children who incubated and reproduced the vaccine, putting them back at the heart of this medical revolution. The exhibition on North Meadow Walk, in front of IASH, ran from Saturday 9 to Sunday 24 April, and was based on research by CHCI-ACLS Fellow Dr Farren Yero.



*Docs for Thought:  
still from 'Prosopagnosia' by Steven Fraser*

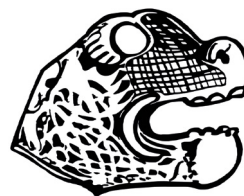
## DOCS FOR THOUGHT: A VISUAL TRIP FROM SCOTLAND AROUND THE WORLD

On Tuesday 10 May, Summerhall in Edinburgh hosted a screening of short documentaries developed at the Scottish Documentary Institute. The screening was curated by Dr Aida Vallejo (Nominated Fellow 2021-22; University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU), as an outreach activity of her research project IDfmap, developed at the University of Edinburgh. The session presented a journey through films developed within the Bridging the Gap programme, a training and development initiative created in 2004 to foster new documentary talent in Scotland. The event was supported by IASH and the Scottish Documentary Institute.

A selection of six short documentaries produced in the last decade presented different creative ways to look at reality. From first-person stories to experiments with animation, the films expanded the artistic boundaries of documentary towards new forms of non-fiction. From the streets of Glasgow to Algeria and Turkey and back to the North East coast of Scotland, the audience was invited into a visual journey around time and space that reflected on contemporary issues that include women's position in society, class division, global mobility, cultural diversity in an interconnected world and alternative perceptions of reality.

## COPENHAGEN/EDINBURGH JOINT SEMINAR IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

On Thursday 12 May, three visitors from the Faculty of Theology at the University of Copenhagen attended a Joint Seminar with the School of Divinity on early Christianity. The visitors were Dr Gitte Buch-Hansen of the



*Northern Scholars*

Department of Biblical Studies, with Dr Matthew David Larsen of the Section of Biblical Exegesis, and Professor Heike Omerzu, Professor of New Testament. A Northern Scholars event.

## RETHINKING "THE STATE" FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

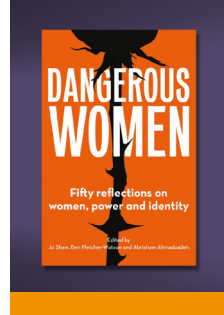
What does it mean to take a comparative perspective on "the state"? And to do so from the Global South? Crossing law, politics, and the humanities, Dr Florian Hoffmann and IASH Fellow Professor Geeta Patel discussed constitutions and pensions in comparative perspective, with an emphasis on Brazil and India. In doing so, they offered some reflections on whether and how the state can be thought from and through the Global South, and the epistemic and disciplinary challenges in doing so. The event was held on Friday 13 May in association with the Reversing the Gaze project at Edinburgh Law School and IASH.

## NEW PERSPECTIVES ON "THE LYON IN MOURNING"

This symposium on Thursday 30 June brought together members of the Partnership Project on "Engaging Public and Academic Audiences to Recover Lost Voices of Scottish History: 'The Lyon in Mourning' Manuscript and the Jacobite Networks of the 1745 Rising" and members of the "Networking Jacobites" research cluster. It was livestreamed and recordings are available.

In September 1745, Episcopalian minister Robert Forbes was arrested and imprisoned while on his way to join Charles Edward Stuart's Jacobite army. Upon his release in May, 1746, he began to compile 'for the Instruction of





## Dangerous Women

future Ages' what would become a 10-volume manuscript which he called 'The Lyon in Mourning.' Now held in the National Library of Scotland (Adv.MS.32.6.16-26), the manuscript consists of eye-witness interviews, letters, poems, songs and speeches concerning those who had been involved in the events of the Rising.

The symposium was organised by 2022 Fellow Leith Davis, Professor of English and Director of the Research Centre for Scottish Studies at Simon Fraser University. The event was supported by IASH, as well as the National Library of Scotland, Simon Fraser University's Department of English and the Digital Humanities Innovation Lab, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

## IRELAND SEXUALITIES IN HISTORY

Much has been made of dramatic socio-cultural and political changes in recent years in regard to sexualities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. From the 2015 Marriage Equality Referendum to the 2018 Abortion Referendum in the Republic; from the repeated vetoes at Stormont on socially progressive legislation to the recent imposition by Westminster of socially progressive laws that decriminalised abortion and introduced same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland, Ireland's image north and south has been challenged and has changed considerably in recent years. Scholars interested in Ireland have begun to explore areas of the history of Ireland that had been ignored, such as Ireland's LGBTQ+ history and sexuality more broadly. Recent years have seen the publication of books on the history of marriage equality in Ireland, gay and lesbian activism in the Republic of Ireland, LGBTQ+ visibility in the Irish media, and homosexuality in history.

Despite these important contributions, however, LGBTQ+ history and sexuality are still very much under-researched

for the two Irelands and remain, for the most part, on the margins within universities in the two Irelands and beyond. Sexualities still remain a niche subject within academia in the two Irelands. This exciting and ground-breaking conference, held on 11-12 July, sought to further expand our historical knowledge and understanding of sexualities in Ireland's history.

Supported by the School of History, Classics & Archaeology and the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh, and the Irish Consulate in Edinburgh.

## MAKING AND CELEBRATING BOOKS AT IASH

*Dangerous Women: fifty reflections on women, power and identity* (Unbound, 2022) edited by Jo Shaw, Ben Fletcher-Watson and Abrisham Ahmadzadeh

What does it mean to be a dangerous woman?

'The most dangerous woman in Britain' – *Sun*

'Meet the most dangerous wee woman in the world' – *Daily Mail*

We may laugh at the media's label for women such as Shami Chakrabarti or Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, but behind it lie serious questions about the dynamics, conflicts and power relations with which women live today. The idea that women are dangerous individually or collectively permeates many historical periods, cultures and areas of contemporary life.

But what does it mean for a woman to be dangerous? Who, or what, does she present a danger to? Who gets to say she's dangerous? Why do they want to say it? Does





*Bryan Edwards (1743-1800): a digital history*

she consider herself dangerous? Is feminism dangerous? And what do the answers to those questions tell us about societies past and present? About our social and political structures, about our everyday lives, our attitudes and our very identities? *Dangerous Women* gives fifty wide-ranging perspectives on these questions.

The book was released to mark International Women's Day 2022, receiving coverage across the media.

#### *Bryan Edwards (1743-1800): a digital history*

In October, the Institute was pleased to announce the publication of a new digital resource on the life of Bryan Edwards, compiled by Honorary Fellow Dr Karina Williamson. The Bryan Edwards website brings together images, genealogies, original documents and sources to give a fuller and more accurate account of the life, writings, and career of Edwards, known in his time as a politician, merchant, planter, enslaver and historian of the British West Indies.

Dr Williamson said, "Black Lives Matter, woke and cancel culture, and toppling statues have all been high-profile examples of recent political, social, cultural and economic debates in the UK, north America and elsewhere. These debates have also included a notable increase in attention being paid to the practice of slavery, slave owners and enslaved people in the Caribbean and Americas since the 1600s.

Bryan Edwards (1743-1800) was a slave owner and a British MP, who wrote the first known history of the Caribbean. He was a staunch defender of the slave trade. His history of the Caribbean included the notorious poem, "The Sable Venus: An Ode" by Isaac Teale.



#### *Emerging Canon, Contested Histories: Global Art Historians in Conversation*

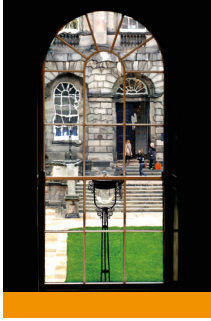
This website, which is work still in progress, is an academic study into the life of Edwards, his family and people associated with him. These days, studies of slave owners could run the risk of being seen as placing the person (or the author) on some sort of pedestal and perhaps therefore a legitimate target for a cyberspace "toppling". This is certainly not the intention of this study, nor should it be used in any way to defend slavery, past, present, or future. Through increasing our knowledge of slave owners, especially influential and well-known ones, not only can we better understand how the appalling phenomenon of slavery was developed and sustained, but it may also help ensure that nothing like it could ever happen again. Beyond those with a purely scholarly interest in the history and literature of the Caribbean, this is the only other purpose that the website should be used for. I hope you find it of interest."

The site can be viewed at <https://www.bryan-edwards.iash.ed.ac.uk>

#### *Emerging Canon, Contested Histories: Global Art Historians in Conversation (IASH Occasional Paper Series, number 23)*

This new e-book offers an edited version of the online roundtable, "Critical Globalism", led by IASH Postdoctoral Fellow Francesco Gusella and Meha Priyadarshini in 2020, with contributions from Sussan Babaie, Anna Groundwater, Elsje van Kessel, José Ramón Marcaida López, and Catriona Murray.

The conversation brings together researchers and curators to discuss the ways in which early modern art is studied, taught, remembered, and displayed today. Our online publication, available in open source, is an opportunity for experts and newcomers to the field of Global Studies to



look at a pivotal period of intensifying global connections against the backdrop of our globalized world.

With the aid of objects and visual sources, *Emerging Canon, Contested Histories* critically reflects upon the use of this artistic heritage in present-day scholarship and society. The discussion points to alternative ways of visualizing geography and spatiality, the risks and opportunities represented by digital humanities, and the role of institutions and individual agents in establishing more inclusive collaborations. A free Open Access PDF is available on IASH's [website](#).

## SUSAN MANNING WORKSHOPS

In 2021-2022, we continued the practice of supporting postdoctoral fellows to organise workshops 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:

*Third World Oil Crises: Global Connections, Everyday Repercussions, and the 1970s*

(25-27 August, led by Dr George Roberts)

*Press, Print and Publishing in Tanzania since Independence*

(5 November, led by Dr George Roberts)

*Decolonising Structures in Higher Education*

(1-4 March, led by Dr CL Nash and Dr Siphiwe Dube)

*The Arab-majority and Muslim-majority Worlds in/and Contemporary Decolonisation Debates*

(5-6 April, led by Dr Ali Kassem)

*Building Our Own Table: A Symposium to Honour the Work of Lisa Williams* (7 April, led by Dr Désha Osborne)

*Decolonial Praxis/es of Solidarity in South Asian Literary and Cultural Discourses on Social Movements*

(27-28 April, led by Dr Bharti Arora)

*Supernovae, Comets, and Aristotelian Cosmology: a collapse of philosophical paradigms and the birth of the new sciences in the 16th and 17th centuries?* (27 June, led by Dr Xiaona Wang and Dr David McOmish, in collaboration with Ca'Foscari University of Venice)

Reports for many of these workshops can be found on our [website](#).

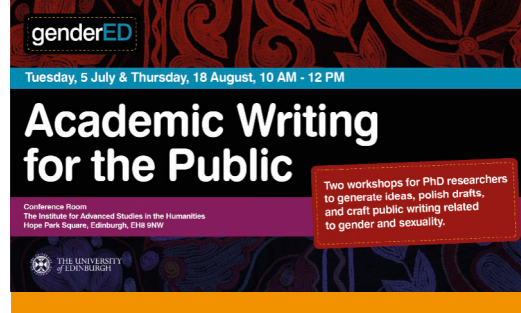
genderED is the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for gender and sexualities studies. It is powered by the School of Social and Political Science (SPS) and hosted by IASH. Now approaching its fifth year of existence, genderED has a directory of over 300 researchers (from 85 at launch) and more than 200 courses (from 80 at launch). As well as showcasing research and teaching through the directory, genderED shares events, activities, and announcements of interest in our monthly newsletter and on our blog.

In 2022, genderED welcomed Dr Radhika Govinda as its new Acting Director, and Dr Hemangini Gupta as Associate Director. With the support of SPS Communications, web and editorial assistant Aerin Lai, Communications and Events Interns Shy Zvouloun and Lauren Galligan, and our wonderful Steering Group, genderED has successfully delivered a year of online and in-person events, workshops, and projects, demonstrating the breadth of gender and sexuality studies from an interdisciplinary perspective at the University of Edinburgh.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22

### SUPPORTING THE STUDY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITIES

genderED's flagship pre-honours undergraduate course *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World*, convened by Dr Meryl Kenny, successfully ran for the fifth time in 2021-22, with more than 280 students from across the University. genderED has facilitated the development of a new interdisciplinary undergraduate course on *Gender and Visual Cultures*, which has been approved but not yet scheduled for delivery. We continue to support *Introduction to Queer Studies* (ECA). We have also been exploring and recording the history of women's, gender



### Academic Writing for The Public

and feminist studies teaching at the University through our ongoing oral history project, 'Voices from the Early Days'. We've gathered first-hand accounts from 6 pioneering women who introduced WGFS courses across the University.

### IMPROVING RESEARCH WITH A GENDER SENSITIVE FOCUS AND FEMINIST METHODS

This year we completed genderED's two year programme of work on improving research with a gender sensitive approach that ran 2019-21. In the last phase of the project we developed online resources and new web pages which pivot from a GCRF-only focus to a generic approach with wider relevance to academic researchers particularly in STEM, working closely with colleagues at Makerere University in Uganda. Furthermore, we delivered 'Doing Feminist Research' in 2022— an oversubscribed feminist methods workshop for postgraduate research students on behalf of the Scottish Graduate Schools (SGSSS and SGSAH Spring into Methods Programme) in partnership with Strathclyde University.

### SUPPORTING INTERDISCIPLINARY THINKING AND NETWORKING

In 2021, we curated a virtual Early Career Researchers' Spotlight to highlight the research being conducted by ECRs across the University. The Spotlight series runs from August to October and can be read on the genderED blog. We also co-organised with CRITIQUE and RACE.ED the 'Decolonising the Academy' Roundtable Series, including the International Women's Day Roundtable on 'Disrupting Coloniality in the Classroom? Decolonisation, Feminism and Critical Pedagogies.' In October, genderED partnered with IASH for the Being



Undergraduate Feminist Trailblazers

Human Festival 2021, presenting 'Rediscovering Feminist Histories', and again for the ESRC Festival of Social Science for the event 'The Price of Periods: Prisons, Poverty, Politics.' Among other activities, we co-sponsored Gender Politics Reading Group's inaugural 'Deep Dive' series, focusing on Judith Butler, along with CRITIQUE. Furthermore, this summer, we launched our ECR Academic Writing for the Public workshops, led by Associate Director Dr Hemangini Gupta. The workshops are aimed at PhD researchers to communicate their research on gender and sexuality to a public audience. Participants worked on blog posts that will be shared on the genderED blog as part of our ECR Spotlight series.

#### genderED-EUSA UNDERGRADUATE FEMINIST TRAILBLAZER AWARDS 2022

This year, genderED collaborated with the Edinburgh University Student Association to launch the Undergraduate Feminist Trailblazers Series to recognise and celebrate the work of undergraduate students engaged in important and inspiring work on gender and sexualities within and beyond the University. A panel of 3 judges, consisting of Dr Radhika Govinda, Dr Meryl Kenny and EUSA Vice President Education, Tara Gold, assessed the nominations and awarded 3 winners and 2 honourable mentions. Winners are profiled on the genderED blog.



Annual Research Showcase

#### 16 DAYS INTERNATIONAL BLOGATHON

Now in its fourth year, the 16 Days International Blogathon returned in 2021 with the theme *Histories, Legacies, Myths and Memories*, led by the Histories of Gender and Sexualities Research Group. Over 16 days, we travelled from Australia to India, Scotland to the Caribbean, and Mexico to the US, covering issues of gender-based violence. The Blogathon will return in 2022 for a fifth year, from 25 November to 10 December, with the theme *Mobility, Migration, and Forced Displacement*.

#### ANNUAL RESEARCH SHOWCASE

In May 2022, genderED's Annual Research Showcase returned on the interactive platform gather.town to showcase a range of gender and sexuality research across a variety of disciplines taking place at the University of Edinburgh. The event began with a roundtable on 'Doing Gender and Sexualities Research', chaired by Professor Fiona Mackay and featuring Professor Louise Jackson, Dr Radhika Govinda, Dr Rosalind Cavaghan and Dr Ale Boussalem, and was followed by an in-person reception.

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 Twitter at [@UoE\\_genderED](https://twitter.com/UoE_genderED).

## RACE.ED

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RACE.ED is a cross-university network concerned with race, racialization and decolonial studies from a multidisciplinary perspective. It showcases excellence in teaching, research and knowledge, exchange, impact (KEI) in race and decolonial studies at the University of Edinburgh. RACE.ED was formed with the intention of constellating researchers, educators and practitioners committed to this study at the university, as well as globally. RACE.ED also serves as a pedagogical repository that keeps the study of race and colonialism alive within a liberal era that seeks to disavow historical wrongs and manage ideas about racial differences.

This year, we marked the second anniversary of RACE.ED. We continued our commitment to deepen and broaden the teaching and learning of the study of race, racialisation and coloniality through collaborative work. RACE.ED has also worked to encompass a diversity of knowledge production in an interdisciplinary way. Through this platform, we allow these important conversations to be held in a transnational way and with communities outside academia, honouring epistemes and forms of existence that have been systematically targeted and erased.

As COVID restrictions eased, RACE.ED has also undergone a transition from delivering events through online platforms to a hybrid format and in-person workshops. The events and podcast series are collectively supported by Michaelagh Broadbent, the SPS Comms Team, Events & Protocol's Rebecca Whitfield, Podcast Assistant Sophia Hoffinger, and IASH/RACE.ED Communications and Events Intern Yuke Huang.



*RACE.ED second anniversary event Building Transnational Solidarity: Radical Pedagogies from the South, artwork by Céu Mendonça (she/her).*

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22

#### SUPPORTING THE STUDY OF RACE AND COLONIALITY

We are excited to have developed and convened a new cross university course entitled *Understanding Race and Colonialism* which commenced in 2022. This interdisciplinary course provides an overview of the major issues at stake in the study of race, racialization and decoloniality from a broadly conceived social science and humanities tradition. It included participation from RACE.ED's own university-wide network and drew from the expertise of Professor Nasar Meer, Professor Diana Paton, Professor Tommy Curry, Dr Gwenetta Curry, Dr Radhika Govinda, Dr Rochelle Rowe, Dr Katucha Bento, Dr Ali Kassem and Dr Shaira Vadasaria, who served as course organiser. It had excellent tutor support by Aerin Lai, Albert Mkony and Ali Kassem.

In addition to URC, we have been collecting courses across the university that pertain to the study of race, racialisation and decolonial studies from our networks, to highlight the pedagogical work being done in distinct disciplines and with the intention of future collaborations.

#### RACE.ED'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY

To mark the second anniversary of RACE.ED and to share more about the networks past and future vision, Dr Katucha Bento and Dr Shaira Vadasaria, Lecturers in Race and Decolonial Studies in the School of Social and Political Science and the co-directors of RACE.ED in 2022-2023 discuss what RACE.ED is, what it aims to do, the collaborative nature of its work. An article abstracted from the discussion was published in *Bulletin*, and the full discussion has been made into a video interview published on the RACE.ED website.





*Race vs, the Human with Dr Deanne Bell*

The anniversary was also marked by a two and a half day workshop titled *Building Transnational Solidarity: Radical Pedagogies from the South*, hosted by Dr Katucha Bento and Dr Gabriela Loureiro with invited speakers from Brazil Dr Raimunda Machado and Dr Edineia Tavares Lopes.

#### SHARED CONVERSATIONS AND BLOGPOSTS ON RACE AND COLONIALITY WITHIN AND BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY

RACE.ED's blog platform *RACE.ED writes* has grown and evolved since our very first blogpost announcing the inauguration of RACE.ED, with pieces from colleagues based across the globe engaged with our focus of research, teaching and knowledge exchange around race, racialization, ethnicity and decolonial thought. Notable highlights include pieces on the racialization of refugees, Roma communities, Black Lives Matter and more. Additionally, RACE.ED's podcast *Undersong – Race and Conversations Other-wise*, hosted by Katucha Bento, Nasar Meer, and Shaira Vadasaria, has also been broadcast for a year, featuring guests from across and beyond the RACE.ED network. In listening to the uncomfortable legacies of empire and coloniality that shape the present, the podcast serves as a local and global platform to exchange critical thought around race and the making of worlds otherwise.

#### CONNECTED RACE SCHOLARS AND GREW IDEAS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE WORK

With the RACE.ED Network, we have connected over 100 academics with race and decoloniality, building long-lasting relationships and laying the foundations for collaborative scholarships. We are proud to continue the second year of our Fellowships as part of IASH's Institute

Project on Decoloniality 2021–2024, in collaboration with the Centre for Research Collections (CRC) and the Stuart Hall Foundation. This collaborative approach is the central part of all RACE.ED work. We held a three-part symposium on decoloniality, which was a collaborative, co-badged project between CRITIQUE, genderED and RACE.ED, all internal University networks. We aimed to encourage conversations around the misuses and abuses of the term decoloniality and what it means to think about it, or to recentre it in its both historical and global context. Tune-in here for the podcast recording: <https://soundcloud.com/raceedpodcast/ep-10-the-d-word-dialogues-on-decolonization>

#### SOUTH-BASED ORGANISING

##### BUILDING TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY THROUGH RADICAL PEDAGOGIES

The anniversary workshop *Building Transnational Solidarity: Radical Pedagogies from the South* convened space for collective and creative thinking by facilitating knowledge exchange between activists from traditional communities, members of social movements, and academic researchers, focusing on radical pedagogies and the potential of transnational solidarity in education. This year, in our seminars, we have had different scholars presenting on queer, decolonial, anti-racist positionality. We had Brazilian poet Tatiana Nascimento, who talked about queering our dialogues and writing, making poetry through our presence. We also welcomed Dr Osmundo Pinho from Brazil, and Jamaican scholar Dr Deanne Bell, who came to talk about creating another version of the world as we recognise humanity away from the capitalist colonial terms that have been presented to us, co-chaired by rashné limki and organised with EREN (Edinburgh Race



Equality Network). Every single voice that we have been able to show with our platform has increased and grown an archive of voices and perspectives for RACE.ED and beyond.

On 28-29 March, RACE.ED co-badged a workshop with IASH organised by Dr Ali Kassem entitled *The Arab-majority and Muslim-majority Worlds in/and Contemporary Decolonisation Debates*. The workshop brought together scholars as well as scholar-activists to examine and contribute to this growing decolonial conversation addressing, without being limited to, the possibilities and limitations of engaging with current decolonization debates broadly, including the Latin American decolonial studies collective's work specifically, to think phenomenon and crises within the Arab-majority and Muslim-majority worlds both historically as well as in the contemporary moment. The comparison and conversations between Latin American and indigenous American decolonial thought(s) and anti-, post- and decolonial thought(s) from the Arab-majority and Muslim-majority worlds as a form of south-south dialogue.

## COMMUNITIES & NETWORKS

We would like to thank all those whose support and collaboration has been enabled RACE.ED's work and everything we've done to date. Thank you to all the many colleagues across all three Colleges, to Ben Fletcher-Watson, Steve Yearley and IASH, to Daryl Green and CRC, and our array of colleagues in Professional Services: Michaelagh Broadbent, Sophia Hoffinger, Yuke Huang and the countless others who have helped and supported RACE.ED in this turbulent but promising year.



## 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:

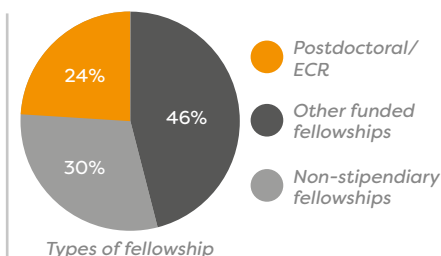
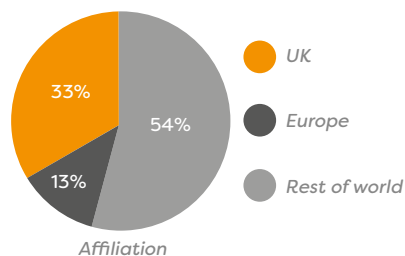
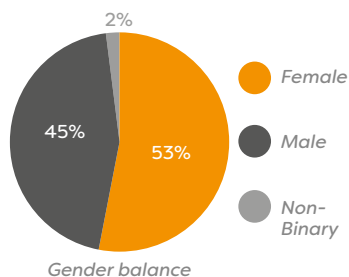
- UK Consortium of Institutes of Advanced Studies (CIAS)
- Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS)
- European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC)
- University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS)
- Consortium of Humanities Centers & Institutes (CHCI)

Four Fellows attended the 2022 ECHIC conference, titled *The Many Faces of the Humanities*. Dr Bharti Arora, Dr Nadeen Dakkak, Dr Lucy Hinnie and Dr Joanna Wilson-Scott, along with IASH Administrative Manager Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson, enjoyed two days in Lund, Sweden. The Fellows also delivered their own panel, titled 'Intersecting Crises – The Role of the Humanities Amid Crises of Pandemic, Migration and Climate Change'.

The Institute now 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 will also make connections as appropriate 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 2021-22

TOTAL  
PERSON  
MONTHS  
368



## Fellows & Fellowships

In all, 76 Fellows were appointed this year, with visits totalling 368 person-months. This maintains IASH's position as the fourth largest Institute of its kind in Europe.

For 2021-22, the Institute received 175 fully eligible applications for the Postdoctoral Fellowship programmes and over 130 applications for other Fellowships. The success rate for Postdoctoral Fellowships remains around 6-7%. 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 Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance Postdoctoral Fellowship in collaboration with the Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance and the Royal Society of Edinburgh; and the RACE.ED Archival Research Fellowship in partnership with the Centre for Research Collections and RACE.ED.

*"My time at IASH as a RACE.ED Fellow provided a truly interdisciplinary space that fostered relationships I will bring with me as I advance my research. These relationships have already proven integral to my joining the faculty at Rutgers upon my return to the US."*

*Dr Victor Peterson II, RACE.ED Archival Research Fellow*

*"IASH has been a phenomenal experience and is a treasured part of any academic journey. The hospitality provided to visiting scholars, and those who remain in Scotland, is unparalleled. Working with IASH provided me with the opportunity to meet with other academics, to share my work within IASH and also other schools in the university. I've created long lasting collegial relationships."*

*Dr CL Nash, CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellow*



## LIST OF 2021/22 FELLOWS

| FELLOW                             | FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME   | HOME INSTITUTION   | RESEARCH PROJECT  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Dr Sam Challis                     | African Fellowship   | University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa                  | Digital Innovation in Decoloniality: Enhancing Images of 'Bushman' Resistance   |
| Dr Siphwe Dube                     | African Fellowship   | University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa                  | The Theologico-political Problem in Africa: A Decolonial Perspective  |
| Dr Laura Rossouw                   | African Fellowship   | University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa                  | The Economics of Menstrual Hygiene Management: The Impact of the Sanitary Dignity Programme on Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products in South Africa |
| Dr Ruth Boeker                     | American Philosophical Association Edinburgh Fellowship                        | University College Dublin, Ireland                             | Women's Role in Scottish Enlightenment Philosophy   |
| Dr Alasambom Nyongchuo             | British Council-IASH Fellowship for 'Decolonising Digital'                     | University of Bamenda, Cameroon                                | Decolonising and Democratising Digital Space  |
| Dr Steffi Dippold                  | Centre for Research Collections Fellowship                                     | Kansas State University, USA                                   | Deciphering the Indigenous Artifact Language of the Edinburgh 'Indian Primer' (1669)  |
| Mr Michael Galban                  | Centre for Research Collections Fellowship                                     | Seneca Art & Cultural Center, USA                              | Deciphering the Indigenous Artifact Language of the Edinburgh 'Indian Primer' (1669)  |
| Dr Kate Gibson                     | Centre for Research Collections Fellowship                                     | University of Manchester, UK                                   | Fostering and Care Work in Britain, 1700-1840   |
| Dr Désha Osborne                   | Centre for Research Collections Fellowship                                     | Hunter College, City University of New York, USA               | Collected Personal and Curated Archives of Scottish Families with Ties to the 'Ceded Islands' of Saint Vincent, Grenada, Tobago and the Grenadines  |
| Dr Bharti Arora                    | Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship   | Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Pondicherry, India | Making Resistances, Performing Decoloniality: Peasants' Negotiations of State in Select Hindi Fiction of Postindependence India                     |
| Dr Matthew D. Morrison             | CHCI-ACLS Fellowship   | Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, USA             | Blacksound: Making Race and Popular Music in the United States  |
| Dr Farren Yero                     | CHCI-ACLS Fellowship   | Duke University, USA   | Atlantic Antidote: Race, Gender, and the Birth of the First Vaccine   |
| Professor Anthony Clark            | Combe Trust Fellowship   | Whitworth University, USA                                      | The Theater of Canonization: The Making of Jesuit Saints in Late Imperial China   |
| Dr Alejandro Manuel Flores Aguilar | CSMCH-IASH Visiting Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern and Contemporary History | University of Texas at Austin, USA                             | Raised Gaze in Ixil Time: Towards a Minor History of War (1936-2020)  |
| Dr Rachael Scally                  | Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-Century Scottish Studies           | Independent Scholar, UK  | Slavery, Colonialism and the Edinburgh Medical School in the Long Eighteenth Century  |
| Dr Mallika Leuzinger               | Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship                                    | Princeton University, USA                                      | Archival Imaginaries and the Politics of History in South Asia  |
| Professor Leith Davis              | Digital Scholarship Visiting Research Fellowship                               | Simon Fraser University, Canada                                | Robert Forbes's <i>Lyon in Mourning</i> Manuscript: Networking Jacobites, Cultural Memory and Intermediality  |
| Dr Jennifer Guiliano               | Digital Scholarship Visiting Research Fellowship                               | Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, USA         | Decolonizing Knowledge Production through Linked Open Data  |
| Dr Anna Plassart                   | Dugald Stewart Project Fellowship  | Open University, UK  | The Dugald Stewart Project  |
| Dr Paul Merchant                   | Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship                          | University of Bristol, UK                                      | Rethinking the Blue Humanities from the Pacific   |
| Professor Lawrence Ugwuanyi        | Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship                          | University of Abuja, Nigeria                                   | Exploring Environmental Ethics through the Concept of <i>A/à</i> in Igbo thought  |
| Dr Azeb Amha                       | European Fellowship  | Leiden University, Netherlands                                 | Whistled Names and their Social Importance in the Oyda Language, and Clause Chains In Zargula   |
| Dr David King                      | Fulbright Distinguished Visitor Award  | Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, USA         | Philanthropy and the Public Good  |
| Professor Susan Nieman             | Gifford Lecturer   | The Einstein Forum, Germany                                    | Heroism for a Time of Victims   |
| Professor Sam Cohn                 | Honorary Fellowship  | University of Glasgow, UK                                      | Epidemics: Waves of Disease, Waves of Hate, from the Plague of Athens to AIDS   |

## LIST OF 2021/2022 FELLOWS

| FELLOW                                | FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME                       | HOME INSTITUTION   | RESEARCH PROJECT   |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Professor David Purdie                | Honorary Fellowship                        | University of Edinburgh, UK  | The Textual Enlightenment Project  |
| Professor Karina Williamson           | Honorary Fellowship                        | University of Edinburgh, UK  | Bryan Edwards (1743-1800)  |
| Dr Nadeen Dakkak                      | IASH-Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellowship      | University of Warwick, UK  | Arab Diasporas in the Gulf: Hospitality and Gratitude in Digital Articulations of Cultural and Islamic Affinity                    |
| Dr Ali Kassem                         | IASH-Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellowship      | American University of Beirut, Lebanon                                     | Anti-Muslim Racism and Global Modernity/Coloniality: the Experienced Erasure of Lived Islam in West Asia                           |
| Dr Nazirudin Nasir                    | IASH-Alwaleed Visiting Research Fellowship | Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore                         | Muslim Discourses on Modern Socio-political Systems in light of the Radicalisation Phenomenon                                      |
| Dr CL Nash                            | IASH-CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship      | University of Leeds, UK  | The Decolonizing God: Black Epistemic Challenges to White Jesus  |
| Dr David Newheiser                    | IASH-CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship      | Australian Catholic University, Australia                                  | Miracles and Modern Politics   |
| Dr Sandeep Bakshi                     | IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship              | Université Paris Cité / LARCA, France                                      | Race, Queer Politics and Decoloniality   |
| Dr Joan Haran                         | IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship              | Cardiff University, UK   | Feminist Stories in Movement   |
| Dr Seán Mfundza Muller                | IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship              | University of Johannesburg, South Africa                                   | Decoloniality and the Decolonisation Imperative across Disciplines: from Mathematics to Development Studies via Economics          |
| Ms Apphia Campbell                    | IASH-Traverse Creative Fellowship          | Edinburgh  | A play   |
| Mr Oisín Kearney & Mr Michael Patrick | IASH-Traverse Creative Fellowship          | Edinburgh  | <i>Union of Craic</i> : a play   |
| Ms Raman Mundair                      | IASH-Traverse Creative Fellowship          | Glasgow  | <i>How FemDom Will Save Your Life</i> : a play   |
| Dr Alycia Pirmohamed                  | Junior Anniversary Fellowship              | University of Liverpool, UK  | Radical Landscape Poetry by Racialised Women Writers   |
| Professor Gioia Angeletti             | Nominated Fellowship                       | University of Parma, Italy   | Empire and Gender in Scottish Migration Literature: Lady Anne Barnard's "Cape" Writing   |
| The Hon. Nici Dahrendorf              | Nominated Fellowship                       | Birkbeck College, University of London, UK                                 | Perspectives on Today's Challenges and Opportunities for Peace Mediation   |
| Professor Julietta Hua                | Nominated Fellowship                       | San Francisco State University, USA  | Race, Colonialism, Technology  |
| Dr Jayita Sarkar                      | Nominated Fellowship                       | University of Glasgow, UK  | Connected Partitions: From South Asia to the World   |
| Dr Tara Stubbs                        | Nominated Fellowship                       | Oxford University, UK  | The Place of Modern and Contemporary Scottish Poetry within Contemporary Society   |
| Professor Theodore L. Trost           | Nominated Fellowship                       | University of Alabama, USA   | The Uses of "Religious" Rhetoric in Popular Songs  |
| Dr Aida Vallejo                       | Nominated Fellowship                       | University of the Basque Country, Spain                                    | Mapping Institutes of Documentary Film   |
| Dr Edwin Coomasaru                    | Postdoctoral Fellowship                    | Association for Art History, UK  | Queer Tropics: Decolonising Sexuality and Ecology in Sri Lanka through Lionel Wendt's 'Ceylon' and Basil Wright's 'Song of Ceylon' |
| Dr Michael Murphy                     | Postdoctoral Fellowship                    | Max Planck Institute of Comparative and International Private Law, Germany | A Decolonial Philosophy of Law: Toward Radical imaginations of Democracy   |
| Dr Vivek Santayana                    | Postdoctoral Fellowship                    | University of Edinburgh, UK  | Dissident Imaginaries: Speculative Fiction and Epistemic Resistance in the Works of Nnedi Okorafor and Mimi Mondal                 |
| Dr Sonia Wigh                         | Postdoctoral Fellowship                    | University of Exeter, UK   | Renaissance Goo: Personal Care Pharmacology  |

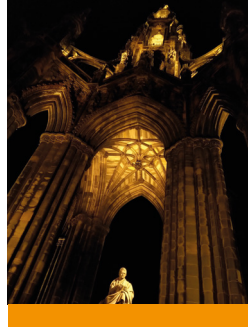


## LIST OF 2021/2022 FELLOWS

| FELLOW                    | FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME  | HOME INSTITUTION   | RESEARCH PROJECT  |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| Dr Annabel Williams       | Postdoctoral Fellowship                                       | Oxford University, UK                                      | Rebecca West and the Centenary of 'The Judge'   |
| Dr Obinna Nwokie          | RACE.ED Archival Research Fellowship                          | Benson Idahosa University, Nigeria                         | The Sudan United Mission and Activities in Nigeria  |
| Dr Victor Peterson II     | RACE.ED Archival Research Fellowship                          | Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at the New School, USA | Archiving Mood: Black Sound and Social Movements  |
| Dr Elaine Kelly           | Sabbatical Fellowship   | University of Edinburgh, UK                                | Musical Diplomacy at the Peripheries: East Germany and the Postcolonial World                               |
| Dr Timothy Riding         | Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance Postdoctoral Fellowship | University of York, UK                                     | The Darien Scheme, Colonialism and the Scottish Curriculum  |
| Dr Joanna Wilson-Scott    | Susan Manning Postdoctoral Fellowship                         | Bishop Grosseteste University, UK                          | Perforated Landscapes and Western Extractivist Practices in Island Literatures of the Global South          |
| Mrs Shatha Altowai        | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | Independent Scholar, UK                                    | Artistic Practice and Research around Peace and Conflict  |
| Dr Poonam Bala            | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | Cleveland State University, USA                            | Medicine, Decolonisation and Indian Voices  |
| Mr Saber Bamatraf         | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | Independent Scholar, UK                                    | Artistic Practice and Research around Peace and Conflict  |
| Professor Ann Brooks      | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | Australian Catholic University, Australia                  | Discourses in Critical Love Studies: Routledge Companion to Romantic Love                                   |
| Dr Catherine Dromelet     | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | FWO (Research Foundation – Flanders), Belgium              | Useful Superstition in Hume's Theory of Government  |
| Mr Oliver Emanuel         | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | University of St Andrews, UK                               | <i>Authorship: a play</i>   |
| Dr M. Folescu             | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | University of Missouri, USA                                | Mary Shepherd on Our Knowledge of Ourselves and the External World  |
| Dr Bulbul Gupta           | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | Multanimal Modi College, India                             | Transgender Worlds and the Question of Human Dignity  |
| Dr Sarah Levin-Richardson | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | University of Washington, USA                              | Born into Slavery: Recovering the Lives of Homeborn Slaves in Roman Culture                                 |
| Professor Glenda Norquay  | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | Liverpool John Moores University, UK                       | Topographies of Identity in Scottish Fiction 1880-2020  |
| Professor Geeta Patel     | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | University of Virginia, USA                                | A Poor Person's History of Colonial Pensions  |
| Professor Catherine Roach | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | University of Alabama, USA                                 | The Greek Slave Speaks: A Decolonial and Feminist Project on a Lost Piece of Scottish Art History           |
| Dr Tim Sommer             | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | University of Heidelberg, Germany                          | Manuscript Fictions: Literature and Cultural Heritage from the Nineteenth Century to the Digital Revolution |
| Dr Dana Van Kooy          | Visiting Research Fellowship                                  | Michigan Technological University, USA                     | Atlantic Configurations and the Aesthetics of Disappearance   |

## Ideas Grow: Looking Ahead to 2022-23

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We're excited about our plans for next year, as we continue our existing projects and programmes, and embark on new initiatives to support incoming Fellows from around the world and the work of researchers across the College. Professor Lesley McAra takes over from Professor Steve Yearley in August 2022 as Director of IASH, and the latest cohort of Fellows arrive to begin a new year of ideas and exploration.

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

The second year of the Institute Project on Decoloniality will include research into environmental activism in the Arctic and linguistic activism by the Sámi; we'll conduct historical investigations into Church of Scotland minister Robert Wallace's ideas of liberty, equality and slavery, as well as the unsuccessful quest of William Macao – the first immigrant to settle in Scotland from China – to secure British citizenship through the courts; in art and performance, we'll study digital storytelling by Syrian refugees during COVID-19, alongside peacebuilding through art working with Ukrainian refugees; in contemporary literature, we'll examine queer melancholia in Taiwan and the literature of the far right in France; in Arabic culture, we'll peer into the university's own "Oriental Collection", and take a decolonial perspective on Arab literary criticism of *The Thousand and One Nights*. Fellows from India, Israel, Italy, Denmark, China, Colombia, South Africa, Australia, Switzerland, the USA and Ukraine will all join our community of researchers.

An exclusive exhibition of personal effects and writings will illuminate 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, it also celebrates 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 is 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 explores 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'.

In November, our event for the ESRC Festival of Social Science will examine 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 will explore a host of radical ideas, controversial proposals and comedic satires on the twin themes of nation and identity. We'll dig 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.

Later that month, we'll partner with the Being Human Festival to ask: 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 will explore singularities, new technologies and the blurred boundaries between art and the digital world.

## Thanks & Acknowledgements

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Forthcoming books from the Institute's Occasional Papers series include 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 will be available in the autumn.

We also proudly present *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, due for release in November.

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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