London In The Eighteenth Century: A Great and Monstrous Thing
Jerry White, The Bodley Head
In this finale to his acclaimed history of London over 300 years, Professor White (Visiting Professor of History) introduces shopkeepers and prostitutes, men and women of fashion and genius, street-robbers and thief-takers, as they play out the astonishing drama of life in eighteenth-century London. The century was a period of vigorous expansion, of scientific and artistic genius, of blossoming reason, civility, elegance and manners. It was also an age of starving poverty and exquisite fashion, of joy and despair, of sentiment and cruelty.

Critical Legal Theory 4 Volumes (Critical Concepts in Law series)
Costas Douzinas (co-edited with Colin Perrin), Routledge
Critical Legal Theory has conventionally been traced to the social, political and philosophical movements of the 1960s and, before that, to the early-twentieth-century ‘realist’ critique of modern jurisprudence. However, its origins go back to classical and pre-modern thought, and to their acknowledgement of the centrality of law in attempts to conceive of the good life, or the just polity. Co-edited by Professor Douzinas (Professor of Law), this landmark four-volume collection meets the need for an authoritative reference work to make sense of a rapidly growing and complex corpus of literature.

The Oxford Handbook of the History of Consumption (Oxford Handbooks in History series)
Edited by Frank Trentmann, Oxford University Press
The study of consumption – the desire, acquisition, use and disposal of goods and services – has been the subject of major historiographical debates: did the eighteenth century bring a consumer revolution? Did the twentieth century see the triumph of global consumerism?

Edited by Professor Trentmann (Professor of History), this first guide to the historical literature on consumption from ancient Greece to the contemporary world brings together 35 experts to consider questions of consumption that have become defining topics in all branches of history, from gender and labour history to political history and cultural studies.

Spinoza on Philosophy, Religion, and Politics: The Theologico-Political Treatise
Susan James, Oxford University Press
This insightful study of one of the great modern thinkers offers a new interpretation of a classic text. Professor James (Professor of Philosophy) makes the arguments of the Treatise accessible, and their motivations plain, by setting them in their historical and philosophical context. She draws together philosophy, political theory, theology and history to illuminate how the relations between religion and politics developed in early modern Europe.

Social Research After the Cultural Turn
Sasha Roseneil and Stephen Frosh (eds), Palgrave Macmillan
The editors (Sasha Roseneil, Professor of Sociology and Social Theory; Stephen Frosh, Professor of Psychology) explore contested meanings and diverse practices of social research in the context of contemporary theoretical debates in cultural and social theory. This collection brings together leading scholars from a range of disciplines to ask fundamental questions facing those working in the social and human sciences today. What are the possibilities and challenges for social research after the ‘cultural turn’? What distinguishes social research from cultural studies and the humanities?
There is such a diverse and vibrant culture of creative writing at Birkbeck today. It’s been a privilege to see the kind of talent that is emerging from the BA programme, having played a role in building the degree over the last few years.

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