Launching the Centre for the Study of Internationalism

We are delighted to launch a new Centre at Birkbeck. The Centre for the Study of Internationalism will give a presence to a significant field of research at Birkbeck: internationalism in its various guises, in the past and present. The Centre will provide an intellectual home for researchers at all stages in their careers who are interested in the social, cultural, political, economic, intellectual and legal fabric of our world of nation-states and international or global institutions. It unites scholars from different academic fields and departments, including political, legal and social sciences, languages, philosophy, history and other disciplines. The Centre will organise reading groups, seminars and workshops, and host an annual lecture and visiting fellow.

Further information on the Centre and our inaugural lecture by Holly Case on Monday 23rd May can be found here.

Special Issue of Contemporary European History

We are pleased to announce the publication of a special issue of Contemporary European History on “Agents of Internationalism”. The special issue builds on and extends the discussions at our ‘Agents of Internationalism’ conference of May 2014 (see programme and workshop report here), and emphasises the variety of agents and versions of ‘internationalism’ at play in twentieth century Europe. By focusing on ‘internationalisms’ in the

Film Screening and Round Table

In the Shadow of Ebola
Birkbeck Cinema, Gordon Square, 25 May 2016, 18:00.

Discussion panel: Sarita Siegel (Alchemy Films), Gregg Mitman (U of Wisconsin), Patricia Kingori (Oxford), Jessica Reinisch (Birkbeck), Karen Wells (Birkbeck).

This event is open to the public. Tickets will be distributed through the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, and further details will be available soon on the events page of our website.

Recent and upcoming talks

Where we went this term

Dora Vargha gave a talk on live poliovaccine development
plural, the contributors avoid the temptation to identify the most authentic or pure version and to dismiss the rest. Instead, they attempt to connect different scales of focus and analysis and highlight the overlapping contacts of international, regional, national and local actors.

**Contemporary European History**
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and global health at Brown International Advanced Research Institutes, Madrid (14 January)

Jessica Reinsch gave a talk on “How (not) to write the history of refugees in Europe,” at the Centre for History in Public Health Seminar, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (10 February)

Dora Varga gave a talk titled “After the End of Polio: Local and Global Consequences of Hungarian Disease Elimination in the Cold War”, at the Oxford Hungarian Society, Christ Church College, Oxford (12 February)

Jessica Reinsch gave a talk, “Auntie UNRRA to the Rescue!” at the European University Institute, Florence, conference on ‘Communicating International Organisations in the 19th and 20th Centuries’ (10 March)

Where you’ll see us next

Francesca Piana will speak on “La Croix-Rouge, les media, et les émotions” at the University of Geneva (March 2016).

Francesca Piana will give a talk on “American Medical Assistance during and in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide: the case of Dr. Ruth A. Parmelee in Harpoot,” at the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC), Valencia, Spain (March 2016).

Dora Varga will give a talk titled “Sabin Vaccine Development and the Role of Eastern Europe in Global Polio Eradication,” ESSHC conference in Valencia, Spain (April 1). She is also chairing and commenting on the panel ‘The Great Challenge of Infectious Diseases: Global Health and the History of Emotions II’.

Jessica Reinsch will serve as commentator at the IHR conference ‘Best-Laid Plans: a History Colloquium about Schemers and Their Schemes’ (6 April).

Francesca Piana will give a talk titled “A Threat to Peace: Russian refugees in Istanbul, international humanitarianism and the League of Nations in...
Debating the Cold War: Podcasts and Conference Report

On 5 February 2016, the Reluctant Internationlists hosted a workshop, 'Debating the Cold War', at Birkbeck. It involved over 35 scholars from Europe, the United States, and Asia, who took part in a day of lively debates about some of the ‘myths’ of the Cold War, reflecting on current developments and future directions in the historiography, and their implications for research and teaching.

You can read a report of the conference here.

Podcasts of each of the panels can be accessed via the links below:

- **Introduction**
- **Panel 1**: How Global was the Cold War?
- **Panel 2**: Did Ideology Matter?
- **Panel 3**: Was there a Welfare State in the East as well as the West?
- **Panel 4**: What was Cold War Science?
- **Panel 5**: The Cold War that never ended, and the Cold War in the classroom

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Visiting Fellows

We are very excited to welcome two visiting fellows in May, Holly Case and Heidi Tworek.

Holly Case is Associate Professor of History at Cornell University. She is a historian of Europe, specializing in modern East-Central and Southeastern Europe. Her work focuses on the relationship between foreign policy, social policy, science and literature as manifest in the European state system of the 1920s,” at the annual conference of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (April).

Johanna Conterio will present a paper titled “Soviet Opposition to the Dutch Quiine Monopoly at the League of Nations” at the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies annual conference, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (April).


Francesca Piana will give a talk titled “Riparazioni dopo il genocidio degli armeni,” Scuola Normale di Pisa (April 2016).

Dora Vargha will present her research on “After the End of Polio: local and global consequences of disease elimination” at the History of Medicine Working Group of the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (15 April).

Dora Vargha will give a talk on “Out of the World Health Organization: Socialist International Health in the 1950s”, Johns Hopkins University, Department of History of Medicine (19 April).


Ana Antic will give the Fraenkel Prize lecture, “Wounded minds: Experiencing the violence of the Nazi New Order”, Wiener Library, London (27 April).

Jessica Reinsch will give a talk titled “What makes an expert? The view from UNRRA, 1943-1947” at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, conference on ‘Futures Past: Experts,
of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her book, *Between States: The Transylvanian Question and the European Idea during WWII*, was published in May 2009. She is currently working on a history of the emergence of ‘questions’ (the Eastern question, Jewish question, Polish question, woman question, worker question) in the nineteenth century, as well as a history of the role played by consuls and consular reform in transforming the international system over the course of the nineteenth and into the twentieth century.

**Dr. Heidi Tworek** is Assistant Professor of International History at the University of British Columbia and a Visiting Fellow at the Center for History and Economics at Harvard University. She is a historian of communications and international organizations. Her current projects include the history of health communications, the history of news agencies, and the role of women in founding the United Nations. Tworek's work has appeared in numerous journals including *Journal of Global History*, *Business History Review*, *German History*, *The International History Review*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Business History Review*, *European Economic History*, *International History*, *Journal of European Economic History*, and *Comparative Economic Studies*.

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**Forthcoming Conferences and Workshops with the Reluctant Internationalists**

**Conference: Cultures of Harm in Institutions of Care: Historical & Contemporary Perspectives**
15-16 April, 2016
Conveners: Ana Antic, Joanna Bourke and Louise Hide
This two-day interdisciplinary conference will explore the shifting political, socio-economic, cultural and medical influences that have formed and perpetuated cultures of harm from the eighteenth century to the present day. We are particularly interested in the production of harmful practices - physical, sexual and psychological violence directed by one person or group against another - in therapeutic and caring environments, worldwide. These might include hospitals and infirmaries, psychiatric facilities, religious institutions, care homes, children’s homes and educational establishments, as well as infirmaries and medical spaces in prisons and correctional institutions, military barracks, camps and workhouses. Further details can be found [here](#).

**Conference: After the End of Disease**

Development and Sustainability (27 April).

Johanna Conterio will participate in a workshop on Historical Mapping and Geographical Information Systems at the Institute of Historical Research, London (5-6 May).

Ana Antic will give a talk titled “Constructing the true socialist individual: Yugoslav psychoanalysis and the creation of a self-managing society”, Irish Association for Russian, Central and East European Studies, Maynooth University, Dublin, Ireland (6-8 May)

Dora Vargha will chair a panel on 'Socialism and Health: A Global Exchange of Ideas and Practices’ at the AAHM Annual Meeting in Minneapolis (May 2016).

Dora Vargha will give a talk titled “Iron lungs across the Iron Curtain: respiratory technologies in time of global polio epidemics,” Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting (June 22-26).

Jessica Reinisch will speak at the “Transnational Approaches to the History of International Relations,” Second workshop of the AHRC-funded research network The Practice of International History (22 September).

Jessica Reinisch will give a talk titled “Battleground Germany: the Occupiers and the early Cold War” at the London Institute’s conference on ‘The Allied Occupation of Germany revisited’ (29 September).

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**Publications**

What happens after the end of a disease is more often than not left to epilogues, or addressed only in relation to a new, emerging disease on the cusp of crisis. Yet, diseases are often imprinted on the bodies of survivors, societies and cultures. Epidemics may change economic structures, social interaction, shape practices of international intervention and attitudes towards healthcare. In some cases, the proclaimed end of a disease leaves individuals or whole societies and states without resources previously guaranteed by the perceived epidemic threat. In others, the action of looking back after the end creates space for making moral judgements on individuals, societies, governments and international organizations. This conference brings together historians of medicine and global public health, anthropologists, sociologists and literary scholars with policy makers to think past the conventional narrative curve of epidemics and disease in general. The overall aim of the event is to initiate a fruitful discussion on how various academic analyses and perceptions of what happens after the end of disease can inform current global health policies of eradication and epidemic management, and in turn, how the experiences of practitioners in global public health may provide insight and further the understanding of the historical trajectories and ethnographic, literary and sociological studies of ending diseases. Further details can be found here.

Workshop: Aid to Armenia: Armenia and Armenians in International History
3 June 2016, Birkbeck
Convenor: Francesca Piana
The centenary of the Armenian Genocide in April 2015 attracted media coverage and prompted a number of academic conferences that focused on the history of Ottoman Armenians. The experience of genocide and its denial have profoundly shaped the history of Armenia and the Armenians. This has frequently led to narrowly national approaches where questions of violence, survival, and denial have isolated the history of Armenia and the Armenians from broader historical contexts. Recent contributions to the field of Armenian history have complicated the previous literature by contextualizing the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath within international and global history.

Applications are still being accepted until 1 April. Further details can be found here.

Conference: Crossing borders: The Spanish Civil War and transnational mobilisation
30 June-1 July 2016, Birkbeck College
Conveners: David Brydan, in collaboration with the Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies at the LSE, and the Universities of Queen Mary and Kent.
Marking 80 years since the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, this two-day conference will explore the origins and experiences of transnational mobilisation during the conflict and the immediate post-war period. It will bring together researchers working on military, medical, humanitarian and cultural aspects of mobilisation both inside and outside Spain. The Spanish Civil War mobilised large sections of civilian populations, including political and humanitarian organisations. The war gave rise to a wide range of transnational collaborations, in some cases building on existing networks but in others serving as a springboard for new

Grants and Awards

Dora Varga was awarded an AHRC Bursary to attend History & Policy's Policy Engagement Training for Historians and Social Scientists at King’s College.

Dora Varga will be conducting archival research
initiatives. Much of the existing historiography has explored the diplomatic dimension of the conflict and international military intervention on both sides. This conference aims to offer new perspectives by focusing on informal networks, border crossings, transmissions of ideas and cultural responses to these forms of mobilisation within Spain. Further details can be found here.

**Further ahead:** The Reluctant Internationalists group is planning a series of conferences and workshops in the coming academic year, including

- International Outsiders (October 2016), to be convened with Susan Gross Solomon
- Socialist Internationalism (February 2017)
- Languages of Internationalism (May 2017), to be convened with Brigid O’Keeffe (Brooklyn College)

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### Related Projects and Events

We're pleased to be involved with a number of interesting new research projects on the history of internationalism broadly conceived. If you would like to include details of related research projects or events in our next newsletter, please email us at reluctant.internationalists@gmail.com

**Centre for Global Health Histories**

The [Centre for Global Health Histories](https://www.cggh.org) (CGHH) is the WHO Collaborating Centre for Global Health Histories, directed by Sanjoy Bhattacharya (York University). CGHH promotes interdisciplinary work on themes of broad medical, scientific, environmental and public health importance. The Centre is actively involved in creating international coalitions of academics, officials involved in policy design and implementation, multilateral and non-government organisations, and those involved in regulating and assessing projects and policies. CGHH, which is funded by the Wellcome Trust, is committed to forging links between academic and non-academic partners.

Upcoming events:

- 6th May: Global Health Histories Seminar 97: 'Leprosy', held at FIOCRUZ, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

**The Practice of International History in the 21st Century Research Network**

The [Practice of International History in the 21st Century](https://www.practiceofinternationalhistory.org) is an AHRRC-funded research network, coordinated by Peter Jackson (Glasgow University) and Simon Ball (Leeds University), which aims to produce a reconsideration of the nature and contemporary practice of international history. The network will bring together historians, theorists of international relations and officials from the foreign policy community to reflect upon a number of core questions central to current and future practices in our field.
Upcoming events:
22 April: First workshop on ‘Combining International History with International Relations/Political Science Approaches’, University of Glasgow.
22 September: Second workshop on ‘Transnational Approaches to the History of International Relations,’ University of Leeds.

Socialism Goes Global
Socialism Goes Global is a collaboration between the Universities of Belgrade, Columbia, Exeter, Leipzig, Oxford, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and University College London, funded by a major AHRC grant (2014-2018), and directed by James Mark (University of Exeter). Post World War II, as both decolonisation and new forms of globalisation accelerated, new linkages opened up, and existing ties were remade, between what were once called the ‘Second World’ (from the Soviet Union to the GDR) and the ‘Third World’ (from Latin America to Africa to Asia). Contacts multiplied through, for instance, the development of political bonds; economic development and aid; health and cultural and academic projects; as well as military interventions. Seven academics, two postdoctoral fellows and two PhDs address both how socialist states in Europe crafted a global role for themselves in the postwar period, and how these international engagements reshaped socialist politics, societies and cultures ‘back home’. In doing so, it seeks to provide new insights into the circulation of ideas during the Cold War and to explore ‘the socialist world’ as a dynamic hub of global interactions during the second half of the twentieth century.

Upcoming events:
19-20 May: Labour Mobility in the Socialist World and Its Legacies, European Studies Centre, St Antony’s College, University of Oxford
28-29 October: Africa, Eastern Europe and the Dream of International Socialism: New Perspectives on the Global Cold War, European Studies Centre, St Antony’s College, University of Oxford

1989 after 1989: Rethinking the Fall of State Socialism in Global Perspective
1989 after 1989 is a five-year Leverhulme Trust-funded research (2014-18) project based at the University of Exeter, directed by Professor James Mark. It aims to connect and reconsider the decline, collapse and transformation of state socialism in the Soviet Union, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to broader global processes through the exploration of a range of topics such as: the post-socialist transformation of cities; the ‘Fall’ and human rights; criminal justice and the production of history across regional transitions; entangled histories of neo-liberalism and privatisation; and the global impact of Yugoslavia’s collapse.

Upcoming events:
30 September -1 October: (Re)Thinking Yugoslav Internationalism: Cold War Global Entanglements and their Legacies, Graz, Austria, Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz and the University of Exeter

Looking West: the European Socialist regimes facing pan-European cooperation and the European Community
PanEur1970s is a new five-year project (2015-2020), based at the
European University Institute, and directed by Professor Federico Romero (EUI), to investigate the European Socialist regimes’ expectations and predicaments vis-à-vis the opening of a space of pan-European cooperation in the long 1970s. PanEur1970s has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) through and Advanced Research Grant, under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant Agreement n. 669194). Events will be announced on the website once the researchers have been recruited.

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