It is a great opportunity to be able here to showcase some of the excellent research that is going on in the School. As I mentioned at the School meeting, HUMS has been busy trying to bring in research funding: HUMS staff have applied for over £8 million worth of external grants this year to date, compared with about £4.5 million at this time last year – thanks to all of you who have contributed to that impressive effort. The fruits of some of those applications will, we hope, grace the pages of future newsletters.

Besides focussing on the acquisition of funding for future research projects, though, it is important to note that we already have a rich and exciting range of research activities being led by a group of researchers that is larger and more diverse than we have had in the School for a long time. Recent appointments have widened our research base in terms of method and approach, including the brand new posts in Digital Humanities. Other appointments have expanded our horizons, with more posts having non-western foci. Others have enriched some of our existing areas of strength: Bristol HUMS was already known for strong research in Medieval Studies, Medical Humanities and Environmental History. Extra appointments in those areas continue to build critical mass.

Many of our new and recently appointed staff have been exceedingly active, and are already working on funded projects, and receiving competitively awarded Fellowships and the like. Our more senior and longer-established staff have also continued to be busy and productive. As well as doing all the other things that are appropriate to Senior Lecturer, Reader and Professor level profiles – such as filling important department, School and Faculty roles, for instance – many of our senior staff are also being very active in the arena of seeking external funding, and getting new projects off the ground. High-quality publications continue to appear from all areas of the School, and at all levels. As befits a genuinely collegial research community, senior and junior staff are often working together on research grants and projects, and on supervision of PGRs. The atmosphere of collaboration and the genuine interest in, and support of, one another’s research endeavours is – in my opinion – one of the best things about the research culture in HUMS.

We continue to keep a close eye on the future, and on strategies for improvement in various areas – not least, but not limited to – the next REF. In this current newsletter, though, we are delighted to highlight some of the wonderful activities that are going on in the School right now.
Connecting the Wireless World: Writing Global Radio History

'Simon Potter’s Leverhulme Trust International Research Network, "Connecting the Wireless World: Writing Global Radio History", is due to commence on 1 March 2016, and runs for three years. Radio broadcasting is an inherently transnational mass medium of communication, yet much of the existing historical work on radio adopts an essentially national focus. The network will address this problem by producing a ‘connected history’ of wireless, exploring how radio was used to link broadcasters and listeners in different countries. It will aggregate surviving evidence about international broadcasting from archival deposits in different countries, and examine how diverse approaches from within and beyond the discipline of history can help recreate past cultures of listening. The network will kick off with a meeting of the partners in Bristol in April, followed by a workshop on cultures of radio monitoring and surveillance in York in September. Other workshops are planned in the following years, as well as collaborative research trips to archives around the world. A one-day-per-week network facilitator is currently being appointed.'

Thatcher’s Pension Reforms

'I’m excited to join the Thatcher’s Pension Reforms Project team as Co-Investigator. Hugh, Aled and Tom’s work with recently released archival records is already showing that attempts to reform pensions crystallised Thatcherism’s underlying tensions. The team are finding that Thatcherites’ reformist zeal increasingly came up against the interests of key stakeholders, many of whom were natural Conservative allies. The result was a series of sharp policy reversals, as ‘neoliberal’ ideologues struggled to transform their rhetoric into practical policies'.

- James Freeman

Success

Joanna B. Michlic has been appointed a member of the Faculty Academic Committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. New York and was awarded a two month research grant for June and July 2016 in the German Historical Institute in Warsaw.

IGRCT accepting bids for funding

For more information: http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/research/collaborations/igrct/igrct-awards/. Deadline for applications is 12noon on Thursday 25 Feb 2016
ELCE Success Story

If you were watching the local TV news last July, you may have seen an item on a man called Richard Abraham, a former aero-engine manufacturer, tank driver and Trade Union official – and now, at the age of 69, a graduate of the University of Bristol. Richard’s story is extraordinary, but it’s not unique: he was one of ten mature students to graduate last summer from the BA in English Literature and Community Engagement (ELCE), and there are currently over 50 students on the programme.

Now in its eighth year, the BA ELCE is a unique degree on which students study one night a week for six years, often balancing their academic work with full-time jobs and family commitments. They study literature from the Middle Ages to the present, and from across the English-writing world. They also devise and run a Community Engagement project as part of their degree, taking their learning out into different communities, and helping to dissolve the invisible barriers that often divide university and city.

It’s a course that makes considerable intellectual, personal and practical demands on the students, and as course director I can only watch in awe at the way they rise to meet the challenge. Over such a lengthy course, staff get to know students well, and share the changes that take place in their wider lives. We also see the scope that reading literature and discussing the insights and challenges that it provides can have for transforming lives and communities. The students seem to enjoy it too: NSS results for overall satisfaction and personal development are outstanding.

As I write this, I have just come back from a conference run by the Universities Association for Lifelong Learning (UALL). It was good to meet with those from other institutions who, like us here in HUMS, see the value in teaching students from diverse backgrounds and in diverse ways. If it was sobering to learn there how much of the wider environment HE environment is inimical to promoting part-time and mature study, it was also good to be able to spread the word about ELCE – that here at Bristol we have a success story in adult education we can be proud of.

- Gareth Griffith

Faculty Impact Funding

Two of our colleagues have been successful in winning awards from the Faculty Research Impact Activities fund, the call for which went out last November.

**Madhu Krishnan** will use her award to fund a workshop and public event bringing together publishers, academics and creative practitioners working in the field of black publishing in a global context. These activities draw on Madhu’s research into contemporary African and African-diaspora publishing.

**Ralph Pite’s** award will fund research assistance to develop the content of an existing smartphone app, ‘Romantic Bristol: Writing the City’. New materials, including additional writers and images, will be added, and it is hoped that the app can be extended to include Bath. The revamped app will be used to create links with local schools and creative writers.

IAS/WUN Research Workshop Funding

Professor Helen Fulton has been awarded £4840 from IAS/WUN to run two workshops on the theme of ‘Borders and Borderlands in Medieval and Early Modern Europe’. This research theme brings together a network of scholars from Bristol, from other WUN institutions, and from other institutions in the UK and US, with the aims of building the capacity of the network and working towards further grant bids, conferences, and major publications. The workshops will be held in the first half of 2016 and will be open to all.
John Rylands Fellowship for Dr Benjamin Pohl

Dr Benjamin Pohl, Lecturer in Medieval History (c.1000-1400) in the Department of History (Historical Studies) has been awarded a prestigious Visiting Research Fellowship by the John Rylands Research Institute and Library, Manchester. During his Fellowship, which he will take up in August and September 2016, Dr Pohl will conduct pioneering work on one particular manuscript from the Rylands special collections: John Rylands Library MS Latin 182. This rare manuscript contains a twelfth-century copy of Bede's *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*, a key text of English and European history and an influential model for historical and religious writing throughout the Middle Ages. The manuscript has been attributed to the Benedictine Abbey of (Mönchen-)Gladbach, founded in 974 within the German archdiocese of Cologne. Despite the *Historia’s* wide reception amongst both medieval and modern audiences, MS Rylands 182 has not yet received the critical attention it deserves. So far, scholars’ treatment of MS Rylands 182 remains cursory, leaving the precise history of its production, transmission and use unexplained. Dr Pohl will attend to this desideratum by undertaking the first comprehensive textual, palaeographical and codicological analysis of MS Rylands 182. In doing so, he hopes to showcase both the content and context of this neglected yet important codex and make it accessible to scholarly as well as public audiences.

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**Remember!!!**

**ARR Deadline:** 19th February...

Please send to R.jacks@bristol.ac.uk

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GW4 Funding Success

We are delighted to report that GW4 Medieval Studies has been awarded a GW4 Collaboration Lifecycle Programme grant to hold bespoke workshops led by a professional facilitator. GW4 Medieval Studies was established in June 2013 by an Initiator Award led by Carolyn Muessig, Ian Wei and Beth Williamson at Bristol, with support from Jamie Doherty. It comprises three strands led by teams from Bristol, Cardiff, and Exeter. The CLP award will reinvigorate the grant application process for all three strands, using the ‘Wales and South-West England’ strand as a case study. WASWE leaders are Helen Fulton (Bristol), James Clark (Exeter) and Dylan Foster Evans (Cardiff), who are the co-applicants of the CLP award. The award will fund two workshops, one focused on grant applications and the other on widening the GW4 Medieval Studies community including external partners. Further details of the workshops will be posted soon.

- Carolyn Muessig and Beth Williamson

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The A.G. Leventis Foundation has Renewed its Grant for a Post-doctoral Fellowship in Greek Studies

The A.G. Leventis Foundation has awarded a grant of £147,819 to the Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition (IGRCT) to renew their support for a post-doctoral Fellowship in Greek Studies.

The A.G. Leventis Foundation is one of the most important charitable foundations acting at a global level: established in 1979, it supports the dissemination of Greek and Cypriot cultural heritage as well as numerous public benefit programmes, pioneering environmental projects, and medical research. The Foundation has been a loyal supporter of the IGRCT over many years: it is an honour and a pleasure to express, once again, our gratitude for their sustained and much appreciated help. The current holder of the Leventis Fellowship in Greek Studies, Dr Adam Lecznar,
HART Success

First Year History of Art PGR student Alice Hoad has had her first international conference paper accepted for the *Identities and Identifications: Politicized Uses of Collective Identities (Fourth Edition)* conference taking place in Venice on 4-5 March 2016.

Alice's paper is called 'Franko B and the Agitation of the Flesh'.

- Dot Price

Dante and Origins

We are in the 750th anniversary of the birth of Dante. To celebrate, George Ferzoco (HPT and Research Fellow, Religion and Theology) and Tristan Kay (Lecturer, Italian) organised an international conference on 'Dante and Origins'. Speakers ranged from professors of Italian and of Religion and Theology to postgraduates. A special feature was a warmly received poster session, organized by RETH undergraduates, on themes related to Dante's works.

The conference was made possible by financial support from BIRTHA, HUMS, Modern Languages, and the Centre for Medieval Studies. The success of this academic gathering ensures that it is the first of an annual conference series on Dante at Bristol; the conference is also giving rise to another series of meetings, involving Bristol's RETH and St Andrews' School of Divinity.

Thesis Success

Francesca Mackenney passed her viva on 29th January with 'minor corrections'. The examiners were Stephen James (internal) and Professor Hugh Haughton (University of York). The title of her thesis is "We Teach 'Em Airs That Way": Bird-Sounds, Language and the Mind in Nineteenth-Century Literature" and it ranges across poetry, fiction, and scientific writing.

- Daniel Karlin

Essay success

There was a recent opportunity to have an essay published in the *Durham English Review*. UG English student Clara Vlessing submitted an essay on Edward Dorn's *Gunslinger*. The essay was selected to appear in the upcoming Review. Congratulations Clara!

More information in the student newsletter

- Ad Putter

New officer appointments!!

Thank you and congratulations to Helen Fulton and Leah Tether who have agreed to take on the SRD and DSU & Programme Director in English roles respectively.
**HUMS - News & Events**

**RETH is 50!!!**

What is now the Department of Religion and Theology was founded in 1965 with just three members of staff: Kenneth Grayston, teaching Biblical Studies; John Kent, teaching Christian History and Theology; and Oonagh McDonald, teaching Philosophy and Ethics. The following year another area was added, ‘Comparative Religion’, with the appointment of a fourth member of staff, Fred Welbourn, who taught courses in African religions and religion and society. This set the shape of the Department for the next 25 years, with ‘Comparative Religion’ becoming ‘Religious Studies’ in accordance with academic fashions. The appointment of John Coulson as Downside Research Fellow in 1968 established a still flourishing relationship with Downside Abbey and paved the way for the development of the study of both medieval religion and Catholic theology in the Department. With further appointments in all four areas in the 1970s the Department expanded to eight. The arrival of Fred Morgan, an American Sanskritist, in 1973 marked the beginning of the teaching of Indian religion and philosophy in the Department, and this has remained a distinctive feature of the Bristol programme ever since, resulting eventually in a concentration of staff working in Asian history and culture unique in the Faculty of Arts at Bristol, as well as an AHRC funded research project on death and funerary rites in Buddhism (2007–2010). Today three of the eight members of staff work on Asia.

Most of the first generation of staff had left by the end of the 1970s: Oonagh McDonald became a Labour MP in 1976, Fred Morgan left in 1979 to train as a rabbi, and Professor Kenneth Grayston retired in 1979 having served first as Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1972–1974) and then as Pro-Vice Chancellor (1976–1979). Subsequently Denis Nineham, former Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge and Warden of Keble College, Oxford, was appointed Professor of Theology at Bristol (1980–1986). In 1989 Ursula King was appointed to the Chair of Theology and Religious Studies, a post she held until her retirement in 2002. With new appointments in the early 1990s the department’s teaching expanded into Islamic and Jewish studies. The last fifty years has seen a number of distinguished scholars teach in the department, both as what we now call hourly paid teachers and as permanent members of staff; they include the Buddhist scholar Steven Collins (now Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities at Chicago), Malcolm Lambert (of Medieval Heresy fame), Diarmaid MacCulloch (Professor of the History of the Church at the University of Oxford), Philip L. Reynolds (Aquinian Professor of Historical Theology at Emory), Denys Turner (Horace Tracy Pitkin Professor of Historical Theology at Yale), and also the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams (now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge). The last will give a lecture entitled ‘Theology and meditation’ on Monday, 14 March, at 6.00 pm in the Great Hall, Wills Memorial Building.

The Department has also been celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with a series of lectures, **Considering Perfection**, by current and former members of the department, reflecting the breadth of the Department’s contribution to the teaching and study of religion and theology over the last half-century. The next lecture will be given by John Peacock, a former part-time teacher in the Department, who will talk on ‘**Perfection as a skill in early Buddhism**’, Tuesday, 23 February 2016, 4.30–6.00 pm, LT2.

- Rupert Gethin

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**Invitation: Demos of reading list software**

- 24th March, 1.30 – 3.30 pm (supplier A)
- 15th April, 2 – 4 pm (supplier B)

- RSVP: http://doodle.com/poll/gai6kgds7g6z2k6k

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**“A Perfect Miracle: The stigmata in pre-modern Europe”**

The theme of perfection is explored in Professor Carolyn Muessig’s inaugural lecture ‘A perfect miracle: The stigmata in pre-modern Europe.’ The lecture will take place on Wednesday, 16 March 2016, 18:15pm. Booking is required for catering purposes:

http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inaugural-lecture-professor-carolyn-muessig-a-perfect-miracle-the-stigmata-in-pre-modern-europe-tickets-20946049197
What’s Happening in Black British History? IV

**CALL FOR PAPERS: What’s Happening in Black British History? IV**
Watershed, 1 Canon’s Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX
Thursday 7th April 2016

At this fourth workshop, presentations on any aspect of Black British History will be welcome, as will local and regional or family histories from Bristol and the South-West, where researchers, educationalists, artists, writers, archivists and curators, and also A-level students, undergraduates or graduate students or others interested are invited to offer presentations. In addition, we would be happy to consider proposals for a complete panel.

For more information please visit [http://blackbritishhistory.co.uk/2016/whbbh4-call-for-papers/](http://blackbritishhistory.co.uk/2016/whbbh4-call-for-papers/)

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**INFO:** Current recruitment processes:
- Chair in Latin (Presentations: 23rd Feb)
- Lectureship in East Asian Religions (Interviews: 22nd Apr)

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**Books at Bristol**

Friday 18 March 2016, 11-5pm
The books cluster is pleased to announce a call for papers for a one-day conference at the University of Bristol on 18 March. After the success of ‘Judging Books by their Covers’ we will be thinking about what happens when we open the cover and contemplate ‘The Beginning of the Book’. The deadline for proposals is Monday 15 February.

[https://booksatbristol.wordpress.com](https://booksatbristol.wordpress.com)

**Prophecy: An Interdisciplinary Colloquium**

Weds 2nd March, 1pm-5pm, LT1 43 Woodland Road
A colloquium for researchers across the Arts Faculty to present their research on the theme of Prophecy. Topics covered include prophecy in the Bible, John Calvin and prophecy, prophetic religious movements within the British Empire, and prophecy as a subject of enquiry in the modern academy. We will also have a fascinating keynote paper from Daniel Agbiboa from the University of Oxford, who will be looking at “Prophetic” influences on Boko Haram’s ideology and group formation.

For any more information, visit [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/events/2016/march/prophecy-colloquium.html](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/events/2016/march/prophecy-colloquium.html) and RSVP to Jonathan Downing (jd17538@bristol.ac.uk)

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**Drinking Spaces and Places**

**Literary and Visual Landscapes** presents its first summer symposium of 2016: **Drinking Spaces and Places**. The symposium, which takes place on the 23rd April, will bring together an international and cross-disciplinary roster of academics and students to discuss the historical, geographical and literary places and spaces associated with drinking.

More info: [www.bris.ac.uk/english/events/2016/drinking-spaces](http://www.bris.ac.uk/english/events/2016/drinking-spaces)

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**Continental Stoicisms: Beyond Reason and Wellbeing**

"From January 4-6 2016 participants gathered at the University of Bristol for the inaugural workshop in the AHRC-funded project, Continental Stoicisms: Beyond Reason and Wellbeing. The workshop was entitled 'Stoicism and French Philosophy: From Sartre to Badiou,' and was conducted in both French and English. It featured a multidisciplinary mixture of established, early-career, and postgraduate speakers from the UK, USA, Italy, France, and Egypt. Through the generosity of the Bristol Institute of Greece, Rome, and the Classical Tradition, many postgraduates received bursaries for attendance. Intimate and intense conversations both within and outside the formal proceedings made for an extremely successful event! The Principal Investigator, Kurt Lampe, is now finalising plans for the next event, which will take place in Miami, USA."

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**Don’t miss!!!**

21st March: Next Equality & Diversity talk on "Developing an Inclusive Environment for Students" by Sarah Serning.

More details will follow soon
HUMS - Reminders

REMINDER: Executive Support Team
CONTACT: hums-academicsupport@bristol.ac.uk
Rosanne Jacks (Ext 17982)
Laura Maclean (Ext 17430)
Sarah Buttery (Ext 87478)

- Catering requests
- Travel & hotels
- Finance queries
- General communications

Note: This mailbox is monitored all day, every day. Your email will be seen!

Remember: When you use this email address, the whole team will see your email!!!

Useful Mailing Lists

- hums-academicsupport@bristol.ac.uk
- hums-hos@bristol.ac.uk
- hums-senioradmin@bristol.ac.uk
- hums-schooloffice@bristol.ac.uk
- hums-webrequest@bristol.ac.uk

See above!!!
To contact the HoS for official/policy matters and requests requiring HoS approval
To contact the Senior Student Administrators (Education Team)
First point of contact for students. Staff can use for general student enquiries
For posting items on the School websites

REMINDER: Applying for research funding

Please see the helpsheet that is on Blackboard in the Research section. This helpsheet will also be distributed shortly by email to all HUMS staff members.

For any queries regarding applying for research funding, please don’t hesitate to contact hums-academicsupport@bristol.ac.uk and we will be happy to point you in the right direction!

Look out for the next Newsletter in May!!!

A note from the editor
I have enjoyed working on this term’s Newsletter with Rosanne. And I’d like to say a big thank you to all of those who collaborated on this edition. Happy reading and until next time!

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