Welcome to the Autumn edition Humanities newsletter

In 2012 the Faculty of Arts at Bristol University had 3200 students; now it has 4500. In 2012 it had 190 members of staff; now it has three hundred. Most of this growth has been in our School of Humanities, which now seems to have emerged as the largest school in the University, and one of the most diverse in its range of subjects, interests and activities. With an annual budget of fourteen million pounds, it is the size of a commercial or industrial company. Its current operational and financial robustness will be maintained into the future with constant efforts to innovate, review and overhaul all areas of its activity, as one of the most successful and dynamic parts of a rapidly-changing university, led by a reforming Vice-Chancellor, in a hyperactive higher education sector.

This autumn has seen a veritable cornucopia of new staff, representing the probable greatest point of the recent expansion. Twenty-five new full-time colleagues have been added to our number, all but one of them permanent appointments and most of young scholars, to invest in a long-term future. The sheer range of expertise represented by them is deeply impressive, and while most are active in newly-emerged, and developing, areas of their disciplines, traditional powerhouses of scholarship such as the Henry Overton Wills Chair of Greek have also been replenished. The increasing professionalisation of student care in the school continues, with the impending installation of at least two Student Wellbeing Advisers, to augment and complement the work of the two Senior Tutors already appointed, and the arrival of a Director of Teaching in both English and History to arrange and oversee the programmes.

To accompany this increase in staff numbers and expertise, the basic syllabus has now been completely overhauled in English, and the same exercise is being undertaken in History and Classics: our methods of education and assessment will thus be kept at the cutting edge of current thinking and experience. The physical environment is also being transformed with the prospective construction of a brand-new building, replacing the whole northern end of the faculty precinct, to act as a Humanities hub with space for every activity associated with the educational process. This, the largest alteration to take place in the environment of the faculty since it occupied its current site over three decades ago, will commence next year and be complete by 2019. It will be followed by an equally new and ambitious university library to serve the needs of the arts and social sciences, opposite the southern end of the faculty precinct.

It may therefore be evident that, in an overall academic environment of increasingly intense competition and enduring uncertainty, our school has completed its first decade of existence in outstandingly good condition. I pay tribute to my three predecessors as its leaders, Charles Martindale, Roger Middleton and Hilary Carey, for their respective formidable contributions to this success story, and seek to hand on such a splendid inheritance, carefully fostered, to my successor next summer.
New Staff

Meet our new academic staff

Classics

**Dr Emma Cole** is the new Lecturer in Liberal Arts and Classics

My research focuses upon the reception of Greek and Roman literature in contemporary theatre. My co-edited collection *Adapting Translation for the Stage* came out with Routledge in July, and I am currently writing a monograph titled *Postdramatic Tragedies* for Oxford University Press. My previous publications have examined classical performance reception and the work of Katie Mitchell and Martin Crimp. I also work as a dramaturg and academic adviser on theatrical adaptations of the classics, the most of recent which is Punchdrunk’s Kabeiroi.

**Prof Esther Eidinow** is the new Chair in Ancient History.

Esther works on ancient Greek culture and society, with a particular interest in magic, religion and myth, and in using interdisciplinary approaches, especially anthropological and cognitive theories. Before becoming an academic, she worked as a scenario writer (a form of strategic planning), which has also fuelled her research interests in uncertainty and risk.

**Prof Patrick Finglass** is the new Henry Overton Wills Professor of Greek, and is also the Head of Subject for the Classics department.

I did my undergraduate degree and doctorate at Oxford, before moving to Nottingham where I was for eleven years, latterly as Professor of Greek and Head of the School of Humanities. My research is on archaic and classical Greek poetry and drama, especially Sophocles.

English

**Dr Sarah Daw** is the new Vice Chancellor’s Fellow in Environmental Humanities

BA, MA, PhD (Exon). Since completing my PhD "Writing Ecology in Cold War American Literature" in 2016, I have held an Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship and a Postdoctoral Fellowship (2016/17) at The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh. As a Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow at Bristol, I will be developing my second project: "Unknowing Nature: The Development of Ecological Thought in British and American Literature and Science Writing from 1945".
New Staff (cont.)

English (cont.)

Dr. April Gallwey is the Senior Teaching Associate in English Literature and Community Engagement.

I teach on ELCE and manage our range of short courses for adult learners in the English department. I previously taught on the Foundation in Arts and Humanities when it first started in 2013. I have an inter-disciplinary background, having studied English, Social Policy and Gender Studies. I completed my PhD in History at the University of Warwick in 2012 on the subject of single motherhood in post-war Britain using oral histories and contemporary sociological sources and novels.

Dr. April Gallwey

Dr. Gareth Griffith is the Senior Teaching Fellow, Director of Part-Time Programmes.

I've been at Bristol since 2003 when I came here to do an MA and then my PhD. I teach medieval literature (I have research interests in romance, manuscripts and biblical paraphrases), and since 2012 I've been programme director for our part-time BA in English Literature and Community Engagement. I'm delighted to have the chance to take this further in my new role (with April Gallwey and Helen Thomas-Hughes), and to be working towards more effective Widening Participation and fair access across the Faculty (watch this space for exciting announcements...)

Dr. Gareth Griffith

Dr Siân Harris is the new Senior Teaching Fellow, Director of Teaching and Digital Learning.

I arrived at Bristol in September 2017, having previously held posts at the University of Exeter and Newcastle University, where I completed my PhD. My research and teaching interests include Canadian literature, gender & genre, and representations of authorship. I am committed to supporting undergraduate research and writing skills, and developing opportunities to engage with technology enhanced learning.

Dr Siân Harris

Mr Billy Kahora is the new Lecturer in Creative and Professional Writing.

Billy Kahora studied Creative Writing as a Chevening Scholar at the University of Edinburgh in 2007. Before that, he spent eight years studying and working in South Africa, and was Editorial Assistant for All Africa.com in Washington D.C. He also has degrees in journalism and media studies. Before moving to Bristol, Kahora lived and worked in Kenya, where he was Managing Editor of the literary journal Kwani.

Mr Billy Kahora
New Staff (cont.)

English (cont.)

Dr Bex Lyons is the new Teaching Associate in English and Personal Development.

Bex passed her viva in June 2017 with a thesis on 'Women and their Books: The Ownership and Readership of Arthurian Literature in Fifteenth- and Sixteenth-Century England', supervised by Professors Helen Fulton and Ad Putter. Bex works across medieval and early modern literature, and modern academic publishing, specialising in women’s reading, book, and publishing history in these areas. She was a Research Associate at UCL on The Academic Book of the Future project from 2015-17, and with Dr Samantha J. Rayner she has co-edited two volumes on The Academic Book of the Future (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016; UCL Press, 2017), and is currently the Associate Series Editor at Cambridge University Press on ‘Gatherings’ -- a new monograph series on book and publishing culture.

Dr Kirk Sides is the new Lecturer in World Literatures in English.

Before joining the University of Bristol, Kirk was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand’s Institute for Social and Economic Research in Johannesburg, South Africa. Kirk holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. His research argues for new approaches to thinking about race in relation to both climate change and to the environment in African literature and film. Looking at visions of ecological dystopia in African science fiction and Afrofuturism, his work thinks about how imagining environmental collapse and apocalypse relate to new forms of narrative. Currently he is working on a book manuscript entitled Writing the Land: Race and the Ecological Imaginary in African Literature. He is also editing a volume which is a retrospective of nearly a decade of writing in The Johannesburg Salon, an online publication of social and cultural analysis and critical theory from the Southern Hemisphere.

Dr Mimi Thebo is the new Reader in Creative Writing.

Mimi Thebo is an international writer for both children and adults. Her novels, often about recovery from trauma, are humorous and humane. Her first novel The Saint Who Loved Me was shortlisted for the McKitterick prize, and her novel for children Wipe Out was made into a Bafta-winning film. Her work has been translated into seven languages. Thebo’s PhD in creative writing concerned issues around transcultural representation and her novels about the American Midwest (Welcome to Eudora and The Corner Booth Chronicles) use humour to portray conflicts over race and sexual orientation in a small town.

Historical Studies

Dr Hannah Charnock is the new Lecturer in British History.

I have recently completed my PhD at the University of Exeter. Broadly speaking my research interests lie in the modern histories of youth, sexuality and gender. In my current research I explore cultures of heterosexuality amongst teenage girls in England between 1950 and 1980, focussing in particular on how questions of sex and romance influenced girls’ social relationships. Moving forward I want to develop my research on sex education and cultures of sexual learning in contemporary Britain.
Dr Mark Hailwood is the new Lecturer in History 1400-1700.
Mark Hailwood joins us as a Lecturer in History, 1400-1700, from a post-doctoral position at the University at Exeter. Mark is a social historian of early modern England, with particular interests in the histories of drinking, work, and everyday life. He contributes to a popular history blog, the many-headed monster.

Dr Sam Hitchmough is the new Senior Teaching Fellow & Director of Teaching (History).
Sam is the new Director of Teaching in the History programme. He was previously at Canterbury Christ Church University where he was the Director of Learning and Teaching for the School of Humanities and Programme Director for American Studies. Teaching and research interests lie in both Native American and African American history, difficult histories, and Buffalo Bill.

Dr Adrian Howkins is the new Lecturer in History 1400-1700.
Adrian Howkins comes to the University of Bristol History department as a reader in environmental history. His research interests focus on the environmental history of the polar regions, especially Antarctica and he has published two single-authored books on this subject: The Polar Regions: An Environmental History (Polity Press, 2016) and Frozen Empires: An Environmental History of the Antarctic Peninsula (Oxford University Press, 2017). He is also interested in the history of National Parks and protected areas and has edited a collection titled National Parks Beyond the Nation: Global Perspective on America’s Best Idea (Oklahoma University Press, 2016). He is currently a co-PI on the National Science Foundation funded McMurdo Dry Valleys Long Term Ecological Research site in Antarctica, and in December 2017 he will be making his seventh trip to the Antarctic continent for work on this project.

Dr Jayne Jeffries is a Postdoctoral Research Associate.
Jayne is a human geographer who uses Participatory Action Research and feminist methodologies to work with disabled people to explore the issues affecting their day-to-day lives. She completed her PhD, Becoming Disabled, at Durham (2014) and has since worked as a post-doc at the University of Exeter and Newcastle University. Jayne is working with Dr. Victoria Bates on Better by Design: Towards a Sensory History of the Modern Hospital.
Dr Jessica Moody is the new Lecturer in Public History.

Jessica joins the University of Bristol from the University of Portsmouth where she was a Lecturer in Modern History and Heritage. She has previously held positions with the University of York (Research Associate, Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past) and with National Museums Liverpool. Her research concerns the representation of difficult pasts, especially the public memory of transatlantic slavery. She is currently working on her first monograph which concerns Liverpool's public memory of slavery from 19thc to the present day.

Dr Stephen Mawdsley is the new Lecturer in Modern American History.

Dr Stephen Mawdsley is a social historian of twentieth-century American medicine. His research has explored African American health activism, vaccination campaigns, and the development of health charities. In 2012, after earning degrees at the University of Alberta and the University of Cambridge, he became the Isaac Newton–Ann Johnston Research Fellow at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge. He took up a Wellcome Trust University Award at the University of Strathclyde in 2016 and is presently Lecturer in Modern American History at the University of Bristol.

Dr Saima Nasar is the new Lecturer in the History of Africa and its Diasporas.

I am a social and cultural historian who works on race, empire and Britain’s diasporic communities. Committed to multi-archival and interdisciplinary research, my previous and future work contributes to developing comparative approaches in the fields of Imperial History, Migration Studies, and Transnational History.

Mr Simeon Koole is the new Lecturer in Liberal Arts and History.

'My research works at the intersection of the history of perception and global histories of exchange and territorialization. Focused especially on the cultural history of modern Britain, it draws on the history of science, urban, disability, and sensory history to explore how the sensory experience of the city shaped and was shaped by broader shifts in capital, labour, and imperial politics. I am developing this into a history of the sense of touch in modern Britain.'
**History of Art**

**Miss Gemma Brace** is the new Teaching Fellow/Curator in History of Art, Heritage and Museums.

I have joined the Department of History Art in a new role as Teaching Fellow/Curator in History of Art, Heritage and Museums, having previously worked as Head of Programmes and Exhibitions Curator at the RWA (Royal West of England Academy). My professional experience includes curating, writing, editing and exhibition management, with a particular focus on 20th-century British art and contemporary practice. I will be teaching curatorial and museological studies and am particularly interested in issues around space and place and the relationship between art writing and interpretation.

**Dr Elizabeth Robles** is the new Lecturer in Contemporary Art.

Lizzie Robles joins us first as a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow, working on a three-year project titled ‘Making Waves: Black Artists and ‘Black Art’ in Britain from 1962-1983’ before taking up a Lectureship in Contemporary Art. Her research is rooted in an art historical approach to discourses of race, gender and representation and the development of the idea of ‘black art’ in a British context.

**Religion and Theology**

**Susannah Deane** is the new British Academy Postdoctoral Researcher.

Susannah gained a BA(Hons) in Psychology at the University of Wales, Bangor in 1999, before studying and working in the field of alternative health for several years. Returning to academic study, Susannah received her MA in Buddhist Studies at the University of Bristol in 2008, before completing her PhD in 2015 at Cardiff University, on the topic of Tibetan approaches to mental health, illness and healing within a Tibetan community in India. Susannah has taught at several institutions, most recently teaching undergraduate courses on Buddhism at the University of Glasgow in 2016-17. Her current research project focuses on contemporary understandings of the Tibetan concept of “madness”, where both medical and religious explanations are often significant.
On the 18th October, the Faculty celebrated the launch of its six new Research Centres at Royal Fort House. A large number of colleagues from across the Faculty and beyond, including external partners, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Prof Nishan Canagarajah, and Aroona Smith, the Deputy Lieutenant of Bristol joined the celebration.

The six centres are the Centres for Black Humanities, Environmental Humanities, Health, Humanities and Science, Material texts, Medieval Studies, and for Science and Philosophy. They were chosen following a competitive process which sought to identify synergies across the Faculty’s three schools. Each reflects an existing thriving, innovative research environment in a Faculty where collaboration across disciplines is beginning to flourish, but they also indicate the Faculty’s future potential as a hub for interdisciplinary dialogue and new ways of producing research. To find out more, visit our webpages: http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/research/centres.

Other Research News in Humanities

**Victoria Bates**, has been awarded a grant by the AHRC / ESPRC ‘Research and Partnership Development Call - Next Generation of Immersive Experiences’ for her project entitled ‘A Sense of Place: Exploring Nature & Wellbeing through the Non-Visual Senses’

**Robert Bickers** and **Simon Potter** have been awarded a grant from the University’s Strategic Research Fund to lead a project entitled Global Challenges and the British Empire and Commonwealth Collection in Bristol. In this exciting new initiative a team from HUMS, the Faculty more generally, and the Brigstow Institute will work together to explore the research potential of the British Empire and Commonwealth Collections (BECC) at Bristol Archives and Bristol City Museums.

**Marcel Thomas** (History) has been awarded the Prize of the German Historical Institute London for his PhD thesis ‘Local Lives, Parallel Histories. Villagers and Everyday Life in the Divided Germany’, supervised by Josie McLellan and Tim Cole. Marcel completed his MA and PhD in the Department, and is now Departmental Lecturer in Modern European History at St. Antony’s College Oxford. The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding Ph.D. thesis on German history (submitted to a British or Irish university), British history or the history of the British Empire (submitted to a German university).

**Elizabeth Robles** (History of Art) has been awarded a Publication Grant from the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. The grant will fund the publication of a co-edited piece, The Place is Here: A Montage of Black Art in 1980s Britain, arising from a series of international exhibitions that took place across the Netherlands and the UK earlier in 2017.
Mike O’Mahony has been commended by a former student in the recent “Oh Captain, My Captain” article featured in the latest edition of the Bristol alumni magazine “Nonesuch”.

Laurence Publicover’s book “Dramatic Geography: Romance, Intertheatricality, and Cultural Encounter in Early Modern Mediterranean Drama” has just been published.

Su Lin Lewis has been awarded the Urban History Association’s prestigious Best Book Award (Non-North American) for 2015/16 for her latest monograph Cities in Motion: Urban Life and Cosmopolitanism in Southeast Asia, 1920-1940. The book was described as ‘an exemplary demonstration of how we might move toward more inclusive global histories while remaining grounded in local historical evidence’.

Leah Tether has just had her new book “Publishing the Grail in Medieval and Renaissance France” published.

Peter Coates has been interviewed about the recent series Blue Planet II. Read the full interview “How Blue Planet caught the nation’s attention” online:  http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/features/peter-coates/

“When I step back and think a bit harder about [Blue Planet II]’s phenomenal appeal, I reckon it’s got something to do with our human status as terrestrial creatures. This may be why we’re so intrigued by the oceans - more intrigued by them, I think, than we are about outer space. Airplanes allow us to fly high in the skies. But the oceans are our world’s ultimate mystery – even though they cover nearly three-quarters of (so-called) Planet Earth.”
- Peter Coates

Andrew Bennett’s book “Suicide Century: Literature and Suicide from James Joyce to David Foster Wallace” has just been published.

Mimi Thebo has been nominated for the prestigious Carnegie Medal 2018 for her book “Coyote Summer”. The Carnegie Medal is awarded annually to the writer of an outstanding book for children and young people.
As part of the AHRC-funded Afro-Asian Networks project, Su Lin Lew-is organised an Afro-Asian Connections Festival at the Trinity Centre on Sunday, November 26th. This was a celebration of community, dance, music, film, and food to explore the history of African and Asian solidarity and connection featuring Bristol-based cooks, storytellers, and performers. Historians and activists will discuss shared histories of decolonisation, commemorating the 60th and 70th anniversaries of Indian, Malaysian, and Ghanaian independence.

The Urban Humanities Research Cluster will be having its first meeting at 5pm on Tuesday 5th December. Please get in touch with Simeon.Koole@bristol.ac.uk if you would like more information.

A session of talks are being arranged for World Aids Day on 1st December, in partnership with the Brigstow Project and with the support of the Centre for Humanities, Health and Science. For more information and to register, please contact A.Blades@bristol.ac.uk or Maria.vaccarella@bristol.ac.uk

Short Courses on offer

Would you like to return to study?

Weekly evening classes starting January 2018

Reading English Literature
This course aims to be an enjoyable introduction to literature. Share ideas on classic and modern literature, explore poetry, gain a greater understanding of Shakespeare and develop essay writing skills.
6 month Course fee: £385

Mastering English Literature
This course is designed for graduates to sharpen their study skills and gain a taste of Romantic literature, Shakespeare, twentieth-century poetry and women's writing.
6 month Course fee: £610

Ways Into History
The history of Bristol has been shaped by its role in the slave trade. This course will explore how history can help us tackle difficult questions about the historic realities of slavery in a world in which it still plays a part.
6 month Course fee: £400

Take this opportunity to discover new pathways open to you.
Apply now!

Tel +44 (0)117 928 8629
Email English-lifelong@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/english/study/part-time/short-courses/
**Admin Teams**

## Education Team recap

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Administration Managers</td>
<td>Julie Sealey and Lauren Coggins (maternity leave to be covered by Jen Williams)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Student Administrators</td>
<td>Jen Williams (role to be recruited whilst Jen is covering SAM maternity leave—more details to follow) &amp; Annette Weekes</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Administrator—Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>Student Administrator—Classics &amp; Ancient History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Administrators—English</td>
<td>Laura Henriksen, Louisa King, Lorrie Strawbridge-Smith (maternity leave) &amp; Nasim Tadgighi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Administrators—Historical Studies</td>
<td>Caroline Barnard, Kristina Blackwell, Charlotte Richards &amp; Gemma White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Administrator—Religion and Theology</td>
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We will be very sorry to say goodbye to Kristina Blackwell who has been part of the HUMS team for three years. Kristina, we wish you all the best on this new and exciting stage.

## Executive Team recap

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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
<td>Laura Maclean</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Admin Assistant</td>
<td>Sienna Tse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Nicole Andrieu</td>
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## Professional Services—new staff

**Sienna Tse** is the new Executive Admin Assistant and works in the Executive Support Office.

I graduated from University of Bristol and have been working here since. I am a foodie. Chocolate and Ice cream are my absolute favourites!

**Nicole Andrieu** is the new School Admin Assistant and works in the School Office.

“Before joining the HUMS Team, I worked in finance and administration in various industries including Aviation, Gas and Oil, and education publishing in different countries. The University is my new challenge and so far, I find it fascinating!”
The Great HUMS Bake-Off

Alice Chadwick will be running the London Marathon in April 2018 and successfully raised £145 from her Halloween Bake-Off event last month. Alice is raising money for Shelter. Please feel free to contact alice.chadwick@bristol.ac.uk if you would like more information.

Calling all those involved with a University social media account: please can you let anona.williams@bristol.ac.uk know of anyone who has a Facebook, Twitter, blog or other kind of social media account associated with the Faculty of Arts? This will help to inform our new 'Arts Matters' communications strategy and henceforth build on our existing reputation across these channels.

A note from the editor

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Autumn newsletter, and welcome to all of our staff members who have joined us this academic year.

The next newsletter will be due out in the Spring term.

- Laura Maclean