The School of Humanities has seen a flurry of research activity in recent months, with several prestigious grants being awarded to members of staff. These include Madhu Krishnan (Department of English) who has won an AHRC research network grant worth £42k and an AHRC GCRF PaCSC Innovation Award on Conflict and International Development worth £74,665 which she used to fund her project ‘Ugandan Youth and Creative Writing: New Perspectives on conflict and development’. Also from English, Andrew Bladons and Maria Vaccarella have been awarded £1,150 from the British Association of American Studies (BAAS)/US Embassy Small Grants Programme which was used to fund a very successful workshop on World AIDS Day last December 1. In History, Robert Bicklers was awarded an Augustine Heard PG Scholarship (Hong Kong) worth £86,230 and Tim Cole (History/Brigstowe) won £51,647 from the AHRC for a GW4 bid for ‘Bridging the Gaps’ in collaboration with Axel Goodbody, University of Bath. Marianna Dudley, also History, has received a NERC GCRF grant for her project on ‘War Impact on Dryland Environments and Social-Ecological Resilience in Somalia (WIDER-SOMA)’ in collaboration with Katerina Michiale, School of Geography and Juliane Fürst has received two AHRC grants worth £100,000 and £300,000 for two of her current projects. More grants in History include Daniel Haines, awarded £9,028 from NERC and £198,060 from the AHRC Global Challenges Research Fund. Noah Millstone (History) and Sebastiaan Verweij (English) were awarded £199,966 from the AHRC for ‘Manuscript Pemphleteering in Early Stuart England’ and Laurence Publicover, also English, has £1,100 from the International Strategic Fund for travel to Heidelberg for the ‘Reading and Writing at Sea’ workshop, already funded by Heidelberg.
Vice-Chancellor’s Impact Award

Congratulations to Professor Ronald Hutton (Department of History) who has been awarded the Vice Chancellor’s Impact Award in the Society and Culture category for his work on the Stonehenge Visitor Centre. The award was announced on 1 December as part of the Vice Chancellor’s launch of the new University Strategic Vision.

Stonehenge is one of the UK’s most iconic visitor attractions. Professor Hutton was appointed Academic Adviser for the construction of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, a new purpose built building intended to enhance visitor understanding of this unique monument.

Professor Hutton’s contribution resulted in significant changes to the content of the permanent display gallery. Professor Hutton was also the overall winner of the 2016 Impact Award, receiving a trophy and a cheque for £1,500.

Service Award for Gavin D’Costa

Gavin D’Costa has served 25 years at the University. He started as a lecturer and now has a personal Chair. He has worked extensively on doctrinal issues in Christian theology related to other religions and is advisor to the Vatican on interfaith matters and to the Church of England.

Gavin received a lovely Bristol blue glass vase with his name etched on it to celebrate this event and a party was organised by the VC (for 32 others as well). Gavin commented ‘I’ve really enjoyed myself because of some very special colleagues and students. Thanks to them for making it a happy 25 years.’

Prints exhibition from the class of 2016

The History of Art Department is pleased to announce the opening of Final Year Undergraduate students’ Prints Exhibition from the class of 2016, entitled Growth and Decay, taking place in Department of History of Art, 9 Woodland Road, Bristol, BS1 1TB.

The exhibition explores views of our world by delving into the human condition, our society, and the environment. Through a varied selection of prints, which range from the 17th to 21st centuries, this exhibition demonstrates how prints can evoke themes of growth and decay. Eleven of the final year History of Art undergraduates are pleased to announce and warmly invite you to this exhibition of the departmental print collection; an annual event showcasing an inspiring range of work.

It is open to all from 8th December 2016.

The University launched its new strategy externally at a reception held at the National Gallery in London on 15 November, and five History of Art students were there to represent the University and give gallery tours to the guests.

The tours began in the gallery’s Central Hall, which contains Renaissance works by Fra Bartolommeo and Moretto da Brescia. The students then proceeded to guide the guests through the history of early modern art, on a route that featured notable works by Canaletto, Goya, Gainsborough, Reynolds and Hogarth. The tours concluded with the gallery’s impressive collection of modern art, which includes key works by Corot, Degas, Van Gogh and Cézanne.

The students giving the tours were Serena Hardwick and James Hart (undergraduate), Laurie Lewis and Lisa Huang-Taylor (postgraduate taught), and Alice Hoad (postgraduate research). The students were accompanied by Professor Simon Shaw-Miller and Dr Alexandra Hoare.

The tours were very popular and well-received by the guests.

Simon Shaw-Miller
Head of Subject, History of Art

Staff and student news and events

...and joining us in January 2017

Andrea Livesey
Lecturer in History

Andrea will be joining us in January 2017. She received her PhD from the University of Liverpool in 2015 for a thesis that focused on sexual violence under slavery in Louisiana and Texas (1803-1865). Her current book project explores the extent to which racialised sexual violence had become normalised within U.S. slaveholding culture.

Sophia Robey with her tutor Dr Lyndsay Coo

Classic and Ancient History celebrate an outstanding student

On 1 December, Bristol University Alumni Association held their 19th Awards Ceremony, honouring four students who have made outstanding contributions to the University or to the community. Classics and Ancient History graduate, Sophia Robey, was one of the four to receive an award from Barness Hale, outgoing Chancellor of the University.

During her time at Bristol, Sophia was continually active as a volunteer, providing support for refugees, campaigning and fundraising to counter violence against women and girls. Sophia made an especially significant contribution to Bristol Nightline.

In her first two years of study, Sophia also put in 500 hours of voluntary work in a special response unit with the London Metropolitan police. The department of Classics and Ancient History proposed Sophia for an Alumni Association Award, saying “She has been a true leader in the volunteer community of Bristol University, and a shining example to her peers and teachers.”

Boris Zabirokhin
Proletarian Strength, 1990; Colour lithograph on thick wove paper

It is open to all from 8th December 2016.
William Guest  
A.G Leventis Research Associate Fellowship in Ancient Greek Studies

William works on the Greek rhetoric of the Roman empire. His doctoral thesis, which he is currently revising for publication as a monograph, examines the genre of Greek declamation. He is also doing preliminary work for a second project investigating ‘the rhetoric of rhetoric’, i.e. how a rhetorical theory (or indeed any theory) sells itself in the marketplace of ideas. Part of his role as Leventis Fellow is to support Bristol’s outreach work in Classics.

Benedetta Lomi  
Lecturer in East Asian Religions

Benedetta joins us from the University of Virginia. Her area of specialisation is the history of Japanese religions, particularly Buddhism, but her teaching expertise extends to other areas of Japanese culture as well as the Buddhist traditions of China and Korea. Her research so far has focused primarily on the historical analysis of esoteric Buddhist rituals, their mediating functions and strategies.

Sumita Mukherjee  
Lecturer in the History of Migration

Sumita is currently writing a book on Indian suffragettes and their global networks in the inter-war period for Oxford University Press. Before coming to Bristol she had held lecturerships at the University of Glasgow and Oxford, and taught or held research positions at Cambridge, De Montfort, LSE and King’s College London. Her first monograph, Nationalism, Education and Migrant Identities: The England-Returned was published by Routledge in 2009.

Ersin Hussain  
Teaching Fellow in Ancient History

Ersin joins us from the University of Warwick. Her research interests lie in cross-cultural exchanges, local reactions to imperial ‘power’ and identity formation in the Hellenistic and Roman Mediterranean.

Bex Lyons  
Teaching Fellow in Medieval Literature

Bex is a Teaching Fellow in Medieval Literature, and is in the final stages of a PhD in the Department of English under the supervision of Professors Helen Fulton and Ad Putter, looking into female ownership of Arthurian literature in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century England. Bex is also a Research Associate at UCL on The Academic Book of the Future project, and from January will be taking up a Research Associateship at Bangor University in the Centre for Arthurian Studies. Her research interests include book and reading history (and futures), women’s history, and Arthurian literature.

Fanny Bessard  
Lecturer in the History of the Middle East

Fanny joins us from the University of St Andrews. Fanny is a historian of the medieval Islamic world, with expertise in Classical Arabic and extensive archaeological experience in the Levant, Arabia and Central Asia. Her research explores the potential of combining textual and material sources. It focuses on the urban, social and economic history of the Middle East and the Caucasus in the period 700 to 1000.

Amy Edwards  
Lecturer in Modern British History

Amy recently completed her PhD at the University of Birmingham. Her thesis was entitled ‘Financial Consumerism: Mass Investment Culture and Thatcherism c. 1958-1995’ and looked at popular share ownership in late-twentieth century Britain. Before starting at Bristol she held a Teaching Fellowship at the University of Birmingham and was previously a Kluge Centre fellow at the Library of Congress, Washington DC.

April Gallwey  
Teaching Associate in English

April previously worked as a lecturer in Modern History at Magdalen College, Oxford and as a Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick. Her doctoral research was on the subject of single motherhood in post-war Britain. Her research interests are in twentieth-century British history with a particular focus on post-war class and gender relations. Her PhD thesis explored the history of single mothers in the post-war period.

Welcome new members of staff

In September 2017 the School of Humanities was very pleased to welcome several new members of staff.

Amy Edwards  
Lecturer in Modern British History

Amy comes to Bristol after finishing a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Manchester; previous to this she taught at the University of Liverpool for three years. Amy characterises herself as a linguist (or ‘word nerd’ to her friends), and questions which occupy her are how and why specific varieties of Greek, and Latin were used in different contexts and situations for specific purposes. Her main research project at the moment is on ‘bad language’ in Ancient Greek, engaging with questions such as how Greek speakers at various periods spoke about the human body, its functions and products, including topics like sex and toilet habits, hygiene and other tacit aspects of everyday life. Amy’s work draws on recent work in linguistics on impoliteness, and on theories of dirt and the body, to outline how we can talk about and define ancient ‘obscenity’, and also how such language has been treated in scholarship both ancient and modern.