

# Weekly Round-Up, 18 March 2021

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## 1 Lectures and Events

### Internal

#### 1.1 The Choix Goncourt UK: Online Announcement

Institut Français du Royaume Uni (YouTube channel)

18 March 2021 at 4.30-5.30pm

Livestream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IM-5NXcFiA&feature=youtu.be>

Maël Renouard, Djaïli Amadou Amal, Camille de Toledo and Hervé Le Tellier: Who will be the Choix Goncourt UK 2021?

British students from 12 UK based universities (King's College London, Royal Holloway University of London, Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Leeds, Southampton, Bath, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Queen's Belfast and Open University) were invited to discuss books from the prestigious French Académie Goncourt shortlist and award the Choix Goncourt UK. On 18 March, five student representatives from the participating universities will present all the shortlisted novels and announce their winner. For further details, please email [communications@mfo.ac.uk](mailto:communications@mfo.ac.uk)

#### 1.2 Experimenting the Early Modern Elements

Held on Teams over three consecutive afternoons (30th March-1st April 2021, 3-6pm GMT)

Experimenting the Early Modern Elements: An event hosted by the interdisciplinary 'Writing Technologies' TORCH Network.

A 'split' study day held on Teams over three consecutive afternoons (30th March-1st April 2021, 3-6pm GMT), exploring how early modern developments in arts and techniques conceptualised, confronted, and attempted to manipulate nature as understood in the form of the four 'classical' elements: earth, water, air, and fire. Participants will discuss literary, technical, and artistic material, reflecting on the interrelated experimental and cultural significances of the four elements, and the relationships between them. These classic categories, though challenged and evolving, as we will see, throughout the early modern period, present a fruitful framework for the 'Writing Technologies' Network's ongoing conversations on representation, analogy, imagination, inventions, and narratives.

For further details, please see attached flyer. To register, please email: [jennifer.oliver@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.oliver@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) by Friday, 26th March.

*\* Please see item 1.2 attachment for further information:*

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/q4GMsR>

#### 1.3 Dream Nation; 200 years on; and launch of website: 'Greek Studies Now'

In the week celebrating the 200 years since the Greek War of Independence, our TORCH International Partnership Network *Rethinking Modern Greek Studies* invites you to the next event "**Dream Nation; 200 years on**", which will take place on **March 22 at 5pm** (UK) in the frame of our 'Local Cases, Global Debates' series.

We will engage in an open discussion with prof. **Stathis Gourgouris** (Columbia University) on the legacies and the contemporary relevance of his 1996 influential monograph *Dream Nation: Enlightenment, Colonization and the Institution of Modern Greece*. We want to reflect on both the national/post-national legacies of Greece, but also on the changes in Modern Greek Studies since the first publication of his seminal book. Indeed, Greece has been a prime example of a modern nation-building process, involved in the dynamics of enlightenment, ethnicity, (crypto)colonialism, orientalism, capital extractionism and the North-South dialectic. Modern Greek studies, as a field, has been framed time and again as a response to such questions.

The event will be followed by the launch our new independent website **Greek Studies Now**

( <https://greekstudiesnow.org> ) The idea is to establish a platform for conversation on Modern Greek Studies, mapping its interdisciplinary trajectories and their intersections. There, you will find an exciting blog, recordings of our past online events, and much more!

You can find more information on the event and registration link here:

<https://gc.fairead.net/event-dream-nation-200>

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## External – Elsewhere

### 1.4 Academy Online III: The use and abuse of history

Saturday 10 April

From culture war clashes to battles over the curriculum, comparisons with fascism to conspiracies about 'cultural Marxism', history is a key battleground in today's politics. Why is history so contested? What can we really learn from the past, and how can we make history today?

#### [BOOK TICKETS HERE](#)

#### ABOUT THIS EVENT

Our politics is suffused with historical comparisons, and the meaning of key historical events is bitterly contested. Each act of the Brexit saga was the 'Reichstag fire' moment. Trumpism was fascism returned from the grave. Lockdown policies are like the Soviet Union, cancel culture is like Stalinism, and identity politics is 'cultural Marxism'. America's founding date has been shifted from 1776 to 1619 to coincide with the arrival of slaves, and its present is endlessly compared to the decline and fall of the Roman empire. At the same time, the post-Cold War certainty that we had reached 'the end of history' is being increasingly called into question first by the populist upswell of the 2010s, and then by the massive expansion of state activity prompted by the coronavirus pandemic. How do we relate to history today? How can we learn from the past without reducing it to a series of moral parables? When are historical comparisons useful, and when do they obstruct understanding the present? What stands in the way of us seizing the present, and making our own history?

#### SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- A war on the past? *Professor Frank Furedi*
- Critique or conspiracy? What was the Frankfurt School? *Dr Tim Black*
- Sin or Freedom? What was the foundation of America? *Dr Cheryl Hudson and Professor Francis Buckley*

For the full programme, reading list, and tickets, [please click here](#).

#### ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Academy is the boi charity's annual, residential event where people from all walks of life gather together to cultivate themselves with lectures and seminars, based around good books, and in good company. While the regular, collegiate atmosphere of The Academy was not possible this year, the boi charity has taken the spirit and intellectual rigour of the event online. The first Academy Online took place in June (find out about it here). This November, The Academy Online will return to tackle the concepts of race and racism, in another special online event via zoom.

## 2 Adverts

### Jobs, Recruitment and Volunteering

#### 2.1 Expressions of Interest: Academic Champion for Women in Entrepreneurship

I am seeking expressions of interest from academic colleagues for the new role of Academic Champion for Women in Entrepreneurship. Further details of the appointment are included in the attached note. I would anticipate the appointed candidate dedicating around 2 days per month to this University-wide leadership role.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 26 March 2021.

*\* Please see item 2.1 attachment for further information:*

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/hy7F0E>

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## 2.2 Durham University Job Vacancy in the Scientific Study of Manuscripts and Inscriptions

### ZKS-Lendrum Assistant Professor (Research) in the Scientific Study of Manuscripts and Inscriptions

£33,797 per annum

Fixed term – 12 months – full time

Closing date: 11 April 2021, 11.59pm UK time

Start date: either 1 September 2021 or 1 January 2022.

[For full details and to apply click here](#)

Generous gifts from the Zeno Karl Schindler (ZKS) Foundation and Chris and Margaret Lendrum make it possible for the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS) at Durham University to appoint a talented researcher and scholar to the role of Assistant Professor (Research) to work in the Scientific Study of Manuscripts and Inscriptions.

This field brings together scholars from very different disciplines, asking them to develop new questions and to use unfamiliar methodologies. The problems which they address range from new approaches to understanding science as practiced in medieval culture, through the challenges of digital presentation of sources and research results, to the non-invasive analysis of manuscripts. But in all they are required to embrace the value of integrated interdisciplinary work, developing and exploiting new frameworks for technological and intellectual innovation. IMEMS and Durham University have developed a strong reputation over recent years for innovative research within this field. Drawing on the structural capacity for collaborative research provided by Durham's Research Institutes, as well as the remarkable resources available in situ, notably the outstanding manuscript and early printed book collections in the University, Cathedral and Ushaw libraries, and the artefacts of the Oriental Museum, scholars are breaking disciplinary boundaries under the auspices of this new IMEMS research strand.

Major recent examples of projects include:

- The Pigments of British Medieval Illuminators: a scientific and cultural study ([www.dur.ac.uk/imems/research/strands/teampigment](http://www.dur.ac.uk/imems/research/strands/teampigment));
- Ordered Universe: Interdisciplinary Readings of Medieval Science ([www.dur.ac.uk/imems/research/strands/ordereduniverse](http://www.dur.ac.uk/imems/research/strands/ordereduniverse));
- a GCRF Project Promoting Heritage Sites in Nepal;
- Durham Priory Library Recreated ([www.dur.ac.uk/imems/durhampriory](http://www.dur.ac.uk/imems/durhampriory)).

We welcome applications from **Humanities scholars** or **Social and Physical Sciences scholars**, or those whose work bridges the disciplines.

## Miscellaneous

### 2.3 Environmental Humanities at TORCH

Invites applications from Early Career and Graduate Researchers in Oxford.

Do you think about the earth beneath the buildings and the pavements? The water in the pipes, the rivers or the rainclouds? The trees along the street or in the fields? How does the air taste here, or there? How often do you look at wild animals, birds, insects, fish, flowers, fungi, plants or rocks? When did people start to notice these things? What are the myths we live by and how are they changing? What does the Anthropocene mean for the Humanities? What might the Humanities have to say about Biodiversity or Climate Change? Or globalisation? Can dialogue with organisations outside the University generate new approaches? How do the arts relate to different landscapes and the built environment? How can you write about the Sea? What environmental challenges face artists and thinkers in the 21st century? Do you have ideas on how research in the Humanities engages with the environment? Or how human history relates to the life and well-being of the planet? How writers, artists and musicians have responded to the natural world in the past? What sounds and smells arise from different environments? How have theology and philosophy shaped our understanding of the external world? And when did these ideas begin to circulate? What role does language play? What does climate change sound like? How have creative thinkers imagined the future? Do the centuries to come inspire similar visions?

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TORCH will sponsor a virtual One Day Conference on new directions and fresh thinking in the Environmental Humanities. Applications are invited from postgraduate students and early career researchers in Oxford for a conference addressing urgent and perennial questions about the relationship between humans and the environment. Applicants should submit a proposal, detailing the area to be explored, with an explanation of the environmental dimensions of the questions examined in the conference, together with an outline of the format for the day, and likely participants. External speakers and groups can be invited, on the understanding that the event is virtual. Proposals that include an interdisciplinary and/or creative dimension will be especially welcome.

Since the Conference will be virtual, any costs are not expected to exceed £500.

TORCH will provide support, including an online platform, along with support from members of the TORCH team.

We will also advertise the event widely on the TORCH website and on social media.

Please note that we cannot provide funds for Zoom licences or websites, as TORCH will provide both services for you.

The Conference must take place before the end of July 2021.

Applications from Early career and graduate researchers in Oxford should be submitted to

[torch@humanities.ox.ac.uk](mailto:torch@humanities.ox.ac.uk) with the subject line "Environmental Humanities graduate conference competition".

Closing Date for Applications: Monday, 19 April.

## 2.4 Coronavirus Updates

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice and updates](#)

A dedicated page has now been set up for Students:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice and support for students](#)

(including FAQs for Students on a year abroad or overseas placement – please scroll down the page)

## 3 Year Abroad

### 3.1 Job Opportunities

The latest job opportunities and internships received by the Faculty can now be found via the new jobs board:

[https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/37004/pages/year-abroad-adverts?module\\_item\\_id=383619](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/37004/pages/year-abroad-adverts?module_item_id=383619)

The new Canvas Year Abroad pages are now 'live':

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/37004>

*DISCLAIMER: Please note that the inclusion of vacancies received by the Faculty is a facility to assist students in sourcing possible placements and does not constitute any sort of recommendation of the organisation, or agreement with the content of the vacancies; the Faculty attempts to provide as much information on vacancies available to students as possible and makes every effort to check that the content complies with equality legislation and is otherwise appropriate for student employment but cannot confirm the quality of the experience. Where negative feedback from previous students is received, appropriate action is taken. Students should make every effort to conduct their own research into the opportunities and providers to reassure themselves of the quality of the provision.*

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