About a year ago, I came upon a small and murky reproduction of a painting of about 1700 by Jan Griffier—a panorama of London that looks out over Greenwich towards St Paul’s. It is held in the Brukenthal Museum in the delightful Transylvanian city of Sibiu (formerly Hermannstadt). An internet search containing ‘Griffier’, ‘Brukenthal’ and ‘Vedere din Londra’ will take you to a reproduction.

It had been noted that, in the picture’s middle distance, a performance on a booth or fairground stage was taking place; what had not been noticed was that the foreground was occupied by a procession, which included a skimmington (see below), on its way from Cuckold’s Point, on the Rotherhithe peninsula, to Horn Fair, held every year on St Luke’s Day (18 October) at Charlton, about three miles east of Greenwich. Until now, only one illustration of a booth performance in early modern England was known—not surprising because the painting of landscapes and townscapes came late to England. Such performances, however, were common—in the provinces or when the players were on tour, especially when outbreaks of plague closed the London playhouses. Portable stages could be used for occasional performances almost anywhere: in fairgrounds, streets, or inn-yards. Followers of the Earl of Essex commissioned the Lord Chamberlain’s Men to perform Shakespeare’s Richard II ‘in open streets and houses’ the day before Essex staged his ‘rebellion’. This was indeed a display of dangerous matter: a play that showed a king being deposed without any unequivocal sign that retribution would follow. Indeed, extra-theatrical performances were perhaps as significant as those on London’s Bankside, although they are not much written about.

With support from NYU London I was able to travel to Sibiu in May and deliver my findings concerning the painting as a keynote at a conference Sibiu’s Lucian Blaga University: ‘Reading Matters: Texts, Cultures, the World’.

Quite a lot is known about Horn Fair from seventeenth-century pamphlets—the Fair ran from the thirteenth century until lascivious behaviour associated with it caused it to be suppressed in the nineteenth century, but, as far as I know, there is no visual representation of the Fair itself from the age of Shakespeare or the Restoration—or indeed later.

What does the picture show? The fair-goers are moving towards a portal leading into a field. This is dominated by a large figure of a man wearing antlers on his head (the traditional badge of a cuckold) and holding bulls’ horns in each hand. In the fairground there is a simple ‘ferris wheel’, a cluster of stalls, presumably selling comestibles and fairings, and, behind, a two-storey structure with booths on each level. For sexual assignations?

One of the extraordinary features of the Fair is that it provides a paradigm example of an early inversion ritual, serving not just to expose sexual transgression and to shame perpetrators but to celebrate sexuality. To this end, not just wronged husbands and their wayward wives made their way to the fair but adulterous lovers too—the husbands were enjoined to bring a pick or shovel with which they might spread gravel on the paths to the fair so that their wives’ petticoats might not be soiled. It seems too that groups of both sexes, the men sometimes cross-dressed (as so often in England!), joined in what became a species of carnival.

In the middle of the procession we detect a skimmington procession. This, another intriguing form of inversion ritual, is well-enough known, but seldom illustrated—Hogarth, however, does portray it in several engravings of about 1725 that accompany Butler’s Hudibras.

The word seems to derive from a skimming ladle, the weapon of choice used by women whose husbands failed to match their expectations. If adultery was detected, a
FOCUS ON: VINCE MITCHELL

Why Should I Attend?
Vince Mitchell, Introduction to Marketing

Despite the increasing array of ways to communicate via technology, more than 50 million trips are made worldwide for meetings, conferencing, exhibitions. In a recently published study, we ask why might this be the case and what’s in it for individuals attending such events? From interviews with delegates, organizers and speakers from networking events, we build on previous work to help delegates and suppliers to measure and manage customer value to better understand ROI. We identify the dimensions of event value for individuals such professional, learning, reputational, innovation as well as social, emotional, hedonic and relationship as well as exploring measurement issues using a what, how, when, where and who framework. (Mitchell VW, Mone S and Schlegelmilch B (2016) ‘Why should I attend?; The Value of Business Networking Events’ Industrial Marketing Management Vol 52 p 100-108). For more information see: http://www.cassknowledge.com/research/article/why-should-i-attend-value-business-networking-events

Vince Mitchell was appointed as a judge for the UK’s leading marketing awards for the fourth year running. (http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2016/april/good-marketing-and-marketing-for-good). The Marketing Society is the UK’s most prestigious marketing practitioner society and he is the only academic present on the judging panel which this year was chaired by CEO of O2 Ronan Dunne (http://www.marketsocietyawards.com/awards-night/winners/)

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

Corrado Macchiarelli, Introduction to Macroeconomics, is a Lecturer in Economics and Finance at Brunel University London and a visiting Research Fellow in European Political Economy at the London School of Economics, where he was previously a Postdoc. Beyond his academic endeavours, he is a member of a LSE-based team of Monetary Policy Experts for the European Parliament. In the past, he worked for the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He was also a consultant for the European Central Bank and the Swedish Riksbank. His interests mainly lie in the fields of international macro and finance, financial economics, expectation modelling, business cycles, and European economic issues. Of interest to his studies are also issues related to European governance, the role of the ECB and central banking. He holds a PhD from the University of Torino (Collegio Carlo Alberto).

Maria de Gracia Dominguez Barrera, MD. PhD., Global Perspectives in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, graduated in Medicine at the University of Navarra, Spain. She completed her specialist clinical training in psychiatry at the Hospital Santiago Apostol in Vitoria, Spain, whilst she began her academic career in the Department of Neuroscience, University of the Basque Country in Bilbao-Leioa, Spain. In 2006, Dr Dominguez obtained a Marie Curie Fellowship and moved to the Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Maastricht University in the Netherlands, where she developed her research interest in psychiatric epidemiology studying environmental and social determinants of clinical psychosis in adolescence. After obtaining her PhD entitled ‘A Dynamic Model of the Onset of Clinical Psychosis from an Epidemiological Perspective’, Dr Dominguez continued to work as a postdoctoral researcher at Maastricht University. In 2010, Dr Dominguez moved to the Academic Unit of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Imperial College London (UK), where she worked as a Clinical Lecturer and continued her research work in adolescent psychosis whilst completing the UK Specialist degree in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In 2012, Dr Dominguez completed PGCert in University Learning and Teaching at Imperial College (awarded the 2012 Rees Rawling Price). In 2014, Dr. Dominguez completed the PGDip in Applied Systemic Theory/Systemic Therapy at the Tavistock Centre – University of East London. Dr Dominguez currently works as Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust and honorary Lecturer at Imperial College London. Dr Dominguez was awarded the European Psychiatry Association research prize in child and adolescent psychiatry in 2014. Since 2014, she has been the president of the Association of Scientists in Child and Adolescent Mental Health – Alicia Koplowitz Foundation.
FACULTY NEWS

Clive Bloom’s, Gothic Literature and Cultural Foundations I, latest book, Thatcher’s Secret War: Subversion, Coercion, Secrecy and Government, 1974-90 (History Press) was listed for the Bread and Roses radical book of the year award. He has recently written a chapter for the Encyclopedia of Horror Literature through History (ABC-CLIO), a chapter for Gothic and the Arts (EUP) and an article on Aleister Crowley for the upcoming book Lost Souls of Horror and the Gothic: Fifty-four Neglected Authors, Actors, Artists and Others (McFarland). He is completing research for a new book on history of political disturbance in Britain, which will be published by Palgrave. He has also been invited to join the international journal ‘Diacronia’. He is giving two keynote speeches at the International Conference Beliefs and Behaviors in Education and Culture at the University of Timisoara, Romania and the International Dracula symposium at Trinity College, Dublin.

Since the publication of Peter Cave’s, Central Problems of Philosophy, latest work, The Big Think Book, Discover Philosophy Through 99 Perplexing Puzzles, some short video clips have been made, with animations which may interest and amuse. See: http://www.philosophycave.com

Eve Grubin’s, Writing I, pamphlet of poems The House of Our First Loving was published by Rack Press in January 2016. Eve’s essay, “The Poetics of Sanity, on Jane Cooper” was published in the American Poetry Review in Spring 2016 and will appear in a book of essays on Jane Cooper edited by Celia Bland and Martha Collins. She spoke at the British Library in the Eccles Centre Summer Scholars Series on August 1st on her PhD research. Her talk was entitled “Emily Dickinson and Her Contemporaries: The Poetics of Reticence”. She is the recipient of a grant from AHRC / TECHNE to write a thesis at Kingston University on Dickinson and her unusual poetics. Eve’s poems were recently published or are forthcoming in PN Review, the American Poetry Review and in the anthology The Poets Quest For God which was just published by Eyewhwhere Press.

Trino-Manuel Ñíguez, International Economics, has been awarded a grant by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness within its National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation. The project is entitled “Solidarity as a driver of Economic Growth”. It will be carried out during 2016-2019 and counts with an international group of investigators from: University of Salamanca, University of Murcia, University of Zaragoza, University of Luxembourg, University of Los Andes, and the World Bank.

Alan Powers, A History of London, has had a new architecture book published, 100 Years of Architecture (Lawrence King), a global survey of projects and trends since 1914. He recently spoke on 27 October about his latest book for the Society of Architectural Historians New York chapter, organised by Jon Ritter at Silver Centre, Washington Square. He has also published a monograph on the English artist and illustrator Edward Ardizzone (Lund Humphries), which has an accompanying exhibition at the House of Illustration, Granary Square, King’s Cross, until 23rd January 2017. He recently discussed the monograph and exhibition on Radio 3 on Free Thinking with Anne McElvoy, as well as at Hatchards, Piccadilly and at the Grolier Club in New York in October.

READING TEXTS AND RITUALS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

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woman and her husband (not her lover) might be lashed back to back and placed on a horse or ass, she with her lade, he with a distaff, a traditional emblem of an unmanly man. The word ‘skimmington’ could, variously, designate an unruly woman, a cross-dressed man who headed the procession, or the procession itself that wound around a town or village to the accompaniment of charivari or ‘rough music’. It seems that on occasions the transgressors became the heroes of the hour, as sometimes happened when whores were publicly whipped or carted.

The picture fuses two rituals, one, the skimmington, designed to destroy privacy and that which keeps adultery hidden, the other Horn Fair, a public celebration of the transgression that many would wish to be exposed and castigated.

How are occasions like this culturally significant? There is an analogy with another annual inversion ritual. On Shrove Tuesday apprentices and students from the Inns of Court used to invade Bankside, interrupting performances, sacking the playhouses, raiding the taverns used by prostitutes, and slicing the unfortunate women under pumps in the vicinity. At first sight this seems just disorderly conduct, perhaps analogous to the trashing of hotel rooms by celebrities today. But then we might reflect that theatres and ‘houses of resort’ were the very institutions abhorred by the young men’s masters and fathers. Disorder becomes strangely, in this instance, an assertion of order.

Continued on next page
FOCUS ON: PHILIP WOODS


The British defeat in Burma at the hands of the Japanese in 1942 precipitated the longest retreat in British military history and the onset of the most drawn-out campaign of World War II. It also marked the beginning of the end of British rule, not only in Burma but also in south and southeast Asia.

There have been many studies of military and civilian experiences during the retreat but this is the first book to look at the way the campaign was represented in the Western media: newspapers, pictorial magazines, and newsreels. There were some twenty-six accredited war correspondents covering the campaign, and almost half of them wrote books about their experiences, mostly within a year or two of the defeat. Their accounts were criticised by government officials as being misinformed and sensationalist. For various reasons, historians have also tended to minimise their use of contemporary newspapers and journalists’ memoirs as evidence, believing that they gave the public an unrealistic view of how the war was actually progressing.

This book uses original sources to assess the validity of these criticisms. It will be of value to historians of conflict and students of journalism. Although the book focuses on 1942, it has much wider implications. A good deal of attention has been given to the loss of Singapore in February 1942 but the fall of Rangoon and the subsequent inevitable loss of Burma was actually much more serious, opening up major threats to India and China. The loss of Burma’s rice exports to India and the implementation of scorched earth tactics would soon have disastrous effects on Bengal, contributing to devastating famine in 1943. The mass migration of hundreds of thousands of Indian refugees from Burma and the tragic loss of life involved contributed to a devastating blow to Britain’s image as protector of its citizens in the region and proved impossible to repair.

READING TEXTS AND RITUALS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

*Continued from previous page*

Might this impinge on, say, the writings of Shakespeare? Just one example: *As You Like It* seems, like so many of the comedies, to be formulaic, an endorsement of political order that is restored just as the play’s young lovers move towards a comely set of betrothals. But, as I discovered when I edited the text, the play contains a surprising amount of bawdy, and Rosalind threatens to look elsewhere if Orlando fails to please in his marital duties. The spoils of the hunt, the horns of the deer, can be awarded not just to the hero of the chase but to the lover who fails to please his wife. ‘The horn, the horn, the lusty horn, / ’Tis not a thing to laugh to scorn’ – this is the chorus or ‘bourdon’ of ‘What shall he have that killed the deer?’, the hunting song in Act 4 of the play. We might even imagine an audience singing along to it.

There is no way of knowing what play was being performed on Griffier’s stage, but perhaps it too embodied a moral order riddled with insecurity and radical uncertainty.

From a pamphlet of about 1817

UPCOMING EVENTS

We welcome updates from faculty regarding upcoming academic events. Please email details to academics@nyu.ac.uk