MAGNA CARTA: 800th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This year celebrates the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, an agreement originally forged in 1215 between an unpopular King John and his troubled barons, which has become, in Britain and beyond, one of the cornerstones of modern understandings of the rule of law, personal liberty and the relationship between the monarch and his/her subjects.

NYU London plans to join the celebrations through a variety of events, starting with a field trip on 17 April to the British Library exhibition ‘Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy’, which brings together two of the four extant versions of the document, coupled with Thomas Jefferson’s handwritten text of the US Declaration of Independence, an original copy of the US Bill of Rights (both in the UK for the first time), and other historic documents and artefacts.

There will be a screening of David Starkey’s BBC documentary about the Magna Carta followed by a videoconference with NYU Washington DC involving NYU London Director Gary Slapper, during the week of 20 April. A field trip to Runnymede, near Windsor where King John signed the Magna Carta, will take place on 24 April.

For more details contact Robert Pinkerton at robert.pinkerton@nyu.ac.uk. For the British Library exhibition and events, see http://www.bl.uk/whats-on/.

REMEMBERING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

On 11 November 2014, over 50 students and members of faculty gathered together in Bedford Square Gardens to commemorate the end of the First World War with the traditional two-minute silence.

Another highlight of the NYUL week of events remembering the conflict was ‘Culture at War’, an evening of performance by students of NYU Tisch London featuring songs and readings from the period.

The event was hosted by Mary Jane Walsh, Director of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, London, and directed by Ellis Jones, NYU Tisch Theatre in London. Research was undertaken by Phillip Drummond, British Cinema, who also acted as curator of the week-long programme.

In collaboration with the NYU History department and NYU Liberal Studies, a workshop and conference on the First World War is being organised at NYU London for early 2016. Phillip’s new course, ‘The Worlds of World War One’, is in development in conjunction with similar new WWI courses at NYU and NYU Abu Dhabi.
Among the unusual projects that comprise the recent work of Benedict O’Looney’s architecture practice is the revival of a Grade II listed, but disused, 1920s Art Deco tiled sausage shop on London’s Walworth Road in Southwark.

‘Kennedys’ was founded in Peckham in the 1870s, and by 1920 had grown into a popular sausage and pie chain with 10 shops across South London. In the 1920s Kennedy’s developed a distinctive in-house style and branding which included cheerful primrose and green tiled walls, marble work tops, timber display units and mirrored panels. Sadly the business closed in 2007 and most of the Art Deco tiled interiors were swiftly stripped out. Alarmed by this, English Heritage (led by fellow NYU London faculty member Emily Gee’s, Seeing London’s Architecture, designation team) ‘Spot Listed’ two of the shops - one in South Norwood and the other one on the Walworth Road. Since then, the Walworth Road branch has been closed for most of the last seven years, although it was briefly, and unsuccessfully, opened as a combination mobile phone and a vegetable shop!

Last Summer Benedict O’Looney Architects worked closely with Algerian pizza chef & pâtissier Omar Mazari, the Walworth Society and Southwark Council’s buildings at risk team to restore and re-open Kennedys as a pizzeria. The new work included a brightly painted pizza work station, updating the kitchen and creating a garden in the back. A few months of hands-on work in July culminated in Benedict’s overnight stint hand-lettering the menu board the weekend before opening.

The revived Kennedys has now been open for six months to great local acclaim.

NYU London staff, faculty and students should head down to 305 Walworth Road, just south of the Elephant and Castle, and have an excellent, inexpensive pizza and one of Omar’s yummy cakes!


THE LONDON SYMPOSIUM: THE PLEASURES OF THE SPECTACLE

The London Film and Media Reader 3: The Pleasures of the Spectacle is the title of a new eBook to be published by The London Symposium in March 2015.

This substantial volume contains 60 essays from around the world based on Papers presented at The Third Annual London Film and Media Conference, organised by Academic Conferences London in Summer 2013.

The eBook is edited by ACL Director Phillip Drummond. The volume will be available online free of charge—a small donation is encouraged to keep the service running—from the conference website at: www.thelondonfilmandmediaconference.com.
**FACULTY NEWS**


On 3 October 2014, **Michael Hattaway, Major British Writers & Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Stage**, gave a talk at NYU’s Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in Manhattan before a performance of King Lear by the touring company from Shakespeare’s Globe in London. This production used a modified booth stage, such as was used when the London playing companies of Shakespeare’s time were in the provinces. On 24 October 2014, he also delivered a paper entitled ‘Behind and In the Front Line: Preparing Editions, Teaching Shakespeare, Globalised Culture ’ at the University of Florence at the Bergen Shakespeare and Drama Network.

**Scott Kelly, British Politics, has a pamphlet being published by The Constitutional Society, titled The Slow Death of the Efficient Secret: The rise of MP independence, its causes and its implications.**

**BEATING THE SUPERBUGS: AVOIDING AN ANTIBIOTIC APOCALYPSE**

**Wenyu Deng, a Biochemistry Major at NYU, has written the following essay about an October lecture that took place at NYU London’s Academic Centre, which was organised jointly with SCI’s London Group.**

On 9 October, Professor Christopher Schofield FRS, Head of Organic Chemistry at the University of Oxford, gave a lecture organised by SCI’s London Group (in association with the New York University London). The main focus of the lecture was the concern of a possible antibiotic apocalypse, a subject that has aroused much interest in recent years. The event took place at 6 Bedford Square.

Prof Schofield discussed his research into the factors that affect the reactivity of antibiotics which incorporate a β-lactam ring, a four-membered cyclic amide that is Important in the effectiveness of the antibiotics but are susceptible to enzymatic cleavage. He also described the oxygen-detecting mechanisms in mammals and how these reactions may be similar to the reactions behind β-lactam antibodies.

Forty two delegates attended the lecture, quite of few of whom were students and professors from the University who were curious about biochemistry of the subject at hand. At the end of the lecture, some members of the audience spurred a discussion by asking questions about the methods behind the research and applications of the chemical knowledge to the medical field. Several university students and postdocs were curious about the potential of entering a career in research and were glad to speak with other like-minded people who were interested in science and medicine over the refreshments that were served after the lecture.

In an earlier lecture on 24 September at SCI in Belgrave Square, Prof Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer of England, described the foreboding issues of antimicrobial resistance, in which the increased use of antibiotics across the UK has substantially amplified the risk of bacteria resisting prescribed drugs. Resistant bacteria contain β-lactamases, enzymes which break down the β-lactams in penicillin. One method of curbing such an issue is by introducing clavulanic acid, which acts as an inhibitor to the β-lactamases, protecting the antibiotics from being broken apart.

The SCI London Group will collaborate with NYU London on the following upcoming lectures:


FACULTY NEWS (CONT.)

In January Eve Grubin, Writing I, gave a talk on "Poems Based on the Hebrew Bible" at the Limmud Conference, where she also taught a poetry workshop and gave a reading of her own work. Her poetry will appear in the anthology The Book of Uncommon Prayer (Outpost19, 2015), edited by John Vollmer. Her essay, ‘The Poetics of Sanity,’ on the American poet Jane Cooper will be published in the University of Michigan Press series, Under Discussion, in 2016.

Royle Mahawatte, Fashion, Culture and the Body, will be presenting a paper entitled, ‘...we shall never be done justice to, if we do not live for effect...’: When the fashionable man becomes supernatural’ at the Sensational Fashion, Culture and the Body Conference, 24 April 2014. The symposium is hosted by Falmouth University and The Victorian Popular Fiction Association. He will also have two articles published next year, 'Victorian Horror' in Horror: A Literary History (British Library, 2016) edited by Xavier Aldana Reyes, and 'The sad fortunes of 'stylish things': George Eliot and the languages of fashion' in Communicating Transglobal Fashion Narratives: Image, Identity and Ideology (Intellect Books, 2016), edited by Anne Pierson Smith.


Benedict O’Looney’s practice was shortlisted by the National Railway Heritage Awards 2014 for their work on Peckham Rye Station. He has been given a role teaching sketching at Sir John Soane’s museum.

Deirdre Osborne, Black Urban Studies, was Visiting Professor of Postcolonial Literature at the University of Palermo, Sicily in early November, speaking about Black British literary heritage. She has also co-edited a book with Mary F. Brewer and Lynette Goddard, Modern Black British Drama (London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

Julia Pascal, Writing I & II, gave a paper on Transnational Holocaust Memory, 26-27 January 2015 at the University of Leeds. She will also be giving a paper at the International Symposium on George Tabori and the Theatre of the Holocaust on 26-28 February 2015, at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. She is currently researching the lack of Jewish female characters on the postwar English stage.

Jyoti Saraswati, International Economics and International Political Economy, has recently completed an 18 month project with the Japanese government entitled ‘Late Industrialization in Asia’. The project, which brings together a number of experts in the field of development economics, examines the dynamics of industrial growth amongst the leading Asian economies. Funded by the Japan External Trade Organization, an independent agency within Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the project’s findings will be disseminated throughout the coming year via papers, reports and press releases, together with a book scheduled for publication in 2016.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: NICKY BUSCH

Nicky Busch, Immigration, has recently been involved in disseminating the findings from her research into au pairs in the UK, conducted with Dr Rosie Cox in the Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London. The research project, Au pairing after the au pair scheme: New migration rules and childcare in private homes in the UK, aimed to provide evidence about the experiences of au pairs and host families in the UK since the ending of the au pair visa in November 2008. The project brought together two important issues for contemporary society - women’s changing relationship to the home and the growth in labour migration. Nicky says of the project: “Au pairs are particularly interesting in that they are invisible to the official gaze because they are not technically ‘employed’ and what they are doing isn’t considered ‘work’. Instead they occupy a liminal position between workers, students and working holidaymakers. The project gathered both quantitative data to describe recent trends within au pairing as well as qualitative data to understand the part that au pairing plays in the lives of au pairs and their hosts.” To find out more about Nicky’s research, visit the following links:


The Times (behind a paywall): http://t.co/vXEZR6BtKN

BBC Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour: http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04n304m

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY FOR FALL 2014

Woody Caan, Health and Society in a Global Context, studied at Cambridge (MA) and Oxford (DPhil). He is the Editor of the Journal of Public Mental Health, a Professorial Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health and Hon. Consultant for Essex County Council. His primary area of practice is School Health and his research special interest is Alcohol & Health. For more information about his practice and research, see ‘The value of using schools as community assets for health.’ (Public Health, 2014), which can be accessed online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2014.10.006 and ‘Alcohol and the family’ (Contemporary Social Science 2013; 8: 8-17).

Emily Midouhas, Human Development, is a developmental psychologist at University College London. Her primary research interests are in the effects of neighbourhood, school and family contexts on children’s cognitive ability and mental health, and in the pathways through which these environments may influence children. She explores these topics with data from large-scale longitudinal studies that track development across childhood such as the UK’s Millennium Cohort Study. Emily completed her PhD in developmental psychology at the UCL Institute of Education in 2012. Prior to this, she worked in education policy research in New York City. Emily has recently co-authored papers on neighbourhood social connections and child mental health (Health and Place), and the role of parenting in buffering the adverse impact of family stress and poverty on child mental health (Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology).

Judith Stanton, Health and Society in a Global Context, is the Medical Director of Prederi, Educational Supervisor for public health training at the Kings Fund and an honorary research fellow in Imperial College. Judith trained originally as a GP and subsequently became Director of Public Health in Brent, senior policy advisor in the London Mayor’s health team and Associate Dean in Medicine in London. Judith’s medical degree is from University College London, her postgraduate qualifications in public health are from New Zealand and Cambridge and she gained her MA in Clinical Education from the Institute of Education. Judith’s main areas of interest are in reducing health inequalities, child health, health care, public health and sustainability.

Other faculty joining us this semester are: Josko Braskus, Intro to Marketing; Stephanie Echols, Social Psychology; Nathalie Khan, Global Fashion Industry: Britain; Gary Morgan, Developmental Psychology; Martin Petrin, Law, Business, & Society; and Ron Villanueva, Writing II.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: GERALDINE BIDDLE-PERRY

An article by Geraldine Biddle-Perry, History of British Fashion, ‘Fashioning Suburban Aspiration: A wheel with the Catford Cycling Club, 1886–1900,’ has been selected as one of five of the ‘Editor’s Choices’ in The London Journal for last year after being published in November 2014. The article draws on the archival records of the Catford Cycling Club in South London dating back to the late nineteenth century. It evidences how popular participation in ‘rational recreational’ leisure activities, particularly bicycling, was linked to concepts of social mobility and ‘improvement’ and embodied in new forms of leisure and fashionable clothing.

The article explores how a new sense of suburban partisanship was formulated by linking sporting fellowship with more deep-seated notions of classed and gendered identity.

Geraldine is currently working on revisions to a forthcoming monograph on fashion in post-war austerity Britain and is about to begin work as General Editor of an ambitious multi-volume Cultural History of Hair, part of a series of interdisciplinary histories spanning antiquity to the present, published by Bloomsbury (including those of Women; Sexuality; The Human Body; Childhood and Family).

Each volume in the series covers a historical period, and all address the same nine major themes repeated across...
We welcome updates from faculty regarding upcoming academic events, please email details to academics@nyu.ac.uk

The winning essay describes a plan to create a garden city of almost 400,000 people by doubling the size of an existing city. This is based on a real, though unidentified, city. It was named Uxcester and created it from an amalgam of at least six other cities, all places with populations nearing 200,000, with long histories, established institutions and settled communities. The essay draws upon URBED’s experience designing neighbourhoods and working to improve the quality of development in the UK. They reached the fundamental conclusion that it is probably impossible to create a Garden City from scratch in the current economic climate and that it is better to graft a Garden City onto an existing city.

The process would be managed by a Garden City Trust that would be owned jointly by the local councils, central government, the local community and land owners – and their stakes would have a tradable capital value. The Garden City Trust would be vested with the land, would commission masterplanning work and then use the equity of the land to raise a Bond to fund the initial investment in infrastructure. Development would take place on a rolling programme with the early land receipts being reinvested.

A description is provided of the seven ages of the Garden City Trust from its conception and birth through its infancy and adolescence to maturity, middle age and eventually retirement. Over time the role of the trust will evolve as it moves from the development stage to the management phase where it will be structured to enable the local community to take on the stewardship of their neighbourhoods. Rising values over the life of the project will allow initial investments to be repaid. The model will be a descendent of the great estates like Grosvenor or The Bournville Village Trust.

The model addresses the weaknesses in the system that have made it difficult to match the quality of the similar schemes found on the continent. Nationally housing production needs to be increased by the equivalent of one Milton Keynes every year. Bold strokes are therefore needed to radically increase the rate at which urban spaces are being built and Uxcester provides a model to do just this.

For more details about the submission, including articles and the full essay, please visit the URBED website at: http://www.urbed.com/wolfson-economic-prize