6th Bochum Historians’ Award

Press Release
(Deadline 14 September, 2017)

Catherine Hall is awarded the Bochum Historians’ Award 2017

British Social and Cultural Historian Catherine Hall is awarded the 6th Bochum Historians’ Award. Endowed with 25,000 euros, the award honours the British historian’s impressive life’s work, who, until retirement, taught at University College London. This decision was announced today by the History of the Ruhr Foundation which, since 2002, has been conferring the award every third year in conjunction with the City of Bochum, Ruhr-Universität Bochum and the Foundation for the Support of Culture and Science of Sparkasse Bochum. The Bochum Historians’ Award is under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the federal state of North Rhine Westphalia, Armin Laschet.

"Without doubt, Catherine Hall is among the methodologically most innovative researchers in the field of social and cultural history worldwide. Her works are greatly acclaimed internationally and are received widely within the scholarly community and beyond. Current socio-political debates on capitalism, gender, class and imperialism also take recourse to her work", states Prof. Stefan Berger, chairman of the History of the Ruhr Foundation, explaining the sponsors’ decision.
Written in 1987 together with Leonore Davidoff, already her very first work "Family Fortunes. Men and Women of the English Middle Class 1780-1850" was received widely and, in the long run, proved to be ground breaking for the international historiography of class and gender relations. Catherine Hall received a Ph.D. from the University of East London in 1992. From 1998 until retirement, she was Professor of Modern Social and Cultural History at University College London. Her research mainly addresses the influence of social classes on history, the category of gender in social historiography and the relationship of metropolis and colonies in the 19th- and 20th-century British Empire. She examined how the experience of Empire was lived ‘at home’ in England and what its bearing was especially on metropolitan life, as well as on the formation of female and male identities in England. She has produced both outstanding and pioneering work by drawing systematic and multi-faceted connections between issues of race, gender and class. Her great international reputation allowed her to lead two major European projects concerning the history of British slave-ownership. Catherine Hall is Chair Emerita of the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slave-Ownership. Hall’s works combine, in methodologically innovative ways, national, colonial and imperial perspectives on the one hand and micro- as well as macro-historical approaches on the other.

By conferring the 6th Bochum Historians’ Award on Catherine Hall, the sponsors make a conscious statement in favour of research that is both politically vocal and scientifically excellent. In Catherine Hall, they honour a researcher who is also a significant public intellectual. Her works, the latest treating the significance of the slavery business to the wealth and power of Great Britain, inspire both scientific and political debates.


The award will be presented at a festivity on 15 November at the House for the History of the Ruhr.
Addition: Bibliography of major works.

- (with Leonore Davidoff) *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class 1780-1850* (Routledge 1987)
- *White, Male and Middle Class: Exploration in Feminism and History* (Polity Press, 1992)
- (ed. with Keith McClelland, Jane Rendall) *Defining The Victorian Nation: Class, Race, Gender and The British Reform Act of 1867* (Cambridge University Press, 2000)
- (ed.) *Cultures of Empire: Colonizers in Britain and the Empire in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Routlege 2000)
- *Civilising Subjects: Metropole And Colony In The English Imagination, 1830-1867* (Chicago University Press 2002)
- *At Home with the Empire: Metropolitan Culture and the Imperial World* (Cambridge University Press, 2006)
- (ed. with Keith McClelland) *Race, Nation and Empire: Making Histories, 1750 to the Present* (Manchester University Press, 2010)
- *Mackay and Son: Architects of Imperial Britain* (Yale University Press, 2012)