Jennifer Hicks
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Running the Empires: The administrative transition from Achaemenid to Seleukid rule
Thesis abstract: I am working on my PhD thesis, provisionally titled ‘Running the Empires: The administrative transition from Achaemenid to Seleukid rule’, as a Wolfson Scholar for History, under the supervision of Dr Riet van Bremen. My work seeks to juxtapose and combine the various Greek, Akkadian, Aramaic and archaeological sources in order to better understand the early administrative development of the Seleukid empire. I am interested in understanding imperial administration, as interaction, and the officials not as a collection of titles but as a network of individuals. I aim to investigate the hinge period between the mature Achaemenid and Seleukid states in terms of processes; not seeking simply to highlight differences (and similarities) between the two, but to understand the complex series of events and decisions which occurred between the mid fourth and mid third centuries. I hope to recognise the earlier roots of Seleukid institutions, but nonetheless to analyse the early Seleukid state on its own terms, as a new exciting, and functioning, entity, rather than merely as a collection of changes and continuities.
Primary Supervisor: Dr Riet van Bremen

Sureshkumar Muthukumaran
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An Ecology of Trade: Tropical Cultivars, Commensals and Fauna between the Near East and South Asia in the 1st Millennium BC
Thesis abstract: My paper endeavours to offer a mélange between history and environmental archaeology by investigating the botanical transfers through maritime and overland routes between the Near East, Mediterranean and South Asia from the age of Assyrian ascendancy to the Hellenistic period (c. 8th-2nd centuries BC) with the aim of assessing the economic, ecological and social impact of this phenomenon. Like the ‘Columbian exchange’ of the early modern period which saw a profusion of New World crops irrevocably altering the palate and landscapes of the Old World, the gradualised process of crop and faunal exchange (including rice, cotton, cucumbers, citrus varieties, poultry and ornamental birds) between South Asia, the Near East and the Mediterranean in the 1st millennium BC marks a watershed in global connectivity. The sources for this highly interdisciplinary study of ecological circuits in antiquity are dispersed in a great many tongues including Akkadian, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Tamil and the Prakrits.
Primary Supervisor: Professor Karen Radner
Francesco Strocchi  
francesco.strocchi.14@ucl.ac.uk  
*Historical Commentary on the Corpus Caesarianum*  
*Anonymous Works*  
**Thesis abstract:** My research will provide a study on the ideology and the partisanship of the Corpus Caesarianum anonymous Bella (Alexandrinum, Africum, Hispaniense). The scattered, incomplete and fragmented accounts will be (re)discovered not only as a uniformly conceived but also completed Corpus. My analysis regards also the Commentarii seen as cultural material, more than mere historical source (not just books but rather an editorial and political event). Therefore the investigation will be on Commentarii’s Model and Intellectual Influence, their style, their publication, distribution, reception and survival.  
**Primary Supervisor:** Dr Valentina Arena  

Roderick White  
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*Locus Classicus: origin branding in Roman luxury markets, 100BC to AD130*  
**Thesis abstract:** The study of brands in the ancient world is relatively new. The Romans regularly attributed places of origin to the ‘best’ of various commodities, a process today known as origin branding (think of champagne, Cheddar cheese, etc). While there are more conventionally-branded product categories in the Roman world, mostly ceramics, these are not usually the subject of literary comment. My thesis uses case studies, embracing literary references and archaeology, of luxury products – ivory, silk, wines and decorative bronze – to explore how these brands were communicated among the Roman elite, using insights from modern branding theory to understand the process.  
**Primary Supervisor:** Dr Benet Salway
Alejandra Concha
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Ecclesiastical dress, social body and cultural codes: Europe and the New World, 13th-16th centuries

Thesis abstract: The research aims at a ‘thick description’ of ecclesiastical and other dress codes in the late Middle Ages. It proposes to combine new tools with old problems: the study of the dress and of the dressing codes of the Late Middle Ages on the one hand, and the way in which both groups and individuals interacted and were organized within medieval society on the other. The late medieval Church is the starting point because it was coterminous with (if not identical to) medieval society tout court and so in its relations of solidarity and in its hierarchy, it reflects some of the ways the society as a whole worked. I hope this approach will suggest new perspectives on the study of the society of the Early Modern period, notably on the sixteenth century Latin America, in which so many medieval attitudes continued. The new colonies attempted to be an extension of their metropolis, particularly during the first two centuries, and were willing to reproduce the social order inherited from Europe. Therefore, by understanding how the latter evolved, it is possible to also have a better grasp of the conformation of this incipient new world’s perception.

Primary Supervisor: Professor David d’Avray

Alison Ray
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The pecia system and its use by the cultural milieu in Paris 1250-1330

Thesis abstract: I study a unique form of book production known as the pecia system that operated in Paris from c1250 to 1330 and the use of this system in the cultural milieu of the city during this period. Paris and its university was the intellectual centre of Western civilisation during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, with scholars travelling from across Europe and further afield to the city for the gaining of knowledge and the exchanging of ideas. The aim of my research is to examine the popular themes of study and sermons amongst the cultural community during this period by comparing the codicological and textual evidence of individual manuscript users found in pecia manuscripts.

Primary Supervisor: Professor David d’Avray
Benedict Wiedemann
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Papal Overlordship and protectio of the King, c. 1000-1373

**Thesis abstract:** My research focuses on Papal “overlordship” of Kings and Kingdoms; the practice of accepting the Pope as suzerain – superior lord – of the Kingdom. I study the development of this process in Europe between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries, the variations, motivations and use of such overlordship and its delineation from protectio, protection granted to certain Kings in the same manner as it was given to Protected Monasteries. Studying Papal overlordship gives insights into Medieval diplomatic, the importance of ritual, legal development and forms of governance. The diplomatic correspondence which I study spans Europe, from the Outer Hebrides to Croatia, which makes for fascinating and wide-ranging comparison.

**Primary Supervisor:** Professor David d’Avray
Lucy Dow
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British Cookery Books and British Identities, 1747-1861
Thesis abstract: My research looks at how cookery books reflect changing British identities between the publication of two key cookery books, Hannah Glasse's 'The Art of Cookery', in 1747 and Isabella Beeton's, 'Beeton's Book of Household Management', in 1860. I analyse not only how recipes changed in terms of what they tasted like and in the range of cuisines they represented but also how they were interpreted and understood within the cookery books and how this represents changing and multiple ideas of British identity in the period. Stemming from this central theme I look at how cookery books interacted with their audiences, the centrality of gender to this particular form of domestic experience, and the constant negotiation of a variety of influences on British food culture in this period. Engaging with a significant body of anthropological investigations into the role of food in determining cultures and expressing identity my intention is to emphasise how cookery books are an important facet in understanding the relationship between domestic culture and wider British identities.
Primary Supervisor: Professor Stephen Conway

Misha Ewen
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'Fit to Put on the Face of Commonwealth'? Commonwealth Discourse, Politics and Culture in England and Virginia, c. 1607-1642
Thesis abstract: My research explores how English colonisation of Virginia interconnected with the domestic political and cultural spheres in the early Stuart period. The thesis takes an interdisciplinary approach to the colonisation project, with chapters on promotional literature, investment and the social networks of investors, the transportation of women, criminals and the poor, the transatlantic tobacco trade and the wider political interests of Virginia Company administrators and colonists. It interrogates how these aspects of colonisation were understood in relation to ideas about commonwealth. I argue that through the lens of commonwealth discourse we can newly appreciate how colonisation permeated early modern English society through the application, and understanding, of a significant early modern keyword.
Primary Supervisor: Professor Jason Peacey

Daisy Gibbs
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'The world must be peopled.' Mercantilism and Citizenship in the English and French empires, 1660-1770
Thesis abstract: English and French colonies represented a meeting point of vastly different peoples. Between 1660 and 1770, while Ireland and its people experienced an influx of English and Scottish 'improvers' and refugees, the New World was peopled, and its indigenous population overrun, by political and religious dissenters from England, Scotland and other European nations; by eager adventurers and indentured servants and by profiteer planters
and their forcibly imported African slaves. Because of this heterogeneity and due to the very nature of colonies, these societies raise questions about national belonging and citizenship. At this time early economists such as Petty and Defoe surmised that the wealth of a nation was derived from the size of its workforce. Humble citizens were in fact a national economic resource. Many of those settlers of the peripheries, the American continent, the Caribbean Islands and Ireland, together with some members of the indigenous populations, made an economic contribution to the colonial centre. Therefore they might be seen as economic citizens of the centre. I intend to investigate whether the convergence of economic goals was indeed enough to confer a notion of citizenship on the variety of peoples who dwelled or came to dwell in the colonies of England.

**Primary Supervisor:** Professor Julian Hoppit

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**Eilish Gregory**

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*The Sequestrations and Networks of Catholic Gentry in Seventeenth Century England, 1642-c.1660*

**Thesis abstract:** My thesis focuses on how English Catholics engaged and navigated themselves through sequestration and compounding legislation from the Civil War in 1642 until the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660. I argue that the sequestration sanctions were completely transformed during this period, having originally been used as a penalty against Catholics to confiscate their properties and personal goods in exchange for a compounding fine. Instead, the legislation across this period was used against delinquents who had fought against Parliament, and it was from this alteration in the rhetoric that Catholics had to re-learn how to navigate and successfully obtain their estates back. I also examine the relationships between Catholics and Protestants during this period, as Protestants were often willing to assist Catholics when they were indicated with sequestration, demonstrating that Catholics were integrated in the English community.

**Primary Supervisor:** Professor Jason Peacey

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**Estelle Paranque**

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*The words of a monarch: power, authority and self-representation: Elizabeth I of England and Henry III of France, 1562-1589*

**Thesis abstract:** My research focuses on the succession crisis that occurred in France and England at the end of the sixteenth century. Indeed, in 1589, the French Valois dynasty came to an end, fourteen years later the English Tudor dynasty knew the same fate. This study will mainly focus on the words of princes but also on other important materials (French General Estates records, Calendar of State Papers, contemporaries writings). In a comparative approach, I will pay attention to English monarchs’ (Elizabeth I and James I) speeches, letters, prayers and any other forms of expression as well as their French counterparts (Henri III and Henri IV). The aim will be to identify and understand the stakes of the succession crisis. Parallels and differences will be drawn between the different monarchs’ rhetoric and uses of language. It is important to point out that we need to understand the term rhetoric in its broader sense. It is not only about linguistics tricks but how rhetoric was part of monarchs’ politics and the process of decision-making.

**Primary supervisor:** Professor Jason Peacey
Place and Space in Restoration London: how urban landscape influenced political culture (W/T)

Thesis abstract: With the restored monarchy, The Great Plague and The Great Fire, the Restoration was an unprecedented period in London history. Arguably, there has never been a time when the places and spaces of London had greater symbolic and literal importance. Yet the spatial dimensions of the city during this time have rarely been examined in detail. The Restoration is almost always studied as part of a trajectory, and examined in terms of its capacity to give birth to the developments of the eighteenth century. When it comes to historical theory, the Restoration is ‘a period artificially wedded to its future, and artificially severed from its past’. Harnessing the ‘Spatial Turn’, my research examines this crucial period in its own right. Drawing on the work of historians and thinkers such as Michel de Certeau, Edward Muir and Henri Lefebvre, I hope to generate questions that may have gone unasked and isolate interactions that might have gone unnoticed to fill a very real gap in historical understanding. Ultimately I aim to explore how the political culture of this period was both confined and provoked by the shape and nature of the spaces in their city.

Primary Supervisor: Professor Jason Peacey
**Catherine Beck**  
*Patronage in the Royal Navy 1776-1815*  
*Thesis abstract:* Patronage was the system of reciprocal favours that greased eighteenth-century social machinery. It was a system of personal relationships and professional, familial and political networks. The Royal Navy was both intimately involved in these wider eighteenth-century relationships and networks, and distanced by the way in which the system was manipulated and warped by the calls of the service. The recent acquisition by the National Maritime Museum of the papers and letters of Admiral John Markham are the basis of this thesis. Markham was a Lord of the Admiralty between 1801 and 1807 and served under the first lords John Jervis, Lord St Vincent; Charles Grey, Lord Howick; and Thomas Grenville. The collection is highly valuable as it contains many direct patronage requests made to Markham, casting a light on the inner workings of the Admiralty. It also contains many of Markham’s personal letters which, with his strong Yorkshire and Scottish connections as well as his correspondence with his wife, highlight the effect of region and gender on the operation of patronage. This thesis aims to place the Royal Navy in the context of eighteenth-century personal networks and, using Markham as a focal point, to develop a detailed and nuanced discussion of Royal Naval patronage from the First Lord of the Admiralty to the dockyard artificer.  
*Primary Supervisor:* Professor Stephen Conway

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**Raul Burgos Pinto**  
*Rethinking Chilean Conservatism and its political project, 1932-1973*  
*Thesis abstract:* My research explores the main influences that shaped Conservatism in Chile during the 20th century, especially considering the global factors related to the Cold War and how the Conservative ideas were developed impacting on the public sphere in Chilean society from the 1930s to 1970s. My studies are funded by the scholarship programme “Becas Chile” of the Chilean government.  
*Primary Supervisor:* Professor Nicola Miller

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**James Dawkins**  
*The Presence of the Dawkins Family in England and Jamaica, 1763-1833*  
*Thesis abstract:* My study is titled ‘The Presence of the Dawkins Family in England and Jamaica, 1763-1833’, and forms part of the second phase of UCL’s broader 3-year ESRC funded project entitled the Legacies of British Slave-ownership. This programme seeks to explore and understand the contribution of the transatlantic slave economy and its legacies to the social and industrial development of 18th and 19th century Britain.
My thesis explores the history of the Dawkins family from their settlement in Jamaica to the establishment of their major properties in the metropole. The focus is on the period 1763 – 1833, from the high-point of the slavery business to its abolition. Having built up substantial plantations in Jamaica and become part of the White elite, the family were able to use the wealth derived from the expropriation of enslaved African labour to establish themselves as members of English landed society. The thesis will explore both the management of the plantations – and so far as possible the lives of the enslaved – and the family’s strategies to enter metropolitan society. The primary sources comprise the rich public and private archives of the Dawkins family. This case study of a key West Indian family will help to shed light on the transatlantic structure and significance of British slavery.

**Primary Supervisor:** Professor Catherine Hall

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**Alessandro de Arcangelis**

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*Hegelians on the slopes of Vesuvius: A transnational study on the intellectual history of Naples (1815-1861)*

**Thesis abstract:** My thesis explores the intellectual exchange between German and Italian - specifically Neapolitan - intellectuals during the first half of the XIX century, in connection with the 1848 revolutionary movements, as well as the process of political unification of the country. It aims at challenging the traditional verdict on the Risorgimento, portraying Southern Italy as backwards and culturally static region, by highlighting how the intellectual vivacity of Naples, coupled with the city’s remarkably cosmopolitan orientation, played an important role in shaping cultural and political debate on the eve of the unification.

**Primary Supervisor:** Professor Axel Körner

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**Matt Griffin**

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*The Peculiar Environment: Climate, Race and Regional Identity in the Antebellum United States*

**Thesis abstract:** My project uses mid-nineteenth-century Americans’ perceptions of the physical environment as a lens through which to view a multitude of issues that lay at the heart of American politics and society in the decades leading up to the American Civil War of 1861-65. A venerable historiographical tradition posits that the American South’s peculiar environment was a root cause of that region’s supposed distinctiveness, both in the nineteenth century and into the present day. My research seeks to historicise these assertions, examining how nineteenth-century Americans, North and South, thought about this problem through successive sectional crises, culminating in the creation of what claimed to be a separate Southern nation and a bloody Civil War. I argue that many of these Americans attributed to climate and the physical environment a far greater influence than we would today. They saw themselves as part of a powerful ecosystem that had the ability to shape regional character, determine the destiny of slavery and decide the fates of what they saw as the different races of man. By approaching the issue from this angle, I hope to shed new light on how mid-nineteenth-century Americans saw their world and consequently contribute to our understanding of the causes of the Civil War.

**Primary Supervisor:** Dr Adam Smith
Kevin Guyan
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Postwar planning, domestic space and the production of masculinities in Britain, c. 1945-1966
Thesis abstract: My research explores how planning experts, including architects and sociologists, used the design of domestic space to produce new performances of masculinity in Britain in the 1940s and 1950s. I explore the belief among planners that reconfiguring men’s everyday use and experience of the home would bring about new patterns of daily life and create masculine identities more appropriate for an envisaged New Britain. I then position this ‘spirit of postwar planning’ as part of an overarching desire among experts to construct a new social order from the instability following the Second World War, and examine how these ideas were conveyed through model housing, exhibitions and education organisations.
Primary Supervisor: Dr Michael Collins

Takaki Nishiyama
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The International Leviathan: The British Imperial Institution and the East Asian Ab-intra States System, 1842-1943
Thesis abstract: My PhD research, ‘The International Leviathan: The British Imperial Institution and the East Asian Ab-intra States System, 1842-1943’ is in the history of international law and international relations in East Asia from the mid nineteenth to mid twentieth century. The primary purpose of my research is to explore the function of international law and relevant legal instruments in the relationship between different world orders of East Asian and Euro-American countries. My research will show not only comparison or contrast between ‘civilisations’, but also their political, social and economic interaction through international law.
My research is interdisciplinary and relevant to British imperial history, East Asian international history and the history of international law. While the history of international law has previously been subordinated to the interests of international jurisprudence, this project will locate the development of international law in the historical context.
Primary Supervisor: Dr Vivienne Lo

Hana Qugana
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The Cultural Politics of Englishness: John Hargrave, the Kibbo Kift and Social Credit, 1920-1939
Thesis abstract: The Kindred of the Kibbo Kift, an interwar organisation helmed by John Gordon Hargrave, has been discussed primarily as a subsidiary of the Social Credit, Woodcraft, Scouting, and European Youth movements. Existing scholarship moreover evinces a pervading ethos of idiosyncratic eclecticism, whereas the Kin’s alternative significance as ‘the only genuine English national movement of modern times’ has garnered considerably less attention. This study situates the movement within a historicised context of Englishness to assess the extent to which it intervened in key debates over national identity between the World Wars. It
argues that the Kibbo Kift’s universalist notions and national preoccupations complemented each other to convey an evocative vision of British culture and society that was identifiably English in character. It manifested in a variety of guises throughout the 1920s and 1930s, such as the construction of an archaic English past empathetic with the ‘global primitive,’ domesticated modernism, the negotiation of gender roles, political economy, activism and life reform. The resonance of Hargrave’s writings and the Kindred’s outlook with certain German Youth factions precursory to the Hitler Youth strengthens the view that the Kin was not merely a degenerative, foreign form, but a dynamic national movement in its own right. Correspondingly this piece complicates perceptions of national movements encompassing conservative and socialist elements more generally and contributes to larger discussions on the invention of tradition, decline and declinism, and the new imperial history. It also provides insight into cosmopolitan nationalist alternatives in the wake of parliamentary devolution in the British Isles and continuing attempts to understand Britain and Europe’s imperial past.

**Primary Supervisor:** Dr Michael Collins

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**Harry Stopes**  
[Email](harry.stopes.09@ucl.ac.uk)  
**Transnational centres of provincial modernity: Manchester and Lille 1860-1914**  
**Thesis abstract:** My work, funded by a studentship from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, concerns the relationship between the local and the transnational in late nineteenth century ways of thinking about the city. In particular I am concerned with provincial industrial cities and the (apparent) paradox of provincial transnationality. Manchester and Lille are the case studies.  
**Primary Supervisor:** Professor Axel Körner

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**Marjolein Van Bavel**  
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**The narratives of British women and men who posed for Playboy and Playgirl magazine between the 1960s and the early 2000s**  
**Thesis abstract:** My research project studies the narratives of British female and male models who posed for the magazines Playboy and Playgirl between the 1960s and early 2000s, and their relationship to changing societal discourses about the body, femininity, masculinity and empowerment since the ‘sexual revolution’ of the 1960s. From the outset, both within and outside the academy, the common view of a continuous transition to a more liberal attitude towards issues of gender and sexuality has been criticized as triumphalist and inaccurate. Consequently, debates on pornography were polarized between those who saw its boom in the wake of the sexual revolution as a force of progress (i.e. sexual liberation) and those who understood it as a clear sign of women’s continued repression and exploitation. By making use of women and men’s individual testimonies, i.e. self-narratives, I explore if and how this supposed transition towards more liberal attitudes since the 1960s, the polarized discourses fuelled by it, and the emergence of the new discourse of active-sexualisation in the supposedly postfeminist and neoliberal context of the 1990s, were subjectively experienced by the nude models that stood at the heart of the controversy.  
**Primary supervisor:** Dr Helga Satzinger
Josh White
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Material culture, consumption and ideas in Anglo-American punk rock, 1970-1990

Thesis abstract: My research explores the transnational history of punk as it moved in a variety of ways between the United States and Britain in the 1970s and 1980s. I focus in particular on material culture, tracing the value and meaning given by punks to the objects they created and used, and the ways in which materials helped to shape intellectual identities, consumer desires, fashion styles and aesthetics of protest. Despite being one of the most significant subcultures in modern history, punk has rarely been understood as a transnational movement of ideas, materials, markets and people. As such, my work analyses how conceptual histories and material histories intersect and react to each other in dynamic geographic and temporal spaces.

Primary supervisor: Professor Bernhard Rieger