Founded in 1826, UCL is one of the world’s leading multi-disciplinary universities. It is a diverse intellectual community, engaged with the wider world and committed to the integration of education, research, innovation and enterprise for the long-term benefit of humanity.

UCL has 38,900 students, of whom 18,300 are undergraduates and 20,600 are postgraduates. More than 15,500 students come from countries outside the UK. This diversity characterises UCL’s unique community of committed, engaged and intellectually curious students.

53% of UCL’s student community is engaged in graduate studies, with nearly a third of these pursuing research degrees. Students benefit from UCL’s active exchange and research links with nearly 300 overseas universities, and also from the immediate accessibility of the internationally significant resources of London, including the British Library and British Museum as well as Senate House and the University of London Library. Being a student at UCL is a genuinely cosmopolitan and metropolitan experience and students enjoy the rich combination of being on campus as well as engaging with one of the world’s great capital cities. Individual departments benefit from being situated in London and have developed strong relationships and special agreements with a range of industry-specific contacts, cultural institutions, businesses, governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the House of Lords, Marie Curie Cancer Care, the Wellcome Trust, the Imperial War Museum, the Institute of Philosophy, the National Gallery, Tate, the Institute of Fiscal Studies, along with a number of embassies representing countries from Colombia to China and across the Middle East.

UCL’s Institute of Advanced Studies is closely aligned with the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social & Historical Sciences. Together, these faculties form a renowned centre of excellence where research of world-leading quality feeds directly into programmes of study within traditional discipline-based departments, as well as those with an area focus or a consciously cross-disciplinary approach. The IAS has a central place in an outward facing, globally orientated university devoted to developing and protecting the research cultures of both ‘arts’ and ‘sciences’, and to seeking points of interaction and dialogue across traditional institutional and disciplinary boundaries.
Over the past year, the IAS has consolidated its position as UCL’s most prominent and visible forum for adventurous, inter-disciplinary thinking across the humanities and social sciences. In a period of unprecedented political upheaval and accelerated global change (technologically, environmentally, electorally), the IAS has provided a space for critical reflection, in-depth inquiry and intellectual engagement across departments and subject-specific boundaries. Panels, workshops, reading groups, seminars and conferences have included discussions on the futures of democracy, capitalism and ‘post-capitalism’, the persistence of ‘racialised’ thinking, competing ways of conceptualising ‘freedom’, the long histories of nationalism and internationalism, the remapping and reimagining of the planet in the face of political change, migration flows and territorial unease, the relationship between health and its social determinants and the embodiment and theorisation of pain, both physical and psychic.

Professor Tamar Garb
November 2017
Our 2016–17 research themes, ‘Sense and Sensation’ and ‘Planetary Futures’, not only supported four Junior Research Fellows’ individual research and publications but functioned as catalysts for thinking and working between disciplines and drawing in participants from across UCL and further afield. 2016–17 also saw the expansion and increased activity of our cross-departmental research centres whose work has ranged from small-scale, intensive seminars to larger public-facing events. The Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Indian Ocean World collaborated with UCL’s Indian Voices festival to host an evening with film-maker Gurinder Chadha (Director of Viceroy’s House) and another with Mercury Prize winner Talvin Singh who performed on the tabla to rapturous applause; the China Centre for Health and Humanity organised an unprecedented festival of Chinese films referencing medicine, sexuality and the body; Refuge in a Moving World convened theatre workshops, panels and platforms; qUCL and the Gender and Feminism Network organised sessions ranging from black, feminist and queer intersections, histories of sex-trafficking, the borders of bio-politics and Brexit, to critiques of London’s changing night life. The full range of the other centres we support is covered in this annual review, each evidencing a lively programme of research-based and outwardly facing initiatives. A new research centre that has emerged this year is the Centre for Critical Heritage Studies, co-convened with the University of Gothenburg and supported by UCL’s Department of Archaeology, which offers a new focal point to bring together researchers across UCL engaged with questioning ideas of ‘heritage’ at the same time as addressing perceived and actual threats to the material and immaterial cultures that define us.

Representational and aesthetic issues continue to be at the heart of IAS-based activities and we have curated artists and writers’ talks, multi-media presentations and performances, displays and screenings as ways of expanding and exploring the intersection between humanities-based thinking/creating and theoretically informed, empirically grounded research. IAS presentations by writers and artists including Abdurrazak Gurnah, John Akomfrah, Philippe Sands, Zineb Sedira and Subodh Kerkar have all addressed the ways in which the creative practices of making and writing provide a vantage point through which to explore the relationships between self and history, internal and external worlds.

During 2016–17, the IAS sought to create an inclusive and welcoming research environment for all UCL-based researchers. PhD students in the arts, humanities and social sciences use our facilities, convene workshops, study groups and research-based networks, and we have funded a range of research-student generated activities through the ‘Octagon’ programme. In addition, we have looked beyond the UK, building partnerships across the globe. Significant amongst these has been the collaboration with the University of Sydney Environment Institute with which we convened the ground-breaking ‘Planetary Poetics’ workshop in September 2017. Crucial to its success was the keynote lecture delivered by the IAS’s first Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow, Professor Rosi Braidotti (University of Utrecht), who went on to convene four more seminars focusing on the ideas of ‘cosmos’, ‘affect’ and ‘polis’ for UCL researchers drawn from many departments and specialisms. Exciting too is the development of our collaboration with Peking University, which involves a programme of reciprocal fellowships in which four PKU scholars join us over the next year while an equivalent number of UCL scholars will travel to Beijing the following year. We are planning a joint workshop on critical approaches to ‘area’ with PKU as part of our ongoing ‘Area Studies Re-mapped’ agenda, to be held in London in autumn 2018. Initiatives such as these are generously supported by UCL’s Global Engagement Office and, with their backing, we are developing further partnerships in Africa and Canada. Our African connections are growing through the African Health and Humanities Wellcome-funded research centre, directed by Professor Megan Vaughan, who convened a pan-African conference at the University of Malawi this year.

In all, then, this has been an outstanding year for the IAS. We have grown over a very short time from being an idea to being a reality. Besides our thematically driven and research centre-based initiatives, we have hosted ten book launches of UCL staff-contributed publications, convened lively discussion platforms for our growing number of Visiting Research Fellows under the ‘Talking Points’ label, hosted our weekly residential seminar for the growing number of Junior Research Fellows and research associates we accommodate (eight in the past academic year) as well as the non-stipendiary VRFs (15 over the same period.) This means that the IAS functions on many levels: it is an intimate enabling environment for thinking and working individually and in a community, a forum for discussion and debate that draws in partners/participants from across the joint faculties and further afield, as well as bringing in an engaged and interested public from beyond UCL itself. It is increasingly becoming the locus for international meetings and collaborations. Its energy and creativity is a testimony to the community from which it draws, one that is growing and developing all the time.
Planetary Futures
Dr Aline-Florence Manent, a historian, and Dr David Jeevendrampillai, an anthropologist, worked in tandem to host a year-long seminar series and reading group investigating ‘the planetary’ as a scale of inquiry and as an object of study from a genuinely interdisciplinary perspective. Meeting bi-monthly, the reading group brought together UCL staff and students from the departments of Anthropology, Geography, History of Art and Philosophy around a diverse set of texts. The seminar series deepened the reflection on the construction of planetary imaginaries, straddling traditional academic divides. Artist Nahum Mantra (Cosmica & ITACUSS) spoke about art and magic in space exploration; legal scholar Jill Stuart (LSE) offered some considerations on the philosophy, law and ethics of extra-terrestrial politics; Allen Abramson (UCL) gave a paper entitled ‘Infinite Universe, Open Modernity. Transforming Scientific Cosmology into Cultural Fact’; intellectual historian, Or Rosenboim (Cambridge), presented her new book The Emergence of Globalism; and legal historian Mira Siegelberg (QMUL) explained the salience of the history of statelessness for envisioning planetary futures.
Sense and Sensation

The core research activity that Dr Alicia Spencer-Hall (a medieval literature specialist) and Dr Dhanveer Singh Brar (a contemporary cultural theorist) organised over the course of their joint tenure at the IAS was the Sense and Sensation seminar series. This was a monthly seminar which created an environment for researchers working across UCL to showcase a strand of their ongoing research related to the theme of sense and sensation. The speakers featured over the year included Melanie Jackson (Slade), Hanna Hölling (History of Art) and Matthew Beaumont (English/Urban Lab). There was a wide range of themes and subject matter discussed in the series, including Caspar David Friedrich’s *The Monk by the Sea*, the sensational qualities of milk and material transitions in the work of Nam June Paik. Overall, the seminar series engendered debates outside traditionally conceived disciplines, forged fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations and enriched our understanding of how questions of ‘Sense and Sensation’ shape our knowledge of the world.
The IAS has provided a home for already established research forums as well as newly formed initiatives. There is no uniform model for IAS Research Centres and they include the research element of extensive frameworks (e.g. CMII), externally funded units (e.g. CCHS), experimental forums (e.g. FRINGE) and thematically driven research clusters (e.g. CCVHGS and CREDOC).

> Centre for Critical Heritage Studies
> Centre for Early Modern Exchanges
> Centre for Editing Lives and Letters
> Centre for Multidisciplinary & Intercultural Inquiry
> Centre for Research into the Dynamics of Civilisation
> FRINGE Centre
> Gender and Feminism Network
> Health Humanities Centre
> qUCL
> The UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The IAS provides a home for the LGBTQ network (qUCL) as well as the Gender and Feminism Network. In addition, the IAS is working to consolidate and co-ordinate the extensive work across Health and Humanities currently being undertaken at UCL. Each research centre brings colleagues, research students and visiting speakers from multiple disciplines, periods and geopolitical contexts into dialogue with one another.
Critical Heritage Studies is a newly emerging interdisciplinary field, which is concerned with exploring the ways in which the past is used in the present as living heritage to actively assemble futures. It represents an engaged academic response to the political, demographic and economic effects of globalisation, in which the past is mobilised in various new ways that we wish to investigate and understand in order to provide critical alternatives.

The Centre for Critical Heritage Studies (CCHS) is a collaborative international, interdisciplinary research centre, jointly run between the University of Gothenburg and UCL. At UCL, it operates as an inter-faculty research centre led by the Institute of Archaeology and hosted and located in the Institute of Advanced Studies. Its remit is to respond to the challenges posed by heritigisation processes and globalisation, including the hegemony of North Atlantic universals in heritage policy and practice.

2016–17 saw the expansion and increased activity of our cross-departmental research centres whose work has ranged from small-scale, intensive seminars to larger public-facing events.
A major international conference held in conjunction with the Queen’s House in Greenwich celebrated the 500th anniversary of the birth of Mary I (‘Bloody Mary’), showcasing an unknown cache of documents discovered in UCL’s Ogden Collection. Postgraduate research projects in progress included everything from academic administration in the Middle Ages to climate change and social revolutions in the Little Ice Age, the history of the book in Latin America, the spatial and social margins of early modern London, the Aristotelianism of Dante, Menippean satire in the work of Alberti to Madame de Staël and popular sovereignty. Its regular seminars included sessions on the recycling of book waste, English merchants’ travel narratives and the autobiographical traces of livery company clerks, as well as an innovative ‘Flash Seminar’ attempting to offer an historical perspective on the current migrant crisis.

In 2016–17, the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters (CELL) received renewed funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for The Archaeology of Reading in Early Modern Europe (AOR); work also continued on Building a Library Without Walls, as well as grant applications for several new projects. In October 2016, CELL hosted a launch event for AOR’s interactive website, including a workshop for graduate students and researchers on the history of reading and the Digital Humanities. It also hosted Christopher Warren, Associate Professor of English at Carnegie Mellon University, as a visiting research fellow at UCL in May and June 2017, which was funded by a UCL Big Data Institute visitor grant.

**Centre for Editing Lives and Letters**

The signature of Thomas Bodley

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CMII is a vibrant centre housing intercultural and multidisciplinary teaching and research programmes that range from the early modern to the present. These programmes include Film Studies, Translation Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, European Studies, African Studies, Health Humanities and the PPE of Health, Early Modern Studies and Comparative Literature. Academics and researchers from across UCL faculties are involved in the programmes, including Arts and Humanities, Social and Historical Sciences, the Institute of Education, the Bartlett School of Architecture and Population Health Sciences. CMII pays critical attention to the relationship of the global to the local, regional and national. It currently has around 70 PhD students and 270 Masters students. Recent projects include the conference in June 2017 on ‘Centralized Ownership, Regional Infrastructures’ which represents a major new contribution to the study of Asian media conglomerates. Speakers considered the proliferation of pay-TV, cable and satellite TV channels, film, music and gaming emerging via new infrastructural media systems that over the last ten years have sustained intra-regional flows of content across China, Japan, South Korea, and elsewhere in Asia. Colleagues in Translation Studies are creating a Crisis Translation network called RISE INTERACT and have successfully secured a Horizon2020 grant to support their research.

CREDOC analyses civilisation from a number of directions: exploring the emergence of the concept in the European enlightenment; interrogating its re-emergence in popular political debate; and analysing comparatively its use in China, India, Africa and the Middle East as a counter to the West. Its international conference ‘Food, Drink and Civilisation’ sought to enhance understanding of how eating and drinking shape our sense of self and other, and can define us as civilised or savage. A series of workshops on Civilisation and its Mobilisation Today explored the renewed value given to the concept in China (as the government lays claim to representing a 5,000 year-old civilisation) and in Europe and the United States (thanks to Brexit and the rise of right-wing nationalism). CREDOC also awarded grants to conferences or panels on Alexander the Great, the city in the early Islamic world, Rousseau and how climate change might be driving civilisational collapse.
The FRINGE Centre explores the roles that complexity, ambivalence and immeasurability play in social and cultural phenomena. A cross-disciplinary initiative bringing together scholars from the humanities and social sciences, FRINGE examines how seemingly opposed notions such as centrality and marginality, and clarity and ambiguity, can shift and converge when embedded in everyday practices. Our interest lies in the hidden complexity of all embedded practices, taken-for-granted and otherwise invisible subjects. Illuminating the ‘fringe’ thus puts the ‘centre’ in a new light.

FRINGE began the year with ‘The Walls Don’t Speak’, an examination of representations of mental health and mental illness with acclaimed social anthropologist Florence Weber (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris) and photographer Jean-Robert Dantou. Its second event, ‘Economies of Favours after Socialism’, organised with the University of Oxford, challenged the notion that favours operate outside of the economic sphere. The series concluded with an international workshop entitled ‘Comparative Approaches to Informal Housing around the Globe’, whose aim was to open up new perspectives and to develop meaningful comparisons on informal and illegal housing in distinct geographical regions and contexts.
In 2016–17, the Health Humanities Centre organised or co-organised two international conferences and workshops entitled ‘Towards Transcultural Histories of Psychotherapies’ and ‘Exploring Transcultural Histories of Psychotherapies’, the papers from the first of which are forthcoming in a special issue of the European Journal for Counselling, Psychotherapy and Health. A workshop on Transcultural Digital Health Humanities was also held in conjunction with the UCL China Centre for Health and Humanity, co-organised by Peking University and funded by a Wellcome Trust seed award. In addition, there were the UCL/KCL Joint Bioethics Colloquium, the History of Psychological Disciplines Seminar Series and the regular Health Humanities Seminar Series. In addition to running the Politics, Philosophy and Economics of Health MA and the new Health Humanities MA, the Health Humanities Centre has also set up a Health Humanities PhD programme.

2016–17 was the inaugural year for the revamped Gender and Feminism Network under the aegis of the IAS, and it held a fruitful schedule of seminars, workshops and conferences. The year kicked off with an international conference, co-organised by the Gender and Feminism Network, the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, and the Jordan Center at New York University, on ‘Gender, Population and Power in Modern Russia’. The other gala event for the year was an enriching seminar with Juliet Mitchell to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of her influential ‘Women: the Longest Revolution’, which attracted over ninety attendees. Other seminars during the year examined rhetoric in Hillary Clinton's emails, trafficking in women from interwar Britain and the politics of surrogacy in contemporary India.
qUCL is a university-wide initiative that brings together UCL staff and students with interests in LGBTQ studies, gender and sexuality studies, queer theory and related fields. qUCL’s Queer Space Research Forum, a new initiative for 2016–17, hosted sessions on a range of topics including queer film in the 1970s, gender diversity and the law, discourses of AIDS, transnationalism and sexuality, and LGBTQ work and nightlife. In May, the network organised a panel, supported by the Octagon Small Grants Fund, on ‘Black/Feminist/Queer: Intersections’, featuring scholars and artists working across black, feminist and queer studies. qUCL also organised or co-sponsored several events as part of UCL Festival of Culture 2017, including ‘Queering the Museum’ and ‘1967: A Sexual Revolution’.
The Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies adopts multi-disciplinary approaches to understanding the processes, character and implications of collective violence, past and present. The Centre’s Junior Research Fellow Stefanie Rauch, who is preparing a major oral history collection on perpetration and complicity in Nazi Germany for scholarly access, and Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Joanna Michlic, whose research includes work on Jewish childhood in Eastern Europe, were appointed in 2016.

The Centre organised several interdisciplinary events throughout the year. Among the highlights were a conference on Perpetration, Collaboration and Complicity in Nazi-dominated Europe with speakers including Sue Vice, Caroline Sharples, and Karl Figlio; a seminar on comparative genocide and collective violence in Nazi Germany and Sierra Leone with Kieran Mitton and Franziska Karpinski; and a workshop on Interpreting Perpetrators with contributions from, among others, Mary Fulbrook, Stephanie Bird, Mark Hewitson, Clare Bielby and Susanne Luhmann.
The Centre has continued to grow in its second year. The regular seminar series has continued, with presentations by Natasha Cornea (Visiting Fellow, Department of Geography) and Manujendra Kundu (University of Delhi). In collaboration with the UCL-Grand Challenges ‘India Voices’ programme, the Centre has been able to host a diverse range of speakers and events, from a screening and public discussion with the internationally-acclaimed filmmaker, Gurinder Chadha, on the occasion of the release of *Viceroy’s House*, to a performance and discussion with the Mercury Prize-winning musician, Talvin Singh. Other events included a seminar with the founder-director of the Goa Museum, Subodh Kerkar, a screening and discussion with the writer of the film *Aligarh*, and an exhibition of work by the photographers Sunil Gupta, Charan Singh, Indu Antony and Jijo Kuriakose entitled ‘Living Disobediently’ (the latter events organised in collaboration with SOAS Queer Asia).
The UCL African Studies Research Centre has had a busy year. It has convened a regular seminar series showcasing UCL research in Africa with talks on diverse topics including youth employment and training in Kenya, ageing in Burkina Faso, democracy in Somaliland, colonial training in Cameroon, vaccinations in Malawi, Pygmy culture, art and politics in South Africa, cancer treatment in Uganda, renewable energy sources in Malawi and Rwanda, taxation in South Africa and citizenship in Liberia. Several high profile events have also drawn in diverse audiences: Professor Address Malata, Vice Chancellor at Malawi University of Science and Technology spoke about healthcare systems; Professor Deborah Posel from the University of Cape Town spoke about non-racialism in South Africa; and film maker Samantha Iwowo screened film extracts and spoke about the process of making films in Nollywood. The Centre also co-ran a one-day conference on the science, politics and power of climate change narratives in Eastern Africa and co-convenered a workshop on new approaches in Ugandan studies.

China Centre for Health and Humanity

UCL’s China Centre for Health and Humanity has hosted four major interdisciplinary and international workshops and conferences this year. It began with the three-day workshop event, Cross-cultural Medical Humanities in a Digital World, at which thirty medical historians, anthropologists and global health specialists, were set in dialogue with film, social media and digital humanities experts. The event showcased histories and cultures of self-reflection as well as auto-practices and practices of the imagination used in the promotion of longevity and/or well-being. This event was followed by ten workshops on Chinese Film which served as the focus for debate on important issues in the cross-cultural Medical Humanities, such as disability, madness and old age.

The IAS hosted three events on controversial issues in bioethics in China: abortion, the doctor-patient relationship and stem cell treatment. It was also the venue for an international conference on the 2nd-century BCE Laoguanshan 老官山 tomb finds, jointly convened with the International Centre for Chinese Heritage and Archaeology. This was the first event outside China to present the excavation report and findings of the team who are transcribing and analysing the material. Vivienne Lo, CCHH Director, also holds her PhD reading group at the IAS and participated in the Sense and Sensation Seminar with the lecture ‘Sense and Sensuality in Ancient China’.
European Institute
The European Institute is UCL’s hub for research, collaboration and information on Europe and the EU. It promotes academic excellence in the study of Europe at UCL, working to provide a leading forum for intellectual debate and acting as liaison between UCL and policymaking communities. 2016–17 was characterised by growth in terms of staff, funding and research outputs. The European Institute was awarded Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence status, enabling it to significantly expand its activities. Its Academic Director, Professor Piet Eeckhout, was appointed Dean of UCL Laws, and its Executive Director, Dr Uta Staiger, was appointed UCL’s Pro-Vice-Provost (Europe).

The European Institute convened dozens of public events, hosting distinguished guests such as Shadow Brexit Secretary Sir Keir Starmer and German Ambassador Peter Ammon. Its diverse series of publications, articles, blogs and podcasts, as well as the UCL Brexit Hub, also engaged wide audiences with UCL’s work on Europe, and its representatives frequently commented on Brexit-related issues in the media. Visiting Professor Eva Hoffman convened three seminars at the IAS entitled ‘Conceptions of Freedom’ addressing the topics of psychoanalysis, neuroscience and religion. This series will continue in 2018.

Finally, the European Institute provided financial and administrative support to countless new research projects, such as the LGBTQ Migration initiative and a conference exploring ‘Populism in a Historical Context’.

Institute of the Americas
UCLIA organised and hosted 75 public events during the academic year 2016–17, including lectures, conferences, symposia, roundtables, seminars, book launches, film screenings, masterclasses, short courses and public debates. It collaborated with external institutions and organisations such as the Institute of Historical Research, Oxford, Cambridge, King’s College London, the LSE, Yale, Columbia, Brigham Young University, New York University (NYU), El Colegio de Mexico, Universidad de Salamanca, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, foreign embassies and NGOs. Highlights of the year include the visit of Sir Keir Starmer MP for the Annual Eleanor Roosevelt lecture; delegations from the Argentine and Ecuadorean embassies in London and distinguished academics to analyse and discuss the results of their respective presidential elections; UCLIA’s visit to the FCO to deliver a tailored short course to a select group of civil servants; the visit of distinguished Colombian human rights lawyer Reinaldo Villalba for a roundtable co-hosted with Peace Brigades International, amongst many other high-profile public events.
Refuge in a Moving World

Now in its second year, Refuge in a Moving World network’s major public events this year included a dynamic conversation with the renowned novelist and critic Professor Abdulrazak Gurnah, who read selected extracts from his novels and discussed the roles of narration and literary criticism in the context of migration and displacement from, within and to East Africa and Europe. The network co-convened a series of major events, including a spatial installation and symposium exploring ‘Spaces of Refuge’ (led by colleagues from the Bartlett School of Architecture and UCL Geography) and ‘Building resilience for children in low and middle income countries’ (led by colleagues from the Evidence Based Practice Unit). The network also co-sponsored the conference ‘Victims of Human Trafficking: A Multidisciplinary Problematization of a Category’ (convened by IAS Visiting Research Fellow Dr Runa Lazzarino) and the 2017 Migration Research Unit Student Conference entitled ‘Between Borders: Exploring Spaces of Exclusion and Belonging in Global Migration’ (convened by the MSc Global Migration Students in UCL Geography). The network supported a PhD Workshop on Refugee and Asylum Law with legal scholar, Professor James Hathaway (co-convened by Dr Richard Mole, SSEES and Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, UCL Geography). Further strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration on forced migration research across, and beyond, UCL, the Refuge in a Moving World PhD Wing was also launched in January this year, with affiliated postgraduate researchers organising a series of reading groups, film screenings and exhibition visits to explore experiences and representations of, and responses to, displacement.

The Refuge in a Moving World network and initiative was showcased at a range of UCL-wide events, including at the UCL for Refugee Education week (organised by UCL Student Support & Wellbeing in collaboration with UCLU and Student Action for Refugees) and the first UCL Humanitarian Summit (convened by the new UCL Humanitarian Institute).
Megan Vaughan was formerly Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History at the University of Cambridge and Professor of Commonwealth Studies at the University of Oxford. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Historical Society. Megan Vaughan joined the Institute of Advanced Studies in October 2015 as Professor of African History and Health. Her work, which crosses disciplinary boundaries, has focused on the history of medicine and psychiatry in Africa, on the history of famine, food supply and gender relations, and on slavery in the Indian Ocean region. Most recently she held a major AHRC award on the history of death and death practices in Eastern and Southern Africa. She is enormously excited by the challenge (both intellectually and administratively) that the Directorship of the IAS presents and sees her new role as ‘midwife’ to innovative work, exploratory thinking and open ended, engaged enquiry in a genuinely inclusive and collaborative environment.
now working on a Wellcome Trust-funded history of epidemiological change in Africa, focusing on ‘chronic’ diseases. She began her career at the University of Malawi and maintains strong links there and elsewhere in the region. She is committed to working collaboratively with African scholars and institutions and is a past President of the African Studies Association of the UK.

Professor Vaughan holds a five-year Wellcome Trust Investigator Award in Medical Humanities to research Chronic Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa: a critical history of an ‘Epidemiological Transition’. The study is being carried out collaboratively with colleagues in Ghana, South Africa and Malawi and aims to produce a clearer historical analysis of the rise in incidence of non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and a critical account of epidemiological change, contextualising this within a larger environmental, economic and social history. This is an interdisciplinary project involving public health experts, social epidemiologists, social psychologists, historians and anthropologists. Among the issues to be addressed are changing nutrition, the incidence of diabetes mellitus, obesity and ‘metabolic disorders’; the experience of co-morbidities; changing patterns of cancer in Africa; environmental health, ‘exposures’ and the role of epigenetics; the history of hypertension and heart disease and the relationship between infectious and non-communicable diseases. The project works closely with the University of Ghana at Legon (Professor Ama de Graft Aikins, Vice-Dean of the School of Graduate Studies); Professor Moffat Nyirenda, Director of the Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Unit, Lilongwe, Malawi; Medical Humanities at Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), directed by Professor Catherine Burns; and the Africa Centre for Population Health, Mtubatuba, South Africa, directed by Professor Deenan Pillay.

Catherine Stokes
Catherine graduated in History from King’s College London and has previously worked in university administration for the former Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School, the Institute of Historical Research and Cass Business School, City University, as well as having been a teacher of English as a foreign language in Finland and Sweden. Catherine’s role encompasses all administrative aspects of the Institute, including planning and development, promotion, recruitment, external and internal relationships, and financial management. She has also developed and maintained the Institute’s website and runs the events which take place in the Common Ground.

Jennifer Shearman
Jennifer graduated with her first degree from Queen Mary, University of London, in Film and Comparative Literature in 2014. She then proceeded to study an MSc in Film, Exhibition and Curation at The University of Edinburgh. Jennifer has previously worked for The British Museum, the Isabel Rocamora Studio and several London based film festivals.
“As a Junior Research Fellow at the IAS, I was able to make good progress on my book manuscript, *Rethinking Democracy in Postwar Germany* (under contract with Harvard University Press). I found the interdisciplinary environment and collegiate atmosphere of the IAS especially stimulating as it helped clarify some of my arguments, refine some ideas, and explore new avenues for research. As a historian, one of my goals at the IAS was to bridge the study of the past with issues of contemporary relevance. This was the rationale behind the discussion forum I co-chaired with Dr Marissa Mika’s *Toolkit for Political Futures* and the day-long conference I organised and hosted at the IAS on ‘Political Pasts and Democratic Futures’, with scholars such as Paul Nolte (Berlin), Russell Bentley (Southampton), Iain McDaniel (Sussex), Lucia Rubinelli (LSE) and Yves Sintomer (Paris). I also organised a roundtable discussion on the French presidential election with Professor Philippe Marlière and UCL’s European Institute and have written essays and spoken about various themes in contemporary French politics for *OpenDemocracy*, *The Spectator*, UCL European Institute, the BBC and France 24 English.”

**About Aline-Florence**

Aline-Florence completed her PhD in History at Harvard University in May 2016 and holds graduate degrees in Political Science and Philosophy from the Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris and the Université Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her research and teaching interests are rooted in an interdisciplinary perspective emphasising the connections between intellectual history and the history of political thought, culture and institutions in modern Europe.

“*The major research highlight of my tenure as an IAS Junior Research Fellow was the ‘Sediments and Arrhythmias: race, sense and sensation’ seminar series. The rationale for the series lay in seeking to use the broad theme of sense and sensation to explore the dynamics of racial difference in contemporary aesthetics, intellectual practice and cultural politics. I specifically sought to use the series as opportunity to invite young scholars and artists to showcase their current work in these areas. Thinkers such as Lucie Kim-Chi Mercier (CRMEP, Kingston University), Ramon Amaro (Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths College) and the artist Raju Rage were hosted through the year. The series culminated in a public lecture, followed by a one-day workshop with Professor Nahum Chandler (University of California, Irvine), both of which were widely attended and proved highly stimulating events.”

**About Dhanveer**

Dhanveer completed his PhD in Media and Communications at Goldsmiths College, University of London in 2013. Since then he has been Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania (2014) and Lecturer in Sociology at Kingston University (2015).
**Dr David Jeevendrampillai**

“During my one-year Junior Research Fellowship at the IAS I ran a seminar series, in collaboration with Aline-Florence Manent, under the title ‘Planetary Futures’. We also ran a reading group in parallel with the series. Personally, my work has focused on writing aspects of my PhD into the now published book *The Material Culture of Failure* and developing future research ideas around an anthropology of space. The IAS allowed me to survey literature, investigate potential field sites and complete articles (*An Anthropology of Gravity*) and grant applications on the subject.”

**About David**

Dr David Jeevendrampillai researches the anthropology of space colonisation through a consideration of what the ‘beyond earth horizon’ means for the future of human relations and our relationship to earth. His current research asks what happens to the forms of relations which are based on terrain, such as sovereignty, local identity, land rights and so on, when there is no terrain anymore. Holding a PhD from UCL, his interests focus on body/land relations, territoriality, sovereignty, democracy and morality. He has a strong interest in the architectural design of post-earth habitats and the implications of ‘space law’ on earth.

**Dr Alicia Spencer-Hall**

“My time at the IAS has been incredibly productive. I have developed my methodological approach and theoretical framework, thereby considerably refining my research project on chronic pain in the medieval era. These refinements are evident in the written outputs from this year, such as my chapter for Bloomsbury’s *Cultural History of Disability in the Middle Ages* volume. Without question, my research has been enhanced by generative conversations with colleagues. This year, I have organised a variety of events in order to facilitate these kinds of interactions more broadly on the topic of chronic pain: a bi-monthly Reading Group; monthly Twitter chats; a public workshop; and an academic conference. Beyond the remit of my chronic pain project, my time at the IAS has permitted significant career development. Most notably, I have completed work on my first monograph, *Medieval Saints and Modern Screens*, which will be published in December 2017 by Amsterdam University Press. Based on the strength of my research, the Press invited me to develop a new, innovative and genuinely interdisciplinary academic monograph series for scholarship on medieval sanctity, *Hagiography Beyond Tradition*. I’m delighted to say that the first book in this series will be an edited volume, co-edited by myself and Blake Gutt (University of Cambridge), entitled *Trans and Genderqueer Subjects in Medieval Hagiography* (forthcoming 2019/20). This volume is an output from conference panels I organised during my tenure at the IAS. At present, I am finalising work on my second book manuscript, *Medieval Twitter* (ARC Humanities and Medieval Institute Press; forthcoming 2018/19), and very much looking forward to delivering my first plenary paper at the Gender and Medieval Studies conference in Oxford, January 2018.”

**About Alicia**

After receiving her BA (Hons) and MPhil from the University of Cambridge, Alicia undertook her PhD in the French Department of UCL, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. She passed her PhD with no corrections in November 2014. Before joining the IAS, she was a Modern Humanities Research Scholar in the French Department at Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL). She has taught extensively, including modules on medieval French literature, literary analyses, and French grammar.
Dr Andreas Weiß  
(Joint Junior Research Fellow with the German Historical Institute London)

“My stay at the IAS was used not only for very fruitful discussions with London colleagues, but also for archival research in the National Archives, Kew, and the British Library. My research was discussed publicly at the IAS Residential Seminar, the internal colloquium of the German Historical Institute London and with the Sheffield Modern International History Group at the University of Sheffield as well as privately with academics from different universities. At the University of Portsmouth I discussed ‘Change and Continuity in German Foreign Policy’ with students and presented my research agenda at an IAS Talking Points Seminar in October 2017. I edited three volumes (two as a co-editor), contributed to all three introductions and worked on several articles, including Andreas Weiß, ASEAN, in: Reichherzer, Frank; Droit, Emmanuel; Hansen, Jan (editors): *Den Kalten Krieg vermissen. Über Reichweite und Alternativen einer binären Ordnungsvorstellung*. Berlin, München: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2017.”

About Andreas
Andreas studied modern and contemporary history, sociology and history and society of South-East Asia at Humboldt University, Berlin, and at the University of Cantabria in Santander, Spain. He gained his PhD writing on debates centring on modernity and decadence between Europeans and Asians in the German Empire and Great Britain between the 1880s and 1914, with a book, *Asiaten in Europa*, published in 2016. He now works as a post-doctoral researcher at the Georg Eckert Institute in Braunschweig, Germany where he also co-ordinates the project ‘Children and their World’.

Dr Stefanie Rauch  
(Junior Research Fellow in The UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies)

“UCL recently received a collection of video interviews with elderly Germans and Austrians, who were witnesses to, facilitators, or perpetrators of Nazi violence. In the course of my fellowship, I have been preparing this collection for wider access in research and education. My research explores what it means to ordinary people to have stood on the ‘wrong side of history’ once the legal, political, and cultural norms and parameters have shifted, and how changing public images affect private discourses and self-representations. In 2016–17, I presented papers at international conferences at Utrecht University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and at research seminars and workshops. The fellowship has allowed me to complete two journals articles developed from my PhD, which have been accepted by Forum Qualitative Social Research and History & Memory, and a chapter for a forthcoming edited volume on the rhetoric of pain. I organised two workshops, ‘Perpetration, Collaboration and Complicity in Nazi-dominated Europe’ and ‘Interpreting Perpetrators’; a seminar comparing perpetrators of genocide and collective violence in Nazi Germany and Sierra Leone, which was jointly organised with former IAS JRF Dr Ellen Filor; and a book proposal workshop.”

About Stefanie
Stefanie received her master’s degree in Modern History from Humboldt University Berlin, before completing her PhD in History at the University of Leicester in 2014. Prior to taking up her Junior Research Fellowship at UCL in 2016, she worked for a publisher on the commissioning of digital archive projects.
Dr Marissa Mika
At UCL, Marissa Mika works with the research group on critical histories of chronic disease in Africa. Focusing on South Africa, she researches chronicity, co-morbidity, and the synergy between infectious and non-communicable disease burdens. She emphasises the material practices of making knowledge about morbidity and mortality – from the diagnostic pathology lab, to the autopsy table, to the home testing kit, to the courtroom.

About Marissa
Marissa holds a PhD (2015) in History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania and an MHS (2007) in International Health from Johns Hopkins. Before teaching and studying African history, she worked in international development and public health. Since 2002, she has lived for extended periods of time in South Africa, Togo and Uganda. Her research has been supported by a variety of institutions including the Social Science Research Council, the Wenner Gren Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.

Dr Olutobi Sanuade
As part of the Wellcome Trust-funded project at UCL, Olutobi researches the history of chronic and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Ghana, including their interaction with infectious disease and their relationship to socio-economic status and demographic factors. Building on his earlier work, he engages with health professionals, policy makers, people living with NCDs (and their caregivers) and lay individuals to determine how they make sense of chronic NCDs.

About Olutobi
Olutobi received his PhD (2016) in Population Studies from the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), University of Ghana. He also has an MPhil in Population Studies from the University of Ghana and a BSc in Sociology from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He has worked as a field editor and field supervisor on a longitudinal project on ‘Urban Health and Poverty Project’ in Accra, Ghana. He has also worked as a research assistant on a mental health project, which examined the psychosocial conditions of people living with mental illnesses (and their caregivers) in Northern Ghana.
Professor Rosi Braidotti
Rosi is the Institute of Advanced Studies’ first Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow and she joined us for a programme of events, including the keynote lecture during the Planetary Poetics conference and a series of three workshops entitled Cosmos-Affect-Polis.

About Rosi
Rosi gained her BA Hons from the Australian National University in 1978, and her PhD from Université de Paris, Panthéon-Sorbonne in 1981. She has Honorary Degrees from the universities of Helsinki (2007) and Linköping (2013), is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (2009), a Member of the Academia Europaea (2014), and has a Knighthood in the order of the Netherlands Lion (2005). Rosi is a Distinguished University Professor and founding Director of the Centre for the Humanities at Utrecht University (2007–2016). Her latest books are Nomadic Subjects (New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2011a) and Nomadic Theory: The Portable Rosi Braidotti (Columbia University Press, 2011b) and The Posthuman (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013). In 2016, she co-edited with Paul Gilroy Conflicting Humanities (London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic).

rosibraidotti.com
**HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOW**

**Dr Joanna Michlic**

The UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Joanna’s research focuses on social and cultural history of Poland and East European Jews, the Holocaust and its memory in Europe, and nationalism in Eastern Europe. She is particularly interested in areas relating to ethnic violence, gender, childhood and individual and collective memories of traumatic and dark pasts, such as in the case of the Holocaust. Her two current research topics are a history of the rescue of Jews during the Holocaust in Poland and a study of East European Jewish childhood, 1945–1950. In ‘More Than The Milk of Human Kindness: Jewish Survivors and Their Polish Rescuers Recount Their Tales, 1944–1949’, her main aim is to chart a map of the raw memories of rescue as articulated by Polish Jewish survivors and their (ethnic/Catholic) Polish rescuers in the early post-war period, 1944–1949.

In her second work-in-progress, ‘Life Begun Anew: The transformation of Jewish childhood in Poland, 1945–1949’, she investigates two key aspects of the history of hidden child survivors, known also as the 1.5 generation. The first set of questions pertains to life experiences during the Second World War, especially the role of gender, class and religious and economic background on the process of survival. The second set of questions pertains to the complexities of the processes by which child survivors sought to regain a sense of childhood and Jewish identity and to the landscapes of dreams and actual opportunities for these children in the early post-war period.

**SENIOR VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW**

**Professor Ama de-Graft Aikins**

Ama is Professor of Social Psychology and Dean of International Programmes at the University of Ghana (UG). She received her PhD in Social Psychology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Cambridge. Her research and publications focus on experiences and representations of chronic physical and mental illnesses, Africa’s chronic non-communicable disease burden and the social psychology of knowledge in African settings. Ama’s fellowship at the IAS has been spent completing a book project that has been accepted for publication by the International African Library (IAL). Titled *Sugar Disease, Bitter Medicine: Living with Diabetes in Ghana*, the book focuses on a longitudinal social psychological study of diabetes experiences in Ga Mashie, a poor community in Accra, and will draw on mixed method data gathered from over 500 community members over six years. The project blends the social psychological data with a social history of Ga Mashie, the medical history of diabetes, the political economy of medical pluralism and NCD policy, and the role of the mass media in shaping social representations of NCDs in Ghana. The book aims to fill a disciplinary and policy gap in public and community health in Africa by offering a critical social psychological study of an under-researched public health crisis in an urban poor community that faces complex developmental challenges.
Dr Geremia Cometti
Geremia is a Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Fellow based jointly at the IAS and the Centre for the Anthropology of Sustainability (CAOS) within UCL's Anthropology Department. His research project addressed the political and ontological dimensions of the impacts of climate change and the extractive industries among the Q’eros in the time of the Anthropocene. Through ethnographic and conceptual work, this project proposes a reconceptualisation of the relationship between humans and non-human entities in order to better understand how Andean societies in general, and the Q’eros in particular, conceive of, and react to, the rapid and drastic modifications of their environment. The principal idea of this research is to underline the importance and necessity of establishing a dialogue between the scientific discourse on climate change, modern institutions (the national and regional states, Non-Governmental Organisations, etc.), and those societies directly concerned by issues related to environmental degradation. It intends to expose the conventional analysis to an approach that goes beyond Western politics and ontologies.

Dr Jimena Escudero Pérez
Jimena received her International PhD from the University of Oviedo, after completing her thesis at the University of Westminster. Her research focuses on Anglophone narratives as well as on cultural and media studies through literary, feminist and film criticism, with special attention given to science fiction and the communication of science. At the IAS, she continued her analysis of the representations of the liminality of human identity, addressing the search for transcendence, socialisation and identity construction processes, as well as the interaction with technology and the historical cornerstone this implies for the species both in the biological and as a civilisation. A broad scope of research includes the identification of the features that define the human through the artificially created subject and the merging or dissolution of human as a category in contemporary narratives both literary and cinematographic.
Dr Giovanni Ferroni
Giovanni received his PhD in Italian Studies at the University of Padua in 2010 with a thesis on the pastoral poetry of the sixteenth century in Italy (published in 2012). His research project at the IAS dealt with the culture and the activity of several literary academies of early 16th century Rome and particularly the role of Francesco Maria Molza. The aim of the project is to cast new light on the cultural context of Molza’s works and to show also their political, cultural and religious meaning. The research dealt also with the idea and representations of love and its many facets, with the concept and value of woman.

Dr Cora Gilroy-Ware
After defending her PhD in 2014, Cora designed and curated ‘Bodies of Nature’, an exhibition at Tate Britain centring on the mythological nymph as a recurring figure in British painting, sculpture and works on paper from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Then, as a year-long Materialities, Texts and Images fellow at the Huntington Library and California Institute of Technology, she curated ‘Spirit Boys’, a small exhibition of prints and drawings at the Huntington’s European Art Gallery showcasing depictions of infant putti from the Renaissance to the 1920s. Her doctoral thesis looked at the changing production, reception and function of ideal beauty in British art between 1798 and 1840. As a Visiting Research Fellow at the IAS, she worked on a book manuscript based on her thesis: Fallen Heroes, Floating Nymphs: a Hidden History of British Art.

Dr Pauli Heikkilä
Pauli defended his doctoral thesis ‘Imagining Europe, Imagining the Nation. Estonian Discussion on European Unification, 1923–1957’ on contemporary history at the University of Turku in Finland in 2011, after which he worked as a Research Fellow in the Institute of History and Archaeology at the University of Tartu in Estonia. He is currently finishing his second monograph on Finnish discussions on European unification. Pauli’s research at the IAS concentrated on international co-operation of Eastern European emigrants during the Cold War, especially within the Assembly of Captive European Nations 1954–1972. The return to previous sovereign nation-states was perceived impossible without fundamental changes in the international environment, which could be promoted by incorporating their agenda into US foreign policy and emerging European institutions. Thus, his research brings a new perspective to trans-Atlantic relations and the history of European integration.
VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS 2016–17

Dr Amy Hinterberger
Amy is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick. Before joining Warwick, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of London and University of Oxford. While at the IAS, Amy conducted research for her Wellcome Trust funded project entitled, ‘Blood and tissue as human research subjects’, which examines transformations in what constitutes a human research subject in contemporary biomedical research.

Dr Georgios Kritikos
Georgios is an Associate Professor of Historical Geography at Harokopio University in Athens in Greece. He studied History and Archaeology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and he holds an MPhil in European Studies from the University of Cambridge (St Catharine’s College) and an MA in International Security Studies from the University of Leicester. He received his PhD from the Department of History and Civilization of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. His research interests focus on refugees in the inter-war and modern period, on nationalism and identities in space. This research has been published in books, chapters in volumes and in articles. His research project at the IAS examined how refugee flows served the rise of nationalism in Europe.
Dr Runa Lazzarino
Runa obtained a PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of Milano-Bicocca in 2015. In her doctoral project she conducted a multi-country ethnography (Vietnam, Brazil, Nepal) where she read the lived experiences of human trafficking returnees in the light of the ideological, legislative and humanitarian systems revolving around their recovery and reintegration. Runa's work as a Visiting Research Fellow at IAS was twofold. In the first half of her fellowship she mainly focused on an article for publication on trafficked migrants’ emotional health and their sociocultural (re)integration. She drew on her PhD data and analysed the existing literature on the topic, mainly reviewing and comparing ethno-anthropological investigations with health sciences studies. In the second half, she started a new mixed methods research project on the assistance to victims of trafficking and exploited migrants in London to gain insights into the emotional needs, long-term integration and citizenship practices among this vulnerable population.

Dr Moriel Ram
Moriel holds a PhD in politics and governance from Ben Gurion University, Israel and a post-doc in the Department of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion-Israel's Technological Institute. His recent project examines how Israel narrates its geopolitical image through the planning, construction and operation of medical facilities, such as hospitals, clinics and relief centres in Africa in order to provide a better understanding of the ways in which foreign policy, international trade and the global economy are used by nations in order to construct a geopolitical imagination of themselves. The research is based on a historiographic and geographic analysis (mainly archival research, cartographic outline and in-depth interviews) of Israeli involvement in the construction of medical facilities in African states.

Dr Enzo Rossi
Enzo is a tenured universitair docent at the University of Amsterdam, the co-editor of the European Journal of Political Theory and the principal investigator of the Dutch National Science Organisation Vidi project ‘Legitimacy Beyond Consent’ (2016–2021). His PhD is in philosophy, from the University of St Andrews. Enzo’s main project at the IAS was a realist critical theory of legitimacy. This stems from the intersection of a number of interests: (i) methodological issues in political theory, e.g. realism vs moralism and, relatedly but separately, ideal vs non-ideal theory; (ii) the historical development of liberal ideology; (iii) the normative status of political authority; and (iv) the accommodation of diversity. More generally, he is concerned with the relationship between the descriptive and the normative study of society.
**Professor Miguel Ángel Sorroche Cuerva**

Miguel is a professor in the Department of Art History at the University of Granada. At the IAS, his project was ‘Identities in Border Areas. Actors and Cultural Heritage in the Historical Processes of Occupation of Northern New Spain in the XVIII Century’. This project sought to analyse a specific context, the border between Mexico and the United States, where the Camino Real ran between the city of Saltillo in Coahuila and San Antonio in Texas. He studied the historical process that formed its characters and the material and non-material remains that identify each of its historical stages and that are noticeable in its cultural heritage. Identification and investigation sought to understand the current role of heritage in the consolidation of identities in addition to its role in articulating border territories through the creation of a common history.

**Dr Katayoun Shafiee**

Katayoun completed her PhD in the departments of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University. She was previously a post-doctoral research fellow at the National University of Singapore. As a Visiting Research Fellow at the IAS, she finalised the publication of her book manuscript, ‘Machineries of Oil: An Infrastructural History of BP in Iran’. The book brings together histories of the Middle East with interdisciplinary thinking in science and technology studies to rethink the politics of the Middle East through a study of the British-controlled oil industry in Iran. She published articles on the politics of petroleum formulas and labour in the history of Iran’s oil industry and has a forthcoming article on the transformative role of Anglo-Iranian oil in international law. Her project at the IAS was to write an infrastructural history of risk in the building of a large-scale dam in southwest Iran, along the Persian Gulf, while continuing to consider the centrality of technologies of energy development in shaping political disputes in the twentieth century.
Dr Maarten Steenhagen
Maarten is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, and part of the New Directions in the Study of the Mind Project. His research is on perception and the mind. In particular, he investigates the role of perceptual media, such as sounds, images and optical technology. His articles have covered the experience of sounds, images and mirror perception. He also writes about philosophical method. At the IAS, Maarten initiated activities and conducted research on the relation between optics and perception. Current theories of vision rarely consider the study of light or the properties of mirrors, lenses and optical media. This is because people assume that the methods for studying perception are those of psychology. The project aimed to show that optics requires a more central place in the philosophical study of perception.

Dr Silvana Vetö
Silvana is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Universidad Andrés Bello at Santiago de Chile, where she teaches the history of psychology and psychoanalysis. She is a psychologist and has an MA in Psychoanalysis from the Université Paris 8 Vincennes – Saint-Denis and a PhD in History from the Universidad de Chile. Silvana worked at the IAS on a research project funded by FONDECYT in Chile (National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development) with the title ‘Vulnerable Children, Dangerous Children: the Construction of Childhood in the Minors’ Special Court of Santiago, 1928–1942’. This is a three-year project, which examines the construction of modern childhood in Chile via an analysis of the psychological, medical, social and educational practices that left their imprint on the records of the Minors’ Court of Santiago. This court opened in January 1929 – following the approval of the first Child Protection Law in October 1928 – and it operated under the same legal framework until 1942. While working at the IAS, Silvana focused particularly on the role played by psychologists, doctors and social workers in the evaluation, diagnosis and prognosis of delinquent and “morally endangered” children who were sent to the ‘Minors’ House of Santiago’ by the Minors’ Judge.

Dr Xiurong Zhao
Xiurong works in the History School at Renmin University of China as an Associate Professor, where she studies the social history of medicine in early modern England. Her research project ‘A Comparative Study of Fertility in England and China in the 17th–19th Centuries’ places fertility against the cultural background and moral ideas prevailing in the two countries between the 17th and 19th centuries. During this time, England experienced the major social transitions that came with industrialisation and modernisation. Concepts and practices of childbirth and women’s social status underwent great changes. During this same period, in China, the last imperial dynasty (the Qing Dynasty) was coming to an end and ideas from the West, especially from England, started to collide with some Chinese traditional views on childbirth. In this project, Xiurong will identify some similarities between Chinese and English attitudes towards child bearing, methods of contraception and abortion. She will write a cross-cultural analysis of the contexts and reasons for these divergences and convergences of social behaviour and culture in late imperial China and England.
As the culmination of our Planetary Futures thematic focus for 2016–17, the IAS collaborated with the Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) to convene a two-and-a-half day workshop entitled Planetary Poetics.

Tapping in to the expanding field of Environmental Humanities, and drawing on our expertise and interest in representational practices – film, photography, performance, painting, poetry, fiction, curation – a collection of twenty-two researchers considered the way in which the singular practices of art – their poetic particulars and languages – intersect with the perceived challenges and conceptual conundrums confronting life on our planet: politically, environmentally, ethically, culturally. Papers were grouped around the four sub-themes of geostories, scale, risk and planetary belonging. The IAS and SEI will collaborate on a publication of the papers over the next year. The keynote lecture by Rosi Braidotti, entitled ‘Are WE in this Together?’ is available online (www.youtube.com/watch?v=BW6VN10HkM4) as is the programme and precis of the papers themselves.

IAS Book Launch Programme
The IAS hosts members of staff who would like to celebrate their new book by launching it as part of our Book Launch Programme. The launches usually take the form of a conversation between the author and an interlocutor, a small panel discussion or a talk, followed by a reception with a contribution from the publisher. In 2016-17, IAS book launches have ranged from books about children in horror films to anthropologies in medicine, histories of the commune and the poetry of Edward Lear. They have covered an enormously wide range of interests from the Institute, the Faculties of Arts & Humanities and Social & Historical Sciences, and beyond.

IAS Talking Points
Talking Points is a discussion forum and lecture platform that aims to bring IAS resident scholars and Visiting Research Fellows into conversation with researchers across UCL. The format is either a lecture with nominated respondents from various UCL departments or a staged conversation followed by Q&A. The emphasis is on interdisciplinary exchange so discussants and interlocutors are drawn from a range of disciplines and fields. There is always space for audience participation/discussion. Talking Points is open to all researchers at UCL, both senior and early career, as well as postgraduate students.
Our research initiatives in 2018 will continue to be both open-ended and focused, responsive and pro-active. At the same time as we will be receptive to the research-led, creative initiatives of our colleagues – whether in IAS-hosted Research Centres or through open calls for events – we will also seek to focus inter-disciplinary discussion around strategically nominated themes.

In addition to our thematically focused JRFs, we will host a post-doctoral fellow supported by the German Historical Institute as well as a SSEES fellow funded by the Paul Mellon Centre who will be working on the ‘area studies remapped’ agenda. We are also delighted to be hosting two new post-doctoral fellows under the auspices of African Medical Humanities (who will join the two existing research associates) as well as two who are attached to the UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. This Centre has just been awarded a significant AHRC grant and its work on perpetrators and their testimonies will grow and develop over the next three years. Our residential research community will consist of ten post docs and we expect this funded group to consolidate and expand over the coming years. In addition, our Non-Stipendiary Visiting Research Fellowship scheme is growing in visibility and popularity and we are at full capacity for 2018 with fifteen visitors joining us. They will also be accompanied by four visiting researchers from PKU in China, so we are lucky enough to be bursting at the seams with productive and energetic scholars, each of whom is developing individual research while engaging with colleagues across the University. The IAS Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow for 2018 will be Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty.

The IAS will continue to grow and expand over the next year. To help to support this, we are happy to announce the appointment of two Deputy Directors, Professor Megan Vaughan (Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences) and Dr Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen (Faculty of Arts and Humanities) who will convene and host IAS events, liaise with departments and other research structures across UCL, develop research grant applications and fundraising initiatives and help to steer the direction and planning for the IAS as we build for the future.
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