About UCL

Founded in 1826, UCL is one of the world’s leading multi-disciplinary universities. It comprises 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 over 43,800 students, of whom 19,994 are undergraduates and 23,842 are postgraduates. More than 23,260 students come from countries outside the UK (2019/20 figures). This diversity characterises UCL’s unique community of committed, engaged and intellectually curious students.

Over 54% of UCL’s student community is enrolled in graduate studies, with almost a quarter of these pursuing research degrees. Students benefit from UCL’s active exchange and research links with hundreds of overseas universities and institutions, 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 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 & 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 provides a locus for dialogue and debate in the humanities and social sciences from across UCL and collaborates in particular with colleagues from the School of East European and Slavonic Studies, the Bartlett School of Architecture, the Institute of Education and the Faculty of Laws. We are exploring connections across the traditional art/science divide and welcome opportunities to engage in cross- and inter-disciplinary discussion and research. 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.
When the IAS was established in 2015, we were nothing but a vague idea, adumbrated by the then Deans of Arts & Humanities and Social & Historical Sciences, Jo Wolff, a philosopher, and Mary Fulbrook, an historian. That they trusted an art historian with the task of setting up and directing this new forum speaks to the expansiveness of their vision, focused on creating a research environment that could address ideas, images, objects, representations, social forces and societal challenges from multiple disciplinary but not discipline-bound perspectives. Since our inception, we in the IAS have been committed to harnessing specialist skills and knowledge while supporting boundary breaking research, iconoclastic energy and exploratory, open-ended enquiry. Under our newer Deans, Stella Bruzzi and Sasha Roseneil, we have continued in the spirit with which we started, accountable to no-one but our own academic community, fiercely autonomous and proud of the expertise and specialist knowledge that is the raison d’être of university life. Devoted to academic freedom and the principle of intellectual exchange, we have built an environment in which thinking – open, discursive, disinterested and dialogical – is valued above everything else and which we must struggle to protect and preserve.

This has been an entirely collective endeavour. Supported by the two indefatigable Deputy Directors, Megan Vaughan and Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen, I have been able to harness the energy of staff and research students from across the university, coalescing around research centres and themes, book launches, workshops, reading groups, seminars, platforms, performances, exhibitions and lectures. We have employed post-doctoral researchers, hosted visiting scholars and residential fellows, funded individual and group research projects and provided a home for externally funded programmes ranging from African medical humanities to holocaust studies and post-socialist art practice. Through all these endeavours, the aim has been to create communities of scholarship: convivial intellectual environments in which proximate exchange and debate expand knowledge and understanding of our world while nourishing and sustaining our lives.

As Director of the IAS, I have seen my leadership role as threefold. Drawing on outmoded ‘feminine’ figurations of ‘care’, I have sought, as a feminist gesture, to turn these around so that traditional forms of invisible or undervalued labour (mostly relegated to women) have become my benchmarks for creating community. First and foremost, I have imagined my directorial role as analogous to that of a ‘midwife’, devoted to facilitating the birth and sustainability of other people’s projects so that they could flourish and grow. Second, mobilising an even less elevated and gendered function, I have imagined what it is to be a ‘matchmaker’, putting people together (sometimes in unlikely combinations) who might be productively and critically in dialogue. Thirdly (because I love alliteration and am
stuck here with the letter ‘m’) I have sought to elevate the role of the *menagère* or housekeeper to that of keeper and curator of a physical space that is experienced as warm and hospitable, and in which diverse interests and individuals can meet. Aided by the brilliant ministrations of our administrator Catherine Stokes, events curator Albert Brenchat and research centres co-ordinator Lucy Stagg, the IAS has become a hub and a home. As our hopes and ambitions grew, so did our physical environment, and the IAS, situated as it is at the heart of the Bloomsbury Campus – at its core in fact – now occupies a suite of rooms, over two floors, that is adequate to the centrality of its endeavours. At the heart of any great university is the creative intelligence of its academic community. That is what the IAS has sought to cement and support.

All this has been put into question and temporary abeyance by Covid. In the spring of 2020, in the full flow of our programme on our research theme ‘Waste’, the inaugural events for the newly established Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation, plus multiple other initiatives, we had to suspend all activity, close our doors and rethink our remit and goals. The pandemic had put everything into question and it took us a little while to work out how to respond and go on. In the shadow of death (the rates over the first months were appalling) and in the light of the solitary suffering of families and friends, the anxiety of students and colleagues, and the huge efforts to move teaching and supervision on-line, we felt overwhelmed and bewildered, unsure as to how we could change tack and invent a programme that was meaningful and apposite in the circumstances. It soon became clear though, that perspectives from the humanities and qualitative social sciences were more crucial than ever at this time. Everyone was deferring to ‘science’, which no doubt has much to teach, but the opportunities to reflect on the meaning of the pandemic, its human cost and historical dimensions, its environmental and ecological roots, its linguistic and philosophical resonances, its cultural and aesthetic potentialities: all these needed scholars from research environments like our own to collaborate and think afresh. In April, we started our podcast series, with an initial reflection on the idea of ‘underlying conditions’, a new, but ubiquitous phrase that was invariably mobilised to explain who was vulnerable to disease. There followed a range of aural interventions, from studies of viral landscapes to explorations of terms like ‘unprecedented’ and ‘survival infrastructures’, analyses of virtual therapies, the biopolitics of algorithms and the systemic inequalities that Covid continues to unearth. Alongside these transmissions, the Sarah Parker Remond Centre initiated its extraordinary set of recorded conversations with Director Paul Gilroy, many of which addressed the conjunction of institutional racism and inequality in the context both of the pandemic and the campaigns of Black Lives Matter, newly ignited by the murder in the US of George Floyd.
Covid has concentrated the mind like nothing else in my experience. Now it is, literally, the matter of life and death that informs our thinking and galvanises our work. We are still in the middle of this crisis. Who knows when we will return to our cherished rooms and the close encounters that we have fostered and shared? What is clear is that as the IAS moves into its next five years, under the new Directorship of Nicola Miller, it will face a novel set of challenges. The old tasks of creating an intellectual community and open, disinterested scholarly exchange will still be important. But now new technologies and techniques will be required to stave off the pervasive instrumentalisation of knowledge as well as the tyranny of anti-intellectualism and obeisance to purely quantitative thinking. The challenge for the arts, humanities and social sciences will be huge. I have no doubt, though, that the IAS will provide a forum through which UCL academics and our interlocutors and friends, in our expanded and global networks, will embrace that challenge in a spirit of ongoing and urgent enquiry.
Over the past five years, IAS Research initiatives and Junior Research Fellow appointments have coalesced around selected themes, ranging from four to one per year. Themes have included (amongst others) ‘Laughter’, Turbulence’, ‘Lies’, ‘Sense and Sensation’, ‘Vulnerability’ and ‘Planetary Futures’, each generating an extraordinary array of conversations, conferences, workshops, seminars, publications and lectures. We have aimed for research themes which are capacious and suggestive, allowing scholars from different disciplines and modes of enquiry to come together and put pressure on each other’s habits of thinking. The themes for 2020–21 are ‘Growth’ and ‘Traffic’.

Vivan Sundaram, Prospect, 2008, Archival Pigment Print, 104.5 x 59.5 inches, ed 5/10
Over the past year we have collaborated with Urban Lab, a UCL-wide research consortium of urban theorists, geographers, cultural workers, anthropologists and planners, under the directorship of Clare Melhuish (Bartlett School of Architecture) on a theme that is both timely and urgent. Looking at ‘waste’ in relation to space, urban environments, time, corporealities, objects, behaviour, social formation, psychic energy and technology, we have convened a series of actual and virtual events and platforms. From discussions of recycling, reworking and repurposing with artist Phyllida Barlow and considering the ‘biopolitics of the plasticine’ with artists and curators, to the idea of economic growth, de-growth and the environment with political theorist Timothy Mitchell, urban imaginaries of growth and excess with the Dean of the Bartlett, Christoph Lindner, the African Anthropocene with historian Gabrielle Hecht and discussions of Agnès Varda’s classic Les Glaneurs et la Glaneuse (2000) with film critics and art historians, we have explored ‘waste’ in multiple geographies, mediums and forms. We appointed Michael Picard as Junior Research Fellow working on sociotechnical imaginaries of global waste management and Nicola Baldwin as Creative Fellow running workshops on performance, creative recycling and the ideas that inform her new play ‘WASTELAND’. Resident with us over the last year was our German Historical Institute Joint Junior Research Fellow, Franziska Neumann researching early modern waste in London. The customary variety of approaches, periods and areas of study have made this year’s explorations both surprising and interesting. We will be producing an issue of Think Pieces that will constitute an alphabetical ‘bestiary’ of waste and will draw together a creative array of entries and short speculative texts. The move to digital dissemination and curation of events and exchanges have made us reflect on wasted space and time, as well as our ‘wasted’ bodies, in ways we could never have anticipated.
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 externally-funded units (e.g. PACT), experimental forums (e.g. FRINGE) and thematically-driven research clusters (e.g. CCV).

The IAS provides a home for the LGBTQ network (qUCL) as well as the Gender and Feminism Research 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.

- Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies
- Centre for Critical Heritage Studies
- Centre for Digital Humanities
- Centre for Early Modern Exchanges
- Centre for Editing Lives and Letters
- Centre for Research into Dynamics of Civilisation
- FRINGE Centre
- Gender and Feminism Research Network
- Health Humanities Centre
- Post-socialist Art Centre (PACT)
- qUCL
- Language and Meaning Centre
- Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism & Racialisation
Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies

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 secured a major research grant for the collaborative project Committed Identities? Reflections on Perpetration and Complicity under Nazism (2018-2021), led by Professor Mary Fulbrook and Professor Stephanie Bird, with IAS Research Fellows Dr Stefanie Rauch and Dr Bastiaan Willems, Impact Fellow Dr Daniel Edmonds, and former Research Fellows Dr Christoph Thonfeld and Dr Helen Roche. This three-year project examines the ambiguous roles and changing representations of those who were entangled in and implicated by the Nazi regime. In July 2020, the team launched a website and digital exhibition (www.compromised-identities.org). The exhibition showcases new research into perpetration and complicity and includes thirty short films, an interactive map, objects and related blogs.

Honorary Research Fellow Dr Joanna Michlic explores the history of the rescue of Jews during the Holocaust and East European Jewish childhood, and Honorary Research Fellow Dr Robert Knight’s current research project compares the trajectories of West Germany and Austria in the 1950s and ‘60s.

In the last five years, the Centre has organised several interdisciplinary events, such as a panel discussion on ‘Multidirectional Memory? National Holocaust Memorials and (Post-)Colonial Legacies’ jointly organised with the German Historical Institute London, a screening of Julia Creet’s film Mum, a workshop on ‘Morality, Legitimacy and Collective Violence’ and, in co-operation with the UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, an International Conference on the Rohingya Crisis in Comparative Perspective.

Centre for Critical Heritage Studies

The Centre for Critical Heritage Studies operates as an inter-faculty research centre led by the Institute of Archaeology and supported by the Institute of Advanced Studies UCL in partnership with the University of Gothenburg. It leads the way in defining a new field of critical heritage studies, which identifies and interprets evolving, multi-scalar forms of heritage and identity, and addresses issues of heritage justice.

In recent years, our main activities have included:

- Three well attended annual and honorary lectures with Professor David Lowenthal, Tristam Hunt, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Lonnie Bunch and Nick Merriman; regular seminars; and a heritage week in March 2019 to showcase the latest research at the Centre.

- A seed money scheme open to doctoral students and researchers in partnership with heritage institutions.

Top: image of the Digital Exhibition Launch: ‘Compromised Identities?’
Centre for Digital Humanities

Our seminar series featured research presentations from both within and beyond UCL, including Ray and Lynne Siemens from Canada and Seth Cayley from Gale. Our annual Susan Hockey Lecture saw Charlotte Roueché, Professor Emerita at King’s College London, on breaking down barriers between disciplines and scholars in 2019, and Professor Carlo Meghini from Italy on the role of ontologies in the Digital Humanities in 2018. We hosted visitors from the National Museum Rio de Janeiro presenting their post-disaster efforts following the destruction and loss caused by the fire in 2018; colleagues from Dresden for a hackathon, digging into museum datasets; and visiting academics from prestigious Chinese institutions.

Centre for Early Modern Exchanges

Autumn 2020 saw the tenth anniversary of the Centre for Early Modern Exchanges. Dedicated to research into cross-border flows, translation and intercultural interactions in the early modern period, it has reflected a growing interest across this period in global and connected history, transnational and material cultural approaches to the pre-modern world. We have put on research performances, welcomed international speakers of the stature of Geoffrey Parker (twice) and hosted a doctoral work in progress seminar for UCL research students working on pre-modern topics. Over the last five years we have enjoyed synergies with the Institute’s area studies rebooted approach to culture, art and history, as well as a number of distinguished visiting research fellows. We look forward to reaching the decade under the aegis of the Institute, with further fruitful co-operation and collaboration.
Centre for Editing Lives and Letters

The Centre for Editing Lives and Letters (CELL) develops projects focused on making archives matter, concentrating on the years 1500 to 1800.

The MA in Early Modern Studies reflects CELL’s ethos, marrying traditional archival skills with cutting edge technology.

Located at University College London (UCL), CELL consists of graduate and doctoral students, researchers, teachers and writers.

Top: Agostino Ramelli, Bookwheel, in Le diverse et artificiose machine, 1588.

Centre for Research on the Dynamics of Civilisation (CREDOC)

The IAS hosted the Centre for Research on the Dynamics of Civilisation (CREDOC) from 2013 to 2017, generously funded by the Joint Faculties and the Provost’s Strategic Development Fund. Jointly directed by Maria Wyke (Greek & Latin) and Mike Rowlands (Anthropology), CREDOC provided support for the interdisciplinary exploration of the conceptual difference between the categories of civilisation, nation, culture and society, and the often controversial role the concept of civilisation has played in contemporary debates on politics, race and religion.

CREDOC organised or supported 14 conferences or workshops, made 15 small grant awards, and has had some 40,000 views of its events on its YouTube Channel. Beneficiaries of its grants were spread across the departments and faculties of UCL and ranged from PhD students to professors. CREDOC provided a gateway to further activity and funding for UCL researchers and enabled the development of UCL’s ambitious cross-disciplinary networks.

Top: Dapper Olfert, The Bansa, or residence of the King of Kongo called St. Salvador, printed ca. 1740-1800.
FRINGE Centre (SSEES)

Over the past five years the FRINGE Centre has hosted major conferences and events each year, bringing to UCL speakers such as Anthony Gardner (Oxford), Marina Gržinić (Vienna), Mark Lipovetsky (Colorado), Vladimír Papeřy (UCLA), Johan Renck (director of the HBO miniseries ‘Chernobyl’) and many others. Ongoing initiatives include The Global Informality Project (www.in-formality.com), which has produced an online encyclopaedia and two published volumes; and Perverting the Power Vertical, a lecture and discussion series on aesthetics and politics. We co-hosted an exhibition at the 2019 Venice Biennale. The FRINGE Series, one of the most dynamic at UCL Press, has published seven volumes, with many more soon to appear.

Health Humanities Centre

The Health Humanities Centre has organised and co-organised the following international conferences and workshops in London: ‘Transcultural Digital Health Humanities’ (2016), ‘Neural Pathways’ (2017), ‘Jung History’ (2016, 2018), ‘Transcultural Histories of Psychotherapies’ (2016, 2019), and the following conferences with performances: ‘Dying Well: Enacting Medical Ethics’ (2015), ‘Movement Matters: Dance, Kinaesthesia and the Avant-Garde’ (2018). It has run regular seminar series on the Health Humanities, the History of the Psychological Disciplines, and the UCL/KCL Joint Bioethics Colloquium. It has also co-organised events in Tokyo (with Seikei University), in Beijing (with PKU), in Rome (with La Sapienza) and Strasbourg (University of Strasbourg).

Gender and Feminism Network

The GFRN was founded in 2016 to provide a platform for debate on gender and feminist politics, including intersecting power relations such as race, class, age, disability, religion and sexuality. Each year the network runs a range of events, including a regular seminar series, panel discussions (e.g. ‘The Varieties of Religions and Secularities: The case of equal rights’), film screenings (such as the video artwork Palais de Justice), book launches, etc. We work with students from the Gender, Society and Representation MA to run an annual conference, most recently ‘Popular Feminisms: Tactics in Turbulent Times’. In 2020 we introduced a PhD talk group, which was hugely successful, bringing together over 50 students from 15 different disciplines across UCL to share their work and exchange ideas.

Post-socialist Art Centre (PACT)

The Post-socialist Art Centre (PACT) is a collaborative research initiative dedicated to the study of Central and East European art and visual culture led by Dr Maja Fowkes and Dr Reuben Fowkes. *Confrontations: Sessions in East European Art History*, realised with the grant support of the Getty Foundation’s Connecting Art Histories initiative, saw group seminars held in Zagreb and Ljubljana (2019), Prague and Bratislava (2019) and Warsaw and Łódź (2020), extensively documented on the Confrontations Blog. PACT also organised symposia at IAS, including a roundtable on socialist artworlds, presentations on the geo-histories of sugar, and a panel discussion on the biopolitics of the Plasticene.

Top and bottom: Images from PACT activities in Eastern Europe.

qUCL

qUCL launched in October 2016 under the directorship of Professor Bob Mills, and its current co-directors are Dr Simon Lock and Professor Steven Vaughan. Each year, we have undertaken a range of activities, from high-profile panel debates (including one in November 2016, chaired by the Provost, on global LGBT+ issues and universities, and our annual Festival of Culture qUCL events) to our bi-termed ‘Queer Space Research Forums’ (which allow scholars to showcase their research in LGBTQ studies, gender and sexuality studies, queer theory and related fields) to qUCL supported workshops and conferences (such as ‘Art + Activism: Queer and Feminist Visibilities’ in 2018, co-supported by the IAS; and ‘Queer Work/Queer Labour’ in 2019). The first qUCL annual lecture was held in 2018, given by renowned feminist writer Sara Ahmed. In 2019, the annual lecture was given by Margot Canaday, Professor of History at Princeton University.

Language and Meaning Centre

The Language & Meaning Centre was launched in October 2019 with its inaugural lecture delivered by Professor Gennaro Chierchia (Harvard University). Due to the very unusual circumstances that have occurred in academic year 2019-20, all but one other LMC event could not be held. However, the major international conference, MK40, has been postponed until Summer 2021.

Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation

Two fundamental tasks have been at the forefront of our Centre. Firstly, raising our profile and forming collaborations, we launched a podcast series featuring conversations with the likes of Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Gary Younge and Achille Mbembe, addressing the crises of Covid-19 and racialised police brutality.

Secondly, we have built the core academic team to deliver our MA programme and consolidate the key priorities for our research culture. We have appointed two stellar young academics, joining us in January 2021, with specialised research interests in anthropology and geography. We are delighted to have them join us in building something unique and exciting at UCL.
Area Studies Re-mapped

Critical Area Studies has been at the heart of IAS research initiatives over the past five years. In the early days, the IAS drew together experts from various area-based enclaves and institutional silos to think together about how ‘area’ is constituted historically and politically as well as geographically and discursively. Such deliberations culminated, in 2018, in the international conference ‘Area Studies in Flux’ but has also seen the expansion of research centres and initiatives that cluster around specific regions and demarcated spaces. Early on in our formation, the African Studies Research Centre and Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Indian Ocean World were formed to create lively interdisciplinary hubs bringing scholars together from multiple departments. These allowed literature, film, visual arts, archaeology, history and anthropology to co-exist and co-create new imaginaries of place and identification. Other older institutes like the Institute of the Americas and the European Institute joined the IAS research environment precisely in order to make their regional concerns more visible whilst exploring the porous and fluctuating boundaries by which they are demarcated and defended. In the light of the Brexit debates on bordering, sovereignty and identity as well as the rise of populism and nationalism in the Americas and Europe, these ambitious centres have been instrumental in shaping a university-wide discussion on fluctuating ideas of ‘area’. One of the great success stories of the IAS has been the flourishing of the Refuge in a Moving World research centre, which recently published its extraordinary volume of essays (UCL Press 2020) bringing together some of the ground-breaking work it has hosted on themes ranging from displacement, hospitality, migration, home and homelessness to refuge and precarity. The impulse to think about the politics of place is ever expanding and new IAS research centres include the Centre for Outer Space Studies and the Centre for Modern and Contemporary Britain, demonstrating our reach from the local to the far-away and drawing distant dream-spaces and worlds ever closer in a world turned upside down by Covid. Now more than ever the ‘Planetary Poetics’ we explored in our 2017 international conference seem relevant: environmental, aesthetic and theoretical mediations of the world do not defer to conventional borders and boundaries. It is these that ‘Area Studies Re-Mapped’ holds up to scrutiny.

> African Studies Research Centre
> Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Indian Ocean World
> China Centre for Health and Humanity
> European Institute
> Institute of the Americas
> Refuge in a Moving World
> Centre for Outer Space Studies
> Centre for Modern and Contemporary Britain
> Middle East Research Centre
African Studies Research Centre

In the five years since its inception, the African Studies Research Centre has provided an outstanding forum for Africa-focused research at UCL. With the IAS as its home, the Centre has also been highly successful in breaking down disciplinary and departmental boundaries in the study of the continent. The Centre’s life has been organised around five key types of activities:

**Bi-weekly interdisciplinary seminar series**

Featuring an average of 12-14 seminars per year, the lunchtime African Studies seminar series (funded by the UCL School of European Languages, Culture & Society (SELCS)) has attracted interdisciplinary audiences far beyond UCL, and has become well known within the African Studies community in the UK. Highlights include a talk by Deborah Posel (then University of Cape Town) on non-racialism in South Africa and Toby Green’s (KCL) presentation of his prize-winning book *A Fistful of Shells: Economic Histories and Inequality in Africa’s Longue Durée* in conversation with Paul Lovejoy (York University, Toronto).

The Centre is currently running an online series on the theme of ‘Africa in the time of coronavirus’, on the format of conversations between Centre staff and scholars, professionals and activists in Africa.

**Research-related support for the MA/MSc programme in African Studies**

From 2015 to 2019, when UCL offered an interdisciplinary MA/MSc programme in African Studies, the Centre served as the programme’s hub – not only physically in the IAS building, but also in terms of showcasing Africa-related research to the programme’s students.

**Africa-focused workshops and conferences**

The Centre has organised a range of academic events, including a one-day conference on climate change narratives in Eastern Africa, a workshop on new approaches in Ugandan studies and a high-profile international workshop on ‘Bridging the Divide Between African Diaspora Studies and African Studies’.

**Special events with guest speakers from Africa and beyond**

Many special events have been organised with particular attention to showcasing research and practice by African scholars and artists. Most notably, in January 2016, with funding from UCL’s Global Engagement Office the Centre organised ‘African Voices’, a series of talks, debates and informal encounters with five Africa-based scholars over a period of 11 days. Other highlights have included an illustrated conversation with Nollywood filmmaker and scholar Samantha Iwowo, a film screening of *The Mad Man’s Truth* (Senegal) followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Cheikh Bam-ba Diop, and a film screening of *Chasing Shadows* (Guinea Bissau), followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Roger Canals and anthropologists Ramón Sarró and Marina Temudo.

**Collaboration with learned societies**

The Centre has made collaboration with learned societies a strategic priority. A series of lectures with African scholars based in the UK and continental Europe was organised in 2015-17 jointly with the Royal African Society. More recently, the Centre welcomed the ASA-UK’s (African Studies Association-UK) 2019 Mary Kingsley Lecture with Pedi Obani.
In January 2019, we had the pleasure of welcoming our first Distinguished Visiting Professor, Sunil Amrith, who was then the Mehra Family Professor of South Asian Studies at Harvard (he has since moved to Yale), the recipient of a MacArthur ‘Genius’ Award, and a renowned scholar of the Indian Ocean world, his latest work focusing on the Anthropocene. Jagjeet Lally (UCL) and Sushma Jansari (British Museum) also continued their collaboration centred on decolonising South Asian heritage, hosting Priya Swamy from the National Museum of World Cultures (NMVW) in November 2019, when she gave a seminar and recorded a podcast, following up with a visit to counterpart institutions in The Netherlands in February 2020. Regrettably, events from the second half of Term 2 2019-20 onward have been postponed indefinitely, including a special seminar on the Dalit-Bahujan critique of Hinduism-Hindutva organised by Srilata Sircar and the Early Career Researchers’ Workshop in Term 3, which was this year to be jointly organised with QMUL.

In the last five years the IAS has consistently supported the work of UCL’s China Centre for Health and Humanity, its research and its collaborative international work in numerous ways, including holding two international conferences: the PKU-UCL ‘Cross-cultural Medical Humanities in a Digital World’ conference (November 2016) and ‘Looms of Life: Weaving, Medicine and Knowledge Production in Early China’ (March 2017).

Together we have supported the work of engaging UCL’s Strategic Partnership with Peking University in developing a dual degree programme through many integrated research and pedagogical events. These have included numerous film showings and hosting visiting scholars such as PKU Professors Guo Liping and Cong Yali. These have led to the launch of one film site (www.yimovi.com) and book launches for Imagining Chinese Medicine and Film and the Chinese Medical Humanities, the first book to reflect on the power that the moving image has to represent medical and health discourse in China.
European Institute

The European Institute is UCL's hub for research, collaboration and engagement on Europe. It exists to promote academic excellence in the study of Europe across the disciplines at UCL and to provide a leading forum for intellectual debate. Since 2015 it has organised over 220 public events, attended by nearly 14,000 people. It has also published hundreds of research papers, blogs, podcasts and videos on a remarkable array of topics, from the ethics of horror films to the architecture of Venice.

The Institute has played a key role in steering UCL through the turbulent Brexit period and raised the profile of UCL's EU-focused research and expertise. Its Brexit and Beyond book, downloaded over 100,000 times, was a notable highlight. However, the diverse range of projects it has supported, such as ‘LGBTQ Migration and Asylum’ and ‘Negotiating Religion’, highlight its uniquely cross-disciplinary focus.

Institute of the Americas

Established in 2012, the Institute has organised over 540 events, covering every area of the American continent through a number of regional and discipline-based series. Eminent guest speakers from across diverse fields of hemispheric scholarship: history, sociology, anthropology, economics, politics and culture, have made our programme of public lectures, seminars, workshops, international conferences and symposia particularly rich and appealing. We uphold UCL's commitment to public engagement, relevance and community impact, addressing current affairs, overarching themes, specific issues and critiques: race, gender, globalisation, development, environment, equality, migration, political economy and transitional justice. From among many fine scholars, law-makers and social and political actors, we single out two from 2017, Sir Keir Starmer MP, who delivered our Annual Eleanor Roosevelt Lecture, and Cuban paediatrician Dr Aleida Guevara, daughter of Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara, who delivered a public lecture on Cuban medical internationalism. Likewise, our academic staff have presented their research at various fora: UNO committees, the FCO, Parliament, national reconciliation tribunals and other instances of domestic and international relevance.
Refuge in a Moving World

Over the last five years, the Refuge in a Moving World (RiMW) network has grown in scope and activity, expanding into a thriving and interdisciplinary home for critical scholarship on migration and displacement. The network has engaged with diverse publics on these topics, which notably include a 2017 seminar with renowned novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, and the hosting of a keynote by Professor Homi Bhabha at the Refugee Hosts International Conference in 2019. Last year the network also co-convened the ‘Moving Objects: Stories of Displacement’ exhibition housed in the UCL Octagon Space, and the running of a series of satellite events on arts, heritage and culture in contexts of migration. The RiMW PhD wing has also expanded its activities, collaborating with the UCL Migration Research Unit to run regular writing, reading and training sessions for postgraduate researchers working on interdisciplinary migration research. The RiMW network has also played a pivotal role in advocating for refugee and migrant rights at UCL, supporting the Pathways to Education for Women in London project and successful efforts to secure meaningful scholarships for students from refugee backgrounds to study at the university. Such activities were recognised by the awarding of Professor Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh – the network’s convener – with a UCL Provost Award for Public Engagement in 2018. Finally, these varied activities, as well as the incredible work of the network’s members, have culminated in the publication of a 32-chapter collected volume Refuge in a Moving World: Tracing Refugee Journeys across Disciplines. This volume, edited by Professor Fiddian-Qasmiyeh and published by UCL Press, is open access and available to read online for free.

Centre for Outer Space Studies

The Centre for Outer Space Studies was founded in 2019 to promote research and teaching related to the social study of space and our relationship to the cosmos and the planet. The Centre aims to act as a catalyst for serious debate, via talks, exhibitions, film screenings and other events that help us explore the wider socio-political impact of space science and the wider human relationship to outer space.
Centre for Modern and Contemporary Britain

The Centre for Modern and Contemporary Britain (CMCB) was founded in 2020 and seeks to build a vibrant and connected space for intellectual community and exchange that creates new synergies and productive working relationships across UCL and beyond. It enables students and scholars of modern and contemporary Britain to engage with each other’s work across traditional disciplinary boundaries, bringing the arts and sciences, theorists and practitioners, into productive conversation.

Middle East Research Centre

The Middle East Research Centre (MERC) provides a focal point for in-depth research on the Middle East and North Africa at UCL. It promotes research and teaching related to the region and its intersection with the wider world, from antiquity to the present. The Centre brings together experts across several disciplines and departments, and serves as a vital hub for researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students with an interest in the Middle East and North Africa.
IAS Initiatives

IAS Book Launch Programme

The IAS hosts members of staff, or colleagues elsewhere, 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. Over the past five years, we have hosted over 80 launches, covering an enormously wide range of interests from the Institute, the Faculties of Arts & Humanities and Social & Historical Sciences, and beyond. The first, in January 2016, celebrated Scandinavian Studies’ Dr Erin Goeres’ *The Poetics of Commemoration*, and since then topics have ranged from children in horror films (*Little Horrors* by Professor Susanne Kord), border politics in Kenya (*We Do Not Have Borders* by Dr Keren Weitzberg), to how LGBTQ+ rights have become one of the world’s new human rights frontiers (*The Pink Line* by Mark Gevisser), along with Wolfson History Prize 2019 winner *Reckonings: Legacies of Nazi Persecution and the Quest for Justice* by Professor Mary Fulbrook. And in the past year, launches ranged from books featuring experimental writings on popular spaces to representations of the end of apartheid in South Africa and the history of and identity in Israel/Palestine from different perspectives.

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, and there is always space for audience participation and discussion. Talking Points is open to all researchers at UCL, both senior and early career, as well as postgraduate students. During its first five years, the IAS has hosted over 65 Talking Points seminars, ranging from concepts of majesty and territories in Shakespeare’s *King John* given by the IAS’s first Senior Visiting Research Fellow, Professor Stuart Elden, feminism and Grand Theft Auto (Dr Niklas Olsson Yaouzis) and the emotional health of victims of trafficking (Dr Runa Lazzarino) to mescaline experiments in the early 20th century (Dr Jelena Martinovic) and Nietzsche and *The Catcher in the Rye* (Dr Temitope Abisoye Noah). We are looking forward to a similarly varied and intellectually stimulating programme of seminars given by our Fellows and colleagues in the coming year.
IAS Think/Talk Pieces

Think Pieces is a biannual publication which represents and furthers the interdisciplinary, varied and cutting-edge research and thinking that the IAS houses. It maintains academic rigour and high intellectual standards while addressing a broad and heterogeneous readership. Each issue is devoted to one of the annual research themes, and includes short articles, interviews, book reviews, creative writing, art works and photographs. Think Pieces has an online version, Talk Pieces, which also includes sound archives and film footage. The first issue, ‘Lies’, was launched in June 2019, ‘Turbulence’ in May 2020 and ‘Laughter’ in December 2020. Issue 4 on ‘Waste’ will be published in the form of a bestiary in 2021.

The podcast ‘Life in the Time of Coronavirus’ presented a wide range of views and perspectives, each of which raised questions around the language, structures of thought, representational conventions, technologies, forms of behaviour, social structures, power relations and historical precedents that our current situation suggests.

Hosted Initiatives

The IAS hosts other many initiatives from academics across UCL

In 2019-20, we added to our well-established events/forums by hosting the seminar series ‘Marxism in Culture’ as well as reading and seminar groups for Literary London, the Migration Research Unit, the China Centre for Health and Humanity and the London Arts & Humanities Partnership (LAHP)-funded writing group.

Marxism in Culture

The Marxism in Culture seminar series was conceived in 2002 to provide a forum for those committed to the continuing relevance of Marxism for cultural analysis. Both ‘Marxism’ and ‘culture’ are conceived here in a broad sense. We understand Marxism as an ongoing self-critical tradition, and correspondingly the critique of Marxism’s own history and premises is part of the agenda. ‘Culture’ is intended to comprehend not only the traditional fine arts, but also aspects of popular culture such as film, popular music and fashion. Since relocating to the IAS, we have welcomed speakers including Maria Chehonadskih, Andrew Cole, Louis Moreno, Paul Rekret, Nizan Shaked, Dhanveer Singh Brar and Marina Vishmidt. We would like to thank the IAS for their generosity in hosting the MIC.
The Literary London Reading Group, part of the Literary London Society, has been running for eight years. During that time it has provided a forum for academics and members of the public to share their interest and enthusiasm for London’s literatures past and present, and has provided a platform for established scholars, early career academics and independent researchers to share their research with an audience within and beyond the academy. The reading group joined UCL’s Institute of Advanced Studies in September 2019 and held three meetings before Covid-19 brought an early end to the year’s programme. As usual, the topics discussed were exciting and varied, ranging from the medieval narrative poem St. Erkenwald, to Michael Landy’s 2001 art event Break Down, to the sparse, Modernist poetry of John Rodker.

The Migration Research Unit PhD Network launched in 2019 and has, with the generous support of the IAS, expanded into a thriving research hub for postgraduate students conducting interdisciplinary research into migration at UCL. In co-ordination with the IAS Refuge in a Moving World network, the MRU PhD Network hosted a number of reading groups and training sessions on topics as varied as humanitarian assistance, refugee law, vulnerability and the politics of care. A highlight for the network included the running of a workshop at the IAS on soundscapes and audial methods in migration research, led by Dr Tom Western, now a Lecturer at the UCL Department of Geography. In the coming year, the MRU PhD network will be running regular writing, reading and discussion groups, and will be working toward publications on the effects of Covid-19 on migration research.
China Centre for Health and Humanity PhD Reading Group

We have had a regular postgraduate reading group that meets in the IAS rooms with Chinese students and students studying the history of medicine and film in China. Increasingly, this is an online group which includes UCL students, alumni and interested academics, but there is a core group that likes to meet face-to-face. We discuss readings suggested by the group and read work in its early drafts for both PhD students and research fellows.

LAHP-funded Writing Group

The IAS seminar room was an invaluable resource for the London Arts and Humanities Partnership ‘Shut Up and Write’ writing group during the 2019-20 academic year. Doctoral students from across London - UCL, King’s, the Royal College of Art, Queen Mary, SAS and others - got together every Friday to work on theses, presentations, conference papers and field notes. The seminar room provided a quiet haven to study together and to motivate one another and share the day’s writing goals.

Testimonials to celebrate our Fifth Anniversary

Professor Rosi Braidotti

Distinguished University Professor, Utrecht University
IAS Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow

I was honoured and delighted to accept Tamar Garb’s invitation to be the Institute of Advanced Studies’ first Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow during the Autumn Term 2017/18. The programme of events, including the ‘Planetary Poetics’ conference, the workshops and public lectures was exciting. I benefited greatly from the stimulating intellectual environment that Tamar and her team set up, as I was drafting my Posthuman Knowledge book. I look back upon my visit with gratitude and appreciation.

Dr Lonnie Bunch

Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
IAS Honorary Visiting Research Fellow

It is a great honour to add my voice to the chorus of people celebrating the leadership of Tamar Garb as the Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies at UCL. From the moment I met Tamar at a gathering of scholars and museum professionals in South Africa I was struck by her scholarship and her generosity of spirit. Thanks to Tamar’s persistence I was able to obtain a visiting fellowship at the Institute in 2018. My time at UCL was transformative. I was able to finish my book because of the atmosphere that Tamar created and supported at the Institute. The environment was riven with scholarship and intellectual curiosity that shaped my work in important ways. But Tamar became more than a colleague, she became a friend. I will never forget how she made this sojourner feel a part of the Institute and how she made sure that I was never isolated as she extended my social circle and accompanied me to cultural activities throughout the city.

How fortunate we all were to benefit from her leadership and her good will. Tamar, I offer my heartfelt congratulations for a job well done.
Professor Deborah Posel

Founding Director, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER), University of the Witwatersrand
IAS Leverhulme Visiting Professor

A big and grateful thank you to administrative and academic colleagues at the IAS - and especially to Tamar Garb, a model of intellectual exuberance and order, setting the tone for a convivial, stimulating and hospitable scholarly community.

Professor Stuart Elden

Professor of Political Theory and Geography, University of Warwick
IAS Senior Visiting Research Fellow

I had a wonderful time at the IAS, during which time I completed one book Foucault: The Birth of Power (Polity, 2017) and did a lot of the work for another, Shakespearean Territories (University of Chicago Press, 2018). I presented material from both books - the former in a lunchtime seminar, and the latter in a lecture and panel discussion. I enjoyed being part of the discussions and intellectual community.

Professor Mary C Rawlinson

Department of Philosophy, Stony Brook University
IAS Senior Visiting Research Fellow

The Institute offers an exceptionally engaging and stimulating intellectual environment, and the collegial exchanges it fosters provide a context conducive to research and professional growth. It is an enormous success in its core mission of fostering critical thinking across disciplines.

The activities of the Institute are extremely well organised around the research themes, residential seminars and Talking Points Seminars. The research themes are aptly chosen to be broad enough to engage a range of disciplines, while being sufficiently focused to invite and stimulate advanced research. At the same time, the themes effectively evoke the Institute’s commitment to reflecting on pressing ethical and political matters.

The Talking Points Seminar series offers Fellows the opportunity to present their research to the broad interdisciplinary community that regularly participates in Institute events. Through this series and other Institute activities, I was able to connect with colleagues in other areas of the university, including the FRINGE Centre, the Gender and Feminism Research Network and the Bartlett School of Architecture.

The residential seminars provide an important informal opportunity for the discussion of new research and work-in-progress. The discussion of my new research in the seminar definitely shaped and enriched the project. Moreover, I have continued to benefit from the reflections of my colleagues.

I teach in a Tier I research university with a well-ranked doctoral programme, and I am used to being around brilliant young people with great projects, but the quality of the Junior Research Fellows that the IAS is able to attract amazed me. These young scholars rank with the two or three very best doctoral students I have known in three decades of teaching. They are smart, motivated and creative, and the importance of each of their projects was clear to me. Their reflections and comments certainly benefit my own work. I continue to have contact with half a dozen of the JRFs, and I have had the occasion to offer advice and support on professional matters. Thus, the Institute fosters on-going professional relationships that benefit both junior and senior fellows far beyond the fellowship period.

These productive relationships emerge, I believe, because of the tone that is set at the top. The IAS is a place of high energy with an emphasis on productivity and the highest standards of scholarship, but it is also a generative place where fellows feel able to take risks. This combination of high standards and intellectual generosity fosters an atmosphere conducive to success in generating both excellent scholarship and sustaining professional relationships.

In sum, in my experience as a Senior Visiting Research Fellow the IAS provided the best context for research and professional development that I could have imagined. It is an honour and a pleasure to be associated with the IAS.
Our People

Academic Director

Professor Tamar Garb

Tamar Garb is Durning Lawrence Professor in the History of Art and a Fellow of the British Academy. Her research interests have focused on questions of gender and sexuality in nineteenth and early twentieth century French art. She has also published on questions of race and representation. Key publications include *Bodies of Modernity: Figure and Flesh in Fin-de-Siècle France* (Thames & Hudson, 1998) and *The Painted Face, Portraits of Women in France 1814-1914* (Yale University Press, 2007). Her interests have shifted more recently to post-apartheid culture and art and the history of lens-based practices in Africa, and in recent years she has turned to curating. Shows have included *Figures and Fictions: Contemporary South African Photography* (V&A, 2011); *Distance and Desire: Encounters with the African Archive* (Walther Collection, 2015) *William Kentridge and Vivienne Koorland: A Conversation in Letters and Lines* (Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, 2016) and *Made Routes: Vivienne Koorland and Berni Searle* (Richard Saltoun Gallery, London, 2019).

Deputy Directors

Faculty of Arts & Humanities

Professor Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen

Professor Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen has been Deputy Academic Director (Humanities) for the IAS since 2017. He is Professor of Scandinavian Literature in the School of European Languages, Culture and Society, where he teaches modules in Scandinavian Studies, Comparative Literature and on the BA Arts and Sciences. Jakob’s research explores the inter-dependence of literature and materiality and literature and society, how literature may contribute to our understanding of social change and our environment, the infrastructures that enable the globalisation of literatures from small nations and the understanding of the Nordic region as a transnational network of cultural exchanges.

Faculty of Social & Historical Sciences

Professor Megan Vaughan

I am an interdisciplinary scholar and teacher, working at the boundaries of history and anthropology. I began my career at the University of Malawi and before coming to UCL I held posts at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Most of my research has been focused on the social, medical and environmental histories of Malawi and Zambia, though I have also worked on the history of slavery and ‘creolisation’ in the Indian Ocean. I continue to write and teach on the history of colonialism in Africa. My current research (funded by the Wellcome Trust) addresses the history of epidemiological change in Africa, particularly the rise of so-called “noncommunicable” diseases.
**Dr Timothy Carroll**

Timothy Carroll is a Principal Research Fellow in Anthropology at UCL, working on the role of material within the religious practice of Eastern Orthodox Christians, with a focus on art, textiles, the body and medical interventions. His current research investigates the way that materials such as the body and the environment are marshalled within the religious, political and social discourse of the global community of Orthodox Christian Churches. His publications include *Orthodox Christian Material Culture: Of People and Things in the Making of Heaven* (2018) and *A Return to the Object: Alfred Gell, Art, and Social Theory* (co-authored, 2020).

**Dr Jane Gilbert**

Jane Gilbert studied at Cambridge and (briefly) at the Courtauld Institute, and has lectured at UCL since 1997. She works on French and English medieval literature, and is interested especially in conversations between medieval literature and modern critical theory. Her recent publications include *Medieval French Literary Culture Abroad* (OUP, 2020); co-authored with William Burgwinkle and Simon Gaunt, this book emerged from the AHRC-funded project recorded at [www.medievalfrancophone.ac.uk](http://www.medievalfrancophone.ac.uk), which investigated how Old French literary texts and manuscripts were produced and circulated outside France, with a view to projecting a non-national history of French literature. Her current project is on Form in Translation: how literary form translates between French, English and Latin in medieval texts and manuscripts, how forms are laid out in manuscripts, and the affective, literary and philosophical consequences.
Professional Staff

Catherine Stokes

Catherine joined the IAS when it was founded in 2015. She graduated in History from King’s College London and has previously worked in university administration for the former Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School (now part of Imperial College London), the Institute of Historical Research in the School of Advanced Study at the University of London and the Business School, City, University of London, 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 also developed and helps to maintain the Institute’s website and run events which take place at the IAS.

Albert Brenchat-Aguilar

Albert has co-curated the public programme for each of the annual research themes along with the IAS team since 2018. He is also the Editorial Manager of Think Pieces and Talk Pieces, independently published by the IAS. Until 2016, he was the editorial manager of the digital platform www.CeramicArchitectures.com, and worked as a practising architect on the restoration and rehabilitation of Bombas Gens Arts Centre in Valencia, Spain. He received his master’s degree in Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Valencia and his master’s degree in Architectural History from UCL. He is a CHASE-funded PhD student at Birkbeck, University of London School of Arts and the Architectural Association with the project ‘The Wholeness that is the Environment: Subject and Episteme of Human Habitats amongst International Planning Consultants in UN Networks c. 1964-76’, focusing on the archive of the international consultant Otto Koenigsberger and theories of knowledge ecologies from the 1970s to the present.

Lucy Stagg

Lucy’s role is to manage the administration of the IAS’s research centres, help promote their activities and ensure their smooth running. Lucy completed her BA in Combined Studies (French, Spanish and Linguistics) at Durham University in 2000, and spent a very happy year travelling the world before embarking on a career in university administration. She has worked in various higher education institutions, including King’s College London, before joining UCL in February 2013.
Dr Michael Hennessy Picard

In 2020, I was very fortunate to collaborate with the IAS community on the annual theme ‘waste’. Under the leadership of Tamar Garb, the IAS seminars and events provided valuable insight on my work, which focuses on the sociotechnical imaginary of global waste management. The research has been published here: https://doi.org/10.1080/20414005.2020.1778878 and owes a debt of gratitude to all the IAS seminar participants. I wish the best to the next Director of the IAS, Professor Nicola Miller.

About Michael

Michael holds a PhD in Law from the University of Quebec in Montreal, for which he was awarded two Best Thesis Prizes by the Quebec Society of Law Professors and the Quebec Society of International Law. Before joining the IAS, Michael was a residential research fellow at the Harvard Law School and a postdoctoral fellow at the McGill Law Faculty. His publications on waste include *International Environmental Law in an Era of Globalized Waste*. At the IAS, Michael is working on global plastic laws and on the international legal distribution of plastic wealth and waste. With colleagues in Canada and Europe, Michael conducts a larger research project on the Molysmocene, which defines the toxic, irradiated and polluted era we collectively live in.
Over the last year I have been completing research toward my book, ‘Metafiction and the Postwar Novel’, which has now been accepted by Oxford University Press for publication next year. Alongside this, I have written several academic articles, including one on laughter in Saul Bellow’s fiction and another on literary nationalism. Like everybody else, I have been attempting to manage the interruptions due to Covid-19 and have fortunately been able to continue to stay connected as much as possible. Our theme was laughter – a light topic in what has been a heavy time. It has been a pleasure to be at the IAS, and I look forward to participating in events in years to come.

Dr Andrew Dean

Andrew Dean undertook an undergraduate degree in English Literature at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. He completed his master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. Most recently, he was Stipendiary Lecturer in Victorian and Modern Literature at St John’s College, Oxford. His research has been published in Beyond the Ancient Quarrel: Literature, Philosophy, and J. M. Coetzee (OUP, 2017), and further work is forthcoming. He is also the author of the bestselling popular book, Ruth, Roger and Me: Debts and Legacies (Bridget Williams Books, 2015). That work examines the lives and experiences of those brought up in the wake of New Zealand’s economic reforms of the 1980s and 1990s, and features interviews with major figures from the period.

Dr Alice Rudge

My postdoctoral fellowship on laughter has given me a unique opportunity to examine the relationship between the ways we laugh, ethical beliefs, and concepts of personhood. I have published an article in American Ethnologist entitled ‘Laughing when you shouldn’t: being “good” among the Batek of Peninsular Malaysia’, co-curated (with Albert Brenchat) an exhibition of the works of Zunar, whose cartoons use laughter to criticise corruption in the Malaysian government, and co-organised (with Andrew Dean) a conference on laughter that welcomed scholars from neuroscience, psychology, anthropology, literary studies and art history. The intellectual freedom that the IAS offered furthermore allowed me to theorise how ethical beliefs and notions of personhood - ideas that I originally began to explore through laughter - might now be changing as Batek people experience environmental change. This has led to my being awarded a Leverhulme Early Career fellowship, alongside a grant from the Endangered Material Knowledge Programme at the British Museum to conduct further work with the Batek.
About Alice

Alice Rudge holds a bachelor’s degree in Music from the University of Cambridge and a master’s degree in Music in Development from SOAS. She began working with Batek hunting and gathering people in Malaysia in 2014, when she began her PhD at UCL. Her work with Batek people has focused on the relationship between sound, aesthetics and moral beliefs, using an interdisciplinary approach that draws on anthropology, ethnomusicology and linguistics. Since completing her PhD, she has been the recipient of a Coleridge Research Fellowship from the British Library, which enabled her to begin research on the musical practices of hunter-gatherer peoples across cultures.

Dr Véra Ehrenstein

It has been another great year for me at the IAS, despite the pandemic. I pursued my research in Science and Technology Studies (STS) on the politics of forest carbon measurement by conducting exploratory fieldwork in Gabon (figures 1 and 2). Based on this, I am currently developing a broader project entitled ‘The Global Forest’ to explore postcolonial natural sciences and climate policies in Central Africa. I worked with the editorial team of Think Pieces and former JRF Lucy Bollington to put together an issue on the theme Turbulence. The issue brings together art, queer theory, science fiction and science studies to reflect on today’s political and environmental crises. In addition to completing a couple of writing projects, I have also initiated new cross-disciplinary collaborations within UCL and the IAS. With Noémi Tousignant from UCL STS, I organised a workshop on ‘Wasteful metabolisms and the predicaments of growth in Africa’. Even as we were all at home during lockdown, IAS scholars continued to meet virtually. This provided a sense of community that has been vital to get through such tough times.
About Véra

Véra Ehrenstein graduated from the Ecole Polytechnique (France) and completed a PhD in sociology at the Centre for the Sociology of Innovation, Ecole des Mines de Paris. Her doctoral research focused on ‘REDD+’, a global policy aimed at targeting tropical deforestation that came out of the United Nations negotiation process on climate change. In 2014, Véra joined Goldsmiths College where she was involved in a research project on the use of market-based interventions in public policy. A co-authored book, *Can Markets Solve Problems? An Empirical Inquiry into Neoliberalism in Action* (with Daniel Neyland and Sveta Milyaeva), came out in October 2019 (Goldsmiths Press). Véra has also published articles in *Economy and Society*, *Journal of Cultural Economy* and *Revue française de sociologie*.

Dr Franziska Neumann

During my time at the IAS I had the opportunity to work on my post-doc project on early modern urban waste regimes and mainly worked on a case study on waste regimes in early modern London. Based on the vast archival material of the London Metropolitan Archives, I was able to reconstruct various aspects of London’s waste infrastructure in the 18th century, such as the spatial, economic and social dimensions involved. I enjoyed the open and interdisciplinary atmosphere at the IAS and found the various events at the IAS on the main topic of waste, especially with artists such as Diana Lelonek, particularly inspiring.
About Franziska

Franziska Neumann studied history, art history and philosophy and received her PhD degree in Early Modern and Modern History from the Technische Universität in Dresden with a thesis on the formalisation of the Saxon mining administration in the 16th century. Since 2017, she has worked as a research assistant and lecturer at the University of Rostock.

Nicola Baldwin

I spent 2019-2020 immersed in Waste, as a UCL Creative Fellow, hosted by the IAS and working with the UCL Urban Laboratory researching and workshopping a new play. Activities included seminars on ‘creative recycling’, a week-long interdisciplinary collaboration, an immersive drama at the Petrie Museum, and pop-up agitprop with Dr Pushpa Arabindoo’s Urban Studies students. Urban Lab hosted a special performance of *We The Young Strong* for Bartlett100 at Bloomsbury Theatre and I wrote *The Duchess* for UCL Art Museum Revolutionary Lates. Almost 1,000 people watched or participated in research events. The first draft of *WASTELAND* was read online in July 2020, and its development will continue in collaboration with IAS.

About Nicola

Nicola Baldwin is a dramatist and director who works in theatre, film, radio and TV. She studied English at UCL and worked as a camera operator and director of music videos. Her plays have been commissioned/produced by the Royal Court, Royal Exchange, Sheffield Crucible and Bath Theatres. With Furious Theatre she staged new writing events in empty shops and unused spaces. Recent plays include: *Nosocomial*, a science fiction drama based on workshops with healthcare scientists, which won the 2019 NHS Healthcare Science Partnering Patients and Citizens award; and *We The Young Strong* about far right radicalisation of young women in 1930s. She has won the George Devine award, Time Out award, and twice been shortlisted for Susan Smith Blackburn and BBC Audio awards. She was Writers’ Tutor at the Royal Court, Associate Lecturer at Drama Centre, and Research Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund.
Rowan Evans and Maisie Newman

As Creative Fellows, Rowan and Maisie developed WULF, their dark, feminist adaptation of the anonymous Old English poem *Wulf and Eadwacer*, in dialogue with staff and students at UCL. WULF is based on one of only two surviving Old English poems written from a female perspective and combines dance, multilingual poetic text and an original score, enacting a formal and linguistic transgression of the male-dominated poetics of Old English. Through interactive workshops, creative-research-practice seminars and scratch performance rehearsals, amongst other things, the project involved a broad spectrum of the UCL community in exploring the rich interconnections between scholarship and arts practice.

About Rowan

Rowan Evans is a poet, composer and sound artist whose recent books include *The Last Verses of Beccán* (Guillemot Press, 2019) and *cante jondo mixtape* (If a Leaf Falls Press, 2017). He received an Eric Gregory Award in 2015 and a selection of his work appears in *Penguin Modern Poets 7: These Hard and Shining Things* (Penguin, 2018). Rowan is co-editor of Moot Press, where he co-curates the Anathema reading series, and artistic co-director of the interdisciplinary performance company Fen. He is currently undertaking practice-based PhD research in modern poetry and ancient language at Royal Holloway, University of London.

About Maisie

Maisie Newman is a performance director, choreographer, workshop practitioner and artist. She was the Interim Young Company Director at the Bristol Old Vic and has five years’ experience leading workshops in interdisciplinary performance across the South West for multiple major arts institutions. As a performance maker, she creates work with the Bristol Old Vic and through her professional companies, including Fen. As a choreographer, she has worked for various professional productions and companies, specialising in developing choreography for non-dancers, focused on kinaesthetic response to liveness and bodily autonomy. Her performance work has been presented and supported by Gecko Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, Ferment, Arnolfini, Tobacco Factory, Hauser and Wirth, and Arts Council England. Maisie is undertaking a part-time MFA in Fine Art at the Ruskin School of Art.
Dr Kafui Adjaye-Gbewonyo

My activities this past year have included conducting a qualitative study called Family Histories of Chronic Disease in Coastal Ghana which contributes to the project ‘Chronic Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa’. I have also contributed to and am co-editing a volume with Professor Megan Vaughan and Dr Marissa Mika entitled *Epidemiological Change and Chronic Disease in Africa: Social and Historical Perspectives* to be published by UCL Press in 2021. Furthermore, I made a trip to South Africa to build collaborations and develop a grant proposal for a secondary data analysis project. I have enjoyed the interdisciplinary and encouraging environment of the IAS during my stay these past two years, including our weekly seminars and the many thought-provoking events.

Kafui Adjaye-Gbewonyo received an ScD (2016) and ScM (2011) in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Harvard Chan School of Public Health. She previously worked as a research fellow with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lancet NCDI Poverty Commission and Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions.

Drs Maja and Reuben Fowkes

Maja and Reuben Fowkes are co-directors of the Postsocialist Art Centre (PACT) at the IAS and founders of the Translocal Institute for Contemporary Art. In addition to *Central and Eastern European Art Since 1950* (Thames & Hudson, 2020), their publications include *Ilona Németh: Eastern Sugar* (forthcoming, 2020), a special issue of *Third Text* on Actually Existing Worlds of Socialism (2018) and Maja Fowkes’s *The Green Bloc: Neo-Avant-Garde and Ecology under Socialism* (2015). They are co-founders of the Environmental Arts and Humanities Initiative at Central European University Budapest. At UCL, they lead the Getty Foundation Connecting Art Histories – supported research project Confrontations: Sessions in East European Art History. www.translocal.org

Dr Misheck Nkhata

With the increase in non-communicable diseases, my research is an ethnographic study of comorbidities in Malawi, which include diabetes, hypertension, HIV and AIDS and depression. The aim of the study is to explore how patients experience and live with diseases as a part of a syndemic that includes other diseases, poverty and malnutrition. Using syndemics as an approach, I explore the interaction of these diseases on social, psychological and biological levels, and between communicable and non-communicable diseases. This study is within the ‘Chronic
Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa’ project led by Professor Megan Vaughan.

Misheck received his PhD in Anthropology from Durham University in 2020. His thesis, entitled *Managing Uncertainties: An Ethnography of Diabetes Management in Malawi*, was based on fieldwork at two diabetes clinics and patients’ homes in Blantyre City and Chiradzulu District, Malawi. Misheck also holds a Master of Science in Medical Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam and a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree from the University of Malawi.

**Dr Christoph Thonfeld**

Dr. habil. Christoph Thonfeld is a historian who has undertaken research and/or taught at Bremen University, Hagen University and Trier University in Germany, at Cheng Chi University and National Taiwan Normal University in Taiwan and at University College London in the UK. His main area of interest is 20th century German and European history with special emphasis on the Nazi era and its aftermath. His most recent research is on judicial ways of dealing with Nazi crimes in post-war Germany and Austria as well as on diachronic development of Holocaust survivor testimony. Currently, he is head of research department at Dachau concentration camp memorial site in Germany.

**Dr Stefanie Rauch**

Stefanie Rauch’s research interests include twentieth-century German history with a focus on the Nazi period and its legacies, media representations and audience reception, WWII intelligence history and digital humanities. Since joining the IAS in 2016, she has published her research in journals, with her first monograph forthcoming in 2020/21, presented her research at conferences and organised events at the IAS. She is a Research Associate on the collaborative AHRC-funded project *Compromised Identities? Reflections on Complicity and Perpetration under Nazism* (2018-2021), contributing to the creation of an online exhibition, the opening of an oral history archive, and other impact and public engagement activities. Stefanie’s current research on the *Compromised Identities* project explores the ways in which non-persecuted Germans and Austrians negotiated different degrees of involvement and complicity in the Third Reich after 1945. It analyses patterns of self-representations in different post-war encounters, and the relationship between private lives and identities, and socio-political contexts.

Stefanie Rauch 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 joining UCL as a Junior Research Fellow in 2016, she worked for a publisher on the commissioning of digital archive projects.
Dr Bastiaan Willems

In his PhD in History, completed at the University of Edinburgh, Bastiaan Willems focused on intra-ethnic violence in the province of East Prussia in the final year of the Second World War. He has published articles with the Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte, the Journal of Slavic Military Studies and The New Past / Новое Прошлое, and his first monograph, Violence in Defeat: The Wehrmacht on German Soil 1944-1945, will be published with Cambridge University Press in early 2021.

Professor Ama de-Graft Aikins

Ama de-Graft Aikins joined the IAS in May 2019 as British Academy Global Professor. She received her PhD in social psychology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), completed postdoctoral training at the University of Cambridge and has held teaching and research positions at the LSE, University of Cambridge and University of Ghana.

Ama’s research focuses on chronic illness representations, experiences and care, and on the social, cultural and health systems aspects of Africa’s chronic non-communicable disease (NCD) burden. She also has a strong interest in the history of psychology in Africa and its intersections with critical theory and African Studies.

Ama’s current project, titled Chronicity and Care in African Contexts, is funded through the British Academy Global Professorship award. Two core activities include a longitudinal social psychological study of chronic illness experiences and care among London’s West African communities and the development of public engagement models for NCDs in African contexts. The project aims to contribute a ‘whole-of-society’ approach to current initiatives addressing the disproportionate burden of chronic diseases in Global Africa.

Professor Paul Gilroy

Paul Gilroy is Professor of the Humanities at UCL and Founding Director of the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism & Racialisation (SPRC).

Paul joined UCL as Professor of the Humanities in August 2019 and, as Founding Director of the SPRC, has established a vibrant new interdisciplinary research centre that harnesses scholarship from across UCL in the
critical study of race as well as the history, theory and politics of racism and its effects.

He has been described as one of the foremost theorists of race and racism working and teaching in the world today, and has transformed thinking across disciplines, from Ethnic Studies, British and American Literature, African American Studies, Black British Studies, Trans-Atlantic History and Critical Race Theory to Post-Colonial Theory.

Professor Sasha Roseneil

Professor Sasha Roseneil joined UCL in September 2018 as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences. She is based in the Institute of Advanced Studies as Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Science.

Prior to joining UCL, Sasha was the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex, and before joining Essex she was Professor of Sociology and Social Theory at Birkbeck where she was Director of the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research and held a number of other leadership roles. Sasha’s background also includes sixteen years at the University of Leeds where she established and directed the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, now considered a world-leading centre in the field. From 2005 to 2015 she was Professor II in the Centre for Gender Research at the University of Oslo.

Sasha is a sociologist and a group analyst, with broad interdisciplinary research interests and collaborations. She has made major contributions to the study of social movements and gender politics. Sasha’s research on intimacy, care and personal life, on citizenship and collective action, on gender and sexuality, and in psychosocial studies has earned a global reputation. She is also a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Dr Keren Weitzberg (joint appointment with the Department of History)

Keren Weitzberg works at the intersection of science and technology studies, migration studies, and critical race studies, examining problematics related to mobility, digital identity and biometrics. Her first book, We Do Not Have Borders: Greater Somalia and the Predicaments of Belonging in Kenya, looked at Somali transnational networks in Kenya. Keren’s new project explores the
history of biometric identification in East Africa. It examines how those at the physical and metaphorical margins of the nation are navigating new digital identity systems. Her recent work has been funded by the British Academy, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright Program, Privacy International, the Alan Turing Institute, and the UCL Trellis: Public Art programme.

Dr Robert Knight

Robert Knight is a historian of post-war Central Europe. He studied at Cambridge, Würzburg and the LSE, where he completed a PhD on British policy towards post-war Austria. He has taught history and politics at Salzburg, Loughborough and Vienna Universities. His main research interests are the Cold War in Central Europe and the dynamics of Austria after Nazi rule, in particularly antisemitism and anti-Slovene politics. A German version of his book on the Carinthian Slovenes is forthcoming (New Academic Press, Vienna). His current book project is a comparison of Austria and West Germany as post-Nazi societies (Oxford University Press).

Dr Joanna Michlic

Joanna Beata Michlic is a social and cultural historian, and founder of the HBI Project on Families, Children and the Holocaust at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on the Holocaust and its memory in Europe, East European Jewish childhood, and antisemitism, racism and nationalism in Europe. She is currently working on a book on the history and memory of rescue of Jews in Poland, supported by the Gerda Henkel Fellowship. Her forthcoming single-authored monographs are Piętno Zagłady. Wojenna i powojenna historia oraz pamięć żydowskich dzieci ocalałych w Polsce (ZIH, 2020) and Lessons from the Holocaust: History and (Self)-Representations of Jewish Child Survivors (NUP, 2021).
**Professor Manuel-Reyes García Hurtado**

Manuel-Reyes García Hurtado has a BA in Geography and History from the University of Santiago de Compostela, where he also defended his PhD thesis (2000) for which he was awarded an extraordinary prize.

Currently a full Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Corunna, his research has focused on the Spanish army and navy in the eighteenth century from the perspective of cultural history, participating in and leading several research projects in this respect. Other lines of research that he has pursued include the history of books, naval history, the history of war, art and military thought, prisoners of war, and European history. During his career, he has undertaken research and teaching visits at various universities in Europe and America.

**Professor Mary C Rawlinson**

Mary C Rawlinson is Professor and Chair in the Department of Philosophy and an Affiliated Faculty in Comparative Literature and Women’s and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University in New York.


**Professor Anthony Zwi**

Professor Anthony Zwi schooled and studied medicine in South Africa, epidemiology at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and public health at University College London and the NHS. At LSHTM (1987-2001), he worked in the Health Policy Unit (which he headed 1997-2000). He focused on
Anthony migrated to Australia (2001) and led (2002-2006) the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at University of New South Wales. In 2011 he moved to Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences UNSW teaching and researching global development policy and practice.

Anthony focuses on transdisciplinary research with health, development, humanitarian, human rights and policy dimensions: COVID-19 provides a current focus. He is particularly interested in the role of civil society in supporting communities to tackle systemic and structural problems.

Dr Merrick Anderson

Merrick Anderson received his undergraduate degree and MA at the University of Toronto before moving to Princeton University for his PhD. His dissertation was on justice as a concept in the ancient Greek philosophers.

Dr Max Haiven

Dr Max Haiven is Canada Research Chair in Culture, Media and Social Justice at Lakehead University in Anishinaabe territories on the North shore of Lake Superior, Turtle Island (Thunder Bay, Canada). He is co-director of the Reimagining Value Action Lab, a workshop for the radical imagination, social justice and decolonisation. His most recent book is *Revenge Capitalism: The Ghosts of Empire, the Demons of Capital, and the Settling of Unpayable Debts*, published by Pluto in April 2020, following the publication of *Art After Money, Money After Art: Creative Strategies Against Financialization* in 2018.

Professor Meiling Huang

Meiling Huang is a Professor of Roman Law in the School of Law at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. She obtained her PhD in Roman Law from University of Rome Tor Vergata in 2013. She was a Visiting Professor at Sapienza University of Rome in February 2018 and January 2019. She has published many articles in both Italian and Mandarin Chinese. Her recent book, *Promessa Unilaterale Come Fonte di Obbligazione: Dai Fondamenti Romanistici al Codice Civile Cinese*, published in 2018 by Jovene Press, discusses legal systems with a multicultural interpretation. Her current research interests focus on the history of Roman law, especially the ‘Codex Theodosianus’.
Dr Marjo Kolehmainen

Marjo Kolehmainen is a postdoctoral researcher in gender studies at Tampere University, Finland. She works on the project *Intimacy in Data-driven Culture,* funded by the Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland. Marjo’s current work specifically concerns digital intimacies. During her time as an IAS Visiting Research Fellow, she focused on online counselling targeted at LBGTQIA. At the moment, she is examining the diverse practices of e-counselling in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has authored over twenty peer-reviewed publications and has recently had articles in *The Sociological Review, Body & Society* and *European Journal of Cultural Studies,* to name a few. Moreover, she is a co-editor of *Affective Inequalities in Intimate Relationships* (Routledge, 2018).

Dr Juliette Milbach


Dr Temitope Abisoye Noah

Temitope Abisoye Noah is a Germanist whose work reaches across multiple disciplines – Africana studies, American studies and religious studies, to name a few. Her recent publications have focused on the ‘liberation politics’ of thinkers such as Frantz Fanon, Franz Kafka, Karl Marx and Fela Anikulapo Kuti. She is currently completing several projects on the writings of Friedrich Nietzsche, including her book manuscript, *Nietzsche, Luther, and Thus Spoke Zarathustra.* She also writes extensively about film and has another project in the works on Marxism and Christianity in African film.

Prior to joining UCL, Temi was a visiting researcher and scholar at The Free University of Berlin’s Institute of German and Dutch Philology and at Johannes Gutenberg University’s Faculty of Protestant Theology. In 2019, she received a doctorate in German from New York University.
Dr Alessia Pannese

Alessia Pannese trained in law at the University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’ (Laurea), veterinary medicine at the University of Perugia (Laurea), and veterinary science at the University of Cambridge (MPhil), before studying neurobiology and behaviour at Columbia University (PhD), and literature and arts at the University of Oxford (MSt). Prior to joining the IAS, she held fellowships at Institutes for Advanced Studies in New York (Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America), Paris (Institut d’études avancées) and Delmenhorst (Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg).

Alessia is broadly interested in consciousness and the self, including sensory perception, volition, agency and self-regulation. During her time at the IAS, she worked on a set of ongoing projects examining those themes from a multidisciplinary perspective that includes physiological, neurocognitive, literary and historical approaches.

Dr Arun Rasiah

Arun Rasiah is Associate Professor and Director of Liberal Studies at Holy Names University in Oakland, California. His doctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley, focused on the philosophy and organisation of Islamic learning. He teaches courses in the history of ideas and helps to prepare future teachers.

Dr Claudia Tobin

Claudia Tobin is a writer, curator and lecturer specialising in the intersections between modern and contemporary literature and the visual arts. She is currently writing a book about colour and the imagination in modern literature and visual culture. In 2017, she was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Cambridge and has held fellowships at the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art, Huntington Library California and Paris Diderot University. She is a Senior Research Associate at the Intellectual Forum, Jesus College Cambridge.

Dr William Vaz de Oliveira

William Vaz de Oliveira is an Adjunct Professor of History in the Institute of Application Fernando Rodrigues da Silveira at the State University of Rio de Janeiro-Brazil. He graduated in History and Psychology, and obtained his PhD in Social History in 2013. William’s research focuses on the history of Brazil within the fields
of history of science, history of medicine and the history of psychological and psychiatric knowledge and practices. He has published the following books amongst others: *Assistance to Alienated People in Rio de Janeiro* (2017) and *Eugenics, Biopolitics and Population Control* (2017).
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