

THE INSTITUTE OF
ADVANCED STUDIES
BIANNUAL REVIEW
2021-2023



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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 50,000 students, of whom 25,000 are undergraduates, 19,000 are taught postgraduates and 6,000 are doing research degrees. Nearly half of our students come from countries outside of the UK (UCL Annual Review 2023). This diversity characterises UCL's unique community of committed, engaged and intellectually curious students.

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. Our new campus, UCL East, in the former Olympic Park in East London, is home to a wide range of innovative practice-based degrees, integrating academic work with community engagement and partners in the creative and cultural industries.

UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies is closely aligned with the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences, and the School of Creative and Cultural Industries at UCL East. In all three units, 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 Bartlett School of Architecture, the Institute of Education, the Faculty of Laws, the Institute of Global Health, Science and Technology Studies and the Faculty of Engineering. 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.

Director's Foreword

When I gladly accepted the role of Director of the IAS in early March 2020, three weeks away from UK lockdown, I had little sense of how dramatically the job would change by the time I started in September 2020. An Institute committed to serendipitous ways of working, to creating an open space for unexpected encounters and unpredictable conversations, reliant – in short – on presence and liveness, was forced into a disembodied world that was far more conducive to monologue than dialogue, to authoritative pronouncement than to imaginative exploration, and to sticking with the known instead of embracing the new. Yet one heartening feature of the last three years has been the enduring enthusiasm of colleagues across the arts, humanities and social sciences for the kind of work the IAS does. Even when obliged to spend many extra hours adapting to online teaching, the members of our research centres and networks continued to organise research events, which other colleagues and students continued to attend. Indeed, three new research centres were launched during the pandemic – the Centre for Outer Space Studies; the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Race and Racialisation and the Middle East Research Centre. As daily life (academic and elsewhere) became more constrained and systematised, there was an evident longing for intellectual exchange, and a readiness to put in the extra work to make it happen, which was deeply moving and inspiring. At IAS, we are all hugely grateful to everyone who has contributed to keeping our programme so full and lively over the last three years.

It has been a time of many successful initiatives, and we offer a selection of them in the following pages. My personal highlights include our Fifth Anniversary Festival in June 2021 (actually its sixth year), a week of events reflecting on the themes and projects carried out since 2015. Our publication *Wastuary* derives from a particularly imaginative salvaging operation after the cancelling of most of the events planned for our 2019-20 theme of Waste, which was a collaboration with UCL Urban Lab. The Music Futures



research seed funding, run jointly with the European Institute and UCL Grand Challenges, has created a community of people from all disciplines whose research adopts music as a way of thinking as well as an object of study. Our collaboration with UCL Anthropocene, together with the generous support of the Quirk bequest, has made it possible to build two research clusters, one on Indigenous Ecologies and Environmental Crisis, the other on Languages of the Anthropocene, both of which amply demonstrate the major contribution of humanistic scholarship to articulating and confronting current crises.

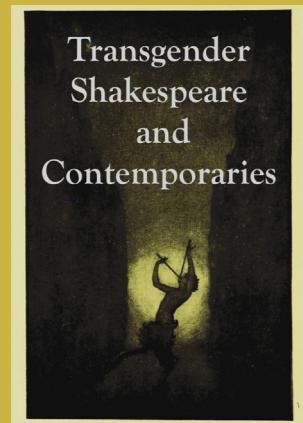
In 2024, we look forward to launching three more Research Centres: the Centre for French and Francophone Studies, the Centre for Capitalism Studies and ARIEL, our Centre for Creative Practice Research. We also look forward to our 10th anniversary in 2025, as we continue contributing to wider cross-disciplinary conversations, not least to a re-thinking of the university as AI transforms our world.

Professor Nicola Miller

ANNIVERSARY

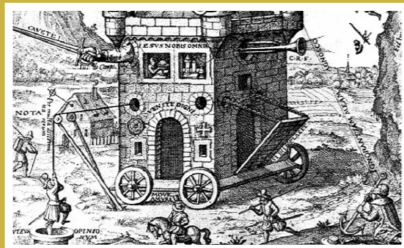
FESTIVAL 2021

In 2021, the IAS celebrated its first five years with a three-day festival from 4 to 6 May under the umbrella of 'Alternative Epistemologies'. Due to the pandemic, the 28 events – conversations, performances, film screenings, book launches and various other formats – were held online. 18 events were recorded and are available to watch on the IAS website.



Transgender Shakespeare and Contemporaries

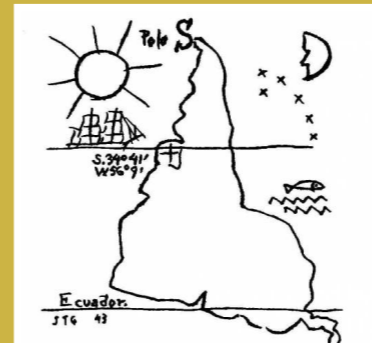
Crossing the line: contested borders and bounded space in Ireland



Early Modern Futures



The Weight of Numbers on Bodies. A Webinar with Raqs Media Collective

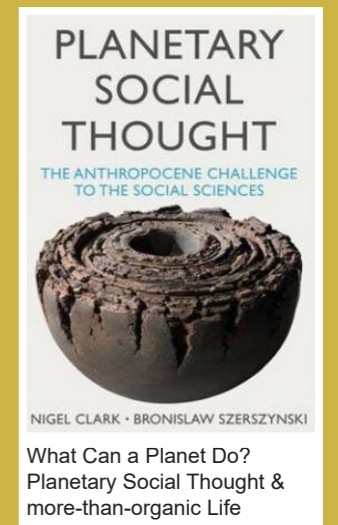


Knowledge Equity: A Concept for the Post-pandemic World

Making (in) the Digital Humanities



Writing the Camp



PLANETARY SOCIAL THOUGHT
THE ANTHROPOCENE CHALLENGE TO THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

NIGEL CLARK · BRONISLAW SZERSZYNSKI

What Can a Planet Do? Planetary Social Thought & more-than-organic Life



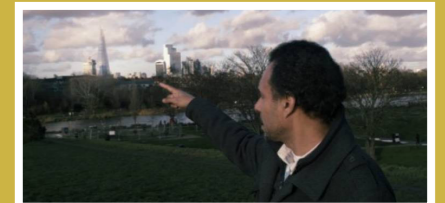
Alternative Epistemologies for Critical Heritage Studies



Re-humouring the Golden Elixir



Compromised Identities? Reflections on Perpetration and Complicity under Nazism



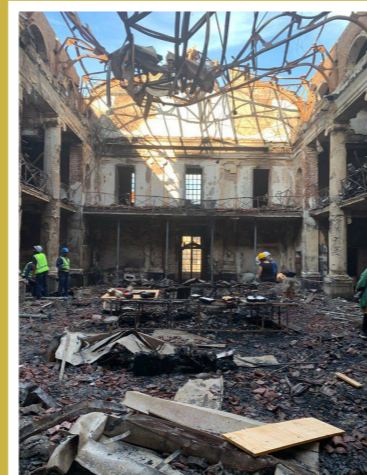
A Moving-image Piece: *H is for Hostile Environment*

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL FICTION

The Politics of Fiction: Three Years of Reading Political Fiction at UCL

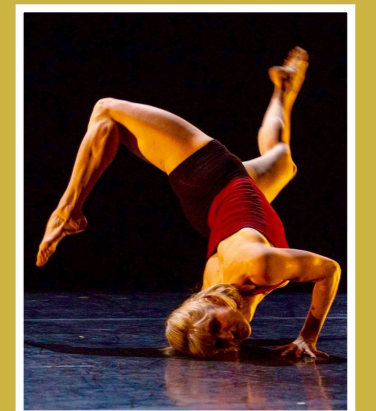


Queer Without Borders 2.0

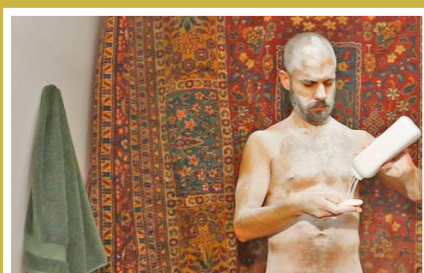


The Fragility of the Archive

Sea, Song, Writing: On the Palmy Beach



Challenges of Interpersonal Understanding: Reflections from Dance, Choreography, Philosophy



Daily-Artifacts and the Body in the Americas

Gaza: Arts of Resilience and Hope in the Midst of Despair



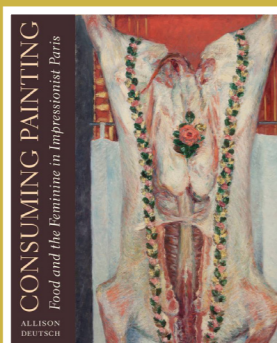
Memory, Identity and Nationalism: Is There a Crisis of Regional Organisations?



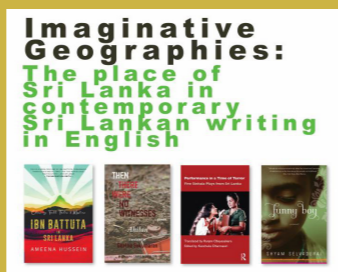
On Site-Writing



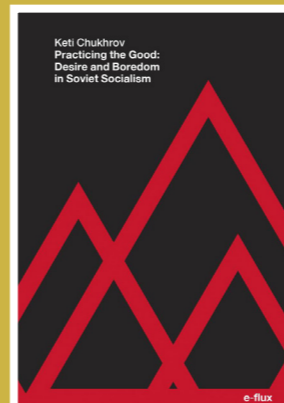
In the Air. An Art-geography Conversation



Book Launch: Consuming Painting



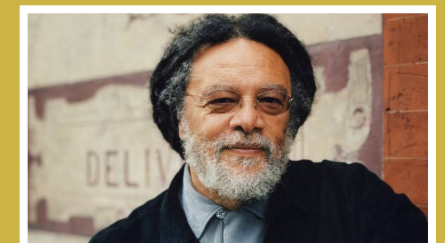
Imaginative Geographies: The place of Sri Lanka in contemporary Sri Lankan writing in English



Book Launch: Practicing the Good



Floral Collectivism: Postsocialist Eco-Epistemologies



'Anti-racism as Politics': Inaugural Lecture by Professor Paul Gilroy

NEW RESEARCH CENTRES

Centre for Outer Space Studies

Building on our excellent series of events, seminars and talks in 2020-2021, the Centre for Outer Space Studies (COSS) has since focused on developing artistic-academic collaborations, as well as sustaining a healthy events list. We were instrumental in highlighting the contributions of arts, humanities, and social sciences to the study of space, notably during UCL Space Week in November 2021. We held interdisciplinary debates which were open to the public, PhD workshops to build community at UCL, workshops on Virtual Reality and space, and talks by legends of science fiction on Star Trek and its relevance to science. We were awarded a £30,000 grant to work with the university consortium Paris Sciences et Lettres to host four workshops and to produce a website and book called the 'off-earth Atlas'. This will showcase cross-disciplinary work on the implications of humans leaving the earth.

COSS supported the UK's first Analogue Space Research Mission, a five-day off-world simulation carried out on an uninhabited island off Scotland, which was reimagined as a Martian landscape. It was run by Myles Harris of UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction. COSS recruited an artist-in-residence, who joined the Analogue Research crew. This was extraordinarily successful. Artist Sarah Fortais produced a wonderful array of artworks from the residency (see examples on facing page). Her work, which was displayed at the Royal Geographical Society, has generated compelling interdisciplinary conversations and collaborations, both within UCL, at other universities, and in the space industry.

Of all the work we have done this residency most clearly demonstrates the purpose of COSS: to foster interdisciplinarity and collaboration across disciplines and sectors.

Currently there are numerous academic papers in the works. One will consider how the Scottish island, on which the Analogue Mission took place, was transformed into Mars, both in practical and conceptual terms. Such work brings together people from astro-pharmacy, anthropology (social and medical anthropology), risk reduction management, and fine art. In this context, Sarah's artworks, which consider in situ resource use, sustainability, the body, gesture, and conceptual notions of off-world living, do far more than reflect the research, or provide impact: rather, they actively reset the co-ordinates through which we can think through what is being done at such sites. These are the kinds of exciting and novel forms of academic practice, co-working, and knowledge production that COSS seeks to foster. Such work really gets at the heart of how COSS operates, namely fostering interdisciplinary communities to forge new forms of research questions and novel methodologies appropriate to contemporary and future social problems.



NEW RESEARCH CENTRES

SARAH PARKER REMOND CENTRE for the Study of Racism and Racialisation

The SPRC is a multidisciplinary research centre for the study of racism and racialisation. The Centre accommodates a unique community of students, teachers and researchers, providing a focal point for research, teaching and public engagement addressed to various problems of racial inequality and hierarchy.

The Centre coordinates and hosts a number of research and public engagement initiatives that connect to three principal themes: the impact of racial divisions and racial hierarchy on the social and political life of data; the significance of climate emergency for post- and neo-colonial relations; the continuing significance of race, racism and the inequalities they generate in relation to health and medicine. It works closely with its extensive network of internal and external affiliates to build a community of scholars and scholarship, both within and beyond UCL, focussed on the work of anti-racism and decolonisation. The Centre curates and hosts a vibrant programme of research events, including a regular colloquium series, an annual memorial lecture, an annual early career researchers conference, as well as book launches and many other research events. Recordings of some of these events are available through the Centre's website. The SPRC also partners with the organisation Radical Ecology to convene the Black Atlantic Innovation Network; a framework for bringing together leading cultural organisations, researchers and educationalists across

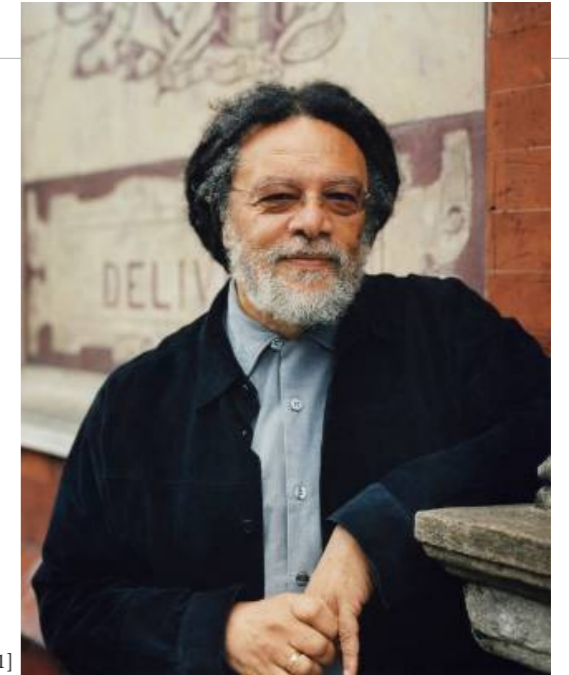
the UK to advance a practicable new framework for environmental justice and decolonisation. The Centre also hosts and produces its own podcast series, featuring conversations between Paul Gilroy and Steve McQueen or Linton Kwesi Johnson as well as Gala Rexer and Françoise Vergès.

The Centre also runs an MA in Race, Ethnicity and Postcolonial Studies. The programme offers students a rigorous, relevant and multidisciplinary examination of the planetary histories of racial thinking and racial hierarchies, as well as their continuing effects in the present. It also gives students the opportunity to specialize in areas of their choice.

The Centre's permanent staff currently comprises two co-Directors (Founding Director, Professor Paul Gilroy [1] and co-Director Professor Tariq Jazeel [2]), two members of teaching and research staff (Dr. Luke de Noronha [3] and Dr. Paige Patchin [4]), and an administrator (Trisha Hart [5]; Kaissa Karhu until 2022). It has also been home to Associate Lecturers Dr. Gala Rexer and Dr. Pragya Dhital. Between 2020 and 2023, the Centre has also hosted Research Fellows (Dr. Gala Rexer, Dr. Pavan Manogaran, and Dr. Elizabeth Cooper). Through that same period, the Centre has also hosted six Activists in Residence (2020/21: Ashish Ghadiali, Tony Warner; 2021/22: Tej Adeleye, Awate Suleiman; 2022/23: Yasmin Elsouda, and Dhelia Snoussi).



[2]



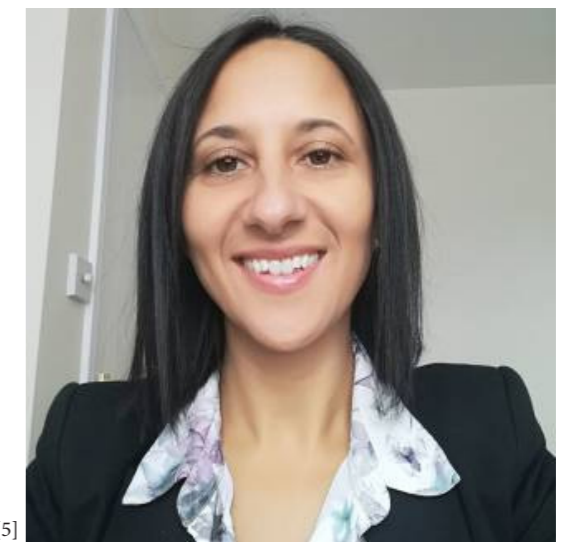
[1]



[4]



[3]



[5]

NEW RESEARCH CENTRES

MIDDLE EAST RESEARCH CENTRE

The Middle East Research Centre (MERC) was established in 2020 to provide a focal point for in-depth research on the Middle East and North Africa at UCL. Bringing together over thirty scholars of the region, with expertise ranging from the archaeology of the ancient Near East to forced migration and conflict-induced displacement of the twenty-first century, MERC serves as a vital hub for researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students, as well as the wider public. The Centre is uniquely placed to address the rich complexity of a diverse region of the world, drawing on staff and students from across the joint faculty with research and teaching interests from departments including Anthropology, Geography, History, Political Science, the Institute of Archaeology, and Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

Building a community from the ground up, MERC has focused on convening public lectures, book launches, poetry readings and research seminars as a means of generating intellectual exchange that amplifies regional expertise and invites cross-disciplinary and trans-regional collaboration. Alongside the formal development of a diverse network of scholars and students, the Centre has hosted notable historians of the modern Middle East to discuss newly published works, including Professor Rashid Khalidi of Columbia University, who spoke about The Hundred Years War on Palestine, and Professor Elizabeth Thompson of American University, who spoke about her book *How the West Stole Democracy from the Arabs*. Other events have included hosting the poet Yousif M. Qasmiyeh, who gave a reading from his

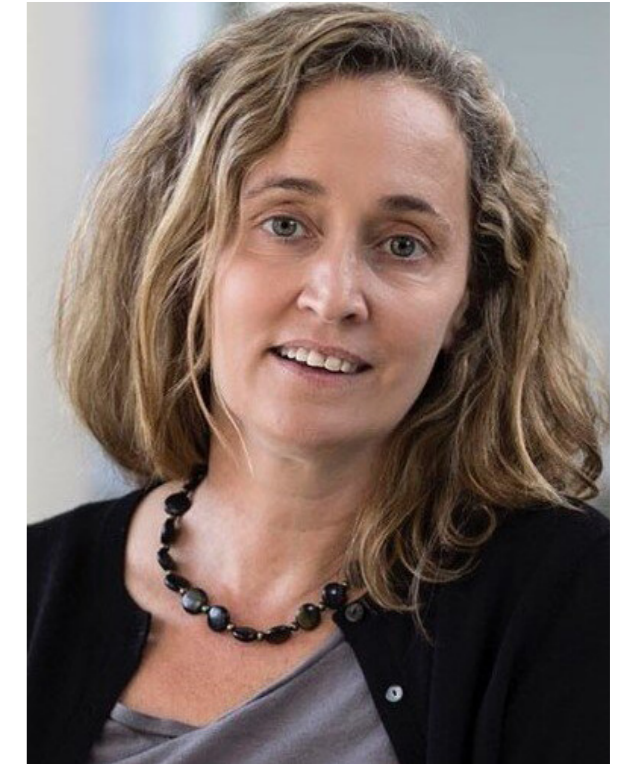
collection *Writing the Camp*; a talk with Dr. Ammar Azzouz, whose work focuses on the destruction of the urban landscape in Syria; and MERC affiliated staff presenting works in progress and newly published books, including Dr Julie Norman on *The Palestinian Prisoners Movement*; Dr Tom Western on his work with the Syrian and Greek Youth Forum; Dr Anne Irfan on *Refuge and Resistance*; and Dr Estel-la Carpi's research on humanitarian practice in *The Politics of Crisis-Making*.

Organised in collaboration with various departments at UCL and related academic centres in London and beyond, this robust programme of events is growing alongside a commitment to teaching about the region across several departments, an effort that will help foster and sustain the community of scholars and students engaged with research on the Middle East and North Africa at UCL while also reaching a wider public through varied research projects across several fields and in disseminating relevant policy expertise. Future plans include regular research seminars of works in progress, reading groups for doctoral students, and collaboration with regional artists, writers, and filmmakers. Given the scope and range of ongoing work in and around the Middle East at UCL, MERC remains a prime beneficiary of the generous support offered by the IAS to area studies experts thinking through the changing historical and geographical construction of the region, with all the political and social complexities this entails.



Writing the Camp 6 May 2021

Poet-scholar Yousif M. Qasmiyeh was in conversation with MERC Director Dr Seth Ansizka (UCL Hebrew and Jewish Studies) and Professor Elena Fiddian Qasmiyeh (UCL Geography), combining readings from his eponymous poetry collection with reflections on Baddawi Camp where he was born and raised, and where he continues to conduct different forms of research.



Book Talk *How the West Stole Democracy From the Arabs* 28 September 2022

Professor Elizabeth F. Thompson (American University) presented her award winning book *How the West Stole Democracy From the Arabs* and was in conversation with Dr Seth Ansizka. The event was sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Studies and the Centre for Palestine Studies at SOAS.

RESEARCH

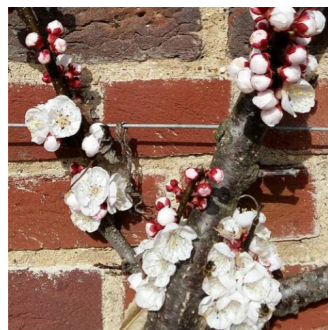
Music Futures

The IAS and the UCL European Institute worked together on Music Futures, a year-long programme of activities dedicated to thinking, writing and performing music at UCL. Music Futures, which will continue with the generous support of UCL Grand Challenges, has seed-funded nearly twenty projects working on music. The first year of work culminated in a four-day festival of concerts, conversations, performances, film premières, and workshops. It has fostered a new cluster of scholarship on music at UCL, bringing together expertise and ideas from a wide range of disciplines – from literary studies to history, philosophy to technology, and law to cognitive neuroscience. The foundations have been laid for creating a new field of transdisciplinary music studies, which will explore the potential for music to be a tool as well as an object of research.

“Music is among the most cherished unifying principles of our troubled age. The ecumenical experiment of UCL Music Futures illustrated this vividly. The Music Futures initiative brought together a rich diversity of disciplines [...] spanning UCL and academic and artistic partnerships with Europe and beyond, all united by a common commitment to musical scholarship and creativity. The resulting Festival built inter-disciplinary bridges and dialogues that were often surprising and always inspiring. In the case of my own research group, it has seeded a new collaboration dedicated to developing music-based therapies informed by brain science, to enhance well-being and resilience in people with dementia.”

Professor Jason Warren, Professor of Neurology,
UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences

From 17 to 23 June 2022, the first Music Futures festival celebrated activities dedicated to thinking, writing and performing music at UCL.



Singing Cultural Memories of Places and Spaces

A conversation-recital of selected English art songs, exploring their agency as cultural memory.



Singing Truth to Power: Politics, Opera, and the Russian

Premiere of a short film about directing, performing and seeing the opera *The Life & Death of Alexander Litvinenko*.



UCL Anthrobeats – Data Dance: The Sound of Space and Mobility

Developing a DJ set of the dataset: utilising the medium of sound/music through the process of sonification, data was transformed into sound.

THEMES

Indigenous Ecologies

Our work as IAS Research Fellows at the Indigenous Ecologies and Environmental Crisis Research Cluster started in January 2023, and it has been an intense and rewarding time for us as Early Career Researchers.

Adriana's project looked at the barriers and possibilities for the inclusion of *buen vivir* and plurinationality within the Chilean Constitutional Convention. Olivia's project looked at agrarian colonisation programmes in lowland Bolivia, drawing on two months of fieldwork involving archival research and interviews.

We worked closely with IAS Director Nicola Miller, Megan Vaughan, and Marthe Lisson to design and organise the Cluster's Indigenous Ecologies conference which took place on 8 and 9 November. The conference was based on extensive collaboration with colleagues across UCL. It centred the contribution of Indigenous scholars and highlighted the research being undertaken on Indigenous Ecologies from academics across different disciplines in UCL.

A core part of our work throughout the Fellowships involved the dissemination of research to the wider public and UCL community through non-academic outputs. We recorded two podcasts based on our reading of two books: *Le Maya Q'atzij / Our Maya Word* by Emil Keme' (Emory University) and *Crooked Cats: Beastly Encounters in the Anthropocene* by Nayanika Mathur (Oxford University), which will be published in 2024 on *Think Pieces*.

We also wrote two articles for *Think Pieces*. Adriana reviewed the exhibition of Cecilia Vicuña's work at Tate Modern. Olivia's piece touches upon Indigenous cinema as ritual and practice of resistance. In addition, we worked with different academics engaged in work related to the Indigenous Ecologies theme, and commissioned a total of seven articles that were published as a journal issue on *Think Pieces*. The contributors are historians, artists, anthropologists and geographers from across UCL and beyond whose work highlights the legacies of colonialism and explore ways of inhabiting and relating that differ from western understandings.

We began our fellowship by drawing together researchers at all levels in the UCL research community to configure a group relevant to the thematic focus of the cluster. This involved working initially with academics like John Sabbapathy (UCL Anthropocene - for which we wrote a blog) and Medical Anthropologists Sarah Gibbon and Jennie Gamlin.

We continue to collaborate and to promote the understanding of Indigenous Ecologies and are planning a publication from the conference.



Dr Olivia Arigho-Stiles is an interdisciplinary researcher of Indigenous histories and the rural world in Bolivia. She is now a Lecturer at the University of Essex and a Research Associate on the Rethinking Values of the Anthropocene project at the University of Bristol.



Dr Adriana Suárez Delucchi is a geographer, analysing institutions and environmental dynamics to challenge the marginalisation of rural and Indigenous communities from environmental governance. She is now a Lecturer in Sustainability at the Universidad Católica de Temuco, Araucanía, Chile.

Socialist Anthropocene in the Visual Arts

The Postsocialist Art Centre (PACT) is dedicated to the study of the art and visual culture of socialism and postsocialism from a global perspective. Through research projects, international networks, curatorial activities, artistic collaborations, teaching and supervision, public lectures and events, as well as podcasts and blogs, the centre illuminates the art and visual culture of socialism and postsocialism from a diversity of historical, contemporary, comparative, global, horizontal and environmental perspectives.

The London seminar of the Getty Foundation Connecting Art Histories supported project, *Confrontations: Sessions in East European Art History* (2018-22), held in May 2022, brought together researchers from across the region for workshops, lectures and visits, including a guest lecture by Christine Macel, chief curator at the Centre Pompidou on the reception of East European art in France and a panel discussion on the changing position of East European art in the UK. This was the concluding event of a highly successful programme of travelling seminars with a remarkable cohort of postdoctoral scholars from across the region, as documented in the *Confrontations* blog. The activities of PACT have expanded through the impetus of the five year research project led by Maja Fowkes on the Socialist Anthropocene in the Visual Arts (SAVA), which was selected by the European Research Council (ERC) and is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The SAVA team of postdoctoral researchers and creative fellows is investigating the distinctive path through the Anthropocene taken by socialist countries from Estonia to Poland and Uzbekistan to Cuba.

The focus of the SAVA project in the academic year 2022-23 was on the theme of extractivism, launched with the organisation of a research week that included an opening lecture by artist Jonas Staal and a panel discussion on the epistemologies of the Socialist Anthropocene. Research on the Socialist Anthropocene was presented in this period at the

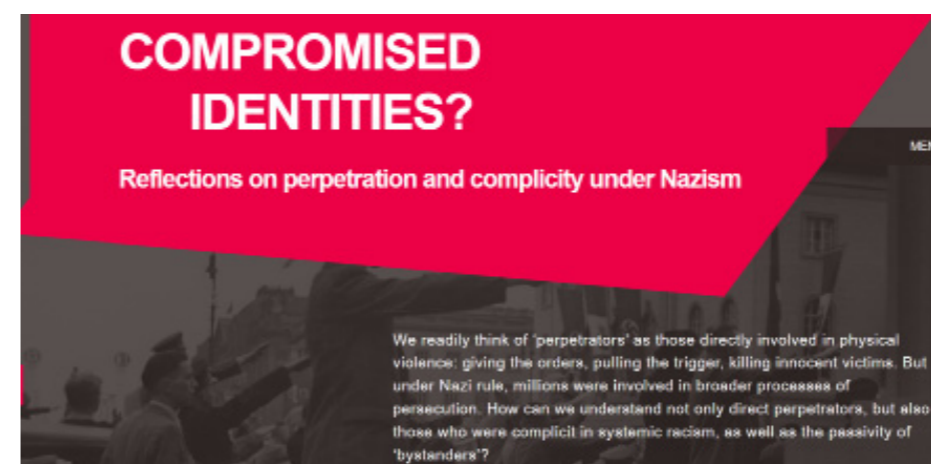
Igor Zabel Award conference in Ljubljana, in the Yale University Visions of Ecology lecture series, in the programme of the exhibition Decolonial Ecologies at Riga Art Space, Latvia, at the Association of Art Historians conference in London, in the Interdisciplinary Lab of the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and at the conference 'Rethinking Cultures of Environmentalism' at Tallinn University and KUMU Art Museum. Further SAVA events in and beyond UCL included an evening of discursive and artistic interventions at the Showroom gallery and a panel discussion with artists and curators on the political potential of horticultural practice. The SAVA research team made its first joint research trip to Estonia and Lithuania for lectures, meetings with scholars and artists, and visits to sites of the Socialist Anthropocene, including mining areas and a nuclear town. This year also saw the launch of the SAVA podcast series, entitled *Left to be Desired*, including episodes recorded with artists Oliver Ressler and Saodat Ismailova.



Interpreting Perpetrator Voices

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.

As part of the AHRC-funded research project *Compromised Identities? Reflections on Perpetration and Complicity under Nazism* (2018-2021), Professor Mary Fulbrook, Professor Stephanie Bird, and Research associates Dr Stefanie Rauch, Dr Christoph Thonfeld, and Dr Bastiaan Willems launched the online exhibition compromised-identities.org. Co-founded by the Pears Foundation, it considers ways in which individuals and societies tell their



stories about being involved in state-sponsored violence. Thanks to a collaboration with Helen McCord and Corey Soper at the Centre for Holocaust Education, the exhibition is now being used in Key Stage 5 teaching as well. The exhibition was followed by the international conference 'Compromised Identities? Perpetration and Complicity, Past and Present' (2021) that resulted in the edited volume *Perpetration and Complicity under Nazism and Beyond: Compromised Identities?* (London: Bloomsbury, 2023). In addition, Stephanie Bird has been completing a book on representations of perpetration and complicity under National Socialism in novels, Mary Fulbrook's *Bystander Society: Conformity and*

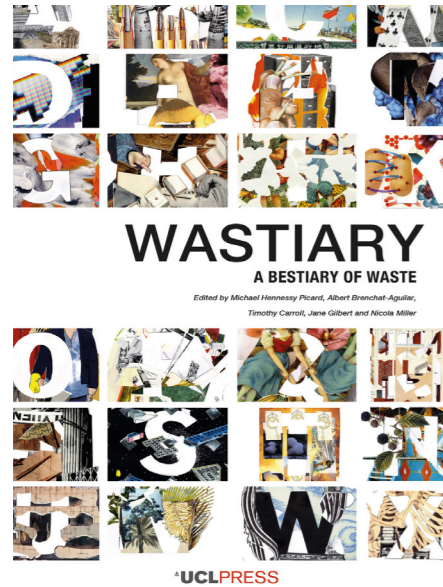
Complicity in Nazi Germany and the Holocaust (Oxford UP, 2023) examines German society before and during the Nazi regime, exploring the social conditions that eventually facilitated mass murder.

Concurrently, the Pears Foundation-funded project *Interpreting Perpetrator Voices* (2021-) investigates the production, dissemination, and reception of recorded perpetrator voices in research, education, and public history. In particular, Dr. Stefanie Rauch (2021-22) and Dr. Zoltán Kékesi (2022-) have worked on 'Final Account: Third Reich Testimonies,' a collection of oral histories, created by Luke Holland (1948-2020). Held in the United Kingdom at The Wiener Holocaust Library and UCL Digital Collections, 'Final Account' contains some 300 interviews recorded with non-Jewish Germans and Austrians about their memories of Nazism, the Second World War, and the Holocaust. Stefanie Rauch has been curating a selection of translated excerpts from the collection to be published as a sourcebook under the title *Conversations with Third Reich Contemporaries: From Luke Holland's "Final Account"* (currently under contract with UCL Press).

Zoltán Kékesi has been doing research for a case study based on a section of the collection recorded in Argentina, focusing on National Socialism's transnational routes and impact outside of the Third Reich and occupied Europe. Together with Stefanie Rauch, he has also been working with partners in Germany and Austria to expand access to the collection internationally.

PUBLICATIONS

Wastiary



The idea for *Wastiary*, which was published by UCL Press in 2023, emerged from a collaboration between the UCL Urban Laboratory and the IAS. Over one year, in 2019-20, we interrogated the theme 'waste' across the arts, humanities and social sciences, bringing into conversation artists, art historians, urbanists, planners, architects and engineers, scientists and medics. The start of the pandemic in early 2020 meant that many of the planned events could not take place. It was then, in summer 2020, that Albert Brenchat-Aguilar (then IAS Events Curator & Communications Officer) and Michael Picard (then IAS Junior Research Fellow) proposed the book project *Wastiary*, as a way of continuing the thinking on waste.

The *Wastiary* is an illustrated volume of short contributions by researchers from across the arts, humanities and social sciences, reflecting from their various disciplines and perspectives upon the multiple meanings and manifestations of waste. Central to the conception was a strong visual language and we are delighted that artist Nina Mathijssen worked with us on the illustrations and design. This was partly made possible by the IAS project 'New (Normal) Materialist Decay' which was supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The editorial work has been a collective effort by Albert Brenchat-Aguilar, Timothy Carroll (Principal Research Fellow in Anthropology, UCL), Jane Gilbert (Professor of Medieval Literature and Critical Theory, UCL), Nicola Miller (Director of the IAS) and Michael Picard (now lecturer in Environmental Law at the University of Edinburgh). In the process of brainstorming for potential contributions, the editorial team was supported by Tamar Garb (former Director of the IAS), Jordan Rowe (Programme Manager of the Urban Lab) and Nicola Baldwin (Creative Fellow at the IAS). We are grateful to UCL Press for the readiness to take on this project, especially, academic editor Tim Mathews and commissioning editor Chris Penfold.

The echo of the bestiary resonates widely in *Wastiary*; a compendium of 'beastly' objects, creatures and artwork. However, most vividly, the 'beast' evokes how waste cannot be tamed, confined or managed. The themes of the contributions are prompted by each letter of the alphabet, the numbers 1 to 9 and one graphic symbol; the corona shape (*) – impossible to ignore over the past two years. This arrangement allowed for a diverse presentation of critical insights. The 37 contributions range from H for Hair (about human DNA found in old books) to K for Kinship (about the toxic waste that flows like blood through the veins of the world) and O for Outsourced (about the working conditions of Dutch train cleaners). From 1 for the 1% (about how we are part of this exclusive club) to 7 for 7 Cheap Things (about the spread of cheap things under global capitalism) and 8 for Octopus (about how octopi convert human debris into shelters and weapons).

The *Wastiary* recounts stories of discard legacies on multiple scales – from the local archives to the global sweatshop, with no intended hierarchy of importance and no suggested hierarchy of reading.

Think Pieces

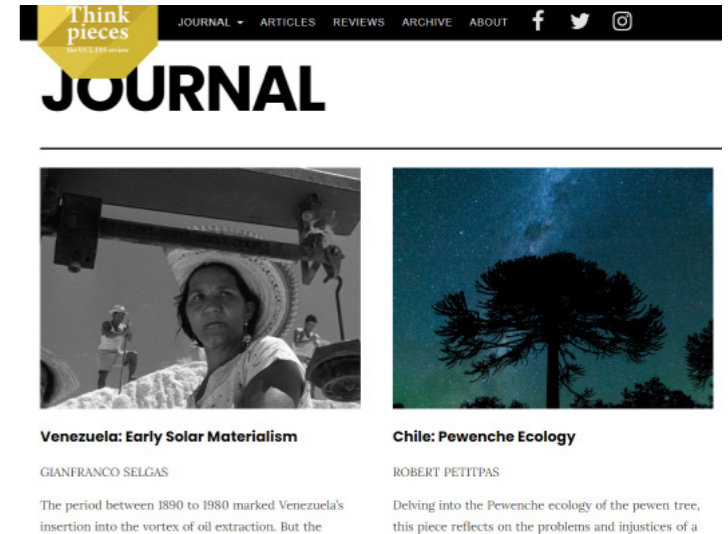
In December 2022, the IAS relaunched its review *Think Pieces* online.

Originally conceived as a biannual print publication, *Think Pieces* was first published in 2019. Three issues were produced before the pandemic, dedicated to the themes Lies, Laughter and Turbulence. In May 2022, Marthe Lisson took over as editor from editorial manager Albert Brenchat and set out to build an online presence and develop a publishing strategy.

Continuing in the tradition of its printed predecessor, *Think Pieces* is an interdisciplinary, experimental and collaborative online platform that extends the critical thinking to which the IAS is committed into the realm of online publishing. Its aim is to maintain academic rigour and high intellectual standards while addressing readers inside and outside academia. Contributions are published in the form of articles, features, interviews, reviews, creative writing, visual art works, photography, film and sound. These are inspired by the multiple strands of research at the IAS and its Research Centres as well as current affairs.

Each year, one special issue is guest edited by the two postdoctoral fellows working at the IAS. The first such issue on Complaint was edited by Dr Alexandra Baybutt and Dr Lo Marshall. Ten contributions ranging in format from poetry, essay, video to visualisations of complaint routes that reveal the complexities of complaint processes and the difficulties faced by those who complain.

The second special issue, published in September 2023 on the theme of Indigenous Ecologies and Environmental Crisis, was edited by Dr Olivia Arigho-Stiles and Dr Adriana Suarez Delucchi. They brought into conversation seven pieces that show various approaches to Indigenous Ecologies, from Madagascar to Congo, Brazil to Argentina, Chile to Venezuela and the wider Amazon region.



Since the relaunch a further 15 contributions were published in addition to the special issues, including book, exhibition and theatre reviews; an interview with IAS Creative Fellow Amit Chaudhuri on the raga; a conversation between IAS Fellow Zoltán Kékesi and UCL Anthropologist Nicholas Lackenby about memory politics; and a reflection of contemporary Indigenous cinema by Olivia Arigho-Stiles.

In 2023, *Think Pieces* generated 4,296 page views with the majority of readers based in the United Kingdom, the United States and Argentina.

Think Pieces is supported by an editorial collective that, since February 2023, meets monthly to discuss ideas for contributions and to assign tasks such as writing, editing, proofreading.

The near future will see the launch of the *Think Pieces* Podcast, continuing, albeit in altered form, the *Talk Pieces* podcast that was established during the pandemic.

27 April 2021

IAS Book Launch [online]

On Boredom - Essays in Art and Writing

What do we mean when we say that we are bored? Or when we find a subject boring? Contributors to *On Boredom*, which include artists, art historians, psychoanalysts and a novelist, examined boredom in its manifold and uncertain reality.

13 May 2021

Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Oceanic World: Of Master-copies and Video CDs

Part of the Objects Across Borders series, this event brought together scholars and creative practitioners working in and on South Asia to reflect on the stories embedded in visual and material artefacts.



2 June 2021

Centre for Outer Space Studies CATALYST: Space Medicine

During this COSS Catalyst, presenters explored the broader concepts of holistic health in space, and how understanding these phenomena could benefit life on Earth.

5 November 2021

'On Extraction and Media: Conversations'

This event was part of a research project exploring the relations of extraction that underpin and shape global media cultures.

24 February 2022

**IAS Talking Points Seminar
Creating a National Dance**

Priyanka Basu (IAS Visiting Research Fellow) presented her research on performance, decolonisation and cultural work in early Pakistan from 1947 to 1953.

24 May 2022

Writers of the Anthropocene: Pola Oloixarac

Writer Pola Oloixarac was in conversation with Emily Baker (UCL SELCS). Oloixarac's critically acclaimed novels deal with interrelated themes of political history, the 'apocalyptic trajectory of the anthropocene' and the role of science, literature and anthropology (among other disciplines) in making sense of the past, present and future of humans in the web of life.

7 June 2022

**IAS Talking Points Seminar
Representing Grenfell: Race, Class and Cultural Translation**

Claire Launchbury (IAS Visiting Research Fellow) was looking to assess the narratives and cultural production written and composed in response to the Grenfell fire as its fifth anniversary was nearing.

15 June 2022

Political Futures from the Deep Past: Thinking Through the Dawn of Everything

David Wengrow and David Graeber's *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity* offers a re-reading of the deep human past to help thinkers and activists trying to re-imagine today's dysfunctional politics. This panel brought together specialists in North American archaeology, Amazonian anthropology, race and racism, and African history to discuss the book's implications. Novelist Amitav Ghosh joined a concluding conversation.



15 June 2022

Material Selves: Gender, Health and Performance

This Symposium sought to insert embodied modes of knowledge production offered by theatre and performance into theoretical understandings of gender and health.

14 November 2022

IAS Book Launch

Van Dyck and the Making of English Portraiture

Celebrating a new account of painting in early modern England centered on the art and legacy of Anthony van Dyck. With short responses from several art historians specialising in the history of portraiture and English and Dutch painting.

14 December 2022

Book Launch *Retours proustiens*

On the occasion of the 'Proust Centenary' (100 years after Marcel Proust's passing in 1922), this event brought together Proustians from London to discuss recent interpretations of his work.

14 March 2023

War on cities: The case of Homs, Syria

Ammar Azzouz presented his work on the notion of 'home' he uses to address the destruction of cities like Homs, the displacement of the Syrian people both outside and inside the country and the question of how cities can be rebuilt without causing further damage to the communities that live there.

3 May 2023

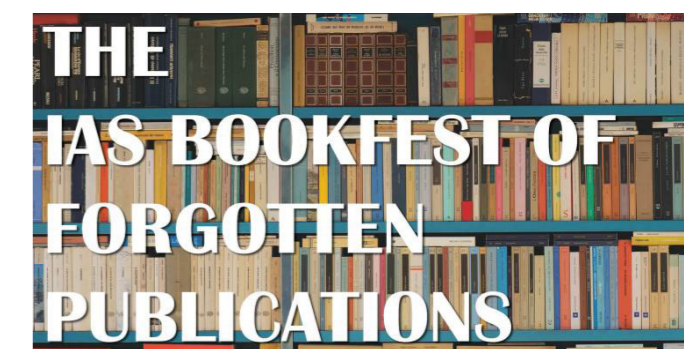
Black Light: On the Origin and Materiality of Blackness

Zakiyyah Iman Jackson focused particular attention on Faith Ringgold's series *Black Light and American People*, and demonstrated that the idea of "the black female" is pivotal in mediating the relation between abstraction and figuration in modern art and our social worlds. The talk considered related works that reposition blackness as incalculable density and a light source in its own right.

3 May 2023

Music on Trial: Challenging the Use of Rap as Evidence in Criminal Courts

A presentation by Abenaa Owusu-Bempah (LSE) about the use of rap music in English criminal trials.



6 June 2023

IAS Bookfest of Forgotten Publications

A day of celebration of books by faculty in the Social & Historical Sciences and Arts & Humanities that were published during the pandemic and, under those circumstances, did not receive the attention they deserved.

EARLY CAREER NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

The IAS Early Career Network is open to PhD students, postdocs and lecturers whose work involves arts, humanities or social sciences approaches. Its purpose is to integrate relevant intellectual content with cross-disciplinary intellectual exchange, skills development and career guidance. And, not least, to offer opportunities for sociability and informal sharing of ideas and experiences. The network runs a series of events, including workshops on writing and on crossing boundaries of all kinds.

20 & 21 June 2022

South Asia Early Career Researchers' Workshop

Organised by the Centre for the Study of South Asia and the Indian Ocean World (UCL) and the South Asia Forum (Queen Mary)

This workshop brought together over twenty scholars based in institutions across the UK, and overseas working on South Asia in various disciplines. The event provided an interdisciplinary forum for doctoral and postdoctoral scholars from across the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences to present their research and to participate in debate constructive toward the completion of their projects. It was an opportunity for the fruitful exchange of ideas with area specialists and emerging scholars in the field, as well as for networking and new partnerships.

The IAS is host to a variety of Reading Groups and Networks:

Early Modern English Reading Group
Feminisms Reading Group
Latin America in the World Reading Group
Medicine, Sexuality and Reproduction Reading Group
Marxism in Culture Seminar Series
Migration Research Unit PhD Network
Practice as Research Network
PRE-MODERN (PREM) Research Cluster
Racism and Racialisation PhD group
Reading for Wellbeing
Sociology Network PhD Group
Transplanetary Ecologies Reading Group



14 & 15 March 2022

Conflict and Change: Annual PhD Workshop 'Re-connecting in-person'

Organised by Sigrid Weber, Finn Klebe, Kit Rickard, and Sam Erkiletian (Political Science)

More than 25 PhD researchers from the UK and continental Europe joined this workshop in London. As in previous years, the workshop programme featured varied panels, a keynote speech, and an accompanying social programme. The pool of participants featured more than a dozen institutions including Hertie School Berlin, University of Amsterdam, the London School of Economics and Political Science, ETH Zurich, and the University of Oxford, amongst others. Over the two days, participants – often for the first time in person – presented their PhD projects and other work, and received feedback from senior members of the Conflict & Change research cluster.

SPECULATIVE WORLDS 2023
28+29 June
UCL East | 1 Pool Street

28 & 29 June 2023

Speculative Worlds 2023: Navigating the Omnishambles

Organised by Richard Müller and William A Stewart (Geography) and Richard Sobey (Bartlett)

This lab explored how thinking speculatively informs and enhances research practices by building channels and pathways to disrupt encumbrances and obstacles, and demonstrate speculative alternatives with which to navigate the perpetual crises – environmental, social, political, technological, economic and legal. To navigate the omnishambles, attendees were concocting a new set of productivity and decision-making tools to mismanage the mismanagement with illuminating life skills, pernicky policies, side-stepping strategies and pedantic practices.

IAS/GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE LONDON

The German Historical Institute London and the IAS offer an annual Visiting Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, which offers an outstanding early career scholar from a German university the opportunity to pursue independent research at the IAS. It is open to those working in any of the subjects that have a strong research base at the IAS and the GHIL, such as history, art history and literary studies.

2021-22
Dr Marcus Böick
'Business with Fear, Fearing the Business?'



Marcus's project analysed the long-term history of the German private security business since the late nineteenth century in its transnational contexts. Positioned at the crossroads of economic, political, social and cultural history, he tried to capture the emergence of commercial private security firms from the late 1890s in very different and changing contexts – starting within the bigger cities of the German Empire, later the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich and the Federal Republic.

2022-23
Dr Norman Aselmeyer
'The Urban Crucible: Mau Mau and the Protest Phenomenon in Nairobi, 1940s–1960s'



Norman looked at the Nairobi side of his second book project, an urban history of anti-colonial protest in Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Kolkata. The history of anti-colonial activism and resistance in Kenya has been written primarily as the story of the Mau Mau revolutionaries in the countryside. By focusing on specific neighbourhoods, streets, and buildings in Nairobi, the project sought to help understand the urban dimension of the country's liberation struggle.

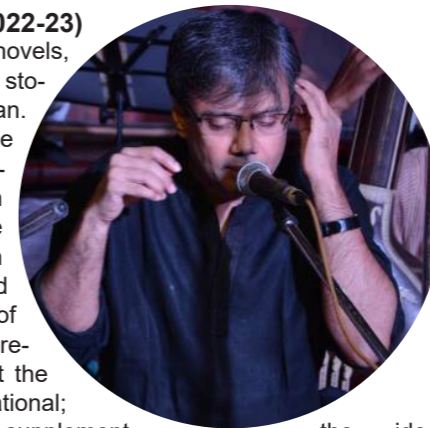
CREATIVE FELLOWSHIPS

The *Encounters* programme of Fellowships offers creative practitioners the opportunity to explore new directions in their own practice in partnership with UCL academics. It aims to unpack creativity and the creative method, and to interrogate how creative practice operates as a form of knowing, exploring or discovering as well as doing. The work of this programme has been critical to ARIEL, UCL's Centre for Creative Practice Research.

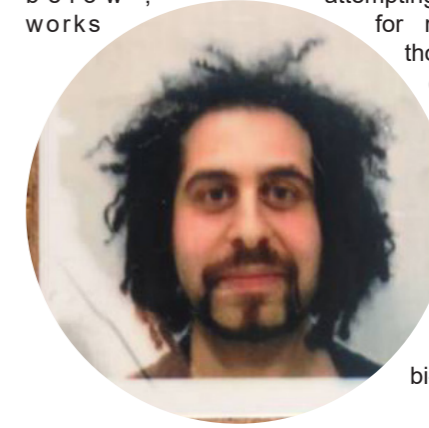
Nicola Baldwin (2019-20)
is a dramatist and director who works in theatre, film, radio and TV. During her fellowship she was working on the project *City Dionysia: Narrating Wasteland in Urban Life*. Invoking the ancient Greek practice of CITY DIONYSIA where plays fuelled public debate, Nicola explored how twenty-first century theatre can create new audiences for academic research, promoting creative inquiry into urban problems. She also developed a new play, *Wasteland*, and challenged her own creative technique through collaboration with students on the MSc Urban Studies programme and wider UCL community.



Amit Chaudhuri (2022-23)
is the author of eight novels, a poet, essayist, short story writer, and musician. As Creative Fellow, he continued his explorations of the North Indian raga and the genre in North Indian classical music called the khayal as forms of thought. These forms rethink linearity and test the limits of the representational; they replace, or supplement, the idea of the composer or composition in the post-Enlightenment sense with an infinite nuancing of how the philosopher-musician might deal creatively with found material - that is, with material that's already at hand, whether it's a melody or a seemingly immemorial cultural tradition.



Simon Farid (2020-21)
is a sometime artist and a more time invigilator at a major art gallery in central London. creative practice and research primarily focus on his day-job as a site for study. Academically, he was looking at approaches to research and practice 'from below', attempting to develop ethical frameworks for research undertaken by those (including himself) operating from weaker positions outside of the academy. From below methodologies might employ tactics commonly understood as counter to good-practice research, such as disguise, impersonation, theft, dual reality and bi-location.



Carolin Meyer (2022-23)
is a multidisciplinary artist and DJ, working at the intersections of art and research and deploying sound, video, sculpture, music, performance, collage, writing and found objects to create multi-sensory and immersive artistic interventions. Her interest in ecstatic participation guided her work at the IAS. She understands ecstatic participation as a complex reciprocal exchange between bodies and the world. By collaboratively creating site-specific soundscapes and DJ sets that are to be collectively experienced, Carolin aimed to inspire students to actively employ music as a way of doing research beyond borders, languages and cultures.



VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Between 2021 and 2023, the IAS welcomed 50 Visiting Research Fellows from 21 countries, including: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Spain, United Kingdom, United States.

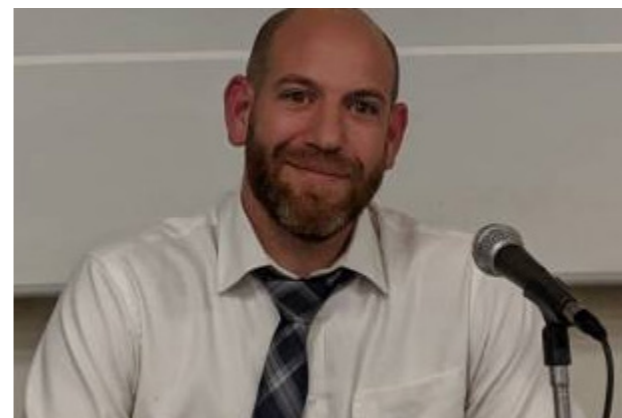
Professor Ilaria Favretto
IAS Senior Visiting Research Fellow
November 2021 to September 2022

During her time at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Professor Favretto was completing a monograph entitled *Marching with Donkeys: Protest tactics and industrial conflict in post-1945 Italy*, which looks at industrial conflict and workers' protest cultures and practices in modern Italy, from the first industrial strikes in the 1890s to the 1980s, with a special focus on the period since 1945. Under contract with Oxford University Press, the book examines the forms of protest utilised by workers, how they changed and why, their underpinning rituals, meanings, strategic and symbolic functions.



Professor Cristiana Facchinetti
IAS Senior Visiting Research Fellow
November 2021 to April 2022

Professor Facchinetti's project was expanding trans-cultural studies on dialogues between Psychological Sciences and aesthetic theories, and their appropriations in Brazil. To do so, Facchinetti was investigating the use of the artistic manifestations of Brazilian National Psychiatric Hospital inpatients between 1920 and 1940 to establish diagnoses, theories and treatment. Her research at the IAS explored how international psychological theories interpreted the artistic expression of lunatics in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and she investigated how Vanguard arts and literature understood madness.



Dr Alex Feldman
IAS Visiting Research Fellow 11/2021 - 09/2022
Project: 'The Rigging of the Law: Jurisprudential Drama on the Twentieth-Century Stage'

Feldman's interdisciplinary project was exploring the representation of legal history, legal conflict and (in particular) legal trials in the modern and contemporary theatre. He interrogated the complex intersections between ideology and aesthetics governing law's representation in theatre by tracing the development of jurisprudential drama in relation both to shifting public perceptions of law and the dramatic modes deployed by playwrights.



Dr Alexander Vorbrugg
IAS Visiting Research Fellow 09/2022 - 03/2023
Project: 'Russia's New Forests: Assembling and Governing a Resource Frontier'

Alexander continued his work on 'Russia's New Forest' and focused on three sub-themes: the discursive reframing of (farmland) abandonment from a symbol of degradation and crisis into one of growth and ecological, economic and social benefits; the role of visual representations; and the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine on New Forests in particular, and Russian environmental politics more generally.



Dr Hairong Chen
IAS Visiting Research Fellow 09/2022 - 09/2024
Project: 'African American Quilts and Literature'

Hairong is developing a project on African American Quilts and Literature, which aims to investigate how African American quilts shape African American literature. She is researching the history of African American quilts from slavery to the modern era and developing an analysis of how quilts become a collective memory for African Americans and how they constitute a charged image in African American literature.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

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