



The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



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Director's Welcome

The success of IASH is down to a collective effort and I want to begin this Director's Welcome with a major vote of thanks to Deputy Director, Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson, and to the IASH team: Pauline Clark, Lauren Galligan and our many student interns. I also want to express my gratitude to the members of our Management Committee and International Advisory Board for their continued support and for the wisdom that they impart.

The core function of IASH is to be a crucible for interdisciplinarity across the arts, humanities and social sciences, nurturing generations of outstanding scholars (both early career and more senior) from across the globe and promoting research networks of reach and impact. Our fundamental aim is to create an immersive experience for our Fellows - giving them space and time for deep thinking as well as building a lively, and we hope joyful, community of research practice. This annual report serves to showcase their outstanding work and the myriad of events which they have led. Here I have space to pick out only a few highlights.

The academic year 2023/24 marked the final phase of the Institute Project on Decoloniality. Since the Project's inception, IASH has hosted around 100 Fellows working on a broad range of critical topics from decolonial readings of gender-based violence in subaltern fiction in India to embodied decolonial

practices at the University, from vaccine hesitancy to colonial bio-politics. The first volume of essays from the programme was launched at our summer party in June, with two further volumes planned for 2024/25, all under the series editorship of Dr Désha Osborne (an IASH alumna and now Chancellor's Fellow at the University). In April 2025, we will be holding a conference on the Project as part of a five-day Festival of IASH to celebrate our first half century. We hope to invite as many former Fellows as possible to the Festival including those who have held IPD Fellowships.

One of the connective threads during the academic year 2023/24 has been the theme of future justice. In early November, I had the great pleasure of chairing our IASH Being Human Festival event - *The Hope and History of Allyship*. Here we showcased the inspiring and deeply moving work of two of our Fellows, Dr Alok Oak and Dr Farah Saleh, and one of our IASH Affiliates, Dr Anna Girling. A core ambition of the event was to try to reclaim hidden narratives of the colonised, and envision decolonised futures for everyone. In November, we also hosted the annual Fulbright Lecture, given this year by Professor Earl Lewis (Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies, and Public Policy at the University of Michigan, and the founding Director of the University's Center for Social Solutions). His lecture, entitled

The Grace of Repair, explored ways of repairing the impact of enslavement and systemic racism, as well as ways of building inclusive communities in an increasingly divided world.

In March, we were deeply proud to host a major programme of events celebrating International Women's Day, with contributions from our GENDER.ED Fellow Dr Rosa Campbell and writers-in-residence Isla Cowan and Jaspreet Kaur. The day culminated with a wonderful lecture given by Amina Shah, Scotland's National Librarian and member of the IASH International Advisory Board, during which she gave a deeply personal account of the women that have inspired her and of the challenges which women's leadership will meet and need to overcome in the next half century. And, in that context, I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Royal Society of Edinburgh for an international project on barriers and enablers of women's leadership across politics, higher education and industry. The project, which begins in September, involves a network of scholars from the University of Edinburgh, the Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Ghana and the Centre for Studies in Social Science, Kolkata.

It aims to understand why the 1979 United Nations convention promoting the advancement and empowerment of women has

consistently failed to meet its objectives, and what practical action is needed now to tackle deep-seated inequalities and breach the high glass ceilings that still exist in senior leadership.

As IASH embarks on a new academic session, I remain conscious of the major challenges which beset higher education, and the uncertainty and fragility that constitutes our wider world. The arts, humanities and social sciences are fundamental to the promotion of human flourishing and have a central role to play in tackling some of the most difficult and contested issues which face societies across the globe today. Those who, like me, lead institutes of advanced study have a particular responsibility to advocate for investment in these fields of study and for the interdisciplinarity that so often lies at the heart of knowledge transformation. The collective work produced by our IASH Fellows, I believe, demonstrates why such research really matters.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about their successes in this annual report and will celebrate the promise that their research and its wider influence holds.

Professor Lesley McAra CBE
IASH Director

Organisation & Governance



ADVISORY BOARD

At the top level of oversight, our Advisory Board is drawn from diverse areas of academia and from civil society. The Board is chaired by Professor Sarah Prescott (Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh), and in 2023-24 the membership comprised:

- Dr Sam Alberti (Director of Collections, National Museums Scotland)
- Dr Olivier Bouin (Director of French Network of Institutes for Advanced Studies/EURIAS)
- Professor Rosi Braidotti (Founding Director, Centre for the Humanities, University of Utrecht)
- Ms Shreela Ghosh (Secretary, The Charles Wallace India Trust)
- Mr Allan Little (broadcaster; Chair of the Edinburgh International Book Festival)
- Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (Professor of Modern History, Trinity College Dublin; Parnell Fellow, Magdalene College, Cambridge)
- Ms Amina Shah (National Librarian, National Library of Scotland)
- Professor Sarah Skerratt (Chief Executive, Royal Society of Edinburgh)
- Ms Christine Wilson (Head of Research and Engagement, British Council)
- Dr William Zachs (Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh)

MANAGEMENT GROUP

The IASH Management Group continues to ensure that we meet our strategic goals of excellence across our interdisciplinary remit and that we serve the needs of all Schools across the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS). Members are drawn from across the College and meet twice annually to consult on strategic and major operational matters.



The 2023-24 members were:

DR PATRICIA ERSKINE

Head of Stakeholder Relations & Policy Officer for CAHSS. Patricia manages several of the University's collaborative relationships with Edinburgh's major festivals and cultural organisations, including co-ordination of the University's digital arts programme.

DR RADHIKA GOVINDA

Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Director of GENDER.ED, the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for gender and sexualities studies. Her research and teaching focus on gender politics of development, intersectionality, feminist movements and knowledge production.

PROFESSOR ED HOLLIS

Personal Chair in Interior Design and Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange at the Edinburgh College of Art. An architect and interior designer, Ed balances his own research with assisting staff across ECA to develop their own research interests and projects.

RACHEL HOSKER

University Archivist and Research Collections Manager. Rachel originally trained as an archivist, and now manages archivists, librarians and curators responsible for the University's cultural heritage collections and welcomes IASH fellows to the Centre for Research Collections at the University.

PROFESSOR LAURA JEFFREY

Professor of Anthropology of Migration in the School of Social and Political Science (SSPS), and Dean of Research in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Her research interests include migration and displacement.

PROFESSOR MICHELA MASSIMI

Professor of Philosophy of Science in the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. She works in the area of history and philosophy of science with a focus on topics such as realism, pluralism, perspectivism, and scientific models.

PROFESSOR LESLEY McARA CBE

IASH Director since 2022, Chair of Penology and Assistant Principal Community Relations. Lesley is an Associate Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, as well as founder and co-convenor of the Leadership Foundation for Women in the Legal Profession.

PROFESSOR DAVID SMITH

Deputy Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Previously Head of Moray House School of Education and Sport. He is a qualified Secondary Teacher who has also worked in local and national government as well as the University of Aberdeen.

PROFESSOR GREG WALKER

Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures and a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He specialises in the literary culture of the reign of Henry VIII and has also written widely on late-medieval drama and poetry and Renaissance literature.

Institute Project on Decoloniality – Year 3



Book launch: Ali Kassem and Shaira Vadasaria

Since our foundation, IASH has welcomed researchers examining colonialism, Empire and coloniality, but like most Global North institutions, our Fellowship appointments privileged White scholars and failed to encourage research rooted in formerly colonised nations. It is our recognition of this history that informed our £750,000 three-year research project, the Institute Project on Decoloniality 2021-2024 (IPD '24).

With an aim to decentre Whiteness in academia and mitigate the disproportionate favouring of White, English-speaking scholars, IPD '24 augmented existing work by RACE.ED, UncoverED, the Centre for African Studies, the Centre for South Asian Studies, the Edinburgh Centre for Global History and many others. Following similar thematic campaigns led by IASH, such as the 1986 Institute Project on the Scottish Enlightenment (IPSE '86) and Technology, Communication and the Humanities 1988 (TeCH '88), IPD '24 largely concerned the inclusive and expansive study of decoloniality. The following was our working definition, not intended to exclude any decolonial scholars or theoretical frameworks:

Informed by the work of a variety of writers in both the Global South and Global North, and spanning Indigenous rights, Africana thought, and movements for reparatory justice, decolonial inquiry contends that knowledge generated within what is termed a 'colonial matrix of power' has left us with a narrow, patriarchal and contested understanding of ourselves and the world. One means of addressing this is to challenge accepted theories of knowledge about the modern and the global, understood as 'epistemic disobedience', with a view to re-imagining and reconstructing our world, something in which university-based teaching and learning, research and wider community engagement is pivotal.

Thus, IPD '24 scholarship predominantly explored issues regarding but not limited to:

- Decolonising gender and sexuality
- Decolonising the curriculum
- Anti-colonial and decolonial theory
- Intellectuals in and from the Global South
- Intersectionality and multiple inequalities
- Race and racialisation
- Decentring Western feminist knowledge production
- Scotland's role in the British Empire
- The University of Edinburgh's colonial legacy and alumni roles in the slave trade
- The histories of Edinburgh graduates and staff of colour

Over the course of the Project, 88 Fellows were appointed, and several playwrights commissioned to create work inspired by the themes above. During their time in Edinburgh, Fellows were expected to give a work-in-progress talk about their work at IASH, with more senior Fellows also delivering a public lecture. Additionally, their work was presented at multiple conferences and seminar series, with many proceedings published as part of IASH's long-running Occasional Papers series.

Ultimately, IPD '24 will result in a major conference in April 2025 and three collections of contemporary research papers.

IASH provided financial resources, office facilities, and most importantly, a safe space beyond individual schools for researchers from the university and the wider international academic community to collaborate and disseminate their responses to the themes. We hope the Institute Project on Decoloniality can begin to mitigate the disproportionate favouring of White, English-speaking scholars and serve as an opportunity to do better, with an aim of sustaining and enhancing this work beyond the three years of the Project as a critical friend of the university and a supporter of diverse and engaging scholarship.

22 of this year's Fellows were working within the Institute Project on Decoloniality. Here are some insights into their work:

DR KANWAL HAMEED

Dr Kanwal Hameed was a RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellow, visiting from the University of Exeter. She is an inter-disciplinary historian with a background in Middle East Studies, and currently a Postdoctoral Fellow on the *Mapping Connections: China and Contemporary Development in the Middle East* project. After receiving her PhD from the Institute of Arab and Islamic Affairs at the University of Exeter in 2022, she was a Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Orient Institut Beirut.

'Sectarian organisations are the enemy of Arabism (al-'Uruba) and Islam!'; cautions an editorial in the August 1954 issue of Sawt Al Bahrain (Voice of Bahrain), the magazine produced by the Arab nationalist intellectual class involved in the anti-colonial movement in Bahrain. Sawt Al Bahrain was printed in Beirut and distributed at various locations - Zanzibar at its most southerly reach, and Tunisia furthest West, as well as in Sana'a, Yemen,



Dr Kanwal Hameed

Unaiza, Saudi Arabia and Cairo, Egypt. The article was responding to what is widely remembered as a period of 'sectarian sedition' or strife (fitna) in Bahrain between 1953 and 1954, against the backdrop of an anti-colonial struggle enfolding ethno-sectarian, class, gender, and political groupings which was taking form.

My research engages with the salience of ethno-sect and citizenship as social categories at local, national and supra-national levels in the Gulf region, while contesting that the idea of 'continuity' of ethno-sectarian and national division. I draw on social histories to show how ethno-sectarian and national ordering is produced and operates in particular ways that were materialised through capitalism, colonialism and state formation. Rather than stable categories, I argue that these classifications were (and are) fractured, deeply contested and often in flux. I think with Stuart Hall's idea of race as a 'floating signifier' to try and unpack how different articulations of ethno-sect and racialised nationalism operated within a system of meaning, and as 'a way of organising and meaningfully classifying the world' of mid-20th century Bahrain.

This project is structured around two main questions. Firstly, can we think with racial difference (Stuart Hall, Cedric Robinson) and racialisation to inform our understanding of the ethno-sectarian and national system of classification in Bahrain? Secondly, what happens to this classification system through colonialism – how were sect and national identity produced, structured, and contested?



DR ALOK OAK

Dr Alok Oak was a Postdoctoral Fellow at IASH for 2023-24. Previously, he was a Visiting Research Scholar at the School of History, University of St Andrews. He received his PhD from the Leiden Institute for Area Studies, University of Leiden in 2022.

Post-Imperial historiography, focused on domestic and inter-imperial political rivalries, considered conceptual-legal debates around 'Dominion-hood', 'dyarchy', and 'Commonwealth federalism' either restrictive and compromising or intellectually unfashionable. However, seven decades of India's anti-colonial struggle against the British Empire was centred precisely around these issues. The recent scholarly move towards Commonwealth Constitutional History (CCH) could help in analysing the broader legal-intellectual and diplomatic genealogy of British decolonisation and trace its multi-dimensional impact on India's fight to attain self-determination and sovereignty.

Drawing upon the CCH framework, my project at IASH focuses on the Scottish constitutional historian and University of Edinburgh professor Arthur Berriedale Keith (1879-1944) and his engagement with India's constitutional struggle for Dominion Status during the late colonial period (1919-1942). I am particularly interested in critically exploring Keith's scholarly engagement with trans-colonial legislations and statutory agreements - the Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935, the Imperial Conferences and the Round Table Conferences (1930-32) - located within the larger milieu of anti-imperial agitations during the interwar years. In the process, I problematise his defence of the British Commonwealth of Nations and his resolute opposition to a British colony attaining complete sovereignty.

For my project, I concentrate on Keith's voluminous writings along with his private papers preserved at the University of Edinburgh. Focus on Keith is a part of a larger prosopographic study of legal-constitutional scholars and historians from Scotland, England and India during the late colonial and early postcolonial period (1920-60). I question the extent to which their theoretical and historical engagements with issues such as (colonial) suffrage and citizenship, federalism, the theories of self-determination and sovereignty that affected postcolonial polities while abetting Britain's decolonisation.

DR MARLO DE LARA

Dr Marlo De Lara was a RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellow 2023. She received her PhD from the University of Leeds. Her artistic practice works within the realms of sound performance, visual distraction, and film.

My IASH project investigates and complicates the ways one understands subjectivities and multiple homes beyond simplistic verbiage. 'Displanting Routes: Sounding Philippine Diasporas' seeks to foreground the continuing connections between diaspora and coloniality, by bringing into view less discussed accounts of the colonization and occupation of the Philippines. The histories of the Asian archipelago are not of one but many peoples with hundreds of islands that were erased by conquest and then assembled into a previously non-existent single nation. Where then is the Philippine diasporic location today, and where does it feature in the lexicon of current cultural identification that has extended beyond the homeland to those who migrate to other countries?

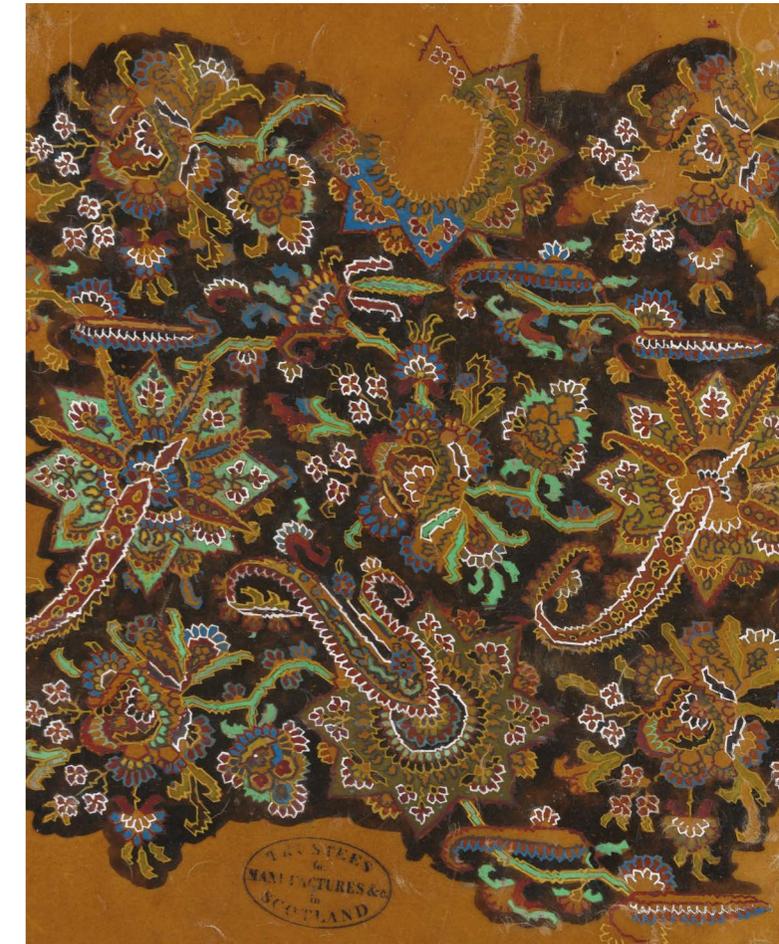


Dr Marlo De Lara

A diasporic conundrum applies to Philippine populations living abroad, a condition emblematic of postimperial transnational cultures that goes beyond previous normative Western monolithic understandings of "exotic" cultures.

The work explores the sensorial, specifically the aural. The ways nationality often is discussed leads to a repetition of dated colonial terminology and uncomfortable regressive notions. Expanding beyond current knowledge forms about diasporas and postcolonial nationhood requires a shift out of the indexical. If we were to solely listen, what knowledge could be gained about this culture and how is what is not heard meaningful? Working within sound and collecting recordings goes beyond the constraints of language. Migration is a universal phenomenon, a timeless human experience of movement across land and water. Sound is limitless and the listener often operates from frames of reference. This approach aims to disturb the tendency to revert to simplistic labels. My project aims to both focalize the complexity of Philippine histories while remembering that human bodies are what constitutes a population.

My fellowship at IASH allowed me the opportunity to truly be transdisciplinary in my approaches to research and assisted me in creating new networks to work across fields. In some ways, my fellowship was the pinnacle of my praxis. How does one engage critically and generatively in the world as a thinker and a maker? How can one's lived experience be an essential arena for showing up in the political landscape?



Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond

THE YEAR AT IASH

Over 10,000 people joined in IASH events this year, a new record. We are delighted to have worked with superb scholars from around the world on a whole host of seminars, lectures, performances, concerts, book launches, poetry readings, film screenings and more.

FELLOWS AT THE FESTIVALS

We were delighted that many current and former friends of IASH presented work across Edinburgh's many Festivals in summer 2023. From theatre to poetry to politics, these events captivated audiences in August.

We ourselves began the new academic year with a bang, as a Just Festival exhibition led by IASH-CTPI Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Caleb Froehlich attracted 8,440 visitors to St John's Church on Princes Street. Bringing together artworks created by Ukrainians and Edinburgh locals together in five art-making workshops in music, photography, pottery-making, loom-weaving, and cooking, *Pathways to Peace from Disparate Points* explored the potential of art objects in building compassionate and constructive relationships between people from disparate points of geography, culture, and life. Other IASH-sponsored events across the Festivals included a pair of concerts of Gaelic-influenced music by Dr Margaret McAllister titled *Nuadh-Òrain and Other Songs*, our Book Festival panel on feminism and human rights featuring Jennifer Robinson and Keisha Yoshida: *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, and the sold-out Fringe show *What Draupadi Said To Penelope* by Dr Agomoni Ganguli Mitra.



What Draupadi Said to Penelope (image by Chris Scott)

RSE CURIOUS: SURFACING DIASPORAS, 6 SEPT

This panel event for the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Curious Festival explored the rich experiences of diaspora communities and the profound impact of migration on our collective journey. From Somali-Scots to Philippine workers, the panel challenged outdated views of "exotic" cultures abroad. 67 people watched live, with more than 170 viewing the recording on YouTube since then.

FILM SCREENING: DEEP LISTENING: THE STORY OF PAULINE OLIVEROS (2022) AT ECA, 19 OCT

The screening, led by RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellow Dr Marlo De Lara, offered a unique invitation to experience Listening as Activism. This approach served as the structural framework for De Lara's research project, *Displanting Routes: Sounding Philippine Diasporas*. In her work, *Quantum Listening* (Verso 2022 Edition), Oliveros intricately elaborates how Deep Listening is foundational for evolving a radically transformed social matrix: one where compassion and peace underpin our global interactions and responses.

ESRC FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE: TALKING ABOUT RACISM: HOW TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S REPORTS OF RACISM WORKSHOP AT McDONALD ROAD LIBRARY IN LEITH, 7 NOV

An interactive workshop led by IASH Research Fellow Dr Yarong Xie which aimed to enhance our understanding of, and increase confidence in, reporting and responding to children's reports of racism. Using real-life and worked



Surfacing Diasporas (image by Shivani Shenoy)

examples, the group explored together what ways of reporting and responding work in practice. Designed for researchers and interested parties to work together, the session promoted effective and tailored support for children and parents of racially minoritised and marginalised communities.

BEING HUMAN FESTIVAL OF THE HUMANITIES: THE HOPE AND HISTORY OF ALLYSHIP AT SUMMERHALL, 16 NOV

From journalists and artists to Scottish intellectuals, we uncovered the importance – and limits – of shaping public consciousness through writing and movement, reclaiming hidden narratives of the colonised, and envisioning decolonised futures for everyone. This event unlocked history's profound lessons to showcase the impact of decolonial approaches, and highlighted how institutions can foster allyship. Speakers included Dr Anna Girling, Dr Alok Oak and Dr Farah Saleh.

PANEL: INTERSECTIONALITY, THERAPY AND CHANGE ACTIVISM: PATHWAYS TO WELLBEING THROUGH INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO THERAPY AT OLD COLLEGE, 22 NOV

How does therapy fit into the concept of social justice? When we think of social justice and activism, we usually think of petitions and protests. But in a world where social injustice can have adverse effects on mental health, it seems clear that therapy has a role to play in addressing these issues. But how far along are we, really? The event took the form of a discussion between experts in psychotherapy with interests in the relationship between therapy, activism and marginalised identities.



Fulbright Legacy Lecture (images by Douglas Robertson)

FULBRIGHT LEGACY LECTURE: THE GRACE OF REPAIR, 30 NOV

Professor Earl Lewis (Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan, and President Emeritus of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation) discussed the intersections of diversity and democracy with race and reparations. From the 18th century slave ship origins of 'Amazing Grace' to the singing of that hymn by President Barack Obama, to mourners grieving the 2015 racist murders of Black parishioners in Charleston, Professor Lewis used key moments in US and UK history to examine how individuals and institutions have sought to repair the impact of slavery and systemic racism. How in this highly fractionated age, he asked, do we build grace-filled communities that embrace both difference and inclusivity?

BOOK LAUNCH: 'ANTICLERICAL LEGACIES: THE DEISTIC RECEPTION OF THOMAS HOBBS, C. 1670-1740' BY DR ELAD CARMEL, 23 FEB

How did Hobbesian ideas develop into the eighteenth century? What was the role of anticlericalism in early modern political thought? And are these legacies long since forgotten? The book is the first comprehensive study of the reception of Thomas Hobbes's ideas by the English deists and freethinkers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, offering a new account of the afterlife of Hobbes's theory and of the political thought of those who followed his radical anticlericalism.



International Women's Day 2024

SEMINAR: CUTTING EDGES OF THE DECOLONIAL: THINKING ANTHROPOCENTRISM AND QUEERPHOBIA FROM/IN THE ARAB-MAJORITY WORLD(S) WITH DR ALI KASSEM, 29 FEB

Over the past years, decolonisation has emerged as a significant discourse across social spheres. This has been particularly relevant in Euro-America, and within academic and education settings. Slowly, this turn has made progress into the global south(s), including the Arab-majority world(s). This seminar auto-ethnographically analysed this emerging interest in 'decoloniality' across multiple sites of the Arab world. Based on extensive advocacy work, multiple research projects, collaborations, seminars, meetings, and classes taught with students and academics across the region in higher education institutions, secondary schools, policy institutes, Non-Governmental Organisations, and Muslim religious establishments, this study makes visible an 'identitarian haunting' of the decolonial.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: INSPIRING INCLUSION WITH SCOTTISH PEN AT THE EDINBURGH FUTURES INSTITUTE, 8 MAR

Scottish PEN with the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and GENDER.ED hosted an inspiring afternoon event on International Women's Day. First, IASH Fellows and writers-in-residence Isla Cowan and Jaspreet Kaur held a conversation around creative writing and inclusion. Together, they explored ecofeminism, privilege and social change, and consider the future of inclusion in literature. Later, the event centred writers who are disability activists, have experience of other cultures such as Palestinian and Chinese, and an inclusive LGBTQIA+ community, chaired by well-known Scottish writer, Louise Welsh.



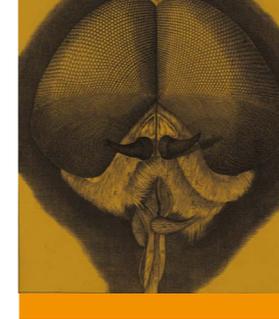
Reflecting on Performance in a Pandemic

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LECTURE 2024, 50 WAYS BY AMINA SHAH AT 50 GEORGE SQUARE, 8 MAR

Amina Shah, National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of Scotland, contemplated her fifty years on the planet through stories of women who have inspired her, and wondered what challenges women will meet and overcome in the next half century. The event was presented by the University of Edinburgh, in association with IASH and GENDER.ED.

REFLECTING ON PERFORMANCE IN A PANDEMIC, 13 MAR

Performance in a Pandemic (Routledge, 2021), edited by Dr Laura Bissell and former IASH Fellow Dr Lucy Weir, attempted to capture the first flurry of creative activity and innovation from artists, performers, curators and creative practitioners in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic caused the world to pause and theatres and venues to close. This hybrid event four years after the lockdown brought together authors to reflect on their initial responses, what has happened since, and to consider the long-term impact of the pandemic on live performance practices in a range of places and contexts. Contributors from Iceland, England, USA, Mexico and various parts of Scotland joined the editors and authors for the event.



Microphones, Microscopes, Micrographia

THE SUSAN MANNING MEMORIAL LECTURE: RACE, LABOR, AND GRATITUDE: AUSTEN, EDGEWORTH, AND THE WEST INDIES BY PROFESSOR YOON SUN LEE AT 50 GEORGE SQUARE, 20 MAR

How is work defined in the genre of the novel, and how are different forms of labour related to each other? Can forms of racial thinking emerge as a result of the capitalist abstraction of labour? Professor Yoon Sun Lee examined the transatlantic British context of labour, history, and fictional narrative around 1800. Here, the emotion of gratitude plays a troubling, paradoxical role in this expanded context. It participates in labour and yet stands apart from it; it affirms and negates abstract equivalence; and it entrenches racial type-thinking by invoking the exception.

EDINBURGH SCIENCE FESTIVAL: MICROPHONES, MICROSCOPES, MICROGRAPHIA AT THE BAYES CENTRE, 5 APR

Robert Hooke's 1655 book *Micrographia* details the wonderful sights viewed through early microscope and telescope lenses. His spectacular hand-drawn images of fleas, snowflakes and cells have become world-famous. Composer Timothy Cooper uses microphones as 'microscopes for the ear', revealing tiny, quiet sounds that become the basis of his music and is creating new pieces exploring Hooke's work. Cooper, along with musicians László Rózsa and Lucia Capellaro shared and discussed these compositions, showcasing ways to use microphones like microscopes.

BOOK LAUNCH: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS & MEDICAL REPRODUCTION BY DR CRISTINA RICHIE AT 50 GEORGE SQUARE, 10 APR

In her book, Dr Richie evaluates 'medicalized reproduction' (MR) from an environmental perspective. From pre-conception gamete retrieval to in-vitro fertilization (IVF), to birthing suites, MR has an enormous carbon footprint. But, unlike other areas of high-carbon health care, such as organ transplantation or chemotherapy, medicalized reproduction does not treat, cure, or prevent disease. It is supported by an economized medical industry, and as such, is open for ethical scrutiny. The launch was chaired by Dr Sarah Chan of the Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society.

ROUNDTABLE: DECOLONIALITY NOW: IDEAS, PRACTICES & NEW DEBATES, 25 APR

This virtual roundtable proposed to take a critical look at the existing ideas and practices of decolonisation today, and looked to transformative strategies of allyship across borders, while attempting to not lose sight of the epistemic injustice and minoritisation that often characterise the enterprise. The event was a collaborative effort from IASH, the Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS), the Ambedkar Centre for Social and Cultural Studies, Gour College, and the Edinburgh University Institute of Language Studies and Research.



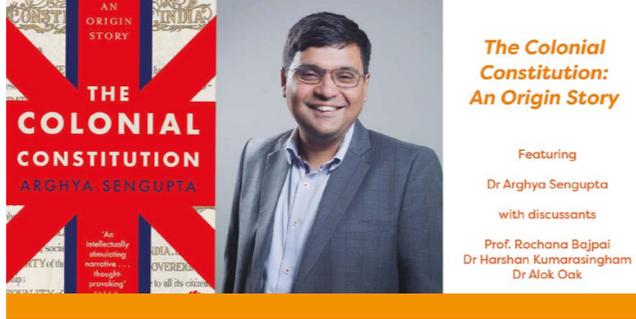
Robert Tannahill 250th Anniversary
Tribute Lecture

ROBERT TANNAHILL 250TH ANNIVERSARY
TRIBUTE LECTURE IN 50 GEORGE SQUARE,
7 MAY

2024 marks the 250th anniversary of the poet and song-writer, Robert Tannahill. In the lecture, Professor Fred Freeman, Professor of Scots Language and Scots Song at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and IASH alumnus, celebrated his life with an illustrated lecture featuring several songs from his 5-volume *Songs of Robert Tannahill* CD series, which was released to a standing ovation at Celtic Connections.

BOOK TALK: THE COLONIAL CONSTITUTION:
AN ORIGIN STORY WITH DR ARGHYA
SENGUPTA, 16 MAY

The Constitution of India has been widely viewed as a transformative document and a founding charter for independent India. This narrative has meant that critical engagement with the contents of the Constitution has been inadequate and has often been drowned out by hagiographical accounts. In the online talk, Dr Arghya Sengupta explored the genesis of the Indian Constitution based upon his recently published book, *The Colonial Constitution: An Origin Story* (2023). Through an in-depth analysis of historical records, including the constitutional writings of Mahatma Gandhi, the anti-caste leader and constitution-maker Dr B.R. Ambedkar, and the Hindu nationalist V.D. Savarkar, as well as debates of the Constituent Assembly, the book argues why the Constitution of India is a colonial document, and unveils its origin story.



Dr Arghya Sengupta: The Colonial Constitution

TALK: CHANGE THE SYSTEM NOT THE
WOMEN: WOMEN'S ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP
IN STEMM, 31 MAY

Despite many arguments to increase the representation of women in academic leadership in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM), progress continues to be slow. This conversation between Prof Janet Hering and Dr Kelly Blacklock explored the systemic barriers to women's advancement and how these can be overcome. This event was organised by GENDER.ED, and co-badged with the Institute for the Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH).



Women's Liberation: 50 Years On
(images by Douglas Robertson)

EVENING CELEBRATION:
WOMEN'S LIBERATION: 50 YEARS ON AT
JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL, 21 JUN

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Women's Liberation Conference that was held at James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh, which is an important part of the history of the Women's Liberation Movement in Scotland as well as Edinburgh's local history. To celebrate this important milestone, GENDER.ED, IASH and Women's History Scotland facilitated a daytime workshop for current students of James Gillespie's High School on 21 June, which was followed by an evening celebration. This event included a reception, as well as a panel discussion focusing on the legal and financial independence of women with speakers Zoe Fairbairns, Rebecca Mason, Amy Life and Furrah Riaz.

BOOK LAUNCH: THE MAHABHARATA IN
GLOBAL POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT,
25 JUN

The Mahabharata in Global Political and Social Thought is co-edited by Dr Milinda Banerjee and Professor Julian Strube and published by Cambridge University Press. The ancient Indian epic Mahabharata was first composed in Sanskrit and then rendered into Indian vernaculars, as well as other Asian and European languages. This new book positions the epic as an influential political text and explores its role in shaping the global history of ideas and modern social, political, and religious thought across the world.



WHO PAID FOR THE OLD MEDICAL SCHOOL
BUILDING?: PHILANTHROPY, EMPIRE AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, 1873-1885,
25 JUL

This seminar shared recent research on the University of Edinburgh's campaign to finance the construction of new infrastructure for its Medical School – the building known today as the Old Medical School on Teviot Place – in the 1870s and 1880s.

Drawing on underexamined materials in the University's archives, Dr Simon Buck (Research Fellow at IASH) and Siân Davies discussed the University's receipt of slavery- and empire-linked funds during the late Victorian period, and asked what records of philanthropy might reveal about the institution's imperial and global networks.

This research emerged from the Decolonised Transformations Project, commissioned by Principal Peter Mathieson to look into the University's historical links to slavery, colonialism and the production of racial science, and was supported by IASH and the Centre for Research Collections.



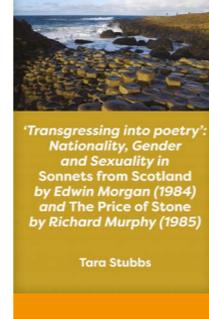
Northern Scholars Lectures

NORTHERN SCHOLARS LECTURES

As part of the long-running Northern Scholars Lectures, which brings scholars from the Scandinavian and Baltic region to Scotland, this year's lecture was delivered by Professor Terry Gunnell of the University of Iceland on 8 April, under the title *Through the Eyes of the Mask: The Man-God in the Hall*.

Building the study of rituals that may have taken place in the halls and cult houses of the Nordic rulers in the pre-Christian world, this lecture focused on the role of the mask-helmet, and the potential that it would have had to transform the wearer into a hybrid man-god, simultaneously temporarily transforming the nature of the immediate surroundings and the audience situated within them.

Professor Gunnell addressed this aspect of multiple hybridity in the context of local traditions involving features of hybridity, but also considered the ways in which the new Nordic national rulers had learnt from both Roman emperors and new Christian rulers, who had effectively extended their power by personally adopting semi-godlike hybridity, something that naturally continues amongst many rulers up to this day.



MAKING AND CELEBRATING BOOKS AT IASH

Since 1991, IASH has published the Occasional Papers series, bringing brand-new scholarship to the public in short, accessible pamphlets and paperbacks.

Volumes this year included:

ESSAYS ON DECOLONIALITY: VOLUME 1
ED. BEN FLETCHER-WATSON, LESLEY McARA AND DÉSHA OSBORNE, 2024

This is the first collection of essays to emerge from the Institute Project on Decoloniality. Topics range from an exploration of decolonial queerness to the Rohingya people of Myanmar's role in decolonisation, as well as a history of the Edinburgh Medical School and Royal Infirmary, literary entanglements of land, caste and solidarity, and more.

'TRANSGRESSING INTO POETRY': NATIONALITY, GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN SONNETS FROM SCOTLAND BY EDWIN MORGAN (1984) AND THE PRICE OF STONE BY RICHARD MURPHY (1985)
TARA STUBBS, 2024

Both Scottish poet Edwin Morgan and (Anglo-)Irish poet Richard Murphy transgressed poetic norms: contradicting the self-declared 'nationalist' poets of their respective traditions, making playful use of English language, and treating gender and sexuality in daring ways. By pivoting away from dominant critical narratives that have tended to read their poetry according to their respective national identities, and by offering a comparative, transnational reading of the sequences instead, this paper offers fresh readings of the poems – and the poets – which open up the critical discourse.

Both volumes, as well as the archive of over 25 previous Occasional Papers, can be downloaded for free from our website.

We also hosted launch events for a range of new books by Fellows and alumnae/i at IASH throughout the year.

Anticlerical Legacies: The Deistic Reception of Thomas Hobbes, c. 1670–1740
(Manchester University Press 2024) by Elad Carmel
23 February

The Global Politics of Census Taking: Quantifying Populations, Institutional Autonomy, Innovation
(Routledge 2024), edited by Walter Bartl
25 March

Environmental Ethics and Medical Reproduction
(Oxford University Press 2024) by Cristina Richie
10 April

The Mahabharata in Global Political and Social Thought
(Cambridge University Press 2024)
edited by Milinda Banerjee and Julian Strube
25 June



IASH/SUSAN MANNING WORKSHOPS

In 2023-2024, we continued the practice of supporting postdoctoral fellows to organise workshops, exhibitions and symposia, especially where they are able to secure complementary funding from other sources; these workshops are known as Susan Manning events in honour of Professor Manning's outstanding contributions as IASH Director from 2005 to 2013.

Topics this year included:

- State Surveillance Against Political Activists in Africa
26 Mar
- Race, Empire and the Edinburgh Medical School
18-19 Apr
- Palestinian Performing Arts and the Creation of Post-Memory
13 May
- Women Writing Socially in the Humanities
21 May
- Space and Cognition in Ancient Greek Literature
24 May
- Rethinking the Ecological Imaginary: Decolonial Ecologies and Black Feminism
30-31 May
- New Discoveries in Medieval Religion,
13 Jun

Reports for many of these workshops can be found on our website.

GENDER.ED

INTRODUCTION

GENDER.ED is the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for showcasing and promoting excellence in teaching research and knowledge exchange and impact (KEI) in gender and sexualities. It is hosted by IASH and powered by the School of Social and Political Science (SPS) on behalf of a wider consortium of academics and students.

We are pleased to report that GENDER.ED's Core Team has grown. Our Director, Dr Radhika Govinda, and Associate Director, Dr Hemangini Gupta, have been joined by Dr Wannes Dupont from the School of History, Classics and Archaeology and Dr James Bell from the Edinburgh College of Art as our two new associate directors. We are also delighted to welcome on board Claire Edminson as our Network Coordinator. This year, our student-led Events and Communications Team consisted of Amy Life (UG, French and Philosophy; Jun 2023–Jul 2024), Maéva Thibeault (PhD, May 2024–ongoing), and Mouna Chatt (UG, Sociology and Politics; Jun 2024–ongoing). Our website, directory of courses and researchers, blog, monthly newsletter and social media presence indicate the wide reach of GENDER.ED across the university as well as further afield.

KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2023-24

SUPPORTING THE STUDY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITIES

GENDER.ED plays a leading role in supporting the study of gender and sexualities at the university. GENDER.ED's flagship pre-honours undergraduate courses, *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World*, offered by the School of Social and Political Studies, and *Introduction to Queer Studies* offered by the Edinburgh College of Art, recruit more than 250 ordinary years undergraduate students from across more than 75 different degree programmes. This year, we supported the launch of a new ordinary years undergraduate course, *Gender and Visual Representation*, offered by the School of Languages, Literatures and Culture. Our searchable course directory also hosts more than 200 courses, enabling students to map out a gender and sexualities pathway, regardless of the degree programme they are on.

UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

GENDER.ED recognises and celebrates undergraduate achievements in gender and sexualities scholarship, as well as advocacy and activism beyond the University of Edinburgh. GENDER.ED awards undergraduate prizes such as the Yuan Changying Prize for outstanding 'gender observations' written by students in the pre-honours course *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World*. This year's winners of the Yuan Changying Prize are Ariella Glaser (First Prize; Year 1, MA Sociology and Politics) and Harriet Marchand (Second Prize; Year 1, MA Politics). Both gender observations can be found on GENDER.ED's blog.

GENDER.ED also awards the Undergraduate Feminist Trailblazer Awards, which seeks to recognise extraordinary



Research Showcase Annual Report

commitments to feminist scholarship and change on campus. This year's winners are Ash Scholz (First Prize; Year 3, MA History and Politics), Aditi Jain (Second Prize; Year 4, BSc (Hons) Pharmacology), Kate Wilson and Kirsten Hay (Third Prize; Year 3 and Year 2 respectively, Linguistics and English Language/French and Italian). Honourable mentions are Ishita Parakh and Alina Paczesna (Year 3, Politics and Social Sciences) and Emily-Rose Coupe (Year 4, Social Anthropology).

SUPPORTING AND SHOWCASING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

An important facet of GENDER.ED's work is supporting and showcasing excellence in research. Our searchable online directory brings together academics from all over the university, providing an accessible resource for students and staff to engage in gender and sexualities studies.

GENDER.ED is a founding partner of the Una Europe Gender and Equality Network (UGEN). In March, we hosted the third in-person meeting of the network at the University of Edinburgh, which included a roundtable discussion focused on documenting and archiving feminist and queer voices in everyday life and in activist and academic spaces.

In May, our annual showcase once again provided the opportunity to celebrate the cutting-edge gender and sexualities research taking place across the university. This year's showcase included a roundtable discussion on 'Solidarity and Justice in Times of Crisis.'

OFFERING RESEARCH TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Every year, GENDER.ED hosts a range of training and professional development opportunities for early career researchers. This year, as part of the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science's Spring into Methods workshop series, we ran the workshop *Feminist Research Methods Across Universities: Research Practice, Process and Power Relations* in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Strathclyde, the University of Stirling, and Queen Margaret University. At the workshop held in Stirling, postgraduate researchers came together from universities across Scotland, and were introduced to foundational epistemological concerns, and offered a toolkit from which to forge new directions in their research.

In April and May, we hosted and organised a set of two hands-on and interactive workshops aimed at preparing PhD and postdoctoral researchers, who work on gender and sexuality, to craft public-facing writing. The participants learnt how to distil complex research ideas for wide audiences, share their research with an interdisciplinary cohort, learn how to pitch, and hone their own pieces, which will be considered for publication as part of the 'ECR Spotlight Series' on the GENDER.ED blog.

With support from our founding partner, IASH, we were thrilled to host our Inaugural GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Rosa Campbell, who works on the global history of the four UN Conferences on the Status of Women in Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), and Beijing (1995). Rosa's work raises important questions about feminism and its entanglement with geopolitics of the time.



UGEN Annual Report

Additionally, GENDER.ED runs a highly successful internships and assistantships programme for undergraduate students and PhD researchers, with hiring support from IASH. This year, we appointed our 15th intern!

BEING A CRITICAL FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY

As a critical friend of the institution, GENDER.ED contributes to policy debates and ongoing gender and decolonial campaigns at the University and beyond. A key highlight of this work includes the Gender Sensitive Research Toolkit, developed to support researchers to integrate gender equality considerations into research bids. This year, GENDER.ED also conducted a survey open to all gender and sexuality researchers, educators, and professional services staff members at the University of Edinburgh. It was meant as a chance for them to tell us about their experiences, needs, and aspirations, four years after the first survey of its kind was conducted in 2019.

FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Over the past year, we have hosted various well-attended events, often in partnership with other centres and networks, including IASH, RACE.ED, CRITIQUE, Centre of African Studies, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, and more. Amongst these, we hosted a reception in honour of renowned author Jackie Kay at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. We supported a feminist performance titled *What Draupadi Said to Penelope* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and co-hosted a talk by Dr Ali Kassem, titled *Cutting Edges of the Decolonial: Thinking Anthropocentrism and Queerphobia from/in the Arab-majority World(s)* (in partnership with IASH, RACE.ED, and the Alwaleed Centre).



Women's Liberation Movement Conference (image by Douglas Robertson)

Additionally, GENDER.ED places emphasis on co-creating non-hierarchical and non-adversarial spaces for engaging with scholarship and sharing work-in-progress. An example of this is the Gender and Sexualities Studies Reading Group, dedicated to reading and discussing interdisciplinary gender and sexualities scholarship, comprising academic staff and postgraduate researchers. Initiated by our undergraduate intern, Amy Life, we also started an Undergraduate Reading Group on Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Futures run in collaboration with the student society, Girl* Up Edinburgh.

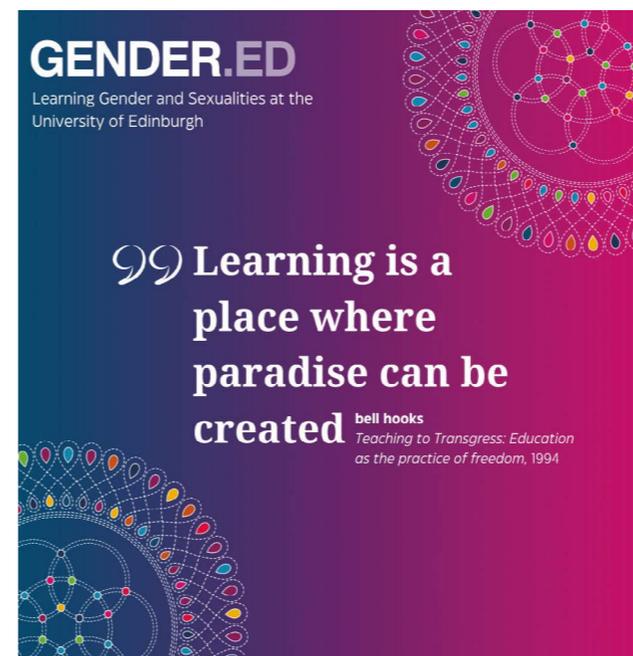
ENGAGING WITH REAL-WORLD ISSUES

This year, our six-year long project, the 16 Days International Blogathon, led in collaboration with Ambedkar University Delhi, the University of New South Wales and guest curators in 2023, Freie Universität Berlin and UGEN, came to an end. The annual 16-day blogathon featured writers and activists reporting on gender-based violence worldwide, as part of the #16DaysOfActivism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign. Currently, an edited collection is being planned, based on a selection of contributions to the blogathon.

We also partnered with IASH and Women's History Scotland on a project to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Women's Liberation Movement Conference held at Edinburgh's James Gillespie's High School in June 1974. The project involved gathering and archiving memories of the conference, a series of public engagement events, and blog posts on the history of the conference and its relevance for feminist activism today. It culminated in a daytime workshop for the students of James Gillespie's High School followed by an evening celebration event. The evening event included a reception and panel discussion.

To join our online directories or the GENDER.ED mailing list, or to find out more, please email: gender.ed@ed.ac.uk

Stay up to date with our work by following us on X at [@UoE_GENDER_ED](https://twitter.com/UoE_GENDER_ED) and Instagram at [@uoed_gender.ed](https://www.instagram.com/uoed_gender.ed) and keeping an eye on our website: <https://www.gender.ed.ac.uk/>



RACE.ED

INTRODUCTION

RACE.ED is a network based at the University of Edinburgh in dialogue with scholars, activists, practitioners, and individuals interested in antiracist approaches to the study of race, racialisation and decolonial studies through a multidisciplinary lens. Our presence extends across the University, fostering spaces for knowledge exchange within the local community and across global and academic communities.

The RACE.ED Network is celebrating its fourth year, having our main platforms present as events, podcasts, blogs, and seminars to bring current debates on race to the forefront for pedagogical, research and activist materials. These discussions dive into the complex historical and modern implications of race and colonialism, connecting viewpoints from the Global South to the Global North. The coordination and support of Claire Edminson and the SPS Comms Team, Podcast Assistant Sophia Hoffinger, and IASH/RACE.ED Communications and Events Intern Rutendo Hoto have been instrumental in bringing our vision to life.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

This year was marked by transition within the network, as we said goodbye to Founding Director Professor Nasar Meer, as well as coordinator Michaelagh Broadbent. Dr Katucha Bento and Dr Shaira Vadasaria served as co-directors of RACE.ED until December 2023 and May 2024 respectively. Dr Bento remains the lead for the RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship and Dr Vadasaria remains a Teaching Programme Lead. Both Shaira and Katucha also continue as members of the Steering Committee, providing invaluable insight and support to the network and directorate.

Thanks to Nasar, Michaelagh, Katucha and Shaira for your dedication and significant contributions towards establishing and growing the network. Without you all, there would be no RACE.ED!

Rutendo Hoto finished her internship at RACE.ED with brilliant collaborations towards events logistics, social media, and the moral support to run RACE.ED – thanks to Rutendo for her sharp engagement and great new ideas.

Whilst we said several goodbyes, the RACE.ED team also welcomed some new faces. Dr Tana Forrest, an early career scholar with a focus on race, ethnicity and decolonial thought, joined the team in October 2023 and took on the role of Interim Associate Director in January 2024 to support with the directorate's transition. Claire Edminson, who is experienced in event organisation and committee support across the University, stepped into the role of Networks Coordinator for both RACE.ED and GENDER.ED at the start of 2024.

KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2023-24

Since 2020, the RACE.ED Network has facilitated 127 in-person and online events, published 186 blog posts and seventeen podcast episodes. It is with pride that we embark on the fourth year of our Fellowships, an essential component of IASH's Institute Project on Decoloniality 2021-2024. This initiative has been achieved through our collaboration with the Centre for Research Collections (CRC) and, since 2021, the Stuart Hall Foundation.

This year, RACE.ED curated dialogues engaging on discourses of solidarity, decoloniality, empire, racism[s], abolition, liberation and genocide. Many of these conversations were transnational, broadening the network's connections and realising our goal of forging interdisciplinary global dialogues that are cognisant of our varying geopolitical realities.

LEANING INTO THE METAPHYSICS OF LIBERATION

Part of the Edinburgh Futures Autumn Season Event, this Black History Month discussion ventured into the challenged idea of leadership within the Black and Afrocentric movements. Moderated by Dr Katucha Bento, panellists included Dr Tiffany R. Holloman FRSA, project manager for Brad-ATTIAN and YCEDE in the Centre for Inclusion and Diversity at the University of Bradford; Phoenix Nacto-Traore, Research Impact Officer at the University of Huddersfield's School of Arts and Humanities; Sharon Anyiam, a passionate lecturer pursuing a PhD in Sociology; and Dr Dimah Mahmoud, a humanist by practice, actionist by choice, and passionate change-maker by learning.



Eyewitness Palestine: Education and Health in Times of Genocide

Together, these Black women professionals, academics and activists from Brazil, Nigeria, Sudan and the USA explored diverse contexts where Black individuals have catalysed change and collective efforts toward anti- and de-colonial liberation. This event was a collaboration with the Edinburgh Futures Institute.

EYEWITNESS PALESTINE: EDUCATION AND HEALTH IN TIMES OF GENOCIDE

Eyewitness Palestine: Education and Health in Times of Genocide with Dr Samia Al-Botmeh and Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah brought into view the scale and impact of Israel's on-going attack on Gaza and settler colonial violence across wider Palestine from the vantage point of health and education. As physicians and scholars who work in these fields, Dr Samia Al-Botmeh (Birzeit University) and Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah addressed the impact of the previous five months in Gaza and the rest of Palestine.

The accelerated Israeli assault on Palestinian life and land has reached unprecedented levels of destruction, with Palestine's health and education sectors being deliberate targets in Gaza and wider Palestine. As we witness the systematic displacement and annihilation of Palestinians fighting to exist and remain on their land, what is the responsibility of scholars and academic institutions to witness and act under times of genocide? What can be done to support the sanctity of all forms of life in Gaza amidst this phase of infrastructural, cultural and material erasure in a century-long history of settler colonial dispossession?

Co-organised with British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Campaigns (BRISMES) and British Committee for the Universities of Palestine (BRICUP) as part of "Campus Voices

for Palestine," it was co-sponsored by Edinburgh Centre for Medical Anthropology (EdCMA), IASH, the Alwaleed Centre, IMES (Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies), PIR-MERG (Middle East Research Group) and RACE.ED.

THINKING ABOLITION THROUGH BLACK QUEER FEMINISM

Co-sponsored by EREN, GENDER.ED, RACE.ED, and the BAME Staff Network, researcher and designer Dominique Barron led this workshop which was designed as an introductory political education session engaging all attendees. Participants collectively examined abolition through a Black, queer, feminist lens, contextualising the current political climate within its historical lineages. The workshop incorporated film, music, texts, and interactive discussions.

WHAT SOCIOLOGISTS LEARN FROM MUSIC

Professor Les Back from the University of Glasgow delivered compelling insights into "What Sociologists Learn from Music". Co-organised by various institutions including Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power, RACE.ED, and Sociology at the University of Edinburgh and Glasgow, this talk delved into the intriguing relationship between musical experiences and sociological identities. Through examples ranging from Howard Becker's jazz club field research to Emma Jackson's life in a Brit pop band, the session explored how sociologists glean insights and understanding from their engagement with music. It emphasised music as an interpretive lens for cultural history, a medium for grasping nuanced cultural aspects, and a catalyst for encountering diverse social realms outside the academic setting.



BOOK LAUNCHES AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Together with other university networks and the local community, RACE.ED contributed to organising activities and inter-actions grounded in solidarity. We released a podcast series addressing relevant questions about reparations; How can we think about reparations? What actions can promote the repair of generational harm? Which future can we imagine towards liberation from colonial power? These questions were centred on 'Stop the Maangamizi', that addresses the violence and the importance of Afrikan liberation in their own terms.

Speaking in the first language about our His(HER)stories is also a topic that defies colonial power, a reflection discussed in depth in a session about "Poetry and Power" with Claudia Rankine and Dionne Brand at the Edinburgh International Book Festival with the support of RACE.ED. Listening to their ideas about our connection with nature and our memories offered refreshing inspiration for strategising new possibilities towards the future. The panel is available to watch for free or 'pay as you can' on the Book Festival website: <https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/media-gallery/item/dionne-brand-claudia-rankine-poetry-and-power>

In an event organised by PIR Contemporary Middle East Series, in collaboration with CRITIQUE Centre for Ethics and Critical Thought, Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law and RACE.ED, Dr Lisa Bhungalia discussed their new book *Elastic Empire: Refashioning War Through Aid in Palestine*. Drawing on extensive research conducted in Palestine, *Elastic Empire* traces how foreign aid, on which much of the Palestinian population is dependent, has multiplied the sites and means through which Palestinian

life is regulated, surveilled, and policed – this book tells the story of how aid has also become war.

Finally, our blog received a number of contributions from fellow scholars, activists and students spanning conversations on whiteness and invisibility, anti-black racism, the politics of drone warfare and death, the violence of racial categorisation and epistemologies of ignorance.

COMMUNITIES AND NETWORKS

RACE.ED is actively in dialogue with Global South and Global North organisations, with an open platform to continue the debates that promote critical thinking around social justice, decolonial and race politics. As we are in gratitude to all networks, collectives, organisations, scholars, students and activists who have collaborated with RACE.ED to make our activities possible, we extend our invitation to IASH members and the readers of this material as a platform to amplify research, work in progress and further dialogues on race, racialisation and colonialism.

Fellows & Fellowships

In all, 58 Fellows were appointed this year, with visits totalling 398 person-months. This maintains IASH's position as the fourth largest Institute of its kind in Europe, despite fewer spaces than usual due to renovation works at Hope Park Square.

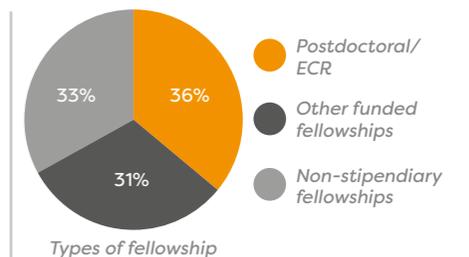
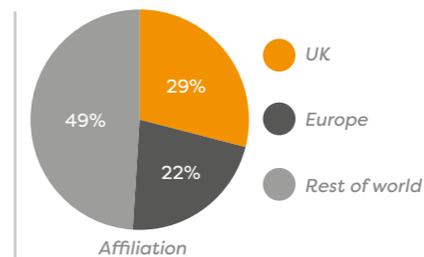
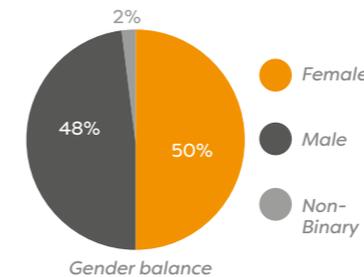
We also began a new Affiliates programme for early-career researchers at the University of Edinburgh, providing access to funding, events, training and networks to help them establish their careers at the university. The Institute welcomed 25 Affiliates in 2023-24, across almost all schools in the College.

For 2023-24, the Institute received around 400 applications for the Postdoctoral Fellowship programmes and other Fellowships. The success rate for Postdoctoral Fellowships remains around 7%.

By retaining the 'feel' of a small and cohesive cohort, we have endeavoured to ensure that our investment in the next generation of academics delivers the benefits of its location in a world-class, internationally-oriented university. Similarly, competition for places as Research Fellows continues to grow, with ever more incredibly well-qualified applicants at all career stages applying for our annual February deadline. We remain open for sabbatical applications from colleagues within the University of Edinburgh and for shorter-term Nominated Fellowships, intended to enable and intensify international collaborations.

FACTS & FIGURES 2023-24

TOTAL PERSON MONTHS 398



LIST OF 2023/24 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Professor Daniela Casale	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>Gender Inequality in the Labour Market in Post-Covid Times: Recovery or Regression?</i>
Dr Ogundiran Soumonni	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>Endogenous Innovation and Transversal Epistemic Communities: Revisiting Knowledge Fluxes between Scotland and Africa</i>
Dr Hilary Buxton	American Philosophical Society Fellowship	Kenyon College, USA	<i>Disabled Empire: Decolonizing Care and the First World War in Imperial Britain</i>
Dr Hope Doherty-Harrison	Centre for Research Collections Fellowship	University of Durham, UK	<i>Edinburgh's Erfurt Manuscripts: Composition and Collection between the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Centuries</i>
Dr Allison Steenson	Centre for Research Collections Fellowship	University of Sussex, UK	<i>The Scoto-British Subjects of James I: Literature and Nation Building in Newly United Great Britain, 1603-1617</i>
Dr Vivek V. Narayan	Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship	Ashoka University, India	<i>Stolen Fire: Caste Scripts and Anti-Caste Politics in South India, 1806-1941</i>
Professor Innocent Uwah	Combe Trust Fellowship	University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria	<i>Option for the Poor: a Framework of Theological Analysis in Selected Popular Movies</i>
Jaspreet Kaur	Community Fellowship	Freelance writer, UK	<i>Quiet Feminism / How Poetry Saved My Life</i>
Dr Noelle Gallagher	Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-Century Scottish Studies	University of Manchester, UK	<i>'A Cogfu' of Warm Parritch': Oats and Scottishness in Eighteenth-Century Print Culture</i>
Dr Suzanne Black	Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Reviews are In: A Computational Study of Fanfiction, Canonicity and Literary Value on Goodreads</i>
Dr Sruthi Herbert	Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Digitisation of Welfare and Implications for the Welfare State: An Examination through Social Welfare Funds in India</i>
Dr Maya Dodd	Digital Scholarship Visiting Research Fellowship	FLAME University, India	<i>Digital Humanities as Public History in India</i>
Dr Sarah Dimick	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	Harvard University, USA	<i>Unseasonable</i>
Dr Henry Ivry	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Glasgow, UK	<i>Insurgent Listening: Black Ecologies in the Sonic Undercommons</i>
Professor Dolly Jørgensen	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Stavanger, Norway	<i>Reefs or Rubbish? A Comparative History of Rigs-to-Reef Policy</i>
Dr Kyle Mays	Fulbright Distinguished Visitor Award	University of California, Los Angeles, USA	<i>"Who Will Pay Reparations on our Souls": Landback, Reparations, and Decolonizing the University</i>
Dr Rosa Campbell	GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Cambridge, UK	<i>Globalising Sisterhood: Feminisms and the United Nations at the End of the Cold War, 1975-2000</i>
Professor Sam Cohn	Honorary Fellowship	University of Glasgow, UK	<i>Epidemics: Waves of Disease, Waves of Hate, from the Plague of Athens to AIDS</i>
Professor David Purdie	Honorary Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Textual Enlightenment Project</i>

LIST OF 2023/24 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Md Rofiq Muzakkir	IASH-Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellowship	Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia	<i>The Impact of Modernity and Colonialism on Islamic Ethics and Legal Thought</i>
Professor Egdūnas Račius	IASH-Alwaleed Visiting Research Fellowship	Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania	<i>From Imperial Muslim Administrations to National Muslim Churches: Trajectories of the Development of Muslim Ecclesiastical Administrations in Post-Communist Eurasia</i>
Dr Ximian Xu	IASH-CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Watching in Justice: Cultivating Justice in Surveillance Society</i>
Dr Manolis Tsakiris	IASH-HCA Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Reclaiming Hellenistic Space: A Cognitive Re-evaluation of Space in Hellenistic Poetry</i>
Professor Jonathan Havercroft	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Southampton, UK	<i>Just and Unjust Riots: A Normative Analysis of Militant Protest</i>
Dr Eva Nanopolous	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	Queen Mary University of London, UK	<i>A Decolonial Legal History of Sanctions</i>
Dr Igor Torbakov	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	Uppsala University, Sweden	<i>The Anti-Imperialist Empire? Russia-Eurasia and Post/Decoloniality</i>
Isla Cowan	IASH-Traverse Creative Fellowship	Playwright, UK	<i>A play</i>
Dr Chisomo Kalinga	Medical Humanities Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Creating a Critical Disabilities and Medical Humanities Hub and Symposium: Access, Equality and Inclusion in Health</i>
Professor Sweetha Ballakrishnen	Nominated Fellowship	University of California, Irvine, USA	<i>Law's Relationship to Amity and Asexuality using the Lens of South Asian Popular Media</i>
Dr Rituparna Chakraborty	Nominated Fellowship	Swami Vivekananda University, India	<i>Transnationalism in Tagore</i>
Dr Payel Mukherjee	Nominated Fellowship	Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD), India	<i>Rabindranath Tagore and His West: Connections, Counterparts, Cosmopolitan-Nationalism</i>
Dr Andrea Aramburú Villavisencio	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Bristol, UK	<i>Latin American Comics and Decolonial Genealogies of Resistance</i>
Dr Dávid Bartha	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Independent researcher, Hungary	<i>Imagination in the Scottish Enlightenment</i>
Dr Sara Forcella	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Independent researcher, Italy	<i>Looking Inward: A Decolonial Perspective on the Arab Criticism of The Thousand and One Nights</i>
Dr Lucy Hinnie	Postdoctoral Fellowship	British Library, UK	<i>A Scottish Querelle: The Monstrous Feminine of the Bannatyne MS (c. 1568)</i>
Dr Alok Oak	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of St. Andrews, UK	<i>Dominion Status as a Fait Accompli: A.B. Keith and the History of Commonwealth Constitutionalism in British India (1919-1942)</i>
Dr Farah Saleh	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Embodied Decolonial Practices at the University</i>
Dr Rory Scotthorne	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Radical Left, Civil Society and the Scottish Nation, 1967-1983</i>

LIST OF 2023/2024 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Albert Sharra	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	<i>The Roots, Colonial Legacy and Transformation of State Surveillance against Political Activists in Southern Africa</i>
Dr Md Mursed Alam	RACE.ED Archival Research Fellowship	University of Gour Banga, India	<i>Vaccine Hesitancy, Colonial Bio-Politics and Debates around Indigenous Medical Epistemes</i>
Dr Marika Ceschia	RACE.ED Archival Research Fellowship	University of Leeds, UK	<i>Unsettling the Colonial Archive: Rewriting Charles Lyell's Extractive Grammars</i>
Dr Opemiposi Adegbulu	RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship	University of Salford, UK	<i>The Redress: Decolonising the Notion of the Public Interest</i>
Dr Kanwal Hameed	RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship	Orient Institute Beirut, Lebanon	<i>Stretching Stuart Hall: Class, Race, Ethno-Sect and Nation in Bahrain's Labour Movement</i>
Dr Simon Buck	Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism</i>
Dr Ian Stewart	Research Fellow	University College London, UK	<i>University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism</i>
Dr Yarong Xie	Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism</i>
Dr Deval Desai	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>The Anti-Fiscal State</i>
Professor Suzanne Ewing	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Studies in Architecture as a Moving Project: Punctures, Junctures, Freeze-Frames</i>
Professor Hannah Rohde	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	<i>Learning and the Perpetuation of Implicit Biases and Stereotypes</i>
Dr Timothy Cooper	Susan Manning Postdoctoral Fellowship	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, UK	<i>Micrographia: a New Music Work for Period Instruments, Electroacoustic Music and Video</i>
Dr Walter Bartl	Visiting Research Fellowship	Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany	<i>Constitutional Commitments to Refugee Law and Policies of Physical Responsibility Sharing</i>
Dr Charles Briggs	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Vermont, USA	<i>Reframing Early Humanism: Scholasticism, Classicism and the Languages of Politics, 1260-1350</i>
Professor Libora Oates-Indruchová	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Graz, Austria	<i>Reception of the Greenham Common Protests in the Czech Press</i>
Professor Bernadette O'Rourke	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Glasgow, UK	<i>A Multidimensional Approach to Language Revitalisation: Re-thinking Existing Paradigms in Minority Language Sociolinguistics</i>
Dr Isabel Pérez-Ramos	Visiting Research Fellowship	Universidad de Oviedo, Spain	<i>Decolonial Solidarities and Socioenvironmental Change in/through Chicana (Speculative) Fiction</i>
Dr Ranjana Saha	Visiting Research Fellowship	Manipal Centre for Humanities, India	<i>Mothers, Mothercraft & Materialities: Urban India and Transnational Histories of 'Scientific' Motherhood (1890s-1940s)</i>
Dr Steve Taylor	Visiting Research Fellowship	AngelWings Ltd/ Flinders University, Australia	<i>Digital Activism as Justice-Making: Evaluating Decolonial Public Theologies on Christian Social Media Platforms</i>

LIST OF 2023/2024 AFFILIATES

AFFILIATE	SCHOOL
Dr Farah Aoubakr	Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Peter Atkins	School of Divinity
Dr Aliandra Barlete	Moray House, School of Education and Sport
Dr Imogen Bevan	Social Anthropology, School of Social and Political Science
Dr Hannah Boast	English Literature, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Babara Castillo Büttinghausen	Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Lucia Cervi	HR Management, Edinburgh Business School
Dr Lynda Clark	Creative Writing, Edinburgh Futures Institute
Dr Patrick Errington	English Literature, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Anna Girling	English Literature, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Lucy Havens	Centre for Data, Culture and Society, School of Informatics
Dr Timothy Jacob-Owens	Citizenship Law and Policy, Edinburgh Law School
Dr Chase Ledin	Usher Institute
Dr Ainsley McIntosh	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Kristina Pikovskaia	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Sneha Roy	School of Divinity
Dr Hannah Simpson	English Literature, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Natalia Stengel Peña	Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Alberto Tondello	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Alice Wickenden	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Matti Wilks	Psychology, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
Dr Robert Winstanley-Chesters	Korean Studies, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Jessica Witte	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures / Centre for Data, Culture and Society
Dr Luca Zenobi	School of History, Classics and Archaeology



“My time at IASH has been wonderful. The level of support, freedom and encouragement offered by the Institute is unparalleled in academia today. I do not believe that I would have achieved even a quarter of what I have done in the last year without my Fellowship, and for this I am truly thankful. I am fiercely proud of having been a Fellow at IASH, and believe it has yielded great rewards for my scholarship. In a world of ever-increasing despair in academia and the humanities, IASH stands as a beacon of all that is good about collegiality, collaboration and innovative interdisciplinary thought. I shall be singing its praises for years to come. Long live IASH!”

Dr Lucy Hinnie
Postdoctoral Fellow 2023-24

“IASH staff have created a truly precious atmosphere of collegiate, wide-ranging intellectual exchange which is warm, welcoming and liberating, and my time there was without a doubt the most enjoyable and stimulating of my academic career.”

Dr Rory Scothorne
Postdoctoral Fellow 2023-24

“My time at IASH, and in Edinburgh more generally, was incredibly fruitful and enjoyable. In IASH the University has a real gem, and I look forward to its ongoing contributions to the world of scholarship and learning.”

Professor Charles Briggs
Visiting Research Fellow 2023-24



Ideas Grow: Looking Ahead to 2024-25

Here's a small taste of what's in store as we enter our 55th year:

Our collaborations with the Edinburgh International Book Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe continue. In 2024, we're proudly sponsoring acclaimed American author Lorrie Moore's event at the Book Festival, where she discusses her new novel *I Am Homeless If This is Not My Home*.

We are also supporting the premiere of a new play by award-winning Hannah Khalil at the Traverse Theatre, *My English Persian Kitchen*, running all through August, as well as a rehearsed reading of new work by current Fellow Isla Cowan.

Many current and former Fellows and friends of IASH are also presenting work during festival season, including Oliver Emanuel's *A History of Paper* and Douglas Maxwell's *So Young* at the Traverse, *No One is Coming to Save Us* by Lewis Hetherington, revivals of Apphia Campbell's *Black Is The Color Of My Voice* and *Through The Mud*, and Shatha Altowai and Saber Bamatraf's multimedia concert *The Other*.

In September, we will return to the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Curious festival with a bold event, *Catastrophe!* What if artificial intelligence became autonomous and out of human control, what if the polar ice caps melted, what if antibiotics no longer worked - and what if this all happened at once? IASH alumnae/i Dr Clare Duffy and Dr Deval Desai will join Professor Lisa Boden to discuss these urgent issues affecting our changing world.

The Institute's website is currently being redeveloped, with a launch planned for the autumn. The new site will improve the user experience for Fellowship applicants as well as preserving our precious archives. New funded programmes in 2024-25 include the British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowships, open to postdoctoral researchers based in any ODA-recipient country where the British Council operates, the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Fellowship for social scientists based in Pakistan, and a new residency for artists from Palestine and the diaspora.

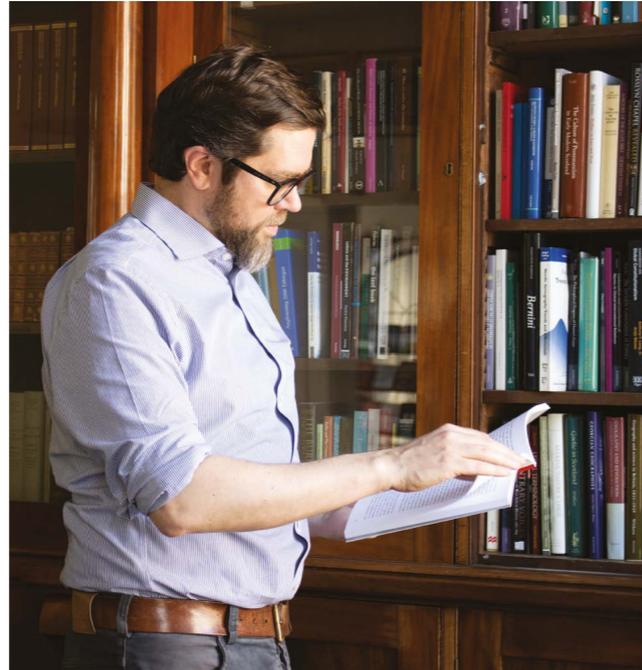
2025 marks 55 years since the first Fellows arrived at the Institute. We're celebrating with our own IASH Festival in April, including a 55th Birthday Reunion, the Institute Project on Decoloniality Conference at the National Museum of Scotland and the Edinburgh Futures Institute, special performances and much more.

The publication of *Essays on Decoloniality: Volume 2* is planned for spring 2025, as well as a range of exciting book launches with our Fellows community.

Please visit our [website](#) or follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with all our events and opportunities.

Thanks & Acknowledgements

The staff and Fellows of IASH would like to thank all those who make our work possible and fruitful, including: the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and its twelve Schools, which provide funds, professional services, governance and strategic direction for the Institute; various trusts and supporters, who fund Fellowships and support community activities for the Fellows; and our many generous partners and stakeholders outside the University, who work with us on projects and events.



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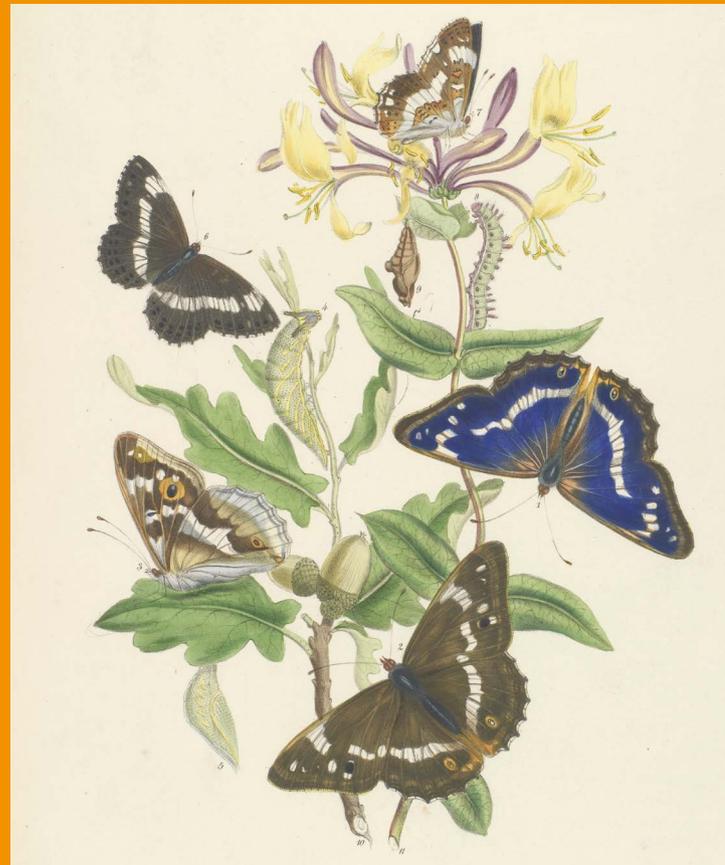
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