



WOLFSON COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

WOLFSON RESEARCH EVENT 2016

Friday 4 March

**Schedule
and
Abstracts**



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Time		Activity
1:30pm	1:40pm	Opening
1:45pm	1:55pm	Talk 1 - Rory Coulter
2:00pm	2:10pm	Talk 2 - Artur Olszewski
2:15pm	2:25pm	Talk 3 - Josie Daw
2:30pm	2:40pm	Talk 4 - Kevin Maloney
2:45pm	2:55pm	Talk 5 - Meira Gold
3:00pm	3:10pm	Talk 6 - Catherine Wrucke
3:15pm	3:25pm	Talk 7 - Nele Dieckmann
3:30pm	3:40pm	Talk 8 - Saifur Rahman
3:40pm	3:55pm	Break
3:55pm	4:15pm	Keynote 1 - Danny Kingsley
4:20pm	4:30pm	Talk 9 - Alethea Osborne
4:35pm	4:45pm	Talk 10 - Eleanor Neyroud
4:50pm	5:00pm	Talk 11 - Azfar Anwar
5:05pm	5:15pm	Talk 12 - Elvin Xing
5:20pm	5:30pm	Talk 13 - Riccardo Jaede
5:35pm	5:45pm	Talk 14 – Sokkeng Leung
5:50pm	6:05pm	Flash Presentations (in order of Talks)
6:05pm	6:25pm	Keynote 2 – Christine Corton
6:25pm	6:35pm	Prize Presentation
6:35pm	7:15pm	Break
7:15pm	9:30pm	Formal Hall

Keynote 1: Dr Danny Kingsley – Head of Scholarly Communications, Cambridge University Library

The Scholarly Publishing System is Broken - Discuss

The scholarly journal system began with Olbenburgh and the Royal Society 351 years ago as an improvement on the system of sending letters to alert people to new discoveries. Now, with the advent of the internet, this system is no longer fit for purpose. Journal publication is rarely how researchers actually communicate their work, but has become a proxy for 'quality' assessment. Because the reward system values publishing in high impact journals we are now in a cycle which supports publisher profits at the expense of scholarly communication and research budgets.

Keynote 2: Dr Christine Corton – MA (Lady Evans), Freelance Writer, Wolfson College

From Thesis to Book: One Author's Journey

Christine L Corton's book was published in early November 2015. It garnered many positive reviews and has sold almost 10,000 copies worldwide in less than three months. The book was adapted and extended from her PhD thesis, completed at the University of Kent in 2010. Christine will describe the journey from thesis to book, the research required and the organization essential to a cultural history extending into many areas which are not her areas of expertise. She hopes describing her personal experience will inspire and help all those who wish to travel a similar journey.

Talk 1: Rory Coulter – Wolfson College Junior Research Fellow; Research Associate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge

Private Renting Amongst Young Families in England and Wales, 2001-2011

Politicians and the popular press frequently identify the growth of private renting amongst young people to be one of the most important adverse consequences of the British 'housing crisis'. Particular concern has been directed towards the rapid increase in private renting amongst young families unable to either afford homeownership or access social housing. This trend is thought to be problematic because high housing costs, limited tenure security and relatively poor dwelling quality mean that the private rental sector often does not cater well for young families seeking long-term accommodation. In this presentation I use data from the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study of England and Wales to chart young families' changing use of the private rental sector between 2001 and 2011. In order to assess whether trends in the housing system are deepening social inequality I pay particular attention to the changing demographic and socio-economic profile of young private renters.

Talk 2: Artur Olszewski – Graduate Student, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, St Antony's College

Japanese Corporate Governance Reform: Reinvigorating Corporate Japan?

Japanese companies are facing an increasingly competitive and challenging business landscape. Heralded as part of the Abenomics 'third arrow', corporate governance is currently seen as one of the keys to unlocking corporate Japan's full potential. I will therefore discuss and analyse the implications of the revised Japanese Corporate Governance Code ('the Code') in effect from 1 June 2015. Heavily drawing upon principles of the UK Corporate Governance Code, the Code represents a marked step towards convergence with the Anglo-American shareholder-centric model in an attempt to bolster shareholder activism and drive cash-hoarding companies to generate greater returns, thereby strengthening the Japanese economy. I will cover the Code's potential impact from the perspective of both Japanese businesses and foreign companies dealing with Japan.

Talk 3: Josie Daw – Graduate Student, History Department, Wolfson College

Queer Women in the Second World War in England

My research focuses on queer women during the Second World War in England. I have attempted to explore the practises, spaces, discourses of women expressing same-sex desires in the Second World War. This has frequently been associated as a unique period of toleration for queer individuals. Through my research, I have been able to reveal that queer women during this period were visible and active in many aspects of wartime life. I have found that queer women utilised numerous methods in order to express their same-sex desires, as well as occupying a variety of spaces and careers. Current historiography suggests that there are few sources for these women, but my research shows this is not entirely accurate. My research methodology has included reviewing oral testimonies, examining literature and films from the period, analysing reports from the WAAF and ATS reports on lesbianism, and searching through the Mass Observation diaries and newspaper articles. These sources have shown not only the proliferation of queer women but also the growing use of the term 'lesbian'. However, they have also demonstrated that this term was ambiguously understood by the wider public. My research has attempted to deconstruct these concepts of wartime sexuality.

Talk 4: Kevin Maloney – Doctoral Researcher, Department of Engineering, Wolfson College

A Design Tool for Micro-Architected Adhesive Joints

Adhesive joints offer several advantages over traditional joints (welds, rivets), including reduced weight, excellent surface finish and the ability to bond dissimilar materials (i.e. metal to polymer). Adhesive technology is particularly relevant to applications incorporating lightweight materials such as composites and aluminium, which are of increasing interest in the transportation industry. Adhesives are finding applications in the naval industry, but adoption is limited by an incomplete understanding of the mechanics of adhesive joints. How do failure strength, toughness and damage tolerance vary with the thickness of an adhesive layer? Can these properties be improved, or varied to meet specific design requirements? To address these questions, a variety of quasi-static tests have been conducted on adhesive joints composed of aluminium and a rubber-like MS-polymer adhesive. Butt joints and double-lap shear joints were studied and the observed failure mechanisms are discussed. Joints with novel interface geometries, such as “square wave” periodic interlocking interfaces, have also been studied. A design tool has been developed which predicts the peak strength and work of fracture of square wave interfaces as functions of geometric parameters. A performance map is presented, which can be used to guide the design of future interfaces according to design requirements.

Talk 5: Meira Gold – PhD Student, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Wolfson College

Places and Practices in Victorian Egyptology: ‘Armchair Archaeology’ at Tell el-Yahudiyeh, 1870-1880

In recent years, there has been increasing attention paid to the institutionalization of European Egyptology at the end of the 19th century and the shift from antiquarianism to an independent, unified, professional discipline. However, the traditional narrative that the field developed linearly—quickly progressing towards the inevitable implementation of a number of scientific techniques—is misleading. My paper will muddy up this narrative by discussing some unconventional ways Egyptological knowledge was produced and disseminated during this period, and how these ideas received credibility. I will focus on early British fieldwork at the now-overlooked Egyptian site of Tell-el Yahudiyeh. Once of immense interest to 19th century scholars because of its biblical associations, knowledge of Tell el-Yahudiyeh was initially circulated amongst Victorian audiences through a network of ‘armchair archaeologists’ (museum practitioners and professors) in London and ‘fieldworkers’ (explorers and antiquities collectors) in Egypt between 1870 and 1880. While the phenomena of late 19th century “armchair” scholarship has been discussed in the context of other expeditionary sciences, such as anthropology and geography, it is not normally associated with archaeological excavations. Examining these antiquarian practices at Tell el-Yahudiyeh will highlight some of the lesser-known methods Egyptologists deployed in attempting to make authoritative claims about ancient Egypt.

Talk 6: Catherine Wrucke – MSt Student, Oriental Institute/ Japanese Studies, St Antony’s College

An Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Proto-Korean-Japanese Hypothesis

Evidence suggests that a proto-Korean-Japanese (pKJ) language existed on the Asian mainland and split to form separate languages we now recognize as modern Korean and modern Japanese. In his book, “The Role of Contact in the Origins of the Japanese and Korean Languages,” J. Marshall Unger proposes that evidence of borrowing – and thus un-relatedness – between Japanese and Korean is proof of a pre-Kofun period para-Japanese language on the Korean Peninsula. This could suggest that any evidence of borrowing is merely a reconnection of Japanese elements into the Korean language and does not, in fact, dissuade us from seriously considering a genetic relationship between Japanese and Korean. The purpose of this presentation, then, is to examine the evidence for both a genetic linguistic relationship and a relationship through language contact against current linguistic methodology. The goal is, by inquiring further on the validity of the pKJ hypothesis, to determine viable areas of opportunity within the scholarship to conclude definitively (if possible) on a pKJ relationship.

Talk 7: Nele Dieckmann – PhD Student, Cambridge Institute for Medical Research, Wolfson College

Calcium Signalling Dynamics in the Killer T-Cell Attack

Cytotoxic T-lymphocytes (CTLs) are white blood cells in the human immune system that eliminate virally infected and tumourigenic cells. CTLs kill by delivering a cocktail of toxic substances that rapidly triggers a self-destruction programme (apoptosis) in the target cell. The release of these pro-apoptotic factors must be tightly controlled and only occurs once a well-sealed interface known as the ‘Immune Synapse’ is established between T-cell and its target. The study of several immunodeficiency conditions identified key parts of the protein machinery that is essential for CTL killing. It is furthermore known that calcium signalling is crucial to trigger and sustain a successful CTL attack and it has been suggested that global and local calcium fluxes in the T-cell drive multiple steps in this attack. However, it remains unclear what the exact timescales and magnitudes of calcium fluxes are and whether these might be changed when killing is impaired through genetic mutations or pharmacological inhibition. Using high speed live-cell imaging I followed the CTL attack on target cells in 4D to monitor and compare global calcium signals in healthy and mutant CTL.

Talk 8: Saifur Rahman – Graduate Student, Pharmacology, Wolfson College

Repurposing Known Drugs as Inhibitors of the Store-Operated Calcium Entry Pathway

Store-operated calcium entry (SOCE) pathway, which is activated following physiological (e.g. by the Ca²⁺-mobilizing second messenger, IP₃) or pharmacological (e.g. by thapsigargin, an inhibitor of the sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺-ATPase or SERCA pump) depletion of internal Ca²⁺ stores, is a prominent contributor towards generation of cytosolic Ca²⁺ signals. Ca²⁺ influx via SOCE helps in refilling the emptied stores in non-excitable cells but can also regulate specific downstream cellular processes including gene transcription, secretion and metabolism. In recent years, several human diseases have been linked to abnormal SOCE, including allergy, inflammatory bowel disease, thrombosis and some forms of cancer. Drugs targeting this pathway could therefore be of considerable clinical benefit. Several pharmaceutical companies are investing in research and development programmes to produce effective SOCE inhibitors. In recent time, drug repositioning or repurposing has drawn considerable attention worldwide as it offers the likelihood of identifying potential lead scaffolds from the existing drugs that are already well characterized, specially from the toxicological and pharmacokinetic point of view. This project was inspired by the theme and aimed at identifying potential SOCE-modulatory compounds from the existing drugs. Using a very specific SOCE inhibitor, BTP2 as a bait, the conformers of all existing drugs were screened in silico to identify molecules possessing considerable similarities in 3D shape and electrostatics with the bait. After manual inspection from the top 50 hits for scaffold diversity, eight different drugs were chosen for bioassay. The latter involved single cell Ca²⁺ imaging using Fura-2 with SOCE triggered by IP₃-mediated store emptying as well as thapsigargin-evoked SERCA inhibition. Of the 8 drugs, five of them, namely Leflunomide, Teriflunomide, Tolvaptan, Nifuroxazide and Omeprazole, substantially blocked SOCE at 100µM in SHSY-5Y neuroblastoma cells. At lower doses (30µM and 10µM), only Leflunomide, Teriflunomide and Tolvaptan retained their SOCE inhibitory property. All these three drugs inhibited SOCE also in rat basophilic leukemia (RBL-1) cells, suggesting that their activity as SOCE inhibitor was not cell type-specific. Thus, the chemical scaffolds of these drugs can potentially be explored further for future development of effective SOCE inhibitor. The study also reveals a possible off target effects of these drugs.

Talk 9: Alethea Osborne – MPhil Student, Modern Middle-East Studies, St Antony's College

Unlocking The Secret and Breaking The Cycle: Exploring Menstrual Taboos in Contemporary Jordan

Jordan is often characterised as a locus of calm in the Middle East compared to many of its neighbours. Consequently, with the spotlight focused elsewhere, social injustice and gender inequality in Jordan is commonly overlooked. This work draws from interviews carried out during August 2015 in Jabal Al-Natheef; a religiously conservative and economically poor area of Amman in which women typically leave school before completing education. Asking women questions about their first menstrual experiences provides an insight into the private conceptions many of us hold about our bodies and the stigmas attached to them. The levels of internalised sexism amongst Jordanian women can be illustrated by their reverence for male doctors, and the almost ubiquitous acceptance of their natural bodily functions as dirty and shameful. An interesting paradox arises: Jordan is a society obsessed with reproduction, and promotes a woman's primary role as that of mother, wife, or daughter, and yet menstruation is deeply misunderstood. As a result, menstruation can become a topic occupying women's private preoccupation - shrouded in guilt, shame and misinformation. Something as seemingly regular and personal as a period can in reality be indicative of social, political, and religious conditioning which influences some of the most fundamental elements of gender and identity.

Talk 10: Eleanor Neyroud – PhD Student, Institute of Criminology, Wolfson College

The Extent of Victimization Among Low-Level Offenders Participating in the Turning Point Project and the Implications for Policy and Practice

That offenders experience victimization at disproportionate levels to those who are not involved in offending is one of the consistent facts in criminology. Yet it is arguably one of the most understudied and neglected phenomena, both by researchers and by policy makers. Using data from police records of victimization from low-level offenders participating in the Turning Point Project based in Birmingham (United Kingdom), illustrate both how extensive and the prevalent types of victimization reported by these offenders. The results of this research suggest that violent victimization is a particular issue for these low-level offenders, and for some their experiences of victimization were complex and substantial in number. This has significant impacts when considering potential policies or when designing interventions for low-level offenders.

Talk 11: Azfar Anwar – MPhil Student, Islamic Studies & History, The Oriental Institute, St Antony's College

Before the Caliphate – A Critical Historical Inquiry on the Origins of the Islamic Polity

Is the Caliphate an ex nihilo form of government of seventh century Arabia? Is it an Islamic doctrine where its institution is a religious duty? What system of governance should Muslims adopt? Is the Caliphate the only appropriate way to build and maintain an "Islamic" order? Such questions are some of which this presentation will address. While they may seem basic to some, and may not necessarily be new, already addressed by the likes of Ali Abdel Razek, Patricia Crone and Khalil Athamina, this presentation will go even further beyond their respective premises to invalidate on Islamic grounds the notion of an Islamic polity, headed by a qualified individual bearing the title 'Caliph', with specific particular features. Through textual analysis of Muslim sources, historical contextualization of traditional accounts, and critical revision of historical narratives and scholastic-juristic Islamic rulings, this presentation will argue that not only did the Caliphate start out as a tribal institution and only later given an Islamic identity, or 'Islamicised', by the 'Ulamā (Muslim scholars) particularly during the Islamic middle periods, its instatement is also thus not a religious duty. This presentation will challenge the very foundation of the theory of the Caliphate i.e. the Saqifah conference, by demanding a critical historical inquiry of this conference; asking questions that have not been asked before by scholars and historians on the origins of the Caliphate. This presentation is adapted from a paper, however due to the brevity of the presentation, focus will be given on the unasked questions.

Talk 12: Elvin Xing – MPhil Student, Department of Social Anthropology, Wolfson College

"Not Enough Salt": An Exploratory Study on Indian Diasporic Students and Their Perceptions of Food in Cambridge

Food is one of the key markers and identifiers of a person's culture, identity and history. We communicate through food. The adage "You are what you eat" rings true for most, if not all of us. But what happens when one's relationship with food changes and one is faced with new forms of food? In this encounter does one's identity change or does the food change? To what extent do the experiences and memories related to food shape one's experience and decisions? Our research is aimed at finding out how Indian students in the diaspora perceive food in a foreign place. We are interested in the meanings they attach to the food they eat, the restaurants they visit and the people they eat with, and the type of food they prepare at their new place of residence here in Cambridge. Using these experiences, meanings and perceptions as our guide, we hope to understand how food can become an identity, a sense of belonging, a form of attachment/detachment and a means of cultural communication.

Talk 13: Riccardo Jaede – MPhil Student, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, St Antony's College

Theorising the Aporia of Communist Asceticism in India

My thesis will explore the theoretical implications certain forms of asceticism may have for the recent anthropology of ethics. According to this, the renunciation of privileges as the cultivation of an ethical self may be viewed in a way that emphasises an understanding of the internal life of an ascetic on its own terms and which, for methodological reasons, avoids questions about the social and structural outcomes. However, in certain ascetic traditions the teleology of the self is both explicitly and implicitly linked to the social. Furthermore, recent ethnographic observations suggests instances where the very project of transforming the self and becoming an ascetic is premised on elements of the pre-ascetic stage which are thus reproduced in the renouncers and their context. It is in these instances that aspects of the social appear to subvert the very project aimed at overcoming the status quo at both the individual and social level. The anthropology of ethics must therefore address the very questions that rendered its intellectual predecessor a conceptually and methodologically flawed endeavour. The task, therefore, is to confront these questions without reproducing their structural weaknesses.

Talk 14: Sokkeng Leung – MPhil Student, Research in Second Language Education, Wolfson College

Understanding Macao University's English as a Second Language (ESL) Learners' Attitudes Towards the Use of Social Networking Sites for English Language Learning: A Mixed-Methods Study

In our 21st century, it is undeniable that the use of social networking sites (SNS) penetrates our life in every single aspect. As with Vygotsky's (1978) socio-cultural theory, human minds are mediated with external cultural artefacts, then social media, in this case, serve as the cultural artefacts that mediate our language learners' learning process from an external to an internal plane. This research focuses on elucidating the relationship between the use of SNS and its influence on second or foreign language learning, as well as second or foreign language learners' attitudes towards the use of SNS for language learning. Data are collected from three higher educational institutions in Macao, and a mixed-methods research methodology with survey and interviews is employed to investigate 1) the SNS Macao University ESL learners use for English language learning, 2) ESL learners' use of SNS and its influence on English language learning and 3) ESL learners' attitudes towards SNS for English language learning. The project aims to explore the pedagogical values of SNS for second language teachers and learners, as well as to deepen educators and researchers' understanding towards the implications of social-networking-sites-language-learning for future second language research.

