DURHAM-MÜNSTER HISTORY CONFERENCE

THURSDAY 1 – FRIDAY 2
NOVEMBER 2018
**DURHAM–MÜNSTER HISTORY CONFERENCE**

**DAY ONE**  
**THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2018**

**Venue:**  
Senate Suite, University College

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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Tea/coffee and registration</td>
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| 09:30 | Welcome and introduction | - Professor Sarah Davies, History Department (Durham)  
- Professor Martin Kintzinger, Historisches Seminar (Münster)  
- Professor Christian Liddy, History Department (Durham) |
| 10:00 | **Session 1: Visual and Material Culture** | Chair: Professor Ludmilla Jordanova |
| 11:30 | Tea/coffee break | |
| 11:45 | **Session 2: Law** | Chair: Dr Helen Foxhall Forbes |
| 13:15 | Lunch | |
| 14:15 | **Visit to the University’s Archives and Special Collections (Palace Green Library)** | Guides: Dr Michael Stansfield and Mr Francis Gotto |
| 15:15 | Tea/coffee break | |
| 15:30 | **Session 3: Texts and Writing** | Chair: Professor Graeme Small |
| 17:00 | Break | |
| 18:00 | Dr André Krischer, Historisches Seminar (Münster)  
**Keynote Lecture:**  
‘Conspiracy as a political crime in England: Early modern traditions and early 19th century appropriations’ | Chair: Dr Richard Huzzey |
| 19:30 | Dinner | The King’s Lodge |
**DURHAM –MÜNSTER HISTORY CONFERENCE**

**DAY TWO**  
**FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2018**

**Venue:**  
[Prior’s Hall, Durham Cathedral](#)

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<td>09:30</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 4: Diplomacy</strong></td>
<td>Chair: Professor Nicole Reinhardt</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td><strong>Tour of Durham Peninsula (Castle and Cathedral)</strong></td>
<td>Guide: Dr Adrian Green</td>
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<td>13:45</td>
<td><strong>Session 5: Faith, Hope and Charity</strong></td>
<td>Chair: Dr Julie Marfany</td>
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<td><strong>Session 6: Political Cultures</strong></td>
<td>Chair: Dr Kevin Waite</td>
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<td>17:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>18:00</td>
<td>Dr Jennifer Luff, Department of History (Durham)</td>
<td>Chair: Professor Christian Liddy</td>
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<td><strong>Keynote Lecture:</strong></td>
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<td>‘Working with Historical Secrets and Lies: Lessons from Britain’s Secret Red Purge, 1938-1950’</td>
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SESSIONS

Session 1: Visual and Material Culture
Chair: Professor Ludmilla Jordanova


Henning Bovenkerk (Münster): ‘A Consumer Revolution in North-Western Germany? Impact and development of the Consumer Revolution in a transition region between the Netherlands and the European inland’

Grace Stephenson (Durham): ‘Second World War Newsreel Production in Britain: A Case Study of the “Atlantic Meeting”’

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Session 2: Law
Chair: Dr Helen Foxhall Forbes

Will Raybould: ‘Kings, Lords, and Communities: Local Justice in Anglo-Saxon England’


Alexander Durben (Münster): ‘Stages of decision-making – space and interaction in legal proceedings in 19th-century England’

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Session 3: Texts and Writing
Chair: Professor Graeme Small

James Cronin (Durham): ‘History writing and the use of historical sources by the Benedictine monks of Durham Priory during the early fifteenth century’

Benedikt Nientied (Münster): “‘If you do not preserve form, we destroy the Commons of England”. Precedences, decision-making and the Order of the House in the Cavalier Parliament’

Henry Miller (Durham): ‘Signatures of Suffrage: The British Women’s Suffrage Movement and the Practice of Petitioning, 1890-1914’

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**Session 4: Diplomacy**

Chair: **Professor Nicole Reinhardt**

Kim Foy (Durham): “‘Keeping State’: Space, Performance and Diplomatic Choreography at the Early Stuart Court, 1603-1642’

Benedikt Fausch (Münster): ‘Transformation of British-Persian Relations, 1750-1850’

Christoph Valentin (Münster): ‘Ultramontanisation by papal diplomacy? Michele Viale Prelà as apostolic nuncio in Munich, 1838-1845’

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**Session 5: Faith, Hope and Charity**

Chair: **Dr Julie Marfany**

Andra Alexiu (Münster): ‘Nobody expects ... the Admonishing Women: A Case Study on how Women Spirituals of the Twelfth Century used Admonitio’


Kathleen Reynolds (Durham): ‘The Role of Servants in Gentry Household Medical Work’

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**Session 6: Political Cultures**

Chair: **Dr Kevin Waite**

Rhiannon Snaith (Durham): ‘A Noble Concern? Reputation, Power and Authority in Late Medieval England’

Maximiliane Berger (Münster): ‘Konrad von Pappenheim and Permit A38. Frederick III between decision-making and decision avoidance’

Matthew Benson (Durham): ‘Taxing “Africans” and “Arab Nomads” and Indebting Tenant Farmers: Fiscal Relations and Authority in the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium’s Peripheries, 1899-1956’
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- Andra Alexiu
- Matthew Benson
- Maximiliane Berger
- Henning Bovenkerk
- Julia Bühner
- James Cronin
- Professor Sarah Davies
- Alexander Durben
- Benedikt Fausch
- Dr Helen Foxhall Forbes
- Kim Foy
- Mr Francis Gotto
- Dr Adrian Green
- Rachael Harkes
- Dr Richard Huzzey
- Professor Ludmilla Jordanova
- Professor Martin Kintzinger
- Dr André Krischer
- Professor Christian Liddy
- Dr Jennifer Luff
- Dr Julie Marfany
- Marcus Meer
- Dr Henry Miller
- Benedikt Nientied
- Will Raybould
- Professor Nicole Reinhardt
- Kathleen Reynolds
- Professor Graeme Small
- Rhiannon Snaith
- Dr Michael Stansfield
- Grace Stephenson
- Christoph Valentin
- Dr Kevin Waite
- Ryan Wicklund

INTRODUCTIONS

**Professor Sarah Davies** is Head of the History Department at Durham University. She is a cultural historian of the Soviet Union and the Cold War. She is the author of *Popular Opinion in Stalin’s Russia* (1997) and *Stalin’s World: Dictating the Soviet Order* (2015). Her current project is a study of Soviet and British cultural diplomacy during the Cold War.

**Professor Martin Kintzinger** is Professor of Medieval History at the University of Münster and President of the Gesellschaft für Universitäts- und Wissenschaftsgeschichte. He works on the history of universities and knowledge; intellectual history; the history of international relations, foreign policy, and diplomacy; and the beginnings of international law in the Middle Ages.

**Professor Christian Liddy** is Director of Research in the History Department at Durham University. A historian of the late Middle Ages and an urban historian, he has written extensively on ideas and practices of urban citizenship. His new project is a comparative study of ‘family, lineage, and dynasty in the late medieval city’.
Dr André Krischer (Münster)  
krischer@uni-muenster.de  
‘Conspiracy as a political crime in England: Early modern traditions and early 19th century appropriations’

For much of the early modern period, conspiracy allegations were components of treason charges. There are only a few cases before the later eighteenth century in which conspiracy, in terms of a clandestine arrangement at the expense of a third party, was the actual delict. Conspiracy became a full-fledged criminal charge in England only around 1800, designed to criminalize the political activities of radicals and reformers that would not fit the traditional categories of seditious libel or high treason. Such activities were public mass meetings and demonstrations from the 1790s, which the authorities suspected to be the nucleus of revolutionary uprisings. My talk will address how a tort that in the common law was traditionally regarded as an aggravation of different sorts of criminal acts was finally singled out as a political crime, how it was construed within the courtroom and how it was perceived from outside.

Dr Jennifer Luff (Durham)  
jennifer.luff@durham.ac.uk  
‘Working with Historical Secrets and Lies: Lessons from Britain’s Secret Red Purge, 1938-1950’

Uncovering a big historical secret is exciting, but writing about it can be challenging. While many historical studies involve secrets and lies, it is hard to find methodological literature that treats them systematically. In this talk I explore how historians have worked with some kinds of historical secrets and lies, especially instances of unknown things that remained so over time, due to human agency. I apply these ideas to a historical case: the British government’s secret purge of suspected Communists from the civil service between 1921 and 1950. I turn to counterfactual reasoning to think through the repercussions of British mendacity for the ‘special relationship,’ and its ramifications for domestic American politics. Could British candour have changed the course of the Cold War? Would McCarthyism have turned out differently if British officials told the truth? Asking these questions leads to provocative conjectures.
SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

Andra Alexiu (Münster)
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‘Nobody expects ... the Admonishing Women: A Case Study on how Women Spirituals of the Twelfth Century used Admonitio’

The present paper is a preamble to a topic which has so far been largely overlooked in medieval historiography, namely women religious and the practices of admonition. Going back to the beginnings of Christianity, admonitio linked charity with the need to perfect the Christian way of life (either through correction or encouragement), therefore providing a way of warning and even rebuking those placed on a higher position in the hierarchy. While the need for a comparative study regarding admonition has been pointed out by Björn Weiler in a recent article, there has been little to no interest in what nuns have to offer on this subject. Were women absent from this type of widespread discourse? The examples provided by Hildegard of Bingen and Elisabeth of Schönau may appear individually exceptional, but they are so only so long as one cannot find similar examples of women spirituals engaging in exhortation in hagiographies, letter collections, and exegetical works produced by or about women. However, the fascinating story of the letters produced by their contemporaries and peers from Admont invite scholars to a reevaluation of this rather narrowing perspective. The ‘raw copybook’, as Alison Beach characterized it, which presents us with an intermediary stage towards the redaction of a collection that was probably intended for internal consumption, offers quite a good term of comparison for some of the materials included in the early stages of the redaction of Hildegard’s Epistolarium. The paper proposes to bring together a few examples offered by the letter collection of Hildegard of Bingen with those of her less famous contemporaries from Admont, seeking to highlight and evaluate some of the particular situations in which women could address concrete issues by embedding their approach into the broadly employed tradition of admonition.

Matthew Benson (Durham)
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‘Taxing “Africans” and “Arab Nomads” and Indebting Tenant Farmers: Fiscal Relations and Authority in the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium’s Peripheries, 1899-1956’

Contrary to existing narratives in the historiography on taxation in the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium and other European colonies in Africa, direct taxes in this territory’s peripheries were not collected to address the state’s fiscal demands. Instead, they were largely used by the British administration as a ‘tool’ of government to monitor the populace and ensure they had ‘submit’ to the state. Though this is a meaningful and new standalone
finding, this paper discusses how this dynamic emerged and consequently impacted authority in the Condominium’s peripheries. This paper proceeds in three parts: The first identifies the different types of taxes that were levied in these regions, as some taxes were monetary and others were non-monetary. The second discusses what the British imaginaries of taxes were and the functions they should perform, as these factors shaped decisions about whether taxes should be assessed on an individual or group basis or if they should be collected in cash or in kind. This section also identifies how these decisions often corresponded with distinct racial imaginaries of the resident populace, which notably included ‘Africans’ and ‘Arab nomads’. The paper concludes with an exploration of how these factors informed relations between people and government in the Condominium.

**Maximiliane Berger (Münster)**
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‘Konrad von Pappenheim and Permit A38. Frederick III between decision-making and decision avoidance’

In 1451, the Saxon envoy Konrad von Pappenheim spent about five months at Frederick III’s imperial court, trying to extract a sizeable sum of money, which had been promised to William of Thuringia in connection with his marriage to Frederick’s ward. Three letters describe Pappenheim’s odyssey between Vienna and Wiener Neustadt, between ruler, chancery and committees, between hopeful prospects and intense frustration. In my paper, I will discuss Pappenheim’s experiences as a characteristic example of political processes at the court of Frederick III, highlighting their structural opacity, their skillful concatenation of Janus-faced interactions, and their focus on managing petitioners’ hopes and expectations. For the Saxon envoy, decision-making and decision avoidance become indistinguishable. This, it can be argued, is representative of most first-hand experiences of imperial politics. The question arises how the opaque interactional structures of the imperial court can best be described. Current descriptions as bastard proto-bureaucracy focus on a lack of transparent formalisation, while portrayals as Grace Exchange depict a marketplace converting money into imperial decisions. Konrad of Pappenheim’s own assessment of the game he was playing with considerably tenacity provides a third approach. Frederick III’s imperial court, he maintains, functions essentially as an elaborate competition of patience.

**Henning Bovenkerk (Münster)**
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‘A Consumer Revolution in North-Western Germany? Impact and development of the Consumer Revolution in a transition region between the Netherlands and the European inland’
The idea of a consumer revolution in early modern Europe is a much-debated thesis. Moreover, although many studies focused on finding evidence for the thesis, there is still no consensus if it took place in all of Europe. This disagreement partly results from the choice of research areas: Several studies analyse the core regions of the consumer revolution, Great Britain and the Netherlands, finding evidence for it in these areas. Otherwise, some studies consider regions far away from these countries, with contrary results. Apart from the heartlands, there is little evidence for the occurrence of this phenomenon. From these findings, the questions arise: For what regions does the revolution thesis apply and is it a geographical phenomenon, maybe depending on the distance to the heartlands? The aim of the presented project is to examine the extent of the consumer revolution in a region within a close distance to one of the core regions and its impact on the rural population. Westphalia (North-Western Germany) has a direct border to the modern Netherlands and can be seen as a transition region to the European inland. The study aims to analyse the validity of the thesis for North-Western Germany and the impact of geographic distance to this forerunner region. Furthermore, the project studies the influence of the existence of protoindustry on the consumer revolution, a first-time age-based internal differentiation of the data, the influence of access to populuxe goods and the consumption of global goods of the rural classes.

Julia Bühner (Münster)

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‘The Conquest of the Canary Islands. A History of International Law?’

For several years, history of international law as a research field has experienced a highly transformative process, due to the influence of innovative approaches such as post-colonial studies, intellectual and global history. As a consequence, writing ‘alternative histories of international law’ and unravelling histories still untold has become one of the discipline’s main concerns (Alexandra Kemmerer, ‘Towards a Global History of International Law?’, Journal of International Law 25/1 (2014), p. 289). One of these stories lies hidden ‘in the shadow of Francisco de Vitoria’, the traditional narrative of the late scholastics as the fathers of modern international law: the conquest of the Canary Islands (1402-1496) and its impact on the development of international law. Whereas the model character of the archipelago for the conquest of Latin America concerning European conquering and colonizing strategies has already been emphasized (Klaus Herbers, ‘Die Eroberung der Kanarischen Inseln’, in Afrika. Entdeckung und Erforschung eines Kontinents, ed. Heinz Duchhardt (Cologne, 1989), pp. 51-95), the fact, that the exploration and gradual submission of the Canaries to the Castilian crown also served as a laboratory for international law’s theory and practice, has been mostly overlooked. By focusing on the first phase of the conquest, the Franco-Norman exploration of the island of Lanzarote and their
encounter with the indigenous population called Majos, this shall be demonstrated. Moreover, the peculiarities of researching medieval international law as a classical ‘phenomenon avant la lettre’ are going to be highlighted (Martin Kintzinger, ‘From the Late Middle Ages to the Peace of Westphalia’, in The Oxford Handbook of The History of International Law, ed. Bardo Fassbender et al. (Oxford 2012), p. 608).

James Cronin (Durham)
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‘History writing and the use of historical sources by the Benedictine monks of Durham Priory during the early fifteenth century’

The Benedictine monasteries of England are considered to have been the most prominent source of historical writing during the early and high medieval periods. However, the prestigious historical tradition of the Benedictines in England does not persist in the modern historiography of the late medieval period. Historians studying and using late medieval historical writing have tended to favour the study of chronicles that follow in the tradition of a ‘national’ history. This focus has led a reasonably large corpus of chronicles and histories of the Benedictine monastic houses to be side-lined or ignored in the wider scholarship for being too concerned with ‘local’ matters. This paper focuses on the writings of John Wessington, prior of Durham between 1416-1446, and his contemporaries at Durham Priory during the early fifteenth century. Previously it has been considered that Wessington’s magnum opus was his chronicle, the Libellus de exordio et statu ecclesie cathedralis...Dunelmensis, which appears at first glance to be an unfinished attempt to rewrite the history of the monastic community at Durham from its origins. However, a much wider corpus of shorter writings also survives, which exhibit a distinctive usage of historical and documentary sources and provide a new insight into Wessington’s intentions in writing his chronicle.

Alexander Durben (Münster)
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‘Stages of decision-making – space and interaction in legal proceedings in 19th century England’

The renowned architect John Soane is given a demanding task in 1821: The superior courts of law and equity shall leave their ancestral place in the interior of Westminster Hall and be accommodated in a new building annexed to the Hall, and Soane is to design this building. But what sorts of rooms are needed for the conduct of the legal business of the courts, and how are they to be fitted out to meet the requirements of the persons using them? To answer these questions, Soane surveys the existing spatial provisions for the courts,
consults with judges, barristers and attorneys about their spatial demands and deals with their complaints during the course of the construction process — all documented in Soane’s correspondence, notes and drawings preserved at the Sir John Soane Museum. This well-documented remodeling of central spatial arrangements for the courts offers a productive vantage point to explore legal proceedings in their spatial dimension. Legal proceedings have to be examined as multi-local activities, not limited to the publically accessible front-stage of the courtroom, but taking place in a larger spatial network also involving different back-stages. By looking at public court hearings in the courtroom, nonpublic hearings in the judge’s chambers, preparatory consultations of attorneys and barristers employed in a case and informal conversations among colleagues, this paper maps four types of interaction in the spatial network stretching in and beyond the confines of Soane’s Law Court Building and explores the relationship of space and interaction in legal proceedings.

Benedikt Fausch (Münster)
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‘Transformation of British-Persian Relations, 1750-1850’

Following the trend of new diplomatic history in early modern intercultural relations, this project focuses on British-Persian diplomacy from 1750 to 1850. In the common view of both Western and Persian historians, the history of British-Persia relations is separated into two epochs: early modern trade relations (1600-1800) and modern diplomacy (from 1800). By departing from the common periodization, this project examines the continuity and discontinuity in practices of diplomacy, thereby focusing on gathering knowledge, diplomatic ceremonies, writing letters and gift giving. Persia has not been studied as extensively as other Asian empires of the time. However, it deserves the attention of scholarship on diplomacy for two reasons: First, Persia became entangled in the power struggle of the European powers for the Middle East and Central Asia at the beginning of the 19th century. Second, within Persia different tribal groups were struggling to re-establish a stable government, since the fall of the Safavid dynasty. Whereas the state building project of Karim Khan Zand failed in the mid-18th century due to the unsolved question of succession, by 1797 Fath Ali Shah successfully established the Qajar dynasty and thus a stable government in Persia that lasted until the 20th century. Studying the period between 1750 and 1850 thus offers the opportunity to ask how political change within Persia on the one hand and the changing dynamics of power relations in Europe and Asia on the other hand affected the aforementioned practices of diplomacy.
Kimberley Foy (Durham)
kimberley.foy@durham.ac.uk
““Keeping State”: Space, Performance and Diplomatic Choreography at the Early Stuart Court, 1603-1642’

A political and cultural hub, the English court attracted visiting dignitaries from across the known world. Competent ambassadors were fluent in a range of complicated visual languages, from the minutiae of gesture to the deliberate choice of dress materials. Similarly, the movement of diplomatic bodies through delineated public and private spaces provided an essential framework in which local and international hierarchies, and political allegiances, could be expressed and understood. Diplomatic interaction took place in the highly contrived spatial arrangement of Whitehall and other royal residences. Here dynamic relative positioning operated as a key mechanism of competitive display in the context of personal monarchy, with public proximity to the monarch highly prized by courtiers and visitors alike. Access to those spaces privately inhabited by the monarch implied even closer royal attention. Both teased diplomatic success. This paper will show that while the established conventions of movement and positioning under James I offered a common language in which diplomats could negotiate their terms, the restrictive approach of the successive Caroline regime resulted in a significant reorientation for all involved.

Rachael Harkes (Durham)
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‘A Typical Affair? The Ludlow Palmers’ Guild: A Parish Fraternity Transformed’

The proliferation and the heterogeneous membership of guilds in late medieval England have attracted much scholarly attention, but the interpretive framework of social network theory offers new possibilities. The extensive guild registers and riding books of the Guild of the Blessed Mary and St. John the Evangelist, Ludlow (more commonly known as the ‘Palmers’ Guild’) provide an exceptional platform to understand localised and regional social networks of a late-medieval institution. A social network analysis approach reveals that the fourteenth century facilitated a natural cohesion between town and guild, through extensive networks between the guild (as a whole and the individual officers) and members of the town government. This paper postulates that membership of the Palmers’ guild was more extensive in the fourteenth century than originally realised and yet that, even with a wider membership reach, the Palmers in the fourteenth century were characteristic of a typical parish fraternity – both in size and the identity of those who joined the guild. It was only in the fifteenth century that the Palmers stood out among English guilds. Were fourteenth-century developments the basis of their later dramatic expansion?
Marcus Meer (Durham)
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““Myths”, “Truths”, and Coats of Arms: Scholarly Debates on Municipal Heraldry and Urban History in Early Modern Augsburg and London’

Countless sixteenth-century historians and antiquarians set out to re-evaluate many ‘truths’ their medieval ancestors had held dear, including matters that today appear trivial and merely ‘symbolic’. This was the case for aetiological narratives on the coats of arms of cities, for instance. While origin stories about municipal arms were constitutive of a sense of shared history and collective identity in the medieval city, the humanist quest for truth and the religious purification of Papal ‘visual culture’ pursued by Reformation scholars challenged such ‘fables’ and ‘legends’. In London, a medieval (oral) tradition believed the municipal arms to originate from a formative event in London history, namely the Peasants’ Revolt. While this narrative was still perpetuated in the sixteenth-century chronicles of Hall and Grafton, for example, antiquarian John Stow grew suspicious of its validity. Instead, he linked the symbolism of the London arms to the cult of St Paul; an assumption that, despite its accuracy, might have been motivated by Stow’s Catholic tendencies, too. In Augsburg, medieval chroniclers thought their heraldic signs to date from the city’s foundation as a Roman colony. But sixteenth-century historians—now interested in a more ancient, ‘Germanic’ and somewhat ‘national’ past—pursued the Augsburg arms back even further to a pre-Christian, Pagan cult. Such ‘heathen’ interpretations of the Augsburg arms were promptly criticised as an ‘invention of the devil’ by Protestant scholar Hieronymus Fröschl: Instead, the Augsburg arms were supposed to be understood as a pious Christian symbol adopted when the city was first evangelised. While historians have often ignored such narratives, I argue that they are not only indicative of medieval and early-modern ‘practices of looking’ at heraldry as deeply ‘historical’ symbols, but also demonstrate contemporary processes of deconstructing ‘fake’ narratives whilst simultaneously fabricating new ‘truths’ that balanced medieval beliefs, antiquarian evidence and religious agenda.

Henry Miller (Durham)
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‘Signatures of Suffrage: The British Women’s Suffrage Movement and the Practice of Petitioning, 1890-1914’

This paper examines the reinvention of the practice of petitioning by the British women’s suffrage movement after 1890. All shades of the movement - constitutionalists (or suffragists) and militant campaigners (or suffragettes) criticised their Victorian predecessors for petitioning Parliament with little to show for it. However, suffragists and suffragettes did not abandon petitioning but reworked it in different ways. Rather than offering a polarised
reading of the different elements of the suffrage movement, the paper shows how both suffragists and suffragettes operated on a spectrum of direct action politics. Suffragettes emphasised the spectacular potential of the presentation of petitions to authority to access elite male space in the heart of the political system. By contrast, suffragists focused on the signature-gathering process as part of a local, participatory, democratic political culture. Suffragists also adapted the ancient practice of petitioning to the popular politics of mass democracy through their attempt in 1910 to secure petitions from male voters at the general election. In essence, they used petitions to hold an unofficial referendum on suffrage.

Examining suffrage petitioning not only allows us to reassess the political practice of suffragists and suffragettes, but also broadens existing understanding of the important shifts in British political culture in this period, which have hitherto focused on electoral and party politics. While the classic Victorian model of mass petitioning the Commons may have been in decline by the early twentieth century, the wider culture of petitioning remained vibrant and retained an important place within popular politics and political culture.

Benedikt Nientied (Münster)
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“If you do not preserve form, we destroy the Commons of England”. Precedences, decision-making and the Order of the House in the Cavalier Parliament’

The Members of the House of Commons in the late 17th century were obsessively concerned with preserving the ‘Order of the House’, the set of rules and procedures governing the process of decision-making. For the most part these were passed on orally. No authoritative text existed that could have been used as a reference. Hence, precedences took over this role in conflict. The paper will show, how these precedences were preserved, gathered and used in the political confrontation in Parliament.

Will Raybould (Durham)
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‘Kings, Lords, and Communities: Local Justice in Anglo-Saxon England’

This paper seeks to examine the functioning of local justice in the late Anglo-Saxon period, defined as the period between Alfred’s ascension to the throne of Wessex and the Norman Conquest. I aim to push back against the so-called ‘maximalist’ view which argues for a high degree of royal control over local assemblies and judicial processes. I argue instead that, by examining a range of sources, it appears that the late Anglo-Saxon judicial system was reliant on local communities and a wide variety of individuals for its proper functioning. In addition, I posit that legal practice in the localities could vary considerably from the ideals
presented in the law codes. The evidence suggests that pre-existing local legal custom continued to operate alongside new proclamations of royal law.

The picture that has emerged from previous scholarship is one that emphasizes the strength of Anglo-Saxon royal rule. Scholars like James Campbell and Patrick Wormald have emphasized the centralization and power of Anglo-Saxon kings and have even applied the label ‘state’ to it. George Molyneaux has argued that throughout the tenth century, following the expansion of the Kingdom of Wessex under the successors of Alfred the Great, a series of administrative reforms meant that the power of Anglo-Saxon kings became more ‘intensive’ within what today would be known as England. While I accept the thrust of these arguments, I think it is important to reassess the extent of royal control, and influence over the judicial system.

**Kathleen Reynolds (Durham)**
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‘The Role of Servants in Gentry Household Medical Work’

Servants are almost invisible in gentry family correspondence on illness. This is part of a wider problem: there is a disconnect between histories of household labour relations and histories of domestic medicine. Gentry households functioned on a division of labour, with authority gradated along lines of status and skill: the lady of the house had the highest level of female authority and dictated household procedures, followed by the housekeeper who managed the daily tasks and supervised the serving maids and maids of all work, who had the simplest tasks and least authority. Yet histories of medicine often compress the household, focusing on the caregiving work that families did for their relatives of similar status. This paper will explore the servant role in the sick room and reveal how gentry homeowners negotiated illness with the support of their servants. Such study exposes the process of supervision and delegation which was necessary in all households and which historians miss when investigating the experience of illness in eighteenth-century homes.

**Rhiannon Snaith (Durham)**
rhiannon.e.snaith@durham.ac.uk
‘A Noble Concern? Reputation, Power and Authority in Late Medieval England’

This paper will use legal records to consider the role of reputation in the accumulation of power and authority in late medieval England. It will consider the key features of defamation and slander cases brought against members of the civic elite in the mayor’s court of London and the legal steps taken by the nobility to defend their reputations under the Scandalum Magnatum statutes. Concentrating on a selection of cases including one brought under the Scandalum Magnatum statutes by the earl of Oxford in 1384, the paper
will ultimately argue that whilst the nobility and civic officials drew their power from different sources, they were both significantly reliant upon reputation for their authority and ability to ‘get things done.’ Attacks upon reputation made effective political weapons. The civic authorities and nobility were also motivated by like concerns and responded to attacks upon their reputations in very similar ways. This discussion will be aided by considerations of the sociological notions of social capital and social power, and by anthropological work on the role of reputation in society. The paper will also include a consideration of how we might gain a better understanding of noble reputation by first understanding its significance to those below them.

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‘Second World War Newsreel Production in Britain: A Case Study of the “Atlantic Meeting” Newsreel’

‘I don’t think I have seen such excellent news reel for such a long time as the pictures shown in Belfast this week of the Churchill-Roosevelt meeting.’ (Larne Times – 30 August 1941)

The British newsreel companies, usually subjected to regular criticism in the press, enjoyed a consensus of praise during the latter part of August 1941. Their depiction of the meeting of Churchill and Roosevelt ‘somewhere in the Atlantic’ captured the imagination of the press and the nation. This paper develops a case study of the ‘Atlantic Meeting’ newsreel, hoping to further the fragmentary research into British newsreel production during the Second World War. It uses a range of newsreel production documents, including commentary sheets and shot lists, alongside local newspapers and cinema industry trade papers. The outcome will be an understanding of the context in which the newsreels were made, the treatment of the footage by the different newsreel companies, the finished newsreels and, ultimately, audience reception on the Home Front in Britain. Understanding the impact that newsreels had in the dissemination of wartime commentary, news and propaganda can improve the understanding that social and cultural historians have of the development of the production and consumption of visual news culture over the last 80 years, bridging the gap between print and online multimedia communication.
During the 19th century German Catholicism went through a fundamental transformation process. The so-called ultramontanisation broke with Catholic Enlightenment, tried to push back governmental influence on religious matters and mobilized laypersons to an unprecedented extent. The ultramontanisation had four dimensions: it affected the church’s organisation in a narrower sense (e.g. bishops devoted to the pope instead of ones with close relations to the state), Catholicism in a broader sense (e.g. establishment of a strictly catholic press), theology (anti-modernist Roman doctrine instead of irenicism and rationalism) and devotions (reestablishment of emotional and denominationally specific practices pushed back by the Enlightenment, e.g. pilgrimages and processions).

Historians repeatedly stressed that the apostolic nuncios played an important role in this transformation process being at the same time diplomats accredited to the secular governments and overseers over the Catholic church of their host country. However, a detailed analysis of their influence is yet a desideratum. My PhD thesis fills this gap by means of a case study: Between 1838 and 1845, Michele Viale Prelà (1798/99-1860) served as apostolic nuncio in Munich. Because there existed no central representation of the Holy See in the German Confederation, the Bavarian nunciature was not only responsible for this kingdom, but also functioned as a Roman outpost in Central Europe. Thus, my study answers three main questions: Was Viale Prelà a promotor of the ultramontanisation of the German Catholicism in all its four dimensions? Did he follow a papal master plan? How successful was he?