
The Leverhulme Trust

1 Pemberton Row London EC4A 3BG

Major Research Fellowships Recipients 2009

The following individuals have been awarded Major Research Fellowships in the 2009 round.

Professor Trevor Allan

University of Cambridge

The common law constitution of liberty

The common law constitution is the implicit unwritten constitution of the United Kingdom, and of analogous Commonwealth jurisdictions; this project sets out to explore and illuminate the fundamental ideas of constitutionalism and the rule of law. In the absence of a formally entrenched or codified constitution, ideas about governmental propriety and constitutional rights are worked out from first principles, case by case. The common law constitution provides a powerful lens through which to examine some of the most important questions about the nature of law, legal obligation, and legitimate government.

Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed

King's College London

The masculine state: gender, religion and politics in Saudi Arabia

Combining the methodologies of history, social anthropology and political science, this project aims to investigate the connection between gender, politics and religion in Saudi Arabia. The combination of authoritarian rule and religious dogma will be investigated in order to shed light on how both have been important factors in shaping gender relations.

Professor John Barton

University of Oxford

Ethics in ancient Israel

Serious thinking about ethical questions did not begin only with the classical Greek philosophers, but can be traced to earlier roots in the Middle East, from Egypt to Mesopotamia. Among the available sources for ancient ethics, the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is particularly rich in material. This project will examine what can be learnt about the ethical systems in ancient Israel from c.8th century BC down to the age of the New Testament.

Professor Robin Blackburn

University of Essex

Slavery and emancipation in the United States, Cuba and Brazil, 1815-1860

This project comprises an explanation of the rise and fall of slavery in 19th century Cuba, the United States and Brazil, using the methods of historical and economic sociology. The research will provide an analytic narrative to explain how these territories became leading producers, and why an economically successful institution such as slavery was ultimately rejected. The post-emancipation order and the contribution of the anti-slavery movements to modern human rights doctrines will also be examined. The project will complete a well-received trilogy covering the whole history of slavery in the Americas.

Professor John Blair

University of Oxford

People and places in the Anglo-Saxon landscape

This project aims to complete a comprehensive historical reassessment of social, economic, settlement and landscape change in England during c.650-1100 based on first-hand review of all written, archaeological, topographical, artefactual and numismatic sources. Themes to be explored include the 8th century economy and 'productive sites', transport by road and water, the geography of commerce, lordship and manorial organisation, consumerism, urbanisation, and perceptions of sacred landscapes. A central approach will be through the scrutiny of the great mass of still largely undigested data recovered through developer-funded archaeology and metal-detecting. This work will be the basis for the Ford Lectures in British History to be given in 2013.

Professor Christopher Brooks

Durham University

Oxford History of the Laws of England 1625-1689

The objective of this project is the completion of a 350,000 word book on the history of English law between 1625 and 1689 which will be published as a volume in the *Oxford History of the Laws of England*. Based almost exclusively on original research in printed and manuscript sources, it will provide a pioneering and distinctive account of all aspects of English legal thought and practice during a time of unprecedented political and religious turmoil, whilst also considering the impact of English law in Ireland and Scotland, as well as the New World.

Professor Edward Chaney

Southampton Solent University

Polytheism and its discontents: cultural memories of Egypt in England

Akhenaton excepted, polytheism prevailed in Egypt for more than three millennia and facilitated that civilisation's longevity and relative stability. Monotheism seems to have emerged as a rationalising response to or reaction against its diverse cultural forms. In 16th century Europe, revivers of early Christianity opposed what they regarded as the pagan and polytheistic tendencies of Roman Catholicism; by studying Early Modern England in relation to its response to Egypt's cultural memory, this project aims to shed new light on our understanding of modern Britain, and its relationship with some of today's most problematic global issues.

Professor Diana Coole

Birkbeck, University of London

Too many bodies? The politics and ethics of the world population question

This will be a comprehensive enquiry into various facets of the population question. The title poses a deliberately provocative question: what is too many? Who is to judge? What sort of discourses and frameworks are most appropriate here? Is it desirable for governments to intervene, for example through population control or pro-natalism? How efficacious are such policies, anyway, and what sort of normative questions do they pose regarding individual liberty, inter-generational justice or a sustainable environment? The approach is primarily normative and critical, but will also involve case studies, advocacy groups and public policy.

Professor Felix Driver

Royal Holloway, University of London

The visual culture of exploration

This project is concerned with the visual culture of exploration from Cook's Pacific voyages to the first ascent of Mount Everest. Based on focussed scholarly investigation in major geographical collections held in the UK and overseas, the research will consider the role of the visual image in the experience and representation of geographical exploration, drawing upon a range of compelling materials, including maps, photographs, journals, sketch-books and documentary film. The main result will be a substantial monograph offering new perspectives on the visual history of exploration.

Professor John Gledhill

University of Manchester

Security for all in the age of securitization?

Issues such as the struggles of indigenous peoples for self-determination, the attempts of the urban poor to secure a livelihood within irregular urban settlements, and undocumented international migration, are increasingly treated as threats to the security of states and their citizens. By exploring the often contradictory and unexpected outcomes of interventions justified in the name of 'security for all', this candidate will evaluate the effectiveness of existing modes of intervention, and the possible advantages of alternative policy approaches that would be more respectful of the ideas, concerns and interests of groups currently treated as a source of threat to the security of others.

Professor Chris Grey

University of Warwick

A secret history: the organisation of Bletchley Park

The purpose of this project is to fully describe and analyse – for the first time – the complex, secret organisation of Bletchley Park, the World War 2 code-breaking centre. An initial research project yielded a very substantial and rich set of data, which will enable the production of a monograph telling this fascinating story; which will make a substantial contribution to the social science of organisations.

Professor Malcolm Heath

University of Leeds

Aristotle and the anthropology of poetry

Aristotle regarded poetry (including song and drama) as a natural human activity. This project aims to give a systematic account of Aristotle's thinking about the intrinsic value of this activity, its place in a good human life, and the human characteristics which enable and motivate it. The case study will aim to (a) illuminate Aristotle's overall understanding of human life, especially its integration of many different levels of enquiry (biological, psychological, ethical, political); (b) improve our understanding of Aristotle's Poetics by clarifying its philosophical context, and (c) stimulate critical reflection on similarities and contrasts between Aristotelian and modern approaches to key themes in anthropology.

Professor John Hyman

University of Oxford

After the Fall

The philosophy of action and epistemology has opened out dramatically as the orthodoxies and agendas set in place in the 1960s have been set aside. This project defends an original approach to thinking about action and cognition, replacing a story about sequences of mental and physical events with a story about human agents and their distinctive abilities and causal powers, and cutting across traditional boundaries between philosophy of action, epistemology and philosophy of mind. The heart of this project will be a series of chapters addressing questions about the nature and value of knowledge, and its place in human life.

Professor Andrew Jordan

University of East Anglia

Governance for climate change: the sources of and obstacles to policy innovation

The debate about climate change is no longer about whether it exists, but precisely how it should be governed. The EU has sought to adopt a leading position by continually adopting seemingly innovative policies. This project will firstly document the conditions under which policy innovation has occurred in multi-level governance systems, drawing on evidence from the EU, the USA and Australia. Secondly, it will use theories to identify critical factors that appear to enable and/or constrain the significant policy innovations that scientists claim are needed to reduce the risk of abrupt and possibly irreversible climate change.

Professor Neil Kenny

University of Cambridge

Choosing tenses for the dead: French and Latin resuscitations, 1530-1630

The main aim of this project is to investigate how tenses were used in early modern French and Latin to help shape relations between the living and the dead. The question of life after death was made more controversial by Renaissance humanism and the Reformation; tacit, subtle decisions about the extent to which the dead lived on were made through tense-choice in funeral orations, consolation poetry, humanist editions of ancient writers, theological treatises, wills, memoirs, hagiographies and mystery plays. The historical specificity of these tense-choices will be shown through comparison with how tenses are used (for the early modern dead) by modern scholarship.

Professor Peter Kitson

University of Dundee

Britain, China and the Far East: representation and exchange, 1760-1845

This project will be a study of the representation of China and the Far East from the late 18th century to the first Opium War of 1839-42, and of the cultural exchanges, knowledge creation and transfers between China and Britain. The research will cover the historical and cultural origins in the Romantic period of the contemporary problematic relationship of China to the West, and reassess the process by which Britain culturally absorbed the Qing Empire into her 'informal empire' leading to the Opium Trade and Wars and their ensuing mass Chinese addictions.

Professor Simon Newman

University of Glasgow

Labour and race: working in the slave trade in the British Atlantic world

By the turn of the 19th century, enslaved black and free white labour had become distinct and exclusive categories in British America. This project will demonstrate however that, prior to this, the British presence in West Africa, onboard the transatlantic slave ships and on Barbados where England's first plantations emerged, depended upon a wide array of labour – free and bound, white and black. The outputs emanating from the research will tell the stories of the free and bound, and the black, mulatto and white workers whose labour made possible the slave trade and plantation agriculture.

Professor Nicola Phillips

University of Manchester

Trafficking, forced labour and the contemporary UK economy

This research comprises an exploration and explanation of the place of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in the contemporary global economy, taking the UK economy as a focal point. As such, it addresses a phenomenon which is one of the major and growing problems of our time, but is as yet strikingly under-studied and poorly understood. The project advances a theoretical focus on contemporary global production networks and the labour markets that sustain them, and explores how and why trafficking and forced labour are integrated into the production networks in which the UK economy is embedded.

Professor Alan Read

King's College London

Engineering spectacle: Inigo Jones' past and present performance at Somerset House

Exploring and applying Inigo Jones' legacy as an architect-engineer of the 17th century stage, anatomy theatre, masque and spectacle, this project will research his built and planned schemes sited at Somerset House in London while he was 'Surveyor to the King's Works' (1625-1640). Building on this research, the intention is to publish three volumes to critically enhance the work of a team of architects, designers and theatre artists operating between King's College London and Somerset House, who will develop three new contemporary theatre/research spaces on the Strand between 2010 and 2013 – the Anatomy Theatre, Double Cube and Dancing Barn.

Professor David Rollason

University of Durham

The power of place in medieval kingship

Kingship from c.300 to c.1500 can be understood in the most vivid and intimate way by the study of royal of places, including residences, assembly-sites, inauguration-sites, burial-sites and royal cities, from right across Europe and from right across the Middle Ages. This project, which is unprecedented in its wide-ranging in geographical and chronological scope, examines why these particular places were chosen, what their significance was in the landscape, what ancient associations of power they had, how kings developed them as individual buildings, and with reference to landscapes and cityscapes, how they functioned as places of power, and what ideological statements they were designed to make.

Professor Julian Roberts

University of Oxford

Structured sentencing in England and Wales

Until 1998, courts in England sentenced offenders without formal sentencing guidelines. In that year, the Sentencing Advisory Panel was created and, in conjunction with the Sentencing Guidelines Council, this body has been issuing guidelines for judges and magistrates on sentencing. Such guidelines were designed to promote uniformity of outcome and enhance the legitimacy of the sentencing process which represents a veritable revolution in justice, but almost no empirical research has been conducted on the subject. This project sets out to evaluate the sentencing guidelines, by exploring the reactions of judges, magistrates and legal professionals, as well as offenders.

Professor Sarah Toulalan

University of Exeter

Children and sex in early modern England: knowledge, consent, abuse c.1550-1750

This project will uncover early modern perspectives on children and sex. It will explore medical, moral and popular or 'public' views of children's sexual knowledge and experiences (consensual and coerced), and children's own understandings. It will also investigate pre-modern ideas about, and attitudes towards 'abusers'. Its central propositions are that, pre-dating modern concepts of the 'innocence of childhood', child sexual abuse, paedophilia and the paedophile, there were social and cultural understandings of abuse, corruption and 'ruin' shaped by contemporary moral, religious, medical and legal discourses. Paradoxically, however, some children could be considered 'sexualised' and guilty of immoral behaviour.

Professor Rene Weis

University College London

The genesis of 'La Traviata'

The aim of this project is to research and write a book on the life and times of Marie Duplessis, and the ways in which this young courtesan's tragically short life became the inspiration for three exceptional works of literature and music: *La Dame aux Camelias* (both novel and play) by Alexandre Dumas fils, and *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi. The specific context of the project will be the literary boulevard culture of the Paris of the 1840s and 50s, and the interactions between the most famous of the demi-monde women and their contemporaries.

Professor Arne Westad

London School of Economics and Political Science

The Cold War: a new international history

The Cold War international system dominated global affairs during the latter part of the 20th century and thereby created the world we live in today. The study of the conflict is now in urgent need of new work of synthesis and re-interpretation, which is archivally-based and moves beyond the standard analyses developed prior to the 1990s. This project will develop a de-centred interpretation of the Cold War in which political, social and economic change outside Europe and North America will be the major component, but also presented within the framework of a full history.

Professor Clair Wills

Queen Mary, University of London

The Irish in Britain: a social and cultural history 1945-1965

This interdisciplinary study will examine the changing experience of the Irish in Britain, through archival research on labour, home and social life, analysis of popular culture, and Irish contributions to high cultural and literary life in Britain. It will reconstruct the history of the post-war Irish in this country, trace the historical development of their communities, examine the changing dynamic of the relationship between British and Irish contexts, and assess the impact of Irish migration on both British and Irish society.
