



## Symposia Report

Since the publication of our last edition, *Ex Historia* have run a termly postgraduate symposia series, with generous support from both the College of Humanities and History department at the University of Exeter. Participation is open to all, with the only requirement being that papers should have a historical focus; we have been especially delighted that colleagues from across the Humanities have presented throughout the course of the series. Before taking up the position of Co-editor, Edward Taylor ran the first series in the Spring term of 2013, which featured papers on topics ranging from 'Merchants and smugglers in South-east Scotland' to 'Gendered narratives in the trials of women accused of genocide in Rwanda'. This diversity in subjects continued into the Summer series of 2013, with papers such as 'Humanism, Protestantism and Capitalism: Tensions within Tudor Drama 1560-1580' sitting alongside 'Encountering the dead within Thietmar of Merseburg's chronicon: ghosts, visions and dreams of the afterlife in Ottonian Germany.'

The Summer series also played host to the first *Ex Historia* colloquium, aimed at exploring issues around the key research groupings of the University of Exeter, with four panellists adroitly addressing the expansion of the Medical Humanities. This successful first colloquium paved the way for further colloquia, with two fantastic and thought-provoking sessions on Imperial and Global History and Modern Politics and Policy, across the Autumn series of 2013 and the Spring series of 2014 respectively. Autumn's symposia saw a continued range of fascinating papers on the forward-thinking research of our participants, from 'Politics by numbers: What computers can and can't tell us about political rhetoric' to 'Using small finds data for temple sites in Roman Britain', before being rounded off by the engaging Imperial and Global colloquium addressing the question 'Imperial and Global History: A Marriage of Convenience?' The most recent

symposia series in the Spring term of 2014 played host to still more captivating papers, including 'From 'Mother of the Nation' to 'Lady Macbeth': Winnie Mandela and Perceptions of Female Violence in South Africa's Anti-Apartheid Struggle, 1985-1991' and 'It should have been called the College of Jude the Obscure': Ruskin College and Hardy's Idea of a University'. Finally, the Modern Politics and Policy colloquium welcomed Professor Richard Toye of Exeter's History department to introduce and contribute to an intellectually stimulating panel debate, which focussed on the question 'History, Politics and Policy: Unlikely Collaborators?'

The *Ex Historia* symposia series has become a well-appreciated and well-attended institution at the University of Exeter, as well as serving as a platform for the work of the journal. We thank all involved in the series throughout 2013-14 for providing such a great selection of papers and contributions, as well as continue to ask all who might be interested in presenting or attending not to hesitate to ask for further information. A further programme of symposia is planned for Summer 2014 and the journal year ahead, and we can only expect a similarly high standard of excellence in papers.

**Phil Child**

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