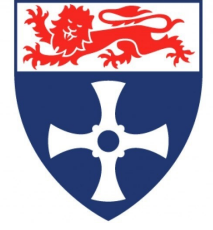


# Newcastle University

## Postgraduate Forum Newsletter



October 2020

### Welcome

Hello and welcome to the October 2020 edition of the PGF newsletter; the first edition for this academic year. Here you will read brief introductions from each of us, and see information about upcoming events and clubs that may interest you over the months and year ahead.

There is also useful contact information throughout and similar information will be shared in further editions every month. Enjoy!

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### Rob Granger

Hi, I'm Rob and I'll be the Chairman of the PGF this year. I'm researching the nature and extent of consent under the later Franco dictatorship in Spain from the mid-1960s to the mid-70s.



### Leanne Smith

I am currently in the 2nd year of my PhD. My area of research is early modern intellectual thought, in particular millenarianism and republicanism. My role as part of the PGF committee is seminar series co-ordinator. This is not only an excellent opportunity to share your research in a relaxed and informal setting but also to develop your skills in communicating your ideas to a wider audience. The seminars for the first semester will take place via Zoom on Wednesday's, 1-2pm. If you would like to present at a seminar, please see the call for papers included at the end of the newsletter.



### Katherine Waugh

I am the social media co-ordinator for the PGF, so will be running the Twitter, Facebook and also the blog we are hoping to start! I'm a second year PhD student, and my research looks at cross-generational experiences of deindustrialisation in County Durham using oral history. I am interested in the role of memory in the creation of identities, attachment to place and political feeling, and particularly how the industrial past continues to shape the region in light of recent political decisions such as austerity and the vote to leave the European Union. I also co-organise the Social Theory reading group which will be running again this year and is open to all.



## Kevin Graham

I am the PGF Newsletter editor and my PhD research focuses on the history of British centrism since 1918. My primary interests are in relation to the impacts of key historical events on the influence of centrism and the role it then performs in a fluctuating political climate.



## Jerome Ruddick

My name is Jerome and I'm the social secretary for the PGF. Generally this means I'm in charge of arranging the social events throughout the year but I'm also a point of contact if needed at any time, whether you need advice, a place to rant or any other type of support! I'm a Classicist, one of the few in the PGR department, and my research is focused on mythological identity in Hellenistic Greece. I'm hoping I can establish that Greek identity and mythology are constructional components of each other, therefore redefining how we approach the subject of belief in Ancient Greece! I am also your Classics/Ancient History Representative so if you have any issues that need to be brought to the University's attention let me

know!

## NOTICES

### HCA Writing Groups

The school of History, Classics and Archaeology are happy to announce the introduction of a pilot scheme for two types of (online, for now) writing groups: asynchronous, which can take place on any day/time that works for you, and synchronous for those who would prefer some real-time research support.

**Synchronous sessions:** contact [Laura.Tisdall@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Laura.Tisdall@newcastle.ac.uk) to sign-up or for more info.

#### Synchronous Online Writing Group

Do you struggle to set aside time in the day for academic writing? Do you find it difficult to set realistic writing goals? Are you just starting a new project and don't know how to organise your time? Would you like to write alongside others in a supportive and friendly atmosphere?

This new online writing group is open to all research and/or teaching staff, ECRs, postdocs and PGRs in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology. Each session will be three hours long, although you are welcome to drop in for only the first or second half of the session if you would like. We will alternate silent writing blocks with short breaks for mingling and setting writing goals, following this schedule:

15 mins: general chat, set goals

1 hour 15 mins: write!

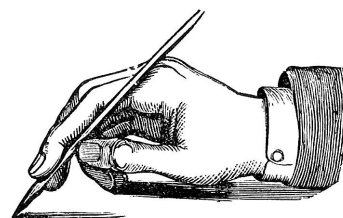
15 mins: general chat, check in on goals

1 hour 15 mins: write!

(For more on how this works, Dr Alice Kelly writes about her experience running a writing group using this model at the University of Oxford in *Times Higher Education* here: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/how-make-writing-humanities-less-lonely>).

The group will be run over Zoom for the time being. Once the timetable for this semester has been released, I will send round a Doodle poll to find a day and time that works for as many people as possible. The group will initially meet once a week, although there is no requirement to come every week. If you're keen to take part, please sign up for the synchronous writing group mailing list, and feel free to email me with any questions ([laura.tisdall@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:laura.tisdall@newcastle.ac.uk))

**Asynchronous sessions:** contact [Alison.Atkinson-Phillips@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Alison.Atkinson-Phillips@newcastle.ac.uk) to sign-up or for more info.



## HCA Virtual Shut-Up-And-Write Group

As an alternative, equally supportive space, we have created an a-synchronous writing space on Teams. Until 30 October, you can just follow this link to join: <https://tinyurl.com/y5o9e7dx>. After that date, please email [alison.atkinson-phillips@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:alison.atkinson-phillips@newcastle.ac.uk) to join. Rather than having a set day and time to meet, the Virtual Shut-Up-And-Write space means you can join whenever makes sense for you. When you 'arrive' at the space, simply go to the Channel for the day, and check in. Let others know what your plan is for your writing session and start writing. We suggest using a pomodoro app like this one <https://pomofocus.io/> to help you focus. You can check back in at intervals or at the end of your session. The chat is a good way to connect with other colleagues, share the wins and commiserate when you are stuck. Just like the Synchronous Online Writing Group, this is designed to provide a space for colleagues to encourage and support each other in our writing work. It is open to all HCA staff and research students.

### Call for Papers – Postgraduate Forum Seminar Series

The Newcastle Postgraduate Forum seminar series is accepting abstracts for 15-20-minute papers for this academic year. The seminars will take place on Wednesdays at 1pm via Zoom. This is an excellent platform for postgraduate students (at both Master's and PhD level) to present their research/topic, receive feedback and engage in discussion in a friendly and relaxed environment. It is an ideal setting for first papers and to gain valuable practice.

We accept papers on any topic within the subject areas of History, Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology. If interested, please send a short (100-200 words) abstract to the PGF email ([shspgf@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:shspgf@newcastle.ac.uk)), as well as a brief bio and any preferences in terms of dates. The initial deadline for abstracts is **16th October** as we aim to start the seminars late October, so any early submissions are more than welcome. We will also be welcoming submissions throughout the academic year.

### PGF Book Club

We're hosting a book club to allow for a little social activity in these COVID ridden times. Books and times to be decided on, it will likely be through online considering the circumstances, but if you're interested in getting more involved socially in the PGR community contact me via my email address [j.m.l.ruddick2@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.l.ruddick2@newcastle.ac.uk) to register your interest and I'll add you to our list.



# **LABOUR AND SOCIETY RESEARCH STRAND: SOCIAL THEORY**

## **READING GROUP**

### **ALL POSTGRADUATES AND STAFF WELCOME**

Feel that you want to brush up on social theory? Want to discuss key concepts informing new research?

The Labour and Society Research Strand are planning a regular fortnightly reading group in key texts in social theory. These texts have been selected because of their significance in current research agendas. We will be delving into many thinkers that help us comprehend social reality from the macro-scale patterns of power to ideas up-on individual subjective consciousness.



They connect across the themes of ideology, memory, language, consciousness, subjectivity, space, social movements, technology and change.

#### ***What would I be expected to do?***

You do not need to be an expert. Just try to read the text and come with your opinions about it. If you are interested in attending, please contact Katherine Emmerson-Waugh (k.emmerson-waugh2@newcastle.ac.uk) or Joe Redmayne (j.redmayne2@newcastle.ac.uk) to receive reading material in advance.

### **Social Media Links**

Twitter - @NewcastlePGF

Facebook – Newcastle University Postgraduate Forum

Email address - [shspgf@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:shspgf@newcastle.ac.uk)

