Joint Annual Conference

5-7 September 2014

University of Reading
BrANCH and HOTCUS at Reading 2014

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this joint conference so well organised by Emily West and Nick Witham on behalf of our organisations. There are two distinguished plenary lecturers to engage with and we wanted to create opportunities for our members to deliver and listen to papers on themes that extend across long stretches of American history and be stimulated to reflect on how their own work fits into broad perspectives. It has also been our aim to provide a platform for younger scholars to present their research and it is pleasing to note how many have come forward. BrANCH and HOTCUS both have a reputation for friendly and informal meetings. We anticipate as much lively conversation outside the sessions as in them.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the American Embassy in providing funding for postgraduate bursaries and speaker costs. We would also like to thank the Department of History and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Reading, Cambridge University Press, and Maney Publishing for their financial support. Finally, we thank Fi Donovan, Astrid House, Diane Matthews and Eve Sweeney for their administrative support.

David Turley, BrANCH Chair
Jonathan Bell, HOTCUS Chair

The BrANCH and HOTCUS AGMs will take place in rooms HBS G.03 and G.04 at 2.45 pm on Saturday 6th September. Members of both organisations are warmly invited to attend their respective AGMs. All paperwork will be distributed at the AGMs.
BrANCH HOTCUS Conference: 5-7 September 2014

Programme

Friday 5 September

1.30 onwards: registration, tea and cake. Henley Business School (HBS) Foyer

2.30-3.30: Plenary Session (HBS G11)

**Putting History in Its Place: Writing American History in Europe**

Stephen Tuck (University of Oxford); Michael Heale (Lancaster University)
Commentator and Chair: Kendrick Oliver (University of Southampton)

3.30-5.00: Parallel Sessions

**Alternative Histories of the American 1980s (Chair: Tom Packer, University of Oxford) HBS G.03**

Jonathan Bell (University College London): “Gay Health Care is Coming out of the Closet”: Sexuality, the Male Body, and the Politics of Health in the Age of Reagan.

Nick Witham (Canterbury Christ Church University) Central America, the Left, and the Age of Reagan.


**The Cold War and Foreign Policy (Chair: Mara Oliva, University of Reading) HBS G.04**

Alex Ferguson (University of Southampton): “To Supplement but not to Supplant”: Ambassador Donald R. Heath, STEM and Managing the Quiet Americans in French Indochina, 1950-52.


**Americans, Disease and Illness (Chair: Tim Lockley, University of Warwick) HBS 1.01**

Kathryn Olivarius (University of Oxford): The Cultural Impact of Death, Disease, and Ecology in the Deep South, 1800 to 1830.


**Re-thinking Music and Politics in American History (Chair: Adam Smith, University College London) HBS 1.02**

Tomek Mossakowski (King’s College London): 'Then we sang negro songs': Elisha Kent Kane, scurvy and the American influence on polar theatricals in the 1850s.

Billy Coleman (University College London): Music in the American Political Imagination before the Civil War.

5.30-6.45: BrANCH Parish Lecture (Chair: David Turley, BrANCH Chair and University of Kent) HBS G11
Leslie Butler (Dartmouth College): The Social Imaginary of “Movement” in the Nineteenth Century.

6.45-7.15: Pimms Reception: Sponsored by the Department of History and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Reading
Henley Business School Foyer

7.30: Buffet Supper: Eat at the Square
Bar: 7.00-midnight: Park House

Saturday 6th September
7.30-8.45: Breakfast: Eat at the Square

9.00-10.30: Parallel Sessions
The USA and Asia (Chair: Bianca Scoti, University of Glasgow) HBS G.03
Jan Pajor (University of Lodz, Poland): The United States and the seizure of Jiaozhou by Japan.
Mara Oliva (University of Reading): The Committee of One Million and America’s Distorted Image of China.

Hollywood, the Media and the Politics of Identity (Chair: Francisca Fuentes, York St John University) HBS G.04
Melvyn Stokes (University College London): Hollywood and the “Monkey Trial”: The Scopes Case and Inherit the Wind (1960).
Mark Joseph Walmsley (University of Leeds): “Wholesome Secrecy”: Understanding the absence of gay men and women from mainstream media narratives before Stonewall.

American Conservatism (Chair: Jessica Gibbs, Aberystwyth University) HBS 1.01
Charlie Thomp (University of Sheffield): Centralization and America’s Union Parties, 1850-51.
Tom Packer (University of Oxford): Southern Conservatism and America’s Past’s Real and Imagined.

Crime and Punishment (Chair: Stacey Robertson, Bradley University) HBS 1.02
Julie Jeffrey (Goucher College, Baltimore): The Power of Treasonous Words During Wartime.
Mark Ellis (University of Strathclyde): Race, Property and Crime in Rural Georgia before the New Deal.

10.30-11.00 Coffee and biscuits. Henley Business School Foyer

11.00-12.30: Parallel Sessions
Searching for “Truths”: Memories of American Slavery since Emancipation (Chair: Bruce Baker, Newcastle University) HBS G.03
Rebecca Fraser (University of East Anglia): Writing the “Truths”: Fractured Families and American Slavery.
Lydia Plath (Canterbury Christ Church University): “Yo can’t make no crop wid’out’n a start of darkies”: Remembering and Representing Enslaved Migration to Mississippi.
Ben Schiller (Teesside University): Telling the Truth about Trauma?: Towards a useable psychohistory of enslavement.

Capitalism, the US, and the World (Chair: Marc-William Palen, Exeter University) HBS G.04
Eric Rauchway (University of California, Davis): The Keynesian President: Franklin Roosevelt and the US Dollar.
Daniel Scroop (University of Glasgow): American Unicorn? Ralph Nader and global capitalism.

History, Identity, and American Evangelicals, 19th Century to the Present (Chair: John Quist, Shippensburg University) HBS 1.01
Randall Stephens (Northumbria University): From Abolitionists to Fundamentalists: The Transformation of the Wesleyan Methodists in the 19th and 20th Centuries.
Hilde Løvdal Stephens (University of Oslo): Evangelical Herstory since the 1960s

Families, Masculinity, and Femininity (Chair: Melvyn Stokes, University College London) HBS 1.02
Bianca Scoti (University of Glasgow): ‘The only American woman that ever made a Persian rug’: Notions of imitation and authenticity in 19th and 20th century America
Tom Bishop (University of Nottingham): The Fallout Shelter Father: Shelter culture, masculinity and Civil Defense during the early Cold War.
Jon Coburn (Northumbria University): “There’s a Bad Ethel Taylor Out There”: Memory, Identity and Women Strike for Peace.

12.30-1.30: Sandwich Lunch: Henley Business School Foyer
1.30-3.30 Exhibition of American ephemera from the University Archives and Special Collections, Jacqui Turner, University of Reading and Guy Baxter, University Archivist. Henley Business School Foyer
2.15-3.30: BrANCH AGM HBS G.03 OR G11
2.45-3.30: HOTCUS AGM HBS G.04 OR G11
3.30-5.00: Parallel Sessions
Native American History (Chair: Daniel Peart, Queen Mary, University of London) HBS G.03
Emily Magrath (University of Aberdeen): (American) Indian?: Life, identity and everything in early twentieth century Oklahoma.

Britain and the USA (Chair: Katharina Rietzler, Cambridge) HBS G.04
Jasper M. Trautsch (German Historical Institute, London): “That this may end in ... complete emancipation from Anglomania”: Promoting an Anglophobic American Nationalism in the War of 1812.

Racial Politics in the 1960s (Chair: Lydia Plath, Canterbury Christ Church) HBS 1.01
Emma Folwell (University of Leicester): Helen Bass Williams: Massive Resistance to the War on Poverty.
Joe Street (Northumbria University): The Black Panther Party and Street Protest in the 1960s.

American History and Memory (Chair: Nick Witham, Canterbury Christ Church) HBS 1.02
James J. Kimble (Seton Hall University): The Vivid and the Dead: Visual Culture and the Depiction of Battlefield Fatalities on the U.S. Home Front from the Civil War to World War II.
Jessica Johnson (University of Queensland): Redeeming the Forgotten Warriors: Healing the Image of Korean War Veterans in American Culture.

5.30-6.45: HOTCUS Plenary (Chair, Jonathan Bell, HOTCUS Chair and Director, Institute of the Americas, University College London) HBS G11
Sarah T. Phillips (Boston University): The New Muckrakers and the Old Farm Bloc: The Twentieth-Century Politics of Surplus and Abundance.

7.00-7.30: Drinks Reception: Meadows Suite

7.30 PROMPT: Conference Dinner: Meadows Suite
Bar: 7.00-midnight: Meadows Suite

Sunday 7th September
7.30-8.45: Breakfast: Eat at the Square

Residential delegates should remember to check out of rooms by 9.30. Luggage can be left in HBS 2.01.
9.00-10.30: Parallel Sessions

Harlem as Place and Symbol since 1900 (Chair: Cheryl Hudson, University of Kent) HBS G.03
Daniel Matlin (King’s College London): Harlem: The Making of a Ghetto Discourse.
Andrew Fearnley (University of Manchester): “The Need to Know the Past”: Harlem and Ideas about Black History.

Model Empires (Chair: Barbara Reeves-Ellington, Independent Scholar) HBS G.04
Andrew Priest (University of Essex): “An Aggregation of Diverse Communities”: The British Empire in American Thought During the Gilded Age.
Alex Bryne (University of Nottingham): After One Hundred Years of Service: The Meaning of the Monroe Doctrine at its Centennial – 1923.

Environments and Disasters (Chair: Emily West, University of Reading) HBS 1.01
Greg Davies (University of Strathclyde): Indians, Settlers and the Desert: Competing Myths and Landscapes in Mid-Nineteenth Century Utah.
Gareth Davies (University of Oxford): Experts and the Politics of Disaster, 1865 to the Present.
Thom Keep (University of Sheffield): The Transnational Development of Environmental Thought in a Progressive Age.

Challenging White Hegemony (Chair: David Cox, University of Sheffield) HBS 1.02
Julia Lawton (Keele University): The Playground of the Civil War: The Border-states and Free People of Colour.

10.30-11.00: Coffee and biscuits: Henley Business School Foyer

11.00-12.30: Parallel Sessions

Urban History (Chair: Themis Chronopoulos, University of East Anglia) HBS G.03
Cheryl Hudson (University of Kent): Harlem’s Magician: Charles S. Johnson and the Ironies of Urban Race Relations from Riot to Renaissance.
**Death and Dying (Chair: David Gleeson, Northumbria University) HBS G.04**
Kevin Yuill (University of Sunderland): “Rebels Against the Infinite”: Fin-de-siècle attitudes towards suicide in the United States, 1880-1910.
Francisca Fuentes (York St. John University) The Invention of the American State Funeral.

**Expansion and Foreign Policy (Chair: Jay Sexton, University of Oxford) HBS 1.01**
Jessica Gibbs (University of Aberystwyth): One hundred years of congressional women as foreign policymakers.
Christopher J. Fuller (University of Southampton): Unmanned Frontiers: America’s drone empire and the legislation which underwrites it.

**12.30-1.30: Sandwich Lunch: Henley Business School Foyer**

**1.30: Conference disperses**
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Barbara Reeves-Ellington
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