

2009

Research Student Day

Wednesday 25th February
CRD Conference Room (M57)

Grand Parade

11.00

Welcome

Prof Maxine Naylor

2.00

Anna Vaughan Kett

The clarks of street: transatlantic co-operation and the free produce movement in the 1850s.

11.15

Jane Hatrick

A life in the archive: the work of the London couturier Norman Hartnell 1901-1979

2.45

Deirdre O'Mahony

New ecologies between rural life and visual culture in the west of Ireland: history, context, position, and art practice

12.00

Andy Knott

A genealogy of hegemony and the multitude

3.30

Shelley Fowles

The golem - speech and speechlessness

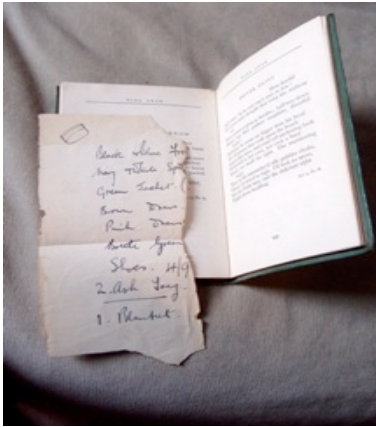
12.45

Lunch

4.15

Drinks





Jane Hatrick

Fully AHRC funded

A life in the archive: The work of the London couturier Norman Hartnell 1901-1979

Supervisors:
Prof Lou Taylor
Dr Louise Pubrick

My PhD research makes very specific use of one archive in particular, and indeed the material found within this archive has led my project in terms of its approach and its content. I made the discovery of the lost company and personal archive pertaining to the British couturier, Norman Hartnell in October 2005. Over the past three years it has revealed itself as a dense, complex 'time-capsule', containing elements of every aspect of Hartnell's private and working life. The archive is not catalogued, systematised or stored according to best practice in terms of its conservation. I found it piled up randomly in the damp cellar and the dusty attic of a large empty house once lived in by Hartnell's closest friend and business partner. Over the three years more and more paperwork and artefacts have been found squirreled away in drawers and cupboards in the house. From scraps of paper with lists written on hidden between the pages of a book, saved as the majority of his library was lost to a book dealer, to a dinner shirt still in its packaging as it has been returned from the laundry, embroidered with Hartnell's initials, put out for the skip.

My research has taken place as the archive has almost literally slipped through my fingers. This paper will present an overview of my work in the archive to date, and discuss what can be learned about this designer's life and work from the 'traces and fragments' left behind some thirty years after his death.



Andy Knott

A genealogy of hegemony and the multitude

Supervisors:
Dr Mark Devenney
Tom Hickey
Dr Bob Brecher

My project involves an exploration of historical applications of 'the multitude' in order to enrich and analyse contemporary understandings of this concept and to assess its contemporary political viability.

The historical investigation entails a genealogical study of the (dis)connection between the multitude and the notion of hegemony, in the works of four early modern political philosophers: Marsilius of Padua, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Spinoza. Such an historical investigation enables a critical interrogation of the contemporary political proposal of the multitude by Hardt and Negri, in their collaborative texts *Empire* (2000) and *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire* (2005). It highlights the development of Italian autonomism (of which Negri is widely viewed as the key protagonist, and the multitude has materialised as the key conceptual development) as one that is in opposition to traditional forms of communism and leftist politics in Italy, which has been dominated by the figure of Gramsci and his concept of hegemony. I will argue that both this rejection of hegemony and the proposal of the multitude are false moves for contemporary politics, and that the historical applications of the multitude display an association with hegemony (as against an opposition to hegemony).



Anna Vaughan Kett

The clarks of street:
transatlantic co-operation and the free
produce movement in the 1850s

Supervisors:
Dr Louise Pubrick
Dr Anita Rupperecht

This paper presents my current PhD research on the development of the British free produce movement, an initiative within post-emancipation, British antislavery and which promoted free labour goods instead of slave labour ones. In particular it examines the role of prominent West Country Quakers, Eleanor Stephens Clark and her husband James, of the shoemaking firm C. & J. Clark in Street, Somerset.

Using archival evidence in the Library of the Religious Society of Friends, London, the paper traces Eleanor's establishment of the Street Free labour Cotton Depot that traded from the village Temperance Hall, 1854 – 1858. Eleanor was responsible for the project; arranging fitting out the hall, sourcing free cotton goods suitable for its primarily female consumers, notably from Josias Browne of Manchester and John Wingrave of Carlisle and keeping the account book, which has survived. The paper also contextualises Eleanor's work within local, national and transatlantic networks of Quakers and advocates of the free produce principle.



Deirdre O'Mahony

New ecologies between rural life and
visual culture in the west of Ireland: history,
context, position, and art practice

Supervisors:
Peter Seddon
Tony Wilson

This presentation will focus on whether a mode of trans-disciplinary visual inquiry can serve as an enquiry into location, an interrogation into the mechanics of belonging, and a reflection upon the bottom up-local/rural to the national/global.

It will outline a series of public art projects and site-specific interventions, which extend this discourse into the stresses affecting the social ecology of a local community, particularly regarding the relationship between locals and incomers.

The renovation and creation of a public resource/ space; the X-PO, in a former rural post office, was intended to allow for reflection and consideration about ways in which to move on from a long divisive and bitter environmental dispute, fifteen years ago, at a local mountain called Mullaghmore. Representations of the west as romantic, sacred 'other,' neutered heritage, detached and dislocated from the complex realities of rural life further complicate matters.

The presentation will describe and sets this project into a context; one that reflects upon histories, contexts, positions and socially engaged arts practices of both local and wider significance.



Shelley Fowles

The golem - speech and speechlessness

Supervisors:
Margaret Huber
Dr Paul Jobling
Vetta Alexis

The Jewish legend of the Golem, a creature created by Rabbis for both religious and practical reasons, has many facets. Apart from the more specific issues it raises about Jewishness and gender, for example, this tale also poses fascinating questions about what it means to be human. It demonstrates how uncertainty over this question can plunge us into an uncanny void, where meaning fails. It is this void that exists beneath familiar certainties, and the dread it inspires, that Freud attempted to map out in his essay, *The Uncanny* (1919), and it was no accident that a retelling of the Golem tale, Hoffmann's *Olympia*, featured as his most prominent example.

In some traditional versions of the Golem story, the Golem, otherwise indistinguishable from a person, is proved not to be by his inability to speak. In Hoffman's tale *Olympia*, the female Golem, is similarly speechless. This battle between silence and speech is a familiar and sometimes frustrating one for a practice-based researcher who aims for both practical and theoretical research outcomes. In my Ph.D I have attempted to use my practice to develop means of expression that can complement and add to the theoretical explanations. In this presentation I would like to show how some of my current experiments with film and image aim to develop the concepts I deal with in quite another way in my written work. I also hope to explain the connections between them.

