

News from Michaelmas Term 2015

The H B Allen Centre: new home for the ASC



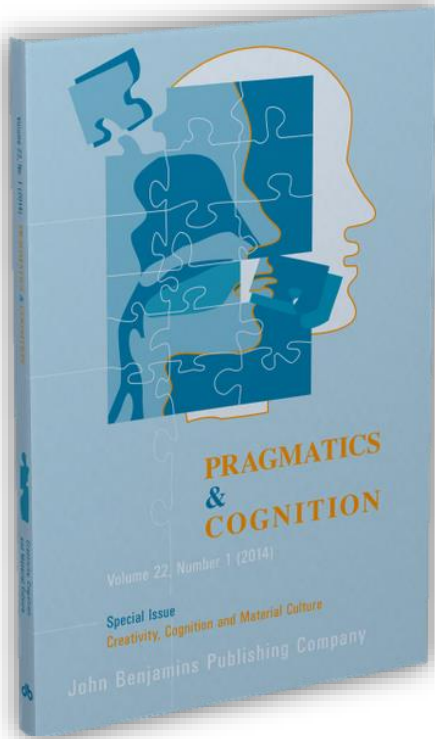
Keble has announced that 1st July 2016 will be the start date for the major construction works at the Acland site. This has been made possible by a capital grant from the H B Allen Charitable Trust and the valued support of many other alumni and friends to the **Vision for 2020 Campaign**. The new building will be named **The H B Allen Centre** and will provide space for the Advanced Studies Centre (ASC) as well as for other University research groups and spin-out companies. This will significantly aid the ASC in continuing its work of facilitating collaborative research between members of the College and experts across the wider university and world. Prof. Tom Higham, Director of the ASC, said the news was “tremendously exciting, coming after several years of hard work and effort aimed at

securing the high level of funding required to create a state-of-the-art building.” He said that the news acted as a major fillip to expanding the research of the College and, most excitingly, creating a space where post-graduate students can interact with cutting-edge researchers working within the College.

Keble’s **Vision for 2020 Campaign** continues to seek further donations to support the academic aims of the College. For further information about **The H B Allen Centre** and the **2020 Campaign** please contact **Jenny Tudge** (Director of Development) or visit:

<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/campaign>

"Creativity, Cognition and Material Culture"; a special issue of the *Pragmatics & Cognition Journal*.



The Creativity Cluster of the Keble College ASC has announced the publication of a special issue of the *Pragmatics and Cognition* journal based on Creativity Lectures organised at Keble College between 2010 and 2015. The journal is based on the theme 'Creativity, Cognition and Material Culture' and is edited by Creativity Cluster members Lambros Malafouris, Chris Gosden and Karenleigh A. Overmann.

The issue features articles by David Kirsh, Frederic Vallee-Tourangeau, Thomas Wynn and Frederick L. Coolidge, Carl Knappett and Sander van der Leeuw, Chris Gosden, Maurice Bloch, Timothy Ingold, Lambros Malafouris, and Kevin Warwick. All of the contributors have either come to Keble as research visitors or given seminars and lectures here as part of the Cluster's regular programme of talks and workshops.

The contents of this issue are available to download [here](#).

Keble ASC Relics Cluster

Keble's new Relics Cluster has been widely featured in the media in the last few weeks. Their work has been highlighted in the Daily Telegraph, the Times, the [Independent](#) (November 2015), [Oxford Mail](#) (October, 2015 and January 2016), [BBC Radio 4](#) (October and December, 2015). There has also been great interest in the well-attended lectures that the cluster has organised this term.



Images: (Left) Prof. Tom Higham taking a small sample from a relic attributed to John the Baptist and (right) Prof. Higham with Dr. Georges Kazan. Photo Tom Pilston.

Lucy Kaufman: new coordinator for the Medieval and Renaissance Cluster

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Lucy Kaufman, new Keble CMRS Fellow in Renaissance History, who is succeeding Tracey Sowerby as the coordinator of the ASC Medieval and Renaissance Cluster.

Lucy is interested broadly in early modern Britain and its world, particularly the social, religious, and popular political history of the late sixteenth century. She is currently working on turning her dissertation on the Elizabethan Reformation into a monograph, and will soon start a project on mass immigration in Elizabethan England. Read our interview with her in this Newsletter.

Lucy will be planning the research cluster events for this academic year. If you are interested in receiving news about the cluster and coming events, please contact [Lucy](#).

We would like to thank Tracey Sowerby for her fantastic work leading the Cluster these past few years.



Meetings and events

Complexity Cluster Workshop on *"PDEs in our Everyday Lives: Some Examples"*

In November the Complexity Cluster hosted a successful workshop on Partial Differential Equations (PDEs). It consisted of three lectures by Professor Hua Chen (Dean of Mathematics, Wuhan University, China and ASC Senior Academic Visitor), Seungchan Ko and Matthew Rigby (Keble CDT in PDEs). The workshop was organised by cluster leaders Professor Gui-Qiang Chen and Dr. Apala Majumdar.



Meetings and events

Relics Cluster Launch Event: "Finding Richard III"

In August 2012, the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) began a search for the lost grave of King Richard III, the last English king to die in battle, as part of the *Looking For Richard* project led by Philippa Langley MBE. In the friary of Greyfriars church car park the team located a battle-scarred skeleton with distinct spinal curvature. Following extensive analysis including osteological matching by Dr. Jo Appleby and DNA identification by Dr. Turi King, the University announced to the world's press that these remains were unequivocally those of King Richard III.



The Relics Cluster was officially launched on 12th October 2015 with an inaugural lecture on the Richard III research by Jo Appleby and Turi King (Leicester) who gave a fascinating talk on the work they and their team, have done on the Richard III remains. Prior to the talk, Prof. Tom Higham introduced the new Relics cluster and described the scientific methods that can now be brought to bear on ancient human remains, including DNA typing, ¹⁴C, stable isotope analysis, bone osteology and pathology. Turi and Jo's lecture gave the audience (including academics from a range of fields, students and members of the public) a fascinating insight into these applications in a real and very important case, with many interesting behind-the-scenes insights and anecdotes.



This lecture was live-streamed and can be accessed [here](#).



Images: (Top) Dr. Jo Appleby and (middle) Dr. Turi King delivering their joint lecture. (Bottom) Drinks reception following the lecture.

Meetings and events

Relics Cluster Events

A lecture about the new Relics cluster and its scientific research was delivered by Dr. Georges Kazan and Jamie Cameron during the **Alumni Weekend** (September 19th). The talk was well attended by Keble Alumni and members of the public. There was a wide range of questions at the end. Jamie Cameron is an MSc student at Keble working on the relics and remains attributed to St. John the Baptist. Georges Kazan is co-Director of the Relics cluster.



In October, **Prof. Bronwyn Parry** (King's College London) delivered a talk entitled "Making Relics: The politics of performance", which explored important questions regarding relics and their use in research: At what point does a significant remain become a relic? Can contemporary remains be understood as 'relics'? When would a significant contemporary remain be said to have become a relic and why? The political, social and cultural aspects of relics and human remains were also discussed.

Prof. Parry defined *relics* as objects of reverence which are an account of existence and emanate a strong affective or psychic resonance. In the case of human remains, they give identity to the person who died and act as a witness to their existence. This can become highly contentious when human remains and relics are selectively appropriated by differing constituencies as a means of imparting a narrative designed to serve diverse political or cultural ends. Prof. Parry offered the Alder Hey scandal by way of example. She concluded that relics can be old or quite modern and examined the sociological work relics perform in the construction and maintenance of various identities as they are changing with time, attitude, importance and relevance. She sees a need to understand relics not as static artefacts but rather as 'performances in process'.



Meetings and events



Professor Mark Van Strydonck specialises in radiocarbon dating and stable isotope research ($^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$). Since 1978, he has been responsible for the radiocarbon dating laboratory at the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA for its initials in Dutch and French, respectively), an institute committed to the documentation, scientific study, conservation and promotion of the country's artistic and cultural property.

In November he gave a lecture to the Relics Cluster about his work on the study of the remains of local Belgian saints. More than 60 skeletal remains have been radiocarbon dated by Mark and his team, and their stable isotopes (^{13}C and ^{15}N) have been analysed. These isotopes inform us scientifically about past diets based on the maxim 'you are what you eat'.

Prof. van Strydonck explained that Christian relics result from the need to have something material to prove a certain person existed and was a hero, saint or martyr. He shone light on local saints who are often known in a very small area, sometimes a tiny village or township, but have great significance within the local community and nowhere else. Interestingly, in one instance, despite the scientific work showing that the relic of a local saint could not have been that actual person, the local population continued the tradition of parading the relics on the saint's name day, as they always had throughout history.

Network Pharmacology Workshop

In September the Keble Networks Research Cluster held a workshop on Network Pharmacology, an interdisciplinary research area which merges network analysis with drug target discovery.

This very successful workshop sparked new ideas for a grant proposal currently being written and involving at least one student project.



Second Imaging Cluster Workshop

This Imaging Cluster meeting, organised by Dr. Piotr Orlowski, brought together a range of experts on diseases associated with brain damage. These include Dr. Gabriele De Luca (Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Oxford) and Dr. Brad Sutherland (Laboratory of Cerebral Ischemia, Radcliffe Department of Medicine, Oxford). The Imaging Cluster is aiming to further develop collaborations in key areas concerned with brain diseases and injuries.



ASC News

INTERVIEW WITH LUCY KAUFMAN

Meet Lucy Kaufman, new Keble CMRS Fellow in Renaissance History and ASC Medieval and Renaissance Cluster coordinator.



Could you explain what you do?

I am a social historian of Early Modern Britain. I am really interested in the ways in which societies reknit and reform after moments of change. My current project involves turning my PhD dissertation into a book which focuses on the social history of the later Reformation. After all the upset and trauma and newness of the Reformation how did society and religion re-shape after that? Essentially, how did humpty dumpty get put back together again? My next project, which I am very excited about, will be to look at the ways in which a wave of early modern immigration in the late 16th Century, by a number of Dutch refugees fleeing their homeland, moved into East Anglia in particular, and how society adapted to the subsequent shift in populations.

How did you get involved with Early Modern History?

I have always been fascinated by British History particularly. I was brought up hearing and reading about it in books as my mother was born in London. I think the moment when I really fell in love with the Early Modern was as a young child reading Shakespeare. My grandfather is a Shakespearean actor and when I went to university I had the enormous good fortune to work with a brilliant man called Keith Wrightson who used to be at Cambridge and who is an Early modern English social historian. He really welcomed my amateur interest in the period and helped me develop my intellectual outlook in a serious way. He is a fantastic historian and he actually ended up being my graduate school dissertation adviser as well so I have had a pretty close relationship with him since I was 18 or 19 and he has been a wonderful mentor.

How would you describe Britain in the 16th Century?

Changing and changeable. It was a society that was growing rapidly, the populations were exploding, new ideas were everywhere. The social order was changing, emerging in many ways from some of the patterns of the Medieval period. Finding new worlds quite literally and trying to figure out its place in Europe. One of the things that really interests me is how all this change affected society and how society affected this change. We know for example that there was increasing development between the haves and the have-nots in the Early Modern 16th century.

Was change characteristic of any specific level of society?

All levels of society were changing, absolutely. You have shifts, so taking agricultural labour for example, there is a real shift in the way their household economies were working, the common land was enclosed and there was increasing internal migration around Britain taking place. There were poor harvests in the late 16th century combined with wage stagnation and there was a real change in the household economy as a result. The thing that I think is crucial to understand is that changes in the everyday lives of people had a fundamental impact on the development of the history of Britain and that is what really excites me.

Continued...

ASC News

...Lucy Kaufman Continued

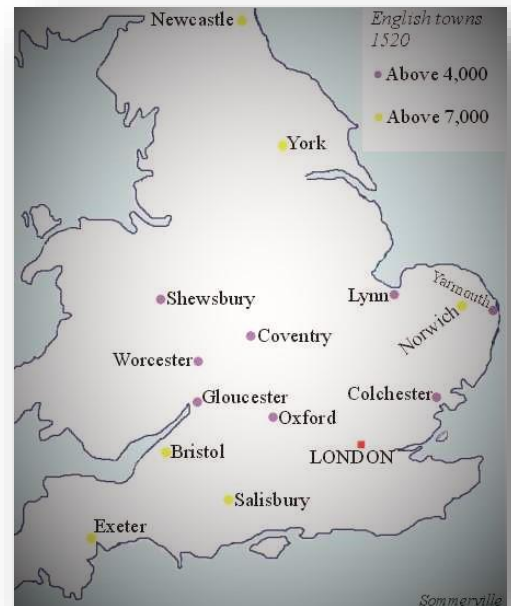
What about this period interests you the most?

I have a professional interest but I also feel a real affinity with Early Modern British history. There is a great line in the book *Possession* by A.S. Byatt which is one of my favourite books, in which two English Lit professors are talking to each other about what they studied and why. They said the stuff that still felt alive to them is what survived their education and that is how I feel about this. I am enormously lucky that I get to work on something that is both intellectually stimulating and that I thoroughly enjoy.

In your studies, do you see any interesting aspects of life back then that perpetuate today?

My next project is a pretty good example of this. I was drawn to it before some of the immigration crises that happened this past summer. It's a project I came up with about a year ago. In the late 16th century suddenly big urban centres like Norwich began to grow. Norwich was the second largest city in the country and it experienced a wave of immigration at the same time as having to deal with massive economic change, serious questions of religious change and also the development of a proto-welfare state involving systematised relief for the poor and an attempt by the state to put into place mandatory help for those who needed it most. Norwich's population grew by 50% in about a decade at the very same moment that they were dealing with a health crisis caused by an outbreak of the plague. Questions arise here regarding the role of the immigrants. Were they part of the city's society or not at this time? Were they a threat to the people, the city and society? How did they contribute to the economy or were they just a drain?

These are questions that I hear every day in the news. I think there are a lot of ways in which we see immigration as a problem of today's world and not in a historical context. It was similarly a contentious issue in the 1570s -1580s as it is today. I think the ways in which those Dutch weavers and cloth workers primarily, were reincorporated into society serves as an interesting example of how government and society could deal with the current immigration issues.



What do you consider are your three most important goals as the new leader of the Medieval and Renaissance Cluster?

I think the first is to welcome the entire Keble community into the Medieval and Renaissance Studies and particularly to some of the most innovative and exciting work going on in here. This is a rich intellectual sub-field and I am excited about bringing everybody from Keble undergraduates, staff, fellows, and alumni into Keble to engage with it if they have an interest.

The second thing I am particularly interested in is the cross disciplinary possibilities. The idea that we are not looking at a narrow window but a broad period of time, neither a narrow disciplinary focus but quite a broad one. I want to find out how we can learn from each other, as an academic and intellectual that is very exciting for me. For example, what can I learn about my period from learning about what was going on in 12th century Germany, or what was going on in 17th century Spanish America? I think that is very exciting.

I think the third thing that is very important is developing a sense of public history here at Keble and to reach out to external academics, the people of Oxford and further afield who are interested in the subject and let them see the exciting work that is going on in this College. I have been deeply impressed by the richness and the variety of academic life here and I think the more that we can show this to the outside world, the more we can understand the importance of places like Keble for the development of our culture.

Coming events...

All ASC events are listed on www.keble-asc.com

“Bio-inspired approaches towards complexity in light-responsive soft materials”

A Complexity Cluster Lecture by Prof. Nathalie Katsonis (University of Twente, The Netherlands)

Friday 5th February, 5:30pm, Roy Griffiths Room

Prof. Katsonis works on bio-inspired and smart materials and she will be focusing her presentation on her collaboration with Prof. Stephen Fletcher (Keble Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry) and their experimental work on cholesteric liquid crystals in confined geometries. All are welcome.

Find more about her work [here](#).



Complexity Cluster Research Workshop

Monday 22nd February, 5:30 pm

Come and join us for three short talks by **Adam Mahdi** (Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Oxford) on the development and application of techniques from dynamical systems to some theoretical and computational problems motivated by biology; **Wahbi El-Bouri** (Oxford) on homogenization techniques to study fluid flow in small vascular networks in the brain, as well as multi-scale modelling of cerebral blood and oxygen perfusion; and **Lapo Bogani** (Department of Materials, Oxford) on novel low-consumption electronics and logic units. All are welcome.

