



Oral History Society newsletter
Spring 2013

OHS annual conference – July 5th and 6th, Sussex University, Brighton



Booking is now open for our annual conference, whose title this year is Corporate voices: Institutional and organisational oral histories.

We have an exciting programme of more than 50 speakers who will present papers on a range of themes: universities; banks and finance; working lives; education; and health and medicine.

Two keynote speakers have been confirmed: Bruce Weindruch, founder and chief executive of the History Factory, USA, which has been producing corporate histories since 1979; and AbdelAziz EzzelArab, director of the American University in Cairo's Economics and Business History Research Center. Professor EzzelArab will talk about the centre's archive of oral history interviews with leading figures in Egyptian industry, business and government. He will also discuss the Arab Spring.

The conference will also offer plenty of opportunities for discussion and networking and will bring together oral historians with historians of business, education and health.

We will also have display space for poster presentations at the conference. If you would like a platform to promote your new project please email Juliana.vandegrift@btinternet.com

To book your place for the conference go to: www.ohs.org.uk/conferences/2013.php

(Picture credit: Istock)

OHS annual general meeting, July 6th, Sussex University, Brighton

All OHS members are encouraged to attend and take part in our annual general meeting, which takes place at Sussex University in Brighton during our annual conference. The meeting is open to all members and it is your chance to shape the future of the society as well as hearing what we have done over the last year. If you cannot attend the meeting but have questions for the society please email annegulland@yahoo.co.uk

OHS/Institute of Historical Research seminar – July 4th, Institute of Historical Research, London

The last in this academic year's programme of seminars will take place on July 4th, led by Donald Ritchie, historian of the US Senate. Ritchie's seminar will look at the use of oral history for examining government and other institutions.

The seminars have been a forum for lively discussion over the academic session and we will run them again next year. Keep an eye on the OHS website for a full programme.

A report of Penny Summerfield's seminar can be found here:

<http://oralhistorynoticeboard.wordpress.com/2013/04/12/subjectivity-and-gender-in-oral-history/>

To listen to podcasts of previous seminars go here: <http://historyspot.org.uk/podcasts/oral-history>

For more information about the time and location of the seminar go to: www.ohs.org.uk/event-article.php?eventref=18

Call for papers: special issue of Journal of War and Culture on incarceration in the Second World War – deadline June 1st

This special issue of the journal War and Culture (Vol. 7, No.3 August 2014) aims to examine the myriad ways that incarceration was experienced during the Second World War. Taking a broad definition of wartime imprisonment and seeking to cover a number of different countries and theatres of war, we welcome proposals on issues such as the internment of civilian enemy aliens, the captivity of captured enemy soldiers, the incarceration of concentration camp inmates and the detention of criminals on the home front. Preference may be given to proposals which examine artistic, filmic or literary representations of incarceration.

Please send expressions of interest to the co-editors Lucy Noakes, Juliette Pattinson and Wendy Ugolini: L.Noakes@brighton.ac.uk; juliette.pattinson@strath.ac.uk; wendy.ugolini@ed.ac.uk

Abstracts of no more than 600 words to be sent by June 1st 2013. Articles of 5-6,000 words to be submitted to the guest editors by September 30th 2013. Submission of manuscript: 1 February 2014.

What would you say to Michael Gove about the use of oral history in schools?

Helen Graham, learning editor for the Oral History Journal, would like to hear your views on the draft new teaching curriculum and its approach to history teaching. Education secretary Michael Gove told Parliament that he wanted the history curriculum to have "a clear narrative of British progress with a proper emphasis on heroes and heroines from our past".

This has had its cheerleaders, such as Niall Ferguson, www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/feb/15/history-teaching-curriculum-gove-right but has also provoked much concern and anger from teachers and historians alike www.history.org.uk/resources/primary_news_1779.html

Key charges have included that the curriculum is Anglo-centric, with an over emphasis on facts as well as being pretty boring and possibly putting students off history for life.

The Oral History Journal learning section calls for 500-600 word messages to Gove from those who have seen oral history used, created and debated in the classroom. If you had five minutes with Michael Gove what would you tell him?

Send any questions and final submissions to: h.graham@leeds.ac.uk. Deadline: 30th May 2013

Don't Log Off – BBC Radio 4 oral history and social media mash-up

Oral historian Alan Dein presents the third series of Don't Log Off, where he interviews people around the world via random encounters on Skype and Facebook. The programme is an entertaining mix of oral history and social commentary and he interviews people that featured on the previous two series. He even captures the sound of gunfire as he chats to a man whose Cairo street is the scene of a gun battle.

If you haven't heard any of the programmes live you can catch up here: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01jxzy9

If you have any news items please email annecgulland@yahoo.co.uk

You can find the OHS on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @OralHistorySoc or visit our website: www.ohs.org.uk



Oral History Society newsletter

Winter 2013

OHS/Institute of Historical Research seminar programme – February 7th, Institute of Historical Research, London

The third in our programme of seminars will take place on February 7th. The seminars are a forum for the discussion of oral history, particularly for students and academics but open to all. A report of the last session can be found here: <http://oralhistorynoticeboard.wordpress.com/2012/12/20/different-ways-to-interpret-life-stories/> To listen to a podcast of the seminar go here: <http://historyspot.org.uk/podcasts/oral-history>

The dates of the next and subsequent seminars are:

- February 7th 2013: Dr Anindya Raychaudhuri, University of St. Andrews, “My other mother”: Separated families and mourning as agency in narratives of the 1947 Indian partition’
- March 7th: Professor Penny Summerfield, University of Manchester, 'Oral history, subjectivity and gender: Some reflections on theory and practice'
- May 16th: Dr Toby Butler, University of East London, 'Memoryscapes: Making place-based oral history'
- July 4th: Donald Ritchie, historian of the United States Senate, 'Top down/bottom Up: Using oral history to re-examine government and other institutions'

For more information go to: www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/325 or contact Shelley Trower shelley.trower@roehampton.ac.uk

Oral History Society north west regional meet up – February 16th, Manchester Metropolitan University

This is an opportunity for anyone with an interest in oral history in the north west to meet up and discuss their experiences, challenges and successes. The free event takes place on Saturday February 16th from 1pm until 4pm in room E232 (second floor), John Dalton Building, Manchester Metropolitan University, Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6BH.

For more information email Fiona Cosson: f.cosson@mmu.ac.uk or click here: <http://ohsnorthwestmeetup.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Unofficial Histories conference – call for papers, deadline February 20th

After the success of last year's Unofficial Histories conference the organisers are pleased to announce that they welcome submissions for the second conference. The conference, which discusses history beyond official and elite versions, takes place in Manchester on June 15th and 16th.

Organisers are looking for proposals on a range of topics, including:

- Oral history, testimony and biography
- Family history and genealogy
- Local, regional and community history

Please submit abstracts of 250-300 words by Wednesday February 20th to Fiona Cosson, email f.cosson@mmu.ac.uk. For more information, please see the conference website at www.unofficialhistories.wordpress.com

OHS and Museums Association seminar – March 19th, Royal College of Surgeons, London

This one-day seminar, organised by the Museums Association in association with the OHS, looks at how museums are using their oral history in displays, online and in their exhibition work. Speakers will talk about digitisation of analogue oral history collections, the use of digital storytelling and oral history as an interpretation tool. For more information go to: www.ohs.org.uk/viewevent.php?elink=160

OHS/IHR Spring school – April 25th to 27th

The 2013 Spring School in Oral History will be held on April 25th to 27th at the Institute of Historical Research in London. The programme addresses six major areas: memory; emotion; representativeness and generalisability; analysing data; re-using archived interviews; outputs and impacts. The final day will include a discussion of teaching oral history in higher education.

The Spring School is for people looking for discussion about key issues in oral history as they arise in theory and practice at university level in learning, teaching and research. Participants should have experience in recording and writing oral history and will be asked to complete readings in advance.

The tutors are: Professor Joanna Bornat, Open University; Professor Jenny Harding, London Metropolitan University; Dr Graham Smith, Royal Holloway, University of London; and Joel Morley, Queen Mary, University of London.

The fee for the three days is £225. For more information and to book go to: www.history.ac.uk/research-training/courses/oral-spring-school

OHS annual general meeting, July 6th, Sussex University, Brighton

All OHS members are encouraged to attend and take part in our annual general meeting which, this year, will take place at Sussex University in Brighton during our annual conference. The meeting is open to all members and it is your chance to hear what we have done over the last year and our plans for the future. It is also your chance to have a greater say in the society. For more information please see the advert with this email.

OHS annual conference – July 5th and 6th, Sussex University, Brighton

The title of this year's conference is Corporate voices: Institutional and organisational oral histories. The conference opens up oral history's traditional focus on community and domestic lives to explore the hidden histories of organisations, including private companies and business, public institutions, local and national government and charities.

Two keynote speakers have been confirmed: Bruce Weindruch, founder and CEO of the History Factory, USA, which has been producing corporate histories since 1979; and AbdelAziz EzzelArab, director of the American University in Cairo's Economics and Business History Research Center. Professor EzzelArab will talk about the center's archive of oral history interviews with leading figures in Egyptian industry, business and government.

For more information and to find out when booking opens keep an eye on the conference page on our website: www.ohs.org.uk/conferences/2013.php

Free events listing website

The Museums Association has launched a new online database for uploading events. The site is free and you do not have to be a member of the association to use it. However, you do need to register with the website. For more information go to www.museumsassociation/find-an-event/

Making History

The BBC Radio 4 programme Making History featured the story of the Berlin Airlift, which this year commemorates its 65th anniversary. Martin Bisiker was interviewed, discussing an oral history project recording interviews with 50 British veterans of the airlift. To listen to the programme go here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01pzs70#programme-broadcasts>

If you have any news items please email annegulland@yahoo.co.uk You can find the OHS on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @OralHistorySoc or visit our website: www.ohs.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

Oral History Society members are warmly invited to attend and participate in the Society's AGM which will take place during the annual conference.

Please contact the Secretary Rob Perks by **5 June 2013** at the latest at **rob.perks@bl.uk** if you would like to suggest agenda items or make any nominations to the committee.

TIME: Lunchtime

DATE: Saturday 6 July 2013

**VENUE: Fulton Building,
University of Sussex, Brighton**

Draft agenda:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM (as published in *Oral History* vol.41 no.1)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report (Graham Smith)
5. Treasurer's report: presentation of Annual Accounts (Rob Wilkinson)
6. Regional Network report (Juliana Vandegrift)
7. Journal report (Joanna Bornat)
8. Reports from other committee members with responsibilities for publicity, higher education, website, diversity, training
9. Confirmation of honorary officers: President, Vice-Presidents
10. Election of officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
11. Election of committee members
12. Any other business

Please note that the Chairman's report, the draft annual accounts, and the final agenda will be posted at

www.ohs.org.uk at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

Members not able to attend the meeting should send questions and comments to the Secretary:

rob.perks@bl.uk