



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Faculty of History

MODERN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY SEMINAR LENT & EASTER 2015

Affiliated with the History and Policy network, www.historyandpolicy.org
The seminar will meet at 5 p.m. on Thursdays in the Wordsworth Room, St John's College

January 22nd

Lucy Delap (Cambridge)

Feminist bookshops, reading cultures and protest in Great Britain c. 1974-2000

February 5th

Cristiano Ristuccia (Cambridge)

'Inventing American exceptionalism: Galbraith, Kaldor, and the United States Strategic Bombing Survey'

February 19th

Natalie Thomlinson (U of Sussex) and Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite (Cambridge)

"Never the Same Again"? Reassessing Women Against Pit Closures and the women's support movement in the miners' strike, 1984-5

March 5th

Bernhard Rieger (UCL)

"Welfare Queens, Scroungers, or Just Plain Lazy? Redefining Unemployment Since the 1960s"

All are welcome to attend and to join the convenors for drinks and, usually, dinner with the speaker afterwards. The Wordsworth Room in St John's College is in First Court on the first floor, entered by the corner staircase in First Court furthest from the Main Gate).

The seminar is partly supported by the generosity of the Managers of the Trevelyan Fund

Convenors: Martin Daunton, Lucy Delap, Simon Szreter

Further Details:

January 22nd Lucy Delap (Cambridge)

Feminist bookshops, reading cultures and protest in Great Britain c. 1974-2000

Historians of the Women's Liberation Movement have long stressed its decentralised form, with a deliberate refusal of the infrastructure of leaders and formal institutions. Instead, like other social movements of the 1970s and 80s, periodicals, networks of friends, and informal meeting places tended to provide the impetus for the development of feminist ideas and strategies of protest. This paper examines the significant role that bookshops played in this process, acting as meeting places,



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sites for relaying information, and giving access to feminist, lesbian and gay texts .It places feminist bookselling within a longer tradition of bookselling, and also situates it within a wider landscape of bringing social justice concerns to bear within capitalist settings. Attempts to establish women-only spaces are explored, and bookshops emerge as contentious sites of activism in their own right.

February 5th Cristiano Ristuccia (Cambridge)

'Inventing American exceptionalism: Galbraith, Kaldor, and the United States Strategic Bombing Survey'

This paper traces the origins of the idea that US productive exceptionalism in the interwar period and during ww2 derived from the ability to mass produce afforded by the availability of specialised machine tools. I suggest that this is an invention of the USSBS and trace it in the work of Kaldor, Galbraith and a number of central European "experts" in the 1930s.

February 19th Natalie Thomlinson (U of Sussex) and Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite (Cambridge)
"Never the Same Again"? Reassessing Women Against Pit Closures and the women's support movement in the miners' strike, 1984-5

Feminism has long had a complicated relationship with working-class women. During and after the miners' strike, many feminists celebrated the women's support movement, embodied in Women Against Pit Closures as well as other groups, as an organic working-class feminism. Feminist journalist Jean Stead encapsulated this view in her book, *Never the same again* (1987). This paper examines the evidence suggesting that the transformation was less dramatic and widespread than these accounts might suggest, and explains why the fracturing feminist movement of the 1980s wanted to see it as such.

March 5th Bernhard Rieger (UCL)

"Welfare Queens, Scroungers, or Just Plain Lazy? Redefining Unemployment Since the 1960s"

Since the late Sixties, the public meanings of unemployment have undergone a dramatic shift in the USA and Western Europe. This paper examines how the unemployed, once seen as victims of economic problems, have come to be regarded as the main economic problem themselves.

West Road
Cambridge CB3 9EF

Tel: +44 (0) 1223 335340
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 335968
Email: mjw205@cam.ac.uk
www.hist.cam.ac.uk