Public and Popular History

MICHAELMAS TERM 2018

Convenors: David Reynolds (djr17) and Helen McCarthy (hm234). Bernhard Fulda (bdf20) is on leave.

Meetings on Thursdays at 5pm in the Lloyd Room, Third Court, Christ’s College.

18 October

HISTORY IN VIDEO GAMES: EDUCATION OR TITILLATION?

Video games are one of the main media through which millions derive their sense of history and their knowledge of the past.

From what sources do designers derive their historical information?

Are these games simply entertainment, or do they fulfil an educational function?

A panel of designers and commentators debate how video games use history – or abuse it.

1 November

CAN A HISTORY MUSEUM BE REINVENTED?

Is it possible to reinvent a much-loved museum for the 21st century – in terms of scholarly content and also interpretive technologies? Can one really escape from the buildings, collections and conceptions of the past?

Dr Nigel Steel talks about the Imperial War Museum’s new First World War galleries, opened for the centenary in 2014.

Prof. Alison Blunt discusses the current redevelopment of the Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch, which explores the history of the home from 1600 to the present.