

The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

IASH
IDEAS GROW

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH


MAXIES
40
VICTORIA STREET

Contents

Director's Welcome 4

Organisation & Governance 6

- Advisory Board 6
- Management Group 6

Spotlight on the Arts 8

Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond 12

- The year at IASH 12
- Making and celebrating books at IASH 18
- IASH/Susan Manning Workshops 18

GENDER.ED 19

Decolonised Transformations 23

Fellows & Fellowships 25

- List of 2024-25 Fellows 26
- List of 2024-25 Affiliates 29

Ideas Grow: Looking Ahead to 2025-2026 30

Thanks & Acknowledgements 31

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Director's Welcome

Professor Lesley McAra CBE FRSE
IASH Director

A warm welcome to this annual report.

The academic year 2024-25 was one of celebration marking (somewhat belatedly!) IASH's first half-century.

The focal point of our celebrations was the IASH conference held in April. It was wonderful to welcome home so many of our former Fellows. The conference cèilidh was a particular success – with Fellows and IASH staff showing immense skill and stamina on the dancefloor! And we closed the conference with a panel of the current and former Directors of IASH debating the futures of institutes of advanced studies in the context of the challenges facing higher education globally.

At the conference we showcased work from the recently completed Institute Project on Decoloniality (IPD). We are delighted that IASH has been awarded the *2025 Public Humanities Award for Leadership in Practice and Community* by the CHCI Public Humanities Network (a global network of over 300 institutes of advanced study). The prize recognises the outstanding scholarship of the Fellows involved in IPD, the strength of the community of practice that we aim to nurture at IASH, and, most especially, the reach of our work to audiences beyond the academy.

Other highlights of the year have included: an award-winning run of Community Fellow Hannah Khalil's play, *My English Persian Kitchen*, at the Traverse Theatre during the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe; public lectures on democracy and human rights by Professor Shalini Randeria (President and Rector of Central European University), and on the purpose, relevance

and futures of International Women's Day by Dr Naeema Yaqoob Sajid (Honorary Doctor of Laws and CEO of Diversity+); and workshops such as *Knowledge & Scepticism in Political Theory*, led by Dr Liz Hemsley (IASH Postdoctoral Fellow) and *AI and Digital Innovations for Voice and Vocal Music*, led by Dr Alexandra Huang-Kokina (IASH Digital Research Postdoctoral Fellow), which included the première of Alexandra's opera – *Yūrei (Ghost) of the AI Empire* (composed with Atzi Muramatsu). Our regular work-in-progress seminars continue to demonstrate the breadth and impressive quality of research being undertaken by our Fellows, covering topics ranging from rock art conservation (Dr Catherine Namono) to climate change and the aesthetics of nature (Professor Samantha Vice); from Radical Deviance's commitment to the bit (Dr Evelyn Whorrall-Campbell) to the experiences of Shia Muslim women (Dr Qazi Sarah Rasheed); and from critical minerals in Ghana (Dr Pius Siakwah) to the Pekinese dog and changing views of China (Dr Kelsey Granger), and much much more. And for the second year running we participated in the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Curious Festival with an event entitled *Catastrophe!* where we explored what individual and collective action is possible in mitigating contemporary crises from AI to climate change to antibiotic resistance.

As we look forward to 2025-26, it is important to reflect on the role that institutes of advanced study (IASs) can play in an increasingly precarious environment within higher education in the UK and internationally. The first institute of advanced study was created 95 years ago at Princeton, to foster innovation and academic freedom in a time of persecution, with Albert Einstein appointed as its first Fellow in 1932. IASH was founded some forty years later as the UK's first IAS and has formed a place of sanctuary ever since - hosting scholars fleeing war and genocide and growing threats to academic integrity posed by a number of populist and authoritarian régimes. Institutes of advanced study can and should be the vehicle for promoting the highest standards of international collaboration. They also have a vital role in protecting a space for 'blue skies' thinking – enabling the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, key to the conceptual development that is a prerequisite for so many scientific advances. In addition, institutes of advanced study provide bursaries and a supportive environment for postdoctoral Fellows to pursue independent research, a critical resource to foster the next generation of academics.

The success of our own institute is down to a collective effort and I want to close this Director's Welcome with a major vote of thanks to our Deputy Director, Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson, and to the IASH team: Pauline Clark, Lauren Galligan and our many student interns. I also want to express my gratitude to the members of our Management Group and International Advisory Board for their continued support and for the wisdom that they impart.

IASH is an intellectually exciting place to work and a place of life-long learning. I hope that readers of this annual report will be inspired by the work of our fellowship and the impact which it has had.

Organisation & Governance

ADVISORY BOARD

At the top level of oversight, our Advisory Board is drawn from diverse areas of academia and from civil society. The Board is chaired by Professor Sarah Prescott (Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh), and in 2024-25 the membership comprised:

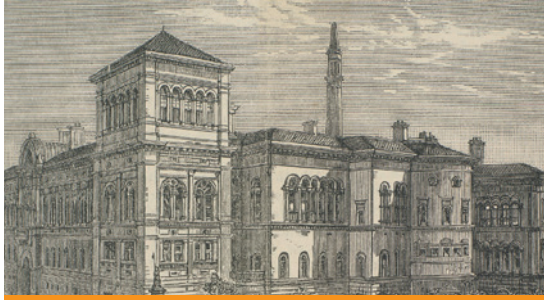
- Dr Sam Alberti (Director of Collections, National Museums Scotland)
- Dr Olivier Bouin (Director of French Network of Institutes for Advanced Studies/EURIAS)
- Professor Rosi Braidotti (Founding Director, Centre for the Humanities, University of Utrecht)
- Ms Shreela Ghosh (Secretary, The Charles Wallace India Trust)
- Mr Allan Little (broadcaster)
- Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (Professor of Modern History, Trinity College Dublin; Parnell Fellow, Magdalene College, Cambridge)
- Ms Amina Shah (National Librarian, National Library of Scotland)
- Professor Sarah Skerratt (Chief Executive, Royal Society of Edinburgh)
- Ms Christine Wilson (Head of Research and Engagement, British Council)
- Dr William Zachs (Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh)

MANAGEMENT GROUP

The IASH Management Group continues to ensure that we meet our strategic goals of excellence across our interdisciplinary remit and that we serve the needs of all Schools across the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS). Members are drawn from across the College and meet twice annually to consult on strategic and major operational matters.



Image of Forth Road Bridge © Sam Sills.



The 2024-25 members were:

DR PATRICIA ERSKINE
Head of Stakeholder Relations & Policy Officer for CAHSS. Patricia manages several of the University's collaborative relationships with Edinburgh's major festivals and cultural organisations, including co-ordination of the University's digital arts programme.

DR RADHIKA GOVINDA
Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Director of GENDER.ED, the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for gender and sexualities studies. Her research and teaching focus on gender politics of development, intersectionality, feminist movements and knowledge production.

PROFESSOR ED HOLLIS
Personal Chair in Interior Design and Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange at the Edinburgh College of Art. An architect and interior designer, Ed balances his own research with assisting staff across ECA to develop their own research interests and projects.

RACHEL HOSKER
University Archivist and Research Collections Manager. Rachel originally trained as an archivist, and now manages archivists, librarians and curators responsible for the University's cultural heritage collections and welcomes IASH fellows to the Centre for Research Collections at the University.

PROFESSOR LAURA JEFFERY
Professor of Anthropology of Migration in the School of Social and Political Science (SSPS), and Dean of Research in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Her research interests include migration and displacement.

PROFESSOR MICHELA MASSIMI
Professor of Philosophy of Science in the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. She works in the area of history and philosophy of science with a focus on topics such as realism, pluralism, perspectivism, and scientific models.

PROFESSOR LESLEY McARA CBE
IASH Director since 2022, Chair of Penology and Assistant Principal Community Relations. Lesley is an Associate Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, as well as founder and co-convenor of the Leadership Foundation for Women in the Legal Profession.

PROFESSOR DAVID SMITH
Deputy Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Previously Head of Moray House School of Education and Sport. He is a qualified Secondary Teacher who has also worked in local and national government as well as the University of Aberdeen.

PROFESSOR GREG WALKER
Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures and a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He specialises in the literary culture of the reign of Henry VIII and has also written widely on late-medieval drama and poetry and Renaissance literature.

Spotlight on the Arts

IASH has been a haven for artist-practitioners alongside researchers for more than half a century. From the much-loved Yorùbá poet and actor Femi Fatoba to Geetanjali Shree, winner of the International Booker Prize, the Institute regularly hosts poets, playwrights, composers, painters and novelists for whom their own practice is a key means of inquiry. Visitors from the arts world also include programmers and producers who use their time in Edinburgh to reflect on their work as cultural leaders and connect with the city's many festivals – from Kapila Vatsyayan from the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in India, to Phyllis Lambert from the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal, and Sally Hobson of the Edinburgh International Festival.

In 2024-25, IASH supported a wide range of research and practice across the arts, placing the maker at the heart of the academy. Here are some insights into the projects, from sculpture to opera.



Performance of *Speaking Towards One Another* by Dr Stephanie Lamprea on 22 May 2025. Image © Chris Scott.

SEQUOIA BARNES – TEXTILE ART

For the RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship, I started a new iteration of my collection *Useable Several Times* that focuses on 20th century British visual culture, specifically the practice of illustrating and animating the golliwog figure, decolonizing what it means to 'collect', 'preserve', and 'archive'. Utilizing my stitching/embroidery practice, I subvert some of my archive findings and reappropriate them to reflect their true nature as disturbing images. My alteration process involves tracing the original image but changing the faces of the figures to reflect a more overt line between cuteness and grotesqueness while leaving the surrounding imagery and text unchanged. I deploy an Afrosurreal aesthetic by making the figures appear more alien/unreal with strange pupils and wide smiles with too many teeth. I also record 'amplified stitchings' of each embroidery during the stitching process. These recordings are conducted using contact or instrument amplifying microphones attached to the embroidery hoop and my hands to amplify the 'hidden' sound of stitching, to rearticulate the practice as radical and disruptive versus the common idea of stitching/sewing being a quiet, docile, invisible act. As sonic disruption, stitching gestures produce sounds of scratching, growling, rustling, and puncture.



Simon Cooke.



[M] Dudeck – Neolithic Transmitters.



Stephanie Lamprea as Yma Sumac.
Image © Oana Stanciu.

SIMON COOKE – CREATIVE WRITING

I'm a literary academic, but for years have also written 'creatively' on the side, and considered the creative and the critical to be inextricably intertwined. It was as a Sabbatical Fellow at IASH, nurtured by its unique atmosphere of intellectual adventure, conviviality and refuge, that I first leant into this as central to my own practice, working on a novella, *Parting Words*. A narrator is summoned by an old friend, to whom he harbours a sense of guilt for advice he gave half a lifetime ago; the friend may now be dying, and the narrator, feeling an obscure responsibility, agrees to go over his archive of unfulfilled projects and make something of them. It's an experiment with voice, and a sort of ghost story. It's now close to completion, and this has been very largely thanks to the genuinely inspiring and deeply encouraging experience of IASH's community of practice.

[M] DUDECK – PERFORMANCE ART

As an artist, I have spent the past fifteen years inventing my own queer religion as art, and as a scholar of religion I explore the role played by art, and the speculative imagination on new forms of religion in the information age. For my IASH-CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship, I partnered with a living history museum in the Scottish Highlands called the Scottish Crannog Centre, bringing contemporary new media artists to interface with experimental archaeologists in conceiving of new rituals for the post/future. I have invited eight artists over a period of four months to come up to the Crannog Center to interface with the living history museum... many of the aims of public art and public archaeology are symbiotic, and synthesize to produce new forms of religiosity in the general public. The initial success of the research/process has inspired me to produce a much larger project – a multi-year festival called NEOLITHIC TRANSMITTERS that brings artists and archaeologists together to design new rituals in ancient sites.

STEPHANIE LAMPREA - MUSIC

During my Digital Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, I conducted written and practical research in feminist applications of the digital female voice in electroacoustic music and interdisciplinary art work. The research expanded a definition of voice to singing, speaking, and sign language, and so the work engaged with the integration of musicality and technology with integrated sign language performance and communication. I engaged with research on audio production electroacoustic music cultures by Hannah Bosma, Tara Rodgers, and Tina Tallon, theoretical works in queer voice theory and posthuman feminism by Freya Jarman-Ivens and Rosi Braidotti, and D/deaf musicology and signed voice theories by Anabel Maler. In my practical research, I collaborated with a team of artists to explore using live and prerecorded electronic hardwares and softwares to digitally transform speaking and singing voices, visual data making programs such as 'computer vision' to map and redesign filmed body motions, and wearable technology to sonify motions of British Sign Language into musical composition material.



Alexandra Huang-Kokina.
Yūrei: Ghost of the AI Empire.

ALEXANDRA HUANG-KOKINA – OPERA

Yūrei: Ghost of the AI Empire is a groundbreaking immersive opera that I designed, produced and directed, first piloted in March 2025 during my Fellowship. Blending Japanese folklore with speculative technologies, the opera reimagines the iconic ghost story Yotsuya Kaidan within a futuristic world set in 2100 AD, where themes of love, betrayal, digital twins, and AI immortality converge. Conceived as an antidote to opera's elitist reputation, *Yūrei* transforms the genre into a participatory and globally accessible art form. The première featured an interactive mobile app that allowed audiences to influence the villain's fate in real time. This prototype is now evolving into a gamified audience orchestra and an augmented reality (AR) stage-world, enabling playful collective engagement through immersive storytelling and interactive design. Merging traditional Japanese performance arts such as Kabuki and the elegant court music Gagaku with Western operatic aesthetics, *Yūrei* integrates AI-driven creativity and free improvisation, forging meaningful links between cultural heritage and technological innovation.



Hannah Khalil.
Image © Leighton Moody.



Raewyn Martyn.
Maquette of the bacterial polyester scaffolding.

HANNAH KHALIL – DRAMA

My time at IASH in the summer of 2024 was absolutely invaluable. Having an office in which to shut out the noise of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (where my play *My English Persian Kitchen* was playing at the Traverse Theatre) was so important in being able to continue to work. During my month in residence, I completed a new draft of a play commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company. I managed to finish and deliver it on time (something that simply would not have happened without IASH's support). I do not know what the future life of that play will be yet, but the joy of knowing that I have that script ready and waiting for production is fantastic.

RAEWYN MARTYN – SCULPTURE

I have been working with the Geological Models Collection to research and develop a public artwork for the Cockburn Museum and Grant Institute at the School of GeoSciences. This project brings together arts and sciences through the use of live geological processes to create a series of translucent 'sedimentary' paintings on glass panels that will sit alongside a time-based installation made from anthropogenic tufa. Naturally occurring tufa is a kind of limestone, formed when calcium-rich water flows over soil and biological matter and interacts with carbon dioxide from the air. Anthropogenic tufa forms in post-industrial sites where calcium and other contaminants have leached into ground waters. The Grant Institute artwork will grow over time, with tufa accumulating to generate both geomorphic and biomorphic forms that can be observed by audiences at the Cockburn Geological Museum and at the Museum of the Scottish Shale Oil Industry to become part of James Hutton Tercentenary events in 2026.



Anthea Moys: *Ode to Glaswegian Tricksters*. Image © Anthony Schrag



Michael John O'Neill. Image © Mihaela Bodlovic.



Nerea Bello, Alex South, and Katherine Wren, for 'Keening – Song of the Stranding'.

ANTHEA MOYS – PERFORMANCE ART

My approach blends arts, play-oriented studies, performance, co-production, and peer-to-peer learning. As a practitioner, my work invites people to reimagine the "rules of the game" and binaries like winning/losing, to entertain new, often unwinnable, games that encourage complexity through play. *Ode to Glaswegian Tricksters* (2025) is an unfinished gesture, sketch or departure point that explores alternative hero stories through joyful disobedience, refusal, and surprise. It aims to decentralise the hero and celebrate the power of persistent collective action manifested in this trickster activity of putting a traffic cone on the Duke of Wellington's head. In this image, I embody the traffic cone which, I imagine, is all at once infused with many things. It is a silly hat, a blindfold, a political loud hailer, a dialogic listening device, a health & safety hazard, an 'under construction' mask... I look forward to what comes next!

MICHAEL JOHN O'NEILL – DRAMA

As part of my Traverse/IASH Fellowship, I've completed the first full draft of *Headland*, a new stage play set on the north coast of Ireland in 1902. The play follows Peter, a young fisherman caught between duty and desire, and an unnamed Boy whose longing for connection draws him into the orbit of a charismatic stranger offering dangerous promises. Against a backdrop of economic collapse and communal grief, *Headland* explores masculinity, belonging, and the quiet rise of extremism in a rural community on the brink. The piece leans into folkloric imagery and shifts in narrative tone—combining elements of political fable, coming-of-age drama, and tragicomedy. My time at IASH has allowed me to root the work in both personal memory and historical research, and to explore how myth, masculinity, and ideological seduction intertwine in moments of societal fracture.

ALEX SOUTH - MUSIC

Whilst at IASH I have been focused on multispecies music inspired by the sounds of long-finned pilot whales, a species that lives, and often tragically strands, in closely-knit family groups. One piece, 'Imagine an ocean', forms part of a larger work, *The Gannet and the Whale* with poet Lesley Harrison and composer Emily Doolittle, that premièred at Rethinking Fables in the Age of the Environmental Crisis (University of Kent). A second piece, 'Keening – Song of the Stranding', was composed in collaboration with musicians Nerea Bello and Katherine Wren for a site-specific performance in Lewis in July 2025. This work forms the basis for my practice research with Prof Şebnem Susam-Saraeva into the role of musicians as mediators between cetaceans and humans. In addition, I composed 'Sounding Migrations', performed with Una MacGlone at the University of Edinburgh's UNESCO Week of Sound, and at Unquiet Shores (Edinburgh Napier University).

Incubating Ideas Across the College & Beyond



My English Persian Kitchen.

THE YEAR AT IASH

Our 55th anniversary year was packed with events, attracting over 4,000 people to engage with our Fellows' work. The centrepiece was the decoloniality conference and reunion (revived after the cancellation of our half-century celebrations during COVID) which took place across the city in early April. As ever, IASH also featured prominently in Edinburgh's festivals from the Fringe to the Tagore Festival, the Science Festival to Refugee Festival Scotland and the Festival of Migration. 2025 saw the culmination of several years' work by colleagues around the university on the Decolonised Transformations project, also known as the Race Review, which was hosted at IASH.

FELLOWS AT THE FESTIVALS, AUGUST

Many current and former Fellows and friends of IASH graced the stages of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh Art Festival and International Book Festival in 2024 with a diverse array of offerings, including theatre, music, poetry, storytelling, readings and talks.

The academic year began with the première of Community Fellow Dr Hannah Khalil's life-affirming new play *My English Persian Kitchen* (from the story by Atoosa Sepehr) at the Traverse Theatre. Directed by Chris White and starring Isabella Nefar, the play tells the story of an Iranian immigrant to the UK remembering the tastes and aromas of her mother's kitchen with live cooking on stage, building a new life and community around food. We were proud to sponsor the sold-out run of this feast of a play.

Other Fellows' performances during the Fringe included *A History of Paper* by the much-missed Oliver Emanuel and *So Young* by Douglas Maxwell, both at the Traverse Theatre, *Black Is The Color Of My Voice* by Apphia Campbell at the Pleasance, *The Other* at the Scottish Storytelling Centre featuring music and visuals by former Fellows Shatha Altowai and Saber Bamatraf, and a rehearsed reading of Isla Cowan's new play about insects, apocalypse, and two women on the run. Written whilst in residence at IASH and the Traverse Theatre, Isla's play asks important questions about interspecies relationships, about famine and fertility, science and survival, set against a dramatic backdrop of capitalist ruins.

At the Edinburgh International Book Festival, we were proud to sponsor acclaimed American author Lorrie Moore's appearance to celebrate her new novel *I Am Homeless If This is Not My Home*. A host of alumnae/i and friends of the Institute also featured at the Book Festival's new home at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, including Allan Little, Sir Alexander McCall Smith, Irenosen Okojie, Pamela Carter and Professor Suzanne Ewing.

RSE CURIOUS: *CATASTROPHE!* 2 SEPT

Our panel of experts, creatives, and activists explored what the world might look like if we experience a series of catastrophes. Speakers included former Fellows Dr Deval Desai and Dr Clare Duffy. From robots reproducing themselves to the destruction of land and habitat from floods to rising death tolls from new pandemics and anti-microbial resistance, the event for the Royal Society of Edinburgh examined existential threats facing people and the planet and considered what we as citizens can and should do now and in the future to help avert or mitigate such disasters. Instead of catastrophising, can we find hope in collective and individual action?



RSE - Human Rights with Shalini Randeria.
Image © Stewart Attwood.



Rebecca West plaque at Hope Park Square.

DEMOGRAPHIC PANICS AND THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SHALINI RANDERIA, 10 SEPT

Professor Shalini Randeria, president and rector of Central European University delivered a thrilling keynote lecture for the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Young Academy of Scotland, Council for At-Risk Academics and IASH, chaired by Professor Jo Shaw, Head of the School of Law and former IASH Director. The lecture asked, what might a truly global mobilisation look like for migrants' rights, women's rights and reproductive rights?

The decades-long ascendancy and triumphant march of human rights since 1948, culminating in the long decade of global liberal consensus following 1989, would suggest that these rights should have by now gained currency as self-evident and irreversible. Yet it would be at best naïve, at worst dangerous, to succumb to this illusion of irreversibility and universal acceptance. There are many direct challenges and violations, which, when taken together, can give a sense of human rights in retreat. At the same time, we also see how human rights have been renewed in the face of demography-based challenges: the courage of Iranian women leading the movement for freedom and bodily autonomy, or the resistance of Afghan women continuing to insist on their right to education. Just as the demographic challenges to human rights span the Global North and South, so do efforts to counteract them.

DOORS OPEN, 28 SEPT

For the first time, IASH took part in Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old. We welcomed 60 people to our 19th-century square, usually not open to the public, with three exhibitions on display:

Literary Lives at Hope Park Square explored the life of journalist and author Dame Rebecca West, who lived at 2 Hope Park Square, and featured the building in one of her early novels. We also celebrated the Isabel Dalhousie series of books by Sir Alexander McCall Smith often including scenes at the Institute, and the array of scripts written at IASH by our playwrights-in-residence, from David Harrower's multi-award-winning *Blackbird* to Rona Munro's *The Last Witch*.

A Home for Research offered a display of recent books written at IASH by our Fellows, with cutting-edge research in history, literature, law, psychology, music, social science and much more.

Pathways to Peace from Disparate Points showed artworks created by Ukrainians and Edinburgh locals together through workshops in music, photography, pottery-making, loom-weaving, and cooking, this exhibition explored the potential of art objects in building compassionate and constructive relationships between people from disparate points of geography, culture, and life. In times of uncertainty, dislocation, and assimilation, personal and cultural objects take on a peculiar solidity, becoming remnants of experience, identity, and memory. The images on display were remnants of shared experiences and interactions, but also a possible means of visibility and communication among those attending. The exhibition was originally curated by Dr Caleb Froehlich during his Fellowship.



At the Burn



Queering Research Methods

TRUTH TELLING: COLONIAL AND RACIAL LEGACIES OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF EDINBURGH AND MELBOURNE, 13 NOV

In 1905, the Edinburgh-trained anatomist Dr Richard Berry (1867-1962) left Scotland to take up his duties as Professor of Anatomy at the University of Melbourne (est. 1853). Inspired by Edinburgh's Anatomical Museum, Berry began to develop Melbourne's own 'collection' of human remains – including those belonging to Indigenous Australians. The Edinburgh Medical School alumnus became one of Australia's leading eugenicists, whose legacy to this day remains deeply contested in Melbourne. This webinar from IASH Fellows Dr Simon Buck and Dr Ian Stewart offered the opportunity to hear more about how ongoing projects at Edinburgh and Melbourne are investigating, and finding ways to repair, their universities' colonial and racial legacies - and what they might learn from one another.

WRITING RETREAT AT THE BURN, 22-24 NOV

27 Fellows and Affiliates travelled up to the Burn, a grand 18th-century country house in Aberdeenshire for a weekend retreat in November, also known as Academic Writing Month. Facilitated by former Fellow Dr Anna Pilz, the group worked on publications, grant proposals and manuscripts, as well as enjoying art-making, board games and country walks.

"I am deeply grateful for the generosity of time, resources, and the exceptional care and kindness with which this experience was organized. Connecting with other Fellows and learning about their work was truly inspiring and became the highlight of my Fellowship. I will always look back on my time at IASH with great fondness, as it exceeded my expectations in ways I could never have imagined. Thank you for making this experience so enriching and memorable."

Dr Kelsey Granger was inspired to lead a weekly writing group at IASH from December to July, which was joined by many Fellows and Affiliates every Tuesday.

QUEERING RESEARCH METHODS, 4 FEB

As part of LBGT+ History Month, IASH partnered with GENDER.ED for this sold-out event on research methods in and beyond queer studies.

Queering tends to reject stable conceptions of sexual and gender identity in favour of deep thinking about methods, methodologies, theories and epistemologies. Queer perspectives provide the opportunity to adapt and reclaim research methods that may reflect a heteronormative, privileged or hegemonic bias. These creative and transformative possibilities can also enable a critical reflexive engagement with understanding and theorising queer lives and politics. The discussion brought together researchers in literature, film, theatre and digital art to explore the ways in which queering can enrich contemporary scholarship in the arts and beyond, and the role of trans in queer/ing research. The panel included IASH Fellows Dr Alex Brostoff, Dr Alice Parrinello and Dr Evelyn Whorrall-Campbell with GENDER.ED's Dr Wannes Dupont as chair.



Naeema Yaqoob Sajid

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: *MUSLIM WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY*, 8 MAR

In keeping with the International Women's Day theme of *#AccelerateAction for gender equality* and the UN Women's theme of *For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment*, IASH and GENDER.ED presented a discussion event exploring progress towards equal rights for Muslim women and girls. IASH Fellows Dr Qazi Sarah Rasheed spoke on Muslim women and gender equality, specifically in the Indian context, and Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü discussed girlhood and Islam in the context of children's intrafamilial privacy, including their strategies for navigating digital, emotional, physical, and intellectual privacy. The event was chaired by Professor Patricia Jeffery (University of Edinburgh) and presented by IASH, GENDER.ED, and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LECTURE 2025: *ONLY A DAY, A THEME AND AN INITIATIVE?* BY NAEEMA YAQOOB SAJID, 8 MAR

International Women's Day has been around for over a hundred years, as have many of the issues that still impact women's advancement today. More than ever before, we need to celebrate our successes while continuing the fight for equality. Days come and ago. Themes come and go. Initiatives come and go, but inequalities remain. With 2025's multiple themes, including *#AccelerateAction*, *#For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment* and *#MarchForward*, the annual IWD Lecture dove into the purpose of this awareness day, the relevance of the themes, and why now, more than ever, we must keep pushing for change.

Naeema Yaqoob Sajid has over 20 years of experience in the Scottish legal sector. She commenced her career as a Procurator Fiscal Depute, and later moved to the private sector where she specialised in child and family law and became a partner of a large Scottish law firm. She is an avid campaigner for change and is particularly passionate about making improvements in the legal sector. Naeema created Diversity+, a bespoke consultancy firm designed to assist organisations specifically within the legal and financial sector to make improvements in their diversity and inclusion footprint.

The Lecture was presented by the University of Edinburgh, and supported by IASH with GENDER.ED, the cross-University hub for gender and sexualities studies from an interdisciplinary perspective.

THE SUSAN MANNING MEMORIAL LECTURE 2025: *TECHNIQUES OF THE INTERWAR LAND OBSERVER: CRAWFORD, WATKINS, MALTWOOD, WOOLF* BY PROFESSOR PAUL SAINT AMOUR, 14 MAR

Professor Susan Manning was Grierson Professor of English Literature and Director of IASH until her unexpected death in 2013. This annual lecture commemorates Susan as an internationally renowned academic with wide interests, particularly in Transatlanticism, and as an inspiring influence for an international coterie of scholars in the humanities. Prof. Saint-Amour's lecture aimed to place Virginia Woolf in a generative new constellation of interwar land observers looking back in time — often to prehistory — seeking the past in present landforms, as Woolf's writings sometimes do.



David Harrower



Walker & Bromwich, *Llechi A Llafur (Slate or State)*, 2017. Image © Mark Pinder, courtesy of the Talbot Rice Gallery.

IASH 55TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE AND REUNION, 3-5 APR

A two-day conference on 3 and 4 April, at the National Museum of Scotland and the new Edinburgh Futures Institute (and streamed online), celebrated the scholarship supported at IASH between 2021 and 2024 on decoloniality, and showcased projects and creative practice on questions of social justice and the future of the humanities in a changing world. The keynote address titled *Three Perspectives on Epistemic Disobedience* was jointly delivered by Professor Tommy Curry, Dr Nicola Frith and Professor Nasar Meer (University of Glasgow, and IASH alumnus). Across a series of superb panels, current and former Fellows presented their work alongside colleagues from the university's Decolonised Transformations project, performances and more.

On the second day, acclaimed playwright and screenwriter David Harrower joined us for an exclusive 'In Conversation With' event, taking in his career since being an IASH Fellow in 2005. In a wide-ranging discussion, we explored the use of drama in campaigning for justice, placing his recent Sky Atlantic series *Lockerbie: A Search for Truth* in a lineage of consciousness-raising TV from *Cathy Come Home* in 1966 to 2024's *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*. Drama can shine a light on issues of truth, mercy and redress, but what responsibility does the writer have when portraying real people and events? How are the demands of art and story balanced with personal ethics? What can the decades-long search for answers about the Lockerbie bombing tell us about justice and its limits? The event was preceded by a performance of 'The Photographic Message' from *Message without a Code* (2023), composed by Dr Thomas Metcalf at IASH during his Junior Anniversary Fellowship, and featuring soprano and IASH Fellow Dr Stephanie Lamprea.

We closed with Dr Farah Saleh's stunning performance lecture *Balfour Reparations 2025-2045,* and a roundtable bringing together IASH Directors past and present to discuss the significance of the arts, humanities and social sciences to a post-digital world, in the context of political threats to their status and the on-going fragility of the higher education sector; and the roles and responsibilities of institutes of advanced studies in nurturing and promoting interdisciplinarity as a public good.

A traditional cèilidh dance for alumnae/i was held in New College's beautiful Rainy Hall on Thursday 3 April, and informal events took place over the weekend, including a gallery visit to the Walker & Bromwich exhibition at the Talbot Rice Gallery, tea and cake at Hope Park Square, short talks, city walks, and private tours of some of Edinburgh's most famous buildings. Over 160 Fellows from as far back at the mid-1980s returned to IASH to join the celebrations.

The icing on the cake during the conference was the news that IASH had been awarded the *2025 Public Humanities Network Award for Leadership in Practice and Community* by the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes, for our work on decoloniality between 2021 and 2024. The Award recognizes and celebrates exemplary public humanities work engaged with communities.

We are grateful to all our supporters and sponsors, including the Edinburgh Futures Institute, the Centre for Research Collections, National Museums Scotland and the Talbot Rice Gallery.



Kalahari Desert, South Africa.



Javad Darei film screening.

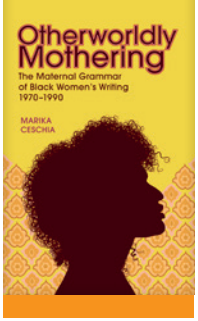
EDINBURGH SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2025: *DESERT FUTURE*, 11 APR

Far from being lifeless, lawless or worthless, deserts are increasingly thought of as dynamic biodiverse places where indigenous knowledge offers rich contributions to science, government and society. Through the lens of Wanuri Kahiu's 2009 film *Pumzi*, our event for the Edinburgh Science Festival asked: can contemporary climate fiction ('cli-fi') help us to rethink arid lands as spaces for new ecological world-making? How do stories of water wars or their opposite, 'making the desert bloom', offer alternative futures that might place drylands – covering more than a third of Earth's surface – at the heart of our thinking about the future? The panel featured IASH Fellow Dr Brittany Meché with Edinburgh colleagues Dr Hannah Boast and Dr Rahul Ranjan.

REFUGEE FESTIVAL SCOTLAND 2025: JAVAD DARAEI: TWO DEAD FILMS AND ONE STILL ALIVE, 18 JUN

As part of Refugee Festival Scotland, filmmaker and IASH alumnus Javad Daraei presented a special screening at the Cameo Cinema of two short films made in Iran, alongside footage from a new film that he is currently developing in Scotland. In *I Don't Like Here* (2016), a trans teenager seeks his true self despite rejection by Iranian society and the inability of his parents to understand. In *Limit* (2017), a man in a quiet neighbourhood asks for help from people whom he is seeing until someone suddenly enters his home. Javad is an award-winning filmmaker, playwright, and theatre director whose work explores themes of human rights, war, trauma, and resilience. Beginning his artistic journey in Iran, Javad worked as an underground filmmaker, creating socially conscious films that highlighted the struggles of marginalised communities, particularly LGBTQ individuals and people with disabilities. His commitment to these themes came at great personal cost, including imprisonment and torture. In 2022, Javad was named an IIE-Artist Protection Fund Fellow at IASH, where he received vital support to continue developing his artistic voice.





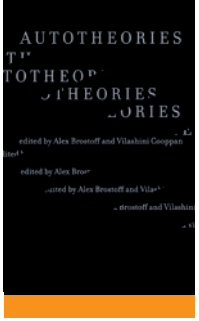




Image by Farid Ershad on Unsplash.

CELEBRATING BOOKS AT IASH

We hosted launch events for several new books by Fellows, friends and alumnae/i at IASH through the year.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, 1872-1937: CAMPAIGNER FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND PEACE
(EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS 2024)
BY HELEN KAY AND ROSE PIPES
15 OCT

OTHERWORLDLY MOTHERING: THE MATERNAL GRAMMAR OF BLACK WOMEN'S WRITING, 1970–1990
(LSU PRESS 2024)
BY MARIKA CESCHIA
28 JAN

AUTOTHEORIES
(THE MIT PRESS 2025)
EDITED BY ALEX BROSTOFF AND VILASHINI COOPPAN
12 JUN

IASH/SUSAN MANNING WORKSHOPS

In 2024-2025, we continued to support early-career and postdoctoral Fellows and Affiliates to organise workshops, exhibitions and symposia, especially where they are able to secure complementary funding from other sources; these workshops are known as Susan Manning events in honour of Professor Manning's outstanding contributions as IASH Director from 2005 to 2013.

Topics this year included:

- Knowledge & Scepticism in Political Theory, 27 Nov
- AI and Digital Innovations for Voice and Vocal Music, 7 Mar
- Creative Tufa & Experimental Geology, 17 Apr
- Notes on Water: Fluid Potentialities of an Intermedial Metaphor, 8 May
- Insights on Sleep and Rest: Perspectives from the Arts and Humanities, 22 May
- Stories of Decolonisation: Experiences from Children and Young People, 10 Jun
- Postcolonial Temporalities: Space, Time and Identity in the Maghreb, 19-21 Jun

Reports for many of these workshops can be found on our website.

GENDER.ED



GENDER.ED is the University of Edinburgh's interdisciplinary hub for promoting excellence in teaching, research and knowledge exchange and impact (KEI) in gender and sexuality studies. GENDER.ED is hosted by IASH and powered by the School of Social and Political Science on behalf of a wider network of academics and students.

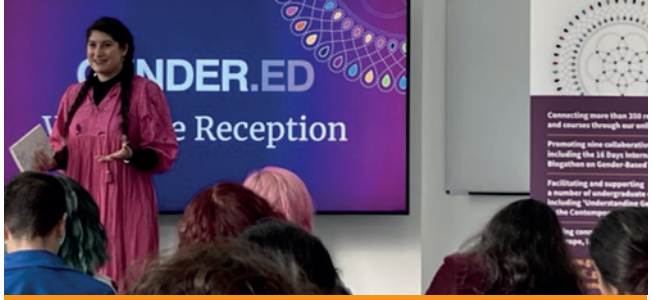
This year, the GENDER.ED Core Team bid farewell to Prof. Fiona Mackay, GENDER.ED'S inaugural director (2017-2021) and Governance and Policy Advisor (2022-25).

We are pleased to report that GENDER.ED's Core Team welcomed new members. Our Director, Dr Radhika Govinda, Associate Director, Dr Wannes Dupont, and Network Coordinator, Claire Edminson, have welcomed Dr Kaveri Qureshi from the School of Social and Political Science as Associate Director. This year, our student-led Events and Communications Team consisted of Maéva Thibeault (PhD intern, May 2024-June 2025), Mouna Chatt (UG intern, June 2024-June 2025), and Lauren Hood (UG, History; June 2025-August 2025).

KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2024-25

SUPPORTING THE STUDY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITIES

GENDER.ED plays a leading role in supporting the study of gender and sexuality at the University of Edinburgh. GENDER.ED's pre-honours courses, *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World*, offered by the School of Social and Political Science, *Introduction to Queer Studies*, offered by the Edinburgh School of Art, and *Gender and Visual Representations*, offered by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, continue to recruit over 300 ordinary years undergraduate students from over 75 degree programmes. This year *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World* was the largest of the newly launched suite of Challenge Courses. Our searchable course directory also hosts more than 200 courses, enabling students to map out a gender and sexualities pathway, regardless of the degree programme they are on.



Welcome Reception. Image © Mouna Chatt.

UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

GENDER.ED recognises and celebrates undergraduate achievements in gender and sexuality scholarship, as well as advocacy beyond the University of Edinburgh.

GENDER.ED awards undergraduate prizes such as the Yuan Changying Prize. Awarded in collaboration with the Gender Politics Research Group, it celebrates outstanding 'gender observations' written by students in the pre-honours course Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World. This year's winners of the Yuan Changying Prize are Anna Jeffries (First Prize; Year 2, English Literature) and Mara Bentzin (Second Prize; Year 2, German, English and Educational Science). Rhodd Friswell (Year 1, English Literature) received an honourable mention.

GENDER.ED also awards the Undergraduate Feminist Trailblazer Awards, which seek to recognise extraordinary commitment to feminist scholarship and change on campus. This year's joint-winners are former IASH intern Rutendo Hoto (First Prize; Year 4, International Relations and International Law) and Claudia Efemini (First Prize; Year 4, History and Politics), and Thulsa Miqdhaadh Moonsa (Second Prize; Year 4; International Relations and International Law). Emmi Wilkinson (Year 4, Philosophy) received an honourable mention.

SUPPORTING AND SHOWCASING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

An important aspect of GENDER.ED's work is supporting and showcasing excellence in research. Our searchable online directory brings together academics from all over the university, providing an accessible resource for students and staff to engage in gender and sexuality studies.

GENDER.ED is a founding partner of the Una Europa Gender and Equality Network (UGEN). In March, GENDER.ED participated in UGEN'S annual meeting in Krakow, which included a roundtable discussion titled 'Teaching Gender in Academia: Experiences, Challenges, Expectations and Future Directions'. The network also celebrated a grant obtained from the Una Europa Starter Fund for the project Archiving Feminist and Queer Knowledge Production in the Academy: Acts of Recovering and Disrupting Institutional Histories.

In May, GENDER.ED's annual showcase provided an opportunity to celebrate the variety of gender and sexuality research taking place across the university. A key highlight of our flagship event this year was a mini undergraduate dissertation showcase, with 22 students displaying their research. The event included a panel discussion on 'Gender, Sexuality, and the Authoritarian Turn'.

Whilst GENDER.ED spotlights the research and research projects of students and academic staff at the University of Edinburgh, it also runs its own projects. GENDER.ED has conducted interviews with former and current academics at the University whose teaching relates to feminism, sexuality or women's/gender studies for its oral history project on Women's, Gender, Feminist and Sexualities Teaching at the University of Edinburgh.



Undergraduate Showcase. Image © Mouna Chatt.

OFFERING RESEARCH TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GENDER.ED hosts a range of training and professional development opportunities for early career researchers. This year, GENDER.ED co-organised the Scottish Graduate Schools-funded Spring Into Methods Workshop in collaboration with the Universities of Strathclyde, Stirling and Queen Margaret. This in-depth and interdisciplinary workshop on feminist research methods introduces postgraduate researchers to foundational epistemological concerns and offered them a toolkit from which to forge new directions in their research.

In April, GENDER.ED hosted and organised a workshop aimed at preparing PhD and postdoctoral researchers, who work on gender and sexuality, to craft public-facing writing. Attendees learnt how to distil complex research ideas for wider audiences, share their research with an interdisciplinary cohort, how to pitch, and hone their own pieces, some of which will be published as part of the 'ECR Spotlight Series' on the GENDER.ED blog.

GENDER.ED hosted three workshops focused on feminist research methods for undergraduate students. Attendees left the workshops with an understanding of how feminist researchers navigate their own research, allowing attendees to practice feminist methods in their own research and writing projects.

With support from our founding partner, IASH, we were able to host Dr Qazi Sarah Rasheed as the 2024-25 GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellow. Qazi's research explores the experiences of Muslim women in India which she continued through her project 'Exploring Hidden Narratives: Agency and Activism among Shia Muslim Women through the Lens of Majlis'. Additionally, GENDER.ED runs a highly successful internships and assistantships programme for undergraduate students and PhD researchers, with hiring support from IASH.



FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Over the past year, we have hosted various well-attended events, often in partnership with other centres and networks, including IASH, CRITIQUE, the Centre for South Asian Studies, the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, and more. Amongst these, we hosted a discussion around 'New Directions in the History of Sexuality and Gender', co-organised with the Histories of Gender and Sexuality Research Group. We have hosted various book launch events, such as for *Chrystal Macmillan, 1872-1937, Campaigner for Equality, Justice and Peace* by Helen Kay and Rose Pipes, which was organised by GENDER.ED in partnership with the School of Social and Political Science, IASH, Edinburgh University Press and Women's History Scotland.

Additionally, GENDER.ED places an emphasis on co-creating non-hierarchical and non-adversarial spaces for engaging with scholarship and sharing work-in-progress. An example of this is the Gender and Sexuality Studies Reading Group, dedicated to reading and discussing interdisciplinary gender and sexuality scholarship, comprising academic staff and postgraduate researchers.

ENGAGING WITH REAL-WORLD ISSUES

The GENDER.ED blog has continued to engage with real world issues, offering students and academics an opportunity to share their research. Blog posts have discussed the impact of political appointments on reproductive rights, while a series of blog posts were published for Islamophobia Awareness Month. GENDER.ED co-organised with IASH events to mark International Women's Day, including a session on Muslim women and gender equality from GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Qazi Sarah Rasheed and IASH-Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü.

GENDER.ED has continued to raise awareness on the issue of gender-based violence. In December, GENDER.ED supported a panel discussion addressing gender-based violence in Scotland. Also, an edited collection is being produced based on GENDER.ED's previous 16 Days International Blogathon to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The collection will present a selection of blog posts from feminist scholars, activists, artists and practitioners from across the world. To join our online directories or the GENDER.ED mailing list, or to find out more, please email: gender.ed@ed.ac.uk

Stay up to date with our work by following us on X at @UoE_GENDER_ED and Bluesky at @uoe-gender-ed.bsky.social and keeping an eye on our website: https://www.gender.ed.ac.uk/

Decolonised Transformations



Anatomy Museum 1898. Image © Bedford Lemere.

2025 saw the conclusion of the Decolonised Transformations Project at the University of Edinburgh. The project, hosted at IASH, was formed to move beyond description and deliberation of racial inequality towards action and institutional transformation. A Research and Engagement Working Group was commissioned by Principal Sir Peter Mathieson in 2021 to develop an academic report on the University's historical links to the histories of slavery, colonialism and the production of racial science, and produce evidence-based recommendations to address structural racism at the University of Edinburgh today.

Four early-career scholars were appointed as IASH Fellows across the life of the project to work with the project co-chairs, Professor Tommy J. Curry and Dr Nicola Frith. They were based at IASH for two years, working on various strands of the project, from archival research examining university accounts to quantitative data collection relating to racial and ethnic minority populations of staff and students today:

- Dr Simon Buck worked on the links between the University and African enslavement.
- Dr Yarong Xie investigated contemporary legacies of institutional racism.
- Dr Ian Stewart looked at the connections between the University and colonialism.
- Dr Mishka Sinha also worked on Edinburgh's links with colonialism, with a particular focus on South Asia, before taking up a post as Curator for Inclusive History with Historic Royal Palaces.

The final report, titled *Decolonised Transformations: Confronting the University of Edinburgh's History and Legacies of Enslavement and Colonialism*, is available now on the University website in a variety of formats.

It has brought to light important, confronting and often uncomfortable accounts of the university's historical ties to slavery and colonialism, the legacy of racist teachings and ideologies, and current challenges we face around race and inclusion.

"This review demonstrates a level of self-reflection that very few institutions have had the courage to embark on. Through the work of myself and my research colleagues, we have fundamentally changed what we understood as the Scottish Enlightenment. We have shown that the study of racial difference had a major home here, and that there are legacies of discrimination that we still have to correct today. We hope our findings will enable the University to emerge as a better version of itself. This sets a standard for other institutions to not only reconsider their historical perspectives and legacies, but also their institutional culture."

Professor Tommy Curry

The University has set out a series of immediate reparatory actions and long-term commitments, recognising that sustained and meaningful change requires time, transparency and ongoing engagement with our whole community. IASH is proud to have played a part in this landmark study.

We would like to thank Research Assistant Obasanjo Bolarinwa, Community Engagement Officer Samantha Likonde, the late Sir Geoff Palmer, and the project's mentors, supporters and community representatives from outside of the university who helped to shape and drive engagement and reparatory justice processes.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as a Postdoctoral Fellow at IASH and the Alwaleed Centre. This Fellowship has provided me with an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment in which to refine my academic focus, engage in interdisciplinary dialogue, and grow as a scholar. The insights, relationships, and opportunities gained during this period will undoubtedly shape the next phase of my academic career."

Dr Muhamad Rofiq Muzakkir
IASH-Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellow 2024

"My time at IASH was a wonderful first step in realising my postdoctoral project; a research-intensive six months that has opened up many new and exciting avenues of research in the Institute's extraordinarily supportive and intellectually stimulating environment."

Dr Thomas Tyson
Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellow in
18th Century Scottish Studies 2024-25



Blackie House tour, 2 May 2025

Fellows & Fellowships

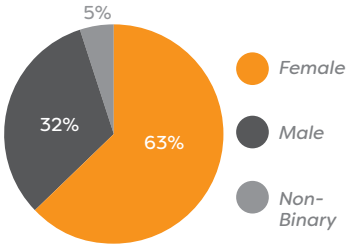
In all, 69 Fellows were appointed this year, with visits totalling 399 person-months. This maintains IASH's position as the fourth largest Institute of its kind in Europe.

We also continued our Affiliates programme for early-career researchers at the University of Edinburgh, providing access to funding, events, training and networks to help them establish their careers at the university. The Institute welcomed 27 Affiliates in 2024-25, across almost all schools in the College.

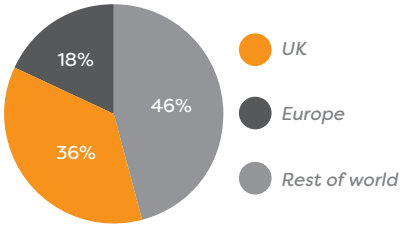
For 2024-25, the Institute received around 600 applications for the Postdoctoral Fellowship programmes and other Fellowships. The success rate for Postdoctoral Fellowships remains around 6%. By retaining the 'feel' of a small and cohesive cohort, we have endeavoured to ensure that our investment in the next generation of academics delivers the benefits of its location in a world-class, internationally-oriented university. Similarly, competition for places as Research Fellows continues to grow, with ever more incredibly well-qualified applicants at all career stages applying for our annual February deadline. We remain open for sabbatical applications from colleagues within the University of Edinburgh and for shorter-term Nominated Fellowships, intended to enable and intensify international collaborations.

FACTS & FIGURES 2024-25

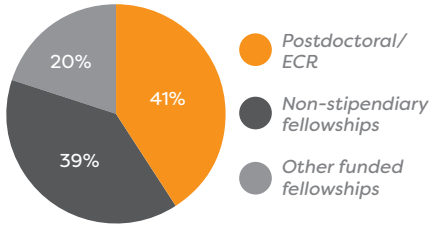
TOTAL PERSON MONTHS 399



Gender balance



Affiliation



Types of fellowship

LIST OF 2024/25 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Catherine Namono	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	*Digital Applications for Rock Art Conservation, Education and Tourism*
Professor Samantha Vice	African Fellowship	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	*The Aesthetics of Nature in the Context of Anthropogenic Climate Change*
Dr Seth Jacobowitz	American Philosophical Society Fellowship	Texas State University, USA	*The Forensic Turn in Modern Japan: Criminology, the Human Sciences, and Detective Fiction*
Dr Viktoriia Bavykina	British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowship	University of Liverpool, UK	*Reframing Histories: Art Movements in Postcolonial Studies*
Dr Anthea Moys	British Council 90th Anniversary Research Fellowship	Northumbria University, UK	*Building Trust through Playing Unwinnable Games: A Decolonial Approach*
Dr Anurima Chanda	Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship	University of North Bengal, India	*In Search of Indian Childhoods in Indigenous Periodicals: Towards a Decolonising Approach*
Dr Suneela Ahmed	Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Fellowship	Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Pakistan	*De-colonial Mapping and Research Methodologies*
Dr Marika Rose	Combe Trust Fellowship	University of Winchester, UK	*Mother Monster: Gender and Creation in Hobbes' Leviathan*
Hannah Khalil	Community Fellowship	Writer, UK	*A play*
Dr Thomas Tyson	Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-Century Scottish Studies	University of Cambridge, UK	*From Enlightened Persecution to Romantic Racism: Scottish Gypsies in the Long Eighteenth Century*
Dr Alexandra Huang-Kokina	Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Artificial 'Emotional' Intelligence for Opera Theatre: Innovating Audience Engagement in Contemporary Science-Fiction Opera*
Dr Stephanie Lamprea	Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, UK	*The Feminist Digital Voice*
Dr Artur R. Boelderl	Digital Scholarship Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Klagenfurt, Austria	*The Book Not to Come: How Digitization Affects Literary Research and Text Theory*
Dr Ina Linge	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Exeter, UK	*Queer Natures: Animals, Environment and Modern Sexual Knowledge Production in Germany (1860s–1930s)*
Dr Brittany Meché	Environmental Humanities Visiting Research Fellowship	Williams College, USA	*Desert Black: Arid Lands and Imperial Democracy in the Transatlantic World*
Dr Miriam Boeri	Fulbright Distinguished Visitor Award	North Jersey Community Research Initiative, USA	*Governing Mothers Who Use Opioids: An International Comparative Analysis*
Dr Qazi Sarah Rasheed	GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellowship	Independent scholar, India	*Exploring Hidden Narratives: Agency and Activism among Shia Muslim Women through the Lens of Majlis*
Dr Rowan Bayliss Hawitt	Heritage Collections Research Fellowship	Rachel Carson Center for Environment & Society, Germany	*Hearing Scotland's Petrocultures*
Dr Karen McAulay	Heritage Collections Research Fellowship	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, UK	*From National Songs to Nursery Rhymes, and Discussion Books to Dance Bands: Investigating Thomas Nelson's Musical Middle Ground*
Dr Raewyn Martyn	Heritage Collections Research Fellowship	University of Canterbury, New Zealand	*Shape Memories*
Professor Sam Cohn	Honorary Fellowship	University of Glasgow, UK	*Epidemics: Waves of Disease, Waves of Hate, from the Plague of Athens to AIDS*
Professor David Purdie	Honorary Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*The Textual Enlightenment Project*

LIST OF 2024/25 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü	IASH-Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Padua, Italy	*Storytelling and Imaginal in Sufism: Narratives of Islamic Environmental Ethics from Children and Parents in Sufi Families*
Dr Mahnaz Zahirinejad	IASH-Alwaleed Visiting Research Fellowship	Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland	*Decline of Religiosity in Iran: Polarisation or Pluralism?*
Dr [M] Dudeck	IASH-CTPI Duncan Forrester Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*The Megalithic Imagination in Scotland*
Dr Kelsey Granger	IASH-HCA Postdoctoral Fellowship	Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany	*'A Triumph of Cultivation': The Reception and Re-imagining of Chinese Lapdogs in Britain (1860–1930)*
Dr Nina Baratti	IASH-National Museums Scotland Fellowship	Harvard University, USA	*From Documentary Objects to Creative Sources: Reactivating Jean Jenkins' Sound Collection with(in) the Ethio-Scottish Diaspora*
Dr Ayele Meshesha	IASH-National Museums Scotland Fellowship	Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia	*Azmariwäč (Traditional Ethiopian Singers) and their Instruments at Ethiopian Imperial Banquets (1855–1974)*
Dr Khalid Wasim Hassan	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	Central University of Kashmir, India	*Autonomy and the Aspirations of Self-Determination in Multinational States: A Comparative Study of Northern Ireland and Kashmir*
Professor Jasmina Husanović Pehar	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina	*Commoning the Infrastructure of Social Change: Ecologies of Care and Political Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
Dr Pius Siakwah	IASH-SSPS Research Fellowship	University of Ghana, Ghana	*Repeating the Curse of Hydrocarbon: Exploring Contestations in Governance and Investment Régimes of Critical Minerals in Ghana*
Michael John O'Neill	IASH-Traverse Creative Fellowship	Writer, UK	*A play*
Dr Chisomo Kalinga	Medical Humanities Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Creating a Critical Disabilities and Medical Humanities Hub and Symposium: Access, Equality and Inclusion in Health*
Dr Farah Aboubakr	Nominated Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Contemporary Palestinian Performative Arts: Past and Present*
Professor Han Baltussen	Nominated Fellowship	University of Adelaide, Australia	*Self-Consolation in the Greco-Roman World from Antiphon to Marcus Aurelius*
Dr Louise Brangan	Nominated Fellowship	University of Strathclyde, UK	*The Fallen: The History of Ireland's Magdalene Laundries*
Dr Danita Burke	Nominated Fellowship	University of Southern Denmark, Denmark	*Moral Legitimacy and Stigma and Environmental Activism in the 21st Century: Greenpeace in the Arctic*
Dr Gillian Dooley	Nominated Fellowship	Flinders University, Australia	*Listening to Jane Austen and Iris Murdoch: Music, Silence, and Philosophy*
Professor Jim Livesey	Nominated Fellowship	University of Galway, Ireland	*Global Ireland and the Just Transition*
Prof. Libora Oates-Indruchová	Nominated Fellowship	University of Graz, Austria	*Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp in the Eastern Bloc*
Dr Natasa Thoudam	Nominated Fellowship	Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, India	*How to Set up a "Postcolonial Digital Archive" in India: My Journey from Jodhpur to Edinburgh and Back*
Dr Genevieve Warwick	Nominated Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*The Early Modern Landscape View*
Dr Adriana Alcaraz Sánchez	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Antwerp, Belgium	*Intensified Forms of Mental Imagery: From Daydreaming to Dreaming*
Dr Alex Brostoff	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Kenyon College, USA	*Feral Renewals: Reframing Autotheory from the Hemispheric Margins*
Dr Abdelbaqi Ghorab	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Lancaster University, UK	*Writing the National Crisis: A Comparative Literary Approach to the Algerian Black Decade and the South African Apartheid*
Dr Liz Hemsley	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Climate Change, Environmental Destruction, and Labour Migration: Rights, Duties, and Opportunities*

LIST OF 2024/2025 FELLOWS

FELLOW	FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	HOME INSTITUTION	RESEARCH PROJECT
Dr Charlotte Lauder	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Stirling, UK	*Institutes of Advanced Study in the UK*
Dr Alice Parrinello	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Oxford, UK	*Water Trouble: Queer Bodies and Fluidity in the Mediterranean*
Dr Alex South	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of St Andrews, UK	*What are the Ethical Responsibilities of Musicians as Interspecies Translators? An Ecomusicology of Pilot Whale Vocalizations*
Dr Maxwell Stocker	Postdoctoral Fellowship	School of Advanced Study, University of London, UK	*Egypt and The Odyssey: Archaic Greek Dialogues with Egyptian Culture and Literature*
Dr Jowita Thor	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Strathclyde, UK	*Scotland's Forgotten Women: The Untold Story of Scotland's Magdalene Asylums and Mother & Baby Homes, 1900-1985*
Dr Evelyn Whorrall-Campbell	Postdoctoral Fellowship	University of Cambridge, UK	*The Trans 1990s? Transition against Foreclosure in Trans British Art*
Dr Sequoia Barnes	RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship	Independent scholar, UK	*Useable Several Times: An Always Ongoing Archive-in-Progress*
Dr Chanté Mouton Kinyon	RACE.ED Stuart Hall Foundation Fellowship	University of Notre Dame, USA	*The Transatlantic Gesture: the Irish and Black Cultural Exchange*
Dr Simon Buck	Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	*The University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism*
Dr Ian Stewart	Research Fellow	University College London, UK	*The University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism*
Dr Yarong Xie	Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh, UK	*The University of Edinburgh's Historical Links to African Enslavement and Colonialism*
Dr Beatrice Alex	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Natural Language Processing (NLP) in Digital Humanities and Healthcare*
Dr Simon Cooke	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*The Cultural Politics of Prizes in Literature and the Arts*
Dr Siobhan Magee	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Money, Mortality, Biography, 'Spirit': Exploring Cultures of Bequests, Scholarships and Prizes in UK and US Higher Education*
Professor Nacim Pak-Shiraz	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Freedom of Movement: A Cinematic Analysis of Gender and Space in Iranian Culture*
Professor Jonathan Wyatt	Sabbatical Fellowship	University of Edinburgh, UK	*Writing, the Everyday, and Creative-Relational Inquiry*
Dr Heeral Chhabra	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Liverpool, UK	*Preventing the Incurable: Rabies and Street Dog-Human Relations in Colonial India*
Dr Corey Gibson	Visiting Research Fellowship	University of Glasgow, UK	*Folk after Folk: Peasant Afterlives in Scottish Writing, 1890-1999*
Professor Leemon McHenry	Visiting Research Fellowship	California State University, Northridge, USA	*C.H. Waddington's Theoretical Biology*
Dr Inés Ruiz	Visiting Research Fellowship	Southern Scientific University, Peru	*Environmentalist Debates: The Impact of Environmental Conflicts on Amazonian Women – Peru*
Professor Pilar Somacarrera	Visiting Research Fellowship	Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain	*Scottish Mystic, Literary Modernist, and Biographer of Teresa of Avila: Discovering Gabriela Cunninghame Graham*
Dr Benjamin Tilghman	Visiting Research Fellowship	Washington College, USA	*The Still Lives of Medieval Artworks*
Professor Wang Lan	Visiting Research Fellowship	Shanghai International Studies University, China	*Staging Scotland: The Evolution of Historical Drama in Contemporary Scottish Theatre in Edinburgh*

LIST OF 2024/2025 AFFILIATES

AFFILIATE	SCHOOL
Dr Farah Aboubakr	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr J.P. Ascher	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Peter Atkins	School of Divinity
Dr Elizabeth Banks	School of History, Classics and Archaeology
Dr Jacob Bard-Rosenberg	Edinburgh College of Art
Dr Imogen Bevan	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Lynda Clark	Edinburgh Futures Institute
Dr Sal Consoli	Moray House School of Education and Sport
Dr Samantha Friedman	Moray House School of Education and Sport
Dr Anna Girling	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Kevin Guyan	Business School
Dr Hannah Halliwell	Edinburgh College of Art
Dr Nida Jamil	School of Economics
Dr Luke Li	School of Divinity
Dr Frances Liddell	School of Informatics
Dr Lois McFarland	School of Divinity
Dr Ainsley McIntosh	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Kristina Pikovskaia	School of Social and Political Science
Dr Anna Pilz	Institute for Academic Development
Dr Marco Ruggieri	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Inma Sánchez García	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Hannah Simpson	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Amalia Skilton	School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences
Dr Hana Slieman	School of History, Classics and Archaeology
Dr Robert Winstanley-Chesters	School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Laura Wise	School of Law
Dr Luca Zenobi	School of History, Classics and Archaeology

Ideas Grow: Looking Ahead to 2025–26



Here's a small taste of what's in store for the coming year:

The research theme for 2025-26 is *Making A Nation*. This will be a year-long exploration of independence and nation-making, culminating in the 250th anniversary of the ratification of the US Declaration of Independence on 4 July 2026, and on 15 November 2026, the centenary of the Balfour Declaration issued by the Imperial Conference that laid the foundations of the Commonwealth. An examination of the intricate relationship between independence and nation-making seems not only pertinent but imperative at this moment. Fellows this year will be researching settler colonialism, state censorship, mobility and material culture, Scots in colonial America, the Caribbean diaspora in Edinburgh, state formation in the later medieval period, Scottish nationalism, and the botanical history of nationhood across the Atlantic.

We're proud to continue our long-running support for the Edinburgh International Book Festival, where we'll be sponsoring BBC broadcaster Naga Munchetty's event with Edinburgh's own Prof. Devi Sridhar, discussing women's healthcare. Fellows speaking at the Book Festival will include Jo Clifford, Dr Alycia Pirmohamed, Lewis Hetherington, Dr Orian Brook and Prof. David Farrier.

At the Fringe, audiences can enjoy plays by IASH alumnae Isla Cowan, Dr Farah Saleh and Linda McLean, as well as a rehearsed reading by our current playwright-in-residence, Michael John O'Neill.

We'll be taking part in Doors Open again in September, welcoming visitors to the Institute to find out more about our Fellows and our history.

Essays on Decoloniality: Volume 2 will be published in the late summer, gathering together essays by former Fellows on pedagogies of decolonial thought in classroom settings, legacies of Scotland's colonial presence retold, and multi/interdisciplinary futures of decolonial thought.

Another book, *Women Who Dared: From the Infamous to the Forgotten,* will be published in September by Edinburgh University Press. Edited by Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson and Prof. Jo Shaw with a foreword by Sara Sheridan, the book is the third volume emerging from the Dangerous Women Project (2016-17), and explores the twin themes of women and daring through the lives of monarchs, prophets, suffragists, soldiers, scientists, activists and artists.

We also look forward to connecting with our sister institutes around the world at meetings in Accra, Uppsala and London, to share best practice and discuss new initiatives.

Please visit our website or follow us on social media such as LinkedIn, BlueSky and Facebook to stay up-to-date with all our events and opportunities.

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