

Doctoral Open Day Americas Collections 18 March 2019

PROGRAMME

The day will:

- Introduce you to the range of research materials available in the British Library
- Introduce you to specialist curators at the Library
- Introduce you to funding opportunities available for work in the Americas collections
- Give you an opportunity to meet other postgraduate students from across the UK

Time	Topic	Presenter	Rooms
09.45-10.15	Registration/coffee		KC Foyer
10.15-10.30	Welcome and Introduction	James Perkins – Research & Postgraduate Development Manager	KC Theatre
10.30-10.45	Introduction to the Library's Americas collections	Mercedes Aguirre – Lead Curator for the Americas	KC Theatre
10.45-10.55	Introduction to the Eccles Centre for American Studies	Cara Rodway – Eccles Centre	KC Theatre
10.55-11.05	Comfort Break		
11.05-11.25	Reference Session (using the catalogues etc.)	Jean Petrovic – Bibliographical Editor, Eccles Centre	KC Theatre
11.25-11.30	Comfort Break/Room changeover		
11.30-12.40	Introducing the Americas by Area <i>Parallel sessions, including Q&A and discussion</i>		
<i>Session A</i>	Canadian Collections and United States Collections	Phil Hatfield – Head of the Eccles Centre, and Fran Fuentes Rettig – Curator, North American Post-1850 Published Collections	KC Eliot Room
<i>Session B</i>	Caribbean Collections and Latin American Collections	Philip Abraham – Eccles Centre, and Beth Cooper – Curator, Caribbean & Latin American Collections	KC Bronte Room
12.40-13.45	Lunch, followed by Building Tour <i>Site-specific sound tours of the British Library building. Explore individuals' memories of the Caribbean and migration to the UK through the powerful voices and testimonies in the Library's oral history collections.</i>	Tours curated by sound guide Amelia Francis, using material from the Sound Archive as part of the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project	KC Foyer, then British Library Entrance Hall

13.45-14.05	Introducing Americas Manuscript materials	Alex Lock – Curator, Modern Archives and Manuscripts	KC Theatre
14.05-14.25	Exploring Digital Scholarship	Nora McGregor - Digital Curator for European & Americas Collections	KC Theatre
14.25-14.30	Comfort Break		
14.30-15.30	Meet the team (including tea and cakes!)	An opportunity for informal discussions with the Americas curators and Eccles Centre specialists	KC Chaucer Room
15.30-16.15	Roundtable with recent PhD student researchers , sharing their experience of using the Americas collections	Jodie Collins (CDP student, Sussex), Naomi Oppenheim (CDP student, UCL), Laura Gallon (PhD Placement student, Sussex)	KC Theatre
16.15-16.30	Questions & Feedback forms		KC Theatre

Who's Who?

Curators

[Dr Mercedes Aguirre](#), Lead Curator, Americas Collections

[Dr Elizabeth Cooper](#), Curator, Latin America and the Caribbean Collections

[Dr Francisca Fuentes Rettig](#), Curator, North American Post-1850 Published Collections

[Dr Alexander Lock](#), Curator, Modern Archives and Manuscripts

[Nora McGregor](#), Digital Curator for European & Americas Collections

Eccles Centre for American Studies

[Dr Phil Hatfield](#), Head of the Eccles Centre

[Dr Cara Rodway](#), Deputy Head, Eccles Centre

[Jean Petrovic](#), Bibliographical Editor

[Dr Philip Abraham](#), Centre Assistant

The PhD Perspective

Laura Gallon is a PhD student at the University of Sussex, researching contemporary short fiction by migrant women writers in North America. In 2018 Laura undertook a British Library research placement examining the Library's holdings of North American migrant literature.

Naomi Oppenheim is an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership student with the British Library and UCL whose research focuses on Caribbean diaspora publishing and activism in post-WW2 Britain. This project contributed to the Library's 2018 exhibition *Windrush: Songs in a Strange Land*.

Jodie Collins is an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD student with the British Library and University of Sussex. Jodie's research draws on the Library's collections of American political pamphlets from the interwar period (1920-45) to explore the use of pamphlets and pamphleteering by both radical left-wing and anti-communist right-wing groups and organisations.

Research Engagement

[Dr James Perkins](#), Research and Postgraduate Development Manager