

The Georgian and Victorian underworld

Date	1 July 2018	Time	10:00-16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Samantha Williams	Course code	1718NDX034

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz
For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Dr Samantha Williams, University Senior Lecturer in Local and Regional History and Course Director of the Master of Studies in Local and Regional History, is an experienced historian. Her research interests are poverty and welfare in the 18th and 19th centuries in England. She is author of *Poverty, gender and life-cycle under the English poor law* (Boydell and Brewer, 2011) and is co-editor of A. Levene, T. Nutt, and S.K. Williams (eds.), *Illegitimacy in Britain 1700-1920* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005). Her current book, *Unmarried motherhood in the metropolis, 1700-1850: pregnancy, the poor law and provision* has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan (May 2018).

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Crimes and misdemeanours
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Trial and punishment
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Homosexuality
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Unmarried motherhood, infanticide and prostitution
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

The criminal 'underworld' has long fascinated us, particularly before the establishment of prisons and the police. This day school examines how people at the time saw the underworld, the crimes committed and the punishments meted out, from whipping and the pillory, to imprisonment in the infamous Newgate and transportation to the New World.

Aims:

This course will introduce students to how contemporaries defined the 'underworld', as well as how members of the underworld were treated in the criminal process.

Content:

During the Georgian period there was no police force or state prosecution service in the modern sense. Victims of crime were expected to prosecute offenders themselves either with summary justice or at the petty sessions, quarter sessions, or the assizes. The English system had over 200 capital statutes and was characterised as the 'bloody code'. The day school will start by exploring how the Georgians and the Victorians thought of the underworld and what were crimes and misdemeanours. The second session explores the trial and the 'lawyerisation' of the court, as well as how punishment changed from being about the body to reform of the criminal through prayer, silent contemplation and imprisonment. The course then turns to consider some more specific and gender-specific crimes. The first is (male) homosexuality which was largely tolerated by the Tudors, Stuarts and Georgians but increasingly criminalised by the Victorians who, arguably, created the homosexual identity. In the final session crimes associated with women are discussed: unmarried motherhood, infanticide and prostitution.

Presentation of the course:

Teaching will be by lectures and discussion, drawing on a range of contemporary sources.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Describe the main trends in the criminal process in the Georgian and Victorian periods.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
T. Hitchcock and R. Shoemaker	<i>London lives</i>	CUP, 2015
C. Emsley	<i>Crime and society in England, 1750-1900</i>	3 rd ed. Pearson Longman, 2005
T. Stretton	'The people and the law' in K. Wrightson (ed.), <i>A social history of England, 1500-1750</i> , ch.9 (pp. 199-220)	CUP, 2017
V.A.C. Gatrell	'Crime, authority and the policeman-state' in F.M.L. Thompson (ed.), <i>The Cambridge social history of Britain, 1750-1950</i> , vol. 3 <i>Social Agencies and institutions</i> , ch.5, pp. 243-310	CUP, 1990
J.M. Beattie	<i>Crime and the courts in England, 1660-1800</i>	Clarendon Press, 1986
P. Bartley	<i>Prostitution: prevention and reform in England, 1860-1914</i>	Routledge, 2000
A-M. Kilday	<i>A history of infanticide in Britain, c.1600 to the present</i>	Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

Website addresses

<https://www.londonlives.org/>

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

<https://booth.lse.ac.uk/>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 05 June 2018