

Local Populations

Date	22 nd February 2020	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Heather Falvey	Course code	1920NDX308

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact The Arts and Sciences Team on artscience@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 761322

Tutor biography

Heather teaches local history at Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Masters level at ICE and also at the University of Oxford's Department of Continuing Education.

Her main historical interests are social unrest and discord in early-modern communities and this is reflected in one of her current research projects, which concerns objections to a disorderly alehouse in Rickmansworth (Herts) in 1588. She is also involved in a number of projects to transcribe and publish editions of historical documents ranging from medieval wills, through eighteenth century recipes, to letters written between members of the family of Humphry Repton, the landscape gardener.

Her course sessions usually comprise a combination of teaching, looking at online resources, and considering samples of documentary evidence from the period. Learning how to analyse such documents gives students an understanding of how historians assemble and interpret evidence and thus helps them to carry out their own historical research.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: The local population in the manor
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: The local population in the parish
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: The local population in the town
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Counting the local population
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To introduce students to the basic administrative units in which people lived in the past
2. To introduce them to the methodology of local history research
3. To enable them to extract evidence from relevant published sources

Content:

Do you wonder who lived in your local community in the past or worshipped in its church? Or how many people lived there in past centuries? If so, this short course on local populations may be just what you are seeking. It will concentrate on three basic administrative units: the manor, the parish and the town. While acknowledging the contributions of landscape and archaeological evidence, this course will concentrate on the numerous written records that all three units generated. Samples from these records will be used to show how information about past communities can be extracted from them and how this information can be used to reconstruct some aspects of inhabitants' lives.

Session 1: The local population in the manor

Everyone in medieval England lived in a manor. It was a unit of lordship, based on land, involving legal rights over people within it and it was also a unit of estate administration, which may have lord's residence within it. Some aspects of its administration continued into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. 'Domesday Book', compiled in 1086, provides a snap-shot of English manors just before and just after the Norman Conquest. In the centuries after this 'national' record was created, many records were generated for individual landlords. This session will consider the characteristics of a manor; various types of documents that it generated; and how these might be used to reconstruct aspects of everyday life.

Session 2: The local population in the parish

Everyone in medieval England lived in a parish, with the parish church as the focus of religious worship, but the parish was also unit of ecclesiastical administration. After Henry VIII broke with Rome in the 1530s and established a 'national' church, the parish also became unit of civil administration. Numerous records generated by local parishes and by the church's hierarchy survive. This session will consider the characteristics of a parish; the documents that might be available for its study; and how these might be used to reconstruct local parish life in the past.

Session 3: The local population in the town

This session will firstly consider the definition of a town. Then, using examples from particular towns, it will look at some of the numerous sources that are available for urban history, including archaeological, cartographic and documentary sources. We will consider how these might be used to reconstruct urban life in the past.

Session 4: Counting the local population

It is useful to have an estimate of the number of people in a local community so that we have an idea of scale and change over time. Where suitable records survive, using very basic statistical methods, it is possible to calculate approximate population figures for local communities through time. This session will consider the size of local populations before the national 1801 Census. Sources include 'Domesday Book'; taxation records, both national and local; parish registers; and religious 'censuses'.

Presentation of the course:

The course will comprise four informal illustrated lectures, each followed by class discussion of relevant sample documents, which will be supplied.

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

1. Understand the basic administrative units in which people lived in the past.
2. Identify some of the basic historical sources for past communities.
3. Know how to interpret some of the records generated by past communities.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
David Hey	<i>The Grassroots of English History: local societies in England before the Industrial Revolution</i>	Bloomsbury, 2016
David Hey	<i>The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History</i>	Oxford University Press (various editions)
Eamon Duffy	<i>The Voices of Morebath: reformation and rebellion in an English village</i>	Yale University Press, 2001 (2003)
David Dymond	<i>Researching and Writing History: a guide for local historians</i>	4 th edition, Carnegie, 2016
Lionel Munby, updated by Heather Falvey	<i>Hertfordshire Population Statistics 1563-1801</i>	Hertfordshire Record Society, 2019
Keith Wrightson	<i>Ralph Tailor's Summer: a scrivener, his city and the plague</i>	Yale University Press, 2011

Website addresses

British History Online: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Medieval Genealogy (numerous links to online resources):
<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/index.html>

Hearth Tax Online: <https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/Research-Centres/Centre-for-Hearth-Tax-Research/>

Digital Humanities Institute: <https://www.dhi.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: 27 November 2019