Writing Sample

Applicants should submit a writing sample (in English). This should be a complete final-year undergraduate paper (or a number of shorter papers) in History or a related field (Humanities or Social Science) or approximately 10-20 pages of historical research.

If you are a non-standard applicant and do not have a writing sample available on the above, please answer one of the below questions.

Crime

‘A multi-use right.’ Is this a useful description of the criminal justice system in the eighteenth century?

Did everyone have access to the law? Keep in mind class and gender biases in the law while you undertake your reading. To what extent were some groups of people over or under-represented as defendants and prosecutors?

Two very good websites with essential background reading are:
http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/History.jsp

and
http://www.londonlives.org/static/Background.jsp


* R. B. Shoemaker, Prosecution and punishment: petty crime and the law in London and Middlesex, c1660-1725 (CUP, 1991)

Gender and age


Also


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**Poverty**

‘Poor law provision was always a small component of poor relief.’ Discuss with reference to the period any period of around one hundred years between 1550 and 1834.

http://www.londonlives.org/static/Background.jsp

S. Williams, Poverty, *Gender and Life-cycle under the English Poor Law, 1760-1834* (Boydell and Brewer, 2011)

S. Williams, ‘Poor relief, labourers’ households and living standards in rural England c1770-1834’, *Economic History Review*, 58 (2005), pp.485-519

S. Williams, ‘Malthus, marriage and poor law allowances revisited: a Bedfordshire case study, 1770-1834’, *Agricultural History Review*, 52 (2004), pp.56-82

*S. Williams, 'Earnings, Poor Relief and the Economy of Makeshifts: Bedfordshire in the early years of the New Poor Law', *Rural History*, 16: 1 (2005), pp.21-52.


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**Workhouses, 1834-1901**

**Who was accommodated in the Victorian workhouse and why?**

All *Local Population Studies* articles up to 2011 are available at: [http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/journal.htm](http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/journal.htm)


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**Intellectual History**

‘Globalising intellectual history:’ is this necessary, and if so, why? *(You may focus on a case study from a particular region and period: the list below contains both general introductory texts and specific examples. Introductory texts are marked *)

*Global Intellectual History* journal: https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rgih20 (See especially Vol. 1 Issue 1 for a discussion of the idea of ‘global intellectual history.’)


*David Armitage, ‘The “International Turn:” A Reply to My Critics.’
https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/armitage/files/forum_galley.pdf (Scroll down for English version: the article appears in both Chinese and English.)

**Case studies: (You may also select case studies mentioned in the general texts above if the region you wish to focus on is not represented here)**


C.A. Bayly, *Recovering Liberties*. Cambridge University Press, 2012. (If you are unable to access the book at a library, the Wiles Lectures on which the book is based are online: https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/happ/Discover/WilesLectureSeries/PastLectures/)


**Migration:**

‘Histories of migration have often focussed on the free movement of people, but in human history, unfree or coerced migration is the more common experience.’ *Discuss in relation to a specific case study on the history of migration (select from the list below).*

**General introductions to migration histories:**


History in Focus: Websites on the History of Migration:
https://archives.history.ac.uk/history-in-focus/Migration/websites.html

**The Atlantic Slave Trade**


**Indentured Labour, Diaspora and Empire**


