

## Hyde Park Picture House Birthday Celebrations



The Hyde Park Picture House nestles in the heart of Hyde Park, a buzzing and thriving Leeds community where many university students live. Completed in 1914, The Hyde Park Picture House is a beautiful example of an Edwardian venue and one of the only surviving picture palaces in the UK.

The School of Cultural Studies, in partnership with the Hyde Park Picture House, the BBC and the Open University, marked the much-loved cinema's 92nd birthday with a unique screening of two films from BBC4's 'Nation on Film' TV series. The project was borne out of the cultural partnerships and collaborations developed by the School, which believes that working with organisations such as the BBC and the Hyde Park Picture House adds richness, colour and texture to our students' learning experience and supports valuable community resources.

Picture shows, L to R: Tony Parker (BBC, Executive Producer), Chris Bailey (Dean, Faculty of Arts & Society), Binny Baker (Archivist, Yorkshire Film Archives), Lance Pettitt (Principal Lecturer, School of Cultural Studies) and Richard Taylor (BBC, Series Producer)

# School of Cultural Studies hosts Second International Doris Lessing Conference, July 2007



The School of Cultural Studies is delighted and honoured to be hosting this important international conference in association with the Doris Lessing Society, the Contemporary Women's Writing Network and the English Association. Doris Lessing is one of the UK's best-known novelists. Since 1950 when her first novel was published, her fiction has confronted the 'big issues' of the twentieth-century: the violence of war and colonialism, class and race inequalities, the appeal of nationalism and changes in the role of women.

During the 3-day event, academics from 17 different countries will explore Lessing's fiction in relation to such issues as ecocriticism, Eastern philosophy, terrorism and Africa. Doris Lessing, who is the guest of honour, will be introducing the conference and three keynote lectures will explore Lessing's treatment of motherhood, the ways she chooses to begin and end her novels and her treatment of the African landscape in her early short stories.

Doris Lessing's fiction is studied in the School of Cultural Studies on both the BA (Hons) English Literature and the MA English: Twentieth-Century Literature. There is a half-price conference registration fee for students and it is planned to offer a number of bursaries for postgraduate students researching Doris Lessing's work, enabling the next generation of Lessing scholars to attend the event. The conference presents an exciting opportunity to hear one of our most important authors speak about her work and listen to the leading authorities and new scholarship on her writing.

# Media & Film Information Event for Schools and Colleges



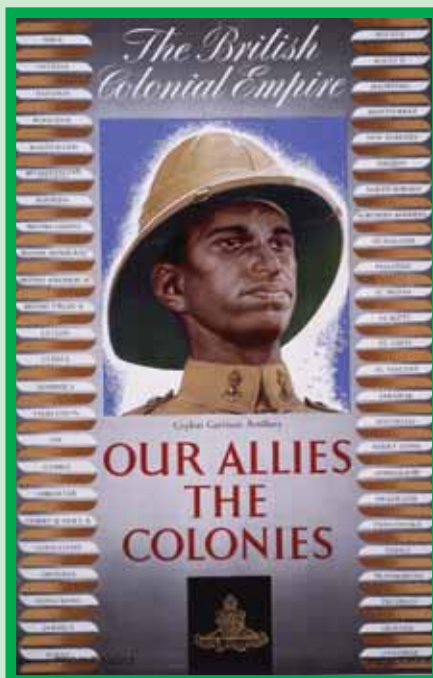
The School of Cultural Studies recently joined forces with the School of Film, Television and Performing Arts to play host to over 70 school and college students interested in studying film or media at university.

The afternoon's activities included film viewings, subject presentations by



staff teaching on the degree courses and campus tours around Civic Quarter and Electric Press. By the end of the afternoon, both the visiting teachers and their students went away with a comprehensive picture of life as a Leeds Met student.

# Social & Cultural History Seminar



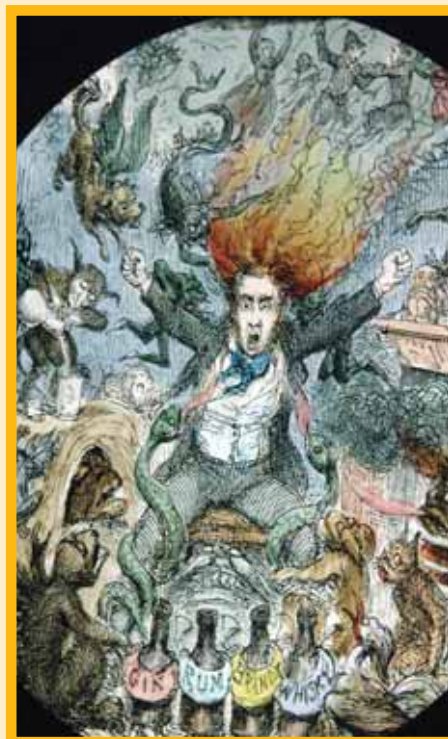
The School of Cultural Studies always endeavours to put on an interesting and stimulating series of events to enrich the experiences of students, staff and the wider public.

One of these events was the first of this year's Social & Cultural History Seminars. It took place on 5 October 2006, and was entitled 'Writing Histories: Nation and Empire'. The speaker was Professor Catherine Hall, University College, London and her exploration of the colonial topic in history was very much enjoyed by the large audience present.

It was the first in an exciting series of social & Cultural History Seminars we are planning this academic year. If you would like to receive information on our forthcoming events, please email [cspublicity@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:cspublicity@leedsmet.ac.uk).

Image shows propaganda poster with the face of a soldier from the Ceylon Garrison Artillery, with lists of the countries which made up the British Empire around the outside. Dated 1939 to 1945, from the National Archives.

# Professor Heard's Grand Phantascopial Magic Lantern Show - A Nineteenth-Century Optical Entertainment



The Schools of Cultural Studies and Film, Television & Performing Arts recently presented a remarkable show filled with ghosts, illusions, strange tales, terrible moral warnings, amazing moving images and the ever-popular man-swallowing rats! The very well-attended event proved popular with the audience, who were treated to an historical tour of the magic lantern's history and shown many funny, tragic and downright odd slides, some

wonderfully animated.

The magic lantern was undoubtedly one of the most popular forms of pre-cinematic entertainment. When you consider that there is a period of about 250 years separating the emergence of the first slide projector and the first cinematograph projector, you begin to realise that cinema as we know it today ought not be thought of as the definitive word in visual media. Fortunately, there are a small number of enthusiasts who,

through their own private collections, keep alive this much longer and very rich history of early visual cultures, all of which are important media forms in their own right. One such enthusiast is Dr. Mervyn Heard, a renowned international magic lantern showman, who has presented magic lantern shows worldwide and brought Leeds Met our very own spectacular and memorable magic lantern show.

## Did you know that ...

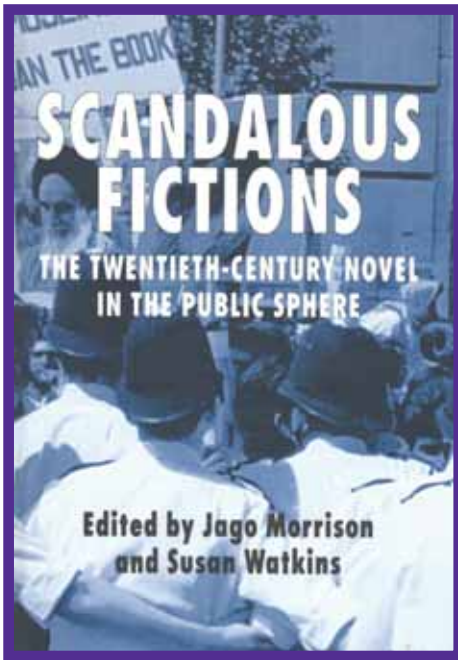


There is a vibrant research base within the School of Cultural Studies, which includes English Literature, Media Studies, History and Politics. The School has many high profile research active staff with well established publication records. Research staff are also actively involved with leading journals such as *Media Ethics*, *Journal of Gender Studies* and *Critical Inquiry* through their editorial roles and other activities.

Both research staff and research students are encouraged to participate in wider research networks through collaboration both within the University and externally with partners at other institutions and organisations such as the Yorkshire Film Archive and the Contemporary Women's Writing Network.

The School also provides a lively series of research events including seminars, workshops and conferences and high profile, nationally and internationally renowned guest speakers.

Additionally there is a growing number of research students in the School who are supported by accredited supervisory teams. Research students also have access to a dedicated office, complete with personal computers and printers. The School offers a comprehensive research degree portfolio including Masters by Research, MPhil and MPhil/PhD all of which can be studied on a part-time and full-time basis.



## New 'scandalous' book by Dr Susan Watkins

Dr Susan Watkins, Principal Lecturer in English and Dr Jago Morrison, Head of English at University College, Chichester have recently launched *Scandalous Fictions*, a ground-breaking study of twentieth-century novels, published internationally through Palgrave Macmillan. This book trains a critical spotlight on ten famous texts, all of which caused storms of controversy when they first appeared.

In *Scandalous Fictions*, a group of leading scholars from around the world look afresh at the uproar that engulfed novels written by authors such as D.H.

Lawrence, Toni Morrison, Salman Rushdie, James Joyce, and Jack Kerouac.

As well as co-writing the introduction and the afterword, Susan contributes an essay on Radcliffe Hall's 'The Well of Loneliness'.

Susan's main research interests are in the field of twentieth-century women's fiction and feminist theory. She is currently working on a new monograph on Doris Lessing for Manchester University Press's Contemporary World Writers series, looking particularly at the treatment of race, nation, gender and genre in Lessing's writing.

## Leeds Met Berlin & Paris



Students on the School of Cultural Studies' History and History & Politics degrees are offered some interesting study tours to supplement their learning of European history. In the first year the French Revolution is studied, and there is an opportunity to go to Paris and Versailles to get a good feel for the locations mentioned by the tutor. We also take students to Berlin. The history of Berlin is fascinating with the development of a unified capital city layered over the history of a city cruelly divided by the Cold War, which itself is layered over the grandiose capital of Nazi brutality and Imperial splendour. On these trips, students get a real sense of the different forms of European modernity that adds much to their appreciation of the histories we study and their experience of higher education.

### Claire Chapman BA (Hons) English Literature, Level 3 School of Cultural Studies



21-year old Claire has packed an incredible amount in her (nearly) three years at Uni. As well as being a conscientious English Literature student (she's on track for an excellent degree), Claire has thrown herself into working part-time for the university, managing to combine her study with fee-earning work with the Marketing department at Leeds Met. Through this work, she has played an active and crucial role in the success of many university-wide events such as our Open Days and Graduation ceremonies.

Claire says: "Being a student at Leeds Met has been, by far, the most rewarding

experience in my life. I have been part of a wide range of events and activities over the past two years, ranging from work with 9-year old children at different primary schools, right up to potential applicants in their final year of sixth-form education. The University has continuously supported me with my education and has opened up avenues of employment I had not previously considered. I feel proud to be a student at Leeds Met and the influence of the staff at the University has made me decide to progress on to postgraduate study – at Leeds Met – because I enjoy the atmosphere so much!"

# New Staff News

We would like to introduce some new staff members who have joined the School of Cultural Studies recently, bringing with them a wealth of experience and expertise in their specialist areas of study. They are:



**Dr Shane Ewen BA (Hons), MA, PhD, Senior Lecturer in History**, came to Leeds from Edinburgh University where he spent the past two years teaching and researching. He studied for his PhD at Leicester University's world-famous Centre for Urban History. Shane specialises in modern British urban history, although he has interests in comparative urban and municipal history.



**Dr Gillian Roberts, BA (Hons), MA, MA, PhD joins as a Senior Lecturer in English.** Her research interests focus primarily on contemporary Canadian literature and culture. Gillian was previously working at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, where she held a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada postdoctoral research fellowship.



**Dr Rachel Farebrother BA (Hons), MA, PhD is a Lecturer in English.** Her primary research interests lie in twentieth-century African American literature and culture. Prior to this post, Rachel taught English and American literature at the University of Leeds and Manchester University.

**Rose Westhead is the new Secretarial Assistant for the School**, managing the frontline of the busy admin office. This is Rose's first office job, but she also works part-time in a bar and is in addition studying for A Levels in English and Sociology so she certainly keeps busy. She hopes to continue her studies at degree level here at Leeds Met.

For semester 2, the School is also pleased to welcome a number of new part-time lecturers: Caroline Herbert, Alison Peirse, Christian Hogsbjerg, Roger Tyers, Emma Robertson and Joanne Watkiss.



**Dr Brian McCook BA (Hons), MA, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer in History.** Prior to coming to Leeds Met, Brian spent the past two years in Germany as a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Cologne and the Free University Berlin. He earned his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. Brian specialises in the history of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the United States and has a particular interest in issues related to historical and contemporary immigration.



**Dr Alice Ridout BA, MA, PhD is the new Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Contemporary Women Writers for the School.** She works closely with Dr. Mary Eagleton and the Contemporary Women's Writing Network to promote the field of contemporary women's writing. Alice is a Cumbrian lass who is returning to her northern British roots after 9 years overseas. Last year she survived a winter on the Canadian prairies where she was teaching at the University of Winnipeg.



**Tony Bilny has recently joined the School of Cultural Studies' administrative team as Learning Technologist, a new role within the School.** His job will entail helping people with elearning matters (chiefly WebCT at the moment) an important and valuable service for both our academic staff and students. Tony was previously at Bradford College, where he worked as an IT technician and supervisor of one of the college IT centres.

## Developing links with schools



The School of Cultural Studies has for many years been very proud of its proactive approach to relationship building with some of the region's schools and colleges. The latest phase in this widening participation strategy has been to build even closer relationships with a small number of secondary schools.

Abbey Grange High School in North West Leeds, which has very recently been awarded Specialist Status in Humanities, is one such school, and over the coming months and years we are hoping to develop this link further so that all parties, from both the school and the University, will benefit from the collaborative opportunities.

# Proposed new MA Screen Media Cultures on schedule for September 2007



The School of Cultural Studies has created a new postgraduate progression programme, MA Screen Media Cultures for our BA Media & Popular Culture students that complements the School's well-established portfolio of postgraduate MA programmes in MA English: Twentieth-Century Literature and MA Social & Cultural History.

The innovative MA Screen Media Cultures will come online in September 2007, pending validation, and examines the changing nature and status of moving images in our culture. On this course,

screen media discussed range from traditional film projections and TV screens, to their digitalised manifestations in open public, commercial and educative spaces, to individualised mobiles, PC and laptop screens.

This course offers both a theoretical and historical exploration of its central topic combined with teaching by academics, media professionals and practice-based learning as part of all options modules. There will be a choice of dissertation or practice project or professional placement options to allow

students to benefit fully from links with prominent media and cultural institutions in the region or prepare for a doctoral research path. It will be taught by published academics specialist in the field who are committed to a collective academic enterprise.

If you would like to know more about this MA, or indeed any of the MA programmes on offer at the School of Cultural Studies, please call Anne Wallace on 0113 283 3474, or email [a.a.wallace@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:a.a.wallace@leedsmet.ac.uk).

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