



School of History and Cultures

Birmingham Centre for  
Contemporary History

Report on a workshop for  
postgraduate and early career researchers  
working on

# **CAMPAIGNING IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY HISTORIES AND POLICIES**

University of Birmingham  
13 November 2009



The Voluntary Action History Society was established in 1991 to advance the historical understanding of charitable organisations amongst both academics and those working in the sector. Today its main activities are its seminar series held at the Institute of Historical Research in London and a biannual conference.

In order to build upon an impressive number of postgraduate participants at the 2008 VAHS conference, a postgraduate sub-committee was established in late 2008. Members to date have included:

Dr Elma Brenner, University of Cambridge  
Dr Georgina Brewis, University of East London  
George Campbell Gosling, Oxford Brookes University  
Elizabeth Harvey, UCL  
Lucy Hewitt, University of Edinburgh  
Christopher Moores, University of Birmingham  
Stephen Soanes, University of Warwick

The core activity of this group is a series of workshops. At these workshops postgraduate and early career researchers give papers, not presenting research findings, but raising problems and issues they have come across in their work. These are then the basis of a roundtable discussion led by senior scholars in their field.

This format was trialled in February 2009, with a workshop on the theme of 'Medicine and Charity in History'. On the basis of this successful event, an application was submitted to the Economic History Society for a grant of £1,830 to fund a series of workshops over the 2009/2010 academic year. The Birmingham workshop was the first of this new series.

### **Some of the senior academics involved with this workshop**



Dr Glen O'Hara  
*Oxford Brookes University*



Professor Pat Thane  
*Institute of Historical Research*



Professor Duncan Tanner  
*Bangor University*

## PROGRAMME

<b>9.00-10.00am</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
<b>10.00-11.15am</b>	<b>SESSION ONE: Postgraduate and Early Career Papers (1)</b>  Chris Hill, 'Extra-Parliamentary Communication and the Mass Media: The First Wave of CND, 1958-1964'  Jonathan Hogg, 'A Nuclear Waste': representations of the CND and British Nuclear Culture  Celia Hughes, TBC
<b>11.15-11.45am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>11.45am-1.00pm</b>	<b>SESSION TWO: Postgraduate and Early Career Papers (2)</b>  Chris Moores, 'From Civil Liberties to Human Rights: British Civil Liberties Activism and the New World Order'  Peter Mitchell, 'Anarchism in the East: The East Berlin Squatting Movement 1989/90'
<b>1.00-2.00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>2.00-3.15pm</b>	<b>SESSION THREE: Research and Training</b>  Dr James McKay, 'NGOs in Britain since 1945'  Professor Duncan Tanner, 'Researching <i>Really</i> Contemporary History'
<b>3.15-3.30pm</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>3.30-5.00pm</b>	<b>SESSION FOUR: Roundtable</b>  Discussion led by Professor Pat Thane with Professor Duncan Tanner, Dr Glen O'Hara and Dr Alex Mold