

Making Connections:

Transnational networks in European welfare history

Report on the **SPRING WORKSHOP** Wednesday 21 March 2012



Organised by Professor Virginia Crossman and Dr George Campbell Gosling

Hosted by the Centre for the History of Welfare in association with the Voluntary Action History Society

PROGRAMME

9.30am **Registration**

10am **Welfare and Humanitarianism**

Emily Baughan, University of Bristol

'All Rivalries vanish in the face of the suffering of the child'; international conflicts through a transnational lens in the interwar relief movement

Anna Bocking-Welch, University of York

Freedom from Hunger: mapping the structures of influence in transnational humanitarian campaigns

Eleanor Davey, Queen Mary, University of London/Overseas Development Institute

French terms of humanitarian engagement: Sans-frontiérisme and droit d'ingérence

11.30am **Coffee break**

11.45am **'Charity Begins at Home'? (BG11, Buckley Building)**

VAHS New Researchers roundtable with

Dr Glen O'Hara, Oxford Brookes University (chair)

Dr Kevin O'Sullivan, University of Birmingham/UCD

Dr Georgina Brewis, Institute of Education

12.30pm **Lunch and afternoon registration**

1.30pm **Transnational Networks**

Professor Patricia Clavin, University of Oxford

The International Context

2.30pm **Transnationalism in Action**

Dr Tom Crook, Oxford Brookes University

Statistics and the language of transnational critique and comparison, c. 1850-1900

Dr Julia Moses, University of Sheffield

Competition and Cooperation: Transnational experts and national social problems, c.1900

Dr Kevin O'Sullivan, University of Birmingham/University College Dublin

Of rice and men sans frontières: Aid, NGOs and Western society since 1945

4.30pm **Making Connections**

Roundtable discussion led by Professor Virginia Crossman, Oxford Brookes University

MAKING CONNECTIONS and the VAHS

The 'Making Connections' workshops are a collaboration between the Centre for the History of Welfare at Oxford Brookes University and the Voluntary Action History Society. It also brings together two strands of the VAHS's activities.

VAHS New Researchers is a sub-committee of the VAHS providing support and encouragement for postgraduate and early-career researchers working on aspects of the history of charity and campaigning. As this field of history does not have such a well-established academic community as others, for example medical history or urban history, we have developed a series of workshops to provide discussions of methodological and conceptual issues relevant to various themes. This began at Oxford Brookes University in February 2009 with a workshop on 'Medicine and Charity in History'. This established the format of papers from 'new researchers' followed by a roundtable led by senior academics in the field. This format has been continued and honed in a further eight workshops supported by the Economic History Society. These have been hosted by the universities of Warwick, Cambridge, Birmingham and Manchester amongst others, and addressed themes as diverse as imperial benevolence, campaigning, gender, child poverty, public health and domestic space. The morning session of the Making Connections spring workshop was, in a shortened form, the tenth VAHS New Researchers workshop.

For more information please see www.vahs.org.uk/newresearchers

The VAHS Transnational Histories Network was established in late 2011, to bring into contact the various academics around the world working on issues ranging from eighteenth-century hurricane relief funds and transatlantic anti-slavery campaigns to the work of development NGOs and international volunteering programmes after the Second World War. In practical terms, it was also an opportunity to bring into closer communication the members and friends of the VAHS, scattered across the globe, with notable numbers in Australia and Canada. Dr Melanie Oppenheimer of the Australian University of New England, Dr Peter Grant of Cass Business School in London, Dr Georgina Brewis of the University of London's Institute of Education and Dr George Campbell Gosling of Oxford Brookes University put out a call for interested parties and the current email group links together around 50 researchers from around the world and discussions are underway for collaborative projects and initiatives.

For more information please see www.vahs.org.uk/transnational

Making Connections was already being planned by Professor Virginia Crossman when the VAHS put out its call in autumn 2011 and she was one of the first to respond. Where policy has increasingly since the mid-19th century been made within transnational networks, it was the intention of the initiative to bring together those working across Europe on the history of welfare to begin understanding the significance of this transnational context. Internal funding was granted for two workshops, one in the spring and one in the summer, to bring together some of those working in this area in order to explore the potential for developing a large collaborative, multi-stranded research project whilst also presenting opportunities to disseminate research, evaluate methodologies and exchange ideas.

For more information please see www.vahs.org.uk/transnational/brookes

THE DAY ON TWITTER

During the day, one of the organisers was live-tweeting the workshop. This means regular summaries of proceedings (within 140 characters, of course) were posted online. This was done using the hashtag [#brookesmc2012](#), so that historians and other interested but unable to attend would be able to follow what was happening. The tweets were variously retweeted, favourited and responded to while the workshop was still happening.

- 6.10am** **gcgosling:** *Off to Oxford for the 1st Making Connections workshop on welfare in transnational history with @gsoh31 and @DrGinaB*
- 7.09am** **katebradleykent:** *@gcgosling live tweeting? Or any plans for a VAHS blog? Wld like to have come but teaching today.*
- 8.11am** **gcgosling:** *@katebradleykent I'll try to tweet live - hoping my connection is better than in Huddersfield. And blog from Kevin O'Sullivan to follow*
- 9.15am** **DrGinaB:** *On my way to oxford brookes for @VAHS_uk transnational histories workshop organised by @gcgosling*
- 10.06am** **mrweatherburn:** *At @VAHS_uk #brookesmc2012 event. Good intro @gcgosling*
- 11.06am** **gcgosling:** *Great start to making connections #transnationalhistory workshop. Talking this morning about NGOs*
- 11.09am** **gcgosling:** *Emily Baughan spoke about tensions between #SaveTheChildren and the Imperial Fund in the internal relief movement*
- 11.12am** **gcgosling:** *Anna Bocking-Welch spoke about 'people-to-people transnationalism' in the 1960s Freedom from Hunger campaign*
- 1.40pm** **gcgosling:** *Eleanor Davey spoke about French humanitarianism as an alternative history of intervention to that of the US neoconservatism*
- 1.49pm** **gcgosling:** *Prof Patricia Clavin now putting transnational welfare networks in the context of post-1918 international politics*
- 3.07pm** **gcgosling:** *Tom Crook explaining how since the 1830s statistics have built up from the local to the national to the transnational*
- 3.10pm** **gcgosling:** *@mrweatherburn Well, thank you. Good points on welfare and productivity*
- 3.38pm** **gcgosling:** *Unfortunately Julia Moses is unwell and can't make it to #brookesmc2012 - but she has sent in her paper, which Prof Crossman is reading.*
- 3.56pm** **gcgosling:** *Julia Moses' paper explores how transnational policy networks negotiated contested ideas about accident insurance c.1900*
- 4.04pm** **jkneale:** *@gcgosling That sounds great - I'll be emailing to see if there's a copy!*
- 4.12pm** **gcgosling:** *Kevin O'Sullivan is speaking about the history of non-state humanitarianism as one of transnational cultural exchange*
- 4.57pm** **mrweatherburn:** *Good work @VAHS_uk @gcgosling @DrGinaB for the interesting & efficiently run day on transnational networks & voluntarism at #brookesmc2012.*
- 6.16pm** **katebradleykent:** *@gcgosling great tweets! Good to catch up with what happened today. Sounds really interesting & rewarding.*

MAKING CONNECTIONS: SPRING WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Melanie Bashor (attendee) is a research student at Oxford Brookes University working on multiculturalism in education and public policy in the UK, France, Canada and the USA since the Second World War (melanie.bashor-2011@brookes.ac.uk)

Emily Baughan (speaker) is a research student at the University of Bristol working on the British Save the Children Fund, and the wider national and international humanitarian movement within which it operated, in the interwar years (emily.baughan@bristol.ac.uk)

Anna Bocking-Welch (speaker) is a research student at the University of York working on the ways in which the British public engaged with the Empire and Commonwealth during decolonization, largely focusing on NGOs in the 1960s (abw502@york.ac.uk)

Dr Georgina Brewis (discussant) is a Research Officer at the Institute of Education, University of London, with an interest in the history of international volunteering ranging from colonial social service to post-war student and overseas volunteering programmes (g.brewis@ioe.ac.uk)

Professor Patricia Clavin (speaker) is Lecturer and Tutor in Modern History and Professor of International History at Jesus College, University of Oxford, with an interest in the League of Nations and economic co-operation (patricia.clavin@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

Dr Tom Crook (speaker) is Lecturer in Modern British History at Oxford Brookes University with an interest in modern liberal governance, especially as relates to public health and the emergence of the statistical expert (tcrook@brookes.ac.uk)

Professor Virginia Crossman (organiser and discussant) is Professor of Modern Irish History at Oxford Brookes University with an interest in welfare history in Ireland and in a wider European context (vcrossman@brookes.ac.uk)

Mar Cuenca Lorente (attendee) is a Visiting Scholar from the University of Valencia to Oxford Brookes University with an interest in toxicology and poisoning in the history of medicine (cuenloma@alumni.uv.es)

Dr Eleanor Davey (speaker), who received her PhD from Queen Mary, University of London before moving to the Overseas Development Institute's Humanitarian Policy Group, has an interest in humanitarian aid from an intellectual history perspective (eleanorkdavey@hotmail.com)

Marie-Luise Ermisch (attendee) is a research student at McGill University in Canada with an interest in humanitarian aspects of the history of development, and in particular the rise of international NGOs in the twentieth century (marie-luise.ermisch@mail.mcgill.ca)

Dr George Campbell Gosling (organiser) is a Research Affiliate at Oxford Brookes University with an interest in medicine and charity in modern Britain and beyond, and in particular the role of the voluntary sector in welfare state construction (gcosling@brookes.ac.uk)

Dr Thomas Le Roux (attendee) is a Researcher at Maison Française d'Oxford with an interest in environmental history and the history of industrial injury in Britain and France between the late-sixteenth and late-nineteenth centuries (oekoomeo@gmail.com)

Dr Julia Moses (speaker) is Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Sheffield with an interest in the history of social problems and policy in Western Europe, especially Britain, Germany and Italy in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries (j.moses@sheffield.ac.uk)

Professor Math Noortmann (attendee) is Professor of International Law at Oxford Brookes University with an interest in non-state actors from both international relations and public international law perspectives (p0075910@brookes.ac.uk)

Dr Glen O'Hara (discussant) is Reader in the History of Public Policy at Oxford Brookes University with an interest in international policy transfer in the fields of economic and welfare policy since 1945 (glen.ohara@brookes.ac.uk)

Dr Kevin O'Sullivan (speaker) is a Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham and University College Dublin with an interest in Western relations with the developing world, including the history of foreign aid and the role of empire in shaping modern European identities (kevin.osullivan@ucd.ie)

Dr Katharina Rietzler (attendee) is Mellon Research Fellow in American History at the University of Cambridge with an interest in the international role of American philanthropic foundations and political thought in the twentieth century (ker34@cam.ac.uk)

Deanne van Tol (attendee) is a research student at Queen's University in Canada with an interest in the histories of medicine, gender and development in the twentieth-century British Empire (deanne.van.tol@queensu.ca)

Michael Weatherburn (attendee) is a research student at Imperial College/King's College, University of London with an interest in industrial history, especially the role of industrial volunteers in the Spanish Civil War (michael.weatherburn08@imperial.ac.uk)

MAKING CONNECTIONS: FEEDBACK

Participants at the Making Connections spring workshop were asked for their anonymous thoughts on the day. The following is representative of their responses.

All respondents said the workshops fitted 'closely' or 'very closely' with their own work, suggesting the event tapped into a strong current in historical research. Areas noted as being of particular interest were humanitarianism, the role of experts and transnational approaches to history.

The expectations of participants was overwhelmingly to learn more about transnational methodologies or simply 'to get a clearer idea of transnationalism', although 'networking', 'new ideas' and 'information exchange' were also noted.

This appears to have been borne out in those parts of the day that were found to be the most useful, namely Professor Clavin's paper on welfare in the context of post-1918 international politics and the roundtable discussions. In particular, the morning session's speakers and roundtable were found to be useful by numerous respondents.

All respondents were positive about the practical arrangements of the day and there were no common suggestions about the format for future workshops. However, more time for discussion was behind a number of different suggestions.

Overall, the verdict on the workshop was very positive. Participants were asked to anonymously give the event a mark of ten. The average was 8.6 and nobody gave a mark lower than 7.

Suggestions for topics that might be discussed at future events (either as part of the Making Connections initiative or the wider VAHS programme) were:

- peripheries
- education policy
- national identity and international links
- religion and humanitarianism (in the C20th)
- race and voluntary action

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Transnational Histories Network**

www.vahs.org.uk/transnational/