

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING COURSES

Spring and Summer 2014

Each year the IHR runs a wide-ranging and extensive programme of training in skills for historical researchers from universities throughout the UK. Using a range of teaching approaches (workshops, seminars, lectures, hands-on practicals and visits), important and specialised skills are explained and explored by expert practitioners. Courses are short (from one day to one term), cover the whole range of necessary skills - from archival use and languages to databases and the internet - and are priced to be within the means of students.

Archival Research Skills

Methods and Sources for Historical Research (7 – 11 April 2014 / 14-18 July 2014)

A week-long introduction to finding and gaining access to primary sources for historical research in archives, museums and online through an intensive programme of lectures and archival visits. Repositories to be visited will include the British Library, the National Archives, the Parliamentary Archives and the Wellcome Library amongst many others. Fee £225.

Visual Sources for Historians (Tuesdays, 4-31 March 2014)

A theoretical and practical guide to using visual sources for historical research (post-1500). Through lectures, discussions and visits the course will explore films, paintings, photographs, architecture and design as historical sources, as well as introducing particular items both in situ and in repositories. Fee £225

General Historical Skills

An Introduction to Oral History (Mondays, 28 April – 7 July 2014)

This 11-week course on Monday afternoons is for beginners and those who wish to develop their interviewing skills. It introduces all the practical and technical skills necessary to conduct interviews for historical research, showing how to get the most out of participants while also providing a complete grounding in theoretical and ethical questions. The course fee is £225.

Oral History Spring School (8–10 May 2014)

The three-day IHR Spring School in Oral History is held in association with the Oral History Society, and is aimed at established researchers in oral history. The programme addresses six major areas: memory; experience; representativeness and generalisability; the researcher's habitus; re-use of recordings; outputs and impacts. The final day will include best practice in teaching oral history. The fee is £225 .

Local History Summer School: History and Heritage (24-26 July 2014)

The school is open to all those keen to expand or update their skills in local history research. It will introduce the most up-to-date methods, sources and successful approaches to the subject through an exciting programme of lectures and workshops. This year's theme is Local History and Heritage. There will be two main strands: firstly we shall explore *Sources*, looking at how best to find, obtain and interpret written and visual evidence in the archive and online, looking in depth at the spectacularly rich resources now to be found on the web. We then move on to *Techniques and Themes*, with sessions on Palaeography, Computers for Local History, Landscape and the Built Environment, Family and Neighbourhood and many other topics. The fee is £200.

Managing your research: from creating to sharing (27 February 2014)

To be effective researchers, historians must learn skills to enable them to manage their research processes so that everything they do is recoverable, usable, and useful. This AHRC-funded workshop is intended to help postgraduate students and early career researchers to think more about what it is they do, to learn about digital tools that can help them become better and more efficient historians, and to recognise the importance of being able to share that research in terms of both the data/research gathered and in terms of publishing. Free to attend.

Explanatory Paradigms: An Introduction to Historical Theory (Wednesdays, 30 April - 9 July 2014)

A critical introduction to current approaches to historical explanation, taught on Wednesday evenings by Professor John Tosh, Dr John Seed and Professor Sally Alexander. Each session will examine a different explanatory approach, such as Marxism, gender analysis or postmodernism, equipping students to form their own judgements on the schools of thought most influential in the modern discipline. Fee £225.

Public Speaking for Early Career Researchers in History (Thursday 20 February 2014)

This one-day workshop is devoted to presentational techniques for those who have already established themselves as researchers, but who now want to develop their skills further. Covering both the processes of writing and delivery, there will be detailed instruction on performance with and without AV not just in papers, but also in job interviews, media appearances and the many other contexts in which academics are asked for comment. Fee £60.

Languages and Palaeography

Further Medieval and Renaissance Latin (Wednesdays, 30 April – 2 July 2014)

This ten-week course carries on from the first two IHR Medieval and Renaissance Latin courses, to round out students' grasp of the language and allow them to tackle more advanced Latin texts. Students will emerge at the end with not just a strong grounding in the mechanics of Latin, but also an understanding of the changes that it underwent, and the new ways in which it was used in medieval and early modern Europe. Those who already have a grasp of the basics are also very welcome to join even if they have not attended the other courses. Fee £250.

Information Technology Courses

Databases for Historians (8-11 April 2014 & 3-6 June 2014)

This four-day course introduces the theory and practice of constructing and using databases. Through a mixture of lectures and practical, hands-on, sessions, students will be taught both how to use and adapt existing databases, and how to design and build their own. No previous specialist knowledge apart from an understanding of historical analysis is needed. The software used is MS Access, but the techniques demonstrated can easily be adapted to any package. This course is open to postgraduate students, lecturers and all who are interested in using databases in their historical research. The course fee is £225.

Databases for Historians II: Practical Database Tools (23-25 July 2014)

The aim of this course is to develop the practical skills necessary for constructing and fully exploiting a database for use in historical research. Assuming a basic understanding of the conceptual issues in digitally managing information from historical sources, the course aims to introduce the specific tools and techniques required for improving the utility of the database from the data entry stage, through to the generation and presentation of analysis. The course consists of 'hands-on' practical sessions in which students are provided with practical guidance on employing these techniques through the use of Microsoft Access. Familiarity with the basic concepts of database use is required: participants should be confident working with Microsoft Access, and should have some knowledge of working with data tables and simple queries. The course fee is £200.

Internet Sources for Historical Research (4 March 2014 / 2 June 2014)

This course provides an intensive introduction to use of the internet as a tool for serious historical research. It includes sessions on academic mailing lists, usage of gateways, search engines and other finding aids, and on effective searching using Boolean operators and compound search terms, together with advice on winnowing the useful matter from the vast mass of unsorted data available, and on the proper caution to be applied in making use of online information. The fee for the course is £100.

Textual Analysis with Computers (NVivo) (TBC: May 2014)

Researchers in the social sciences and humanities are increasingly using computers to manage, organise and analyse non-numerical data from textual sources. This workshop introduces historians to this rapidly growing field and will furnish participants with a good working grasp of the NVivo 10 software package and its uses for all historical research projects. Note that the course consists of two half-day sessions. Fee £100.

Historical Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (6 May 2014)

Researchers increasingly see the value of including mapping in their work, but the software used for creating maps - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – can do much more than simply create maps as illustrations. GIS is being used in a variety of contexts to make sense of information with a spatial component, be it at the level of buildings and streets or at the level of nations, and to perform sophisticated geospatial and topographical analyses. The workshop will include hands-on practical sessions using GIS software to view and manipulate historical data, and will provide the opportunity for generating (and analysing) the kinds of thematic mapping that is the product of this research tool. Fee: £75

For further information and application forms see <http://www.history.ac.uk/research-training> or contact Dr Simon Trafford at *Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU* or by email at ihr.training@sas.ac.uk