Centre for Business History in Scotland – Staff, Members and Associates

Director
Professor Ray Stokes

Administrator
Christine Leslie

Members
Professor Marguerite Dupree
Dr Valerio Cerretano
Professor Jeff Fear
Professor Mike French
Dr Sean Johnston
Dr Kirsten Kininnmonth
Dr Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol

Dr Jim Phillips
Mrs Lesley Richmond
Professor Neil Rollings
Dr Duncan Ross
Professor Catherine Schenk
Professor Jim Tomlinson

Associates
Professor Simon Ball, University of Leeds
Dr Ralf Banken, University of Frankfurt
Dr David Gilgen, University of Bielefeld
Dr Roman Koester, University of the Bundeswehr, Munich
Dr Niall MacKenzie, University of Strathclyde
Professor Alan McKinlay, Newcastle University
Professor Michael Moss, University of Northumberland
Dr Andrew Perchard, Coventry University
Professor Harn Schrörter, University of Bergen
Emeritus Prof. Tony Slaven, The Ballast Trust

Honorary Research Associates/Professors
Dr John Firn
Dr Koichi Inatomi
Professor Nick Kuenssberg
Professor Charles Munn
Professor Hugh Murphy
Dr Stephen Sambrook
Professor B R (Tom) Tomlinson

Visiting Researchers
Pierre Eichenberger, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Ryo Izawa, Kyoto University, Japan
Vincent Duchaussoy, Universite de Rouen & Banque de France
Director’s Report

The period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 was again one in which the members of the Centre for Business History in Scotland demonstrated leadership in the field of business history through strong publication, effective dissemination of research, increased international recognition, and holding key positions in professional organisations. It also saw the end of the first year of work for the new editorial team of *Business History*, one of the field’s leading international journals and for which the Centre serves as the headquarters. These and other important accomplishments of the members and associates of the Centre are detailed in the pages that follow. Here I would like to highlight just a few of the many developments that have taken place over the course of the past year.

Postgraduate research and teaching remain key priorities, and I am pleased to note that Ryo Izawa, who spent a year based at the Centre completing his PhD research, submitted his thesis at the University of Kyoto in the autumn and has successfully defended it. Chris Miller submitted his thesis around the same time and successfully defended it in early 2015. Our congratulations and best wishes go to them.

The seedcorn funding initiative for development of projects in Scottish business history that was started in spring 2014 has begun to yield results as noted in the report. There will be another call for proposals in May 2015. Another initiative of the Centre, the annual maritime history conference, took place again in October 2014, and another will be organised in autumn 2015.

One of the most new exciting developments has been the establishment of close and formal links with the University of Kyoto. A letter of intent has been signed that outlines the intentions of both universities in the development of research and postgraduate exchange in business history over the coming years. A delegation of staff and students from the University of Kyoto led by Professor Takafumi Kurosawa visited Glasgow in February 2015, while the Centre’s Professor Jeff Fear and doctoral candidate Ewan Gibbs spent some time in Kyoto in March.

Members of the Centre are also contributing actively to the development of the Economic and Social History subject area’s research priority programme on the public and the private, which is generating extensive, stimulating, and constructive dialogue with members of the subject area’s other two Centres, Gender History and History of Medicine. A launch event will take place in May 2015 to highlight the initiative, and it will include guest speakers from outside the University of Glasgow as well.

Finally, the past year also witnessed the retirement of Dr Stephen Sambrook from the Centre. His contributions have been many over the past several years, and, on behalf of everyone associated with the Centre, I thank him and wish him well in his new status. Fortunately, we will continue to see him on a regular basis as he conducts his own research project on the British optical industry as an Honorary Associate of the Centre and carries out support duties as an editorial assistant for *Business History*.

Professor Ray Stokes, Director

April 2015
NEWS OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

___________________________________________________

Publications

___________________________________________________

Ralf Banken


Mike French

Hugh Murphy

Forthcoming edited book and articles:

M. van der Linden, H. Murphy and R. Varela (eds.), In the same boat? Case studies of shipbuilding and ship repair workers around the world since 1950, University of Amsterdam and University of Chicago Press, 2015.

H. Murphy, ‘An Overview of Labour in the British Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing Industries in the Twentieth Century’, in M. van der Linden, H. Murphy and R. Varela (eds.) In the same boat? Case studies of shipbuilding and ship repair workers around the world since 1950, University of Amsterdam and University of Chicago Press, 2015.

H. Murphy, ‘Shipbuilding in China, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam’, in M. van der Linden, H. Murphy and R. Varela (eds), In the same boat? Case studies of shipbuilding and ship repair workers around the world since 1950, University of Amsterdam and University of Chicago Press, 2015.


Andrew Perchard


Andrew Perchard, David J. MacKay and George Burt, 'Managerial hyperopia: A potential unintended consequence of future orientated learning and sense-making in a top management team?', Technological Forecasting & Social Change - advanced online access (2014).


"'A little local difficulty": Locality, Deglobalization and Collective Memory in a Highland Town', in Steven High, Lachlan McKinnon and Andrew Perchard eds.,

Jim Phillips


Neil Rollings


Catherine Schenk


Ray Stokes


Presentations & Participations

Ralf Banken


“The Paradox of competition policy: The case of the industrial gases industry from the 1950s to 2006,” conference on Business and EEC competition policy, Paris, April 2014 (with Ray Stokes)

Mike French


“Changes and continuities in white-collar work during World War 1: employment, earnings and enlistment in J & P Coats' offices”, Association of Business Historians Annual Conference, Newcastle University Business School, 27 June 2014.

Sean Johnston


Hugh Murphy

Visit to Ulsan in December 2014 to meet Professor J.Y. Kang and Dr Song, department of ASAN Studies, University of Ulsan [personally funded]. Visit included two lectures at Ulsan Port Authority and Hyundai Shipyard and meeting senior Hyundai personnel.

Continues to organize the highly-successful annual Scottish Maritime History one day conference series in conjunction with Dr Martin Bellamy, Glasgow Museums and Professor Ray Stokes, Centre for Business History in Scotland, October 2014
Andrew Perchard


(Invited speaker) Geopolitics of natural resources. HEI FORAGE, Université Laval, Québec, March 2015.


Co-founder and co-convenor, History and Strategic Raw Materials Initiative.

Co-organiser, Deindustrialization and Its Aftermath conference.

Jim Phillips


“Talking About the Miners’ Strike”, Scottish Oral History Centre, Seminar, University of Strathclyde, November 2014.


Neil Rollings


Conference co-organiser and paper giver Workshop on varieties of social and political activism in Britain and Europe from the 1930s into the 1980s Stirling , June 2014.


ABH Slaven Postgraduate workshop academic contributor, Newcastle University Business School, 27-28 June 2014.

Commentator and session organiser, European Business History Association conference, Utrecht, August 2014 on “Business and the welfare state in twentieth century Europe”.

Stephen Sambrook


“To Melt or Not To Melt: Coping with Crisis in the British Optical Glass Industry from the 1840s to the 1920s”, Association of Business Historians conference, Newcastle University Business School, 27-28 June, 2014.


Catherine Schenk


“Emergent Paradigms in Sovereign Debt”, University of Glasgow, May 2014.

“Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee; Lessons from Bretton Woods”, Hangzhou China, May 2014.

“The development of shadow banking, SIFIs and offshore markets: Hong Kong banking regulation 1970-82”, Hong Kong Monetary Authority April 2014.


Tony Slaven

Ray Stokes

“The Twisted Road to Auschwitz Revisited”, Invited lecture, Giffnock Synagogue, 11 February 2015

Panelist for opening and closing sessions of conference on “Industrial Research Past and Present”, Leiden, the Netherlands, 27-28 November 2014


“Crises, Solutions and Accountability in British Municipal Solid Waste Handling between 1850 and 2000”, Association of Business Historians Annual Meeting, Newcastle University Business School, 27-28 June, 2014 (with Stephen Sambrook)

“The future of business history in Europe and around the world”, Keynote lecture at the first conference of business and financial historians in Turkey, Yalova, Turkey, 2 June 2014

Research Grants

Sean Johnston

‘Trusting the Technological Fix’, British Academy, £9,702.


‘Publications promoting amateur science’, American Institute of Physics, £1,300.

Andrew Perchard

Betty Sams Christian/Mellon Fellowship, along with some generous support from the Centre for Business History in Scotland.

Jim Phillips


Neil Rollings

Awards & Appointments

Mike French

Visiting Fellowship - HB du Pont Fellowship, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, February 2014

Sean Johnston

British Society for the History of Science, member of council.
Carnegie Research Assessor.
ESRC Advanced Training Reviewer and peer reviewer.

Hugh Murphy

Member of Editorial Board of The Mariner's Mirror.
Series Co-Editor, Research in Maritime History Series, University of Liverpool Press.
Fellow of Society for Nautical Research.
Honorary Professor, Centre for Business History in Scotland, University of Glasgow.

Andrew Perchard

Betty Sams Christian/Mellon Fellow in Business History (2015), Richmond, VA.
Editor, History Workshop Journal & History Workshop Online.

Catherine Schenk

Chatham House (Royal Institute for International Affairs) Associate Fellow, International Economics.
Hong Kong Institute for Monetary Research, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Research Fellow, April-May 2014.
ESRC Grant Assessment Panel.

Ray Stokes

Executive Editor, *Business History*

President, European Business History Association (EBHA)

Editorial Board, *Management and Organization Studies*

Carnegie Research Assessor

Grant Assessor, Danish Council for Independent Research

ESRC Assessment Panelist for Call on “The Future of the Armed Forces”

External Examiner for PhD by Robrecht Declerq, “The Leipzig Fur Industry and an Industrial District: Collective action, lead firms and world market transformation (1870-1939)”, European University Institute, Florence, 11 February 2015

External Examiner for PhD by Marten Boon, “Oil pipelines, politics and international business: The Rotterdam Oil Port, Royal Dutch Shell and the German hinterland, 1945-1975,” University of Rotterdam, 19 December 2014
Work in Progress

Mike French

White-collar salaries and work at Coats, 1889-1929. Travelling salesmen in Britain, 1930s-1970s. The evolution of US business since 1960

David Gilgen

'Regional Varities of Capitalism. Regimes of Production and Consumption in comparative perspective'.

The scientific goal of the project presentation was to develop an interdisciplinary theory of Local Varieties of Capitalism (LOVOC) and localities as spaces of social (cultural, political and economic) interaction and (trans-local) entanglement. The recombination of methodologies and theories from different disciplines fundamentally challenges our prior understanding of capitalism. Only a combination of these approaches is fundamental to clarifying phenomena that cannot be explained by the single application of these theories alone.

One shared suggestion makes this combination possible. All approaches agree on the diagnosis that previous theories of capitalism - consciously or not - rely on an outdated understanding of space and, as a result, they underestimate the importance of (trans-) localities. Most theories of capitalism use locality (or place) as a counterpoint to global flows, connections, and entanglements. As the idea of “embeddedness” suggests, locality is the geographical place where global developments are grounded. This project proposal, in contrast, understands locality neither as a geographical given nor as a container. It begins with Appadurais’ notion of “localizations,” and push it one step further. Gilgen understands locality as an entity that is itself constructed through relations. This leads to a dynamic understanding of entities as such. In this view, locality is a category that neither points to immobile stability nor strictly to fluidity. Instead the category “locality” grounds the unit of a (local) entity in its fluidity. Gilgen defines “locality” as a field of condensed relations between different actors and localities with fluid, highly competitive and controversial, dynamic boundaries. Instead of only investigating the relations between different localities and actors, we also analyze the production of entities through relations. This dialectical movement leads to a “relationing” of these very entities. It is the “micro-level” of relations between different types of actors that we need to understand more profoundly, if we seek to establish a new foundation for the interdisciplinary theory of local varieties of capitalism.

Sean Johnston

Research into historical confidence in the technological fix.
Networks of non-organisational science.

Nick Kuenssberg

Nick Kuenssberg continues with his research on “Threads of history – the 200 year history of Coats”. He is also investing time in the development of thinking on employee ownership in collaboration with Co-operative Development Scotland, as an ambassador and promoting social enterprise as a standard business model, as Chairman of Social Investment Scotland.

Hugh Murphy

Work continues with the University of Ulsan on the establishment of Hyundai Heavy Industries shipbuilding, Ulsan.

Andrew Perchard

Empires in metal project.
Tracking global metals trade (with HSRMI and teams at Queen's University, ON).
Revisiting nationalised British coal manuscript (with Keith Gildart).

Neil Rollings

Special issue of Business History with Laurent Warlouzet on Business responses to EEC competition policy, including my paper on Babcock and Wilcox and Regulation 17.

Organiser of a session at the World Economic History Congress on business and the welfare state in the twentieth century, including my paper on the Industrial Policy Group in Britain.

(With Matthias Kipping) 2 papers on European industrial federations since the Second World War.

A paper for the World Economic History Congress on Management in the nationalised industries in Britain 1945-75.

Major grant proposal on business and government. This will look at the interactions between business and government since the Second World War and how, and when, business ideas and business people engaged with government. This is to contextualise the changes usually associated with the 1980s and the Thatcher governments by looking at what existed before.
Stephen Sambrook

Further work has been done on the development of the optical glass industry in Great Britain and research started on the evolution of the UK optical instruments trade after the Great War.

Catherine Schenk

History of Deutsche Bank from 1989-2020; commissioned official history China and the IMF from 1945-1985 (commissioned for edited volume); Shadow Banking in Hong Kong 1965-85 (for Hong Kong Institute for Monetary Affairs); History of the Asia Dollar Market in Singapore and Hong Kong Spill-overs, inflation and financial crisis 1970-90; International banking regulation and supervision in the run-up to the Sovereign Debt Crisis of 1982/3; Rogue trading: Lloyds Bank 1974.

Ray Stokes


Completing book-length manuscript on the history of thalidomide from the 1950s to the present (with Martin Johnson and Tobias Arndt)
Christopher Miller

“I was fortunate enough to receive funding from the Centre to pursue research on an offshoot of my doctoral research into the political economy of armaments manufacture. "The proposed title was: Industry, the State and Pollution in Glasgow: From the ‘Great Stink’ to the ‘Great Smog’, c.1860-1950." When I was awarded the funding, my PhD work was in its final stages, and, since then I have completed and been offered a job abroad. As a result, I have so far only completed initial research on the project, with more anticipated to follow over summer. The aim of the work, broadly, is to understand the interaction between government bodies and businesses around the issue of pollution, and particularly the role of business in the creation and funding of improved pollution management systems (sewers, treatment etc). The timescale was set as broad as practical, although this was intended to frame more specific cases as and when evidence was uncovered. After an audit of papers in Glasgow, I found that there is precious little referring to the relationship between the city's authorities and West of Scotland businesses (for instance Coats Thread), so I cast my net further afield to understand how this worked in a national context, in the hope of finding some Glasgow (or Scotland) specific cases there. Thus far, I have spent some time in the National Archives in London looking at the Water Pollution Research Board (an organ of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) between 1925 and 1945, for it was a relatively rare organisation that specifically investigated factories in war and peace to suggest improvements to existing practices. Though almost nothing has been written on the Board so far, I have uncovered some evidence of quite remarkable influence here: despite a handful of employees and a temporary lab, the board's improvements to Royal Ordnance Factories (ROF) alone saved around 750-1000 tons of valuable copper during the war, and could in some instances even substantially redesign or even relocate armaments factories owing to their impact on the environment. Of course, both the Board and the ROF were government bodies, under the auspices of the Ministry of Supply during wartime, so my next step is to identify ways to compare this with the experience of private businesses (such as ICI). Nevertheless, the amount of research undertaken could already form the basis of a paper or journal article in its own right. As my academic post is in Germany, I have also been considering using local records there to bring in a comparative element. I expect to be able to report more by Autumn 2015.

Angus MacKenzie

“The proposed title was: Industry, the State and Pollution in Glasgow: From the ‘Great Stink’ to the ‘Great Smog’, c.1860-1950.”
addition to the existing literature on twentieth century business history in Scotland, and would move beyond Lithgow’s well-documented interventions in shipbuilding and steel to consider the emerging economic Unionist Nationalism inherent in his attempts to address the extended trade slump. It is intended that the seedcorn funding should support an application for a postdoctoral proposal, and while this remains the ultimate goal, given the funding climate I have already started the research process while teaching in various roles at Glasgow University. The funding covers the cost of various archival visits and to date I have visited the National Archives at Kew and will shortly spend time at the National Maritime Museum and Bank of England. In each case I am revisiting archives used during my doctoral research, but with the focus now on Lithgow alone, there is scope for new material and a fresh interpretation of earlier sources. I will continue to apply for suitable postdoctoral opportunities, but work on the monograph will begin in earnest in May 2015 following completion of the various visits. Initial discussions with publishers suggests there is interest in the monograph.

Jim Tomlinson/Ewan Gibbs

“The Statistics of the Scottish ‘Industrial Nation’”

Approximately 60 per cent of this seedcorn grant has now been spent on funding research by Ewan Gibbs, a PhD student in ESH. He has scoped relevant material in the NAS in Edinburgh, Glasgow University Archives and Aberdeen City Archives. We anticipate that once his teaching duties have ceased at Eastertime, he will complete the work for this project over the course of the summer.

Discussions linked to the material unearthed by this research have convinced us that we are in a position, over the next few months, to formulate a bid for funding for a larger scale project, with the aim of employing Ewan as a post-doctoral researcher upon completion of his PhD dissertation, which should take place during 2016. The larger research project we have provisionally entitled: “Planning the new industrial nation: Scotland circa 1931 to 1979”. It would analyse how, linked to tentative moves to administrative devolution evident in the 1930s, there emerged an elite network of administrators, employers and economists aiming to reform the Scottish economy, conceived as an 'outdated' industrial economy in need of government intervention to shift it towards a path of modernisation and diversification. The project would seek to understand how economic expertise, linked to diverse types of industrial analysis, in turn underpinned by the mobilisation of a wide range of statistical data, was linked to sites of administrative and employer power to produce a trajectory of plans for industrial reform from the creation of ‘Special Areas' in the 1930s, to the founding of the SDA in the 1970s.
Visiting Researchers/Students

Vincent Duchaussoy

Dr Vincent Duchaussoy is a visitor from the Universite de Rouen and Banque de France under the sponsorship of Catherine Schenk.

Pierre Eichenberger

Pierre Eichenberger joined the Centre on 1 March 2015 as a post-doctoral visiting fellow for 12 months from the University of Lausanne and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. He will work on international employers organisations. Neil Rollings is his sponsor during his time at the Centre.

Ryo Izawa

Ryo Izawa spent the period from October 2013 until September 2014 as a guest research student at the Centre under the supervision of Ray Stokes and Duncan Ross. He completed his PhD research on the impact of double taxation on the strategies of British multinationals from the late 19th century until the post-1945 period, and submitted his PhD, which he defended successfully at the University of Kyoto, in autumn 2014. He returned to the Centre as part of a delegation from the University of Kyoto to develop further research and teaching links in business history between our two universities.
Honorary Research Professors

John Firn

John Firn continues his role as an Honorary Researcher in the Centre for Business History in Scotland.

Koichi Inatomi

Koichi Inatomi continues his role as an Honorary Researcher in the Centre for Business History in Scotland. During the past 12 months ended 31 March, 2015, the research focussed on ‘Changes in Sensory and Chemical Profiles of Several Scotch Whisky Products produced during the last half-century’. This subject is a part of the whole project of “History of Innovation in the Distilling Industry in Scotland”.

Nick Kuenssberg

Nick Kuenssberg continues his role as an Honorary Researcher and Honorary Professor in the Centre for Business History in Scotland. He continues with his research on “Threads of history – the 200 year history of Coats”. He is also investing time in the development of thinking on employee ownership in collaboration with Co-operative Development Scotland, as an ambassador and promoting social enterprise as a standard business model, as Chairman of Social Investment Scotland.

Hugh Murphy

Hugh Murphy continues his role as Honorary Professor in the School of Social and Political Sciences.

B R (Tom) Tomlinson

Tom Tomlinson continues his role as an Honorary Researcher and Honorary Professor in the Centre for Business History in Scotland.