Humanities Research Centre
Tenth Anniversary

A day of celebration and challenge

18th October 2019
The Humanities Research Centre

The Humanities Research Centre was opened in 2009…

● to nurture, support and advocate for arts and humanities research in its diverse forms;
● to be a community of cross-disciplinary researchers from York and beyond;
● to promote creative and productive interdisciplinary thought and work;
● to provide inviting research space in which researchers can flourish;
● to facilitate partnerships within and beyond the academy;
● to support and to train our early career researchers.

To celebrate the Humanities Research Centre’s first decade and to challenge us to think how best to use the next decade, we are holding a day of celebration and challenge.

Most of the sessions are bite-sized, so you can drop in and out as you wish; but you are welcome to come and stay as long as you like.

We will showcase some of the wonderful research from around the whole Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and we welcome visitors from around the whole University. We hope the event will open new conversations, provoke and inspire, and help us to articulate and understand why the arts and humanities matter.
Objects and Subjects: Show, tell, discover

**Venue:** Berrick Saul Building foyer

Come and have an interesting encounter with members of the HRC community. PhD students, researchers, lecturers and professors will be bringing an interesting object that relates to their research. We have musical instruments, equipment, notebooks, copies of images, texts and fragments.

Each of these objects has a story, and colleagues will be sharing them, and their passions for their research. We hope this will be a good way to make new connections within and across the faculty.

**Provocations**

**Venue:** Bowland Auditorium

Part of this afternoon will be used to discuss and articulate the value and purpose of the arts and humanities in a world that is apt to be dismissive. Why do the arts and humanities matter – not as a diversionary side-line but as key to our individual and societal capacity to understand, think, question, care and act? How do they collaborate most fruitfully with other areas of knowledge production and intellectual enquiry? And how can we focus and frame our research to assert its value and reach, to enhance our sense of connection to the world and to contest the damagingly narrow terms in which ‘relevance’ is commonly understood?

We have given nine researchers from around the whole faculty a short slot in which to issue a provocation: something to get us all thinking again. We’ve asked each presenter to issue a challenge that arises from their work in a form that will be fun, and accessible to everyone.

A closing session will provide an opportunity to discuss the future of the arts and humanities and the next ten years of the Humanities Research Centre.
Programme

Welcome

Bowland Auditorium

1000-1015

Welcome and introduction from Richard Ogden, Director of the Humanities Research Centre

Richard Ogden

HRC

Provocations Session 1

Bowland Auditorium

1020-1035

Humanities in the City of York

What has been the value of the humanities to the culture of the city of York, past and present? Discover the legacy of some of the key thinkers who have helped to shape the intellectual and institutional history of our city, from the 7th century onwards.

Kate Giles

Archaeology

1040-1055

When Political Poetry Goes Viral

For all its dangers, social media has inspired a poetry renaissance. The lifecycle of a ‘viral’ poem shows us the political possibilities (and limits) for verse online.

JT Welsch

English and Related Literature

1100-1115

Turn-taking in Human and Animal Communication

Human conversation is characterized by a rapid and orderly exchange of turns at talk, yet turn-taking behaviour is also found in communication systems across the animal kingdom.

Kobin Kendrick

Language and Linguistic Science
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1     | John Marley    | Music                                     | **A Monk Montgomery bass guitar tuition book**  
A long forgotten guide to playing the bass guitar by one of the instruments early innovators. |
| 2     | Keith Allen    | Philosophy                                | **A prism**  
How many colours can you see in the rainbow? |
| 3     | Tom McLeish    | Physics, Centre for Medieval Studies      | **A field microscope**  
Peer through a 19th century field microscope identical to the one Robert Brown used to identify his eponymous 'motion' |
| 4     | David Barnett  | Theatre, Film, Television and Interactive Media | **Brecht’s Modelbooks**  
An experiment at documenting live theatre performance before the advent of affordable video cameras |
| 5     | Joanna de Groot| History                                   | **A stone fish from Iran**  
Why were mid-20th century visitors to a pilgrimage city being offered these reproductions of an ancient Iranian cultural symbol? |
| 6     | Anya Burgon    | Centre for Medieval Literature            | **A hazelnut**  
Learn how and why the 14th-century anchoress Julian of Norwich imagined the world reduced to the size of a 'hazelnott'. |
| 7     | Jun Qiang      | English and Related Literature             | **A map of New York in the late 19th and early 20th centuries**  
Welcome to the third space! Immerse yourself in the map of New York city and follow Lily Bart’s travel routes from a gorgeous lady in Grand Central Station to a cold corpse in a small boarding house. |
| 8     | Dom Watt       | Language and Linguistic Science           | **A life-size model of the bones of the middle ear**  
Discover how three tiny bones convert vibrations of air molecules into sensations and emotions experienced by the human mind |
| 9     | Gillian Russell| English and Related Literature; Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies | **An annotated copy of Charles Lamb’s Essays of Elia**  
What do annotations on books tell us about what they meant to their owners and readers - in this case, the works of an English Romantic writer given to a migrant from the Middle East in early 20th century Melbourne? |
**Provocations Session 2**

*Bowland Auditorium*

1220-1235  
**Mary Leng**  
*Philosophy*  
**Does 2 + 2 = 4?**  
The fact that 2 + 2 = 4 is often held up as a paradigm example of certainty. What do philosophers mean when they deny it?

1240-1255  
**Hauke Egermann**  
*Music*  
**Musicology Without Composers? Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Diverse Approaches to Music Research**  
Musicology traditionally focuses on historical descriptions of individual musicians. However, I would like to present an alternative interdisciplinary approach to music research that has at its core the actual experience of music.

1300-1315  
**Henrice Altink**  
*History*  
**Global Challenges Need the Humanities**  
Climate change, new diseases, and population growth are some of the major global challenges. Humanities scholars have relevant knowledge and skills to address these issues and contribute to a more equal and sustainable world.

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**Objects and Subjects Session 2**

*Foyer*  
1320-1420

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Palaeofaeces</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eleanor Green</strong></td>
<td>Archaeology</td>
<td>Have you ever wondered what a thousand year old poop looks like?</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2</th>
<th>An image of church bell tower</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miyuki Kamiya</strong></td>
<td>Language and Linguistic Science</td>
<td>Can a 'sound' have a lexical category? Are sounds nouns, adverbs, adjectives or verbs?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Table 3</th>
<th>A map showing commuting patterns in the North East of England and a copy of <em>Larn Yersel’ Geordie</em></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Carmen Llamas and Claire Childs</strong></td>
<td>Language and Linguistic Science</td>
<td>How diverse is language within a region? Discover local accents, dialects and identities in North East England.</td>
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<th>Table 4</th>
<th>Pierced coins</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Barry Crump</strong></td>
<td>Centre for Lifelong Learning</td>
<td>Pierced coins show unexpected interactions with objects in the past, highlighting the complexity flexibility of meaning and use.</td>
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<th>Table 5</th>
<th>A bifurcated needle</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Namrata Ganneri</strong></td>
<td>Centre for Global Health Histories</td>
<td>Why was the bifurcated needle, the main vaccination tool in the WHO’s global Smallpox Eradication programme, resisted in India?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 6
Sam Hellmuth
Language and Linguistic Science
Arabic fieldwork elicitation books
How can you get people to ‘spontaneously’ produce the same utterances? Pairwork games and a folk tale retold from memory.

Table 7
Philip Lankester
History of Art
A fragment of a medieval monumental effigy
A chance find in Oxford: researching a small medieval sculptural fragment and identifying its original context.

Table 8
Serge Sagna
Language and Linguistic Science
A traditional Senegalese shirt
Endangered cultural artifacts: documenting fabric design and the importance of the tradition gábil 'sarong' among speakers of Eegimaa (Southern Senegal).

Table 9
Catherine Laws
Music
A model of a pianist at a piano with a balloon
Alone with my ten fingers... A woman arrives with a piano. She plays. Plays with it. Plays versions of herself through it. Whose hands are these, anyway?

Table 10
Carmen Troncoso
Music
Coppel: a reimagined case for recorders
Location: Berrick Saul Building 2019. A six-slot recorder case was found abandoned. No instruments were inside. Do you dare open it?

Provocations Session 3
Bowland Auditorium
1420-1435
Sebastian Deterding
Theatre, Film, Television and Interactive Media
Confessions of a Recovering Humanist
“Quit lit” has become a flourishing genre among humanities scholars. This talk tells the other side of that story: how I rediscovered the enduring values of the humanities after leaving them.

1440-1455
Divna Manolova
Centre for Medieval Literature
Lightbulb Jokes and Medieval Diagrams: The Game
How many scholars does it take to understand a medieval cosmological diagram and is medieval science scientific? To find out, come and play the game.

1500-1515
Damian Murphy
Electronic Engineering
XR Storytelling
Building immersive and interactive worlds for next generation storytelling - from passive observer to active participant.
## Objects and Subjects Session 3

### Foyer
1520-1620

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Taryn Bell</th>
<th>Archaeology</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A teddy bear</strong></td>
<td>Soft, furry and well-loved - how can a teddy bear make us think about the evolution of our emotional relationships with objects?</td>
<td></td>
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<th>Table 2</th>
<th>Elizabeth Marsh</th>
<th>History</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An ironstone nodule</strong></td>
<td>What happened to the communities that grew to serve the Cleveland ironstone industry once mining ceased?</td>
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<th>Table 3</th>
<th>Paul Kerswill</th>
<th>Language and Linguistic Science</th>
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<td><strong>An Ashanti stool with kente cloth from Ghana</strong></td>
<td>Discourses of galamsey: how linguists can uncover layers of understanding of small-scale gold mining in an environmentally challenged landscape</td>
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<tr>
<th>Table 4</th>
<th>Paul Drew</th>
<th>Language and Linguistic Science</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A stethoscope and an oxygen saturation meter</strong></td>
<td>Communication in intensive care for very premature babies</td>
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<th>Table 5</th>
<th>Katie Harrison</th>
<th>History of Art</th>
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<td><strong>A full-scale rubbing and drawing of panel 22b from the St Cuthbert Window, York Minster</strong></td>
<td>Explore the value of restoration rubbings for recovering the lost iconography of stained glass</td>
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<th>Table 6</th>
<th>Richard Johns</th>
<th>History of Art</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Images of two artworks from the Government Art Collection</strong></td>
<td>When a painting or sculpture is displayed in an embassy or government building, art and politics combine in powerful and unpredictable ways.</td>
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<th>Table 7</th>
<th>Tamar Keren-Portnoy</th>
<th>Language and Linguistic Science</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An app to encourage babies to vocalise more</strong></td>
<td>Putting babies in front of screens?! What are we thinking? Come and find out.</td>
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<th>Table 8</th>
<th>Elizabeth Tyler</th>
<th>English and Related Literature; Centre for Medieval Literature</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Silver Bible</strong></td>
<td>In silver letters on purple vellum - Ulfila's Gothic 4th-century translation of the gospels. The oldest surviving writing in a Germanic language.</td>
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<th>Table 9</th>
<th>Lisa Peschel</th>
<th>Theatre, Film, Television and Interactive Media</th>
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<td><strong>A courting gift from the Terezín ghetto</strong></td>
<td>A Terezín prisoner made this gift -- a decorated folio of music he composed -- for the woman he eventually married.</td>
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<th>Table 10</th>
<th>Nick Jones</th>
<th>Theatre, Film, Television and Interactive Media</th>
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<td><strong>A stereoscope</strong></td>
<td>What does a neglected nineteenth-century amusement tell us about 3D cinema, VR, and visual culture in the digital age?</td>
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Closing session

*Bowland Auditorium*

1620-1710

**Helen Smith**
English and Related Literature

**Tom McLeish**
Physics and Centre for Medieval Studies

*The Future of the Arts and Humanities*
Come and discuss the value and future of the Arts and Humanities. Why do the Arts and Humanities matter? What underlies the current divide between the arts and humanities and the sciences, and how can the arts and humanities and sciences can work together to the mutual benefit of both?

Reception

*Treehouse*

1715-1830

Come and join us as we celebrate the successes of the past ten years, and look forward toward the next ten years of the Humanities Research Centre.

Refreshments are available throughout the day. Lunch is not provided but please feel free to bring your own lunch and eat it in the foyer or room BS/008 (not in the auditorium please).

You will have the opportunity to print your own HRC tenth anniversary souvenir bookmark on an iron press from the Department of English and Related Literature’s Thin Ice Press.