

**Philosophies of History 2014-15**  
University of Leeds  
School of English & Leeds Humanities Research Institute

Dear all,

Welcome back to another year of [Philosophies of History](#)! This is now our third year on campus. In that time we've grown from a group of postgrads and junior faculty at Leeds University, to an international project with extensive affiliations, across the Humanities, in academic, public and social institutions from Europe to the Middle East and Latin America. This past summer we held our first international conference and are soon to launch our edited volume series. We have also developed an innovative, flexible and diverse, funding structure that allows us to engage those interested in philosophies of history around the world. The core of our existence is still Leeds University, and we look forward to maintaining this cooperation. In the interest of doing so, we are, this year, formally one of the [Leeds Humanities Research Institute's](#) Graduate Research Groups. We thank the LHRI for their generous funding, as well as the [School of English](#) for their third year of support.

The format of the *Philosophies of History* evenings is casual, but we do ask participants to prepare by reading the texts prior to the meeting. Please do not feel that, in order to attend, you must already be well-versed in the philosophy of history, or in any particular historical methods, philosophical enquiries, or theoretical debates. The group contains people from across the humanities, from those who've struggled with these ideas for many years to some for whom this is all new. *Philosophies of History* is the product of the collective interests and expertise of its directors and those that have participated in our events. The result is that we are heavily Continental in our approach to theories and philosophies of history. However, we are open to Analytical and other paradigms for imagining and narrating the 'before now'. In our first year, we brought the renowned analytic philosopher, Professor Frank Ankersmit, to Leeds to run one of our seminars. This year, another analytic thinker, Professor Rik Peters, will come, from the Centre for Metahistory in Groningen, to lead a session.

In traditional *Philosophies of History* fashion, appropriate evening refreshments will be served, and all readings are available in pdf. We look forward to seeing you soon. Warm Regards, The Directors.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for topics and readings, please feel free to contact us at: [philosophiesofhistory@gmail.com](mailto:philosophiesofhistory@gmail.com), and visit our site at <http://philosophiesofhistory.blogspot.co.uk>

## 2014-15 Program

**Location:** Douglas Jefferson Room, School of English, University of Leeds.

**Times & Basic Info:** Select Thursdays, 5pm-7pm.

### Meeting Dates & Details:

#### **16 October** – *Factuality, Contingency and Truth: the Necessity of History*

**Discussion led by: Michael J. Kelly, Catalin Taranu and Richard Thomason (Leeds)**

#### **Readings:**

1. Quentin Meillassoux, 'The Principle of Factuality', in Meillassoux, *After Finitude: An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency*, trans. by Ray Brassier (London: Continuum, 2008, repr. Bloomsbury, 2010), pp. 84-124.
2. Carlo Ginzburg, 'The Bitter Truth: Stendhal's Challenge to Historians', in Ginzburg, *Threads and Traces: True False Fictive*, trans. by Anne C. Tedeschi and John Tedeschi (L.A., University of California Press, 2012), pp. 137-50.

#### **13 November** – *Manuscripts, Culture, and the Mapping of the Past Across the Humanities*

**Discussion led by: Alaric Hall (University of Leeds)**

#### **Readings:**

1. Matthew Driscoll, 'The Words on the Page: Thoughts on Philology, Old and New', in *Creating the Medieval Saga: Versions, Variability, and Editorial Interpretations of Old Norse Saga Literature*, ed. by Judy Quinn and Emily Lethbridge (Odense: Syddansk Universitetsforlag, 2010), pp. 85-102.
2. TBD

## **19 February – *History, Discontinuity and Diffraction***

**Discussion led by: Catherine Karkov (University of Leeds)**

### **Readings:**

1. Karen Barad, 'Diffracting Diffraction: Cutting Together-Apart', *Parallax*, 20 (2014), 168-87.
2. TBD

## **19 March – *How is History Possible?: The Analytical Tradition***

**Discussion led by: Rik Peters (University of Groningen)**

### **Readings:**

1. Rik Peters, 'Croce, Gentile and Collingwood on the Relation between History and Philosophy', in *Philosophy, History and Civilization: Inter-disciplinary Perspectives on R. G. Collingwood*, ed. by David Boucher, James Connelly, and Tariq Modood (Cardiff: University of Wales, 1995), pp. 152-168.
2. Gregory Radick, 'Historiographic Evidence and Confirmation', in *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*, ed. by Aviezer Tucker (NY: John Wiley & Sons, 2011), pp. 87-97.

## **7 May – *History and Historiography***

**Discussion led by: TBC**

### **Readings:**

1. Mark Vessey, "Reinventing History: Jerome's Chronicle and the Writing of the Post-Roman West," in *The Roman Empire from the Tetrarchy to Theodosius II*, ed. by Scott McGill, Cristiana Sogno and Edward Watts (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 265-89.
2. TBD