



Humanities Researcher Development and Training Newsletter Hilary 2024 | First Week

We hope you enjoy reading about some of your [Researcher Development and Training Programme](#) opportunities.

We offer a comprehensive programme of events, opportunities, workshops and resources to support and develop Humanities researchers at all stages of their career from postgraduate level upwards. Some of these opportunities are bespoke and developed in-house; others are provided through external partners, student support services or in partnership with faculties. Most workshops and events are free, or require a £20 refundable deposit. They are open to Master's and DPhil students and postdoctoral researchers (including teaching-only and college-only appointments). All times given are GMT.

This newsletter is sent once a week during term-time to all current MSt, MPhil and DPhil students in the Humanities Division. To unsubscribe, send a blank email to humanitiestrainingnewsletter-unsubscribe@maillist.admin.ox.ac.uk.

[You can see a list of all our events here \(under the 'events' tab\).](#)

CUREC: The Practicalities of gaining ethical approval

Wednesday 17 January 2024, 2pm - 15.30pm

Online and In-person

Hosted by the Department for Continuing Education

This session will focus on the practicalities of obtaining ethical approval to do research. We will, together compare and contrast example, fictionalised, ethical applications and discuss the merits of each. Whilst doing this we will also be reflecting on how ethics is much more than a practical tick boxing exercise.

[More information and booking >>](#)

Moving Beyond Academia: Getting Started

Thursday 18 January 2024, 11am - 12.30pm

Online

Hosted by the Careers Service

Have you decided that an academic career is not for you?

It is easy to get stuck after coming to this realisation and wonder what to do next. You likely have invested years of effort into academic training and research projects but very little into defining what winning looks like in your career. In this workshop we will present a range of approaches and tools to get started in defining what an exciting, fulfilling career looks like for you and how to develop a strategy that will get you there.

[More information and booking >>](#)

Critical Reading

Wednesday 24 January 2024, 10am - 12pm

Hosted by the Department for Continuing Education

Samuel Johnson said, "The greatest part of a writer's time is spent in reading, in order to write: a man will turn over half a library to make one book." But how to do it? Which library, and which half? How do you decide what is, and isn't, relevant and worth pursuing? How can you place a primary or secondary work in a context relevant to your research? We will come to grips with these and other topics, to give students the tools necessary to undertake research effectively.

[More information and booking >>](#)

Current Issues in Arts & Heritage: Apps for engagement

Wednesday 24 January 2024, 11am - 12.30pm

Online

What makes a good heritage engagement app? What makes an app a good vehicle for engaging with academic work about heritage sites and spaces? In this session, we will hear from two academics who have developed successful heritage engagement apps. What collaborative efforts made these apps possible? What skills did they need to have/develop? What unexpected challenges and opportunities did the app projects bring?

Speakers: Professor Fabrizio Nevola, Chair in Art History and Visual Culture, University of Exeter and Sara Polak, Visiting Research Fellow, Oxford Internet Institute

[More information and booking >>](#)

Storytelling for Researchers: Writing Skills

Thursday 25th January 2024, 1pm - 4pm

TORCH Seminar Room, 3rd Floor, Radcliffe Humanities

Introducing valuable storytelling and writing skills to enable you to effectively engage audiences with your research. Applicable to public engagement and academic writing.

We will start with exploring the three key elements of a great story – character, plot and texture. Accessible and interactive exercises will be done in pairs (or trios) and you'll be guided through crafting a short piece of creative writing.

We will then look at the practical application of these storytelling skills to the communication of your research. For public engagement, we'll plan and write part of a blog post. For academic writing, we'll explore how plotting can improve an essay and thesis. Empathy will also be explored as a tool to engage diverse audiences.

The session will enhance your creativity and confidence in written communication.

[More information and booking >>](#)

Using Social Media to Enhance your Career Prospects

Monday 29th January 2024, 1pm - 2pm

Online

Hosted by the Careers Service

Learn tips, tricks, benefits and risks of using social media for your job search and advancement.

[More information and booking >>](#)

DPhil and Early Career Lunch

Tuesday 30th January, 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Colin Matthew Room Radcliffe Humanities

Come along to this networking lunch and meet fellow DPhils and Early Career Researchers in a friendly and informal environment. Lunch provided: just bring yourself!

Please ensure you note any dietary requirements during the booking process.

[Book now >>](#)

iSkills: Data sources for research – discovery, access and use

Wednesday 31st January, 10am – 12pm

Social Science Library, Information Skills Training Room, Manor Road, OX1 3UQ

In partnership with the Bodleian Libraries

Modern researchers need to have an up-to-date understanding of working with research data. This relates equally to the material they create themselves and that obtained from other sources. Academic institutions, funding bodies and even publishers are now expecting competence in these issues. This workshop will provide a grounding in the different ways quantitative and qualitative data is being made available to benefit researchers.

Please ensure you note any dietary requirements during the booking process.

[More information and booking >>](#)

Boosting Your Writing Productivity

Thursday 1 February 2024, 11am – 1pm

Online

Academic writing can be hard at the best of times. It's especially challenging when there's so much going on. **In this interactive session, you'll discover how to make writing more manageable, even under difficult circumstances.**

You'll cover:

- Understanding your Circle of Control
- Planning a piece of writing
- Building a writing fortress
- Improving productivity
- Staying focused
- Looking after yourself

By the end of the session, you'll have a range of strategies you can apply right away to help you keep going.

[More information and booking >>](#)

Shut Up and Write

Thursday 1 February 2024, 2pm – 5pm – 3 further sessions are running this term.

Colin Matthew Room, Radcliffe Humanities

The Shut Up and Write sessions provide a quiet space for doctoral students and Early Career Researchers to get work done with colleagues in a friendly, supportive environment. **We share goals and help each other with writing questions between timed silent-working sessions: no emails, no distractions, just dedicated and focused time to get your work done!**

Please bring your own work for the silent sessions. Tea and coffee will be provided.

[More information and booking >>](#)

Other Opportunities

Humanities Poster Competition 2024

Research posters are increasingly common in the Humanities and poster sessions are often an integral component of conferences and colloquia. This poster competition, open to all DPhil students and fixed-term researchers in the Humanities at Oxford, gives you the opportunity to:

- Practise your research communication skills
- Get creative
- Have a copy of your poster printed for your own use, for free
- Win a prize of up to £150 in National Book Tokens
- Have your poster displayed in the Radcliffe Humanities building

The deadline for receipt of entries is 9am on Monday 26th February 2024. [More information and how to apply >>](#)

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British Library and National Trust doctoral fellowship

The National Trust is partnering with the British Library to invite applications for a three-month 2024 doctoral fellowships centred on British Library and National Trust collections as part of our ongoing research partnership.

The fellowship focuses on Arabic language manuscripts. The study will explore the provenance of such manuscripts, and potentially those in other West Asian and North African languages, in the British Library and National Trust collections. The ambition is to identify owners, scribes, illustrators and other individuals involved in their production. The Trust's important manuscript collection hasn't yet been studied in any significant way, despite some having been on country house library shelves for almost 300 years.

The deadline to apply is Thursday 25 January 2024 at 5pm. [More information and how to apply >>](#)

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Creative Careers Festival 2024: 29 January - 9 February 2024

The creative sector is broad and it encompasses an enormous range of talent. The sector includes a variety of roles in areas such as tv and film, heritage, music, journalism, and other creative industries, with different entry requirements and skill sets needed to succeed.

There is a high level of interest in the creative sector at Oxford. For this reason, in 3rd and 4th week of Hilary term 2024, we will be introducing you to it through a number of information sessions, useful workshops and inspiring panel discussions run by our expert careers advisers and a host of guest speakers at the Creative Careers Festival.

[See the full list of events here >>](#)

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Casual Opportunity as Research Assistant for the Close the Gap project

Expressions of interest are invited for a temporary role supporting the Close the Gap project, an equal partnership between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Close the Gap is one of several [initiatives](#) that support access and widening participation in graduate admissions at the University of Oxford, and complements the work of the University's graduate admissions [pilot selection procedure](#). The project aims to transform doctoral student selection to develop a socially and epistemically just and inclusive environment for world leading research.

The work is required for up to 10 hours per week for approximately 12 weeks, beginning on 12 February 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The deadline to apply is Friday 26 January 2024 at 12pm. Please see the attached document for more information about this opportunity.

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