

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT –**  
**STAFF SUPERVISION TOPICS**

Please note that this list is not absolutely comprehensive. If you have any questions, contact the IRP Director, Dr Catherine Crawford, [crawc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:crawc@essex.ac.uk)

Dr Justin Colson

- Early Modern and Late Medieval British history (1400-1750), particularly social, cultural and economic topics
- Everyday lives, work, trade and travel
- Migration in early modern Europe
- Urban history, especially London
- Maps, history of exploration, geography, and cartography (1400-1900)
- Pre-Reformation religion in England
- History of Colchester, Essex, and Suffolk
- Digital History: geographical information systems, network analysis

Dr Catherine Crawford

- Social and cultural history, 18th and 19th centuries
- History of science, knowledge, ideas
- History and literature
- History of medicine
- History of crime and punishment
- Historiography/approaches/historical method
- Local history, community history

Dr Amanda Flather

- Social and cultural history of early modern England
- The social organisation of space
- Material culture
- Gender and sexuality
- History of the family

Dr Tom Freeman

- Early modern English history, particularly religious, cultural and social
- Martyrdom and related issues, in or outside of the British Isles
- Witchcraft, demonic possession and related issues in or outside of the British Isles
- The Reformation and Counter reformation
- Scottish and Irish history, early modern-present
- Films and history

### Dr Matthew Grant

- Twentieth century British history.
- I would be particularly interested in supervising students working on:
  - The cold war home front in Britain
  - Britain's experience in the Second World War
  - Political culture, 1945-79
  - Concepts of citizenship after 1945.
  - The memory of the Second World War
  - Public understandings of history in Britain.
  - British art and literature, 1945-60.

### Dr Alix Green

- Twentieth-century British history, and up to the present day. I would be particularly interested in supervising students working on:
  - Democracy and political institutions
  - Political culture
  - Policymaking and political influence
  - Uses of history for the present
- Public history and public understandings/uses of history in Britain and internationally, including IRPs taking the new alternative route and including a public output
- Business history
- Historiography, historical approaches, history education
- Modern Jewish history, particularly in Germany and England

### Professor Peter Gurney

- British history, 1830-present.

### Dr Sean Kelley

- American history to 1865
- Maritime history
- Atlantic slavery
- Transatlantic slave trade
- Pre-Colonial Africa

### Dr Laila Haidarali

- U.S. History
- U.S. Women's and Gender History
- African American history (post-emancipation to the present)
- Consumerism and Mass consumer culture
- Beauty Culture, Beauty Business, and the Politics of Fashion

### Dr Jeremy Krikler

- Empire and struggles against it
- Race (including slavery)
- History and literature
- Labour protest
- Africa/India
- Rural worlds

### Dr Andrew Priest

- U.S. History since c.1860
- History of American foreign policy and the presidency
- The relationship between domestic and foreign policy
- The United States as a form of empire

### Professor James Raven

- Historical, Communications and Cultural Studies after 1500;
- The history of representations, emotion, humour and cross-cultural relations;
- Hospitality and immigrant and foreign language communities;
- Translation and language learning;
- The cultural history of loss and the relationship between any of the following:
  - Material culture
  - Spatial aspects of memory
  - Communications networks
  - The past in relation to social media
  - The language of space

### Professor Matthias Röhrig Assunção

- History of Brazil and Latin America
- Slavery in the Atlantic world
- Post-emancipation societies,
- “Race” and anti-racism
- Popular culture
- Capoeira and martial arts

### Dr Nadine Rossol

- German history in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Weimar and Nazi Germany
- Police history
- Urban history
- Memory, representation, culture

### Dr Felix Schnell

- Russian and Soviet History (all periods)
- German History from 1871-1945
- Comparative History of War, Violence and Revolution in Europe (19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> C.)
- History of ideas/science (18th to 20th Century)

### Dr Lisa Smith

- Social and cultural history England and France, 17th and 18th centuries
- History of medicine and health
- Gender and sexuality
- History of the family
- Digital history
- History of science
- History of supernatural
- Early museums
- History of the body and emotions

### Dr Xun Zhou

- The Great Famine in Mao's China (1958-1962)
- Cultural Nationalism in 20<sup>th</sup> Century China
- Social History of drugs in modern China (17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- Social history of photography in modern China (19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- Public Health in Mao's China (1949-1976)
- Nourishing Life: Chinese immigration and globalisation of Chinese Medicine (1950-present)
- China in the world: Western writings on China (13<sup>th</sup> century to 20<sup>th</sup> century)