



Institute of  
Contemporary  
British History



# HISTORY & POLICY

Connecting historians, policymakers and the media



## About us

**History & Policy's Trade Union Forum** brings together trade unionists with professional historians and other interested groups. It considers trade union issues against their historical background, exploring different perspectives on the past and the present to help evolve approaches and policies for today. By creating a neutral space to bring the latest historical scholarship closer to current trade union activity, the Forum offers a unique environment for historians and union representatives to share knowledge of the past and consider how this can help current policy making.

## Events

The Forum is convened by **John Edmonds**, former General Secretary of the GMB, **Alastair Reid**, a Fellow of Girton College, Cambridge, and **Jim Moher**, former union official. Reports of quarterly meetings are available online at <http://www.historyandpolicy.org/forums/union/previous.html>. Previous meetings have explored:

- the trade union levy and political funding, in history and today;
- the News International Dispute of 1986;
- the history of apprentice militancy and more recent apprentice schemes;
- union relations with the UK's major political parties and with Europe.

The Forum also participates in events such as the Unions21 Annual Conference in 2011 and the TUC Annual Congress Fringe in 2012.

## Research

H&P has commissioned research, funded by King's College London's Business Futures Fund, to examine the provision of history in union training and education programmes and the potential for a historians' fellowship programme in trade unions. The study highlights best practice by unions making innovative use of their history and archives, and aims ultimately to enhance members' understanding of their movement's past and help unions address 21st century challenges. Recommendations include a 'virtual college' of history workshops and events for union members and officials.

Inspired by the Forum meeting on the News International dispute of 1986, which brought together labour historians and key players in the dispute, H&P is seeking funding for a PhD studentship to examine the episode in detail, in collaboration with unions and with King's College London.

## For more information

The H&P Trade Union Forum is open to union members and officials, and historians interested in labour history. To join please contact: [fiona.holland@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.holland@kcl.ac.uk) and for more information see: <http://www.historyandpolicy.org/forums/union/>.