

Why change happens: What we can learn from the past

A conference organised by History & Policy and Friends of the Earth to explore the factors that cause or hinder large-scale change

Date: Wednesday 3 June 2015, 9am-5pm, with a drinks reception, 5-6pm

Venue: The Great Hall, King's Building, Strand Campus, King's College London, WC2R 2LS
www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/campuses/strand/Strand.aspx

Organisers: Paul Readman (King's College London), Lucy Delap (Cambridge), Simon Szreter (Cambridge), Mike Childs (Friends of the Earth)

9.00am *Arrival (tea/coffee)*

9.30am **Welcome and introduction, Lucy Delap**

9.55am **Theme 1: How 'norms' change**

The concept of progressive incrementalism will be critically examined, through case studies of how norms have changed in relation to slavery, the treatment of animals, and gender norms.

Historical case studies: Richard Huzzey (Liverpool), Arianne Chernock (Boston), Abigail Woods (King's College London). **Commentator:** Sarah Wootton (Dignity in Dying)

11.15am *Tea/coffee*

11.20am **Roundtable discussion**

11.40am **Theme 2: Participation in change**

A recent theme running through civil society campaigning has been the need to 'deepen democracy' both through participation processes and reforming education so that all citizens, including the most marginalised, are provided with the capability to critically engage and shape decisions at a local, city, state, international level. This strand of the conference will examine historical variations in levels and forms of civic and popular participation in politics and policy.

Historical case studies: Matthew Hilton (Birmingham), Simon Szreter (Cambridge), Sarah Richardson (Warwick)

Commentator: Eurig Scandrett (Queen Margaret University and Chair of Friends of the Earth Scotland)

Chair: Joe Jenkins (Friends of the Earth)

12.40pm Roundtable discussion

13.00 Lunch

13.45 Theme 3: The rise, fall and rise of cities

Within the context of global urbanisation cities are increasingly looked at as the location where sustainability issues will be solved (or not), particularly as state power wanes in a globalised economy. Greater autonomy for cities and an enlarged role for city networks have been suggested by many. Yet historically empowered cities have a chequered record in delivering environmental and social progress. What can history tell us about the conditions that enabled or prevented progress?

Historical case studies: Simon Sleight (King's College London), Catherine Flinn-Goldie (Oxford Brookes) and Stephen Mosley (Leeds)

Commentator: Paul Swinney, (Centre for Cities)

Chair: Paul Readman (King's College London)

14.45 Roundtable discussion

15.05 Tea/coffee

15.30 Theme 4: Conditions for rapid change

In order to address pressing environmental challenges (particularly but not only climate change) and reduce possible dangerous levels of economic inequality, it may be necessary to achieve rapid change politically, economically, socially and technologically. What were the conditions that led to rapid change in the past?

Historical case studies: David Edgerton (King's College London), Brodie Waddell (Birkbeck), Paul Warde (Cambridge)

Commentator: Michael Jacobs

Chair: Liz Hutchins (Friends of the Earth)

16.30 Roundtable discussion

16.50 Conference reflections: Jonathon Porritt

17.00 Drinks/networking

18.00 Close

The conference is made possible by the generous support of The Cambridge Political Economy Society Trust Fund, Friends of the Earth, and the History Department at King's College London

**History & Policy is a
unique collaboration
between King's College
London's Institute of
Contemporary British
History and the University
of Cambridge History
Faculty**

**KING'S
College
LONDON**