

# DAVID GANGE

## SENIOR LECTURER IN HISTORY

SCHOOL OF HISTORY & CULTURES, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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Date of Birth: 18.12.1981

### CAREER:

- 2014- *Senior Lecturer in History*, University of Birmingham
- 2010-14 *Lecturer in History*, University of Birmingham
- 2007-2010: *Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellow*, 'Past vs Present: Abandoning the Past in an Age of Progress', University of Cambridge
- 2008-2010: *Junior Research Fellow*, Wolfson College Cambridge
- 2010: *Affiliated Lecturer*, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge
- 2007-2010: *Undergraduate Tutor in History*, Cambridge Colleges

### EDUCATION:

- 2004-2007: *PhD History*, Trinity College Cambridge (AHRC studentship)
- 2003-2004: *MPhil History, Distinction*; Trinity College Cambridge (College Scholarship)
- 2001-2003: *BA Hons, History, First Class*; Trinity College, Cambridge
- 2000-2001: *Music*; Trinity College, Cambridge

### RESEARCH INTERESTS:

My interests relate to the way societies use the past. My research explores questions such as how changes in knowledge about the past alter the ways in which societies understand themselves. In particular, I have focused on ways in which knowledge of the ancient world was created and used in the nineteenth century, exploring how knowledge of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia was dragged between biblical and classical modes of interpretation for centuries before either civilisation was able to gain its own identity. This involves analysing the delayed impact of decipherment, and the persistence of religion as the primary framework in which these civilisations were interpreted. I'm also interested in developments in the cultural authority of the Bible, especially as it was altered by archaeology, the nineteenth-century sciences and the formation of academic disciplines (with all the implications this had for relationships between scholarship and society). Another strand of my research explores changing notions of death in European culture, particularly as non-European ideas concerning death began to circulate increasingly widely at the end of the nineteenth century and through the twentieth. All these interests involve exploring theoretical dimensions of ideas of time, asking how various societies (including our own) construe the social times with which they operate.

### RECENT AWARDS:

- 2015-2016 Participant in UBIAS Intercontinental Academia (a year of research & collaboration devoted to the concept of Time, including intensive workshops at Institutes of Advanced Studies in São Paulo & Nagoya)
- 2014 Promotion to Senior Lecturer
- 2013 Aston Webb Award for Outstanding Early Career Academic
- 2013 Head of College's Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2013 Head of School's Award for Excellence in Teaching

### PUBLICATIONS:

#### **BOOKS:**

**David Gange, *Dialogues with the Dead: Egyptology in British Culture and Religion, 1840-1922* (Oxford University Press, 2013), 0199653100, 368 pages.**

Reviews of *Dialogues with the Dead*:

The definitive history of the study of ancient Egypt in nineteenth-century Britain. Weaving an array of fresh sources into the discipline's canon of formative thinkers, David Gange's masterly synthesis throws Egyptology's influence on period science, art, literature, music, architecture, politics, historical writing and art criticism into high relief...Gange's goal of 'giving back to Egyptology a sense of the cultural and religious crucible in which it was forged' is admirably achieved. (Maria Golia, *Times Literary Supplement*)

Splendid cultural history...an impressive and important scholarly contribution. (Timothy Larsen, *Books & Culture*)

An extremely interesting book, thoroughly researched, and innovative. (Daniele Salvoldi, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*)

Meticulous research in an accessible and engaging style...essential reading. (Alice Williams, *Egyptian Archaeology*)

Does historians of archaeology a huge favour...Writing a truly cultural history, Gange makes us think again about what British Egyptology was for. (William Carruthers, *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*)

**David Gange & Michael Ledger-Lomas (eds), *Cities of God: the Bible and Archaeology in nineteenth-century Britain* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), 1107004241, 368 pages.**

David Gange, *The Victorians: A Beginner's Guide* (Oneworld Books) **In Press, publication Feb 2016.**

Rosalind Crone, David Gange & Katy Jones (eds), *New Perspectives in Cultural History* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007), 1847181554, 350 pages.

#### ARTICLES & CHAPTERS:

'Two Victorian Egypts of Herodotus' in Thomas Harrison (ed.), *Herodotus in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press), **In Press**.

**'The Ruins of Preservation: Conserving Ancient Egypt, 1880-1914'**, *Past & Present* 266 (2015), 78-99.

'Beyond Disciplinary Histories of Egyptology' in William Carruthers (ed.), *Histories of Egyptology: Interdisciplinary Measures* (Routledge, 2014), 64-80.

'Unholy water: archaeology and the last Nile floods, 1882-1912' in Astrid Swenson & Peter Mandler (eds), *From Plunder to Preservation: Britain and the Heritage of Empire* (British Academy, 2013), 93-114.

'Pithom' in Gange and Ledger-Lomas (eds) *Cities of God* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), 136-163.

with Rachel Bryant Davies, 'Troy' in Gange and Ledger-Lomas (eds) *Cities of God* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), 39-70.

with Michael Ledger-Lomas, 'Introduction' in *Cities of God* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), 1-38.

**'Odysseus in Eden: Gladstone's Homer and the idea of universal epic, 1850-1880'**, *Journal of Victorian Culture* 14:1 (2009), 190-206.

'Homer, the Bible and Victorian ethics: 'the primeval religious traditions' as models for Modern Life', in Nathan Uglow (ed.), *Victorian Ethics* (Leeds UP, 2008), 9780954015992, 72-91.

**'Religion and science in late nineteenth-century Egyptology'**, *Historical Journal*, 49.4 (2006), 1083-1103.

with Rosalind Crone, 'Introduction' in Crone, Gange & Jones (eds), *New Perspectives in Cultural History* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007), 1847181554, 1-7.

#### SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS:

'The Book of the Dead', in Adelene Buckland (ed.), *Time Travellers* (University of Chicago Press, 2016).

David Gange, 'The New Reformation: History, Religion and Social Action in the 1890s', **for submission to *Victorian Studies***.

David Gange, *Books of the Dead: Narrating Death 1890-1914* (monograph in progress, about the introduction of Buddhist, Zoroastrian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian and other traditions into European thought on the nature of death after 1890. Projected publication 2018)

I have several projects on time underway, including an extended review essay on current studies of chronology and chronometry in the modern middle east.

### OTHER INDICATORS OF ESTEEM:

I have published by invitation in the *Times Literary Supplement* (my first review appeared 11 January 2013). I also occasionally review for international journals in history and the human sciences including *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.

I have made media appearances by invitation on *BBC History Magazine Extra* and on a BBC2 and Smithsonian Television documentary, 'Bible Hunters' (I was filmed in Egypt & London in 2013). I have acted as external advisor for several prestigious institutions including the European Commission.

### *SELECTED INVITED LECTURES & PAPERS:*

- 2015            Invited speaker, Historiography Seminar, University of Brasilia, 'New Cultures of Time and Space: The Temporal Turn & the Modern Middle East'
- 2015            Invited speaker, Department of Anthropology & Communication, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro: 'Time, Technology & the Limits of Globalisation, 1870-1950'
- 2014            Invited speaker, Modern British History seminar, St Antony's College Oxford: 'The New Reformation: History, Religion and Social Action in the 1890s'
- 2013            Invited speaker, Modern and Contemporary History Seminar, University of Birmingham: 'Books of the Dead: Narrating Death, 1890-1914'
- 2012            Invited speaker, 'Themes in the History of Religion Seminar', Wadham College Oxford: 'Rewriting History in the Radical Religion of the 1830s and 40s'
- 2012            Invited speaker, Second Postgate Colloquium, University of Liverpool, 'The Mid-Victorian Egypts of Herodotus'
- 2012            Invited speaker, Reception Research Group, University of Liverpool, 'Petrie's Greeks: the Rediscovery of Naukratis'
- 2012            Invited contributor, *Past & Present* Colloquium, University of Sussex: 'The Ruins of Preservation'
- 2011            Invited speaker, Professor Boyd Hilton's Festschrift: 'Time! Time! Time!', 'Geographies of Time in 1822'
- 2011            Invited speaker, University College London, Disciplinary Measures Egyptology Colloquium, 'The Invention & Isolation of a Discipline'

### *RESEARCH FUNDING*

Along with Professor Simon Goldhill & Michael Ledger-Lomas I was one of three Cambridge University scholars who wrote a project proposal for the European Research Council; however I took up my Birmingham post before this award was made (2010, €2,000,000). I secured a Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellowship (2007, 4 yrs, £144,000) and have received small grants including research buyout from Intercontinental Academia (2015, £3,000) and numerous travel grants to build research partnerships, most recently from my university's International Collaboration Fund (2015, £1,785). I have proposals under construction, including one on the transnational circulation of sacred texts.

## TEACHING:

### SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND CULTURES, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM:

Teaching is always my highest priority, in part because I find developing research-led courses to be the most reliable route to my own intellectual development. I offer students intensive support; as one student (on a course in which I taught 150) noted in official feedback, my students feel 'actually cared about as individuals'. I also use tools such as social media to help integrate students into the world of historical scholarship (the twitter feed of one of my undergraduate modules, <https://twitter.com/HistoryinTnP> is one example). I have been nominated for Teaching Excellence Awards in almost every year I have taught at Birmingham. Student comments from these nominations include: 'the most inspiring lecturer I've had', 'I leave the lecture in wonder and awe and continue for the next week to tell everyone I come in contact with what I learnt', 'he really makes you think about things that you never thought your brain was capable of', 'a superb lecturer', 'goes the extra mile for his students...more than I would have expected from a tutor', 'always gives great help and advice', 'his door is genuinely always open, and he has shown great willingness to engage with students...even those he is not directly teaching', 'Dr Gange has improved the academic experience of a broad range of students, and his ability, understanding, dedication and friendliness are both a blessing to students and an inspiration to those of us who wish to follow in his footsteps', 'unbridled enthusiasm for History which has rubbed off onto the rest of us, I have thoroughly enjoyed his teaching over this academic year as he always makes it interesting, manages to create debates between students and has definitely given me more confidence in drawing my own conclusions about the past opposed to just regurgitating what others have told me happened'.

Several nominations have also come from my colleagues who have written: 'an exceptionally gifted and committed teacher', 'has the rare knack of covering sophisticated theoretical debates in a way that both challenges and engages students', 'one of those rare academics who values teaching as an essential element in his own intellectual development', 'David's teaching is outstanding in every respect'.

## RESEARCH SUPERVISION:

I am available to supervise any topic in nineteenth-century British cultural history and many topics in the history of religion in Europe in that period. I am happy to consider other topics making use of innovative research techniques and theoretical approaches. I welcome co-supervision with literary scholarship, classical reception, theology, history of art and history of science.

### **PHD**

Ruth Lindley, 'The Transmutations of Enchantment: Gender & Spirituality in the late Twentieth Century', 2015-2018 (AHRC funded)

Eleanor Dobson, 'Egyptology & *Fin de Siecle* Fiction', 2014-2017 (AHRC funded)

Louise Ellis Barrett, 'John Gardner Wilkinson and Egyptological thought in the mid-nineteenth-century', 2014-17

Howard Carlton, 'Astronomy and Antiquity in Nineteenth-Century Scientific Discourse', 2013-2016

Susan Bishop, 'The Benson Family: Gender and Religion in an Ecclesiastical Clan', 2013-2019

Ariella Feldman, 'Folklore in Bronte Fictions', taking over supervision 2013-14

### **MASTERS RESEARCH**

- Ruth Lindley, 'Gender, Spirituality and Religion in the late twentieth century', 2013-14 (achieved distinction)  
Howard Carlton, 'The Temple of Solomon as Seventeenth-Century Allegory', 2012-13 (achieved distinction)  
Laura Cofield, 'How the Pubic became Public', 2012-13 (achieved distinction)  
Helen Blanchard, 'The Reception of Thomas Kempis', 2011-12 (achieved merit)

### **DISSERTATIONS**

I have a strong record of teaching undergraduate dissertations to first-class level, with topics ranging from Richard Wagner to Post-structuralist reinterpretations of Chartism, Pre-Raphaelite Sexuality and the arts at the Victorian *Fin de Siecle*.

### **TAUGHT PROGRAMMES:**

#### **MASTERS LEVEL**

- 2013- Convenor: 'Historical Methods' (compulsory Masters module on historical methodology, 30 students per year).  
2014- Co-convenor: MA in Modern British Studies  
2011-14 Programme Co-ordinator: MA in the History of Christianity  
2011-14 Convenor: 'Writing the History of Christianity A: Classic Texts and Interpretations'  
2011-15 Convenor: 'Writing the History of Christianity B: Sources'  
2013- Contributor to the MA in Global History

#### **UNDERGRADUATE**

- 2012- Convenor: 'History in Theory and Practice' (compulsory second-year survey course on historical theory, 150 students per year)  
2013- Convenor: Advanced Option, 'Reason & Romance: the Cultural History of Nineteenth-Century Britain'  
2010-14 Convenor: Special Subject, 'Science, Religion & Empire: the Rediscovery of the Ancient Near East'  
2011-12 Convenor, Optional Module, 'Music and Society: 1785-1914'

I teach or have taught on many other modules, including Critical Analysis (six seminars entitled Nostalgia & Modernity'); 'Introduction to the History of Christianity', in the School of Theology and Philosophy; the first-year survey course 'The Making of the Contemporary World'; and the core module of the University's Liberal Arts Degree.

### **FACULTY OF HISTORY, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY:**

- 2007-2010: Member of the Economic, Social and Cultural History Subject Group; Supervisor in Economic, Social and Cultural History 1700-1914; my lecture series 'God and Greater Britain' with Michael Ledger-Lomas was approved to begin in 2010  
2004-2010: College Seminars in Historical Argument and Practice: 'Cultural History', 'The History of Religion', 'Music for Historians' and 'Art for Historians'

### ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANISATION:

- 2015- Collaborative development of international Massive Open Online Course: 'Conceptualising Time' (multidisciplinary, including natural, social & human sciences).
- 2011- Degree Convenor MA in the History of Christianity and module convenor for a wide range of modules at all levels
- 2011- Editorial Board, *Preternature* journal.
- 2011-2013 Admissions Tutor for Joint Honours Programmes
- 2011-2013 Staff Representative to the Staff-Student Committee
- 2011 Co-organiser, British Association of Victorian Studies Annual Conference, Birmingham
- 2009 Part of the organising team, joint conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association and the British Association of Victorian Studies
- 2007-2010 Convenor, Wolfson Humanities Society, University of Cambridge
- 2005-2007 Convenor, Cultural History Workshop, University of Cambridge
- 2005 Co-organiser, New Perspectives in Cultural History (conference), Cambridge

### OTHER INTERESTS:

I spend as much free time as possible sea kayaking, climbing and walking (usually with a drybag full of poetry and history books). I write about these trips here, <http://mountaincoastriver.blogspot.co.uk/> and am beginning to collect materials for a future publication on mountains and the sea.

I am a trumpeter for several small groups and have made internationally-esteemed recordings for independent labels such as New Canvas Records. *The Penguin Guide to Jazz* (eighth edition) describes my work with percussionist Jon Opstad as 'appealing...steeped in...Northern European lyricism'; the reviewer of the same album, *Still Picture*, for the magazine *All About Jazz* described 'the bittersweet melodicism of...trumpeter David Gange' and 'the musical maturity and clearness of conception' of the recording as a whole. I played for several years in the Gwilym Simcock sextet and have performed in masterclasses with musicians such as Elvin Jones, Delfeayo Marsalis, Kenny Barron and Regina Carter. I have also made recordings with singer-songwriters including David G Cox.