

To See the World in a Grain of Sand: Reading and Writing Microhistories

MA Option, Summer Term, 2019-20



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Venue: online

How much can we learn about the past through the story of a single person, place, object or event? For example, what can the inquisition of a heretical Italian miller tell us popular beliefs in the age of Reformation? Since the 1970s, historians have attempted to show that such 'microhistories' can in fact reveal much about the grand sweep of history. By narrowing their focus to magnify the small, the particular and the local, these scholars have proven that studies of seemingly inconsequential subjects can have a major impact on our understanding of history.

This module will examine both the microhistories themselves and the extensive scholarship that has been produced explaining, refining, justifying and critiquing this approach. In most weeks, we will examine a particular microhistory. We will read several classics from the genre - including Carlo Ginzburg's *The Cheese and the Worms*, Natalie Zemon Davis's *The Return of Martin Guerre* and Martin Darnton's 'The Great Cat Massacre' – as well as more recent innovative works of 'global microhistory' and 'object biography'. The primary focus will be on the period c.1500 to c.1800, but there will also be sessions on medieval and modern topics. The module will include at least one session with a scholar discussing their own experience of writing microhistory and a workshop based on a selection of primary sources, where we will discuss how we might write our own. In addition, by the end of the module, you will have explored the sorts of topics, methodologies and primary sources that could serve as a basis for a successful dissertation.

Outline

1. April 29 - Historicising microhistorians: the birth of a genre (Brodie Waddell)
2. May 6 - Inquisitorial histories: the heretical Italian miller (Brodie Waddell)
3. May 13 - Reading an event: the Parisian cat massacre and the Balinese cockfight (Brodie Waddell)
4. May 20 - Private life made public: the peasant, the imposter and their wife (Brodie Waddell)
5. May 27 - Global microhistory: an Ottoman abroad (Filippo de Vivo)
6. June 3 - Object biographies: the social life of things (Kat Hill)
7. June 10 - Medieval microhistory: a dog and its shrine (Brodie Waddell)
8. June 24 - Ethics and emotions in modern microhistory (Julia Laite)
9. June 17 - Modern microhistory: the woman who crossed dark waters (Brodie Waddell)
10. July 1 - Doing microhistory on the fly: a primary source workshop (Brodie Waddell)

July 3 - Essay plans and preliminary bibliography due

August 24 - Essays due

Assessment

Essay

This module is assessed through an essay due at 6pm on 24 August 2020. This essay should be 5,000 to 5,500 words long, including footnotes, but excluding bibliography. It should be submitted online via the link on Moodle.

This essay could take a variety of forms. We will discuss this further in class, but here are some possibilities:

- Analysing the development of a particular approach or type of microhistory
- Comparing micro and non-microhistories of a particular topic
- Deeply contextualising and critiquing a specific microhistory or microhistorian
- Writing your own microhistory using primary sources, including a substantial historiographical explanation of your approach

You are welcome to create your own essay title question, but it must be approved by me. I would suggest getting in touch with me at least a couple weeks ahead of the plan/bibliography deadline (July 3rd) to confirm that you are roughly on the right track. I will then formally approve it, or suggest a revised approach, based on your submitted plan/bibliography.

Writing your own microhistory

If you want to write your own microhistory using primary sources, the essay must include substantial discussion engaging with the wider historiography of microhistory. Ask yourself: what sorts of microhistorical methods are you using and why? Is this a conventional microhistory or is an unusual approach? What does your study tell us about microhistory more generally? By 'substantial', I mean that this historiographical discussion needs to be more than a couple paragraphs in the essay introduction. I would suggest aiming to focus at least about one third (1500-2000 words) of the total essay on the historiography of microhistory.

The second issue to remember if planning to write your own microhistory is the availability of primary sources. Almost all libraries and archives are closed for physical visits and only some have significant material available for online access. Nonetheless, there is still a wealth of online primary sources. The IHR has a long list of both primary and secondary sources:

<https://www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/online-resources/open-access-resources>

You can also access some subscription-only material through the Birkbeck e-library:

<http://bbk.libguides.com/c.php?g=617005&p=4292466>

Writing a historiographical essay

If you would like to write *about* microhistory, rather than writing your own microhistory, there are many different approaches you can take. As noted above, this could be: analysing the development of a particular approach or type of microhistory; comparing micro and non-microhistories of a

particular topic; deeply contextualising and critiquing a specific microhistory or microhistorian; or something completely different. For this kind of essay, your 'primary sources' are the writings of historians themselves. However, you still need to remember that the range of sources available to you for this will be partly limited by the physical closure of libraries, so take full advantage of the online listed noted above and the extra collections of e-books that Birkbeck has access to right now, listed here: <http://bbk.libguides.com/c.php?g=617005&p=4292405>

I have added some examples of possible essay title questions below. You can use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own interests, or create your own entirely.

- Why did microhistory become a popular approach to history from the 1980s onwards?
- How much has Carlo Ginzburg's *The Cheese and the Worms* influenced English-language historiography?
- How much does Davis's *The Return of Martin Guerre* have in common with Ginzburg's *The Cheese and the Worms*?
- Why are the authors of microhistories more likely to overtly use their imaginations than the authors of conventional histories?
- How much does a microhistorical approach challenge the global history of [specific topic]? [The topic could be anything with both micro and global histories, e.g. early modern missionaries, eighteenth-century travel, etc.]
- How can microhistory contribute to the history of material culture?
- How much are medieval [or modern] microhistories different from early modern ones?
- Does microhistory raise distinctive ethical issues?

Essay Plan and Preliminary Bibliography

You must submit an essay plan (1 page max) and preliminary bibliography via email (b.waddell@bbk.ac.uk) by 3 July 2020. I will aim to provide feedback on this to you by email within one week.

Mitigating Circumstances

You may submit a claim of 'mitigating circumstances' for either the essay or the attendance requirement should your students be unexpectedly disrupted. These claims are assessed by a departmental committee, not by the instructor. There are further details available on the policy and procedure and the form is available online as well: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/exams>.

1. Historicising microhistorians: the birth of a genre (Brodie Waddell)

In our first class, we will spend some time getting to know each other and going through the practicalities how the module will work.

We will also introduce ourselves to the concept of 'microhistory' itself. What does it mean? Where did it come from? Why do people write 'microhistories'?

Key Reading

Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller* (Italian, 1976; English translation, 1980), pp. xi-xxvi ('Preface')

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1983), pp. vii-ix, 1-5 ('Preface' and 'Introduction')

Further Reading

Brewer, John. 'Microhistory and the Histories of Everyday Life', *Cultural and Social History*, 7:1 (2010), pp. 87-109

De Vivo, Filippo. 'Prospect or Refuge? Microhistory, History on the Large Scale', *Cultural and Social History*, 7:3 (2010), pp. 387-397

Ginzburg, Carlo. 'Microhistory: Two or Three Things that I Know About It', *Critical Inquiry*, 20:1 (1993), pp. 10-35

Ginzburg, Carlo. 'Clues: Roots of an evidential paradigm', in his *Myths, Emblems, Clues* (1990); also in *Theory and Society*, 7:3 (1979)

Hudson, Pat. 'Closeness and Distance', *Cultural and Social History*, 7:3 (2010), pp. 375-385

Levi, Giovanni. 'On Microhistory', in Peter Burke (ed.), *New Perspectives on Historical Writing* (1991), pp. 97-119

Magnússon, Sigurður Gylfi; and István M. Szijártó, *What is Microhistory: Theory and Practice* (2013)

Revel, Jacques. 'Microanalysis and the construction of the social', in Jacques Revel and Lynn Hunt (eds), *Histories: French Constructions of the Past: Postwar French Thought*, vol. I (1995), pp. 492-502

Trivellato, Francesca. 'Microstoria, Microhistoire, Microhistory', *French Politics, Culture and Society*, 33:1 (2015), pp. 122-134

2. Inquisitorial histories: the heretical Italian miller (Brodie Waddell)

Carlo Ginzburg wrote the most famous self-declared microhistory: *The Cheese and the Worms*. It quickly became a classic and inspired many more histories of this type. Why has it been so successful and influential?

It is based primarily on inquisitorial records, a feature it shares with many later microhistories. Why are inquisitorial records used so often by microhistorians? How does the nature of the source influence the text?

Key Reading

Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller* (Italian, 1976; English translation, 1980)

Further Reading: Historical Context

Black, Christopher F. *The Italian Inquisition* (2009)

Burke, Peter. *Popular culture in early modern Europe* (1978 and later editions)

Degl'Innocenti, Luca, et al. (eds), *Interactions Between Orality and Writing in Early Modern Italian Culture* (2016)

Fagnito, Gigliola. *Church, Censorship and Culture in Early Modern Italy* (2001)

Richardson, Brian. *Printing, Writers and Readers in Renaissance Italy* (1999)

Further Reading: Historiographical Context

Arnold, John. 'The Historian as Inquisitor: The Ethics of Interrogating Subaltern Voices', *Rethinking History*, 2:3 (1998), pp. 379-386

Ginzburg, Carlo. 'Checking the Evidence: The Judge and the Historian', *Critical Inquiry*, 18:1 (1991), pp. 79-92

LaCapra, Dominick. *History and Criticism* (1985), pp. 45-70 ('The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Twentieth-Century Historian')

Magnússon, Sigurður Gylfi; and István M. Szijártó, *What is Microhistory: Theory and Practice* (2013), ch. 1 ('Italian Microhistory').

Other Examples (full references on p. 13 below)

Behringer, *Shaman*

Brown, *Immodest Acts*

Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou*

Nalle, *Mad for God*

Rublack, *Astronomer*

3. Reading an event: the Parisian cat massacre and the Balinese cockfight (Brodie Waddell)

Historians have always written about events, but Robert Darnton popularised the idea of analysing a historically 'insignificant' event in order to understand the wider culture. He particularly drew on the idea of 'thick description', borrowed from the anthropologist Clifford Geertz.

How much can a singular event tell us about society as a whole? How can historians do 'thick description' without actually witnessing the event itself?

Key Reading

Darnton, Robert. *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History* (1984), ch. 2 ('Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Séverin')

Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures* (1973), ch. 15 ('Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight')

Further Reading: Historical Context

Baker, Steve. *Picturing the Beast: Animal, Identity and Representation* (1993), esp. ch. 1

Bruaene, Anne-Laure van. 'Revolted Beasts: Animal Satire and Animal Trials in the Dutch Republic', in Walter Mellon et al. (eds), *The Anthropomorphic Lens* (2015)

Doyle, William. *Old Regime France, 1648-1788* (2001)

Materné, Jan. 'Chapel Members in the Workplace: Tension and Teamwork in the Printing Trades in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries', *International Review of Social History*, 39 (1994), supplement, pp. 53-82

Minard, Philippe. 'Agitation in the Work Force', in Robert Darnton and Daniel Roche (eds), *Revolution in Print. The Press in France, 1775-1800* (1989), pp. 107-123

Truant, Cynthia Maria. *The Rites of Labor: Brotherhoods of Compagnonnage in Old and New Regime France* (1994)

Further Reading: Historiographical Context

Chartier, Roger. 'Text, Symbols, and Frenchness', *The Journal of Modern History*, 57:4 (1985), pp. 682-695

Clarke, Elizabeth. *History, Theory, Text: Historians and the Linguistic Turn* (2001), pp. 145-155 ('Textualism in Interpretative Anthropology and Its Critics')

Darnton, Robert. 'The Symbolic Element in History', *Journal of Modern History*, 58:1 (1986), pp. 218-234

Fernandez, James. 'Historians Tell Tales: Of Cartesian Cats and Gallic Cockfights', *Journal of Modern History*, 60:1 (1998), pp. 113-127

Hodes, Martha. 'Knowledge and Indifference in the New York City Race Riot of 1900: An Argument in Search of a Story', *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice*, 15:1 (2011), pp. 61-89

Magnússon, Sigurður Gylfi; and István M. Szijártó, *What is Microhistory: Theory and Practice* (2013), ch. 3 ('Microhistory in a Broader Sense')

Mah, Harold. 'Suppressing the Text: The Metaphysics of Ethnographic History in Darnton's Great Cat Massacre', *History Workshop Journal*, 31 (Spring 1991), pp. 1-20

Other Examples

Hindle, 'Shaming'

Hitchcock, 'Round-House'

Le Roy Ladurie, *Carnival*

Underdown, 'Shows'

Walter, *Plunders*

4. Private life made public: the peasant, the imposter and their wife (Brodie Waddell)

Natalie Zemon Davis, like Ginzburg, wrote a book which soon became a 'classic' microhistory. She too uses sources produced in the course of a sixteenth-century trial, yet she tells a very different sort of story. Davis focuses on the relationships within a single peasant household and its wider networks of neighbours and kin.

What makes *The Return* so compelling? Can microhistories tell us more about past 'private' lives than conventional studies? How much room in scholarly history is there for the 'perhaps' and the 'may-have-beens' that Davis frequently uses?

Key Reading

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1983)

Further Reading: Historical Context

Beik, William. *A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France* (2009)

Hanley, Sarah. "'The Jurisprudence of the Arrêts': Marital Union, Civil Society, and State Formation in France, 1550–1650", *Law and History Review*, 21:1 (2003)

Hardwick, Julie. *Family Business: Litigation and the Political Economies of Daily Life in Early Modern France* (2009)

Ringold, Jeanette K., and Janet Lewis (eds), 'A Memorable Decision of the High Court of Toulouse', *Triquarterly*, 55 (1982), pp. 82-103 [English translation of the text of Coras' version of the Martin Guerre trial]

Further Reading: Historiographical Context

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *A Passion for History: Conversations with Denis Crouzet* (2010)

Davis, Natalie Zemon. 'Movie or Monograph? A Historian/Filmmaker's Perspective', *The Public Historian*, 25:3 (2003), pp. 45-48.

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *Remaking Imposters: From Martin Guerre to Sommersby* (1997)

Ginzburg, Carlo. 'Proofs and Possibilities: In the Margins of Natalie Zemon Davis' *The Return of Martin Guerre*', *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*, 37 (1988), pp. 113-127

Lewis, Janet. *The Wife of Martin Guerre* (1941)

Scott, Joan W. 'Storytelling', *History and Theory*, 50:2 (May 2011), pp. 203-209

Other Examples

Cook and Cook, *Good Faith*

Ozment, *Daughter*

Brucker, *Giovanni and Lusanna*

5. Global microhistory: an Ottoman abroad (Filippo de Vivo)

Key Reading

Ghobrial, John-Paul A. 'The secret life of Elias of Babylon and the Uses of Global Microhistory', *Past and Present*, 222 (2014), pp. 51-93

Trivellato, Francesca. 'Is There a Future for Italian Microhistory in the Age of Global History?', *California Italian Studies*, 2:1 (2011) <<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/0z94n9hq>>

Further Reading: Historical Context

Baum, Wilhelm; and Dietmar Winkler, *The Church of the East: A Concise History* (2003)

Farah, Caesar (ed.) *An Arab's Journey to Colonial Spanish America: The Travels of Elias al-Mu'sili in the Seventeenth Century* (2003)

Matar, Nabil (ed.) *In the Lands of the Christians: Arabic Travel Writing in the Seventeenth Century* (2002)

Trivellato, Francesca; Leor Halevi, and Catia Antunes, (eds), *Religion and Trade: Cross-Cultural Exchanges in World History, 1000-1900* (2014)

Further Reading: Historiographical Context

Andrade, Tonio. 'A Chinese Farmer, Two African Boys, and a Warlord: Towards a Global Microhistory', *Journal of World History*, 21:4 (2010), pp. 573-91

Berg, Maxine (ed.) *Writing the History of the Global: Challenges for the Twenty-First Century* (2013)

Berg, Maxine. 'A Different Point of View', *Global History and Culture Centre Blog* (2018)
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/ghcc/blog/a_different_point/>

Bertrand, Roman and Guillaume Calafat (eds.). *Micro-analyse et histoire globale, in Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, lxxiii, 1 (January–March 2018). English version available online.

Davis, Natalie Zemon. 'Decentering History: Local Stories and Cultural Crossing in a Global World', *History and Theory* 50:2 (2011), pp. 188-202

Deacon, Desley; Penny Russell, and Angela Woollacott (eds), *Transnational Lives: Biographies of Global Modernity, 1700-Present* (2010)

De Vivo, Filippo. 'Microhistories of Long-Distance Information: Space, Movement and Agency in the Early Modern News', *Past & Present*, 242, Supplement (2019), pp. 179-214.

Friest, Dagmar. 'A Global Microhistory of the Early Modern Period: Social Sites and the Interconnectedness of Human Lives', *Quaderni Storici*, 52:155 (2017)

Friest, Dagmar, 'Lost in Time and Space? Global Memoryscapes in the Early Modern World', in Ericka Kuijpers et al (eds.), *Memory before Modernity* (2013)

Ghobrial, John-Paul, ed. 'Global History and Microhistory', *Past & Present*, 242, Supplement 14 (2019).

Ginzburg, Carlo. 'Microhistory and World History', in *The Cambridge World History, Volume 6: The Construction of a Global World, 1400–1800 CE, Part 2: Patterns of Change* (2015)

Other Examples

Andrade, 'Farmer'

Chakravarti, 'Gabriel'

Colley, *Ordeal*

Davis, *Tricksters Travels*

García-Arenal and Wiegers, *Man of Three Worlds*

Hodes, *Wife*

Rothschild, *Empires*

Spence, *Hu*

Subrahmanyam, *Alien*

Travers, 'Connected'

6. Object biographies: the social life of things (Kat Hill)

Key Reading

Gosden, Chris and Yvonne Marshall, 'The Cultural Biography of Objects', *World Archaeology*, 31.2, (1999), pp. 169-178

... and either ...

Allison, Christopher M. B. 'Jamestown's Relics: Sacred Presence in the English New World', *Conversations: An Online Journal of the Center for the Study of Material and Visual Cultures of Religion* (2016) <<https://mavcor.yale.edu/conversations/essays/jamestown-s-relics-sacred-presence-english-new-world>>

... Or...

Scheffler, Robin Wolfe. 'Interests and instrument: a micro-history of object Wh.3469 (X-ray powder diffraction camera, ca. 1940)', *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science: Part A*, 40:4 (2009), pp. 396-404

Further Reading: Historical Context for Scheffler

Galison, P. *Image and Logic: A material culture of microphysics* (1997)

Further Reading: Historiographical Context

Appadurai, Arjun. *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective* (1986)

Festa, Lynn. 'The Lives of Things: Objects, it-narratives and fictional autobiography, 1700-1800', in Adam Smyth (ed.), *A History of English Autobiography* (2016)

Hamling, Tara. 'Visual and Material Culture', in Laura Sangha and Jonathan Willis (eds), *Understanding Early Modern Primary Sources* (2016)

Hanß, Stefan, 'Objects that Made History: A Material Microhistory of the Sant Crist de Lepant (Barcelona, 1571-2017)', in *Forum Kritische Archäologie* 7 (2018), pp. 18-46, open access: http://www.kritischearchaeologie.de/repositorium/fka/2018_7_2_Hanss.pdf

Kopytoff, Igor. 'The Culture Biography of Things: Commoditization as Process' in Arjun Appadurai (ed.), *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective* (1986), pp. 64-91

Olson, Roberta J.M.; Patricia L. Reilly and Rupert Shepard (eds), *The Biography of the Object in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy* (2006)

Rublack, Ulinka. 'Matter in the Material Renaissance', *Past and Present*, 219 (2013), pp. 41-85

Other Examples

De Waal, *Hare*

Handley, 'Objects'

Milton, *Nutmeg*

Various authors, 'Object Biographies', *Rethinking Pitt-Rivers* (n.d.), <<https://web.prm.ox.ac.uk/rpr/index.php/objectbiographies.html>>

Various authors, 'Radical Objects', *History Workshop Online* (2011 onwards): <<http://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/category/radical-objects/>>

7. Medieval microhistory: a dog and its shrine (Brodie Waddell)

Key Reading

Schmitt, Jean-Claude. *The Holy Greyhound: Guinefort, Healer of Children since the Thirteenth Century* (1983)

Further Reading: Historical Context

Alexander, Dominic. *Saints and Animals in the Middle Ages* (2008)

Arnold, John. *Belief and Unbelief in Medieval Europe* (2005)

Bartlett, Robert. *Why Can the Dead Do Such Great Things?: Saints and Worshippers from the Martyrs to the Reformation* (2015)

Goodich, Michael. 'Mirabilis Deus in Sanctis Suis: Social History and Medieval Miracles', *Studies in Church History*, 41 (2005), pp. 135-156

Mesley, Matthew; and Louise E. Wilson (eds) *Contextualizing Miracles in the Christian West, 1100-1500: New Historical Approaches* (2014)

Salisbury, Joyce E. *The Beast Within: Animals in the Middle Ages* (1994)

Salter, David. *Holy and Noble Beasts: Encounters with Animals in Medieval Literature* (2001)

Further Reading: Historiographical Context

Biller, Peter. 'Popular Religion in the Central and Later Middle Ages' in Michael Bentley (ed.), *Companion to Historiography* (2006)

Blackburn, Stuart. 'The Brahmin and the Mongoose: The Narrative Context of a Well-Travelled Tale', *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 59:3 (1996), pp. 494-507

Other Examples

Dyer, *Merchant*

Dutton, 'Monk

Goodich, 'Microhistory'

Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou*

Petrosillo, 'Womb'

Power, 'Bodo'

West, 'Visions'

8. Ethics and emotions in modern microhistory (Julia Laite)

Key Reading

Lepore, Jill. 'Historians Who Love Too Much: Reflections on Microhistory and Biography', *Journal of American History*, 88:1 (2001), pp. 129-144.

Magnússon, Sigurður Gylfi. 'The Singularization of History': Social History and Microhistory within the Postmodern State of Knowledge', *Journal of Social History*, 36:3 (2014), pp. 701-35.

Further Reading

Arnold, John. 'The Historian as Inquisitor: The Ethics of Interrogating Subaltern Voices', *Rethinking History*, 2:3 (1998), pp. 379-386

Barclay, Katie. 'Falling in Love with the Dead', *Rethinking History*, online September 2018, pp. 1-16

Houlbrook, Matt. *Prince of Tricksters: The Incredible True Story of Netley Lucas, Gentleman Crook* (2016) [see also his self-reflective blogging at <https://tricksterprince.wordpress.com/>]

Laite, Julia. 'The Marginal and the Monstrous: The 'Voices' of Prostitutes and Traffickers in Modern History', in Mark Hailwood, Laura Sangha, Brodie Waddell and Jonathan Willis (eds), *The Voices of the People: An Online Symposium* (2015)

<<https://manyheadedmonster.wordpress.com/voices-of-the-people/>>

Laite, Julia. 'Pimps and Traffickers in the Era of White Slavery', *Past and Present*, no. 237 (2017), pp. 237-269.

Laite, Julia. 'The Emmet's Inch: Small History in a Digital Age', *Journal of Social History* (2019)

9. Modern microhistory: the woman who crossed dark waters (Brodie Waddell)

Key Reading

Bahadur, Gaiutra. *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture* (2013)

Further Reading: Historical Context

Anderson, Clare. 'Convicts and Coolies: Rethinking Indentured Labour in the Nineteenth Century', *Slavery and Abolition*, 30:1 (2009)

Behal, Rana; and, Marcel van der Linden (eds), *Coolies, Capital and Colonialism: Studies in Indian Labour History* (2006)

Kumar, Ashutosh. *Coolies of the Empire: Indentured Indians in the Sugar Colonies, 1830-1920* (2017)

Roopnarine, Lommarsh. 'Indian migration during indentured servitude in British Guiana and Trinidad, 1850–1920', *Labor History*, 52:2 (2011)

Further Reading: Historiographical Context

Bahadur, Gaiutra. 'Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture' <<https://cooliewoman.com/>> [interviews with Bahadur and other contextual material]

Bahadur, Gaiutra. 'Conjure Women and Coolie Women', *Small Axe*, 56 (July 2018)

Boon, Sonja. 'Creative Histories: Vulnerability, Emotions, and the Undoing of the Self', *Storying the Past* (2017) <<https://storyingthepast.wordpress.com/2017/10/06/creative-histories-vulnerability-emotions-and-the-undoing-of-the-self-by-sonja-boon/>>

Deacon, Desley; Penny Russell and Angela Woollacott (eds), *Transnational Lives: Biographies of Global Modernity, 1700-Present* (2010)

Hosein, Gabrielle Jamela. 'A Letter to My Great-Grandmother', *Small Axe*, 56 (July 2018)

Light, Alison. *Common People: The History of an English Family* (2014), esp. preface and prologue

Renders, Hans; and Binne de Haan (eds), *Theoretical Discussions of Biography: Approaches from History, Microhistory and Life Writing* (2014)

Trotz, D. Alissa. 'Gaiutra Bahadur's *Coolie Woman*: Intimacies, Proximities, Relationalities', *Small Axe*, 56 (July 2018)

Other Examples

Chatterjee, *Impostor*

Earner-Bryne, 'Rape'

Hodes, *Wife*

Samuel, *East End*

10. Doing microhistory on the fly: a primary source workshop (Brodie Waddell)

For this class, we will find some potentially rich primary sources and think through how we might use them to write microhistories. We will discuss this further ahead of the session.

Examples of Microhistories

Note that not all of these authors would label their work as 'microhistories' and some do not fit easily under this label. But they all include elements that make them useful for thinking about the genre.

- Anderson, Emma. *The Betrayal of Faith: The Tragic Journey of a Colonial Native Convert* (2007)
- Andrade, Tonio. 'A Chinese Farmer, Two Black Boys, and a Warlord: Towards a Global Microhistory', *Journal of World History*, 21:4 (2011), pp. 573-91
- Anon., 'A select bibliography of works of and about microhistory', *Microhistory Network* (2017), <<http://www.microhistory.eu/index.php/2017/02/06/bibliography/>>
- Bahadur, Gaiutra. *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture* (2013)
- Behringer, Wolfgang. *Shaman of Oberstdorf: Chonrad Stoeckhlin and the Phantoms of the Night* (1994/1998)
- Boulton, Jeremy. 'Microhistory in Early Modern London: John Bedford (1601-1667)', *Continuity and Change*, 22:1 (2007), pp. 113-141
- Brown, Judith C. *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy* (1986)
- Brucker, Gene. *Giovanni and Lusanna: Love and Marriage in Renaissance Florence* (1986)
- Chakravarti, Ananya. 'Mapping 'Gabriel': Space, Identity and Slavery in the Late Sixteenth-Century Indian Ocean', *Past & Present*, vol 243 (May 2019)
- Chatterjee, Partha. *A Princely Impostor? The Strange and Universal History of the Kumar of Bhawal* (2002)
- Colley, Linda. *The Ordeal of Elisabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History* (2008)
- Cook, Alexandra; and Noble David Cook, *Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance: A Case of Transatlantic Bigamy* (1991)
- Cressy, David. *Travesties and Transgressions in Tudor and Stuart England: Tales of Discord and Dissention* (2000)
- Darnton, Robert. *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History* (1984)
- Davis, Natalie Zemon. *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1983)
- Davis, Natalie Zemon. *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim between Worlds* (2006)
- De Vivo, Filippo. 'Prospect or Refuge? Microhistory, History on the Large Scale', *Cultural and Social History*, 7:3 (2010), pp. 387-397
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- Dening, Greg. *Mr Bligh's Bad Language: Passion, Power and Theatre on the Bounty* (1992), esp. pp. 157-174 ('Sharks that Walk on the Land')
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