

**DAVID GANGE**  
**SENIOR LECTURER IN HISTORY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**



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**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:            *Affiliated Lecturer, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge & Junior Research Fellow, Wolfson College, Cambridge*

**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 BA; Trinity College, Cambridge

**RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT:**

I'm a cultural historian of modern coastlines. I write for media such as *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue*, *The Scotsman* and *The Times Literary Supplement* and have published books with Harper Collins, Oneworld Books, Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press. My research explores human entanglement with ocean in the North Atlantic world and shows how histories of coasts have consistently diverged from those of nation states. My latest book, *The Frayed Atlantic Edge* (2019), involved kayaking 2,000 miles of Atlantic coastline to envisage a version of British and Irish history in which urban centres were peripheral and the Atlantic central; it was called by *The Scotsman* 'a major step towards a genuinely radical reimagining of the British Isles'. I have two books underway. The first, *Being Littoral: Rethinking Atlantic Britain and Ireland*, uses the research conducted for *The Frayed Atlantic Edge* within a theoretical, rather than narrative, frame and will be my most substantive REF output to date. It draws histories of British and Irish coasts and islands into conversation with traditions such as hydrofeminism and indigenous scholarship of the North-West Atlantic and Pacific Islands. It shows how understanding the experience of coastlines demands rejection of the overarching narratives of change usually assumed in British History. The second book, *Afloat*, is a cultural history of small-boat traditions in the North Atlantic, which will involve research in Ireland, Faroe, Greenland, Newfoundland, Maine and the Caribbean in 2020.

As a historian of the nineteenth century, I write about temporalities, religion, and the politics of historiography. This includes work on the cultural context of the origins of Egyptology and Assyriology, e.g. *Dialogues with the Dead* (2013), and the historical intersections of religion and archaeology, e.g. *Cities of God* (2014). I teach themes in modern European and Atlantic history, but particularly enjoy teaching critical theory and post-war historiography: seeking inventive ways to engage students with theoretical developments from the linguistic turn, and the classics of feminist and postcolonial theory, to new materialist and ecocritical perspectives.

### RECENT AWARDS:

2020	<i>Frayed Atlantic Edge</i> nominated for 2020 book prizes including the Highland Book Prize, Mountbatten Maritime Prize & Duff Cooper Prize
2019	<i>BBC Countryfile</i> Book of the Month (August 2019) and a <i>New Statesman</i> Book of the Year (nominated by Robert Macfarlane)
2018	Visiting Fellow, Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway
2017	Visiting Fellow, Ubatuba Marine Studies Centre, University of Sao Paulo (Intercontinental Academia)
2016	Visiting Fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, Nagoya University (Intercontinental Academia)
2015	Visiting Fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Sao Paulo (Intercontinental Academia)
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:

#### **SELECTED BOOKS:**

**\*David Gange, *Being Littoral: Rethinking Atlantic Britain and Ireland* (proposal for submission to Verso in January 2020)**

David Gange, *Afloat: Small Boats at Sea in the North Atlantic World* (contracted to Harper Collins for delivery in 2022)

**\*David Gange, *The Frayed Atlantic Edge: a Historian's Journey from Shetland to the Channel* (Harper Collins, 2019), 0008225148, 400 pages**

'An argument for a different kind of history... poetic and precise'. *The Economist*

'A brilliant book, and a major step towards a genuinely radical reimagining of the British Isles'. *The Scotsman*

'His prose runs, breaks and shifts with the force and beauty of the seas that bear him...worth attention for its deeper argument as well as its thrilling surface'. *The Spectator*

'Remarkable, poetically written...a literary triumph.' *Times Literary Supplement*

'Captivating and loving...a History of Britain and Ireland like no other.' *The Week*

'This epic kayaker, this human seal...is dripping with erudition. *The Irish Examiner*

David Gange, *The Victorians: A Beginner's Guide* (Oneworld Books, 2016), 1780748280, 228 pages.

'Undoubtedly the best single volume on Victorian culture and history out there'.

**Professor Simon Goldhill**

'Engaging...and thoroughly appetising'. **BBC History Magazine**

David Gange & Michael Ledger-Lomas (eds), *Cities of God: the Bible and Archaeology in nineteenth-century Britain* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 1107004241, 368 pages.

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

'The definitive history'. *Times Literary Supplement*

### SELECTED ARTICLES & CHAPTERS:

'Amniotic Oceans: The Feminist Poetics of Island Histories, 1970-2019' (for submission in April 2020 to *Feminist Review*, special edition on 'Oceans')

'Small Boats & Strandlines: Historical Anthropologies of Everyday Coastal Travel' (in progress)

'The New Reformation: History, Religion & Social Action in the 1890s' (for *Victorian Studies*, 2020)

'Two Victorian Egypts of Herodotus' in Thomas Harrison & Joseph Skinner (eds), *Herodotus in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2020)

'Beyond the Divide: Death, Ancient History & the Late Victorians' in Sadiah Qureshi & Adelene Buckland (eds), *Time Travellers: Victorian Encounters with Time and History* (Chicago UP, 2020)

**\*'Time, Space & Islands: Why Geographers Drive the Temporal Agenda', *Past & Present* (2019)**

'Retracing Trevelyan? Historians & the Archive of the Feet', *Green Letters* (2018)

**\*'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

'Pithom' in Gange & Ledger-Lomas (eds) *Cities of God* (Cambridge UP, 2014), 136-163

with Rachel Bryant Davies, 'Troy' in Gange & Ledger-Lomas (eds) *Cities of God* (Cambridge UP, 2014), 39-70

with Michael Ledger-Lomas, 'Introduction' in *Cities of God* (Cambridge UP, 2014), 1-38

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

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

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

### INDICATORS OF ESTEEM:

In 2019 I was an invited contributor to a social policy project, run by the James Hutton Institute and Scottish Islands Federation and reporting directly to the Scottish Government: 'Islands Revival: Improving the evidence base on Scotland's Island Communities'. I have acted as external advisor for institutions including the European Commission. In 2015-18 I was a fellow of Intercontinental Academia, run by a consortium of Institutes of Advanced Studies, exploring concepts of time across the sciences, humanities and arts.

I have made media appearances on BBC Breakfast TV and documentaries for BBC2 and Smithsonian Television, in podcasts for *BBC History Magazine* and the RNIB, and on BBC Radio Shetland and BBC Radio Orkney as well as published or broadcast interviews for the John Muir Trust, *The Island Review* and Notes for the Curious. I speak regularly at book festivals and literary events. I write regularly for a wide range of publications, including *The Big Issue* (e.g. 'Rethinking our Coastlines', August 2019: <https://www.bigissue.com/latest/david-gange/>), *The Guardian*, and *The Scotsman* and for sites such as *The Island Review*. I review for international journals in history and the human sciences such as *Comparative Studies in Society and History* and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

## RESEARCH FUNDING

With Professor Simon Goldhill & Michael Ledger-Lomas I was one of three Cambridge scholars who wrote a successful European Research Council application; however, I took up my Birmingham post before the project began (2010, €2,000,000). I secured a Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellowship (2007, 4 yrs, £144,000), and funding for my research on coastlines (2016, £27,500; 2019, £20,000). I have received numerous small grants including from Intercontinental Academia (2015, £3,000); the Birmingham Institute of Advanced Studies (2015, £3,000); travel grants to build research partnerships, including from my university's International Collaboration Fund (2015, £1,785) and the National University of Ireland, Galway (2017 €2,000). In 2020 I will apply for a British Academy mid-career grant.

## SELECTED LECTURES & TALKS 2011-2019:

- 2019            Invited speaker, Department of History, **University of Glasgow**, roundtable:  
                  'Doing/Making: Historians and Archives of Hands & Feet'  
                  Invited speaker, **Edinburgh Book Fringe**, 'To the Wild Ends?'  
                  Invited speaker, **Edinburgh International Book Festival**, 'Words Carries on Waves'  
                  Invited speaker, **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**, University of Highlands & Islands, Skye, 'The  
                  View from the Sea: Rethinking Island Histories'  
                  **Scottish Geopoetics Conference**, Wiston Lodge, Biggar, 'A Cargo of Centuries:  
                  Kayaking with Poetic Ballast'
- 2018            Invited speaker, **National University of Ireland**, Galway, 'The Ocean Archive:  
                  Atlantic History & Heritage by Kayak'
- 2016            **University of Dundee**, Department of English Literature, conference, 'Traversing  
                  the Field: Walking & Thinking in Scottish Landscapes'  
                  Invited speaker, **University of Chicago**, Newberry Library, 'Time and the Scales of  
                  History: Are Historians Engaged in a Temporal Turn?'
- 2015            Invited speaker, Historiography Seminar, **University of Brasilia**, 'New  
                  Cultures of Time and Space: The Temporal Turn & the Modern Middle East'  
                  Invited speaker, Department of Anthropology, **Pontifical Catholic University of  
                  Rio de Janeiro**: 'Time, Technology & the Limits of Globalisation, 1870-1950'  
                  British Association of Victorian Studies Annual Conference, **University of Leeds**:  
                  'Books of the Dead: Interpreting Death in the 1890s'
- 2014            Invited Speaker, **Hay Festival**, 'Egyptology in British Culture'  
                  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'  
                  Invited speaker, Second Postgate Colloquium, **University of Liverpool**, 'The  
                  Mid-Victorian Egypts of Herodotus'  
                  Invited speaker, Reception Research Group, **University of Liverpool**, 'Petrie's  
                  Greeks: the Rediscovery of Naukratis'  
                  Invited contributor, *Past & Present* Colloquium, **University of Sussex**: 'The  
                  Ruins of Preservation'
- 2011            Invited speaker, Professor Boyd Hilton's Festschrift, **Trinity College Cambridge**:  
                  'Time! Time! Time!', 'Geographies of Time in 1822'  
                  Invited speaker, **University College London**, Disciplinary Measures  
                  Egyptology Colloquium, 'The Invention & Isolation of a Discipline'

## TEACHING:

Teaching is always my highest priority, in part because I find developing research-led courses 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 have been nominated for Teaching Excellence Awards in every full 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 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:**

### ***PHD***

- Eleanor Dobson, 'Egyptology & *Fin de Siecle* Fiction', 2014-2017 (AHRC funded), passed with minor corrections
- Howard Carlton, 'Astronomy and Antiquity in Nineteenth-Century Scientific Discourse', PT 2013-2019, passed with no corrections
- Ruth Lindley, 'Breaking the Binaries: Rethinking Religion, Gender and Secularism in Modern Britain', 2015-2019 (AHRC funded)
- Louise Ellis Barrett, 'John Gardner Wilkinson and Egyptological thought in the mid-nineteenth-century', PT 2014-20
- Susan Bishop, 'The Benson Family: Gender and Religion in an Ecclesiastical Clan', PT 2013-2019
- Ariella Feldman, 'Folklore in Bronte Fictions', PT 2013-19
- Nichola Tonks, 'Ancient Egypt and the Representation of Death in late Victorian Britain, PT 2017-2023 (AHRC funded)

## **TAUGHT PROGRAMMES:**

### ***MASTERS LEVEL***

- 2019-            Convenor: MA in Modern British Studies
- 2014-            Module Convenor: 'Sites & Sources in Modern British Studies'
- 2013-16         Module Convenor: 'Historical Methods'
- 2013-            Contributor: MA in Global History
- 2011-14         Programme Co-ordinator: MA in the History of Christianity
- 2011-14         Module Convenor: 'Writing the History of Christianity A: Classic Texts & Interpretations'
- 2011-15         Module Convenor: 'Writing the History of Christianity B: Sources'

## **UNDERGRADUATE**

- 2018- Convenor: 'Oceanic Histories: Modern Britain and Atlantic Histories'
- 2012- Convenor: 'History in Theory and Practice' (compulsory second-year survey course on historical theory, 250 students per year)
- 2013- Convenor: Advanced Option, 'Reason & Romance: the Cultural History of Nineteenth-Century Britain'
- 2010-14 Convenor: Special Subject, 'Science, Religion & Empire'
- 2011-12 Convenor, Optional Module, 'Music and Society: 1785-1914'
- 2007-2010: Member of the Economic, Social and Cultural History Subject Group, University of Cambridge; Supervisor in Economic, Social and Cultural History 1700-1914.

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

- 2018- Senior Admissions Tutor, School of History & Cultures
- 2018- Convenor, MA in Modern British Studies; MA in Social Research; MA in Social & Economic History
- 2017-2018 Postgraduate Exams Officer
- 2015- Collaborative development of Massive Open Online Course: 'Conceptualising Time'
- 2011-2016 Convenor, MA in the History of Christianity
- 2011-2016 Editorial Board, *Preternature* journal
- 2011-2013 Joint Honours Admissions Tutor
- 2011-2013 Convenor, Staff-Student Committee, School of History & Cultures
- 2011 Co-organiser, British Association of Victorian Studies Conference, Birmingham
- 2009 Co-organiser, joint conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association and the British Association of Victorian Studies, Cambridge
- 2007-2010 Convenor, Wolfson Humanities Society, University of Cambridge
- 2005-2007 Convenor, Cultural History Workshop, University of Cambridge

## **OTHER INTERESTS**

### ***MUSIC***

My training, and intended career, until aged 20 was in music. I played Nordic ECM-style jazz on recordings such as Jon Opstad, *Still Picture* (New Canvas Records) - which featured in *Jazzwise*, the *Jazz Times* and *All About Jazz* - and performed on albums with singer-songwriters including David Cox, *David G Cox* (Truck Records). I was trumpeter for the Gwilym Simcock sextet, before he won the Perrier Award and British Jazz Rising Star Award, and I played in masterclasses at the Juilliard School of Music, New York, with musicians including Regina Carter and Kenny Baron. I had my compositions performed in venues such as Manchester Cathedral and the Cambridge Union and played classical concertos, including Shostakovich's concerto for piano and trumpet, and Aaron Copland's *Quiet City* with musicians from Chetham's School of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music and the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatoire. I still play small-group Nordic jazz regularly.

### ***OUTDOORS***

Each year I undertake expeditions by sea kayak or in mountains (from Greenland to the Japanese Alps) and speak or write about them. This includes at events including the Kendal Mountain Film Festival, and as contributor to magazines such as *Earthlines* and books from e.g. Dunlin Press. I write outdoors columns such as 'The UK's best winter walks' for media including *The Guardian*.

### ***PHOTOGRAPHY***

I take portraits, landscapes and wildlife photography and have had over a hundred photographs published in print media. This includes in books, magazines such as *BBC Countryfile* and *Country Life*, and newspapers, including a front page for *The Press & Journal* (the leading daily paper for the Highlands & Islands of Scotland). Future projects involving oral histories, such as *Afloat*, will also include photographic portraiture.