



INSTITUTE
OF HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

University of London
School of Advanced Study



The Gerald Aylmer Seminar 2015

Secret Histories

Friday, 27th February 2015



The Wolfson Conference Suite
The Institute of Historical Research, Senate House

Hosted by The Royal Historical Society, The Institute of Historical Research, The National Archives
and The British Library

Programme

Each panel will feature three 20 minute presentations and will be followed by 30 minutes for questions.

9:30am – 10:00am

Coffee and registration

10:00am – 10:10am

Welcome and introduction: Lawrence Goldman, IHR

10:10am – 10:30am

Keynote speech: David Vincent, The Open University
Secrets and Truths: The challenge of blocked communication

10:30am – 12:00pm

Panel 1: Uncovering secrets

Chair: Penny Brook, The British Library

Margaret Makepeace, The British Library
Family secrets revealed

Richard Espley, Senate House Library
Archiving the unlawful: collecting, and concealing, suppressed anti-war ephemera in a university library

Jonathan Cole, The National Archives
The Special Operations Executive and the HS 9 Project

12:00pm – 12:45pm

Lunch (provided)

12:45pm – 2:15pm

Panel 2: State Secrets

Chair: Julia Jones, The National Archives

Tony Badger, University of Cambridge
Why does the FCO fail to release documents? The cases of the Migrated Archive and the Special Collections

Keith Jeffery, Queen's University, Belfast
Researching British spies

Gordon Corera, BBC Security Correspondent
Writing and Reporting on secrets

2:30pm – 2:45pm

Tea & Coffee Break

2:45pm – 3:00pm

Jeff James

Chief Executive and Keeper, The National Archives

3:00pm – 4:30pm

Panel 3: Difficult Histories

Chair: Lawrence Goldman, IHR

Caroline Bressey, University College London

The City of Others: secret histories of the multi-cultural city in a Victorian & Edwardian asylum

Victoria Northwood, Bethlem Royal Hospital Museum

Title TBC

Matthew Thomson, University of Warwick

Secrets, archives, and the history of mental health care in twentieth century Britain

4:30pm – 4:45pm

Closing comments by Peter Mandler, The Royal Historical Society