



**Politics Before Democracy:
Britain and its world, c.1750-1914**

Conference Programme, 19 & 20 April 2023





THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

British Political, Social & Local History

The History of Parliament Trust has been promoting research on British political history for over 60 years. Its publications include 56 volumes examining the House of Commons and House of Lords in periods from the 14th century onwards, plus a series of books aimed at wider audiences. The Trust has been co-supervising PhDs since 2010, runs student internships and essay competitions, and organises regular conferences and seminars, including the 'Parliaments, Politics and People' seminar at the Institute of Historical Research. It also develops historical resources, collaborating with organisations like the British Library, British History Online, the House of Commons Library and Parliamentary Digital Service on oral history and digitisation projects and the creation of open-access, web-based datasets.

RESEARCH: our in-house researchers, aided by external contributors, are currently working on projects exploring the operation of the Commons, 1541-1604, 1832-68, and the Lords, 1558-1601, 1640-1660 and 1715-1790. More contemporary research is being carried out by the oral history project (see resources below). Each project has its own blog / webpages:
<https://thehistoryofparliament.wordpress.com>
<https://victoriancommons.wordpress.com>

REFERENCE WORKS: around 22,000 biographies and 3,000 local constituency histories plus detailed institutional surveys have now been published in 56 volumes. Another nine volumes covering the Commons 1640-60 will appear in 2023. All our volumes are being made freely available on our main website: www.historyofparliamentonline.org

RESOURCES: the History of Parliament is a founding partner of the digital library run by British History Online at the IHR. Alongside its contributions to this resource, it develops its own datasets, such as the MP voting database used by the Commons 1832-68 or the digitised Lords proceedings being compiled for 1558-1601. Collaborations with groups in Parliament have recently resulted in smaller stand-alone datasets:
<https://membersafter1832.historyofparliamentonline.org>
<https://peerages.historyofparliamentonline.org>

An oral history project run in partnership with the British Library is also creating a major sound archive of British politics since 1945, based on full-length 'life story' interviews with former MPs and senior peers: <https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/about/latest-research/oral-history-project>

Younger students can find materials in the 'Explore' and 'Schools' sections of the main website. Other resources include our YouTube channel, which now contains 30 short videos:
<https://www.youtube.com/@historyofparliament9625/videos>



We are also on Twitter @HistParl @GeorgianLords @TheVictCommons

Venue: Thomas Paine Study Centre (TPSC), University of East Anglia
All sessions will take place in 0.01, except for Panel 4a (in 2.01).
Refreshments will be served in the TPSC Foyer.

Wednesday 19 April

9:30 Welcome: Emma Griffin, President, Royal Historical Society
Jennifer Davey & Geoff Hicks

9:45-11:15

Panel 1: Eighteenth-Century Political Participation and Electoral Culture
Chair: Philip Salmon (History of Parliament Trust)

Eighteenth-century parliamentary elections in England engaged a wide spectrum of the population – both those with votes and those without. Different kinds of electoral participation, and different kinds of participants, have been the focus of the AHRC-funded project, ‘Eighteenth-Century Political Participation and Electoral Culture’ (ECPPEC). This two-part panel showcases key aspects of the ECPPEC project, which is now in its final six months.

Part I.

Kendra Packham (Newcastle University) and Elaine Chalus (University of Liverpool)
ECPPEC Introduction

Part II.

Robin Eagles (History of Parliament Trust)

“Committing to my trust your liberty, safety, property, and all those glorious privileges which are your birthright as Englishmen”: John Wilkes’s elections for Aylesbury c.1750–1761

Hillary Burlock (University of Liverpool/Newcastle University)

The Political Participation of Voters in Mock Elections

11:15-11:45 Tea/Coffee

11:45-13:15

Panel 2: Political Cultures

Chair: Sarah Richardson (University of Warwick)

Mari Takayanagi (Parliamentary Archives)

Elizabeth Hallam Smith (Houses of Parliament/University of York)

Parliamentary Families and their Influence at Westminster

Alexandra Mayson (Kellogg College, University of Oxford)

Aspects of authority, land and community through the lens of horse racing, 1830-1850

Helen Sunderland (St Catherine’s College, University of Oxford)

Girls’ high schools as political communities in late Victorian and Edwardian England

13:15 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:45

Panel 3: The Practice of Politics

Chair: Jennifer Davey (University of East Anglia)

Richard Huzzey (University of Durham), Katrina Navickas (University of Hertfordshire), Mary O'Connor (Somerville College, University of Oxford) and Henry Miller (University of Durham)

Practices of Politics before Democracy

Sarah Boote Powell (University of Warwick)

Vestry Virgins? Reassessing Female Political Agency in Two Midland Boroughs in the 1830s

Patrick Duffy (Trinity College, Dublin)

Rossmore, reform and repeal: An Irish aristocratic Whig family, middle-class electoral politics, and the question of the union, 1830-35

Luke Blaxill (Hertford College, University of Oxford)

Electoral Violence in England and Wales, 1832-1910

15:45-16:15 Tea/Coffee

16:15-17:45 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

Panel 4a: Foreign Policy

Please note that this will take place in TPSC 2.01

Chair: Geoff Hicks (University of East Anglia)

Thomas Otte (University of East Anglia)

Traditions of British Foreign Policy

Toby Mings (University of East Anglia)

An Unwanted Posting? The Appointment of George Hammond as Minister to the United States, 1791-95

Christian Melby (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen)

Democracy, military necessities, and the British constitution, from Crimea to 1914

Panel 4b: Whigs and Radicals in the Eighteenth Century

Chair: Paul Seaward (History of Parliament Trust)

David Cowan (University of Cambridge)

Whiggery and Cambridge University under the Duke of Newcastle, 1748-1768

Callum Smith (University of Bristol)

Radical Socialites, or Sociable Radicals?: The Foxite Whigs, Visual Culture, and Electoral Sociability During the Westminster Elections

Anna Harrington (University of Leicester)

The House of Commons and Elections in William Wilberforce's Diaries

17:45-18:45 **Drinks Reception (TPSC Foyer)**

Thursday 20 April

9:00-10:45

Panel 5: Reform Politics

Chair: Kathryn Rix (History of Parliament Trust)

Kerry Love (University of Northampton)

Commodifying and Commemorating Democracy: Material Culture and the 1832 Reform Act

Dave Steele (University of Warwick)

The Reputational Power of the Crowd

Sarah Richardson (University of Warwick)

“To wring the widow from her customed right”: the debate about the ‘widow franchise’ in nineteenth-century Britain.

Robert Saunders (Queen Mary University of London)

‘Democracy Has Come’: Rethinking the Third Reform Act, 1884-85

10:45 – 11:00 Tea/Coffee

11:00 – 12:30

Panel 6: Liberals and Radicals in the Nineteenth Century

Chair: Robert Saunders (Queen Mary University of London)

Simon Morgan (Leeds Beckett University)

The Letters of Richard Cobden (1804-1865) Online: How the letters of a nineteenth-century statesman can inspire the citizens of tomorrow

Anthony Howe (University of East Anglia)

Cobden and Disraeli: from the Corn Laws to *Endymion*

Alex Windscheffel (Royal Holloway University of London)

The PM as MP: William Gladstone and Greenwich, 1868-1880

12:30 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 14:45

Panel 7: Politics and Empire

Chair: Anthony Howe (University of East Anglia)

Jon Parry (University of Cambridge)

The third Earl Grey, Liberalism and Empire

Edward Ford (University of Exeter)

Empire, Nation and Representation in Australia’s PR Debates, c.1890-1910

Erin Geraghty (University of the West of England Bristol)

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence and the ‘Irish Kiddies’: gendered and imperial notions of solidarity during the 1913 Dublin Lockout

14:45-15:00 Tea/Coffee

15:00-16:30

Panel 8: New Perspectives on Party and Parliament, 1832-68 (History of Parliament Trust)

Chair: Richard Huzzey (University of Durham)

The History of Parliament's 1832-68 House of Commons Project

Work on this research project is now entering its final stages, with over 2,500 articles (c. 6 million words) drafted. Many of the MP biographies and detailed local constituency articles can be viewed on the project's 'preview' website (passwords available). Over 300 shorter blogs, plus guides to historical resources, are also available on the related 'Victorian Commons' website. This panel will highlight some of the project's latest findings and discoveries, showing how the research is challenging many traditional assumptions and building new interpretations about the operation of the UK's pre-democratic representative system in the early Victorian era.

Kathryn Rix (Assistant Editor, 1832-68 House of Commons project)

Backbenchers and the business of the Commons, 1832-68

Philip Salmon (Deputy Director, History of Parliament Trust & Editor, 1832-68 House of Commons project)

Politics beyond party: the survival of non-party traditions in an 'age of party'

Martin Spychal (Senior Research Fellow, 1832-68 House of Commons project)

Reappraising England's reformed electoral map, 1832-1868