



CALL FOR PAPERS

Ex Historia PGR Conference 2025

Evolution and Exchange

12-13 May 2025 | Digital Humanities Lab, Streatham Campus, University of Exeter

The Ex Historia committee are delighted to announce the return of our annual postgraduate research conference.

We welcome submissions from postgraduate researchers in history and archaeology working on any period. Ex Historia values interdisciplinary collaboration, and proposals are also welcomed from those working on the past in other disciplines, including but not limited to law, political science, literature, area studies, classics, anthropology, and philosophy.

We welcome contributions from students at any stage of their PhD, and from universities other than Exeter.

The theme for this year's conference is *Evolution and Exchange*. Historical narratives are driven by change: social, technological, economic, environmental. But what counts as historical or archaeological evolution? Is it problematic to apply such a term to our disciplines? If evolution is, as Darwin succinctly put it, a system of "descent with modifications", is it a framework that we can meaningfully apply to societal change? The term itself implies that something is possible beyond the human. To Mark Twain, "it is full of grim suggestion: that we are not as important, perhaps, as we had all along supposed we were".

The modern nation-state has at various times defined its progress by the relative prosperity of its economy, the civil liberties enjoyed by its citizens, the size of its territory, and the free exchange of ideas within its culture. This last point may be the most important when we consider evolution and history. To what extent does exchange affect evolution, or evolution spark the potential for exchange? We invite papers that discuss the aforementioned topics or questions, as well as any other reasonable interpretations of the theme, which is open to anyone who studies change.

We welcome proposals for

- individual papers lasting around 20 minutes,
- a full panel of 3-4 speakers with 20-minute individual papers, or
- a roundtable of 4-5 speakers consisting of shorter presentations followed by discussion.

If you have an idea for a panel or roundtable but do not have enough speakers / a facilitator, do get in touch as we may be able to help.

Please send a title, a 100 word biography, and a 200-250 word abstract to exhistoria@exeter.ac.uk by **Friday 28th March**. If you have any questions or wish to discuss your proposal informally, please do get in touch via email or by reaching out to one of the members of the organising committee.

Ex Historia is a seminar series and annual conference which hosts talks by current PhD students in history, archaeology, and related disciplines every two weeks on campus or online. We are always happy to hear from potential speakers in our regular seminar series.

Conference Organising Committee

Tess Lavalley

Kati Hayslep

Nick Collins

Dylan McCorquodale

Amber Flood

Frederic Worthington

Beatrice Steele

Manos Chatziathanasiou