



MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS

TRADE CATALOGUE

Autumn / Winter 2025

PRAISE FOR MUP

Welcome to the club by DJ Paulette

‘It’s beautiful, ferocious, brutal, hilarious.’

RUSSELL T. DAVIES, SCREENWRITER AND TELEVISION PRODUCER

Wildly different by Sarah Lonsdale

‘Deeply felt, splendidly told, long overdue.’

DAN RICHARDS, AUTHOR OF *CLIMBING DAYS*

Between the salt and the ash by Jake Morris-Campbell

‘A tender Northumbrian camino.’

DAN JACKSON, AUTHOR OF *THE NORTHUMBRIANS*

Studio Electrophonique by Jamie Taylor

‘The amazing story of an enthusiastic oddball.’

MARK RADCLIFFE, BROADCASTER AND WRITER

The Strand by Geoff Browell and Eileen Chanin

‘Packed with details to surprise and delight.’

ALICE LOXTON, AUTHOR OF *UPROAR!*

Into being by Lily Dunn

‘A beautiful book: absorbing, propulsive, generous.’

MARINA BENJAMIN, AUTHOR OF *THE MIDDLEPAUSE*

CONTENTS

<i>Before Gender: Lost stories from trans history 1850-1950</i> Eli Erlick	1
<i>Eclipsing the West: China, India and the forging of a new world</i> Vince Cable	2
<i>Wild for Austen: A rebellious, subversive, and untamed Jane</i> Devoney Looser	3
<i>Folklore: A journey through the past and present</i> Owen Davies and Ceri Houlbrook	4
<i>She played and sang: Jane Austen and music</i> Gillian Dooley	5
<i>Do It Yourself: Making political theatre</i> Common/Wealth	6
<i>Into being: The radical craft of memoir and its power to transform</i> Lily Dunn	7
<i>Songs of Seven Dials: An intimate history of 1920s and 1930s London</i> Matt Houlbrook	8
<i>Murky water: Challenging an unsustainable system</i> Luca Calafati, Julie Froud, Colin Haslam, Sukhdev Johal and Karel Williams	9
<i>Drifting north: Finding the future in Scotland's past</i> Dominic Hinde	10
<i>Dirtbag dreams: A history of mountain, ultra and trail running</i> Carl Morris	11
<i>Courting Disaster: Reading between the lines of the Regency novel</i> Zoë McGee	12



<i>A queer scrapbook: Britain and Ireland since 1945</i> Edited by Justin Bengry, Matt Cook, Rebecca Jennings and E-J Scott	13
<i>Useful Art: How activist artists can change the world</i> John Byrne	14
<i>Out of the depths: The first collection of Holocaust songs</i> Joseph Toltz and Anna Boucher	15
<i>The trouble with freedom: Love, hate and America's future</i> Melissa Butcher	16
<i>Lying abroad: Henry Wotton and the invention of diplomacy</i> Carol Chillington Rutter	17
<i>AIDS in Soviet Russia: A story of deception, despair and hope</i> Rustam Alexander	18
<i>New Labour, new Britain: How the Blair governments reshaped the country</i> Glen O'Hara	19

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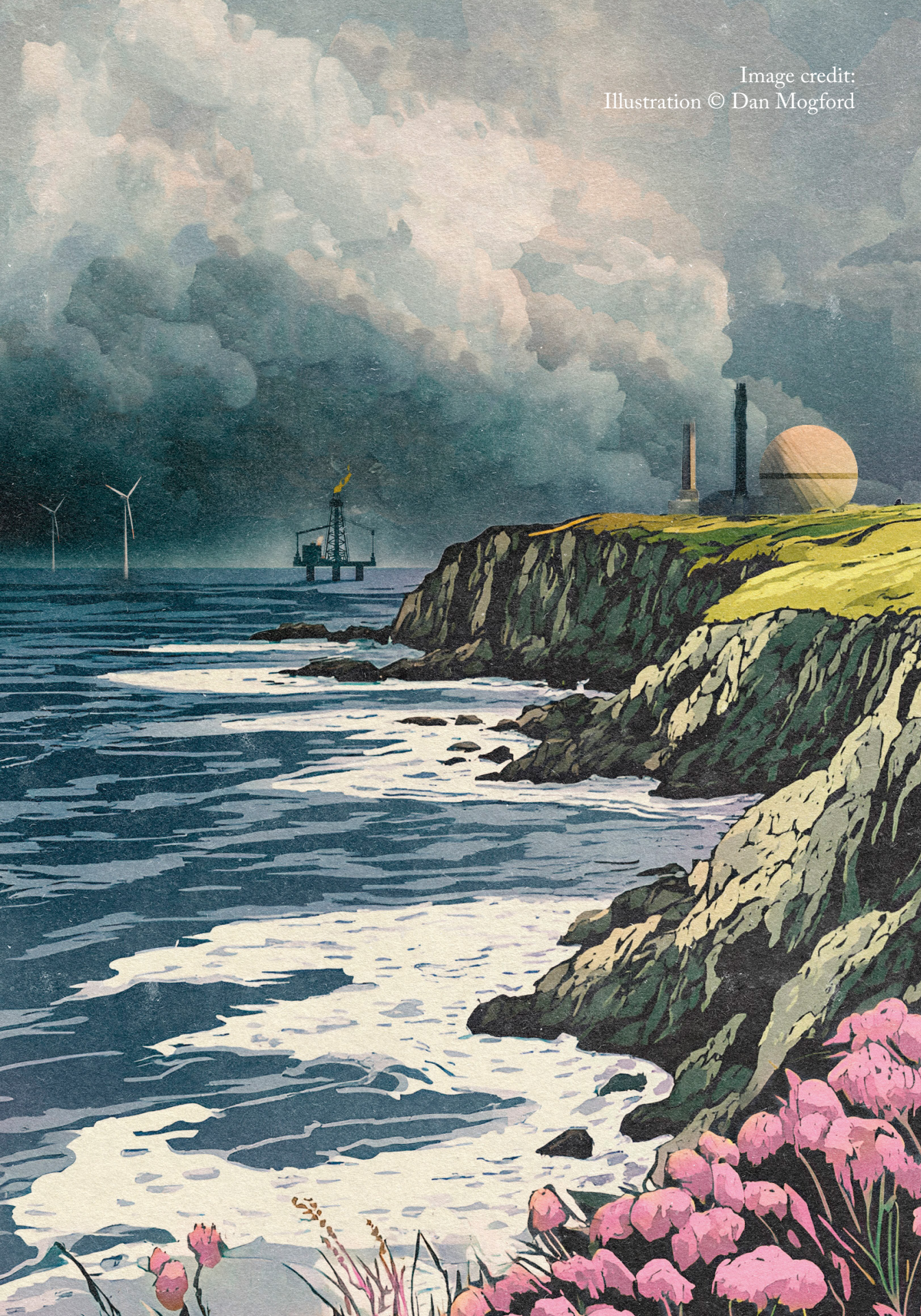
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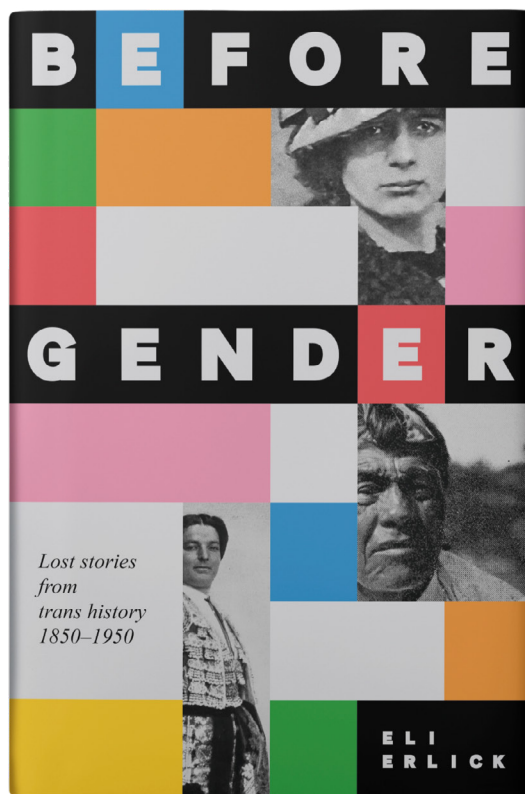
Before Gender:

Lost stories from trans history 1850-1950

Eli Erlick

‘We are so lucky to have a gifted storyteller unearth these lost tales of our trans and nonbinary forebears.’

Kate Bornstein, author of *Gender Outlaw*



Highlighting influential individuals from 1850 to 1950 who are all but unknown today, Eli Erlick shares thirty remarkable stories from romance to rebellion and mystery to murder. These narratives chronicle the grit, joy and survival of trans people long before gender became an everyday term.

Organised into four parts, paralleling today's controversies over gender identity – kids, activists, workers and athletes – *Before Gender* introduces figures whose forgotten stories transform the discussion. These ground-breaking histories include two of the first teens to access gender-affirming medical treatment, a countess who instigated an LGBTQ+ riot forty years before Stonewall and the greatest female billiards player of the 1910s.

Bold and visionary, Erlick's debut uncovers these lost stories from the depths of the archives to narrate trans lives in a way that has never been attempted before.

Eli Erlick is an internationally acclaimed activist, author and educator. In 2011, she founded Trans Student Educational Resources (TSER), an organisation dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans students. Her work and writing have featured in hundreds of outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Time Magazine* and the *Washington Post*. She lives in New York City, where she continues to fight for trans liberation.

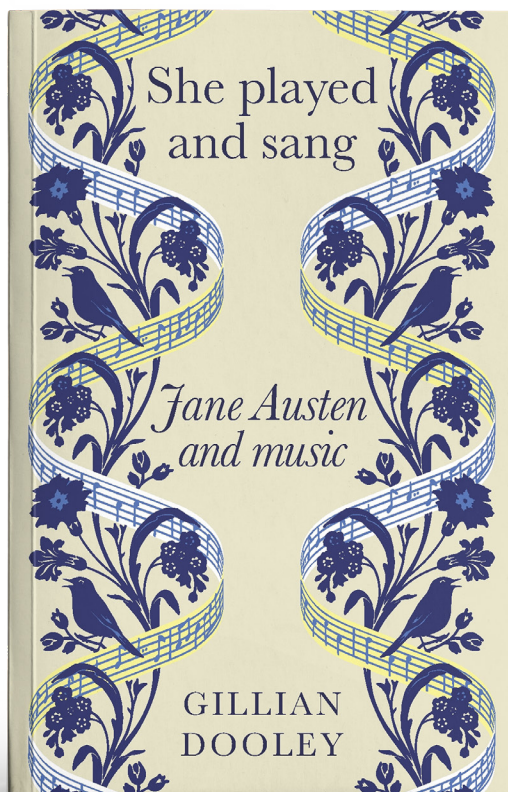
 @EliErlick

She played and sang: *Jane Austen and music*

Gillian Dooley

‘Gillian Dooley has done the burgeoning world of Austen studies a service by cataloguing the manuscripts that survive in Austen’s hand.’

Nicholas Kenyon, *BBC Music Magazine*



Like her much-loved heroine Emma Woodhouse, Jane Austen ‘played and sang’. Music occupied a central role in her life, and she made brilliant use of it in her novels to illuminate characters’ personalities and highlight the contrasts between them.

Delving into the Austen family music books, Gillian Dooley discovers a treasure trove of evidence that unveils a previously underappreciated facet of Austen’s world. She unravels the author’s musical connections with family and friends, revealing the intricate ties between her fiction and the melodies she performed.

With these revelations, Austen’s musical legacy comes to life, granting us a deeper understanding of her artistic prowess and the influences that shaped her literary masterpieces.

Gillian Dooley is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in English at Flinders University. She has published and presented internationally on Jane Austen, and as a singer she has curated programmes of music from Austen’s personal collection since 2007. She has appeared on Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s *The Book Show* and *The Minefield* as an expert on Austen. Her most recent books are *Matthew Flinders: The Man behind the Map* and *Listening to Iris Murdoch: Music, Sounds, and Silences* (both 2022).

 @GillianMaryAdel

Eclipsing the West: *China, India and the forging of a new world*

Vince Cable

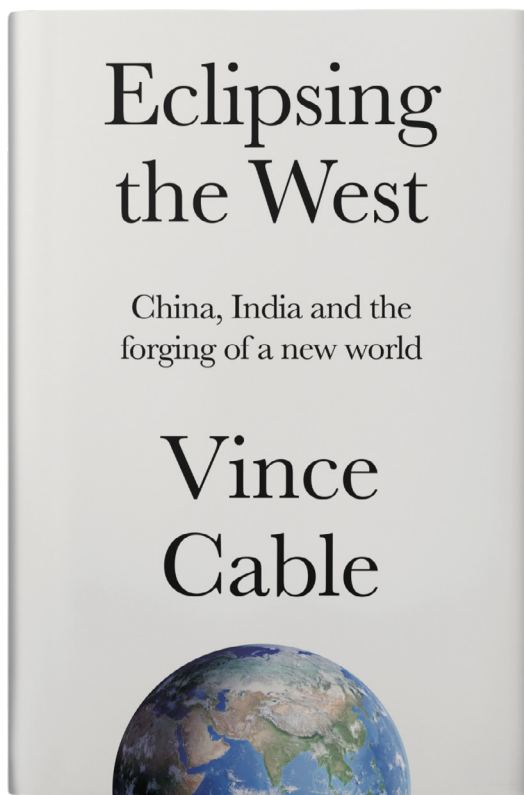
‘A succinct, authoritative and up-to-date account of one of the most important but neglected relations in contemporary geopolitics.’

Kerry Brown, author of *The Great Reversal*

The Western-dominated world we have known for the past three hundred years is coming to an end. As America withdraws from its role as enforcer of the international order, other countries are moving in to fill the void. Among them are two rising Asian ‘superstates’.

Accounting for almost half of the world’s population, China and India have the potential to wield enormous economic and political power. China is already vying with the US for the top spot in the global economy, and on some measures has surpassed it. By the middle of the century India may be number two. How will these countries navigate their growing roles on the world stage? What are the implications for commerce, international law and the fight against climate change?

Vince Cable has followed China and India for decades, first as a professional economist and later as a senior government minister. In *Eclipsing the West* he draws on the latest data and a lifetime of political and economic experience to offer a compelling account of what the rise of the Asian superstates means for the future.



Vince Cable is a Visiting Professor at London School of Economics and Political Science and Nottingham University and a Distinguished Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute. He was previously UK Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills and President of the Board of Trade. He has a PhD in economics from the University of Glasgow and in the 1990s worked as Chief Economist for Shell. His books include *After the Storm* (2015), *Money and Power* (2021) and *The Chinese Conundrum* (2022).

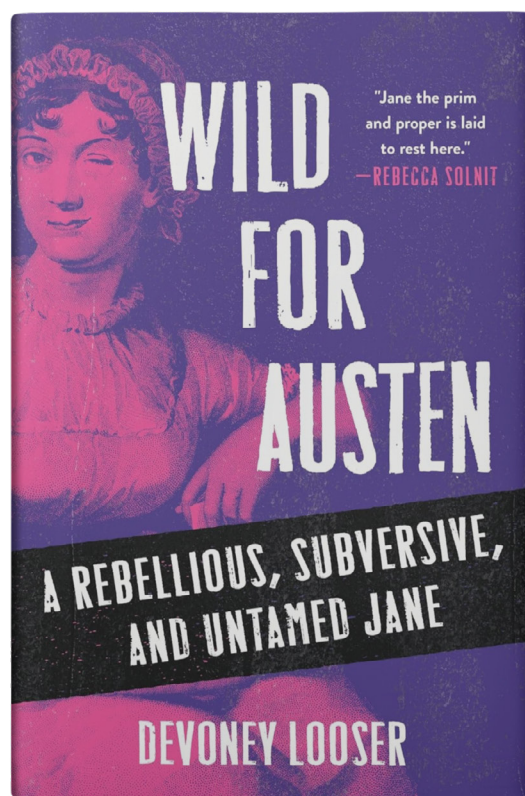
 @vincecable

Wild for Austen: *A rebellious, subversive, and untamed Jane*

Devoney Looser

'I'm wild about Devoney Looser.
No one else wears such deep
Austen scholarship so lightly.
A brilliant book!'

Lucy Worsley, author of *Jane Austen at Home*



You may have thought Jane Austen was a quiet spinster, but Devoney Looser puts that myth to rest. Tracing the author's life and legacy across 250 years, she reveals an Austen far wilder than the one we know.

Looser takes a deep dive into Austen's work, offering fresh insights into her six completed novels, as well as her juvenilia, unfinished fiction, essays, and poetry. She also reveals new information about Austen's relationship to the abolitionist movement and women's suffrage. Examining the author's legacy, she turns up extraordinary stories about ghost-sightings, Austen novels used as evidence in court, and the eclectic members of the Austen family, whose own outrageous lives are wilder than fiction.

Written with warmth and humour, and filled with remarkable details never before published, *Wild for Austen* is the ultimate tribute to one of the world's most beloved novelists.

Devoney Looser is the author or editor of ten books, including *The Making of Jane Austen* (2017), a *Publishers Weekly* Best Summer Book. Her essays have appeared in the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, *Salon*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Washington Post* and *Entertainment Weekly*. She is Regents Professor of English at Arizona State University and a Guggenheim Fellow, a Rockefeller Bellagio Fellow and a National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar. She plays roller derby as 'Stone Cold Jane Austen'.

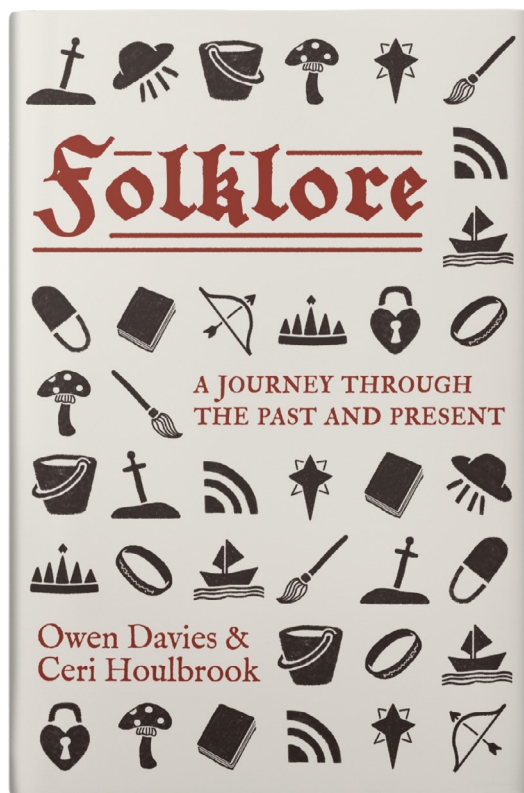
✕ @devoneylooser

Folklore: *A journey through the past and present*

Owen Davies and Ceri Houlbrook

‘Meticulously researched, imaginative in scope and rich in strange stories and rewarding insights.’

Malcolm Gaskill, author of *The Ruin of All Witches*



In this ground-breaking book, two leading experts provide the definitive guide to British folklore past and present.

Owen Davies and Ceri Houlbrook explore folklore in all its remarkable variations, from village rituals and fairy tales to UFO legends and internet fanfiction. Travelling through a landscape of witches, wizards and wicker men, they reveal how folklore has been researched and written about in the past and show how it continues to be lived in the present. At the same time, they provide the reader with a valuable toolkit for understanding how to interpret the diverse examples given.

The book's key message is that folklore is much more than the fossilised remains of a distant, rural past. Folklore is and always has been ubiquitous, dynamic and political. It is a living tradition that draws from many sources, including migrant communities, and is forever being renewed and updated.

Owen Davies is Professor of Social History at the University of Hertfordshire. He is the author of numerous books, most recently *Art of Grimoire* and *Troubled by Faith: Insanity and the Supernatural in the Age of the Asylum* (both 2023). He has been described as Britain's foremost academic expert on the history of magic.

Ceri Houlbrook is Senior Lecturer in Folklore and History at the University of Hertfordshire. Her books include *The Magic of Coin-Trees* (2018), *Unlocking the Love-Lock* (2021) and *Ritual 'Litter' Redressed* (2022). In addition to her scholarly work, she writes folklore-inspired fiction.

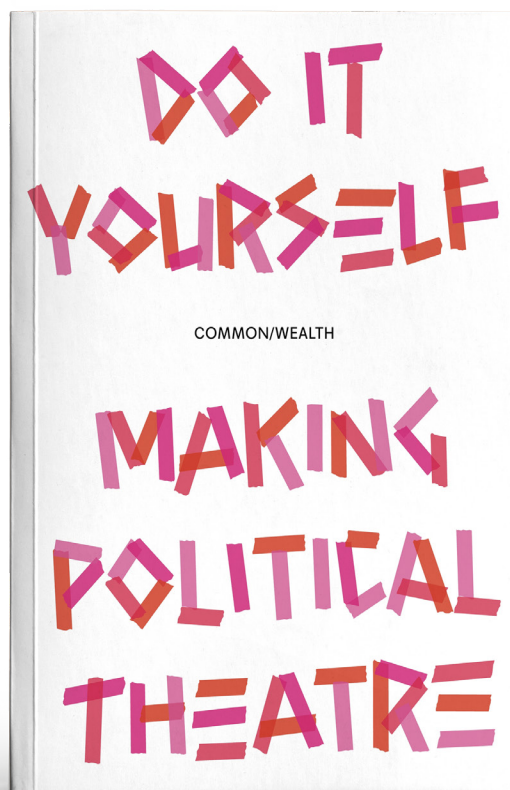
✉ @odavies9

✉ @CeriHoulbrook

Do It Yourself: *Making political theatre*

Common/Wealth

A unique guide to creating political theatre, produced by one of the UK's most exciting companies.




Do It Yourself is a vital resource for anyone interested in exploring theatre culture grounded in and produced by working-class communities. Designed for artists, activists and community organisers, the book offers a step-by-step guide to creating political theatre that is relevant, impactful and rooted in the lives of everyday people.

Common/Wealth have spent fifteen years working at the cutting edge of political theatre. In *Do It Yourself*, they share their experimental and activist approach to performance-making, based on DIY principles and the belief that ground-breaking theatre can be made with anyone, anywhere, in ways that truly resonate with the communities it serves.

Do It Yourself introduces Common/Wealth's artistic and political ethos, provides unique insights into their most significant performances and offers practical exercises for creating your own work. But this is not just a manual. It is a celebration of culture as a collective endeavour, one that can challenge the status quo and inspire change.

Common/Wealth are a Bradford and Cardiff based theatre company that make award-winning work across the UK and internationally. They are part of Arts Council England's and Arts Council Wales' National Portfolios.

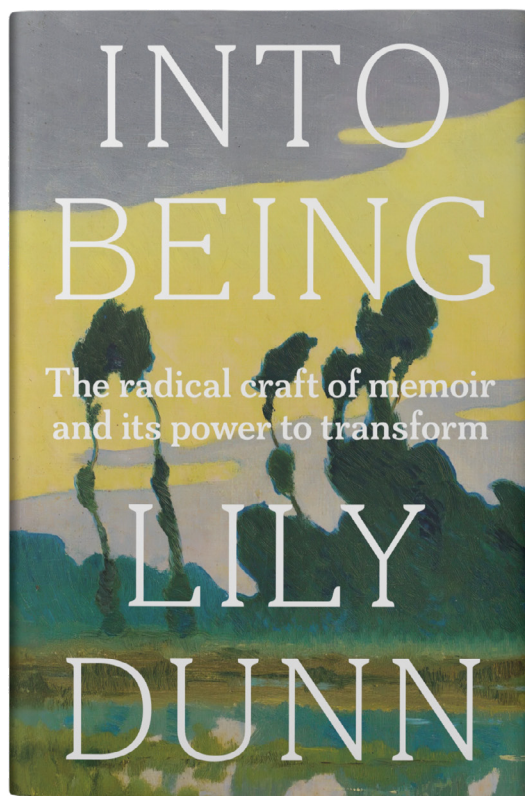
 [common_wealthhq](https://www.instagram.com/common_wealthhq)

Into being: *The radical craft of memoir and its power to transform*

Lily Dunn

‘A beautiful book: absorbing, propulsive, generous and humane.’

Marina Benjamin, author of *The Middlepause*



Into being is an essential guide to writing memoir in a radical and empowering way. Drawing on her experience as a memoirist and a teacher of creative writing, Lily Dunn presents the ground-breaking idea that the craft of memoir itself can offer a form of transformation.

Dunn demystifies the memoirist's art, helping readers to find meaning in raw experience and elevate the personal to the universal. She considers intriguing questions, from why our memories give greater significance to certain events to how we can write honestly without intruding too far into the lives of our loved ones. She also explores how writers are extending the memoir form to create something hybrid, playful and subversive.

In an age of social media, filled with confessions, re-inventions and distortions of the self, the question of what it means to be an individual is more urgent than ever. *Into being* shows readers how to turn writing memoir into a journey of discovery – one that can be shared with the whole world.

Lily Dunn is a memoirist, teacher and mentor. Her literary memoir *Sins of My Father* was published to great acclaim in 2022, being named a best nonfiction book of the year by the *Guardian* and the *Spectator*. She is also the author of *Shadowing the Sun* (2007) and co-editor of *A Wild and Precious Life* (2021). She is co-director of London Lit Lab and teaches creative writing at Bath Spa University.

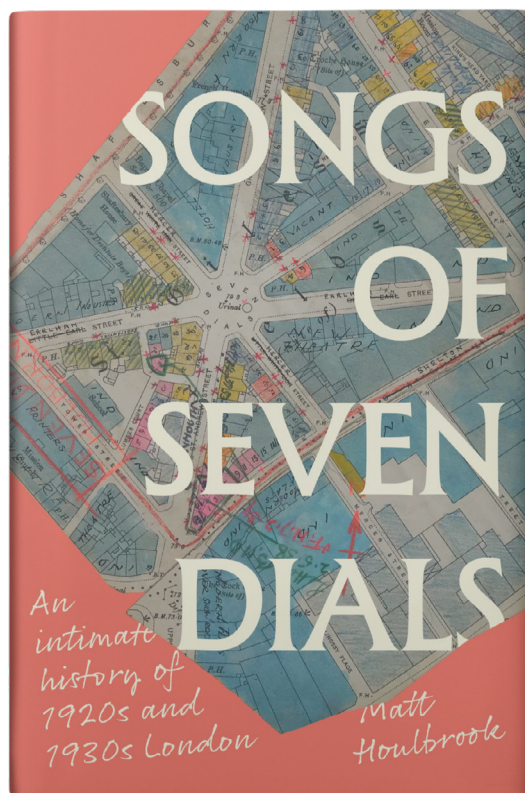
✉ @Lilydunnwriter

Songs of Seven Dials:

An intimate history of 1920s and 1930s London

Matt Houlbrook

The untold story of a remarkable neighbourhood and the battle to define modern London.



Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Seven Dials was one of London's most diverse neighbourhoods, home to migrant and working-class communities, bohemian clubs and cafes. But business leaders and city planners had other ideas.

Beginning with a rancorous libel trial of 1927, in which a Sierra Leonean café owner and his wife confronted the racist newspaper that destroyed their business, Matt Houlbrook reveals the surprising history of this remarkable neighbourhood. He traces how tensions that simmered on the streets and finally exploded in court betrayed the politics of urban 'improvement' and the 'colour bar'. Underlying the trial was a series of troubling questions that would define Britain in the twentieth century – about race, class and the boundaries of belonging, gentrification and the kind of city London would become.

Imaginative, powerful and deeply moving, *Songs of Seven Dials* is an important new history of London in the 1920s and 1930s.

Matt Houlbrook is Professor of Cultural History at the University of Birmingham. He is the author of *Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918–57* (2005) and *Prince of Tricksters: The Incredible True Story of Netley Lucas, Gentleman Crook* (2016).

Murky water: *Challenging an unsustainable system*

Luca Calafati, Julie Froud,
Colin Haslam, Sukhdev Johal and
Karel Williams

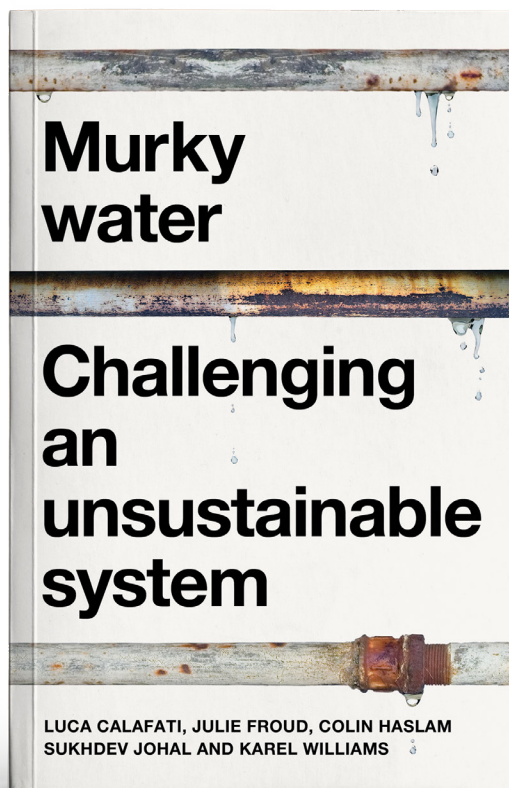
Essential reading for anyone concerned
with the future of our most vital
resource.

Our water system is a mess. Rising bills and rivers full of sewage grab the headlines, but the greater threat is climate crisis, bringing increased drought and flooding.

This book exposes the many problems with our unsustainable water system. Unfair charges limit spending on infrastructure, while financial extraction has turned the water companies into debt-burdened zombies in an increasingly fragmented system.

Reforming regulation and tinkering with tariffs will not be enough, and public ownership is just the first step. *Murky water* shows that the system can only be made sustainable through a radical overhaul of how it is owned, managed, funded and planned. We need a new kind of water management, with national and catchment planning and coordinated action by landowners, local authorities and water companies.

Westminster and Whitehall currently stand in the way. To overcome their resistance and secure a sustainable future, we must ignite a social movement capable of challenging power.



Series: Manchester Capitalism

Luca Calafati is an independent researcher and social entrepreneur

Julie Froud is Professor of Financial Innovation at Alliance Manchester Business School

Colin Haslam is Emeritus Professor of Accounting and Finance at Queen Mary, University of London

Sukhdev Johal is Chair in Accounting and Strategy at Queen Mary, University of London

Karel Williams is Director of Foundational Alliance Wales

Drifting north: *Finding the future in Scotland's past*

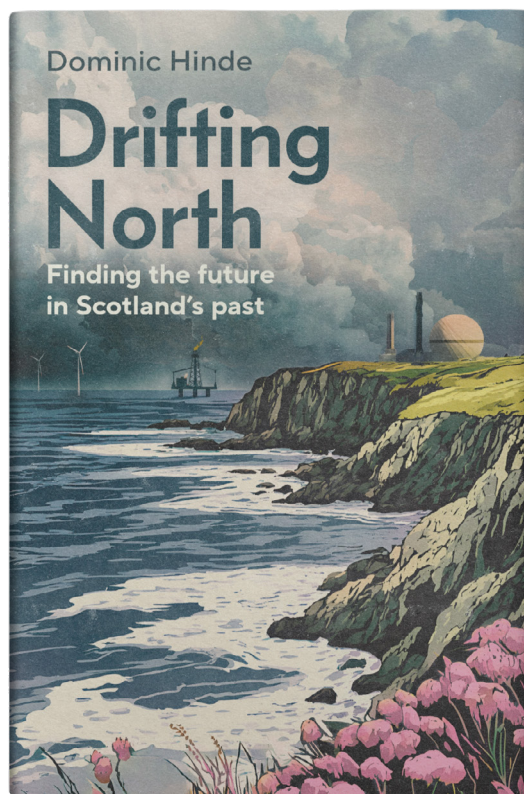
Dominic Hinde

Past and future collide in this engaging journey through climate change, fossil capitalism and the struggle for a sustainable world.


Scotland's history and future are entangled with climate change and the story of the modern world. This small country on the fringes of northern Europe pioneered fossil capitalism and played a key role in its spread across the planet. It is a living museum of the crisis of the west, of deindustrialisation, stagnation and the struggle to build a better future from the ashes.

Journalist and sociologist Dominic Hinde travels from the treeless Highlands to the lowland cities, struggling to balance memories with aspiration. Through this journey he finds that his own sensory turmoil, shaped by recovery from a near fatal accident, mirrors the disarray of the fossil fuel transition – an uncertain passage between what was and what must be.

Part memoir, part environmental history, part travelogue, this is a compelling narrative of connections – to place, energy and the possibility of renewal. Through the lens of one country, it asks a vital question: can the lessons of the past help us build a more sustainable future?



Dominic Hinde is a Lecturer at the University of Glasgow where he researches climate change and media. He is the author of *A Utopia Like Any Other: Inside the Swedish Model* (2016) and has written for the *Times*, the *Guardian*, *Prospect Magazine* and *USA Today*. He appears regularly on TV and radio as a commentator on European and environmental issues and has produced radio for the BBC.

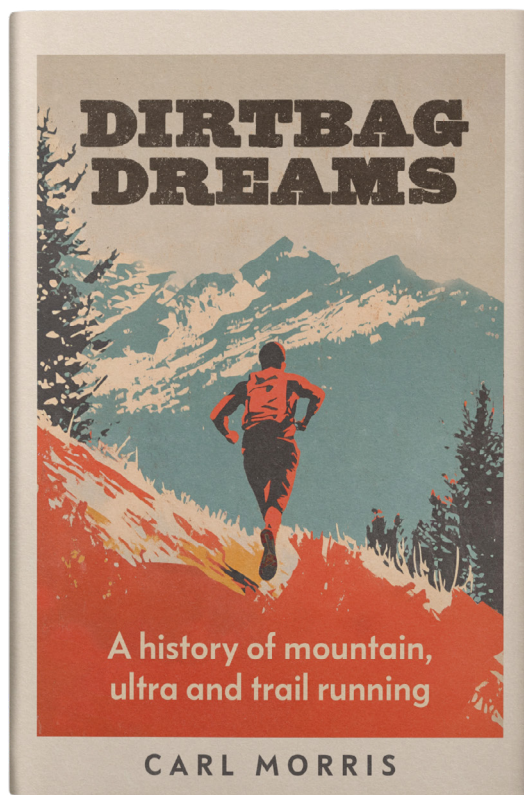
 @DominicMHinde

Dirtbag dreams: *A history of mountain, ultra and trail running*

Carl Morris

‘A fascinating book, filled with
brilliantly selected stories.’

Michael Crawley, author of *To the Limit*



Over the past two decades, mountain, ultra and trail running has experienced a massive boom in participation, media attention and corporate consumerism. Once little more than an oddball recreation for mountain athletics romantics, the sport has become a mass activity in ways that were previously unimaginable.

In *Dirtbag dreams*, Carl Morris offers the first complete account of mountain, ultra and trail running in North America and Britain. Revealing the sport's eccentric Victorian origins, he traces its development through 200 years of history, travelling from the Sierra Nevada and the English Lake District to the streets of London and New York.

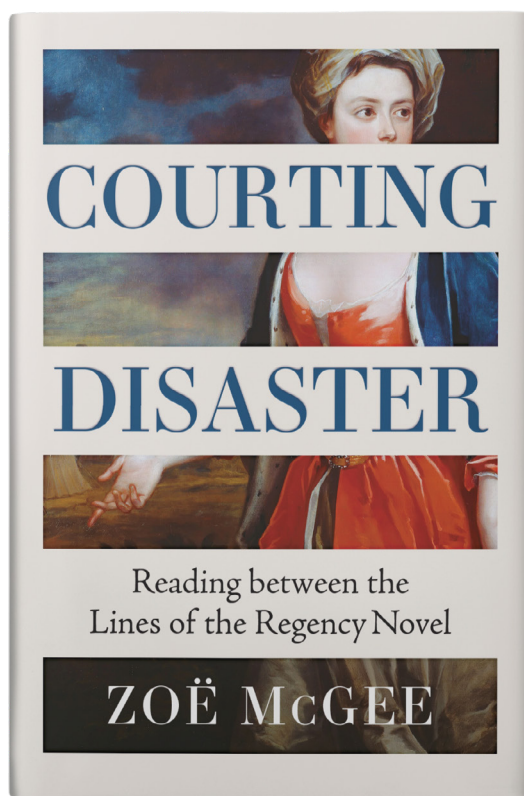
Packed with gripping races and colourful characters, *Dirtbag dreams* is the essential companion for anyone who wants to understand this unique endurance sport.

Carl Morris is a sociologist, historian and social psychologist at the University of Central Lancashire. He has spent much of his life climbing and moving through the mountains, and over the last decade has become a committed fell and ultra runner.

Courting Disaster: *Reading between the lines of the Regency novel*

Zoë McGee

What do #MeToo and Jane
Austen have in common?
More than you might think.



Ever since the novel was invented, women have used it as a platform for sharing ideas about sexual consent. Zoë McGee reveals how Jane Austen, Frances Burney and their now-overlooked contemporaries used their stories to try to change society's mind about rape culture – and to reassure survivors they were not alone.

Courting Disaster takes a timely deep-dive into a series of classic novels, comparing them with both historic court records and current events to show that our arguments about consent are not a new phenomenon. With the wit and wryness of a courtship novel, McGee reads between the lines to unveil a quiet feminist movement that still resonates today. Because every novel about marriage is also a novel about consent.

In an era that's clamouring for a return to the values of the past, *Courting Disaster* asks what that would really mean, and whether anyone actually liked it back then anyway...

Zoë McGee has a PhD from Queen Mary University of London and an MSt in Eighteenth Century Studies from the University of Oxford. She has spoken at conferences internationally and performs at very nerdy stand-up-comedy nights. She has worked as a university teacher and a bookseller.

A queer scrapbook: *Britain and Ireland since 1945*

Edited by Justin Bengry, Matt Cook,
Rebecca Jennings and E-J Scott

‘A goldmine for anyone seeking to
reinvigorate their hearts, minds and
toolkits for activism.’

Dan Glass, author, presenter and activist



A queer scrapbook offers a treasure trove of LGBTIQ+ histories from across Britain and Ireland. Packed with materials, from interviews and newspaper articles to photographs and flyers, the book explores urban, rural and regional queer life since 1945.

Commentaries and short essays introduce a changing queer landscape, spotlighting four broad themes: home and family, sex and socialising, arts and culture and politics and activism. The book delves into the meaning and experiences of domesticity and parenting and explores the sometimes unexpected places LGBTIQ+ people met to have fun. It examines the importance of creative work in forming community and identity and shows how people fought injustice and advocated for equal rights.

Collecting has been a way for the marginalised to explore and assert identity and community. *A queer scrapbook* vividly illustrates the diversity of queer and trans lives across the British and Irish isles since the Second World War.

Justin Bengry is an independent historian

Matt Cook is Jonathan Cooper Professor of the History of Sexuality at the University of Oxford

Rebecca Jennings is Associate Professor of Modern Gender History at University College London

E-J Scott is Senior Lecturer in Culture, Criticism and Curation, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London

Useful Art: *How activist artists can change the world*

John Byrne

This smart, provocative book reveals how Useful Art is changing the world.



Does art have to be beautiful? What if it can be useful instead? In this cutting-edge book, John Byrne shows how the concept of 'Useful Art' is helping artists and communities fight back against the neoliberal takeover of our spaces, services and lives.

Byrne demonstrates that networks of artist-led activism and community-based direct action can provide a collaborative playbook of impactful and inclusive alternatives. From Turner Prize-winning urban regeneration projects to bakeries, vegetable gardens and multi-use arts spaces, Useful Art has enormous potential for bringing people together, recovering and preserving local skills and knowledge and reclaiming artistic endeavour for real-world good.

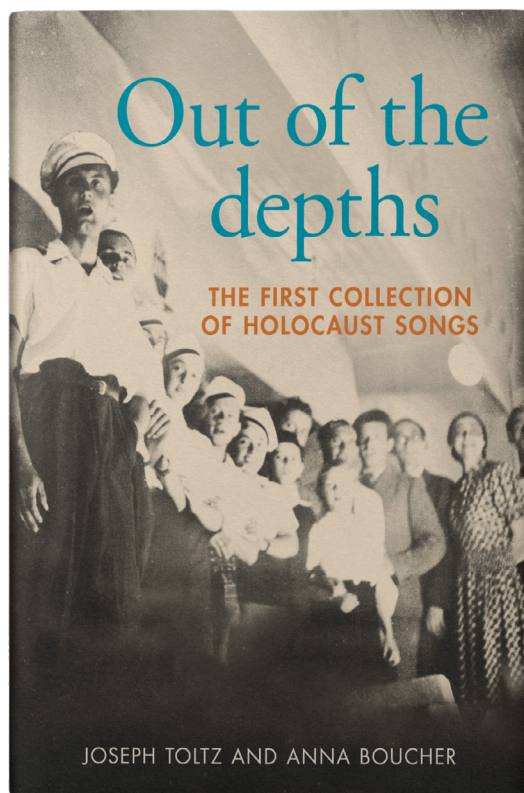
Exploring an international selection of projects, exhibitions and activism, this important new work champions the shift from aesthetics to use value, challenging traditional ways of seeing the world symbolically through art. Reaching beyond the financial logic of the art world, Byrne shows how Useful Art can offer an artistic toolkit for implementing radical change.

John Byrne is Professor of Useful Art at Liverpool John Moores University's School of Art and Design

Out of the depths: *The first collection of Holocaust songs*

Joseph Toltz and Anna Boucher

Available for the first time in English translation, this collection of songs is a powerful memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.



In June 1945, before the full devastation of the Holocaust had emerged, a team of researchers embarked on a remarkable project. While documenting the experiences of Jewish refugees, they began to collect songs composed and sung in the Nazi camps and ghettos. The resulting book, *Mima'amakim (Out of the depths)*, was published in a short run of 500 copies. Today, only a handful survive.

Out of the depths: The first collection of Holocaust songs presents the contents of this extraordinary document for a new generation of readers. Based on a copy of *Mima'amakim* discovered in 2013, it contains not only the songs' melodies and lyrics, the latter in a new translation by Joseph Toltz, but also short biographies of the composers, drawn from painstaking original research. Introductory essays provide historical and musicological background, deepening our knowledge of this terrible event and the creative means by which the Jewish people responded to and endured it.

Described by the original editor, Yehuda Eismann, as a 'memorial stone for Polish Jewry', the songbook is a timeless document of a people's despair, hope and strength.

Joseph Toltz is a Jewish music researcher and administrator at the University of Sydney. He is also a composer/arranger, Synagogue conductor and producer.

Anna Boucher is an Associate Professor of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. She is the author of *Gender, Migration and the Global Race for Talent*.

The trouble with freedom: *Love, hate and America's future*

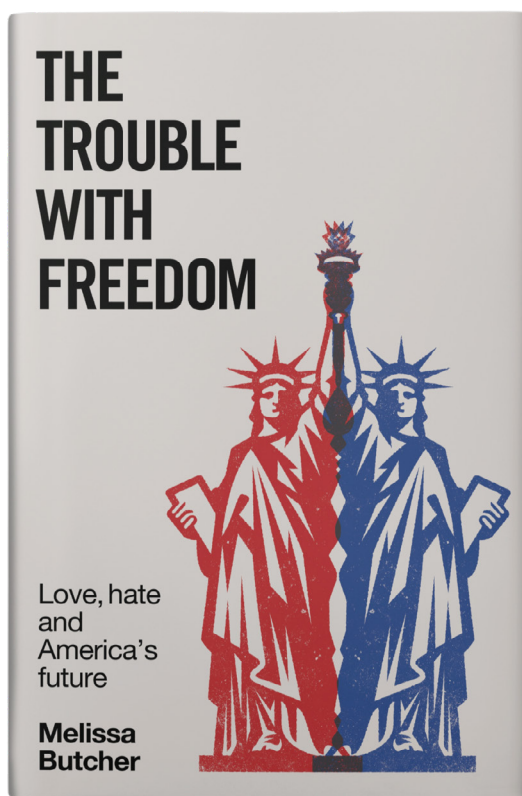
Melissa Butcher

An illuminating account of how Americans have been divided by the very value that unites them.

America today is being torn apart by the struggle over a single concept, deeply rooted in the country's sense of self: freedom. Battered by wave after wave of crises, ordinary people of all political persuasions have come to feel that their freedom is under threat – and with it, nothing less than the soul of the nation.

In *The trouble with freedom*, journalist and researcher Melissa Butcher takes a trip into the ferociously polarised world of American politics, hoping to find out what's going on beneath the surface. Criss-crossing the country, she talks to a wide range of people: Democrat and Republican, gay and straight, urban and rural, immigrants, First Nations, Black, white, the incarcerated.

What she discovers is that political conflict is often the outcome of very personal experiences of managing cultural change. Exploring the different ways freedom has been used to define what it means to be American, Butcher encounters anger and distrust, but also untapped possibilities for empathy and care.

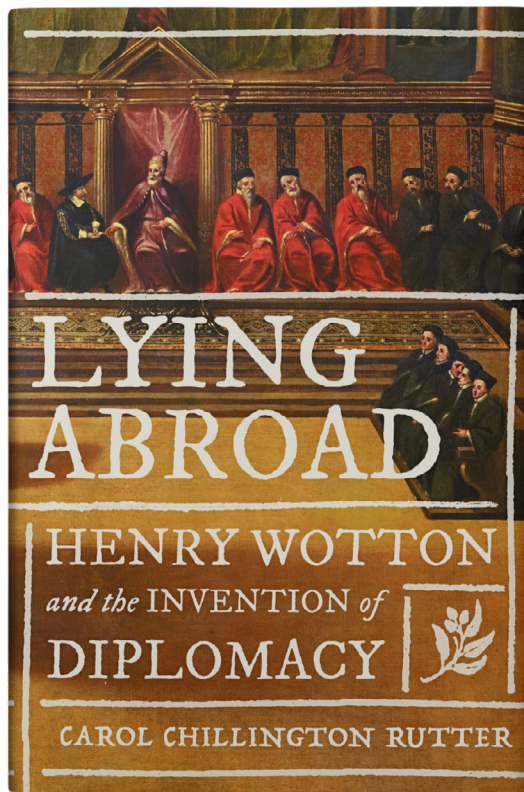


Melissa Butcher is Education Programme Director at the social enterprise Cumberland Lodge and Professor Emeritus of Social and Cultural Geography at Birkbeck, University of London. A former journalist for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, she is the author of two books, five edited collections and numerous pieces of journalism and travelogues.

Lying abroad: *Henry Wotton and the invention of diplomacy*

Carol Chillington Rutter

Student, traveller, secretary, scoundrel, spy: introducing the maverick whose diplomacy saved Europe from war.



Henry Wotton had already exhausted several lives when he arrived in Venice as England's ambassador in 1604. Yet the most remarkable phase of his career was yet to come.

In *Lying abroad*, Carol Chillington Rutter tells Wotton's extraordinary story. She reveals how this one-time exile, who fled England after his employer was convicted of treason, regained the favour of King James, securing a knighthood and a diplomatic posting. Charged with restoring relations with Venice after a fifty-year hiatus, he drew criticism for his breaches of protocol. But when a dispute brought Europe to the brink of war, Wotton took a risk – one that changed European history.

This engrossing biography recounts a life that was tumultuous, tarnished and endlessly theatrical. The man King James called his 'honest dissembler' was a maverick who fashioned diplomacy in ways that still inform international relations today.

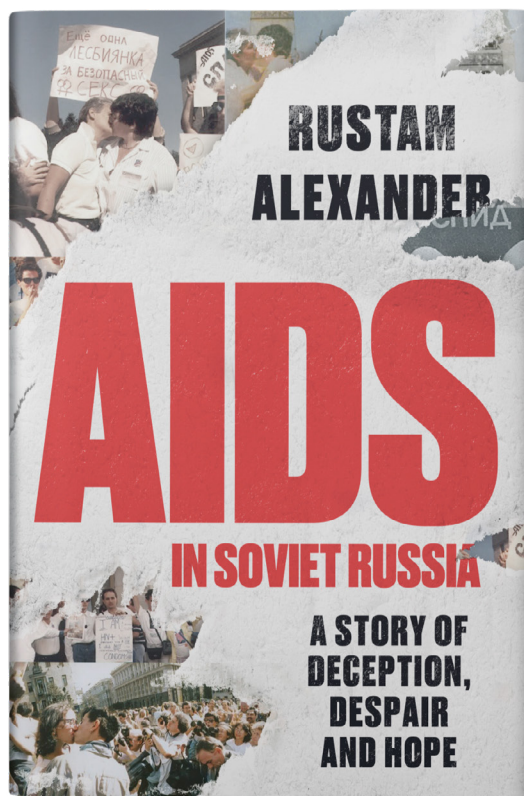
Carol Chillington Rutter is Emerita Professor of Shakespeare and Performance Studies at the University of Warwick. She is the author of numerous books and critical editions. In 2023 she was Visiting Fellow at Ca' Foscari, Università di Venezia.

AIDS in Soviet Russia:

A story of deception, despair and hope

Rustam Alexander

The first book to tell the shocking story of the AIDS crisis in Soviet Russia.



Throughout the 1980s, as the world was grappling with the escalating crisis of AIDS, Soviet Russia continued to deny there was a problem. Arguing that the disease was limited to foreigners and ‘immoral’ groups, the government failed to take meaningful action, long past the point other countries had begun to recognise the full scale of the threat.

In this ground-breaking book, Rustam Alexander tells the story of AIDS in Soviet Russia. Fixated on disinformation, censorship and the persecution of marginalised communities, the Soviet authorities wasted precious time, allowing the epidemic to strike at the very heart of the nation: its children. Yet, despite the government’s failure, a number of brave journalists, doctors and nascent gay groups decided to take matters into their own hands and engage in full-fledged AIDS activism.

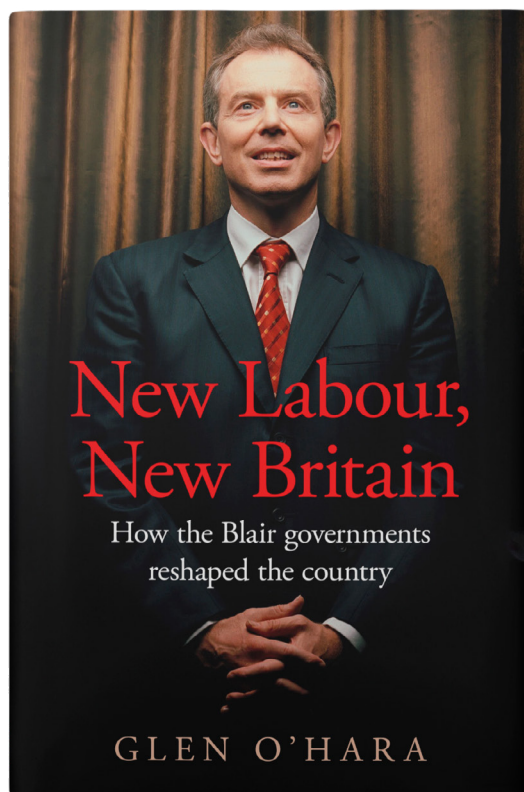
Tracing the political and social response to AIDS in the final years of the Soviet era, Alexander sheds light on the devastating consequences of government inaction. He draws on personal stories, media reports and archival materials to provide a riveting account of the Russian people’s fight against AIDS amid the tumultuous transformations of Gorbachev’s perestroika.

Rustam Alexander is a researcher who specialises in Russian and Soviet history. He is the author of *Red Closet: The Hidden History of Gay Oppression in the USSR* (2023), *Gay Lives and ‘Aversion Therapy’ in Brezhnev’s Russia* (2023) and *Regulating Homosexuality in Soviet Russia, 1956–91: A Different History* (2021). His work has appeared in *Slavic Review*, *Russian History*, *Europa-Asia Studies* and *Kritika*. He is a columnist for *Novaya Gazeta Evropa*, an independent Russian newspaper.

New Labour, new Britain: *How the Blair governments reshaped the country*

Glen O'Hara

A bold and balanced re-appraisal of New Labour in power.



Rewriting the story of New Labour, Glen O'Hara challenges the prevailing narrative to present a more balanced and positive assessment. *New Labour, new Britain* is the first book to examine both the intentions behind New Labour's domestic policies and their real-world effects, moving beyond the entrenched left-right debates that have dominated the party's legacy.

The period from 1997 to 2007 marked a pivotal moment in modern British history, as New Labour sought to reshape Britain into a more cohesive and forward-thinking society. It saw the rise of socially liberal attitudes and flourishing public services under a government committed to rebuilding and investing in them. Yet New Labour's track record was far from flawless and its legacy remains complicated and contested.

Through interviews with key players and rigorous archival research, O'Hara offers a new perspective on Tony Blair's years in power. Painting a fuller picture of New Labour's successes and challenges, he highlights its lasting impact on Britain and offers a thoughtful reassessment of its place in history.

Glen O'Hara is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Oxford Brookes University. A former journalist, he is the author of a series of books and articles about modern Britain, including *The Paradoxes of Progress* (2012) and *The Politics of Water in Post-War Britain* (2017). He is a regular commentator on British politics and public policy in the press, including the *Guardian*, the *Financial Times*, the *Telegraph*, *Times Higher Education* and the *New European*.

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