

Annual Conference 2022

Spoken Record: communities and their sound archives

The 2022 annual conference of the Scottish Records Association took place on 18 May 2022 online and at the Soutar Theatre, AK Bell Library, Perth. It explored how personal testimony and sound archives are used by research projects to record the experiences of people who are connected by similarities in their working lives, geographical location, or other 'communities of interest'. Recordings from such projects have special significance for these communities, but also extend beyond them and can be re-used in different ways. Presentations were made by historians and others who use recordings in their research, and by archivists, curators and other staff who make sound archives available to researchers.

Programme

Terry Brotherstone (University of Aberdeen) and **Dr Hugo Manson** (independent scholar)
The Making of an Oral Archive: how the Aberdeen University / British Library Lives in the [UK North Sea] Oil Industry Collection was created

Dr Valentina Bold (Crichton Trust)
'Up the Middle Road': Crichton stories of resilience and recovery

Professor Margaret Bennett (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland)
Perthshire Shuttle-makers and the Ordie Shuttle Mill, Luncarty

Dr Saqib Razzaq (Colourful Heritage Project)
The Colourful Heritage Project: preserving the history of Scotland's South Asians and Muslims

Audrey Wilson and Taylor Webb (Scottish Council on Archives)
Voices - Our Stories Matter: bridging the gap between archives and community heritage

Victoria Peters (University of Strathclyde)
The Scottish Oral History Centre Archive at the University of Strathclyde

Louise Scollay (University of Edinburgh)
The School of Scottish Studies Archives: access and re-use

Caroline Milligan and Lesley Bryson (European Ethnological Research Centre)
An Exploration of the Methodology and Practice of the Regional Ethnology of Scotland Project (RESP)

Spoken Record: communities and their sound archives
<https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/conference>

Abstracts and biographies

Terry Brotherstone and Dr Hugo Manson

The Making of an Oral Archive: how the Aberdeen University / British Library Lives in the [UK North Sea] Oil Industry Collection was created

In 2000, on the initiative of the British Library Sound Archive, Hugo Manson, who had co-founded New Zealand's Oral History Archive, came to the University of Aberdeen (in the 'Oil Capital of Europe') to create an archive of life-story interviews with people whose lives had been involved with, or affected by, the UK North Sea offshore oil and gas industry since the 1960s.

At that time there was still considerable intellectual scepticism about the historical value of oral testimony. This reinforced managerial reluctance to devote scarce resource to a project prioritising the creation of an archive for future scholarship rather than the production of research-assessed academic publications. With project director, Terry Brotherstone – whose interests lie in the modern and contemporary history of the nations of the United Kingdom, labour history, and historical theory – he confronted the practical, ethical and theoretical problems of financing, creating, and broadcasting the value of, what was to become one of the University's major modern archival collections. Most of the interviews were conducted between 2000 and 2007 and have been available to researchers in Aberdeen and London since then. When pandemic delays are overcome and the necessary permissions secured, the bulk of the collection is scheduled to be accessible online via the British Library website.

The 'paper' – delivered remotely from Edinburgh and Wellington – took the form of a discussion in which Brotherstone prompted Manson to recall how he went about his task; how his ideas about oral documentation informed his practice; and how recording technologies were evolving as the project progressed and have changed substantially since its main phase ended. For an introduction to the archive and its use, see Terry Brotherstone and Hugo Manson, 'North Sea Oil, its Narratives and its History: an Archive of Oral Documentation and the Making of Contemporary Britain', *Northern Scotland*, 27 (2007), pp. 15-42: <https://www.euppublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/nor.2007.0004>.

Terry Brotherstone lectured in History at the University of Aberdeen, where he is now emeritus research fellow, from 1968 to 2008. He has written on a range of topics in Scottish and labour-movement history; and co-edited a number of books including *The Trotsky Reappraisal* (1992); *Gendering Scottish History* (1999); and *These Fissured Isles: Ireland and Scotland 1798-1848* (2006). Recent publications include 'A Tribute to István Mészáros [the Marxist Philosopher] (1930-2017)' in *Critique*, 46 (2018); and 'Towards Extinction or Hope?', a review article on *Crude Britannia: How Oil Shaped a Nation* by James Marriot and Terry Macalister in *The Ecologist*, 31 August 2021. He is currently co-editing a *Scottish Historical Review* volume on the Declaration of Arbroath, provisionally entitled *In Freedom's Name*.

Hugo Manson, co-founder of the New Zealand Oral History Archive (now part of the National Library in Wellington), has worked as an oral historian for more than forty years in his home country and many other parts of the world. From 2000 to 2006 he was a research fellow at the University of Aberdeen and 2006-2010 undertook projects for the (now) University of the Highlands and Islands (including a contemporary oral history of the Glendoe hydro dam construction and the recent history of the Isle of Gigha). Formerly a teacher and broadcaster, he has focused on the discipline of oral history recording and

archiving. His own catalogue of archival recordings is a resource for researchers in many topic areas including social change, politics, work, community, the arts, national and international relations, industry and industrial relations, protest, the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Valentina Bold

'Up the Middle Road': Crichton stories of resilience and recovery

'Up the Middle Road' was the local name for the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, founded 1838. The Crichton Trust's current oral history project highlights the memories and experiences of former patients and staff. It is linked to a rich Archive in the Ewart Library, partly digitised by the Wellcome Trust. This paper discussed why and how the project was established, its recording and collating processes, and its creative outputs.

The project began with six-months' funding from the Heritage Lottery and Crichton Foundation. I became part-time Co-ordinator in December 2019. By early 2020, I had recruited and trained eight volunteer interviewers, and contacted over thirty former patients and staff. I had recorded two trial interviews when coronavirus struck. All but two volunteers could not continue and I was furloughed. In late 2021, I resumed recording by phone and Zoom.

Having secured funding through Museums Galleries Scotland Community Fund for Year of Stories 2022, the Archie Sutter Watt Trust and the Crichton Foundation, the project is now able to share Crichton's hidden oral histories through a virtual exhibition, on-site QR-enabled panels and, on 24 and 25 June 2022, two dynamic outdoor performances. These are in collaboration with musicians Emily Smith and Jamie MacLennan, storyteller Amanda Edmiston and tour guide Kathleen Cronie. A learning picnic for primary schools will be held. One performance will be recorded and made available, with learning materials, through www.crichton.co.uk.

Furthermore, through the UK Community Renewal Fund, the Trust has funding to research the feasibility of a Centre for Memory and Wellbeing, potentially with UNESCO Memory of the World status. We are developing a partner network with cognate organisations across the UK, and will present a panel at the Oral History Society Conference in 2022: 'Home and the Asylum: An Oral History of Five Mental Health Institutions' (the Crichton Royal; Nottinghamshire asylums; Whitchurch Hospital; Whittingham Asylum; Glenside Hospital). In short, the Oral History Project aims to create a legacy of expertise and knowledge, sharing the deep story of one of Scotland's most resonant, rural places, connected to the wider history of mental health.

Dr Valentina Bold is Heritage Project Officer with the Crichton Trust. Formerly a senior academic, she now works, primarily, freelance: researching, publishing and presenting events. She often works as a consultant to television, radio and film, drawing on her specialist knowledge of Scottish cultural heritage: literature, songs, stories, working lives and food traditions. Valentina has published widely, with books including *Kitchen Conversations: A Women's History of Winchburgh*; *The Kinmont Willie Sword and other Tales of Mettle*; *James Hogg. A Bard of Nature's Making*; *Smeddum: A Lewis Grassie Gibbon Anthology* and *Robert Burns' Merry Muses of Caledonia*. She is Vice-Chair of Literature Alliance Scotland, Convenor of the Scots Language Centre and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Professor Margaret Bennett

Perthshire Shuttle-makers and the Ordie Shuttle Mill, Luncarty

The industries that made modern Scotland are rooted in traditional skills, ingenuity and natural inventiveness that helped shape the world of engineering, technology and manufacturing. In Perthshire, the history of the Stanley Mills is well-documented in print, manuscript, audio and video recordings and photographs, with lades, buildings and machinery preserved in a world-class museum featuring every stage of the industry. Less well known, however, are the supporting industries of bleaching and shuttle-making, based in the nearby villages of Luncarty and Redgorton.

This presentation looked at the Ordie Shuttlemill which employed a small work-force, who learned each stage of the craft through an apprenticeship with skilled shuttle-makers. The mill was built in 1844 by John Menzies from Logiealmond, an ingenious inventor who designed a shuttle that would revolutionise the weaving industry, preventing countless accidents that had injured and disfigured mill-lassies and blighted the safety record of the textile industry.

As the mill closed down in 1953, and the building was demolished shortly afterwards, those who remember it are now in their seventies or older. They include Betty Robertson whose family, the Pattons, had worked there for three generations – her grandfather, her father and her brother had all been shuttle-makers. Audio recordings of Betty and her cousin Jean illustrated the presentation along with photographs, newspaper cuttings and memorabilia collected over the years. In recounting their memories of the mill, their oral history recordings contribute to aspects of Scotland's industrial past which do not appear in 'official histories' of Perthshire. (The audio-recordings have been transcribed and can be used in further research and publication.)

Former lecturer at the University of Edinburgh's School of Scottish Studies, **Margaret Bennett** is a folklorist, writer and singer. She is Professor of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Glasgow), Honorary Teaching Fellow at the University of St Andrews and Honorary Professor of Antiquities and Folklore at the Royal Scottish Academy (Edinburgh). She has been recording oral histories for over 40 years and her books include *Scottish Customs from the Cradle to the Grave* (3rd edition, 2019), *Oatmeal and the Catechism: Scottish Gaelic Settlers in Quebec*, (1999) and *We are the Engineers! A History of Scottish Working People* (2015).

Dr Saqib Razzaq

The Colourful Heritage Project: preserving the history of Scotland's South Asians and Muslims

Colourful Heritage is Scotland's largest South Asian community heritage-focused charitable initiative with humble beginnings: <https://www.colourfulheritage.com/>. In 2010 an informal conversation amongst a group of friends over a cup of tea highlighted the archival silence regarding the history of South Asian and Muslim migrants to Scotland. Where were these amazing stories of sacrifice, ambition, identity, community and integration being recorded? With these questions in mind, we set out to preserve the stories of our elders and formed a working relationship with Glasgow Life and Museums.

This presentation highlighted:

- 1) our main aims – Capture, Celebrate and Inspire
- 2) how we captured the personal first-hand accounts/stories including the themes we wanted to explore
- 3) why it was important to preserve first-hand accounts of this migrant community
- 4) how the information contained within these stories helped us to create a variety of resources, mainly free digital resources that are easy to share and can be widely accessible for anyone no matter where in the world they were from.

These resources have been created to inform and inspire future generations of both Scottish South Asians and the Scottish host community to understand and appreciate the hard work ethic and huge contribution that our forefathers and mothers have made. This in turn can help tackle many contemporary issues that the next generation are facing including racism, identity and sense of belonging as well as supporting health and wellbeing during the recent Covid lockdown.

The presentation also highlighted some images from the Bashir Maan archive and from others showing some of the remarkable achievements that have been made in areas of Entrepreneurship as well as Civic and Political contribution by Scotland's South Asian and Muslim communities. It also covered some of the work that has been done on highlighting the contribution of the British Indian Army in both World Wars. In particular exploring the huge numbers involved, as well as the number of soldiers who died or were injured. The paper also told the story of an all-Muslim regiment called 'Force K6' that fought for Britain during the Second World War in its hour of need and then escaped from Dunkirk making its way to the Highlands of Scotland for further mountain warfare training.

More information about Colourful Heritage can be found online in these videos:

- My Journey: <https://youtu.be/Uzj0IaQBhD8> (which gives excerpts of interviews.)
- Colourful Heritage: https://youtu.be/2y_WK3Ap75k (which highlights the resources created by Colourful Heritage)
- 10 years of Colourful Heritage: <https://youtu.be/8DYHxziWE14> (a full-length promotional video).

Dr Saqib Razzaq is a doctoral graduate in peptide chemistry from St Andrews University and a Chemical Patents Analyst by a previous profession. Nowadays, Saqib uses her research and analytical abilities to trace the roots of the first and early South Asian settlers in Scotland, helping to preserve their individual and inspirational stories. In this effort, she has helped scribe a chapter about '*Feeling Scottish and being Muslim*' to the publication of a book called *Scotland's Muslims – Society, Politics & Identity* (based on the findings of the Colourful Heritage Project). She has also presented at an international conference in Lahore talking about Colourful Heritage. In 2017 she was instrumental in helping to set up the first of its kind historical South Asian exhibition called 'GlaswegAsians' based at Scotland Street School Museum in Glasgow, and research and create the digital timeline. In 2020, she also helped compile the 'Digital Primary Schools Resource pack' with the help of Glasgow Museums and has interviewed for Colourful Heritage's HERSTORY series, highlighting the stories of pioneering South Asian women in Scotland. Most recently she has presented a talk about 'The Contribution of Scotland's South Asians and Muslims' at MACFEST 2022.

Audrey Wilson and Taylor Webb

Voices - Our Stories Matter: bridging the gap between archives and community heritage

People not familiar with the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) should know that we do not have an archive, our role is to support and advocate at government level for all types of archives in Scotland, including local authority and communities. We build national and international partnerships, deliver strategic advice, research, and develop projects spanning stakeholder engagement, education, and quality improvement: www.scottisharchives.org.uk

Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 2021, SCA successfully started and completed an oral history pilot project, *Voices: The Hebridean Story* (VHS). This was made possible with the dynamic and enthusiastic summer intern, Taylor Webb, a Robertson Trust Scholar, and undergraduate student at the University of St Andrews (who had no previous experience working with archive collections). The other key element to success was the collaboration and support of our project partners.

The aim of this oral history project was to interview, publish and archive a snapshot of the unique stories and experiences of people living in the Scottish Hebrides during the Covid-19 pandemic. SCA promotes best practice within the archive sector, and we received training in recording, editing and digital preservation from staff at *Scotland's Sounds*, National Library of Scotland. Project partners *OurStory Scotland* an LGBTQi+ oral history community archive celebrating 20 years, helped with preparing and working with interviewees on oral history projects. The audio recordings and transcriptions are now available and officially part of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Tasglann nan Eilean (Hebridean Archives).

Six weeks is a brief period; however, we captured the stories of a mixed range of 19 people living in nine different Hebridean Islands during the pandemic. *Voices: The Hebridean Story* - Scottish Council on Archives - <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/explore/community-archives/voices-the-hebridean-story/>.

Gathering and disseminating feedback and lessons learned from VHS have helped develop a larger community engagement programme celebrating the Scottish Government's initiative, *Scotland's Year of Stories: 2022*. Our project is *Voices: The Community Story*.

The aim is to deliver a nationwide project where we collect stories from all over Scotland and bring together qualified archivists, heritage professionals and community groups - often volunteers. We will provide practical training and guidance on the best archival practice including digital preservation as well as providing the opportunity to network and form new partnerships.

The project will end in 2022, but a vital component of the project is to produce an evaluation report that will benefit all stakeholders and include a legacy document – if you like a guide to Next Steps. This may help with future oral history projects and be part of a funding application. To acknowledge the end of this first stage in the project, SCA will host a networking event guided by feedback from participating stakeholders and project partners. It may be a one-day conference or a series of workshops.

Audrey Wilson is the Partnerships and Engagement Manager at the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA). She has worked for SCA following the successful delivery of the NHLF funded Skills for the Future project, Opening Up Scotland's Archive, Audrey built on the project's legacy, widening participation and engagement, working closely with community archives and local history groups, to encourage their sustainability and development. The

Partnerships and Engagement Manager is responsible for the management and delivery of SCA's outreach and engagement programme, including the co-ordination of a programme of activity focusing on community archives, volunteering and non-professional audiences. Audrey sits on the Board of Community Archives Heritage Group (CAHG) a specialist group of Archives and Record Association UK & Ireland. She is leading the pilot project of forming a CAHG Scotland Network – bringing together people based in Scotland with an interest in community heritage archives.

Taylor Webb is in her final year of an MA in Management and Sustainable Development at the University of St Andrews. She was awarded a Robertson Trust Scholarship and became a Robertson scholar as part of the 2018 cohort. Part of the scholarship programme is having a paid summer internship and Taylor came to SCA in the summer of 2021. Taylor has a keen interest in sustainability within communities and advocating for community agency within academia and research. She would like to develop her research experience within the context of rural communities and engage with stakeholders to find ways of vocalizing local voices.

Victoria Peters

The Scottish Oral History Centre Archive at the University of Strathclyde

Since 2015, Archives and Special Collections at the University of Strathclyde have been the custodians of the remarkable Scottish Oral History Centre Archive, an extensive and growing collection of over 40 individual oral history projects, dating from c.1981 to the present day, and with a focus on, but not limited to, the history of work, occupational health and the social impact of deindustrialisation in Glasgow and the West of Scotland: <https://atom.lib.strath.ac.uk/sohc-archive>. Most of the projects were carried out by staff and students of the Scottish Oral History Centre at the University of Strathclyde but the archive also includes large numbers of interviews originating from other researchers and organisations, such as Glasgow Museums and the Scottish Working People's History Trust. The archive is an exceptionally rich resource documenting the experiences of ordinary working people, ensuring their voices are heard, with an immediacy and poignancy often lacking in the written record.

This paper gave a flavour of the exceptional richness and variety of the archive and was illustrated with some short excerpts from the interview recordings. It also described the meticulous work undertaken behind the scenes by the archives team at the University of Strathclyde to process, catalogue and provide access to the interviews, highlighting the various ethical and legal issues that need to be considered before any oral history collection can be made available for research. An understanding of these issues, which are of equal relevance for oral history practitioners, historical researchers and archivists, is vital to ensure that the full potential of these unique resources can be realised.

Victoria Peters is University Archivist at the University of Strathclyde and is responsible for the management of the University's archives and special collections, dating from the 16th to the 21st centuries. A classics graduate with an MA in Archive Studies, she has over 30 years' experience as a professional archivist and has worked in a wide range of archival repositories. Since 2000, she has worked exclusively in the higher education sector. Victoria has played an active role in several professional organisations. She is currently co-chair of the Scottish Universities Special Collections and Archives Group and is a member of the International Council on Archives' Experts Group on Archival Description, and the Glasgow School of Art Museum and Archives Committee.

Louise Scollay

The School of Scottish Studies Archives: access and re-use

The School of Scottish Studies Archives were founded over 70 years ago at the University of Edinburgh, to collect, preserve, research, and publish material relating to the cultural traditions and folklore of Scotland.

The extensive collections, the core of which is the ethnological fieldwork undertaken by staff and students, include a sound archive comprising some 33,000 recordings, a photographic archive containing thousands of images from the 1930s onwards, a small film and video collection and a manuscript archive.

Collecting for the Sound Archive has focused on many aspects of Scottish life, including (to name but a few) music and song; folklore and belief; agriculture and fishing and a great deal of collecting from Scotland's Gypsy-Traveller communities. Material comes from communities throughout Scotland and its diaspora, and the main languages and dialects of Scotland are all represented, including many dialects that are now extinct.

This paper took a tour through the collections over the past 70 years, with examples from the rich sound resources. It also looked at the ways in which the archive recordings can currently be accessed by researchers and how material can be creatively re-used for publication, broadcast and performance.

Louise Scollay has been Archive & Library Assistant at The School of Scottish Studies Archive & Library since 2017. She has a MA in Scottish Ethnology from the Celtic & Scottish Studies Department, University of Edinburgh, and so has been delving amongst the SSSA collections for 17 years.

Caroline Milligan and Lesley Bryson

An Exploration of the Methodology and Practice of the Regional Ethnology of Scotland Project (RESP)

The European Ethnological Research Centre (EERC) is situated within Celtic & Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Its primary concern is the promotion of research into everyday life and society in Scotland and the publication of the results. Prior to 2011, the main output from the centre was through the publication of work with an ethnological focus. This includes the 14-volume work, *Scottish Life and Society: A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology*, the *Sources in Local History* series and the *Flashback* and *Regional Flashback* series, which are based on oral histories.

In 2011, the EERC launched the Regional Ethnology of Scotland Project (RESP) and its first study area was Dumfries and Galloway. The purpose of this innovative project was to recruit, train, support and enable local volunteer fieldworkers to carry out oral history interviews in their own area. The volunteers made their own decisions about who to interview and about what to talk about in those interviews. The aspiration of this approach was to create a body of material which would provide a sense of the people as well as the issues and trends which were important *in that locality and at that time*. This approach was also designed to help ensure that fieldworkers would feel confident, empowered and engaged with the project. Rather than the model of the fieldworker going to an area to carry out research, the RESP framework provided the opportunity to explore a model where the fieldworker was a true insider. In addition, the RESP model has sought to provide an opportunity for people to learn new skills in their locality and to facilitate and encourage

community and inter-generational connections. Working with colleagues in local professional bodies, such as archives, schools, community hubs and libraries, the RESP was active in Dumfries and Galloway from 2011 to 2018 and is currently working primarily in East Lothian. The RESP also encompasses the Western Isles, Edinburgh, Dundee, Argyll, West Lothian, the Scottish Borders and the North-East.

A key principle of the RESP is to ensure ongoing care for the material collected and this extends to donated materials. To date, a number of local collections have been integrated into the RESP on the basis that these recordings add to our understanding of life and society in the given region. These materials are digitised and added to the Archive in the same way as the core material.

In partnership with the Centre for Research Collections at the University of Edinburgh, the EERC has secured the long-term care of both the original and donated materials and the entire RESP archive is now catalogued and digitally preserved through the RESP Archive Project.

Ensuring full access to the recordings is another key principal of the RESP and so all the recordings, both original and legacy, are assessed and prepared so they can be published and securely accessed via a dedicated website. This is a lengthy process. Each recording is assessed under GDPR guidelines before being made available, alongside digital images and full transcriptions, via the project website (launched April 2021). There are currently approximately 1,300 audio files available on the website: <https://collections.ed.ac.uk/eerc>.

In the first section of this conference presentation, Project Archivist, Lesley Bryson, spoke in detail about the RESP Archive Project. She explained that the initial aim had been to provide a searchable catalogue for the resource (ArchiveSpace) and ensure the long term storage and preservation of the digital objects: audio, video, photographs and transcriptions. This goal was achieved by working with Hrafn Malmquist on a bespoke implementation of the open source platform, Archivematica. ArchiveSpace, although a competent resource for records management, was not as appropriate an interface for accessing audio resources. To this end, the RESP website was developed and became the primary way that people now access the RESP Archive.

Lesley also spoke about the ongoing workflow planning, which will ensure due process for new materials yet to be created and added to the RESP website. She also spoke about new developments on the website: this includes a recently completed geo-location system, which was the result of an internship where Rowan Rush-Morgan and Denise Hicks, under the guidance of digital development colleagues, Scott Renton and Paryk Smacki, worked together to create a new interactive map which allows users to search key geographic locations mentioned in interviews and then click through pinned locations to find relevant recordings: <https://collections.ed.ac.uk/eerc/map>.

In the second half of this presentation, Archives Assistant, Caroline Milligan shared some short sound excerpts from RESP Archive recordings. These clips were chosen to indicate a little of the diversity of the collection and ranged from eight-year old school pupils Sophie and Derry, who were interviewed in Dumfries in 2014 and spoke about playground games; to Robert McQuistan, a retired teacher and champion of the Scots language, who spoke about his own experience as a volunteer fieldworker with the RESP. Using the clips, Caroline considered how the archive could be used by, for example, researchers, linguists, carers, creative practitioners and historians to uncover rich and often unique details of our shared cultural lives. As Robert McQuistan described, his experience of learning about

people's lives through his involvement with the RESP was, '...like a rich tapestry...like a tartan rather than a plain cloth'.

Lesley Bryson has been Project Archivist at the Centre for Research Collections, University of Edinburgh since 2007 and the RESP Project Archivist since 2018. A Modern History Graduate from the University of Dundee with an MA in Archives and Records Management she has worked on a wide range of archival projects. Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh, Lesley also worked at Trinity College, Dublin and The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Caroline Milligan works at the University of Edinburgh as Archives Assistant with the RESP Archive Project (at the Centre for Research Collections) and Research Assistant with the EERC. In her capacity as Research Assistant with the EERC she was involved in the RESP pilot study in Dumfries and Galloway (2011-2018). As the RESP Archives Assistant, she now works with Lesley Bryson to prepare the RESP recordings so that this collection can be shared widely via the project website: <https://collections.ed.ac.uk/eerc>.

Conference and session chairs

Dr Iain Hutchison is a research associate in the Centre for the History of Medicine at the University of Glasgow. He is the author of *A History of Disability in Nineteenth-Century Scotland* and of *Feeling Our History*, which is about the lives of blind people in Edwardian Edinburgh and the Borders. He is lead author of *Child Health in Scotland*, and most recently he was one of the editorial team for *Disability and the Victorians*.

Dr Yvonne McFadden is the Co-Director of the Scottish Oral History Centre at the University of Strathclyde where she is currently the Research Associate on *The Lost Villages: an oral history of miners' rows and deindustrialisation in East Ayrshire, Scotland*, as part of the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership. This project is creating an archive of the intangible history of mining communities in East Ayrshire and examines the impact of deindustrialisation on individuals and their families. Her thesis at the University of Glasgow was in part an oral history of domestic life in post-war suburban Glasgow focusing on everyday gender relations and social mobility. She also teaches at the University of Strathclyde on oral history, gender, and health histories. As the Co-Vice Convenor of Women's History Scotland, she works to promote and support women's and gender history in Scotland through Wikipedia Editing workshops, public talks, and other activities.

Christopher Whatley OBE, FRSE is a graduate of the University of Strathclyde and is emeritus professor, Scottish History at the University of Dundee. Until 2014 he was Vice Principal at Dundee. He has written and edited two dozen books, the best known being *The Scottish Salt Industry* (1987), *Scottish Society 1707-1830* (2000), the award winning *The Scots and the Union* (2006, 2007, 2014), *Immortal Memory: Robert Burns and the Scottish People* (2016) and *Pabay: An Island Odyssey* (2019). He also has over 100 chapters and articles to his name. He is currently Honorary President of the Scottish Local History Forum as well as Chairman of the Scottish Records Association.

The Scottish Records Association is a registered Scottish charity: SC008896