

One-Day Workshop: Archives to Action: Historical Evidence for Policy Reform in Marital Breakdown, Domestic Abuse, and Child Welfare

Virtual Event (Online)
Tuesday 20 January 2026

Workshop opens at 09.00	
09.20 – 10.00	Welcome and Key Project Findings
Session One	Fair Shares? What financial arrangements do divorcing couples make in the twenty first century? Jenny Birchall (Fair Shares Project, University of Bristol)
10.00-11.00	Accessing Justice: Financing Divorce in England and Wales, 1858-1949 Jennifer Aston and Diane Ranyard (Northumbria University)
Break	
Session Two	Lessons from the Past: Shaping our Futures Kate Perry-Jones (Welsh Women's Aid)
11.30-13.00	Articulating Abuse: Evidence from the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, 1858-1914 Jennifer Aston (Northumbria University)
	The Ramifications of Abolishing Marital Coercion: Convicting Our Criminally Coerced Women Defendants Vanessa Bettison and Nicola Wake (Northumbria University)
Lunch Break	
Session Three	Locating women's lives at The National Archives Jessamy Carlson (The National Archives)
14.00-15.30	Children in the Archive: Hearing Children's Voices Jennifer Aston (Northumbria University) & Saif Ullah (CAFCASS)
	Clues in the Catalogues: Detecting Diversity in the Archives Lizzy Baker (North East Museums)
Break	
16.00-16.45	Open Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Collaborations- Methodologies- Interdisciplinary synergies- Future events and facilitation
16.45-17.00	Closing Remarks and End of Workshop