

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 10.00-11.00	Fair Shares? What financial arrangements do divorcing couples make in the twenty first century? Jenny Birchall (Fair Shares Project, University of Bristol)
	Accessing Justice: Financing Divorce in England and Wales, 1858-1949 Jennifer Aston and Diane Ranyard (Northumbria University)
Break	
Session Two 11.15-12.45	Lessons from the Past: Shaping our Futures Kate Perry-Jones (Welsh Women's Aid)
	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 Bettinson and Nicola Wake (Northumbria University)
Lunch Break	
Session Three 14.00-15.30	Locating Women's Lives at The National Archives Jessamy Carlson (The National Archives)
	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	
15.45-16.30	Open Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborations - Methodologies - Interdisciplinary synergies - Future events and facilitation
16.30-16.45	Closing Remarks and End of Workshop