

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

Great Hall, Sutherland Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle, NE1 8ST
Tuesday 20 January 2026

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