

# British Communism and Commitment Day-school

9th June 2016

Labour History Archive and Study Centre  
People's History Museum, Manchester

## Provisional schedule

09:45-10:00 **Registration / Tea / Coffee**

10:00-11:30 **Panel One: Writers and commitment**

*Aidan Byrne*, 'Lewis Jones: the struggle for commitment'

*Matthew Taunton*, 'Communism by the letter: Doris Lessing and commitment'

*Glyn Salton-Cox*, 'Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland's queer commitment'

11:30-11.45 **Tea / Coffee**

11.45-1.15 **Panel Two: Communist trajectories**

*Lewis Young*, 'Douglas Hyde and the God that Failed: a journey from Communist activist to Catholic anti-Communist theorist'

*Jane Bernal*, '"Communism, coal and my other subject": the life of Margot Heinemann between 1937 and 1953'

*Don Watson*, 'The Apostates: six ex-Communist autobiographies'

1.15-2.15 **Lunch, talk from project archivist James Darby about the Monty Johnstone papers and related collections, archive tour**

2.15-3.15 **Panel Three: Communists and the trade unions**

*Sberyl Bernadette Buckley*, 'Coalfield Communists: loyal party functionaries or committed trade unionists?'

*Geoff Brown*, 'John Tocher, the limits of commitment'

3:15-3:30 **Tea / Coffee**

3:30-4:45 **Round-table: Communism, commitment and the archive**

Chaired by Professor Kevin Morgan. Featuring Francis King (historian, former CP activist and archivist, editor of *Socialist History*), John Attfield (historian and former secretary of the Communist Party History Group) and Geoff Andrews (author of *Endgames and New Times: The Final Years of British Communism 1964-1991* (2004) and *The Shadow Man* (2015), a biography of James Klugmann).

*The day-school is part of the AHRC-funded project 'Wars of Position: Communism and Civil Society.'* Any queries, please email the organiser, Ben Harker ([ben.barker@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ben.barker@manchester.ac.uk)).



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