

Statues, Memorials and Controversy

The theme for 2020 was **Statues, Memorials and Controversy**, tapping into the themes of recent protests as well as long-lived historical controversies about the politics and culture of memorialisation. Who do we choose to commemorate with statues and memorials? What does this say about us as a society? Should we remove or alter memorials as social attitudes change and historical events are reinterpreted? Or does such intervention hide inconvenient and unsavoury aspects of our past from public display? This year's event explored these and other questions.

Several faculty members offered brief mini-talks detailed below which addressed these issues in a variety of contexts from the eighteenth century to the present. There were opportunities to ask questions, and to meet faculty and other students via zoom's breakout rooms function.

The event was held on **Saturday 31 October at 11am until 1pm**. It was open to all students in the International History Department.

Speakers

[Dr Tom Ellis](#) on Lenin statues in the former USSR

[Dr Tim Hochstrasser](#) on William Beckford and the soft power of the slave trade

[Dr Joanna Lewis](#) on the 2020 Henry Morton Stanley statue controversy

[Professor Piers Ludlow](#) on the legacy of Leopold II of Belgium

[Dr Victoria Phillips](#) on architecture and propaganda in Cold War Berlin

[Dr Oscar Webber](#) on memorials of the Morant Bay rebellion in Jamaica

The event was chaired by [Dr Paul Stock](#).