

AITKEN ALEXANDER ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Speaker/Presenter/Factual TV list

If you would like more information about any of the authors listed
here please contact Steph Adam

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Amelia Abraham

Subjects – LGBTQ politics, feminism

[Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Amelia Abraham (b. 1991) is a journalist from London. Having worked as a commissioning editor at VICE and Refinery29, she is now an editor at Dazed. As a freelance writer, she has regularly contributed to the Guardian, the Observer, the Independent, the Sunday Times, the New Statesman, ES Magazine, VICE, i-D magazine, Vogue, Dazed and others. As well as feminist issues, human rights issues, news, health and arts & culture, Amelia's main writing interest is LGBTQ identity politics, and she has hosted documentaries, film screenings, performances and panel discussions around this topic. Her first book, **Queer Intentions**, will be published by Picador in May 2019.

Philip Ball

Subjects – science, music, art

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Philip Ball is a freelance science writer. He worked at *Nature* for over 20 years, first as an editor for physical sciences (for which his brief extended from biochemistry to quantum physics and materials science) and then as a Consultant Editor. His writings on science for the popular press have covered topical issues ranging from cosmology to the future of molecular biology.



Philip is the author of many popular books on science, including works on the nature of water, pattern formation in the natural world, colour in art, the science of social and political philosophy, the cognition of music, and physics in Nazi Germany. He has written widely on the interactions between art and science, and has delivered lectures to scientific and general audiences at venues ranging from the Victoria and Albert Museum to the NASA Ames Research Center, London's National Theatre and the London School of Economics.

Philip continues to write regularly for *Nature*. He has contributed to publications ranging from *New Scientist* to the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Financial Times* and *New Statesman*. He has broadcast on many occasions on radio and TV, and is a presenter of "Science Stories" on BBC Radio 4. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, sits on the editorial board of *Chemistry World* and *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, and is a board member of the RESOLV network on solvation science at the Ruhr University of Bochum.

He is currently at work on **How to Grow a Human: Adventures in How We Are Made and Who We Are** which will explore recent advances in biological and biomedical technologies that could create a profound shift in how humans are conceived both physically and philosophically.

Ananyo Bhattacharya

Subjects – science

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Ananyo Bhattacharya is a science correspondent at the *Economist*, covering everything from science policy to particle physics. He has a PhD in protein crystallography from Imperial College London, and prior to journalism was a medical researcher at the Burnham Institute in California. He hosts the *Economist's* science podcast, Babbage, and is currently working on his first book, ***Johnny, the Man From the Future: John von Neumann and the Invention of the 21st Century***, a biography of the great polymath John von Neumann (contemporary of Einstein, Turing and John Nash) told through the ideas and inventions for which he was responsible, including the atomic bomb, game theory, the computer and artificial intelligence. It will be published in 2020 by Allen Lane in the UK and Norton in the US.



Grace Blakeley

Subjects: finance, economics

[Twitter](#)

Grace Blakeley is the New Statesman's Economics Correspondent and a research fellow at IPPR. She regularly appears on television and radio, and is currently at work on a first book, ***Stolen: How Finance Took Control of Our Economy and Corrupted Our Politics***.



Dean Burnett

Subjects: neuroscience, psychology, happiness, emotions

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Dean Burnett is a neuroscientist, psychologist, author and sometime standup comedian. He is the author of the internationally-bestselling ***The Idiot Brain***, which has been published in more than 20 languages, and the follow-up ***The Happy Brain***. His Guardian science blog, Brain Flapping, has had more than 20 million reads, and his piece for the Guardian on Robin Williams and depression is their most-read article of all time. Dean has appeared on programmes for the BBC, ITV and Channel 4, and regularly appears on news programmes and the radio to talk about the misrepresentation of brain science in the media. He is currently at work on his third book, about the neuroscience of emotions, and a long-form audio project about mental health.



Jung Chang

Subjects – China, Mao, women

[Website](#)

Jung Chang is a Chinese-born British writer now living in London, best known for her family autobiography **Wild Swans**, which has sold over 10 million copies worldwide. She is also, with her husband Jon Halliday, the author of a major biography of **Mao: The Unknown Story**



Jung is currently working on **BIG SISTER, LITTLE SISTER, RED SISTER** about the Soong sisters, who were among the most significant figures in China in the 20th century. Educated in America, Ai-ling was to become one of the richest women in China, Ching-ling married Sun Yat-sen, the father of Chinese communism, while May-ling became a prominent leader in her own right after she married Chiang Kai-Shek, who ruled Taiwan and remained General of the Kuomintang until his death in 1975, just one year short of Mao.

Panashe Chigumadzi

Subjects – Zimbabwe, South Africa, feminist history

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Panashe Chigumadzi is a Zimbabwean-born novelist and essayist, currently undertaking doctoral study at Harvard. Raised in South Africa, she is the author of **Sweet Medicine**, which won the K Sello Duiker Literary Award, and the founding editor of Vanguard Magazine, a platform for young black women coming of age in post-apartheid South Africa. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, NYRB Daily, The Guardian, Die Zeit, Spiegel, City Press and The Sunday Times. Her short book, **These Bones Will Rise Again** (Indigo Press), reflects on the 2017 ousting of Robert Mugabe, radically reframing the history of Zimbabwe to include the perspectives of workers, women and urban movements.



Kayo Chingonyi

Subjects – Zambia, poetry, masculinity, music (in particular grime and hip-hop)

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Kayo Chingonyi is a poet, DJ and producer. His first full collection, **Kumukanda**, won the 2018 Dylan Thomas Prize and a Somerset Maugham award, and was shortlisted for five other prizes. He is a keen music fan and regularly contributes to radio programmes on grime and hip-hop, and is currently working on a first non-fiction book – about growing up in Zambia, trying to find your place in an unfamiliar world, and questions around identity and masculinity.



Emily (Milly) Cockayne

Subjects – noise, filth, rubbish, re-cycling and hate mail

Emily Cockayne is a lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of East Anglia. She is a cultural historian, focusing on interpersonal relationships, material culture, nuisances and domestic and street environments in England. Her first book, **Hubbub. Filth, Noise & Stench in England** was included in an *Independent* list of 'Ten Best History Books'. Toni Morrison cited **Hubbub** as a key source for the background for **A Mercy** (2008).



Her second book was **Cheek by Jowl. A History of Neighbours**.

She is now at work on a history of poison pen letters and trolling for OUP entitled **Poisoned Words: A History of Mailing Hate** and for Profile a history of rubbish and re-cycling entitled **Rummage: Salvaging History**

Lizzie Collingham

Subjects – India, food history and history interpreted through food

Lizzie's books include **The Hungry Empire** which is a history of the British Empire told in 20 meals that was awarded the Guild of Food Writers Book Award 2018. Earlier books included **The Taste of War** about the battle for food that underlay the Second World War, and her bestselling history of India, **Curry: A Tale of Cooks and Conquerors** and **Imperial Bodies** about the life and manners of the British in India.



Lizzie recently completed a project researching the history of the kitchens of the Indian President's palace and she regularly lectures on a gastronomic tour of Kerala.

She is at work on a family memoir – through food

Deborah Cohen

Subjects – the British domestic interior, the history of shopping, British social taboo, American journalists of the 30s

Deborah is currently the Peter B. Ritzma Professor of the Humanities and Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence. She is a historian of modern Britain and Europe.



Her books include **Household Gods: The British and their Possessions**, which won the American Historical Association's Forkosch Prize for the best book on Britain after 1485 and was the co-winner of the North American Conference on British Studies' Albion prize for the best book on Britain after 1800 and **Family Secrets**, a history of taboo from the Victorians to the present that was awarded the American Historical Association's Forkosch Prize for the best book on Britain after 1485 and the North American Conference on British Studies' Stansky prize for the best book on Britain after 1800.

She is now at work on a book entitled **THE WORLD BETWEEN THEM: Reporters of the Lost Generation**, about American foreign correspondents who reported from interwar Europe and Asia.

David Edgerton

Subjects – 20th Century Britain, science and technology

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

David is the Hans Rausing Professor of the History of Science and Technology and Professor of Modern British History at King's College London, and is one of Britain's leading historians. He has published a number of works over 20 years which challenge conventional analyses of science and technology. Significant among them is **The Shock of the Old: Technology and Global History since 1900**.



David's most recent book is **The Rise and Fall of the British Nation: a 20th Century History**:-'Forget almost everything you thought you knew about Britain in the 20th century ... David Edgerton is a pig-iron and power station historian who has established his reputation with a critique of technology-boosterism, past and present, and by challenging the "declinist" work of historians such as Correlli Barnett and the "two cultures" thesis of C P Snow. He is just the man to hold your hand on a journey through the national balance sheet ... you will not find a better informed history of this country in the last century' – *Evening Standard*

Helen Fielding

Subjects – Bridget Jones, writing, comedy, literature

[Instagram](#)

Helen Fielding is a novelist and screenwriter. She is best known as the author of the International Bestsellers **Bridget Jones's Diary** and **Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason**, which have sold over 15 million copies and been translated into 40 languages. She also co-wrote the screenplays for the movies of Bridget Jones's Diary and The Edge of Reason, starring Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth and Hugh Grant. She now works full-time as a novelist and screenwriter and lives in London and L.A.



Paul French

Subjects – North Korea, China (especially in the 1930s and 40s), the history of East and North London, true crime

Paul is a British author of several books about modern Chinese history and contemporary Chinese society, including international bestsellers **Midnight in Peking** and **City of Devils** about Peking and Shanghai in the 30s and 40s.

He was a regular columnist for the *China Economic Quarterly*, *China Economic Review* as well as *Ethical Corporation* magazine, where he was China Editor. He is a regular contributor to the UK's *Real Crime* magazine.

He presented and narrated **Death at the Airport: The Plot Against Kim Jong-Nam** for Radio 4, and has studied and written about North Korea for many years.



Dom Joly

Subjects – travel, politics, music, comedy

[Twitter](#) (169k followers)

Dom Joly is an award-winning British comedian, writer/director, performer, journalist and author.

He was the creator and star of the cult classic *Trigger Happy TV*, as well as *World Shut Your Mouth* for BBC2 and Dom Joly's *Happy Hour*, a travel show for Sky One. He is the author of 4 books including **The Dark Tourist**.

Dom has been a columnist for the Independent on Sunday and a travel writer for *The Sunday Times*. He has also written for *Esquire Magazine*, *GQ*, *the Mail on Sunday*, *the London Evening Standard*, *FHM*, *The Observer*, "i" /*The Independent* and *The Spectator* and *The Sun*.

December 2018 will see Dom begin his run as the narrator in Trafalgar Entertainment's revival of Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Theatre Royal Brighton and various other locations through 2019. His third travel book **The Hezbollah Hiking Club**, in which he and two friends hike across the Lebanon, Dom's childhood home, will be published in May 2019. And, he has recently finished a new travel series produced for Warner Bros called *How Beer Changed the World*. His sitcom *Forget the Kids*, is in development with veteran comedy producer Mark Freeland at Working Title TV.



Will Grant

Subject – Latin America (contemporary and the history of)

[Twitter](#)

Will Grant is one of the UK's leading broadcast journalists on Latin American affairs.

He has been the BBC's Correspondent in Cuba since late 2014, shortly before the announcement of the re-establishment of diplomatic ties with the United States. In that time he has covered such historic moments as President Obama's ground-breaking visit to Cuba and the death of the founder of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro.

Before taking up his role in Cuba, he was the BBC Correspondent in Venezuela under Hugo Chavez and in Mexico & Central America during some of the most violent years of the drug war. Will was previously the Americas Editor at BBC World Service Radio, based in London and Miami and has covered the region extensively for over twenty years. He graduated with First Class Honours from Edinburgh University and gained his Masters degree from the University of London's Institute of Latin American Studies. He is currently based in Havana and is working on his first book, a new history of Latin America.



Matthew Green

Subjects – British history; history of London; history of coffeehouses, gin, wine.

Twitter

After completing a PhD in the history of the media at Oxford University, Matthew Green hung up his gown and mortar board, moved to East London, and turned to popular history. He is the director of Unreal City Audio and the author of the critically acclaimed **London: A Travel Guide through Time** (Penguin). He writes for the *Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *FT* and *Londonist*, has featured and co-presented documentaries on BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channel 4, Discovery and PBS, and gives sell-out talks all over London and at literary festivals. He is currently writing **The City that Fell off a Cliff**, a history of Britain told through its lost cities, ghost towns and vanished villages, to be published by Faber (UK) and WW Norton (North America) in 2020.

Harriet Harman

Subject – women, politics, women and politics, the Labour party

Twitter (157k followers)

Harriet is a Labour Party politician who was the first ever Minister for Women, and uniquely has twice been Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and twice Leader of the Labour Party. She is currently Mother of the House of Commons.



Her memoir, **A Woman's Work** won best Memoir at the Parliamentary Book Awards:

"Countless blows have tempered Harman into something fearless and indestructible. Hell, why shouldn't this be her prime?" - *The Times*

Daisy Hay

Subjects – The Romantics, Mary Shelley, English Literature

Daisy is a senior lecturer at Exeter University, specialising in English literature from the late 18th to mid 19th Century.

Her first book, written when she was still in her 20s, was a pioneering group biography, **Young Romantics: The Shelleys, Byron and Other Tangled Lives**, that told the interlinked lives of the Romantic Poets and won Rose Mary Crawshay Prize by the British Academy and was also highly commended by the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and shortlisted for the Biographers' Club First Biography Prize. She then wrote **Mr and Mrs Disraeli: A Strange Romance** for which she was awarded the Somerset Maugham Prize and a short biography of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.



She is at work on a cultural history of English Romanticism through the figure of publisher Joseph Johnson who gave a dinner party every Tuesday throughout the 1780s and 1790s. His guests congregated at his premises in St Paul's Churchyard to eat beneath shifting reworkings of *The Nightmare*, painted at St Paul's Churchyard by Johnson's friend and occasional lodger, Henry Fuseli. Around Johnson's table gathered such literary figures as William Godwin, Mary Wollstonecraft, Thomas Paine and other men and women who through their words fought pamphlet wars, reformed religion and challenged the workings of the state.

Lily Le Brun

Subjects – art criticism and art history

[Twitter](#)

Lily Le Brun is an arts writer based in London, where she was born and raised. She graduated with a 1st in History from the University of Edinburgh in 2009 and received a distinction for her MA in Modern and Contemporary Art from the Courtauld in 2011.



After a period working at Sotheby's and Christie's auction houses, she began writing freelance. She continues to write catalogue essays for Christie's post-war and contemporary art department as well as commercial galleries, and has contributed to art magazines and newspapers including Art Quarterly, the Financial Times, The Economist and The White Review. Her first book, **Looking to Sea: Britain Through the Eyes of its Artists**, will be published by Sceptre in 2019.

Simon Mundie

Subjects – Psychology of sport and what we can learn from it

[Twitter](#)

Simon is a BBC journalist and host of the popular and influential Radio 4 podcast 'Don't Tell Me the Score'. He also presents the sport on the Today programme and on Radio 1. He has covered a plethora of major sporting events on television and radio including three Olympic Games, 14 Wimbledons and two World Cups, and has interviewed the biggest names in sport; Usain Bolt, Serena Williams and David Beckham to name a few.



Yet his particular point of interest lies in looking past the results and exploring what sport can tell us about life. His podcast explores the psychology of sport and themes such as tribalism, resilience and emotional intelligence, using sport as the entry point to each subject. Simon has also written and presented for the BBC on health, on topics including the possible medicinal benefit of psychedelics.

Lyndal Roper

Subjects – Martin Luther, witchcraft, The Reformation, early Modern German History, Gender History

Lyndal is the first woman to have been appointed Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford.

Her book **Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany**, was a study of the persecution of women as witches in Germany in the 16th and 17th centuries in an attempt to understand why it took place at that particular time, why it was not geographically universal, and what kinds of fears, fantasies, and confessions were involved.

She then wrote her magnificent prize-winning biography of **Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet** which demonstrated that he could only be understood against the background of his times, revealing the often contradictory psychological forces that drove Luther and the historical dynamics which turned a small act of protest into a battle that would change the Church forever and usher in a new world order.

She is now at work on a new book about The German Peasant's War 1524-1525 which was Europe's largest and most widespread popular uprising prior to the French Revolution



Ash Sarkar

Subjects – current affairs, relating particularly to race, gender, class, power, immigration

[Twitter](#)

Ash Sarkar is a writer, broadcaster, journalist and lecturer living in London. She is a Senior Editor at Novara Media, where her work focuses on race, gender, class and power. As part of her work, she has appeared on numerous panels, hosted live events, and interviewed frontbench politicians on everything from foreign policy to football opinions. Ash regularly appears on television to discuss current affairs, and has featured on Sky News, Channel 4, Daily Politics and Newsnight. She has written on politics and pop culture extensively for both print and digital outlets. She lectures in Global Politics at Anglia Ruskin in Cambridge, and teaches a Masters in Film, Graphic Design and Propaganda at the Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam.



Anne Sebba

Subjects – women of the 20th century including Wallis Simpson, Jennie Churchill, Ethel Rosenberg, Women in Paris 1939-49, Women Journalists, Laura Ashley, Mother Theresa

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Anne is a best-selling biographer, lecturer and former journalist. She focuses mainly on significant women or groups of women during the 20th Century. Her biography **That Woman: A Life of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor** was an international bestseller, and her ground-breaking group biography **Les Parisiennes**, was told from the point-of-view of resisters, collaborators, spies, writers, actresses, fashion designers, housewives and prostitutes to create an unparalleled picture of life in occupied Paris.

She is now at work on a biography of Ethel Rosenberg, who was executed as a spy in 1953 in a catastrophic failure of humanity, and probably also of justice, that continues to haunt the American psyche, and which is still being played out with different characters in the lead roles today.



Nicholas Shakespeare

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Subjects – Winston Churchill, the qualities of leadership, Bruce Chatwin

Nicholas is an acclaimed biographer and novelist, whose books have been translated into over 20 languages. He is chief book reviewer of the Daily Telegraph and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

The “impeccably researched, coherent and revelatory” **Six Minutes In May** sheds new light on the events that brought about the downfall of Neville Chamberlain and resulted in Winston Churchill leading Great Britain to victory in World War II. John Simpson describes the book as “simply magnificent... far and away the best account of the moment which changed our national life and the world, and filled with extraordinary new details.”

Nicholas is also the biographer of Bruce Chatwin, as well as an experienced speaker, presenter and documentary maker.



Vicky Spratt

Subjects – housing crisis, generation rent, contraception, women's health, feminism

[Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Vicky Spratt (b.1988) is a journalist, campaigner and former Deputy Editor of The Debrief, born and based in London. In 2016 she ran a successful campaign, Make Renting Fair, in her role at The Debrief to highlight the plight of 'Generation Rent' which resulted in the Government announcing a ban on letting agency fees for tenants. She has also worked to highlight the mental health side effects of hormonal contraception, and her Debrief investigation Mad About The Pill was covered on Radio 4 and BBC news.



She wrote and co-presented a documentary about the politics of young people for Radio 4, Generation Right, and has written for VICE, Broadly, BBC, The Independent, The Evening Standard and The Spectator. Her most recent documentary is about abortion rights in Ireland and Northern Ireland. She has appeared as a commentator on BBC Woman's Hour, Daily Politics, Radio 2, BBC 5 live, NTS radio and spoken at political party conferences about the housing crisis. Vicky's first book **Tenants** will be published by Profile in 2019.

Andrew Steele

Subjects – biology (in particular ageing), physics

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#)

Andrew Steele is a scientist, writer and presenter. He is a research fellow at the Francis Crick Institute in London where he studies the science of ageing, and looks at ways in which science might help us to stave off its ravages. His first book, ***Ageless – The New Science of Getting Older without Getting Old***, was published in 2020 by Bloomsbury in the UK and in 2021 by Doubleday in the US. Andrew is also a prolific presenter – a regular expert on Impossible Engineering on Yesterday, he has also appeared on The One Show, Sky News and Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman. He is often on Radio 4 talking about science.



Rory Stewart

Subjects – Afghanistan, Iraq, the Arab World, Empire, prisons, the Scottish borders

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Currently a member of parliament for Penrith and the Borders, Rory is a writer and former soldier and diplomat. He is Minister for Prisons.



His account of his walk across Afghanistan in 2002 (part of a longer walk across Asia) became the international bestseller, **The Places In Between**. **Occupational Hazards** documented his experiences as Coalition Provisional Authority Deputy Governor of Maysan Province in the chaos of the Iraq War.

Rory's most recent book, **The Marches**, described his walks with his father along the border between Scotland and England that develops into a history of nationhood, an anatomy of the landscape, a chronicle of contemporary Britain and a loving account of the relationship between father and son.

James Suzman

Subjects – anthropology, work, nature

[Website](#)

James Suzman is an anthropologist based in Cambridge, where he runs the anthropological think tank, Anthropos. His primary field work has been with the tribes of the Kalahari, and it was that research that inspired his first book, **Affluence without Abundance**, which looked at hunter gatherer societies to illustrate how those in the developed world could live happier, more successful lives. His next book, **Idle Hands**, is a history of human civilisation told through work, and will be published in 2020 by Bloomsbury in the UK and Penguin Press in the US. James regularly gives lectures around the world, and has written for publications including *New York Times*, *Financial Times* and the *Guardian*.



Thant Myint-U

Subjects – Burma, the UN

[Twitter](#)

Thant is a historian, writer, a past fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, a former Adviser to the President of Myanmar, and the founder and chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust. He is the author of four books, including the bestselling and critically acclaimed **The River of Lost Footsteps: A Personal History of Burma** and **Where China Meets India: Burma and the New Crossroads of Asia**.

He was named by the Foreign Policy Magazine as one of the "100 Leading Global Thinkers" of 2013 and by Prospect Magazine as one of 50 "World Thinkers" of 2014. He was voted 15th in Prospect Magazine's subsequent poll of "World's Leading Thinkers"

Thant is at work on **A Secret History of Burma**, an insider's account of how Burma went from being the toast of the world as it seemed to transform from being the darkest of dictatorships in the very heart of Asia to a peaceful and prosperous liberal democracy, to a country now accused of ethnic cleansing and genocide.



Hugo Vickers

Subjects – The Royal Family and Royal History, Cecil Beaton, Vivien Leigh

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Hugo Vickers is a well-known royal historian and is a respected expert and commentator on the Royal Family. He has written distinguished biographies of the Queen Mother, Gladys, Duchess of Marlborough, Cecil Beaton, Vivien Leigh, Princess Andrew of Greece and the Duchess of Windsor and is currently working on a biography of the Queen for Hodder.



A seasoned broadcaster, Hugo has appeared in numerous royal documentaries and as a studio guest and commentator for a range of royal occasions including Charles and Diana's wedding, the funerals of Diana and the Queen Mother, and, most recently, the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. His polemic, **The Crown - Truth & Fiction** attracted international publicity in 2018. He is the editor of surprise hit of 2018 **The Quest for Queen Mary** which Max Hastings called "arguably the most riotously funny volume published this year".

Amanda Vickery

Subjects – The Georgians, The 1950s, women's history

[Twitter](#)

Amanda is professor of early modern history at Queen Mary, University of London. She is winner of the Longman History Today prize, the Whitfield Prize and the Wolfson History Prize.



Amanda's books include **The Gentleman's Daughter: Women's Lives in Georgian England** and **Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England**.

She is the writer and presenter of Radio 4's **Voices from the Old Bailey** and **A History of Private Life** and has presented many TV history programmes, including **Story of Women and Art**; **At Home with the Georgians** and **The Many Lovers of Miss Jane Austen**. With Alistair Sooke she presented **Pride and Prejudice: Having A Ball** and with Tom Service she presented three documentaries linking history and music. Amanda is at work on **Modern Girls**, a history of women in the 1950s.

Tom Weber

Subject – Hitler, European and International Political History, International Affairs

[Website](#)

Thomas Weber is Professor of History and International Affairs as well as the founding Director of the Centre of Global Security and Governance at the University of Aberdeen. His research and teaching expertise lies in European, international, and global political history.



He is the author of 4 books including two ground-breaking books about Hitler's early years: **Hitler's First War: Adolph Hitler, the Men of the List Regiment and the First World War** and **Becoming Hitler: The Making of a Nazi**.

Dominic Wilcox

Subjects – art, design, invention

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Dominic Wilcox is an inventor, artist and designer. His work focuses on creating innovative, surprising and thought-provoking objects, from GPS shoes to a stained-glass self-driving car of the future. Dominic is the founder of Little Inventors, a global organisation that aims to inspire a new generation of inventors. Starting in classrooms, Dominic encourages children to embrace creativity and imagination, taking ideas from paper all the way to manufacturers (and involving the little inventor at every stage).

Dominic regularly appears on television, including fronting a documentary series looking at innovation in the north east (where he's from) for the BBC and showing some of his inventions on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.



Richard Williams

Subjects – motor racing, sport, rock music, jazz, photography, art

[Twitter](#)

Richard was a writer, then deputy editor, of the weekly music newspaper *Melody Maker* where he became an influential commentator on the rise of new forms of rock music at the end of the 1960s before becoming the first presenter of BBC's *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. In the 70s he moved to mainstream journalism, latterly at the Guardian, where he was for many years their chief sport's writer.

As well as important books about music and musicians, including **The Blue Moment** about Miles Davis, Richard has written several books on Formula One including **The Death of Ayrton Senna, Racers** (an analysis of the main participants of the 1996 F1 season), and **Enzo Ferrari: A Life**.

Richard has appeared in **Senna** as well as in several other documentaries.

He is currently at work on **A Race with Love and Death**, about Dick Seaman, who was the archetype of the British sporting hero of the inter-war years, and Britain's first truly professional grand prix driver. He was handsome and dashing, with jazz and winter sports among his hobbies, but his short life was bound up with the consequences of one world war and the build-up to another.



Andrew Wilson

Subjects – Agatha Christie, Patricia Highsmith, Alexander McQueen, Sylvia Plath, survivors of the Titanic, Harold Robbins

Andrew is the highly acclaimed author of biographies of Patricia Highsmith, Sylvia Plath and Alexander McQueen. His first novel, *The Lying Tongue*, was published in 2007. His journalism has appeared in the *Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Observer*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Washington Post*.



He is currently writing a series of novels carefully stitched into the true chronology of Agatha Christie's life, in which she herself turns detective. The series is being adapted both for stage and screen.

Kit Yates

Subject – maths

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Kit Yates is a senior lecturer in the department of mathematical sciences at the University of Bath. His research focuses on real-world applications of mathematics, and he has studied things like embryo formation, egg-shell patterning and sleep sickness. His first book, *The Maths of Life and Death*, looks at seven key mathematical ideas and shows how misunderstanding of them can (and has) had disastrous effects. It will be published in 2019 by Quercus (UK) and Scribner (US) and in 22 other languages. Kit has written for the *Guardian*, *The Times*, *Independent* and *Daily Mail*, and has appeared on the BBC's *Bang Goes the Theory* and *Watchdog*. He sets real-world-based mathematical problems for the *Today Show* on Radio 4, and was one of the problem-setters on Dara O'Briain's *School of Hard Sums*.



Adam Zamoyski

Subjects – Napoleon, Chopin, the history of Poland, Europe

[Website](#)

Adam Zamoyski has dual British and Polish nationality and – as well as English and Polish – speaks fluent French, Italian and Russian which enables him draw on a wide range of sources for his books of European history.



His history of **Poland** looked back over 1,000 years of turmoil and triumph and was an international bestseller, as was his history of Napoleon's invasion of Russia **1812: Napoleon's Fatal March on Moscow**. His biography of Chopin, **Chopin: Prince of the Romantics** brought to the subject an unrivalled knowledge of the historical, social and cultural background of the composer's native Poland as well as of the France in which he spent most of his creative life. He is also the author of **Phantom Terror**, a ground-breaking portrait of Europe following the French Revolution.

Adam's major new biography **Napoleon: The Man Behind the Myth** was published in October 2018.