

Simon C. Smith

Education and Qualifications:

- 1989-93 Royal Holloway, University of London, **PhD in History**
- 1986-89 Royal Holloway, University of London, **BA in History (Single Honours), First Class**

Prizes:

- 1989 **Martin Holloway Prize** awarded for the best degree in the Faculties Arts and Music, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 1989 **Derby/Bryce Prize** awarded for the best degree in the School of History, University of London

Career:

- 2008- Professor, International History, University of Hull
- 2007-08 Reader in International History, University of Hull
- 2002- Senior Lecturer in International History, University of Hull
- 1997-2002 Lecturer in International History, University of Hull
- 1994-97 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in the History Department, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 1993-94 Part-time Lecturer, Goldsmiths College, London
- 1992-4 Non-established teacher, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 1992-93 Scouloudi Research Fellow, Institute of Historical Research, London
- 1989-92 British Academy Major Studentship

Professional Qualifications:

- 1989-90 College Certificate in Computing and Quantitative Skills, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 1997-8 Higher Education Teaching Certificate, University of Hull

Membership of Professional Bodies:

- 2000-04 Member, Institute of Learning and Teaching

2000-	Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
2005-	Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society
2006-	Member of the Friends of the National Archives (Member of Council, 2007-12)
2007-	Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
2008-	International Advisory Board, <i>Journal of Maltese History</i>
2023-	Editorial Board, <i>Middle Eastern Studies</i>
2024-	Editorial Board, <i>Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History</i>

External examining:

2024	Kings College London, PhD
2020	Liverpool John Moores, PhD
2020	University of Durham, PhD
2017-	University of Malta, Master of Arts by research
2017-20 undergraduate programmes	London School of Economics, Department of International History
2016-17	University of Birmingham, Master of Arts by research
2014	University of Hertfordshire, PhD
2010-14	Royal Holloway, Department of History undergraduate programmes
2010	The University of Nottingham, PhD
2010	University of Exeter, PhD
2007	School of Oriental and African Studies, PhD
2003-04	Cambridge International Examinations
1997	St Antony's College, Oxford DPhil

Refereeing:

a) Books:

Bloomsbury Publishing; Cambridge University Press; I. B. Tauris; Manchester University Press; Oxford University Press; Palgrave; Pearson Education (Longman); Routledge

b) Journals:

Australian Journal of Politics and History; British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies; Business History; Business History Review; Contemporary British History; Diplomacy and Statecraft; Electronic Journal of International History; Economic History Review; English Historical Review; Historical Journal; International History Review; International Security; Journal of Arabian Studies; Journal of British Studies; Journal of Cold War Studies; Journal of Genocide Research; Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History; Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society; Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society; Journal of Transatlantic Studies; Middle Eastern Studies; South East Asia Research.

c) Research applications:

Arts and Humanities Research Council: Peer Review Research Leave Scheme (2009)

British Academy: Peer Review Research Development Award (2008)

d) External Assessor for appointments and promotions:

Associate Professor/Professor, University of Malaya (2017 to the present)

Professor, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service at Qatar (2014)

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khalifa University, United Arab Emirates (2023)

Awards:

2002 British Academy Small Research Grant

2004 -05 AHRC Research Leave

2000-05 Arts and Humanities Research Board, Major Research Award, Co-investigator,

British Documents on the End of Empire

2006 British Academy British Conference Grant

2007 British Academy Small Research Grant

2023-4 Fellowship at the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation to

conduct research on slavery and the slave trade in Arabia and the Persian

Gulf

2025 ('Decolonizing decolonization: Recovering lost voices of the end of empire in Cyprus', AHRC Curiosity Scheme, submitted April 2025, awaiting decision)

Current Teaching:

Revolutions (level 4); The First Superpowers (level 5); Co-produced module (level 6); Fear and Terror (level 6); Capstone Project (level 6); Power, Authority, and Freedom (level 7).

Administrative/leadership responsibilities:

Admissions Tutor (1998-2004); Reach-Out, Recruitment and Marketing Committee (2002-04); Research Committee (2002-06); Syllabus Co-ordinator (2004-05); Teaching and Learning Committee (2004-05); Postgraduate Monitoring Officer (2005-06); Second Year Tutor (2007-2008); Faculty Reach Out Committee (2008-10); Director of Reach Out, Marketing and Recruitment (2008-10); History Department Executive Committee (2008-10); Excellence Hub Co-ordinator (2008-12); Exams Officer (2010-15); History Department Research Advisory Panel (2012-15); Faculty Board (2015-18); REF Lead/Deputy Lead History (2018 -22); University of Hull, Honorary Awards Committee (2020-23); Student-Staff Partnership Scheme (2020 to the present); Deputy Director: Space, Place, Environment and Liveability (formerly Cities, Environment, and Liveability) Pathway, White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership (2020 to the present); Graduate Research Director, School of Humanities (2022-24); Research Degrees Committee (2022-4); FACE Ethics Reviewer (2024-); REF Lead UoA 28 (2024-).

Conference Organisation:

‘Reassessing Suez Fifty Years On’, Maritime Historical Studies Centre, University of Hull, 25-26 July 2006 ‘Contemporary Israel in a turbulent region: Politics, economy and security’, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, 21-22 August 2017.

Knowledge Exchange

Contributor to Australian broadcaster Wildbear Entertainment’s documentary on the Cold War (filmed 19 December 2024);
‘British relations with Kuwait in the twentieth century’, Briefing paper delivered to the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, 19 September 2023;
‘Reform and Repression: British Relations with Bahrain from the Late Nineteenth Century to the Arab Spring’, Briefing paper delivered to the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, 19 October 2022;

'The History of Modern Kuwait: An Overview', Briefing paper delivered to the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, 16 February 2022.

Select Conference/Seminar Papers:

'Slave voices and the quest for freedom in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula', Wilberforce Institute, 29 January 2025;

'Responsibility without Power: Britain and the intractable problem of slavery in the Persian Gulf and Arabia after 1945', British International History Group conference, King's College London, 5-6 September 2024;

'"Official" histories of the end of empire', Official History: Past, Present and Future, Institute of Historical Research, 5 June 2024;

'Britain's unheroic age? Slavery and the slave trade in Arabia and the Gulf, 1924-1971', Social Justice: Working towards a Fairer World Conference, University of Hull, 10 April 2024;

'Tolerating the Intolerable: Britain and the Persistence of Slavery in the Persian Gulf and Arabia after 1945', Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, 9 February 2022;

'Imperialism after empire? Britain and Qatar in the aftermath of the withdrawal from East of Suez', British International History Group conference, University of Lancaster, 5-7 September 2019;

'In the shadow of the South Arabian Federation: British policy making and the emergence of the United Arab Emirates', Without glory but without disaster: Learning the lessons of British withdrawal from South Arabia on 30 November 1967, Royal United services Institute Conference, 4 December 2017;

'British policy towards Israel and Palestine under the Coalition and Conservative Governments, 2010-16', Contemporary Israel in a turbulent region: Politics, economy and security, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, 21-22 August 2017;

'A success story in state creation? Britain and the formation of the United Arab Emirates', Aden and South Arabia: A Retrospective Study in the Failure of State Creation, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, and The Centre for the Advanced Study of Arab World (CASAW), 15 January 2015;

'Dear Mr Prime Minister: Lyndon Baines Johnson's correspondence with Harold Wilson and the Anglo-American special relationship', British International History Group conference, London School of Economics, 4-6 September 2014;

‘Priests and politicians: Archbishop Michael Gonzi, Dom Mintoff and the end of empire in Malta’, Political Actors in the Mediterranean, 1918-1964: Cyprus and Malta Compared, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 16 March 2013;

‘“America in Britain’s place? Anglo-American relations and the Middle East, 1958-1977”, Transatlantic Studies Association Conference, University of Dundee, 14 July 2012;

‘Ending Empire in the Middle East: Britain, the United States post-war decolonization, 1945-1973’, Decolonization Workshop, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 15 June 2012;

‘Indirect rule in Malaya and South Arabia’, OSPA Witness Seminar: Indirect Rule – right or wrong?, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London, 27 March 2012;

‘Suezcide: Anthony Eden and the Suez Crisis’, Historical Association, 24 March 2011;

‘Protecting its Legacy: Britain and the Gulf from formal withdrawal to the Iranian Revolution, 1971-1979’, World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, Barcelona, 19-24 July 2010;

‘Ends of British Imperialism: British policy towards the Gulf in the era of Decolonization’, Department of Historical and Classical Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, 3 May 2010;

‘The wind that failed to blow: British policy and the end of empire in the Gulf’, Wind of Change: 50th Anniversary Conference, University of East Anglia, 26-27 March 2010;

‘From Power to Influence?: Great Powers and the Gulf, 1975-89’, From Power to Influence Workshop, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, 14-16 September 2009;

‘Anglo-American relations and the Arab-Israeli conflict, 1967-1973’, Transatlantic Studies Association Conference, Christchurch University Canterbury, 13-16 July 2009;

‘Anglo-American relations and the end of empire the Far East and the Persian Gulf’, End of Empire conference, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, 15-17 September 2008;

‘Britain, the Gulf and Suez, 1956’, British International History Group Conference’, British International History Group conference, University of Ulster, Coleraine, 4-6 September 2008;

‘The limits of the “special relationship”: Britain, the United States and the Middle East in the 1950s’, Transatlantic Studies Association Conference, University College Cork, 9-12 July 2007;

‘British policy and the end of empire in the Gulf’, 2007 Gulf Conference, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, 4-7 July 2007;

‘Britain and the development of Malay monarchy’, Britain and the Malay World Conference, Royal Asiatic Society, 17-18 May 2007;

‘Britain, the United States, and the Gulf in aftermath of Suez, 1956-71’, Imperial History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, 9 January 2006.

Publications:

In progress:

Slavery and the Slave Trade in Arabia and the Gulf, 1924-1971 (Routledge Studies in the Middle East – due for publication in 2026).

Accepted/in press:

“‘Official” histories of the end of empire’, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*.

In print:

a) Books:

Britain and the Arab Gulf after Empire, 1971-1981: Kuwait Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (Routledge, 2019; reprinted in paperback in 2020);

Kuwait, 1950-1965: Britain, the al-Sabah, and Oil (Josur Publishers: Beirut, 2018 – in Arabic);

The Wilson-Johnson Correspondence, 1964-9 (Ashgate, 2015; reprinted in paperback in 2020);

Ending Empire in the Middle East: Britain, the United States and Post-war Decolonization, 1945-73 (Routledge, 2012; reprinted in paperback in 2013);

Reassessing Suez 1956: New Perspectives on the Crisis and its Aftermath (Ashgate, 2008);

Britain’s Revival and Fall in the Gulf: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the Trucial States, 1950-71 (RoutledgeCurzon, 2004; reprinted in paperback in 2013);

British Documents on End of Empire Project: Malta (The Stationery Office, 2006; published online in 2017)

Kuwait, 1950-1965: Britain, the al-Sabah, and Oil (Oxford University Press, 1999);

British Imperialism, 1750-1970 (Cambridge University Press, 1998; translated into Korean and published in that country by arrangement with CUP through Imprima Korea Agency, 2001);

British Relations with the Malay Rulers from Decentralization to Malayan Independence, 1930-57 (Oxford University Press, 1995).

b) Articles:

- ‘Imperialism after decolonization? British relations with Bahrain from the withdrawal East of Suez to the Iranian Revolution’, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 61, 1 (2025): 115-28
- ‘An Empire of Influence? British Relations with the United Arab Emirates in the 1970s’, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 52, 4-5 (2024): 657-86
- ‘Transition of power: the problems of Britain’s post-imperial relationship with Malta, 1964-1971’, *Contemporary British History*, 37, 1 (2023): 27-62
- ‘Imperialism after empire? Britain and Qatar in the aftermath of the withdrawal from East of Suez’, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 58, 6 (2022): 843–858
- ‘Failure and success in state formation: British policy towards the Federation of South Arabia and the United Arab Emirates’, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 53, 1 (2017), 84-97
- ‘Britain’s Decision to Withdraw from the Persian Gulf: A Pattern Not a Puzzle’, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 44, 2 (2016): 328–351
- ‘The Anglo-American “special relationship” and the Middle East, 1945-73’, *Asian Affairs*, XLV, III (2014): 425-48
- ‘Centurions and Chieftains: Tank sales and British policy towards Israel in the aftermath of the Six-Day War’, *Contemporary British History*, 28, 2 (2014): 219-39
- ‘Priests and politicians: Archbishop Michael Gonzi, Dom Mintoff, and the end of empire in Malta’, *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, 23, 1 (2014): 101-12
- ‘“America in Britain’s place?” Anglo-American relations and the Middle East in aftermath of the Suez crisis’, *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, 10, 3 (2012): 252-70
- ‘British policy and the end of empire in the Gulf’, *Orient: German Journal for Politics, Economics and Culture of the Middle East*, 52, 1 (2011): 17-22
- ‘Coming Down on the Winning Side: Britain and the South Asia Crisis, 1971’, *Contemporary British History*, 24, 4 (2010): 451-70
- ‘Dependence and independence: Malta and the end of empire’, *Journal of Maltese History*, 1, 1 (2008): 33-47

'Conflict and Collaboration: Britain and Sultan Ibrahim of Johore', *Indonesia and the Malay World*, 36, 106 (2008): 345-58

'Conflict and co-operation: Dom Mintoff, Giorgio Borg Olivier and the end of empire in Malta', *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, 17, 1 (2007): 115-34

'Integration and disintegration: the attempted incorporation of Malta into the United Kingdom and its failure in the 1950s', *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 35, 1 (2007): 49-71

'Power transferred?: Britain, the United States and the Gulf, 1956-1971', *Contemporary British History*, 21, 1 (2007): 1-23

'"Moving a little with the tide": Malay Monarchy and the Development of Modern Malay Nationalism', *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 34, 1 (2006): 123-38

'"A vulnerable point in the sterling area": Kuwait in the 1950s', *Contemporary British History*, 17, 4 (2003): 25-42

'General Templer and counter-insurgency in Malaya: hearts and minds, intelligence, and propaganda', *Intelligence and National Security*, 16, 3 (2001): 61-80

'Piloting Princes: Hugh Clifford and the Malay Rulers', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 11, 3 (2001): 363-75

'The making of a neo-colony?: Anglo-Kuwaiti relations in the era of decolonization', *Middle Eastern Studies*, 37, 1 (2001): 159-72

'Revolution and reaction: South Arabia in the aftermath of the Yemeni revolution', *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 28, 3 (2000): 193-208

'Conflicting commitments: Britain and the Portuguese possessions in India, 1947-61', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 20, 1 (1997): 17-34

'Crimes and punishment: local responses to the trial of Japanese war criminals in Malaya and Singapore, 1946-8', *South East Asia Research*, 5, 1 (1997): 41-56

'French imperial outposts in post-imperial India, 1947-54', *European Review of History*, 3, 2 (1996): 187-97

'Travellers in South-East Asia', *Asian Affairs*, 27, 1 (1996): 68-71

'British records on Kuwait', *European Review of History*, 2, 2 (1995): 273-4

'Rulers and Residents: British relations with the Aden Protectorate, 1937-59', *Middle Eastern Studies*, 31, 3 (1995): 509-23

'The rise, decline, and survival of the Malay Rulers during the colonial period, 1874-1957', *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 22, 1 (1994): 84-108

c) Chapters:

‘Managing and Mismanaging Departure: The South Arabian Federation and the United Arab Emirates in Comparative Perspective’, in Clive Jones and Noel Brehony (eds.), *Britain’s Departure from Aden and South Arabia: Without Glory but Without Disaster* (Gerlach Press, 2020)

‘In the Shadow of the Balfour Declaration: British Policy towards Israel and the Occupied Territories during the Coalition and Conservative Governments, 2010-2016’, in Tore T. Petersen (ed.), *Israel in a Turbulent Region: Security and Foreign Policy*, (Routledge, 2019)

‘Failure and success in state formation: British policy towards the Federation of South Arabia and the United Arab Emirates’, in Clive Jones (ed.), *Britain and State Formation in Arabia: From Aden to Abu Dhabi* (Routledge, 2018)

‘Imperial policy’, in David Brown, Robert Crowcroft, and Gordon Pentland (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Modern British Political History, 1800-2000* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

‘The Business of Decolonization: The Foreign Office, British Business, and the End of Empire in Kuwait and Qatar’, in John Fisher, Effie Pedaliu, and Richard Smith (eds.), *The Foreign Office, Commerce and British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)

‘Suez crisis and the end of empire’, in John Mackenzie (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Empire* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016)

‘Imperialism, History of’, *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition, Volume 11 (Elsevier, 2015)

‘Dependence and independence: Malta and the end of empire’, in John Chircop (ed.), *Colonial Encounters: Maltese Experiences of British rule, 1800-1970s* (Horizons, 2015)

‘The wind that failed to blow: British policy and the end of empire in the Gulf’, in L. J. Butler and Sarah Stockwell (eds.), *The Wind of Change: Harold Macmillan and British Decolonization* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)

‘Sir William Luce’, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (OUP, 2011)

‘Anglo-American relations and the end of empire in the Far East, South-East Asia, and the Persian Gulf, 1948-1971’, in Tore Petersen (ed.), *Challenging Retrenchment: The United, Great Britain and Middle, 1950-1980* (Tapir Academic Press, 2010)

‘An Empire Built on Sand: Britain in the Middle East’, in Zach Levey and Elie Podeh (eds.), *Britain and the Middle East* (Sussex Academic Press, 2008)

‘Revolution and reaction: South Arabia in the Aftermath of the Yemeni Revolution’, in Kent Fedorowich and Martin Thomas (eds.), *International Diplomacy and Colonial Retreat* (Frank Cass, 2001)

‘Singapore’, *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, new edition, volume 9 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997)

d) Bibliographies

‘South-East Asia, Burma, and Malaya’, in Andrew Porter (ed.), *The Royal Historical Society Bibliography: The History of Britain, Ireland and the British Overseas: Bibliography of Imperial, Colonial, and Commonwealth History since 1600* (Oxford University Press, 2002).