The Powerful Child?

Colloquium Programme: Saturday 9 July 2016

Centre for the History of Childhood, Magdalen College, Oxford

 It has become a commonplace to argue that children and young people have agency and they are much more than adult constructs. Little attempt so far has been made, however, to show why an appreciation of this fact matters to the wider historical community: how exactly does attending to the young alter the histories we write? What power have children had to shape the values and behaviours of adults? The aim of this year's colloquium is to raise new historiographical and historical questions by examining the different ways in which children and young people have altered society, culture, economy and politics across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

9.00 – 9.20: Registration in the Summer Common Room

9:20-9.30: Aims for the Colloquium: The Powerful Child?

9.30-11.00: Session 1: Democratic power?
Kathryn Gleadle (Oxford): Baby petitions and juvenile reformers: the shifting contours of children's citizenship, Britain 1780-1880

Deborah Oxley (Oxford): The Family as a Joint Stock Company: the economic power of children

11.00-11.15: Coffee in the Cloisters

11.15-12.45: Session 2: Revolutionary power?
Ríona nic Congáil (York): Agents of Change? Children and Irish Cultural Nationalism (1880-1920)

Claire Morelon (Oxford): Revolutionary youth?: The war experience and post-war activism of young people in the Bohemian Lands (1914-1921)

12.45-2.00: Lunch in Hall

2.00-3.30: Session 3: Moral power?
Karen Vallgårda (Copenhagen): Christianity, love, and the increasingly powerful child? – Danish mission in South India

Hugh Cunningham (Kent): How did Grace Darling become a heroine for children?

3.30-3.45 Coffee in the Cloisters

3.45-5.15: Session 4: Cultural power?
Juliane Fürst (Bristol): How Psychedelia came to Moscow: Hippies, Style and Sovietness

Mathew Thomson (Warwick): The Powerful Child and the Cultural History of the NHS

5.15-5.30 Closing discussion: The Powerful Child?