

Project 1: Histories & Cultures

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Mapping histories of laboratory animal research

Historians assert and assume that social and cultural phenomena cannot be considered independent of their historical and spatial context. We don't assume the present is better than the past. This means the pathway from nineteenth century 'vivisection' to twenty-first century 'animal research' cannot be framed as one of or clear progress. We do assume difference, and the historian's task is to account for continuity and change by treating the past on its own terms. Reconstructing the history of animal research will enrich our understanding of the animal research nexus.

Key themes

• Protected Animal

A(SP)A reconstituting nonhuman laboratory life, compared to previous legislation 📄 2 3

• Place

Transforming the lived environment of animal research, for the protected animals and human workers 📄 2 3

• Person

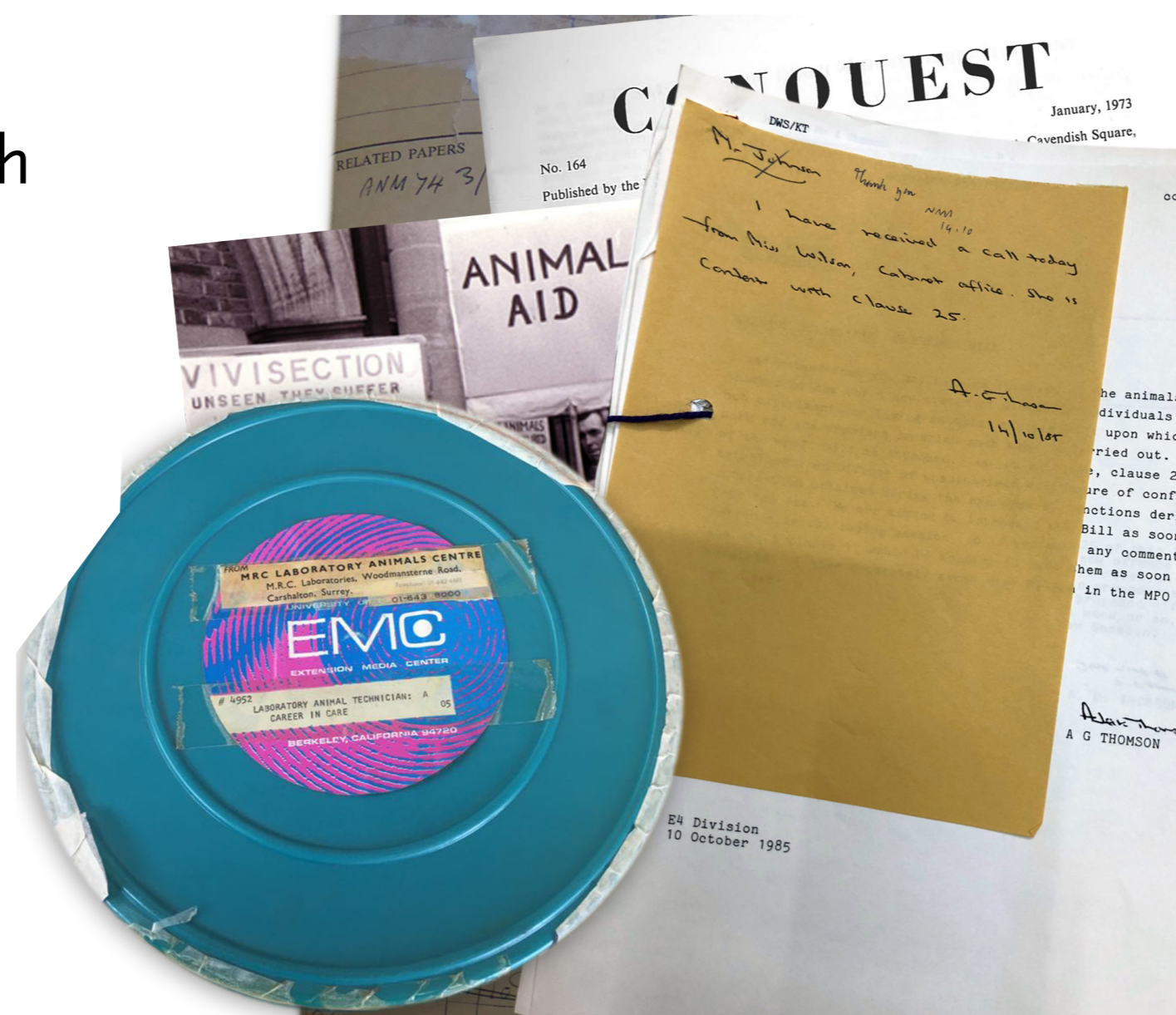
Changing notion of what makes of an 'ethical scientist,' and new roles within animal research 📄 4

• Project

A(SP)A reshaping and responding to changing needs in defining experimental work programmes 📄 5

Our methods

We are combining archival research (most A(SP)A files in the National Archives are now open) with surveys of published and 'grey' literature (reports, pamphlets, catalogues), as well as audio-visual sources. We are also pursuing a programme of oral history interviews with animal technicians, scientists, politicians, civil servants and public campaigners.



OUR QUESTIONS FOR YOU:

- what can a history of animal research bring to your work?
- what key historical episodes are we likely to overlook?
- what sources might exist in unexpected places?

Talk to us or e-mail dmitriy.myelnikov@manchester.ac.uk

c. 14

ELIZABETH II



Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 14

An Act to make new provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes. [20th May 1986]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

A(SP)A and its impact

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 defines the regulation of animal research in the UK. Mapping the history of animal research as nexus will reconstruct the development, implementation, impact and evolution of A(SP)A to produce the first comprehensive historical account of UK animal research as nexus. This project is examining the historical transformation of the UK animal research nexus, from the late 20th century to the present, employing three overlapping questions mapped to chronological periods:

- Why did reform of the UK Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 become necessary, c.1966–1976?
- How did A(SP)A emerge as a new settlement for regulating UK animal research, c.1976–1986?
- What were the consequences of A(SP)A, and how has it evolved, c.1986–present?

Historical research brings empirical coherence to the animal research nexus by reconstructing the co-development of scientific practice, governance regimes and public understandings of animal research as an interconnected historical process or 'nexus'.