

**Friday 1 May 2020**

Cañada Blanch Conference

***The Natalia Benjamin Conference on Basque Child Refugees***

Speakers: **Dr. Peter Anderson** (University of Leeds),  
**Dr. Stephanie Wright** (Birkbeck, University of London),  
**Dr. Edward Packard** (University of Suffolk), and  
**Joshua Burns** (University of Southampton)

Chair: **Prof. Paul Preston**

Time: 13:30-16:30

Place: Graham Wallas Room, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Old Building, Houghton Street, LSE

In collaboration with the Association for the Basque Children of the UK

Please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-natalia-benjamin-conference-on-basque-child-refugees-tickets-90824473445>.



*In a watershed moment for British refugee history, in May 1937 nearly 4,000 children were evacuated from Bilbao and the dangers of the Spanish Civil War to the United Kingdom. This event explores the contrasting history of the evacuated youngsters and the children who remained in Spain, or were repatriated, and came under the rule of General Franco. In the United Kingdom, refugee workers tried to keep alive the goals of the progressive education movement and democracy. In Spain, the dictatorship endeavoured to “recover for God” and “for Spain” children believed to have been poisoned by years of anti-Catholic and anti-patriotic intoxication. The event is jointly organised by the Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies and the BCA’37UK (the Association for the Basque Children of the UK). The BCA was cofounded in 2002 by Natalia Benjamin (the Association’s current Honorary President). In 2019, she decided to retire from an active role and the talks honour her achievements in recovering the history and preserving the memory of the evacuated Basque children.*

Dr. **Peter Anderson** gained a PhD in history at Royal Holloway, University of London and went on to hold a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at both the Department of International History and the Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies at the London School of Economics. Dr. Anderson has worked at the University of Leeds since 2012 and during the academic year 2016-17 he was a British Academy Mid-Career Fellow. Currently, Dr. Anderson is also a co-editor of *European History Quarterly* and Director of the Centre for the History of Ibero-America at the University of Leeds.

Dr. **Stephanie Wright** is a Wellcome Trust postdoctoral researcher on the Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters project. She is a social historian of modern Spain with broader interests in the history of psychiatry, disability, and gender. Her previous research examined the experiences of maimed veterans of the Spanish Civil War. She will continue to explore the social history of violence and the body in her next research project, which will explore sexual violence in Francoist Spain. In addition to her postdoctoral research, Stephanie also sits on the ECR board of *History: The Journal of the Historical Association*, and co-edits *The Language of Authoritarian Regimes*.

Dr. **Edward Packard** is a modern international historian, with particular interests in aspects of British and European twentieth-century history. He joined the History team at the University of Suffolk in September 2010 after obtaining his PhD in International History from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in 2009. He also holds a BA in History, with first class honours, from the LSE (2003) and an MPhil in Modern European History from the University of Cambridge (2004).

**Joshua Burns** is a postgraduate student at the University of Southampton. He graduated at the University of Southampton with a first class honours in BA History with an excellent academic record, having achieved the highest overall grade in his second year and winning multiple academic awards including the Natalia Benjamin Undergraduate Essay Prize in 2019.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Find out more on: <http://lse.ac.uk/canada-blanch>.