

ACADEMIC STUDY TRIP:

England: Museums, Libraries & Galleries – Preserving the Human Experience

Date: July 30 – August 13, 2023

Meet your Trip Leaders:

PROFESSOR JENNIFER PURCELL

Prof. Purcell has been teaching modern European history at SMC since 2006. She earned her doctorate from the University of Sussex, on the south coast of England, and is a social historian of 19th and 20th century Britain. She's written books on housewives in the Second World War, comedy and drama on the early BBC, and *Mass-Observation* (a British social research organization); she's currently writing a book on public perceptions of the British Royalty. Her research takes her to archives, museums, and libraries across Britain, and she has become fascinated by the preservation and protection of certain documents and artifacts, while others are cast away or destroyed. Since her research



interests have focused on middle-aged and older women, she is often told that the documents she needs to understand these women's lives have been lost, destroyed, or cast aside because there wasn't enough space to keep them or because their records don't matter. Who decides which voices are heard? How do they decide what/who matters enough to remember? How do these decisions impact what we think we know about ourselves and others? How does the presentation of what is preserved impact our knowledge and understandings of ourselves and others? These are not just questions for the historian. These are questions we face every day as we navigate our lives as citizens of the world through our conversations with others, and our consumption of social media, news, memes, games, books, museums, television and movies. Whenever she has the chance, Purcell enjoys traversing the fascinating spaces of London and wondering about the complex and diverse lived experiences of millions of Londoners and travelers who, for centuries, walked upon the same ground. She looks forward to sharing that sense of wonder and exploring some of Britain's most famous museums and libraries with students.

ANTHONY BASSIGNANI

Anthony Bassignani is the Associate Director for Circulation Service at Saint Michael's College. He graduated from SMC in 2013 with a BA in English and History, and began work at the college shortly after. He completed his MSLIS from Syracuse University in 2015 and has been a librarian in Durick since 2018. During his junior year, Anthony studied abroad at Goldsmith's University in southeast London for 3 months, and went back to London in 2019. He was the staff leader for the MOVE Service Trip to Hartford, CT in March 2022, will be co-leading the March 2023 trip to New Orleans, LA, and hopes to continue to connect with students in locations away from our quiet corner of Vermont. A self-proclaimed London Tube expert, Anthony is excited to help students explore London (and the surrounding area) and learn its history and culture through the various museums, archives and libraries that the city has to offer.

