

Call for Papers

1908 – 1948 – 2012: London's Contribution to Olympic History and Culture

A Conference to be held at the University of Bristol - 25 July 2012

In the summer of 2012, London will become the first city to have hosted the Olympic Games on three separate occasions. The first London Olympics took place over a century ago in 1908, during an era when Britannia still claimed to rule the waves. Forty years later, in the wake of the devastation of global conflict, a war-torn London would once more invite citizens of the world to celebrate peace and friendship at what was to be the first Olympic festival since the infamous Berlin Games of 1936. The harsh economic conditions that resulted in the 1948 Games being popularly dubbed the 'austerity Olympics', seem once more to be shaping the forthcoming Games of London 2012 which will doubtless offer further evidence for the ways in which the Olympic movement continues to adapt to ever-changing socio-cultural conditions.

Much has changed in the period of just over a century since London first played host to the Games. This conference thus seeks to explore the vital role played by Britain in the Olympic movement both in history, society and culture. Topics to be covered could include, but are not restricted to:

Britain's Olympic Prehistory; Olympic architecture and the built environment; the Politics of Olympic Sport; Nationalism/Internationalism/Transnationalism; the gendered Games; the Olympics and 'legacy'; the role of art and culture at the Games; mass media and the Olympics; Britain's changing role in the modern Olympic movement.

Please send proposals of c. 300-400 words to Mike.OMahony@bristol.ac.uk by 1 December 2011.

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