

KAREN FOLEY: The Arts Hub was an online interactive event, and you're about to watch a session from that. But I wanted to explain to you how it all worked. You're about to see the video stream of the studio, but our audience participated online through chat and through interactive widgets. And those ideas were fed through into the studio from the social media desk. Of course, because you're watching it on catch up, you won't be able to do those activities. But I do hope you enjoy the discussion that follows.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hi and welcome back to the Arts Hub. Our next session is called Lucky Dip. Now we had loads of fun with this last night, and we're going to have lots more fun tonight. And the rules of the game are I'm going to look in my chest, and I'm going to pick out a card, which is going to have some random object on it. Because as we all know, our wonderful cabinet of curiosities has lots of objects and the arts are all about objects.

But we also know that everyone interprets them from slightly different perspectives, whether those are academic perspectives or personal perspectives. Now my two victims-- I mean guests-- in the studio are Derek Matravers. Derek, you're looking a lot more suitable than you did earlier with the boxing match, although you did very well. I must say I was very impressed.

DEREK
MATRAVERS: Yeah. I looked at the pictures afterwards, and my opponent, Sean, and colleague is about twice my size. He would have flattened me.

KAREN FOLEY: Had you known. [LAUGHTER] Yes. Exactly. We were very lucky it was an academic boxing match, weren't we?

DEREK
MATRAVERS: I was.

KAREN FOLEY: You've come back for another contest now, so we're going to see how you get on-- although there are no points for this one I might add. So you are a philosopher.

DEREK
MATRAVERS: Yes.

KAREN FOLEY: And can you tell us something personal about yourself?

DEREK Um.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: What would you be delighted about coming out of this box?

DEREK Oh. I think old manuscripts.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: OK. Old manuscripts.

DEREK It's just a hobby.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: OK. Interesting. Lovely. And Janet. So you're a historian?

JANET Yep.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: Did very well in the quiz I might add.

JANET We tried.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: You did very, very well. And what can we say that's personal about you? What would you hope would come out of this box?

JANET I think an image of Venice.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: Right. OK.

JANET I'm a historian of the Renaissance, and I love Venice, so I could talk about that for hours.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: OK. But this is unlikely. I'll be honest with you both. HJ and Rachel, we're also going to be asking everybody at home because they might have something that they want to say about some of the objects that we're going to get out of the box. But can I just say your board is looking particularly delightful?

HJ: Oh, thank you.

KAREN FOLEY: We haven't looked at the board yet.

HJ: Yeah, we haven't really, have we?

KAREN FOLEY: We've been far too busy.

HJ: I know. It's because we've been doing all these fun things. We've been a bit distracted from the board. We've got lots of nice things that we've been sent. My favourite is our bird house. Someone put a bird house in our inbox to remind people to tweet us, which I thought was kind of neat.

RACHEL: And we've got these little wooden letters. I'm sure you won't be able to see them on the camera because they're so tiny. But they're just like little Scrabble letters, so cute. And we've even got some jazzy paper as a background now. Got some glitter.

HJ: Yes. We've artsed this up this time.

RACHEL: We have.

HJ: The arts event. We've got all the modules that people have been telling us. We've stuck up so we can remember. We've got such a broad type of people in the chat, which is very good.

RACHEL: And as always, it's the selfies as well. Selfies though especially from yesterday's team. There's teams this time too.

HJ: Yes. They actually sent them in, which is quite good.

RACHEL: That's brilliant.

HJ: My favourite one is a view from the Scotland office. But if you want to send us the view from when you are, we'd love that. Or we've got a study buddy as well on the side. So can do that at studenthub@open.ac.uk or using the hashtag #artshub16. We'd love to see you. You've been seeing us.

RACHEL: And there's still plenty of time to get them in, isn't there?

HJ: Yes.

RACHEL: A couple of selfies in. Did we get a selfie today?

HJ: I'm not sure.

RACHEL: We've not done a selfie today, have we?

HJ: We haven't, have we? Should we?

RACHEL: We need to have our selfie.

HJ: Should we get one?

RACHEL: So we're doing a selfie.

HJ: OK.

RACHEL: And we're going to tweet that in.

HJ: And then you can tweet yours in, too.

RACHEL: You guys would all...

HJ: Ready?

KAREN FOLEY: Do a picture as well of the camera crew so every can see how fabulous they are in the studio.

HJ: Oh, yeah. You can see the camera crew.

RACHEL: So we'll do a thumbs up selfie. Perfect. We'll get that printed off.

KAREN FOLEY: Right. Shall we do another caption competition for a 10-pound Amazon voucher?

HJ: Oh, yes. Definitely. We loved the last one.

KAREN FOLEY: Right. This is it. We need a caption. We need it sent to #artshub16. The best one within the next 35 minutes will win a 10-pound Amazon voucher that we will post to you on Monday.

Has everyone made up their mind, by the way, about which courses they're going to be doing next?

RACHEL: We have a little bit of-- some are not 100% sure. Some are. We're still generating some chat here. There's a lot of people that are starting early on in the day. AA100, which we covered earlier in the event. There's a lot of people that have come to this event to prepare to know what they might be looking at in the next module. But we're going to come back to you with

some of those questions as well, some of the answers for those of what people have decided.

KAREN FOLEY: Good. Well, I hope you're finding it useful. Do let us know your feedback. You can do that on the website. Right. Let's get into this box and see what objects we have here. OK. Ah.

The first one is barrel. Can we-- or anybody at home-- say anything about a barrel? I can't.

DEREK I'm having to do with it. There's a great ancient Greek philosopher called Diogenes, Diogenes
MATRAVERS: the Cynic, because "cynic" is either Greek or Roman for "dog." One of the two. And he wanted to show that human desires could be very easily satisfied. So he lived in a barrel. He drank water. He just relieved himself in public. He catered for his sexual desires in public. They just let him live in his barrel. Great philosopher. Wrote some lovely stuff. Very famous.

KAREN FOLEY: Many friends?

DEREK I'm not sure he had many friends.

MATRAVERS:

[LAUGHTER]

I'm not sure how many people wanted to shake his hand. Was he the founder of Epicurianism? My ancient Greek philosophy is fairly weak, I'm afraid. But he was a very interesting bloke. And if you look him up, he's great fun. He is very great fun.

KAREN FOLEY: I'm sure our audience can. What should they look up?

DEREK Diogenes the Cynic.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: Diogenes the Cynic. OK. Anyone got any information about Diogenes the Cynic, we would like to know.

DEREK Lived in a barrel.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: OK. Excellent. I bet there are lots of stories about that if people are looking online. And do you have anything you'd like to add about barrels?

JANET I do. I once had a very interesting conversation with an Oxford College archivist about what

DICKENSON: members of the college ate and drank in the mediaeval and early modern periods. And a lot of wine was involved. A lot of bread was eaten. And for some reason, barrels and barrels of herrings.

KAREN FOLEY: Oh.

JANET
DICKENSON: This was something that they seemed to eat in enormous quantities and were shipped into the college for the students to eat. So I don't know if our students exist on a heavy diet of herrings, but I suppose it's possible.

KAREN FOLEY: Well, fish oils are very good for the old brain, aren't they? So maybe there was some method in the madness. Perhaps. And wine, of course. Very good. Anything at home? Or are you talking about beer again?

RACHEL: Whiskey. We're on whiskey now. Well, we've got some captions. We've got things starting to come through. Anne said, a barrel of fun may describe a module.

KAREN FOLEY: Oh.

RACHEL: Davin, obviously, all barrels make the best whiskey. And Ben says-- because I asked whether this was a caption entry or whether, and he said this through the barrels. He said Donkey Kong. So I don't know what that means, whether there's some kind of-- because that's a game, isn't it? It's a child's game.

KAREN FOLEY: Ben, you need to explain a bit further. Right. And next is a Model T. A Model T. I know somebody. My husband would have an awful lot to say about this. And in fact, we do have some cars in our cabinet of curiosity.

Anyone got anything to say about a Model T?

JANET Any colour as long as it's black.

DICKENSON:

DEREK That's what he said apparently.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: This is black. But it's a black and white picture, to be fair.

DEREK In political philosophy, one of the things that used to bug Karl Marx was-- it's slightly

MATRAVERS: romanticised view. I'm not sure that any of this really holds up. But he held that back along, people were very proud of their labour. They would manufacture things, and they would know what they were making. And they'd have a satisfaction of finishing it and then take it down to the market and sell it.

But then Ford, Henry Ford, came along and put everything in a production line, so your work would just consist in putting the same-- I don't know-- rivet in the same hole again, and again, and again. And that made work incredibly unsatisfactory. And that's why we're all miserable now.

KAREN FOLEY: Ah.

DEREK So it's all Ford's fault. But on the other hand, we do have cheap cars.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: And philosophy to think about to while away the mundane manual labour.

DEREK Absolutely. Absolutely. Yes.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: Yeah. Excellent. All right. Let's have another one. Ah. Oh, actually, this is very topical. Football. I believe there's a tournament on at the moment. Some of your colleagues were telling me.

DEREK There might be.

MATRAVERS:

JANET No, I've been here all day.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: I've been here all day. There's been nothing going on. It's dead outside. No one's here on a Saturday. Actually, the crickets lawn had a match on. Football.

DEREK Albert Camus, the weird and great American existentialist philosopher, he played goal for

MATRAVERS: Algeria.

KAREN FOLEY: Oh, really?

DEREK And he said everything he knew about philosophy he learned from football. But none of us can
MATRAVERS: work out what it was that he learned because his philosophy doesn't seem to resemble football

very much at all. But I think that's pretty.

And of course, it was the great Manchester United-- who was that guy, kicked a spectator?
Eric Cantona. One of the great modern French philosophers.

KAREN FOLEY: Ah, interesting.

JANET I have one football story.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: OK.

JANET Which is that the reason why the Dutch football team play wearing orange is because they
DICKENSON: have taken the colour from the name of their royal family the Orange dynasty.

KAREN FOLEY: Oh, interesting.

JANET That's all I have.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: Is anybody else at home watching this instead of any football? Or has anybody been watching
any football, bearing in mind I have no idea what time it was on. I've just been here.

HJ: I think what we're doing is that everyone who's hogged the television watching football and
then everyone else who's not interested in football, which I count myself in that, is coming
online. And they're watching Student Hub.

RACHEL: And discussing football.

HJ: And discussing football. Yes. That's quite ironic. They went to get away from the football here,
but apparently they can't.

KAREN FOLEY: Are they discussing whether it's a religion?

RACHEL: Yep, yep, yep, yep. That's come back from yesterday.

HJ: Well, whether or not it's a religion or a movement.

KAREN FOLEY: Yeah. Because, of course, the religious studies department bought on all these football tops
and Star Wars tops and started trying to convince us of this mad idea that football could be
considered a religion.

DEREK Right. Isn't it famously more important than that?

MATRAVERS:

JANET I think so.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: Lovely. OK. So next, an elephant. I'm not sure what type of elephant. I bet there are different types of elephants.

DEREK That's an African elephant.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: An African elephant. Do we have anything we'd like to talk about with regards to an African elephant?

DEREK Janet?

MATRAVERS:

[LAUGHTER]

KAREN FOLEY: Nicely done.

JANET And to think we're all on the same side in the quiz. I can't help but think of the rhinoceros.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: Yes.

JANET Because they're African animals. And after the rhinoceros's little accident earlier on the carpet,
DICKENSON: which I did notice.

KAREN FOLEY: Yes. We try not to talk about that.

JANET OK. It does make me think of "Blue Peter" and the memorable occasion where the elephant
DICKENSON: came into the studio and entertained the world by what it did. So I think I suppose I'm grateful that we're at least working with humans and not animals today.

KAREN FOLEY: Actually, my producers just said to point out that this is not a real rhinoceros. And actually, all it turned out to be was this figs from the classics studies lunch. They weren't actually droppings.

JANET Don't believe everything you see on TV.

DICKENSON:

KAREN FOLEY: This is it. Much as they did look like it.

JANET Actually, I love the saying, the elephant in the room. It just captures so much, doesn't it? The
DICKENSON: idea that everyone is skirting around obvious and there's something so big that you just have to talk about it. And yet, somehow people are avoiding it. I think that's a nice idea.

KAREN FOLEY: In fact, the only people who've been-- everyone's been saying how lovely the set is, how wonderful the cabinet of curiosities are, is even. Hardly anyone, except the library, have been talking about the rhinoceros. They're fairly obsessed with it.

So has anyone at home got anything to say about elephants or rhinoceroses?

RACHEL: We've had a few comments throughout the day. We've not got much recently that's come through. We're still discussing football. And we're going to go back to football. Lucy said there was something about preservation of old football grounds on the heritage studies course. So apparently, there's module materials with football in it as well.

HJ: But Helen isn't one of these people who is just watching Student Hub Live. She's watching the football as well. But of course, we all know that Student Hub is much more interesting. And Petra says apparently elephants can find water underground. If you're stuck in the desert, just follow elephants. There we go. We've got a top tip. If we are ever stranded, we know what to do. We'll follow the elephants.

KAREN FOLEY: And is it true that elephants can't forget?

HJ: Oh. We should ask everyone at home whether or not that's true.

KAREN FOLEY: Actually, that would be a good competition.

HJ: OK.

KAREN FOLEY: OK. Tweet.

HJ: Yes.

KAREN FOLEY: You do it.

HJ: OK. So tweet us. Do elephants actually never forget or is that just a myth? And tweet that to @studenthublive or using our #artshub16. And we'd love to know whether that's true or not, or an ecumenical matter.

KAREN FOLEY: But I've only got 140 characters, so keep it brief.

[LAUGHTER]

Wonderful. Now this is something that's on the cabinet of curiosities-- tea. I bet philosophy has something to say about tea.

DEREK MATRAVERS: Actually, oddly, tea has been less significant in the history of philosophy than coffee. Because in the-- would it have been the 18th century when the coffee houses sprung up in London and people would go? Well, not in London. London, Edinburgh, various big cities around the country. And people would gather there to drink their coffee and exchange philosophical talks. And that's arguably that had a big influence, or some influence, on generating the Scottish enlightenment perhaps and some of the great conversationalists in England.

David Hume, who was probably, I think, the greatest philosopher ever. Scott. He was a sceptic, so doubted the existence of things. And his philosophy kind of really bothered him. But he wrote very sensibly that kept philosophy for his study. And then, he'd go down to the coffee house or go down and play billiards and just try and forget about it as much as possible. Otherwise, he'd just drive himself mad. So coffee rather than tea, I think.

KAREN FOLEY: Actually, we have a nice teacup here in the history department because we were trying to represent, what can we have for history. And they said, bring some tea in, bring a teacup in because of the origin of tea. But also, there's a story about learning with teacups, whereby the teacup was full of tea. And so if you pour more and more in it, it obviously can't hold anymore, and it would overflow. So that's the thing about saturation as well, isn't it?

DEREK MATRAVERS: I discovered something bizarre the other day, which is that your mind can literally get full up with stuff. So they do these psychological experiments. You probably know about this.

So they get them to read something. Then they tell them to remember a lot of numbers. And they find they can't recall what it was that they read. So their mind just gets filled up with nonsense. So I suppose--

JANET It's like students revising for exams. They feel that they must go until the last minute and they

DICKENSON: must learn everything. But actually, there comes a point where you can't. And then you can't recall it to mind in the exam either. It's much better to fill yourself up with as much as you can and then to relax, and sit back, and have a nice cup of tea, and just enjoy the exam, the opportunity to share what you've learned.

KAREN FOLEY: I like your thinking. Now our students at home drink a lot of tea, as we know, often accompanied with a variety of biscuits, normally which we talk about in detail. HJ and Rachel, what facts do we know about tea?

RACHEL: Well, we know that people like to drink tea with biscuits.

KAREN FOLEY: Yes. I knew that. I'm psychic.

RACHEL: Had to get that one in first. It's ever an old joke. A really interesting fact. Anne's just said about there being a Japanese tea ceremony. And a Japanese tea ceremony was also called the way of tea. It's a Japanese cultural activity involving the ceremonial preparation and presentation of matcha, powdered green tea. So I thought that was really fascinating.

HJ: And we've got some interesting facts coming in about elephants as well. So Samuel said-- if I can find him. He said elephants have a long memory and tend to remember knowledge passed on by the patriarch. And Sharon added to that, elephants also go round in a matriarchy. And the ladies only meet the male elephants to procreate apparently. So that's quite interesting.

So any more facts on elephants or tea? We love to learn new things here. So I definitely found those interesting.

RACHEL: It is going to be almost time to make a cup of tea in a moment isn't it?

HJ: Oh, yes. We're going to have to designate someone to do a tea round, I think.

KAREN FOLEY: Excellent. And very politely put as well. I think our classics department would be impressed with the way that you phrased such behaviour. Right. OK. So let's see what else is in our chest. Ah.

A newspaper. But not just any newspaper. This is a Newcastle *Journal*. The headline is, "Everest Is Conquered-- Queen Awakened to Hear of Climbers' Triumph." Would anybody like to talk about a newspaper or about triumphing and climbing Mount Everest? Or possibly even

mountains like modules if you're really stuck. We could have an analogy there.

JANET

DICKENSON:

Well, when newspapers were first produced in England, or widely produced in the 17th century, and they became very popular during the civil wars, the English civil wars, as a way of spreading news, of sharing information. And there was a real appetite, a real market for this.

So in studying newspapers and what they can tell us, we get insights into what concerned people at the time. But also, we get insights into propaganda. We get insights into the way that people are trying to persuade their audiences with their point of view.

So I think newspapers a brilliant source for historians. I'm quite jealous because I work on the 16th century and, therefore, we don't have newspapers.

KAREN FOLEY:

But isn't that idea interesting? We just take all of this for granted. And now, we often frown on newspapers because we're getting all our media through different sources. But isn't it interesting that there was a time when the printing and Industrial Revolution actually changed a lot of the way that people had access to all of this.

JANET

DICKENSON:

The source has changed, but also the way in which people consumed them changes and the meaning of them changes. The meaning of the term "propaganda" changes.

Everything's always changing through history. So as historians, we need to be really attentive to that and be really careful with our choice of words and how we approach our subjects.

KAREN FOLEY:

Interesting. Excellent. Thank you.

DEREK

MATRAVERS:

I read a book a couple years ago by a chap called Wade Davis called *Into the Silence*, which is a fantastic book about British expeditions to conquer Everest after the First World War. The thesis he puts forward is that after the First World War, which was so noisy, and traumatic, and horrible, and that something quiet, getting away and doing something quiet, was the project. And the guy who might have got to the top of Everest, but died either on the way up or the way down, George Mallory, fantastic climber.

There's a story about him that he was climbing when he said he realised he had left his pipe behind on the ledge. And he took a shortcut to get the pipe and came back with his pipe. And the route he took is apparently still in the official mountain guide. It's called Mallory's Pipe. And it says, Mallory's Pipe, grade impossible. Climbed once in fading light by George Mallory. And apparently, nobody's ever been able to climb it since.

KAREN FOLEY: He must have been very keen.

DEREK He was apparently the greatest natural climber that there's ever been.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: Or is it because pipes are no longer around that it's not really a viable option.

DEREK Yeah. A man doesn't want to lose his pipe.

MATRAVERS:

KAREN FOLEY: HJ and Rachel, what are you chatting about?

RACHEL: Paper rounds.

HJ: Paper rounds, yes. And just getting print everywhere.

RACHEL: Yeah. The theme is print everywhere and writing being misspelled. So that's not very good, is it? In the newspaper?

HJ: No.

KAREN FOLEY: Well, let's have time for one more, one more question. And it is a horse. Do we have anything to say about horses? This is a particularly nice horse. I'll show it again.

JANET Animals in history. People have always had an interesting relationship with animals, a close
DICKENSON: relationship with animals like horses or pets like dogs and cats. Queen Elizabeth I had a pet parrot.

KAREN FOLEY: Really?

JANET Yes. No records survived of how she felt about her parrot, but there is a little AirFix scale
DICKENSON: model that you can buy, and make, and paint that has the parrot on it. I want it quite a lot. But no. Another area-- so many of the things you pull out make me think of how we might study society, how we might study people in the past, and what they cared about, and what they thought about, and what mattered to them. And animals, I think, is something you can study across history.

Tea, and coffee, and newspapers, they come a bit later in history, so not always so helpful. Football goes back very early. So all of these things, on some level, come together in the

study of social history.

KAREN FOLEY: Yeah. Paul Lawrence last night, when they talked about why the past was important, and he was mentioning this whole idea of continuity and discontinuity and how some things-- and I guess animals could be one of those threads that has mainly been quite continuous.

**JANET
DICKENSON:**

**DEREK
MATRAVERS:** Going to history again, one of the things I'm quite interested in is cave paintings, just because whether they're paintings, whether they're art, whether we should think of them as art. But here's an astonishing fact. So the two caves that are most widely studied are Chauvet and Lascaux. Can't remember which one's which.

But one of them, I think, was 32,000 years ago, and the other one was 18,000 years ago, which gives the astonishing fact that the more recent cave, those people are closer to us in time than they were closer to the people in the other cave. So the amount of time since people have been sticking pigment on walls and painting is just absolutely astonishing.

And they paint wonderful depictions of horses. Incredibly realistic depictions done with a great amount of skill. But nobody's really sure about what on earth they thought they were doing, whether it was ritual or whether it was hunting practises. Or maybe it was just a kind of field guide thing. This one's a horse. That's a bison.

KAREN FOLEY: They'd be hard to draw.

**DEREK
MATRAVERS:**

KAREN FOLEY: Wonderful. Both of you, thank you so much, Derek and Janet, for coming along and braving our test of lucky dip. Because it is a difficult thing to come along and have to talk about anything that might come out, so thank you very much for doing it. And thank you for weaving in your disciplines and your experience as well. That's been very interesting and gives us another flavour about how we might be studying history and philosophy.

OK. I'm going to just show you our caption competition one more time because we're still open for this. We're going to decide on a winner quite soon. We've had some great entries so far. What would be your caption for this competition? Tell us #artshub16 for a chance to win a 10-

pound Amazon voucher that we'll post to you on Monday.

Right. We're now going to have a short video break. And in that time, we're going to show you a video about Greek myths. And we're also going to show you a video about storytelling.

Because next up, I have Daniel Weinbren and Jess Hughes. We're going to be talking about myth and storytelling in what will be a very interesting discussion. So I hope you enjoy these videos.

Don't forget to grab a cup of tea, coffee, beer, et cetera, or any drink that you might want to have in this short break. And we'll see you back here very soon.

[MUSIC PLAYING]