Call for Chapter Proposals: Cultural History of Monarchy

Academic work on monarchs and monarchy have been flourishing in recent decades thanks to the rise of queenship, court and royal studies which all seek to understand the mechanisms of royal power from similar but slightly different perspectives. This collection will draw together scholars in these cognate fields, informed by the disciplines of political, social and art history, literature studies, archaeology, anthropology, colonial and postcolonial studies, gender and sexuality studies to produce this proposed addition to Bloomsbury's renowned *Cultural Histories* series. While the definition of cultural history itself is much debated and has changed over time, we have taken as a starting point Bloomsbury's mission for the series to focus on the "social and cultural construction" of monarchy. Our collection will chart the ways that monarchy was constructed, deconstructed, and reconstructed in response to societal and cultural change. We will also examine the construction and evolution of monarchical culture as well as on the impact which monarchies have had on culture and society. A key underpinning premise of the collection is to ensure that all areas of the globe are considered across all of the volumes and that individual chapters reflect the variety of monarchical frameworks and practices in different cultures and regions of the world to give our collection a truly global outlook.

The editorial team for Bloomsbury's *Cultural History of Monarchy* welcome proposals for the six volumes in our collection. ***Please note that this call is different to a normal edited collection where authors propose topics on varied subjects which relate specifically to their research.*** Instead, we are looking for proposals from authors who are interested in writing one of the specific chapters (see information below) in one of the particular volumes of the series. The framework of the Bloomsbury Cultural History series uses the same chapter structure across all six volumes of each 'set'--if you are unfamiliar with the series, we recommend familiarising yourself with the many published collections within the [Cultural Histories](#) series. Please keep in mind that we are NOT able to change the chapter structure or temporal divisions between the volumes at this stage–**authors need to work within the framework given.**

We are particularly keen to bring a **global outlook** to our collection and want authors to avoid framing their chapters with an exclusively eurocentric focus. While we do not expect every chapter to address monarchies in every cultural/geographic context, we do ask the authors frame their chapter with a global perspective, bringing in examples/case studies from monarchies in various areas of the world. *We encourage you to co-author your chapter with a colleague (or colleagues) in the field who specialises in a different region of the world in order to achieve the global outlook that we are aiming for*. If you have not proposed a co-author

in your proposal, please indicate if you are willing for us to potentially pair you with another colleague/other colleagues in the field whose work would be complementary to yours.

Your proposal should be 250-500 words long and should clearly address the topic of the chapter from our chapter framework with a clear description of the proposed content. Your proposal should demonstrate how you intend to achieve the chapter remit with a suitably global outlook. To submit your proposal, **[please fill out the submissions form](#)** and upload your proposal there, along with your CV (and that of your co-author/s). If accepted, the initial version of your chapter will be due in early 2025 and the final version will be due at the end of 2025 for production and publication in 2026.

DEADLINE for Proposals: Friday 15 March 2024

If you have any questions about the Cultural History of Monarchy collection or the proposal process or experience any technical difficulties with the submissions form, please contact the General Editor, Dr Elena (Ellie) Woodacre (Ellie.Woodacre@winchester.ac.uk)

Volume Division and Editors:

Antiquity (1200BCE-600CE)
    Editors: **Carey Fleiner and Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**
The Medieval Age (600-1500 CE)
    Editors: **Zita Eva Rohr and Hélène Sirantoine**
The Early Modern Era (1450-1700)
    Editors: **Liesbeth Geevers and Dries Raeymaekers**
The Long 18th Century (1685-1815)
    Editors: **Jonathan Spangler and Charlotte Backerra**
The Long 19th Century (1800-1914)
    Editor: **Françoise Le Jeune**
The Modern Age (1914-2000+)
    Editors: **Robert Aldrich and Cindy McCreery**

Chapter Framework (across ALL volumes):

Note to authors: These descriptions give a sense of the focus of each chapter–it is a suggestion to give inspiration to the authors in each volume and cohesion across the collection. Your task is to demonstrate in your proposal how you will approach this chapter topic in the context of the period of the volume you are applying to take part in (Ancient, Medieval, Modern etc).

1.   *Conceptualizing Monarchy*
This chapter will discuss how monarchy was understood in the period of question examining the ideals of rulership and the evolving philosophy of monarchy within the period of the particular volume. The chapter should look at monarchical/dynastic change

and challenges to monarchy—whether from rivals who sought to take the crown, conquest, or alternative political systems. Rather than noting the particular challenges of the period, this chapter should consider the ways in which monarchies adapted in order to survive as well as analyse why other monarchies fell.

2. *Rites, Ritual and Ceremonial*

This chapter connects deeply with the theme of 'performing monarchy' as well as three overarching topics of religion, gender and cross-cultural connections. It should consider ritual on all levels, from the everyday 'performance' of monarchy in daily rites and rituals to the performance of ceremonies which legitimised the monarch and the monarchy like the great lifecycle moments of celebrating the birth of heirs, marital unions, accessions and marking their death. The performance of religious rituals may also be considered, noting the strong connection between monarchy and the divine and how that was expressed in different regions, religions and periods.

3. *Religious, Intellectual and Cultural Patronage*

This chapter should address cultural patronage in all its forms, examining royal support for the arts, education, science and ideas as well as practices of collecting and curating and fundamentally making the royal court a vital centre of cultural production. The role of monarchs as religious patrons can also be considered, noting the symbiotic supportive nature of the relationship between monarchy and religion. This chapter should also consider the impact of patronage on the creation of royal spaces, the crafting of the monarchy's image, and to develop and enhance networks.

4. *Place and Space*

This chapter considers the physical location of monarchs, examining royal residences as well as considering itinerancy. The relationship between the monarchy and the natural environment may also be considered, noting how rulers shaped the natural world through the creation of forests, gardens and parks. These chapters should also examine the relationship of the monarchy to urban centres—from the creation of new royal cities, to the ways in which cities acted as focal points for ceremonial and royal entries. Chapters in the modern volumes should also consider the impact of globalization, global empires and greater ease of travel which sparked royal tours and increased diplomatic visits.

5. *Image and Representation*

This chapter considers both monarchical image crafting and the ways in which their image was communicated through display and visual representation. This chapter can draw on a wide range of examples, depending on the period of the volume, from the larger than life representations of Egyptian pharaohs and Roman emperors in stone during Antiquity to representations of modern monarchs in photographs, films and television in the modern era. In addition to how monarchs 'self-fashioned' their image, consideration may also be given here to how the public represented monarchy through a range of media such as satirical prints, ceramics, and even in terms of modern 'paparazzi' photographs.

6. Intradynastic, Imperial and International Networks

The concept of networks has been a powerful tool for examining monarchy in recent years and offers a range of different types of networks which can be considered. A dynasty itself can be considered as a familial network—recent projects have looked at the exchange of letters and objects across these networks as a way of affirming or rebuilding bonds which could offer critical political support. Familial networks and royal marriages were also a key method of cultural exchange, as recent work in the field of queenship has demonstrated. Political networks can also be seen in an imperial context within empires from the ancient world to the early twentieth century, and diplomatic networks between monarchies and states were equally important. The overarching theme of cross-cultural connections will be particularly relevant to consider in this chapter.

7. Court, Counsel and Community

Building on Jeroen Duindam's framework of circles which radiate out from the monarch, these chapters should start with those closest to the ruler, those who counselled him on how to govern. It should also consider court culture and those who were engaged in it from the highest elites down to the lowliest of servants within the space of the royal residences, interacting with and supporting the monarchy. Finally, the chapter will consider the wider relationship that the monarch had with the wider community—bringing together the overarching themes of how monarchy was represented, performed and communicated to its subjects and even how threats to the monarchy, such as assassination attempts, could come from the people.

8. Legacy: Funerary Culture, Memorialization and Myth-Making

This chapter is fittingly the last in our thematic structure as it considers the death and afterlife of monarchs. It should consider the tombs and memorials of royal family members, keeping in mind both the image that royals aimed to create through this medium as well as how surviving members of the dynasty could use memorialization of their ancestors and predecessors as a means of reinforcing their own position. This chapter will look at myth-making and how successive generations reshaped the legacy of past monarchs in response to changing political winds or as a means of legitimizing the monarchy.