

THE WAY WE WATCHED: HOW IMPORTANT WAS TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT TO FAMILY LIFE IN THE 60S AND 70S?

PROFILE

Dr Helen Piper

GRANT

£1,655

DURATION

2013 – 2015

UK INSTITUTION

University of Bristol



Image source: www.flickr.com/photos/brizleboran/bred/9283849102/

BRITISH ACADEMY / LEVERHULME SMALL RESEARCH GRANT

SUMMARY

Dr Piper was awarded this grant to explore how people remember past television programmes, focusing in particular on light entertainment during the heyday of collective viewing that stretched from the beginning of mass domestic ownership to the arrival of the video era. The research gathered shared reminiscences and personal memories of British family viewing.

OUTCOMES

- Dr Piper's project underlines the materially situated nature of memories about television, as pursued in her article 'The way we watched: Vintage television programmes, memories, and memorabilia', (*NECSUS – European Journal of Media Studies, Autumn 2015*). This uses the concept of 'vintage' to make original connections between old programmes, personal memories, and physical objects.
- Inspired by the nature of many people's expressed memories, Dr Piper is now developing a new project ('Aspiration') that will explore how forms of television entertainment engage with anxiety and hope.

“THIS GRANT PROVIDED PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND INTELLECTUAL ENDORSEMENT, ALLOWING ME TO EXPERIMENT WITH CREATIVE WAYS OF RESEARCHING THIS NEGLECTED TOPIC”