

# The Searchlight Archive

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Searchlight Archivist



# Searchlight and the Archive

- University of Northampton's Radicalism and New Media Group under Prof. Matthew Feldman and Prof. Paul Jackson work with Gerry Gable and Searchlight from c. 2009
- Gerry Gable awarded honorary doctorate in 2011
- Talks began over summer of 2012, and archives were brought to Northampton at the end of 2012, opening for users July 2013
- The collection has grown since then – initially c. 200 boxes, grew until it reached c. 1000 boxes at start of 2022
- Latest accession (still being sorted) brings hundreds more boxes of material
- Staffed by myself, and sometimes research assistants for specific projects



# Organisation of the Archive

Open up to 3 days a week presently – over 600 visits since summer 2013, from Canada and America to Austria and Norway. 80+ visits since May 2021.

Access is by application and approval, ensuring the safety of the collection

C. 500 boxes on catalogue in 19 series

Book Collection

Searchlight Administration

Searchlight Investigations

Anti-Fascist Material

Far Left and Left Organisations

Anti-Communist Organisations

Antisemitism

Skinheads

American Right

South East Asian and Australasian

European Far Right

International Far Right

British Far Right

Middle East

Moderate Press

Searchlight Magazines

Conservative Right

Anarchists

Odinism/Paganism

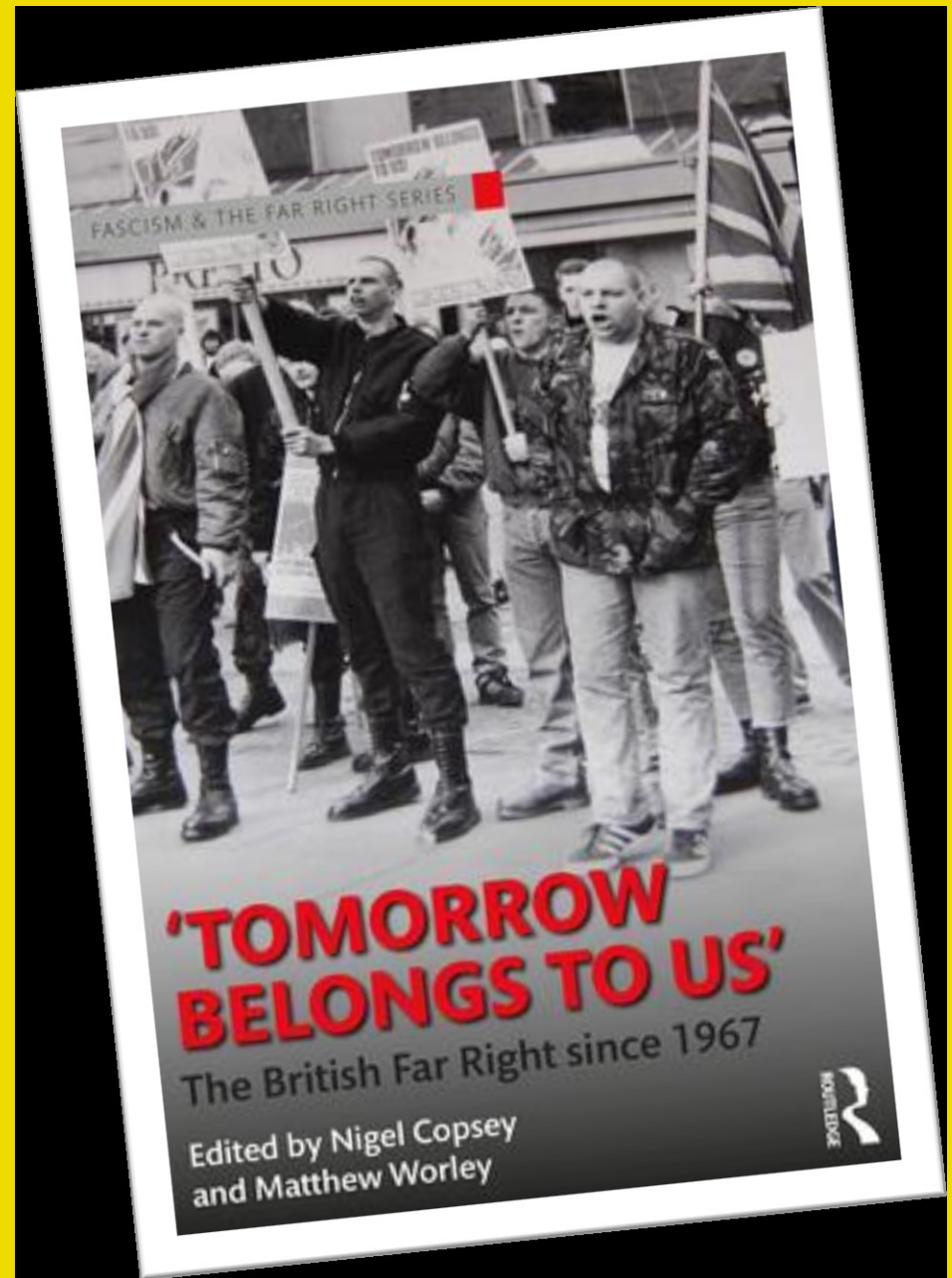
# The Academic and Institutional

- Funding Bids
- Teaching and Learning – Three c. £10k projects, ~£30k total
- Giving talks/events like this – IHR talk on archiving the extreme, Holocaust Memorial Day lectures on War Crimes, Conference Presentations
- Ethics of Extreme Research
- Hosting conferences – Searchlight 50th, Conspiracy Theories, Fascist + Antifascist Identity, Teaching with Archives
- Supporting partners
- Recruiting students!



# The Commercial and Impactful

- Working with journalists – Tommy Mair/Jo Cox, Paedophile Grooming, Stieg Larsson, documentaries (and a line in Newsnight)
- Contribute to CPD training – Work with Paul Jackson delivering training to police, teachers and local authority workers around far right awareness Scanning Project - Resources for university libraries
- Media work – interviews with BBC, Channel 5, Al Jazeera, CBC etc
- Books!





# Growth

- New collections – Acted as a hub
- Andy Bell Collection, Anti-Fascist Oral History, Race Act 40, Chris Hillyer/Exeter AFA, Kent Anti Racism Network, Burnley Collection and more!
- Moved into its own space in the University of Northampton's new Development Hub – no longer co-located with University Archives, and focused on work as a research collection.
- New funding avenues opened, around football and anti-racism work, as well as around far right terror groups.