

EQUINE BREEDS: THE THOROUGHBRED



Call for Participants:

We are looking for research participants for a seminar on the history of the Thoroughbred horse. Participants would meet quarterly (4 times a year) via online conferencing software (with the possibility of further, informal meetings), and would work towards developing research to present at the EHC conference in the spring of 2022. Other outputs might include co-authored or individually authored histories of the Thoroughbred (authorship will be acknowledged), images, video, documentaries, interviews. There may also be opportunities to develop findings for an online museum exhibit on equine breeds.

Any aspect of Thoroughbred history (pre and post eighteenth century) is welcome, as is a variety of research outputs. What specific form these could take will be explored throughout the seminar series.

Project Introduction:

The history of the Thoroughbred is generally well known. The breed's story can be found in a plethora of popular histories that focus on specific famous racehorses, local histories of the turf, or general overviews of the breed's history, and in excellent work from scholars such as Donna Landry, Richard Nash, and Rebecca Cassidy. Explored in relation to national rhetoric, political scandal, sport history, breeding practices, biography, race, and breed registries, the Thoroughbred is arguably the most studied equine breed in history. However, there are still some large questions associated with the development of the breed and its role in the history of 'breed' itself during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. For example, the place of the Thoroughbred within the shift from landrace breeding to pedigree breeding at the end of the eighteenth century is well established, but how far back this history stretches is a question that is still understudied. Similarly, once pedigree, and its associations with breed purity, developed in relation to the British Thoroughbred, how these impact Thoroughbred breeding in Europe, the Americas, and the rest of the world is radically understudied. What happens to the Thoroughbred's associations with British national identity, purity, and 'blood' in the context of empire and colonialism? How

do the discourses, associations, and practices of 'Thoroughbred' and 'Breed' change from the early modern period to the present?

Applications:

If you are interested in joining us for this research seminar, submit a brief plan of research (500 words), along with your name, contact details, and brief biography (200 words), to Kristen.guest@unbc.ca and Monica.mattfeld@unbc.ca

Application deadline: Oct. 15