As the world slowly emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, social and political discourse has illustrated a key tension - whether to seek a return to ‘normality’, or to respond to this moment with global, national and local change. This poses several important questions for historians. If an event on the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic only produces a ‘return to normality’, what does it take to cause significant historical change? Why might continuity and stability be desired by some? How should we even define change?

In order to shed some light on these questions and more, Change in the Postwar World, a one-day interdisciplinary PGR and Early Career conference organised by PGRs at the Universities of Birmingham, Coventry and Nottingham, will be held on Friday October 1st 2021. This conference will reappraise the postwar decades, during which populations wrestled with questions of change in response to global upheaval, including in the aftermath of the Second World War, decolonisation, the turbulence of the 1960s and the economic crises of the 1970s. In doing so, it will highlight the ways in which the world underwent dramatic changes in the Twentieth Century, but also the areas which retained important continuities.

To answer these questions, we invite submissions on a wide variety of subjects from those studying the Twentieth Century using historical or political themes. In this vein, possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Cultural history
- Economic history
- Histories of gender and sexuality
- Intellectual history
- International relations/the Cold War
- Methodologies for studying contemporary history
- Political/policy history
- Race and racism
- Social history
- Understandings of place, space and time
Sessions will be held on Microsoft Teams in the form of panel discussions, running for approximately 90 minutes (depending on number of panelists) with presentations of around 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a Question-and-Answer discussion. With this in mind, we also welcome submissions of suggestions for panels. In the name of fostering a spirit of inclusion, we will give preference to panels that reflect the diversity of our field in terms of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and institutional affiliation. For this reason, proposals for all-male panels will not be accepted, although they may be put together by organisers if absolutely necessary. We are also delighted to announce that the day will feature a keynote presentation by Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite of University College London.

To apply, please fill in our application form by Friday 13th August. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at postwarchange@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!