

as radical Islamism. All of us engaged in this noble enterprise need to realise that the generation who know little and couldn't care less about the crimes of Communism have been enrolled in huge numbers during the run-up to the EU referendum on the nation's voting registers. They will be helping to decide who is our prime minister and our government at the next general election.

Since they do not share our frame of reference, and are not "common readers" in the Hirschian sense, we are going to have a heck of a lot of explaining to do—even about things that seem obvious. Next year marks one hundred years since the October Revolution of 1917. That seems a good place to start.

## Dating dilemma

BY HEIDI KINGSTONE

Could the greatest dilemma faced by men and women today come at the end of a meal when the waiter appears with the bill? Hamlet's quandary pales into insignificance as the question "to pay or not to pay" surfaces and the dating diners must decide who picks up the tab, possibly determining a happy future or a doomed destiny.

In an attempt to resolve this issue conclusively, I scientifically polled a few friends. A 21-year-old who considers herself a feminist said she needed the man to pay. A 55-year-old said if a man paid it undermined her credibility as a professional and a feminist. A 30-year-old woman said if a man didn't pick up the tab he crossed a

red line, terminating any future prospects. When she split the bill, it indicated friendship, not romance. One married couple, who share a joint account, went out to lunch, she paid the bill as her husband had forgotten his wallet. They both felt it was strange. A British-Nigerian princess never paid and never offered to pay, on principle. Anyone who wanted the pleasure of her company didn't get it for free (and they probably didn't get much else). A 40-something, left-leaning feminist just likes to go Dutch.

For men, the minefield is littered with the corpses of potential relationships and weeks of indecision and mental flip-flops. One man, having grown up in a house of strong feminists, froze on dates like the proverbial deer in the headlights—afraid to violate the sacred equality code, but equally, as a romantic at heart, happy to pay.

While old-fashioned rules may have been dispatched unchivalrously into oblivion, it seems that this is something still deeply encoded in our genes, as there is no rational explanation of why a man should pay and why a woman should want him to, except for the half-dead romantic notion that men protect and provide, and that money is linked to love, even if we know it isn't. And despite women being fully self-sufficient and in many cases earning more than their partners.

The first time a brilliant Englishman took a (very beautiful and posh) girl out to a restaurant in Chelsea, it cost him everything he had in the bank at the time, but he would have been mortified if she had offered to pay. She didn't, but she sensed that he was broke and he never got another date. As she said: "If he's not better off than I am, then why am I dating him? And don't quote me. It might ruin my chances of marrying a rich man."

So here's a safe piece of advice, boys. When in doubt, forget Hamlet and pull out the credit card. **S**



## MA in the History of Art: The Renaissance to Modernism

October 2016 – September 2017

A one-year, London-based, programme of ten evening seminars and an individual research-project, offering an overview of Western art from the Renaissance to the late 20th century, with lectures by a series of internationally acclaimed art historians, artists, and gallerists.

Others wishing to attend the seminars, but not intending to take the MA degree, may join the course as Associate Students at a reduced fee.

Each seminar takes place in central London and is followed by a dinner during which participants can engage in a general discussion with the guest expert on the issues raised by the seminar.

Examination is by a research dissertation, on an approved art history topic chosen by the student, of not less than 20,000 words.

Lecturers for 2016/17 include:

**Martin Kemp**

**MaryAnne Stevens**

**Richard Cork**

**Martin Gayford**

Course enquiries and applications:

Claire Prendergast  
Humanities Research Institute  
University of Buckingham

Tel. 01280 820204

or via email to the  
Course Director, Michael Prodger:  
michael.prodger@buckingham.ac.uk



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
BUCKINGHAM

LONDON PROGRAMMES