

"The B.B.C. claim to have discovered a new type, the 'middlebrow'. It consists of people who are hoping that some day they will get used to the stuff they ought to like."

Punch, 23 December 1925.



middlebrow *network*

The Middlebrow Network is an AHRC-funded project that provides a focus for research on the loaded and disreputable term 'middlebrow' and the areas of cultural production it purports to represent. The network is both transatlantic and interdisciplinary: we work to foster discussion and collaboration across geographical and disciplinary divides.

Through network events and publications we are stimulating debate about the term 'middlebrow' itself, considering how it is understood in different fields, whether it necessarily implies aspiration and imitation, and how its definitions travel across the Atlantic. We also advance interdisciplinary research into the material production, dissemination and reception of middlebrow films, music, books and journals, and into middlebrow and middle-class taste.

Our website contains a searchable database of researchers in the field, an annotated critical bibliography, details of relevant events, information on access to archives, and to out-of-print material. We have produced three publications: 'Investigating the Middlebrow', a special issue of *Working Papers on the Web* (July 2008); 'The Middlebrow – Within or Without Modernism', a special issue of *Modernist Cultures* (May 2011); and *Middlebrow Literary Cultures* (Palgrave 2011).

Our network includes over 220 academics, archivists, independent scholars and editors, working in the disciplines of history, English and American literature, comparative literature, film studies, art history, book history and music. Visit www.middlebrow-network.com or email Erica Brown at middlebrow@hotmail.co.uk.

