

National Centre of Biography, ANU

Biography Workshop

Lawrence Goldman

Peel: One British Prime Minister and Four Personalities

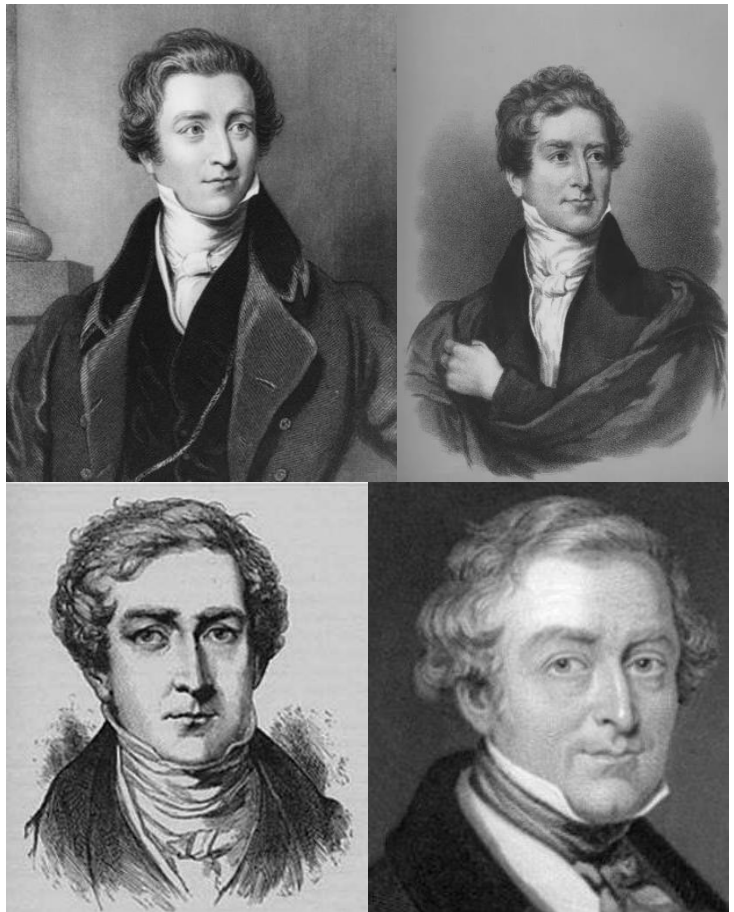
Date: Thursday 31 October 2019

Venue: Jean Martin Room,
Beryl Rawson Building,
13 Ellery Cres, ANU

Time: 11:00 am until c. 12.30 pm

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Robert Peel was Conservative prime minister briefly in the 1830s and then again between 1841 and 1846 during which period he is famous for the repeal of the Corn Laws, the tariffs imposed on imported foodstuffs. His character and motivation continues to attract lively debate and widely varying views. Was he a pragmatist acting in the national as opposed to the party interest? Or was he an intellectual in politics, persuaded only by the force of a good argument? This talk will examine the debates about Peel and suggest a different view, one that tries to explain Peel's sometimes eccentric and exaggerated behaviour in relation to his times.



PROFESSOR LAWRENCE GOLDMAN is Senior Research Fellow at St. Peter's College, Oxford. He taught British and American History in Oxford for three decades, and between 2004 and 2014 he was also the Editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, moving to the Directorship of the Institute of Historical Research in London.