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**Press release**

## **Frow Lecture 2017 –**

### **Eddie and Ruth Frow and the making of their library**

The Working Class Movement Library is delighted to announce that Kevin Morgan, Professor of Politics and Contemporary History, University of Manchester and Library trustee, will speak about the Library's founders at the annual Frow Lecture.

*'Wait while you and I get our books together': Ruth and Edmund Frow and the making of the Working Class Movement Library* will draw on Eddie and Ruth's own archive to tell how political comradeship and a remarkable Cold War love story gave rise to the Library as we know it today. Recently Kevin helped in cataloguing the Frows' papers, and found the story of the Library's origins documented in an extraordinary cache of personal letters that vividly bring to life the couple's social ideals and political commitments.

The event, on Saturday 6 May at 2pm at the Old Fire Station, Crescent, Salford, is the eighth annual Frow Lecture, held in honour of the Working Class Movement Library's founders.

The lecture is free, with light refreshments available afterwards. All are welcome. WCML is grateful to the University of Salford for making the Old Fire Station space available.

-ENDS-

#### Notes to editors:

1. Biographical note about Kevin Morgan:

Kevin is currently Professor of Politics and Contemporary History at Manchester and a founding editor of the journal *Twentieth Century Communism*. A specialist in labour biography, his publications include lives of Harry Pollitt, Ramsay MacDonald and Sidney and Beatrice Webb, but his first ever published article was based on interviews he recorded with Eddie Frow in the 1980s. Kevin has been writing entries on the Frows for the *Dictionary of Labour Biography* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and will draw on this research in his talk. He has a longstanding involvement in labour archives and is a trustee to the Communist Party of Great Britain Archives Trust as well as the Working Class Movement Library.

2. The Working Class Movement Library was founded by the late Ruth and Edmund Frow in the 1950s and is now acknowledged as one of the most important collections of historical material on radical working class organisations in the country. The Library is open to the public on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. At other times visitors are welcome to make appointments to view or use the collection. Admission to the library is free.

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