



## From the Chairman

In May 2012 we considered 302 applications and awarded a total of 235 grants. 173 of these were to new applicants, and 62 to re-applicants, totalling £178,400. These figures are all similar to those of 2011.

Money is a recurring theme, and very much a concern for a small charity such as the SRSET. So far, 2012 has seen the Stapley capital assets and the dividends which provide our disburseable funds improve slightly in value over levels in 2011. We are also grateful that we again received a generous grant of £25,000 from GlaxoSmithKline to be distributed preferentially to students studying subjects related to healthcare. Unfortunately fees and other costs have also gone up, and it appears that the continuing recession is badly affecting our scholars. Our early impression is that more students than usual are unable to take up their awards because of financial shortfall.

The Stapley council currently has six members out of a possible ten. We hope that another member will join us in November, but we would like to have a more complete coverage of the subject areas our applicants aspire to study, and would welcome expressions of interest from alumni.

Members of council normally attend an all-day meeting in May and another in November, held in London. The most arduous commitment is the assessment of about 150 applications before the May meeting.

**Dr. Mary Wheeler**

## Current Grant Holders

*Jan Zirk-Sadowski, currently a third-year PhD student of Experimental Psychology at Cambridge University, writes:*

Due in part to the generosity of the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust I am now a third year PhD student in the Centre for Neuroscience in Education at the University of Cambridge. I started my PhD with the intention of further developing my interests in the psychological underpinnings of mathematical reasoning



and numerical skills. My investigations are driven by some of the practical issues that have arisen from many recent studies, which have shown that low numeracy manifests in higher unemployment in British society. It also seems that people who are innumerate have generally lower salaries and job opportunities in the United Kingdom.

In my research I am trying to deepen our understanding of the (neuro)cognitive mechanisms underlying our ability for mathematical and logical deductive thinking. My psychological investigations concern executive functioning, comprehension and working memory among young and adult students. I am especially interested in the possibility of improving the efficacy of those mental processes greatly involved in the development of numerical cognition, such as the fully attentive perception of numbers, which results in a better ability to effectively operate with them. I am also interested in the extent to which numeracy depends on certain inborn and stable predispositions, and to what extent the factors providing good mathematical skills are plastic, environmentally conditioned and dependent on our controlled motivation, emotions and capacity for dealing with logical problems. As part of my studies I have devised a training method which brings hope to students who suffer from severe difficulties and are really worried about their performance in maths. Elements of this method seem useful and effective also in my statistics teaching practice.

The course that I am enrolled on fits my academic career goals perfectly. Completion of the PhD course will let me fulfill my dream of a scientific career (closely related to the methodology of science, statistics and the application of new, computer-based statistical algorithms to the neuropsychology of mathematics). It will also let me develop further projects on the promotion of, and possible improvements to British mathematics education by knowing about the neurocognitive processes underlying numeracy. I would like to work as an academic researcher in this field and as a teacher to find the environmental factors creating numerical masterminds. The achievement of these goals appears to be more and more likely thanks to the great support which I have received from the Trust. I am incredibly grateful for this help!



## Current Grant Holders (cont.)

**Doyeeta Majumder**, currently a second year PhD student of English Literature at the University of St. Andrews, tells us about her thesis 'The New Prince and Lawmaking Violence in Renaissance Drama':

'Lawmaking is power making, and to that extent, an immediate manifestation of violence'. – Walter Benjamin, 'Critique of Violence'.

The traffic between literature and politics is one that has fascinated me ever since I was a teenager, being initiated into the discipline of literary studies. I was in my first year as a postgraduate student in Jadavpur University when I enrolled in an optional course entitled 'Renaissance Political Thought', for which we had to read Quentin Skinner's seminal history of Renaissance politics, as well as a number of political treatises from the sixteenth century. I realized that the foundations of modern political concepts and institutions were laid in the Early Modern Age, and their concerns and their queries are still relevant in this day and age. It is the enduring nature of political enquiry that led my interest in politics and literature to develop into something more concrete, and to gradually evolve into an idea for a thesis I would commit the next five years of my life to.

My thesis examines the fraught relationship between the sixteenth century formulations of the theories of sovereignty and sovereign violence and the manifestations of these ideas on the contemporary English stage, especially through the representations of the problematic figure of the usurper- or in Machiavellian terms- the 'new prince'. My focus is on contemporary political debates regarding the legitimacy of rule, tyranny, the Lutheran / Calvinist justifications of resistance against tyranny, the logic of sovereignty and statecraft and how, and through what channels, these percolated into the world of the theatre. I also consider the extent to which these strands of thought - which are largely intellectual and textual - shape and are in turn, shaped by, the extremely commercialized, amorphous, 'material' world of the professional theatre.

My thesis examines representations of the usurper figure on the Elizabethan-Jacobean stage in relation to the Benjaminian category of lawmaking violence (Critique of Violence) - that originary violence to which the state owes its existence. Beginning with the early Tudor political moralities which deal with primarily with the figure of the legitimate monarch who degenerates into a tyrant, it moves on to the dramatic literature of the 1580s and 90s, which displays an almost obsessive preoccupation with the figure of the usurper. My intention will be to focus initially on the works of Shakespeare and Marlowe, in whose plays these issues resurface in the most interesting forms, and then go beyond the canon to

take into account later dramatists like Chapman to trace a trajectory of the changes the figure of the 'usurper' undergoes, from Elizabethan to Jacobean and Caroline drama. I will also look at the discourses of Machiavellian thought and the essentially Protestant formulations of the notion of the subject's right to dethrone the tyrant, through the theoretical framework of twentieth century notions of violence, sovereignty and law.

By using twentieth century political theories as a point of reference I want to bring out the enduring nature of the political violence which remains enshrined at the heart of the juridico-political institution and makes its presence felt from time to time, a problem that has provoked countless debates, and which is no less relevant to our lives, to our immediate surroundings, and to our culture and cultural productions, than it was four hundred years ago.



## Publications

*A number of current Stapley grant holders are pursuing careers in research. We note the following publications:*

Rabinovich, A., Morton, T. A., and **Birney, M.E.**, 'Communicating climate science: the role of perceived communicators' motives', *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 32:1, 1-78.

Gunton, Matthew J. (MD), Carey, James L. (MD, MPH), **Shaw, Colin R.** (BSc (hons), MSc); Murnaghan, M. Lucas (MD, Med, FRCSC), 'Drilling Juvenile Osteochondritis Dissecans: Retro- or Transarticular?', *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*, Jan. 2012.

**Charmaine Jelbert** has recently been appointed as chief editor for a report on human trafficking for the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It will be presented in 2012.



## Alumni News

The soprano **Iria Perestrelo**, who has just completed her Masters degree in Performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, tells us about her career progress so far:

...Over this year, I have enjoyed a busy performance schedule...I can highlight my work with Alison Bury, founder member and regular leader of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; the concert with the Guildhall Baroque Orchestra, showcasing the music of the Golden Age of Portugal, and its repetition on my debut at the London Handel Festival...and the various Cantata projects organised by the [Guildhall] Historical Performance department, in particular its concert at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. There I sang the famous Bach *Ich habe genug* with the Guildhall Baroque Ensemble to an audience of around 200 people. This concert was reviewed by the *Early Music Review*: 'All [of the singers] were impressive, although I slightly favoured the warm and gently boyish timbre of Iria Perestrelo, her voice blending well into the instrumental consort'.<sup>1</sup>

I have also auditioned for relevant professional work outside Guildhall, and was selected to take part in two interesting projects, the first being *Lady Eros*, a programme of vignettes organised by the company Humanitas Culture in Chelsea, the second, a staged production of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at the National Theatre (Autumn 2011). In May 2011 I sang at the Awards Concert *Jovens Criadores 2010* in Portugal, as a result of winning the best interpretation prize of an original work – Francisco Coll García's *Óxido, Op. 9*. This piece was written specifically for my voice as part of the *Voiceworks* music project, and premiered at the Wigmore Hall.

At the start of the academic year 2011/12 I acted as the Guildhall School's 'ambassador' by singing in two international competitions, in which I progressed to the semi-final stage. These were the First International Early Music Vocal Competition *Canticum Gaudium* in Poznań, and the 2011 *Sacred Music International Competition* at the Vatican. For Christmas, I was invited to sing Handel's *Messiah* with the Cirencester Choral Society...More recently, I was engaged to sing as a soprano soloist at the State Banquet organised by Buckingham Palace in honour of the visit of the Turkish President to the United Kingdom. I have also performed for the Lord Mayor of London at Mansion House; and with the Guildhall Consort for the series *BBC Total Immersion: Arvo Pärt* (April 2012).

In addition to another busy programme at the Guildhall in 2012, Iria has performed in the *Linklaters Lunchtime Recital in the City of London, in the Rotary Foundation*

*Lyric Singing Contest in Portugal. Over the summer she has performed in the Bolivian Baroque Music Gala at different venues in London, at the Latin Music Festival in Paris, and at the Zezere Arts Festival, Portugal.*

**Krystyna Koziol**, currently a final-year PhD student in the Department of Geography at Sheffield University, has sent the Trust a progress report on her research during 2011/12 as a Stapley scholar:

...The year began with my return from Svalbard (an arctic archipelago in the north of Norway), the field site where I am conducting my research on the organic carbon content of an Arctic glacier. The year has been full of hard work on analytical problems connected with the field samples, which resulted in my learning new laboratory methods. These include out-flow cytometry, total organic carbon analysis by combustion and UV-induced chemical decomposition, and fluorescence spectrophotometry.

Thanks to the possibilities offered by this interesting dataset, I was able to present a poster at an international conference, the Workshop on the Dynamics and Mass Budget of Arctic Glaciers, at the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences Network on Arctic Glaciology Annual Meeting (Jan. 2012, Zieleniec, Poland). There I obtained insightful feedback on my work from experienced glaciologists and geochemists working in the Arctic.

During the past academic year, I also broadened my academic experience by taking visits to the University Centre in Svalbard, with which I am affiliated through my joint PhD programme. In spring, I took a course in glaciology...this helped me understand glacier dynamics and current research challenges in this field much better than before. I also took my first steps in modelling glacier dynamics, and during this spring visit I also conducted some fieldwork in my study site, the Foxfonna glacier, learning radar techniques to provide a picture of the land surface under the ice.

In the summer, I undertook extensive field study of the Foxfonna glacier's organic carbon budget, thus obtaining all the data necessary for my PhD thesis. This year's spring and summer fieldwork were funded by the Research Council of Norway, and the summer fieldwork was also assisted by a Henrietta Hutton Research Grant from the Royal Geographical Society.

*Her work so far has produced the following publication:*

Ruman, M., Kozak, K., **Koziol, K.**, Polkowska, Ż., 2012: 'Pollutants Present in Different Components of the Svalbard Archipelago Environment', *Ecological Chemistry and Engineering S*, 19, 4.

<sup>1</sup> Edition 40:1, February 2012.

## From the Administrator

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Electronic application packages for the 2013/14 academic year will be available as of the 3rd January 2013. To request one, please e-mail us at [admin@stapleytrust.org](mailto:admin@stapleytrust.org) on or soon after that date. Paper application forms are also available upon request.

Nancy Jachec

### Letters of thanks

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*The Trust has received a number of letters from this year's grant recipients. Here are some excerpts below:*

#### **Second year doctoral student of International Relations, LSE, 24th May 2012:**

'Thank you very much for the generous support by the Stapley Trust! Wonderful news on a Thursday morning. I will be in touch again in fall 2012 to update the Stapley Trust on my current work and progress. [So far] I have two conferences in June and will be again in Sierra Leone for two months this summer to complete my field research for the PhD'.

*This student is completing a dissertation on civilian and communal peace-building in Sierra Leone.*

#### **Final year Masters student of Performance, the Royal Academy of Music, 25th June 2012:**

'I am writing once again to thank you for your support. I have had a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging year. Throughout the past nine months I have had the opportunity to play under great conductors such as Sir Mark Elder and Semyon Bychkov, to play at the Aldeburgh Festival and have had individual lessons with Mateja Marinkovic. I feel all aspects of my playing have improved, especially chamber musicianship and technique. Once again, many thanks for your support'.

#### **Final year medical student, Imperial College, University of London, 27th July 2012:**

'Thank you again so much for all your help this past year. I'm glad to say I'm now finished (with distinctions in medicine, surgery and clinical practice), and have just survived my first day of work. I'm doing an Academic Public Health job, which is great because I will be able to have more time for the research I started on elective this year. We have been able to produce a few papers this year so that is a good start'!

#### **Final year medical student, University of Glasgow, undated:**

'I have had another very successful year in medical school...My senior elective was at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. This organisation is one of the leading paediatric surgical facilities in North America... [It] is also a teaching hospital so I was encouraged from the first day to take an active role in

the department and within the clinical team. Although this initially felt overwhelming, I got up to speed pretty quickly and appreciated that it is the best method of learning...'

This student has contributed to a study which has been recently published in Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, and is currently vice-president of the university's surgical society.

### Supporting the Trust

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Donations are important in enabling us to support the work of hundreds of students from Britain, and of those who come to the UK to pursue degrees in medicine, veterinary studies, and postgraduate degrees in all other subjects. The Trust takes this opportunity to extend its sincere thanks to its regular and occasional donors.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the administrator via e-mail at [admin@stapleytrust.org](mailto:admin@stapleytrust.org), or write to us at:

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