



From the Chairman

We are pleased to have gained two trustees this year, bringing our number up to nine. We welcome Dr Debra Marsden, who has a background in General Practice and a strong interest in education, and Dr Tekena Craig Fubara, one of our alumnae, who is a chemical engineer and will increase our scientific expertise.



This year we awarded a total of £166,500 to 48 reapplicants and 135 new applicants. The total number of grants is thus down by 20 compared with last year, but the value of the highest level has increased.

As of 2015 the Charity Commission will be requiring more detailed reports from charities regarding the social importance of the work they do. In the past, we have always valued feedback from current and former grantees as to how the Trust's support has helped their studies and their career development. Now, such information will be useful in demonstrating the positive outcomes of Stapley grants to the Commission. So please continue to tell us your news.

Dr. Mary Wheeler

Trustees

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Prof. Keith Smith – BSc, PhD

Current Grant Holders

Anna Duthie, a second-year student on the MA Printed Textiles course at the Royal College of Art, London, tells us about her work:

I completed my undergraduate Textiles degree at Glasgow School of Art in 2012 with First Class Honours, specialising in embroidery. After graduating I undertook fashion textiles internships at Mary Katrantzou in London and 3.1 Phillip Lim in New York to gain valuable skills and experience. At Mary Katrantzou, as part of the embroidery team, I assisted with researching and developing innovative embellishments using Swarovski crystals and digital embroideries for the Autumn/Winter 2013 show. Whilst working at 3.1 Phillip Lim in New York I was part of the print and embroidery team, where I designed textiles for both commercial and show pieces for Spring/Summer and Pre-Fall 2014.

More recently I worked for six months as a trainee embroidery designer at Alexander McQueen in London, which was a challenging but fantastic experience. I assisted with developing hand embroideries using techniques such as beading, fabric manipulation and appliqué, hand drawing designs and the placement of embroideries onto garment patterns. I am continuing to work as a freelance designer for McQueen, assisting the team with both placements and hand embroidery for special projects, such as wedding dresses and artworks for the upcoming collections.



It was always my ambition to study for an MA in Textiles at the Royal College of Art in London. I was lucky enough to be accepted and have just completed my first year of the prestigious course, which I am thoroughly enjoying. During my internships I experienced the fast moving nature of fashion, and I realise that the opportunity at RCA to undertake a sustained period of personal research is invaluable. I have chosen to study printed textiles at MA level to broaden the scope of my practise. My research is focused on developing print and embellished surfaces,

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with a particular emphasis on colour. I am motivated by a hand crafted approach and my aesthetic looks to balance areas of considered space with sections of intense embroidery and textural prints for the luxury fashion market. I believe that textiles are the way to truly innovate within fashion. I am also researching cultural associations of colour in clothing for my dissertation.

One of the most rewarding and influential experiences of my first year at the RCA was a three-week trip to East Nepal in February to run an embroidery workshop with the Atpare Rai women. Along with one other student, I was awarded the RCA John Dunsmore Scholarship, which provided the chance to travel to Nepal to assist with embroidered product design, marketing and supply chain to ensure that highly skilled women can sell their products to supplement their farming income. This trip gave me the opportunity to combine my interest in volunteer work overseas with my love for traditional hand embroidery.

I am very much looking forward to my second year of the Textiles MA, and I believe completing the course with a strong personal portfolio will allow me to take the next step in my career as a textile designer. After graduating I hope to spend time working for a British fashion company, either in print and embroidery design or in fabric development. It is my ambition to set up my own textile studio in the UK after five to six years of industry experience. I will aim for the studio to focus on innovative hand created techniques in print and embroidery.

Lucia Rubinelli, a third-year PhD student of Politics and International Relations at Cambridge University, discusses her research:

I am writing an interdisciplinary thesis in both political theory and history of political thought. Specifically, I study the ways in which the political principle of people's power has been conceptualized in Europe during the French Revolution and trace its evolution in the following centuries. My claim is that when the French revolutionaries overthrew the monarchical regime and declared that political authority belonged to the people they did so relying on two different and radically opposed conceptualizations of people's power. On the one hand, radical revolutionaries understood it in terms of popular sovereignty. On the other hand, more moderate and liberal actors conceptualized it as the people's constituent power, the power to write the state's constitution. Retracing these two different interpretations of people's power is important because it reveals that there is no such a thing as a singular and unitary understanding of democracy. On the contrary, democracy can be interpreted through different theoretical lenses which, in turn, imply very diverse institutional arrangements. For instance, the referendum is a political instrument directly derived from the principle of sovereignty, while the representative government as well as constitutional courts are the expression of the idea of people's constituent power. Consequently, grasping and understanding these different implications is key to gaining

an informed view on current political debates, one able to understand their complexity as well as the intricacies of principles that animate them. In a way, the contribution my work hopes to put forward is a theoretical and conceptual clarification of the categories upon which our political system is built with the aim of providing instruments to make sounder and more informed political judgements. As part of my PhD, I teach the history of political thought at the University and very much enjoy it. Particularly I like the opportunity of exchanging ideas and insights with students. On the side, I also teach Italian at the school 'Dante Alighieri' in Cambridge. This is a great occasion for me to get in contact with people outside the university and keep in constant touch with my mother tongue as well as with my culture. Next year, when my PhD will hopefully be completed, I would like to remain in academia and I am currently applying to different positions around Europe. Lastly, and apart from my research and working commitment, I volunteer for a charity I cofounded in my hometown in Italy, Verona. It is named 'Ateneo Europa'. Together with a group of university members we help high school students to choose their academic path by putting them in contact with alumni of their preferred university and by helping them understand the bureaucratic and financial issues connected to studying at the university.



Current Grant Holders (cont.)

Szymon Parzniewski, a first-year PhD student of Social Sciences at the University of Birmingham, writes:

My PhD research looks at the role of the media in immigration policy-making. During the last few decades, various trends of immigration have been intensified through the processes of globalization. In the age of 'superdiversity', policy-makers in many countries are trying to adapt existing regulations in the search for appropriate mechanisms to regulate immigration in an orderly and balanced manner. Many studies have focused on the processes of globalisation eroding state power, but what about other actors within the state? The role of media, as one such actor, in immigration policy-making is underrepresented in the literature and therefore my research aims at addressing this clear gap. Very little research in this area has been comparative in nature, and so my work also aims to fill this niche by taking a comparative approach in investigating the case studies of the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. Even though the political systems and cultures differ substantially between these respective countries, the role of the media and public opinion in immigration policy-making is becoming increasingly important vis-à-vis the traditional centralised role of the state.



Immigration challenges are already at the top of the agenda in many states. I firmly believe that they will constitute a very big challenge for states in the years to come. I want to be part of the great international developments in the migration policy field. Through a series of practical experiences in a broad variety of institutions, like for instance the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) Office in Moscow, I have developed the ability to thoroughly and critically examine collected material, work in a team of goal-oriented researchers, and present my final results to a high standard. I am confident that I have all the attributes that an academic in this emerging research agenda should possess: foresight, open-mindedness, determination, persistence, strong linguistic ability in multiple languages (English, Russian, Polish and German), high mobility, intercultural understanding and sensitivity.

The Ph.D. research I am currently pursuing at the University of Birmingham and funded in large part by the ESRC, will constitute a strong foundation and certainly an important step in the career of a political advisor for migration policy and immigration policy-making that I want to pursue at the highest level in the future. Therefore, I see it not only as an opportunity to produce innovative

comparative research in the field of migration studies, but also as a necessary step in my career development.

Publications

The Trust notes the latest publications of former and current Stapley grantees:

Agarwal, Ruchi, and Ansell, Jake, 'Risk Management and Enterprise Risk Management Practices for Non-Life Insurance Companies: a Discussion Paper', in R. K. Mishra et al (ed's), *Risk Management in Banking, Insurance and Financial Services* (Academic Foundation, 2014).

Brosnan, Jennifer, 'Love in the Observer: Open Proposals and Dubious Intentions', *International Journal of Arts and Sciences* 8:1 (May 2015), pp. 281-8.

Burke, Adam, 'How do international development agencies approach peacebuilding in a sub-national conflict?', *Development in Practice* 23:7 (2013), pp. 840-856.

Ellington, Matt and **Campbell, Alan**, 'Resuscitating Two Birds with One Stone: Improving Ambulance Response Times and Enhancing Medical Student Education of the Acutely Unwell Patient', *Resuscitation* 85:11 (November 2014), pp. 185-7.

Salter, Brian, Zhou, Yinhua and **Datta, Saheli**, 'Making Choices: Health Consumers, Regulation and the Global Stem Cell Therapy Market', *BioDrugs* (2014), pp. 1-4.

Salter, Brian, Zhou, Yinhua and **Datta, Saheli**, 'Health consumers and stem cell therapy innovation: markets, models and regulation', *Regenerative Medicine* 9(3), pp. 353-66.

Mace-Nazina, Ekaterina, and Winter, Liz, 'Adolescent and pre-adolescent migration: implications for identity', in *Children on the Move. Different facets of migrations in childhood*, special issue of *Studia Migracyjne* 2014/40/3 (153), pp. 107-128.

Weng, Yi-Cheng, "'She had recourse to her pen": Radical Voices in Elizabeth Hamilton's Memoirs of Modern Philosophers', *Romantic Textualities: Literature and Print Culture 1780-1840* (2015).

Matthews, T.J., Cottee-Jones, H.E.W. and Whittaker R.J., 'Quantifying and interpreting nestedness in habitat islands', *Diversity and Distributions* 21(2015), 392-404.

Matthews, T.J. and Whittaker, R.J., 'On the species abundance distribution in applied ecology and biodiversity management', *Journal of Applied Ecology* 52 (2015), 443-454.

Letters of Thanks

Over the past 12 months, the Trust has received a number of letters from current and previous grant holders. Here are some excerpts below:

Final-year PhD student (Education, Sussex University), 18 November 2014:

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you and your colleagues at the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust for financially supporting me with my tuition fees and living expenses for this year, which enables me to continue with my PhD. Since I am an Iranian and my country is extremely under the imposition of international sanctions, it was (and still is) the only source in the world which I was eligible to apply!

The financial assistance you have provided lightened my financial burden and allowed me to concentrate more of my time for studying and gave me more space to actively participate in academic and development activities as part of the PhD research community.

As is shown in my PhD research, I strongly advocate 'Human Rights' and in particular the notion of 'Education for All' focusing on widening access and participation, improving retention and success in Higher Education, particularly in the Middle East. After graduation, I plan to continue working both as an activist and as a researcher. I am highly appreciative of your support as it has taken me one step closer to the goal.

Your generosity has deeply inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals, just as you have helped me.

Final-year DPhil student (Classics, Oxford University), 09 December 2014:

I am writing to you to express my gratitude and thanks for your generous support towards my studies for the 2014/2015 academic year. I have found your support a great encouragement and it has allowed me to make great progress as I can now spend more of my time on research. Since receiving the award this summer, I have upgraded my status, completed several chapters and finished collecting all the raw data for my DPhil. This would not have been possible to complete in such little time without the Trust's support. In turn, this has led to new opportunities; I have been invited as an advising participant of several larger projects. The first is a joint initiative of the CNRS in France (National Centre of Scientific Research) and the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, recording coin hoards in Roman Gaul. The second is the European Coin Find Network, a group comprised of scholars from national institutions and universities, who aim to standardize the way data is recorded in numismatics.

It has been a very fulfilling beginning of the academic year and I hope 2015 brings more of the same.

Alumnus (PhD , Middle Eastern Studies, King's College London), 24 May 2015:

In October 2014, I was awarded a PhD in Education and Conflict Regulation by KCL...The support of the Stapley Trust was essential in allowing me to complete my research...

In October 2014 I also started working as a lecturer ...at the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, KCL. This gave me an invaluable opportunity to gain experience in teaching excellent MA-level students. In May 2015, I was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, which will allow me to spend three years at the University of Birmingham working on cultural policy in post-conflict deeply divided societies.

Alumnus (Veterinary Science, University of Liverpool), 16 August 2015:

I am writing for one last time to say a huge thank you for your immense support over the past three years.

On 21 July 2015 I graduated from the University of Liverpool with Distinction in BVSc Veterinary Science. This would almost certainly not have been possible without your very kind and generous continued support and I am truly grateful for your financial assistance in allowing me to achieve what I have.

In June 2015, immediately following the completion of my studies, I started the position of Veterinary Surgeon in a small animal practice. I am now two months in and thoroughly enjoying it! Again, thank you!

Supporting the Trust

Donations help us to support the work of mature students in the UK pursuing further 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, or write to us at:

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Gift Aid forms are available from the administrator and from our website: www.stapleytrust.org

From the Administrator

Electronic application packs for the 2016/17 academic year will be available as of 4 January 2016. To get one, please e-mail us at admin@stapleytrust.org on or soon after that date. Paper application forms are also available upon request.