



## From the Chairman

Changes to the trustee body this year sadly include the resignation of our deputy chair Jeremy Jackman, whom we thank for his unfailingly balanced, kindly and pragmatic contributions over many years and for his particular expertise in assessing the applications of students of music. Keith Smith is our acting deputy chair. Ralph Penny has stepped down as Treasurer, a role taken up, temporarily, by Jane Dancer. Happily he continues as a trustee.



The experience of trustees is now predominantly in the fields of the sciences and medicine, and we would like to improve the balance by appointing another trustee with expertise in the humanities. We are keen if possible to recruit past Stapley scholars, of whom two are currently trustees. Please let us know if you are interested, and we will send you further details.

The financial environment, including the stagnant stock market and the persistently low interest rates, has again impacted on our income. In 2016 we awarded 48 grants to re-applicants, and 133 to new applicants, very similar numbers to last year.

We are developing a questionnaire to be sent to all current scholars. Its purpose is to find out how much difference our grants make to those who receive funding. The Charity Commission wants to know the answers, and so, of course, do we. What scholars tell us could influence future policy. So, if you receive such a questionnaire, please do complete and return it.

## Dr. Mary Wheeler

### Trustees

**Dr. Mary Wheeler – MA, PhD, MRCP (Chairman)**

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**Dr. Mike Mortimer – MA, MSc, PhD**

**Prof. Ralph Penny – MA, PhD**

**Prof. Keith Smith – BSc, PhD**

## Current Grant Holders

**Bruce Roth**, a fifth-year part-time MSc student in Applied Mathematics at the Open University, tells us about his work:

I read for a BSc in Applied Physics at Hull University, specialising in laser technology. I was sponsored by Standard Telephones and Cables at a time when fibre optics were just starting to become the norm. My work was involved in the interface between the optical and electrical signals in the regeneration units that are required for every few miles of cable. I read for a BA in pure mathematics with the Open University whilst working, as I found that I needed a much stronger mathematical foundation than I had expected in the work I was doing. I gained a First Class Honours degree and spent a year as a Bye-Fellow at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Over the past four years of my MSc I have been studying various modules in Applied Mathematics that will prepare me to carry out an independent study of variational methods applied to eigenvalue problems. I have chosen to look at the question that the mathematician Mark Kac asked in 1966 about whether one can 'hear the shape of a drum'. This will involve looking at the wave equation in two dimensions with the restriction that the edges of the membrane are fixed. The discrete numbers associated with these solutions are called eigenvalues.

In my first year I studied the calculus of variations, including the calculus of functions of several real variables. I learnt about convergence of sequences of many functions and this has given me the foundations required for my dissertation. In my second year I learnt about applied complex variables which extended the ideas met at undergraduate level. Nonlinear ordinary differential equations, important for both scientists and engineers, were the area of study for my third year. The tutor I had for my first year had worked with the author of the set text and I undertook the task of proof-reading both the set text and the examples book. It was a very useful experience and, as a consequence, I hardly dropped a mark in the examination. For the fourth year I had to learn to code in MAPLE and the course was based on all the main mathematical methods encountered at graduate level in Applied Maths.

Having completed four of the six modules required for the MSc I have been awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Mathematics and this has helped motivate me for the last two years of part-time study. I have been in contact

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## Current Grant Holders (cont.)

with a potential supervisor from Edinburgh University who feels that what I have done will be an excellent foundation for a PhD in exponential asymptotics. Often in mathematics we consider series that converge to an answer and tend to have less interest if they diverge but sometimes these divergent series start by converging and then diverge. The study of the first few convergent terms is known as asymptotics and has many uses in applied mathematics. The opportunity to move into mathematical research is an exciting one.

**Michael Poll**, a final year D Mus student at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, writes:

Raising a concert musician is an interesting challenge—as the old saying goes, if it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a small city to raise a concert artist. I share this because I think the context of working to build a life in art in the modern world is a unique challenge. Gone is the prospect of gaining the early career interest of an enterprise scale business (read: a major record label) on the basis of talent, because their revenues have disappeared. In the early 1990s the music industry was worth some 15 billion dollars in the United States. Today it's less than half of that. Further, classical music used to be pursued by corporate, private, and governmental enterprises alike as a matter of prestige. Now it has become all about the bottom line. But with one door closing, another is opening, one that leads to a space for musicians and practice-based scholars in the academy. As such I have spent the past two years devoted to studying the practice of making art, or specifically the way in which one might use an understanding of how Bach transcribed his own music as a model for making other transcriptions of his pieces. The project has the practical goal of expanding the repertoire of my instrument, but along the way it has yielded interesting insights into music, life, business, and art.

Musically, it has begun to emerge that transcription and composition were, for Bach, indistinguishable. He began his day at the keyboard, reading the works of other masters and improvising to get his creative juices flowing. He wasn't this 'lightning-bolt' stroke of genius kind of composer—he relied on inspiration from other sources to get himself going. This was a really surprising discovery for me. This not only sheds a lot of insight into Bach's mind, which helps to inform my interpretation of his music as a performer, but it also gives



me, as a researcher, a point of entry for beginning to explore how he made his transcriptions. It's an intricate network of connections and understandings, some aural, some tactical; some planned, some intuitive, that led Bach to his final compositions, and the understanding of this process, and embodiment of a sort of artistic middle way where his head and heart were in perfect balance, that led Bach to the masterworks that he completed. This in turn gives me a point of entry and even a sort of inductive methodology that allows me to work on the project.

As part and parcel of this research I am currently performing Bach's own transcriptions on a custom made 7-string guitar which allows me to play the lute voicing as originally written (in a lower register than possible on a modern guitar). This recital programme of Bach's suites (in E Major and E Minor) has recently been presented in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia in the United States as well as here in London. I am also working on my own transcription of the Violin Partita in D Minor. If you'd like to hear some of the music, compositions of mine are on my website at [www.michaelpoll.co.uk](http://www.michaelpoll.co.uk), and my last recording, *Tapestry*, is on Spotify, the iTunes store, or CDBaby (search "Michael Poll Tapestry").

**Ruchi Agarwal**, a final year PhD student at Edinburgh Business School, tells us about her research:

I have been awarded one of your scholarships for my PhD in Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) at University of Edinburgh Business School. I am very thankful for your support in 2013, 2014 and again in 2016. Being the mother of two children, pursuing a PhD in the UK for an Indian woman is challenging. It has not been possible without Stapley Trust funding.

Now I am about to submit my PhD in the next session and I am happy to inform you that one of my papers, 'Strategic Change in ERM' has been published in the reputable US journal *Strategic Change* (July 2016). This year my two chapters on 'Integration of Project Risk Management into Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)' and 'Monte Carlo Risk Analysis' have been accepted for publication in the book *Leveraging Risk and Uncertainties for Effective Project Management* by IGI Global (Canada) in late 2016. I have three other papers under review in good peer reviewed journals. I am founder of the popular blog [FinGuru.org](http://FinGuru.org). Finguru is an open access blog meant to provide unbiased thoughts related to the financial industry. Recently, a series of my blogs were re-published in the National Insurance Academy (NIA) and two other papers have been accepted for publication in academic and professional journals: *Studies in Asian Science* and *Insurance Information Bureau*. My conference publications include WRIA (California), SRA (Norway), IPE (Hyderabad) and ICFAG (Delhi), ICRA 6 (Barcelona), SRA World Congress (Singapore), Strategic Management Society (SMS) (Denver), EURAM (Warsaw),



International Sociological Association (Austria) and Academy of Management Annual Meeting (California).

In my research, I have been exploring how ERM is different in theory and practice. ERM aims to deal with all risk in a holistic manner, balancing the downside risk and exploiting the opportunities for upside risk. Previous literature has focused on the downside of risk, but there is a dearth of literature focussing on opportunities arising from risk and uncertainty. Companies and to some degree policy makers are unclear about how to implement ERM to achieve good risk governance and there needs to be more qualitative research to understand different practices and strategies leading to good risk governance. Therefore, my research takes a qualitative standpoint based on interviews with leading managers in UK and India. The aim of my thesis is to identify the 'best' practice in Risk Governance within Enterprises, especially within insurance companies, and explore the 'best' method of implementation. I am also actively involved in the research community for the development of doctoral students and contributing to good risk governance models.

**Sonny Smart**, *second-year graduate medical student at the University of Cambridge*, writes:

I completed my undergraduate studies in Biochemistry at the University of Warwick in 2013, with First Class Honours. While studying for my undergraduate degree my career ambition of wanting to contribute to advancing the medical field through research and ultimately bringing a positive change to people's lives developed. It was this that led me to undertake an industrial placement year working within biopharmaceutical research at GSK, in this position I enjoyed working with new technologies aimed at developing novel therapeutics to be used in the treatment of rare diseases. During this time I also observed some drugs that were further on in development – currently in clinical trials. The nature of clinical trials fascinated me; it revealed quite a rare chance to physically observe the contribution that my research has on individual lives. After gaining more experience in clinical trials I felt determined that my contribution to medical research would come from working on trials themselves.

To work towards this I have since achieved a distinction in an MPhil in Translational Medicine at the University of Cambridge, which has equipped me with appropriate scientific knowledge to contribute to translational research and design of clinical trials. During my MPhil I worked on a translational study developed from the EVOLUTION trial, which investigated the relationship between levels of systemic inflammation in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and associated cardiovascular disease – a leading cause of death in people with COPD. Future studies based on some of my work may involve looking at the effects of anti-inflammatory medication on the cardiovascular endpoints and outcomes that I studied.

Upon completion of my MPhil I worked within medical consulting in both Cambridge and London. Initially, I was involved in interpreting clinical trial results and using them in pharmaceutical company publications, as well as lots of market research for potential new therapeutics. I then moved



into a Pricing and Market Access role, where I focussed on the optimisation of trial design, pricing strategy and drug launch strategy. My time in consulting has not only allowed me to develop my knowledge of clinical trials, pricing and medical research policy practically, I have also been exposed to projects in many, varied disease areas including oncology, gynaecology and inflammatory diseases.

Studying medicine now is the next step in achieving my ambition; this will allow me to build upon the solid scientific foundations I have gained over the past 6 years and develop the in-depth knowledge of diseases and clinical interaction that are essential for a well-rounded medical professional with an expertise in clinical science. With the focus on scientific understanding and research at the University of Cambridge, studying medicine here has put me in the best possible position to develop such essential knowledge while still having an emphasis on research. I am now entering the second year of my medical degree, having just completed my first hospital based placement.

## Alumni News

Former grantee **Laurence Wood** was supported by the Trust in 1984/5 while studying for his MA in painting at the Royal College of Art, London. He is currently a professor of painting in the Department of Cultural and Creative Arts, the Education University of Hong Kong. He is shown here at his solo exhibition, 'Choice Emblems: New Paintings' this past summer at Lacey Contemporary Gallery, London. He exhibits internationally, and was a painting finalist in the eighth *Artelaguna* International Art Prize in Venice, Italy in 2014.



## Letters of Thanks

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

### **Alumnus (Theology, University of Oxford), 12 December 2015:**

I am writing to thank you for the funding...which I received in 2013... I am very grateful for the generous grant from your Trust which allowed me to focus fully on my research during my time at Oxford. Without your support, I could not have finished my doctoral dissertation within three years. Thank you. Building on my doctoral dissertation, I have now taken up a postdoctoral position in theology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich in Germany.

Thank you very much again.

### **Alumna (Design, Royal College of Art), 8 January 2016:**

I was awarded a grant last year to pay for my final year of studies on the design Products Course. I just wanted to write to say thank you, and to let you know that I was recently offered a job as a designer within the Industrial Design and Interaction Architecture team at Apple, so I will be moving to California soon...I am extremely grateful for the Trust's contribution to my education which since graduating has truly paid off as this position is an enormous opportunity and testament to the struggle of the previous two years...

### **Final-year student (Medicine, Barts and the London), 17 February 2016:**

I am writing to express my gratitude to the trustees for my award in the 2014/15 academic year. Your generosity enabled me to pursue my research interests in bioengineering, working... at the UCL Division of Surgery and Interventional Science. I am currently working on designing 3-D printed hollow organ grafts, and eventually transplants. I have been able to teach intercalating medical students and have recently been awarded the title of Honorary Research Associate. This research would not have been possible without the freedom bestowed by your grant.

Thanks again for your kindness.

### **Third-year student (History, University of Hull), 13 June 2016:**

I am writing to thank you for the very generous grant made by the Trust. This is now the third, and I hope very much the final year that the Trust has provided me with funding. This support has made a huge difference in my ability to continue my studies part-time whilst still caring for my father full-time.

Since the Trust first provided me with a grant I have given several lectures on my research, including at the Institute for Historical Research [London] and the Royal Aeronautical Society. I am currently writing up my thesis and hope, in due course, to publish material from it. This would not have been possible without the Trust's support for which I am most grateful.

## Publications

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The Trust notes the latest publications by Stapley grantees:

**Casla, Koldo**, 'Dear fellow jurists, human rights are about politics, and that's perfectly fine', in Lettinga, D. And van Troost, L. (eds), *Can human rights bring social justice?* (Amnesty International Netherlands: 2015), pp. 33-8.

**Calsa, Koldo**, 'The rights we live in: protecting the right to housing in Spain through fair trial, private and family life and non-retrogressive measures', *International Journal of Human Rights* (20:3), pp. 285-97.

**Crossley, Noele**, *Evaluating the Responsibility to Protect: Mass Atrocity Prevention as a Consolidating Norm in International Society* (Routledge: 2016).

**Neuhaus, Fabian**, *Emergent Spatio-Temporal Dimensions of the City: Habitus and Urban Rhythms* (Springer: 2015).

**Rubinelli, Lucia**, 'How to think beyond sovereignty: On Sieyes and constituent power', in *European Journal of Political Theory* (on-line first: April 2016); and 'Taming sovereignty: constituent power in nineteenth century French political thought', *History of European Ideas* (on-line first: October 2016).\*

Barr, M., Feklyunina, V., and **Theys, S.**, 'The Soft Power of Hard States', *Politics* (35:3/4), pp. 213-15.

\*The Trust congratulates Lucia Rubinelli for completing her PhD. She is now a Fellow in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics.

## Supporting the Trust

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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](mailto:admin@stapleytrust.org), or write to us at:

**The Stapley Trust**  
**PO Box 839**  
**Richmond**  
**Surrey TW9 3AL**

Gift Aid forms are available from the administrator and from our website: [www.stapleytrust.org](http://www.stapleytrust.org)

## From the Administrator

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Electronic application packs for the 2017/18 academic year will be available as of 3 January 2017. To get one, please e-mail us at [admin@stapleytrust.org](mailto:admin@stapleytrust.org) on or soon after that date. Application forms are not available before that date, and advance requests cannot be held in a queue. Paper application forms are also available upon request, as of 3 January.

If you are uncertain whether or not you are eligible to apply for a grant, please visit the Trust's website at [www.stapleytrust.org](http://www.stapleytrust.org) and click on the 'applications' button. This will take you to a page that details the Trust's eligibility criteria.