



From the Chairman

We were sorry that Professor Michael Marsh resigned from council in November 2013 to devote more time to his writing. Our numbers, however, are now restored because we were fortunate that Dr Manali Chitre, who is a paediatric Neurologist, joined us in May 2014. We would still be interested in considering alumni willing to serve on council. Our maximum number is ten, and at present there are seven of us.



Our capital reserves as of December 2013 were slightly over three million pounds, up a fraction from the previous year. The income available for grants for 2014 was, however, slightly reduced. This was mainly because GlaxoSmithKline, which gave us a substantial annual donation in recent years, has changed its charitable policies. We are grateful for its past generosity.

This year we awarded a total of 203 grants (to 62 reapplicants and 140 new applicants), totalling £160,400, as against £171,800 in 2013. About 15% of the moneys awarded in 2013 were not taken up; the position this year remains to be seen. Students of 31 nationalities sought to read subjects ranging from accounting and finance to women's studies, with medicine, followed by music, having the most applicants.

Dr. Mary Wheeler

Trustees

Dr. Mary Wheeler –

MA, PhD, MRCP (Chairman)

Dr. Jane Dancer – MA, PhD, MBA

Dr. Manali Chitre – MBBS, DCh

Mr. Jeremy Jackman – BMus (Hons)

Dr. Mike Mortimer – MA, MSc, PhD

Prof. Ralph Penny – MA, PhD (hon Treasurer)

Prof. Keith Smith – BSc, PhD

Current Grant Holders

Clarence Singleton, a fourth-year part-time PhD student in Psychology at the University of Bath, tells us about her research:

My doctoral research focuses on a relatively understudied aspect of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). ASDs are characterized by two general sets of behavioural symptoms: social behaviours and non-social behaviours. The social aspects of ASD are frequently studied because of the serious negative impact they can have on the day-to-day lives of autistic individuals. These symptoms include difficulty relating to other people or understanding ordinary social or facial cues, and in severe cases an inability to speak or engage with others at all. The non-social symptoms of ASD include having restricted interests and displaying repetitive behaviours. A restricted interest will involve becoming obsessed with, for example, a particular subject or item, knowing everything there is to know about it, constantly seeking new information about it, and wanting to talk about nothing else. Repetitive behaviours can range from rocking back and forth, hitting oneself repeatedly, to saying the same words and phrases again and again, or adhering to very strict routines and being unable to tolerate any change to that routine.

I investigate the non-social behaviours of ASD, the cognitive mechanisms that underlie them, how they relate to the social difficulties and why it is that they occur together to form the cognitive profile of autism. Specifically, I am investigating what role emotion plays in these behaviours, and whether the emotional and cognitive tools and processes that are usually employed for understanding and relating to people are redirected in ASD towards engaging instead with non-social items and activities.

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Current Grant Holders (cont.)

I perform experiments in the lab to explore these issues, looking at how people respond physiologically to both social and non-social images, and how people attend to different aspects of social and non-social scenes. My first study found that the more autistic traits a person has, the higher their physiological response to non-social images is, and the greater the difference between their response to non-social and social images. This is the first time a study has demonstrated these correlations. My future research will aim to tease out the nature of the relationship between emotional/physiological response and attention to certain types of stimuli, and the behaviours and traits of autism.

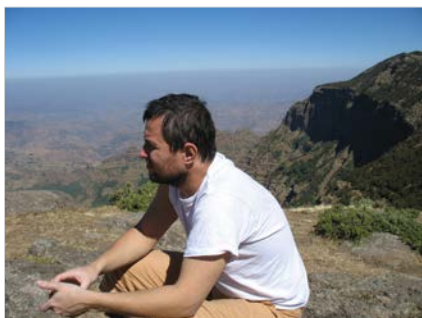
The causes of autism are still poorly understood, and this research is important for understanding, as a whole, the cognitive processes underlying both the social and non-social aspects of ASD and the mechanisms by which they relate to one another. A more thorough comprehension of these issues could be crucial in providing the foundation for new and more effective forms of management and treatment.

Undertaking a PhD is a challenge, but it is very rewarding to be able to design my own studies and work with some of the best academics in the field. This is what I think makes a PhD so important as a first step towards a career as a researcher; it has given me the freedom to cultivate my own research interests independently while at the same time benefitting from the training and skills development on offer, learning research methods and how to write academic papers and present my research to both academic and non-academic audiences. Completing my PhD will demonstrate my potential as an autism researcher, and prepare me for an exciting future career.

Clarence Singleton's article, 'Physiological responses to social and non-social stimuli in neurotypical adults with high and low levels of autistic traits: Implications for understanding non-social drive in Autism Spectrum Disorders' (co-authors C. Ashwin and M. J. Brosnan) will be published in the journal Autism Research in the coming months.

Tamas Lestar, currently a second-year PhD student at the University of Essex, tells us about his work:

I study Management and Sustainability at the University of Essex. My PhD research topic is concerned with climate change and systemic transitions towards a low carbon society. More specifically, I am looking into human dietary issues, and the plant-based movement in particular, within that process. I'm observing a number of communities embracing a meat-free diet, and - together with them -



endeavoring to construct critical meanings regarding their own unique (meat-free) and other dietary practices (meat-based) embedded in mainstream society in general. Some of the communities I am working with are the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Hare Krishna Movement, The Vegan Society and the Vegetarian Society. I also turn to policy institutions and profit-making companies (for example factory farms) to listen to their accounts of the issue.

I use discourse analysis as an overarching framework to tease out explanations about how plant-based practices are foregrounded in the social and political realms. Discourse analysis, in short, is a theoretical toolset for the descriptive and critical articulation of how social practices change, become norms, are maintained or lose their grip on individuals and communities. In order to articulate the tension between the two sides of the 'meat story', I am gathering data from both the so-called developing and the developed parts of the world. I conduct qualitative interviews and collect data through a number of other methods in East African countries, China and Europe. According to discourse theory, the stories constructed from the empirical data are not necessarily generalisable or to be generalised, but can stand as individual and exemplary cases that are able to offer comparisons.

Apart from the salient issues of climate change, the spread and operation of factory farms raises another, ethical aspect regarding animal welfare. Critical discourse analysis provides a handy tool to deconstruct and reconstruct narratives about how this problem is being approached in my target locations and target communities from the related angles of business, policy and the social sphere. Besides this theoretical framework I also turn to a more pragmatic set of sustainability transition management tools called Multi Level Perspective. MLP theory is used to assess societal transitions of the past or design and manage current ones. I will filter my data through the lens of MLP in order to see if dietary community innovations might play a role (and if yes, how) toward a systemic change through their scaling-up into society as a whole.

Though my approach is highly qualitative in nature, the practical urgency of climate change leads me to aim at some kind of soft, nondeterministic yet pragmatically applicable recommendations for policy institutions and community management, wherever the dietary issue is brought to the front. Whereas my discursive approach will enable me to glean critical meanings of phenomena and the lived experiences of community members as they - and I - understand it, MLP will be used to apply these findings against a far broader context of global society. The challenge will be to bring these seemingly opposing paradigms together in a way that can offer a harmonious critique of the topic pursued.

Apart from my research activities at present I volunteer for the Essex Sustainability Institute where themes related to my research, plus food in general, Fair Trade, sustainable living, alternative energy, connection to nature and more are addressed. I would appreciate your LIKE on our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/ESIsustain.

Alumni News

Siwan Rhys, who was awarded a grant towards a Masters in Music in 2011, tells us about her career progress so far:

In 2011 I began a two-year Masters course in music performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, with help from the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust. On graduating in 2013, I was appointed to the post of Guildhall Artist Fellow.



What attracted me to the fellowship was the opportunity to specialise in contemporary piano music, and to research and explore further this subject in which I am greatly interested. The fellowship also allowed me to continue under the tutelage of contemporary pianist and composer Rolf Hind, and to continue using the Guildhall's excellent facilities. As a direct result of holding the post, I also had the opportunity to organise and perform in concerts of contemporary music in the Barbican Hall, and as part of the Southbank Centre's The Rest is Noise Festival, the Oxford Lieder Festival, and the City of London Music Festival.

Part of my fellowship involved the assumption of some teaching responsibilities. These included teaching second-study piano at the Guildhall, and teaching piano to undergraduate music students at City University. I had previously only taught privately – many of my pupils being young beginners or amateur adults – so teaching students at conservatoire or university level was extremely rewarding and satisfying, as I was no longer having to concentrate as much on teaching the mechanics of playing, but rather on the development of interpretative skills and musicianship.

Aside from my duties as a fellow, I also had time to develop my career as a freelance pianist. I was very pleased to be able to do this, as freelancing is what I was ultimately aiming to do. During the year I gave several solo recitals across Britain and abroad, including the Occupy the Pianos festival at St John's Smith Square, and Le Tambour (Rennes) as part of their *Oeuvres Monstres* season. Along with my duo partner George Barton (percussion), I was selected as a New Dots artist to work with emerging composers on four specially commissioned world premières for piano and percussion, and I also worked as an orchestral pianist with the London Symphony Orchestra on new pieces by composers on their Panufnik Young Composers scheme.

These were all extremely valuable experiences which, along with my fellowship, have provided a strong foundation for my future career; I am now a fully freelance pianist, and have many concerts and engagements in my diary for the coming year as a result of the work I did at the Guildhall and elsewhere. Some of my future plans include giving world premières by composers Mark David Boden and Steve Potter, and more solo recitals across the country.

Publications

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

Klotz, Daniel, 'Colorectal Cancer Stem Cells and Their Implications for Novel Anticancer Therapy', *Expert Review of Anti-infective Therapy* 13:4 (2013), 461-8.

Mutanda, Peter, *Africa has a Future*, LionheART Publishing House, 2013.

Shah, Sabaria (co-author), 'The Ataxia Telangiectasia Mutated Kinase Pathway regulates IL-23 Expression by Human Dendritic Cells', *Journal of Immunology*, 190:7 (2013), 3246-55.

Wilson, Vanessa (co-author), 'Personality and Facial Morphology: Links to Assertiveness and Neuroticism in Capuchins (*Sapajus [Cebus] apella*)', *Personality and Individual Differences*, 58 (2014), 89-94.

(co-author), 'Facial Width-To-Height Ratio Relates to Alpha Status and Assertive Personality in Capuchin Monkeys', *PloS one*, 9:4 (2014), e 93369.

Letters of Thanks

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

Third-year PhD student (Education, University of Cambridge), 25 September 2014:

Again, MANY, MANY THANKS for your kindness...It inspires and helps me in making my study a priority. I am extremely grateful, as well as excited for the opportunities that lay ahead.

Second-year MA student (National Film and Television School), 15 August 2014:

I am writing to express my gratitude for the kind support from the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust, which has been a great encouragement at this early stage of my career.

I am in the final few months of my course at the National Film and Television School, and am finishing off my graduation project; a 30-minute documentary following the experiences of a British missionary in Cambodia. I will showcase the film to industry insiders, which will hopefully lead to my first job in television.

The help you've given has made a significant difference to my financial situation, allowing me to focus on my studies. Thank you again for your generosity.

Fourth-year medical student (University of East Anglia), 6 August 2014:

I am writing to express my gratitude for my award.

I recently finished my third year and received an overall distinction for the year. The grant will allow me to work less and concentrate more on my studies and continue achieving well.

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I am truly grateful for your desire to help the needs of students aspiring to better their lives through education. Once I am in a better financial position in the future, I will definitely donate to someone who is in a similar situation as me, as I have experienced first-hand the stresses and worries associated with financing my education.

Alumnus (MA in Conservation, University of York), 6 August 2014:

...thank you for providing me with funding towards my first year of study on the Masters in 'Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management at the University of York. The past year has been so fulfilling, and I have learnt a great deal that I know will help shape the rest of my career, something that I would have been unable to experience without your help toward my course costs...The third term involves a 16-week practical studio placement, and so since April I have been back at the York Glaziers Trust, where I was a Heritage Lottery funded intern for a year, prior to commencing my degree. I am now fifteen weeks into this placement, and I will be very sad to see it finish. It has been brilliant to be back at YGT full time, and I have been very fortunate to continue working on the Great East Window of York Minster...

Third-year PhD student (Development Studies, King's College London), 18 June 2014:

The money you gave was gratefully received and incredibly useful to me. I was lucky enough to receive a couple more small grants from other trusts, which meant I could cover the costs of my course and living expenses etc. I have also managed to progress well with my PhD. I have written several chapters and successfully upgraded within one year. I am now about to embark on my first proper field research trip. From July-September I will be in Uganda conducting elite interviews, with the second trip planned for some time in 2014.

In addition to his studies, this grant-holder is working part-time at the African Leadership Centre (KCL/Nairobi).

Alumnus, PhD Theology (University of Aberdeen), April 2014:

I would like to share with you the good news that my PhD thesis, 'Eschatological Concepts in Trito-Isaiah' was accepted in March 2014 for the degree. I am now waiting for formal notification from the university.

The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust awarded two generous grants to me during my training for the degree. During 2008-2013 I tutored at the resident university and taught intensive programs in China and Hong Kong. Had it not been for the Trust grants, these wonderful events couldn't have taken place. Thanks to the Trust.

Alumnus (MSc, Gender Studies, LSE), 19 November 2013:

I had a wonderful time at LSE. Whilst only there for a short period, I tried to make the most of what was on offer...Whilst the classroom is the 'traditional' place to learn, I found so many excellent additional opportunities to gain knowledge...LSE's impressive public speaking calendar, attending many debates and talks. Similarly, I found my own peers to be an astonishing source of inspiration and new perspectives...Already my MSc has come into fruition. Less than one week

after handing in my dissertation, I attended an interview for the Department of Communities and Local Government... and so have now become gainfully employed as a civil servant...

...thank you for the kindness you have shown me in supporting me...I have always been an extremely determined and driven person, but sometimes this isn't enough to get a person where they want to be because of personal circumstance. The confidence you have had in me has meant I have been able to achieve so far beyond what was expected of me and my high school peers. Thank you for this remarkable opportunity.

This former grantee is now with the integration division of a local council in London, working with faith and ethnic minorities, and with refugees. She is contemplating a PhD.

Alumnus (PhD in Medical Sciences, King's College London), 11 September 2013:

...thank you once again for the grant for my research project on water, climate change and environmental sustainability in the Lower Jordan River...I arrived in the region a few weeks ago and have been exploring the different actors working on climate change and water in the Jordan valley. I have met with several NGO's in order to better understand the communities involved in my research, in particular, what it means to live with water shortages, its impact on agriculture, and consequently on labour. What this means for a family, and how they can adapt to these changes. I am still at the beginning of my research, but it is very exciting...Thank you once again for making the beginning of this research possible, and for having such a wonderful vision and values...

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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From the Administrator

Electronic application packs for the 2015/16 academic year will be available as of 5 January 2015. 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.

Nancy Jachec