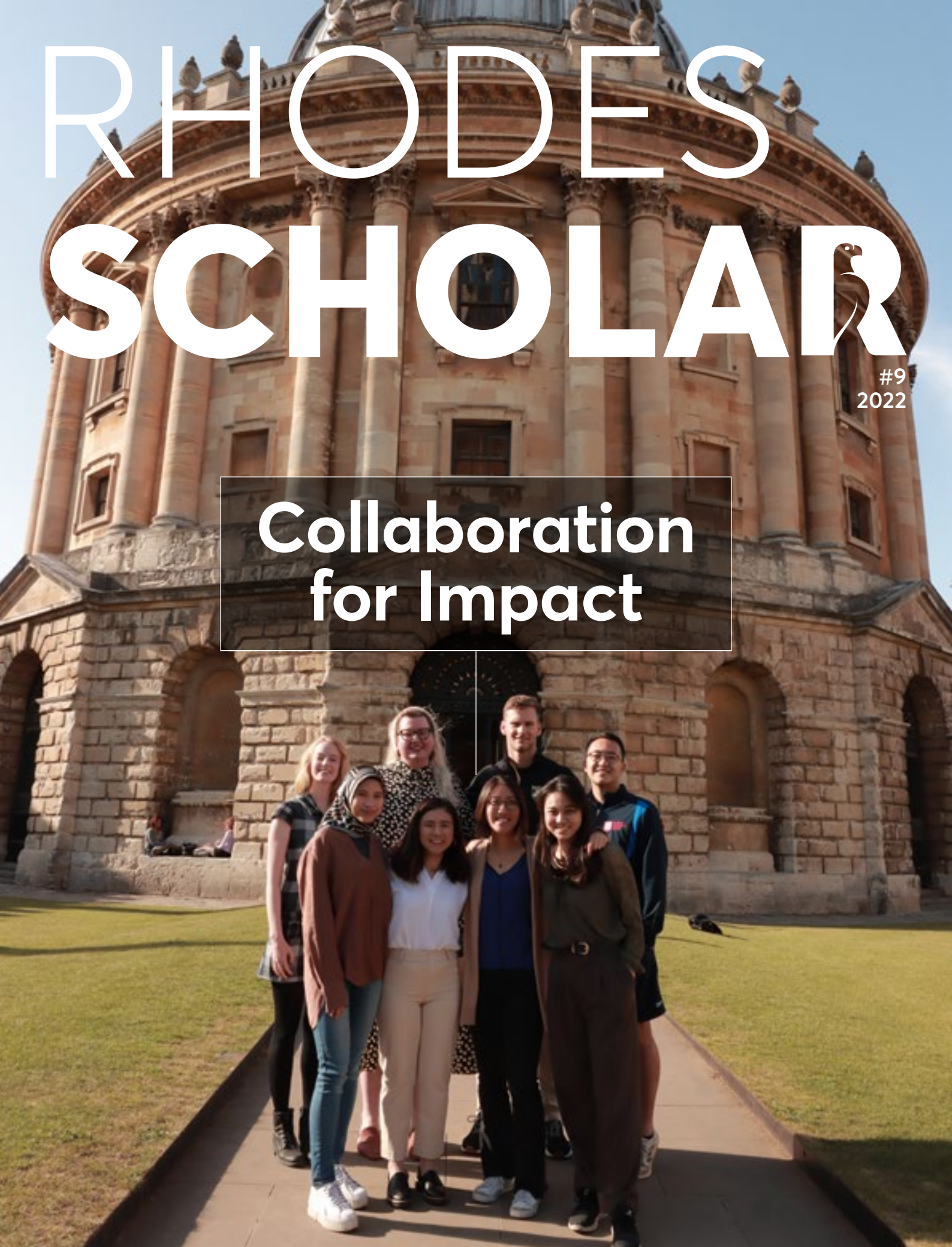


RHODES SCHOLAR

#9
2022

Collaboration
for Impact





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The Personal Statement is Changing:
Standing Up for Our Long History



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In a Digital World, the Physical Still Matters

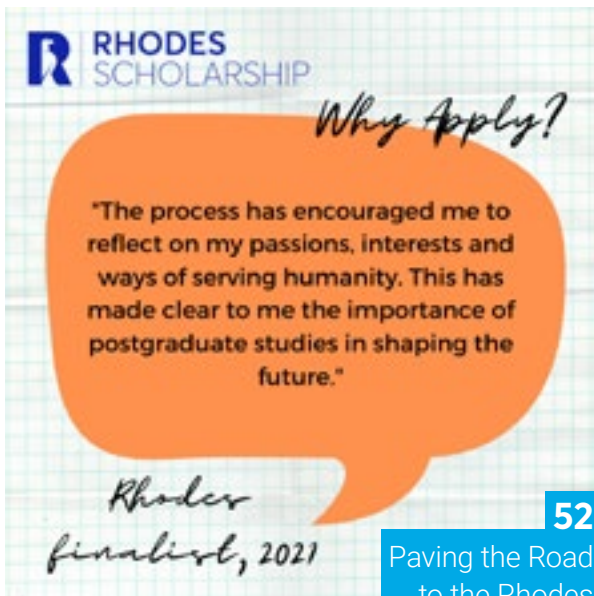


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Warden's Welcome

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the *Rhodes Scholar* magazine! One of the many privileges of being Warden of Rhodes House is the opportunity to witness our Scholars and Fellows from all over the world come together to forge friendships and spark shared interests that last a lifetime.

After two years of pandemic lockdowns and restrictions, it has been a joy to see Scholars gather and to hear the happy buzz of animated conversation. One highlight for me has been the new Warden's Book Club, which gathers around a dozen Scholars in Residence over wine and cheese in the refurbished Warden's Lounge (my old office!) to discuss books by and about Rhodes Scholars. "This," one participant remarked as we walked out at the end of the evening, still musing and debating, "is how I dreamed Oxford would be."

Conversations can lead to collaborations. The theme of this year's magazine is *Collaboration for Impact*. As we approach the 120th anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarship next year, we celebrate two of the things that make our community special: the desire of individual Scholars to make a difference in their lives, to 'fight the world's fight'; and the magic that can happen when people from diverse backgrounds and disciplines connect and find ways to work together for the public good.

In the pages that follow, you will find some powerful thinking about collaboration – its potential, its challenges, and its results – as well as case studies showing how Scholars and Fellows are collaborating across disciplines, geography and generations to tackle a wide range of important issues. I hope you find these reflections and stories thought-provoking and inspiring.

As we look toward the Trust's 125th anniversary in 2028, we are keen to experiment with new ways to catalyse and support collaborations amongst Scholars and Fellows. For instance, we are interested in offering small collaboration grants following Rhodes House convenings, to enable ideas sparked through conversation to be refined and pursued.

The transformation of Rhodes House will play a key role in making this possible. It is still dusty and noisy at the moment, but we can see fabulous new spaces take shape: our convening centre, the 37 bedrooms which will accommodate event participants and visitors, and more. All of this is the result of joint effort by Trustees, staff, architects, builders and many members of the Scholar community, including those who are helping us re-imagine the look and feel of the House as part of our Legacy, Equity and Inclusion process.

We are excited about gathering our global community in June 2023 to mark the 120th anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarships. It will be a marvellous opportunity to reconnect with friends and make new connections. I can't wait to see you there.

Warmly,



.....
Dr Elizabeth Kiss (Virginia & Balliol 1983)
Warden of Rhodes House

The Rhodes Trust provides the Rhodes Scholarships in partnership with the Second Century Founders, John McCall MacBain O.C. and The Atlantic Philanthropies, and many other generous benefactors.



Editorial Information

The Rhodes Scholar magazine is published annually in print format by the Rhodes Trust in Oxford and supplemented each year by several electronic updates.

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Legacy

We are delighted to have raised £10m, a significant step towards our £75m goal of endowing 32 Rhodes Scholarships for Africa, and we have ambitious campaigns underway to endow additional Scholarships in India, Pakistan, and the Pacific.

Colleagues have made strong progress rolling out unconscious bias training for Selectors and staff, expanding our outreach ambassador programme and increasing support for displaced or stateless Scholars.

We want to do more, so we have convened three working groups of Trustees, Scholars and leading researchers and practitioners to engage with our history, re-imagine Rhodes House and consider the Trust's relationship with Africa in the 21st century.

Follow the progress of this exciting work on the Rhodes House website: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/impact-legacy/legacy-equity-inclusion/

Rise

In October, Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust announced the first cohort of Rise Global Winners – 100 brilliant young people aged 15-17, working in the service of others.

Hailing from 42 countries, these Global Winners will have access to a lifetime of benefits including scholarships, mentorship, career development opportunities, and funding for future ventures for public benefit. The selection process for the second cohort is underway. We hope to announce our second group of Global Winners in the Autumn.

Learn more at www.risefortheworld.org



Celebrating 120 Years of the Rhodes Trust

2023 will be a year of celebration. It represents the 120th anniversary of the Rhodes Trust, and significant milestones for our partners: the 20th anniversary of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation and the fifth anniversary of Schmidt Science Fellows.

Dates have been confirmed for the Rhodes Trust flagship 120th anniversary celebration and Global Alumni Reunion 2023.

The event will take place at the newly renovated Rhodes House. There will also be an online/hybrid element for those not able to attend in person.

Please save the dates of
29 June 2023
– **1 July 2023**
in your diary.

More details on the schedule and how to book will be released later this year.



Class of 2022

In late 2021 we announced the class of 2022 Rhodes Scholars Elect, who will arrive at the University of Oxford in Autumn 2022.

The 104 Scholars Elect include the largest proportion of women in recent years: 57 women, 46 men and one non-binary Scholar Elect. The class includes Scholars Elect from 41 countries, including our first Scholars Elect from Albania, Sudan and The Gambia, the first Scholar Elect from Eswatini, our first Scholar Elect of Nepalese citizenship, and the first in a number of years from Sri Lanka and Turkey. The class also includes students chosen from 13 universities which have never before produced a Rhodes Scholar.

The announcement comes after months of virtual and in-person selection meetings and interviews involving hundreds of volunteers around the world. For 2023 applications we have updated our website to make the process even more seamless for applicants.

Dr Elizabeth Kiss, Warden of Rhodes House and CEO of the Rhodes Trust, said:

‘We are so delighted to announce the Rhodes class of 2022. When public-spirited young people with different perspectives, backgrounds and interests come together and form a community, great things happen.’



A Vision of AI in 2050



Few people doubt that artificial intelligence will have a profound effect on our society. But how do we ensure that this technology acts for the good of us all? Earlier this year **James Manyika** (Zimbabwe & Keble 1989) and Eric Schmidt launched a collaboration – AI2050 – to try to answer the deep questions this amazing technology raises. Here James talks about the challenges of AI, and the opportunities for collaboration it is creating.

Throughout history we have always been fascinated by the possibility of machines being as intelligent as we are. The idea that a machine could mimic, replicate, even match human intelligence is an exciting proposition. Possibilities for innovation – useful products and services, tools to improve processes and systems and complement human capabilities in many everyday activities – alongside the ways it could enable scientific discoveries are amazing.

But at the same time, it creates real anxieties, many warranted. There was enormous excitement in the 1960s about AI, leading to films like *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which gave us the worrisome possibility that we might

not be able to control these intelligent machines. Our anxieties and fears range from loss of control, through the impact on jobs and economic wellbeing, to the possibility that the use of these machines could lead to unintended consequences, or even outright misuse.

Over the last decade or so, we have seen rapid acceleration in the progress of building what seem to be increasingly powerful and intelligent machines. It is a particularly exciting and important moment in AI.

It is perhaps because of where we are in AI's development that about two years ago, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences invited me to conceive and guest-edit a volume of *Daedalus* (the journal of the Academy) devoted to AI & Society, published recently.

The last time *Daedalus* had devoted a whole issue to AI was in 1988 – a different time for AI, when in fact many questioned where the field was going and whether it was making any progress. Clearly a lot has happened since, and so this was a good time to take stock of where we are.

The AI2050 initiative started as a playful idea around a thought experiment – let’s imagine it’s the year 2050 and AI has turned out to be a wonderful thing and generally acknowledged as such. What happened? What did we get right? The point was to elicit the wonderful things we want to happen, and at the same time look at the worrisome things we have to manage, mitigate or address. Eric Schmidt and I have been friends and collaborators for a quarter of a century. We began talking to many other leading AI researchers and social scientists. I was working on related initiatives, including the 100-year study of AI at Stanford. Eric was also thinking deeply about these issues – as you may know, he recently co-authored a book, *The Age of AI*.

So the 2050 question turned into the initiative that Eric and I ended up constructing. One part is to try to identify a living list of the hard problems we need to address: What do we really want to get right? We learned that a lot of areas are typically difficult to get funded at the level they need, partly because many are really hard, sometimes open-ended, and very often interdisciplinary. Besides, most of the attention and funding is going towards building applications and tools. Research funding is most often geared towards things with assured and relatively near-term results. This led to the second part of the initiative, to enable and support people who want to work on those problems and to try to encourage others.

I did my DPhil in AI and robotics at Oxford and, at the time, if you wanted to see where the cutting-edge research was in AI you would look to a handful of universities. These days, if you look at who is publishing the cutting-edge papers in AI at the leading conferences,

much of the research is happening outside academia. That’s fine, but this research is part of a commercial and business ecosystem. It’s wonderful because you get amazing products and services – and we all use them – and we also might get some scientific progress along the way. But the things that we need to get right end up getting relatively less attention.

It’s wonderful that Eric and Wendy Schmidt in their generosity, through their amazing philanthropic foundation, decided to fund this AI2050 initiative so we could enable and support people in academia who want to work on these kinds of opportunities and on the problems we want to get right for the benefit of society.

Our living list of the 2050 hard problems ranges across issues including the challenges of building AI powerful and capable enough to achieve the exciting beneficial possibilities for humanity, but which is also safe and will not cause or worsen individual or group harms (for example, by creating bias, or worsening it and amplifying society’s biases). AI needs to be able to earn public

trust, especially where societal stakes are high. Another group of questions concern how to better focus AI’s development and use on where it can make the greatest contributions to humanity – in areas such as health and the life sciences, climate change, overall wellbeing, and scientific discovery – such that it will deliver net positive socioeconomic outcomes for all. This includes the question of the future of work – something that often comes up – will machines replace humans or complement work?

Another group of challenges centres on the responsible development, deployment, use, and governance of AI. This is especially critical given the huge economic and geopolitical stakes and, as a result, the intense competition for leadership in AI that has been unleashed between companies and between countries. A failure to prioritise responsible approaches to AI could lead to harmful and unsafe deployment, to uses and

How do we co-evolve
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human in an age of
increasingly powerful AI?

misuses, and to many more unintended consequences.

One further set of issues concern us: how do we co-evolve our societal systems and institutions and navigate the complexities of being human in an age of increasingly powerful AI? Most definitions of AI try to define it as things that intelligent beings do: perceiving things; reading things; reasoning; understanding language; and doing complicated cognitive tasks. If the way we identify human beings is by their ability to distinguish cognitively, with feeling and sensitivity and empathy, what happens when machines start to be able to mimic that? Do we change what it means to be human?

What will expand in the future is the extent of collaboration with AI systems – we are collaborating with these systems already. How do we make sure their behaviours complement and supplement what we would like? If we are going to have more and more portions of decision-making being done by these systems, it becomes profoundly important that some of *us* is built into how they make decisions.

When you see the living list it is immediately clear that the current ten categories of hard problems range across the philosophical, socio-technical, economic, and geopolitical/governance, along with some purely technical questions on the development of AI itself. What links them is the idea that we really should think ahead and work on these problems now. The multi-disciplinary nature of these questions requires the involvement of all disciplines and of society itself.

Part of the reason for me, as a Rhodes Scholar, to be interested in this area is the opportunity it offers to work on the largest and most important problems for humanity. I have always imagined Rhodes Scholars as interdisciplinary – people from all forms of disciplines working on these things for the benefit of society. I hope this can encourage other Rhodes Scholars to think about collaborations which are profoundly important in this way.

Our future will include AI technology – we are not about to put it back into the box. There are amazing

opportunities to use some of these technologies to solve humanity's greatest challenges. This is hugely important and we have already seen the amazing contributions these technologies can make to today's challenges. The possibilities are exciting and compelling, but we have to get it right.

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Daedalus AI & Society is available at:
www.amacad.org/daedalus/ai-society

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Learn more about AI2050 at
www.schmidtfutures.com/our-work/ai2050

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2022
2050



The Personal Statement is Changing: Standing Up for Our Long History

Rhodes House must have one of the richest higher education archives cataloguing student hopes and ambitions in the world. Rhodes Trust Trustee **Elleke Boehmer** (South Africa-at-Large & St John's 1985), **Nadiya Figueroa** (Jamaica & St Catherine's 2007), Dean of Scholarships and Director of Leadership 2016-2019, and **Marnie Hughes-Warrington** (Tasmania & Merton 1992), Australian National Secretary 2014-19, describe their journey through a rich history of personal statements from applicants over the decades as they considered adjustments to the Rhodes Scholarship application.

Somewhat. Always. Never. We weren't sure what key words and phrases we expected to see in over a century's worth of Rhodes personal statements, but it was clear from the moment we opened the first digitised samples that they were not unified by a single vocabulary, compositional style, or genre – not in the past, and not in the present day.

Unified by a call to answer to the Rhodes criteria, yes. Unified by the desire to make the most of an Oxford mostly not yet known through personal experience, yes.

But nowhere a single pattern in common between the personal statements. Nowhere a singular telling in sight. No one way to present oneself to the Scholarship.

Dot-point lists which stated in staccato fashion golfing handicaps and running times, certainly. Wonky topic sentences which clustered lives around bunches of activity. Short final sentences bearing confessions about being not good at poetry. Hushed paragraphs which spoke for peace in a time of world war. Rags-to-riches and riches-to-rags tales, and witty, and even funny observations about how giving things a go pays off. All these things we did find. Rhodes House must surely have one of the richest higher education archives cataloguing hopes and ambitions in the world.



It is easy to be overwhelmed by the details and to miss that criteria do not a genre make.

We took the beginnings of a slow archival journey in the course of 2021 as part of a regular review at Rhodes House of application requirements. We were interested – indeed highly curious – to know whether there was a single approach to personal statements across the 20th century and into the 21st, or at least moments in which approaches took hold or, conversely, gave way.



Research looking at archives over the generations gave tremendous insight into how Scholarship applicants present themselves.

It was a delightful and rich adventure for a scholar of world literature, a scholar of anthropology, and a scholar of histories to take, even with a small set of stratified samples. We loved it. We chuckled at our witty progenitors, considered the breeziness of those who were perhaps of a generation and culture who had little doubt that they would be selected, and reflected on ambitions that would be eviscerated by a series of global and regional wars, and local political violence and oppression in their home countries. We never had a doubt, though, that these were Rhodes applications. They spoke to the criteria, and they often did so in the future tense. That was powerful and interesting, for it made it clear across the decades that the statement is about potential, not about already rounded-out achievement. Rhodes qualities are something learned across a lifetime.

It was clear enough that Rhodes statements are

We need to speak from
our archive, to write our
long history from the
voices of our Scholars

microhistories embedded in local, regional, or global histories that can be in or out of focus. They can be about one person, the applicant. Or they can offer a wider, more generous view. What tunes that focus, we came to believe from our short trip through the archives, is

the stronger or weaker grip of a genre or rhetoric, always shaped by the context in which the applicant is writing.

Each of us had, in our different capacities, interacted with Scholars over decades, across geographies and through a myriad of ways, including engaging current Scholars on their character, service and leadership development while resident with the community in Oxford. From our perspective, the opportunity to de-escalate the personal statement as an anxiety-ridden platform for performance was compelling. Personal statements, the Rhodes archive suggests, do not have to be mini-narratives which speak to the tune of tragedy, adventure,

comedy, or romance. There is no magic formula. Nor do they have to start with a particular rhetorical bang, employing or even exploiting compositional techniques to hook the reader, to take their breath away, or to squeeze a tear from their eye. In fact, these rhetorical splashes can sometimes come across as over-rehearsed, and calculated for effect.

It might be assumed, for example, that all Rhodes statements need to be written in the style of a tragedy, a story of battling adversity, or, in the frame of a mighty victory, a story of the hero saving the day. In either case, the operative assumption is that successful statements have to be anchored by an evocative ending or dramatic opening. They do not. Our longer history clearly shows us this. No matter what any trawl of the global web of the internet and social media dotted with many supposed exemplars of the Rhodes personal statement suggests!

We are called to act for the long history and broader view of the personal statement in at least two ways. First, we need to review applications on a regular basis and make adjustments, especially when we see forms of expression narrow. So in 2022 you will see some adjustments to the information we provide applicants,

including the provision of three prompt-questions inviting thoughts on the self, others, and the world. These prompts align with the framework that informs the Character, Service and Leadership Programme for Scholars at Rhodes House. They are designed to encourage applicants to reflect beyond performative personal narratives, on others who have shaped them as well as on their intended contribution to the world. The intention is to amplify the selection criteria and to remind applicants that there is no one way of standing up for them.

Second, we need to speak from our archive, to write our long history from the voices of our Scholars, to ensure that the past affords a more generous set of instructions and paths for applicants around the world to take. We have just started this voyage, and we hope that the global community of Scholars may be able to find forms of support to continue this critical exercise with us.

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For anyone interested in joining in or supporting this initiative of the Scholarship Committee of the Trust, please be in touch via selection@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk





Building Vaccine Confidence: It Takes a Village

The VacSafe Initiative aims to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates through data-driven, confidence-building messages from trusted community leaders and partnerships with governments. **Dr Tariro Makadzange** (Zimbabwe & Balliol 1999) and **Dr Romina Mariano** (South Africa-at-Large & Queen's 2016) describe how the project has come together.

In early Spring 2021 a small group assembled across the Rhodes Trust, the Atlantic Institute and the Schmidt Science Fellows Program to think about how we could meaningfully form a community of practice to address vaccine justice and leverage the strength of our combined networks. The rapid development of vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has provided an effective tool for management of COVID-19. However, vaccine inequity has remained a challenge. Furthermore, low vaccine coverage is compounded by vaccine hesitancy.

Vaccine hesitancy is a complex and context-specific issue. In 2019, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared it as one of the ten threats to global health. It varies across time and location, and covers questions not only of complacency or a lack of confidence but also of convenience. Convenience relates to a wider set of important practical issues but, in parallel to these, clear and consistent public messaging and community engagement around the vaccination process is required and must be tailored to the local context and underpinned by easily accessible data on safety. Making strides in

overcoming this complexity requires collaboration at the intersection of science and policy.

An exciting new joint effort has evolved in which the Rhodes Trust, the Atlantic Institute and the Schmidt Science Fellows Program have partnered with the Vaccine Safety and Confidence-Building Working Group. This group is based at Columbia University's Centre for Pandemic Research and works in collaboration with the Program in Vaccine Education at the Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; the Medical Research Council Vaccines and Infectious Disease Analytics Research Unit (VIDA) at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa; and the Charles River

Medical Group in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The VacSafe Working Group is co-convened by Joshua Nott (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's 2017) and Dr Wilmot James, Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP). Members include Dr Tariro Makadzange (Zimbabwe & Balliol 1999), Dr Romina Mariano (South Africa-at-Large & Queen's 2016), and Dr Oliver Watson, a Schmidt Science Fellow at the Medical

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The Vaxsafe initiative aims to break down barriers to vaccine uptake so we can protect millions from disease (image: Shutterstock).

Research Council Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis at Imperial College London. They, together with other members, work to support projects that 'generate, scale and analyse actively-collected vaccine safety surveillance and pharmaco-vigilance data in Africa'.

This collaborative effort recently announced the launch of a new project, the Vaccine Information Network (VIN), on COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in South Africa and Zimbabwe, with the goal of better informing efforts to promote vaccination in the two countries. The project aims to fill critical information gaps in South Africa and Zimbabwe in order to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates through data-driven, confidence-building messages from trusted community leaders and partnerships with governments. Dr Tariro Makadzange, MD, PhD, Founder and CEO of Charles River Medical Group in Zimbabwe added: 'This project will equip governments and local

influencers with the critical data and information needed to create effective messaging.' The project began in Zimbabwe in January 2022 and will consist of three phases including focus groups, interviews and the design of a strategic communication framework that can be utilised by policymakers for COVID-19 and beyond.

Leading the efforts for this project in Zimbabwe, Dr Makadzange's team, even in this early phase of the project, has already made strides in understanding how and to whom communication strategies should be targeted. With data collected from more than 1,000 participants, interesting trends are evident. Women and people living with HIV were most likely to have negative views or major concerns about vaccination. Those who received vaccines did so due to the influence of friends and family members, in order to return to work or school and to protect their individual health. The most trusted

source of information was the Ministry of Health; and radio, television and social media were the preferred platforms. This type of information is invaluable in advising policy makers to strategically target their communications. With the continued need for increased COVID-19 vaccine coverage and a number of exciting new vaccines for other high-burden infectious diseases in the pipeline, understanding the drivers of vaccine acceptance in adults has never been more important.

All this and more was discussed at a recent vaccine symposium, hosted by Columbia University and again in partnership with our fellowship programmes and VacSafe. An outstanding line of global leaders spoke on a number of critical topics. In this instance, Dr Makadzange and Dr Watson were joined by Professor Sir John Bell (Alberta & Magdalen 1975), who closed proceedings with an insightful talk on 'Looking Ahead'. He concluded by encouraging our global community not only to leverage the investments and advancements in manufacturing and vaccine deployment that have been made during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to better prepare for the next pandemic but also to create a programme that delivers adult vaccination more systematically and effectively in order to save millions of lives.

In addition to all the phenomenal work that has been done by members of our community throughout the pandemic, it is incredible to see our 'Fellowship of Fellowships' come together in such a meaningful way.

.....
To learn more, visit vacsafe.columbia.edu/

.....
You can watch the vaccine symposium by searching for 'COVID-19 Vaccines: Unfinished Business' on YouTube, and you can read Sir John Bell's (Alberta & Magdalen 1975), Chairman of the Rhodes Trustees, article on www.economist.com

‘Interdisciplinarity is at the core of Schmidt Science Fellows and I am proud that our organisation and our Fellowship community can contribute expertise alongside all the partners to this initiative.’

Dr Megan Kenna,
Executive Director, Schmidt Science Fellows

‘We hope that by bringing together global expertise from different disciplines and those from the communities most impacted, we can share findings to save lives.’

Evie O'Brien,
Executive Director, Atlantic Institute

‘As a community of leaders and change agents dedicated to creating positive change in the world, it is so important for us to collaborate with colleagues on projects like these that will make a real difference.’

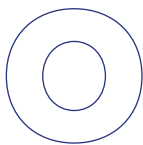
Dr Elizabeth Kiss,
Warden of Rhodes House



The Depth of Collaboration

Helen Jack (New Hampshire & Pembroke 2012) and **Khameer Kidia**

(Zimbabwe & St Hugh's 2011) met in 2012 over a glass of white wine near the bay windows at a Friday night Meet and Mingle. Helen had begun research on Ghana's mental health system as an undergraduate, and Kham was working on an anthropology dissertation on HIV-positive adolescents' wellbeing in Zimbabwe. Here, they describe how their friendship started a decade-long collaboration to improve mental health services in Zimbabwe.



Our conversation flowed as our shared interests became obvious. Time passed quickly, and soon the porters were ushering us out. We met soon after in the back room of Turl Street Kitchen, where we spoke about the challenges of delivering mental health care in so much of the world, especially in Zimbabwe, Kham's home.

This began a decade-long conversation, work partnership, and friendship during which we have tried our best to learn about what shapes mental health, to build meaningful community, and to promote systems that engender mental wellness. Working together in Zimbabwe, we have done clinical and policy research, taught and mentored students and health professionals, written commentary and peer-reviewed academic papers, and advocated for access to humane mental health treatment for vulnerable patients.

Throughout, we have bonded over a shared commitment to health and human dignity and to working through complex problems from our related but complementary training and experience. Our partnership has been sustained across a decade of medical training, multiple trans-continental moves, and the series of interpersonal hurdles that inevitably arise in your twenties. Reflecting on our decade of collaboration, we distilled three lessons learned:

We have bonded over a shared commitment to health and human dignity

Sitting with the hard questions

I feel uncomfortable publishing an academic paper behind a journal's paywall – most of the people in Zimbabwe who might use these findings won't be able to access them.' From the outset, we brought up our discomfort with the power relationships intrinsic in global health research. Across hours of discussion, we hashed out how to take an approach that felt both ethical and practical, recognising that we wanted to get work done and could not change every power structure. 'I feel uncomfortable that our manuscript's lead authors trained and live in the US.' 'I'm confused about how we balance maintaining

a close relationship with the Ministry of Health without letting the government's perspective affect how we present our findings.' We did not always agree, but we both listened. These conversations led to action: we try to publish a publicly available lay language report when we write an academic paper, making our findings relevant and accessible to Zimbabwean practitioners. We include students or early-career researchers from Zimbabwe in projects, investing in developing their skills and careers in the field (one has gone on to a leadership role in the Ministry of Health and others have earned PhDs or qualified as psychologists or psychiatrists), and seeking funding to pay them, prioritising their stipends above our own.

Commitment to a place and set of values

The hard questions that we asked led us to a shared set of values. Chief among those has been commitment to a place: Zimbabwe. A mentor told us that it takes a ten-year commitment to a place to make a meaningful change in global health. We took this counsel to heart and both developed a deepening commitment to Zimbabwe, for different reasons.

Along with our shared commitment has come an examination of our relationship to our colleagues and community there. We are mindful of the imperial nature of global health work and do our best to centre the voices of members of the communities we work in. Teaching is central to this ethos because so much mental health work is better done by people within communities who are given the tools they need to make change. Even though Kham is Zimbabwean, we would both make poor psychiatrists in Zimbabwe. That job takes someone who understands language, culture, and society better than we ever can. Here we are, ten years later, and, while we're still not sure that we've made meaningful change, we are committed to this place and these principles.

Compassion for each other

'Can you take the lead for a while? I'm on a busy clinical rotation,' or sometimes, 'I feel like I'm drowning,' became a common refrain on our shared text thread, as we tried to balance medical school then residency, while keeping our research and advocacy in Zimbabwe afloat. We tried to find time to be in Zimbabwe, passing responsibility back and forth as our exams, clinical rotations, and long residency shifts came and went. We sometimes allowed our work to go on pause or we set priorities, acknowledging that a biweekly call with a Zimbabwean trainee was more important than pushing to write a paper between hospital shifts. We trust each other to carry things forward, that we will share the work equitably. Neither of us can do it all. While our shared work has been deeply formative in the research and clinical careers we are building, it is neither of our full-time jobs. Not only our other professional responsibilities, but also our families, relationships, and the activities that bring us joy sometimes need to be the priority.

What has kept us going, more than anything, has been friendship. It feels like we haven't stopped talking since our conversation first began ten years ago, on that Friday night at Rhodes House. When we are struggling through something difficult in our personal lives or at work, that conversation escalates. We can be supportive in a way that only comes from a decade of knowing each other's contexts, not so different to the deep empathy with which we try to approach our work. We have grown over these ten years, but one thing hasn't changed: our penchant for chatting over a glass of crisp white wine.





The Cross Bronx Expressway, under construction. The road had a profound effect on the community it cut through. More than 1,500 families were displaced by the project (image: Lehman College, Leonard Lief Library).

In a Digital World, the Physical Still Matters



The digital revolution ushered in by the pandemic may have far-reaching consequences for our most marginalised communities, says **Daniel Armanios** (Georgia & Jesus 2007). Here, he outlines his research, showing how physical infrastructure is still crucial for creating communities and collaboration.

Many see COVID-19, now at 473 million cases and over six million deaths worldwide, as necessitating accelerated digital adoption. Going digital is seen as providing greater flexibility in terms of where individuals work, and studies suggest those who ‘work from anywhere’ are just as productive (if not more so) than those who do not. With this newfound surge in demand, platforms such as Zoom, Slack, WebEx and Microsoft Teams – amongst a proliferation of others – have drastically improved the scaffolding for this new ‘agile’ form of digital collaboration.

However, against this backdrop is a recurring chorus – we continue to wrongly assume that infrastructure ensures sufficient discretion in terms of access, and even in terms of social distancing, for all. As Mayor Chadraé

Jones of Braddock, PA, a city with one of the lower vaccination rates in the US (42% partially vaccinated, as of September 2021) stated in a recent interview, ‘We don’t have a local pharmacy; we don’t even have a grocery store. You have to get on a bus or make an appointment somewhere. You can’t just walk up somewhere and get vaccinated here.’ Clyde Yancy, Chief of Cardiology at Northwestern School of Medicine, wrote that maintaining social distance and even accessing digital goods are ‘issues of *privilege*’¹ [emphasis in original], especially given the tightly-packed spaces and the income levels that typify the daily life of marginalised communities. Both ongoing and published empirical studies continue to play these two stories out. While marginalised communities are more likely to mask² and socially distance³, they are still more likely to frequent crowded locations such as libraries or cafés, enhancing their predicted infection

1 Clyde W. Yancy, ‘COVID-19 and African Americans’, *Journal of American Medicine*, 323 (19) (2020), 1891-1892.

2 Brittany N. Hearne and Michael D Niño, ‘Understanding How Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Shape Mask-Wearing Adherence During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from the COVID Impact Survey’, *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* 9 (1) (Feb 2022), 176-183.

3 Vincent Huang, Staci Sutermaister, Yael Caplan, Hannah Kemp, Danielle Schmutz, Sema K. Sgaier, ‘Social distancing across vulnerability, race, politics, and employment: How different Americans changed behaviors before and after major COVID-19 policy announcements’, preprint article, The Preprint Server for Health Sciences, 8 June 2020, at www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.06.04.20119131v1.

rates⁴. Presumably one key reason for going to such locations is to freely access broadband in order to work virtually, especially for families, such as those in in UK, who note that they have to choose either to 'pay for wi-fi or to feed their children'⁵. What looms, therefore, in the background of the digital is a social legacy that skews the built environment in ways that make both discretion about proximity and the ability to distance a luxury for the few.

My own research argues that this neglect of the physical in our pursuit of the digital has wider-reaching consequences beyond those more immediate to the pandemic. In neglecting the physical, we are potentially systematically shutting out marginalised communities from accessing high-tech growth opportunities. In a study of the US Commonwealth of Pennsylvania⁶, we find that communities with greater Hispanic, African-American, and even more generally non-white constituents are statistically associated with areas that have fewer bridges. When they do receive a bridge, we find that they are statistically associated with restrictive bridges (i.e., those bridges whose clearance heights reduce truck and even some bus access to these communities). This means fewer travel options for work, for training and other educational opportunities, and for resources to build out new venture ideas. In another study, we find that even one new bridge in a US city leads to an average increase of 16% in the number of high-tech startups⁷. A key mechanism that explains these findings is that the sidewalks on these bridges allow for serendipitous

encounters and learning which can generate novel entrepreneurial activity. Taking these studies together, then, what this implies is that the very biases and asymmetries in our physical infrastructure systems are making innovation opportunities more available to some but not all. The issue of who can participate in the high-tech economy and reap its benefits may literally be decided on the sidewalks of our world's bridges.

So what can we do about it? I argued in a recent op-ed⁸ that we should consider three initial steps. First, we need to develop and use equity metrics that incorporate disadvantage and

structural inequity directly into engineering decision-making. My studies provide one method, using Census demographic data to ensure greater focus not just on what infrastructure is being built, but where and for whom. Second, we need to set more ambitious targets that are more closely linked to marginalised communities. For instance, the original plan from President Biden's Administration in the US wanted 40% of climate and clean infrastructure investment benefits to go to disadvantaged communities. Such a target is too coarse, as investment can easily be steered to wealthier communities under the guise of advancing benefits for the disadvantaged. To prevent that from happening, why not set a 40% target for contracting to local disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs)? A target of this kind is more directly linked to marginalised communities, and yet currently, the US Department of Transportation uses a 10% target for contracting to local DBEs. Third, ensure government

The issue of who can participate in the high-tech economy and reap its benefits may literally be decided on the sidewalks of our world's bridges

4 Serina Chang, Emma Pierson, Pang Wie Koh, Jaline Gerardin, Beth Redbird, David Grusky & Jure Leskovec, 'Mobility network models of COVID-19 explain inequities and inform reopening', *Nature* 589 (2021), 82-87.
5 Hannah Holmes and Dr Gemma Burgess, "Pay the wi-fi or feed the children": Coronavirus has intensified the UK's digital divide, University of Cambridge news post, www.cam.ac.uk/stories/digitaldivide.
6 Samuel H. Jones and Daniel Erian Armanios, 'Methodological Framework and Feasibility Study to Assess Social Equity Impacts of the Built Environment', *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*, Volume 146, Issue 11 (November 2020).
7 Sunasir Dutta, Daniel Erian Armanios and Jaison D. Desai, 'Beyond Spatial Proximity: The Impact of Enhanced Spatial Connectedness from New Bridges to Entrepreneurship', *Organization Science* (18 November 2021).
8 Daniel Armanios, '3 things Biden can do to enforce more equitable infrastructure', *Fortune* (25 April 2021).



After completion, the interchange between the Major Deegan Expressway and the Cross Bronx Expressway, New York (image: Shutterstock).

backing of community review processes that hold developers accountable. When acquiring development rights to the area, developers must be required to work with local community organisations to develop both a community benefits agreement (ensuring benefits are shared with the community) and a community review process that will ensure block-by-block, project-by-project accountability to that plan. Moreover, local and national governments should stringently enforce these plans, so when developers shirk their targets, such projects are paused until milestones are once again met.

If we can begin with these initial steps, we can hope to ensure a more inclusive infrastructure system, where disadvantaged communities are given a seat at the table rather than continuing to be excluded from it. As we

advance the digital frontier and explore its collaborative potential, we need to ask *who* is benefiting. To ensure equal access for all to these important metaphorical (digital) bridges, let's not repeat the same mistakes of ignoring those without access to even literal (physical) ones.



Experiments in Virtual Collaboration

From its inception, the Atlantic Institute has believed that emerging technologies would help bring people together as a community devoted to making a positive impact – virtually as well as physically. **Evie O'Brien**, the Institute's Executive Director, tells how those experiments have made a difference, and how they are becoming part of the fabric of Rhodes House for the future.

At the core of the Institute's role is building a community of impact and convening in person. We are also deeply committed to issues of equity, such as combatting climate change and reducing carbon emissions. Even before COVID-19 hit and lockdown occurred across the world, one of our strategic pillars was a vision about the use of new and emerging technologies to support building community – complementing meeting in person.

Virtual engagement could never replace the magic that occurs when people come together in physical proximity. Eighteen months later that has been proven. Technologies to bring people together and build communities for collaboration are only truly valuable if those who use them are at the leading edge of examining these technologies. Ultimately the question is: how do we remain human, when we are digital? How do you protect that human essence which is so important when establishing relationships?

We also wanted to open up access to the hardware, the software, the research and the thought leadership on new and emerging technology, especially since the cost can be prohibitive. Access can be limited only to the privileged and the wealthy. We wanted to use technology to reduce the carbon impact of events, and provide access to technology for our Fellows so that they could both test it and use it for their own work on equity.

We have trialled technologies, including holograms

– examining how they work and how people feel when they are engaging with them. We have piloted the use of augmented and virtual technologies – known as XR – to support the ritual of welcome to the global community.

Normally, we welcome Fellows in person – they come to Oxford each year – but with COVID-19 we had to design a virtual welcome. Working with our Fellows, we designed a virtual artefact using a tangible piece of technology to support the ritual of encounter, a way of showing who this community is and who is in this community. A Fellow from each programme designed a piece using green screens and hologram technology – examples ranged from a celebration of the 12 languages of South Africa through

to a spoken word piece of poetry from the Atlantic Fellows for Global Equity.

The Institute's own piece welcoming Fellows to the global community used a sacred greenstone, which we call Pounamu in New Zealand, that is passed around by Fellows at in-person events when they speak. The human essence of people in that community is transferred to the greenstone.

We are working with a technology company in London who have been fascinated by the lessons learned from using technology to build our community. To give just one instance: we had a Fellow brought into a Zoom session as a live hologram. There was more humanity in people's relation to her as a live hologram, because people were

Ultimately the question is:
how do we remain human,
when we are digital?



Augmented reality – Ohia, a type of stone known to the Māori people as Pounamu, silently spins in a profound virtual welcome for Atlantic Fellows unable to meet due to the pandemic.

honouring her humanity. The human reactions to this hologram were fascinating: one person said that they wouldn't be putting her on the kitchen bench. Another said they had checked to make sure the house was tidy before inviting her hologram in.

We are also interested in demystifying emerging technology, and are collaborating with Rhodes to design and build an XR lab as part of the redevelopment of Rhodes House, working with one of the UK's leading XR technology specialists. It will be a facility for Fellows, Scholars and Rhodes House staff that will include headsets and green screens and will have a staff member who will train people on how to use the equipment. And it will be free. Scholars, staff, and Fellows will have a loan facility so they will be able to take home and start to use this technology in their work – particularly work associated with global equity.

It will be a place to be inspired, surprised and challenged as we host takeovers to showcase experiences that intersect with our shared goals. We will curate content based on the programme of events at Rhodes House to strengthen and diversify the experience for guests, ensuring access is given to those who may not ordinarily have experience of world-class technology.

The work, the collaboration, is so important. This technology offers us the opportunity to be brave with our experimentation, to learn together and to use this to further our aim of promoting global equity.

“With a goal of disrupting and dismantling structural inequalities, the global Atlantic Fellows community is committed to harnessing the potential as well as interrogating the complexities and implications of these technologies. Our community is rich with multidisciplinary perspectives as well as grassroots and professional experience to ensure historical and cultural knowledge, values, ethics and principles remain centred as we progress into an increasingly digital world. Through our commitment to empowering and serving vulnerable communities, we hope to explore how XR can help advance socio-economic, health and cultural equity through innovations in storytelling, arts, organising, immersive learning and expanding healthcare across geographic boundaries.”

Wilneida Negron,
Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity

Atlantic Fellows

Virtual Welcome
Augmented Artifact
2021



Scan the QR code to find out more about how the Atlantic Institute used the augmented artefact.



A Community for Interdisciplinary Science

Schmidt Science Fellows announced its fifth cohort of Fellows in June this year, and next year marks five years since the first Fellows embarked on their journeys of Fellowship and collaboration. **Megan Kenna** (New Hampshire & Magdalen 2002), who leads the Program, reflects on the power of the community Fellows have created.

This point is a natural one for reflection. The original vision of our sponsors and partners was to invest in exceptional people, connect them with one another, and then leverage that community to make an impact on the world. I am proud to say that the Schmidt Science Fellows program is starting to realise that vision. Our Fellows are no longer just exceptional people with great potential. They are making discoveries with a tangible impact on the world today. We are starting to see the power of the community that we created to connect them with one another. Looking across our community, I can see increasing examples of interdisciplinary science driving impact, of collaboration, and of the global societal engagement that must be the cornerstone of real, positive difference in the world.

OJ Watson, 2020 Fellow, has become one of the world's experts in COVID-19 modelling and analysis, influencing directly how seven countries and five multinational agencies, including the World Health Organisation, have responded to the ongoing pandemic, advising them on the best approaches for vaccine rollout. Another 2020 Fellow, Shriya Srinivasan, was recently named in the Forbes 30 under 30 list in healthcare in recognition of her work in medical engineering. During the pandemic, she created the iSave device that allows

one ventilator to be safely shared by multiple COVID-19 patients. Her device was used in ten hospitals in India last year and helped save many lives.

We see an even more powerful effect when our Fellows come together. They support one another through the challenges and successes of doing this kind of high-risk, high-reward science through the peer mentorship programs and the networks that we created. Many are now collaborating with one another on their science. Notably, our 2018 Fellows Hal Holmes and Fahim Farzadfard worked together to use Fahim's knowledge of molecular biology to repurpose Hal's handheld DNA scanner – originally designed to help curb the illegal trade of endangered wildlife

species – to create a quick mobile PCR testing device for COVID-19. In fact, the only reason that Fahim realised that Hal's device could be repurposed in this way was that he had seen the device up close when Hal had hosted us all on a tour of his first post-Fellowship lab during a Schmidt Science Fellows alumni meeting in 2020, right before the pandemic broke out.

Our long-term ambition is to realise a world where interdisciplinary science knows no bounds, accelerating discovery to make a positive impact on the world. Our Fellows are at the heart of delivering on this ambition through their own science, as ambassadors for change

Throughout our journey, the role of the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholar community has been central



and by simply being exemplars of how it is possible to achieve more, move faster, and make a bigger impact through interdisciplinary science.

We believe in our Fellows, but we also recognise that our vision cannot and will not be delivered through the Schmidt Science Fellows program alone. We need to work in partnership, and we need to effect change at a systemic scale. The next stage of our development will include increased efforts to further systemic change in

order to foster increased interdisciplinarity across the sciences. By working closely with our partners – funding agencies, not-for-profits, and universities – we can amplify our interdisciplinary mission.

Throughout our journey, the role of the Rhodes Trust and the Rhodes Scholar community has been central. Rhodes Scholars have been instrumental to our growth and early success. Each year, a significant proportion of the Reviewers and Selectors are volunteers from the



Scholar Alumni community. We are grateful for their generosity in giving their time, insights, and expertise to help us select our cohorts.

We are also proud that five Rhodes Scholars – Megan Engel (Prairies & Merton 2013), Gladys Ngetich (Kenya & Oriel 2015), Jennifer Lai Rimmel (Hawaii & University 2011), Suhas Mahesh (India & Worcester 2016), and Sam Greene (Wisconsin & Magdalen 2014) – have come through the rigorous Nomination and Selection process to be named as Schmidt Science Fellows. Rhodes Scholars have also hosted Fellows in their laboratory: Emma Brunskill (Washington & Magdalen 2001), for example, hosted one of our 2018 Fellows, Peyton Greenside.

As a Rhodes Scholar Alumna myself, I appreciate and value what being part of the wider Rhodes Trust family means for our community, with the opportunities and connections it opens up for a 'Fellowship of Fellowships' – a community of amplification where Rhodes Scholars, Atlantic Fellows, Rise Winners, Mandela Rhodes Scholars, and Schmidt Science Fellows can collaborate and, together, take on the grand challenges that face the world.

As Schmidt Science Fellows looks outwards for partners to further our mission in the next five years, we believe one of our strongest platforms for success will be within this extended 'Fellowship of Fellowships' family. I hope you will join us.



Your Legacy Makes Their Future Happen

We cannot know what the future will hold or who the newest Rhodes Scholars will be. We do not know if they'll become scientists, entrepreneurs or artists.

We are sure they will be as awestruck as you were when you first saw the Oxford spires, and we know each of them will be committed to making the world better in their own unique way.

By leaving a bequest in your Will, you make their journey possible. Whoever they are, wherever they come from and whatever they choose to do, your legacy will live on through them.



To find out more about leaving a bequest in your Will,
please contact development@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk or visit our webpage
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/bequests



Giving Change the Green Light



17 years ago, **John Simon** (Massachusetts & New College 1984) co-founded The GreenLight Fund to transform the lives of children, young people and families in Boston. The aim was to do one great thing a year to make a difference. Today, GreenLight is working in 11 cities across America, reaching nearly 500,000 children and families annually with measurably-changed outcomes, with many Rhodes Scholars giving time, skills and resources to make a difference. Here, John describes the collaboration at the heart of this drive to change lives for the better.

As this issue focuses on collaboration, I wanted to write this piece to highlight The GreenLight Fund as an example of a 'collaboration engine' and to show the opportunity – and the need – for more people, groups and entities to collaborate with us and help create changed outcomes. Our idea, with The GreenLight Fund, was to create a new community utility. It's called 'GreenLight' because every year in every city, driven by that city, we 'greenlight' (make happen) some proven programme or model to help change an outcome that the city's residents desperately want changed and make that the community's own. What my co-founder in GreenLight, Margaret Hall, and I saw was that, using this community-driven mechanic, with GreenLight as a catalyst, in 20 years we could help a

city address 16 issues (and in 50 years, 40 issues...) and, once proven in Boston and a couple of other cities, we could then create a multi-city network that did this across the country.

Fast forward to today – 17 years later – and in Boston, where we started, we have moved the needle on 13 issues and are reaching 300,000 children and families a year, and this impact in Boston alone is continually growing as our programmes grow and as we add one new impact model a year. We are now operating in 11, soon to be 13, cities, with the upcoming additions of Chicago and Denver to our network, and we have unlocked

Impact and change has reached a really large scale – but always in a community-driven way

in excess of \$200M in follow-on governmental, public, earned, or other revenues, enabling us to scale and sustain the things that we have done. So, this impact and change has reached a really large scale – but always in a

community-driven way.

There have been all sorts of ripple effects from the work we do. We knew that ideas that really worked and scaled and were successful in the for-profit world would then spread all over the country in the US and beyond. As businesses that served consumer needs grew, they went everywhere. But at the same time, amazing non-profits that were equally game-changing and equally successful might only get to six or seven cities, even after years and years, and even when residents in other cities passionately wanted the impact and change those models offered.

We realised there was a market failure, because cities and residents want change – they want things to be better, they want more ladders to educational and economic opportunity.

There were all kinds of issues and unmet needs, all too often rooted in racial inequities, that weren't moving. At the same

time there were lots and lots of solutions that were incredible, but the solutions weren't getting to those communities that needed them.

In order to make change, GreenLight created what can be viewed as a 'community collaboration engine'. We operate at the intersection of several different worlds: the business community; the non-profit community; government and public services; and communities and residents. We pull those communities together to run an annual community-driven process that produces one impact model a year.

At the very heart of this model are questions about communities and residents – what are their priorities, what are the things they need changing? What metrics and outcomes do they want to change each year that might represent the intersection of needs and which of these can our model address? Community needs and community priorities are the start and driving force of every annual cycle. Then... how do we engage the

GreenLight Fund

business community to support us and the non-profit community to partner with us, and the city and the state and the federal

government (and/or other key partners)? Often, these partnerships are what provide the funds and the fuel.

GreenLight is such a powerful engine because it is a continuously standing utility, making sure this collaboration process happens year after year after year after year. It is a truly significant repeatable collaboration, with each stakeholder doing one thing over the course of a year, and doing it as impactfully as possible.

Collaboration means you can't necessarily move at light-speed. You need to try as best you can (even if never 100% successfully) to get everybody on board. So that is why we take a year to figure out one thing we're

going to do and make it happen. We do one thing a year, but the collaboration means that the one thing we do ends up being much deeper-rooted and more

sustainable and impactful for the long term. If we tried to do everything, we wouldn't do anything. We take the long view. If we are willing to run a process that forces choice (one thing per year), in the arc of time it will add up to a whole lot of significant change over a whole bunch of issues.

Every year, we have taken one to two current Rhodes Scholars as collaboration partners and interns working on issues or new cities for us. But we also involve others from the Rhodes community. There is huge scope for the Rhodes community to contribute, collaborate, and be a part of this. There's no one city I can think of where we don't have amazing Rhodes Alumni involved in one way or another. With Rhodes Scholars wanting to 'fight the world's fight,' that is a community ready to join us – there's a ready alignment of values, a ready alignment of interests.

We are doing a ton of collaboration across many elements of a city – but it is small compared with what

Collaboration means you can't necessarily move at light-speed

we could be doing. The big point is that our 'collaboration engine' generates community-driven CHANGE. I hope that more people will want to think about joining that engine, nationally or in one of our cities, to make a big difference eventually (as we continue to grow) to millions of children and families across our country each year, on many, many levels.

.....
To learn and explore more about how to collaborate with us, and to help make a difference on issues you are passionate about, please email me at jsimon@greenlightfund.org to start a collaboration conversation.





Climate-positive Collaboration

A discussion in Oxford between **Professor Cameron Hepburn** (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen 2000) and **Brian O'Callaghan** (New South Wales & St John's 2019) ignited the Oxford University Economic Recovery Project, aiming to help the world build back green after the pandemic. Brian takes up the story.

We all knew that something was coming but nobody was quite sure what, or how long it might last. Cameron and I had lunch at New College just as the Italian borders were closing and things were starting to get a little crazy.

What was unfortunately clear as we spoke was that the mass shutdowns were going to have dire economic impacts. We gathered that if patterns of the last crisis were repeated, economic slowdown would precipitate government intervention through some kind of economic stimulus.

We foresaw both an opportunity and a threat. The opportunity was to turn economic disaster into rebirth by directing stimulus to climate-positive investments that might help decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions and reduce social inequality along the way. The threat, in the absence of such investment, was that big spending on alternative short-sighted programmes might further weaken public balance sheets, reducing future opportunities to act on climate.

A few weeks later, I answered a phone call from Cameron, who was brimming with excitement. He uttered the most glorious of statements: 'I have an idea'. With his incessant schedule, Cameron needed someone to lead the team; I was flattered. And the rest is history. Cameron brought on Professor Lord Nick Stern and Professor Joe Stiglitz, who were big names, bringing initial media

interest to our work. Our first paper surveyed over 230 of the world's leading economists – central bankers, finance ministry officials, and academics – to find that clean investments could be economically stronger than traditional investments.

Subsequent collaboration has been wild. I've been fortunate to work closely with ministers and their staff, leading academics, brilliant minds in civil society, and a bunch of multilateral institutions – several UN agencies, multilateral development banks, the IMF, OECD and others.

The work has intersected many research domains – climate, nature, economy, and artificial intelligence – bringing partners under one roof in the Oxford University Economic

The work has intersected many research domains – climate, nature, economy, and artificial intelligence

Recovery Project.

Experience with UN agencies has been a highlight. The UN Environment Programme and the UN Development Programme have brought particular thought partnership and visibility. When our work is tweeted by the Secretary General, the attention of activists like Greta Thunberg is captured, and the retweets snowball.

The snowballing is important: one door opened by a UN partner leads to an invitation to a seminar which leads to our work being seen by a policy professional, who then invites us to the next programme. Every open door leads to three others.

In the early days, our focus was on advanced economy



The post-pandemic world has given an opportunity to focus on initiatives that tackle climate change, as well as economic reconstruction (image: Shutterstock).

governments, usually a minister of finance or environment and their officials, and often behind the scenes. Many of those meetings were quite productive – we were fortunate to observe policy announcements with near-direct quotes from our work, translating to hundreds of billions of dollars of green investment. Of course, we were not the reason for that investment, but it was exciting to be a part of the process.

More recently we extended our work to include developing countries. These nations often desire to orientate their economies towards sustainable industries, but sometimes don't have the capital to do so. Indeed, our tracking indicates that over the course of the pandemic, advanced economies have spent \$16,000 per person in response to the crisis, compared to as low as \$20 per person in developing economies.

Working with developing country governments has been different. In these contexts, ideas are useless without partnerships for implementation. Often this has

meant boots on the ground – certainly more travel than I might have otherwise imagined during a pandemic. The content of our advisory has also differed, necessarily bringing a deeper focus to longer-term development. Fortunately, our partners have again been aligned to our thinking – for instance, with our input, UN member states signed a resolution on green recovery and development in March 2022.

When I first started hearing my own words quoted back to me, or seeing my slides repurposed without permission, it incited a touch of resentment – but this has turned to pride. What matters is that the ideas are heard.

As we move beyond COVID-19, my team's work continues. The Oxford University Economic Recovery Project is becoming the Sustainable Fiscal Policy Initiative, a permanent fixture of the Smith School. My hope is that the programme outlives my tenure at Oxford; given the team in place, I have no doubt that it will.



The Land Belongs to All Who Work it

A group of Rhodes Scholars has joined the legal fight against land laws in South Africa which have affected one Scholar's family – thereby highlighting an issue which blights many rural residents. **Sizwe Mkwanzazi** (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's 2017) tells us what happened.

The question of land remains unanswered in South Africa and it creates ongoing problems for farm dwellers. Black people living on farms continue to endure unfair treatment and poor pay and are being denied the chance to build dignified homesteads. Instead, they are subjected to living in mud houses and are forced to rely on the farm owners to make improvements to their homes. Any fixing done without the farm owners' permission is seen as a transgression and often used as grounds for eviction. Farm dwellers do not enjoy many of the benefits of the land they work.

The Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA, 1997) still gives farm owners the upper hand even though it was meant to balance the interests of farm owners and farm dwellers (mainly Black people).

Historically, these so-called farm dwellers kept countless livestock, ploughed their own fields and produced their own milk and grain. But under the ESTA law it has become more difficult to do all this.

In January 2021, my family was served with a court interdict, later followed by unsuccessful attempts to evict them from their Rietfontein farm homestead. The Mkwanzazi family decided to rebuild their family hut in memory of their late (grand)mother uPopi NaKhanye Mkwanzazi and only three days after the building materials were delivered, uMkhulu Amos Mkwanzazi was summoned by a White Afrikaaner farmer to see him and explain what the building material was for. uMkhulu responded to the

summons and went to have a meeting, which turned out to be a stand-up show aimed at humiliating and intimidating him before the farmworkers. He was told to remove the building materials and not to use them at the Mkwanzazi homestead. The family defied this instruction.

Whilst the hut was at the early stages of construction the farm owner arrived for what he called a 'collection of evidence'. He ignored the life-threatening cracks in the mud structure and focused on what he called 'defiance'. He obtained a court interdict which set out that he wanted the already built structure to be demolished, and explained

in detail how he would carry this out with the support of the South African Police Service and the local sheriff.

This is when the Rhodes co-ordinated effort came to the rescue. Rhodes House got to

know the news from my time in South Africa conducting fieldwork research. And without hesitation, Elizabeth Kiss linked up with human rights and constitutional law specialist Nick Ferreira (South Africa-at-Large & Wolfson 2003), Ndumiso Luthuli (KwaZulu-Natal & St Peter's 2000) at the African Leadership Institute and Mary Eaton (Registrar & Director of Scholar Affairs at the Rhodes Trust) to establish what could be done. From the Mkwanzazi family there was some panic, but uMkhulu said the experience was not different from the days of apartheid.

Nick and Ndumiso assembled a team in South Africa that compiled the opposing affidavits and filed the notice

The Rhodes co-ordinated effort came to the rescue



A treasured picture of Sizwe Mkwanazi's family, photographed at home in the 1980s.

of appearance, which stirred the farmer's attorneys to demand the credentials of the legal team representing the Mkwanazi family. As if this were not enough, the conduct of the farmer's counsel in court had the potential to undermine the family before the judge, but Ndumiso took it upon himself to correct such behaviour. The judgement came around July 2021 and ruled in favour of the family. The farmer went on to seek appeal, which was granted, only to then use it as a ploy to block the family from rebuilding the homestead.

The team taking up this matter has since grown from Linda Mdabe, Lebogang, and Matthew Kruger to now involve Moray Hathorn. Justice Edwin Cameron (South Africa-at-Large & Keble 1976) offered useful advice and contacts who assisted in unearthing details about the Labour Tenancy Status of uMkhulu Mkwanazi. The matter is still ongoing, and it is just the tip of the unheard life experiences of farm dwellers in South Africa.

Ndumiso and Nick are inspiring a second level of action, working with Mathew Kruger and Moray Hathorn to file a motion with the Land Claims Court to have it declare the land ownership of the Mkwanazi family.

This will have an impact on over 11,000 other families still waiting for the Department of Agriculture and Land Reform to declare the land ownership securable under the Labour Tenants Act. This action has the potential to prompt action on what is a 20-year delay in the processing of Labour Tenant applications. This delay is responsible for hardship, abuse on farms and the illegal eviction of many Black families who applied to the scheme before it closed in 2001.





Why Innovation Requires Trust and Respect



Catherine Beaudry (Québec & Trinity 1992) has studied the impact of collaboration on the survival and growth of companies, and has observed the evolution and success of industrial clusters and innovative ecosystems over many years. Here she argues that successful collaboration – in person as well as online – requires real trust and connection.

Serendipitous and breakthrough innovations are relatively rare. The majority of innovations introduced generally result from new combinations of existing knowledge. There is an imperative for collaboration in the face of increasing complexity in the kinds of projects, technologies, products and services which need to be designed and delivered. The exploitation of massive data, the democratisation of knowledge, and the development of collaborative tools to facilitate networked co-creation, force a rethinking of innovation ecosystems and relationships between decision-makers, experts and users. As such, they present major strategic and organisational challenges for which firms and institutions are ill-equipped.

Innovation ecosystems are multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral environments comprise a variety of stakeholders (firms, universities, governments, research and innovation intermediaries, users and society, etc.) that co-evolve and influence each other. This obviously

implies that the innovative ecosystem should rely both on the participation and collaboration of all its stakeholders, who themselves come from different backgrounds and disciplines, and on some degree of openness.

Breaking down these silos and encouraging multidisciplinary research will allow greater fluidity of knowledge and will develop expertise that goes beyond the simple common language between disciplines, thus increasing our capacity for innovation. Instead of setting up multidisciplinary research teams made up of monodisciplinary individuals, we need to rethink training programmes for our students so as to encourage the graduation of multidisciplinary individuals.

Naturally, for collaboration to occur and be fruitful, individuals need to work with other individuals. At the level of organisations, appropriate governance, collaborative agreements, etc. need to be put in place. Things get complicated when a multitude of stakeholders are involved, and much more complex when several sectors need to learn to work with one another. This is where

appropriate governance is absolutely crucial to develop trust within innovation ecosystems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added to an already complex situation. Maintaining organisational and innovation culture is difficult enough when team members are already used to working with one another. Developing such a culture with new employees is near impossible. For them, collaborating virtually will not be conducive to learning the organisational and innovation culture, however much we try to replicate the informal chat at the coffee machine!

Chronicle of a failure foretold

Blockchain technology has been proposed and explored as a way to establish and maintain trust within peer-to-peer networks. How does it work? By recording and storing transactions in the public domain. But does it really work? The following highlights elements of a cautionary tale about the promise of blockchain and online collaborative tools.

This is a short story about two groups of individuals from very different backgrounds, blockchain and a traditional high-tech sector, that aimed to create a decentralised and entirely virtual organisation.

Working with a colleague and a master's student, we observed the creation and subsequent failure of an organisation that aimed to co-create and co-innovate virtually within an organisation where individuals are recruited and work together using online collaborative tools. Blockchain specialists were in charge of developing an application to recruit team members, manage projects and reward contributors for virtual organisation in the traditional high-tech sector.

Both the founding members of the virtual organisation and the blockchain specialists believed that by using online collaborative tools, new standards and rules to govern interactions would emerge. The founders were

convinced by promise economy arguments about the potential of blockchain without understanding exactly how it worked. Blockchain developers took it somewhat for granted that their technology was the solution to almost everything.

While blockchain developer communities have a long tradition of open-source collaborative work, this is not how things work in most conventional high-tech environments, where IP protection, whether formal or strategic, is key. Hence the first culture clash. In these conventional high-tech sectors, the goal of IP protection is generally to grant a monopoly of power in order to recoup investment and generate revenues for the next round of innovation activities, or to provide lead-time advantage. In an open-source environment, the need to reward the individuals developing the source code and share the revenues generated remains in place. This is where the difficulties began.

In the organisation studied, neither group had expertise in the other's discipline or competence, and no one had knowledge in both. Widely diverging opinions about the value of various activities were a result of each misunderstanding the other's expertise. Mistrust

is not a recipe for success. In a nutshell, although all shared a common trust in the technology – the online collaborative tool – they did not trust each other, or not enough to be able to collaborate efficiently. They had forgotten the first principle of collaboration: individuals collaborate with other individuals. In any collaborative relationship, building trust takes time, but can disappear in an instant.

The moral of the story is relatively simple. For a strong innovation culture and trust to emerge and be maintained, innovative teams need to work in person in the same room every once in a while, and get to know and respect each other.

The first principle of
collaboration: individuals
collaborate with
other individuals





A Network of Friends, Connecting with Families in Afghanistan

The summer of 2021 marked a pivotal point in Afghanistan's deep history. On 15 August 2021, President Ashraf Ghani fled the Presidential Palace and Kabul and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan fell. **Hera Jay Brown** (Tennessee & Lincoln 2020) and **Sophie Li** (Hong Kong & Magdalen 2021) tell how the Dosti Initiative is supporting those whose lives have been displaced and disrupted.

Before, during, and after the fall, thousands of individuals searched for exit pathways from Afghanistan. Afghans abroad tapped colleagues and networks to try and find any viable solution to assist friends and family now besieged by the Taliban.

One of those individuals was Summia Tora (Afghanistan & Somerville 2020), a human rights advocate and the first Rhodes Scholar from Afghanistan.

On 13 August 2021, two days before the fall, Summia started to call upon her various communities to assist. Several Rhodes Scholars began running through our contacts and networks to see how best we could help. A flurry of emails, texts, and calls was sent to contacts at the National Security Council, Coalition Forces on the ground, and even advisors within the US Oval Office. Following a 15-day ordeal, Summia was finally able to evacuate her family aboard a privately-chartered flight out of Kabul with the support of Schmidt Futures.

While many of us rejoiced with Summia and her family, we were left with a heavy reminder that inequality runs through much of our world, even (especially) humanitarian endeavours such as this. As Summia wrote in the *Economist*, 'I learned that the system [for evacuating individuals] was deeply unfair. Some had no foreign ties and so did not stand a chance of escaping. Even those who know influential people abroad, and who fit the evacuation requirements, have been left to fend for themselves.'

Recognising these disparities, Summia transformed Dosti – her initiative focused on addressing health and education disparities for Afghan and Pakistani girls – into an organisation with a radically new and urgent focus. Dosti, meaning

'friend' in Dari, took on a new meaning: now this group would be tasked with addressing the fundamental conditions that led to the disparities Summia had identified during the evacuations. Even as international coverage of Afghanistan has waned, the Dosti Network continues to provide direct action and aid, a mission

The Dosti Network continues to provide direct action and aid, a mission towards dignity for all Afghans

towards dignity for all Afghans that remains just as important now as in August 2021.

The first Afghans the Dosti Network assisted included a women's rights activist and policewoman and a Hazara military official and his family. We helped cover fees for humanitarian visa applications and sent emergency funds for housing, medical, and food assistance. For Dosti member Ali Madadi, an Afghan student in the United States, surveying families to identify their needs became his way of 'contributing in a small and effective way to [his] homeland in crisis'. By using his own experiences, networks, and upbringing in Afghanistan to connect donors with historically overlooked communities, Ali enables Dosti to make a direct difference. 'Connecting with families on the ground,' he says, 'I am always reminded that our approach should be informed by our understanding of the on-the-ground realities, culture, and social structure of Afghan society.'

We surveyed dozens of families to identify their most pressing vulnerabilities and worked with local partners to arrange aid distribution to historically overlooked communities. \$5,000 went to Aseel, an e-commerce platform which began as a marketplace for rural artists and which has since pivoted to allow its global customers to buy food and medicine for Afghans. In partnership with Learn Afghan and Afghans Empowered, we distributed \$5,200 worth of food packages to families in Takhar and Bamyan, regions with high numbers of internally displaced people.

In April, Summia became the first Afghan to be awarded the Echoing Green social entrepreneurship fellowship, allowing us to build for the long run, identify local partners, and empower them to take charge. We are currently working on a long-term plan to create scholarships for girls and boys to attend school in Afghanistan, a project for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and resettlement support for Hindu Afghans displaced

to India.

'Rather than duplicating organisations already working on this,' Summia says, 'how about we empower them and collaborate with them? I firmly believe that people who are on the frontlines, who are in touch with the actual realities of every day, should be the ones who are supported and the leaders of this effort.'

Such an approach is a response to the crisis of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan as a whole, the result of a long history of international organisations trying to build new systems instead of supporting the efforts of local Afghans. Where attempts were made to create national systems, there was a failure to shape a culture of

integrity and honesty. Summia hopes to find the people who have that courage, integrity, and honesty, and to support them in their work. 'That is how we can change the situation in Afghanistan. Those people were never given platforms during the 20 years of the regime.'

As the Dosti Network's activities grew, so did the team. Hanna Yovita (Indonesia

& Green Templeton 2021) joined because 'no one else was doing what Dosti did,' working with grassroots organisations on the ground. Daine Van de Wall (Maryland/DC & Magdalen 2020) joined Dosti after the US announced its full withdrawal. He was inspired by his mentors who fought in Afghanistan and his West Point classmates who were deployed to evacuate Kabul. For Abdallah AbuHashem (Palestine & Linacre 2021), as he watched the world turn its back on Afghanistan, 'anything I could do to help, I wanted to do. When I met Summia, it just made sense.'

In the long run, Summia sees Dosti as a foundation, supporting grassroots organisations in Afghanistan. The Dosti Foundation would help decrease reliance on international funders, which typically require recipients to have particular organisational structures that grassroots Afghan groups often lack.

The roots of the crisis in Afghanistan should sound familiar to a Scholarship grappling with its own imperialist history



The Dosti Initiative is a gathering of friends, aiming to support people and initiatives in Afghanistan after the fall of the government last year.



Sunset over Kabul, Afghanistan (image: David Marshall Fox/Shutterstock).

‘Culturally, we’re not reliant on charities to give us any form of welfare benefits, because people around you will help you,’ Summia explains. ‘Afghans find ways to support each other. My hope is that we can take that culture to another level.’

She hopes that one day she can do this all in Afghanistan: to build Dosti in the country it was created to help. Yet it is currently impossible for team members, especially Summia, to visit the country without fear of persecution.

The roots of the crisis in Afghanistan should sound familiar to a Scholarship grappling with its own imperialist history. The challenges facing Afghans today are the result of systemic exclusion. People thought that to build Afghanistan, international organisations needed to be brought in, instead of creating national systems or encouraging local Afghans. Many Afghans in leadership positions lacked integrity, resulting in high levels of corruption. Huge inequities persisted amongst the Afghan population. Stability has evaded Afghanistan for decades; when the country was at its most peaceful, that peace only benefited a few. ‘It’s quite similar to the story of Rhodes,’ Summia observes. In recent years, the Rhodes Trust has become more cognisant of the historical inequities which made Cecil Rhodes’ fortune

possible, and which continue to affect current Scholars and their communities. In the face of systemic inequities, ‘as Rhodes Scholars, it’s our calling to help, to support, and to acknowledge this.’

To Summia, Dosti is not merely an organisation with specific milestones. It is what its name implies – a network of friends. ‘Everything I do is motivated because of my friends around me who are just so inspiring and willing to dedicate their time to this,’ she says. ‘That’s why it’s working and running, and that’s why it’s called a Friendship Network.’ This ethos extends to the communities supported by Dosti, who are not needy beneficiaries but equals: to be treated with the same level of dignity we would direct towards our friends, communities, and the people we love.

‘Everyone who’s helping and supporting the cause isn’t just a volunteer or employee,’ Summia says. ‘They’re also friends: to me, and to Afghans.’

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Those interested in supporting the work of the Dosti Network are encouraged to donate at www.omprakash.org/global/dosti-network or by getting in contact with Sophie (sophie.li@magd.ox.ac.uk) and Hera Jay (hera.brown@lincoln.ox.ac.uk). Financial contributions are tax-deductible for US and UK donors.



Plotting Two Millennia of Climate Changes

Measuring our changing climate and its effects over the centuries has been one of the most significant collaborations in contemporary science.

Nikita Kaushal (India & Exeter 2012) describes the astonishing global effort to assess one of the most serious phenomena facing our planet.

The first figure in the recently published *Summary for Policy Makers* produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change includes a reconstruction curve showing how global temperatures have changed over a period spanning the last 2000 years. Instrumental temperature measurements for most locations go back in time 100 years at most, so how do we create a curve going so far back? This is the work of a field called paleoclimate reconstruction.

Paleoclimate reconstruction is most frequently pictured as researchers examining tree rings and ice cores. But there is a long distance to be walked between collecting one such core and generating a global dataset of temperature change! It involves finding suitable natural archives to cover all parts of the world: ice cores from the poles and high mountains; tree rings from colder regions; and stalagmites and corals from the mid-to-low latitudes. The next step is to find a variable that can be measured from these natural archives, for example, oxygen isotopes, which can be a proxy for temperature change. Every proxy data point is then assigned an uncertainty in how much temperature variability it represents, as well as an uncertainty in its age. Such work produces a record of temperature change in one location. The same process has been conducted several

hundreds of times in different locations across the world, by research groups based in different countries, and datasets are scattered across several hundred publications.

To create a global curve, we need to bring all this data together in a way that it can be efficiently mined for information, while still ensuring data quality. This involves organising global research communities to work in a standardised way. Terms and units, data and metadata fields, and containers to hold the data all need to be agreed on. Collaboration also requires database structures to link and query the data, together with robust time series analysis techniques to obtain information from the hundreds of datasets that have been generated from different proxies and archives with different uncertainties assigned to them. This portion of the work, which requires networks of people and some coding, has been a golden

opportunity for early career researchers, as well as a big win in the uptake of open science practices by the paleoclimate community.

You cannot have global climate records without reaching out to researchers from all parts of the globe! There are some incredible lessons to be learnt from such global efforts that are beneficial for the current climate debate and have long-term benefits for science. I mention a few of these below and also highlight some

There are some incredible lessons to be learnt from such global efforts that are beneficial for the current climate debate and have long-term benefits for science

gaps to be filled. Early career researchers are most likely to be the ones generating data, and are likely to be the most comfortable with learning new software and codes. Summer schools, hackathons, funding to attend meetings and conferences, and authorship on database papers have proven to be successful incentive mechanisms. Google Scholar does a great job at keeping count of publications and citations, and a similar structure for Google Dataset Search would further incentivise this process. Although English has become the language of science, it is useful to have software graphical user interfaces that can be toggled between languages. Record generation requires expensive fieldwork and instrumentation, collaborations and knowledge-transfer between researchers across the divide of the global North and South, and an increase in the number of organisations offering commercial sample analysis to allow for global data coverage. Time series analysis of existing datasets requires only a computer and some free software. Therefore, upskilling of researchers in this

very transferable skill of data analysis is hugely beneficial. Funding for such global projects, and lead authorship of high impact papers resulting from such analysis, are still usually dominated by North American and European researchers. Adding intermediate hierarchies for disbursement of this funding in different regions, as well as intermediate regional review papers, would ensure that the final analysis is both more representative and provides a more complete picture of global changes.

Global working groups provide a space for collaborative projects looking at global scale analysis. This in turn instils a spirit of collective data ownership and boosts the value of expertise in everything from local climate systems to global climate models, thereby increasing both networking and visibility. These are vital stepping-stones to increase the accuracy of scientific results, the ownership of global analysis datasets, and optimistically, also the uptake of climate solutions.

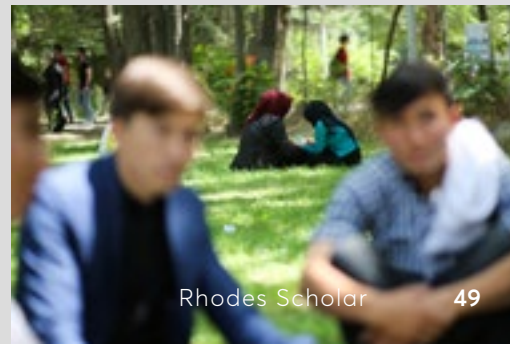
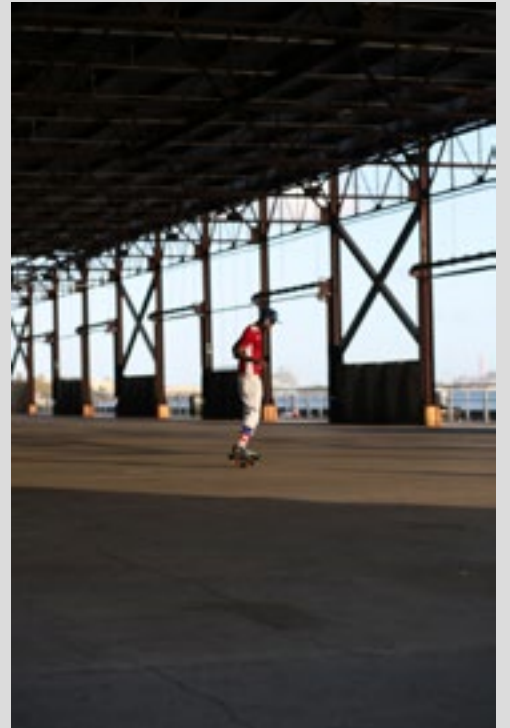
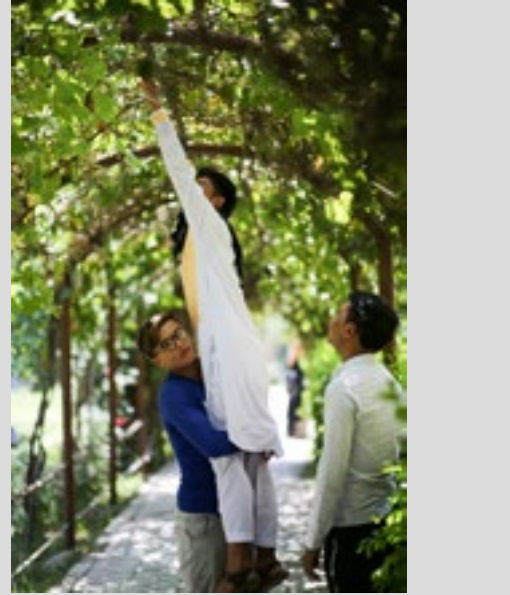
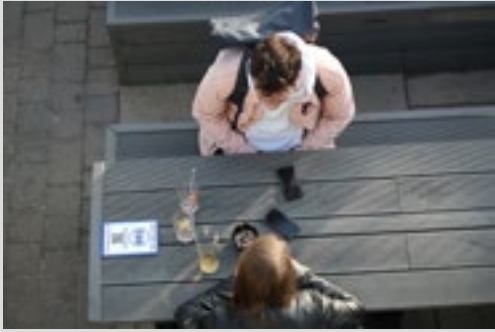
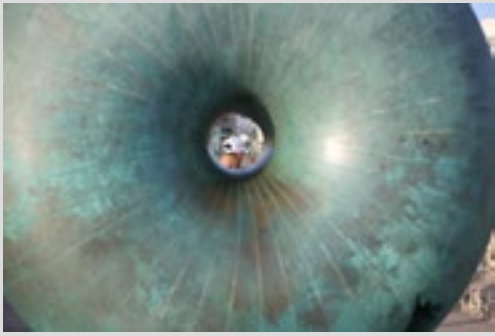
The collaborative efforts of scientists worldwide is essential to understand the impacts and potential development of climate change (image: Shutterstock).



Coming Together in Pictures

Documentary photographer **Elena Gallina** (Idaho & Brasenose 2019) focuses on the complex quiet moments in often misunderstood and sensationalised environments, specialising in co-creative portraiture. Here Elena has selected an album of images representing collaboration in all its forms, which she titled *Contemplations on Collaboration – in favour of solitude, in contention with the myth of individual heroism*. www.elena-gallina.com







An Oxford Community Creating Opportunities in Africa

Africa Impact Finance Initiative was founded in 2020 by Rhodes Scholars in Residence who are passionate to improve opportunities for youth in Africa.

Emma Dreyer (St Andrew's College and partner school, Grahamstown & Worcester 2020) **Lisha Jeena** (KwaZulu-Natal & Green Templeton 2020) and **Nikkita Ngalande** (Zambia & Balliol 2019) set out how their collaboration with other Scholars in Residence has helped communities across the continent.

Africa Impact Finance Initiative (Africa IFI) aims to empower community-based organisations by raising funds and providing support for sustainable and impactful education-focused initiatives on the African continent. In this way, we help education-focused organisations access the essential support they need to make an impact within their community.

Through teamwork and determination, the organisation has iteratively narrowed its focus to education-based NGOs on the African continent. Africa IFI is a scale-up of the Rhodes Scholars Africa Forum's grant portfolio. The diversity of Scholars who make up Africa IFI, both by disciplines and regions, creates a nuanced and dynamic team. Our grant-giving team is managed by Andile Dube (Zimbabwe & St John's 2020), a DPhil student in Clinical Medicine, and the fundraising team by Varun Shankar (Zambia & Keble 2020), a DPhil student in Engineering. We stand by chosen core values of inclusivity, sustainability

and thoughtful finance, and believe in the collective capabilities among us and within our networks to enable community transformation.

Collaboration and reflection have been essential for the team to weave together diverse perspectives and expertise. Africa IFI has also been an opportunity for members of the team to meet and collaborate with Rhodes Alumni from around the world for insight and guidance. All Rhodes Scholars in Residence are provided with the opportunity to serve as panellists during the evaluation process. Through this, we create a network of truly impact-focused individuals across generations of Rhodes

Scholars. We also invite donors to our grant award events which encourages knowledge sharing and fosters a sense of meaningful contribution.

The Africa IFI team has created a detailed application and rigorous evaluation process to evaluate eligible grant applications. We want to ensure that funding is provided to reliable organisations with a high potential for impact. In

Collaboration and reflection have been essential for the team to weave together diverse perspectives and expertise



The Africa IFI team's auction of promises at Rhodes House, raising funds to support projects across Africa.

designing a grant-giving process, the team has grappled with many issues of equity and diversity to ensure that the application and allocations are fair, inclusive, and accessible. These discussions have contributed to our understanding of how to allocate funding in an ethical and meaningful way. We have used core criteria to evaluate grant applications, including leadership strength, monitoring and evaluation procedures, long-term impact, and clear financial planning.

Our most recent recipient of an Africa IFI grant was the Faith Foundation, which is based in Zimbabwe. With the support from Africa IFI, this organisation has enabled over 300 young women to access menstrual hygiene education and support. This organisation has empowered young women to access education with projects that

work towards ending period poverty.

We look forward to announcing our outstanding grant receipts for 2022. This year, we will be expanding the support provided by Africa IFI to include Scholar-led consultations with the winning grant recipients. The aim is to assist with any issues and challenges recipients may face, covering everything from strategy design to website assistance. We also hosted an auction of promises at Rhodes House, where members of the Rhodes community volunteered their time, company, or skills to be auctioned off. All proceeds collected will go towards supporting grant recipients.

We would like to thank our wonderful donors for their support and the Rhodes community for their contribution to Africa Impact Finance Initiative.



Paving the Road to the Rhodes

Three years after winning a Rhodes Scholarship, **Serene Singh** (Colorado & Christ Church 2019) is creating a collaborative work of tips, resources, and testimonials from the Rhodes community. The aim is to help students who might be thinking about applying to the Scholarship but who, wrongly, feel like imposters.

Like many of us, if I had been told ten years ago, 'One day you will be doing a DPhil degree at the University of Oxford with a Rhodes Scholarship', I would have considered two possibilities: either someone was mistaken about my potential, or I was somehow mistaken to think I couldn't do those things.

Three years after winning the Rhodes Scholarship from District 13 in the United States, some things have not changed: my friends and I absolutely still celebrate 17 November every year, the date we won the Rhodes; I still find myself reflecting on the entire experience – wondering what I would tell myself if I could go back and say anything; and yes, I am still wondering when Rhodes Trust staff will tap me on the back one of these days and let me know they made a grave mistake and I was never supposed to win to begin with.

Jokes aside, the sentiment remains: why me?

This process has bonded so many of us in our community in a way that is hard to explain – across geopolitical boundaries, cohorts and cultures. The amount of wisdom I find myself in the midst of is hard to fully grasp at any given moment, but I am working hard to ensure I do not take it for granted as I did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

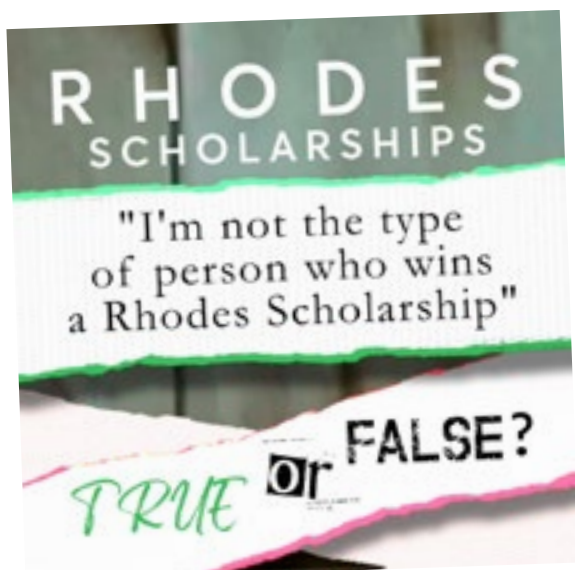
Why kick down a door
if no one new is inspired
to walk through it?

One of the ways I have dreamt of investing in this community is through a project called Road to the Rhodes – a collaborative depiction of tips, resources, and testimonials from us for students who – like many of us – felt like imposters the

entire way through the process. I cannot do this alone, however. I am writing this article to ask for support and help in all its forms – writing, editing, publishing, supporting in other ways, anything.

The story behind the book

Applying for the Rhodes Scholarship was one of the most difficult experiences of my life. The only resource I had was the official Rhodes website, markedly contrasting with the resources available in many other universities. Without knowing a single Rhodes Scholar myself, and with no faculty or staff member at my institution having explicit or personal knowledge of the application process, the experience came with endless challenges – those outside the process suggested I should pretend I was of another faith, change my voice, and not wear certain colours (because of the negative attention they apparently



might draw), to name just a few. Not to mention my Sikh American identity that was thought to be too 'eccentric', my non-Ivy public school background, and my lack of a traditional 'athletic' background, which I read online was important to have.

Yet, like all of us, I worked to at least try to forge the path for myself and kicked open that door, ready to trek the road yet to be travelled. But my first thought after winning the Rhodes remains a thought I have every time I am at Rhodes House with my peers: why kick down a door if no one new is inspired to walk through it?

My aim with the Road to the Rhodes project is three-fold. I am setting out to

1. Support young students around the world who might not have the same resources other students have on the journey to applying for the Rhodes Scholarship
2. Introduce people globally to students so that their authentic and raw experiences can help guide them through the process
3. Challenge the stereotypes, myths and confusions behind the Scholarship experience from the perspective of Rhodes Scholars themselves



The book is divided into various chapters, looking at the journey of current and former individuals with diverse experiences who have won the Rhodes: from the 'why' behind their application to their Oxford experience and life beyond Rhodes. The book will also include stories from many of those individuals who represent a first in Rhodes Scholarship history.

In order to make this dream happen, I am asking for your help. If I am able to reach individuals who have had unconventional

journeys in reaching the Rhodes Scholarship, I am certain this book will be an inspirational and educational tool which I know could have bettered my own experience applying for the Rhodes and even living in Oxford in endless ways. I am excited and deeply passionate about creating this resource for students to use and to see what kinds of new doors students globally are inspired to open for themselves – Rhodes or not – as a result.

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To get involved, please email serene.singh@chch.ox.ac.uk



Serene Singh hopes to share insights, including through social media, that will open up opportunities for the next generation of Rhodes hopefuls.

Building a Global Centre for Community

The project to transform Rhodes House is progressing at a tremendous pace. New spaces and technology will support collaboration, creativity and fellowship. Every visit sees progress, as we create areas for Scholars, Fellows and the wider community. These latest views of our ongoing work show a building in transition. We hope Scholars will be able to see the possibilities for themselves when the renewed Rhodes House is complete in Spring 2023.





The Rhodes Virtual Book Shelf

A selection of books written or edited by Rhodes Scholars



Chasing after Chimpanzees: The Making of a Primatologist (Mereo Books, 2021) by William McGrew (Oklahoma & Merton 1965).

Having moved from zoology to psychology to anthropology on both sides of the Atlantic, Bill McGrew developed a fascination for chimpanzees which led to him spending four decades studying our nearest living relations in their African homelands. This memoir consists of a series of stories and vignettes from a varied and colourful life, mainly involving animals, and naturally focusing on chimpanzees.



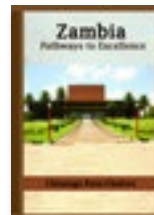
We, the Robots? Regulating Artificial Intelligence and the Limits of the Law (Cambridge University Press, 2021) by Simon Chesterman (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen 1997).

Should we regulate artificial intelligence? Can we? From self-driving cars and high-speed trading to algorithmic decision-making, the way we live, work, and play is increasingly dependent on AI systems that operate with diminishing human intervention. This book examines how our laws are dealing with AI, as well as what additional rules and institutions are needed – including the role that AI might play in regulating itself.



Black Ghosts (Austin Macauley Publishers, 2021) by Ken Kamoche (Kenya & St Catherine's 1988).

Dan Chiponda earns a scholarship to study in China and reluctantly leaves Zimbabwe for an uncertain future. While stoically dealing with racial abuse and haunted by the weight of his mother's expectations, Dan navigates a future in which nothing will ever be the same again.



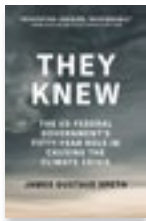
Zambia: Pathways to Excellence (Adonis & Abbey, 2021) by Chisanga Puta-Chekwe (Zambia & Exeter 1976).

Pathways to Excellence suggests ways in which Zambia could liberate itself from mediocrity and become the world-class economy it is meant to be. In addition to sensible prescriptions such as maximising the efficacy of public spending and creating conditions that support Zambian entrepreneurship, the author argues that the country's full potential cannot be realised until the ghost of colonialism is exorcised from the national psyche.



Giving the Devil His Due (The Pixel Project, 2021) by Regina Yau (Malaysia & St Hugh's 2001).

The Twilight Zone meets *Promising Young Woman* in this anthology from the Pixel Project, led by Regina Yau. 16 authors take readers on an unforgettable journey to alternative worlds where men who abuse and murder women and girls meet their comeuppance in uncanny ways.



They Knew: The US Federal Government's Fifty-Year Role in Causing the Climate Crisis (MIT Press, 2021) by James Gustave Speth (South Carolina & Balliol 1964).

In 2015, a group of 21 young people sued the federal government in *Juliana v. United States* for violating their constitutional rights by promoting climate catastrophe and thereby depriving them of life, liberty, and property without due process and equal protection of law. *They Knew* offers evidence supporting the children's claims, presenting a compelling account of the US federal government's role in bringing about today's climate crisis.



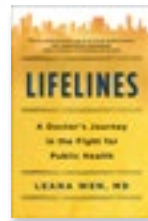
We Can Do Better: Urgent Innovations to Improve Mental Health Access and Care (Simon & Schuster, 2021) by David Goldbloom (Nova Scotia & Exeter 1975).

A leading psychiatrist and expert reveals important issues in mental health care today and introduces innovations to revolutionise and improve mental health for everyone.



The Right to Sex (Bloomsbury, 2021) by Amia Srinivasan (Connecticut & Christ Church 2007).

Amia Srinivasan's new book *The Right to Sex* is a ground-breaking exploration of the politics and ethics of sex. The book focuses on a number of subjects – from pornography to student-teacher relationships – through a collection of radical essays. *The Right to Sex* is a landmark examination of the politics and ethics of sex in this world, animated by the hope of a different one.



Lifelines: A Doctor's Journey in the Fight for Public Health (St Martin's Press, 2021) by Leana Wen (Missouri & Merton 2007).

From medical expert Leana Wen, MD, *Lifelines* is an insider's account of public health and its crucial role – from opioid addiction to global pandemic – and an inspiring story of her journey from struggling immigrant to one of *Time's* 100 Most Influential People.



Twice as Hard: The Stories of Black Women Who Fought to Become Physicians, from the Civil War to the Twenty-First Century (Penguin Random House, 2022) by Jasmine Brown (Missouri & Hertford 2018).

No real account of black women physicians in the US exists, and what little mention is made of these women in existing histories is often insubstantial or altogether incorrect. In this work of extensive research, Jasmine Brown offers a rich new perspective, penning the long-erased stories of nine pioneering black women physicians beginning in 1860, when a black woman first entered medical school.



Rewired: Protecting Your Brain in the Digital Age (Harvard University Press, 2022) by Dr Carl Marci (Pennsylvania & St Catherine's 1991).

We live in a world that is always on, where everyone is always connected. But we feel increasingly disconnected. Why? The answer lies in our brains. Carl D. Marci, MD, a leading expert on social and consumer neuroscience, reviews the mounting evidence that overuse of smart phones and social media is rewiring our brains, resulting in a losing deal: we are neglecting the relationships that sustain us and keep us healthy in favour of weaker and more ephemeral ties.

Text and images for these items are taken in part from www.ox.ac.uk/news

Cancer Research UK to invest £11m in Oxford cancer science



Image: Vinesh Maguire-Rajpaul (South African College School, Newlands & Merton 2013).

A £11 million Cancer Research UK investment has been awarded to the University of Oxford and Oxford-based NHS to support work to translate its world-leading cancer research into benefits for patients. The highly competitive Cancer Research UK Centre award recognises the UK's most innovative, high-impact cancer research and NHS-University collaborations. This coveted funding will see £11 million invested in Oxford and the Thames Valley's cancer research and translational infrastructure, and a further £3 million into training over the next five years.

Professor Irene Tracey nominated as the next Vice-Chancellor

Renowned neuroscientist and Warden of Merton College Professor Irene Tracey has been nominated as the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. Professor Tracey is also currently Professor of Anaesthetic Neuroscience in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neuroscience.

Following approval from Congregation, Professor Tracey will succeed the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson, in 2023. Professor Richardson, who has served as Vice-Chancellor since 2016, is to be the next President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.



(image: Shutterstock)

Jane Austen letters donated to the Bodleian Libraries

Continued public access to a collection of manuscripts written by Jane Austen has been secured following their donation to the Bodleian Libraries and Jane Austen's House after they were saved by a unique UK-wide collaboration. The Jane Austen collection includes two hugely significant personal letters, which offer fascinating glimpses into Austen's personal and creative life. The collection also includes rare first editions of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* in their original condition.



Blueprint for making millions of vaccine doses within 100 days

The University of Oxford's vaccine manufacturing research team has published a pre-print paper demonstrating the feasibility of a step change in the speed and volume of production of adenovirus-vectored vaccines against new virus variants or other future pandemics. If factories were on standby to use this method, the team believe, a billion doses of vaccines could be supplied within 130 days of identification of a new virus – a quarter of the time taken by the leading current COVID-19 vaccines.

Oxford researchers create largest-ever human family tree

Researchers from the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute have taken a major step towards mapping the entirety of genetic relationships among humans: a single genealogy that traces the ancestry of all of us. The new genealogical network of human genetic diversity reveals in unprecedented detail how individuals across the world are related to each other. The research predicts common ancestors, including the migration out of Africa. The underlying method could have widespread applications in medical research, for instance identifying genetic predictors of disease risk.



Obituaries

Selected obituaries from the past year.

For all Rhodes Scholar obituaries, please visit

www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/alumni-volunteers/obituaries/

PROFESSOR PETER BAILEY

(Victoria & Corpus Christi 1950)

3 SEPTEMBER 1927 – 7 NOVEMBER 2021

Peter Bailey attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and studied History at Corpus Christi in 1950. He was a Visiting Fellow at the ANU College of Law from 1987 to 1998 and then became an Adjunct Professor. In his academic life, he made major contributions to Australian human rights law. Peter was an active member of the Rhodes community, and an Alumni Association Committee Member of the Association of Rhodes Scholars in Australia (ARSA).

SIR MAX BINGHAM

(Tasmania & Lincoln 1950)

18 MARCH 1927 – 30 NOVEMBER 2021

Max was selected as the 1950 Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar and received a Bachelor of Civil Law at Lincoln College, Oxford. Bingham entered the Tasmanian Parliament when he was elected as a member for Denison at the 1969 state election on 10 May. On 4 May 1972, he was elected leader of the Liberal Party in Tasmania.

GUY MACLEAN

(Nova Scotia & New College 1953)

21 DECEMBER 1929 – 29 OCTOBER 2021

Guy studied at Dalhousie University where he received a BA and MA in History. After studying at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, Guy proceeded to Duke University where he earned a PhD. He then returned to Dalhousie where he taught history for 23 years. In 1980, he was appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of Mount Allison University. From 1989 to 1995 he served as Ombudsman of Nova Scotia.

SIR JAMES GOBBO

(Victoria & Magdalen 1952)

22 MARCH 1931 – 7 NOVEMBER 2021

Born in Melbourne to Italian parents, James was the first person from a non-English-speaking background to ever be appointed to a state governorship. James' continued contribution to the law, multicultural affairs and hospitals was recognised in 1993 when he was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia. He was knighted in 1982 for his services to the community, and he served as the 25th Governor of Victoria from 1997 until 2000.

JOHN RAYNER

(Québec & Corpus Christi 1960)

18 AUGUST 1939 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

John Rayner studied History at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1960. John was Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy in Indian Affairs & Northern Development in the Government of Canada. John volunteered for the Trust for many years as a Committee Member in the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars (CARS).

CARTER REVARD

(Oklahoma & Merton 1952)

25 MARCH 1931 – 3 JANUARY 2022

Carter was raised in the Buck Creek Valley on the Osage reservation and was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship in 1952 to study at the University of Oxford. Known for his groundbreaking scholarship on the Harley manuscript, a 14th-century collection of secular and religious lyrics now housed in the British Library, Revard also was an accomplished poet whose work frequently explored Native American themes, beginning with the chapbook 'My Right Hand Don't Leave Me No More' (1970).

RAVISH TIWARI

(India & Linacre 2005)

2 SEPTEMBER 1981 – 19 FEBRUARY 2022

Ravish was the National Political Editor and Chief of National Bureau of *The Indian Express*. His journalism blended scholarship with reporting rigour to explain change in politics and society. He led a team of senior journalists who covered the Union Government, including state and national elections, the Prime Minister's Office, national security, strategic affairs, diplomacy, health, education, environment and infrastructure.

WILF WEDMANN

(British Columbia & Merton 1972)

17 APRIL 1948 – 12 NOVEMBER 2021

Throughout school, Wilf excelled in athletics and academics. As a 20-year-old high jumper, he was Simon Fraser University's first Olympian. He later became Simon Fraser University's first Rhodes Scholar, achieving a Master's in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford. Wilf sought to contribute to his community through sport and he challenged people in leadership roles to think in untraditional ways.

Appointments and Awards

Congratulations to these Rhodes Scholars for their recent awards and appointments!



DR RUKMINI BANERJI (India & Balliol 1981) awarded the 2021 Yidan Prize for her leadership of Pratham India.



DR DALE ABEL (Jamaica & Green 1986) appointed as the UCLA Health Department of Medicine Chair.

JUSTICE ANDREW BELL (New South Wales & Magdalen 1990) appointed Chief Justice of New South Wales.



Rhodes Trustee and Professor of International Law at the Blavatnik School, PROFESSOR DAPO AKANDE, elected to the International Law Commission.

Rhodes Chair SIR JOHN BELL (Alberta & Magdalen 1975) has been inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.



DR PAUL J. ANGELO (Ohio & Lincoln 2006) elected to the prestigious US National Security and Foreign Affairs Power 50 Leadership List.



Rhodes Trustee PROFESSOR ELLEKE BOEHMER (South Africa-at-Large & St John's 1985) nominated to the Dutch Academy of Letters.

EDWIN CAMERON (**South Africa-at-Large & Keble 1976**) awarded the Gold Order of the Baobab.



MELVYN LUBEGA (**South Africa-at-Large & Lincoln 2013**) is the first African awarded the Lindas, an annual Endeavor Global award recognising and celebrating entrepreneurs.

Rhodes Trustee MIKE FITZPATRICK AO (**Western Australia & St John's 1975**) was inducted into the Australian Rules Football Hall of Fame.



JAMES MANYIKA (**Zimbabwe & Keble 1989**) appointed Google's first head of tech and society.



MARYANA ISKANDER (**Texas & Trinity 1997**) appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Wikimedia Foundation.



NDJODI NDEUNYEMA (**Namibia & Linacre 2014**) awarded the inaugural Dr Surya Subedi Prize for the DPhil in Law.

HEATHER LONG (**Pennsylvania & Balliol 2004**) joined *The Washington Post* Opinion section as a weekly columnist and editorial writer on the WaPo Editorial Board.



ZEHRA NAQVI (**British Columbia & Green Templeton 2018**) awarded the 2021 RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers.

ELISHA NGETICH (**Kenya & Green Templeton 2018**) placed first in the 2021 Top Ten Rare Rising Stars list.

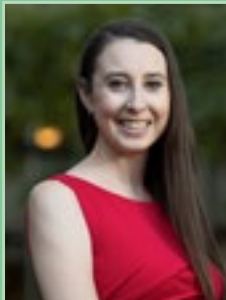
Rhodes Trustee Emeritus JOHN WYLIE AC (**Queensland & Balliol 1983**) was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2022 Honours list, for eminent service to the community through leadership in the sporting, cultural, philanthropic and business sectors. This is Australia's highest honour.



DAMON SALESA (**New Zealand & Oriel 1997**) appointed Vice-Chancellor of AUT University.



DANNY WILLIAMS QC (**Newfoundland & Keble 1969**) appointed to the Board of Directors of the Newly Institute.



CAITLIN SALVINO (**Ontario & University 2018**) awarded Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case, which honours Canadians who advance gender equality.



NADJA YANG (**Germany & Keble 2020**) awarded the McKinsey Achievement Award 2021.

SERENE SINGH (**Colorado & Christ Church 2019**) and HAMZA WASEEM (**Pakistan & Magdalen 2019**) awarded the Diana Award.

If you have a new appointment or award, please email Babette Littlemore, Director of Communications: babette.littlemore@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Class Notes

1952

Alain Enthoven (Washington & New College 1952) is the Marriner S. Eccles Professor of Public and Private Management (Emeritus) at Stanford University. Before retirement in 2000, he taught courses in the economics, management and public policy of health care in the US. In 1972, he was elected to what is now the National Academy of Medicine. Following receipt of his MPhil in Economics at Oxford in 1954, he earned a PhD in Economics at MIT in 1956. From there he went to work at the RAND Corporation to study NATO and Nuclear strategy under the leadership of Charles J. Hitch (Arizona & Queens 1932). In 1960, President-elect Kennedy chose Robert S. McNamara to be Secretary of Defense, and he picked Hitch to be Comptroller. Hitch invited Enthoven to be a Deputy Comptroller. In 1963, Kennedy presented Enthoven the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service. In 1965, Hitch left the government and President Johnson appointed Enthoven Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Analysis, a position recently renamed Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation. After leaving the government in 1969, he and a colleague wrote *How Much is Enough?*

Ian Macdonald (Ontario & Balliol 1952) came to Balliol 70 years ago to begin a wonderful three years in Oxford. To be accepted by Balliol was one of the greatest joys of his life. This milestone year has led him to reflect on many experiences during his Balliol years, including going to a public meeting to hear Dr Cheddi Jagan, Marxist leader of the independence movement in Guyana, who was on a mission to the UK to seek constitutional change for his country. Part way through the meeting, someone threw a smoke bomb into the hall, which was promptly evacuated. When the meeting resumed, a question period followed and Macdonald asked: 'Dr Jagan, what is it that you are seeking for Guyana?' He replied: 'I want to deliver my people from colonial rule and provide them with a free society.' Macdonald said: 'That is good enough for me' (this was in the midst of the Cold War and the McCarthy era in the United States). Fast forward 40 years and Macdonald was attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland, October 1995, as Chair of the Commonwealth of Learning. He introduced himself to the head of Guyana, Dr Cheddi Jagan, and asked if he remembered the Oxford meeting and the brash young Canadian who asked him a question. He exclaimed: 'It was you!' and gave Macdonald a big hug. How pleased Macdonald was to remind him of the establishment of the Cheddi Jagan Lecture in York University.

1962

James Farley (Ontario & Oriel 1962) is now retired but enjoying mentoring. He was a corporate/commercial solicitor who only had one trip to court in a takeover case... which he won in the first year of his call. He was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario (now the Superior Court) in 1989. He retired in 2006 and rejoined McCarthy Tétrault until 2015. As a judge he heard civil and criminal cases. He encouraged/facilitated appropriate communication/co-operation with the objective of providing the parties with the timely and fair resolution of their cases on the merits. He was particularly noted for his involvement in insolvency and corporate/commercial matters. In this respect he delivered papers and facilitated workshops in 26 countries in every continent except Antarctica.

William Kent Megill, known as Bill, (Ontario & St Edmund Hall 1962) retired from the Civil Service of Canada (the then Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) in September 2012, having previously retired from the Canadian Army as a Colonel (Armoured Corps) in 1993. He went down from Oxford in 1965, having read Russian and French, to regimental duty with The Fort Garry Horse in Germany as part of the Canadian Brigade of the British Army of the Rhine, and returned to Canada in 1966. In 1967 he was a bilingual narrator on the Canadian Armed Forces Tattoo that performed across Canada during the Centennial Year. He subsequently joined Le Douzième Régiment blindé du Canada and commanded troops during the October Crisis in Québec in 1970. He then went to Staff College in Pakistan, commanded Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in Calgary, instructed at the US Army Command and Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in London and served as the Canadian Military Advisor on the negotiations on Conventional Forces in Europe in Vienna from 1987 to 1992. In 1995 he became a negotiator (and in 2003 Chief Negotiator) on Land Claims and Self-government, working with Inuit, First Nations and Métis communities in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories for nearly 20 years. On retirement he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his services to Canada.

Wieland Gevers (Transvaal & Balliol 1962) completed an Oxford DPhil in Biochemistry under Hans Krebs, and then worked with another Nobelist, Fritz Lipmann, in New York. He returned to South Africa and successively held chairs of medical biochemistry at the Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town as well as founding the SA Biochemical Society. He was a deputy vice-chancellor at UCT and founded and directed UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM). He chaired the selection committee for the Oxford Nuffield Medical Fellows from South Africa and was president of both the country's Royal Society and its Academy of Science. He is a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences and gave a Gold Medal Lecture in 2009. He has published an autobiography, *Signifying Something: A South African Scientist's Tale*.



Bruce Partridge (New Jersey & New College 1962) retired after teaching astronomy and physics for 40 years at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. In those years, he helped scores of young scientists start their research careers and took time off to serve as

Dean, then Provost, of the college. Having retired from teaching – but not research – he and his wife Jane now divide their time between Denver and Haverford. In addition to his awards for teaching and mentoring, he has received several international prizes for his research in cosmology and radio astronomy, most recently the Gruber Prize in Cosmology as part of the Planck satellite team.

1972

Peter Annand (Queensland & Magdalen 1972) will be tending his 2,000 tree orchard at least until avocado prices permit a less hands-on role. His life centres on Mary, his partner of 40 years, their three children and four grandchildren. He volunteers in community organisations including suicide prevention, rainforest guiding and the rural fire brigade and is an avid reader and a social musician.

Leon Benbaruk (Québec & Keble 1972) read for a BPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at St Antony's before spending a year studying for a Masters at SOAS in London in 1974-1975. He completed an MA in Islamic Studies at McGill in 1977. Leon has lived in New Zealand since 1980 where he owns and runs Benfield Marketing Limited, which supplies the Australian and New Zealand markets through government tenders and direct sales to Ireland, Denmark and Sweden. Leon has published many articles on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). He is passionate about MENA and considers his tutor Albert Hourani at St Antony's as his mentor. Leon has travelled extensively through MENA and is often consulted on that part of the world.

Lewis Wall (Kansas & Queen's 1972) recently retired from Washington University in St. Louis, where he was both Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Professor of Anthropology. He remains active in women's health issues in Africa, through two charities he founded: Dignity Period, (concerned with menstrual hygiene issues) and The Worldwide Fistula Fund (concerned with severe obstetric trauma). His book, *Tears for My Sisters: The Tragedy of Obstetric Fistula*, was published by the Johns Hopkins University Press in 2018. His original ambition to become an Egyptologist was side-tracked by a career in clinical medicine and anthropology, but he has resurrected his old interest and is currently pursuing an MSc in Biomedical Egyptology through Manchester University.

Alan Morinis (Ontario & Magdalen 1972) has reached the point where his age matches the year of his election to a Rhodes Scholarship (72 for both) and is grateful to be active still in propagating the Jewish spiritual tradition of Mussar, now with the title of 'Founder' of The Mussar Institute. That role takes him away from the work of running the organisation and gives him more time to study and write. He has published four books on the Mussar tradition and is working on three more, all focused on excavating wisdom from the 1,100 years of development of the tradition and making it accessible to a contemporary audience. Although COVID-19 put a dent in the practice, he is now resuming travel to lecture, glad for the prospect of being freed from the tiny squares of Zoom. Love for Bengal and all things Bengali has led him to continue with his efforts to learn the language. Married for almost 49 years now to Dr Bev Spring (palliative care), he is happy to have both elder daughter Dr Julia (paediatrics) and younger daughter Dr Leora (psychiatry) on his personal medical team for his upcoming dotage. Balmy Vancouver is still home, though having three grandchildren in Toronto is exerting a stronger pull these days.

Geza Tatrallyay (Ontario & St Catherine's 1972) Born in Hungary, Geza escaped with his family in 1956, emigrating to Canada. After a BA from Harvard, and working at Expo70 in Japan, he read Human Sciences at Oxford, followed by an MSc in Economics at the London School of Economics. Geza represented Canada in épée fencing at the Montreal 1976 Olympics. His career has encompassed government, international organisations, commercial/investment banking and private equity. Geza helped start and build three firms that have become major players globally in the renewable energy sector. He is on the Investment Committee of Syntaxis Capital, a fund that invests in companies in Central and Eastern Europe. Geza has 14 published books: three memoirs, five thrillers, four poetry collections, one short story collection and a children's picture storybook. He and his wife Marcia now divide their time between Vermont and San Francisco.



Fui S. Tsikata (Ghana & Christ Church 1972) has been based in Ghana since he returned from Oxford in December 1974. After a brief period at the Ghana Law Reform Commission, he spent 29 years at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana. He is Senior Partner at Reindorf Chambers, the Ghana affiliate of the international law firm DLA Piper. He has a particular interest in mineral and energy law and policy issues in Africa. He has, over the years, developed friendships with and mentored students and other young people. Since the restoration of the Rhodes Scholarship for West Africa in 2017, he has been on its Selection Committee. He lives in Accra with his wife of more than 40 years, Innocentia Enyonam.

1982



Chris Canfield (Alabama & Hertford 1982) is executive director for the Conservation Trust for North Carolina. The organisation focuses on assisting communities to become resilient in the face of climate change. A key collaboration is with Princeville, NC, the first town in America chartered by members of the Black community after emancipation. Partners are implementing a joint plan to manage flood risks for the town. The project is one of 15 in North America awarded grants for climate justice initiatives by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Chris worked for almost two decades for the National Audubon Society, where he led the organisation's response to the BP oil spill disaster. He also has volunteered in prisons and created materials for the Human Kindness Foundation to support those incarcerated wishing to realise greater peace in their lives.

Dr Michael P. Chan (British Caribbean & Lincoln 1982) After leaving Oxford, Michael trained in clinical psychiatry in Toronto, Canada. Since then, he has worked in hospital settings, specialising in the assessment and care of the severely mentally ill as they encounter the criminal justice system. Michael is affiliated with the Queen's University Department of Psychiatry. He married another Rhodes Scholar, Yolande (Jamaica & Hertford 1982), while in residence at Oxford. They have two sons – one recently completed his DPhil (Law) at Oxford and is on faculty at University College London; the other, a Goldman Sachs alumnus, works in Finance in New York City.



Yolande E. Chan

(Jamaica & Hertford 1982) has spent much of her post-Oxford journey in three cities: two Kingstons and Montreal. She maintains ties to Kingston, Jamaica where she was born, and to Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, where she is E. Marie Shantz Chair of MIS

Emeritus. Now, at the Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, she is Dean and James McGill Professor. Her research focuses on digital technology strategy, innovation and entrepreneurship. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Strategic Information Systems, and a Fellow and Distinguished Cum Laude member of the Association for Information Systems. As a woman of colour in higher education, Yolande advocates for equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), champions EDI initiatives, and mentors women and racialised faculty and students.

Brad Chism (Mississippi & Exeter 1982) is currently senior partner at Chism Strategies, a political consulting firm serving a national client base of progressive candidates and causes at the local, statewide and federal level. He also runs BluePrint Polling, a political survey research firm. In early 2024 Brad will transition away from these duties to focus on other business interests which include a wholesale tree nursery and berry farm in central Mississippi. Brad and wife Julie enjoy several acres of flora and fauna in Madison, MS and delight in visits from their adult children in Boston that frequently become extended stays during this COVID-19 era. He is active in the national effort to make the United Methodist Church more inclusive to the marginalised in society.



Charalee Graydon (Prairies & Wadham 1982) was born in Alberta, Canada. She is an academic involved in climate change education and collaborative decision-making and is Associate Professor at Euclid University. She holds degrees in arts and law. Following receipt of a Rhodes Scholarship in 1982,

Charalee pursued postgraduate legal studies in Oxford and completed her doctorate in mediation and conflict resolution in 2020. She has held academic positions in England, New Zealand, and Canada and practised law in Canada. Charalee has published academic works on crime and punishment, climate change, and the arts. Her academic books include *Creating A Masterpiece: The Arts, Climate Change Conflict*, and a children's book, *Life on Planet Earth: My Story*. She has also published books of literary fiction, including *The Judgement Game*, *Let's Play the Game*, and *Can We Save the Human Race?*



Humaira Khan-Kuzmiak née Khan (Pakistan & Somerville 1982) Immediately after her Oxford BA, Humaira spent a year in Bologna, Italy for an MS in IR at the European campus of The Johns Hopkins University, completing the second year at its campus in Washington DC. Later she earned

a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the same university. After a two-year stint at the University of Maryland, College Park researching climate change and global land cover, she returned to Pakistan with her husband. There she spent the next two years as Manager of Research at the Islamabad office of London-based organisation LEAD, specialising in environment and development. But what she enjoyed most were those ensuing eight years in the northern mountains of Pakistan working with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and concurrently establishing and running a primary school there. In 2016 she returned to down-country Pakistan as a university faculty member teaching and researching environmental issues in developing countries (her up-country school is still running nicely!).

Henriette Lazaridis (Vermont & St Hugh's 1982)

Henriette's novel *Terra Nova* will be published in December 2022 by Pegasus Books. She is the author of the best-selling novel *The Clover House*. Her short work has appeared or is forthcoming in publications including *ELLE*, *Forge*, *Narrative Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *New England Review*, *The Millions*, and *Pangyrus*, and has earned her a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artists Grant. Having spent ten years at Harvard teaching English and serving as an Assistant Dean, she has taught for many years at GrubStreet in Boston. She runs the Krouna Writing Workshop in northern Greece and writes the Substack newsletter 'The Entropy Hotel', about athletic and creative challenges. Outside of writing, she serves on the organising committee for the Head of the Charles Regatta, an event in which she competes regularly.

Madhura Swaminathan (India & Somerville 1982)

is Professor of Economics and Head of the Economic Analysis Unit at the Indian Statistical Institute in Bengaluru. Over 30 years, her research has addressed contemporary problems of economic development with a focus on rural poverty and inequality. Recognised for her work on food security, she was invited to be a member of the Indian government's high-level panel on long-term food security. She has authored and edited nine books, most recently, *Women and Work in Rural India* (available through Columbia University Press). For the last decade, as Chairperson, she guided the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, a non-profit engaged in applied scientific research to enhance incomes of poor farmers and fishers in a sustainable way. She is pleased to have supervised 15 doctoral students.

Belinda van Heerden (South Africa-at-Large & Brasenose 1982) served as a Judge of the Cape High Court from 2000 to 2004. She was thereafter appointed to the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa where she served until her retirement in 2013. She also served as an acting Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa in 2006. During her 14 years on the Bench, she heard and decided many varied cases, including international and constitutional matters. Prior to her appointment to the Bench, she was a leading academic at the Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town, specialising in family law and child law. She has authored several books on child and family law and has published numerous articles in these areas.



Michele Warman (New York & Magdalen 1982) serves as the Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Secretary, and General Counsel for the Mellon Foundation – a \$9 billion social justice Foundation and the largest funder of arts and humanities in the United States. There, she enables, builds, and

manages cross-functional teams to ensure the Foundation's grantmaking is maximally impactful as she stewards Mellon's operations, governance, and legal affairs. Michele is a board member of the Southern Education Foundation and Princeton University's Center for Jewish Life and serves on a variety of international fellowship selection panels, including for Schmidt Science Fellows (Chair), Schwarzman Scholars, MacArthur \$100 million award, and previously for the Rhodes Scholarship. Michele is admitted to the US Supreme Court, SDNY, EDNY, New York, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC Bars, and resides in New York City.

1992



Catherine Beaudry (Québec & Trinity 1992) is Professor and holder of the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Management and Economics of Innovation at Polytechnique Montréal. She was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, the first woman of her institution to do so, and the first Professor of Polytechnique Montreal to become a member of the Academy of Social Sciences. Her research focuses on the socioeconomic impacts of research, science, technology and innovation. She is interested in all stages of the progression of an idea to the market. The common thread of her research is undoubtedly collaboration. She aims to understand how individuals and organisations from all sectors work together, and to identify the various mechanisms that influence co-operation between universities, industries, government and society.

Michael Bungay Stanier (Australia-at-Large & Hertford 1992) is the founder of Box of Crayons, a company that helps organisations move from advice-driven to curiosity-led and also of MBS.works, a company that helps people be a force for change. He's the author of the million+ selling book *The Coaching Habit*, as well as *The Advice Trap* and his latest *How to Begin: Start Doing Something That Matters*. He has been recognised with various awards for his role in reshaping and 'un-weirding' how we think about coaching. Michael has lived in Toronto for the last 20 years, after time in London and Boston.

Sarah Kelly (South Australia & Wadham 1992) After completing the BCL and a year as a paralegal in London, Sarah took up legal practice in Sydney, Australia and also took her first surfing lesson. Finding herself drawn to policy, she moved to the New South Wales and then South Australian public sectors. She is currently an Assistant Director in the SA Department for Education involved in engagement and wellbeing initiatives for children and young people. Her volunteer work has centred around health advocacy, refugees, and climate action. In Adelaide, surfing small waves with her husband and two teenagers remains a source of joy.

Ute Krämer (Germany & Magdalen 1992) is a full Professor at Ruhr University Bochum in Germany and holds the Chair of Molecular Genetics and Physiology of Plants. Her work addresses how plants manage essential nutrients and toxic heavy metals. She is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. In 2018, she received a prestigious Advanced Grant from the European Research Council for studying the genetic basis of plant evolutionary adaptations to their local environment. She also headed the German Research Foundation-funded national Priority Program 'Evolutionary Plant Solutions to Ecological Challenges (ADAPTOMICS)'. She is passionate about an open international scientific community, promoting women in leading positions in academia, and openness towards genome editing in crop plants for a more sustainable agriculture.

Marc Lipsitch (Georgia & Merton 1992) is Professor of Epidemiology at Harvard. When the threat of COVID-19 started to become apparent in early 2020 he turned to focus almost exclusively on it, providing early public warnings of its pandemic potential (including on Noah Feldman's 'Deep Background' podcast) and contributing research on topics including importations and missed cases, healthcare burden, epidemiologic study design, scenario modelling, long-term sequelae, ethics of human challenge studies, vaccine allocation, vaccine effectiveness, and clinical severity of variants. During the first year he also focused on filling the information gap left by the US government by numerous media appearances, op-eds, and explainers. This year he has taken a secondment to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to set up a new Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics. Bright spots during this horrific episode included having more time with his children at home, and co-authoring an article on school reopening with his wife, Harvard Graduate School of Education Professor Meira Levinson (Pembroke,1992 and Nuffield,1993).



Emily Moore (Ontario & Merton 1992) joined the University of Toronto in 2018 as Director, Troost Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering (ILead). The institute develops leadership skills in engineering students and young professionals through a combination of curricular and co-curricular activities supported by a robust, interdisciplinary program of research. Emily enjoys sharing her more than 20 years of engineering industry experience with her students and exploring new research questions. As a parent of three young adults herself, Emily is excited to support a greater diversity of engineering leaders and is optimistic about the future. Emily serves on a number of corporate boards including Metrolinx, Chemtrade Logistics, and International Petroleum Corporation. In 2016 Emily was recognised as one of 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining and received the SCI Canada Kaley Pugi Award.

Kenneth Mwenda (Zambia & Exeter 1992) Professor Kenneth K. Mwenda's latest three books, *Doctoral Degree Programs in Law: An International and Comparative Study of the English-speaking World*, *Contemporary Issues in Public International Law* and *Intellectualism Beyond the University: What They Forgot to Teach You in School Vols 1-3*, were published in 2021. Prof Mwenda attended Exeter College (1992-94) and read for the two-year BCL degree, now the BCL and MPhil in Law degrees. A recipient of the prestigious Presidential Insignia of Meritorious Achievement (PIMA) conferred on him in 2019 by H.E. President Dr Edgar C Lungu, the sixth President of the Republic of Zambia, Prof Mwenda holds a PhD in Law from the University of Warwick as well as two Higher Doctorate degrees in Law and Economics, respectively, from Rhodes University and the University of Hull. He has taught at leading universities in Europe, North America and Africa and continues to serve as the Executive Head of the World's Bank Voice Secondment Program (VSP) in Washington DC.

Glen Power (Western Australia & Magdalen 1992) is Chief Executive Officer of the Lions Eye Institute in Perth, Western Australia. Glen has greatly enjoyed a year of planning and building new facilities for the Institute, and lobbying funders and policymakers for support. More importantly, he is an energetic Dad to Angus (seven) and James (five), and loves spending time away with his boys in the deep southern forests of Western Australia. For the past four years, Glen has also steadily penned a solid history of the acclimatisation of trout to Australia, which is on the cusp of publication.



Sanjeev Sanyal (India & St John's 1992) is currently the Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister and Secretary, Government of India. Before taking up this role in February 2022, he was the Principal Economic Adviser to the Finance Minister for five years. He has also served as India's representative to many

international forums, and was the Co-Chair of the G20's Framework Working Group. He is one of the main authors of the G20 Global Action Plan used to co-ordinate the international response to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020-21. Prior to joining the government, he spent over two decades in financial markets and was Global Strategist & Managing Director at Deutsche Bank. Sanjeev has a parallel career as one of India's most popular writers. His bestselling books include *The Land of Seven Rivers*, *The Ocean of Churn*, *India in the Age of Ideas* and *Life Over Two Beers*.

2002

Ben Allgrove (South Australia & Magdalen 2002) is a technology and intellectual property lawyer based in London at law firm Baker McKenzie. His practice has a particular focus on platform and intermediary business models, working on technology and AI regulation. In September 2021 Ben was appointed as Baker McKenzie's global Chief Innovation Officer, charged with leading the firm's transformation programme, including its nascent machine learning practice. Ben lives on a farm, south of London, with his partner Philip, his cat Shadow and four horses that he does not know how to ride.

Kimberley Brownlee (Quebec & Corpus Christi 2002) holds the Canada Research Chair in Ethics and Political & Social Philosophy at the University of British Columbia. Prior to this, she was a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Warwick. Her current work focuses on loneliness, belonging, social human rights, and freedom of association. She aims to put social human rights on an equal footing with civil and political rights. Her past work focused on civil disobedience, conscience, punishment, and restorative justice. She is the author of *Being Sure of Each Other* (2020) and *Conscience and Conviction: The Case for Civil Disobedience* (2012), both published with Oxford University Press (OUP). She is the co-editor of *Being Social: The Philosophy of Social Human Rights* (forthcoming with OUP), *The Blackwell Companion to Applied Philosophy* (Wiley, 2016) and *Disability and Disadvantage* (OUP, 2009). She is a recipient of a Philip Leverhulme Prize.



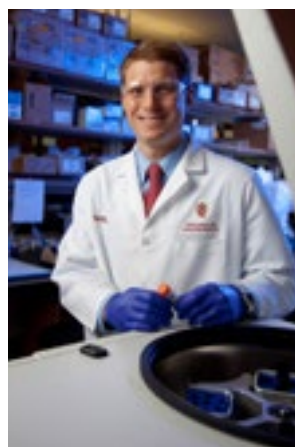
Rachel Carrell (New Zealand & Balliol 2002) lives with her husband and two children (soon to be three from June 2022) in Muswell Hill in London. She is founder and CEO of Koru Kids, a tech startup that she has grown to be one of the largest childcare providers in the UK. Koru Kids is currently building a network of 'home nurseries' as part of its plan to completely rebuild the UK's broken childcare system. During the pandemic Rachel got really into gardening and started taking piano lessons again after a 25-year gap. After two years of finding things to do at home she's very much looking forward to the world re-opening, and would love to reconnect with Rhodes friends in London or elsewhere.

Annie Kafoure (Ohio & Oriel 2002) is Director of College Counselling at University School in Cleveland, Ohio. She first embarked on her career in secondary education as an English teacher upon her graduation from Oxford, and she is still inspired each day by the energy, creativity, and resilience of young people discovering their voices and determining how they will move forward with purpose into the world. She is married to Andrew Martin, who teaches science and mathematics at University School. Together they enjoy outdoor adventures in all of the North Coast's unpredictable seasons and are devoted fans of the Cleveland Orchestra.



Anjalee Mead (née Patel) (Zimbabwe & Lincoln 2002) is an international project finance lawyer. After originally qualifying as a solicitor in the UK with Linklaters LLP, Anjalee relocated to Zimbabwe in 2013 following the birth of her triplets. Anjalee worked remotely and part-time for Linklaters

LLP for five years before deciding that a return to the UK was unlikely. Anjalee has completed her Zimbabwean law conversion exams and works part-time for the law firm, Gill, Godlonton & Gerrans in Zimbabwe whilst engaging in ad hoc English law consultancy work. Working remotely from Zimbabwe since 2014 meant that Anjalee was well-placed when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and she is still happy to be spending her days in the Zimbabwean sunshine.



Zachary Morris (Wisconsin & Wadham 2002) is the Vice-Chair and endowed Professor of Human Oncology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. A physician-scientist, he specialises in the treatment of cancer patients using radiotherapy and his research laboratory is focused on developing

and testing approaches to cure cancers using radiotherapies in combination with immunotherapies. He received the NIH Director's Early Independence Award in 2017 and is principal investigator for multiple clinical trials and NIH-funded grants. Dr Morris serves at the rank of Major in the medical group of the 115th Fighter Wing of the Wisconsin Air National Guard. He and his wife, Camie (Wadham, 2002), live in Madison with their terrific kids, Lincoln (11) and Adelle (nine).

Muloongo Muchelemba (Zambia & Harris Manchester, 2002) is the inaugural Director of Selection for Rise, an initiative of Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust, which finds brilliant young people and supports them for life as they work to serve others. Prior to joining the Rhodes Trust, Muloongo spent over 16 years working in oil and gas, management consulting and corporate banking in Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Muloongo holds a MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from Oxford as well as a BA in Economics from the University of Zambia. Outside of work, Muloongo is the Founder and Content creator of ongolo.com, a Pan-African news and ideas blog whose mission is to change the mainstream portrayal of Africa. She is also the author of *The Millennials' Guide to Work*, which gives young professionals practical advice on how to succeed in the workplace.

Lillian Pierce (California & Magdalen 2002) is the Nicholas J. and Theresa M. Leonardy Professor of Mathematics at Duke University. Her work in number theory and harmonic analysis has been recognised with an invitation to speak at the International Congress of Mathematicians and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honour bestowed on young scientists by the US government. Pierce began working in number theory while studying at Oxford, and the open problems she encountered then continue to resonate through her research today. Having generous, encouraging mentors transformed her education, and inspired her approach to improving equity and inclusion in mathematics. Most recently, she has founded a new journal, *Essential Number Theory*, that introduces a novel twist on what a mathematics paper can be.

Mark Schaan (Manitoba & New College 2002) now serves as Assistant Deputy Minister for Strategy and Innovation Policy for the Government of Canada's Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Here he stretches his policy capacities on a diversity of files from corporate transparency to modernising intellectual property, privacy, and data protection, to competition and affordability in the telecommunications sector. He does this from Ottawa, where he has the pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Ottawa Art Gallery Board, amongst a variety of fulfilling community ventures. Mark's passionate character remains, whether in his continued love of art, a newfound fondness for the gym, or for his partner, Zee, and dog, Bulleit, a namesake that may bely other interests.



Angus Turner (Western Australia & Queen's 2002) is founding Director of Lions Outback Vision and Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia. He is an ophthalmologist focused on delivery of regional and remote eye care and Indigenous services around the vast state, and in the last two years has relocated with his family to establish the Northwest Hub in Broome. In 2019 he was the West Australian of the Year, Professions Category and previously First Among Equals in the 40 under 40 awards. Research interests that have been most translated into clinical practice have been related to advancing telehealth systems. The most recent publications are in collaboration with Google Health, validating deep learning systems for diabetic retinopathy in Aboriginal populations and advancing the capability of the imaging systems to detect new clinically significant data that is not possible with human grading.

2012

Mohit Agrawal (Indiana & St John's 2012) After two and half years as Deputy Policy Director to the Governor of Connecticut, Mohit has returned to Yale to finish his PhD in economics. He also got married during COVID-19 to Dr Samyukta Mullangi. They reside in NYC, as Sam is Hematology/Oncology Fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Mohit and Sam are expecting a baby in late spring.

Alma Brodersen (Germany & St John's 2012) After completing her DPhil in Theology at St John's, Alma was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Munich (Germany), leading an interdisciplinary group of doctoral students in Ancient Studies. Currently, Alma is a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the University of Bern (Switzerland), where she is also a member of the senate. She was recently awarded the postdoctoral qualification 'Habilitation' for a monograph on questions surrounding the beginning of the biblical canon.

Andrew Dean (New Zealand & New College 2012) is a Lecturer in Writing and Literature at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. In 2021, Oxford University Press published his first academic book, *Metafiction and the Postwar Novel: Foes, Ghosts and Faces in the Water*, which Andrew began during his DPhil. The book was shortlisted for the Australian Heads of English Prize for Literary Scholarship. He also recently won New Zealand's longest running essay competition, the Landfall Essay Prize, for a piece about his family and living in London. Outside of books, Andrew likes to defeat his seven-year-old nephew at chess and ride his bike around Melbourne.



Ishan Nath (Georgia & Magdalen 2012) is a postdoctoral scholar in economics at Princeton University, where he works on the economics of climate change, international trade, economic growth, and development. This summer, Ishan, along with his wife Julia and their guinea pigs Timmy and Jimmy, will be moving to California where he will start work as an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and she will begin her career as a primary care physician. Ishan is extremely excited to continue pursuing his passion for economics research and policy, and to be in the Bay Area to witness the remaining years of Stephen Curry's unprecedented greatness.

Helen Jack (New Hampshire & Pembroke 2012) After finishing residency in June 2021, Helen joined the faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Washington. In this new role, she splits her time evenly between primary care practice and research. Helen's primary care practice is at a state prison in Connell, a small town in rural eastern Washington. Given the shortage of housing options in Connell, she is now the proud owner of a 31-foot fifth wheel trailer, which she parks in the RV park near the prison. Back in Seattle, her research focuses on expanding access to mental health and substance use care in low-resource settings. She is currently working on studies in Seattle, Baltimore, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.



Briar Thompson (New Zealand & Somerville 2012) is settling into life as a Brooklynite. She and her husband Robbie moved from Manhattan during the pandemic and are enjoying a little more space and nearby Prospect Park. They adopted a very energetic Australian Cattle Dog mix named Sydney, who is pursuing degrees in obedience and agility – she excels at the latter but the former may require additional tutoring. Briar is a Partner at BCG in the Public Sector and Social Impact practice, focusing on economic and social mobility through education and employment projects. She has also been supporting a Bronx school with their COVID-19 response, as part of her role on the board. Zoom calls and a virtual Rhodes Scholar book club have been good ways to stay in touch with friends and family, but Briar is looking forward to travelling home to New Zealand this March/April to see family she hasn't seen since 2019, and to meet her new nephew.



Victor Wei Ke Yang (Kentucky & St John's 2012) is always chasing a childlike sense of wonder (i.e., avoiding full-time work). He recently concluded a gig as an Artist-in-Residence for the City of Boston, where he works with BIPOC youth to agitate for change in K-12 education. He's also raising funds for another grassroots group dear to his heart: Seeding Change, the only national pipeline for Asian American community organising. He's sometimes working on a novel, currently doing an intensive Mandarin program in Taipei, and otherwise eating, biking, and laughing a lot.





Views from Oxford

One of the joys of the past 12 months in the Rhodes community has been meeting in person after such a long time when travel, and even meeting in small groups, was so difficult. As the pandemic eased, the experience of meeting, talking and collaborating in Oxford has been all the more profound for Scholars, Alumni and staff alike.



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