






# RHODES SCHOLAR

narratives of change

collective re-humanisation

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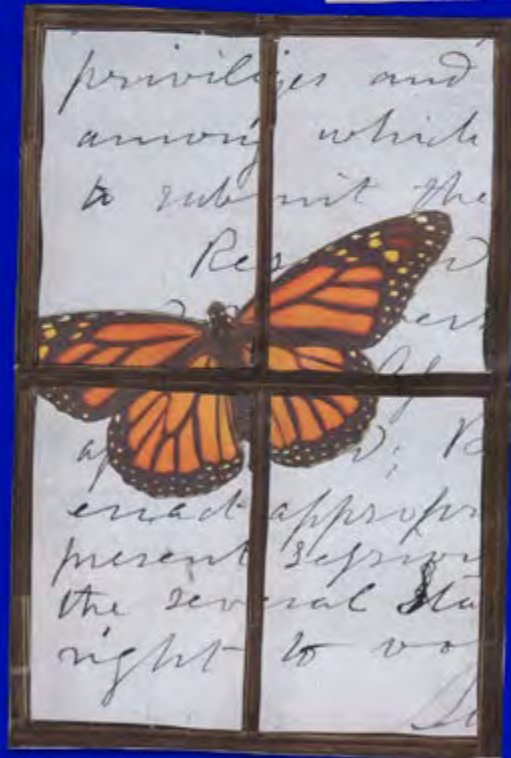
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human capabilities and time

the history of ideas

the voiceless



silence

love

wisdom

vulnerability

metaphors

isolation

tragedy

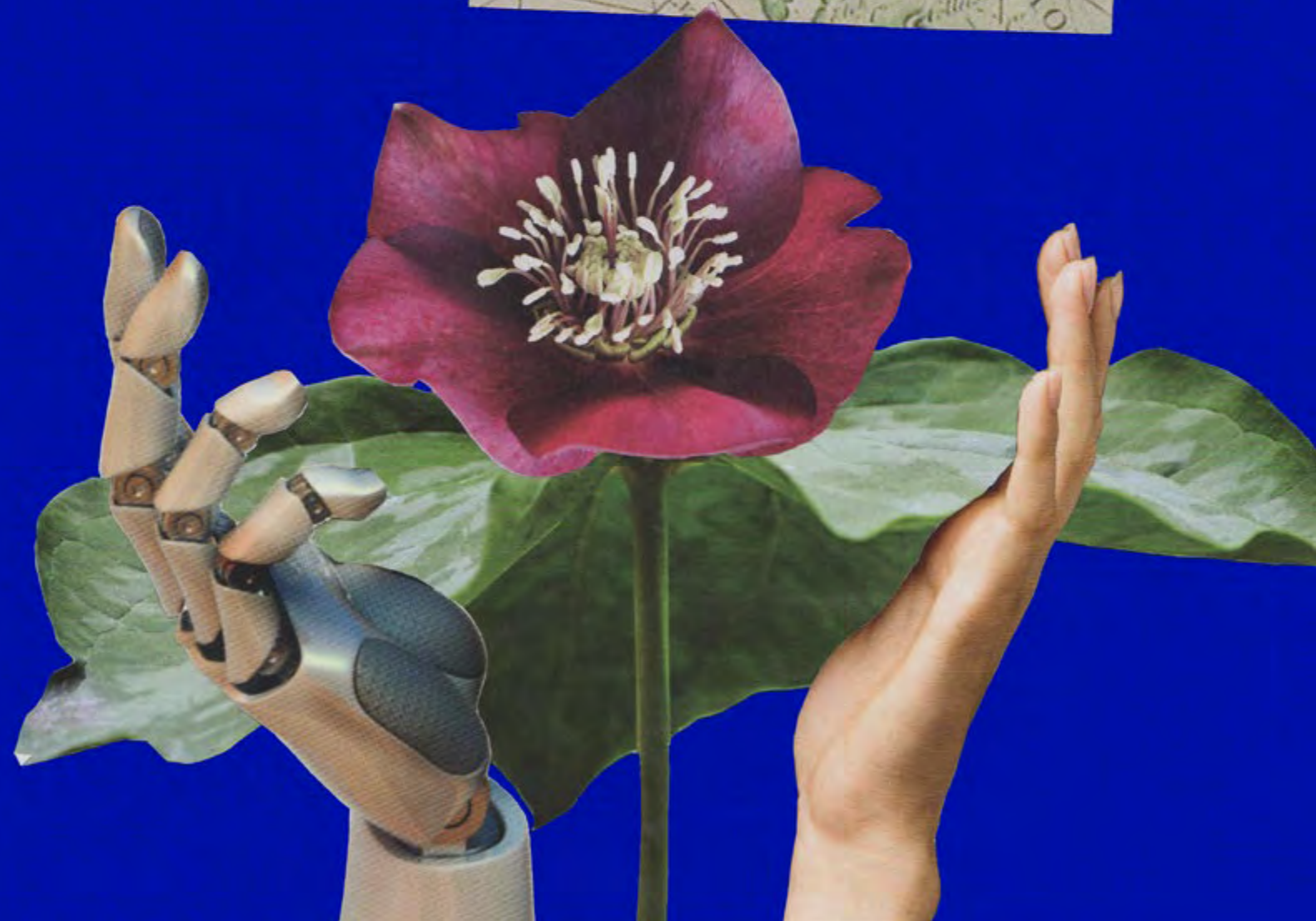
human depths

echoes

global harmony

Power of the Humanities

RHODES SCHOLAR 2020







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The Power of Literature

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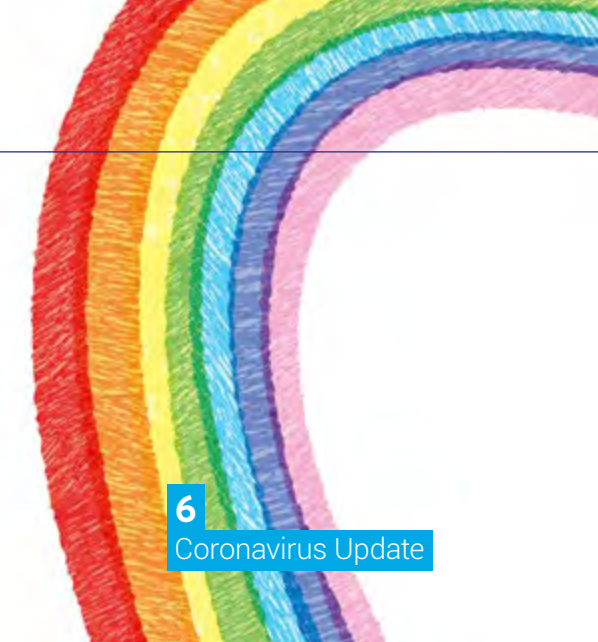
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**Cover:** Jacquelyn Bengfort (North Dakota & Wolfson 2006) is a poet and collagist in Washington, DC. She created the cover art as a response to the essays and poems found in this year's issue of the Rhodes Scholar magazine while isolating with her family from the COVID-19 pandemic. Her website is JaciB.com.

Robot hand image credit: Koya979 / Shutterstock.com

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Image credit: Sara Tress

## Warden's Welcome

This year's Rhodes Scholar magazine celebrates the 'Power of the Humanities,' building on the success of our inaugural Humanities Forum held last November. Our tools for making meaning of our lives, criticising our world, and imagining a better one, are grounded in the humanities. So it is fitting that we focus on them at a time of challenge, upheaval, and change.

The magazine's content was written before the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of a global anti-racism and anti-colonial movement sparked by the murder of George Floyd. But the rich stories of change, impact and discovery in these pages resonate with the present, demonstrating how changing our narratives can change our world and revealing the power of literature, arts, and culture to humanise our societies.

A new opening section highlights the efforts of Rhodes Scholars across the globe to respond to the pandemic and includes a powerful reflection by Tamson Pietsch (Australia-at-Large & New College 2003) on how COVID-19 challenges us to rethink the value we place on care and maintenance workers whose vital contributions stand in stark contrast to their marginal economic status. And in her prescient article 'The Courage to Act', Denise Meyer (South Africa-at-Large & New College 1990) challenges the Rhodes Trust to publicly engage with our legacy and embrace the work of anti-racism and anti-colonialism.

That engagement is now underway. I am grateful to Denise and to all who have raised your voices and contributed your stories and insights to the process. Together, we will challenge and reshape the meaning of the Rhodes Scholarships, learn ways to become a more inclusive community, and do more to empower our Scholars to change the world.

The Humanities will play a central role. A keynote speaker at the Humanities Forum expressed delight at the variety of her audience, which included medics, scientists and social scientists as well as students of literature, history and philosophy. It is inspiring to see that our Scholars, regardless of field, are students of humanity. That should give us all hope in these turbulent times.

Best wishes

Dr Elizabeth Kiss  
Warden of Rhodes House

# RHODES SCHOLAR

STANDING UP FOR THE WORLD

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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Would you like to contribute to future editions of the Rhodes Scholar magazine?

Please get in contact with Babette, the magazine's editor – she will be delighted to hear from you.





# The Coronavirus Pandemic

This issue of the Rhodes Scholar goes to press as the coronavirus pandemic continues to bring unprecedented change to all of our lives. **Tamson Pietsch** (Australia-at-Large & New College 2003) is Associate Professor in Social and Political Sciences and Director of the Australian Centre for Public History at the University of Technology Sydney. She believes that the stories we tell about the past and each other help to shape the societies we are striving to build. In these extraordinary times, she asks: what does it mean now to fight the world's fight?

**F**ighting the world's fight, making a positive impact, demonstrating leadership through service and character: these are key components of the selection criteria for a Rhodes Scholarship. The Trust's website highlights the shape which that service has taken across the twentieth century. It points to the three Nobel Laureates, eight heads of state, fifteen Pulitzer Prize winners and three University of Oxford Vice-Chancellors who have been Rhodes Scholars, and it also profiles professors, politicians and diplomats, scientists, authors, judges and lawyers, company executives, campaigners and not-for-profit founders.

Rhodes Scholars are among those leading the response to COVID-19: as frontline doctors and medical researchers, as legal advisors, community leaders, ethicists, communications experts and directors of philanthropic agencies, among others. But, as the virus explodes into our societies and economies and lays bare the inequalities and forms of extraction on which they rely, I wonder if it might not also offer the Rhodes community an opportunity to reflect a little more deeply upon what the Trust takes to be its core mission. Epidemics, as the historian of medicine Frank M. Snowden argues, hold a mirror up to humanity. They reflect back to us our relationship to life and death, to our environments and to each other. What does the Trust, and the Scholars it has supported, see in that mirror?

One of the things being revealed is the vital importance of whole sections of the workforce which have long

operated on the very margins of visibility and survival. As well as nurses and doctors, the list of workers now considered 'key' includes waste collectors and cleaners, delivery drivers and riders, energy workers and funeral directors and health carers, fruit pickers and shelf stackers and checkout operators and security guards. Doing the crucial work of social and bodily maintenance, these workers are exposed so that the rest of us can remain at home. They keep cities functioning, people fed, and ensure the old and young are looked after. And yet, with little personal protection or job security, they are largely employed on zero hours or casual contracts, with no sick pay or guaranteed salary, and often live from one pay cheque to the next in unaffordable housing and unsupported by fragile public services. The people we now most need are the people our market societies value the least.

The people we now most need are the people our market societies value the least

Outside clinical medicine, the work of bodily care and societal maintenance has not figured significantly in the twentieth-century Trust's vision of leadership and service. That vision has – in large measure – been linked to a globalised market economy that has tended to prioritise tradable international expertise over the slow and situated work of tending to human hearts and bodies, places and communities. Perhaps, under the pressure of the environmental-economic-social crisis that bears down with crushing weight upon the shoulders of recent generations of Scholars, this has already begun to change. But the lesson the Trust takes from COVID-19 cannot simply be

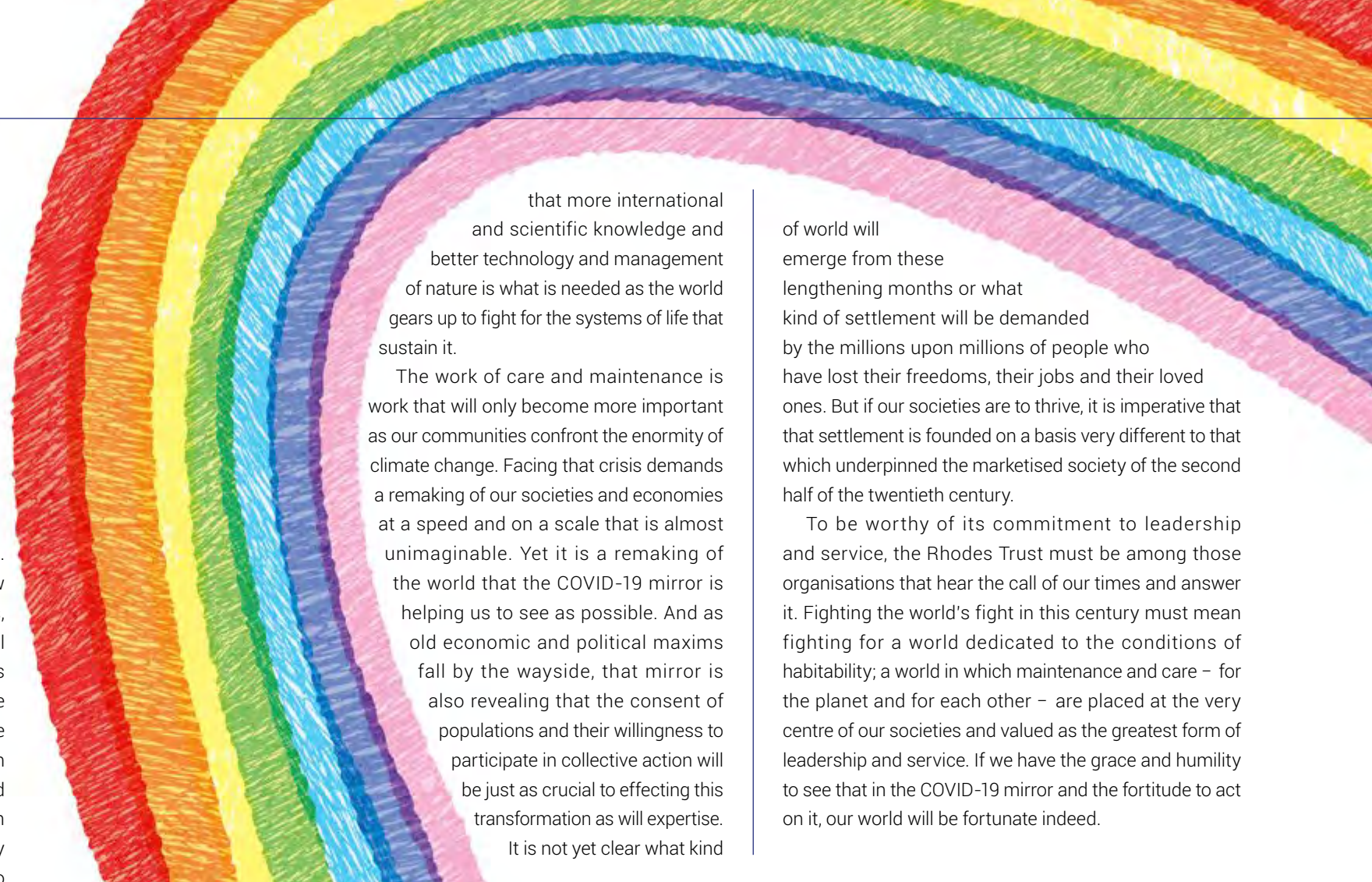
that more international and scientific knowledge and better technology and management of nature is what is needed as the world gears up to fight for the systems of life that sustain it.

The work of care and maintenance is work that will only become more important as our communities confront the enormity of climate change. Facing that crisis demands a remaking of our societies and economies at a speed and on a scale that is almost unimaginable. Yet it is a remaking of the world that the COVID-19 mirror is helping us to see as possible. And as old economic and political maxims fall by the wayside, that mirror is also revealing that the consent of populations and their willingness to participate in collective action will be just as crucial to effecting this transformation as will expertise.

It is not yet clear what kind

of world will emerge from these lengthening months or what kind of settlement will be demanded by the millions upon millions of people who have lost their freedoms, their jobs and their loved ones. But if our societies are to thrive, it is imperative that that settlement is founded on a basis very different to that which underpinned the marketised society of the second half of the twentieth century.

To be worthy of its commitment to leadership and service, the Rhodes Trust must be among those organisations that hear the call of our times and answer it. Fighting the world's fight in this century must mean fighting for a world dedicated to the conditions of habitability; a world in which maintenance and care – for the planet and for each other – are placed at the very centre of our societies and valued as the greatest form of leadership and service. If we have the grace and humility to see that in the COVID-19 mirror and the fortitude to act on it, our world will be fortunate indeed.





# Rhodes Scholars Involved in the Fight Against Coronavirus

This pandemic is affecting us all, professionally and personally. The Rhodes community is helping to combat the global pandemic in so many ways. Not all of the work being done to end the coronavirus pandemic is visible. Many members of our community are working in quiet and unsung channels to keep our societies running, and the Rhodes Trust is so proud of those who are committing to addressing this crisis, in all capacities. Here, we offer a snapshot of just some of the projects and collaborations in which members of the Rhodes community are involved.



'Ode to Corona' painted by Jasmine Brown (Missouri & Hertford 2018).

“ I painted this in Oxford at the beginning of March. The painting represented my attempt to maintain my freedom of movement while the social and political implications of coronavirus worked to constrain me. Less than a week later, Trump issued the travel ban on Europe, so I rushed home not knowing if I'd be able to go back to Oxford. Now that it looks like I won't be able to go back, this painting session that I had with a few Rhodies (Maitha and Hadeel) will be one of my last memories of my time in Oxford. The painting now reminds me of the incredible freedom I had to travel and explore who I am during my time at Oxford. It reminds me to be grateful for the wonderful memories I have when I feel sad about not being able to spend my last Trinity Term in Oxford.”

## Medics on the Front Line

**LYLE MURRAY (Kwazulu-Natal & University 2010)** is a resident in Internal Medicine at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, South Africa. He's involved in HIV/TB immunology research. Lyle's unit is managing the COVID-19 response at the hospital. Lyle is investigating the impact of HIV infection and tuberculosis on susceptibility to COVID-19 infection, as well as severity of disease in co-infected patients.

**JULIE LEVISON (Pennsylvania & Wadham 1998)** is an infectious diseases physician and public health researcher at Mass. General Hospital (Boston). She is working with colleagues in the Department of Psychiatry to promote resilience among front-line healthcare workers through deployment of an evidence-based mindfulness intervention that they have adapted for COVID-19. She is also involved in community engagement strategies to promote health equity in access to testing and diagnostics.

“ Now more than ever, we need to remember what unites us and that we will either all win or all lose. Each of us could be carrying the novel coronavirus, and before we have mass testing in place, we need to act as if we could be transmitting it to others especially to someone within one of the high-risk groups for COVID-19. You never know what someone is going through so now more than ever we need to be kind and thoughtful.”

**Devi Sridhar**  
(Florida & Wolfson 2003) #PoweroftheCommunity

**JORDAN ANDERSON (Alabama & St Hilda's 2010)** is a resident physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and **KHAM KIDIA (Zimbabwe & St Hugh's 2011)** is a senior resident in internal medicine at the same hospital. Both are working with patients in ICU. Jordan has helped to develop new virtual care programmes to care for patients and has also developed clinical guidelines for managing COVID-19 patients who are critically ill and have a cardiac arrest. Kham's experiences have helped change the protocols for emergency management (code blues). This work, along with other clinical guidelines, is being shared globally.

Many qualified Rhodes Scholar medics who are still in Oxford are volunteering as part of the NHS efforts. **OLGA ROMANOVA (Russia & St John's 2019)** and **TERENCE TSUI (Hong Kong & St John's 2019)** have been collaborating with a wider team with the aim of using 3D printers to produce PPE equipment for the JR Hospital in Oxford.

**BRONWYN GAVINE (South Africa & University 2018)** is currently taking a break from her DPhil to volunteer full time at OxSTaR, which is the University of Oxford and Oxford University Hospital's clinical training centre. Bronwyn's work has focussed on training healthcare workers on specific aspects of critical care related to COVID-19 and the safe use of PPE.

## Community Response

**MADELEINE BALLARD (Québec & Trinity 2013)** is part of a coalition of community health worker organisations in 30+ countries working together to protect health workers, interrupt the virus, maintain existing health services, and shield the vulnerable. The coalition is currently coordinating protocol modification and implementation to adapt existing CHW protocols and add COVID-19 services to CHW workflow, working with over 100 organisations, including UNICEF. You can join them at <https://chwimpact.org/covid19>.



SUZANNA FRITZBERG (Washington & St John's 2014) is the founding executive director of Birmingham Strong, a public-private partnership designed to advance innovative solutions in combatting COVID-19 at the city level. Suzanna and her team are founding the Bham Strong Service Corps to identify and deploy workers to help perform essential duties that will enable Birmingham, Alabama to endure the COVID-19 crisis.

“ Now is a time when it is easy for hatred and xenophobia to take hold and fracture communities. If we do not actively work on protecting the disempowered, COVID-19 will creep into the social cracks of poverty and racism and break down the bonds formed by decades of social progress.”  
**Kham Kidia**  
 (Zimbabwe & St Hugh's 2011) #PoweroftheCommunity

Both NDUMISO LUTHULI (KwaZulu-Natal & Lincoln 2000) and KAMEEL PREMID (KwaZulu-Natal & Lady Margaret Hall 2013) are serving on a 'rapid response team' providing advice to South Africa's Minister of Justice, for the legal challenges which are emerging from the crisis.

JANET JOBSON (South Africa-at-Large and St Antony's 2007) Deputy CEO of the DG Murray Trust, is working on three response streams to COVID-19 in South Africa: procuring and distributing PPE to community-based health and care workers; developing daily radio updates for all public broadcast radio stations; and convincing mobile networks to zero-rate access to key educational and social service websites.

VIDAL ARROYO (California & University 2019) has been working with It Gets Brighter – a mental health organisation co-founded by JOSHUA CHAUVIN (Ontario & New College 2011) – and with other Rhodes Scholar friends to spearhead mental health outreach in the midst of this social distancing period. They are curating a social media campaign to raise awareness for people who are particularly struggling in isolation.

### Research

TONNY BRIAN MUTHEE (Kenya & Green Templeton 2016) is part of the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine (CEBM) research group at the University of Oxford. The centre launched the Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service where the group committed its skills and expertise to evidence synthesis and dissemination, in the effort against the COVID-19 pandemic.



PRABHAT JHA (Prairies & Magdalen 1987) is Director of the Centre for Global Health Research (<http://www.cghr.org/>), which has reprogrammed its research work to focus on estimations of COVID-19 mortality. They recently received a \$1M grant from the Canadian government.

“ During this crisis, I'd like to remind our community about the importance of truth, respect for science and expertise, and our responsibility to put first the needs of the most vulnerable.”  
**Alex Diaz**  
 (New Jersey & New College 2014)  
 #PoweroftheCommunity

SIR JOHN BELL (Alberta & Magdalen 1975), Chair of the Rhodes Trustees, Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford, is leading efforts at the UK Department of Health to expand diagnostic testing. He is also working with the Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust on vaccine candidates and therapies and trying to procure ventilators for the NHS.

PARDIS SABETI (Florida & New College 1997) began, with her team, to design, test and share new diagnostic assays as soon as the first genomes for COVID-19 were published in January. Simultaneously, the Sabeti Lab developed a novel molecular-based point-of-care diagnostic test. Together with MARC LIPSITCH (Georgia & Merton 1992), she is part of the Greater Boston Consortium for Pathogen Readiness, and both of them participated in a medical Grand Rounds about coronavirus. Dr Sabeti's lab, along with others at the Broad Institute, which is directed by ERIC LANDER (New York & Wolfson 1978), is also providing open access to research protocols and design resources for the use of CRISPR technology to aid in coronavirus detection.

To be inspired by more examples from across the Rhodes community, please see all the profiles and examples of collaboration which are featured here:  
[www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/global-map-coronavirus](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/global-map-coronavirus)

### Philanthropy/Funding

ALEX DIAZ (New Jersey & New College 2014) leads Google.org's humanitarian aid portfolio. In the current crisis, he has been helping lead their \$50M commitment to response efforts, part of Google's much broader response. One of the projects he is leading is helping to advance global epidemiological modelling efforts done by organisations like HealthMap.

JOHN MCCALL MACBAIN (Québec & Wadham 1980), Second Century Founder of the Rhodes Trust, has set up a Pandemic Response Fund as part of his Foundation.

“ Being kind doesn't require grand gestures, often our kindest moments come from the smallest acts. Kindness spreads and when we see it demonstrated by others we are inspired toward it ourselves.”  
**Jordan Anderson**  
 (Alabama & St Hilda's 2010) #PoweroftheCommunity

JORDAN THOMAS (New Jersey & St Antony's 2018) is currently serving as Chief of Staff to global philanthropist Ray Chambers, supporting a range of impact initiatives that include Chambers' role as the WHO Ambassador for Global Strategy. Work includes developing an open-source app that provides users with tools to diagnose and treat COVID-19, and sourcing funding for both the national and global COVID-19 response strategies (including clinical trials for treatments like chloroquine and for potential vaccines).

JENNY TRAN (Australia-at-Large & Green Templeton 2013) is leading the COVID-19 taskforce for the Paul Ramsay Foundation. Their focus is on breaking cycles of disadvantage in Australia and they have committed a first tranche of \$9M for COVID-19 towards vaccine research, development of passive immunity for frontline healthcare workers, research into Indigenous communities and supporting our existing partners as they navigate these uncertain times.





### The Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture 2019

On 24 October 2019, Rhodes House hosted the 12th Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture. Delivered by Professor Stephen Clingman, who spoke on 'Bram Fischer in our Times', this was the first lecture in the series to be live-streamed to an audience in South Africa. The event there was hosted by Mr Justice David Unterhalter, who practiced at the Johannesburg Bar from 1990 to

2017. After the lecture, there was a question and answer session with questions from both UK and South Africa audience members. At the close of the event, a memorial plaque honouring Bram Fischer was unveiled. It was an especially moving moment as Bram Fischer has no official resting place, and this plaque therefore goes some way towards marking his remarkable life.

### 3rd Annual Rhodes Ventures Forum



The 3rd annual Rhodes Ventures Forum, 'From Idea to Impact: Building Sustainable Venture Ecosystems' took place at Rhodes House on 22-23 June 2019. Over 150 delegates including current and former Rhodes Scholars and international business leaders came together to

discuss innovation, entrepreneurship and investment and to explore how we can create ventures that improve the world. The Forum focused on translation – the process of transforming bold ideas conceived within academic and research institutions into impactful ventures that last.

### The Saïd Rhodes Forum on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon & Palestine (SJLP)



The Inaugural Saïd Rhodes Forum on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon & Palestine (SJLP) celebrated the historic partnership between the Saïd Foundation and the Rhodes Trust. The Forum took place at Rhodes House on 22-23 February 2020 and explored 'A state of dysfunction? Weaving

a vision from a complex present'. Rhodes Scholars, Saïd Scholars and Trustees, guests and speakers all convened to engage in dialogue on the presence of complex (geo)political realities and to ask what the future holds for the SJLP region.

## Our Second Cohort of Global Scholars

In late 2019 we announced the names of the two individuals selected for the 2020 Global Rhodes Scholarships. This is only our second cohort of Global Scholars, and we look forward to welcoming them to the Rhodes community.



#### Hye Min Yi (Republic of Korea, 2020)

A senior at Seoul National University, Hye Min majors in International Relations and has received consecutive merit-based scholarships. She harbours a passion for South Korean foreign policy and East Asian regional security, and she has written and presented several papers on regional conflicts and human rights. At Oxford, Hye Min will continue studying East Asian international relations and will explore interdisciplinary studies in international law and international relations.



#### Summia Tora (Afghanistan, 2020)

Summia is in her final year at Earlham College, double majoring in Economics and Peace & Global Studies. She grew up as an Afghan refugee in Pakistan, and she is passionate about solving integration challenges faced by displaced communities. Summia co-founded Dosti Initiative, which connects Afghan and Pakistani girls through the making of reusable sanitary pads. She is also one of the founding members of Mashinani Farmers Initiative, which helps farmers in Kenya gain access to sustainable farming methods. She hopes to continue working on both of these initiatives and to expand them to benefit marginalised communities.





# From the Inaugural Rhodes Humanities Forum

**Elleke Boehmer** (South Africa-at-Large & St John's 1985) is a Rhodes Trustee and was one of the co-convenors at the inaugural Rhodes Humanities Forum, held on 16-17 November 2019. She is a novelist, critic and short-story writer, and Professor of World Literature in English at the University of Oxford, as well as Director of the Oxford Centre for Life Writing, based at Wolfson College. Here, she sets out how the Forum explored the centrality of findings from the humanities disciplines to our social lives and self-understanding.

**A**s captured in the Forum theme 'Narratives of Change', the Forum recognised that symbols, languages, translations and stories broadly conceived express core human truths. They are fundamental to problem-solving, conflict resolution and a deeper, more sympathetic understanding of others and other cultures; they are essential to conserving the past, analysing the present, and conceptualising the future. However, studies in humanities disciplines in many academic institutions, at least in the West, are currently underfunded and sometimes negatively perceived as unprofitable. The situation is much worse in the Global South. Currently only around 7% of research funding per year in the UK goes to humanities disciplines. This was something that was surprising news to many participants at the Forum, especially from other disciplinary perspectives including medicine.

Against this, the two exciting days of Forum conversation and fellowship explored the value of humanities studies and interventions from many different angles – biographical, human rights, inter-cultural, psychological, and anthropological. In the opening discussion between myself and Professor Lyndsay Stonebridge, with the Warden in the chair, we talked about the analytic scope and depth that humanities disciplines like history, philosophy, and literary study can

bring. The humanities, we suggested, allow us to imagine social justice and think about better forms of political engagement. We all felt strongly that the humanities are almost without exception used to bring about change, especially of perception, addressing the charge that the humanities 'make nothing happen'.

In fact, as we argued, the humanities are the more helpful for framing and reframing problems and moving to solutions the more they are concerned with aesthetics; that is, with pleasing shape and persuasive form. In my own remarks, I touched on the shaping force of narrative and crafted language in people's lives. As great thinkers like Aristotle, Wordsworth, George Eliot and Steve Biko, amongst many others, have understood, we are only able to transform and shape our understanding of ourselves in society through changing the stories we tell about ourselves. Narratives stimulate critical and creative thinking and allow us to express agency in powerful new ways. Across the two days of the Forum, these ideas were supported and exemplified by a rich range of speakers drawn from many different parts of the world.

.....  
**Elleke's most recent publications are *Postcolonial Poetics: 21st-Century Critical Readings*, and the short story collection *To the Volcano* (2019). She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. For more on her work, see [www.ellekeboehmer.com](http://www.ellekeboehmer.com)**

Symbols, languages,  
translations and stories  
broadly conceived express  
core human truths







# The Power of Literature: How Writers Helped End Slavery

**James G. Basker** is Richard Gilder Professor of Literary History at Barnard College, NY. His work on 18th-century literature and history includes studies of slavery and abolition, print culture and women writers. Since 1997, he has been President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, a non-profit organisation providing training and resources to teachers and students across the US. Here, Jim offers an analysis of how writing made a crucial impact on the struggle against slavery.



Frederick Douglass, frontispiece portrait in *My Bondage and My Freedom*, published by Miller, Orton & Mulligan (New York, 1855) (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC05820)

If we could go back to the year 1600 and survey the world from 30,000 feet, we would be hard pressed to find any society on earth that disapproved of unfree labour – whether they called it slavery or serfdom or tied peasantry or some other culturally specific term. This had been true for thousands of years, at least since the Egyptians and Assyrians. Yet by 1900, if one made the same survey, it would be hard to find any country on earth where at least the idea of freedom as the natural right of humanity had not emerged – even if it was not yet fully realised in a given society. Looking back, the question for us is: How does the world change its mind?

A wakeup call came in 1688 from both sides of the Atlantic. That year a group of Pennsylvania Mennonites

circulated a petition in the American colonies calling for an end to slavery, while in London Aphra Behn, one of the first professional woman writers, published *Oroonoko*, a novella about an African prince who leads a doomed slave rebellion in Surinam. The 1695 play adapted from her story shaped British consciousness for a century, appearing on London stages between 1700 and 1800 an average of three times a year.

In 1737 the radical Quaker Benjamin Lay denounced slaveholders in a 278-page diatribe as more evil than 'the Devil himself'. That same year the eminent English poet Richard Savage proclaimed that Africans were 'by Nature free... [and] equal' to Europeans, and predicted massive slave rebellions in which 'yoke may yoke, and blood may



blood repay'.

In 1759 two of the greatest writers in Europe weighed in. Voltaire used *Candide* to depict the misery of an escaped slave, warning his readers that 'this is the price you pay for the sugar you eat in Europe'. In his *World Displayed*, Samuel Johnson, the Oxford dropout and lifelong abolitionist, attacked slave holders as 'barbarians' and European racism as 'wicked and injurious'. A few years later, in an Oxford common room, Johnson made a toast to 'the next insurrection of the negroes in the West Indies'. In 1789 William Blake explored the psychology of internalised racism in 'The Little Black Boy' and Olaudah Equiano published his landmark slave narrative, which became a bestseller throughout the English-speaking world.

Antislavery literature would proliferate in 19th-century America and define its political landscape. Frederick Douglass's 1845 *Narrative* made a huge

impact, and scores of other slave narratives poured forth, from Venture Smith in 1798 to William Wells Brown, Henry 'Box' Brown, Josiah Henson, Sojourner Truth, Solomon Northup, and Harriet Jacobs in the 1840s, '50s, and '60s. Writers as various as Noah Webster, William Lloyd Garrison, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Herman Melville, Walt Whitman, Louisa May Alcott, Horace Greeley, Charles Sumner, and Julia Ward Howe all attacked slavery. In the midst of the Civil War, Lincoln recognised the power of literature to shape people's values and sensibilities when he greeted Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of the antislavery bestseller *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, calling her 'the little woman who made this great war'.

Lincoln's view was well grounded. Thomas Clarkson in his *History of the Abolition of the Slave Trade* (1808) and Henri Grégoire in his *De la littérature des nègres* (1808) agreed with Hester Thrale Piozzi who in her millennialist history *Retrospection* (1801) observed that popular opinion had turned against slavery by the 1790s because 'many pleasing writers took up the cause . . . and all the world



Harriet Beecher Stowe, photograph by Napoleon Sarony (ca. 1860–1869) (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC05111.01.1319)

Looking back, the question  
for us is: How does the  
world change its mind?



"Poor Tom!", sheet music cover for the play *Uncle Tom's Cabin* written by Charles Jefferys and composed by Stephen Glover (London: Charles Jefferys, 1852) (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC05508.013.04)



"The Slave Mother", sheet music cover for ballad by George Linley from the play *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC05508.013.05)

now wishes them success'. The most concrete evidence of literature's impact comes not from the opponents of slavery but, ironically, from its defenders. By the 1830s, egregiously violating the First Amendment, most slave states had outlawed antislavery literature as 'incendiary' and reinforced prohibitions on teaching slaves to read and write. A black man in Maryland was sentenced to ten years in prison for owning a copy of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in the 1850s. Resistance to abolitionist writings became violent. Georgia placed a bounty on the head of the free black writer David Walker, whose 1829 *Appeal... to the Coloured Citizens of the World* circulated widely despite the ban. In 1837 a proslavery mob in Illinois murdered the abolitionist writer and publisher Elijah Lovejoy, and destroyed his printing press. In 1856 Charles Sumner's *Crime Against Kansas* stirred South Carolina congressman

and slaveholder Preston Brooks to attack Sumner on the floor of the Senate and beat him almost to death.

The obvious fear and sense of vulnerability to antislavery ideas led to a revealing and ludicrous episode during the Civil War. In 1862, while Confederate soldiers were fighting and dying to preserve the 'peculiar institution,' a publisher in Richmond, Virginia decided abolitionist ideas were still too dangerous to tolerate: he expunged all the antislavery passages from a new translation of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. His reaction was an unconscious admission that slavery's defenders were losing the battle of ideas. History teaches us that violent resistance – whether civil war or lynchings or assassinations – is a signal of weakness against progressive ideas and a perverse testament to the power of literature.





# Competing on Imagination

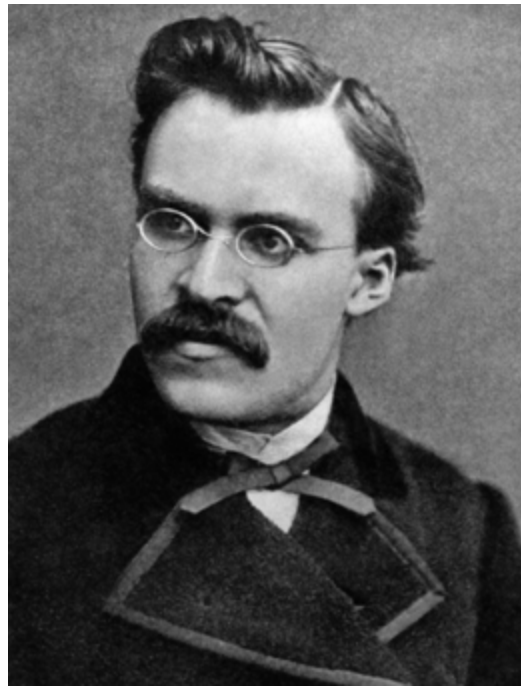
**Jack Fuller** (Victoria & St Hugh's 2010) is a consultant at Boston Consulting Group in New York. He is currently on secondment to co-author a book – *Competing on Imagination in the Machine Age* – with BCG partner Martin Reeves. Here, he shares his vision for how the study of the humanities can bring the benefits of productive imagination to all of us.

In my current job as a management consultant, I had the chance to join some conversations with the CEO of a moderate-size bank. We were asking him to imagine new paths to growth. He found this very difficult. He would say: 'Well, I think we could expand by 5-7% in selling loans in the garbage and sanitation industry'. It struck me that the CEO and I had very different types of brains. If you ask me to imagine the future for a bank, I ask myself the question: 'What could a bank be?' I then start imagining an organisation that helps us with every kind of money trouble, not only saving and loans, but analysing our anxieties around money, thinking through what exactly our goals should be – a kind of therapy clinic plus retail bank. I think about what a bank could be but is not. The CEO, in contrast, never steps away mentally from what his bank currently is.



I think most people in academia, especially in the humanities, are pretty familiar with imagining. We love to dream big dreams, and to imagine what things would be like if the whole world were different. My realisation in encountering this CEO was that not everyone is comfortable thinking counter-factually like this. Some people just live in the world of *what is* rather than swimming around in the space of *what is not, but could be*. The CEO was extremely good at operations, which I am bad at. But every organisation needs to be good at both: to run operations effectively, as well as explore new paths to growth and improvement. They need to compete on efficiency and to compete on imagination.

How can we train people to be productively imaginative? I think the answer lies in the humanities. However I don't think the humanities do a good job of exploiting what they have to offer here. Let's first define our terms. We can define imagination as 'the capacity to create mental models of things which do not exist yet'. We forget how difficult this is. We forget how weird most familiar things were before they existed. Imagine trying to persuade someone, for example, in the middle ages, about the idea of a fridge: 'You need to push air together in a pipe to make it cold,' we would say. 'We're not really sure how to do that yet, precisely. But it can then be attached to a box, and we can put food in. It would be useful for storing meat.' 'It seems very complicated,' they might answer. 'What's the big problem anyway? Why not just eat the meat, or use salt to preserve it?'



Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

All the humanities can fill our minds with resources that we can draw on to imagine more broadly and powerfully

Similarly, the idea for a bank that focuses on therapy around money sounds weird but, in a parallel society, could be completely normal. The humanities help us with this mental flexibility. Studying history, to imagine ourselves into different societies, in a playful way, can help give us this kind of mental freedom from our own society's mental models.

When we imagine, we put together new mental models by altering, recombining, and drawing analogies with things we know. For example, Charles Merrill, who founded Merrill Lynch, reimagined the concept of a bank, drawing on his experience managing supermarkets. In his day, banks were unapologetically for the elite and not really interested in the average middle-class person. He imagined a bank analogous to a supermarket, with a wide range of products advertised with comprehensible pricing schemes. At the time this was revolutionary; essentially, Merrill invented retail banking. He did this by drawing on his rich stock of experience.

The humanities can give us that stock of experience beyond our own lifetime. As Goethe said, 'those who cannot draw on 2000 years of history are living hand-to-mouth'. The key point is *drawing on* the experience to do something imaginative with it. Nietzsche, who strongly admired Goethe, wrote in his essay *On the Use and Abuse of History for Life* about how academia fails if it studies things for their own sake, rather than using them to enrich and guide our individual and collective lives now. History, literature, philosophy, anthropology, and all the

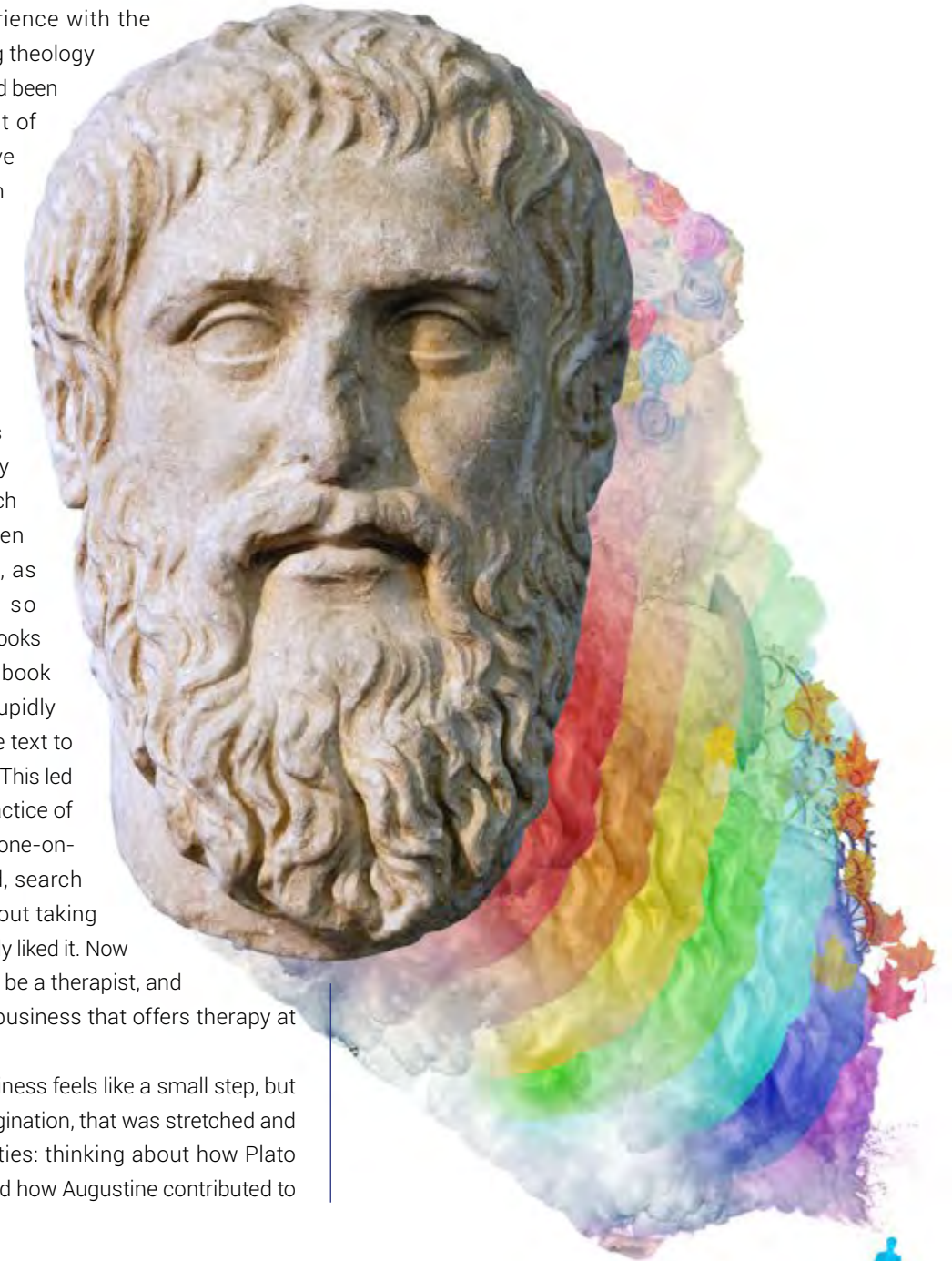
humanities, can fill our minds with resources that we can draw on to imagine more broadly and powerfully. We can create better mental models of things not-yet-made. This can be a starting point for heading out to build something or improve something in the world. Nietzsche was arguing that if we never head out to change our lives or change the world then the whole exercise of researching and studying is basically a waste of time.

Personally, my experience with the humanities was studying theology at Oxford. In Australia I had been an atheist, but I thought of theology as a way to dive away from the modern world, to immerse myself in the middle ages, or the mental world of Plato, or St Augustine. This helped me imagine the kind of work I wanted to do in my life. I was particularly inspired by Plato's idea that the search for wisdom has to happen on a one-on-one basis, as individual minds are so different. (Plato thought books were inferior, because a book is like a person that stupidly repeats exactly the same text to every individual it meets). This led me to think about the practice of psychotherapy today – a one-on-one, highly personalised, search for wisdom. I then tried out taking therapy in Oxford and really liked it. Now I am training part-time to be a therapist, and also planning to build a business that offers therapy at scale.

Starting to build a business feels like a small step, but what helps me is my imagination, that was stretched and enriched by the humanities: thinking about how Plato was the first therapist, and how Augustine contributed to

building an institution focused (in principle) on developing the inner life of many people. The humanities can be powerful if we use them as a starting point to get out in the world, compete with others, and build good things.

You can read more about competing on imagination at <https://bcghendersoninstitute.com/competing-on-imagination-22984574aa48>







## #MeToo avant la lettre: Denis Diderot and the Condemnation of Sexual Coercion

**Síofra Pierse** (Ireland & Trinity 1994) is Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies at UCD Dublin, Ireland. Her research interests lie in 18th-century French literature and the history of ideas, and she particularly enjoys identifying close parallels between then and now.

An essential power of the humanities lies in their persistent questioning of acquiescence. Acquiescence is the somewhat reluctant, often silent, uneasy acceptance of something improper, which makes us deeply uncomfortable. Literature is a powerful tool for exposing acquiescence as it spotlights taboos, liminal spaces, the voiceless, and the oppressed. For example, long before the 21st-century #MeToo movement, French author Denis Diderot defended voiceless women in his 1796 novel *Jacques the Fatalist*, wherein he names and shames rape in the boudoir.

Diderot's eponymous Jacques is a servant tasked with recounting his love trysts to help his master pass the time. Jacques recounts three separate instances where he tricked women into helping him (re-)lose his virginity. In the classical, Horatian sense of 'delight and instruct', the topic entertains his master. However, Jacques's narrative is deeply coded, so that the reader is instructed in distinguishing the acceptable from the criminal.

At a village wedding, Jacques feigns ignorance around what happens on the wedding night. Two married women, Suzanne and Marguerite, both decide to give him a sexual education, separately 'educating' Jacques in the open woods, in broad daylight and in twilight respectively. These results of Jacques's sexual trickery present as bright, light, harmless and mutually pleasurable.

Literature is a powerful tool  
for exposing acquiescence

By contrast, an earlier instance of trickery is the antithesis of these two. It takes place in the pitch dark of a claustrophobic, confined loft space, indicating to the reader that this is a sinister instance of sexual coercion. Jacques' best friend Bigre has spent the night with his girlfriend in his loft bed above his father's workshop, but they overslept and she is now hiding upstairs in the pitch-dark loft, while Bigre's father works downstairs. Jacques assures his friend he will look after the situation: he feigns exhaustion and heads upstairs. Using trickery of the lowest kind, Jacques forces Justine to stay silent and sleep with him. She repeatedly resists his advances, until Jacques callously threatens to denounce her to Bigre's father downstairs. Jacques thus forces Justine to save her reputation by resigning herself to his sexual coercion.

Brusquely, Jacques' master intervenes in the storytelling and, using an intradiegetic intrusion, calls a spade a spade. He asks his servant outright whether he realises that he is about to commit rape, which is a crime. He reiterates: 'You are about to rape that girl, if not using physical violence, then instead by using terror and threat. If you were accused in a lawcourt you would be condemned, rightly, with all the rigour of the law that is reserved for rapists'. The text is incredibly clear. Both the moral and legal implications are unambiguous. The Master does not mince his words. To defend Justine, the author has already



From an early edition of Diderot's *Les Bijoux Indiscrets* (the engraver and artist are both anonymous)

employed coded, atmospheric shading and used spatial restriction to let the reader know that Jacques' sexual trickery is dark and despicable. Here, Diderot aspires to shape the moral compass of the reader-voyeur, insisting on rigorous standards in the private boudoir as well as on the public boulevard.

Diderot's 18th-century exposure of 'lad culture' and rape has not lost any of its power, importance, or urgency. From its inconvenient questioning of both acquiescence and complacency, we learn that one of the most raw and urgent powers of the humanities lies in pinpointing enduring truths.





# The Re-humanisation of Humanity

**Durkhanai Ayubi** is an Atlantic Fellow for Social Equity based in Australia. An author and restaurateur, her endeavours reflect her history as a first-generation Afghan-born migrant, interested in exploring the nature of the boundaries which contain us. Here, she reflects on how we can use the humanities to change our narratives.

**T**he power of the humanities today lies in the degree to which they can facilitate our collective re-humanisation. This moment in our shared human story is perhaps defined most clearly by how we bear witness to the consequences of the long foment of a power that has depended upon (and further generates) dehumanisation. Power, by its very nature, is concerned with the creation of exceptionalism. But through the means available to us today, amplified by the compounding effects of human capability and time, this exceptionalism has followed its own logical conclusion to the point of irrationality, morphing into a denial and escapism from our humanity which is of ruinous proportion.

This erosion of our humanity (an erosion with which power has become synonymous) is perpetuated in increasingly pervasive, and interrelated, ways – through the disproportionate creation and subsequent vilification of human vulnerability; through the disconnection of ourselves from one another and from the natural universe of which we are a part; and through technological advances which continue to centralise wealth and power while exponentially normalising trends towards exclusion.

Perhaps among the most defining symbols of human vulnerability of our times are the masses of displaced people being generated globally. The UN has reported on the unprecedented flow of people being displaced from their homes, many of them forcibly, with figures today standing at over 70 million people. This vulnerability is

systematically exploited through politics and nationally sanctioned narratives of racism and fear, which cast displaced people as irreconcilable and dangerous outsiders ready to violate order. This dehumanisation and the accompanying sequencing into our collective psyche of vulnerability as a gross liability, serves to reinforce the boundaries between us.

It is upon the fortification of boundaries such as these that the vision of power regulating our world thrives. Such severances of our capacity to empathise with others, naturalised into the narratives and systems which shape our norms, are a symptom of an initial isolation of ourselves from our own human depths. This, in turn, stems

from a rejection of our place as a beat in the overall rhythm of the natural world – our mortality depicted (and struggled against) as a final barrier to claiming precedence over all that exists, and our inextricable oneness with the atoms and composition of

the universe all but erased from our consciousness. What manifests is a dangerous schism between our vision of ourselves and the elementary laws and dependencies of being human.

The outcomes of this ill-fated split today threaten to eclipse us: devastated climate cycles; unacknowledged human biases; futile attempts at escaping our nature encoded into algorithms; collapsing models of capital based on a gulf between social classes now stretched beyond functionality.

It is, I believe, no accident that our realities have become increasingly dystopic and hostile to our survival

Each challenge we face  
entreats us to examine our  
interdependencies further

in proportion to the degree to which we pursue our dissociation from ourselves. So too, is it a profound, painful, but ultimately, timely, paradox of the human story, that in our attempts to evade ourselves, we are instead reminded of the fullest extent of the fragility of our nature – each challenge we face entreats us to examine our interdependencies further.

During times such as ours, then, the call upon the humanities is momentous. It is being asked to measure its power as a way to redefine power. It is being asked to chart our way forward in a way that breaks free of the encumbrances of a brittle and doomed vision of power that has led us to collectively organise ourselves in ways based on dogmatic segregation and a denial of the vulnerabilities that underpin our nature.

This means understanding the role of humankind, not as exceptional or as unaccountably privileged, but as dispersive and tied to planetary ecosystems and to the timeless laws of the natural universe. It means no longer contextualising ourselves based on histories that

normalise hierarchies of worth by privileging only certain voices, but upon narratives that integrate the full hue of experiences that constitute the human story. It means moving forward in a way that by no means rejects the power unlocked by technology and human capability, but which asks only for a deep interrogation of the philosophy driving these advances. In this way, we might limit the futile promises of infallibility, and instead bring us closer to ourselves.

Our times are beckoning us towards a metamorphosis of our collective consciousness that is asking us to integrate the full breadth and depth of the human condition – revelling in its sublime beauty and not rejecting our innate propensity towards suffering. This rests upon a reorientation of ourselves that embraces, rather than denies, the necessity of our human vulnerability, and which harnesses, rather than weaponises, the interconnections that make us echoes of one another. Herein lies our path to re-humanisation, and perhaps, to our very survival.



**Opposite:** In Jordan in October 2019 during the Atlantic Institute's Thematic Forum: Crossing Borders - Effects of Displacement on Health, meeting refugees at the Zaatari Syrian Refugee camp. Credit: Issa Jahdal





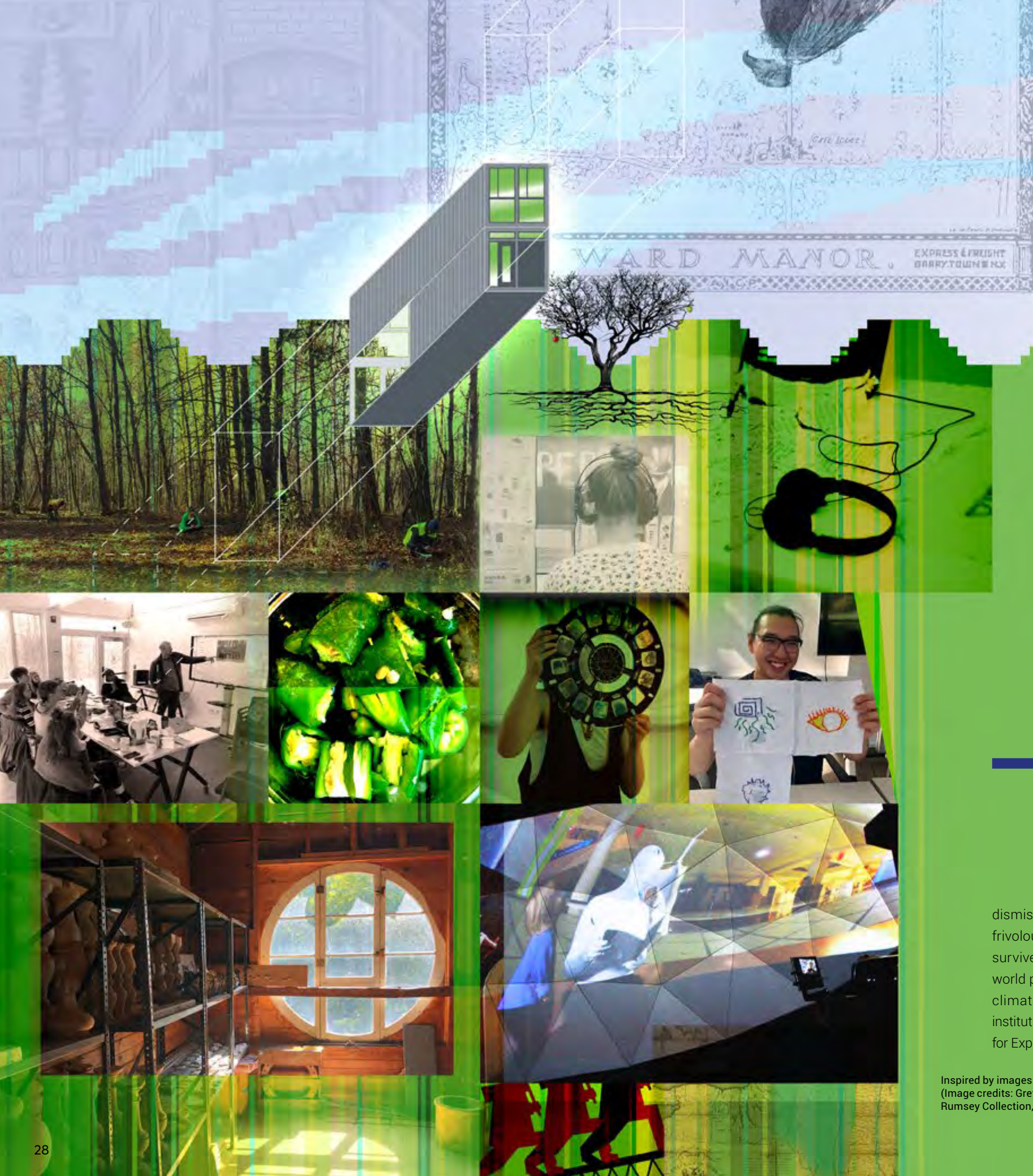
# Experimental Humanities and the Future of Higher Education

**Maria Sachiko Cecire** (Virginia & Keble 2006) is Associate Professor of Literature and Director of the Center for Experimental Humanities at Bard College, NY. Here, she tells us about the transformations that become possible when the humanities and experimental methods come together.

The spectre of crisis is always looming over those of us who work in the humanities. Whether it's dropping student enrolment rates in fields like English and History, ever-tightening budgets and staff cutbacks, or public dismissals of humanities subjects as unprofitable and frivolous, it can sometimes be hard to see how we will survive – let alone how we can make a difference in a world plagued by runaway inequality, rapidly advancing climate change, and crumbling faith in democratic institutions. But my work founding and running the Center for Experimental Humanities at Bard College has given me

a glimpse of the transformative possibilities that open up when institutions support their staff and students' efforts to chart creative, inclusive, and technologically diverse pathways through the humanities. Far from being relics of another time, the humanities can become fertile ground for seeding meaningful change in the world when we are empowered to: a) carve out spaces for experimentation in teaching, research, and public projects that draw on an array of media and methods; b) redefine what we mean by 'the humanities' to include a much wider cross-section of human interests and histories than is commonly associated with that term; and c) gather in interdisciplinary teams to imagine alternative futures together.

Inspired by images selected from the various courses and projects offered by EH Bard. (Image credits: Gretta Tritch Roman, EH Sound Cluster, Alanna Rebbeck, Ben Coonley, Krista Caballero, Corinna Cape, David Rumsey Collection, Michelle Mandoki, EH Media Corps, William H. Matthews)





When I started at Bard in 2010, I was still in my 20s and completing my DPhil in English. Because of the concerns I've noted above, I didn't know if academia was the right place for me. But I was lucky to land at a small institution with big social justice goals, a passionate commitment to the arts and humanities, and incredible flexibility in what its faculty could teach and build – as long as we didn't require much of a budget! Within two years, my colleagues and I were launching the first courses and projects in our new initiative. We saw the moment's enthusiasm for integrating digital methods into education as a chance to do more than adopt new tech. Instead, it seemed the ideal opportunity to rethink the print-based material conditions that we often take for granted in the humanities, and to reconsider which texts, cultures, and disciplinary practices we put at the centre of our work. So rather than a Digital Humanities programme, we built an Experimental Humanities programme. Not wanting to throw thousands of years of humanistic baby out with the bathwater, we gathered a

Far from being relics of another time, the humanities can become fertile ground for seeding meaningful change in the world

team of scholars from fields like Africana Studies, Asian Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Computer Science, Film and Electronic Arts, Gender and Sexuality Studies, History, Literature, Media Studies, Medieval Studies, Philosophy, Theater and Performance Studies, and more to discuss what courses, projects, subjects, and teaching methods we would dream of developing together. We based our ideas on the triple pillars of history, theory, and practice, keeping always in mind this central question: 'How does technology mediate what it means to be human?'

Now in our eighth year, Experimental Humanities (EH) offers up to 22 affiliated courses per semester, many of which integrate collaborative, hands-on methods with

old and new technologies: from building a room-sized camera obscura as part of studying early modern vision and image-making to hand-coding 90s-style HTML pages while discussing cyberpunk and the rise of the early web; or, in one course, running a Wikipedia editing project to correct for missing and faulty local Native American history

alongside work on the college farm with Indigenous 'Three Sisters' crop-growing methods. We received a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2014 that boosted our growth into a fully-fledged humanities centre, and we now run an array of community-based projects including out of our Digital History, Immersive Media Arts, and Art + Technology + Ecology Labs. The Center for EH also nurtures new collaborative, interdisciplinary initiatives through topic-based faculty research clusters such as Archives, Attention, Food, Health and Medicine, Space and Politics, and Sound. Our courses, public projects, and clusters feed into and strengthen one another, bringing urgent questions about the present into conversation with rich knowledge of the past.

We also look ahead to imagine different kinds of futures from the one we are told inevitably lies before us: ever more individualistic, competitive, and dehumanisingly

data-driven. We find ourselves considering alternative organisations of the future, like the Food cluster's mission, which asks: 'How can we build healthier, more equitable, and culturally just food systems?' In that case, cutting-edge microbiology techniques meet Indigenous foodways and traditional fermentation methods in the classroom, and extend to campus-wide events and community projects that decentre industrialised Western approaches and narratives. Scientists, humanities scholars, farmers, chefs, and food justice activists join in much-needed conversations to map out alternatives to agribusiness practices that destroy the environment, perpetuate the oppression of low-income and minority communities, and make food less healthy for us all.

We also think about what roles universities and the humanities can play in ushering in a more equitable future; for example, our Digital History Lab (DHL) has been working to answer this question: 'How can communities and universities collaborate to produce mutually beneficial knowledge?' Members of the DHL and Hudson Valley partners have together digitised local family archives and taken oral histories for projects like our public-facing website about regional apple farming. In another project, students and staff worked with locals to recover the lost cemetery of a progressive retirement home for the poor; they photographed, mapped, digitised, and filled in as much genealogical data as possible for each grave site, making visible an obscured piece of history and helping families locate the resting places of long-lost relatives. One EH undergraduate created a virtual reality tour of a nearby mill town based on historical drawings of working-class buildings and homes, part of a project that advocates for the importance of remembering and studying everyday people, not just the rich and powerful. Projects like these suggest how we have been tackling another important question: 'How can we help students not just learn about inequality, but take part in combating it through rigorous scholarship while also learning technological skills?'

Experimental Humanities is proud to be one of the inaugural programs in the new \$1 billion Open Society University Network, and excited to work alongside international partners to rethink what the humanities, universities, and our collective global futures can be. To

tackle such big questions we need all the perspectives we can get – which is why reaching across traditional boundaries to learn from each other is essential. But so is the willingness to experiment, in senses associated with both the arts and sciences: working in ways that integrate hands-on practice with a range of media forms, forming collegial teams with diverse areas of expertise, and maintaining an open-minded spirit of possibility, including the possibility of failure. I am grateful to work with passionate, brilliant collaborators from an array of backgrounds; only a small proportion of the projects I've mentioned here are ones that I have led personally. My main efforts have gone towards building community and clearing room for others to gather, share, experiment, and flourish. Such spaces are crucial to building better systems of higher education, and better futures for us all.

A mentor once described the arts and humanities as engaged with what makes life worth living, not just what keeps us alive. I love this way of looking at what we do, but increasingly, I believe that the humanities can be the hub for action in the world that meaningfully brings these two goals – thriving *and* surviving – together.

You can find out more about the Center for Experimental Humanities at <http://eh.bard.edu>



The Center for Experimental Humanities hosts an e-waste screen repair workshop and the Patagonia Worn Wear Wagon during Bard College's Community Sustainability Exhibition in 2019 (photograph by Krista Caballero)



3D printed sound waves of students saying 'Experimental Humanities', from Whitney Slaten's 'Sound Studies and Critical Listening' course (photograph by Michelle Mandoki)





# Towards an Artful Diplomacy in a Divided World

**Michael P. O'Keefe** (Newfoundland & Oriol 2018) is a graduate student currently based at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. A classical musician by training, he has worked on areas from arts and culture to immigration policy. Here, he shows how notions of performance can inform trust-building in international cooperation.

It is very difficult to deny that the rules-based international order governing nation-to-nation relationships since World War II, and the multilateral institutions that continue to uphold it, are at an impasse. It is also difficult to deny that intensifying globalisation throughout this same time period has led to the rise of a plutocratic global economy, leaving entire communities, geographies, and demographics behind. The reality of global geopolitics means that trust in, and respect for, the normative conditions of international cooperation are deteriorating. It is therefore timely to re-examine the role of our arts and cultural institutions in bringing people from diverse backgrounds together – to serve as honest brokers in facilitating renewed understanding between opposing groups, in a way that can promote more progressive, inclusive, and empathic foreign policies. Populist challenges to international cooperation pose a salient threat to democracy, equality, and justice, and arts and cultural institutions are ideally positioned to act in their defence.

As a politically engaged classical musician, I have long wrestled with what seemed, at one time, a binary choice between competing passions: music performance on the one hand, and international conflict resolution through diplomatic engagement on the other. It was through an

interdisciplinary approach to my education that I came to truly understand these two academic disciplines in relationship with one another. Cultural diplomacy, as many might understand it, is described by political scientist Milton Cummings as 'the exchange of ideas, information, values, systems, traditions, beliefs, and other aspects of culture, with the intention of fostering mutual understanding'.

Throughout history, music has often been employed as a significant tool in cultural diplomacies. Look no further than the prominent use of music to strengthen a sense of absolutism at the court of Louis XIV in France, the development of the symphonic form to develop a sense of national identity in

pre-unification Germany, or the American funding of the *Rundfunk im Amerikanischen Sektor* (RIAS) Symphony Orchestra in West Berlin following World War II. While not all instances of cultural diplomatic engagement are benign or productive in their aims, the merits of renewed cultural diplomacies today are clear, even without rose-coloured glasses.

The persuasive power of cultural diplomacy can be harnessed, as branding consultant Wally Olins describes, to bolster trade, energise diplomacy in areas of human rights or environmental concerns, encourage foreign aid, facilitate the development of shared values, and

Musicians can, through international arts organisations, influence diplomatic negotiations

promote pride in society. It can be said that audiences regard cultural activities as a more legitimate form of public diplomacy than information programmes because, as public diplomacy expert Evan Potter has noted, they are perceived as less mediated by government officials and, as a result, can avoid the negative connotations of propaganda. Despite the many advantages of cultural diplomacy, international relations and history theorist Jongsuk Chay claims that culture remains one of the most neglected facets of international relations.

Today, the incorporation of cultural diplomacy in both domestic and foreign policies tends to focus on a perceived governmental responsibility to artists – a responsibility to provide them with funding and opportunities – rather than focusing on the value musicians and artists can bring to international diplomatic fora. It is this glaring oversight that motivates me to query how musicians can, through international arts organisations, influence diplomatic negotiations and by extension (re)form trust in international cooperation. I also question the notion of performance, an inherent component of musical activity, and its relationship with the performance of diplomats in international negotiations. Are there lessons to be learned in preparation for a diplomatic performance – a negotiation, for example – from the preparation process for a musical or artistic performance on stage? Last year, I had the opportunity to interview internationally acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma at Rhodes House, where he discussed the acute, sensitive decision-making skills exercised by musicians in preparation for and during performances. The contemporary need for sensitive decision-making at the highest levels of global governance is urgent and

represents just one area where diplomats might look to arts and cultural institutions for creative inspiration. For me, these questions represent an important need for those of us working in the humanities to functionalise our skills – our art – to creatively tackle the modern challenges facing our societies.

Overarching my academic and applied work in this space is a goal to evolve both public and governmental understanding of the role of non-state actors in diplomatic negotiations, elevating them from mere proponents of soft power to meaningful contributors in the negotiations of international relations. Contrary to historical examples of nations instrumentalising music and the arts to further the economic and political goals of the state, I am passionate about reframing cultural diplomacy to prioritise what musicians and artists can bring to international diplomatic engagement. From it comes an ability to facilitate mutual understanding and trust-building in international cooperation and move the needle on social progress in our divided world.



Yo-Yo and Michael at Rhodes House





# Applied Humanities

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**Adam Levine** (New Hampshire & Corpus Christi 2008) served as Director of the Toledo Museum of Art until 2019 and is now Director and CEO of the Cumner Museum of Art and Gardens. Here, he tells us how quantitative and qualitative approaches can be used together to present the humanities in new ways that will enrich us all.

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strode into my interview for the Scholarship the standard ball of nerves, calmed in part only by the confidence that I was prepared for one, inevitable question, which ended up being asked (maybe not that surprisingly) by the game theorist on the panel: 'So you studied applied math and art history? How do those two things work together?'

My answer at the time wove my study of network analysis and quantitative approaches to pattern recognition (i.e., how do you determine 'similarity') together with the type of systematic (if not quantitative) visual analysis that is at the core of art history. That was a very specific answer to the question, but what I can see now

– and could not have articulated at the time – is that the real lesson I took from my studies had more to do with the discrepancy between applied math and art history than with the similarity between them.

Though the nomenclature of 'Applied Mathematics' may be relatively new in historical terms, the distinction it draws between math that can be used to solve real-world problems and math that exists in its own conceptual space is a pivotal one. While paintings and sculptures very much exist in the real world, the types of visual analysis used by art historians have remained confined to interpreting those works of art – i.e., they remain confined to their own disciplinary terrain. What I should have answered in





my interview, then, was that the very existence of applied mathematics suggests the possibility of an 'applied' art history.

This is a topic that absorbed a considerable amount of my thought as the director of the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA). When the British Museum was founded, it was done so with an aim 'to provide education for the studious and entertainment for the curious'. The art museum, as an institution, has at its core a dual mandate, to serve scholarship and the broader population. Seen this way, the art museum is perhaps the optimal vehicle for the delivery of an applied art history.

What might such an applied art history look like? The discipline would take the formal, stylistic, and interpretive methodologies of art history and abstract them into a set of rules that could be leveraged in more 'practical' ways. Consider as an example the Center of Visual Expertise (COVE), a business founded at TMA. COVE takes the building blocks of art history and operationalises them for use in industrial manufacturing. It turns out that if you can teach employees to look at their workstations the same way that an art historian looks at a painting, they spot more hazards. As a result, incident rates decrease, employees are safer, worker's compensation claims go down, and companies save money. COVE now counts numerous Fortune 500 companies among its client base just two years after launching.

But why stop with art history? Literature gives rise to an understanding of the architecture of narratives; the study of history allows us to better understand the 'course' of states and empires; and philosophy interrogates with rigour the nature of existence, systems of logic, and the creation of knowledge. Each discipline in the humanities has vital lessons that are worth knowing in and of themselves, but part of the richness they add to lives of those who know them is that these lessons modulate the way one sees the world. Such lessons, which are 'applied' to the world

de facto by those who know them, are usually received from the deep and narrow study of a particular humanistic discipline; perhaps, though, there is an opportunity to complement traditional academic inquiry with a broader interrogation of key insights from the humanities that can be actively applied.

The business case for this may be better than many realise. In a world where robots and software will increasingly replace existing jobs, the opportunities of the future will present themselves in the spaces where technology (as yet) underperforms by comparison to human cognition. Accenture (*It's Learning. Just Not as We Know It*, 2019) identifies four key skill sets for the 21st-century economy: (1) Complex reasoning; (2) Creativity; (3) Socio-emotional intelligence, and; (4) Sensory perception. These are precisely the skills that the humanities teach. Though the terminology changes, these results have been replicated by studies from the OECD (*Skills for the 21st century: Findings and policy lessons from the OECD survey of adult skills*, 2018) to McKinsey (*Skill Shift: Automation and the Future of Workforce*, 2018), and many others besides.

While these studies may lend commercial credibility to the prospective demand for the 'applied humanities', there is a stronger case still for the creation of such an umbrella discipline: it will make the lives of those who engage with the subject richer. The reason that humans will outperform machines for the foreseeable future in certain domains has much to do with the way that we process information. While machines may be able to reduce the 'real world' to (qu)bits, human beings engage with the world almost exclusively through our senses. Understanding our world and modelling it is important, but so too is enjoying and appreciating it. The better one can use one's senses, the more fulfilled one will be, and the best way to enhance these faculties is through study, practice, and, yes, application.

Understanding our world and modelling it is important, but so too is enjoying and appreciating it







IMPATIENCE WITH  
THE WAY THINGS ARE

AND

THE COURAGE  
TO ACT



# 'The Courage to Act': Transformative Educational Leadership



**Dr Denise Meyer** (South Africa-at-Large & New College 1990) was drawn back to Rhodes House to take up the Humanities Forum's invitation to 'meaningfully engage with the stories we tell about ourselves, each other, and the world'. Here, she revisits her own Scholar experience in the light of her work addressing student mental health and inclusion, and she challenges the Rhodes Trust to go further in reshaping its own narrative.

**T**he Humanities Forum's convening call could have been outlining the theme of my working life, going back to my (never completed) DPhil about narratives of history as told through South African women's autobiographies. It was enough to entice me to Oxford to re-engage with my Rhodes Scholar identity, after many ambivalent years. The Forum did not disappoint – not least through the joy of meeting other Scholars who, like me, had complex, ambivalent stories to tell about their Scholar experiences and identities.

As a psychologist practising in UK university counselling services for the last 25 years, I have worked very practically with the notion that 'the stories we tell ourselves shape

our identities'. Therapy is a process of telling and re-telling personal narratives to fashion more constructive ways to live, and uniquely rewarding when conducted during a university student's often deeply transformative shaping of a personal identity narrative. Framed as a fruitful failure on a side-road to finding my path in life, my own Scholar story was a useful qualification for a career supporting struggling students. But my recent work on student inclusion has shone a light on the wider context shaping that personal 'failure' narrative.

Personal narratives aren't fashioned in a vacuum: we use the available discourses to make sense of who we are. For university students, this includes templates for successful student identities (disciplinary and professional, as well as social and demographic). For Rhodes Scholars,



add narratives for who or what a Rhodes Scholar is.

Many factors contributed to the imposter syndrome that hit me in Oxford. Looking back with my professional understanding I recognise the self-doubt arising through culture shock prompted within wider social narratives – the less blatant, but somehow more undermining, sexism and insidious implicating racism I encountered; and the confusing 'colonial cringe' induced within the University's pervasive aura of self-satisfied privilege, unfortunately extending to my perceptions of Rhodes House and some of my Scholar peers from other jurisdictions.

Extensive research on UK degree completion and success shows the key question for students is 'Do I belong here?' but despite years of widening participation policies, norms based on privilege make it measurably more challenging for those from minoritised backgrounds to succeed. Recent stringent regulatory requirements for UK universities recognised this officially, setting targets for addressing 'attainment gaps' alongside inequalities of access. Oxford's eye-catching response focuses on the long-overdue imperative to diversify

access, but offers less clarity for ensuring that crucial sense of belonging.

As part of the University of Portsmouth's longstanding inclusion programme, I have been embedding a values-based leadership development and community-building programme allowing students to consolidate their own sense of belonging through sharing inspiring stories of managing setbacks. Similarly setting an example

in Oxford, the Rhodes Character, Service and Leadership Programme seems to be developing a more intentional and supportively inclusive community than existed in my day, offering a structure for Scholars to interrogate values and develop identity

narratives. Particularly heartening are Current Scholar hopes for 'dismantling the idea of 'deserving' this award', and a pledge to 'practice humility [and] be mindful of privilege'.

How far do such community-building efforts address the fundamental issue of belonging? For meaningful inclusion, the burden of implicit pressure to assimilate to majoritised templates of privilege must also be recognised

The stories we tell ourselves  
shape our identities, change  
our material realities, and  
transform our world

and challenged. For Rhodes House this means addressing narratives about the 'agonising process' of accepting a scholarship to 'study at a university whose history is so intertwined with the legacy of colonial oppression' (as Scholar Nanjala Nyabola wrote in an article for the *Guardian*).

The Humanities Forum's *Remembrance and Decolonisation* roundtable promised to address the 'ethical imperative to decolonise, ...[an] especially relevant and pressing [question] when asked within the institutions of the University of Oxford and Rhodes House'. However, although the fascinating discussion referenced the idea that 'what and who we remember shapes who we can be', and a Scholar panellist represented the South African #RhodesMustFall movement, there was no direct reference to either Oxford or Rhodes House.

Knowing that issues of legacy are an active topic of conversation within the Scholar community, I find the Rhodes Trust's public silence about its legacy mystifying and untenable. The Trust's second century vision explicitly consolidates efforts to address barriers, committing to globalisation, diversity and inclusion. But the deafening public silence about legacy means the colonialist shadow of the past is kept implicitly in play. In the parlance of historian of racism, Ibram X. Kendi, addressing this legacy is not simply about espousing values which are 'not racist' or 'not colonialist' – it means being 'antiracist' and 'anti-

colonialist', actively tackling the hierarchies perpetuating current inequalities.

To remain 'the world's pre-eminent graduate fellowship' I believe the Rhodes Trust must publicly interrogate the foundations of its mission, transparently addressing lingering colonialist assumptions about the automatic pre-eminence of an Oxford education. Joining its courageous Scholars to demonstrate 'impatience with the way things are and the courage to act' it should actively challenge Oxford to remedy longstanding assumptions of superiority over the cultures and education systems of the Trust's widening global community. By boldly leading the way, the Trust may begin to re-write its identity narrative, aspiring for the name 'Rhodes Trust' to become an international beacon for *anti-colonialist* understanding and practice.

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**Dr Denise Meyer is Head of Wellbeing at the University of Portsmouth and author of 'The Student Lifecycle: Pressure points and transitions' in Barden & Caleb (2019) *Student Mental Health and Wellbeing in Higher Education: A practical guide* (London: Sage, 2019).**

This article was submitted in February, before recent worldwide events. Denise calls on the Scholar community to participate in the Trust's new dialogue on legacy.





## 'How to Live. What to Do'

American poet and insurance executive Wallace Stevens gave this title to one of his poems. For **Rebecca Boggs** (Kentucky & Trinity 1995), it offers us the questions we can ask as we seek to go forward. Rebecca is a Senior Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), currently heading its Humanities Connections programme. Educated at Harvard, Oxford, and Yale, she has taught literature, writing, and Yiddish, worked in Jewish community engagement, and led services as a lay cantor. Here, she sets out her touchstones for the future of the humanities (and humanity).

I read Stevens as an undergrad and was bewildered; it was during my MPhil at Oxford that I began to love and at least partly understand him. One of the things I take from his work is a drive to look beyond the binary *either/or* for the possible *both/and* – we also see this in the grown-up play of contemporary improv comedy/theatre's cornerstone rule to say 'yes, *and*' (accepting and building on what you've been given) rather than 'yes, *but*' (rejecting others' contributions in favour of your own).

Two touchstones for my thoughts on how to live and what to do:

First, from Gerard Manley Hopkins (Balliol man; poet; Jesuit priest; teacher of ancient Greek to Irish schoolboys):

Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:  
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;  
Selves – goes itself; *myself* it speaks and spells,  
Crying *Whát I dó is me: for that I came*.

I take this as a call to hold to the things we have passion for, that which we *are by doing*, and to ask ourselves: what is my work in the world? To what do I *say for that I came*?

Second, more Stevens, from his long poem *Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction*, in Section VI of 'It Must Give Pleasure':

He had to choose. But it was not a choice  
Between excluding things. It was not a choice

Between, but of. He chose to include the things  
That in each other are included, the whole,  
The complicate, the amassing harmony.

So, a word about *what I do* in my work at the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency founded in 1965 along with its sister agency, the National Endowment for the Arts. (I speak here for myself, not the NEH – but may what good you see here from its work redound to its credit.) Its founding legislation set forth, amid the Cold War and space race, that 'an advanced civilisation must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone, but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future'.

As a Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs, I work with professional and curricular development grants supporting elementary through higher education. These grants dig deep, within and across areas in the humanities – for example, a summer programme on *Frederick Douglass and Literary Crossroads* engaged school teachers in exploring his narrative and its relationship to other African American autobiography as well as poetry, and fiction. They also explore intersections with fields beyond the humanities (such as the 1918 flu pandemic and its societal impact – all too timely today).

In our newest grant programme, Humanities Connections, faculty inside and outside humanities disciplines join together, creating new curriculum that integrates experiential learning. How did we come up with it? We started by asking over 70 educators, administrators, and other humanities professionals what challenges they were facing on their campuses and what kind of grantmaking support would help them meet it. Cross-disciplinary collaboration emerged as an area considered vitally important yet often stymied by academic siloing and departmental demands. We should remember to ask each other what we need – not just to survive, but to flourish –

Change can feel like crisis,  
but is also opportunity

and then listen, and help each other build the structures that will foster that flourishing.

To do so, let us work together with all who seek that flourishing. In 1937, Einstein wrote, 'All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual toward freedom'. This concept informs the 2018 National Academies of Science (NAS) study

report on interdisciplinary integration (supported also by NEH and NEA): its subtitle is *Branches from the Same Tree*.

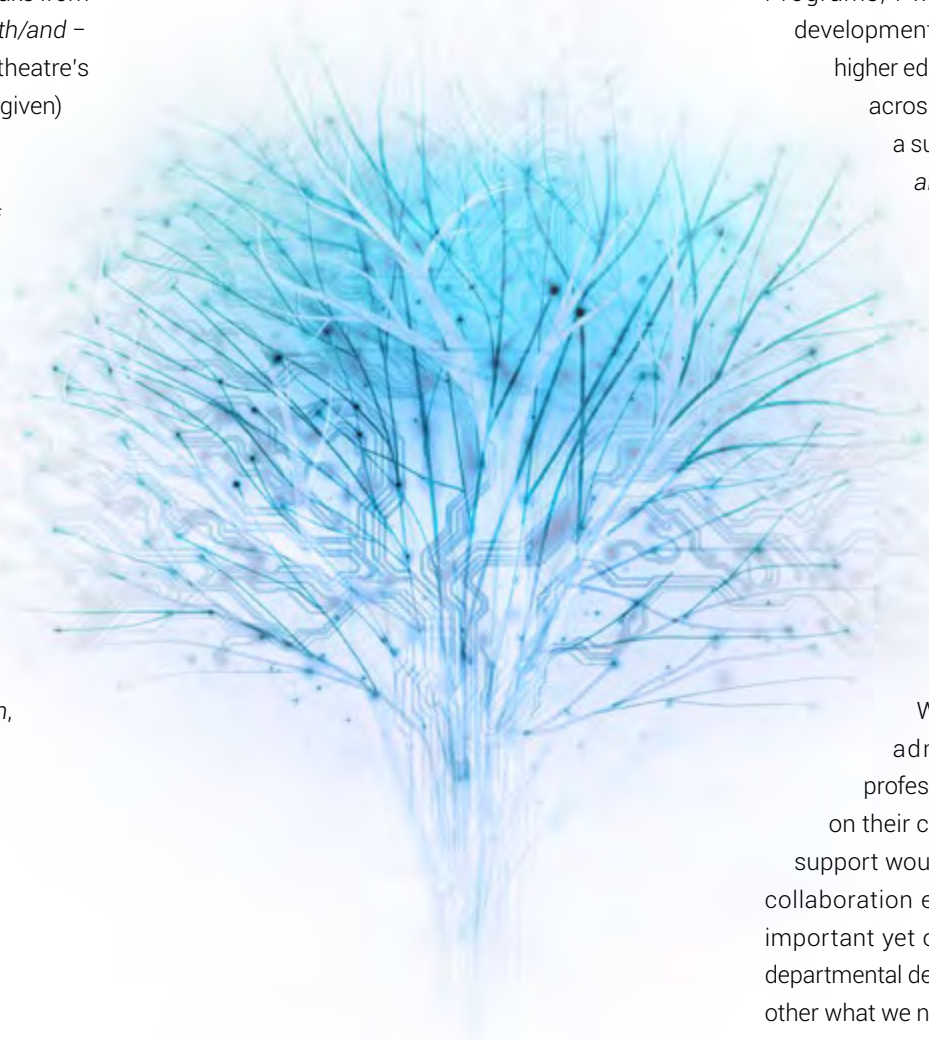
*How to live? What to do?* Bring our whole selves to what we do; let others be complicated beings with diverse interests. Accept that our trajectory is seldom straight and welcome the 'wrong turns' as part of the process: not wasted time but additional valuable data. We are engaged in lifelong discovery, in ways that we don't and can't anticipate. Change can feel like crisis, but is also opportunity.

Two concluding touchstones that speak of the human connection at the heart of the humanities. In Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*, one character says of his beloved: 'She is a friend of my mind. She gather me, man. The pieces I am, she gather them and give them back to me in all the right order'.

We need each other – the stories we tell, the music and art we love, the discoveries we make – to gather the scattered pieces we are and give them back to us in the right order, even when days are dark and order seems lost. (Morrison's characters endure slavery and its aftermath; we trust we can and will find ways to endure this present global pandemic and other crises that beset us.)

In the Jewish community, there are words we speak together five times a year – each time we come to the last verse of a book in the communal reading-out from the Torah scroll, we stand up, and after the last word of the book is spoken, we call out these words: *Hazak, hazak, v'nithazek* (be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen one another).

Let it be so: let our pieces be gathered and our selves, our world, be made whole.







## Creativity and Critical Deftness: The Value of the Humanities

**Katherine R. Larson** (Minnesota & Lincoln 2000) is a Professor of English at the University of Toronto and a Member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists. She is a graduate of St. Olaf College and completed an MPhil in Early Modern Literature and an MSt in Women's Studies at Oxford before moving to Toronto for her doctoral work. **Nicolette D'Angelo** (New Jersey & Corpus Christi 2019) is currently pursuing the MPhil in Greek and Latin Languages and Literature at Oxford, after an undergraduate degree at Princeton University. Her academic research, poetry, and teaching put contemporary issues in conversation with ancient works. Here, Katie and Nicolette share their thoughts about humanities and fighting the world's fight.

**KATIE LARSON** Can you tell me about the work you're doing at Oxford?

**NICOLETTE D'ANGELO** I'm pursuing an MPhil in Classics. Before I knew Greek or Latin, I was drawn to the ancient world from a gender and sexuality perspective, and now I research how the way we talk about women's bodies in science today is related to antiquity. This also involves studying how other genres, like tragedy, depicted women's speech and bodies for largely male audiences. I spend a lot of my time reading ancient texts, but what's

most interesting to me are the afterlives of those texts in academic and popular culture. Classics in the UK is fiercely stratified along class lines, so I'm reminded why I do what I do. In undergrad, I taught Latin to under-served 3rd graders. Now I coordinate Ancient Greek 'delivery days' in the North for students in Years 5 and 9.

**KL** In the future, do you see yourself pursuing that work within the academy, through policy initiatives, or a combination?

**ND** It's hard to do one without the other. I'm leaning toward

an academic trajectory, but the ethos of my scholarship is inextricable from access and creating platforms for historically marginalised perspectives. Sometimes a bigger question is whether I want to pursue an academic or creative trajectory. Here, I've found a real home in a lyric translation group, where I write my own poetry in response to ancient texts. This year, the group is joined by Alice Oswald, the first-ever female Oxford Professor of Poetry. I'm at a crossroads right now.

**KL** How do you see conversations about the humanities and their role in fighting the world's fight evolving within the Rhodes community and in Oxford?

**ND** Though there are comparatively few humanists in my Rhodes cohort, the humanities tend to be central to a lot of Scholars' lives at Oxford. From reading groups and Oxford Union debates, to teach-outs in support of the current pension strike across the UK, it's clear that Rhodes cultivates a focus on the complete person. The humanities can prepare you not just for a job, but for a life.

**KL** I'm curious to hear about your experience as a classicist focusing on issues of gender at Oxford. I was in one of the first cohorts of the MSt in Women's Studies nearly twenty years ago, and it wasn't easy to engage with feminist issues at Oxford at the time.

**ND** The foremost public-facing classicist in the UK, Mary Beard, puts it this way: 'You cannot easily fit women into a structure that is already coded as male. You have to change the structure'. And that's as true for race and class as it is for gender. The Western past is not the only past we have, but it can tell us a lot about the cultural paradigms we've inherited for what beauty, power, and knowledge look like. Nowadays, it's less difficult to convince people this is the case. Look at Emily Wilson's *Odyssey*, and other works which have entered the public consciousness. It feels like we're at the edge of a watershed moment where Classics has to decide *what it is*. My supervisors support this kind of conversation, and in my cohort, questions about gender are front and center: not just women's issues, but also queer issues,

trans issues. I attend a very different Oxford than the one you attended, though much is left to be done.

**KL** I had several amazing faculty mentors who were incredibly supportive. There were some great things happening at the college level, too. But as a woman at Oxford I experienced jarring moments of sexism and misogyny within the broader culture and institutional structure. Because my work focuses on 16th- and 17th-century literature, I've gone back to Oxford regularly over the years for conferences and research and stayed in touch with colleagues based there. My sense is that there have been significant changes.

**ND** Definitely. As recently as last year, Levi Hord (Ontario & Wadham 2018) was involved in the debate over whether the program should be called *Women's Studies*, and the name will be changed next year. What is the role of gender in your research?

**KL** My background is at the intersection of literary studies and gender studies, with a particular focus on 16th- and 17th-century women's writing, so there are a lot of

overlaps in terms of our work. Throughout my career I've been interested in the sociopolitical and cultural work that language does and how women deploy language, especially in contexts where they are denied opportunities to express themselves. More recently, my research has integrated my musical training. The book that I just published illuminates women's song performance in 16th- and 17th-century England. It includes an open access recording that I perform on. It came as a surprise to me to have my work on women's writing dovetail so concretely with my background as a singer, but like you, I have a long-standing interest in how women's embodied experiences manifest in different historical and cultural environments and in different textual contexts as well.

**ND** As a teacher, how does music figure for you pedagogically? At Oxford's APGRD (Archive for the Performance of Greek and Roman Drama), we recently celebrated the release of an open-access *Agamemnon*, drawing on the theatrical talents of the UK, such as Joan

Rhodes cultivates a focus  
on the complete person





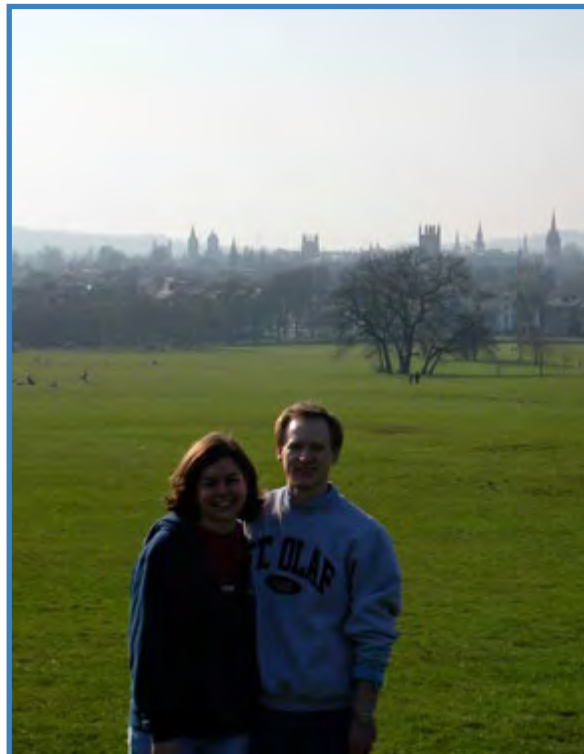
Rhodes Ball 2002 - from left to right Jennie Han, Elizabeth (Young) McNally, Jessica Mellinger, Chelsea (Elander) Bodnar, Susanna Mierau, and me. We are all Class of 2000.

lyiola who played Clytemnestra. Oxford doesn't have a drama programme, but the arts are so alive here.

**KL** Yes, I found that to be true as well. At Oxford I did tons of singing, especially with Lincoln's choir, but the music programme was, and I think still is, musicological in focus. I do sing in my classes sometimes. And I incorporate a lot of performance assignments, though I don't make my students sing! I do ask them to do readings and group performances, so they can think about what it means to bring these texts off the page and experiment with them in their own bodies. I also teach seminars that explore the workings of sound and silence in literary texts. The musical elements of my classes are one way of signalling to students the synergies that literature has with all kinds of other fields. These interdisciplinary connections are an important part of my research and teaching, but they also play an important role in broader advocacy for the humanities.

**ND** During the Rhodes Humanities Conference, the rhetoric of 'crisis' which surrounds the humanities came up. You must often get the question, what is English or music 'good for'? How could we reframe this type of question?

**KL** I think about this constantly as an educator, as a scholar, and as a university administrator. We need to continue to push back against misleading media narratives, though these are starting to change as employers recognise the versatility associated with



With my husband Lawrence Wilford from our time in Oxford.

training in the humanities. Universities in many parts of the world are facing government pressures to justify higher education in terms of quantitative vocational outcomes. Putting the humanities into this box makes no sense, but we also need to do more to help students recognise the skills that they're gaining through a degree in literature: the creativity, the critical deftness; the ability to adapt to different kinds of environments; the ability to empathise with a wide range of perspectives. I was at a meeting a few weeks ago where many of the concerns about a rapidly changing job market had to do with a need for skills that were perfectly aligned with humanities. We need to be at the forefront of that argument. Literary studies also has an important role to play in global conversations about equity, diversity, and inclusion, especially around the question of whose stories get told and by whom.

**ND** As someone in the medical humanities, I think it's important to remember that STEM fields are never static, objective disciplines, but also arts which are constantly re-negotiated and changing throughout history. The



Welcome Day for the 2019 cohort of Scholars

questions I study from antiquity continue to be thorny for modernity, for example the relationship of patient to practitioner. In the midst of COVID-19, we're all potential patients, waiting to see what will happen in a pandemic that might last for months, maybe years. So when I study authors like Hippocrates or Galen, the goal isn't to say 'he got it right' or 'wrong'. I'm more interested in unresolved problems of the body and our relationship to it, and how these problems have been previously broached. I've often taken ancient medicine classes with pre-med students who got just as much out of the humanities from an ethical or philosophical standpoint as they get scientifically out of organic chemistry. It's not an either/or question, but often gets sold that way.

**KL** I agree. It's not a surprise that we're seeing significant momentum in narrative-based approaches to medical care for this reason. A question that has continued to stay with me from my Rhodes interview is: 'How will teaching literature at an elite university help to fight the world's fight?' I remember the interviewer gave me the example of fighting poverty. At the time I spoke about story and the power of story to work across cultural boundaries, and to connect people across significant differences. I still stand by that answer, but I also feel in our current political climate there's an even more urgent public-facing side to that for scholars and educators in the humanities.

**ND** I got the same question! I said that fighting the



Fieldwork!

world's fight is about getting in touch with your style of leadership. As I continue to meet amazing people here, I'm able to learn and change in response to their ways of leading. But theirs don't displace mine. I admire my best friend who studies indigeneity from a social science perspective, and she frequently changes the way I see the world. But personally, my fight is still about changing the story about gender, by interrogating how that story unfolded up until now using Classics. I trust this will be a worthy enterprise because I know, from a young age, that stories have spoken to me against all odds. Your work is a testament to that too.



At Matriculation





# Realising Birmingham's Promise

As Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, **Randall Woodfin** is working to change narratives and open up opportunities for young people. He tells us how he has been working with Rhodes Scholars to bring energy, innovation and creativity to Birmingham's new projects.

**B**eginning in the fall of 2016, I spent a full year knocking on more than 50,000 doors, campaigning to be the Mayor of Birmingham (Alabama, not UK) with a simple message: 'We deserve better'. In October 2017, I won election as the city's 30th mayor, taking office with a promise to complete Birmingham's decades-long transition from its historic reliance on steel and other heavy industry, propelling the city into the future with a knowledge-based economy based on medical and scientific innovation and a robust climate for entrepreneurship of all types.

Along with the expert team I've assembled to meet our vast opportunities – and our lingering challenges – head-on, I know that to compete successfully in this modern economy, Birmingham must invest in its young people.

Currently, more than 45% of students in our Birmingham City Schools are living in poverty, while only about half of them advance from high school to post-secondary institutions. Birmingham is home to more than 26,000 unemployed youth. One reason for high youth

Rhodes Scholars have worked tirelessly as engineers of a new workforce investment system

unemployment is the prohibitive cost of education for many families. College costs are rising eight times faster than wages, and Alabama is one of five US states where average household debt exceeds family income. On average, a college graduate in our state carries \$31,275 of educational debt.

To change these statistics, we launched the Birmingham Promise, a public-private partnership designed to offer college scholarships and youth apprenticeships. The Promise is designed to solidify Birmingham's competitiveness in the knowledge-based economy by producing skilled workers to fill the jobs of the future. In doing so, we are transforming the architecture of opportunity for our young people.

Prior to becoming Mayor, I served for four years as a member of the Birmingham Board of Education. That experience convinced me that reimagining an antiquated and broken education and workforce system would require leaders who confront entrenched bureaucracies with energy and perseverance; who embrace complexity with curiosity and creativity; and who build trust through a demonstrated commitment to racial inclusion.

Accordingly, the first member of the team I recruited as Mayor was Dr Josh Carpenter (Alabama & Oriel 2012). I first asked Josh to take some leave from his academic post at the University of Alabama at Birmingham to co-chair my mayoral transition committee on economic development. I knew that he could execute the duties of the post, so my real interest was in the qualities of leadership he brings to the table – his deep-rooted belief in the expansion of economic opportunity, his expansive base of knowledge, his inspirational dedication to helping

our city achieve its rich potential in ways that improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

When he later accepted my offer to come to work at City Hall, Dr Carpenter brought with him Sarena Martinez (Alabama Rhodes Scholar-elect 2020) to develop an economic development strategy to shape Birmingham's future. Assuming their duties in March 2018, Josh and Serena established the city's new Department of Innovation and Economic Opportunity, with Josh as Director and Serena as Manager of Special Projects. That August, they recruited Rachel Harmon (Illinois & Hertford 2015) to join the team as the lead architect of the Birmingham Promise.

Together, these three Rhodes Scholars have worked tirelessly as engineers of a new workforce investment system, forging previously unwieldy coalitions and inspiring parents, students and employers to stake a collective claim on Birmingham's economic future. They have built trust with the school system, private sector and civic sector, entering an authentic – and, in Birmingham, unprecedented – partnership, dedicated to reimagining systems in order to create pathways to quality jobs for students and a pipeline of talent for employers.

Though this initiative is in its infancy, our community has already started to experience its impact. To name just one example, the first Promise cohort included a high school senior who wanted to be a mechanical engineer, but had never met one. He spent the summer surrounded

by engineers at Altec, Inc., and has been invited back to intern there during college. Another student inspired a local startup to reorganise their process for onboarding new employees. Our educational institutions, too, are slowly re-engineering themselves by changing school schedules, entering into the first-ever data trust and re-allocating fiscal dollars.

It was from the Birmingham City Jail that Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that 'we are caught in a network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny'. In Birmingham, as in other communities, talent is distributed equally – but opportunity is not. Through the dedication of three members of the Rhodes community in America's fourth-largest majority-Black city, Birmingham is once again positioned to remind the world that the pathway to prosperity is sustained investment in racial inclusion via targeted education and workforce investments.

I understand that Cecil Rhodes founded this Scholarship to identify and accelerate people who would 'fight the world's fight'. Each day, Josh, Sarena and Rachel fight to reshape the architecture of opportunity in Birmingham, playing lead roles in my administration's overarching promise of 'Putting People First'.

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**If you would like to learn more, or to join us, please visit [www.birminghampromise.org](http://www.birminghampromise.org) or email us at [promise@birminghamal.gov](mailto:promise@birminghamal.gov)**



From left to right: Rachel Harmon (Illinois & Hertford 2015); Mayor Randall Woodfin; Sarena Martinez (Alabama Rhodes Scholar-elect 2020); Josh Carpenter (Alabama & Oriel 2012)







# Building Culture, One Athlete at a Time

**Nandan Kamath** (India & Balliol 2000) has founded the GoSports Foundation to offer valuable structure and support to budding athletes in India.

Have you decided whether you'd like to be a cricketer or a lawyer?', I was asked at my law school admission interview. I remember it like it was yesterday, as much for the starkness of the choice presented to a teenager as for the appropriateness of the question at the time.

Leaving behind a career in cricket for one in law has not served me badly. In fact, it was the smart choice at a time when sport was not a genuine career option in India. Yet making that choice as a youngster left a lingering sadness, driving a desire to try and reset that 'unfair' balance someday.

After my time at Oxford and a few years studying and working as a lawyer in the US, I returned home to India and co-founded GoSports Foundation, a non-profit focused on supporting aspiring athletes and helping them achieve their full potential. We believed that creating sports champions could bring meaningful change to sport and to India.

Today, GoSports is a well-established, national award-winning organisation, supporting about 125 athletes through its programmes. When we began the journey, this seemed like a distant and unlikely dream. India had historically underachieved at sport, for various reasons. We were often told that history was against us, that we were barking up the wrong tree, that the country had no 'sports culture' and that mediocrity was inevitable. Support was difficult to come by. However, in this feedback we saw an opportunity – we felt that these beliefs were outdated and unsupported by evidence; also, that the general understanding of sport's role in society was rudimentary.

We have shaped GoSports and its programmes around creating pioneering athletes: those from sporting disciplines that had not been traditionally supported

in India, like gymnastics, fencing, table-tennis; from Paralympic and disability sports that had not received systematic support; for girls and women who had to overcome odds to participate; for youngsters from socio-economic backgrounds and regions that had been under-represented. Our work was to provide structure and support for careers that, without that boost, may not have continued or taken full shape. Over the years, we saw many careers blossom, seeds grow into saplings, talented teenagers turn into champions, Olympians, Paralympians, even medallists. In turn, they built strong circles of influence around them that gradually grew in circumference.

In each athlete's story we see an opportunity to change a stereotype, new material allowing a cynic to re-evaluate a belief. Equally, sporting journeys speak unambiguously about the value of diligence, preparation and excellence. When our athletes achieve at their sport they are also changing perceptions about disability and gender, bringing joy, and fostering togetherness and common identities.

When we change our beliefs, culture can change, and when culture evolves, so do behaviours. As Nelson Mandela famously said, 'Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair'. Embedded in hope is the possibility of making choices that influence our future. The next time an Indian youngster is asked to choose between a career in sport and something else, I hope sport will stand a fair chance!

“ Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they can understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.”  
Nelson Mandela

**Sporting disciplines**  
22

**Athletes with disability**  
45

**Female athletes**  
43

**Athletes Supported**  
124

**States represented**  
24

**GoSports Foundation by Numbers**





# Tokyo 2020: Ritual, Symbol and Sport

**Boria Majumdar** (India & St John's 2000) reflects on the potent symbolism of the Olympic flame.

With yet another summer games round the corner, it is time to remind ourselves about what is widely understood as 'Olympism'. As the popular saying goes in Olympic academic circles, 'Take sports out of the Olympics and you still have the movement to fall back on'. While this is certainly an exaggeration, it remains true that the Olympics and the torch relay are a ritual that has never only been about sportspeople.

The journey of the Olympic flame is not restricted to countries that win the most number of medals or those that have the best sports facilities for their athletes. Rather, the flame is meant as a mechanism to garner mass support in the poorest of countries, among men and women who will not make it to an Olympic sports contest. That is why, traditionally, attendance at the Olympic torch relay is free. While Olympic competitions are prohibitively expensive, enthusiasts don't need tickets to attend the relay. For countries that can't even dream of hosting the games in view of the escalating costs, the torch relay remains the point of participation. It is this aspect of the Olympic movement that makes the world's biggest sports spectacle relevant for us in India. The flame, unlike the torch, can never be commercialised and is one of the most powerful symbols of ritual in the modern world. The meanings attached to it belong neither to the IOC nor to local organising committees. It has emerged as an enduring symbol of global harmony and mobilisation, evident multiple times over the last two decades.

Before every summer games for the last 25 years, the

Olympics have provided a forum for issues of international concern. While Seoul 1988 highlighted the Korea crisis, Barcelona 1992 brought to light ethnic differences within Spanish society. Atlanta 1996 drew world attention to the race issue in the US and Sydney 2000 highlighted the Aboriginal crisis. When Cathy Freeman lit the flame at the Sydney Games in 2000, it was much more than a sporting ritual. It symbolised the recognition of the tensions at the heart of modern Australian society,

augmented even further when she later wrapped herself in the aboriginal flag in full view of the world's cameras. Similarly, when the Tibetans organised a parallel relay in Delhi on 17 April 2008, the Tibet crisis quickly became a focus of international attention. Prior to the Indian leg of the torch relay, there was considerable debate about

whether New Delhi would allow Tibetan protesters to carry on with their demonstrations. But in the final reckoning, the world's largest democracy could not be seen to be muffling dissent, even if this dissent was opposed by those advocating a closer strategic engagement with China. More than the medals won or records broken, political acts that utilise the sporting stage make major international sports fixtures like the Olympics what they are: events that do much to promote inter-cultural communication and understanding.

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**This piece was written before the cancellation of the 2020 games. Boria Majumdar's most recent book is *Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympic Games* (Harper Collins, 2020).**

The flame, unlike the torch, can never be commercialised and is one of the most powerful symbols of ritual in the modern world



The Olympic flame in the Lausanne Olympic Museum



The Olympic flame relay, Delhi 2008



## Green Horses on the Walls

*Cai verzi pe pereți* [Green horses on the walls]  
*Asta a fost de la-nceput în mintea mea* [That's how it was in the beginning in my mind]  
*Visurile mele* [My dreams]  
*N-au fost posibile* [Were not possible]  
*Am fost nebună* [I was crazy]  
*Bătută în cap* [Hit in the head]  
*Cristina - fii serioasă* [Cristina – be serious]  
*Vrei doar cai verzi pe pereți* [You only want green horses on the walls]  
 Green horses on the walls  
 The Romanian expression for having delusions  
 From the start I was told my dreams  
 Weren't possible  
 That I was crazy  
 That I needed to be serious  
 That theatre was a hobby  
 I was always merely chasing the green horses  
 And it was time to grow up  
 Because they didn't exist  
 But I know my need to write exists  
 I know that the open page is the reservoir for my joy and pain  
 I know the sweat-stained floors of an empty theatre welcome me  
 I know that my dimensions cannot be confined to a DC-CV  
 A list of degrees and honors -> now perhaps those don't truly exist  
 Can they capture a beating heart?  
 Prayers? Kindness?  
 Caring for our elders and children?  
 Or the next play that it is on the tip of my pen and igniting my mind with excitement  
 The straight-jacketed list to DC-impress is what confines  
 And lies  
 My truth is displayed on the open canvas of my art  
 My truth runs with the green horses  
 Through the fields, down Rockville Pike and eventually all the way through the heart of DC - 14th St.  
 I hear them calling -  
*Cristina! Hai acasă* [Come home]  
 Calling me home ...  
 As I walked today through a canopy of trees  
 I crossed paths with a butterfly  
 And I came home to write this poem  
 And neither were or are - delusions.  
*Cai verzi pe pereți - a durat 34 de ani* [Green horses on the walls – it took 34 years]  
*Pentru mine să știu* [For me to know]  
*Adânc în inima mea* [Deep in my heart]  
*Că sunt exact cum a creat și a vrut Dumnezeu* [That I am exactly how God created and wanted]  
*Și pentru asta sunt pur și simplu mulțumită* [And for that I am simply grateful]

.....  
**Dr Cristina Bejan**  
 (North Carolina & Wadham 2004)



## Autumn Love

We passed three autumn lit days  
 Beneath the crumbling trees  
 In Oxford ways.

Drift-cycling past wine tendrils,  
 Fading on quiet old gold of college stone,  
 Along the leaf-swollen river  
 And on into the meadow's ancient light.

A copper beech burning in the dark quad,  
 Dying, glowed still  
 In our secret garden.

Passing colours, passing through,  
 All the colours reflecting you,  
 Warm in your dreamcoat.

And I am left with wire bare trees  
 Against a woollen sky.

.....  
**James Gardener**  
 (Diocesan College, Rondebosch & Oriel 1980)



## Am I dreaming?

In the gleaming  
 Of the rain-dropped city of stone

Drifted greying clouds  
 And looming faces above  
 Perched in the sky

There was a moment of sunlight  
*Reflecting in magical illumination*  
 Across the way

In that time  
 The space seemed to magnify  
 And a warmth swept over me  
 As the stone parched  
 And I, I continued to walk  
 Until there was night  
 And the city came alive

*As if candles dotted the streets*  
*And the strangers on the path*  
*Were from distant fairy tales*

.....  
**Nabeela Kajee**  
 (South Africa-at-Large & Christ Church 2019)



## The Funfair of the Damned

The flags of every land on earth  
are fluttering on the poles  
where Mephistopheles has come  
to gamble for men's souls.

He waves a wad of bills and smiles  
and spins his ivory dice,  
'Roll up!' he says, 'I know each land,  
each business has its price.'

The placards at the carpark gate  
are being pushed aside,  
the premiers of the poorest lands  
can't wait to get inside.

*So caucus in the conference halls,  
vote for the Promised Land,  
help MegaMammonWorld transform  
the Funfair of the Damned.*

The horses of Apocalypse  
snort carbon in the sky,  
a coal man on the golf-course says,  
'Tree hugger talk's a lie.'

Dead frogs and methane in the reeds  
adorn the leisure lake  
where front men for an oil cartel  
sign up a smiling sheik.

But bank magicians by the pool  
are tweeting on their phones,  
repaying what's owed Mother Earth  
by funding loans with loans.

*Be hip and hop with Nero's band  
that's rocking on the stand,  
help MegaMammonWorld transform  
the Funfair of the Damned.*

It's poker, power and politics  
inside the weapons tent,  
each chip's a billion dollar deal,  
each war a cash event.

The game is Armaments for Peace,  
the tactic's 'Keep things tense,  
sell cheaper, deadlier nukes to thrill  
Departments of Defence.'

But you and me and everyone  
and no one is to blame  
when nothing's sacred on the earth  
except the money game.

*So caucus now to make the earth  
a green and sunny land,  
help MegaMammonWorld transform  
the Funfair of the Damned.*

The cash-flows shoot as fast as thoughts  
around the global mall,  
and boom and bust the businesses  
inside the Banking Hall.

The air is hot and moist inside  
the VIP's marquee,  
where banks and presidents cut deals  
beside the Judas tree.

But marketing and hi-tech firms  
are working double shifts,  
to fix the heat-wave round the earth,  
the air cons in the lifts.

*So cash your carbon credits in  
and buy a solar brand,  
help MegaMammonWorld transform  
the Funfair of the Damned.*

When Mephistopheles has bought  
the last soul in the bar,  
when acid eats the funfair flags  
and rain steams off the tar,

When Lazarus the janitor  
has put away his broom  
and limped off coughing to the hills  
and climbed back in his tomb,

The prophets at the gate will wake  
to septic lungs at dawn,  
and lift their limp placards and say,  
'What could we do but warn?'

*'Cos no one stops the rock 'n roll  
when money owns the band  
and Mephistopheles puts on  
the Funfair of the Damned.*

.....  
**Chris Mann**  
(Diocesan College, Rondebosch & St Edmund Hall 1971)

## Stranger Tides

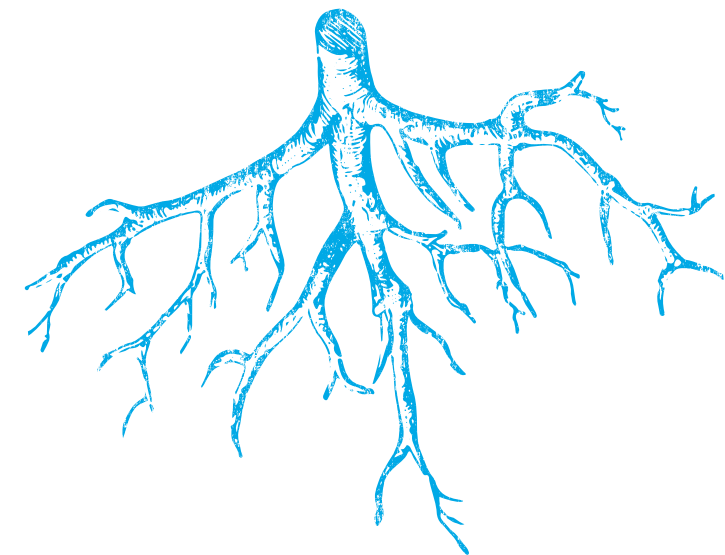
and to think  
you were once a stranger to me  
stranger than this northern sea,  
sailing in from far off lands  
we met upon these pebbled sands

and soon, as bound, the ice did *break*  
and shallow bonds made new,  
that took not long for roots to take  
– deep friendships **forged** with you

now storms have come, and we depart  
to make our haste back home,  
my wish, this spring, is not to part  
but you'll never walk alone

so as we give Goodbyes today  
let me stop. and say,  
I know not when we'll meet again  
but I know we will, someday

.....  
**Katherine Reiss**  
(Maritimes & Lincoln 2019)





## An Ode to Teaching

Once upon a time  
Back in Warrnambool  
We were asked to read  
A chapter from a book  
Titled 'The Heart of a Teacher'

In this chapter, the author,  
Something Palmer,  
Wrote about teaching  
But told a different tale  
Far beyond anything I had ever read

He wrote  
Of how  
Uniquely resilient  
And oh so boundless  
Is the heart of a teacher.

With room to spare,  
So much so, that she gives  
All she can  
To the boy who cannot read  
And the girl who loves to draw.

To the child who once  
Refused to attend her class  
Yet now  
Is the first  
To offer his help.

To the boy whose dad  
Is never around  
To the girl who is  
Oh so mad inside  
And yet, still she gives.

To the boy who once  
Could not sit still  
Long enough to write his name  
Who then became  
The first to call her 'mum'

To the girl who had never  
Been told that she could  
To both Taylors, who each  
Needed so much  
Love, oh how she gave

And yet, something strange  
Began to happen.  
She noticed that her days  
Flew by, and she always  
Came home with a heart so full

That the more she gave  
The more her heart swelled,  
With love and with pride,  
For these children  
For whom she cared day after day

.....  
**Gia-Yen Luong**  
(South Australia & Green Templeton 2019)



## Working to Become a Mystery Writer at 74

**Ron Katz** (Missouri & Balliol 1967) is a reformed attorney and aspiring writer living in Silicon Valley. He is also a board member of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars. Here, he reflects on his journey from law to literature.

I very much enjoyed my career as a trial lawyer, but I hoped that I would be able to do something else as well before it was too late. Having practised law for over 40 years by 2016, the question was how to transition from the billable hour to the fulfillable hour.

That was a difficult question for me because the post-initial-career phase of my life appeared to have far less structure than the previous stages. Luckily I came across a programme at Stanford – the Distinguished Careers Institute – for people in my exact position. The programme, similar to one that is now being considered for senior Rhodes Scholars, emphasised lifelong learning and intergenerational connection.

For a year, I was in a cohort of 35 peers. We met as a group twice a week, discussing, remarkably frankly, our life journeys. More importantly, we had access to all the classes offered by Stanford. Some of the classes I took related to my prior experience, but some were purely exploratory. One of those was on the history of the mystery novel. I had always enjoyed reading mysteries, but analysing them in depth guided by a professor learned in the field added a new dimension for me. Also, I benefited from the savvy advice of John Evans, who teaches creative writing at Stanford.

I decided that I would like to try my hand at writing a mystery, but all I came up with while I was at Stanford was a concept – a Baby Boomer detective couple along the lines of Nick and Nora Charles of *The Thin Man* – and a title, 'The Mystery of the Missing Reading Glasses'. Because losing reading glasses is a near-universal experience among those of a certain age, the title always got a laugh when I mentioned it, which kept the idea alive in the back of my mind as I continued my life transition.

What actually caused me to start writing was the growing popularity of the dismissive phrase 'Ok, boomer'. Because it irritated me that the 77,000,000 members of the Boomer generation could be disrespected simply because of their age, I created a 'woke' couple, Barb and Bernie Silver, aka 'The Sleuthing Silvers'.

The idea was that they would specialise in problems, as their logo states, 'Where Age Is An Edge', for example going undercover at an assisted-living facility. The writing part was easier than I anticipated – I decided it would be best to start with short stories rather than longer forms – because of my familiarity with the subject matter.

Getting published was also easier than anticipated, as there are many e-zines devoted to the mystery genre. My children pointed out, however, that publishing is very 20th century; much better to be online, they advised. That is how the website [www.thesleuthingsilvers.com](http://www.thesleuthingsilvers.com) was born. If this series of stories entertains even a minuscule percentage of the 77,000,000, I will be very pleased.



**"Where Age is an Edge"**



# 5 minutes with Saman Malik



**Saman Tariq Malik** (Pakistan & Somerville 2017) is reading for a DPhil in History. Here, she talks about her work, her favourite Oxford moments, and where to find the best carrot cake in the city!

**How did you decide on the focus of your research?**

I had been working closely with a set of rare print literary archives of the late colonial and postcolonial period in South Asia. I wanted to explore this archive's meaningfulness for histories of Muslim identity-formation and literary nationalisms in the twentieth century. A DPhil in History was best suited to my research interests.

**Best academic moment at Oxford so far?**

I guess it was when I found out that I had been awarded two very prestigious academic awards upon completing my MPhil degree. I am deeply humbled by this recognition. The feeling in such a moment is unexplainable.

**What does 'The Power of the Humanities' mean to you?**

To my mind, the power of the humanities lies in their ability to foster empathy, which is critical to a better understanding of the human condition. The discipline of studying the humanities equips us with the vocabulary to ask questions the right way, to problematise existing narratives whilst creating space for envisioning new ones.

**Favourite Rhodes Experience?**

The Humanities Forum last year.

**Favourite Oxford place?**

It's a tie between the Barefoot Cafe (I'm a fan of their carrot cake, plus their vintage tea-set collections!) and the Vaults and Garden (this spot has the best view in the city).

**What do you hope to do when you leave Oxford?**

I hope to be part of academia as a literary historian. I also aspire to work as a digital archivist, expanding and developing digital humanities initiatives in my country through research-based collaborations with European history and heritage organisations and public history programmes. Besides that, I hope to continue my interest in painting portraits.



# Rhodes Inspirational Educator Awards

The Inspirational Educator awards were first pioneered by the Rhodes Trust in 2016 to celebrate the wonderful contribution of teachers throughout all stages of education who not only taught, but also inspired. Excerpts from the nomination letters are featured here.

**DR LUCYNA LACH**  
McGill University

Nominated by **Caitlin Salvino**  
(Ontario & University 2018)

“Dr Lucyna Lach is one of the most exceptional educators I have ever been able to work with. I have worked with Lucy in two capacities. In both, I have been amazed by her brilliance and compassion. First, Lucy hired me as a research assistant with little previous experience and took the time to teach me the ins and outs of academic research in a new area. Second, while I was working at McGill, Lucy took on the role of Chair of the McGill University Sexual Violence Policy Committee. She led an interdisciplinary team of students, educators, and support providers to examine the gaps in responses to sexual violence at the University. In a field that is often highly contentious, Lucy led this team with compassion, always ensuring the voices of students and survivors were centred in our discussions. I have nothing but great things to say about Dr Lach.”

**VIVIAN G. CHEUNG**  
University of Michigan

Nominated by **Majd Abdulghani**  
(Saudi Arabia & Balliol 2019)

“Applying for research jobs to fill the gap year between my Masters and DPhil, I was looking for anyone that would take me. Professor Cheung told me to instead apply to the labs of Nobel laureates. ‘Dream big,’ she said, and then helped me contact those scientists. This is just one example of how Professor Cheung has inspired me to step further than I ever would have on my own. She first emailed me in June 2016 after listening to my radio diary, where I describe my love for science. She offered to help me on my research journey. It struck me that a full professor from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute has very little time to spare, and yet she chose to spend some of it helping me – practically a nobody in research terms. Since then, she has been nothing but a constant source of support.”



## DR DWIGHT RAULSTON

St. John's School, Houston

Nominated by **Xavier Gonzalez**  
(Texas & Balliol 2018)

“After earning a PhD in Biochemistry and considering a career in research, Dr Raulston chose to teach secondary school so he could help students in a variety of ways. Over a near-40-year career in teaching, he has moulded many students; for me, he gave me my first taste of both research math and teaching (by letting me teach different math classes, giving me some of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my high school days). He has inspired me greatly: particularly through his student-driven style of teaching that I hope can be adopted more widely across secondary schools; the effort he puts in to make such personalised education possible (for example, learning Spanish to improve outreach for the school in Houston); his ability to connect with students with completely different personalities through his spot-on humour; and, beneath it all, his genuine care.”

## PROFESSOR MICHAEL HECHT

Princeton University

Nominated by **Samvida S. Venkatesh**  
(India & University 2019)

“I have known Professor Michael Hecht for over four years, and he has served as an incredible mentor, both academically and personally; I can say without a doubt that I would not be here today without his unending support, encouragement, and belief in my abilities. I met Professor Hecht when he sat down for lunch at a table of nervous first-year students in our first week at Princeton. He immediately won himself a place in all our hearts for his genuine interest in our lives. He is one of the best teachers I have ever had – I am still in awe at the vast amount of knowledge he communicated in his graduate seminar through his careful selection of seminal papers and masterful steering of classroom discussions. I know I am not alone in feeling this way, and he deserves the highest recognition for positively shaping so many lives and minds.”

## JOSEPH TIERNEY

University of Pennsylvania

Nominated by **Christopher D'Urso**  
(New Jersey & St John's 2018)

“Throughout all four of my years at Penn, Joseph Tierney served as a mentor, providing both academic and professional advice. When I arrived as an eager freshman with the idea of creating Philadelphia's first consumer education organisation, he immediately believed in me and provided me with the guidance to make this dream a reality. Based on his decades of experience in the non-profit sector, he connected me with the correct people and taught me how to build meaningful community partnerships. By the time I graduated, this organisation had reached over 2,500 residents and has continued to this day in protecting Philadelphians from fraud. Without Mr Tierney taking a chance on me and generously volunteering his time and wisdom, I would not have known how to implement my visions most effectively, nor would I have grown so profoundly as a leader and aspiring public servant. For this, I am eternally grateful.”

## DR MICHELLE PLOUGHMAN

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Nominated by **Matthew Downer**  
(Newfoundland & Brasenose 2019)

“As a physiotherapist and neuroscientist, Dr Ploughman has devoted her life to improving the lives of people with disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), while simultaneously producing research with global impact. I began working in the lab as an undergraduate student five years ago, and found a home in a warm, welcoming space where clinicians, researchers, and patients came together. At the centre of it all was Dr Ploughman, who has always been an extremely kind, insightful, and treasured mentor. To all of us, Dr Ploughman is that rare type of mentor who excels in seeing potential in students far beyond what they see in themselves, and gives utmost priority to their personal and professional success. Through prolific research, treasured academic mentoring, and deep community engagement, Dr Ploughman exemplifies many ideals that any future mentor should aspire to.”

## GREGORY BRUICH

Harvard University

Nominated by **Samarth Gupta**  
(Massachusetts & Jesus 2017)

“Greg is an adviser and lecturer in the economics department at Harvard. It's one of the largest departments in the college, but with only a handful of advisers, has the reputation of being hands-off in a subject that is already considered inaccessible. Those lucky enough to have Greg as an adviser, to take one of his courses, or wander into his office hours, have a completely different experience. He shows that economics isn't just about finance and central banks, but can be about anything, from social mobility to health care. Harnessing students' passion, he shows them how to use the tools of economics for research. He'll send papers he thinks they'll like, new research ideas based on their interests, and advice on any problem, big or small. He is the most generous teacher I have ever had and has made me want to give back as a mentor and teacher.”

## PENELOPE VAN TUYL

Stanford University

Nominated by **Alexis Kallen**  
(California & St John's 2018)

“Penelope helped me find my home academically at Stanford through her work with the Center for Human Rights and International Justice. Through her class, I was able to gain a more nuanced understanding of human rights. Beyond the classroom, Penelope made a huge impact on me by helping me think about why I want to pursue human rights, how to do so in a way that works for me, and what types of experiences I might look for while pursuing that work. Though she has a full workload, leading the center through growth and increased programming, Penelope always makes time for students, giving hours to talk through hard decisions. Whether I needed academic or personal advice, Penelope always knew what I needed to hear and her kindness meant the world to me. She is a big part of why I got to be a member of the Rhodes community.”





# Farewell to Bob

After 25 years of service to the Rhodes community, Bob Wyllie, our Head Porter, is stepping down this summer. In this interview with our editor, Babette Littlemore, he discusses his highlights and hopes, as well as letting us know what the future holds.



**As we sit here, you have just come back from South Africa, the first leg of the global tour which you and Dawn have embarked on in order to reconnect with as many Rhodes Scholars as possible before you retire. What was that trip like?**

It was incredible. That's the only way to describe it. It was full of beautiful scenery and beautiful people. We couldn't have thought of a better place to start our global journey. It became particularly moving when we learnt after our return of the sudden and tragic passing of Shaun Johnson (South Africa-at-Large & St Catherine's 1982) who had shown us such a warm welcome. It was a huge wake-up call that each and every interaction with a Rhodes Scholar

must be treasured since the future can be so devastatingly uncertain.

**What do you think the rest of the trip will be like – next up is Australia?**

I originally felt that I was very out of my comfort zone but being in South Africa and seeing an amazing group of people who were so very generous with their hospitality – that has really put me at ease. The Australians are also well known for their friendliness and there will be so many Scholars to meet. Dawn said in South Africa that she has never seen me so happy. It was like I was getting my Christmas presents daily – every time I reconnected with

another Scholar – and I think Australia and North America will be exactly the same.

*Editor's note: After this interview Bob did indeed greatly enjoy his trip to Australia, but his North American leg of the world tour is postponed until 2021.*

**VIEW** a moving film showing Bob and Dawn at Rhodes House, where they discuss what the Rhodes community has meant to them. [www.bobanddawn2020.com](http://www.bobanddawn2020.com)

**You've been at Rhodes House for 25 years. Why did you originally apply for the job?**

I worked at Blackwell's before joining Rhodes House. I was looking for my next job and the ad for the role of Porter was at the back of one of those free newspapers. I got the job and thought I would give it a chance for a month. I quickly realised I had left one family-focused institution to join another. I've never looked at another job ad since. It was one of the biggest decisions I made in my life and it was probably the best decision I ever made too.

**What has it meant having Dawn beside you all this time?**

It's a true partnership. I feed off the generosity she shows to the Scholars, and she has always done such an amazing job at being a listening ear. What's said in the bungalow stays in the bungalow! Dawn has been a parental figure for so many Scholars and I couldn't do my job without her.

**What do you want to do in retirement?**

We want to stay closely connected to the Rhodes community – we have made friends for life. And we want to keep travelling. Most importantly, I want to make sure now that I will no longer have to work weekends that I don't miss any more Oxford United matches!

**As well as the global tour, the Rhodes Trust in collaboration with a group of alumni Scholars are also setting up the Family Fund, in honour of Bob and Dawn Wyllie. What does that mean to you both?**

It's been such a shock to realise how many Scholars still

hold such fond memories of trips we did with them – to the soccer matches, to the dogs or dinner somewhere. We want future Scholars to be able to escape beyond the Oxford bubble for a bit as well, to get away from the stress. The Fund will allow Scholars to really be able to make special memories and to get to know the city they are living in, beyond the academic side of things, as it includes support for community-enhancing events. It will also support Scholars' family members visiting Oxford, particularly to attend a Scholar's graduation ceremony or assist a Scholar facing a welfare issue, as well as offering funds for emergency travel and assistance to buy warm clothing or even to attend the Rhodes Ball.

**DONATE** to the Family Fund in honour of Bob and Dawn to help future generations of Rhodes Scholars. Pay it forward!  
[www.bobanddawn2020.com](http://www.bobanddawn2020.com)

**What makes the Rhodes Scholarships different to other scholarships?**

Rhodes House itself – it's a home from home. There is always a base, always somewhere to turn. It's so important to keep that sense of family – from Christmas dinners to just having a good chat.

**What are your top memories?**

25 years of meeting Scholars! So many lifelong friends, such incredible people. Scholars I can just pick up the phone and talk to. I also loved being there for the start of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation and meeting the Queen and Nelson Mandela. Who would have thought that would have happened to me? But I would take meeting the Scholars over meeting the Queen any day!

**CONTRIBUTE** your memories of Bob and Dawn by signing the guestbook or uploading your photos at [www.bobanddawn2020.com](http://www.bobanddawn2020.com) or use the hashtag [#BobandDawn2020](https://twitter.com/BobandDawn2020) on social media.



# Rhodes Connect

**Richard Hughes** joined the Rhodes Trust in January 2020 as our Online Community Manager, bringing with him ten years' experience of building professional online collaborative communities. Richard will be working with the Digital Transformation team to deliver the new Alumni Portal and make it a rich, compelling digital workspace for Scholars.

In 2019, the Rhodes Trust embarked on a major digital transformation project to update our processes and communications. This project supports the vision of a Lifelong Fellowship for global impact, enabled through and enriched by digital experiences, throughout the different phases of a Rhodes Scholar, from selection to alumni. The centre point of this is Rhodes Connect, an online portal that serves as a digital home for the Rhodes community. In October 2019, the virtual doors of Rhodes Connect were opened for the first time, with the portal becoming the primary digital point of contact for Current Scholars. Using Rhodes Connect for announcements, events, group discussions and important task notifications has greatly reduced the number of emails being sent – a common request from Scholars.

Since the launch, there has been a two-pronged approach to further enhancement of the portal. A wealth of feedback from Current Scholars has driven the refinement of the initial release while detailed planning of features for Scholars-elect, Alumni, National Secretaries, Trustees and committees has prepared the ground for extending Rhodes Connect to the entire community later this year.

Rather than thinking of the Scholar Portal, the Alumni Portal and so on as separate destinations, it is best to see them as rooms within the same building. In this 'virtual Rhodes House', there are rooms for Scholars, Scholars-elect, Trustees and so on, with many opportunities for engagement across groups. This metaphorical building also has a number of doors, with each group entering the portal and receiving a personalised view of the activities of the Rhodes community.

We know that Current Scholars and Scholars-elect are something of a 'captive audience', with Rhodes Connect

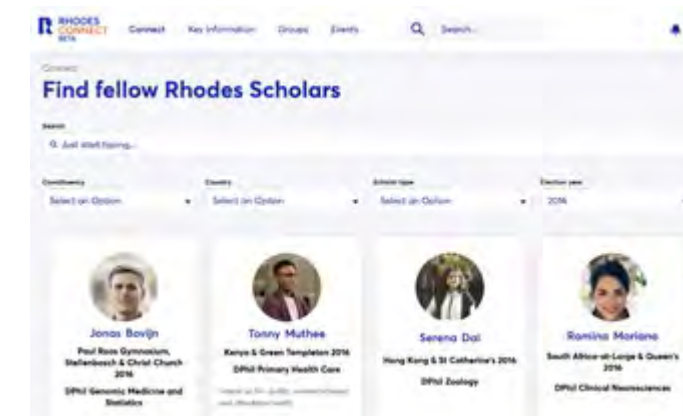
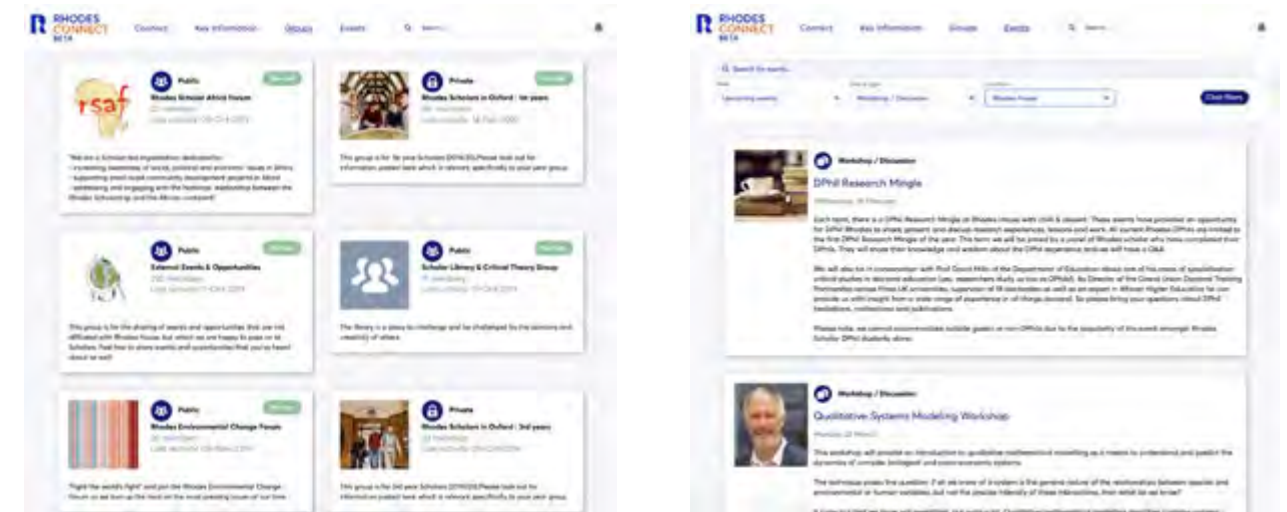
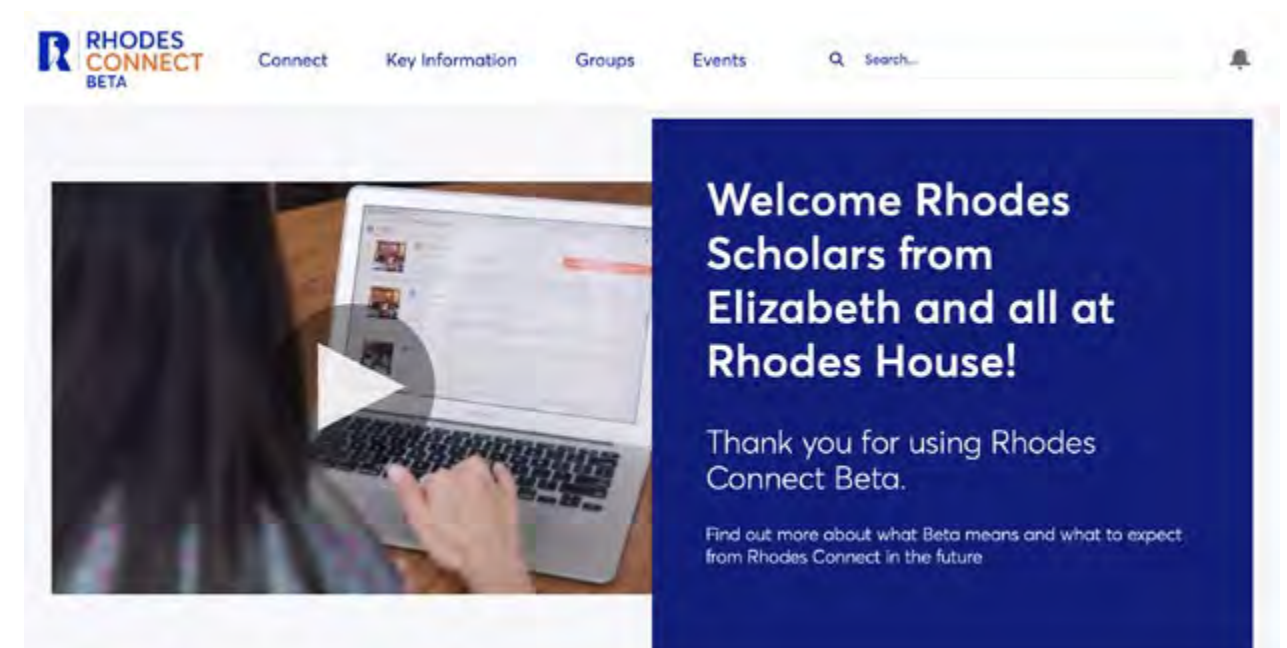
providing the only route to perform certain essential tasks. We also know that this will not be the case for Alumni – the portal will need to provide compelling reasons to justify its place in the wide range of other networks Alumni already participate in. Many online alumni networks suffer from an initial flurry of activity fizzling out when there is no longer any persuasive reason for users to return. We are determined to avoid this, so have focused efforts on what we see at the two primary motivations for Alumni to engage with the Rhodes community:

**Giving back to the community:** we know Rhodes Scholars are incredibly generous with their time, supporting other Scholars with their expertise and advice. We want to make it as easy as possible for Scholars to share their experiences for the benefit of the whole community.

**Professional and personal advancement:** we want to help Scholars take advantage of this unique community to find opportunities, learn from experts and make new connections.

We aim to support both these objectives both through existing events and via a new series of digital-only events, and we will also offer online relationship-building to enable both short- and longer-term advice and mentoring.

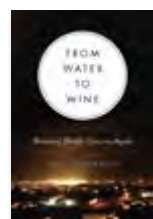
An initial launch for the Alumni Portal is planned for the autumn, but the development methodology for the portal delivers frequent, incremental updates, so we are always open to feedback and suggestions on how to refine and improve Rhodes Connect and make it a vibrant online destination for the entire Rhodes community.





# The Rhodes Book Shelf

A selection of books written or edited by Rhodes Scholars. For the complete virtual bookshelf, head to [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/impact/book-listing-page/](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/impact/book-listing-page/)



*From Water to Wine: Becoming Middle Class in Angola* (University of Toronto Press, 2020) by Jess Auerbach (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's 2009).

This is an exploration of how Angola has changed since the end of its civil war in 2002. Its focus is on the middle class – defined as those with a house, a car, and an education – and takes as its starting point the question 'What is working in Angola?' rather than asking 'What is going wrong?'



*Intellectuals and Fascism in Interwar Romania: The Criterion Association* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) by Cristina Bejan (North Carolina & Wadham 2004).

In 1930s Bucharest, some of the country's most brilliant young intellectuals converged to form the Criterion Association. Bound by friendship and the dream of a new, modern Romania, their members included historian Mircea Eliade, critic Petru Comarnescu, Jewish playwright Mihail Sebastian and a host of other philosophers and artists. Here, Bejan asks how the far-right Iron Guard came to eclipse the appeal of liberalism for so many of Romania's intellectual elite.



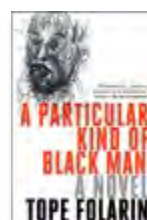
*NDN Coping Mechanisms: Notes from the Field* (House of Asani Press, 2019) by Billy-Ray Belcourt (Prairies & Wadham 2016).

In the follow-up to his Griffin Poetry Prize-winning collection, *This Wound is a World*, Billy-Ray Belcourt writes using the modes of accusation and interrogation. He aims an anthropological eye at the realities of everyday life to show how they house the violence that continues to reverberate from the long twentieth century, offering a genre-bending constellation of poetry, photography, redaction, and poetics.



*Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators* (Fleet, 2019) by Ronan Farrow (Maryland/DC & Magdalen 2012).

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Ronan Farrow's new book follows the publication of *She Said* by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, the *New York Times* journalists with whom Farrow shared a Pulitzer prize for breaking the Weinstein story in 2017.



*A Particular Kind of Black Man: A Novel* (Simon & Schuster, 2019) by Tope Folarin (Texas & Harris Manchester 2004).

Tope Folarin, winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing, writes about a Nigerian family living in Utah and their uncomfortable assimilation to American life. This is a beautiful and poignant exploration of the meaning of memory, manhood, home, and identity as seen through the eyes of a first-generation Nigerian-American.



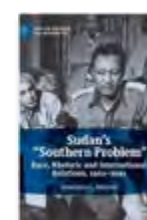
*Birth Rights and Wrongs: How Medicine and Technology are Remaking Reproduction and the Law* (OUP, 2019) by Dov Fox (Connecticut & St John's 2004).

Birth control, IVF, and genetic testing is the medicine of miracles. It fills empty cradles, frees families from terrible disease, and empowers them to fashion their lives on their own terms. But accidents happen, and this book critically analyses the legal complexities that arise when things go wrong.



*Cricket Country: An Indian Odyssey in the Age of Empire* (OUP, 2019) by Prashant Kidambi (India & Wadham 1994).

Drawing on an unparalleled range of original archival sources, this is the story of the first 'All India' national cricket tour of Great Britain and Ireland, with an Indian team that included the young, newly enthroned, ruler of the most powerful Sikh state in India as its captain and, remarkably for the day, two Dalit cricketers as well. Over the course of a historic tour in the blazing Coronation summer of 1911, India took shape on the cricket pitch long before the country gained its political independence.



*Sudan's "Southern Problem": Race, Rhetoric and International Relations, 1961-1991* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) by Sebatatso Manoeli (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's 2012).

This book offers a history of the discourses and diplomacies of Sudan's civil wars. It explores the battle for legitimacy between the Sudanese state and Southern rebels and examines, in particular, how racial thought and rhetoric were used in international debates about the political destiny of the South. It reveals the discursive techniques both sides employed to elicit support from diverse audiences, amidst the intellectual ferment of Pan-Africanism, the Cold War, and Black liberation politics.



*Yale Needs Women: How the First Group of Girls Rewrote the Rules of an Ivy League Giant* (Sourcebooks, 2019) by Anne Gardiner Perkins (Maryland & Balliol 1982).

The experience of the first undergraduate women when they stepped onto Yale's imposing campus was not the same one their male peers enjoyed. This is the story of how these young women fought against the backward-leaning traditions of a centuries-old institution and created the opportunities that would carry them into the future.



*Taming the Sun: Innovations to Harness Solar Energy and Power the Planet* (MIT Press, 2019) by Varun Sivaram (California & St John's 2011).

Solar energy, once a niche application for a limited market, has become the cheapest and fastest-growing power source on earth. Here, energy expert Varun Sivaram draws on firsthand experience and original research spanning science, business, and government to warn that the world is not yet equipped to harness erratic sunshine to meet most of its energy needs.



*The Advice Trap: Be Humble, Stay Curious & Change the Way You Lead Forever* (Page Two, 2020) by Michael Bungay Stanier (Australia-at-Large & Hertford 1992).

Bestselling author of the *The Coaching Habit*, Michael Bungay Stanier's new book, is about how to get to grips with how to actually change your behaviour so you stay curious a little bit longer.

If you have recently published a book and would like it featured on the Rhodes House website, please email Babette Littlemore, Director of Communications ([babette.littlemore@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:babette.littlemore@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)).



# Glimpses into an Online World

The Rhodes Trust uses social media in a multitude of ways. Our main focus is collecting and sharing the stories of Rhodes Scholars from around the globe. Here, our Communications Team reflect on the highlights of digital engagement.

Social media is a tale of two online realities. On the negative side it can inflate and distort the worst excesses of society and is not always truthful, thoughtful or welcoming. However, the positives are generally far greater and the online world is a constant source of connection; it brings people together, and has the power to turn ordinary vignettes into moments of inspiration. This is what it means to us:

“We get to share cutting edge research, dynamic news stories and forward-thinking blogs, podcast and videos with the world every day, as well as celebrate the personal achievements of the Rhodes community with each other.”

“These stories positively contribute to a digital space that can at times be overwhelming and divisive.”

“The breadth and diversity of what we publish on our social media channels is something to be very proud of. It is an honest reflection of our vibrant and passionate community.”

Here are a few of the stories that we have shared with the world this year...



Want to keep up to date with the Rhodes Community? You can follow us by scanning the QR Code, or search for our handles on the following platforms:

- @RhodesTrust
- @rhodes\_trust
- @rhodestrust
- Rhodes Trust
- Rhodes Trust



We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our social media this year, whether with a blog, a podcast, a campaign, a video or a photo.

We are always delighted to hear from you! If you would like to get involved let Sophie know at [sophie.crowe@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.crowe@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)



Text and images for these items are taken in part from [www.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.ox.ac.uk/news) (as published on: 5 September 2019; 4 December 2019)

# Getting the science right to end healthcare inequalities for women



Image credit: <http://dreamstime.com/>

**D**iseases that only affect women are significantly under-studied and research is under-resourced. Women are treated for diseases that affect both men and women as if they were men, resulting in inappropriate treatment. This is about to change. The Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health at Oxford will accelerate progress by harnessing a critical mass of international expertise from a range of disciplines to transform the way we approach healthcare for women. This transdisciplinary, gendered approach to women's health across the entire life course, including women in both rich and poor countries and covering a broad range of health problems, is unique and urgently needed. Women deserve an equal share of the benefits that healthcare brings to men. Underpinning the research is a vision is to ensure that all women receive appropriate and effective treatment by 2030.

## Typhoid vaccine over 81% effective in tackling disease in Nepal

**T**he Typhoid Vaccine Acceleration Consortium (TyVAC), which includes researchers from the University of Oxford, the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and PATH has completed a large field study in Nepal and published the interim analysis in the New England Journal of Medicine. The field study of typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) in Nepal has shown a single dose to be safe and effective in reducing typhoid in children aged 9 months to <16 years in an endemic setting.



Image credit: Gates Archive/Samantha Reinders

## Oxford researchers launch a 21st-century conservation plan

**R**esearchers at the University of Oxford and their collaborators have launched a new approach called the 'Conservation Hierarchy' to support governments, businesses, individuals, communities and local authorities in their efforts to tackle the loss of nature in a coordinated way. Oxford University will be using its own operations as a case study for how large, complex organisations can reduce their biodiversity impact using the Conservation Hierarchy. The new hub, named the Oxford Partnership for Operationalising the Conservation Hierarchy (OxPOCH), will be the first to use the framework in practice, with a focus on two key areas – reducing the environmental impact of our food, and ensuring that new developments have 'Biodiversity Net Gain' (leaving nature in a better state than it would have been if the development hadn't been implemented).



Image credit: Shutterstock



Image credit: Ian Wallman

## More Black British students than ever choosing Oxford

**O**xford University has announced that more than 22% of undergraduate students starting in 2019 were Britons from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds – up from 18% on the previous year's UCAS admissions statistics. The overall proportion of Black students admitted is up from 2.6% in 2018 to 3.1% in 2019.

## Scientists closer to finding the cell of origin for ovarian cancer

**A** new technique has been developed to identify six previously unknown cell types in human Fallopian tubes, paving the way for faster identification and treatment of ovarian cancer. Researchers at the University of Oxford are now closer to finding the cell of origin of ovarian cancer, and to their ultimate aim of developing a much-needed screening tool for ovarian cancer.



Image credit: Shutterstock

## Architect appointed for Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities

**O**xford University has appointed Hopkins Architects to design the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities. The building will give Oxford's humanities a new home with state-of-the-art academic, exhibition and

performance spaces, a dedicated hub for engagement with schools, a new Institute for Ethics in AI, a new Humanities Library, and much-needed space for humanities graduate students and researchers.





# 'Intelligent and Intellectual': A Tribute to Two Literary Pioneers

2020 saw the passing of two Rhodes Scholars who were true men of letters.

**Shaun Johnson** (South Africa-at-Large & St Catherine's 1982) and **George Steiner** (Illinois & Balliol 1950) made their contributions to the humanities in very different but equally powerful ways. Here, we mourn their loss and pay tribute to their extraordinary work.



Shaun was an influential author and anti-apartheid journalist. His own story was intertwined with that of South Africa's transition to democracy and his own great friendship with Nelson Mandela. He served as deputy editor and political editor of the *Johannesburg Star* and also edited titles including the *Cape Argus* and *Saturday Star*. In 1995, he became founding editor of *The Sunday Independent*, and in 2003 he was appointed deputy chief executive of Independent News & Media South Africa. He was also a powerful novelist. In 1994 he published *Strange Days Indeed* and in 2007 *The Native Commissioner* won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book in Africa, the M-Net Literary Award, and the Nielsen Booksellers' Choice Book of the Year.

Shaun always made time for the Rhodes community – whether through formal roles (he served as Chairman of the Rhodes Scholarships Southern Africa Advisory Committee) or informally helping countless Scholars. Most recently, he became a trailblazer for our visiting

Shaun Johnson was instrumental in establishing our very first partnership organisation, The Mandela Rhodes Foundation, which has transformed the lives of many hundreds of extraordinary young leaders across the African continent, some of whom have gone on to become Rhodes Scholars. He took the idea when it was only a tiny seed of possibility and enabled it to bloom into a hugely successful and richly impactful programme. He served as its Founding Executive Director from 2003 until 2019.

Shaun was an influential author and anti-apartheid journalist

.....  
Shaun Johnson  
30 November 1959-24 February 2020

senior Rhodes Scholar programme, and it was wonderful to see him spend Michaelmas Term 2019 at Harris Manchester College, deeply focused on his writing.



George Steiner's literary brilliance was already apparent by the time he became a Rhodes Scholar. He contributed to Oxford poetry magazines, won the Chancellor's English essay prize, and was interviewed by Sylvia Plath while he was still a student. His first book, *Tolstoy or Dostoyevsky: An Essay in the Old Criticism*, appeared in 1959. *The Death of Tragedy* (1961) began life as his doctoral thesis, and considered a vast span of literature from the ancient Greeks to the mid-20th century. His best-known book, *After Babel* (1975), was an early and influential contribution to the field of translation studies. Works of fiction included short story collections and novellas. *Errata: An Examined Life* (1997) was a semi-autobiography, and *Grammars of Creation* (2001), based on Steiner's 1990 Gifford Lectures delivered at the University of Glasgow, explored a range of subjects from cosmology to poetry.

George accepted the post of Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Geneva in 1974. He stayed for twenty years, teaching classes in four languages. On his retirement in 1994, he became Professor Emeritus at Geneva, and in 1995 was made an Honorary Fellow of Balliol. He later became the first Lord Weidenfeld Professor of Comparative

George was a polymath and explored a wide range of literary themes

European Literature and was also a Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford, from 1994 to 1995. From 2001 to 2002, he was Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard University.

George was a polymath and explored a wide range of literary themes, including the relationship between language, literature and society and the possibilities of translation, science and chess. Described as 'an intelligent and intellectual critic and essayist', he was a regular contributor of reviews and articles to many

journals and newspapers including *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The Guardian* and wrote for *The New Yorker* for over thirty years, contributing over two hundred reviews. George held a passionate belief in the need to 'read well', to 'engage the immediacy of felt presence in a text at every level of encounter'.

.....  
George Steiner  
23 April 1929-3 February 2020

Illustrations by Sian Tezel



## Obituaries

Selected obituaries from the past year. For all Rhodes Scholar obituaries, please visit [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/alumni-volunteers/obituaries/](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/alumni-volunteers/obituaries/)

CHARLES ROBIN ASHWIN  
(South Australia & New College 1952)

**27 SEPTEMBER 1930 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Robin's interest in international affairs began young: his Rhodes Scholarship application essay was on international governance. After Oxford he was offered a cadetship at the Australian Department of External Affairs. His first posting was to Seoul, where he observed and reported on the development of democracy in a country still suffering the effects of war. While there he met and fell in love with Okche Chon, who would become his wife and life partner. They were married in Sydney in 1959, and later had a son, Kim, and a daughter, Mulan.

JAMES ATLAS  
(Illinois & New College 1971)

**22 MARCH 1949 – 4 SEPTEMBER 2019**

James Atlas was a leading figure in New York literary circles as an editor, publisher and writer. His books included well-regarded biographies of Saul Bellow and the poet Delmore Schwartz.

CLAYTON M. CHRISTENSEN  
(Utah & Queen's 1975)

**6 APRIL 1952 – 23 JANUARY 2020**

Clayton studied Applied Econometrics at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar from 1975. He graduated from Harvard Business School, joining its faculty in 1992 and teaching a course called 'Building and Sustaining a Successful Enterprise'. A former basketball star (he stood 6ft 8), he focused as much on a life well lived as he did on management theories. His groundbreaking 1997 book *The Innovator's Dilemma* outlined his theories about what he called 'disruptive innovation'.

GRAHAM LEIGHTON HUTCHINSON  
(Victoria & Magdalen 1971)

**25 MARCH 1948 – 5 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Professor Graham Leighton Hutchinson served as Australia's National Secretary between 1997 and 2015, and previously as ARSA State Secretary for Victoria from 1990. His successor, Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Tasmania & Merton 1992), said 'Graham's passion for Rhodes, as well as for engineering, reflected a deep gratitude for the opportunities he was given as a student. His work reflected a belief in the never-ending potential of the Scholarship to transform lives'.

GIRISH KARNAD  
(India & Magdalen 1960)

**19 MAY 1938 – 10 JUNE 2019**

Girish Karnad studied Mathematics and Statistics at Karnatak University. As a Rhodes Scholar he studied PPE, and was elected president of the Oxford Union in 1962. He worked at Oxford University Press in Madras (now Chennai) until 1970. India's foremost playwright, and a successful director and actor, Karnad also wrote plays in the Indian language of Kannada. He served as director of the Film and Television Institute of India (1974-75), chair of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Performing Arts (1988-93) and director of the Nehru Centre (2000-2003). In 1998 he received the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour.

KENNETH KENISTON  
(Michigan & Balliol 1951)

**6 JANUARY 1930 – 14 FEBRUARY 2020**

Kenneth Keniston was born in Chicago. He enrolled in Harvard, later completing his DPhil in social studies as a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol. Keniston taught at Harvard and Yale and joined MIT's faculty in 1977, serving as Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Human Development. Keniston and his wife Suzanne Berger both received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1979.

JASON MCMANUS  
(North Carolina & New College 1958)

**3 MARCH 1934 – 19 SEPTEMBER 2019**

From 1987 to 1995, Jason D. McManus was Editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., overseeing *TIME*, *People*, *Cooking Light*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *InStyle*, *Real Simple*, and *Sports Illustrated*. From 1985 to 1987, McManus was managing Editor of *TIME* (having been corporate Editor 1983-1985, Executive Editor 1979-1983, and Assistant Managing Editor 1975-1978). As Senior Editor, McManus directed *TIME*'s coverage of the Watergate scandal.

ROBERT K. MASSIE  
(Tennessee & Oriel 1950)

**5 JANUARY 1929 – 2 DECEMBER 2019**

Robert K. Massie was a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer who wrote respected biographies of Russian royals, including *Nicholas and Alexandra*, which became a movie. He earned a degree in American studies at Yale and another in Modern History at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar before serving in the Navy.

## Appointments and Awards

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

SABIEH ANWAR (Pakistan & University 2001) appointed Dean of Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering, Lahore University of Management Sciences.

DOMINIC BARTON (British Columbia & Brasenose 1984) appointed Canada's Ambassador to China.

ELLEKE BOEHMER (South Africa-at-Large & St John's 1985), Rhodes Trustee, appointed Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

CHESA BOUDIN (Illinois & St Antony's 2003) elected San Francisco District Attorney.

JOY BUOLAMWINI (Tennessee & Jesus 2013) and PETE BUTTIGIEG (Indiana & Pembroke 2005) named in Fortune's World's Greatest Leaders '40 Under 40'.

JUSTICE EDWIN CAMERON (South Africa-at-Large & Keble 1976) recently retired as a Constitutional Court Judge and was elected Chancellor of Stellenbosch University.

ALEX DIAZ (New Jersey & New College 2014) and TOM DOWLING (Illinois & St John's 2018) featured in the Forbes 'Under 30' Law & Policy list.

PETER DONNELLY (Queensland & Balliol 1980) received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for services to the Understanding of Human Genetics in Disease.

JOHN FINNIS AC (South Australia & University 1962), PETER RATHJEN AO (South Australia & New College 1985) and MICHAEL FULLILOVE AM (New South Wales & Balliol 1997) awarded the Order of Australia.

CHRISTIA FREELAND (Prairies & St Antony's 1991) appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

MARNIE HUGHES-WARRINGTON (Tasmania & Merton 1992) appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Enterprise, University of South Australia.

SUDHIR KRISHNASWAMY (India & Pembroke 1998) appointed Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India University.

KOPANO MABASO (South Africa-at-Large & Magdalen 2010), SIZWE MKWANAZI (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's 2017) and SHAMILA MPINGA (South Africa-at-Large & Merton 2019) named in '100 young Mandelas of the future'.

DAVID NAYLOR (Ontario & Hertford 1979) and J. EDWARD CHAMBERLIN (British Columbia & St Edmund Hall 1964) received honorary LLD degrees from the University of Toronto.

BWALYA NG'ANDU (Zambia & University 1977) appointed Zambian Minister of Finance.

MATT PIERRI'S (Victoria & Lincoln 2016) startup 'SociAbility' named Toyota's Inclusive Mobility Startup Champion.

AMIA SRINIVASAN (Connecticut & Christ Church 2007) appointed Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory at Oxford.

LUCAS TSE (Hong Kong & Hertford 2018) awarded an All Souls Fellowship at Oxford.

TIMOTHY WHELAN (Newfoundland & St John's 1975) awarded O. Harold Warwick Prize for outstanding achievements in cancer control research.

JONATHAN WILKINSON (Prairies & Exeter 1988) appointed Minister of Environment and Climate Change for Canada.



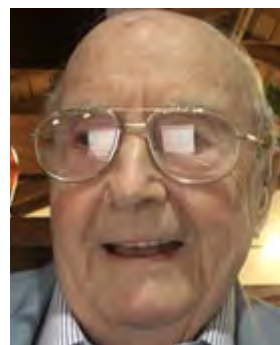
# Class Notes

## 1950



**Ralph Simmons** (Kansas & St Edmund Hall 1950) found in Oxford marvellous inspiration by physicists (to begin his career specialisation), enriching distractions in college life, and sobering travel in postwar Europe. He reports vivid memories of the

Sheldonian (orchestras conducted by Beecham and Vaughan Williams), of talks (progressive Mosaddegh), of fellow '50s Billington (who arranged interviews, onboard the '50s group sailing, with Schuman about his Declaration) and Brademas (playing OUBBC basketball and in Franco's Spain, interviewing anarchists). Simmons chose academic life, his publications covering five decades. (<https://physics.illinois.edu/people/directory/profile/ros>). Along the way: Rhodes interview privileges alongside impressive later Scholars such as Katzenbach (of civil rights fame), the pleasures of seeing women taking Rhodes places, and both Oxford and Illinois physics growing to prominence. He notes: progress takes constant effort!



**Sterling Soderlind** (Montana & Keble 1950), age 93, compiles highlights of 37 years at *The Wall Street Journal*. Also revisits Oxfordiana he put in past class notes. Samples: William Gladstone said: 'To call a man an Oxford man is to

pay him the highest compliment that can be paid to a human being'. But Edward Gibbon, after spending 14 months at Magdalen, said: 'They proved the fourteen months the most idle and unprofitable of my whole life'. And Max Beerbohm wrote: 'When I was growing up, I was an amiable, studious and well-mannered youth. It was only Oxford that made me insufferable'. Soderlind is re-reading Max's classic Oxford novel *Zuleika Dobson*.

## 1960

**Robert F. Ashman** (Indiana & Balliol 1960) is Emeritus professor of Medicine and Microbiology at the University of Iowa. He continues to teach Immunology and Rheumatology to Rheumatology Fellows and to medical students beginning their clinical training. With his wife Claire he enjoys travel, especially to ancient archeological sites. China, Ireland, and Scotland were the travel targets for 2019, while visits with children and grandchildren were also highlights. While Claire's main activities include Knitting Group, Book Club, and the local Food Bank, Bob has been Chair of the Mission Board at their Congregational Church, involving a variety of 'social justice' projects in Iowa City and abroad.



**Rob Aspden** (New Zealand & University 1960) returned to New Zealand in 1964 and joined a New Zealand government engineering department. He spent most of his career involved with power station design and construction. Note that close to 70% of

NZ's electricity comes from renewable resources. In addition, he joined with a group of friends for 40 years to plant and manage a 60 ha block of trees to produce millable timber. He has been very involved in his local community and the NZ engineering organisation. He and his wife have three daughters. Their oldest daughter is a Fellow of Jesus College and provides a good reason for regular visits to Oxford. A photo collection of his time at Oxford has been deposited with the University College archives.

**John Benyon** (Cape Province & University 1960) has retired from the University of Natal, where he was Professor of Historical and Political Studies (the latter subject being later split off). During this time he published *Constitutional Change in South Africa* for the new dispensation. On occasion he was Acting Principal of the Pietermaritzburg Campus. He now lives in retirement with his wife, Sally, in Wiltshire. They have two sons, one in the USA and the other in Switzerland, and four grandchildren.

**Trevor Brown** (St Andrew's College, Grahamstown & Trinity 1960) retired from Indiana University in 2005, after serving as Dean of the School of Journalism for 20 years. He consulted for the Accrediting Council on Journalism and Mass Communication for the next dozen years, visiting programs in Chile, China, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. He and his wife Charlene relive, in Bloomington, Indiana, the wonders of their more than 50 years together through the scattered exploits of their children and grandchildren.

**Julian Jack** (New Zealand & Magdalen 1960) is now an Emeritus Fellow of Univ., having retired from there and the University Laboratory of Physiology in 2003. Apart from academic work at Oxford, he was a trustee in the charity sector for the Physiological Society, Action Research, Brain Research Trust and particularly (1987-2004) for the Wellcome Trust, including periods as Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Deputy Chairman of both the Investment Committee and the Board of Governors. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the Neuroscience Drug Discovery Group at KCL and is excited about a new drug, in development (Phase I trial), which promotes regeneration and limits inflammatory degeneration in the nervous system of animal models.



**John Rayner** (Québec & Corpus Christi 1960) has retired after 35 years in the Canadian federal civil service. During his career he was part of the group that put together the first Cabinet Committee system under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and ran the Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning for three years. Later he was the Executive Director of the Royal Commission on Financial Accountability. His last two appointments were as Assistant Deputy Minister in managing the Indian Services program and at the end the Northern Affairs program. This last position involved the creation of a third Territory Nunavut and the creation of the government regime for regulating diamonds that had just been discovered in Canada in the 1990s. He was married in 1962 to Naomi Curry and raised three children. His passion, that kept him sane, was cross-country skiing and he served as technical delegate to several Canadian National Championships and was an official at the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1978.

**Timothy Escott Reid** (Ontario & Christ Church 1960) A son of Escott Reid, Rhodes Scholar (Ontario & Christ Church 1927). He played on the Christ Church rugger team. His MLitt thesis was on Canadian banking. Returning to Canada with his bride-to-be (a Canadian at the London School of Economics), he was drafted by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats professional football team and played in the national playoffs called 'The Fog Bowl'. (Also married his bride in between two weekend games.) He taught economics for ten years at the newly created York University in Toronto, being for several years the Assistant to the President. At the same time, he was also an elected Member of the Provincial Parliament. This was followed by an appointment as an economist with the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. Their two very young children became totally bilingual. The Canadian Government recruited him to join the Treasury Board to develop new innovative ways to measure the effectiveness of large government program expenditures. He left the Government as a Deputy Secretary to join Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute as the Dean of the Business School. After several years, he was recruited by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to serve as their President.



**Paul B. Van Buren** (South Dakota & University 1960) After graduating from Stanford Law School, he practised law with a firm and then with the legal departments of General Electric's Nuclear Energy Division and AT&T/Pacific Bell. At GE he was involved

in the marketing of nuclear power plants and at AT&T he worked on the breakup of the Bell System, including the defence of numerous antitrust cases. Paul now does pro bono legal work for seniors and volunteers with several non-profit community and university organisations. He and his wife Karen have two children, Erik Van Buren, an attorney in South Dakota, and Amy VB Rhodes (sic!) who works for the Department of Defense at the Pentagon. They live in Los Altos, CA, travel extensively, and also enjoy time in Sioux Falls, SD, and Washington, DC.

## 1970



**Jaynie Anderson FAHA OSI** (Melbourne & St Hugh's 1970) is an art historian, curator, biographer, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne. In 1970 she was the first woman Rhodes Fellow at Oxford, where she remained until 1991 lecturing in art history. Until 2014 she was Herald Chair of Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne, and from 2008 to 2012 was President of the International Committee for Art History. In 2015 she received a knighthood from the President of the Republic of Italy for her distinguished research on Venetian Renaissance art. Her most recent book is: *The Life of Giovanni Morelli in Risorgimento Italy* (2019). Her next project is a monographic exhibition on Giorgione for the Palazzo Reale, Milan, 2022.

**James Fallows** (California & Queen's 1970) continues to work as a writer for *The Atlantic*, and on civic-engagement projects around the United States, drawing on the best-selling 2018 book he co-wrote with his wife, Deb: *Our Towns, a 100,000-Mile Journey Into the Heart of America* (this was her third book, and his twelfth). Together they have made a related documentary for HBO, to be shown late in 2020. From 2014 through 2019 he was involved in establishing the Rhodes programme in China, where he and Deb lived and worked for many years. They have two sons, and five grandchildren.

**J. Derek Green** (Newfoundland & Wadham 1970) retired as Chief Justice of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada in 2017 but continues to serve as supernumerary judge in the Court of Appeal and a judge of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada. Prior to eight years as Chief Justice of the province, he served as Chief Justice of the province's superior trial court for nine years. He chaired the Commission of Inquiry on Constituency Allowances and Related Matters concerning Members of the House of Assembly. His report ([www.gov.nl.ca/publicat/greenreport](http://www.gov.nl.ca/publicat/greenreport)) made comprehensive recommendations for reform of management and spending practices in the House of Assembly. All eighty recommendations were accepted by government and passed into law within ten days. One commentator observed that the adoption of the report 'has set a new standard for managing legislatures in Canada'. He and Susan, married in 1971 while at Oxford, have had three children and six wonderful grandchildren.



**Peter Hempenstall** (Queensland & Magdalen 1970) has been retired from the Chair of History at Canterbury University, New Zealand, for ten years now but like academics everywhere has simply surrendered a salary and gone on doing what he always did – writing, teaching and learning.

His old University, Newcastle in Australia, gave him an honorary appointment and he has managed another two books, journal management, some PhD supervision and community work, including the inevitable choir singing with ageing friends. Grandchildren's happiness seems a built-in priority now for him and Jacquie, as well as lecturing their children about the need to put their bodies on the line occasionally in causes that matter for the world's continuing fight. Spread around the globe, they provide free accommodation now and then.



**David Phillip Jones, Q.C.** (Alberta & Balliol 1970) taught law full time at McGill and the University of Alberta for 16 years, and then started a 'cerebral micro firm' in Edmonton with his wife (Anne de Villars, Q.C.) where he continues to practise administrative law, labour and commercial arbitration and mediation, and 'point of law' litigation. Numerous papers and presentations, and co-author (with Anne de Villars, Q.C.) of *Principles of Administrative Law*, going into its 7th edition. Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Legislative Assemblies of Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and Chancellor of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Devotee of clocks, pipe organs, and a garden on Denman Island (even in snow). Four grown children; two small grandchildren.

**Kent Keith** (Hawaii & Oriel 1970) is retiring in July after five years as President of Pacific Rim Christian University in Honolulu. His wife, Dr Elizabeth Keith, will also retire from teaching at the University of Hawaii. They plan to speak, write, teach, and consult under the umbrella of their family corporation, Carlson Keith Corporation ([www.carlsonkeith.com](http://www.carlsonkeith.com)). Kent will continue to focus on servant leadership ([www.toservefirst.com](http://www.toservefirst.com)) and the Paradoxical Commandments ([www.paradoxicalcommandments.com](http://www.paradoxicalcommandments.com)), while Elizabeth will continue to teach and consult on Japanese culture and literature, cultural awareness, cross-cultural communication, and global citizenship. Hawaii will remain their base, but they look forward to travelling and spending a few months each year in other parts of the world.

**Maxwell J. Mehlman** (Oregon & Brasenose 1970) is Distinguished University Professor, Arthur E. Petersilge Professor of Law and Director of the Law-Medicine Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and Professor of Biomedical Ethics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. After Oxford, he received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1975, practised law in Washington DC, and joined the faculty at CWRU in 1984. He lives with his wife in Cleveland, Ohio, where he teaches full-time, writes articles and books (the latest, the 5th edition of his casebook on *Genetics: Ethics, Law and Policy*, with Suter and Rothstein), skis (after spending 20 years as a volunteer ski patroller), and Skypes regularly with his son, daughter, and granddaughter.

**Eric 'Ric' Redman** (Magdalen & Washington 1970) joined the selection committee for China Rhodes Scholars in 2019, following in the hard-to-fill shoes of James Fallows (California & Queen's 1970). Fourteen finalists, four Scholars; it would've been nice to be able to select all fourteen. At home in Seattle, Ric has a dual practice as lawyer and consultant with the environmental law firm Cascadia Law Group, its consulting subsidiary Cascadia Policy Solutions, and his own energy and climate consulting firm Thunderbolt Clean Energy, LLC. He's a board member for the Global Carbon Capture & Storage Institute, and is fortunate to have great clients with climate-helpful technologies. With luck, his novel *The Bones of Hilo*, a murder mystery set in Hawaii, will find a publisher in 2020.

**Stephen D. Smith** (Texas & Balliol 1970) became Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2007; later he was a Visiting Fellow at All Souls in Hilary Term 2009. He has continued to pursue a modest level of research in finite group theory, including the publication of several further books; his joint-authored work on the classification of the finite simple groups won the American Mathematical Society's Steele Prize for Exposition in 2012. Meanwhile he and his wife Judy Baxter increasingly pursue their interest in travel, especially archaeological tours with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.



**Alan Tonkyn** (Natal & New College 1970) After working for the British Council in Iran and Singapore, Alan joined the department of English Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of Reading, where he gained his PhD and was head of department, retiring as Senior Lecturer. He co-edited a volume on grammar within language teaching, and authored, or co-authored, several articles in the fields of English for Academic Purposes, and second language acquisition more generally, focusing especially on spoken language development and, latterly, primary school second language teaching and learning. He is currently turning language acquisition theory into practice by studying German with the OU. He married Shelagh in 1973, and they have three children and five grandchildren.



**Rick Trainor** (Rhode Island & Merton 1970) has been Rector (head) of Exeter College, Oxford since 2014. After Merton, Rick was a graduate student at Princeton and Oxford (Nuffield), receiving a DPhil in modern British social history. Rick spent 21 years as an academic at Glasgow University, where he obtained a personal chair and was Dean of Social Sciences and Vice-Principal. Between 2000 and 2014 he headed two London universities, Greenwich and then King's College London. He was also President of Universities UK (which represents the heads of UK universities) 2007-9 and was knighted in 2010. He served as Chair of Oxford's Conference of Colleges 2017-19. He and his wife, fellow historian Marguerite Dupree, have a son, a daughter, and a granddaughter born in 2019.

**Paul Viita** (Massachusetts & Balliol 1970) retired in 2012 after a career principally spent developing new businesses in the energy and telecommunications sectors. He pursues artistic interests in music (piano and singing), photography and drawing. He and his wife, Rosanna King (St Anne's, 1970), live in London and enjoy its cultural resources. In recent years, as well as traveling in Europe and the USA, they visited Iran and Uzbekistan. Friendships with Rhodes contemporaries are a lifelong pleasure.



# 1980

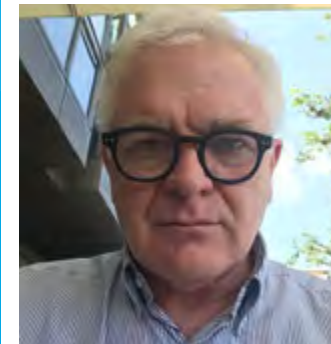
**Herbert Behrendt** (Germany & University 1980) continues in the salt mines of public service, since 2017 as First Counsellor Cultural Affairs at the German Embassy at Pretoria. Previous postings include Bogota, Mexico City, Caracas, Havana and Kosovo. During his career he has served the powerful and the less powerful, has travelled with royalty and the less prominent. He has witnessed the making of history and left footprints in the footnotes of history. He tried to make the world safe for democracy, and hoped to promote peace, human rights and some common sense. His best efforts have not always been successful. Nonetheless they did not pass unnoticed, to which several respectably high distinctions testify (inter alia the German Federal Order of Merit, the Order of Merit of the Colombian Parliament, and Officer of the Royal Order of Knights of The King of Belgium). He and his wife successfully defied many risks e.g. bombs placed by drug lords, sniper fire from guerrilla groups, hungry lions, rogue elephants, earthquakes, and food poisoning (just to name a few). On a lighter note it may be mentioned that the Behrendt family wholeheartedly enjoys the courtesies extended by the South African Community of Rhodes Scholars. Soon he will fade into oblivion breeding roses, perhaps writing a work of fiction in which any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead will be purely coincidental.

**Joy de Beyer** (Natal & Trinity 1980) is delighting in retirement. After her DPhil, she worked for 30 years as a health economist at the World Bank. Career highlights included working with the Ministries of Health in Malawi and Zimbabwe (1980s); leading the Bank's anti-smoking efforts (2000s); documenting the Bank's work on HIV; and running the training course on Health Systems Strengthening for senior policy makers. Now her time is spent volunteering, playing Lexulous, improving her basketball game (senior women playing 3-on-3, half court), learning ballet and piano, reading, travel, occasional consulting work, and trying not to despair at the state of the world. She has two delightful daughters with David Kirsh, whom she met in Oxford and married in 1991.

**Gordon Crovitz** (Illinois & Wadham 1980) After an almost 30-year career in Brussels, Hong Kong and New York at *The Wall Street Journal*, including as its publisher, Gordon wrote a *Journal* opinion column on the impact of technology. He founded several startups in the news industry, including Press+, which provides digital subscription software to news websites. He was CEO of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, the education and book publisher. He is currently co-CEO of NewsGuard, which counters misinformation online by rating and providing Nutrition Labels for news and information websites, with Microsoft among the companies licensing the information for its customers. He and his wife Minky Worden are raising three sons in New York's financial district.



**Billy Downer** (South Africa-at-Large & Brasenose 1980) continues as a seasoned corruption and commercial crimes specialist prosecutor, nearing retirement. Along the way, he was appointed Senior Counsel in 2004, was chairperson of the Society of State Advocates of SA, is a Senator of the International Association of Prosecutors and a member of the Corruption Hunters' Network (Norway). He has had former President Zuma in his sights as an accused in a corruption case for years (depicted in the cartoon), having successfully prosecuted his advisor Schabir Shaik. Billy and his fellow lawyer and life partner William de Villiers married in 2010, latterly taking to walking the Spanish Camino di Santiago, the Magna Via Francigena in Sicily and in the Bale and Simien Mountains in Ethiopia.



**James Gardener** (Diocesan College, Rondebosch & Oriel 1980) After leaving Oxford James taught and lectured in development education in Zimbabwe and Botswana before being able to return to South

Africa post-1994. In 1995 he completed his MBA at Warwick and then took up a Human Resources managership with Shell International, firstly in Cape Town and then in The Hague. In 2007 he opened a freelance management coaching consultancy from his paddock office in Cheshire, UK from where he continues to operate worldwide. He is the author of a poetry collection, 'Recollections', two short story collections, 'Under the Marula Tree' and 'Faisal's Tears' and a random compendium of management weasel words and ways entitled 'Highly Unlikely'.

**Andrea Hollen** (Pennsylvania & Magdalen 1980) is the Director of Product for California's Child Welfare Digital Services (CWDS), a unique collaboration across technical and human services disciplines. CWDS is building the State's new Child Welfare system, designed to support a population- (as opposed to compliance-) based approach to delivering preventive services to children, families and communities. Before joining State service Andrea was the Director of Research and Analytics at Case Commons, a startup incubated by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). Her consulting as a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship at New York University (NYU) sparked her interest in using data science to improve policy and practice in large public systems.



**Matthew Jocelyn** (Maritimes & Lady Margaret Hall 1980) Matthew's artistic output is now largely writing for opera and vocal music. His opera *Requiem*, based on *Requiem for a Nun* by William Faulkner, composed by Oscar Strasnoy, premiered at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires in 2014, and won the Critics' Award for best production that season. He also wrote the libretto for Brett Dean's opera *Hamlet*, which premiered at the Glyndebourne Festival in 2017, and won the 'Best New Opera' award at the International Opera Awards in London in 2018. His most recent text, *In This Brief Moment*, based on the writings of Charles Darwin, is the basis for a new cantata by Brett Dean to be premiered with the Birmingham Symphony and Chorus in the autumn of 2020.

**Nicholas von Maltzahn** (Nova Scotia & Lincoln 1980) persists with literary-historical research as Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Ottawa and research affiliate at the University of Toronto. His teaching has centred on English Renaissance poetry, his publications on John Milton and Milton's younger friend Andrew Marvell, exploring those writers in their times as well as the later reception and influence of their works. He and Sarah Pantin, a psychologist, live in Ottawa. They're nearly done raising two daughters, the older of whom is in her first year at university, the younger not far behind. Oxford continues part of his life, not least owing to its libraries and as a home from home when casting his net more widely in British archives.

**John McCall MacBain** (Québec & Wadham 1980) continues to run and own businesses globally as well as leading scholarship and other philanthropic efforts from his base in Geneva, Switzerland. From 1987 to 2006, John was the founder, CEO and majority owner of Trader Classified Media which grew from three classified magazines in Montreal, Canada to over 300 magazines and 50 web sites all focusing on classified advertising in 23 countries, including leading positions in Australia, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Russia and Spain. Following the sale of Trader, John and his wife Marcy set up the McCall MacBain Foundation which is a global leader in scholarships via donations to the Rhodes Trust where he is the Second Century Founder, the Mandela Rhodes Trust and the Loran Scholarships in Canada, as well as starting leadership scholarships at McGill, University of Auckland, for international student travel and in their hometowns of Niagara Falls and Huron County. John is currently an Emeritus Trustee of the Rhodes Trust, a Member of the Giving Pledge, Chair of the McCall MacBain Foundation and the Principal's International Advisory Board of McGill and continues to fly his amphibious Kodiak plane in the summers in Vancouver. John has five children aged 9 to 32 and one grandson.

**Ralph Osterwoldt** (British Columbia & St Anne's 1980) Having been denied supervision for a Masters in International Law by famous Oxford Professor Ian Brownlie ('What? International Environmental Law?! That's not law, that's politics!'), Ralph wrote on environmental law & policy in his MLitt. Meandering into a future with no trodden career path, after articles in Vancouver and maritime law in London UK, Ralph joined public service in 1985 with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in Nairobi and Bonn, the World Bank in Washington DC, and later a UNDP/IUCN technical cooperation project in Vientiane, Laos with his family (kids Hanna & Hugo). Inbetween and since, home has been Ottawa, working for Justice, Legal Services to Foreign Affairs, Environment, and National Parks, before crossing over from law in 1999 to focus on environmental assessment of aid programmes at CIDA (Canada's development assistance agency), now Global Affairs Canada. Stimulating but also frustrating, depending on leadership: he decries bullies in power, having suffered harassment and abuse of authority during a posting to Geneva. Ralph is glad that the early conventions on wildlife have been followed by treaties on Climate change, Biodiversity, Pollutants, Waste Trade... and as environmental problems continue to pile up, there are now plenty of careers in International Environmental Law (but mostly beset by politics, so Prof. Brownie had a point 40 years ago). Most challenging experience? Surviving a wilderness misadventure in spring 2018: losing their canoe in whitewater rapids, injured, 'revenant' Ralph led his son through two days of bushwacking with no food, fire, or overnight cover, to safety. Much enjoys Rhodes reunions with Matthew, Marc, Jon, and... Ralph.



**Max Price** (South Africa-at-Large & Magdalen 1980) returned to South Africa in 1983 to continue a clinical medicine career but soon became more challenged by the political economy of health and moved into public health policy. He followed his wife-to-be, Deborah Posel, back to the UK while she completed her DPhil at Nuffield College, and he undertook a Masters at LSHTM. Returning to SA, he joined the Centre for Health Policy at the Witwatersrand University (Wits) as a researcher and then its director. From 1996 to 2006, he was Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Wits. He was subsequently appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town for ten years from 2008 to 2018. Now seeking new challenges! [www.drmaxprice.com](http://www.drmaxprice.com)

**Bror Saxberg** (Washington & Merton 1980) After completing an MD-PhD at Harvard and MIT in 1990 investigating human vision (yes, it works, but how?), Bror spent time at McKinsey and Co. learning to put people, ideas, and resources together to get something done. He helped start a virtual education company, K12, Inc., and joined Kaplan, Inc. as their first Chief Learning Officer. In 2017, Bror joined the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative in Redwood City, CA, USA as their first VP of Learning Science, in their Education group. In addition to cheering with his wife, Denise, as their three children become adults, Bror continues to be engaged by overlaps of cognitive science, curriculum, assessment, and technology, working at scale, to help fully develop people at all stages.





**Mortimer N.S. Sellers** (Pennsylvania & University 1980) has been named Wilkin H. Elkins Professor of the University System of Maryland, in recognition of his work in the USM Law and Justice Program. Professor Sellers has been Regents Professor the University System of Maryland since 2003, and Director of the Baltimore Center for International and Comparative Law since 1994. In 2019 he stepped down as President of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (IVR), and was presented by his colleagues and students with a Festschrift on *The Value and Purpose of Law: Essays in Honor of M.N.S. Sellers*. He is the editor, with Stephan Kirste, of the *Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy* and with Mark Agrast (Ohio & New College 1978) of the book series *ASIL Studies in International Legal Theory*. Professor Sellers returned to Oxford in 2017 as the H.L.A. Hart Fellow in Jurisprudence at University College. His most recent book is *Law, Reason, and Emotion* (Cambridge, 2017).



**Marc Tessier-Lavigne** (Québec & New College 1980) is in his fourth year as president of Stanford University, where he also maintains a laboratory focused on brain development and degeneration. He discovered his passion for neuroscience at Oxford, leading him to graduate studies in London and postdoctoral work in New York, where he met his wife Mary Hynes, also a neuroscientist. After holding faculty positions in San Francisco and at Stanford, he moved to biotechnology giant Genentech to direct drug discovery, before being recruited to run Rockefeller University in New York, and then Stanford. He finds working with the faculty, students, staff and alumni at Stanford to be endlessly inspiring, and one of his and Mary's great joys is spending time with their three children, all in their twenties, who live nearby in the Bay Area.

## 1990



**Christoph Avenarius** (Germany & St John's 1990) finished his DPhil in 1992 on the 'spin crisis' of particle physics. Searching for the world's fight after the Cold War, he focused on undercapitalised developing countries. At Credit Suisse and at ADIA he directed many fund investments

towards emerging markets. Last year he co-founded an investment manager to balance agriculture and native forest conservation in Brazil, incentivising farmers to become park rangers. He served as UAE National Secretary and participated in the RS selections in Saudi Arabia. His wife Isabelle is an artist, working in the wine trade in Bordeaux. Having survived the Tsunami in Thailand together with their three daughters, they enjoy life by welcoming friends in their house in Hossegor, designed for that purpose.

**Jonathan Moss** (British Columbia & Green 1990) has been based in Kenya since completing his DPhil in Acacia ecology. He currently serves as Managing Director of Kisima, an arable, floriculture, and forestry business, and as Director of a series of ranching, conservation, and tourism operations. He has been with Kisima since 2005, but has also served as CEO of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, and earlier as Executive Director of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum. He was a founding partner of Conservation Capital (conservation finance), and of the Conservation Management Group, which has conservation holdings in Mozambique. He married Carolyn in 1992, and together they run a smallholding on the northern slopes of Mt. Kenya. Their three children have grown and gone – although never for long!

**Thomas Plewman** (South Africa-at-Large & Magdalen 1990) returned to practise at the Bar in Johannesburg (appointed Senior Counsel in 2008) before emigrating to England in 2009 and joining the English Bar (appointed Queen's Counsel in 2016). Married Theresa (now a psychotherapist) in 1992, with two (now adult) children who are at university in the UK.

**Tanya Pollard** (Maine & Magdalen 1990) is Professor of English at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She has published books and articles on Shakespeare, early modern theatre, Greek tragedy, and early modern bodies and emotions; she also works with actors and directors on theatrical productions in New York, and has appeared in two documentaries about Shakespeare's plays. She and her husband Will Stenhouse, who teaches and writes on intellectual history, live in Brooklyn with their two daughters, Bella and Lucy. In her spare time, she takes aerial circus classes and dreams of performing with Cirque de Soleil.





**Michael Szonyi** (Ontario & Merton 1990) is the Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies and Frank Wen-hsiung Wu Professor of Chinese History at Harvard University. Among his recent books are *The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power*, which he highly recommends as a gift to your friends and loved ones, and *The Art of Being Governed*, a more academic study of the lives of soldiers in the Ming dynasty. He also advises the US government on China policy, but assumes no personal responsibility for the downturn in relations. After middle age interrupted his marathon-running career, he has recently taken up tennis. He continues to make little progress as a piano player. He is married to Francine McKenzie, an international economic historian, and they have two children, Robert and Katie.



**Alison Van Rooy** (Prairies & Lincoln 1990) leads strategic planning at Vancouver Island University, a small learner-focused university committed to Indigenous students and communities. After her DPhil in International Relations, Alison worked with The North-South Institute in Ottawa, publishing on civil society and social movements, and then spent nearly two decades in the Canadian federal government, mostly in international and development policy at Global Affairs Canada. Her two kids are in/nearly in university, and her partner Gordon makes the long commute from his work at the National Air and Space Museum in DC.

# 2000

**Susanna Barrett Mierau** (Kansas & Balliol 2000) continues autism-related research as a neuroscientist-neurologist at the University of Cambridge. After a DPhil at Oxford, Susanna completed medical/neurology training at Harvard. She served as a neurology consultant at Massachusetts General Hospital prior to moving to Cambridge (UK) in 2015. Susanna married Martin Hemberg in 2014, with many of her Rhodes classmates and their families in attendance. Susanna and Martin have two children.

**Karen Braun-Munzinger** (Germany & Merton 2000) After her DPhil in Physics, Karen joined the UK Treasury, where she quickly became very interested in public policy and economics. This came in useful during the great financial crisis: in the early months, she was a private secretary in the Chancellor's office before moving to lead work on one of the crisis support schemes for UK banks. That experience was formative, and she has worked on financial stability analysis and policy ever since. She is currently head of the financial regulation and policy division in the European Central Bank – a great role as the European project is very dear to her. In her spare time, she enjoys singing in small chamber choirs, particularly very old or very new music.

**Cameron Hepburn** (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen 2000) continues to work on environment, energy and climate change, as Professor of Environmental Economics and Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at Oxford. After his DPhil and JRF, he and Silvia – daughter of Peter Garnsey (New South Wales & New College 1961) – spent six years in London, before returning to Oxford in 2013 where they live with their three boys, James (eight), Peter (five) and Michael (two). In 2019, Cameron had publications in *Nature* (on removing CO2 from the atmosphere) and *Science* (on tipping points to accelerate climate action) with an accompanying TEDx talk. He welcomes and values collaborations with Rhodes Scholars on the energy sector transition, food sector transition and strategies to accelerate climate action.



**Virginia Horscroft** (Tasmania & New College 2000) continues to work on development issues in the Pacific Islands, now as a Senior Public Sector Specialist for the World Bank. At present her work is mainly with Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, following earlier engagements with Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati. Virginia lives in Sydney with husband Michael Izzo (Australia-at-Large & Lincoln 2000) and their two daughters, who are now both at school (just) and who successfully ensure that their mother has nothing other than work and them to report on in this update!



**Nandan Kamath** (India & Balliol 2000) practises intellectual property, technology and sports law in India. He co-founded and manages GoSports Foundation, a non-profit supporting the journeys of Indian athletes aspiring for excellence. Nandan currently serves as the National Secretary for India for the Rhodes Scholarships. He writes regularly on sports, law and policy and recently co-edited a book on Indian sport: *Go! India's Sporting Transformation* published by Penguin Random House. He lives in Bangalore, India with his partner and two children.



**Katherine Larson** (Minnesota & Lincoln 2000) has been based in Toronto, Canada since going down from Oxford in 2003. She is now Professor of English at the University of Toronto, where her research and teaching focus on 16th- and 17th-century English literature, with particular

attention to women's writing and the interplay between literature and musical performance. Her most recent book, *The Matter of Song in Early Modern England: Texts in and of the Air* (Oxford University Press, 2019) was published with an online companion recording on which she performs as a singer. She was elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists last year and has also made the shift to academic administration, currently serving as Chair of the Department of English at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She and her husband, Lawrence Wiliford, have a daughter, Lyra, who is four-and-a-half and whose name was in part inspired by their years in Oxford.





**Kate Luxford** (Western Australia & Magdalen 2000) After a post-Oxford stint as a private sector analyst in London and Tunis-based freelance journalist, Kate moved to Canberra in 2006 to join the Australian Public Service. Almost five years as a Middle East analyst for the Office of National Assessments was followed by eight years at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including postings in Kabul and Amman, the latter as Deputy Head of Mission. She has been a Senior Adviser in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's International Division since mid-2018. She and Adam, who married in 2005, have two very energetic small children. Kate's enjoying getting more involved in the Australian Rhodes Community since becoming the Territories State Secretary in 2019.

**Gareth Morgan** (South Africa-at-Large & Harris Manchester 2000) was elected as a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly of South Africa (2004-2013) soon after his return from Oxford. During his term of office he served for a period as Parliamentary Counsellor to the Leader of the Opposition and as a Whip. In 2014 he was awarded an Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellowship. He transitioned from politics to the civil service, and has since 2017 been the Director of Resilience in the City of Cape Town, developing strategic responses to a range of shocks and stresses in the urban environment. He married Michael Wilter (Mandela Washington Fellow, 2016), an attorney, in 2014, and in 2018 they adopted their daughter, Zoë. Gareth served as selector for the Rhodes Scholarship in the KwaZulu-Natal Constituency for 2011-2015.



**Craig Mullaney** (Rhode Island & Lincoln 2000) is a strategic communications adviser and Partner at the Brunswick Group. After Oxford, he served as an infantry officer in Afghanistan with the US Army's 10th Mountain Division and on the History faculty of the US Naval Academy. He was on the national security staff of President Obama's 2008 campaign and held policy roles at the Pentagon and USAID. Craig subsequently worked in leadership roles at Ustream (acquired by IBM) and Facebook. His memoir, *The Unforgiving Minute*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and features on the Army's Professional Reading List. Craig and his wife, Tomoko, live outside Washington, DC, with their four children.

**Holger Nehring** (Germany & University 2000) After staying in Oxford for a few years on a Junior Research Fellowship, Holger began his journey northwards in the UK, starting as a History Lecturer at Sheffield in 2006 and then moving to Scotland in 2013 to take up a Chair in Contemporary European History at Stirling University. He continues to work on Cold War social movements and has started work on NATO military infrastructures across Europe. He appears on the media occasionally to comment on current affairs, and he has advised various governments on matters related to his research. Married to a Gates Scholar, Holger and family enjoy the Highlands and Islands together with their young daughter.

**Danielle Sered** (Georgia & St John's 2000) directs Common Justice, the organisation she founded in 2008, that develops and advances solutions to violence that transform the lives of those harmed and advance racial equity without relying on incarceration; Common Justice operates the first alternative to incarceration for violent felonies in the United States. She has been working at the intersection of criminal justice and violence since 2002. In 2019, she published a book, *Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair*, which was featured in outlets ranging from *The New York Times* to 'Democracy Now' to 'On Second Thought' with Trevor Noah. She lives in Brooklyn, where this year she and her partner joyfully welcomed their first child, Rafael.



**Patrick Smith** (Zimbabwe & St John's 2000) Patrick applies economics, econometrics, industrial expertise, and a dose of humour to try to illuminate and instil a bit of objectivity into competition policy debates, often through testimony in litigation and arbitration proceedings in Europe, the US, Australia, and Southern Africa. Patrick has enjoyed trying to calibrate and describe the effects of Google's algorithm on competition, the effect of a bread cartel on poor consumers, and the effect of the VW diesel emissions scandal on car buyers. Patrick and his wife also have the full time job of guiding their three young children through their early lives in South Africa.



**Tom Snow** (Victoria & Magdalen 2000) is Chair and founder of Equality Australia, which won the successful 'Yes' vote and saw in the successful legislative change for marriage equality in Australia. Prior to the marriage equality campaign, he ran Whitehelm Capital, an infrastructure fund manager with nearly \$5 billion in funds under management and 44 assets across the globe. Tom has played a range of directorship roles, including being a director at Perth Airport, Canberra Airport, the Port of Adelaide, Bankstown Airport, Peninsula Link, Etihad Stadium and the Australian Science Festival. He was also Chair of the Canberra Convention Bureau and now is Executive Chair of the Snow Medical Research Foundation, and is a proud father of three kids.

**Alisha Wade** (Commonwealth Caribbean & Trinity 2000) and **Ndumiso Luthuli** (KwaZulu-Natal & St Peter's 2000) After finishing her DPhil at Oxford, Alisha completed residency in Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Centre and a fellowship in Endocrinology at the University of Pennsylvania before relocating to Johannesburg. While (im)patiently awaiting her arrival, Ndumiso busied himself in investment banking and founded a law firm in Durban, putting his Oxford BCL and MBA to good use. When their two children permit, Alisha is an endocrinologist at the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre and a Senior Researcher at the MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand where she conducts research in rural populations and Ndumiso practises as an advocate and continues to serve the Rhodes community as the Southern African National Secretary.





**Fasi Zaka** (Pakistan & Somerville 2000) currently works on reform projects in education and the rule of law in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in Pakistan. He is also working on post-

merger reform in the tribal areas known as former FATA with KP. His most recent publication is a book chapter for the recently published Folio Books *Rethinking Pakistan: A 21st Century Perspective*. Until recently he co-hosted a political talk show on Dawn News TV, and continues to host one of Pakistan's longest-running radio shows, 'The Fasi Zaka & Friends Show' on FM91.

## 2010



**Jordan Anderson** (Alabama & St Hilda's 2010) returned from Oxford and joined a healthcare start-up at Ascension Health focused on population health and improving healthcare delivery for Medicare and Medicaid patients. Following this he completed his medical degree at Harvard Medical

School and started internal medicine residency training at Brigham and Women's Hospital. There he has loved caring for patients and continues to publish and work on bringing innovative healthcare delivery models to vulnerable patients. Jordan and his wife Katie live in Cambridge, where Katie works in breast surgery at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and they advise Harvard College undergraduates interested in medicine. Jordan and Katie were elated with the arrival of their son Rowan in 2019 and have loved their new lives as parents.

**Timothy Cheng** (Hong Kong & Green Templeton/Pembroke 2010) has been working as a chemical pathologist and research scientist at the Prince of Wales Hospital/Chinese University of Hong Kong, since completing his DPhil in cancer genetics in 2015.

**Will Gohl** (Colorado & Keble 2010) is an associate at the law firm Bartlit Beck LLP, which specialises in high stakes, bet-the-company trials. Will's practice includes complex commercial, products liability, and employment discrimination litigation. Will and his wife, Megan, live in Chicago with their son Luke (three), daughter Elise (seven months), and trusty border collie/black lab Breck (13 years).

**Jean Junior** (Michigan & St John's 2010) finished her paediatrics residency in 2019. She has spent 2019 to 2020 as a paediatrician serving the Oglala Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota. While there, she has worked as a full-scope, rural doctor in one of the lowest-income areas of the United States, where the life expectancy is on par with that of Sudan. In July of 2020, she will begin a Fellowship in paediatric emergency medicine and global health at Boston Children's Hospital. She continues to be passionate about poverty alleviation and policy advocacy, having done research for the non-profit GiveDirectly (<https://www.givedirectly.org/>) and co-authored a resource called 'Pathways to Policy' (<https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/pathways-policy>) to catalyse youth engagement in advocacy for policy change.



**Caroline Huang** (Delaware & Merton 2010) is a bioethicist based in Washington, DC. After completing her DPhil in Public Health, Caroline served as a Bioethics Fellow at the National Institutes of Health, where she researched chronic pain and opioid use disorders and provided ethics consultations to researchers, clinicians, and patients. Last August, she joined the US Food and Drug Administration's Office of the Commissioner, Office of Women's Health, where she helps advise the Commissioner and other Agency officials on ethical, scientific, and policy issues related to women's health. Caroline also volunteers with the National Zoo, Johns Hopkins Hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Council, and Kesem, a national nonprofit helping children through and beyond a parent's cancer.



**Susan Humphrey** (Maritimes & University 2010) has recently settled in Vancouver, British Columbia after completing her Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Civil Law at McGill University in Montreal, the last

semester of which she spent studying public law at the University of Cape Town. Susan greatly enjoyed the opportunity to re-connect with other Scholars in South Africa, and to spend time in a country with such a profound connection to the Scholarship. Susan is now working to develop a broad and busy legal practice in civil, criminal, and administrative law as an associate at Hunter Litigation Chambers, and particularly enjoys the opportunities she has to provide pro bono legal services to those in need of legal representation.



**Aubrey Chichonyi Kalungia** (Zambia & Linacre 2010). After obtaining his MSc in Pharmacology and MSc in Global Health Science from Oxford, Aubrey joined the University of Zambia in 2013 where he was appointed as Lecturer in Pharmacology,

as well as a Research Fellow in pharmaceutical education. Within a year of service at the university, he was appointed Head of Pharmacy at the University of Zambia from 2014 to 2016, where he was instrumental to the establishment of a School of Health Sciences before taking up a research fellowship award to do research towards a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Health Professions Education. Aubrey lives in Lusaka with his beautiful wife Sylvia and their two children.





**Rhea Longley** (Tasmania & Magdalen 2010) Rhea's work on malaria and the human immune response at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, in Melbourne, is continuing. She has been fortunate to recently receive an Investigator Grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council to support her research for five years from 2020. Her work was also recently recognised with the 2019 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Infectious Diseases Research. It was great to receive this news before the arrival of her second child, who was born in October 2019.



**Rosanna Nicol** (Maritimes & Wolfson 2010) After her MPhil, Rosanna moved to the Northwest Territories with her now-husband Nick, where she founded an urban farm and became involved in

implementing Indigenous self-government and land claim agreements. In 2015 she moved to her hometown Ottawa and joined NVision Insight Group, a majority Indigenous-owned consulting company, where she works for self-government and land claim signatories. She still grows lots of vegetables, enjoys playing folk music and cherishes Rhodes friendships, near and far.

**V. Niranjana** (India & Magdalen 2010) is practising as a barrister at One Essex Court, London. Niranjana has a broad commercial practice and, in particular, substantial appellate experience, having appeared on numerous occasions in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. His academic interest in the law remains and he has a number of publications in the law of obligations and arbitration law. He is a member of the International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales. He also practised at the Indian Bar between 2011 and 2013. He was awarded the Vinerian and Eldon scholarships while at Oxford, where he went on to complete the DPhil. He was a Lecturer in Law at Lady Margaret Hall before coming to the Bar.



**Willy Oppenheim** (Maine & Pembroke 2010) continues to help lead Omprakash ([www.omprakash.org](http://www.omprakash.org)), a nonprofit social enterprise that works at the intersection of community-based global development, higher

education, and digital learning. The Omprakash team now includes nine Rhodes Scholars, and thus offers Willy ample excuse to revisit favorite Oxford haunts on a semi-frequent basis. Apart from his work for Omprakash, Willy teaches intermittently at the University of Washington and in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest as a senior faculty member at the National Outdoor Leadership School. He still enjoys baking bread and lives in Seattle, Washington, with his wife Kelly and their young son Franklin Rumi Oppenheim, fresh from the oven in February 2020.

**Ellie Ott** (Kansas & Hertford 2010) leads research for the Rees Centre, University of Oxford on foster care, evidence standards in children's social care, and the care and education of separated migrant children. She and her wife, Meghan Bailey, continue to live in Oxfordshire where Meghan is a Senior Technical Adviser for the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre. They are involved in local activities, from being part of the Bagley Woods Toad Patrol to being a school governor (with particular remit for PE and for decreasing the attainment gap for the most disadvantaged pupils, of course). They enjoy passing on ideas of social justice to their children (aged eight and one) and welcoming Rhodes classmates when they come back for a visit.

**Roxanne Bras Petraeus** (Florida & Nuffield 2010) Roxanne cannot recall her last update so apologies for any redundant info! Roxanne married an ROTC classmate of hers, and together they live in Cambridge, MA. She left active duty service in the US army, launched a company with a fellow Rhodes classmate, and then worked at McKinsey. She now runs a corporate training company focused on evidence-based sexual harassment training. She's grateful to live near several Rhodes classmates.

**Soufia Siddiqi** (Pakistan & St Anne's 2010) After her DPhil in Education in 2017, Soufia explored design ethnography with a tech initiative in London until the summer of 2018, when she moved to Lahore to be closer to her father. The return home has been meaningful, despite the odds facing Pakistan. Soufia became the lead technical advisor in the Secretary's office for the Government of the Punjab's School Education Department, which included the honour of chairing the committee that produced the province's first Assessment Policy Framework. She now divides her time between advisory services to Pakistan's National Curriculum Council in Islamabad and teaching qualitative research in Lahore as Adjunct Faculty on the LUMS MPhil Education Leadership and Management programme, which she helped design back in 2017.

**Tyler Spencer** (Maryland/DC & Wolfson 2010) finished his DPhil in Public Health and has been splitting his time between Mexico City and Washington, DC. He serves as the CEO of The Grassroot Project, a health promotion organisation that trains American college athletes to provide wrap-around health services in under-resourced communities. While not working, he's taken up the goal of becoming fluent in Spanish, and he's recently become a kite-surfing fanatic. He's hosted a few Rhodies in Mexico... most recently Willy Oppenheim (Maine & Pembroke 2010) and Geoff Shaw (California & University 2010), who enjoyed a quiet mezcal tasting ritual. All are welcome!

**Richard V. Stebbing** (New Zealand & St John's 2010) After finishing up in the UK at the end of 2014, Richard has been based out in the San Francisco Bay Area since mid 2015. He is currently the CTO at Impira, a software start-up that builds a platform for managing data and Machine Learning processes for the enterprise.

**Kamal Wood** (Commonwealth Caribbean & Mansfield 2010) went down to London in 2012. After an extended stint with Deloitte Digital (for a millennial), he's now at Babylon Health, a health tech scale-up in London that's supposedly putting accessible and affordable healthcare into the hands of every person on earth. You can usually find him at the monthly Rhodes Scholars in Britain drinks in London.



# Images from the last year



First Year Retreat



Alumni Weekend



Mandela Day at Rhodes House



Rhodes Healthcare Forum



Cultural performance at the Said Rhodes Forum on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon & Palestine



Atlantic Fellows in conversation at Rhodes House



Farewell to Sir John Hood, who stepped down as Chairman of the Rhodes Trustees



Said Rhodes Forum on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon & Palestine



At the selection of the Schmidt Science Fellows



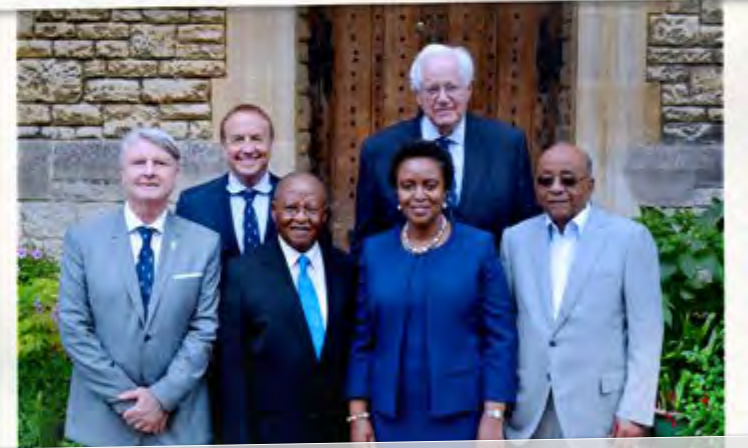
Garden Party



Going Down Dinner



Spring Festival



The Mandela Rhodes Foundation Trustees meet at Rhodes House



Mentoring sessions at the Rhodes Healthcare Forum



Talk given by Malcolm Turnbull



Welcome Day



Ventures Forum