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The Leverhulme Trust

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# NEWSLETTER

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

MAY 2017

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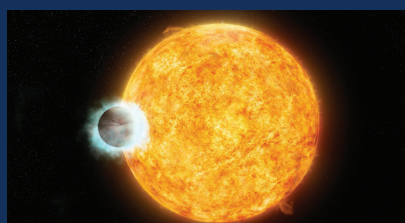
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## BOXING CLEVER



Academic colleagues often ask why applicants for our Research Project Grants are required to justify their approach to the Trust. Why Leverhulme, rather than (say) the Research Councils, or one of the other charitable funders?

The answer is simply that the Board is keen to maintain a distinctive place for the Trust in the research funding landscape of the UK. Other agencies may concern themselves with policy relevance, societal or economic impact or public engagement, but the objective of the Trust is to support scholars pursuing higher-risk projects who are unlikely for that reason to secure funds from other sources. 'Our approach to grant-making' on the Trust's website explains that much of the work we support is curiosity-driven or straddles disciplinary boundaries – since these types of research are often regarded as 'higher risk'. The Board therefore requires applicants to our flagship Research Project Grants scheme to explain how their research fits the interests of the Trust.

It is worth giving some serious thought to this matter before submitting a bid. Many of our peer reviewers comment upon the replies, and the Trustees also place considerable weight on their accounts. I have observed that responses to the question fall into three categories, only one of which is likely to impress the Board.

First, there are those applicants who do not attempt to answer the question, and simply repeat what they have stated elsewhere in the proposal about the subject matter or the research methods to be employed. This suggests that the applicant has not read – or has chosen to ignore – the guidelines that accompany the form.

Second, there are those who clearly *have* read our guidance, because they answer the question 'Why Leverhulme?' by reproducing verbatim the text that we ourselves have supplied in the guidance notes. Unsurprisingly, the Trustees are familiar with their own words, and are rarely convinced by mere assertions that a particular project is imaginatively interdisciplinary, uniquely bold and ambitious, or distinctively original.

The trick to addressing the 'Why Leverhulme?' box is to ask oneself *why* the bid is any of these things. In what ways does the research take an imaginative or unusual step forward? What specific risks are involved and how can these be (or not be) mitigated? Why precisely might the bid not appeal – or not yet appeal – to another funder?

Some of the most compelling accounts succeed also in saying something personal about the involvement of the applicant with his or her proposal. Passion alone is no guarantor of a successful outcome, but it helps the Trustees to engage with a bid if applicants say something about why the research is or may be important, or what it is that they find fascinating about the topic. The best of the 'Why Leverhulme?' boxes succeed in conveying a sense of excitement or even fun.

Finally, a word of caution, which is that – however truthful – the Trust Board are unlikely to make an award to a researcher who claims to be 'making an application to the Leverhulme Trust because my line-manager requires me to submit another grant proposal during this academic year'. No, really, I have not invented that example.

**Professor Gordon Marshall**

## SCHEME NEWS

### RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS

Research Project Grants are still a major strand of our work, in one sense the 'core business' of the Trust, and in 2016 represented some 46% of our total spend. These grants are always team-based, sometimes in the form of a single doctoral student or research assistant led by principal investigator, or alternatively a larger group combining studentships, PDRAs, co-applicants and local researchers. Up to £500,000 over four or five years is available and covers salaries for research staff engaged on a project and associated costs directly related to the proposed research. The choice of theme and research approach is left entirely to applicants.

[www.leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/grant-schemes/research-project-grants](http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/grant-schemes/research-project-grants)

### LEVERHULME GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This summer the Trust will be upgrading its system to provide some enhanced functionality for users. The system will therefore not be available to applicants and grant holders for approximately 10 days from the morning of 21 July. Peer reviewers will still be able to provide their references during this period. Please consult our website for updates during July.

### ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

The Trust's Annual Review 2016 is now available to download from our website. It profiles the Trust's activities over the year and showcases some of the research funded by the Trust. You can also read about the ongoing work of past award-holders and find full listings of awards made in 2016.

## CONTACTS

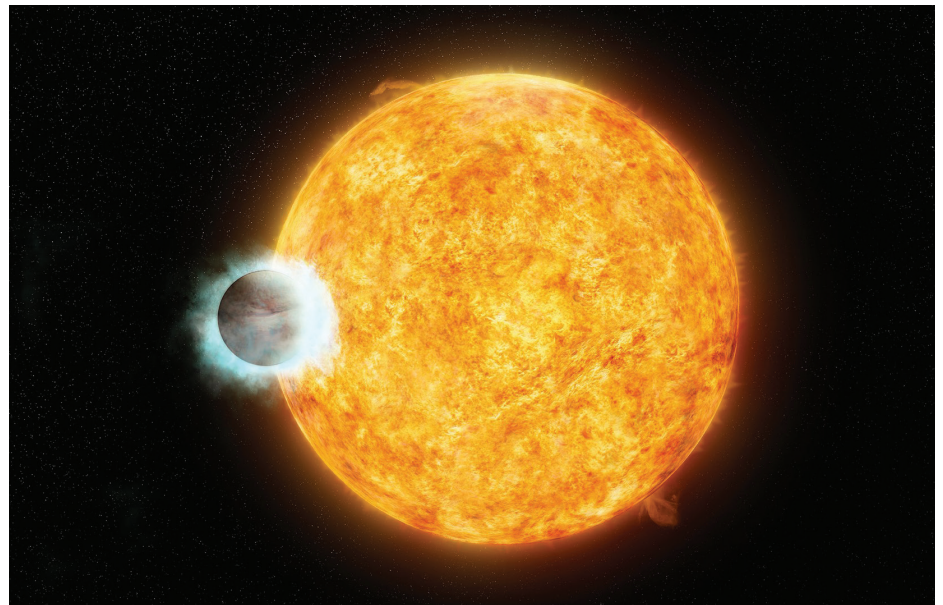
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For more profiles of current research and full awards listings, please visit the Leverhulme Trust website ([www.leverhulme.ac.uk](http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk)). To order additional copies of this newsletter, please contact Bahia Dawlatly at [bdawlatly@leverhulme.ac.uk](mailto:bdawlatly@leverhulme.ac.uk)

# Modelling inhomogeneous magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) in hot Jupiter atmospheres

Hot Jupiters (Jupiter-sized planets close to their host stars) are an extreme class of planets which test our theories of gas dynamics under extreme conditions. A new study, led by Tami Rogers, will investigate how these theories could affect fundamental properties of these planets

Hot Jupiters were the first discovered planets outside our solar system and because of their favourable observing conditions, remain the best studied. These planets differ significantly from the giant planets in our own solar system. First, because they are so close to their host stars they are much hotter. For example, hot Jupiter temperatures range from 1000–3000K, while Jupiter itself is 400K. These high temperatures lead to ionisation of atoms in their atmospheres and hence, non-negligible conductivity. Hence, magnetic effects in their atmospheres could be important, unlike our own giant planets. Second, their proximity to their host star leads to tidal locking. Like the moon and Earth, tides cause the orbital period of the planet to equal the rotation rate of the planet. This

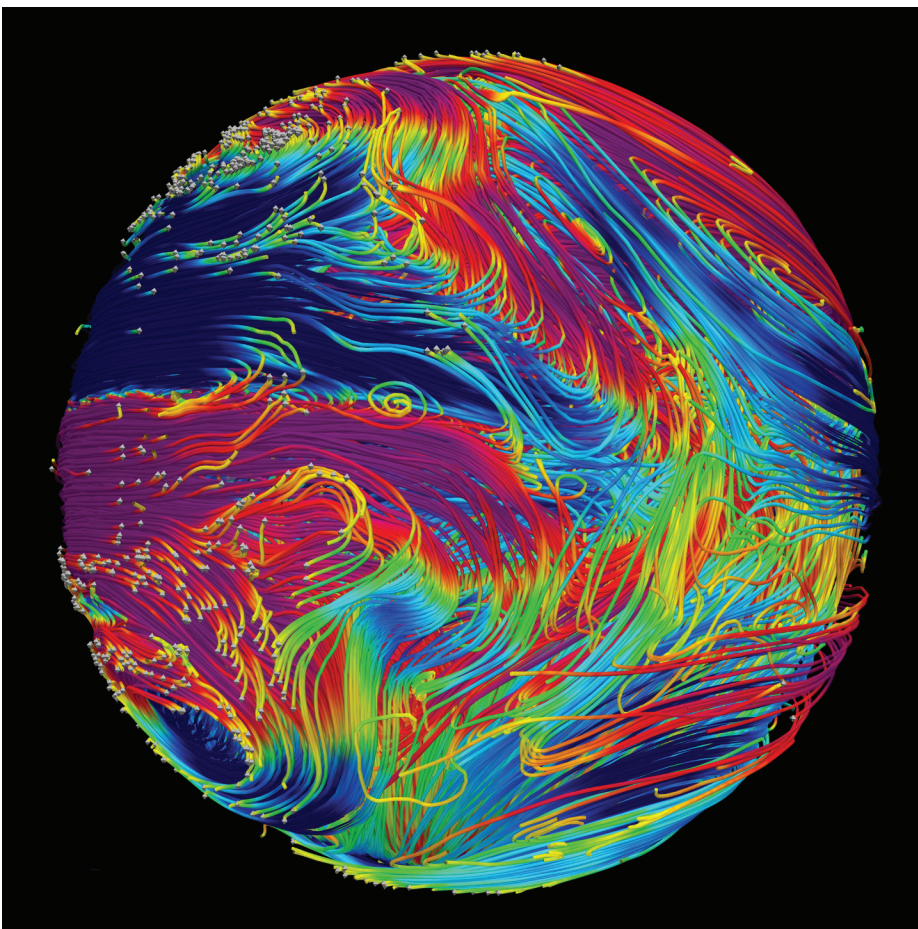


means one side of the hot Jupiter always faces its host star, while the other remains continuously dark. Therefore, hot Jupiters have a strong day–night asymmetry. This inhomogeneity, coupled with magnetic effects, could render otherwise simple atmospheric dynamics much more complex.

The unusual inhomogeneity coupled with magnetic effects could also help explain curious observations of hot Jupiters. For example, half of all hot Jupiters are ‘puffed up,’ that is, their radii are larger than theoretically predicted. This may be explained by Ohmic heating (dissipation of electrical currents). Observations of hot Jupiters can also directly measure the day–night temperature differential, which could constrain atmospheric dynamics. The observations indicate extreme diversity in atmospheric circulation regimes across planets, which also may be explained by the interaction with magnetic fields.

Using sophisticated numerical simulations my team will couple standard atmospheric dynamic calculations with magnetic effects to investigate the role inhomogeneity and magnetism play in shaping these exciting planets. This study will also shed light on the role inhomogeneity may play in magnetised gases across astrophysics.

*Dr Tami Rogers  
Newcastle University  
Research Project Grant*



**ABOVE** Artist's rendition of a hot Jupiter, image credit: NASA/CXC/M. Weiss.

**LEFT** Magnetic field lines in a numerical simulation of a hot Jupiter atmosphere, image credit: Tami Rogers.

# Silver: surface and substance

Helen Hills reconsiders existing paradigms of scholarship on early modern silver by investigating it in relation to materiality and refinement; silver's capacity to circulate as currency, its role in early capitalism and the Spanish empire, and its transformative potential will be examined through the lens of high-end silver artefacts

Silver objects are kept neatly quarantined in museums, ranged by size and shape, by place of manufacture, pinned down like dead butterflies, suffocated behind glass, extinct and extinguished. Why such fear that silver might escape, that something might seep out, contaminate with what fearful sounds and cries the hushed and polite galleries where they are encased?

Contemporary scholarship bifurcates silver geographically and temporally. On one hand, silver's extraction in the so-called 'New World' is interpreted in political, ecological and sociological terms, and in relation to its role in world trade, deforestation, the rise of capitalism and displaced labour. Silver is measured in thousands of kilograms that were transported across the globe and in terms of ducats, currency, trade and capitalism. On the other, silver in Europe is something else altogether. Objects to be appreciated; a measure of the wealth and refinement of their possessors. Scholarship on European silver artefacts remains resolutely technical, connoisseurial and taxonomical. Silver teapots made in eighteenth-century London; silver spoons from Birmingham; an exquisite Neapolitan chocolate pot.

Thus in travelling from Potosí, Bolivia, across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe silver changes appearance, language, and disciplinary field – in short, it changes epistemologically – and the *affect* and *politics* of silver fall out of the picture in an inert 'finished' object. These scholarly effects are inter-related and political in their denial of a politics.

Silver in eighteenth-century Europe is a marker of social refinement *par excellence*. The silver tip of the gentleman's cane marks him out. It is the material that is used above all for chalice, pyx and plate and liturgical vessels of all kinds. It is silver that conveys the divine to humankind in the Mass. But silver also marked the most ruthless plunder of European colonialism, the degradation of native workers and ecological ruination.

My project investigates silver as more than means or measure of empire and more than mere object of luxury, to ask how might these two stories, these two sides to the same coin, be brought



together. That is how and why silver extracted by force from the earth in the Andes became *par excellence* the marker of social, political and perhaps above all, spiritual refinement in Europe.

The issue is close, I think, to the smart phone. Indium oxide is mined in some of the world's poorest countries by some of the world's poorest people, leaving behind a trail of devastation, poverty and ecological ruination. And yet we buy smartphones. More than that, we stroke them intimately, caress them – our relationship with them is intimate, fetishistic. Perhaps akin to early modern silver.

What I am interested in is the question of how, if at all, silver effaces its own traumatic history through discourses of refinement, brightness, and holiness. In this sense, trauma is also the trope of return, of recurrence and of a history that fails to connect shininess with its tarnish. Thus I investigate silver and salvation, baroque architecture in Europe – particularly in parts of Italy then under Spanish rule – capitalism and colonialism together.

Professor Helen Hills  
University of York  
Research Fellowship



**ABOVE** Theodor de Bry, [Silver Mine of the 'New World'], engraving from *Neundter und letzter Theil Americæ, darin gehandelt wird, von Gelegenheit der Elementen, Natur, Art und Eigenschafft der Neuen Welt*, (Frankfurt : W. Richter; M. Becker, 1601). Private collection. Photo: Helen Hills.

**LEFT** Casket, probably Peru, silver, c.1650 (V&A 275–1879) © V&A Images.

# Fingerprinting interaction of magma and carbonate rocks in Java: an explosive volcanic brew

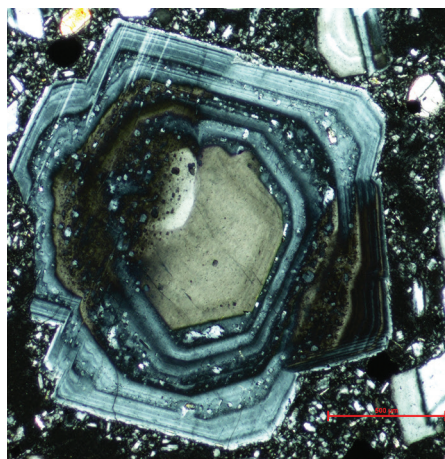


**Why are some volcanic eruptions more explosive than others? The violence of an eruption depends on the type of magma involved and its interaction with carbonate rock. Colin Macpherson's project will explore how and when carbonate rocks can cause a volcanic eruption to become more explosive than we would otherwise expect**

Carbonate rocks contain large amounts of mineralised carbon dioxide; for example, limestone is made entirely of the mineral calcium-carbonate. When subjected to magmatic heat carbonate minerals can break down releasing CO<sub>2</sub>, which then forms bubbles in the magma. These bubbles reduce the magma's density and accelerate it upwards through the crust. As it ascends the pressure on the magma decreases causing even more bubbles to form, just as removing the top from a bottle of carbonated drink allows CO<sub>2</sub> bubbles to grow and expand. If enough CO<sub>2</sub> is added then the magma ascent and bubble expansion can lead to an explosive (pyroclastic) eruption rather than gently oozing (liquid) lava. These different eruption styles represent completely different hazards to local populations.

Previous work by my students has shown that pyroclastic and lava eruptions from Sumbing volcano, on the Indonesian island of Java, began with the same type of magma. However, crystals in pyroclastic rocks contain excess calcium acquired from breakdown of carbonate rock through which the magma passed. This also added CO<sub>2</sub> which contributed to the pyroclastic nature of the eruptions.

In this project, I will track the development of magma as recorded by crystals in rocks produced by Sumbing's pyroclastic and lava eruptions. Crystals grow in magma by adding new material to their surfaces while the magma travels through the crust. This generates a forensic record of compositional changes from the core to the rim of individual crystals, much like growth rings in a tree. Working with colleagues in Durham and at the Universities of Leeds and Uppsala, I will measure how the chemical records in carbonate-affected, pyroclastic eruptions diverge from those in the control group of carbonate-free, lava eruptions. This will highlight the full range of chemical effects produced by the interaction of magma with carbonate rock, allowing estimates of how much CO<sub>2</sub> was added to the magma, and determination of whether CO<sub>2</sub> was all added at one time or over a period of time while the crystals grew.



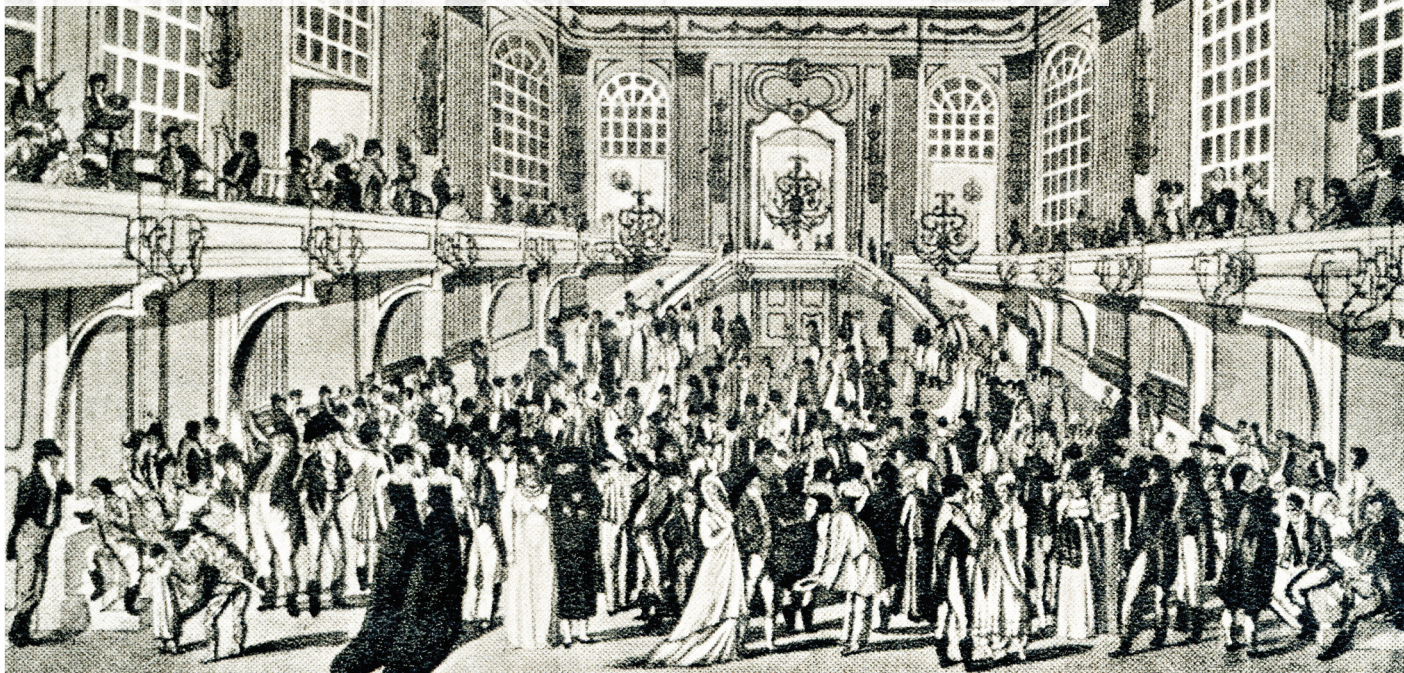
Many volcanoes around the world, including well-known peaks such as Popocatepetl and Mount Etna, emit large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>. But measurements of total CO<sub>2</sub> emission do not reveal how much of this gas might be added from carbonate rocks in the crust. This means that we don't fully understand the potential for explosive eruption hazards at many volcanoes. By developing the crystal record as a tool to track how magma changes when it encounters carbonate in the crust, my work will provide a new way to constrain our understanding of this potentially lethal volcanic brew.

*Professor Colin Macpherson  
Durham University  
Research Fellowship*

**ABOVE** Land is inhabited and cultivated all around Sumbing volcano in central Java putting local populations at significant risk during eruptions.

**LEFT** Concentric growth bands in a crystal of plagioclase from Sumbing record changes in the calcium content of the magma from which it grew.

# Viennese social dance music, 1790–1830



**The music of the Viennese Classics makes routine allusions to dance idioms, particularly the minuet, yet music scholarship has paid little attention to music for social dancing in the era before Johann Strauss. Erica Buurman will investigate this neglected body of dance repertoire, thereby shedding new light on the relationship between the city's craze for dancing and its élite musical culture**

The rise of the Viennese waltz was one of the most influential cultural crazes in nineteenth-century European history. The waltz initially scandalised much of polite society, and on one occasion even held up the progress of international diplomacy. When European leaders met at the Congress of Vienna (1814–1815) to redraw the map of Europe at the close of the Napoleonic Wars, the delegates reportedly spent so much time attending Vienna's renowned balls that the process took months longer than planned. While the

social dance culture of the early nineteenth century is a subject of great interest to social and cultural historians, Viennese dance music before the rise of Johann Strauss Sr. in the 1830s has been largely forgotten.

In music history, the period 1790–1830 is usually associated with the Viennese Classics. Composers who lived and worked in Vienna within these years include Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. Social dance music, however, was a far more prominent feature of the city's soundscape in this period than the music of the Classics. While there were relatively few opportunities for Viennese residents to hear the performance of a symphony, social dancing was a regular fixture in Vienna's cultural life and was enjoyed by all sectors of society.

An important part of my project will involve uncovering social dance music by little-known professional dance composers of the early nineteenth century. These include relatively unfamiliar figures like Joseph Wilde

and Franz Pechaschek, who were the direct forerunners of Johann Strauss as Viennese dance composers and band leaders. The *Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung*, the most widely-read music journal of German-speaking lands, reported in 1810 that the sheer volume of dance music produced each season meant that the orchestral parts routinely had to be transported to rehearsals in a wheelbarrow. While much of this music has not survived, Viennese music archives still hold large quantities of original orchestral parts and keyboard transcriptions which have yet to be studied.

I will also investigate the links between Vienna's élite music scene and its social dance culture. It is well known that the music of the Classics makes routine allusions to dance idioms such as the minuet, though the minuet was already old-fashioned by 1800. To what extent did Vienna's leading composers engage with the popular dance music of the day? And, conversely, how frequently were melodies from symphonies and operas used as an accompaniment for social dancing? By shedding more light on these issues, my project will contribute to current understanding of Viennese musical culture during this significant period of music history.

*Dr Erica Buurman  
Canterbury Christ Church University  
Research Fellowship*



**ABOVE** Masked ball at Redoutensäle (Hofburg, Vienna) by Joseph Schütz c.1815, Adobe Stock.

**LEFT** *Le Congrès*, 1993, 1107.58, Seven European heads of state, with central three doing a kind of jig. c.1815 Hand-coloured etching. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 © The Trustees of the British Museum.

# The evolutionary signature of success and failure

Extinction is a natural process, the counterpart to speciation – the evolutionary generator of new biological forms; yet despite centuries of research we are still far from a comprehensive understanding of how extinctions at mass extinction events differ from background extinctions. Chris Venditti aims to provide a novel way to distinguish them

Which species live and which species die, and why? These questions have long puzzled palaeontologists and biologists. They are pertinent questions still today as human activity is driving species extinct at an ever-increasing rate. Looking back in time, 99% of biological species that have ever existed are now extinct. And simply considering the groups of animals we see around us today, it is clear that some have suffered more extinctions than others through their evolutionary history. For instance, there are over 10,000 birds, 5,000 mammals and more than 20,000 fish, but fewer than 30 crocodiles and only six lungfishes. The fossil record tells us that these now species-poor groups once contained many more species.

Extinction is a natural process, the counterpart to speciation – the evolutionary generator of new biological forms. Through time the normal process of extinction is punctuated by what are known as *mass extinction events* where large proportions of biodiversity are wiped-out by large-scale environmental changes or catastrophes. For example, the Permian-Triassic extinction event, 250 million years ago, resulted in the extinction of over 90% of species that existed at that time – aptly, this mass extinction event is often referred to as the *Great Dying*. If we fast-forward a couple of hundred million years, the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event (66 million years ago) saw the elimination of three quarters of animal and plant species. Such mass extinction events have marked spectacular transitions in groups of species that dominate the land and the seas. For example, the shift from dinosaurs to mammals as the dominant terrestrial force on Earth at the Cretaceous-Paleogene event.

In spite of decades of research, we still do not know how mass extinctions actually happen. Do the same kinds of species that would have been predicted to go extinct at normal times also go extinct at mass extinction events?



Or, are times of mass extinctions so abnormal and extreme, that normal rules don't apply, breaking down otherwise predictable patterns? Are there features that distinguish survivors of mass extinction events from those that perish? How do mass extinctions shape subsequent evolution and biodiversity? These are the questions that we will be able to answer having been awarded a Research Project Grant from the Leverhulme Trust. In addition, it might be the case that the answers to such questions can help us understand and predict what kinds of species will disappear and what kinds of species will survive in the near future owing to anthropomorphic environmental changes.

Hitherto researchers have found it difficult to answer questions definitively about the dynamics of extinction through time owing to inherent problems associated with measuring extinction rates based on fossils alone. However, we will take a different approach which uses descriptions of the historical evolution for groups of animals. These descriptions, known as

phylogenies, chart the course of descent with modification among a group of species, yielding a family tree analogous to a genealogy. These phylogenies in conjunction with new statistical techniques will allow us to understand the drivers of biological success and failure in a far more comprehensive and nuanced manner than ever before.

*Dr Chris Venditti  
University of Reading  
Research Project Grant*

**ABOVE** An apatosaurus looks upon meteors raining down that would precede the larger asteroid strike that would lead to the extinction of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. Adobe Stock.

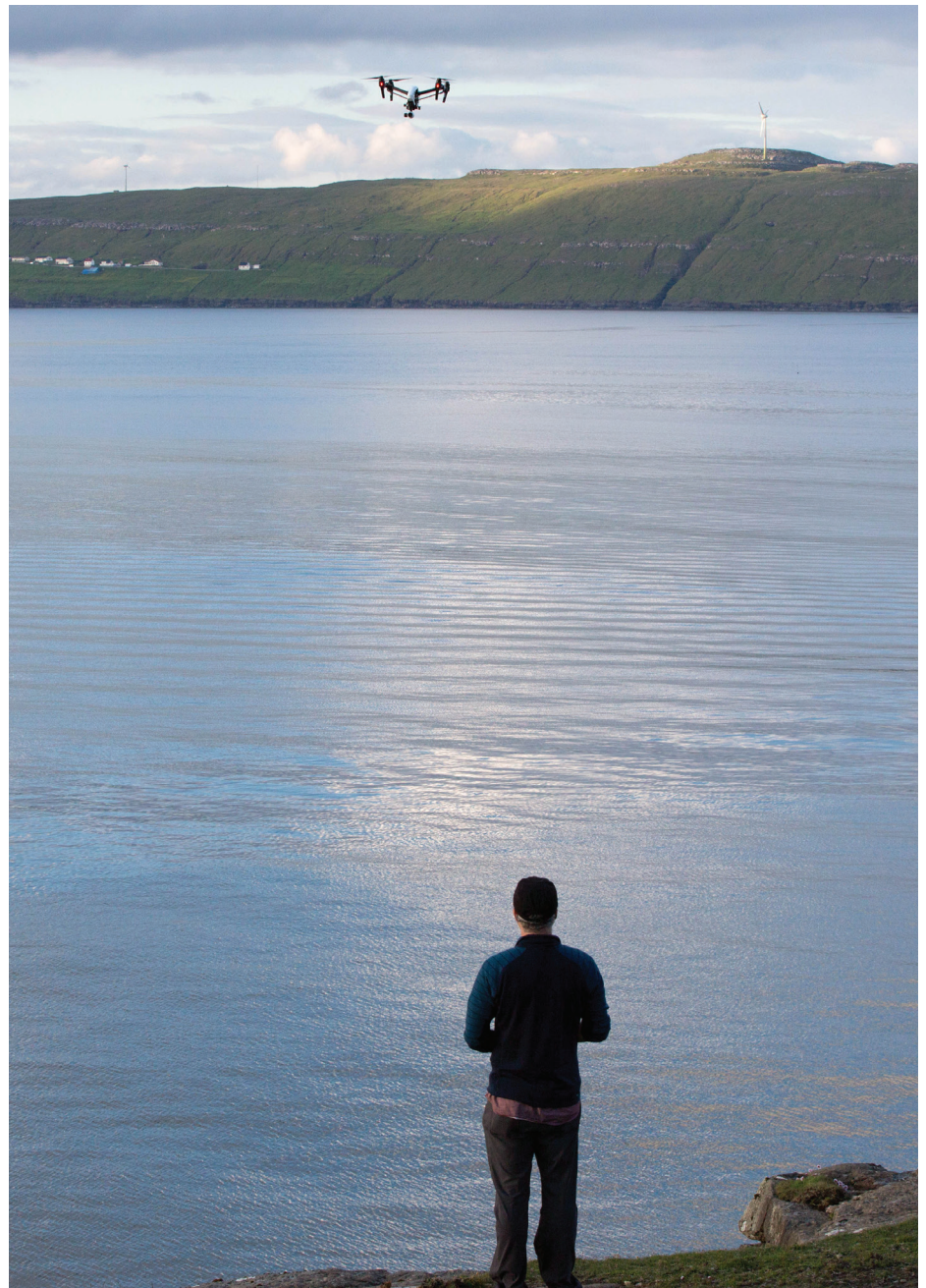
# Opening the dronecode: the privatisation of urban airspace in the UK

The UK government is poised to regulate airspace for the corporate use of drones for package delivery in cities. Adam Fish's ethnographic project will critically examine the practices and discourses of urban planners, regulators, and drone manufacturers and develop policy recommendations

Amazon is privatising the airspace above the United Kingdom. The UK government is faced with the problem of regulating its airspace for the corporate use of unmanned aerial and autonomous vehicles, otherwise known as drones, to deliver packages and other services. NASA calls these aerial technologies 'atmospheric platforms' and they have the potential to alter the way the city is sensed from above and governed by city officials and understood by urban planners. Atmospheric platforms enable vertical visions – advanced ways of seeing and sensing the world below – that transform distinctions in autonomy and sovereignty as they relate to the regulation of urban airspace. With input from urban planners, drone manufacturers, and federal regulators, this project will devise policy recommendations that address the impact of pro-corporate regulation of drones on the sovereignty of urban airspace in the UK.

A partnership between Amazon and the UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will soon revolutionise the use of urban airspace in the UK. The earlier UK 'dronecode' was simple – pilots must see their drone at all times, keep drones 50 metres away from congested areas, and away from airports. These rules are changing, allowing Amazon to engage in extended autonomous flights over congested areas and without the direct sight of the pilot. While there is a robust dialogue on the military use of drones, the protection of individual privacy in the era of drones, and public safety from misuse of small drones, there exist considerable gaps in relation to the impacts of atmospheric privatisation on the sovereignty of urban airspace in the UK.

Some scholars believe that private property rights should reject the rights of drone pilots to fly over private urban parcels. Others see pre-existing privacy laws as suitable to protect private property owners from drone airspace intrusion. Planned and future



regulation of corporate drones should be informed by understanding how urban airspace requires multiple approaches to regulation in direct relation to different elevations, atmospheric actors, and the remote sensing technologies used.

This project examines the private drone industry and its emerging regulations to explain how the privatisation of the urban atmosphere by semi-autonomous drones has the potential to undermine the sovereignty of proximal elevations of urban airspace. My research will focus ethnographic attention on three populations: urban planners – largely left out the policy discussions; the private drone companies,

and their lobbying, marketing, and remote sensing technologies, as well as their technical and legal efforts to abide by and challenge regulation; and the federal regulators tasked with establishing laws governing urban airspace.

*Dr Adam Fish  
Lancaster University  
Research Fellowship*

**COVER AND ABOVE** Image reproduced courtesy of Bradley L. Garrett.

# Materiality and meaning in Greek festival culture of the Roman Imperial period



**Commemorated in art, coins and inscriptions, Zahra Newby's project will analyse the ways that the visual record of ancient Greek festivals and their material context shaped the experience of their participants and viewers, and helped to negotiate between their many different social meanings**

Religious festivals were important times of civic cohesion in Antiquity, allowing communities to come together in worship of their patron deities, and to showcase their religious and mythological traditions. They were also times when social hierarchies were on very public display, manifested in the ordering of processions or the distribution of sacrificial meats. Much of our evidence for festivals comes from material culture, such as inscriptions detailing festival foundations or lists of victors, or images on coins or architectural reliefs. These have often been exploited as evidence to reconstruct the details or existence of particular festivals, but have not received much attention for the active roles they played in formulating what festivals meant to their communities.

This research project starts from the premise that material culture is not a passive reflection of reality, but itself helps to construct meaning and frame human interactions and activities. The images and inscriptions that surrounded festival participants guided them on how to understand their experiences, while also embodying the vested interests of those whose wealth had paid for them. On the early third century theatre at Hierapolis (modern Pamukkale, in Western Turkey), a series of lavish reliefs decorating the stage building celebrated Hierapolis' patron god, Apollo, and his twin sister Artemis, divine patroness of the leading city of Ephesus. Above the central doorway, a detailed relief shows the emperor Septimius Severus presiding over the city's festival, accompanied by his family and flanked by figures advertising the international scope of the festival including personifications of joint sacrifice, the inhabited world and the international guild of actors (above). These reliefs celebrate the city's patron god and his festival, and set the city within a wider regional context. The close links asserted between Hierapolis and Ephesus find an echo on civic coinage (below), while the reliefs in the upper

storey also situate Hierapolis within the international festival circuit and claim the patronage of the emperor himself.

My project brings together an interdisciplinary team with skills in art, epigraphy and numismatics to provide a holistic view of the ways material culture created meaning in ancient festival culture. Focussing on the eastern Roman provinces, we will examine two separate but related questions: how references to festivals on coins, inscribed monuments and in visual representations created the visual space within which festivals and their performances were experienced and remembered, and how the visual appearance of the architectural spaces within which key festival events took place interacted with ephemeral events and helped to consolidate the meaning of those rituals for participants and viewers. Through looking at material culture as an active player, and not just as a documentary source, we seek a deeper understanding of how festivals were occasions for both expressions of civic identities and the display of social hierarchies.

*Professor Zahra Newby  
University of Warwick  
Research Project Grant*

**ABOVE** Detail of architectural relief (cast), showing Septimius Severus presiding over Hierapolis' civic festival. CC BY-SA 2.0 Carole Raddato.

**LEFT AND COVER** Bronze coin minted by Hierapolis. The reverse shows the patron deities of Hierapolis and Ephesus and bears a Greek legend advertising the concord (Homonoia) between the two cities. British Museum, 1979, 0101.2251. Photo: © Trustees of the British Museum.



# Sugar rush: science, obesity and the social life of sugar



Adobe Stock

**Sugar is increasingly taking over from fat as the primary adversary in the ‘war on obesity’; bringing the insights of feminist technoscience, feminist theory and sociology to bear on a wide range of scientific, policy and popular texts, Karen Throsby explores the social life of sugar in this fevered moment of obesity panic and scientific contestation**

Obesity continues to be framed as a costly public health crisis of global epidemic proportions. However, although anti-obesity rhetoric and practices continue with unabated intensity, recent years have witnessed a shift away from the war on obesity’s familiar *bête noire* – dietary fat – to include a newly elevated enemy: sugar. This is exemplified by the 2015 World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation that added sugars should comprise only 10% (and ideally 5%) of daily intake; this was followed in 2016 by the WHO for the taxation of sugary drinks to tackle obesity and type II diabetes, particularly in children. This rush to single out sugar as the dietary culprit of expensive twenty-first century chronic disease is also mirrored in the proliferation of popular anti-sugar texts, low carbohydrate diet plans and first person testimonials and how-to guides for ‘withdrawing’ from sugar.

But fat is not easily supplanted as the enemy of the war on obesity, and the focus of many low-sugar and low-carbohydrate dietary plans on the consumption of red meat, eggs and dairy – foods which have been on dietary watch-lists for decades – sets alarm bells ringing among many clinicians and health policy makers. There is a general agreement among health professionals and policy makers that sugar is a public health issue, but there is sustained disagreement on what *counts* as sugar, on the feasibility of sugar consumption in moderation (as promoted by the sugar lobby, for example) and the relation of sugar to the familiar dietary enemy, fat. These contestations sit at the intersection of anti-obesity ideology, professional and scientific status and authority, and the vested and commercial interests of ‘big sugar’ and its allies, and are central to the ways in which sugar is understood and made meaningful in contemporary society. They are also inextricable from generational, gendered, raced and classed assumptions about who the primary consumers of sugar are, how food habits and tastes are produced and sustained, the meanings of food across different contexts, and how changes in food behaviour occur.

With this background in mind, my project aims to explore the meanings and practices of sugar in the context of the contemporary attack on obesity. I will pursue this question by bringing together a diverse archive of contemporary sugar-related materials, including policy documents, parliamentary statements, professional medical association materials, commercial publications and commentaries, published scientific research, popular texts and campaigns, media reports and other sources that both reflect and produce the contemporary social meanings of, attachments to, and repudiations of sugar.

My aim is not to determine the ‘truths’ of sugar or dictate what people should or shouldn’t eat. Instead, I want to use the complex and contested social life of sugar to explore the intersection of key sites of social inquiry including: scientific knowledge production, validation and popular appropriation; food politics, particularly in the context of austerity; and contemporary panics around health, body size and embodied citizenship.

*Dr Karen Throsby  
University of Leeds  
Research Fellowship*

# Liberty's refuge: a history of asylum in Britain, 1650–1920

Thomas Jones' Fellowship will result in the first book-length study of the history of political and religious asylum in Britain, from the seventeenth-century readmission of Jews to the significant closing of Britain's borders after the First World War

The recent global migration 'crisis' has sparked renewed public interest in Britain's historical role as a place of asylum, especially with regard to well-known twentieth-century examples like the Kindertransport of 1938–1939 and the arrival of Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin in 1972. The historical profession has produced many works on twentieth-century forced migrations and on several earlier notable refugee communities, but this literature remains surprisingly Balkanised into distinct national or ideological studies and often underestimates the deep historical roots of asylum. Yet long before the twentieth century, Britain acquired a reputation as a 'land of asylum,' as it received successive populations of persecuted religious and ethnic minorities, deposed monarchs, disappointed revolutionaries, escaped slaves, and those displaced by war.

My work provides the first major study of the history of political and religious asylum in Britain from the early modern period to the aftermath of the First World War. I explore the origins of modern British asylum, showing how seventeenth-century changes in England's religious and economic landscapes and major political events like Cromwell's readmission of the Jews and the huge post-1685 influx of Huguenots slowly dismantled older conceptions of asylum as restricted to a few highly-monitored communities of persecuted foreign Protestants. In chronicling the arrival and experiences of successive waves of refugees in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, I explore the changing economic and social opportunities open to exiles and analyse the very different British reactions to various groups of asylum-seekers. I demonstrate how a unique confluence of political, cultural, and religious assumptions led Victorian Britons to declare a sacrosanct 'right of asylum' guaranteeing unmolested refuge to all arrivals. The First World War and Russian Revolution fatally disrupted this consensus, however, and continued ill-will towards German nationals, and fear of Bolshevism scuppered all attempts to protect refugees in the immigration legislation of 1919.

The wider impacts of this history were immense. The presence of refugees periodically posed fundamental questions about British identity, provoking clashes between those for whom harbouring

exiles buttressed Britain's liberal or cosmopolitan credentials and those who feared that 'alien' invasion would dilute the national stock. These debates also refined conceptions of gender and class. Hospitality for refugees was often presented as an eminently 'feminine,' but nonetheless public, responsibility. Working-class suspicion of immigration occasionally dismayed middle- and upper-class liberals, but, conversely, the Chartists denounced Britain's 'aristocratic' government for expelling radical refugees from Jersey in 1855. Meanwhile Britain's neighbours complained to Westminster that London was a 'den of assassins' and sent spies to disrupt these communities. Knowledge of British refuge acted as a constant safety valve for European politics, as dissidents pre-emptively fled or were deported there and in turn plotted their returns. Contacts made in exile provided a

conduit for the international transmission of everything from religious, scientific, and political ideas to the latest fashionable cultural trends. My work will enumerate and take stock of these consequences, showing that Britain's history of asylum is not just of national interest, but has greatly affected Europe and the world.

Dr Thomas Jones  
University of Buckingham  
Research Fellowship

**ABOVE** An illustration of a Palatine refugee camp in London in 1709, serving as the cover of an anti-refugee pamphlet. *The Palatines' Catechism*, or a true description of their camps at Blackheath and Camberwell. In a dialogue between an English tradesman and a High-Dutchman. © British Library Board (1076.l.22.(30.)).



# RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTS

## RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS

### Sciences

**Dr Nick Aldred**

Newcastle University

Going back to basics: reverse engineering the adhesive of the sea anemone *Aiptasia pallida*  
£309,990

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Synthesis of new allotropes of carbon: cyclocarbon catenanes  
£269,701

**Dr Martin Cann**

Durham University

How cyanobacteria detect carbon dioxide: molecular events in the global carbon cycle  
£168,508

**Dr Bin Cheng**

University of Surrey

Mathematical analysis of 'near resonance' in the physical world of finiteness  
£280,880

**Professor Darren Dixon**

University of Oxford

A new light on chiral amine synthesis  
£176,408

**Professor Stefan Howorka**

University College London

New chemical tools to probe lipid bilayer thickness in live cells  
£149,186

**Dr Katherine Messenger**

University of Warwick

Syntactic priming as implicit learning: comparing second and first language speakers  
£241,910

**Professor Pat Monaghan**

University of Glasgow

Mechanisms underlying the growth-lifespan trade-off  
£258,973

**Dr Marko Nardini**

Durham University

Learning to perceive and act under uncertainty  
£258,151

**Dr Ioannis Nezis**

University of Warwick

What is the function of a cytoplasm-eating related protein in the nucleus?  
£206,436

**Dr Catherine O'Sullivan**

Imperial College London

Fundamental analysis of the influence of structure on clay behaviour  
£84,542

**Professor Robert Pawlak**

University of Exeter

Optogenetic reprogramming of the anxiety circuit  
£273,355

**Dr Richard Payne**

University of York

Peatlands and climate change: linking the past with the future  
£133,239

**Professor Tony Payne**

University of Bristol

Glacial melt and water security in Central Asia  
£169,648

**Professor Chris Perry**

University of Exeter

Predicting the significance of fish carbonates to the marine carbonate cycle  
£156,413

**Dr Carol Robinson**

University of East Anglia

Marine bacterioplankton respiration: a critical unknown in global carbon budgets  
£223,320

**Dr Tamara Rogers**

Newcastle University

Modelling inhomogeneous magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) in hot Jupiter atmospheres  
£220,233

**Professor Peter Slater**

University of Birmingham

Exploring carbonate incorporation in 'oxide' materials: the hidden dopant  
£84,760

**Professor Alison Smith**

University of Cambridge

Snow algae – are they the most abundant photosynthetic organisms in terrestrial Antarctica?  
£303,714

**Dr Patrick Sturt**

University of Edinburgh

Integration of information in reading  
£125,468

**Dr Colin Tosh**

Newcastle University

Predator-prey and prey-prey interactions driven by predator visual attention  
£226,555

**Dr Chris Venditti**

University of Reading

The dynamics of extinction through time  
£184,456

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University of Strathclyde

Control and applications of structured light and chiral molecules  
£286,825

### Humanities

**Dr Simon Blockley**

Royal Holloway, University of London

Unravelling the pattern, impacts and drivers of early modern human dispersals from Africa  
£466,516

**Professor Kimberley Brownlee**

University of Warwick

Investigating the ethics and politics of sociability  
£235,213

**Professor Christopher Gerrard**

Durham University

Risk and resilience in Europe. Exploring historic responses to earthquakes  
£284,330

**Dr Victoria Moul**

King's College London

Latin poetry in English manuscript verse miscellanies, c.1550–1700  
£447,381

**Professor Zahra Newby**

University of Warwick

Materiality and meaning in Greek festival culture of the Roman Imperial period  
£311,352

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University of Leeds

Speech tempo perception and missing sounds  
£195,101

**Professor Louise Sylvester**

University of Westminster

Technical language and semantic shift in Middle English  
£175,798

**Dr Jo Verhoeven**

City, University of London

Measuring asymmetry in the articulation of English speech sounds  
£238,015

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Mobilising support for militaro-humanitarian intervention: beyond two-level games  
£90,842

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'Disciplining' the remittance marketplace? The financialisation of small and medium size money transfer operators (MTOs) after the financial crisis in London  
£91,715

**Dr Sabine Hyland**

University of St Andrews

Hidden texts of the Andes: deciphering the 'khipus' (cord writing) of Peru  
£251,902

**Professor Vasso Ioannidou**  
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On the public disclosure of individual bank supervisory assessments  
£105,555

**Professor Ben Lupton**  
*Manchester Metropolitan University*  
Understanding blame in work organisations – a philosophical interpretation  
£55,597

**Professor John Mohan**  
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Community-level perspectives on post-war change in the British voluntary sector  
£329,252

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

### Sciences

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Efficient computational methods for testing biological hypotheses  
£47,412

**Professor Paul Bates**  
*University of Bristol*  
Development of the next generation of global flood inundation models  
£47,693

**Professor Caucher Birkar**  
*University of Cambridge*  
Higher dimensional algebraic geometry  
£14,440

**Dr Codina Cotar**  
*University College London*  
Long-memory reinforcement mechanisms with applications in physics and biology  
£49,985

**Professor Richard Craster**  
*Imperial College London*  
Elastic metamaterials and metasurfaces  
£47,317

**Dr Arwyn Edwards**  
*Aberystwyth University*  
From cryo to bryo: could fungi from 'Snowball Earth' colonise land?  
£49,288

**Dr Ik Siong Heng**  
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Exploring new frontiers in gravitational wave astronomy  
£26,412

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Discovery of a novel ultrasound hearing organ in Neuropterans  
£36,963

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Impact of audience on imperative pointing gestures by infants  
£47,812

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Petri net reachability conjecture  
£48,106

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Fingerprinting interaction of magma and carbonate  
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Unravelling self-organising polar ice-stream networks  
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Consequences of alien sex: investigating the adaptive value of hybridisation  
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Preconditioning for novel data assimilation problems  
£43,428

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Conducting polymer fibres for thermoelectric fabrics  
£49,950

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Interactions between local and global graph structure  
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Connecting Earth observation to biodiversity and ecosystem services  
£49,608

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Marching with donkeys. Protest tactics and industrial conflict in twentieth-century Italy  
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How America shaped the early modern world. A global history of the silver peso

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Samuel Beckett and choreography

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Liberty's refuge: a history of asylum in Britain, 1650–1920

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Making land liquid: the temporality of title registration

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Home: the violence of political belonging (or: mobility and stability in Israel/Palestine)

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Infrastructural citizenship in South Africa's mega-human settlements

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Cultivating entrepreneurial ecosystems: the meanings of risk for migrant entrepreneurs

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Gender equality and LGBT rights after conflict: non-sectarian social movements and consociationalism in Northern Ireland and Lebanon

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Beyond the erotics of Orientalism: queer and feminist investments in liberal war

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Death of the family farm? Using return farm life histories to explore the family farm 'crisis'

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How extremists govern: lessons from France

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**Dr Lisa Stampnitzky**

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How torture became speakable

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*University of Warwick*

Access to refugee protection in the Middle East

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**Dr Karen Throsby**

*University of Leeds*

Sugar rush: science, obesity and the social life of sugar

£44,581

**Dr Zsuzsanna Vargha**

*University of Leicester*

The personalised economy: conversation and data in the era of algorithms

£41,989

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Microfluidics: fundamental problems and applications

£37,959

#### Dr Kyle Dexter

*University of Edinburgh*

Relative influence of environment vs. tree species on forest ecosystem function

£38,810

#### Dr Elliot Freeman

*City, University of London*

Individual differences in perceptual synchronisation

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#### Professor Gideon Henderson

*University of Oxford*

Unlocking understanding of soil processes with new geochemical tools

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#### Professor Frank Keller

*University of Edinburgh*

Eye-tracking for knowledge acquisition in language and vision

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#### Dr Andrew MacColl

*University of Nottingham*

Genome analysis for evolutionary ecology

£37,809

#### Professor Peter Symonds

*University of Manchester*

New contexts for representation theory

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### Humanities

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*University of Nottingham*

Developing truthmaker semantics

£26,980

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*University of Aberdeen*

Historiography of anatomy in the northern European Atlantic world, c.1650–c.1800

£27,349

#### Professor Graham Mort

*Lancaster University*

Taking liberties: ideals of freedom in contemporary South Africa

£22,265

#### Dr Abigail Ward

*University of Nottingham*

In dialogue with the past: legacies of the transatlantic trade in Canada's modern-day slavery

£39,700

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Communicating the digital city: comparative outlooks and co-creative methods

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Full employment and sustainability: towards a political ecological economics

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Going back to basics: reverse engineering the adhesive of the sea anemone *Aiptasia pallida*



The meaning and impact of luxuries across the ancient world, 100 BCE–300 CE



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