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White Rose

College of the Arts & Humanities

Universities of Leeds, Sheffield & York

Newsletter

Volume 5: Spring 2016

Partnerships

The AHRC has announced that from 2017 it expects that at least 10% of studentships awarded under Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) should be “Collaborative” and involve external partnerships from beyond Higher Education. It has also proposed that from the next round of doctoral funding it will be a requirement that 10% of studentships are collaborative. There are some obvious benefits to this approach. Not all aspirant PhD students – or their supervisors for that matter – are always in a position to identify datasets and research topics that are in pressing need of investigation. Given the public investment in PhD research there are clear benefits in developing PhD projects in collaboration with external partners, and ensuring they are relevant to their needs. WRoCAH has an impressive list of national and regional core partners, and a much larger number of collaborations reflected by its CDA and CDP students, and by the wide range and growing number of hosts for Researcher Employability Projects, in the UK and overseas.

There is still some work to be done in defining what exactly a Collaborative Studentship is, and how DTPs can meet the apparent ring-fenced 10% requirement whilst simultaneously ensuring that all studentships are still awarded in open competition to the best applications. The more cynical have also suggested that AHRC is simply trying to save money by shifting some of the costs of doctoral training to external partners, whilst responding to a political agenda that requires universities to be more concerned with public engagement impact and less with blue skies research. Despite these concerns, through access to WRoCAH funding, our researchers have access to a range of opportunities that the majority of their supervisors, myself included, could only ever have dreamt of. With that in mind I believe that WRoCAH should embrace partnership and celebrate it.

Julian Richards, WRoCAH Director

Colloquium One — What Now?

We spent an excellent day in Sheffield with the 2015 cohort in February. In a day of two halves, we focused on research, giving students the chance to talk about their research in a practical way and receive feedback from others working in similar areas. Students created posters focusing on how they are refining research questions, shaping their datasets and planning their research. The second half of the day was focused on the students as individuals and offered a tool for developing self-awareness and understanding of others, the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. Bringing each year cohorts together in this way is an important part of building the community of WRoCAH researchers, allowing students the opportunity to meet each other as developing researchers and giving the space to spark ideas for potential cross-institution or cross-discipline collaboration.



Caryn Douglas, WRoCAH Manager

Student Profile — Tom Rusbridge



Contributed by:
Tom Rusbridge, 2015
Cohort, AHRC Competition
Student, Sheffield

Phd title: *Leather and Life:
Objects and their Actors in
Early Modern England*

I came to Sheffield for my MA in September 2014 after taking my BA at King's College London, and have since found my Hale and Pace and Victoria Wood shaped perceptions firmly and gleefully undermined. There was no talk of beatings with a Women's Weekly or bending backwards over a hostess trolley during the Early Modern MA but instead the chance to interact with scholars travelling to northern England from quite literally all over, and share my research with other students locally and on trips to York. This exchange was why I was so excited to stay on for a PhD at Sheffield, using a case study of leather objects in early modern in England in a

project that seeks to understand the agency of materials within consumer culture. Alongside the project I have enjoyed hugely the opportunity, through WRoCAH as well as independently, to work alongside research students from Sheffield and those from York and Leeds. Having taken on co-organizing our Early Modern Discussion Group programme here alongside a fellow PhD student – Sam Garwood – I look forward to more opportunities to continue this 'big conversation'.

Student Led Forum — Humanities and Beyond

Exploring the Frontiers of Interdisciplinary



Contributed by
Millie Schurch, 2015
Cohort AHRC
Competition Student, York

Phd title: *The Bluestockings
and the Popularisation of
Science*

<http://bit.ly/humanitiesandbeyond>



WRoCAH SLF 0021

"Humanities and Beyond" is a symposium day in which students from the three White Rose universities can share their experiences of interdisciplinary research with each other, established academics and practitioners. The day, supported by WRoCAH, will take place on **Friday 27 May 2016**, at the Berrick Saul Building, University of York.

"Humanities and Beyond" will give the opportunity to explore and reflect upon the processes and challenges of interdisciplinary research on a day-to-day basis and more conceptually. The morning opens with conference-style papers from WRoCAH students and established academics working across the humanities. In the afternoon, we are excited to confirm that we will have workshop sessions run by two practitioners: Sue Carver, Head of Histories, Cultures and Heritage at the AHRC, and Sarah Campbell, Editorial Director at Rowman & Littlefield

International academic publishers. Sarah Campbell is also offering a "book proposal clinic" throughout the day. There will be a round-table discussion with researchers from York, Leeds and Sheffield, addressing how interdisciplinarity has shaped their careers, and how it might develop in the future. Finally, our keynote speaker will be Robin MacKay, philosopher and director of UK arts organization *Urbanomic*, giving insight into how cutting-edge interdisciplinary thinking addresses the relationships between philosophy, science and art practice.

Please do put the date in your diary; we'd love you to be involved in the discussion on the day. Registration details will be circulated soon. In the meantime, the website is <http://humanandbeyond.sites.sheffield.ac.uk/>, and you can contact us on beyondinterdisciplinarity@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Entry to this event is free and WRoCAH funded students can apply to the Small Awards Fund for travel reimbursement.

WRoCAH Network Update — Expressive nonverbal communication in ensemble performance

PhD students Sara d'Amario (York), Nicola Pennill (Sheffield), and Ryan Kirkbride (Leeds) have started to define three exciting interconnected but also independent research projects related to expressiveness in ensemble performance. While Nicola will focus on practice strategies and emerging communicative structures in ensemble rehearsals, Sara will investigate musical synchronisation in ensemble singing and the role of visual and auditory information. Ryan will complement these investigations by exploring gestures made by singers that may support synchronisation and communication.

Vocal ensembles will be a particular focus for the network, and Barbershop singing one of the styles of interest. Barbershop has a long tradition of stylised ensemble performances in which both gestural and auditory performance are perfected. This can be contrasted to more individually expressive styles of singing found in other genres. While each of the three students have initiated their direction of research, the opportunity to collaborate intensively on a shared event has in the meantime arisen. On the 16th of April, World Voice Day will be held at the University of York, chaired by Network member Dr. Helena Daffern.

With support from WRoCAH, the three PhD students will use this day to explore some fundamental aspects of ensemble singing, and exchange findings and insights with performance experts, live in front of a public audience. The day will feature two master classes for two vocal ensembles by invited singing maestros Rob Barber and Robert Hollingworth. It will engage the audience in indicating their perceptions of aspects of ensemble performance, and the PhD students will illustrate different measures of ensemble singing related to auditory synchronisation and visual communication.

World Voice Day will provide an excellent opportunity for exchange with musicians, voice experts, voice amateurs and interested people from the general public. It will also serve as a first trial of technical aspects involved in the research, including measurement of ensemble performance. Further exchange will take place in Sydney, where Renee Timmers is visiting to collaborate with experts on sensori-motor integration in the context of music performance, Porto, where Sara and Ryan will attend a conference on music and gesture, and Vilnius, where Nicola will participate in a conference for music teachers.

*Contributed by
Dr Renee Timmers,
Network Lead*

<http://bit.ly/Ensembleperformance>

My REP Experience — Clara Breteau

In January 2016 I helped with the writing of a book on art and ecology to be published by Routledge in 2016. Working closely with the authors, Ms Barbara Benish and Ms Nathalie Blanc, two prominent female researchers and artists, I was in charge of reading the first draft, commenting, criticizing and helping with the rewriting of the whole. We were based in a lovely cottage right by the Pacific Ocean, in Santa Cruz, California, and I was lucky enough to meet during my stay many members of Santa Cruz University and of the local intelligentsia, among whom one of this year's Oscar-nominees. This was a wonderful opportunity to witness and participate concretely in the writing of a professional high-standard academic book, learning a lot from two senior researchers and artists pioneers of their field, with perspective to develop a post-doctorate research proposal based on our work and the contacts developed with US institutions".



*Contributed by
Clara Breteau, 2014 Cohort, AHRC
Competition Student, Leeds*

WRoCAH Events 2015/16

WRoCAH organised Events and Training*

2015

8 October *	First Sight Media—live streaming training Data
14 October	WRoCAH Induction Day
4 November *	Public Policy Engagement Training
19 November	WRoCAH Putting your Training Plan to work day for 2015 Cohort
1 December	WRoCAH Colloquium 2 for 2014 Cohort: Who With? Working with External Partners

2016

19 January *	WRoCAH and White Rose Libraries Management Training
24 February	WRoCAH Colloquium 1 for 2015 Cohort: What Now?
15/16 March *	Maximising Media Resources in your Research

*** all starred events open to non-WRoCAH funded students, postdocs and staff**

Student Led Forums*

Ongoing WRoCAH-funded Student Led Forums*

White Rose Postgraduate Philosophy Forum (*led by Jared Stoughton, award £2,010*)
The Arts and Social Change Network (*led by Jade French, award £1,822*)
4th Annual Postgraduate Monasticism Conference (*led by Francesca Breeden, award £260*)
Early Modern Lines Research Network (*led by Sarah Cawthorne, award £1,526.50*)
Wider World History Network (*led by Claudia Rogers, award £540*)
WRoCAH Student Journal (first edition Spring 2016), (*led by Stephanie Williams, award £1,812*)
Historical and Contemporary Knowledge base in Sociolinguistics (HaCKS), (*led by Joshua Bengough-Smith, award £1,811*)

WRoCAH-funded Student Led Events*

18 March 2015	Researching European Film and Television PhD Workshop (<i>led by Martina Lovascio, award £3,083</i>)
18/19 March 2015	Moving Pictures and Photoplays: New Perspectives in Silent Cinema. PGR Conference (<i>led by Agata Frymus, award £5,718</i>)
29-31 July 2015	Understanding Value Conference IV (<i>led by Charlie Crerar, award £1,923</i>)
12-14 November 2015	Society for Medieval Archaeology Student Colloquium (<i>led by Emma Green, award £612.50</i>)
12 February 2016	The Language of 'Authoritarian' Regimes (<i>led by Stephanie Wright, award £1,161.90</i>)
19 February 2016	Orange is the New Bible Symposium (<i>led by Jo Merrygold, award £2,001</i>)
30 March—1 April 2016	New Directions of Expressivism (<i>led by Graham Bex-Priestley, award £4,400</i>)

Upcoming WRoCAH-funded Student Led Events*

15-16 April 2016	Feminist Readings 2 (Theory, practice and politics of reading today) (<i>led by Elspeth Mitchell, award £1,641.76</i>)
16 April 2016	Mastering Ensemble Singing: The Science and the Art (<i>led by Sara D'Amario, award £1,281</i>)
21 April 2016	World against Globe: Reconceptualising World Literatures Today (<i>led by Jade Douglas, award £101.25</i>)
12-13 May 2016	Northern Renaissance Seminar: "Communication, Correspondence and Transmission in Early Modern World" (<i>led by Giovanni Pozzetti, award £1,038</i>)
27 May 2016	Humanities and Beyond: Exploring the Frontiers of Interdisciplinarity (<i>led by Millie Schurch, award £2,858</i>)
1-2 July 2016	Poetic Measures (<i>led by Laura Blomvall, award £5,011.24</i>)
15-16 July 2016	Realism in Ethics (<i>led by Stephen Bolton, award £4,200</i>)

Other Upcoming Events

Wednesday 6 April 2016*
2-5pm @ Sheffield

Storytelling Workshop with Tim Ralphs. To book a place contact a.ryall@sheffield.ac.uk

Tuesday 21st June 2016*
10am - 6pm @ York

AHRC Commons Event—to include a Partnership Fair; a chance to meet WRoCAH students and partners to network and foster collaboration

Thursday 19th October 2016*
10am—5pm @ York

WRoCAH Student Led Conference

Wednesday 14th December 2016
10am—5pm @ NRM, York

WRoCAH Colloquium 2: Who With? (2015 Cohort)