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Sections

March 2024

Programmes and Activities Update: Paper 3

This paper is for information
Purpose:
This paper provides Sections with information on the Academy’s Programmes and Activities, and covers the period July 2023 to November 2023.
Recommendation(s):
Sections are invited to note this report.
Author
Contributions are from British Academy Heads and Teams (edited by Nickolas Lambrianou, Head of Fellowship Engagement & Governance).
Financial or resource implications, and/or risks to consider

Introduction

1. These reports are regularly refreshed and circulated to Council, Sections and Academy committees, for information. Fuller information on many of the items referred to in this paper, including texts of reports etc, is available on the Academy’s website, www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk.
2. The document is organised around the core strategic objectives as outlined in the recently published [Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#):
 - a. [To invest in the very best researchers and research](#)
 - b. [To celebrate and promote the humanities and social sciences](#)
 - c. [To inform and enrich debate around society’s greatest questions](#)
 - d. [To ensure sustained international engagement and collaboration](#)
 - e. [To make the most of our people, partnerships and resources to secure the Academy for the future](#)

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3. In addition, the strategy identifies three strategic priorities for 2023-2027:
 - Strengthening and championing the humanities and social sciences
 - Mobilising our disciplines for the benefit of everyone
 - Opening up the Academy
4. This report is structured around the five core strategic objectives whilst the three strategic priorities are embedded across all of our work summarised below.

To Invest in the Very Best Researchers and Research

Research Funding

5. The Research Awards Committee had two further meetings in 2023, as normal, to discuss the award of Postdoctoral Fellowships, and to confirm the outcomes of the second round of Small Research Grants to be determined through the partial randomization trial.
6. The 2023 Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme attracted 528 applications from which 55 awards were ultimately able to be offered, giving a success rate of just over 10%. Notably on this occasion significantly more awards that were offered were declined than has been usual in recent years. The final decisions were taken slightly later in the year, and this may have had an impact. There were sufficient reserves to fulfil the quota, however, and awards are being taken up this autumn at 28 different institutions, including Bournemouth, Northumbria and the British School at Rome.
7. The 2023-24 competition for Postdoctoral Fellowships has attracted 555 applications at the Outline Stage, which are currently being assessed.
8. The second round of the Small Grants to be assessed through the Partial Randomization Trial saw the number of submitted applications increase significantly again to 918 (up 17% on the numbers in the previous round). The proportion which passed the quality threshold to be entered into the randomization remained remarkably steady at 58% (536), from which 192 awards were able to be made with the available funding. This gave an overall success rate of 21%.
9. Detailed analysis of the outcomes from the first year (two rounds) of the randomization were shared with the Research and HE Policy Committee in September, but the most notable effect in diversity was the significant increase in the success rate for Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Background applications and awards. Overall applicants from ethnic minorities accounted for 27% of the total awards across the year. Most other diversity characteristics showed positive results, but little change from the pre-randomization outcomes. All subject areas were represented in the overall list of awards except Medieval Studies (which had only 8 applications in total across the two rounds, however).

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10. The partial randomization trial continues, and the third round is currently open for application.
11. The call for Mid-Career Fellowship applications was issued as usual in the late summer of 2023 and the number of submissions rose to 306, an increase of 18% on the numbers submitted the previous year, and the highest total since 2020-21.
12. The Leverhulme Trust confirmed their continuing support for the Senior Research Fellowship scheme, with increased support to allow 10 awards to be offered regularly (instead of 7) with small-scale research expenses also covered for the first time. The deadline for applications is on 15 November 2023.
13. The Research and HE Policy Committee will receive a full report on the outcomes and will be taking into account all of the views expressed by assessors, Section Co-ordinators and Sections.
14. The Academy's Innovation Fellowship scheme, introduced in 2021, focuses on knowledge exchange and partnership. This is divided between two 'Routes' – a 'Researcher-led' Route A where the applicant is free to propose the partner organisation with whom they will work; and a 'Policy-led' Route B where the Academy has pre-identified the partner. 27 awards were confirmed through Route A in 2023, including several looking at climate change and urban greenspaces, as well as the use of effective AI in offering telemedicine services and building a supportive culture to retain doctors in training. 4 awards were additionally made through the Academy's strategic partnerships with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). New calls were issued in autumn 2023 for the partnerships with the FCDO; the Cabinet Office; His Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Business and Trade jointly; and with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. An open call through Route A was also issued and attracted 35 applications.
15. The Academy's Talent Development Awards scheme was also offered again in autumn 2023 and attracted 34 applications.
16. The Academy is a partner with ESRC, on behalf of UKRI, various other research councils and Innovate UK in the EDI Caucus initiative. The Caucus has issued the first call for funding to be offered through its Flexible Fund Call. This will contribute to the workstream on inequalities across the career-life cycle and priority is being given to studies focussing on mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on EDI in research and innovation.
17. The Research Funding Team continues to organise and participate in a range of university visits both online and in person, and successful visits have been made in the past few months to the Universities of Kent and Lincoln, and Birkbeck, University

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of London. Further visits are planned to the University of Plymouth and in the new year to Newcastle University.

Early Career Research Network (ECRN)

18. The Early Career Research Network was launched in Autumn 2021, with funding for a pilot phase granted by the Wolfson Foundation, which has since been supplemented by DSIT funding.
19. The Network currently operates in three areas in the UK – the Midlands where the hub is led by the University of Birmingham, the South-West of England where the hub is led by the GW4 Consortium, and in Scotland co-led by the universities of Stirling and Glasgow. The Network has **2,550** members, of which **2,285** are not funded by British Academy fellowship awards. Overall, **42%** of our members are actively engaging in some way, either by attending events or using the online community platform. **49%** of members are signed up to the Online Community platform, which also includes ECRN staff, regional Hub Leads, and Consortium partners, the platform has over **1,200** users. **89%** of the Online Community platform users are returning – meaning they are actively engaging with the platform which is great.
20. In Autumn 2022, an evaluation was conducted on the first year of operation of the Network was completed by Technology Development Group. It found there was clear demand for what was an undoubted success with Early Career Researchers, there is good engagement with a diverse range of offerings, the decision to approach this through regional delivery has been sensible and generally successful, though greater clarity moving forward on roles and relationships with the centre in the Academy is recommended. The evaluators made a few suggestions for the Academy and its funders to consider. As a result of a successful evaluation and pilot, the Wolfson Foundation agreed to continue funding the Network for a further three years, from March 2024 to March 2027. The Academy also committed its own funding to extend the pilot phase from March 2023 to March 2024, which will allow us to build on what has working well and improve in the areas, where we have been less strong. DSIT have also agreed to continue providing supplementary funding for the Network.
21. The focus for the Academy over the next few years is to roll out the Network nationally, with the next region being London, which will be in place by Autumn 2023. In addition to that, the Academy will continue to look at securing more permanent and longer-term funding, which will provide security, making the Network more sustainable and allowing us to expand the BA ECRN team, to ensure that we can continue to meet the demands and deliver the Network effectively and efficiently.

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UK Young Academy

22. The British Academy is a partner with the other national Academies and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Learned Society of Wales and the Royal Irish Academy in the setting up of a UK Young Academy, as previously reported. The first cohort of 67 members of the UKYA has now been appointed - [Shaping a better future together | UK Young Academy](#) and a call issued for the second cohort membership who will be appointed with effect from April 2024. A successful introductory meeting was held between the two co-Chairs of the Executive Committee, Denis Newman-Griffis and Ed Pyzer-Knapp and the President of the British Academy, and two of the Vice-Presidents in October 2023.

BIRI

23. The Academy's engagement with the eight British International Research Institutes (BIRI) has continued with the awarding of funding for each School or Institute for 23-24 following their submission of proposals. The BIRI Forum and the next meeting of the BIRI Oversight & Engagement Committee will both take place on 28 November. The 24-25 funding bids and the 6-month reports from the BIRI for 23-24 will be reviewed by the Committee at this meeting. The proposed agenda for the BIRI Forum will include a range of topics for discussion including a follow-on project from the feasibility study into applying for collective IRO status which will explore potential alternative future operational models for the BIRI.

Monitoring and Evaluation

24. A new Monitoring and Evaluation Team is now in place to support the Academy across all of its activities. A Framework for M&E is being developed. An external evaluation of the British Academy Wolfson Fellowship scheme has been commissioned and is expected to report by March 2024.

Academic publications

25. Two new *Proceedings of the British Academy* volumes have appeared: *Theoretical Linguistics in the Pre-University Classroom*, edited by Alice Corr and Anna Pineda (PBA 257); *The Prehistoric Hunter-gatherers of South-eastern Europe*, edited by Aitor Ruiz-Redondo and Williams Davies (PBA 258).
26. Two new volumes by Academy-supported early career researchers have been published in the open access *British Academy Monographs* series: *Comparing the Worth of the While in Fiji and Finland*, by Matti Eräsaari; *The Birth of Psychological War*, by Jeffrey Whyte.
27. Nine more volumes arising from Academy Research Projects have been published: *William of Ockham: Dialogus, Part 1, Book 6*, and *Part 1, Book 7*, both edited by

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George Knysh (*Auctores Britannici Medii Aevi*, 41 & 42); *William of Ockham on Heretics, and Against John*, translated by John Kilcullen and John Scott (*Auctores Britannici Medii Aevi*, 43); *English Episcopal Acta 47, Bath and Wells 1275-1302*, edited by Richard Huscroft; *Corpus of Early Accounts of the Sunjata Epic, 1889-1959*, edited by Stephen Bulman, Stephen Belcher and Valentin Vydrin (*Fontes Historiae Africanae – Sources of African History*, 23); *The Lord Stewartby Collection of Scottish Coins at the Hunterian, University of Glasgow, Part II: Robert III – James III, 1390–1488*, by William MacKay (*Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles*, 72); *Early Tudor Organ Music, Part 1 and Part 2*, both edited by John Caldwell (*Early English Church Music*, 65 & 66).

28. The following article has been posted to the open access *Journal of the British Academy*: ‘Legal aspects of memory: a report issued by the Psychology and Law Sections of the British Academy’, prepared by Alan Baddeley, Chris R Brewin, Graham M Davies, Michael D Kopelman and Hector L MacQueen. And there have been four themed supplementary issues: ‘Gender and Violent Extremism’, edited by Sahla Aroussi and Fatuma Ahmed Ali; ‘Narratives of Old Age and Gender: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives’, edited by Siân Adiseshiah, Amy Culley and Jonathon Shears; ‘Being and Becoming – Uncertain Youth Futures’, edited by Anna Barford; ‘Governance Factors on the Road to Net Zero’, edited by Hilary Graham, Victoria Hurth, Andy Jordan and Tim O’Riordan.
29. *Biographical Memoirs* have been posted for John Beer, James Dunn, John Elliott, Roger Hood, Michael Redhead and David M Smith. PDF files of older Memoirs previously published in the *Proceedings* are gradually being added to this online resource: there is an [alphabetical list](#) of the Memoirs now available for deceased Fellows; this list also links to entries for Fellows in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (and free use of the *ODNB* is now available to anyone accessing it via the Academy’s Wi-Fi at Carlton House Terrace).

To celebrate and promote the humanities and social sciences

Research and Higher Education Policy

30. The Higher Education and Skills team have begun a new project exploring research careers in SHAPE. This will form our major flagship people project for the next 18 months. It will consider key questions for SHAPE research talent, including mobility, precarity, and identity. We expect there to be significant overlap with wider Academy work on research culture, bureaucracy, international collaboration, and talent and will work in conjunction with other teams.
31. Over the summer we were asked by the Labour Party policy team to help develop their thinking on skills policy. In August we convened a roundtable of academic and policy skills experts to discuss what can be learned from the history of skills policy, from other countries, and the UK’s current education and training system.

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32. The Academy has been engaging with the Department for Education’s new Unit for Future Skills (UFS), which has been set up to improve the quality and accessibility of jobs and skills data. Dr Molly Morgan Jones, Director of Policy, is a member of the Unit’s External Advisory Group, and the Unit is chaired by Professor Ian Diamond. The Academy’s HE & Skills team has also been interacting with UFS staff, to feed into its future work in areas such as non-salary measures of graduate outcomes and returns.
33. We have concluded a UK-wide event series on place-based policy making. Workshops held in Sheffield, Glasgow, Newcastle, Cardiff, and London have brought together academics from across disciplines and institutions, members of our ECRN, and policymakers from local and devolved governments. We have also collaborated with AHRC on their place programme, speaking at an event in Glasgow on the future of place-based policy. These events will inform a write-up of the role of SHAPE in place-based policy making – particularly with reference to R&D and productivity – to be published in autumn 2023.
34. In August 2023 we published a [briefing paper](#) on higher education funding across the four nations of the UK. This paper originated as a HEPDG discussion paper, which the Group felt warranted wider sharing. It details the characteristics of each of the funding systems, both for institutions and students.
35. The large project exploring impact across the SHAPE disciplines, through the lens of REF2021 impact case studies, is nearing completion. The work was undertaken by a research team from the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science, led by Professor Melinda Mills FBA FAcSS, who analysed the REF2021 impact case studies to generate new insights on the impressive array of impact that takes place across our disciplines. The work is overseen by a steering group, chaired by Professor Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad FBA of this Committee. This project intends to publish a report, policy briefing, and interactive dashboard in winter 2023. In addition, Research England has opened a consultation on the next iteration of the REF, to which we are coordinating a response with input from Fellows.
36. In June 2023 we published “[Understanding SHAPE in R&D: bridging the evidence gap](#)” synthesising a series of commissioned pieces of research on SHAPE R&D. This research has highlighted several key issues, not least the exclusion of SHAPE (Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts for People and the Economy) R&D from official statistics, and the possible impact of this exclusion on our understanding of the full breadth of the evidence base related to R&D. We hope it is of value to policymakers and analysts of R&D and innovation who are interested in understanding how more effective policies and initiatives can be developed to support the research and innovation system. To support this, the report outlines a set of policy goals and recommendations, as well as the next steps for the Academy to take. Coverage of the report appeared in LSE blogs, [Arts Professional](#), and [Research Professional](#).

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37. In collaboration with our Publishing team, we have re-established an Academy advisory group on Open Access, Chaired by the Vice President for Publications and Conferences, Professor Lindsay Farmer. The Advisory Group will provide strategic advice relevant to the Academy’s role as a policy voice, a funder, and a publisher, with a central aim of ensuring a coordinated Academy approach on Open Access.

SHAPE Observatory on the health of the disciplines

38. Our [SHAPE Observatory](#), which aims to ensure the sustainability and capacity of the SHAPE research base, by providing regular accounts of the health of our disciplines, remains live on the website. We have created live data dashboards on the Observatory which allow users to interact with data.
39. In June 2023 we published [English Studies in Higher Education](#), offering an assessment of the health of English Studies in the UK. The report was [positively received](#) by the sector and coverage was achieved in [WonkHE](#), [the Times](#), [Arts Professional](#), [Times Higher Education](#), and on the BBC Radio4 Today programme. Shortly after publication, a Times article was published stating "[We should cheer the decline of humanities degrees](#)". Social media and press reaction was swift and severe, and both the English Studies report and the older Qualified for the Future work were repeatedly used by academics, journalists, and media personalities to dispel myths on value. This included an article in the [New Statesmen](#).
40. The next state of the discipline report is focussed on Media Studies. Work is progressing well with the Advisory Group meeting for the first time in August, at which the scope of the analysis was extended to cover journalism, and cinematics and photography. This is due to discrepancies between how providers organise courses and how HESA codes data, which means that excluding these areas would be too limiting to the analysis. The Advisory Group includes four Fellows from the Culture, Media, and Performance Section, one of whom also sits on Council.
41. We also intend to undertake disciplinary analysis of Political Studies and International Relations. Scoping for this work is ongoing, with robust engagement with Fellows of the British Academy and other stakeholders within the disciplinary community. British Academy staff have begun an assessment of available, relevant data sources and literature to help inform this work. We intend to create and convene the Advisory Group for this disciplinary analysis this autumn and are aiming to publish the report from this work in summer 2024, subject to the outcomes of the initial scoping activity.
42. A project analysing changes in patterns of post-16 subject choice has begun, with the National Federation for Educational Research contracted to analyse data from the National Pupil Database. ‘Subject Pathways’ will address the primary research question: *What are the main trends and patterns in subject choice over the past 20 years, with respect to the social sciences and humanities disciplines for level 3*

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qualifications in England? While this report is limited to level 3 qualifications (A levels, BTECs) in England due to data availability, there is scope for the Academy to explore equivalent research for the devolved administrations in the future. The data analysis is expected to be completed in January 2024, with a report published later that spring.

43. In August 2023 we published our assessment of uptake of SHAPE GCSE, A level, and Scottish National 5s and Highers. This included an [assessment](#) of changes, updating our [SHAPE indicators](#) with the new data to explore long-term trends by subject, and a joint [article](#) with the British Science Association on the need for broad education. Our assessment was included in a [round-up](#) by the Guardian.
44. The Academy has continued to work with ASCL (the Association of School and College Leaders), Universities UK, the British Council, and AHRC to take forward the proposals for a [national strategy for languages \(TNLS\)](#) published in 2020, coverage of which continues to appear e.g. in [HEPI in August 2023](#) and in the [Guardian](#) in June 2023.
45. One such proposal was the formation of the Strategic Committee for Languages in Higher Education, which was formed in summer 2021 and is co-convened with the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML). The Academy is supporting the Committee on work related to the training of language teaching, risks to the provision of less widely studied languages, and academic-government engagement.
46. The Academy was asked to brief members of the House of Lords on a debate on the Turing Scheme, the successor to Erasmus Plus. We will be publishing this assessment of the impact of replacing Erasmus Plus with the Turing Scheme – including the possible impact on students, staff, institutions, and disciplines – as an Academy briefing in November 2023.
47. The new, large-scale project on *‘Understanding languages skills and capabilities in the UK research base’* has been awarded to a team from King’s College London’s Centre for Language Acts and Worldmaking. This research will address the primary question: *What is the evidence base for the role, appreciation, and usefulness of language skills in academic research disciplines outside Modern Languages and cognate fields in UK universities?* This is a significant piece of work, which the Academy expects to be delivered in 2024.
48. On 18 October we launched the Languages Gateway, a new website developed by the Academy in collaboration with its partners on the languages programme. A launch event was held at the Academy, and was well attended by members of both Houses of Parliament, policy makers, and sector stakeholders. This is being followed by four online events tailored to the different nations of the UK. Coverage of the launch was published in [the Times](#), [the Independent](#), [the Herald](#), [the Standard](#) and various

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regional press. Interviews were also given to [LBC](#) (2 hours in) and [Times Radio](#) (54 minutes in).

49. As a culmination of the current phase of work on Educational Research, the British Academy and the Royal Society have produced an accessible summary of work undertaken on the project to date. This will be published alongside a policy briefing in winter 2023.

Networks

50. The Strategic Forums for Social Sciences and Humanities will hold their autumn meetings in November 2023. To provide additional opportunities for engagement between Strategic Forum members, as well as comprehensive discussion on specific strategic topics of interest, a new programme of ‘mini-Fora’ meetings are being held: the first discussed the health of the disciplines in April 2023, and the second, held in October 2023, considered Open Access in SHAPE.
51. On 28 June we held the annual meeting of SHAPE Learned Societies and Subject Associations. The agenda covered Open Access, EDI, and AI.
52. The Higher Education and Policy Development Group met in October to continue discussions about uncertainty in student funding, and discuss unhypothecated research funding for SHAPE across the jurisdictions of the UK.

Academic Events

Lectures

53. Three postponed lectures from the 2022/23 academic year have either taken or will be taking place in October and November: Dr Kate Kirkpatrick, Professor Bernardine Evaristo, Professor David Reynolds.
54. In the 2023-25 lecture cycle: 19 speakers have been allocated to partners, with three still to be confirmed. Delays to finalising the programme have been impacted by some declines or requests for a change of venue from invited speakers / Sections.
55. CEC has approved a new route forward regarding lecture partners in Scotland, including two potential lectures (one confirmed) at the University of Edinburgh in the 2023-25 cycle.

Conferences

56. Five conferences have taken place since July: Reframing Endometriosis (Birmingham City University), Hegel and the Hegelian Tradition in Political Thought (University of Cambridge), Resisting Toxic Climates (University of Edinburgh), Partition Machine

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(University of Glasgow), Narratives of Law in the Exhibition Space (University of Liverpool).

57. 18 conference grants have been awarded for the 2024-25 cycle (both DSIT and Wellcome funded) and convenors attended a briefing workshops in September.
58. Guidance for 2025-26 conference grants is being discussed/approved at the PCC in November. A review of the conferences programme is scheduled for spring 2025.

Public Events

59. The public events team have been developing the strategy and framework for The Summer Showcase and Autumn launch 2024, which will be the official launch of the new event spaces. We want the Showcase and Autumn launch to be a vibrant, stimulating, and thought-provoking experience for all visitors, with a programme of activities aimed at our target audience's interests and motivations. Our aim is that all visitors leave the event with a sense of who we are through our theme 'We are the British Academy', showcasing what we do and why we matter and – crucially – how they can continue to engage with us. The Showcase will act as an unveiling for our Autumn programme and hope to feature headliner Fellows such as Mary Beard, David Olusoga and Tim Berners Lee.
60. Due to the ongoing building renovation at 10-11 CHT and reduced staffing, the public programme has been limited this quarter. We are instead focussing on refining our processes, developing our target audiences through work with the Audience Agency, and creating robust event strategies and event pilots in time for the launch of the new spaces and themed seasons. We have undertaken organisation wide research to ensure the themes reflect both our work internally, and the research we fund. We have shortlisted the themes: British Folklore, Age of Mistrust?, Death, Imagination and Climate Change which have been presented to the Communications and Engagement Committee (CEC). In consultation with CEC and SMT we will select two of these for Jan-Mar 2025 and Apr-Jun 2025, developing these seasons and event formats over the course of the year.
61. Plans to pilot new event strands in Winter 2023 – Spring 2024 are underway. We are currently developing a new 'Reactive event' series that will be a current affairs series. We are also developing our public late, to be trialled in spring 2024 with British Academy staff, as well as an event that brings together research and performance.
62. The Academy will be organising an event as part of the Being Human Festival on 15 November 2023, *see public engagement below*.

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Prizes and Medals

63. The winners' list of the disciplinary specific prizes and medals for the 2023 cycle was published on 6 September in a [dedicated news piece](#). Eleven disciplinary prizes and medals were presented to thirteen awardees at an in-person event on Wednesday 11 October, during Fellowship Engagement week.
64. The British Academy Book Prize continued sponsoring events at literary festivals across the UK throughout the year:
- 1 July – Bradford Literature Festival – [Global Cultural Understanding](#) – Julian Baggini (shortlisted for the 2019 Book Prize for *How the World Thinks: A Global History of Philosophy*)
 - 24 August - Edinburgh International Book Festival – [Crossing Borders](#) – Kapka Kassabova (2018 Book Prize winner for *Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe*)
 - 9 October – Cheltenham Literary Festival – [A Personal History of Europe](#) – Timothy Garton Ash (2017 Book Prize winner for *Free Speech: Ten Principles for a Connected World*)
65. The six shortlisted books for the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding were [announced via press release](#) on Tuesday 12 September. The books are:
- *Red Memory: Living, Remembering and Forgetting China's Cultural Revolution* by Tania Branigan (Faber & Faber)
 - *Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire* by Nandini Das (Bloomsbury Publishing)
 - *The Violence of Colonial Photography* by Daniel Foliard (Manchester University Press)
 - *Black Ghost of Empire: The Long Death of Slavery and the Failure of Emancipation* by Kris Manjappa (Allen Lane / Penguin Books)
 - *Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World* by Irene Vallejo (Hodder & Stoughton)
 - *Ritual: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living* by Dimitris Xygalatas (Profile Books)
66. The authors shortlisted for the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding took part in a special in-person and online [Shortlist Event](#) on Monday 30 October 2023, organised in partnership with the *London Review Bookshop*. The six shortlisted authors were in conversation with award-winning journalist Rosie Goldsmith, for an exploration of urgent and globally significant topics.
67. The winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize was announced by the Chair of the Book Prize jury, Charles Tripp FBA, at a Winner's Announcement Event on Tuesday 31 October, held in-person at the British Academy and live streamed to the public. The winning book was *Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire* by Nandini Das. *Courting India* offers a fascinating history of

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Thomas Roe, the first British ambassador to the Mughal Empire, and his four years in India. Nandini Das offers an insider's view of a Britain in the making, a country whose imperial seeds were just being sown. It is a story of palace intrigue and scandal, lotteries and wagers that unfolds as global trade begins to stretch from Russia to Virginia, from West Africa to the Spice Islands of Indonesia.

68. Planning for the 2024 cycle of prizes and medals is in progress. Next year the Academy will present 14 prizes and medals.

Public Engagement

69. The SHAPE Involve and Engage pilot public engagement programme, supported by the Events Team, will run between October 2023 and October 2024. Following a hugely popular call for applications, 13 awards have been made to support projects across the UK.
70. The projects feature partnerships with galleries, libraries, archives and museums including the International Slavery Museum, English Heritage, the London Metropolitan Archives and city libraries and museums including Birmingham, Southampton and Lincoln.
71. On Monday 11 September, award holders and a representative from their partner organisation attended a 'community of practice' workshop hosted by the Academy at Carlton House Terrace. The Academy will support the 'community of practice' through the duration of the awards.
72. Finally, the Academy will continue its support of the Being Human Festival this autumn. The festival theme is Rhyme or Reason and will run from 9-18 November.

Media and Public Affairs

73. In September, the Academy garnered national media interest in language learning in conjunction with the launch of the Languages Gateway. Academy-commissioned polling about public attitudes to language learning resulted in coverage in *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Herald*, and others. Furthermore Professor Charles Forsdick, lead fellow for languages, was interviewed on LBC radio and the British Council's Vicky Gough spoke to Times Radio's Matt Chorley about the Languages Gateway.
74. The Academy convened a roundtable discussion in partnership with DSIT to look at 'the possibilities of AI for public good' which was attended by Viscount Camrose, the Minister for AI and intellectual property, and a range of academics and wider sector voices. Hetan attended the AI Summit in Bletchley Park and raised points about researcher access to data from technology companies. He wrote a piece for the Evening Standard and gave several interviews including to ABC Breakfast radio.

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75. The British Academy partnered with IfG (the Institute for Government) to host private fringe events at Conservative and Labour party political conferences on the topic of ‘The Human Side of AI’. These were very well attended with Paul Scully MP, Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy at DSIT and The Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale MP, Minister of State at DSIT as well as two former Ministers, Matt Warman MP, Former Minister of State at DCMS and Damian Collins MP, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary at DCMS participating in the Conservative event. The Rt Hon Lord Knight of Weymouth and Shadow Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, Alex Davies-Jones MP joined the Labour event.
76. Hetan and Julia have held numerous meetings with Parliamentarians including Michelle Donelan, the Secretary of State for Science, George Freeman the Science Minister and Chi Onwurah MP, the shadow minister for science, research and innovation as well as other parliamentarians and advisors.
77. The British Academy and our support for researchers at risk was quoted in the House of Commons in September by a number of MPs in a debate regarding at-risk academics.
78. The Academy’s work has featured in national and international media, across both print broadcast media. *The Financial Times* reported that ‘Sometimes, a random solution is best’ as it covered the Academy’s trial of partial randomisation for Small Research Grants, and *Research Professional* suggested that British Academy randomisation trial yields ‘promising’ results. *Arts Professional* wrote that R&D data ‘should be broadened’ to include arts in their coverage of our ‘Understanding SHAPE in R&D: Bridging the evidence gap’ policy briefing. *Arts Professional* also covered British Academy research into a decade long decline in undergraduates opting for English Literature, English Language and Creative Writing at university.
79. *The Guardian* and *The Times* included a quote from Academy Chief Executive Hetan Shah in their GCSE results coverage and FE News covered the Academy’s response to A level entries data: ‘Encourage students to futureproof themselves by choosing a mix of arts and science subjects, teachers and parents urged’.
80. British Academy reactions to political developments in our sectors included our welcome to the 'fantastic' news of UK association to Horizon Europe and a piece in WonkHE by Philip Lewis, Head of International at the British Academy, in response to the Home Office's decision to raise visa fees for overseas researchers.
81. The Connected Knowledge communications campaign, designed to celebrate interdisciplinarity between SHAPE and STEM, launched across the Academy’s social media channels. [The Times](#) published a letter from chief executive Hetan Shah on the theme, the [New Statesman](#) profiled Molly Morgan-Jones in its “Policy Ask” slot, and Julia Black penned a joint comment piece with the British Science Association

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President, Anne-Marie Imafidon, for [Times Educational Supplement](#) on "why we must end the STEM vs SHAPE debate".

82. There were also lots of opportunities in this period for Fellows to apply their expertise to key contemporary issues. This included a CNBC interview with Joanna Bourke FBA delving into the emotional cost of writing on sexual violence, Stefan Collini FBA on why we pay tax in the *London Review of Books*, *Guardian* published a piece by Professor David Runciman FBA profiling Elon Musk, and Fellows, Margaret MacMillan and Patricia Clavin, spoke on BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time* about 'The Economic Consequences of the Peace'.
83. British Academy-funded researchers have also featured prominently in the national and trade media. Including Deirdre McKay, British Academy funded researcher, writing in *The Conversation* about microfibres, *Politico London Playbook* coverage of Academy Postdoctoral Fellow Rebecca McKee's research into diversity in parliament and a range of publications including Politics.co.uk reported on British Academy-funded researcher Dr Tammy Campbell's research suggesting faith-based admissions requirements deter disadvantaged children.

Digital Communication

84. Between July and November 2023, the Digital team delivered marketing campaigns to promote the Academy's public events, conferences and lectures, and the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding. We published and promoted 16 funding schemes in collaboration with the Research Funding and International teams. The team experimented with using different tactics for promotion to reduce reliance on paid social advertising in response to ongoing fluctuations in the social media advertising landscape.
85. During this period, over 391k emails were sent out through the Academy's newsletters, with 8.1k clicks and over 149k opens.
86. The Digital team continues to work closely with the Academy's design partner, Bond and Coyne, to deliver projects in collaboration with colleagues across the organisation. Over July-November, these included a new interactive digital map for self-guided tours at Open House – an innovation that reduces paper waste and saves time and resource; the publication of the 'Understanding SHAPE in R&D' and 'Rethinking the Principles of Public Service Media' policy reports; and the 2022/23 annual report, as well as ongoing to work to prepare for the opening of the Academy's new event spaces and refresh the organisation's brand.
87. The Fellowship & Governance, Digital and Press teams collaborated to publicise the election of the new cohort of Fellows in July, which included publishing profiles of all 86 new Fellows on the Academy's website to coincide with the announcement. The team also worked with the Development, Fellowship & Governance and Finance

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teams, and an external web development agency to launch a new payment webpage enabling Fellows to pay their subscription fees more conveniently.

88. In August, the Digital and Publishing teams began working closely together to improve the online presence of the *Journal of the British Academy*. The teams collaborated to identify and prioritise improvements to the presentation and key functionality of the *Journal* on the Academy’s website, and developed a prototype template to enable the publication of longform *Journal* articles as webpages, which are better optimised for mobile devices, easier to navigate and more findable on search engines than the current approach of solely publishing articles as downloadable PDFs. Work on this functionality continues ahead of the *Journal*’s planned relaunch next year.
89. Between 1 July-15 October 2023, the Academy’s website was visited by 95k individual users, who generated 370k pageviews. Research funding schemes accounted for the highest proportion of traffic during this period, with Postdoctoral Fellowships (17.5k views by 10k individual users), Small Research Grants (14.5k views by 6.8k users) and ODA International Interdisciplinary Research Projects 2024 (8.2k views by 4.4k users) attracting particularly high engagement, while Mid-Career Fellowships, Global Professorships, Knowledge Frontiers, Innovation Fellowships (Route A – researcher-led) and Senior Research Fellowships were among the 20 most-visited pages on the website. The Academy’s response to the government’s proposals to cap student numbers on certain university courses generated notable engagement (3.2k views). The Fellows of the British Academy section (14.5k views) and the Academy’s events programme (2.6k views) continued to generate significant traffic.

To Inform and Enrich Debate Around Society’s Greatest Questions

Social and cultural infrastructure

90. An invitation to tender for research focused on the measurement of social and cultural infrastructure opened on 4 July and closed on 20 September. The tender has subsequently been awarded to researchers at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge.
91. The first in a series of roundtable discussions on *Valuing People, Places and Spaces* took place on 12 October. Each roundtable will explore social and cultural infrastructure in relation to different institutions, groups and practices. This first roundtable focused on universities and their contribution to social and cultural infrastructure. The roundtable was chaired by Dr Molly Morgan Jones and Professor Dominic Abrams FBA, and speakers included Professor Andy Westwood, University of Manchester, and Professor John Goddard, University of Newcastle.
92. A series of ten discussion papers have been commissioned and are currently undergoing drafting and a review process. The papers address the overarching

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question of how policy interventions can support the role of social and cultural infrastructures in strengthening the UK's social and cultural fabric. It is expected that the series will be published in late 2023.

93. As part of our collaboration with the Nuffield Foundation on *Understanding Communities*, an academic seminar was held on 12 October for project teams, titled *Understanding Communities: their assets, challenges and potential*. The event provided an opportunity to review the emerging findings from the projects, identify common themes, and consider how individually and together they might help us answer the central overarching question: What makes some communities stronger than others, and what role can they play in improving people's lives?

Sustainable Futures

94. The Academy published a [supplementary issue](#) of its *Journal* on the topic of 'Governance Factors on the Road to Net Zero', edited by Professor Hilary Graham FBA, Dr Victoria Hurth, Prof Andy Jordan FBA and Professor Tim O'Riordan FBA. The issue is a prequel to the publication of a synthesis report on the findings of Academy funded research into Net Zero governance, which is due for publication in early 2024.
95. The *Where we live next* programme's regional engagement events are underway, with the first having been held at the People's History Museum in Manchester on 29 September. Attendance included representatives from the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Natural England, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Transport for Greater Manchester, the National Trust, the Growth Academy, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, alongside other environmental, educational and cultural NGOs, and the business community. The next event will take place in Exeter on 6 November, followed by events in Wales and Scotland. All of the events make use of a collaborative workshop engagement tool (Ketso) that was created by Dr Joanne Tippett, one of the Academy's Innovation Fellows.
96. Following a direct request from DEFRA officials, the Academy is working alongside the Royal Society's policy team to support confidential engagement between DEFRA and a newly created Fellow's Land Use Review Group. The group is made up of a select group of Fellows of the British Academy and Royal Society with multi-disciplinary expertise. The purpose of the group is to provide advice on the current state and future development of their Land Use Research and Analysis Programme, which underpins the UK Government's upcoming Land Use Framework (due to be published by the end of this year). After several weeks of negotiation with DEFRA, seventeen Fellows, including seven FBAs, were asked to provide written feedback on papers. Ten of the Fellows, including three FBAs, were selected for a closed roundtable.

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Digital Society

97. The Academy has been engaging closely with the AI Safety Summit organised by the UK Government. The Academy hosted a pre-Summit event on 12 October organised with DSIT on the topic of ‘The possibilities of AI for the public good’, which was chaired by Professor Julia Black PBA with attendance and opening and closing remarks from the Minister for AI and Intellectual Property, Viscount Camrose. The Academy also hosted an AI summit fringe event on 30 October with UCL Public Policy on the topic of ‘The possibilities of AI for good work’, building on the previous joint BA-UCL programme on AI and Work. The Academy’s Lead Fellow on AI, Professor Helen Margetts FBA and CEO Hetan Shah attended the main Summit in Bletchley Park. A cross-Academies statement on AI has been drafted to be published by the four National Academies following the Summit.

98. The Academy has published an [extended note](#) of its roundtable discussion in December 2022 examining the role, achievements, and future of UK public service media for the digital society, held to mark the centenary of the BBC’s formation. The event was co-chaired by Professor Georgina Born OBE FBA, Professor Ian Christie FBA, Professor Sonia Livingstone FBA and Professor Robin Mansell FBA. The event also featured provocations from Lucy Crompton-Reid, Wikimedia UK and Bill Thompson, BBC.

99. The public policy team have organised a workshop series called SHAPEing the Digital Research Landscape co-led by Dr Kate Dommert and Dr Amy Orben, members of the Public Policy Committee. These workshops are focused on identifying ways to improve SHAPE researcher access to online data from digital media companies (Meta, Google, etc) that can be used for research and can help inform and address policy challenges. The first workshop will be held on Wednesday 1 November at the University of Sheffield in partnership with the [ESRC Digital Good Network](#) and the [Technology, Internet and Policy Group](#).

100. In April 2023, the British Academy announced that it would be funding three policy-focused research projects on the theme of ‘Technology and Inequality’ under its [Policy Insight Case Studies](#) scheme, with the aim of supporting researchers to draw on the SHAPE disciplines to highlight clear and practical lessons for policymakers at various levels. The project teams are in the process of writing up their findings and the Public Policy team has organised an online workshop, to be held on Tuesday 7 November 10am-12pm, which will provide an opportunity for the researchers to present their findings to policymakers working at central, regional, and local levels, alongside representatives from the wider policy community, academics, researchers, and British Academy Fellows.

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Governance, Trust and Voice

101. In January 2022 the British Academy was asked by the Prime Minister’s Council for Science and Technology to consider the interrelationships between science, trust and policymaking, with the aim of understanding and strengthening public trust in science for policymaking. The two research projects aimed to complement the existing evidence base using a range of methods including literature reviews, interviews, workshops, social media analysis, natural language processing, and conjoint survey experiments. They are now largely complete, and their findings (referenced throughout) will be made available alongside a final report, which is now fully drafted and will be submitted to the CST by the end of November 2023.
102. The call for the Innovation Fellowship Route Bs: Policy Led (Central Government) went live on 6 September. These Fellowships will allow successful applications to work for 12 months with central governments departments – the Cabinet Office; Culture, Media and Sport; and His Majesty’s Treasury and the Department for Business and Trade (the latter departments are jointly hosting a Fellow). It is expected that up to 9 Fellowships will be awarded. The call will run until 22 November, with interviews to be held around 31 January. The Fellowships will start on 31 March, but will be suspended until applicants have achieved the necessary security clearance. It is anticipated that the Fellows will properly begin work between March and May 2024.
103. The Academy continues to engage with government at all levels on the societal impact of Covid-19 and lessons for recovery. Dominic Abrams FBA and Adam Wright presented an update on the societal impact of Covid-19 since the *Covid Decade* project to the Covid 19 Public Inquiry Response Unit at the Cabinet Office on 2 August.

Economic Strategy

104. Following discussions earlier in the year between the British Academy, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and HM Treasury (HMT) around the possibility of organising a series of seminar discussions on the topic of UK economic and industrial strategy, on Thursday 14 September the Academy convened senior representatives from both departments, as well as British Academy Fellows and senior academics and researchers, for an initial agenda-setting discussion.
105. Engagement of both Fellows and officials at the event was excellent. Alongside the Permanent Secretary from DBT, second Permanent Secretary and Chief Economic Adviser at Treasury, we had a total of six Director Generals from the two departments along with two other senior officials. From the Academy side, six Fellows from a range of disciplines (Patricia Clavin, Anthony Venables, Julian Birkinshaw, Helen Margetts, Henrietta Moore and Dominic Abrams), and two senior researchers (Sandra McNally and Anna Valero) were present.

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106. The Academy is now exploring a suggested way forward based on setting up a series of smaller working groups, chaired by Fellows, who can begin to take the discussion forward on particular themes and topics that emerged from the initial discussion. We have now reached out to Fellows to begin setting up these working groups and start having some deeper conversations.

Policy histories

107. The Health Policy History is in the final stages of its development prior to publication. An in-person seminar, to be held on 29 November, will launch the Policy History. Policymakers, members of the Steering Group, and other relevant academic experts will be invited. Alongside the main seminar, we are exploring the possibility of holding smaller meetings with policymakers and some of the authors of the Health Policy History.

108. Following discussions at the July meeting of Public Policy Committee, it was decided that a Regional Development Policy History would be the next instalment in the Academy's *Policy Histories* series. Professor Ron Martin (FBA) is the lead Fellow on this work and is currently working with the Public Policy Team to recruit suitable chapter authors from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Each author will contribute a short chapter of c. 4000 words to the Policy History. The aim is for a first draft of a Regional Development Policy History to be ready by spring 2024.

To Ensure Sustained International Engagement and Collaboration

109. The fifth round of funding under the [Global Professorships](#) programme launched in July 2023, with a closing date for applications of 1 November. The total amount of funding available per award remains at £900,000 and it is expected that the Academy will be able to make up to eight awards in this round of the competition.

110. The ninth round of the [Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects](#) programme opened for applications in July 2023. The deadline is 1 November 2023. Unlike previous years, the current round has no thematic focus. Rather, it aims to support projects that will foster international collaborations between early career researchers (those within 7 years of the award of their PhD) both in the UK and internationally. Projects will run for two years, and these are expected to begin in March-April 2024. Awards are up to £300,000 in value and must demonstrate interdisciplinary research integrating both the humanities and the social sciences. As in previous years, this round of the programme is supported by the UK's Department for Science, Innovation & Technology. In addition, further funding has been provided by the UK's International Science Partnerships Fund (a fund from DSIT). This additional funding is focused on enabling UK-based early-career researchers to work with other early-career researchers in the USA, Japan, Switzerland, South Korea, India, Israel, and Canada.

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111. Building on the long-running *Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects*, a new call – *ODA International Interdisciplinary Research Projects* – was launched in August 2023. The aim of this call is to support international collaborations between early career researchers in the UK and in Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam and/or Least Developed Countries on internationally focused ODA-eligible research projects of an interdisciplinary nature involving the humanities and social sciences. There are no themes to this call other than that the research must be ODA-eligible. These awards are also for up to £300,000 over two years and are expected to begin in March–April 2024. This call is supported by the UK’s International Science Partnerships Fund managed by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. The deadline for applications to this programme is 1 November 2023.
112. A new round of *International Writing Workshops* was launched in September 2023, with a deadline for applications of 6 December. These workshops aim to stimulate professional networks, develop research partnerships, encourage skills development, provide advice on career development and promote the uptake of research emanating from developing countries. This programme is also funded under ISPF and is ODA-eligible, meaning that it is focused on enabling UK-based researchers to work with early career researchers in Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam and/or Least Developed Countries. Awards of up to £30,000 and two years in duration are available.
113. The *Education Research in Conflict and Crisis – Bilateral Research Chairs* knowledge systems strengthening programme, in partnership with the FCDO, is well underway, with all three Chairs now in progress. The International Team is planning to bring the Chairs together in November via a short online session to allow them to introduce their work to one another and make connections to facilitate shared learning across the remainder of the programme. The Foreign Secretary and Vice-President, Professor Simon Goldhill FBA, will attend and chair this meeting.
114. The Academy has launched the latest round of the *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Postdoctoral Fellowships*, which provides funding for early career postdoctoral researchers to conduct cooperative research in Japan, with leading research groups in Japanese universities and other institutions, under the guidance of a Japanese host. The British Academy acts as an overseas nominating authority for this scheme, which is funded entirely by JSPS, and in this capacity runs one call each year. The deadline for applications is 13 December 2023.
115. On 16 September 2023 the Academy submitted a response to the Government’s call for evidence to inform their upcoming [UK international development white paper](#). This response seeks to inform the government’s approach to development to 2030 on issues including education, peace building and conflict prevention, global migration and sustainable growth.

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116. The Academy continues to work with the [Council for At-Risk Academics \(Cara\)](#), the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Academy of Medical Sciences on the maintenance of the [Researchers at Risk Fellowship](#) scheme. There are currently 179 awards across 71 institutions, covering the natural sciences, medical and health sciences, engineering, humanities, social sciences and the arts. The Academy invited award holders to participate in a number of public engagements, including the meeting of the Global Research Council, ALLEA General Assembly, British Academy Summer Showcase, Cara’s 90th Anniversary, and virtual seminars.
117. In May 2023, the Academy, in partnership with Cara and the Leverhulme Trust awarded a further four [British Academy/ Cara/ Leverhulme Researchers at Risk Research Support Grants](#) to existing Researcher at Risk and Cara Fellows as part of the second submission round. Projects were funded across the humanities, social, and physical sciences with research on ‘Space Security Dimensions’ and ‘Detailed active faults mapping and seismic hazard assessment in Afghanistan using satellite images’. The third round of the British Academy/Cara/Leverhulme Research Support Grants opened on Friday 7 July, with a submission deadline of 27 September 2023.
118. The Final Awards Panel for the new round of [International Fellowships](#) took place on Thursday 22 June 2023, chaired by the Foreign Secretary & Vice-President along with Panel Members Professor Patrick Haggard FBA, Professor Christopher Pinney FBA, Professor Georgina Waylen FBA, and Professor Amy Bogaard FBA. The Panel recommended [15 awards](#) for funding. All award holders will start between 1 October 2023-31 March 2024 and will receive three years of funding at 80% FEC.
119. As part of their awards, those British Academy Newton International Fellows who complete their award and do not remain in the UK are eligible to receive alumni follow-on funding to support networking activities with UK-based researchers. The 2023 round was launched on 13 September with the deadline for applications on 11 October. The successful applicants may use their funding of up to £6,000 for a duration of 18 months from December 2023 onwards.
120. Working with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Academy held the 4th UK-Germany Frontiers of Humanities Symposium on the theme of ‘What is a good city?’. The Symposium aimed to incentivise and establish international engagement and collaboration between early career researchers from Germany and the United Kingdom from a broad range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences, encouraging the exchange of ideas across both disciplinary and national boundaries and supporting the development of bilateral, international research collaborations. Following the symposium, the Academy made 5 seed funding awards to support research collaboration.
121. The Academy held a reception on 18 September with the President of the European Research Council, Professor Maria Leptin, to mark association to Horizon Europe.

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Attendees included the Academy President, Helen Wallace (S5), Aditi Lahiri (H4), Ash Amin (S3), Roger Kain (S3), Sir Richard Catlow CBE FRS as well as, Cyril Robin-Champigneul, Head of the Economic and Trade Affairs Section, EU Delegation to the UK, as well as representatives from the French Embassy and other national academies.

122. The Academy published another special issue from showcasing research supported via the International Team. [Gender and Violent Extremism](#) (ed Dr Sahla Aroussi and Professor Fatuma Ahmed Ali) includes a selection of articles by academics and practitioners, mostly from the Global South, focusing on gender and violent extremism particularly in the context of East Africa.
123. The Academy submitted a response on 16 September to the UK International development white paper call for evidence, which seeks to inform the Government's approach to development to 2030 on issues including education, peace building and conflict prevention, global migration and sustainable growth.
124. The Academy held a series of activities on 12 October as part of its *Global Perspectives Series* with Professor Şevket Pamuk FBA (H3) and chaired by the Foreign Secretary and Vice-President for International. Professor Pamuk took part in a seminar where he introduced a forthcoming paper together. The seminar was followed by a public event titled ["Turkey's economy, what happened, and what next?" as well as a high-level dinner](#). Participants included Fellows of the Academy Professor Roderick Beaton FBA (H6, H8), Professor Stephen Broadberry (S2), Professor Sarah Birch (S5) as well as award holders.

To make the most of our people, partnerships and resources to secure the Academy for the future

'By Fellows for Fellows' Events

125. Following a very well received series of talks in October 2022, we held a second week of 'By Fellows for Fellows' events preceding Sections week (6-10 March 2023). Held online due to the building work and in response to feedback from Fellows that not everyone can travel to London, these covered a range of topics including Byzantine studies, the history of Ukraine/Russia relationships and how education can tackle inequality. Overall, we had just over 100 bookings across the week including Corresponding Fellows attending from Vienna, USA, Holland, Turkey, France and India.
126. The second week of in-person events took place in October 2023 with many of the new Fellows attending the discussions which were held in the same week as the New Fellows Ceremony. This year for the first time we successfully trialled a new version of the Presidents Reception during Engagement Week for Fellows and British Academy PDF researchers. The format of these well received Fellows-led discussions

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will be reviewed in light of the possibilities that will be provided by the new building spaces.

Carlton House Terrace

127. Over the Summer period the Facilities team has successfully delivered the refurbishment program to the Wolfson auditorium and main entrance to our building and the relocations of various internal departments to accommodate growth withing teams.
128. During the winter period a program of refurbishments works will be focused to other areas on the Ground floor events spaces ahead of the building reopening in 2024. We will also continue with LED lighting upgrades to public spaces in the Mezzanine and Second floors.
129. New energy efficiency technology has been introduced to our heating system with the introduction of new Inverter driven pumps which will reduce consumption between 40-60 %, in turn reduce our overall CO2 emissions.
130. Works to upgrade lighting systems to fire scape stairwells and public areas on the 3rd floor with new LED fittings have now been completed.
131. The Facilities Team in partnership with CITATION continues to undertake routinely inspection of construction areas ensuring the main contractor is adhering to H&S regulation and meeting construction standards during the Basement project.
132. The team is continuously ensuring the maintenance regime for the Academy is to the highest standard and is working in conjunction with ARTIC Building Services to provide the Mechanical & Electrical Services for Academy.
133. We continue to support staff working from home and in the building conducting Self-Assessments forms, ensuring physical environment and adequate Display Equipment is assessed in line with our legal requirements.
134. The Facilities team in collaboration with other Academy departments is reviewing requirements ahead of the reopening of the building following the completion of the Basement project.
135. The Clio team delivered a busy autumn and Christmas period of events ahead of the building closing and took advantage of the changed building programme to maximise revenue in this period. With activity limited due to the building works the total generated funds can be safely projected as nearly £1.9 million.

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136. Over this period the business mix continued to be varied with corporate clients including Cunard, Nordic Capital, The Government of Jersey and the Board of Deputies of British Jews where we hosted Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
137. The return to Christmas parties was strong after 2 years of Covid disruption. 18 were hosted from late November to the middle of December, matching our pre Covid 2019 total. Clients included Mill Hill School, KPMG, Politico and Koch Industries.
138. The filming and wedding business remains consistent with five bookings respectively over this period, including shoots for fashion brands Next and Asos.
139. With the building at 10-11 Carlton House Terrace now closed to events, from January 2023-May 2023, the team are focussed on projects to ensure a successful reopening in May and launch of the new spaces in spring 2024. This work includes achieving a second sustainability accreditation, implementing an EDI policy, completing an approved supplier tender along with database and reporting improvements.

People Strategy

140. The Strategy is being refreshed to take account of the new Strategic Plan. In the meantime, people and workforce highlights for the period June 2023 to October 2023 include:
- As at 16 October 2023, staff numbers were up to 140, with an additional 3 staff on maternity or shared parental leave. Recruitment has continued to be significant with a further 24 roles being filled. Voluntary rolling turnover in October was 10.2%.
 - The Remuneration Committee has approved proposals for changes to the pay structure following a review and consultation with staff. The changes will be implemented with effect from 1 October 2023.
 - The annual Staff Survey will be issued in November following consultation with the Staff Engagement Forum on minor changes to the questions.
 - Following discussions with the Prospect trade union, we have agreed to hold a staff ballot on voluntary union recognition; this remains pending following Prospect's decision to make a formal request under the statutory process.
 - The Academy is applying for a Home Office licence to enable us to provide sponsorship under the Skilled Worker Visa route.
 - We have continued to hold quarterly workforce planning sessions with SMT, to help identify strategic workforce issues in the short, medium and long-term.

Securing Fundraising Income for the Academy's Strategic Priorities

141. In 2022/23, the British Academy raised £5.1 million (vs £2.6 million last year or +137%). We are projecting philanthropic income for 2023/24 to grow to £9.1M, driven primarily by capital income. Outside of the building project we have negotiated increased long-term funding from the Leverhulme Trust for the Small

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Research Grants Programme and Senior Research Fellowships and secured new funding for the Researchers at Risk Programme. In August we also confirmed news of a grant of \$50,000 from a new supporter based in the United the States, the Hawthornden Foundation, to support the British Academy Book Prize over a two-year period.

142. Fundraising for the capital appeal remains the top priority for the team – we continue to work on major donor leads and are submitting applications and proposals on a regular basis. With a total project cost of £9.6 million and philanthropic funds of £8 million secured to date, there remains £1.6 million left to raise. Whilst the outstanding amount can be underwritten by the Strategic Development Fund it remains a priority to narrow the gap.
143. We continue with raising funds for our Public appeal to Fellows and friends, which aims to secure £500,000 towards the fundraising target. All Fellows have been asked to support this once-in-a-generation project. Funds raised will transform the Academy’s home on Carlton House Terrace creating fully accessible and tech-enabled event spaces. £174,000 has been raised to date and we plan to close the fundraising by the Summer Showcase in July 2024.
144. Other fundraising priorities including the British Academy Book Prize, the Researchers at Risk programme, the Early Career Researcher Network and the Summer Showcase/New Public Events Programme.
145. We also continue to speak with Fellows who are considering leaving a gift in their Will to the Academy. More information, including on the free will-writing options the Academy offers, is available on our website: thebritishacademy.ac.uk/support-us/legacies/. If you would like to leave a gift for a specific purpose, or to discuss your plans confidentially please contact Jennifer Hawton (j.hawton@thebritishacademy.ac.uk or 020 7969 5258).
146. The Development team continues to run strategic in-person events to cultivate and engage prospective and current donors. In August and September we hosted two virtual events with EY and the Small Research Grant Award holders that they fund in AI/Technology. We hosted the Mond Circle tea in October, recognising and thanking all those who have pledged to leave a gift to the Academy in their Will. We hosted a dinner with 2023 shortlisted authors for the British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding on 30 October. We are also planning for a stewardship programme for all donors to the building project with the first taking place on 7 December – a plaque unveiling acknowledging The Wolfson Foundation for their £10 million gift to the Academy.
147. The Development Board, Chaired by Sir Victor Blank, postponed its June meeting and met on 31 October. The Acceptance of Funds Group, Chaired by John Shakeshaft

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(external), did meet over the Summer to consider prospective donors to the Academy and will continue to meet bi-monthly.

148. We continue to steward the Academy’s donors through a number of mechanisms including regular meetings, personal contact, engagement through events and reporting specific to their giving. We recently sent out our first capital newsletter which went out donors to the appeal to update them on progress on the project to-date and had 67% open rate and 33% click rate.