

7 BA/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowships 2018-19 Awarded

Reference: SRF19\190028

Project Title: Southern imagining: a literary history of the far southern hemisphere

Applicant: Professor Elleke Boehmer

Organisation: University of Oxford, Professor of World Literature in English, English Faculty

Value Awarded: £54,908.66

Brief Description:

Southern Imagining is a major literary-historical study of southern perception that explores responses to the early legends of the so-called forbidding, far southern hemisphere by its modern writers, including Borges, Coetzee, Orsman, Schreiner, White, and Wright. The project substantially revises postcolonial, transnational, and comparative frameworks to consider the countervailing perspectives that a range of southern writing from 1850, settler and indigenous, offers to northern imaginative norms, including that of the 'Global South'. The project is the first postcolonial study to consider the field from antipodean viewpoints, plot southern preoccupations in common, and challenge perceptions of the world's apparently isolated 'outer margins'. The study expands my comparative research into 19th- and 20th-century southern histories of empire and cross-border connection, to look in greater depth at how southern worlds are often imagined in relation to each other, and how they speak back from marginal positions in interconnected though also distinctive ways.

Reference: SRF19\190146

Project Title: Traditional and Ancient Animal Husbandry in the Mediterranean

Applicant: Professor Paul Halstead

Organisation: University of Sheffield, Professor of Archaeology, Department of Archaeology

Value Awarded: £47,801.00

Brief Description:

An SRF is requested to enable writing of a monograph, based on original ethnographic and oral-historical fieldwork and devoted to analysis of 'traditional' animal husbandry and consumption in Mediterranean Europe and their use as analogical sources of insight into ancient precursors in the same region. Modelled on an earlier and well received monograph devoted to similar analysis of traditional and ancient crop production, the study will explore variation in traditional treatment of animals and their products through the life-cycle from birth to slaughter and consumption and then through inter-annual and inter-generational timescales. The concluding chapter will explore the pitfalls and potential of using traditional practice as a guide to the distant past, while preceding chapters will include exemplar applications of traditional analogues to ancient case studies. The fieldwork, on which the monograph will be based, will be complete before the proposed start of the SRF.

Reference: SRF19\190031

Project Title: Philosophy, philosophizing, and the philosopher in 18th-century Britain

Applicant: Professor James Harris

Organisation: University of St Andrews, Professor of Philosophy and Head of the Department of Philosophy

Value Awarded: £56,107.00

Brief Description:

Work that I have done over the past 15 years has convinced me that there are many significant and not yet properly defined differences between philosophy as it was practised in eighteenth-century Britain and philosophy as it is practised now. These differences tend to be ignored in standard history of philosophy, probably because such history tends to be written by philosophers who are disposed to focus on similarities and continuities between the philosophy of the past and the philosophy of the present. I believe that historical investigation is needed to determine what, exactly, philosophy was in Britain in the eighteenth century. What were its goals? Who did it, and why? How was it done? What was its social role? These are the questions that my research is intended to answer.

Reference: SRF19\190052

Project Title: Literature, Bodies, and Machines: Networks of Improvement, 1780-1840

Applicant: Professor Jon Mee

Organisation: University of York, Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Department of English and Related Literature

Value Awarded: £53,745.00

Brief Description:

The early period of the British 'industrial revolution' usually figures in literary studies, if at all, as the negative pole against which the creativity of romanticism is defined. Equally, key provincial towns such as Manchester are rarely mentioned in romantic-period literary geography. But the physician-poet John Aikin's Description of the country for Thirty to Forty Miles around Manchester (1795) saw in Manchester the 'beating heart' of a new kind of body politic. For Aikin and his peers, 'genius' was an attribute equally applicable to the inventions of engineers and poets. My project looks at the region in this period as a 'transpennine enlightenment' wherein the appetite for improvement comprised both literary and scientific innovation. Its broadly materialist idea of enlightenment, invested in reforming character through environment, produced a complex dialectic of new forms of discipline, shaped by the machine, and liberal ideas of human emancipation.

Reference: SRF19\190163

Project Title: The Pains and Pleasures of Interpersonal Self-Consciousness

Applicant: Professor Lucy O'Brien

Organisation: University College London, Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department

Value Awarded: £52,829.13

Brief Description:

The pains and pleasures of a human life are closely tied to our consciousness of ourselves as the focus of consciousness of others. The project aims to develop an account of interpersonal self-consciousness, and to understand what it is for us to suffer from, or delight in, consciousness of ourselves in the eyes of another. Can we be too self-conscious? Can we be not self-conscious enough? How do we respond to a surfeit or lack?

To give an account of interpersonal self-consciousness is not easy: such self consciousness demands both a doubling of standpoints - me and my

observer - and an integrated single intersubjective structure. The project seeks to make sense of what interpersonal self-consciousness is, to show that self-consciousness comes both in degrees, and in kinds, and to understand how human beings relate to, and aim practically to control, their own social self-consciousness.

Reference: SRF19\190094

Project Title: Early Scottish Uses of European Humanism

Applicant: Dr Nicola Royan

Organisation: University of Nottingham, Associate Professor in Older Scots, School of English, Faculty of Arts

Value Awarded: £53,837.97

Brief Description:

The intellectual movement of European humanism, loosely defined as the rediscovery of classical texts from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries, had a profound effect on European culture. Scotland was no exception: engagement with reading, writing and translating Latin, and reflecting humanist concerns in vernacular writing, is evident from the late fifteenth century. While there are previous focused studies, there has been no attempt to examine early Scottish humanism as a whole. This study explores the uses of humanism and its particular forms in Scottish literary culture in both Latin and in Scots, from c. 1484 to c.1552, to consider its problematic relationship with Protestantism, and its enabling by print. This study is particularly timely: I am at a point where I can address the breadth of this topic and where the value of European culture to the constituent countries of the United Kingdom is hotly contested.

Reference: SRF19\190069

Project Title: Wheatcroft's Written Worlds: Non-Elite Writing in Seventeenth-Century England

Applicant: Professor Susan Wiseman

Organisation: Birkbeck, University of London, Professor of Seventeenth-Century Literature and Culture, English and Humanities, School of Arts

Value Awarded: £52,673.00

Brief Description:

'Wheatcroft's Written Worlds' asks what work is done by non-elite writing in seventeenth-century England, and what methods can we use to investigate that? In response, it starts from its core archive of the Wheatcroft family and especially texts (and objects) produced by the seventeenth-century provincial writer, tailor, parish clerk, gardener and teacher, Leonard Wheatcroft. It will address both methodological issues of how to approach, recover and integrate non-elite writing and analyse hitherto neglected print and archival resources in Derbyshire and London. Taking non-elite as below upper gentry, non-university educated men and women, it tests the hypotheses that this group of writers were diverse and complexly engaged in culture; that non-elite writing subjects lead us rapidly to issues of concern to wider culture and, therefore, offer not only a productive but an essential set of perspectives to the understanding of wider culture, and that elite and non-elite illuminate one another.

1 Thank-Offering to Britain Fellowship

Reference: SRF19\190047

Project Title: Global Displacement in the 21st Century: Towards an Ethical Framework

Applicant: Professor Phillip Cole

Organisation: University of the West of England, Bristol, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, Department of Health and Social Sciences

Value Awarded: £25,821.00

Brief Description:

This project is about forced displacement, and so it covers the 'traditional' topic of the refugee, but it also covers those displaced persons who do not fit into the definition of the refugee, and so are rarely discussed within global ethics or political theory. The internally displaced, the stateless, the climate displaced, and the economically displaced, all face challenges, and many have what are called 'refugee-type' experiences, but they have few if any legal protections. The aim is to arrive at an ethical framework for understanding these forms of displacement and what makes an ethical response to them. And so the project brings these displaced people within the scope of moral and political theory for the first time, and it does so within the context of a distinctive approach to global political theory, Radical Realism, and so engages in the latest developments in this field to address these urgent questions.