

A Centre for Advanced Study in the University of Cambridge

Annual Review 2021

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### Editor's Note



It has been a pleasure to edit the 2021 Review Warm thanks to Katherine Selby and Jess Mackenzie for their help, and to Cameron Design and Marketing for their marvellous design.

Photo credits: thanks to Tobias Baldauf, Emily Goodacre, Timo Haber, Abhisheka Krishnagopal, Loïc Lannelongue, Jeremy Peters, Trudi Tate, Marlo van der Maas, Elina Ziukelis. Graduation and matriculation photos by Jeremy Peters @jezpete.

**Trudi Tate** Emeritus Fellow, Editor



# President's Letter

I start to write this on the fifth day of extraordinarily beautiful spring weather in Cambridge amidst trees coming into leaf and carpets of wildflowers. It all augurs well for the future. Through the most awful times we have discovered just how resilient Clare Hall is as a college and as a global community.

The College has made full use of the University's unique asymptomatic testing regime for the virus and has recorded very few cases in College accommodation throughout the entire period. One of the terrifying scenarios we discussed with the Bursar a year ago was a 'ghost college' through 2020-21 with no students or visiting academics to speak of. It reminded me of my involuntary stay as a sixteenyear-old schoolboy in a bleak Soviet isolation fever hospital in a forest somewhere outside Moscow on a school trip that could have gone better! But far from it, the College has never had less than half of its enrolled students in residence, many staying where they are of their own volition for very sensible practical reasons. Our Visiting Fellows drew their stays with us to a premature end in most cases but are already booked to return from the summer.



Our Domestic Bursar, Harry Joseph, who may have hoped for a calmer life after his regimental logistics duties, found anything but, brilliantly and imaginatively introduced all our covid-19 safe

Harry Joseph

protocols and procedures which seem so normal to us now. For instance: transforming the Dining Hall into a takeaway restaurant with many thanks to Claire Clarke leading our caterer Wilson Vale for the sheer ambition of their bagged-up three-course meals, seven days a week; the one-way routes; the making of safe working environments for Porters, Housekeepers and the Catering team; the bubbles; furloughing staff rotas; the safe comings and goings of students. Not to mention the posting of returners into isolation accommodation to protect both them and the bubbled households they will return into, and much more.

National policies and guidance have changed, sometimes at dizzying speed, and the College has responded swiftly but cautiously. Throughout, it has maintained its policy of isolating returners for ten days pending test outcomes to protect shared households, and a heartening tradition emerged in which each incoming Visiting Fellow received their lunch delivered by the previous isolating occupant.

The Graduate Student Body responded to the 'new normal' with flair and imagination, plundering the internet for useful apps for social interaction, quizzes, games, exercise, yoga, painting and drawing. Simone Eringfield's MPhil project 'Quaranchats' were singled out by the University's Communications team. But the entertainments were not all digital – an impressive lending library of board games built up in our Japanese cloister court, so oversubscribed that there was a Bumpslike sequential booking system over the days and weeks. Additionally, Dr Bipasha Chakraborty, Research Fellow in Sciences, ran a series of free Kathak classes for College members in springtime, which were very well attended.

The GSB Finance Officer Megan Robinson edited a delightful magazine record of lockdown life titled *Distancing*, and the GSB marked LGBTQ+ History Month with flag-flying and raising awareness of the Clare Hall Gender Expression Fund.

The College also set up its very own allotment initiative, led by Sarah Gough, a PhD candidate from the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. We were delighted to see many members join in on its initial planting. Stephen Bourne, our former Vice-President, very kindly donated funds to enable the initiative to purchase a handsome shed, which has inspired even higher levels of interest in the project.

The Tutors have appropriated the 'Wonder' app to enable Fellows and students to digitally meet on the lawn outside Elmside where the sun always shone. Tutors have been busy supporting students remotely through this unusual year, while continuing



their duties of admissions, research funding, and much else.

Of course, remote engagement has taken a little practice, but all College meetings are Zoomed, and attendance has been excellent. In response to our Fellow Commoner Paul Mulvaney's enthusiastic



lobbying for live-streaming equipment, the Music Committee has achieved remarkably high-quality transmissions, despite the odd hiccup, just as BBC outside broadcasters experience. At the time of writing there have already been fantastic recitals and concerts, as described in the music reports elsewhere in the *Review*. Audience numbers are now of a different order of magnitude, 550 plus, with the recordings made available after the event. We imagine our future will evolve into a combination of live events with audiences in situ, streamed to audiences worldwide without the limits of travel or venue capacity. The Clare Hall Choir has been meeting virtually throughout the pandemic and has delighted audiences online with a series of beautifully-performed songs, including one written by their Director, Ben de Souza. These can be found on Clare Hall's YouTube channel. Our Art Committee has also presented a pair of fascinating talks – one 'Arctic: Climate and Culture', featuring



Professor Peter Wadhams, Sara Wheeler and Maria Pia Wadhams; and the second discussing art and travel with artist Mark Cazalet.

We managed to host one formal dinner in the false dawn before the second lockdown – the annual dinner for newlyappointed Heads of Colleges and their mentor Heads in mid-December. Our chef Luigi and the catering team staged a truly magnificent feast for ten Masters and Presidents around the largest table I have ever seen to keep us all two metres apart. Our new Head Porter Neil Lavender was transformed from a senior police officer into the persona of omniscient head concierge ruling over one of the great hotels. Our guests were simply overjoyed to eat and drink with other human beings after nine months of isolation. Patrick Hemmerlé entertained us on the Steinway.

We have a number of new regular porters: we welcome Neil Lavender, Head Porter, Kerry Cooper, Robin Waters, and Lydia Devonport, while commending George Cousins on his appointment to Senior Porter. We wish our former Head Porter Andy Taylor a very happy and welldeserved retirement. The Housekeeping team this year has been overseen by Terri Lewis and Melanie Siddall, each of whom has demonstrated a huge commitment to the College and strong aptitude for change management. The Vice-President, Helen Pennant and I led a review of the College's outwardfacing activities through the summer of 2020, inviting external commentaries from colleagues in Oxford, Life Members, external marketing agencies and design consultancies. The outcome was a template for a new President's Office offering a seamless service to the College and all its supporters. It comprises a new Communications and Marketing Manager and we welcome to the role Katherine Selby who joins us from the University Careers Service; as well as a new Alumni Manager, Jess Mackenzie from St John's College. We were all very sad to say farewell to our College Registrar Amanda Barclay in January, who



has been elected a Special Associate of the College. We look forward to welcoming a new College Registrar and Alumni Relations Administrator to

Katherine Selby

complete the President's Office team later in 2021.

We have a new full time Senior Tutor, Dr Holly Hedgeland, a research physicist and Fellow of Robinson College, who is also currently manager of the vast Open University Tutorial Office. Dr lain Black, her predecessor, stepped down after eight







years as Senior Tutor with our profound thanks as he joins the ranks of Emeritus Fellows. Thanks also to Assistant Senior Tutor Dr Trudi Tate who has retired after 20 years as a Tutor. She will continue to be active in College as an Emeritus Fellow and Editor of the *Review*. In all the restructuring, we said farewell to Marie Janson as Development Director and to our Development Officer, Catherine Wise, with grateful thanks for all of their contributions.

The College Fellowship is extremely distinguished, yet modest in number. One of the most rewarding tasks available to the President is to initiate the search for new Fellows. Two new very eminent Fellows have recently joined us: Dr Madeline Lancaster, neuroscientist at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology whose team has been growing brain organoids to illuminate fundamental evolutionary processes much touted in the world's press. We also welcome Professor Stuart Dalziel, fluid mechanics experimentalist from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, Director of the Batchelor Laboratory and College Director of Studies in Mathematics, nurturing our Part III candidates with major successes.

The College elected two new Associates: Professor Sandra Suarez, Political Scientist from Temple University, who will joins the Judge Business School for the Easter Terms, and Henrietta Ward, Curator of Paintings at the Fitzwilliam Museum with a special interest in Dutch and Flemish Golden Age paintings. The competition for Research Fellowships at Clare Hall is ferocious and numbers are strictly limited.We are delighted to welcome Giulia Maltagliati in Classics, Ryan Nehring in History and Philosophy of Science, Kelly Fagan Robinson in Anthropology, Gustav Zamore in History, Anthony Harris in Medieval Computus, Science Research Fellow Juan Rodriguez-Molina and Needham Research Fellow Jingyi Jenny Zhao. Sincere thanks to the

Fellows who work so hard on the selection committees.

Very sadly we record the deaths of our great friend and colleague, the polymath Professor John Barrow; Emeritus Fellow Professor Nicholas Lash; our great benefactor Professor Donald King and his wife Dr Mary Elizabeth King. I was very honoured to be invited to say a few words about John Barrow in a live-streamed celebration of the staging of his prize-winning play Infinities (first performed in 2002). We were very sorry to learn in June of the death of the Right Reverend Carolyn Tanner Irish, Tenth Bishop Of The Episcopal Diocese of Utah and Honorary Fellow of Clare Hall, who will be much missed.

The Tanner, Ashby and King lectures were all postponed for 2021, but there are exciting plans for 2022. We are thrilled that Professor Susan Neiman, philosopher and Director of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, is set to deliver the Ashby Lecture on 28 April 2022. Clare Hall's Tanner Committee is planning what we hope will be a very important event in February 2022, a safe space in which to debate the various passionately held positions about the best structures for delivering healthcare in a global context.

We have little idea of what 2021-22 will bring, but we know for certain that the warmth, comradeship and loyalty of our Clare Hall community will protect the essence of the College from near anything it might encounter. I do so look forward to seeing you all again in the coming year.

# Alan Short

President





# From the Domestic Bursar Harry Joseph

Academically, Clare Hall is a renowned centre of excellence, highly selective in its students and Fellows, a bastion of education and research. Paradoxically, from an operational perspective we are either an unknown blackspot (Top Tip: to find Herschel Road, ask for Robinson College), or regarded as small and lacking in resources compared with other colleges. The past year has proven the College is neither lacking nor overmatched, and that sometimes less is more.

In every aspect of this challenging year, the College has more than risen to meet the occasion. From the exodus of March-April 2020 and the repositioning of College members for the uncertain situation ahead, through the first national lockdown, furlough, working-from-home, Nature reclaiming the grounds over the summer, organising returns of belongings prior to the arrival of new students, and the incremental progress towards reopening under the restrictions of a given week, Clare Hall has not just weathered the storm but actively charted a course through choppy waters.

Though outside assistance in the form of the University-led Asymptomatic Testing Scheme has undoubtedly provided huge reassurance and hastened us down the road to reopening, none of the above would have been possible without a few core Clare Hall components: geography, staffing, and community. As a College committed to hosting Visiting Fellows the College – perhaps uniquely – holds a healthy stock of standalone on-site flats, which were quickly repurposed to provide isolation accommodation for incoming members from Michaelmas Term 2021. The net result has been win-win: the tighter the travel restriction, the more capacity College has to provide this accommodation; the looser the restriction, the less the need. In terms of resources, Clare Hall performed well against the odds not in spite of its small size but because of it.

However, far and away our greatest asset this year has been the College community: students, Fellows, staff, and other members have shown wonderful collective resilience in the chaos. That the College was able to facilitate the smooth arrival of so many during Michaelmas Term, and that so many even wished to come to Cambridge at such a turbulent time, is credit to their boldness and the College capacity to ensure provision of a high-level service. That we endured two full terms of asymptomatic testing without a covid outbreak and with far fewer reported rule breaches than any other college is testament to the community spirit fostered and enjoyed here. Meanwhile, initiatives and



endeavours from a range of interested parties have ensured Clare Hall stays active internally and externally. The introduction of a sixbed allotment garden at West Court, the production of live-streamed concerts from the Dining Hall, and the creation of a seven-day takeaway service would simply not have been possible without great efforts from many interested and passionate individuals.

College operations are a mostly thankless task since smooth running goes largely unnoticed. Thus, my perspective on the year's crowning achievements is probably different to that of the average College member. Across the board, it is an understatement to say I am supremely impressed with the calibre and volume of staff output this year. Sincere thanks to all the staff for their tremendous efforts.

Despite this positivity, and some small steps towards reopening, the first quarter of 2021 has proven difficult for those in College weathering yet another extended lockdown, and the haphazard progress taken by ever-changing Government rules. I feel it is only fitting to end a report on such a year with a look ahead at the positive changes we all hope are on the horizon, some of which may even have taken place by the time this goes to print: the wider reopening of the pool to all; a return to using indoor spaces as mixed groups; the continuation of the Asymptomatic Testing Scheme; a more functional and attractive College as a result of investment in aesthetics and practical improvements across our site.

Clare Hall – as a College and community – has consistently adapted and overcome during an intensely difficult year. I am personally grateful to all College members who have given their support, understanding, and frequent offers of advice or ideas to enable the progress made on our return to business as usual, but not business as before.

### Harry Joseph

Domestic Bursar



# Bursar's Report

The last eighteen months have presented many challenges for us all. In this, my 2021 Report, the task is to share with you how the College has responded to the financial challenges of the pandemic, and the impact on our accounts, and on our future financial resilience. As we closed the books on the year ended 30 June 2020, we were beginning to notice the effects of the March 2020 lockdown. Many students had returned home, vacating their accommodation, and although we were one of the few colleges to keep our kitchens open throughout, providing a much appreciated take out service, the Dining Hall was closed. And our small summer conference and events activity was cancelled. The loss of rental and catering income for the period from March 2020 to June 2020 was in excess of £260,000. Traditionally the budget for the following financial year is considered by the Finance Committee in May, for presentation and approval by the Governing Body in June. In 2020, however, the Bursar held his hands up and admitted that it was just not possible to come up with meaningful financial information given the uncertainty. The summer was spent working on a number of iterations of the budget, and a number of scenarios for income and expenditure, ranging from assumptions of 'rapid recovery', through 'extended lockdown' and 'repeated waves' to 'global gloom'. Finally a budget for 2020-21, showing a considerable deficit, was approved by the Governing Body in November 2020.

The most significant impact on the College has been the loss of income from accommodation. Student occupancy has been at 50%, against a target of 90%. We have also experienced a significant loss of income from our Visiting Fellow accommodation and guest rooms, with occupancy at 20%. Many Visiting Fellows deferred or cancelled their time in Cambridge. We have always known the huge contribution that our Visiting Fellowship makes to the life and spirit of the College. In the last year we have really understood the financial contribution that they make as well.

To put some numbers to the narrative, in 2019 our income from rents and related charges was  $\pounds 1,660,100$  and in 2020 reduced to  $\pounds 1,406,000$ . For the year to 30 June 2021 the comparative figure is  $\pounds 1,028,00$ .

In response to these reductions in income, we took what measures we could to reduce discretionary expenditure, but the College has always been a relatively lean, efficient operation and there are constraints on cost cutting without damaging the fabric of the College and the quality of services and support provided to our students, Fellows, guests and members. Fortunately, the reduced occupancy and lower levels of activity in College in 2020-21 have also reduced certain of our administrative costs in line with the reductions in income.

So it is not all bad news, in fact we have been more fortunate than a number of other colleges, particularly those where undergraduate student occupancy levels have been very much lower and where large conference operations have been curtailed. And, as reported previously, our income from student fees and investments is relatively fixed in the short term and has not been affected.

The reductions in income, did, however, translate to reduced cash flows, and we took action to drawdown  $\pounds I$  million from the endowment in April 2021, to replenish our bank balances.

# **Financial update**

The annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 are available on the College website at: https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/files/Clare%20 Hall%20Final%20Accounts%202020.pdf

The 30 June 2021 Report and Accounts will be available in November 2021.

Our objectives for the income statement have always been to maximise our income, whilst maintaining tight control over expenditure. As noted last year, these objectives continue to hold good, in fact even more so, in the times of financial risk and uncertainty discussed above, although the shift in emphasis has been to minimise the reduction in our income. For the financial year 2019-20, our total income, before donations and endowments, reduced by £127,000 (3.5%) from 2018-19. The chart opposite shows the sources of our income, with slightly less than half derived from accommodation charges, and the balance split relatively evenly from fees, catering, and investment income.

However, our total expenditure has increased, from £4,072,000 to £4,298,000 (5.6%). In addition to inflationary pressures on costs, some of this increase is covid related, with increased tutorial and student support funding, and additional property related costs, such as more extensive housekeeping and cleaning.

Income from donations totalled £361,000 in 2019-20 (£519,000 in 2018-19) and we were unsuccessful in our application for a Capital Grant from the Colleges Fund (£105,000 in 2018-19). Overall, we recorded an operating deficit on College activities of £431,000 in 2019-20, compared to an operating surplus of £185,000 in 2018-19.



In 2019 we experienced a gain of £357,000 on our invested endowment but in 2020 a loss of £138,000. In 2019 the actuarial loss on our pension liabilities was £101,000, in 2020 an actuarial loss of £138,000. Our unrestricted reserves have reduced by £792,000 in the year. By comparison, in 2019 this was a reduction of £366,000. In 2020 our total comprehensive income has reduced by £691,000. in 2019 this was an increase of £440,000. Our free reserves have fallen from  $\pounds$ 2.0m to  $\pounds$ 1.3m. Movements in investment values and in pension deficits are largely outside of our control, but we need to be alert to the mantra that both can go down as well as up.

The balance sheet at 30 June 2020 therefore reflects the reduction in total comprehensive income of  $\pounds 691,000$ , and at the year-end we had net assets of  $\pounds 34.2m$  (2019 -  $\pounds 34.9m$ ), of which  $\pounds 23.6m$  is represented by restricted reserves.

The forecast position at 30 June 2021, subject to audit, reflects the negative impact of covid-19 on our accounts, in particular on our accommodation income. Our budget for 2021-22 has been based on an assumption of something close to a return to 'normality' from the start of the new academic year in October 2021, and it is very encouraging that we have acceptances from our target number of new students, and that we will have full occupancy of our student accomodation.

## **Current priorities**

Our strategic financial focus is, firstly, to recover, and to then increase, our lost income, specifically in the three areas of rental income, hospitality and donations. We continue to make difficult decisions to manage our expenditure, particularly in cutting discretionary spending.

Finally, I would just like to again express my personal thanks to all those who support the College. Your contribution to the life, and to the financial health of the College, is particularly appreciated in challenging times.

lan C. Strachan Bursar



# From the **Tutorial Office**

This has been a challenging year for Tutors as for everyone. We have a fantastic team of Tutors, who have made incredible and frequent adaptations to the covid situation. For most of this academic year, tutorial duties have been done remotely by zoom, phone, email, and more. We are used to doing admissions online, but this year we've been doing pastoral care, social events, meetings, and everything else online, at the same time as lecturing and supervising remotely, and some cases undertaking home education and caring duties as well.

We were sorry to lose our Senior Tutor since 2012, lain Black, who resigned just before Christmas.We all worked very hard to keep things going in the difficult and ever changing covid landscape, supporting students both here and away. Tutors talked regularly to students here and all over the world, and there were difficult decisions to be made about if, when and how students who had left Cambridge could return to College. Many students had to adapt their research projects because most fieldwork was not possible and archives were closed. Students were incredibly adaptable, but we were all aware how challenging it is to do high quality research without full access to our usual resources.

We made good use of the Boak Fund, which usually funds travel for research and conferences. Students attended online conferences, and because the costs are lower, some could attend and present at more conferences during the year. Some made use of online lessons, such as language learning. The Boak Fund helped with essential computing costs, scanning of material from archives, book purchases, and much else. It is one of the most generous research funds for students in any Cambridge college, and we remain hugely grateful to the donor, the late Professor Denis Boak of the University of Western Australia.

Warmest thanks to Yi Feng who organised regular online Student-Fellow social events, to Annamaria Motrescu-Mayes for her liaison work, to lan Farnan for his wise advice, and all the Tutors for their dedication and hard work.

We are very grateful for the support from Domestic Bursar Harry Joseph, Accommodation Officer Emma Carr, Head Porter Neil Lavender, Housekeeper Melanie Siddall, Maintenance Manager Andy Brewer, Kitchen Manager Claire Clark, and all their teams through this year. Thanks to Stefan Heimersheim, Ina Gebühr and the GSB committee who were very dedicated in helping students and maintaining a strong sense of community throughout the year.

Thanks to Sarah Gough and her team for the allotment they have established at West Court, and to Head Gardener David Smith and his team for their support for this brilliant project.

We welcomed our new College nurse, Anne Considine in 2021, and a new collegebased counsellor, Diana Ong, who has been a great support to students through these uncertain times.

Despite the challenges, this was a bumper year for bursaries. We were proud to welcome a group of brilliant students supported fully or partly by Clare Hall bursaries. They have all worked very hard and have produced outstanding work.

Congratulations to everyone, all our students, Fellows, and staff, on coming through, and thanks to Life Members and other donors for making these bursaries possible. It was a joy to see many of our students at the belated but delightful matriculation on 21 June, and at graduation in July.

Our thanks and best wishes to Tutor Tobias Baldauf, who has been a marvellous support to Tutors and students alike, and has done much to promote good mental health within College. Tobias has moved to a job outside the university but happily still within Cambridge, and we look forward to his continued involvement in College events.

A warm welcome to the new Senior Tutor, Holly Hedgeland, to Andrew Blake, who has returned to the Tutorial team and to Lori Passmore, who joined the Tutorial team in MT 2020 and works closely with students based at Addenbrooke's. Thanks to our administrators, Becky Williams and Ann Hollingsworth for their incredible support all year.

Finally, on a personal note, I have taken early retirement after 20 years as a Tutor and



more recently as Assistant Senior Tutor. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve the College and our wonderful students, and to work with a superb group of Tutors.

### Trudi Tate,

Tutor, 2001-21 Assistant Senior Tutor, 2019-21

## Tutorial Team 2021-22

Holly Hedgeland, Senior Tutor

Andrew Blake Ian Farnan Yi Feng Annamaria Motrescu-Mayes Lori Passmore

Becky Williams, Tutorial Administrator Ann Hollingsworth, Tutorial Assistant **Morayo Akinduro** did a Master of Finance in 2020-21, with support from a Clare Hall Mellon Bursary. Her summer project is Strategy development consulting for a Lagosbased FinTech company.



**Eleanor Ryan** is writing a PhD in Education. Her topic is 'Becoming Human/Becoming Musician? Developing Decolonising Pedagogies in Higher Music Performance Education', with support from the Clare Hall Seung Jun Lee Bursary.





CLARE HALL REVIEW 2021









**Profile: New Official Fellow** 

# Madeline Lancaster

The human brain remains one of the biggest mysteries of science, but one I have been fascinated with all my life.As an American, growing up in Salt Lake City, Utah, I was surrounded by science and medicine. My father is a biochemist and my mother a psychiatrist. After college, I considered going into medicine, but it always struck me that I really wanted to make discoveries into how the brain works, not simply take knowledge from others and apply it. I completed my PhD at the University of California, San Diego, in Biomedical Sciences, where my love for developmental biology began. I realised that if you want to truly understand something, you should understand how it is built. After my PhD., I moved to Vienna to work in the laboratory of Juergen Knoblich at the IMBA. It was there that I developed a method to generate brain-like tissue in the lab that has revolutionised my own work and that of many others in the world.

I moved to Cambridge in 2015 to start my own lab at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, where we are focused on understanding what sets the human brain apart. Its size and complexity enable our unique cognitive capabilities, but it is this exceptional complexity that makes it that much more difficult to unravel. In biology, we often turn to model organisms to gain an understanding of life's secrets. But when it comes to our brains, our animal cousins only get us so far.

So how do we study something so quintessentially human but so inaccessible? Research in my lab uses a new model called brain organoids. Organoids are small tissue clumps developed in the lab that are similar to actual organs, but not quite. They are smaller, and still fairly immature, mimicking developing tissue rather than fully functional adult brain tissue. But they enable us to examine how the human brain develops during foetal stages, stages when differences in humans first arise and set our brains on their unique trajectory.

Because brain organoids can be made from just about any tissue source, we are also making them from other animals to compare with human. For example, if we generate mouse brain organoids we find they are much smaller, and develop much more quickly, spending less time on the early stages when stem cells that will make neurons are still increasing their numbers. Similarly, we find that organoids from our closest living relatives, chimpanzees and gorillas, are smaller, though not as small as mouse, and that they also are a bit speedier than human during very early stages. These studies are pointing to a common theme: that perhaps what makes our brains unique is their delayed development. We are now investigating the molecular mechanisms driving this unique timing.

While we are still a long way from truly unravelling all the secrets of our brains, I am hopeful that an understanding of the developmental events that set our brains up for their unique capabilities later on will provide some insight into what makes our brains so special.



# **Profile: Official Fellow and Tutor**

# Lori Passmore

I am a molecular biologist and I have been a Fellow of Clare Hall since 2006. I am originally from Canada but I moved to London for my PhD and have been in the UK ever since.

I have a research group at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology on Addenbrookes site. My work is focussed on understanding how our cells control gene expression. Our genes are encoded in our DNA and they can be thought of as the cellular recipes that are required to make proteins. Proteins are the building blocks, motors and tools needed to keep our cells alive. For proteins to be made, a temporary, intermediate copy of the gene is made. I study this intermediate copy - called messenger RNA, or mRNA for short. In particular, I want to understand the tail found on the end of every mRNA - how does it determine the lifetime of the mRNA? And how does it control protein production? Correct formation of the tail is essential; it is disrupted in disease, including cancer, neurodegeneration and viral infection.

To understand the machinery that adds and removes these poly(A) tails from mRNAs, I use two major approaches. First, we try to reconstitute this machinery in the test tube. By doing this, we can gain insight into the machinery's mechanisms of action and how it is regulated. Second, we use methods to visualise the machinery and to generate 3D representations of the proteins. By doing so, we can begin to understand the chemistry of the machinery.

I love the open and informal nature of Clare Hall, and I really miss conversation at Wednesday night dinners in College! This year, I joined the tutorial team and I have really enjoyed helping students with pastoral and practical issues, as well as discussing science, research and career paths. I hope to provide more opportunities for students and Fellows to discuss scientific problems, and share experiences in person on Addenbrookes campus and in College very soon!



**Profile: Senior Tutor** 

Holly Hedgeland

We welcome our new Senior Tutor, Holly Hedgeland. Holly writes about her research.

I started my research career at the Cavendish Laboratory in the Helium Atom Scattering group. My doctoral work was on the novel experimental technique of helium spin echo spectroscopy that had been brought to proof of concept in Heidelberg but implemented to full functionality for the first time by the group in Cambridge. I took the first measurements benchmarking the new approach against the established neutron scattering parent and used the resolution and surface sensitivity afforded to make surface dynamics measurements of larger, more technologically relevant molecules than had been possible with earlier timeof-flight approaches. The research expanded during a first postdoc to providing the targeted experimental data required to benchmark the latest development in computational approaches. Modelling dispersive forces in density functional theory calculations and molecular dynamics simulations has been a significant challenge even with an exponential increase in computational power, but one that is important for the development of 2D materials and the next generation of electronics.

Having greatly enjoyed a coterminous fellowship at Robinson College, Cambridge, and opportunities for teaching and supporting the student experience, I subsequently spent two years in the secondary sector as a teacher of mathematics and physics. During this time, I developed my background in education through action research as a part of the local CamStar schools' network and studies for an MA in Education.

However, two years later, keen to return the lab, I moved to the London Centre for Nanotechnology on the UCL campus where I continued my research into new modifications of surfaces for molecular electronic applications as a part of the scanning tunnelling microscopy group. Awarded a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship, I was also able to continue my work on surface dynamics, a theme that I have continued while at the Open University through a programme of neutron scattering experiments at central facilities in the UK and Europe.

As a Senior Lecturer and Staff Tutor at the OU, I have also had the opportunity to develop my interest in education research within physics and applied mathematics. I have supervised doctoral work on the automated marking of free text responses, and the development of concept inventories, a standard tool commonly used in physics education to survey the development of learners' understanding. I have also been involved with a number of projects investigating demographic gaps in attainment in physics and the potential for reducing them through good design in technology enhanced assessment.

**Holly Hedgeland** 

Senior Tutor



# **Profile: Clare Hall Associate**

# Sandra Suarez

My current book project has its roots in the numerous occasions during which, while in the company of friends and colleagues, whenever anyone, invariably a woman, said, 'I got it on Amazon', the other women present would exclaim, 'I love Amazon', and 'I use it for everything.' It seemed to me that women did not 'love' any other of the big information technology companies such as Microsoft, Google or even Apple, at least not to the degree that they loved Amazon. From that moment on the questions flowed easily: could it be that e-commerce has become as indispensable to women as such an epochal technological innovation as the washing machine? Has the use of this technology affected the housework done by women to the same degree as frozen foods and the microwave oven did? Is the technology more likely to be adopted by women who have joined the paid labor force? Has the impact of e-commerce been the same across cultures and gender ideologies?

I am studying the strategies that women employ to manage paid and unpaid work in three cosmopolitan cities: Madrid, Philadelphia, and Singapore. Primary data consist of interviews with a diverse pool of women in each city conducted in 2019–21. My hope is that this comparative qualitative study will shed light on our understanding of the impact of new information technologies on women's daily lives, worklife balance, the division of labour in the household, the monetisation of women's lives, and the views about privacy of the women who use e-commerce platforms.

Amazon is not the most popular ecommerce site in all of the cities in my study and the study is not about Amazon as a company. It is about the impact of the 'Amazon model' on women's lives and about the type of shopping for goods and services that aims to be seamless, automatic, convenient, and autonomous but has disrupted retail shopping and has been widely imitated.

Research for the project began prior to the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic. Since then, women have reported spending more time on housework and telework than before the outbreak. Thus, I incorporated into the study an examination of women's use of e-commerce technology prior to, during, and after the covid-19 lockdowns in each city. I have found that while the pandemic and lockdowns have accelerated the trend of relying on e-commerce technology to do housework it has, simultaneously, reinforced traditional gender roles.

### Sandra Suarez

Professor of Political Science, Temple University Clare Hall Associate



# **Profile: Professorial Fellow**

# Stuart Dalziel

We welcome new Professorial Fellow Stuart Dalziel to Clare Hall. Stuart writes:

It is disappointing how often saying 'I am a mathematician' is a conversation killer, and I often wonder if I should have said 'I am an engineer' (not entirely untrue – I started off with an Engineering Science degree from the University of Auckland), or 'I play with water'. Being a mathematician is one thing, but running an experimental laboratory in a maths department? That puzzles people.

Of course, I could start talking about some of my research, which involves fluid and (occasionally) granular flows. Things like the flow through the Strait of Gibraltar (my PhD, started some 36 years ago, explored the effects of the earth's rotation) or trying to understand the mixing of density stratified flows seem like safe ground. But bursting water bombs? (It really wasn't me who dropped the water-filled balloons out of the first-floor science lab in year 10 - 1waited until I had a decent high-speed camera before I did that.) One of those



frivolous studies that disguises serious science; the mechanisms at play are similar to those preventing us from extracting almost limitless clean energy from inertial confinement fusions. Likewise, what can be learnt by dropping blobs of hair gel? The yield strength of the hair gel allows us to mimic some of the dynamics of planetary impactors at lab scale.

Much of my work has been on fluid flows where buoyancy, due to density differences, plays an important role. Understanding how the earth's rotation affected the Deepwater Horizon oil spill as the plume of oil and gas rose from the wellhead to the surface of the ocean is a reasonable pursuit. The last year has focused many on covid-19 transmission, a process in which fluid mechanics plays a central role in understanding how the heat and exhaled breath from a potentially infectious person can interact with ventilation systems or open windows. Other threads of research include exploring how chemicals can contaminate (and be decontaminated from) porous or polymeric materials is particularly important if the chemicals are extremely toxic, the behaviour of sediments, and collapsing piles of sand.

This is maths. This is physics. This is engineering. Working with fluids, computers, cameras, equations ... All fun. But is any of it 'correct'? Some of it is beautiful: does that make it art?

Over the last 30 years I have co-organised a series of summer schools on fluid flows. Recent schools have attempted to make scientists to step outside the box of normal scientific thinking. From this, I helped to run an Art–Science Summer School at École Polytechnique in Paris a few years ago. The title of this School was very apt: Useful Fictions. Although the public often view science as absolute, the reality is most science is built on approximations. For fluids, the starting point is the 'continuum approximation' where we ignore the molecular and atomic structure of matter. We turn to the Navier-Stokes equations from the first half of the nineteenth century, but find that we cannot solve them. Try a big computer, and we need to make approximations. Often what we really want is a simpler set of equations that we can solve, the simpler the better, provided it addresses the questions we want to answer. Like Monet carefully selecting which colour stroke to apply, there is an art in choosing the right ingredients to keep in a simplified model to make the approximation useful; the fiction useful. The difference is that a scientist is required to demonstrate that the approximation is useful, something Monet left to the viewer.

# Stuart Dalziel

**Professorial Fellow** 

# Visiting FELLOWS



**George Kam Wah Mak**, Hong Kong Baptist University

I am conducting archival research for a planned monograph on the 'annotation question' of

the Chinese Protestant Bible in late Qing and Republican China (1860-1949).This was a discussion about whether the Chinese Protestant Bible needed to be published with annotations explaining the biblical world to Chinese readers.



**Akio Hoshi**, Gakushuin University, Japan

While at Clare Hall in 202-21, I worked on the transplantation of UK corporate governance institutions to Japan.



Aaron Marshall, Department of Immunology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada

I am working with Cambridge collaborator

Professor Klaus Okkenhaug to understand regulatory mechanisms operating in cells of the immune system.



Caleb Adebayo Folorunso, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

While I am at Clare Hall in 2021, I am working on a book manuscript entitled The Tiv Occupation of the Benue Valley of Nigeria: Archeological and Anthropological Perspectives.



**David Irving**, ICREA & Institució Milà i Fontanals de Recerca en Humanitats–CSIC, Barcelona, Spain

I am completing the preparation of a book

manuscript, Transitory Sounds: Performing Praxis of Global Music History, for University of Michigan Press; I am also working with archives from the Jeanne-Marie Dolmetsch Collection (recently bequeathed to the University Library) to investigate links between early music pioneers and nonwestern cultures in the early twentieth century.



**Georgia Mouroutsou** Kings University College, Western University, Canada

During my time at Clare Hall, I worked on my current book project for

Brill, Plato's Twofold Dialectic of Pleasure: Critical Dialogue with Hedonist and Critical Analysis of Pleasure. I explore how Plato's genuine dialogue with various types of hedonists shaped his metaphysics of pleasure.

Frank Neubacher,

Institute of Criminology, University of Cologne, Germany

While I was at Clare Hall, October to December 2020, I

worked on a joint research project which is designed to transfer prison climate research from the UK to Germany and Switzerland. I am affiliated to the Cambridge Prisons Research Centre (Institute of Criminology).

# Akimitsu Okamoto,



Director, Managing Committee, Department of Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo

While at Clare Hall in September to November 2020, I worked with Cambridge professors to establish a chemical strategy to understand epigenetic phenomena caused by modifications of DNA and histone proteins.



**G.C.Waldrep**, Bucknell University, USA

I worked on a cycle of

poems grounded in ecopoetics, tentatively entitled *Glebelands*, including a long sequence centred on a 40-year legal battle over landscape access and footpath rightsof-way in West Suffolk. I also worked on a chapter of a critical study involving the intersection of experimental poetry and Christian theology, focussing on Christopher Smart's *Jubilate Agno*.

# **Research** Fellows

We are delighted to welcome Research Fellows Juan Rodriguez-Molina and Jingyi Jenny Zhao.



# Juan Rodriguez-Molina

I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, and then traded tropical paradise for the freezing American Midwest in pursuit of a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During my PhD I became interested in understanding how transcription works. Transcription is the synthesis of an RNA molecule that carries the information encoded in a gene; RNA will often serve as the template for the production of a specific protein. After completing my PhD, I moved to Lori Passmore's lab at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology where I am currently a postdoctoral scientist studying the crosstalk between RNA processing and transcription. Both transcription and RNA processing are fundamental, highly regulated processes, and both are often linked to disease when they fail to function properly. In my research, I use powerful electron microscopes to visualise and decipher the structures of molecular machines involved in transcription and RNA processing. Understanding what these machines look like will help our understanding of how they work and how they might be damaged in disease.



**Jingyi Jenny Zhao** Needham Research Fellow

I completed my BA, MPhil, and PhD degrees in Classics at the University of Cambridge. I currently hold the ISF Research Fellowship at the Needham Research Institute (NRI), where, alongside my own research, I supervise ISF school students on the NRI summer programme in Chinese history and civilization.

My research is in Sino-Hellenic studies, which involves the comparative study of ancient Greece and early China. I am particularly interested in ethics and moral psychology, and in representations of infancy and childhood in philosophical texts. Alongside articles on those topics, I am currently preparing my book Aristotle and Xunzi on Shame, Moral Education and the Good Life for publication with Oxford University Press.

I have worked extensively in public outreach, including filming for the BBC documentary Story of China, writing children's books on philosophy and publishing interviews with distinguished academics.



# FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Two metres apart, but standing together – this year has been defined by the pandemic, but the student body has persevered and faced these unique challenges together.



The welcome week started off fully virtual but food and drinks were delivered to the new arrivals by current students.We had activities throughout the day,

from virtual coffee mornings and brunches to quizzes and drink-&-draw evenings. This 5-week-long welcome 'week' provided lots of opportunities for students get to know the College community.

We continued these virtual interactions over the course of the year and various lockdowns, with pumpkin carving, cooking, and competing for the spookiest Halloween photographs. Our cooking skills were further tested in various cooking and baking challenges, also providing delicious meals for the whole house.

With the end of term approaching we used the gap between the lockdowns to host Christmas festivities, the most memorable of which was the Christmas 'market' where we all gathered in the gardens beside the Christmas trees, enjoyed German sausages, mulled wine or hot chocolate, and some much-needed face-to-face conversations. Most of our students spent the Christmas holidays in Cambridge. We spent our time solving puzzles and playing board games from the new GSB collection, decorating our houses, but also got together for a virtual Christmas cook-along with the Clare Hall chefs. Amidst the pandemic the student body continued to work for a more inclusive environment, establishing a LGBTQIA+ library to accompany the new BAME library, both giving students the opportunity to educate themselves about important social issues. To honor our commitment to inclusivity, the Gender Expression Fund was set up to directly help students become more comfortable with their gender presentation.

We organized workshops to promote sustainable cooking and living, along with providing cook books for all the students. Other workshops focused on student welfare such as the research coaching and massage workshops, supporting students' studies and health. Since the music room reopened it has been used frequently, and after a recent upgrade we added guides and instructions for the equipment, making it more accessible for everyone to learn a new skill over lockdown. Starting in Lent term, the GSB-run seminar series provided students with an interdisciplinary platform to share their research and projects.

This academic year has been a unique experience for the student body, faced with new problems and novel challenges. Even though we had few of the traditional College experiences, no formal dinners or parties, we endeavoured to bring the Clare Hall experience to students wherever they are. The GSB committee would like to thank all students for their contribution sustaining the spirit of Clare Hall through an undoubtedly difficult year.

## Stefan Heimersheim and Ethan McGuigan

### **GSB Social events**

The Lent term has seen many more events for Clare Hall students. Starting with the external events, the Graduate Student Body has brought many opportunities for Clare Hallers to find new friends within the College and at other colleges in the University. During the Blind Networking events every Friday we met students from Lucy Cavendish, Wolfson, Fitzwilliam, Pembroke, Darwin and St Edmund's College. The virtual tour around Clare Hall and virtual meetups for students from different colleges were similarly successful events.Valentine's Day was celebrated in a Virtual Valentine's Blind Dating and LGBTQ+ Valentine's exchanges. It was truly exciting to meet people from all around the University, share experiences, sorrows and joys of lockdown in College and at home, and simply enjoy the breath of fresh air that new connections can bring to one's daily life.

Clare Hallers were also involved in cooking challenges which were not at all competitive, but exciting and delicious locally sourced Bubble Tea kits were provided to all students to make and enjoy in their houses. A local pizza chef remotely guided our students through making pizza at home – he even pre-made us all the dough and tomato sauce! Enjoying the delicious food was guilt free since weekly yoga sessions were running every Tuesday hosted by Clare Hall life member Rosana. These sessions were so popular that they are continuing during Easter Term, supported by the Tutorial office. Finally, we started a project, together with a parent studying at Lucy Cavendish College and the University administration, to connect students with children and are happy to see a lot of activity and interaction there.

### **Ruta Marcinkeviciute**





Amir Cahane

### Dr Clive Sherlock

### **GSB** seminar series

This year again, or perhaps especially this year, the GSB seminars have been an excellent opportunity to gather students, Fellows and Life Members in an informal setting to discuss current research undertaken in College. A wide variety of topics have been presented in both in science and humanities, highlighting the intellectual diversity of Clare Hall and the fascinating work of its members. We learned about decarbonising the cement industry, the storage of natural gas, and the role of machine learning for drug discovery, as well as the specifics of urban education in a London borough and the psychology of infidelity in romantic relationships.

These seminars were also the place for longer talks, such as the presentation from Dr Clive Sherlock about Adaptation Practice as a way to deal with mental suffering. Like most events this year, we had to move online, but it turned out to be an opportunity to hear from distant Life Members, such as Amir Cahane, who presented from Israel about the Israeli Snowden Moment.

Loïc Lannelongue

Organiser







Kaylie Higgs



GRADUATE

OMMITTEE

student

2020-21

RODY

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**Arts/Music Officers** Lukas Gaudiesius Eleanor Ryan

**Information Technology Officer** Alex Aldrick

Past Members (until Lent 2021):

**Former Secretary** Will Silcox

**Former Social Officer** Javier Perez Osorio



Stefan Heimersheim

# **MUSIC** 2021



Almost from the origins of the College, music has been an important part of its cultural life. Maintaining this tradition has been particularly difficult during the pandemic, it being impossible to hold concerts with live audiences. But with ingenuity and broadcasting technology, live music from Clare Hall has been sent electronically around the world.

On I August 2020, I took over from David Ibbetson as chair of the Music Committee.

The month of August might have seemed a bleak time to develop a music programme for College members but it didn't take long to realise that the future lay in livestreaming. Performers carefully isolated would play in the College Dining Hall and their performances would be broadcast across the world. That meant that

equipment had to be acquired and operated. Up stepped Paul Mulvaney, Fellow Commoner, who offered his invaluable services. Within a few days the equipment occupied the north-east corner of the Dining Hall, its focus being the college's Steinway piano. By October, the outline of an initial programme had been put together. These first concerts inevitably involved Clare Hall's Musician-in-Residence, the accomplished French pianist (also a Fellow-Commoner), Patrick Hemmerlé. The very first live broadcast from Clare Hall (over two evenings) was of the three final piano sonatas of Beethoven, opus 109-**III.** Concerts of twentieth-century French music followed. The broadcasting of concerts was a challenge because for much of this period of the pandemic, only a single performer and a distanced, masked technician were allowed into the Dining Hall.We dreamed of the day when a string quartet would again be experienced live.

Perhaps the highlight of the Pandemic Year of Music was Patrick's idea to play the 48 Preludes and Fugues of Bach, one per night, with a commentary preceding each one. These were broadcast at 8pm on six days a week, from Sunday to Friday. It was impractical to ask Patrick to go into College every day to live-broadcast, so they were pre-recorded in Clare Hall in batches of three. The project took about two months to complete. It was a marathon for Patrick, some of the batches being recorded on the coldest nights of the year, when it just so happened that the college's heating system had broken down! The concert repertoire broadened after Easter, with solo guest performers being welcomed. A cello recital by Adrian Bradbury included works by Bach, Philip Glass and Britten. Daniela Rossi had devised a programme based on the La Folia theme

of Spain. The classical Indian sitar was presented and played by London-based Mehboob Nadeem, while two local musicians completed the year's performances: Marie Noelle Kendall played piano works by Schumann, Bartok and Mozart, while the secretary of the music committee, Ben de Souza, introduced an instrument new to Clare Hall concerts, the classical piano accordion. Considering the lockdown situation, this was rich fare.

Abigail Dolan ran some of her Intimate Engagements series online, as she describes in her report. Our warmest thanks to Abigail for running this wonderful series for 13 years. Abigail is now retiring, and Patrick Hemmerlé will take over as Music Director. He has been very active devising the 2021-22 Intimate Engagements programme and persuading existing music Angels to continue their generous sponsorship. We are also grateful to the Domestic Bursar, President's Office, Porters and other staff for their tremendous help in making the concerts happen.

With the pandemic being reduced in intensity, we can look to a future when concerts will return to live audiences, and yet it seems inevitable that live-streaming will continue to be available. Some concerts had remote audiences some tenfold greater than a live concert would have attracted. This will have the huge benefit of drawing together Clare Hall's widespread alumni, making them feel a continuing part of the lively scholarly community they were once part of in Cambridge.

### **Robert G W Anderson**

Clare Hall Music Committee 16 May 2021



From top left clockwise: Marie-Noëlle Kendall, Daniela Rossi, Patrick Hemmerle stream studio 28 Nov, Adrian Bradbury.



# **CLARE HALL** CHOIR

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on choral activities nationwide, and Clare Hall is no exception. The College Choir just managed to squeeze in a concert in the chapel of Clare College in March 2020 before the curtain temporarily came down on the music world, including our proposed joint Evensong with Magdalene College Chapel Choir in May 2020. Since then, I have had to completely reimagine and replan all the Choir's activities.

The 2019-20 cohort had one final 'hoorah' with a virtual, distanced recording of 'Standing in the Need of Prayer' by Alexander L'Estrange, which they'd been singing for a while. The recording was made using a guide track to which the singers recorded their own tracks. I then mixed all the audio together to create a full choir sound. A new academic year saw the departure of a number of Choir members, and the arrival of new ones, who had to wait until Christmas to exercise their vocal folds. Another virtual choir recording ensued, this time singing a brand-new Christmas carol – 'Good-night!' – which I composed especially for Clare Hall Choir. The singers had no rehearsal for this and were working purely from the guide tracks; no mean feat!

In January 2021, with another nationwide lockdown in force, we moved online with weekly Zoom sessions. These consisted of gentle singing exercises, simple songs and some music theory sessions. Just after Easter the Choir released their third virtual recording of the pandemic, singing Alexander L'Estrange's arrangement of 'Oh Shenandoah'.

Finally, on 22 April, we were able to return to in-person rehearsals for the first time since March 2020. We met weekly in two groups of six for thirty minutes each in the College grounds, come rain or shine! Rehearsals are now not limited to groups of six so the full Choir is able to meet outside for an hour each Thursday. I am putting them through their paces with lots of rounds, simple part songs and warm up exercises. It is hoped that come the start of the new academic year in October government guidelines will allow the Choir to be able to meet inside as before and make plans for concerts, joint chapel services and other college events.

You can find the Choir's virtual recordings on the Clare Hall YouTube channel.

### Ben de Souza

Choir Director



# Intimate Engagements

It was a great joy to resume the Intimate Engagements series after the forced break of over a year, due to the health regulations that didn't permit us to welcome ensembles at the College.



Menuhin musicians

The series restarted with a programme of three trios, performed at the renowned Yehudi Menuhin School, presented by Ashley Wass, Musical Director of the School, and pianist David Dolan. The programme was conceived as a journey through time, opening with Haydn's G major string trio, followed by the second of Schubert's B flat major trio, and ending with Frank Bridge's piano trio. The masterful performance was coupled with demonstrations by the trio and David Dolan on the use of extemporisations during the learning period as a tool for internalising the musical text, and during the performance as a method of enhancing listeners' experiences.

The concert was filmed at the Menuhin Hall. It maintained the series' successful format, in which outstanding musicians accompany the performance with informal commentaries,


A glimpse of the concert in Menuhin Hall

sharing their musical knowledge with the audience as they journey through the performance of the programme.

As I write, we hope that for the last concert - planned for Saturday 26 of June - we'll be able to welcome audiences to a recital by pianist Ronan O'Hora. Entitled 'The Great Resolver', the programme is a tour de force of three sonatas by Beethoven, opus 90, 101 and 106, the monumental 'Hammerklavier'.

The theme of the programme is timely, as Ronan O'Hora comments:

In this period where we have all had to contend with, and hopefully are emerging from, a period of upheaval and struggle unprecedented in recent decades there could be no more inspiring musical statement of the positive struggle towards genuine and powerful resolution than the major works of Beethoven. These three sonatas exemplify this and culminate in Beethoven's supreme expression of this noble struggle.

This concert promises to be a fantastic 'come back' for the series. But on a personal note, the upcoming concert has a special meaning for me; after thirteen years and over forty concerts, I hand over the reins as Artistic Director to Patrick Hemmerle.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ekhard and Lisa Salje, who supported David



Ronan O'Hora

and me in our vision of creating a concertseries of the highest quality at the College; Martin Harris, who unreservedly followed in developing the series; more recently, David Ibbetson and Alan Short, who continued to support my artistic leadership and recognised the unique contribution of the concert-series to the musical life of the College. I must also mention that the series would not have taken place without the ongoing support of our Music Angels. Finally, and most importantly, the Intimate Engagements would have all been for nought without the series' loyal audiences.

### Abigail Dolan

Artistic Director, 2007-2021

Our heart-felt thanks to Abigail for directing an incredible series of Intimate Engagements concerts over the past 13 years, and to David Dolan for his contributions to this unique series.



Abigail Dolan



Barefoot, the Barbara Sansoni shop in Colombo, Sri Lanka

## Art at Clare Hall

Art at Clare Hall suffered a serious blow this last year owing to the pandemic. When the first lockdown was announced Julia Sorrell's paintings and drawings were on display. At first, they were left in place, but were taken down when hope of any re-opening had to be put on hold. At the time of writing, our exhibition programme has been stalled for just over a year, with four shows in the pipeline waiting to take place. It was impossible to ignore the melancholy that at times hung over Clare Hall during this period. College members were asked not to visit the College except for essential purposes. In the main building, the bar, lounge and Dining Hall were no longer hubs of sociability, and catering services were available only in the form of take-away meals for those in college residences and for on-site staff. The walls of these public spaces remained empty, in need of the energy and interest given by pictures. Now that a road map for recovery has been published, a temporary showing of works from the College art collection will shortly be in place.

But at Clare Hall, art is never far away. When asked, by Andy Brewer, Head of Maintenance, to view a woven wall hanging in the Robert Honeycombe building, I was thrilled to discover a beautiful weaving by Barbara Sansoni, like a pillar of colour, running almost from ceiling to floor in the double height entrance hall. It was also exciting to discover there were three more, hung together on the nearby staircase wall. I knew that at some point Barbara Sansoni, artist and weaver, had held an exhibition at Clare Hall, but I had no idea of the extent of her involvement with Clare Hall over many years, or that she had been specially commissioned to produce these wallhangings for the Robert Honeycombe block, when it was constructed in 1997. Her longstanding association with Cambridge owes much to the architectural historian. Ronald Lewcock, a Fellow of Clare Hall, whom she eventually married in 1980, after the death of her first husband Hildon Sansoni. Together they ate regularly together in College and were very much part of the social and intellectual life of Clare Hall, until Lewcock was offered a job in America and Barbara's commitments took her back to Sri Lanka on a regular basis. However, until very recently, they kept a house in Cambridge and visited every year.

The history behind the Sansoni wall hangings is remarkable. It begins with an energetic and determined nun in the Good Shepherd Convent at Colombo, in a country then known as Ceylon. The nun had set up weaving centres for women workers. She now wanted to make their products more attractive and more saleable, as they were in need of steady and gainful employment. She invited the young artist, Barbara Sansoni, to produce designs which the weavers could adopt. Barbara had first to learn how fabrics are made and how cross-coloured yarns respond when woven into cloth. Next. she decided that the products of this traditional craft should be inspired by the landscape, the wildlife

and the essence of Ceylon. She also wanted to encourage a fresh palette, drawn from the environment, the colour of the beach or red sails seen against the sky, or the colours of a peacock, or the colour chord presented by a visiting Siamese cat with its astonishing blue eyes.

This new colour palette was startlingly fresh in the 1960s and very well-received. Barbara set up a shop in her own home. It was called 'Barefoot' to indicate a bohemian element. But it soon had to move to larger premises and today can be found at 704 Galle Road, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka, whence Barefoot sells woven cloth, hand-made toys and a variety of goods to shops around the world. The enterprise also includes a bookshop, an art gallery and a garden café with jazz on Sundays if you are lucky. The magnificent colour range of its goods is still key to its national and international success, but so too are the collaborative agreements Sansoni has entered into partnership with indigenous weavers using traditional patterns. See for example the Dumbara weaving she is wearing, as she sits beside Mr Somawansa, the highly skilled weaver from the Uda Dumbara Valley, in the hills of Sri Lanka, one of the few places that still has a tradition of weaving.

Originally set up to benefit women weavers, Barefoot is now run by a small army of workers dedicated to its core values – simplicity, functionality and durability, and, of course, to the fact that everything on sale, including the hand-made toy mice, must be beautiful. 'Barefoot is ultimately about people,' Sansoni has said.

Another outstanding artist who continues to benefit Clare Hall is the sculptor Helaine Blumenfeld, OBE. She gives up her time to sit on the Clare Hall Art Committee and is the moving spirit, with Annamaria



Barbara Sansoni and Mr Somawansa



Barbara Sansoni hanging

Motrescu-Mayes, behind the Friends of Clare Hall Art Society, a group from outside as well as within the College, which meets for talks, lectures and visits. Helaine's monumental sculpture, Flame, stands sentinel outside the front of Clare Hall's main building, signalling to passers-by and welcoming visitors. It is well positioned, owing to its scale and volume. Here, and in many other sculptures, dynamic movement is created by an upward curve, which never fails to evoke a sense of reach and expansion, as it is does here. Flame invites various interpretations, among which can be sensed aspiration and a faith in the future. This last year Helaine was granted the opportunity to mount the largest sculpture exhibition ever held by a single artist on the Canary Wharf Estate, one of the capital's best-known venues, made famous by its tower, now called One Canada Square, which when completed in 1991 was the third tallest building in the United Kingdom. Here, in among architecture that speaks of vaulting ambition, two of Helaine's public sculptures now occupy a permanent position, while a third is under consideration. The exhibition itself not only spread across four outdoor sites, but also continued inside the lobby of One Canada Square. Clare Hall may still be regarded as a small Cambridge college, but it has mighty connections and supporters, among them one of the world's most successful makers of large-scale public sculptures.

### **Frances Spalding**

Chair, Clare Hall Art Committee



Helaine Blumenfeld Taking Risks Photo: Henryk Heflaisz

## Presidential portrait: **David Ibbetson**



Portrait of David Ibbetson by Geoffrey Hayzer

As with any other Cambridge college, Clare Hall has a collection of portraits. But, being different from other colleges, it decided at the start not to collect painted portraits but instead to commission drawn portraits. This lighter, fresher medium avoids the tedium of oil paint and is more in keeping with the style of a modern egalitarian college.

This tradition began in 1984, the year that Clare Hall was granted a Royal Charter. A former Visiting Fellow, wanting to celebrate this event, offered a gift of money to pay for a portrait of the existing President, Michael Stoker. However, Michael said he would much prefer the gift to be used for a drawing of the three men who had played key roles in the foundation of Clare Hall – Lord Ashby, Brian Pippard and Richard Eden. The result, today hanging in the Dining Hall, is Bob Tulloch's lively composition of them all in an informal conversation.

Other drawn portraits followed. The Presidents Robert Honeycombe, Stoker, Anthony Low and Gillian Beer were all drawn. The tradition hesitated in recent years, with Martin Harris preferring a photograph and Ekhard Salje opting for a portrait that hovers between a drawing and a painting. With this new portrait of David Ibbetson, by Geoffrey Hayzer, the College has returned firmly and successfully to the drawn portrait.

Frances Spalding Art Committee

## Arctic Culture and Climate: A CONVERSATION

An event organised by the Clare Hall Art Committee on Zoom, 19 November 2020.

LINE WARE

Kiliii Yuyan (b. 1979), Umiaq and North Wind During Spring Whaling, inkjet print, 2019. ©Kiliii Yuyan. Courtesy British Museum.



Last autumn, the Clare Hall Art Committee, unable to mount exhibitions owing to coronavirus, decide to offer instead an art event on Zoom. It set out to create a discussion, stimulated by the exhibition 'Arctic: Culture and Climate', the first ever in the history of the British Museum to focus on this part of the world.

It was bold and inventive in its presentation of the culture and way of life associated with the Arctic Peoples. A map of the area was projected on to the floor of the first room, filled with indigenous costumes. An actual sled was positioned in front of a film showing what it was like to travel on a similar sled, when pulled fast by eight huskies across an ice-bound landscape. Elsewhere beautifully crafted objects alternated with large scale photographs of everyday life.

Equally important was the emphasis on climate. Visitors were reminded at the start of the exhibition that the Arctic is warming at twice the pace of anywhere else in the world. Research predicts it will be ice-free in 80 years or less. For well over 3,000 years there has been a way of life in this area that, through innovation and collaboration, has adapted to natural climate variability. But today this way of life is being made precarious by a rapid form of climate change which is man-made. The exploration of Arctic culture alongside these grim scientific facts made the exhibition intensely moving.

Our speakers on Zoom were Clare Hall Emeritus Fellow Professor Peter Wadhams, a leading authority on sea ice and climate change in the polar regions; award-winning travel writer, Sara Wheeler, author of *Magnetic North:Travels in the Arctic*, who spoke on Arctic culture; and Peter's wife, Maria Pia Wadhams, formerly director of the Zavatti Polar Institute, the first museum in Italy to collect Arctic objects, who spoke about Inuit sculpture.

With such a terrific line-up, and with help with publicity from Katrina Wilkinson, who hosted the Zoom event, it proved to be a remarkable evening. We were delighted to see several Life Members of Clare Hall in the audience. You, too, can catch the result on YouTube, under Clare Hall, Arctic Culture and Climate or by means of the following link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbuHC 5SAB6A

### **Frances Spalding**

Art Committee



## **ACCESS AND EQUALITY** Clare Hall

Access and equality were founding principles for Clare Hall when it was established in 1966. At that time there were few places open to accommodating young researchers and their families. Clare Hall's early Visiting Fellows programme provided a rare opportunity for academics to gain international experience without having to leave their families. The College was also at the vanguard of opening up opportunities for postgraduate students.

With this background it seemed fitting to me that we as a College should also lead the way in examining the pertinent issues of access and equality in our community today. At the instigation of our Graduate Student Body and Tutors and following the increased awareness of inequality based on race that many of us experienced in the wake of last summer's tragic events in the United States, I convened a working group to discuss these matters.

All constituencies of the College community were invited to join the group which began meeting in October. Three Fellows, I staff member and 12 students signed up. An external member, Kal Sandhu from the Judge Business School, also joined. The Chair of the GSB sub-Committee on Equality was among the students and she provided a point of liaison with discussions and activities being explored by the sub-Committee.

The group produced some concrete proposals to do with our policy on personal behaviour, our website and training. The discussions were also very useful in themselves. It is not always easy to find a language or a secure place to discuss feelings or issues about race. The discussions were also a positive means of simply connecting. Some of our early meetings were done whilst some of the participants were in quarantine. The group centred its work around 3 main areas:

- Access
- Representation
- Active anti-racism

The group noted the low participation rates among students across the Collegiate University which suggest that barriers exist for black and minority ethnic students to pursuing postgraduate study and that there is a progressive narrowing of the 'pipeline' of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) graduates who can enter into graduate study or an academic career.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the discussions and also in taking forward recommendations from the Working Group. Our work is certainly not finished. I am looking forward to many more discussions and to taking action which will make a difference.

### Helen Pennant Vice-President



### The Clare Hall Boat Club is back on the Cam

The academic year 2020-2021 was a challenging one for the Boat Club but our rowers are very excited to train on the river again. With the beginning of the pandemic, we had to suspend river activities in March 2020 and adjust the training schedule to live virtual workouts that are taking place twice a week. The principle is simple; we only use bodyweight exercises in order to make the training accessible to everyone, independent of skill or strength. This turned out to be a great success as the workouts attracted a sizeable number of College members and kept them fit throughout the lockdowns. Moreover, the workouts provide an inclusive and relaxed environment to get to know each other better virtually. We even made it to the Facebook page of the University

(Link:https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=276566030058903)!

Despite our virtual training schedule, our members were eager get back on the river sooner than later. So, we were all very excited when we could finally send out the Boats at the beginning of April! It was both wonderful and somewhat strange to meet our teammates in person for the first time in months – or for some of us for the first time in person at all. But very quickly we got back into our stride and are now training continuously on the river again. We are especially excited that so many novices have decided to join this late in the academic year – we have had over 30 sign-ups. It has been so great to be on the river with so many new faces and to see the enthusiasm and spirit that all of the novices bring to this club.

With the cancellation of May Bumps 2021 we are now hoping to be able to participate in the replacement event that will take place in June. We hope to enter both a Women's and a Men's crew and provide all of our rowers with a great end to this season of rowing.

### Timo Haber,

on behalf of your CHBC committee

Webpage: clarehall.cam.ac.uk/clare-hall-boat-club-cam Email: clarehall.captain@cucbc.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ClareHallBoatClub Instagram: @clarehall.boatclub



# Donors 2020-21

Clare Hall is grateful to the following individuals and organisations for their generosity between July 2020 and June 2021, including those donors who wish to remain anonymous, have given gifts in kind, or made a bequest to the College.





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Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund Jewish Communal Fund Tanner Foundation TIAA Charitable Vanguard Charitable Trust W. M. Keck Foundation

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\*Recently deceased





## STUDENT **PROFILES**



Student Profile: BP India Bursary

## Saranya Sasindran

Sustainability is key to tackling some of the most urgent challenges faced by the world today, such as climate change, resource shortages, pollution and inequity. Engineers are responsible for providing the services that form the backbone of modern society, but many of these systems are woefully inadequate to deal with these pressing challenges. These problems cannot be solved with technology developed from within disciplinary silos. Developing new pathways to achieve a sustainable future requires solutions that are designed with a deeper understanding of economic, ecological and sociological factors.

The MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development looks at the implementation of sustainability at a practical level, bridging the gap between the technical sciences and the humanities. The course includes a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary taught component, with modules ranging from Climate Change Mitigation to International Development. The course also involves a group consultancy project, during which I had the opportunity to work with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on developing a report card to evaluate infrastructure systems based on their sustainability, resilience and inclusivity. The programme also had Practitioner Viewpoint sessions with talks from experts across the industry, which helped me to understand the negotiations and complexities behind incorporating sustainability in real-world scenarios. Alongside this, the diverse cohort with extensive experience from over a dozen countries helped to widen my understanding of the world, looking at familiar problems through new lenses.

As part of the course, I am undertaking research in the field of Blue-Green Infrastructure to mitigate urban flood risk. With changing climates and the increasing intensity and variability of rainfall, urban flooding has become a regular occurrence in many cities around the world. The conventional approach to urban drainage is typically 'grey', with infrastructure such as culverts and drains made of concrete and steel. But these systems are usually unsustainable, expensive and quickly overwhelmed. Blue infrastructure such as detention basins and wetlands retain water and Green infrastructure such as parks are part of a more natural approach to urban drainage, controlling water closer to the source, and reconnecting the hydrological system. It provides multiple benefits for the environment, society and the economy from increasing flood resilience to protecting the local ecology. My project aims to find the feasibility and optimal location for the placement of Blue-Green infrastructure for effective storm-water management.

After graduating, I hope to work with a consultancy on the development of energy and sustainability strategies for the built environment. I will be working on sustainability challenges within the civil engineering sector, focussing on designing resilient, resource and energy efficient buildings and infrastructure systems. I am grateful for the Clare Hall-BP India Bursary which has funded my MPhil.

This is the last BP India Bursary at Clare Hall, which has funded Indian students in energyrelated Master's degrees for several years. Our thanks to BP for this support. We are keen to replace this with a new Bursary, if possible funded from the sustainable energy sector. Please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office at development@clarehall.cam.ac.uk if you can help.



Student Profile: Jankovic Studentship

## Sarah Honan

I was awarded the 2020-21 Jankovic Masters Studentship to support my studies in international law. Prior to coming to Clare Hall, I completed my LLB at Trinity College Dublin in 2020, where I was elected to a scholarship.

While pandemic restrictions made traditional academic research more difficult, I decided to join the Cambridge Pro Bono Project in order to apply my studies to real-world human rights issues. Working as a legal researcher for International Lawyers for West Papua (ILWP) through the Cambridge Pro Bono Project, I have been researching recent human rights abuses against the people of West Papua, a province in Indonesia. For decades, West Papuans have sought self-determination and autonomy and in the past number of years infringements of the most fundamental human rights have intensified. This research will form part of the ILWP's larger strategy of compiling evidence of widespread systemic violations committed by Indonesian security forces against West Papuans which will form the bases of human rights complaints to the UN Special Mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

Together with one other team member I was responsible for gathering reports of infringements of civil and political rights, in particular: extrajudicial killings, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. This research is complemented by my study of International Human Rights Law, International Criminal Law, International Law of Global Governance, and International Environmental Law on the LLM course.

In tandem, I have continued my criminological research which I began for

my undergraduate dissertation into the gendered aspects of genocide, in particular developing my theory of 'reproductive assault' as a method of genocide that could be incorporated into already established genocide jurisprudence. The term 'reproductive assault' denotes how, in times of genocide, non-lethal crimes committed against female group members are often designed to physically or psychologically destroy the procreative capacity of the group as a whole. Using the Rwandan and Yazidi genocides in a comparative case study, I aim to demonstrate how reproductive assault can be considered as a 'measure intended to prevent births within the group'; a method of genocide recognised by both the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 1948 Genocide Convention

In the future, I hope to apply my legal research and advocacy skills in the international NGO arena and to take the New York Bar Exam in 2022 to gain a professional qualification.

Our sincere thanks to Ivan Jankovic for generously supporting this MPhil studentship at Clare Hall.



Student Profile: Boak Studentship

## Noa Leach

I studied for an MPhil in the Faculty of English in 2020-21, studying Criticism and Culture. My dissertation tracks Virginia Woolf's representations of literary influence as three living, sub-surface matrices: root systems, river networks, and bodily tissues under the skin, and the influence of these ecological imaginings in present-day literature and beyond.

Virginia Woolf, caught at the seam of Victorian life and modernist art, understood intergenerational exchange better than most. As we approach the onehundred-year anniversary of the lectures that became A Room of One's Own (1929), we also near the end of the century that Woolf imagined in this essay would be full of change for women writers. While the scholarly field has become increasingly aware of the temporal and cultural roots of the Anthropocene, my research explores the ecofeminist roots of the modern environmental novel.

In my dissertation I compare three of Woolf's novels: Between the Acts (1941), The Waves (1931), and Mrs Dalloway (1925), enmeshed with her diary entries and essays, alongside contemporary fiction and criticism by Ali Smith, To the River by Olivia Laing, and Wayne McGregor's ballet Woolf Works (Royal Ballet, 2016).

Alongside my dissertation work, I have been researching postcolonialism and environmentalism in modern India through Arundhati Roy's fiction, as well as Indigenous storytelling in the circumpolar north and its responses to the sounds of melting ice. I have particularly enjoyed surveying the contributions of various media forms to the contemporary ecocritical conversation, from ice sculptures and soundscapes to radical poetry and polemical prose. My MPhil is fully funded by Clare Hall's Boak Studentship.

My background is rooted in interdisciplinary studies of the environment within the arts. Before coming to Cambridge, my undergraduate research at the University of Bristol focused on the origins of deep ecological thought in modernist literature and their intersection with scientific discoveries. After graduating I worked at OI Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya, on education, tourism and marketing, and subsequently in the UK on creative communication around sustainable fishing and marine conservation.

Aside from my academic research, I was a GSB Green Officer and assisted the student newspaper Varsity as part of its Publishing Team. I have enjoyed splashing around in the Cam with the Clare Hall Boat Club and writing short fiction and prose, including work for the *Cambridge Review of Books*.

Clare Hall is very grateful to the late Denis Boak of the University of Western Australia, for his generous bequest to support student research in College. The Boak Fund provides one full bursary per year for a student to study at Master's level, and also supports the research of many students in College, for archival materials, conferences, and much else. Learn more about the Boak Student Support Fund at clarehall.cam.ac.uk/funding-current-students



Student Profile: Michael Loewe Scholar

Rowan Jeffery-Wall After completing my undergraduate degree at the University of Birmingham in 2020, I came to Clare Hall to study for an MPhil in Modern European History. I had the great privilege of a full scholarship funded by Life Members and the Cambridge Trust in honour of Michael Loewe.

Throughout my research, I have always been interested in the role youth has played in History. The period of the Cold War is particularly interesting, as young people were often used as representational tools by the state, but they also often acted in rebellious ways that were considered threatening by the authorities.

My current research looks at the 1951 World Festival of Youth and Students in East Berlin. This event was intended to present the world with the Soviet world view and convince people as to the good intentions of the Soviet Union. At the same time, it provided a rare occasion for contact between youths from both sides of the Iron Curtain. My research investigates the experiences of those who travelled to the festival, particularly those from countries in Western Europe. Why did they decide to go? Did they see their travelling to Berlin as a political statement, or did they just go for fun?

The context of divided Berlin adds an extra layer to the 1951 Festival. Young people who attended the festival in East Berlin often took the opportunity to cross the still relatively open border between the two parts of the city.

I have greatly benefitted from access to a wide range of materials in Cambridge. A great deal of the scholarly literature on this event, as well as primary sources, are only available in German. I have been able to continue my language learning with the Language Centre at Cambridge. Although I have not been able to visit Germany for my research, due to covid restrictions, I have been consistently surprised and pleased by the wide availability of Germanlanguage sources available through the University Library, and I have also secured scanned materials from archives in Germany and the Netherlands.

I am incredibly grateful for all the staff and colleagues both inside and outside of College who have assisted me in working through my ideas and dealing with the challenges of what has been an exceptional year.

#### **Rowan Jeffery-Wall**

Clare Hall-Cambridge Trust-Michael Loewe Scholar, 2020-21

Our thanks to David Ibbetson and Trudi Tate for initiating this scholarship, and to members all over the world who contributed in honour of our distinguished Emeritus Fellow, Michael Loewe.

## **CLARE HALL COLLABORATION** LEADS TO A NEW CAMBRIDGE SPIN-OUT



Dr Sohini Kar-Narayan



Two Clare Hall members, Dr Sohini Kar-Narayan (Official Fellow) and Dr Jehangir Cama

(former Research Fellow, now Associate) are part of the founding team of ArtioSense Ltd, which aims to commercialise a new invention from Dr Kar-Narayan's group in the Department of Materials Science. Over discussions at Clare Hall, Dr Kar-Narayan and Dr Cama discussed applying the Kar-Narayan group's expertise in additive manufacturing to the fast-expanding field Dr Jehangir Cama

of microfluidics, which is Dr Cama's specialty. This led to the publication of a new technique for prototyping microfluidic devices in 2020

(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/arti cle/pii/S2352940720300664). In parallel, Dr Kar-Narayan was introduced to Dr Vikas Khanduja, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital, who mentioned that orthopaedic joint replacement surgeries suffer from a critical unmet need. To improve implant longevity and patient outcomes, surgeons need to balance the forces in the joint during surgery. This requires biocompatible sensors that can measure large forces in the tight, confined geometries of joints, but for the hip in particular, no suitable technologies were available.

Drawing upon her expertise in flexible electronics and the new microfluidic capabilities facilitated by the collaboration with Dr Cama, Dr Kar-Naravan designed a thin, conformable microfluidic force sensor to meet this need. The Kar-Narayan group, Dr Cama and Dr Khanduja have now refined and validated this new sensor in the laboratory, and filed a patent application via Cambridge Enterprise to protect the intellectual property. The underlying technology has been described in a recent publication (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/articl e/pii/S266638642100076X), with a follow-up paper describing the orthopaedic applications imminent. To translate this work from the lab to the clinic, Dr Kar-Narayan, Dr Cama, Dr Khanduja, along with Dr Alexander Samoshkin from the University's Office for Translational Research, incorporated ArtioSense Ltd. in March 2021. The team aims to have the technology ready for first-inhuman trials in the near future.

## **News** of Members

We are pleased to share the following news from our Life Members. You are welcome to get in touch with your own achievements. Please email lifemembers@clarehall.cam.ac.uk



Alfred Corn



Duino Elegies, Alfred Corn



Life after Gravity, Patricia Fara



Wilson Chacko Jacob

Abbreviations: AM: Associate Member; EF: Emeritus Fellow; HF: Honorary Fellow; LM: Life Member; OF: Official Fellow; PF: Professorial Fellow; RF: Research Fellow; VF: Visiting Fellow Mercedes Aguirre (VF 2015) and Richard Buxton (VF 2015) together have published The Myth and its Cultural History (Oxford University Press, 2020). Mercedes has also recently published The Unfinished Painting (Blackwell's, 2020), translated by Richard.

Philip Allsworth-Jones (VF 1991-92) published The Middle Stone Age of Nigeria in its West African Context (Archaeopress, 2019).

Congratulations to **Kai Ambos** (VF 2015-16) who received the Lower Saxony Science Award in 2020. Kai has recently published Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2021) and co-edited Core Concepts in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, vol. 1 (2020).

**Josef Amuzu** (PhD 1976) was appointed Emeritus Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Ghana in 2020. He has been a part of the university since he left Clare Hall in 1976 and was Pro-Vice Chancellor from 1998-2002.

Yuji Aruka (VF 1995) edited (with Hideaki Aoyama and Hiroshi Yoshikawa) Complexity, Heterogeneity, and the Methods of Statistical Physics in Economics-Essays, in Memory of Masanao Aoki (Springer, 2020).

Eduard Arzt (A 1981-82) was elected as International Member of the US National Academy of Engineering in 2020.

Gillian Beer (President 1994-2001) has published an essay on Vanessa Bell's 1915 self-portrait in Britain in the World: Highlights from the Yale Center for British Art: Essays in Honor of Amy Meyers (2019).

Michael Bennett (VF 1996) published War Against Small pox. Edward Jenner and the Global Spread of Vaccination (Cambridge University Press, 2020).

**Carole Biggam** (VF 2001) published (with Kirsten Wolf) A *Cultural History of Color*, 6 vols. (Bloomsbury, 2021).

Morten Broberg (VF 2015-16) published (with Niels Fenger) Broberg and Fenger on Preliminary References to the European Court of Justice (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Philip Bull (VF 1996) published Monksgrange: Portrait of an Irish house and family, 1769-1969 (Four Courts Press, 2019).

**Carina Burman** (VF 1996-97) has been awarded the Swedish Academy's Henrik Schück prize for her work in literary history.

Luis Campos (MPhil 2000) delivered his lecture on 'Pandora's Pandemic: Infectious Futures at the Dawn of Genetic Engineering' at the George Sarton Memorial Lecture in the History and Philosophy of Science. The annual lecture series is organised by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Luis is an Associate Professor of History and Regents' Lecturer at the University of New Mexico, and Secretary of the History and Science Society.

Mary Ann Caws (VF 1986-87) translated Shopeshifter (Penguin, 2021), poems by Alice Paalen Rahon, into both French and English editions. Her two forthcoming books, Mina Loy and From Symbolism to Surrealism: Essays by Mary Ann Caws, are to be released in 2021. Mary Ann Caws writes art reviews for the Brooklyn Rail and the Fine Arts Globe.

Gerald Chan (VF 2002-04) published China's Maritime Silk Road: Advancing Global Development? (Edward Elgar, 2020).

**Mohammad Chowdhury** (MPhil 1990) published Border Crossings: My Journey as a Western Muslim (Unbound, 2021).

**Lizzie Collingham** (PhD 1993) published *The Biscuit:The History of a Very British Indulgence* (Vintage, 2020).

Tim Coorens (PhD student) has co-authored 'Inherent Mosaicism and Extensive Mutation of Human Placentas', *Nature*, 10 March 2021.

Alfred Corn (VF 2012-13) translated Rainer Maria Rilke's Duino Elegies in A New and Complete Translation (W.W. Norton, 2021). Alfred had a fascination with Elegies as an undergraduate but the project officially began in 2012 when Alfred was a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall.

**David Cressy** (A 1978) published England's Islands in a Sea of Troubles (Oxford University Press, 2020).

**David Daintree** (MLitt 1981) was appointed Director of The Christopher Dawson Centre for Cultural Studies.The Centre 'promotes awareness of the Catholic intellectual tradition as an essential component of Western Civilisation'.

Mark Dickens (GS, 2003; RF 2009-11) has published Echoes of a Forgotten Presence: Reconstructing the History of the Church of the East in Central Asia (LIT Verlag, 2020).

**Christopher Norman Doe** (VF 2020) was elected as Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales (FLSW) in 2020.

**Terence Donaldson** (VF 2011-12) published *Gentile Christian Identity from Cornelius to Constantine: The Nations, the Parting of Ways and Roman Imperial Ideology* (Eerdmans, 2020), a research project that began during his stay at Clare Hall

**Robert Duvali** (Guest Scholar 1992) published his second poetry collection, *44 Poems* (2020), with photography by Dean Crawford.

Marianne Eriksen (RF 2017-20) became the first archaeologist in Norway to receive a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant for her project 'Body-Politics: Personhood, Sexuality, and Death in the Iron and Viking Ages'.At the same time, Marianne started her role as Associate Professor of Archaeology at the University of Leicester in February 2021. **Christiane Esche-Ramshorn** (Special Associate 2006-09) published *East-West Artistic Transfer through Rome, Armenia and the Silk Road: Sharing St. Peter's* (Routledge, 2021).

**Oren Falk** (VF 2016-17) published Violence and Risk in Medieval Iceland: This Spattered Isle (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Lindsay Falvey (VF 2005) was appointed as Commissioner for International Agricultural Research in Australia 2020-23.

Patricia Fara (Clare College) published Life After Gravity (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Javier Fernández Sebastián (VF 2008) published Hisoria Intelectual De La Politica Modern, Lenguajes, Conceptos Y Discursos (2020).

**Eugene Fisher** (VF 2003) published A Life in Dialogue: Building Bridges between Catholics and Jews: A Memoir, ed. James Barrens (Mr Media Books, (2017).

**Helen Fulton** (VF 1995-96) is a medievalist in English and Celtic studies at the University of Bristol. She invented two languages, Fey and Tusk, for the new Arthurian fantasy series Cursed released on Netflix in June 2020.

**Debjani Ganguly** (VF 2013) edited *The Cambridge History* of *World Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Devapriya Goonetilleke (VF 1988) edited Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, 3rd edn (Broadview Press, 2020).

**David Gosling** (Spalding Fellow 1991-93) published Science and Development in Thai and South Asian Buddhism (Routledge, 2019).

**Lawrence Hamilton** (RF 2001-03,VF 2007-08,A 2017-19) published *How to Read Amartya Sen* (Penguin, 2020). In 2021 his SA-UK Research Professorship was renewed for another five years.

Istvan Hargittai (VF 2000) published Science in London (Springer Nature, 2021).

**Richard Hays'** (VF 2008) most recent book, *Reading with the Grain of Scripture* (Eerdmans, 2020), has won the Book of the Year in Biblical Studies 2021 from *Christianity Today*.

**Yitzhak Hen** (PhD 1991-94,VF 2007-08, 2011) was elected Corresponding Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America in 2021.

**Clemens Hermann** (MPhil 2010, PhD 2014) was awarded a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Basel, Switzerland. His research looks at investigating the role of antibody responses in Tuberculosis with the goal of informing vaccination strategies. **Richard Herr** (VF 1984-85) published (with Sarah Herr) After the Gold Rushes Ending: The Story of Irving and Luella (2020).

Almut Hintze (RF 1997-2000) received a Proof of Concept (PoC) grant from the European Research Council (ERC) to develop a tool that annotates textual structure in digital images of manuscripts in IIIF compliant format.

**Junichi Himeno** (VF 1998-99) was appointed President of Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies in April 2021.

Ian Hu (PhD 2020) has co-founded Phycobloom, a company that researches genetically modified microorganisms to make sustainable biofuel from microalgae more affordable. Phycobloom was selected as one of the top 100 sustainability start-ups to watch in 2021 by media company Sifted.

**Bruce Hunt** (VF 1989-90) published Imperial Science: Cable Telegraphy and Electrical Physics in the Victorian British Empire (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Wilson Jacob (VF 2012-13) received the Canadian Historical Association's 2020 Wallace K Ferguson Prize for his book, For God or Empire: Sayyid Fadl and the Indian Ocean World (Stanford University Press, 2019).

**Andreas Jucker** (VF 2018) has published three books in 2020-21. The most recent publication was completed with Miriam Locher: *The Pragmatics of Fiction: Literature, Stage and Screen Discourse* (Edinburgh University Press, 2021).

**Dirk Kaesler** (VF 2018) published (with Stefanie von Wietersheim) Schön deutsch. Eine Entdeckungsreise (2021).

Congratulations to **Sohini Kar-Narayan** (OF) who has been named one of the Top 50 Women in Engineering 2021 by the Women's Engineering Society.

Meghan Keenan (MPhil 2019) co-authored two Oxford Insights reports on their 2021 Responsible AI Index and integrity in IMF covid-19 financing.

**Douglas Kelbaugh** (VF 2017) published The Urban Fix: Resilient Cities in the War against Climate Change, Heat Islands and Overpopulation (Routledge 2019).

**Kate Kennedy** (PhD 2005) has published Dweller in Shadows: A Life of Ivor Gurney (Princeton University Press, 2021).

**Paschalis M. Kitromilides** (VF 1989-90) published *The Greek Revolution: A Critical Dictionary* (Harvard University Press, 2021).

**Darl Kolb** (VF 2012) was made Emeritus Professor at the University of Auckland in March 2021. He had taught at the university since 1992 and was the world's first Professor of Connectivity.

A collection of works was published in honour of **John Kenneth Kuntz** (VF 1992) entitled, *Biblical Wisdom, Then and Now* (2021), edited by Frances Flannery and Nicolae Roddy.

David Kunzle (VF 1992) published Rebirth of the English Comic Strip 1847-1870, a kaleidoscope (University of Mississippi Press, 2021).

**Samer Kurdi's** (PhD 2020) company Majicom won third prize at the Cisco Problem Solver Challenge in 2020.The company develops digital water ecosystems to source affordable drinking water to communities across Africa.

Janny Leung (MPhil 2003, PhD 2008) was appointed Master of Choi Kai Yau College at the University of Macau (UM) in 2019. In 2020 she was elected a Fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences.

Julie Qiaojin Lin (RF) has been recognised as an Emerging Leader in dementia research by the UK Dementia Research Institute.

**Tess Little** (MPhil 2014) has published her first novel *The Octopus* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2020). This will be released in the US with the title The Last Guest.

**Dianne Looker** (VF 2003) has been appointed to the governing council of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for a three-year term.

Jane Lydon (VF 2014) published Anti-Slavery and Australia: No Slavery in a Free Land? (Routledge, 2021).

Seán McConville (PhD 1977) published Irish Political Prisoners 1960-2000. Braiding Rage and Sorrow (Routledge, 2021).

**Ola Mestad** (VF 2016-17) was elected a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. He also published (with Dag Michalsen) a historical commentary, *Grunnloven – Historisk kommentarutgave* 1814-2020 (2021).

**Elizabeth Miller** (VF 2017) published her monograph Extraction Ecologies and the Literature of the Long Exhaustion (Princeton University Press, 2021). She has also published an annotated collection of George Bernard Shaw's Major Political Writings (Oxford University Press, 2021).

**Douglas Moggach** (VF 2000-01) published Perfectionism of Autonomy (Brill, 2019).

John Murphy (LLM 1990) has published a selection of articles, his most recent being 'Concurrent Liability in Contract and Tort: A Separation Thesis', *Law Quarterly Review* (2021).

Yoko Okuda (VF 2017-18) published 'Emotion in "The Warrior's Soul" and "The Death of Atsumoir", The Conradian 45, 2 (2020).





Yomna Zentani

Hugh Whittaker



marno-van-der-maas board photograph

Gianfranco Pasquino (VF 2003) published Liberta inutile. Profilo ideologico dell'Italia repubblicana (2021).

**Heikki Olavi Patomäki** (VF 2019) received the International Political Economy Outstanding Activist Scholar Award of the International Studies Association in 2020.

**Natalia Petrovskaia** (RF 2012-15) was awarded the Journal of the International Arthurian Society Essay Prize 2021. The essay 'Peredur and the Problem of Inappropriate questions' will feature in the next volume of the journal. She has also recently published *Delw y Byd: A Medieval Welsh Encyclopedia* (2020).

Viviana Pupeza (MPhil 2020) received second prize for the 2019 best dissertation from the Royal Geographical Society's Planning and Environment Research Group. Her thesis was on 'Government Railways in Cape Town in the 1900s:A Resource for Resistance'. The Boak Student Support Fund funded the fieldwork for this project.

**Peter Raina** (A 1978) translated Heinrich von Kleist: Poems (Peter Lang, 2020) into English rhyming verse, and wrote the introduction. He also published *Doris Lessing: A life Behind the Scenes. The Files of British Intelligence Service MI5* (Peter Lang, 2021).

**Padmini Ram** (PhD 2015) published (with Malcolm Harper) The Affordable Housing Market in India: Institutional Constrainits, Informal Sector and Privatisation (Routledge 2020). She was also invited to speak at a TEDx event at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in January 2020 to present her findings on informal economy.

Andrew Ramage and Nancy Ramage (VF 2007) coauthored Ordinary Lydians at Home: The Lydian Trenches of the House of Bronzes and Pactolus Cliff at Sardis (Harvard University Press, 2021).

Harriet Ritvo (VF 1989) received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Society for Environmental History in 2020.

Jonathan Rose (VF 2005) and Wendy Rose established a Professorship of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University.

Margaret Rose (A 1984-85has published second editions of Theodor Mintrop. Das Album fuer Minna and Pictorial Irony, Parody and Pastiche (Aisthesis Verlag, 2020).

Daniella Salazar Herrera (MPhil 2020) began working at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations as an Economic Inclusion and Social Protection Consultant.

Vivienne Sano (MPhil 2012) completed her PhD in Historical Studies at Monash University in 2019. Her thesis was on, "Reflecting the Best Side of our Condition': The Black Press and Racial Uplift in the United States, 1900-1959'.

Anna Sapir Abulafia (RF 1981-86) was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2020.

**Timothy Sharp** (VF 2004-05) published Sacred Choral Music Repertoire: Insights for Conductors (GIA Publications, 2020).

Congratulations to **Roberto Sileo** (MPhil 2013) who was recently appointed the Academic Director of the new MSt. In English Language Assessment, a learning programme delivered by the Institute of Continuing Education in partnership with the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics (MMLL), Cambridge Assessment and Cambridge Language Sciences. Roberto continues his roles as a lecturer in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at MMLL and Director of Studies in Linguistics at Homerton College.

Margaret Smith (PhD 1984) published (with Frances A. Underhill, Jennifer Ward, Jacqueline Tasioulas and Claire Barnes) For Her Good Estate: The Life of Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare (2020). She is currently the Curator at Clare Ancient House Museum.

**Peter Scharff Smith** (VF 2003-04) has edited several books, most recently *Solitary Confinements: Effects, Practices, and Pathways towards Reform* (Oxford University Press, 2020), with Jules Lobel.

**E. Thomas Sullivan** (VF 2019-20) and Leonard Niehoff have co-authored *Free Speech: From Core Values to Current Debates* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Congratulations to **Tze-wei Tan** (MPhil 2005) and his wife Trisha who welcomed their new baby Harold in October 2020.

**Trudi Tate** (EF) is running online literature seasons on Virginia Woolf, 20thC women writers and Jane Austen for Literature Cambridge. www.literaturecambridge.co.uk

Ithamar Theodor (VF 2007-08) published The Bhagavad Gita: A Critical Introduction (Routledge India, 2020).

**Ulrike Tillmann** (Postdoctoral Associate 1990-92) became Director of the Newton Institute from 1 October 2021.

**Eleuterio Toro** (VF 2002-03) published *Exiliado en Buckingham Palace* (2020). The English translation became available in July 2021 with a prologue by Professor Paul Corrigan CBE.

**Oliver Turnball** (PhD 1995) was elected Deputy Vice Chancellor of Bangor University in 2019.

Congratulations to **Marno van der Maas** (MPhil 2013, CPGS 2017) and **Emily Goodacre** (PhD 2017) who married in December 2020. Marno published his paper, 'Protecting Enclaves from Intra-Core Side-Channel Attacks through Physical Isolation', in November 2020. He also won second place in a photo competition organised by the Department of Computer Science and Technology, University of Cambridge.

Jose Vidal-Sanz (PhD 1999) and Mercedes Esteban-Bravo (PhD 2000) published a textbook called Marketing Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

**Burton Visotzky** (A 1985-86) co-edited three volumes on Judaism: *History* (2021); *Literature* (2021); and *Culture and Modernity* (2020). **Linda Voigts** (VF 1987) published 'A Trilingual Medical Compendium from Medieval Oxford, Now in the Collection of the State Library Victoria', *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (2020).

**Gary K Waite** (VF 2001) published Jews and Muslims in Seventeenth-Century Discourse: From Religious Enemies to Allies and Friends (Routledge 2018). Gary was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Academy of the Arts and Humanities in 2020.

**Brandon Wallace** (MPhil 2001) published Mysterious Tales of Loss and Woe – and Other Jovial Stories as Truest Dunkworth (2020). Included are 12 short stories, one of which is set at a Cambridge College.

**Hettie Ward** (Associate) curated the exhibition Scent From Nature: Beauty's Botanical Origins at the Fitzwilliam Museum in 2021.

Judith Weiss (RF 1966-67, PhD 1968, A 1972-77) published (with Icana Djordjević and Nicole Clifton) Waldef: A French Romance from Medieval England (ARC Humanities Press, 2020).

Hugh Whittaker (OF 1993-2002) co-authored Compressed Development (Oxford University Press, 2020). Hugh is now a Fellow of St Antony's College and Professor in the Economy and Business of Japan at the Nissan Institute, Oxford.

**Donald Wright** (VF 2011-12) published *Canada:A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

**Kenneth Bradley Wray** (VF 2020) edited *Interpreting Kuhn* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). He has been appointed Associate Fellow at the Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies 2021-24.

**Flora Yu** (MPhil 2010) set up a local baking group called 'Your Cakes' in Battersea. They have been delivering cakes to NHS and key workers throughout lockdown since May 2020. By April 2021 the group had baked over 10,000 portions of cakes.

Yomna Zentani (LLM 2019) spoke about her journey to Cambridge and her experience of studying at the University in a video for the Cambridge Trust. Yomna was awarded the Rowan Williams Cambridge Studentship which supports students from zones of conflict. Yomna has co-founded Letters from Rowan Williams Scholars, a platform to encourage inclusion in higher education through storytelling. https://www.lettersfromrwcs.com/



Head Gardener, David Smith



### In Memoriam: Belle Low (1922-2020)

Here Belle was asked to dinner by the local magistrate where she met a young Englishman called Anthony Low, a history lecturer from Makerere College in Kampala. In September 1952 Belle and Anthony were married in the Cathedral in Zanzibar. They returned to Kampala where Belle worked briefly as a nurse before giving birth to Angela, and two years later to twins Adam and Penny.

Lady Isobel Low, the wife of former President Professor Sir Anthony Low (President 1987-94), was a much loved and cherished resident of Clare Hall. Born Isobel Smails (Belle to family and friends), she was the second of seven children and grew up on the family farm in Bishop Auckland, Northumberland, Belle had always intended to be a teacher, but at the outset of the Second World War she and her sister Cathy were sent to Hartlepool to train as nurses. At the end of the war she moved to Dundee to train as a midwife. While in Scotland she decided to explore opportunities for nurses in the then British Colonial Service. As a result, in 1948 she set off for Zanzibar which was to become home for the next five years.

In 1959 they moved to Canberra where Anthony took up a position as a junior lecturer at the Australian National University. Belle was greatly involved with many activities including ANU Women's Club, St John's Church, and the YWCA. She and Anthony made lifelong friendships and came to regard this small Australian city as their home.

In 1983, Anthony was appointed the Smuts Professor of the History of the British Commonwealth at Cambridge, and later became President of Clare Hall in 1987 during which time Belle played an important supportive role as the President's wife. Members will remember her warm welcome, charm, kindness and readiness to help and advise. She took great delight in organising weekly coffee mornings for spouses of Visiting Fellows, Easter Egg Hunts and Christmas Parties for families, and dinner parties for Fellows and Graduate Students in the President's Lodge. Belle loved being involved with people and kept in touch with many members all over the world.

When Anthony retired in 1994 he and Belle returned to Canberra where they quickly reconnected with friends. After Anthony died in February 2015 I attended his Memorial Service in July at ANU. During this time I spent much time with Belle reminiscing about the happy years she spent at Clare Hall with Anthony. Belle died peacefully on 25 November 2020, a few weeks after her 98th birthday. She will always be remembered with great love and affection, a lovely lady missed greatly by her family and friends.

### Liz Ramsden





### In Memoriam

It is with sadness that Clare Hall announces the following recent deaths.

If any names are missing, please contact us at lifemembers@clarehall.cam.ac.uk

Neil Ashcroft (VF 1973-74) John Barrow (PF 1999) **Anthony Christopher** (VF 1992-93) **Ronnie Ellenblum** (VF 1998-99) **Rafael Escribano** (VF 2006) Norman Golb (VF 1970) Raymond Grant (A 1980-81) Roger Hood (OF 1969-73) Mary Elizabeth King (Friend) Judith Kovacs (VF 2000-1) Nicholas Lash (PF 1998) **Isobel Low** (Special Associate 2016) Audrey Meaney (A 1972-73) John Morgan (VF 1988-89) **Robert O'Malley** (VF 1995) Paul Szarmach (A 1978) Carolyn Tanner Irish (HF 2018)

Please ensure we have your correct contact details to inform you of forthcoming events and opportunities. You can update your details with us online at: **clarehall.cam.ac.uk/update-your-details** or contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office at: **lifemembers@clarehall.cam.ac.uk / +44** (01223) 332368





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