Grants in focus in this issue include:

- The critical decade for climate change
- Can flowering plants produce addictive behaviours in bee pollinators?
- The institutionalisation of charitable food
- Beyond restitution: exploring the story of cultural objects after their repatriation
- Hair, social order and cultural encounters in the Habsburg world, c. 1490–1700

Neanderthal palaeoecology: the whens, hows and whys of a species’ journey
Director’s Note
New Normal

It truly is a great privilege to be taking up the Directorship of the Leverhulme Trust. Like many in the academic community, I appreciate the genuinely unique role played by the Trust in the UK research landscape. What sets the Trust apart is its commitment to fund curiosity-driven, interdisciplinary and often risky blue-skies research. Given the short- and long-term challenges we face at the moment, often falling between disciplines, such research has never been more vital. I look forward to leading an organisation dedicated to supporting outstanding scholars to explore a huge variety of avenues of intellectual endeavour, conscious that many of humankind’s greatest achievements have been the outcome of serendipitous research crossing disciplinary boundaries.

Those of you who have worked with the Trust before are aware of just how outstanding the small team is and how ably they have been led by Gordon. His shoes are big ones to fill. Current restrictions mean that I have not yet met most of my new colleagues in person, nor have I even seen my office. However, I look forward to an exciting new year getting to know the team and resuming our ‘new normal’ way of working as soon as possible.

Professor Anna Vignoles

Professor Anna Vignoles

Anna has previously been Professor of Education and Fellow of Jesus College at the University of Cambridge, Professor of Economics of Education at the UCL Institute of Education and Research Fellow at the London School of Economics Centre for Economic Performance.

A distinguished academic, Anna’s research has focused on issues of equity and value in education, particularly the relationship between educational achievement and social mobility, and the role played by education and skills attainment in the economy and society. She has published widely on these topics.

She has acted as a Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation, Member of Council of the Economic and Social Research Council, and Member of the Advisory Board of the Sutton Trust. She was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2017 and awarded a CBE in 2019 for her services to social sciences.

Fond Farewell

At the final board meeting of 2020 the Trustees recorded their appreciation and deep gratitude to Professor Gordon Marshall for his exceptional leadership of the Leverhulme Trust over the last 10 years. He has run the Trust smoothly and skilfully – not least in the highly challenging environment of the last 12 months – and further enhanced its already high reputation in the academic community. During this time research support has increased from just over £50m to approaching £120m a year and a total of £850m has been allocated to groundbreaking and highly original research across the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences.

Gordon has successfully guided the introduction of major new programmes including the Leverhulme Research Centres, Doctoral Scholarships and most recently the prestigious Leverhulme International Professorships. At the same time he has expanded and raised the profile of existing schemes such as the Arts Scholarships and the Philip Leverhulme Prizes.

The Trustees have been particularly grateful for the conspicuous courtesy and professionalism which featured in all his dealings with the Board. He always engaged with Trustees responsively yet with robust intellectual rigour. Gordon has balanced people, policy and politics with the skill you would expect from a talented social scientist. As Chairman I have greatly enjoyed my engagement with Gordon and every conversation left me both better informed and inspired by the work of the Trust. It has been my privilege to chair more than 20 organisations – public and private – and in each the relationship with the Chief Executive has been critical to the performance of the entity. Gordon made this so easy in the Trust and I have found our partnership to be tremendously good-humoured and deeply satisfying. I extend my personal thanks to Gordon, whom I will truly miss.

The leadership of the Leverhulme team has been quietly effective and unfailingly empathetic. Care for each individual has been a daily concern for Gordon and his insistence on the team always receiving the credit for success is a mark of his modesty and personal strength.

Gordon leaves an indelible mark on the Leverhulme Trust and a unique impact on the academics and researchers for whom Leverhulme funding is often a defining moment, or sometimes several moments, in their careers. We say a fond farewell to a stimulating colleague, a dear friend and a special person.

Niall FitzGerald KBE DSA

The institutionalisation of charitable food

Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite
University of Birmingham
Philip Leverhulme Prize

Building on her pioneering ethnographic research into the experiences of food banks in the UK, Kayleigh Garthwaite extends her empirical gaze to food charity in the US and Canada

‘Emergency’ food provision is an increasingly visible part of the landscape, with more food banks than there are branches of McDonalds in the UK. But is what we are witnessing now really an emergency? Or is it actually representative of chronic and permanent insecurity that is being addressed by charitable and corporate donations of food?

If we look across the Atlantic, to the US, what started as a grassroots ‘emergency’ response became a (seemingly) permanent landscape of corporate-backed charitable giving that absorbs food surpluses and relieves hunger, but only temporarily. In the UK, the idea of charitable food as an ‘emergency’ needs to be re-framed; this is especially important in a (post) COVID-19 context, where the entrenchment and corporatisation of food aid are becoming more prominent. While analyses of UK food banking have drawn on North American literature, less attention has been paid to the potential for allied critiques and movements. Since 2018, I have been working with a variety of multi-disciplinary scholars, non-governmental organisations and grassroots campaigners in the UK, US and Canada, including the Independent Food Aid Network (UK); Why Hunger (US); and Food Share Toronto (Canada), as part of the Global Solidarity Alliance for Food, Health and Social Justice.

Through the Philip Leverhulme Prize, I will develop a new programme of work on the institutionalisation and corporate capture of food charity across the three contexts and beyond. Alongside the ongoing alliance building, a series of ethnographic case studies and learning exchanges will take place. This work will help craft a shared analysis of the root causes of the current charitable food crisis, examining historical, international and contemporary contexts – in terms of similarities, but also key divergences. This will involve an investigation of income-based public policy alternatives to charitable food that prioritise rights, not charity. I am also keen to explore the relationship between the government and the non-profit sector in providing charitable food, whilst also considering how to best ensure those who are experiencing poverty are able to share their lived experiences and advocate for change. This is particularly important given the global context of COVID-19, which has exposed and deepened structural inequalities. Whilst this precarious situation is likely to intensify further as we enter a period of deepening inequality, there are genuine opportunities for change – something this growing alliance also makes possible.
In the twentieth century, armies trained and operated primarily in the field. Today they fight more often in cities. In the early twenty-first century, the largest and most intense battles have taken place in densely populated urban areas, as the bitter fights in Fallujah, Mosul, Aleppo, Homs and Marawi show. It is highly likely that the COVID-19 pandemic and the global recession, which will follow it, will accentuate urban conflict in the near future.

The proliferation of urban warfare represents a major challenge to local, national and global governance. It is a genuinely global political question for the early twenty-first century. During my Fellowship, I will examine the anatomy of the urban battle in this century in order to contribute to debates about urban conflict. I aim to develop a detailed, ethnographic analysis of the way military forces have actually operated in the new siege conditions which have appeared.

I will investigate the urban battlespace of the recent past and the future. However, in order to identify the distinctive topography of urban warfare today, I will also analyse the history of urban warfare in the five eras from antiquity (3000 BCE to 500 CE), medieval (500–1500), early modern (1500–1800), modern (1800–1992) to global (1992–2020). Specifically, I want to show how urban warfare has evolved over time, as a result of changing levels of urbanisation, weaponry and the size of armies in each era.

Since applying for the Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship in 2019, I have completed a short primer, *Urban Warfare in the Twenty-First Century*, which will be published by Polity in July 2021. On the basis of my research for this book, I have been able to refine my Leverhulme project yet further. Specifically, I have become particularly interested in the influence of weaponry on urban warfare. Therefore, starting this September, I want to explore how autonomous weapons, robotics and artificial intelligence might have begun to transform the urban battle of the twenty-first century and may continue to change it in the near future. However, against the claims of some commentators and through a comparison with apparently equally revolutionary siege weapons, like the catapult and the cannon, I argue that human social groups – not machinery – define urban warfare.
Eighteenth-century Newcastle was a thriving metropolitan centre, with its coal trade driving the industrial as well as cultural revolutions of the English Enlightenment. In 1767, the artist, writer and naturalist Thomas Bewick entered the city as a 14-year old apprentice in a busy engraving workshop. Newly arrived from the small family homestead of Cherryburn in the Tyne Valley, the young Bewick was assigned a low-status job of engraving wood blocks for illustrations to Charles Hutton’s mathematical Treatise on Mensuration. An obsessive doodler since early childhood, Bewick delighted both author and master with his innovative illustrations. This early project launched his extraordinary career as the region’s and then country’s leading illustrator. Most famous for his wood engraved books of natural history, especially his two-volume History of British Birds, Bewick won the hearts of children with his tail-pieces (“tale-pieces”) of rural life which appeared in the white spaces at the ends of his book chapters. These miniature portraits of young and old, engaged in the ordinary pursuits of country life, produced by an artisan in one of the burgeoning cities at the start of the Industrial Revolution, provide a perfect jumping-off point for this Leverhulme Visiting Professorship, to be held at Newcastle University. The project’s aim is to put the rural back at the heart of our thinking about culture, by convening a diverse range of researchers and expertise to develop the emerging, interdisciplinary field of ‘rural humanities’.

Despite what many might think in this post-industrial and technological age, the rural remains fundamental to how the UK works. England’s rural enterprises contribute over £250 billion to the economy, equivalent to the value of the output of the country’s ten leading cities outside of London. Researchers at Newcastle University are already well known for their work in this sector, with a long-standing Centre for Rural Economy and a new National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise. Individual researchers in the humanities also study many aspects of rural history and culture: changes to how the land is owned and used, its landscapes and its buildings, its representation in literature, music and art, and the cultural forms that flourish there today. What has not been attempted before is to join up these different approaches. But this is exactly what I hope to take forward while I am in the UK, making a valuable contribution to an emerging academic discourse about rural Britain that currently fragments along disciplinary lines.
The critical decade for climate change

Professeur Corinne Le Quéré
University of East Anglia
Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarship

Bringing the art of storytelling to the science of climate change

The 2020s will be a decade of profound change. The impacts of climate change will become visible to the naked eye; and they are alarming. Transformations at an unprecedented scale are essential. Current research is not fit for purpose. It is too narrow and too slow to address this growing urgency. Our new scholarship programme will train twenty-first century researchers with unique insights as to why societies succeed or fail to respond to the threat of climate change and to build the foundations for a healthy planet and a fair society for the future.

We will design research that captures and conveys change as it occurs. Despite the exploding availability of ‘big data’, we live in a world where real-world information is hard to get, identify and trust. Our Doctoral Scholars will develop approaches to translate available data into timely information that goes well beyond the conventional scientific and statistical approach. Their methods will aim to capture near real-time information on evolving trends in carbon emissions, land use and climate impacts, using modern types of observations such as mobility trends, imaging or policy data. The analysis of modern observations will serve to identify and understand the trends in the underlying drivers, to identify the conditions that trigger proportionate responses across the energy and land-use sectors and for adapting to climate change.

The creation of imaginative and arts-based approaches will serve to explore and evaluate potential futures and to widen understanding and action across society. In doing so, this research programme will document the changes across nature and society, provide evidence of their drivers and triggers, their amplifying forces and intervention points, in order to inspire and inform the strongest possible responses to climate change.

Our students will integrate agile use of new observations with storytelling and narratives that capture human dimensions in its richest form, essentially creating a new field of climate research. They will develop the agile and interdisciplinary thinking necessary to lead a paradigm shift in understanding responses to climate change. Natural and social climate scientists have never before worked with creative writers in this way. This Leverhulme programme builds on UEA’s pioneering track record in climate science, international development and creative writing, all three recognised by a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

Chirality – the handedness of physical objects – is a fundamental feature of the natural world. Asymmetry, in various forms, is ubiquitous in nature. Conspicuous examples are the helical handedness of snail shells and the placement of the human heart on the left-hand side of the chest. Asymmetry is, however, a feature at all length scales, from the macroscopic down to the molecular. The handedness that we observe in plants and animals arises from asymmetry at the molecular scale, in molecules such as DNA and proteins. The manner in which these molecules interact with each other controls the formation of ever-larger asymmetric structures, ultimately leading to the macroscopic chirality of the natural world. It is the transmission of chiral information across these length scales that this grant will enable us to study.

Because the molecules of nature are astonishingly, sometimes intractably, complex, we will work instead with smaller synthetic molecules that have unique chiral topologies. By making these molecules as hybrids between synthetic, designed molecules and proteins found in natural systems, we will be able to study how the composition of the protein-derived parts of the molecule can influence the chiral state of the structure and therefore learn something about how proteins can influence chirality in other contexts.

We will construct molecules that have catenated (like two links of a chain) or knotted structures. These molecules will be assembled through the formation of metal complexes, but the more subtle chiral aspects will be directed by small-structured regions derived from proteins. The ability of these units to direct the chiral handedness of the overall structure will help us to understand their behaviour in other contexts.

A final, ambitious, goal of this project is to extend our study to dynamic systems, in which the handedness of a molecule can be switched from one state to another through a chemical change. Dynamic changes in the shape of a molecule is a defining feature of how information is processed in biology. By studying these shape changes in smaller, more easily understood molecules, we will gain fundamental insights into how molecular shape can be influenced in designed systems and in biology more generally.
Our contemporary understanding of cultural diversity has been fruitfully applied to the study of pre-modern texts. Medieval and later ideas of diversity have been explored. However, my research shows how textual objects in the sixteenth century both mediated the experience of diversity and were subject to regimes that sought to control its implications. How do these distinctly early modern experiences and manifestations of human diversity help us reflect on the modern concepts of diversity and multiculturalism?

I use the lens provided by the essayist and philosopher Michel de Montaigne (1533–1592), who investigated human and natural diversity through his reading, travels and writing. What was the relationship during his lifetime between new manifestations and perceptions of human diversity and the making, interpreting and regulating of texts? The Reformation had recently fragmented Christendom into differing religious identities and Europeans had just encountered new peoples and cultures in the Americas. From the 1530s, the rapidly expanding textual record revealed complex and confusing configurations of human diversity in the past and the present, in the new and old worlds, along many different axes: religion, human geography, public opinion, knowledge, customs and mores, language and writing systems. How did the textual field provoke, reflect and contest new orders and representations of human and natural diversity in these first post-Reformation decades?

I proceed by selecting for analysis particular textual objects encountered by Montaigne and then recorded either in his travel journal (1580–1581) or in his *Essais* (1580–1595). I assemble a corpus of similar or related objects going back as far as the 1530s and ask questions such as the following: How were ordonnances and other official, public texts used to face the challenge of escalating differences in religion and morality? How did ancient texts by Seneca and Plutarch reflect the moral differences between people and cultures and how did the texts themselves vary as they moved across diverse territories? How did the extraordinary diversity of native American verbal art interact with European ‘letters’ and with what outcomes? How was Europe in a newly partitioned and fragmented world reimagined, in both the textual and visual aspects of maps?

Above: Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library, ‘The Description of Europe’. This is taken from an English abridgement of Abraham Ortelius’ famous 1570 atlas of the world, *Abraham Ortelius His Epitome of the Theater of the Worlde*, published in 1603. Each map is accompanied by a textual description of the region or country.
Plants and their pollinators have an extremely successful mutualism that evolved over 120 million years ago and led to the diversification of life on Earth. At its core, this relationship is a transaction governed by economics. Plants recruit pollinators as an active agent for sexual reproduction using floral nectar. Pollinators visit flowers to collect nectar. The act of visiting flowers results in the efficient transfer of the plant’s male gamete – pollen – from the flowers of one plant to the receptive female parts of another flower of the same species.

A pollinator’s aim in this transaction is the acquisition of food; the plant’s aim is to outcross. This mutualism has great potential benefits for both partners. However, it is instructed by the self-interests of each party and occurs in a competitive marketplace. As such, both plants and pollinators will seize any opportunity to tip the cost–benefit ratio of the transaction in their own favour. Recent research from our laboratories indicates that plants manipulate pollinating bees by drugging them, potentially improving pollination efficiency. Plants produce thousands of chemical compounds including the common human-used drugs, nicotine and caffeine. These compounds have no nutritive value but instead are often bitter-tasting or even toxic to insects, often arising as a mechanism to protect plants from insect herbivores. Surprisingly, these compounds are also found in floral nectar but at concentrations too low to be protective.

Earlier work in our labs showed that caffeine and nicotine amplify the rewarding properties of floral nectar, causing bees to form longer lasting memories of floral cues like scent that help bees find food. In this way, plants are modifying how bees perceive the value of these flowers’ rewards. They are ‘fiddling the figures’ on the economic transaction.

This alteration of memory could have an even more insidious influence on pollinator behaviour. Exciting preliminary evidence from our laboratories has shown that bees become addicted to compounds like nicotine. We plan to study how addictions develop and whether bees exhibit all the hallmark behaviours of mammalian addicts such as withdrawal and compulsion. The creation of addicted pollinators would be extremely beneficial to plants by creating pollinators with high floral fidelity in the competitive marketplace. We expect this trait has arisen multiple times in plant lineages and will survey several plant species for potential drugs in nectar. This work will not only resolve a novel mechanism by which plants can cheat the pollination mutualism, but may also identify the first non-human example of a natural self-administered state of addiction.

Can flowering plants produce addictive behaviours in bee pollinators?

Professor Geraldine Wright, University of Oxford
Professor Phil Stevenson, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Research Project Grant

Geraldine Wright and Phil Stevenson investigate how plants use drugs to manipulate the behaviour of foraging bees.
“Our students are never going to be famous. That’s not what they are there for.” Professor Sally Mackey, founder of the seminal applied theatre courses at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, says: “If you look at our alumni ... the work they are doing, it’s very much about using theatre and performance to make people’s lives better.” Indeed, most of the students taking Central’s BA and MA Applied Theatre degrees have little interest in taking to the stage, or even backstage, in a traditional theatre building. They are there to learn how to harness the power of participatory performance to effect social change and increase wellbeing; and their ‘theatres’ range from schools in Cornwall to a prison in Malta to the streets of the slums of Mumbai. Such work requires a very different knowledge and skill set to that of an actor: the applied theatre practitioner must be an effective facilitator who not only knows about theatre and how it works, but also has an understanding of teaching and learning. As a result, the courses at Central are necessarily heavy on theory. But what makes the training here unique is the diverse range of opportunities students have to hone their skills through outreach projects and placements: learning how to work with offenders in a prison environment, for example, by actually doing it.

Sally sees these collaborative outreach projects and placements as absolutely key, saying “without them our alumni would be let out into the world half-trained.” And to ensure that students can choose their host institution based on interest and aspiration rather than financial circumstances, Central offers travel and subsistence bursaries, funded by the Leverhulme Trust. These bursaries do far more than just enhance the career prospects of the students who receive them. Many find the opportunity to work with their chosen community nothing short of life changing, giving them a more profound understanding of the issues their participants face. And some graduates go on to find employment with the institutions that hosted them: their expertise and understanding providing an invaluable resource for the students who follow in their footsteps. The bursaries have also enabled the vibrant academic community at Central to flourish. “Because our students are able to work in diverse contexts, our staff have been able to develop their own thinking in those areas. There’s a wonderful circular learning and teaching process going on,” Sally says. Dr Selina Busby, for example, has been leading a community theatre programme in the sprawling informal housing settlement of Dharavi, in the heart of Mumbai, for over ten years. Each year, Selina and her students work collaboratively with an Indian theatre practitioner, an NGO based in Mumbai and the young people of Dharavi: a project that has helped to inform her research on how participatory performance can empower communities to be their own catalysts for change. The project, ‘Concrete Utopias in Dharavi’, was shortlisted for the 2016 Times Higher Education Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts (widely regarded as the Oscars for universities) and was runner up in the 2017 Guardian University Awards for International Projects and the AHRC/Wellcome Medical Humanities award in 2020.

Running since 2007, with the Leverhulme Trust’s support, Central’s outreach programme has been fine-tuned to ensure maximum value for the bursaries that support it. Even the application students must complete for their bursaries is designed to teach them the fundraising skills that can be the make or break for those wanting to set up their own projects in the future. By 2020, the wealth of experience and knowledge built up over the years ensured that there was little risk that projects could be derailed by nasty surprises. But then the pandemic struck. As traditional theatres across the globe were forced to close their doors, the need for the outreach projects to
keep theirs open, was greater than ever. Students and staff rose to the challenge magnificently. Drawing on expertise already within the department – not least that of Dr Nicola Abraham, whose innovative teaching practice incorporating augmented and virtual reality skills was recently recognised with the Guardian’s Teaching Excellence Award 2020 – the students took national and international projects online with passion and creativity. For St Levan Primary School in rural Cornwall, this was the first year in over twenty that they would not be hosting students from Central, yet for the children – their parents and their teachers – the support could not have been more necessary. Using newly acquired skills for online practices, undergraduates on the Applied Theatre and Education course created a four-week-long virtual process drama in which the children helped to save the fictional Forest Floor Institute from the threat of deforestation: the activities addressing numerous aspects of the school curriculum while providing a welcome creative outlet during the first national lockdown. Sally is rightly proud of the team’s success in adapting to the circumstances that they found themselves in, but was not particularly surprised. That is what Applied Theatre does, she explains: “It builds from and out of issues of the day – as well as pre-empting them sometimes – so, it’s not like it’s an esoteric form of art that decides its own future. It adapts and adopts from currency in society.” And with the tools and practices they developed to overcome the global restrictions on travel and social integration, Central’s graduates are uniquely placed, particularly in the near future, to play leading roles in facilitating drama to change lives for the better in these unprecedented times.

The Applied Theatre bursary scheme is currently supported by a three-year Leverhulme Trust Arts Scholarship, awarded to the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2018.

While studying for her MA in Applied Theatre at Central in 2019, Srividya Srivinas worked with Hasiru Dala, an organisation that aims to ensure a life of dignity for the marginalised community of waste pickers in Karnataka, India. Her project, supported by a Leverhulme bursary, used applied theatre to give a group of young waste pickers in Mysore the space to discover their dreams for themselves and their community (see image above). Srividya went on to start her own Applied Theatre company, Aakara, in Bangalore in March 2020, just as India went into lockdown. By quickly adapting her applied theatre practice to the online space, she has been able to help young people in the community cope with the realities of COVID-19. And throughout the pandemic, she has been sharing her skills and experience in online workshops for other Applied Theatre practitioners, teachers and facilitators as well as for Central’s MA and BA students as they design their own virtual outreach projects and placements. In January 2021, Srividya started a new project with Hasiru Dala, providing regular drama and arts-based activities for waste pickers’ children in Bangalore when COVID-19 restrictions allow.
Representing evolution

Professor Samir Okasha
University of Bristol
Major Research Fellowship

Using an innovative interdisciplinary methodology that draws on philosophy of science, cognitive psychology and linguistics, Samir Okasha investigates how biological evolution has been represented in both scientific practice, science communication and pedagogy.

A central part of scientific enquiry involves constructing representations of objects, events and processes in the world. Representations can take many forms, including diagrams, taxonomies, verbal descriptions, physical models and mathematical models. A diagram of the solar system, a taxonomy of Alpine flora, a ball-and-stick model of a chemical substance and an epidemiological model of the spread of a disease are all examples of representations. Different though they are, each of these scientific constructs aims to represent some system in the world (the ‘target system’) and can be assessed for how well they achieve this aim.

A good scientific representation needs to be accurate; that is, to correspond reasonably well to its target. Typically, though, a representation will not correspond to its target in all respects but only in important ones. For example, a diagram of the solar system may depict the relative size of each planet or its distance from the sun, but not its surface topography. Furthermore, many representations involve idealisation; that is, they assume away certain features of their target system for simplicity. Thus a scientific representation need not exhibit perfect fidelity to its target and usually does not aspire to.

The aim of my project is to examine how biological evolution has been represented – diagrammatically, linguistically and mathematically – in the scientific literature, past and present. A further aim is to examine representations of evolution in the context of pedagogy and science communication. ‘Biological evolution’ includes the process of descent with modification that Darwin first described; the mechanisms that drive the process such as natural selection; and the products to which the process has given rise, such as adaptation and diversity. Scientists have constructed representations of each of these elements in their quest to understand how evolution works. My project will offer a systematic study of these representations from an overarching philosophical perspective.

My project has an integrative ambition. It will bring together philosophical ideas about the nature of representation and idealisation, linguistic ideas about metaphor and analogy, psychological ideas about reasoning and cognitive biases, and educational ideas about science communication. By drawing on such a diverse range of ideas, the project will deepen our understanding of how evolution is, has been and should be represented.
Efficient guidance of long-distance movement, when you cannot directly sense the goal, is fundamental to mobile agents, whether organisms or machines. Returning to base from afar, known as homing, is a clear example. Humans have created technological solutions of great sophistication, from Harrison’s maritime longitude clock to modern satellite positioning systems, but natural navigators like turtles, salmon, bees and especially birds, achieve astonishing feats of homing without such tools.

Amongst the greatest navigators on Earth are pelagic seabirds, capable of homing after long trips at sea foraging for their chicks, from distances of hundreds or even thousands of kilometres. If we ask “how do they do it?”, the simple but unorthodox answer is that we still do not really know.

Experiments with laboratory or domesticated models like the rat or the homing pigeon are powerful, but inevitably exclude potentially important processes available to wild animals navigating in their natural environment at natural scales, such as the information collected on their outward journey. It has long been my vision to translate the rigour of laboratory approaches into the field to unravel the mysteries of natural navigation in the wild. I think this is the time, because advances in miniature on-board tracking technologies and powerful analytical techniques borrowed from machine learning now allow us to follow the movement decisions of freely moving animals with exquisite precision. So the new models of bird navigation may at last be free from the constraints of laboratory domestication. In this project my collaborator, Ollie Padget, and I have chosen to study one of the most elusive and wide-ranging animal groups on our planet, the shearwaters, and in particular the Manx shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) at their island breeding colonies off western Britain. We will use miniature on-board GPS logging and other precision biotelemetry systems to interrogate the movement decisions of wild shearwaters on natural foraging excursions, under natural experimental contrasts, in experimental displacements and under controlled sensory manipulations. We hope to develop the shearwater as a model for real navigation in the wild where the requirements of autonomous movement control are at their most challenging – the highly dynamic, apparently featureless, ocean environment.
Hair, social order and cultural encounters in the Habsburg world, c. 1490–1700

Dr Stefan Hanß
University of Manchester
Philip Leverhulme Prize

Stefan Hanß examines how head, facial, body and animal hair functioned as a cultural marker around which identities and subjectivities revolved in what he calls a ‘hair-literate society’ in the early modern Habsburg world.

Reformation upheavals in the Central European Habsburg heartlands and the Iberian imperial programme of global expansion – and the cultural encounters it entailed in the Americas, Africa and Asia – dynamised the meanings of hair in the early modern period. My project explores how everyday performances of hair mirrored religious, social, political, cultural, artistic and material changes in an increasingly global and both religiously as well as socially contested Habsburg world.

In short, I am interested in the significance of hair for early modern materialised identities. This project explores what it meant to live in what I term a ‘hair-literate society’. People’s everyday performances of hair and their innovative use of head, facial, body and animal hair mirrored fundamental religious and social changes across the empire. In the estate-based society of early modern Germany, Spain and its dominions and colonies across Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa, authorities regulated hairstyles. Nevertheless, hair-literate subjects innovatively managed their appearance by visiting barbershops, using remedies and dyestuff and adopting beards and hairstyles. This period experienced a renaissance of the beard; thus, after the late medieval fashion of well-shaven faces, exuberant and characteristic beards became in vogue – a trend that also diversified people’s means to stage identities. With the rise of new artistic genres and techniques like portraiture and engraving, artists invested renewed efforts into the life-like representation of hair. At the same time, artisans stirred innovation in the manufacturing of hats, caps, bonnets and veils, globally traded furs, hair braids, dyestuff used for colouring hair and hair accessories.

Habsburg subjects across the social ladder engaged with a highly creative and experimental material culture of hairdressing that was driven by medical understandings of the body and a globally connected material world. Addressing the whole of the geographically diverse Habsburg colonial world, this project charts the significance of hair for materialised identities, cultural hierarchies and concepts of race and power in this early modern empire.


Above: Albrecht Dürer, Portrait of Ulrich Varnbuler, 1522, woodcut, 43.5 x 32.9 cm.
Over the past decade, there has been a growing interest for the restitution of cultural objects from European museums to their communities of origin, particularly to those in former colonies. Despite this attention, the current debates remain largely a reflection of the somewhat limited existing research conducted in the area. So far, the focus has been on investigating the requirements for (and the possible legal hurdles to) de-accession and restitution, as well as the processes adopted by museums in order to address restitution claims and the forms that returns have taken, whether temporary or permanent. The vast majority of research into restitution processes concludes when the objects change hands. This means that there has been only limited consideration of the impacts of restitution on the communities and countries of origin and only scarce analysis of impacts on those institutions or nations from which the objects have been claimed. As a result, discussions on restitution appear often skewed since multiple voices and data necessary for informed discussions are missing.

Through an analysis of past experiences, I seek to offer a longer-term view on the aftermath of restitution processes for all the parties involved. With case studies among some of the institutions that have already returned objects overseas, I will consider what made a particular case successful (or not), from the perspectives of its various stakeholders. By expanding the understanding of restitution processes, I hope to bring a nuanced perspective on the restitution debate, its modalities and the issues at stake. Furthermore, given that the human right of individuals to participate in cultural life also includes the right to access and enjoy tangible forms of cultural heritage, such as objects housed in museums, repatriation should be considered through a human rights lens. I will therefore adopt a ‘human rights approach to restitution’ as part of this research project, in order to add yet another dimension to the restitution debate. This investigation of the human rights dimension of restitution will reveal whether such processes may support, or hinder, the realisation of cultural human rights.

The Obelisk of Axum, Tigray Region, Ethiopia. Looted in 1937, returned in 2005 from Rome. Photograph by Ondřej Žváček, reproduced under CC BY-SA 3.0.
Neanderthal palaeoecology: the whens, hows and whys of a species’ journey

Professor Andrea Manica and Dr Michela Leonardi
University of Cambridge
Research Project Grant

Andrea Manica and his team’s groundbreaking study of the palaeoecology of Neanderthals, over their whole chronological and geographical range, will shed new light on how climate shaped their biological and cultural evolution.

Neanderthals (*Homo neanderthalensis*) are a human species that lived in western Eurasia between approximately 350,000 and 30,000 years ago. Since the discovery of the first fossil in 1856, a huge body of research from multiple disciplines has helped us uncover more and more about this species. Today, we not only know what Neanderthals looked like, where they lived and which tools they used, but also a lot about how they behaved.

But with new answers have also come new questions. Genetic analysis of DNA from fossil remains from multiple locations and periods has revealed a major population replacement between 90 and 120 thousand years ago in central Asia. What led to the demise of the previous inhabitants? And why were the incoming Neanderthals able to take over? Unfortunately, genetic data, which are very powerful at detecting change, cannot inform us on the processes behind such population dynamics. Climate is an obvious candidate in explaining this population turnover, but formally demonstrating its role is not easy.

In order to attempt it, we have gathered an interdisciplinary team composed of archaeologists, ecologists, paleoclimate modellers and cultural evolution specialists. Together, we will investigate the role of climate in shaping the population dynamics of Neanderthals over their whole temporal and geographic range. We will also incorporate cultural information to see if and how different Neanderthal populations changed and adapted their behaviour in response to climatic fluctuations.

By doing so, we will be able to put the population turnover that occurred 120 thousand years ago into context, providing a clear test of whether climatic changes are a likely explanation. But most importantly, for the first time, we will be able to test for the role of climate in the whole species’ journey of Neanderthals, integrating cultural evolution into the bigger picture, to better understand the whens, hows and whys of the journey of this fascinating human species.
Grants Awarded between July and December 2020

**Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships**

- University of East Anglia
  - Professor Corinne Le Quéré
  - CBE FRS
  - The critical decade for climate change Leverhulme Doctoral Scholars
- University of Hull
  - Dr Briony McDonagh
  - The University of Hull Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships centre for water cultures
- King’s College London
  - Professor Sergi Garcia-Manyes
  - Understanding the mechanics of life
- University of Leeds
  - Professor Graham Huggan
  - Extinction studies
- Manchester Metropolitan University
  - Professor Steven Miles
  - The Leverhulme unit for the design of cities of the future (LUDcC)
- University of Oxford
  - Professor Jane Barlow
  - Moving beyond inequality: the Leverhulme biopsychosocial doctoral training scholarships
- Queen’s University Belfast
  - Professor John Morison
  - Leverhulme interdisciplinary network on algorithmic solutions (LINAS)
- University of Southampton
  - Professor Fraser Sturt
  - Intelligent oceans
- University of Sussex
  - Professor Thomas Nowotny
    - be.AI – biomimetic embodied artificial intelligence
- University of Warwick
  - Professor João Porto de Albuquerque
    - TRANSFORM: transformations of human–environment interactions to sustainable development

**Major Research Fellowships**

- **Professor David Andress**
  - University of Portsmouth
  - How to trust? Interpersonal judgment and the French Revolution
  - £166,657
- **Dr Tamara Atkin**
  - Queen Mary, University of London
  - Ecologies of waste: reusing books in early modern England
  - £128,265
- **Dr Agnès Bos**
  - University of St Andrews
  - The French Royal Order of the Holy Spirit: art and materiality
  - £113,714
- **Professor Warren Boucher**
  - Queen Mary, University of London
  - Texts and diversity in the age of Montaigne, 1530–1590
  - £116,765
- **Professor Jessica Brown**
  - University of St Andrews
  - Group responsibility
  - £118,764
- **Professor John Coleman**
  - University of Oxford
  - Eastern origins of English
  - £174,862
- **Dr Katerina Dalacoura**
  - London School of Economics and Political Science
  - The international thought of Turkish Islamists: history, civilization and nation
  - £207,579
- **Professor Paulo Drinot**
  - University College London
  - José Carlos Mariátegui: a new biography
  - £200,988
- **Professor Pauline Fairclough**
  - University of Bristol
  - Shostakovich’sLady Macbeth of Mtsensk: sexuality, Stalinism and the Cold War
  - £114,632
- **Professor Lesley Gourlay**
  - University College London
  - The datafied university: documentation and performativity in digitised education
  - £160,787
- **Professor Sarah Hibberd**
  - University of Bristol
  - Italianità abroad: the Puritani Quartet in London and Paris, 1835–1843
  - £184,065
- **Professor Ed Hopkins**
  - University of Edinburgh
  - Behavioural institutions
  - £187,917
- **Professor Nick Hopwood**
  - University of Cambridge
  - The many births of the test-tube baby
  - £194,049
- **Professor Paulina Kewes**
  - University of Oxford
  - Contesting royal succession in reformation England: Latimer to Shakespeare
  - £182,784
- **Professor Anthony King**
  - University of Warwick
  - Urban warfare: past, present and future
  - £191,530
- **Professor Uma Kothari**
  - University of Manchester
  - Touring Britain in the 1950s: the adventures of postcolonial Indian travellers
  - £99,060
- **Professor Genevieve LeBaron**
  - University of Sheffield
  - The business of forced labour: causal pathways and transformation
  - £162,092
- **Professor Matt Matravers**
  - University of York
  - Criminalisation and punishment: philosophical theory and practical reality
  - £119,412
- **Dr Seán Molloy**
  - University of York
  - Representing evolution
  - £125,464
- **Professor Samir Okasha**
  - University of Bristol
  - The weight of justice and the balance of power
  - £190,961
- **Professor Joachim Schaper**
  - University of Aberdeen
  - “The Last Jew of Merthyr”: a social and cultural history of post-war Britain
  - £127,742
- **Professor Lyndal Roper**
  - University of Birmingham
  - The many births of the test-tube baby
  - £122,432
- **Professor Richard Scholar**
  - Durham University
  - The inventions of utopia
  - £122,441
- **Professor Robert Schuetze**
  - Durham University
  - Democracy: constitutional structures for a “government of peoples”
  - £95,901
- **Professor Adrian Smith**
  - Queen Mary, University of London
  - Field of glass: labour, technoscience and biopolitics
  - £127,510
- **Professor Paul Smith**
  - University of Birmingham
  - Unfolding vision: Cézanne’s ‘way of seeing’
  - £122,441
- **Professor Lyndsey Stonebridge**
  - University of Birmingham
  - Thinking like Hannah Arendt: crisis thinking from the twentieth century for today
  - £122,432

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**Philosophy and Theology**

Dr Liam Kof-Bright  
London School of Economics and Political Science

Dr Elselijn Kingma  
University of Southampton

Dr Laura Quick  
University of Oxford

Dr Emily Thomas  
Durham University

Dr Joseph Webster  
University of Cambridge

**Sociology and Social Policy**

Dr Judith Bovensiepen  
University of Kent

Dr Emily Dawson  
University College London

Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite  
University of Birmingham

Dr Nisha Kapoor  
University of Warwick

Dr Lucy Mayblin  
University of Sheffield

**Research Project Grants**

**Science**

Dr Tim Adamo  
University of Edinburgh  
_Twistors and quantum field theory in strong backgrounds_  
£163,344

Professor Ian Apperley  
University of Birmingham  
_Intentive alignment in human judgement: causes and consequences_  
£233,276

Professor Anthony Barrett  
Imperial College London  
_Nucleoside synthesis in the blink of an eye_  
£287,089

Dr Sebastian Breitenbach  
Northumbria University  
_Reconstructing Siberian permafrost dynamics using stable and clumped isotopes_  
£488,989

Professor Steven Bull  
University of Bath  
_Peptidomimetic sulfanamide foldamers that are ‘chiral at sulfur’_  
£248,228

Professor Glenn Burley  
University of Strathclyde  
_A unified approach to bio-orthogonal reaction discovery in living systems_  
£256,897

Dr Bingzhang Chen  
University of Strathclyde  
_How does phytoplankton diversity affect primary production in the ocean?_  
£205,424

Dr QueLing Cl’ng  
King’s College London  
_Neural regulation of insulin-like hormones in brain–body communication_  
£213,909

Professor John Christie  
University of Glasgow  
.Unlocking the enigma of plant tropisms from light sensing to directional growth_  
£294,109

Professor Maria R Conte  
King’s College London  
_Making sense of disorder in protein–RNA interactions_  
£237,275

Dr Daniel Dunas  
Queen’s University Belfast  
_Modelling energy transfer during irradiation of matter by swift particles_  
£204,508

Dr Oge Eyiye  
Queen Mary, University of London  
_Microbial link from organic sulfur compounds to methane in anoxic sediments_  
£279,601

Dr John Fielden  
University of East Anglia  
_Redox-switchable polysaccharidase charge transfer chromophores_  
£193,677

Dr Alexander Forse  
University of Cambridge  
_Direct capture of carbon dioxide from the air with super-strong adsorbers_  
£311,333

Professor Rupert Fray  
University of Nottingham  
_Gall wasp-induced plant structures and mechanisms of cellular reprogramming_  
£225,071

Professor Lev Kantorovich  
King’s College London  
_Understanding dynamics of finite and extended atomistic systems_  
£267,516

Professor Anthony Kent  
University of Nottingham  
_Hypersonic superoscillations: enhancing the resolution of acoustic imaging_  
£341,722

Dr Sara Macias  
University of Edinburgh  
_Interfering with pluripotency_  
£341,722

Professor Jim Tomlinson  
University of Oxford  
_Defeating Mr Churchill: the decline of liberal political economy, 1908–1929_  
£102,317

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_Interfering with pluripotency_  
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Dr Eamonn Mallon
University of Leicester
How do bees imprint genes?
£194,432

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University of Cambridge
Neanderthal palaeoecology: the whens, whos and whys of a species’ journey
£197,386

Dr Haresh Manyar
Queen’s University Belfast
Converting waste biomass into biofuels using VFA bio-refining platform
£187,607

Professor John Murphy
University of Warwick
Dark matter and the ultimate performance limit of semiconductor silicon
£222,147

Professor Adele Murrell
University of Bath
Modelling the fits and starts of how genes burst into expression
£410,983

Dr Victor Pacheco Pena
Newcastle University
Switching light: towards new paradigms in digital computing with metamaterials
£255,043

Dr Thomas Penfold
Newcastle University
Transforming the analysis of X-ray spectroscopy with machine learning
£263,550

Dr Bernard Piette
Durham University
Cages with paradoxical geometries
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Dr Stephen Alexander Rolfe
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The function and origin of novel nutrient transporters in clubroot
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Ms Julie Seibt
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How sleep changes brain connections: insight from the translatabile of dendrites
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Cardiff University
Genetic regulation of mitochondria in neurons
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Chiral induction and self-sorting in peptide knots and catenanes
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DMSP, a missing link in the global sulfur cycle
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University of Bath
Understanding and exploiting an iron-catalyzed route to an interstellar molecule
£276,012

Professor Geraldine Wright
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Can flowering plants produce addictive behaviours in bee pollinators?
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Understanding snake venom variation: integrating the role of diet and defence
£185,084

Dr Levi Yant
University of Nottingham
Preadapt: revealing the basis of whole genome duplication-mediated adaptation
£328,486

Dr Jie Zhang
University of Southampton
Towards practical algorithmic mechanism design: beyond the worst-case analysis
£195,303

Social Sciences

Professor Graeme Acheson
University of Strathclyde
The entrepreneurs who made Glasgow: the city and its businesses, 1861–1901
£141,874

Professor Peter Garrard
St George’s, University of London
Investigating the relationship between power, behaviour, and habits
£234,713

Ms Kristin Hausler
British Institute of International and Comparative Law
Beyond restitution: exploring the story of cultural objects after repatriation
£219,653

Dr Ben Williamson
University of Edinburgh
Biology, data science and the making of precision education
£151,516

Professor Dominic Wyse
University College London
Children’s learning in the National Curriculum
£183,275

Humanities

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University of Sheffield
Inventing the cultural institutions of Stalinism, 1917–1932
£267,150

Professor Philip Schwzzer
University of Exeter
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Professor Phiroze Vasunia
University College London
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University of East Anglia
DMSP, a missing link in the global sulfur cycle
£226,422

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University of Warwick
Dynamical stellar models for active evolved planetary systems
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Visiting Professorships

Professor Mathew Adkins
University of Huddersfield
Visitor – Mr Joran Rudi
£115,458

Dr Nandini Bhattacharya
University of Dundee
Visitor – Professor Sanjay Kumar Sharma
£44,588

Dr Celia Donert
University of Cambridge
Visitor – Dr Michal Kopecek
£95,036

Dr Paulo Drinot
University of Reading
Visitor – Professor Valentina Dominguez
£45,150

Dr Jani Virtanen
University of Reading
Visitor – Professor Hakan Hedensalm
£131,934

Professor Paul Ward
Arts University Bournemouth
Visitor – Professor Eric Dyer
£57,529

Dr Shirley Ye
University of Birmingham
Visitor – Dr Kris Manjappra
£75,898

Professor Luciana Martins
Birkbeck, University of London
Visitor – Jerome Branche
£71,378

Professor Ronan McGrath
University of Liverpool
Visitor – Professor Ron Lifshitz
£16,703

Professor John J L Morton
University College London
Visitor – Professor Andrei Faraon
£41,700

Professor Tom Otis
University of Glasgow
Visitor – Professor Cesar Dominguez
£83,425

Dr Henriette Partzsch
University of Edinburgh
Visitor – Professor Linda Mitchell
£47,932

Dr Theo Maarten van Lint
University of Oxford
Visitor – Professor Valentina Cielo
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Dr Shirley Ye
University of Birmingham
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£75,898

Professor Hui Yu
University of Portsmouth
Visitor – Professor Junyu Dong
£110,414
Recently opened funding rounds
The Trust is now accepting applications for the following grant schemes.

Early Career Fellowships
For early career researchers with a track record of research who wish to undertake a significant piece of publishable work, but who have not yet held a permanent academic position: 100 percent of salary costs up to £50,000 in the first year, then 50 percent match-funding for salary costs up to £25,000 in years two and three (balance to be paid by host institution), plus £6,000 per annum towards research expenses.
Closing date: 25 February 2021

Arts Scholarships
Applications are invited from all sectors across the fine and performing arts, including music, drama, dance, film and fine art. The scheme supports arts training at any level, from school-age children to undergraduates and postgraduates. Individuals may not apply directly to the Trust.
Closing date: 6 April 2021

Leverhulme Research Centres
For UK universities to set up a Leverhulme Research Centre for outstanding original research aspiring to achieve a step-change in scholarship. The Trust’s aim is to encourage new approaches that may establish or reshape a field of study and so transform our understanding of a significant contemporary topic. £1 million per annum is available for 10 years.
Closing date: 16 April 2021

Major Research Fellowships
Up to thirty grants are offered to well-established, distinguished researchers in the humanities and social sciences, to complete a piece of original research. Fellowships are particularly aimed at those who are or have been prevented by routine duties from completing a programme of original research.
Closing date: 14 May 2021

Philip Leverhulme Prizes
Up to thirty prizes of £100,000 to recognise the achievement of outstanding researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition and whose future career is exceptionally promising. The subject areas for 2021 are Classics, Earth Sciences, Physics, Politics and International Relations, Psychology and Visual and Performing Arts.
Closing date: 17 May 2021

Leverhulme International Professorships
Ten grants of up to £5 million to help maintain the UK’s international standing as a desirable research destination that is open to talented individuals from all countries. Applications are encouraged from universities seeking to recruit excellent research leaders of any nationality, currently working outside the UK, in order to fill strategically important positions in this country.
Closing date: 28 May 2021

For full details on eligibility and how to apply, see www.leverhulme.ac.uk/schemes-at-a-glance

Read this and more profiles of current research, on our website: leverhulme.ac.uk/grants-in-focus

Dynamical stellar models for active evolved planetary systems
Dr Pier-Emmanuel Tremblay
University of Warwick
Research Project Grant

White dwarf stellar interior in the process of solidifying into a carbon/oxygen crystal.

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