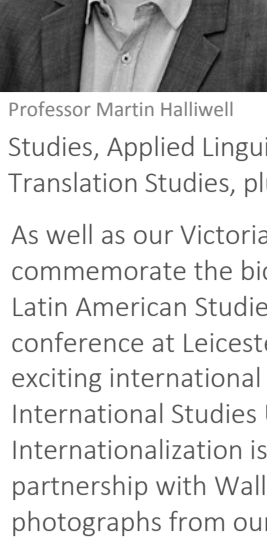


School of Arts: Annual Review 2018-19

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Foreword from the Head of School



Professor Martin Halliwell
Studies, Applied Linguistics, Spanish and Latin American Studies, and Translation Studies, plus [Languages@Leicester](mailto:Languages@le.ac.uk).

We are very pleased to publish our second Annual Review Newsletter as the [School of Arts](#). This is our third full year as a School following a merger in 2016 of the departments of [English](#), [History of Art & Film](#) and [Modern Languages](#). As you will see from the stories, reports and images in this 2018-19 newsletter, we have been very active across the range of our ten subjects: Creative Writing, English Language, English Literature, Film Studies, French and Francophone Studies, History of Art, Italian and Translation Studies, Spanish and Latin American Studies, and [Languages@Leicester](#).

As well as our Victorian Studies Centre hosting a major conference to commemorate the bicentenary of George Eliot's birth and Spanish & Latin American Studies hosting the Society for Latin American Studies conference at Leicester for the first time, you will see we have built on exciting international initiatives with our Chinese partner Shanghai International Studies University and with the University of West Indies. Internationalization is at the heart of the School, as reflected in our new partnership with Wallonie-Bruxelles International, with the winning photographs from our Study Abroad Photo Competition, and the high percentage of our undergraduate students who go on an organized international experience during their degree.

We also hope you enjoy reading about the achievements of our students and staff, innovations in teaching and learning this year, and the major Wordsworth 2020 project funded by UKRI and the AHRC. And I would like, in particular, to recognize the major contributions to the School made by Guy Barefoot, Michelle Dale, Felicity James, Catherine Morley and Simona Storchio over 2018-19.

There is much more we could have included in this Annual Review: the School's new Pedagogy Forum and Early Career Forum, our new School website, our work on the University's EdEx projects, and the School's major contribution to the success of the [Midlands4Cities Arts and Humanities Doctoral Training Partnership](#) that extends our collaboration with Midlands' universities and cultural sector partners.

We are very much looking forward to the 2019-20 academic year and to welcoming a new cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students to the thriving and diverse School of Arts.

Student Success Stories

Below are four examples of the impressive range of undergraduate and postgraduate student achievements in the School of Arts over the last twelve months

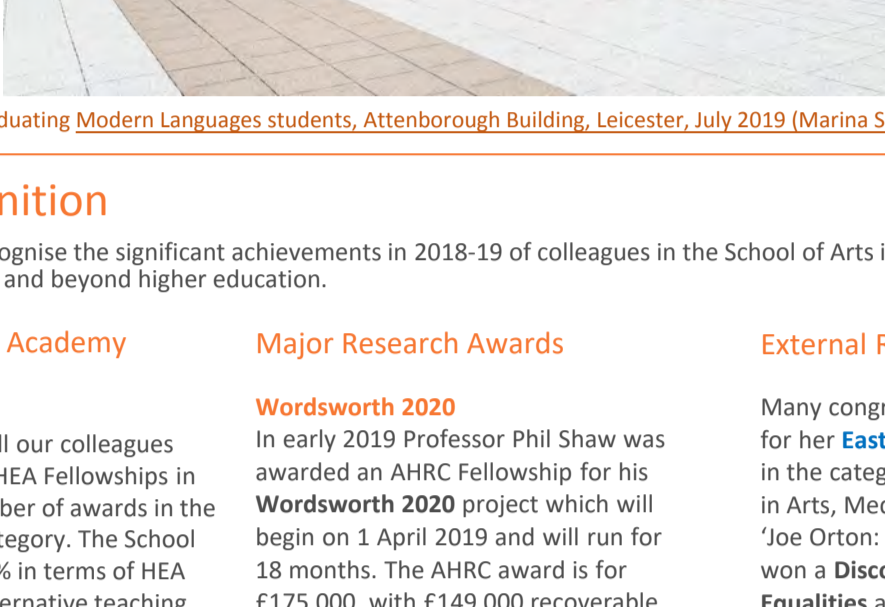
Zoe Heslop originally came to History of Art and Film in 2014 but she had to have a sit without residence in 2016/17, and though she was then able to progress into her final year, the difficulties she encountered meant that she had a further 'without residence' year in 2018/19. There were several occasions when it did not look as though she would complete her degree, but she did, graduating with a BA in Film Studies and the Visual Arts this July.

In English, second year student **Emma Westbrook** has been carrying out tremendously important work in terms of our Diversifying the Curriculum agenda. As Equalities Champion for the Student Union, Emma has made it her personal and intellectual mission to reflect the diversity of our student body within the English UG curriculum. Working closely with our Academic Director, Emma has sought to innovate the first year curriculum, specifically that of EN1010 Reading English. Emma's work has resulted in tangible changes to the EN1010 syllabus with new voices represented and a range of new texts and assessment activities introduced, as well as more broadly informing our Curriculum Transformation and EdEx work.

In Modern Languages, **Hannah Pugh** has achieved outstanding results in French and Italian throughout her academic career, in both language and cultural modules. In her final year Hannah has achieved a first class mark in 100 credits, graduating with a First Class degree and with a distinction in spoken Italian and spoken French. She has been awarded the McWilliam Prize for the best performing student in Italian, the Leslie Sykes Prize (best performance in French), the West End Memorial Prize (best graduate in Modern Languages), and the the Prix de l'Ambassade de France (best performance in French language).

This year, MA Creative Writing student **Kathy Hoyle** decided to enter the Short Memoir Competition, having worked on a piece created on the MA on memory and life writing. Kathy says the feedback she received "greatly enhanced both my writing and my confidence. The competition had for 200 entries, so I was absolutely delighted to make the shortlist. Thank you to my tutors and fellow students at Leicester for all your help, making the shortlist really has given me so much more confidence in my writing." The successful piece was called 'Hometown' and was set in 1984, against the backdrop of the miner's strike. It focuses on the destruction of a marriage, seen through the eyes of a child. Congratulations to Kathy!

We also send congratulations to all our graduating students at the two University graduation ceremonies held in January and July 2019 in De Montfort Hall, Leicester.



Graduating Modern Languages students, Attenborough Building, Leicester, July 2019 (Marina Spunta)

Staff Recognition

We would like to recognise the significant achievements in 2018-19 of colleagues in the School of Arts in teaching, research and external work in and beyond higher education.

Higher Education Academy Recognition

Congratulations to all our colleagues who were awarded HEA Fellowships in 2018-19, with a number of awards in the Senior Fellowship category. The School has now reached 90% in terms of HEA recognition or via alternative teaching qualifications such as PGCE.

Teaching Development Awards

Michelle Harrison (French) and Emma Staniland (Spanish) secured funding from the Leicester Learning Institute to work on two Modern Languages student-staff collaborative projects **Assessment Criteria as Frameworks for Teaching & Learning and Investigating Student Absence**.

Mary Ann Lund, Scott Freer and Mark Rawlinson (English) also received LLI funding for an **English Learning Communities** project. Both of these TEF initiatives are vital to the work of the School's Learning & Teaching Committee and our Student Staff Committees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Centre for New Writing

Everybody's Reviewing, the review website run by the Centre for New Writing, has gained a small grant from **Everybody's Reading Festival** in Leicester for the sixth year in a row. The blog, which has now had over 88,000 hits, features reviews of books and literary events by students, staff and the public, as well as interviews with writers. It also provides work experience for students who want experience in editing, writing, reviewing and blogging.

Migration, Mobility and Citizenship Research Network

Rabah Aissaoui is a member of the Migration, Mobility and Citizenship Network hosted by the Leicester Institute of Advanced Studies. Co-funded by the University's Wellcome Trust ISSF scheme, the network is led by Manish Pareek of the College of Life Sciences.

Major Research Awards

Wordsworth 2020
In early 2019 Professor Phil Shaw was awarded an AHRC Fellowship for his **Wordsworth 2020** project which will begin on 1 April 2019 and will run for 18 months. The AHRC award is for £175,000, with £149,000 recoverable from the funder. This groundbreaking project is featured later in this review.

MNS Disorders in Guyana's Jails
Martin Halliwell is a Co-investigator on the major ESRC funded multidisciplinary project **MNS Disorders in Guyana's Jails: 1825 to the Present Day**. The project is a unique partnership between the University of Leicester, University of Guyana and the Guyana Prison Service. It is led by Professor Clare Anderson of the School of History, Politics & International Relations and will run until 2021. £93,000 of this £1 million grant comes to the School of Arts.

The National Trust
Corinne Fowler has been awarded a **National Trust Global Connections Research Fellowship**. This will enhance the University's partnerships with the National Trust, including Corinne's Arts Council and National Lottery funded **Colonial Countryside** research project.

Collaboration with Wallonie-Bruxelles International, Brussels
The School is delighted to have established a Cooperation Agreement with Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) to host Simon Lambert as their Academic and Cultural Liaison Officer for the UK. Simon has previously been based in Modern Languages and in his new role he will work towards creating and enhancing academic and cultural partnerships between the UK and French-speaking Belgium. The new agreement builds on the School's prior successful links with Wallonie-Bruxelles International and will initially run for a period of two years.

External Recognition

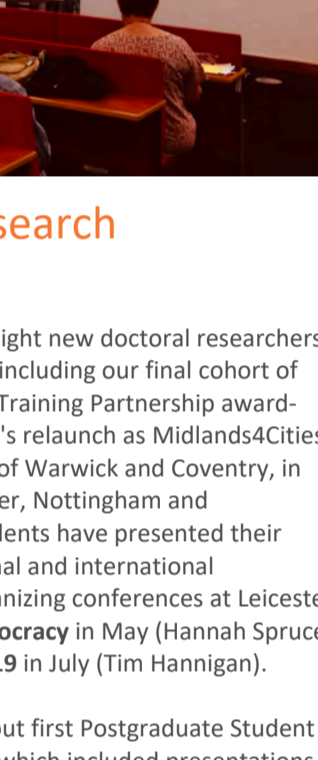
Many congratulations to Emma Parker for her **East Midlands Women's Award** in the category of 'Outstanding Woman in Arts, Media and Music' for her project 'Joe Orton: 50 Years On'. Emma also won a **Discovering Excellence Award for Equalities** at the University's Discovering Excellence Awards Dinner in November.

In February 2019 Anne Marie D'Arcy was elected to the **Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London** and a month later Claire Brock was elected to the **Fellow of the Royal Historical Society**. In May 2019 Sarah Knight was made a new **Fellow of the English Association**.

High Spirits: A Round of Drinking Stories, an anthology co-edited by Jonathan Taylor and published by Valley Press, has won the **Saboteur Award for Best Anthology 2019**. The book includes two stories by University of Leicester PhD Creative Writing students, Jonathan's poetry collection, *Cassandra Complex* (Shoestring Press), was shortlisted for the **Arnold Bennett Prize 2019**.

Gordon Campbell has been elected to **Academia Europaea** (the European version of the British Academy/ Royal Society, including 72 Nobel laureates).

In March 2019 Martin Halliwell was among an international team of experts conducting a research review of the University of Helsinki. He has been elected as a panelist for UKRI's **Future Leadership Fellowships Scheme** and as the AHRC representative on the **Mental Health Networks Guidance Group**.



Teaching and Learning Innovations

By Felicity James and Pamela Rogerson-Revell

Understanding our Students' Needs

We have been working closely with EdEx to identify areas for student support and development based on our more detailed understanding of students' backgrounds and specific needs in our effort to enhance student experience. We have identified key areas in each of our subjects and are working to deliver student support workshops for those groups.

Leicester Award and LA Gold

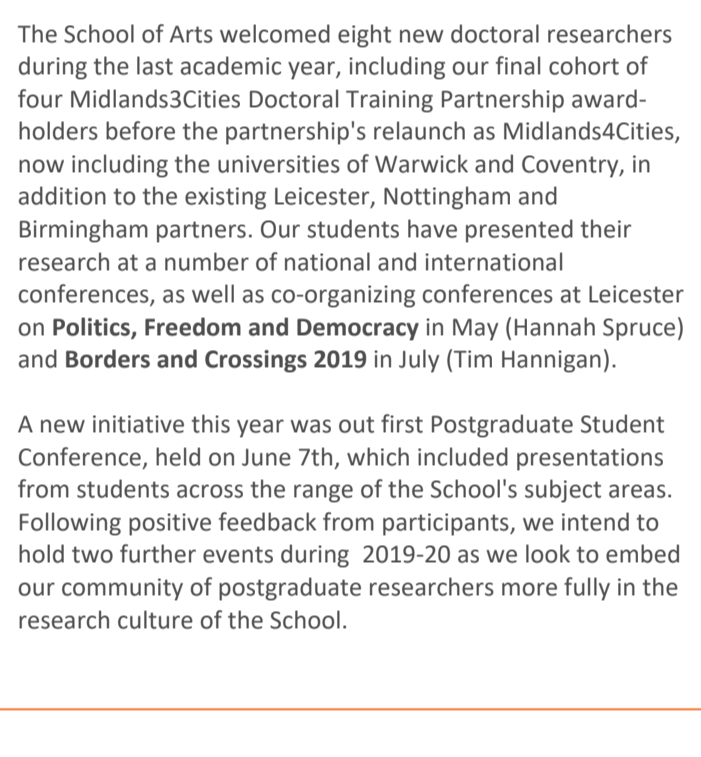
The Leicester Award has been integrated into our Year 1 teaching for each programme, and we have used this as a chance to reflect on our provision of subject specific employability skills. While LA Gold is being incorporated into existing modules in Modern Languages and History of Art & Film for 2020 (for example, the successful Film Production module), English is taking the opportunity to develop new placement modules along the lines of its existing and very successful Publishing and English & Education modules.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This remains an ongoing and active Learning and Teaching issue as a result of the student push to decolonise the curriculum and to consider diversity and accessibility we are actively developing our provision across the School of Arts, for example, made changes to our Year 1 English teaching, to develop a new and more diverse poetry anthology with the help of a TEF award from the Leicester Learning Institute.

Pedagogic Research

We have been conducting various TEF projects relating to innovation in learning and teaching, including our team's research collaboration with Languages@Leicester and Modern Languages projects looking at improving engagement (Investigating Student Absence) and enhancing induction activities (Linguistic Landscape Induction Week Activity).



Postgraduate Research

By James Chapman

The School of Arts welcomed eight new doctoral researchers during the last academic year, including our final cohort of four Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership award-holders before the partnership's relaunch as Midlands4Cities, now including the universities of Warwick and Coventry, in addition to the existing Leicester, Nottingham and Birmingham partners. Our students have presented their research at a number of national and international conferences, as well as co-organising conferences at Leicester on **Politics, Freedom and Democracy** in May (Hannah Spruce) and **Borders and Crossings 2019** in July (Tim Hannigan).

A new initiative this year was our first Postgraduate Student Conference, held on June 7th, which included presentations from students across the range of the School's subject areas. Following positive feedback from participants, we intend to hold two further events during 2019-20 as we look to embed our community of postgraduate researchers more fully in the research culture of the School.

International Conferences

George Eliot 2019: An International Bicentenary Conference

By Claire Wood and Joanne Shattock

As part of yearlong celebrations marking the bicentenary of George Eliot's birth, the Victorian Studies Centre was delighted to host a major international conference dedicated to the author's life and work. The event was organised in collaboration with the **George Eliot Fellowship** and a wider committee of Eliot specialists, drawn from the universities of Reading, UCL, Birkbeck and Warwick.

More than 140 Eliot scholars and enthusiasts, drawn from every corner of the globe, joined us at College Court from 17-19 July. Professor Rosemary Ashton (UCL) opened the event with a thought provoking plenary on 'George Eliot and the Difficulty of Coming to Conclusions'. A series of parallel panels, reflecting Eliot's own encyclopaedic and far-ranging interests, followed. Over 100 speakers presented on a variety of topics, including the author's influence on and relationship with her contemporaries, the critical and cultural effects of her writing, and Eliot's afterlives. In addition to rejuvenation of Eliot's major novels, translations, and juvenilia, the conference also catalysed important debates about pedagogy, emerging critical trends, and the enduring relevance of Eliot's work in the twenty-first century.

The global dimensions of Eliot scholarship was another important theme, with papers dedicated to the reception of *Romola* in Japan, the impact of Eliot's writing in China, and comparative readings of Eliot's work in relation to various national and international traditions and writers. One of the many highlights of day two was Professor George Levine (Rutgers) and Professor Dame Gillian Beer (Cambridge) in conversation with Professor Sally Shuttleworth (Oxford), reflecting upon the evolution of Eliot studies. In a final plenary, on day three, Professor Nancy Henry (Tennessee) examined 'George Eliot's Humans and Animals'.

The conference featured a pop-up exhibition of items from Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery's **Becoming George: The Unexpected Life of George Eliot**; a reception for the new edition of Gillian Beer's *George Eliot and the Woman Question*; an evening entertainment dedicated to a new musical adaptation of *The Mill on the Floss*, featuring West End singers; and a tour of George Eliot Country, with access to private locations including Arbury Hall and South Farm, Eliot's birthplace.

Society for Latin American Studies Conference

By Clara Garavelli and Emma Staniland

The 2019 Society for Latin American Studies Conference (SLAS 2019), held at Leicester in July, was an opportunity for explorations of any aspect of Latin American Studies from any theoretical and disciplinary perspective, but we were also extremely pleased to receive so many paper and panel proposals related to our optional conference theme: **the Politics of Identity in Latin America**. This choice of topic was inspired by the vibrant waves of feminist activism that have been gaining ground across Latin America in recent years; movements which, by giving voice to women's concerns and demanding respect of their human rights, are also making important contributions to social acceptance of difference and diversity, to improving poverty, and facilitating peace.

Our conference organisation was underpinned by an ethos of inclusivity in all of the activities we organised: from a pre-conference film screening of a documentary about women in politics and power in rural Peru, to the art exhibitions and multimedia show Transtango that explored the complexities of identity and migration, and through to the presence of an internationally-renowned feminist scholar as our keynote speaker: Dr María Pia López, Argentine sociologist and founder of the Ni una menos movement. Her conference address saw an outstanding participation of over 150 people, making the event a memorable success.

The conference brought over 160 scholars to Leicester, and was supported by successful funding bids to SLAS, Santander Universities, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Research and Enterprise Division, and Wiley Blackwell, and of course by the School of Arts.



George Eliot Conference cohort 2019

International Summer Schools

The Inaugural Summer School of the University of the West Indies and School of Leicester

By Lucy Evans

In the final week of June the University of the West Indies and University of Leicester International Summer School was launched. This is an annual week-long intensive programme aimed at postgraduates from the Caribbean and the UK with an interest in global studies and a background in any discipline across the arts, humanities and social sciences. This year it was hosted by the School of Arts.

Twenty postgraduate students participated from the University of Leicester and all three UWI campuses in Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados. The programme this year focused on the theme of **Global Health and Environments**, and involved a combination of academic seminars, talks on current research projects, professionalisation workshops and field trips. It was delivered by academic staff from various disciplines including English, Cultural Studies, American Studies, History, Geography and Psychology.

This year's summer school is the first in a five year programme. Following the 2019 inaugural conference, it will be hosted by the University of the West Indies in Jamaica in June 2020. The summer school is open to postgraduate students (Masters and PhD) and postdoctoral/early career researchers from the Caribbean and the UK. For further information, see the [Summer School Website](#), or contact Dr Lucy Evans (lae9@le.ac.uk).



UWI students with Corrine Fowler, Charcot Park, Warwickshire

LeCTIS-SISU Advanced Translation Studies Summer School 2019

By Yan Ying

The third year of our Advanced Translation Studies Summer School was co-organised by our Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies and the School of English Studies, Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), from 27 July to 10 August. With the success of previous two years, the Summer School attracted 19 MA students and 5 PhD students from our strategic Chinese partner SISU. This followed high-level delegations from SISU to Leicester in September 2018 and May 2019, and a return visit to Shanghai by our Head of School, Martin Halliwell, who held his SISU Honorary Professorship renewed until 2021.

This year's summer school students deepened their knowledge of Translation and Interpreting Studies and benefited from direct conversations with Professors Claudia Angelelli, Loredana Polezzi and Theo Hermans, all leading scholars of the field. The students also immensely enjoyed cultural trips to Leicester's New Walk Museum, Cambridge and Chatsworth. The lead tutor from SISU, Professor Jingling Hou, commented that "the Summer School provided an excellent opportunity for the students to broaden their academic horizon and enhance their research abilities." This annual Summer School plays an important role in the strategic partnership the School of Arts has with SISU.



2019 Advanced Translation Studies Summer School

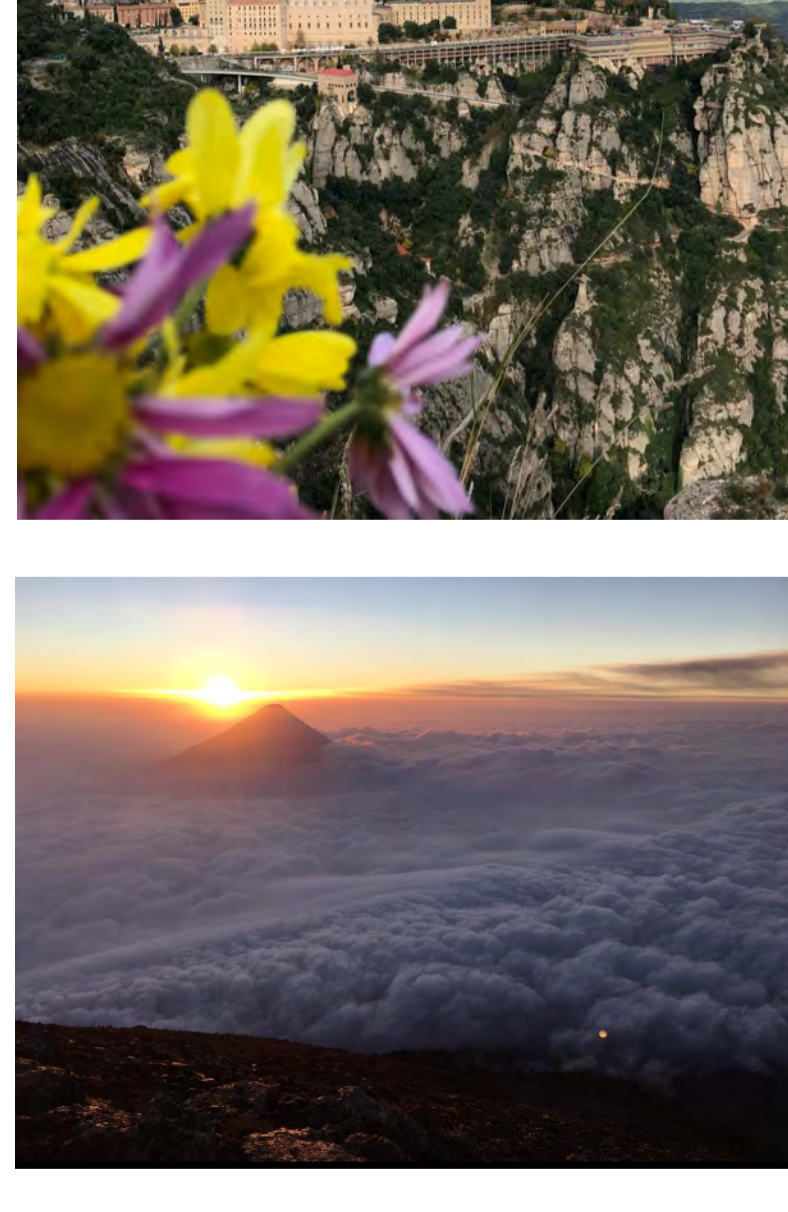
Year Abroad Photo Competition

By Marc Ripley

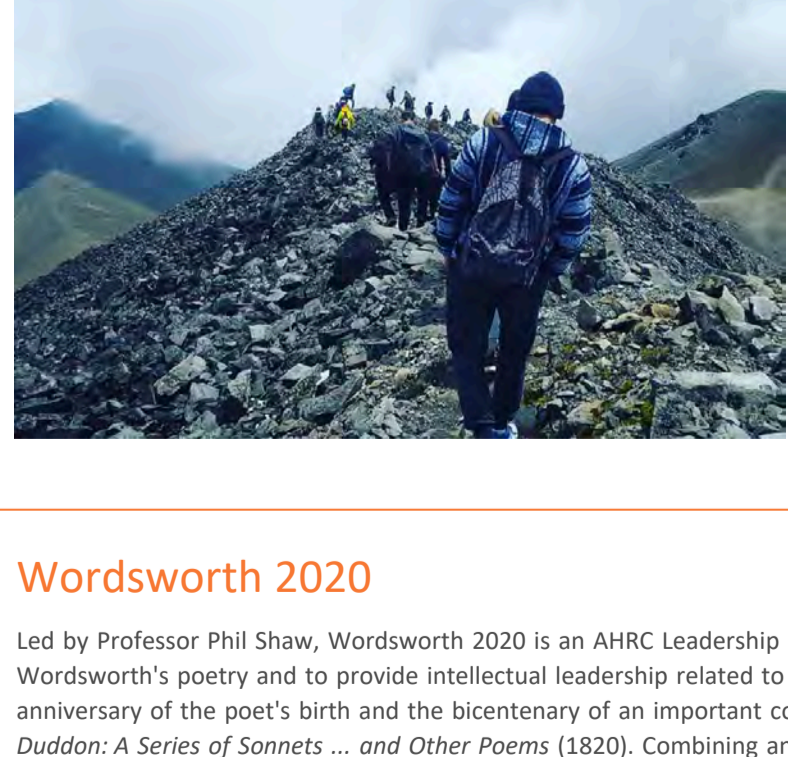
The School of Arts study abroad photo competition has run again this year, following the success of last year's competition. The competition closed at the end of May and entries were received from year abroad students from across the School of Arts. Again, the standard of entries was incredibly high. The judging panel comprised staff from across the School: Lin Feng (History of Art & Film), Ben Parsons (English) and Marc Ripley (Modern Languages).

Many congratulations to the winning entries

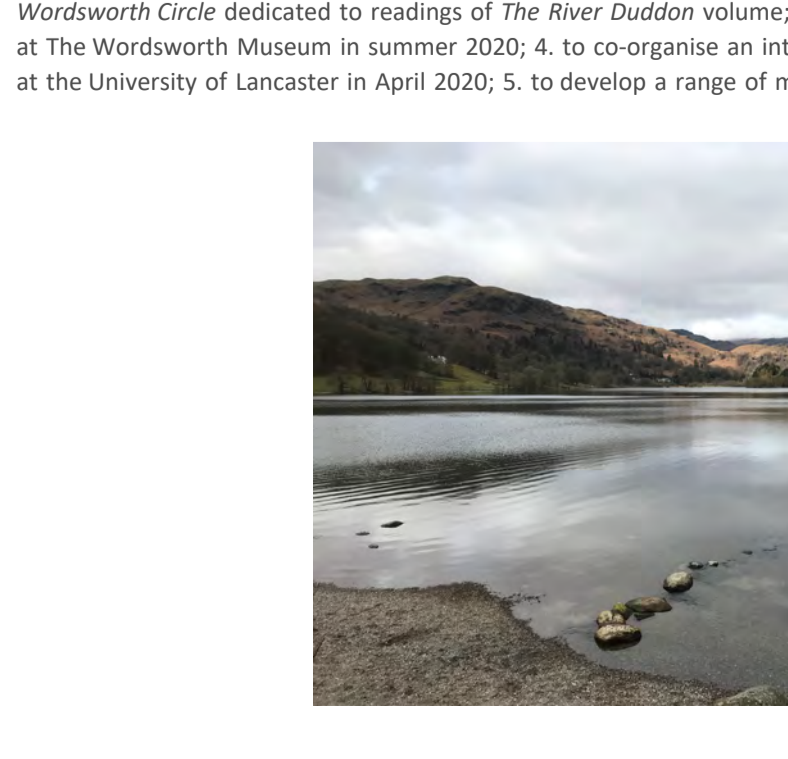
Paola Singh (1st prize) (Catalonia, Spain)
Emilio Horton Torres (1st runner up) (Mexico)
Soo Eng Hao (2nd runner up) (Mexico)



First prize:
Paola Singh (Catalonia, Spain)



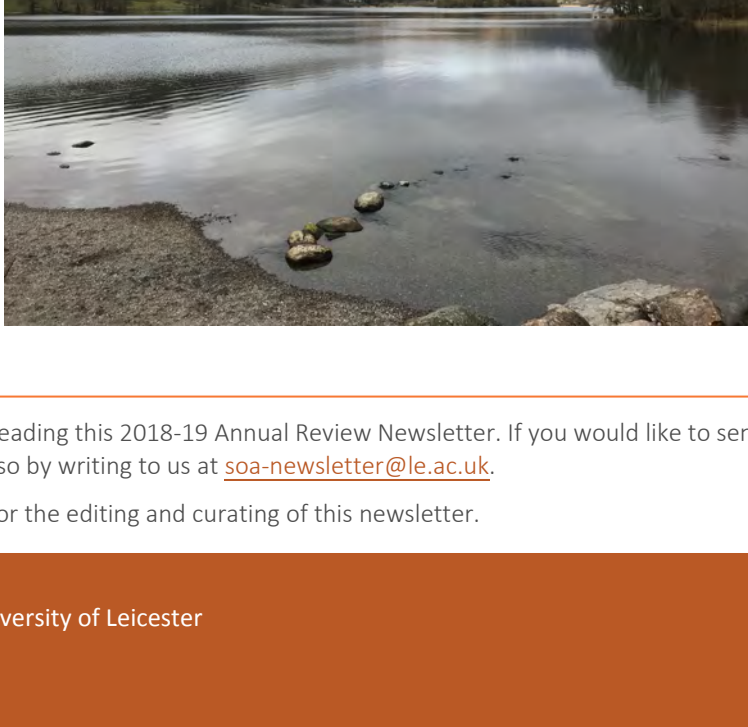
Runner-up:
Emilio Horton Torres (Mexico)



Runner-up:
Soo Eng Hao (Mexico)

Wordsworth 2020

Led by Professor Phil Shaw, Wordsworth 2020 is an AHRC Leadership Fellows' project designed to advance research on Wordsworth's poetry and to provide intellectual leadership related to Romantic studies. The project title marks the 250th anniversary of the poet's birth and the bicentenary of an important collection of the poet's later works, *The River Duddon: A Series of Sonnets ... and Other Poems* (1820). Combining an ambitious programme of individual and collaborative research activities with a series of high impact public engagement initiatives, the project aims to shape the agenda for future academic study and to foster general understanding of the life, works and legacy of a major English writer. The project's objectives, reflecting Wordsworth's enduring understanding of the life, works and streams, flow into each other: 1. to complete a book-length study of Wordsworth's later poetry; 2. to edit a special issue of the journal *The Wordsworth Circle* dedicated to readings of *The River Duddon* volume; 3. to co-curate a major exhibition, *Endless Waters*, at The Wordsworth Museum in summer 2020; 4. to co-organise an international conference *Wordsworth, Water, Writing* at the University of Lancaster in April 2020; 5. to develop a range of multi-level educational resources and activities.



We do hope you enjoyed reading this 2018-19 Annual Review Newsletter. If you would like to send in comments or provide feedback then you can do so by writing to us at soa-newsletter@le.ac.uk.

Thank you to Yasmin Jogi for the editing and curating of this newsletter.