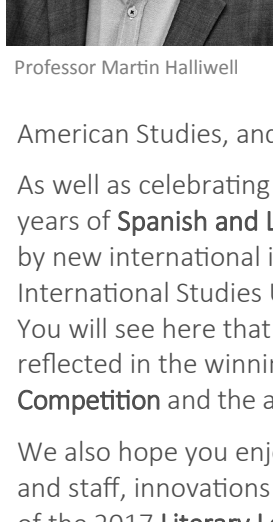


## School of Arts: Annual Review 2017-18

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### Foreword from the Head of School



Professor Martin Halliwell

We are extremely pleased to publish our first Annual Review Newsletter as [the School of Arts](#). This is our second 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 this year's reports, and images in this 2017-18 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 Studies, Applied Linguistics, Spanish and Latin American Studies, and Translation Studies, plus [Languages@Leicester](#).

As well as celebrating 50 years of our **Victorian Studies Centre** and 20 years of **Spanish and Latin American Studies** at Leicester, we are excited by new international initiatives with our Chinese partner Shanghai International Studies University and with the University of West Indies. You will see here that internationalization is at the heart of the School, as reflected in the winning photographs from our **Study Abroad Photo Competition** and the account of the **History of Art Italy Trip**.

We also hope you enjoy reading about the achievements of our students and staff, innovations in teaching and learning this year, and the review of the 2017 **Literary Leicester Festival**, which has been a major event for the University over the last decade.

There is much more we could have included in this Annual Review, including the [Applied Linguistics MOOC](#) and our Applied Linguistics and TESOL team launched in May 2018, and the School's major contribution to the successful research council bid to launch the [Midlands4Cities Arts and Humanities Doctoral Training Partnership](#) that builds on the Midlands3Cities DTP over the last five years and extends our collaboration with Midlands' universities and cultural sector partners.

We are looking forward to the 2018-19 academic year which will see more new initiatives. These include the first full year of a cross-School Research Seminar, the introduction of our Early Career Forum and a Pedagogy Forum, new developments in the Medieval Research Centre, and the 21st anniversary of the Centre for American Studies.

## Student Success Stories

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

**Charlotte Dean**, a BA Film Studies and the Visual Arts student, achieved the highest mark of all our second year History of Art & Film students. As well as being a course representative, she has been a very active student blogger writing on a range of issues including her role as an Equality and Diversity champion.

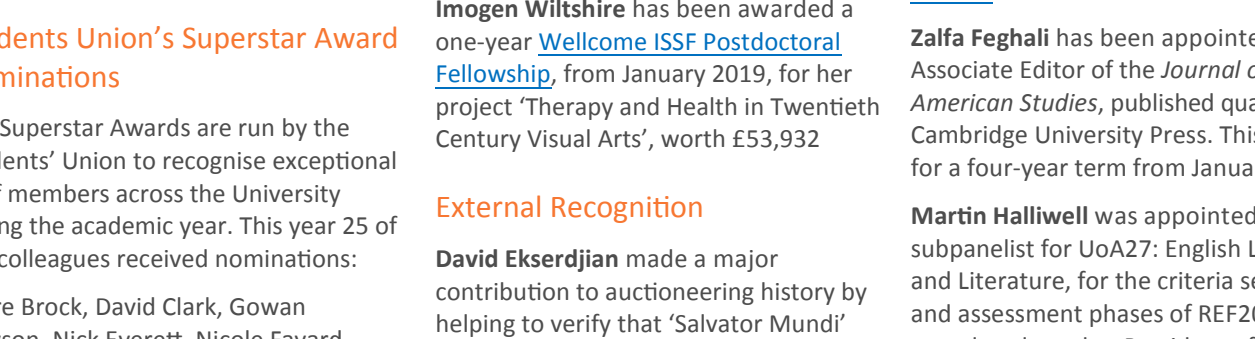
**Charles Johnson** was an outstanding finalist in Modern Languages this year. He made an excellent contribution to the department and achieved impressive results throughout his BA French and English. He graduated with a First Class degree and won four prizes: the West End Memorial Prize (best graduate in Modern Languages), the Leslie Sykes Prize (best performance in French), the Prix de l'Ambassade de France, and the Prix de la Délégation générale du Québec à Londres.

This year **Alan Morton**, currently studying for the Film and Film Cultures MA, made a successful application for Midlands3Cities doctoral funding for his project "Women's Style" and American Independent Cinema: Gender Politics and Women Film Directors'. Alan joined us in 2014 as an undergraduate on the Film Studies and Visual Arts degree. He achieved impressive results throughout the course and graduated with a first-class degree in 2017 and was one of three School of Arts' students awarded a Masters Excellence Scholarship for 2017/18.

This year **Selcuk Senturk**, currently studying for a PhD in English, has participated in the HeForShe campaign against gender-based violence. He proposed an initiative that was accepted by the University of Leicester then the United Nations. As a result, the University has commissioned an artwork to raise awareness of gender-based violence. The artwork is currently on display in the Charles Wilson Building, with a plaque that recognises Selcuk's input.

Our recent Italian PhD graduate **Maria Morelli** has been awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship at University of Milan for a 2-year project entitled 'Through Her Own Looking Glass: (Re)Thinking 'Woman' in Italian Feminist Dramaturgy'.

We also send congratulations to all our graduating students at the two University graduation ceremonies held in January and July 2018 in De Montfort Hall, Leicester.



Graduating Modern Languages students, Attenborough Building, University of Leicester, July 2018

## Staff Recognition

We would like to recognise the significant achievements in 2017-18 of colleagues in the School of Arts in teaching, research and external work in and beyond higher education.

### University Distinguished Teaching Fellowship

This was awarded to **Michelle Harrison** for her inspiring work in enhancing the learning experiences of Modern Languages students and for her innovative teaching practices.

### Students Union's Superstar Award Nominations

The Superstar Awards are run by the Students' Union to recognise exceptional staff members across the University during the academic year. This year 25 of our colleagues received nominations:

Claire Brock, David Clark, Gowan Dawson, Nick Everett, Nicole Fayard, Zalfa Feghali, Sarah Graham, Maria Guarnieri, Michelle Harrison, Felicity James, Claire Jenkins, Sarah Knight, Mary Ann Lund, Anna Milson, Catherine Morley, Emma Parker, Nuria Escudero Pérez, Ben Parsons, Corinne Pelton, Simon Poole, Emma Staniland, Jonathan Taylor, Joseph Walton, Cathleen Waters, and Harry Whitehead.

### Research Awards

**Corinne Fowler** was awarded £99,680 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £58,331 for her major project 'Colonial Countryside: Rerinterpreting English Country Houses'.

**Sheldon Penn** was awarded £42,395 from the Leverhulme Trust Fellowship scheme for his project on 'Mexican Time and Identity: Bergson and Nergsonism in Literature and Film'.

### Post-Doctoral Fellowships

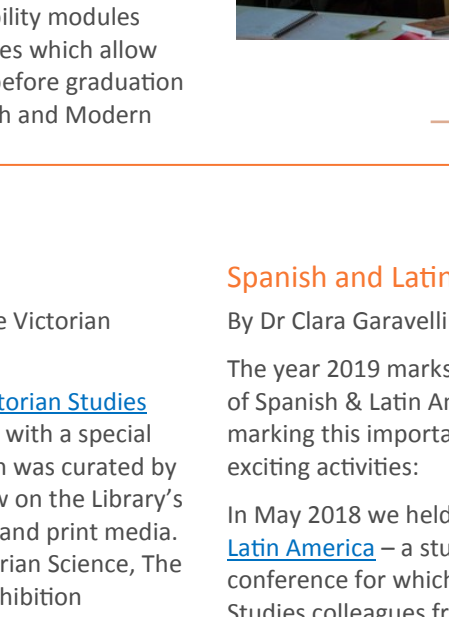
**Kevita Bhanot** has been awarded a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship for her project 'Beyond the Nation: British Self and Punjabi (M)Other in British Asian Literature', worth £89,729

**Imogen Wiltshire** has been awarded a one-year [Wellcome ISSF Postdoctoral Fellowship](#), from January 2019, for her project 'Therapy and Health in Twentieth Century Visual Arts', worth £53,932

### External Recognition

**David Ekserdjian** made a major contribution to auctioneering history by helping to verify that 'Salvator Mundi' was painted by Leonardo da Vinci. The

[Pupils from Mount Street Primary School, Plymouth in Buckland Abbey, Devon, participating in Dr Corinne Fowler's Colonial Countryside Project. \[Read more...\]\(#\)](#)



masterpiece fetched \$400m at a New York City auction in November 2017, making it the most expensive painting ever sold at auction.

Read more about [The Last Da Vinci and also how Salvator Mundi became the most expensive painting ever sold at auction](#).

**Zalfa Feghali** has been appointed Associate Editor of the *Journal of American Studies*, published quarterly by Cambridge University Press. This role is for a four-year term from January 2019.

**Martin Halliwell** was appointed as a REF subpanelist for UoA27: English Language and Literature, for the criteria setting and assessment phases of REF2021. He was also elected as President of the English Association, after serving for four years as the association's Chair.

**Felicity James** won this year's Observer/Burgess Prize for her beautifully written review of *Nigella Lawson's At My Table*. [Read more...](#)

**Emma Parker** was presented with the Saboteur Award for her project '[Yours Faithfully, Edna Welthorpe \(Mrs\): A Tribute to Joe Orton](#)'. This is a national award for indie arts sponsored by Arts Council England. *The Independent* featured the awards on 10 May 2018.

**Martin Stannard's** major AHRC-funded project *The Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh* was described in the TLS (August 2018) as "one of the great monuments of twenty-first-century literary scholarship".

## Teaching and Learning Innovations

By the School's Academic Directors Dr Liz Jones and Dr Felicity James

### Curriculum Transformation

It has been a year of transformation in the world of learning and teaching as we reached the end of the campus-wide Curriculum Transformation Initiative. This involved reworking all of the 52 BA and MA programmes in the School of Arts, changing module weightings, and reviewing fundamentals such as skills development across whole degree programmes. It also gave us the opportunity to think deeply about equality and diversity in the curriculum, considering how inclusive and accessible our courses are for different groups of students.

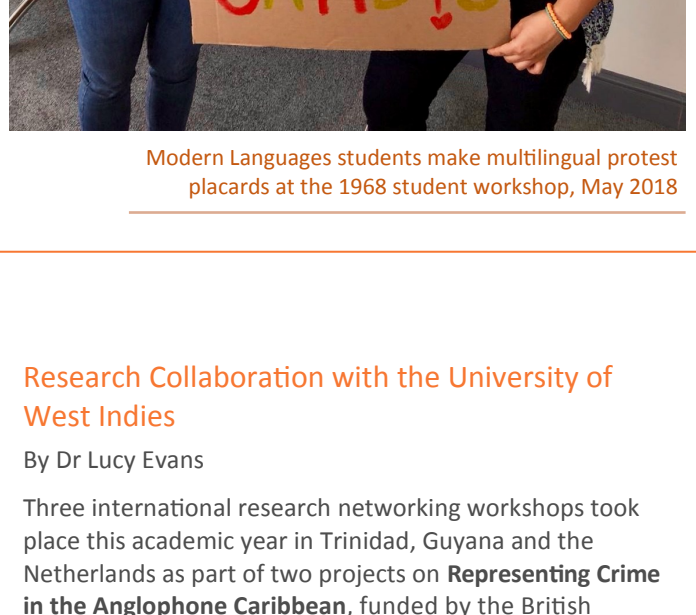
### Mental Health Teaching Enhancement Project

A highlight this year has been the student mental health teaching enhancement project in Modern Languages, which explored stress triggers and anxiety amongst our undergraduate students. As a result of this we put on a very successful 'finalists' bootcamp' event in induction week, which focused on building community, developing healthy and productive working habits and knowing where to find support. This has been hailed as institutional best practice and is being rolled out across campus as part of the new Education Excellence programme.

### Employability Modules

We are also proud of our suite of employability modules across the School of Arts. Our CELTA modules which allow students to gain a vocational qualification before graduation are now running across the School in English and Modern

Languages. Our module **Film and Art: Academic Practice and the Workplace** is now core for all first-year History of Art and Film Studies students. We are also building on the success of our placement modules: for example, our innovative **Diversifying the Publishing Industry** allows English students to combine the study of literary texts and the circumstances of their production with hands-on involvement in the work of independent publishers and literary organisations by means of a carefully managed e-placement, while **English in Education** gives students practical experience of teaching their subject at primary or secondary level.



History of Art & Film students in the Attenborough Tower Slide Room

## School Anniversaries

### Victorian Studies Centre: 50 Years

By Professor Gowan Dawson, Director of the Victorian Studies Centre

The School's oldest research centre, the [Victorian Studies Centre](#), marked its 50th anniversary in 2017 with a special exhibition in the David Wilson Library, which was curated by three of the Centre's PhD students and drew on the Library's rich collection of nineteenth-century books and print media. Arranged under the headings Dickens, Victorian Science, The Victorian City, and Victorian Women, the exhibition reflected the research interests of the Centre's current staff and students.

We also hosted two anniversary events in November and December 2017. The first, **Celebrating Dickens**, was an evening of talks and readings from international speakers celebrating the Victorian Studies Centre's prominent role in Dickens studies. Some of the papers have now been published in *The Dickensian*, with an introduction, by Gowan Dawson and Joanne Shattock, on the history of the Centre. In the second event, **Detecting Victorian Crime**, the annual Victorian Studies Centre Lecture was given by Kate Summerscale, the bestselling author of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, who reflected on the importance of the Victorian period for modern British identity.



Victorian Studies Centre, University of Leicester, 2018

Throughout its five decades the Victorian Studies Centre has had strong international links, particularly with India and Japan. In our anniversary year Professor Yukio Kaneko, from Seinan Gakuin University, joined us as a visiting fellow, and his colleague at Seinan Gakuin, Professor Atsuko Miyake, will be joining us as a visiting fellow in Spring 2019. As well as these prestigious international scholars, the Centre is currently hosting Emma Butcher, who holds a [Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship](#). Emma is also a BBC New Generation Thinker, and she regularly presents her research, on children in warfare from the 19th century to the present, in the media.

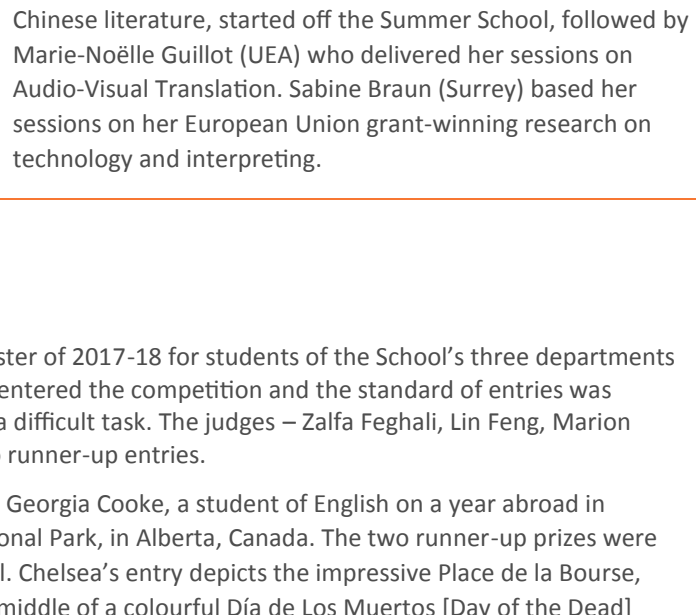
### Spanish and Latin American Studies: 20 Years

By Dr Clara Garavelli and Dr Emma Staniland

The year 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the Department of Spanish & Latin American Studies at Leicester, and we are marking this important milestone through a number of exciting activities:

In May 2018 we held two very successful events on [1968 in Latin America](#) – a student-focused workshop, and an academic conference for which we were joined by Latin American Studies colleagues from across Europe, Latin America and the United States. We also hosted renowned Spanish author [Marta Sanz](#), who gave a fascinating talk on the interlinking of socio-political and personal motivations in her writing.

On 4–5 April 2019 we will be hosting the annual [Society for Latin American Studies Conference](#). For this, we will be welcoming some 250 delegates from around the world, who will be addressing current topics from across the breadth and depth of the field. Our conference theme invites a focus on **The Politics of Identity in Latin America**, inspired by the incredibly impactful *Ni una menos* women's movement (that began in Argentina in 2016) and the loud demands for gender equality currently echoing throughout the region. We are extremely pleased to be welcoming as keynote speaker the Argentine sociologist, writer and activist, Dr María Pia López, whose work with *Ni una menos* makes her a truly fitting speaker for the event. The conference will also have a number of fringe events, including a music and theatre performance by the Transtango collective.

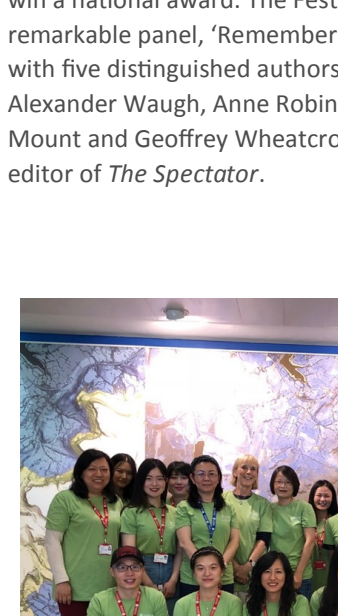


Modern Languages students make multilingual protest placards at the 1968 student workshop, May 2018

## Literary Leicester Festival 2017

By Dr Corinne Fowler and Professor Martin Stannard

The tenth year of the Literary Leicester Festival, 15–17 November 2017, was a huge success. The Festival opened new outreach venues (including the Space Centre, Leicester City Football Club, Gaddesby Primary School), returned to established ones in the city (The Phoenix, Curve, Attenborough Arts Centre, English Martyrs School), and encompassed a terrific programme of on-campus events.



The Festival also increased our BAME and student audience. There were talks on African American soldiers in Leicestershire (Gaddesby) and Racial Racism: Shrabani Basu presented the film of her novel *Victoria and Abdul*; Kamila Shamsie her latest novel; and David Olosoga (image left) his book and TV series: *Black and British: A Forgotten History*. In addition there was Adele Parks, an alumna of the English department, talking on 'My Path to

Becoming a Best-Selling Novelist'; Douglas Dunn and Rory Waterman (another English alumnus) on their most recent volumes of poetry; Sir Jonathan Bate on his biography of Ted Hughes; and the actor Michael Pennington on his book *King Lear in Brooklyn*.

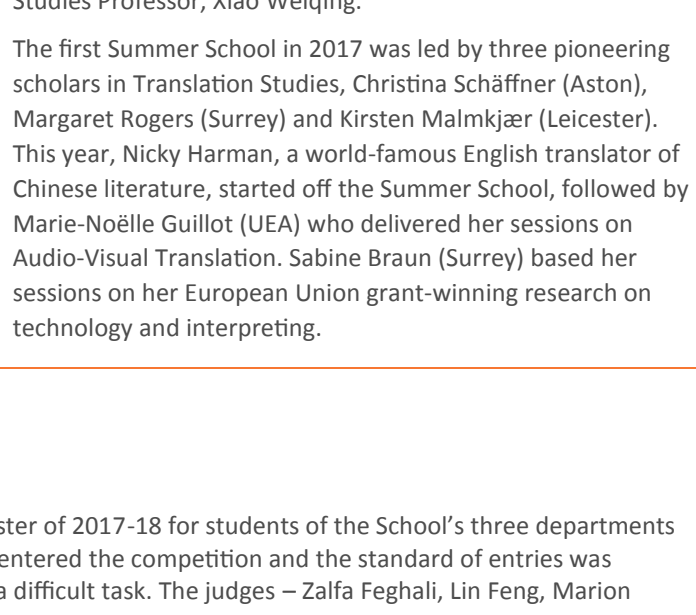
For the children there was Catherine Johnson, Anne Fine, and Jeremy Strong; for Joe Orton fans *Women's Style* (Mrs.), which went on to win a national award. The Festival was kicked off by a remarkable panel, 'Remembering Alexander Chancellor', with five distinguished authors and media personalities – Alexander Waugh, Anne Robinson, Craig Brown, Ferdinand Mount and Geoffrey Wheatcroft – recalling the legendary director of *The Spectator*.

## Research Collaboration with the University of West Indies

By Dr Lucy Evans

Three international research networking workshops took place this academic year in Trinidad, Guyana and the Netherlands as part of two projects on **Representing Crime in the Anglophone Caribbean**, funded by the British Academy and the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. The projects are led by Dr Lucy Evans (University of Leicester) in collaboration with Professor Anthony Harriott (University of the West Indies) and Professor Rivke Jaffe (University of Amsterdam).

The Trinidad-based workshop brought together researchers and postgraduate students from across the Caribbean region and from the UK, including Leicester-based research students and academic staff. Representatives from NGOs and governmental organisations, a Guyanese visual artist, and a Jamaican filmmaker also participated in the workshops. The final workshop will take place at Leicester in November 2018. Network members are working to extend this collaboration through the launch of a University of the West Indies/University of Leicester Summer School and through the development of a larger research project.



Representing Crime in the Caribbean networking event, University of Amsterdam, June 2018

## LeCTIS-SISU Advanced Translation Studies Summer School

Dr Yan Ying, Director of the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies

The second 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 28 July to 11 August 2018. The Summer School attracted 21 MA and PhD students from SISU who came to Leicester to deepen their knowledge of Translation Studies and have direct conversations with leading scholars and translators of the field. The students were accompanied by the SISU Translation Studies Professor, Xiao Weiqing.

The first Summer School in 2017 was led by three pioneering scholars in Translation Studies, Christina Schäffner (Aston), Margaret Rogers (Surrey) and Kirsten Malmkjær (Leicester). This year, Nicky Harman, a world-famous English translator of Chinese literature, started off the Summer School, followed by Marie-Noëlle Guillot (UEA) who delivered her sessions on Audio-Visual Translation. Sabine Braun (Surrey) based her sessions on her European Union grant-winning research on technology and interpreting.

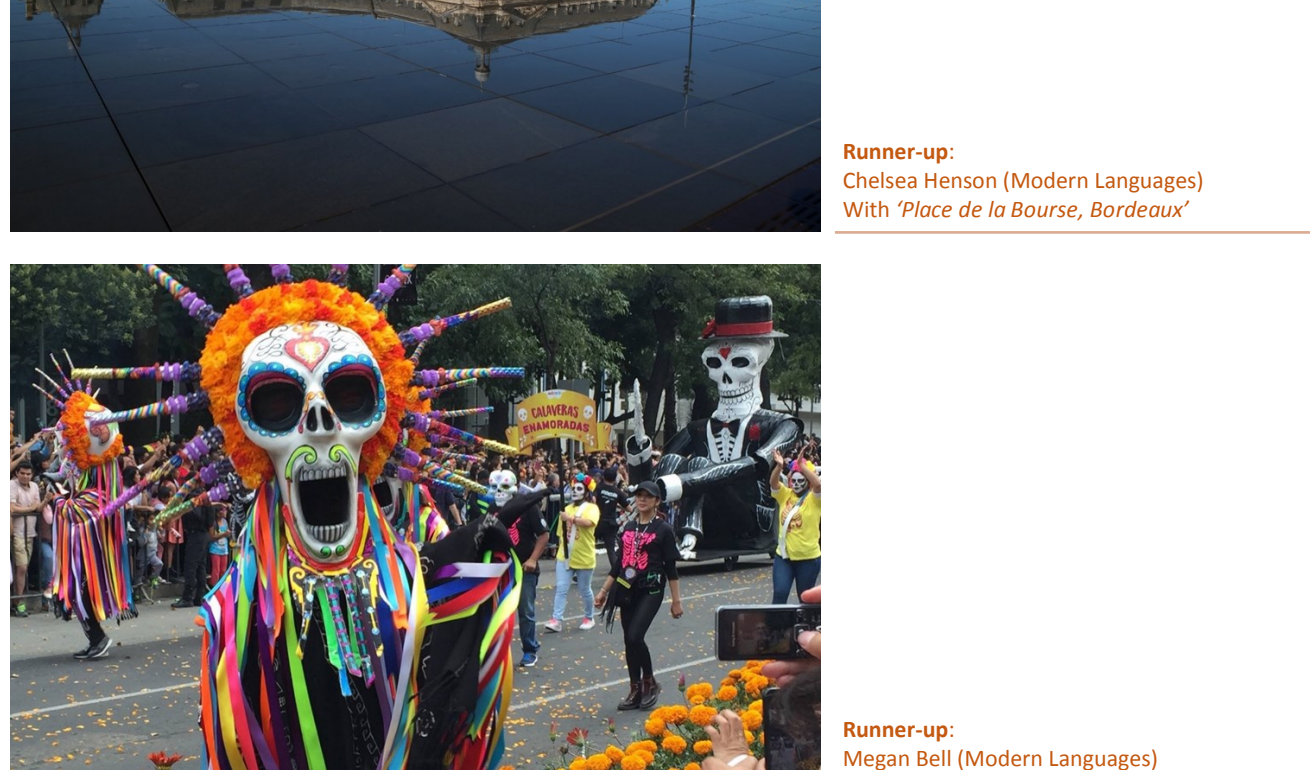
## Year Abroad Photo Competition

By Dr Marc Ripley

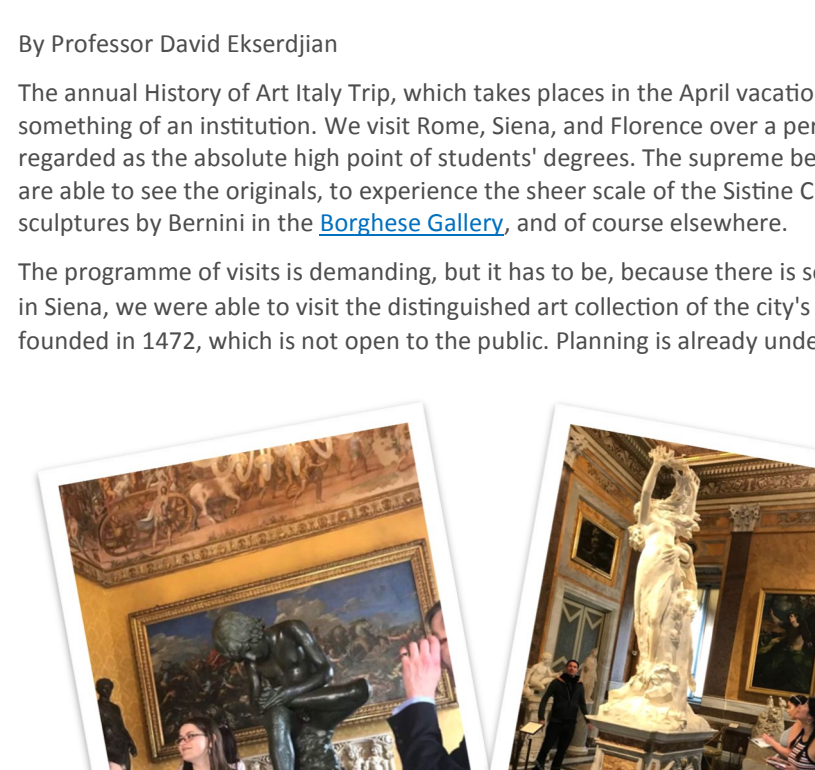
The School of Arts ran a photo competition in the second semester of 2017-18 for students of the School's three departments on their experiences of studying abroad. A total of 18 students entered the competition and the standard of entries was extremely high, making the task of judging the winning entries a difficult task. The judges – Zalfa Feghali, Lin Feng, Marion Krauthaker and Marc Ripley – chose one winning entry and two runner-up entries.

As presented below, the winning photograph was submitted by Georgia Cooke, a student of English on a year abroad in Canada. It was taken in the Valley of the Five Lakes, Jasper National Park, in Alberta, Canada. The two runner-up prizes were by Modern Languages students Chelsea Henson and Megan Bell. Chelsea's entry depicts the impressive Place de la Bourse, Bordeaux, France, while Megan's photograph was taken in the middle of a colourful Día de los Muertos [Day of the Dead] parade in Puebla, Mexico. Based on the quality of the entries, we will be running the photo competition again in 2019.

**First prize:** Georgia Cooke – English  
With 'Valley of the Five Lakes, Jasper National Park, in Alberta, Canada'



**Runner-up:**  
Chelsea Henson (Modern Languages)  
With 'Place de la Bourse, Bordeaux'



**Runner-up:**  
Megan Bell (Modern Languages)  
With 'Día de los Muertos [Day of the Dead] parade, Puebla, Mexico'

## History of Art Italy Trip

By Professor David Ekserdjian

The annual History of Art Italy Trip, which takes places in the April vacation of our students' second year, has become something of an institution. We visit Rome, Siena, and Florence over a period of three weeks, and the experience is often regarded as the absolute high point of students' degrees. The supreme benefit of the Italy Trip is that History of Art students are able to see the originals, to experience the sheer scale of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican and to walk round the great sculptures by Bernini in the [Borghese Gallery](#), and of course elsewhere.

The programme of visits is demanding, but it has to be, because there is so much to see in all three Italian cities. For example, in Siena, we were able to visit the distinguished art collection of the city's oldest bank, the Monte dei Paschi, which was founded in 1472, which is not open to the public. Planning is already under way to make the 2019 Italy Trip the best ever.



We do hope you enjoyed reading this 2017-18 Annual Review Newsletter. If you would like to send in comments or provide feedback then you can do so by writing to us at [SchoolOfArts@le.ac.uk](#).

Thank you to Jen McCaw for the editing and curating of this newsletter.