

BIN BROOK

MICHAELMAS 2018



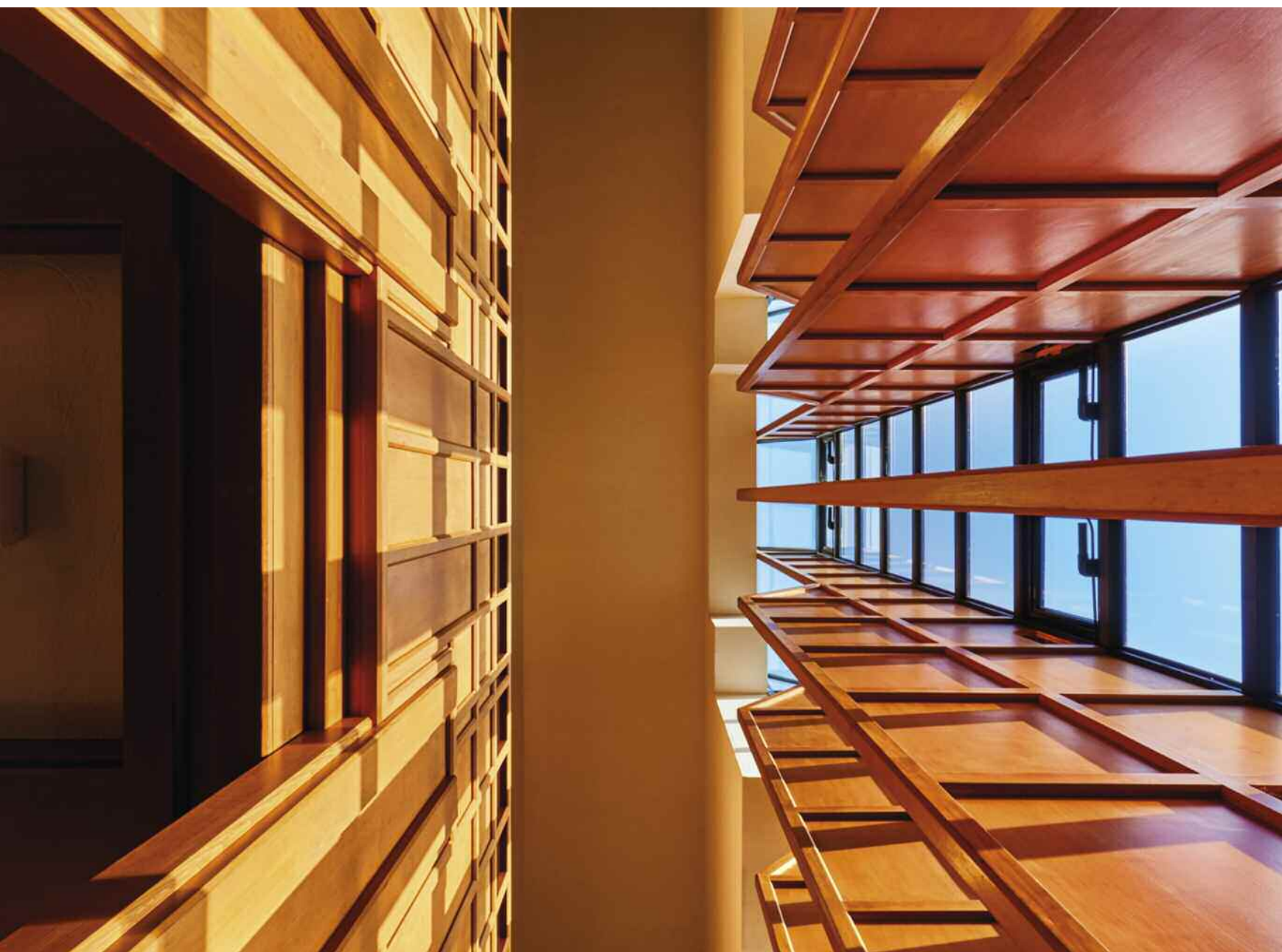
ROBINSON COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Focus on Politics: From lecture rooms
to the corridors of Westminster

Robinson Library: Changing
of the guard

In Conversation with...
Greg Hands MP

**Ancient University, Cutting
Edge College:** My Robinson



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WELCOME

The theme of this issue of *Bin Brook* has been planned for over a year, but the Editorial Committee could little have imagined quite how extraordinary that year would be.



These most interesting of times are meat and drink for those who study, live or work in politics at Robinson, and it seems fitting to give them a voice in this issue. Julie Smith and Alison Young are regular commentators on Brexit, and Greg Hands is at the sharp end as a sitting MP and until recently a government minister. His life in politics began at Robinson. Lola Adesioye and Mark Galeotti are trenchant on politics with a small ‘p’, and it is heartening to learn from our current students that political awakenings continue to happen at Robinson, just as they did when Greg was an undergraduate here. As we marvel at our turbulent times, it is salutary to read about the extraordinary lives of those we have lost this past year. Hugh Cortazzi, Mikuláš Teich and Louis Cha lived through war, persecution and bloody political unrest, and as we mourn their loss, we cannot fail to be inspired by their resilience.

Sarah Westwood
Development Director and Fellow
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FRONT COVER:
Looking up (Robinson College Library) taken by Sara Rawlinson Photography as part of the series Illuminating Cambridge Libraries. Copies of this and other photographs in the series are available from www.sararawlinson.com
Further photographs of Sara Rawlinson are featured on pages 16, 17 and 27.

Editor: Norbert Truszczyński. Editorial Committee: Sarah Westwood, Prof Rosalind Love, Dr Steve Trudgill, Dr Judy Weiss and Dr Christine Stopp.

The Editor and the members of the Editorial Committee are grateful to our contributors for the materials submitted for publication. Contributors provide photographs, unless otherwise stated. The opinions expressed in *Bin Brook* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of Robinson College and its members.

We are always delighted to hear from anyone who has a story to tell. If you would like to contribute an article to *Bin Brook*, please email development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk

NEWS in brief

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr Rosalind Love, Fellow of Robinson College and Reader in Insular Latin at the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, has been elected to the Eltrington and Bosworth Chair of Anglo-Saxon from 1st October 2019. This is the world's premier endowed Chair of Anglo-Saxon studies, alongside the Rawlinson and Bosworth Chair at Oxford. ■

THE CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY OF PARIS

Valentine Lauwereins (Classics, 2016), Chair of the Robinson College Student Association, has been appointed a Cambridge Society of Paris representative. The Cambridge Society of Paris has been active since 1996 and provides a platform for Cambridge graduates based in and around Paris to stay in touch with Cambridge University. It provides an entrée to Paris for those newly arrived, a gathering point for Cambridge Alumni and makes awards through the Trevor Brown Bursary to Cambridge students undertaking research in France. (www.camsocparis.org/home). Robinson alumni or students based in or around Paris are warmly encouraged to contact Valentine through the Development Office. ■

SPORTING SUCCESS

FOOTBALL

Robinson's Men's Football Team reached the quarter-finals – another success after a memorable victory in 2016 when it won cuppers for the first time. Led by Lawrence Atkins (Natural Sciences, 2017), the team includes John Harrison (Natural Sciences, 2012), Ben Nohr (MML, 2017), Nathan Procter (Mathematics, 2011), Jordan Urban (HSPS, 2018), George Pugh (Philosophy, 2018), George Martin (Natural Sciences 2017), Re-Em Tal (Land economy, 2018), Dami Adebayo (Engineering, 2015), Harry Edwards (Engineering, 2011), Henry Lambert (MML, 2018), Omar Amjad (Sensor Technologies & Applications, 2014), Esongkuo Elombi (Theology & Religious Studies, 2016), and Angus William Buttar.

CROSS COUNTRY



MacGregor Cox (Natural Sciences, 2015) and Phoebe Barker (Veterinary Sciences, 2018) both represented the University Blues squad at the annual Varsity match held at Wimbledon Common on Saturday 1st December. Phoebe finished an impressive fourth whilst MacGregor finished ninth over the 7.5-mile course. The weekend before, on Saturday 24th November, Oliver Fox (Medicine, 2015) finished fourth U23 in the European Trials to guarantee his selection for the European Championships on Sunday 9th December. This year they were held in Tilburg, the Netherlands and the British team hoped to make a big impact in all the races. TeamGB U23 came second with a silver medal and Oliver finished 19th in Europe. ■

ROWING



Michaelmas term 2018 is done and dusted for Robinson College Boat Club and the club looks towards vacation training in preparation for Rowing Week (our Cam-based camp) next term. Harris Webb (History, 2016), Pegasus Boat Club Secretary 2018-2019 reported that it had been a great term, capped off by a successful Boat Club Dinner in London, and the Fairbairn Cup results, which were as follows:

NW1 – 19th of Women's Novice VIIIs
NM1 – 10th of Men's Novice VIIIs (excluding schools)
NM2 – 27th of Men's Novice VIIIs (excluding schools)
All novice results equalling or bettering last year's strong results
W1 – 9th of Women's Senior IVs (7th college)
M1 – 9th of Men's Senior IVs (6th college)

We were also graced by the Pegasus Boat Club's first official race entry into Men's Invitational VIIIs, featuring graduates from 2006 to 2018 and who finished ninth in category, and 3rd college alumni crew. If anyone would like to get involved with the club next term or in the summer, in whatever capacity, please contact Harris (hw474@cam.ac.uk) or the captains (robinson.women@cubc.org or robinson.men@cubc.org). ■



W1 Mays 2018: Bow: Shreeya Bhogle (Medicine, 2017), 2: Louise Barnaby (Natural Sciences, 2017), 3: Olesya Razuvayevskaya (Computer Science, 2015), 4: Becky Diston (Medicine, 2016) (C), 5: Georgina McCosh (Natural Sciences, 2015) (C), 6: Abby Whitley (Theoretical & Applied Linguistics, 2017), 7: Sara Caputo (History, 2015), Stroke: Katya Duncan (Land Economy, 2017), Cox: Piers Cole

SCHOOLS' LIAISON AND OUTREACH OFFICER A NEW APPOINTMENT



William Fenwick joined Robinson College as Schools' Liaison and Outreach Officer on the 20th September 2018. In his role, he hopes to continue the College's

engagement with schools in its link areas of Swindon, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and the London Borough of Wandsworth by sustaining the programme of school visits in order to reach as many applicants as possible. He also plans to extend the work of the outreach team by creating sustained engagement with students from a younger age and additional events for potential applicants, to ensure that regardless of background students receive helpful guidance on applying to Cambridge. ■

MY ROBINSON

This Door Is No Longer a Door



Dr Thomas Anderson

I had not heard of Robinson College at the time I applied to Cambridge and came to the College via the Pool. I am very glad I did, as I found Robinson to be an open and friendly place, where academic excellence was married to a modern and welcoming culture, which was a good fit for my own northern state school background. In addition, as I would later put in a joke submission for a college motto in 2011, Trinity may have Isaac Newton, but we have functioning central heating! (I did end up receiving a cash prize for my more serious suggestion, which I believe was something like “Ancient university, cutting-edge college”).

One of my fondest memories of Robinson is how the rooms and dining facilities were so much better than my experiences visiting friends at other colleges and indeed other universities. The then new graduate accommodation, which I occupied for most of my PhD, was leaps and bounds ahead of anything I had seen before. I also have many happy memories of formal halls with the friends I made at the College, who oddly enough were mostly English students rather than fellow NatScis: we spent more than one evening playing a custom Robinson-themed Monopoly set called ‘Binsonopoly’! This English connection reflects how I was continuing with my writing hobby on the side, which has now borne fruit in terms of this writing nomination. (Editor’s note: Tom was shortlisted, as a co-writer, for the Sidewise Awards for Alternate History fiction with their short story *N’oublions Jamais*. The awards recognise the best alternative history stories and novels of the year by English language writers from around the world). I have kept in touch with my friends from that period though we now live at opposite ends of the country.

Several Fellows at Robinson had a big impact on the path of my career and in inspiring me to pursue my interests both inside and outside of the sciences. These include Brian McCabe, Bill Nolan and Chris Warner, the latter being my Director of Studies for some years. I am very grateful to all of them for their inspiration.

Other memories include poring over past exam scripts in the excellent library (and, of course, the University Library is just across the road), taking communion in the remarkable modern chapel, and attempting to retrieve my filing cabinet from the store room whilst navigating relics that seemed older than the college itself!

Going to Cambridge is an experience in which one is often confronted by the authority and majesty of history, but the friendly culture of Robinson always brought me back down to earth in a pleasing way.

(Finally, “This Door Is No Longer a Door” - only 2003 matriculands will remember...)

Hailing from Doncaster and a comprehensive school background, Dr Tom Anderson matriculated at Robinson in 2003 and read Natural Sciences, eventually specialising in Chemistry and graduating with an MSci in 2007. He then completed a PhD in supramolecular chemistry under Prof Jeremy Sanders from 2007 to 2011. He says, ‘Living and studying in Cambridge was a culture shock for someone of my background, but Robinson was always a welcoming environment in which it was easy to make friends, and I received strong academic support from various members of College’. Returning to his native South Yorkshire, he became a university lecturer at the University of Sheffield. Besides teaching and outreach in Chemistry, his interests include travel, ornithology, and writing, focusing on the genres of historical fiction, science fiction and alternative history (which looks at counterfactual ‘what-if’ scenarios as the outcome of different historical decisions). ■

Focus on Politics



Michael Palmer

More Questions than Answers: Studying politics at a time of upheaval

Two weeks before I started at Cambridge, Scotland voted to stay in the United Kingdom by a much narrower margin than had been expected. The day before my final exam, Theresa May lost her majority in the snap general election which was intended to increase her majority. These two results at either ends of my time at Robinson are illustrative of the tumultuous change which occurred in British politics, full of election results which were traumatic for some, and surprising to just about everybody.

May 2015 at the end of my first year may as well have been a different world; one where Ed Miliband was considered a left-wing leader of the Labour Party and David Cameron's Conservative majority was considered an almost shocking turn of events. That election set in motion two events, which came to dominate politics during the rest of my time at Robinson, namely, the election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader and David Cameron's referendum on EU membership following a re-negotiation.

The latter was especially influential for me personally, as my interest in the EU and Britain's relationship with it went from a question of internal party management to the all-consuming issue of British politics. The June 2016 vote to

leave has ensured that this will be the case for some years—after all, the last two years have been about resolving the terms of leaving, not the future relationship.

As much as the rapid changes taking place in British politics at the time, it was studying the third-year British politics course and attending Julie Smith's British politics seminar series that got me thinking more about the mismatch between the rhetoric of British politicians on Europe and the UK's relationship with the EU in practice. I have come back to Cambridge to research whether this tension has had implications for the position of the Foreign Office. Britain has largely got what it wanted out of Europe, and the French in particular have regarded the Foreign Office's ability to conjure up diplomatic successes, despite the UK's intransigence, with admiration and resentment in equal measure. Yet even the arch-villain of Brexit supporters Tony Blair once wrote a newspaper article talking of St George slaying the dragon of Europe. Has Britain been fighting a rising tide of European institutions culminating in Brexit, or have we shaped an institution in our image before walking away? Inevitably, it is more complex than either of those positions. What is clear is that European strategy and domestic politics have long been in tension and have never been reconciled. Brexit has opened a Pandora's Box rather than squared the circle.

The aim of my MPhil research is to understand better the link between statecraft, Foreign Office influence and the imperatives of party politics. When I leave Cambridge in July, Britain should have left the EU. The role of the Foreign Office and Britain's relationship with the EU will be more important, and more politicised, than ever. ■



After graduating from Robinson in 2017, **Michael Palmer (HSPS, 2014)** worked as a research assistant at the Constitution Unit, working on the Independent Commission on Referendums and projects on improving the quality of discourse in British elections.

Having returned to Cambridge on a Churchill College Archive Centre studentship, he is now studying on the International Relations and Politics MPhil, writing a dissertation on the influence of the Foreign Office over the UK Government's European policy.

FOCUS ON POLITICS

Living and Breathing Politics



**Dr Julie Smith,
Baroness Smith of Newnham**

My first political memory dates back to 5th June 1975. I came home from school and heard on the news that we (well, the adults at least) were voting on whether to stay in the Common Market. I do not recall any discussion at home about the precursor to today's European Union, nor even the outcome of the first UK-wide referendum at the time. After all, I was only six. Nonetheless, that news item lodged itself in my memory, and has perhaps helped shape my academic and political life, which are currently dominated by the UK's membership of the EU and the role of the referendum device in European politics.

By 1979, I was more keenly aware of British politics as the two main parties drifted to right and left, in ways very reminiscent of the politics of 2018. Attracted by a politics that seemed to eschew such polarities, I decided aged nine that I was a Liberal. However, the emergence of the breakaway Social Democratic Party (the SDP) which went on to merge with the Liberals saw me shift loyalties somewhat to a new and apparently different party – one that

aspired to 'break the mould of British politics'. It failed to do so – its failure helps explain the current reluctance of moderates to come together in a new party in 2018, despite speculation that the deep divisions within the main parties would lead to the creation of a new party. Nonetheless, having caught the political bug at the Crosby by-election, and attracted especially by the SDP's policies on European integration (pro-EEC as it was then known, in contrast to Labour's 1983 commitment to pull out) and defence (solidly multilateralist in terms of NATO and the nuclear deterrent) I was hooked on politics. As a teenager, I was quite sure I wanted to be prime minister.

It was perhaps natural that I studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at the Other Place – yet that was only after being rejected by Newnham to read Modern Languages. Anyone who gets that rejection letter may be devastated but in the long term, it might just turn out for the best, though it never feels like that at the time. I always dread the annual admissions round, knowing how stressful it is for all the candidates and how at 17 or 18 it feels like the end of the world not to get the offer you have set your heart on.

My study of the EU as an undergraduate amounted to a single week (for which read three days as we had two essays a week) in my final year in Oxford. The topic was European elections, and in the arrogance of youth, I thought I could come up with a better explanation than the key author could on EP elections, Karlheinz Reif, who dubbed them second-order. Thus began a quarter of a century studying European elections in one form or another. I used my languages – good enough to do research, even if not good enough to debate the finer points of Moliere or Montesquieu in the authors' mother tongue – to do graduate work on elections to the European Parliament. I moved to Germany on a graduate scholarship, before teaching at the Central European University in Budapest in the days when the locals called it the 'Soros University' after its founder George Soros, but no one dreamt that such a liberal institution could be driven out of the country. As CEU prepares to move to Vienna, as a political scientist, I can but note that this is a reflection of the rise of populism in Europe. Yet it is also a sign of failure on the part of the European Union, which sought to use its enlargement policy to imbue the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in would-be member states.



On a trip to Svalbard and Greenland

I came to Cambridge in 1997 to take up a temporary three-year teaching fellowship in European Studies at the Centre of International Studies (now part of the POLIS Department) and became a Fellow in Politics here in Robinson. In those days, European politics were greeted with deep disdain – or perhaps it was merely boredom. Either way, when I told people what I did, even in the SCR it was rarely long before they changed the subject. Nor were students particularly interested in European politics – large numbers of graduate students signed up for our courses on the EU, but there were few British students among them. Over the years interest even among graduates dropped off. Europe was a peaceful, stable region now the Cold War was over, and its politics did little to engage students in the way the Middle East did. Even within the main political parties, Europe was a subject to be avoided, more likely to lose votes than win them.

Then the political realities in the UK were turned upside down. An electoral system that was intended to deliver strong and stable government failed to do so – three times. The 2010 election led to the first coalition government since the end of the Second World War, bringing together the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats. During that time, I joined the House of Lords as a Lib Dem, making my maiden speech in 2014 on the case for

British membership of the EU. The convention is that maiden speeches should not be controversial. I was told it would be fine to make a pro-EU speech in the Lords because most of my fellow peers were pro-European anyway. How far the world has moved in just four short years. Cameron's accidental victory in 2015 and hence the need to deliver on his promise to hold a referendum on EU membership – the second in my lifetime – ensured that the European Question has dominated political life. Now I pause before telling people what I do for living, acutely aware that they will want to give me the full force of their views on the EU, remain or leave, deal or no deal. Student interest in the EU has also risen again. Nevertheless, one thing is for sure: I am quite certain now that I do not wish to be prime minister.



Dr Julie Smith (Baroness Smith of Newnham)

is Fellow and Director of Studies in Politics at Robinson and Reader in European Politics in the University's POLIS Department. Her book on the UK's relations with the EU, *The UK's Journeys into and out of the EU: Destinations Unknown* was published in paperback in May. She is currently editing the Palgrave Handbook on European Referendums due to be published in 2019. ■

Focus on Politics



In conversation with... the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP

Amy Baxter

Amy is a third year History (2016) student at Robinson College; and was offered the chance to interview Greg Hands.

Greg Hands and Nick Clegg are the only MPs to date to have studied at Robinson College. Greg Hands matriculated from Robinson College in 1985. He graduated with a degree in Modern History in 1989, and was elected as an MP in 2005, successfully defending his Chelsea & Fulham seat in 2010, 2015 and again in 2017. Greg cites his main interests in national politics as finance, trade and foreign affairs, and has served as Minister of State for Trade Policy, Minister for London, and Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

What is your first memory of Robinson?

My first memory of Robinson is just arriving! I hadn't applied to Robinson, I'd put Robinson as third choice, which at the time wasn't unusual. I remember arriving in October 1985 for my first day being driven up by my parents and unloading my half dozen boxes, and going down to the Auditorium to have Freshers' Coffee with the Warden. A very typical first day, I expect.

What made you choose higher education at Robinson instead of going straight into the workplace?

I did a bit of both in the sense that in 1985 it was quite unusual to do what would now be called a gap year. After the Oxbridge examinations, I had 9 months then to fill or kill, depending on your viewpoint, from January to October. I went and worked in Germany in a swimming pool, so I did a bit of both. I thought you were unlikely to regret getting a degree from university. Even if you ended up going into something that didn't need a degree, it seemed to make perfect sense to me, and you could always decide later if you wanted to make use of it or not.

Do you think that having a university education, particularly an Oxbridge one, has helped or hindered you as an MP?

It has definitely not hindered me; learning the skills I was taught at Cambridge helped hugely. For example, being presented with an enormous volume of information, and working out from that information what is important, and distilling that into an argument.

Being a government minister is all about that, you are presented with an enormous amount of paper to read and decisions to make.

The content of the education also has the potential to be very useful, in my case history. Most of the history I did was 20th century European, which is very useful for me in my job at the moment.

Your speech last night was only 45 seconds to discuss quite a hefty argument. How do you make a strong argument in such a short space of time?

I was the last speech on the European Customs Union, and I had 45 seconds to present my argument. I had a four point argument, and I only had time to put forward three of the four points. It was quick fire, I tried to bang it out, and I hope it made a difference to the debate. Using those skills I just mentioned is an important part of making speeches like this.

Were you involved in politics at Cambridge?

I was a member of CUCA at Cambridge. At the time, 30 years ago, the Association had almost a thousand members, so it was quite a big organisation. The Conservatives would also regularly win Student Union elections, and I campaigned for a Student Union President called Gillian Wilson in 1988, a Conservative, who is still a very good friend of mine. Therefore, CUCA was very much a mainstream part of the university, as were the Liberal Democrats, and the Labour student society. Although I had identified with Conservative Party politics, it wasn't until I was 18 that I got involved.

Do you think joining a political party is an important part of engaging in politics as a student?

No, I don't think it is an important part of engaging in politics, although the more people do, the less likely significant changes are to happen like the recent shift in focus of the Labour Party. However, you don't have to be part of a political party to be involved in politics. I know there is a lot of pressure on students financially and if they want to save £25 a year and still be involved in politics that is probably a good decision.

Greg's interest in politics was clearly shaped and supported by his time at Robinson. Although he did not enter elections until 1998, his role as Chairman of the Cambridge University Conservative Association highlights his lifelong dedication to politics. His reflection on the skills he learnt throughout his degree underscores the opportunities presented to us as students at Cambridge; though a degree content may not be as directly relevant to future careers as Greg's was, the practical skills of study will always be. Regardless of political association, his assertion that one does not need to be a member of a political party in order to participate in politics is an important one in the present climate.

There will be an opportunity to meet Greg in person on 2 July 2019 when he will very kindly be hosting our Annual London Reception in the House of Commons. Look out for your invitation in the post! ■



Focus on Politics



A Life in Moscow's Shadows

I'm not quite sure whether reading history at Robinson prepared me for being shot at (only once), being by a truck bomb when it blew up (only once), and nearly being arrested by the Ukrainian Security Service (also only once), but fortunately the overwhelming majority of my professional career has been vastly less cinematic and rather more about trying to master too much material in too little time and trying to assemble something cogent, intelligent and elegant out of it. On the other hand, if that fails, at least something plausible and intelligible. I am sure that is something to which any Cambridge historian can relate.



I read history at Robinson, and if I am honest often found it frustrating. The emphasis on breadth meant that I learned much about things I had never even known were there to be learned – was Carolingian society agnatic or cognatic? Why did Kenya's Mau Mau rise? – but the chance to focus on what really inspired me was often just out of reach. I am, after all, an unapologetic Russia wonk. Many assume that this means I have some personal or familial connection, but beyond a British grandfather who served briefly in the expeditionary force to southern Russia in 1918 and an Italian one who made damn sure he was not posted there during World War Two, I have none. Rather, as a historian, I am all about the stories, and to me Russia has the best. The horrors are darker, the heroisms brighter, the blood that much more crimson.

Therefore, after a year getting bored out of my mind in the City, I went to the LSE and got my doctorate in politics. I explored the impact of the Afghan War on a Soviet Union that was crumbling around me – it helpfully dissolved at the end of 1991, to give my PhD a convenient ending. The whole nature of security was being re-evaluated. Chaos and criminality were filling the gap as the threat of nuclear war and tank battles in the plains of Europe receded. I adapted with it, and my work with veterans of the Soviets' shabby, vicious war in Afghanistan gave me my first set of contacts within the emerging Russian underworld. The interconnected worlds of Russian history, security, espionage and criminality remain my enthusiasms to this day.

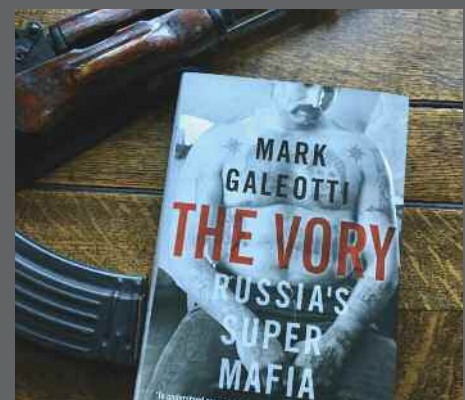
Since then, I have been a senior lecturer and head of the history department at Keele University. I've spent a while working on attachment to the Foreign Office, I've been a professor at New York University, a senior researcher at the Institute of International Relations, Prague, a visiting professor at MGIMO, the Russian foreign ministry's university, and am currently a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. More to the point, I have been on ride-alongs with police in four countries, drunk with a Chechen hitman, and been inside the headquarters of the CIA and the KGB (as was). While as academics we often

like to complain, the opportunity to read, think, write, talk and teach about things that enthuse us is an amazing privilege. Even if I have never had cause to pontificate about Carolingian society since, it was evident in the very breadth of the Cambridge history degree, that faculty had scope to immerse themselves in their passions and hope to pass them on to others on the way.



Dr Mark Galeotti (History, 1984) is Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Institute of International Relations Prague, and his latest book is

'The Vory: Russia's super mafia' (Yale University Press, 2018). ■



Focus on Politics



Just Walk to Jerusalem: Equal rights not political fixes

Dr Robin Message

If you'd told Robin Message (2004, Computer Science) that one day he'd turn his computer off for five months and walk from London to Jerusalem, I'm not sure he would have believed you.

In college, many friends were putting on shows or moving to China to open a cafe or doing Rag Jailbreak. I was more comfortable in the bar, playing a round of pool or battling the quiz machine, but I was envious of those people with the mysterious ability to do exciting things. Eventually, I realised the only difference between us was that these people said yes to the opportunities presented to them, and that realisation led my wife Naomi (née Keeling, New Hall, 2005) and me to quit our jobs, rent out our house, and set off walking.

Amos Trust, a small, creative human rights charity, planned the walk in 2017 to mark several anniversaries, the most pertinent being 100 years since the British Government's Balfour declaration. In this 67-word declaration, Britain promised to help establish "a national home for the Jewish people" in historic Palestine, provided "that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities." At the time, those "non-Jewish communities" were 700,000 Arabs who made up over 90% of the population. This was typical British imperial colonialism; as journalist Arthur Koestler put it, "One nation solemnly promised to a second nation the country of a third."

Therefore, we made our pilgrimage in penance for Britain's colonial past, in solidarity with Israelis and Palestinians

working for justice and peace, and in protest. Our protest was in many ways apolitical; we had no position on states or borders or elections. Our call was for "full, equal rights for all who call the Holy Land home." In the West bank there are Palestinian houses being destroyed for not having impossible-to-get permits next door to illegal Israeli settlements. Bedouin communities in Israel are denied access to municipal services and education because their villages are "unrecognised". Gaza has been described by former Prime Minister David Cameron as a "prison camp", one that contains nearly two million people. In Lebanon and Jordan, and the wider diaspora, millions of Palestinian refugees long to take up their right to return to their homeland.

Our walk took us to that homeland, and it often felt we were swimming against an endless tide of migrations. Walking from the port in Calais to our hotel was difficult because so much of Calais has been fortified against migrants. The borders of Greece, an outpost of the EU many are trying to reach, were tense with razor wire. However, it was not all bad. We ate and drank our way through France, enjoying the Champagne region and the delicious cheeses of Jura. We admired the mountainous beauty of Switzerland. The ice-cream shops of the Po valley in Italy gave us welcome respite from what was called Lucifer's summer (despite temperatures over 35°C we still had to walk about 20 miles a day). Moreover, our first glimpse of the Mediterranean was truly incredible as we realised we had crossed a continent using only our feet.

After Western Europe, we went off the beaten track. Albania provided a fascinating glimpse into Communist history. Macedonia was stunningly beautiful and full of promise. Greece was steeped in incredible history, including Thessaloniki and Philippi. Turkey was a bizarre split between untouched Thracian countryside and 100 kilometres of endlessly urban Istanbul. We flew from Istanbul to Jordan due to the impossibility of crossing Syria.

In total, we covered over 3000 km. Over a hundred people walked part of the journey with us, and nine of us went the whole way. When we arrived in Palestine, we received incredible hospitality and warmth. It was clear from everyone we met that our act of solidarity had not been in vain and that whatever the political situation, we had brought hope. As one Palestinian, Marwan, said to us, "What you have done is a human thing. You'll never forget what you have done." ■



Dr Robin Message
(Computer Sciences, 2004)
studied as an undergraduate and then completed a PhD in Computer Science under Professor Alan Mycroft. After working for various start-ups, Robin set off for Jerusalem with his wife Naomi. He is now a freelance developer and technical consultant at Lambda Cambridge (<http://lambdacambridge.com>). In his spare time, he is renovating their first house in Cambridge.



Focus on Politics



Blurred Lines: **Agenda-driven news**

Over the past decade, technology has disrupted the world of political journalism. On the one hand, there have been some incredible benefits to this online and social media-driven change: the empowerment of previously marginalized groups; the sparking of global social movements; and heightened awareness of causes, such as sexual harassment (#metoo) and police brutality (#blacklivesmatter).

Lola Adesioye

On the other hand, these advancements have brought about serious challenges, such as the creation of echo chambers in which people only receive and share information which confirms their pre-existing biases; the spread of misinformation; the mainstreaming of wild conspiracy theories; 'fake news' and 'alternative facts' - all of which have been detrimental and destructive.

In our information saturated age, we are now able to select our own set of 'facts', from a wide variety of sources, which – in the hands of someone unhinged – can lead to something as serious as death. In October 2018, for example, a gunman walked into a synagogue in Pittsburgh, killing 11 Jewish worshippers and injuring seven more, inspired by anti-Semitic conspiracy theories which had been circulating online and in right-leaning mainstream media, in addition to a hatred for Jews reinforced by his participation in a right-wing social media site.

Given that there is a direct correlation between media consumption and civic engagement, as well as political knowledge and participation, it should be very troubling to all of us that the lines between fact and fiction, objectivity and opinion, reality and propaganda have become increasingly blurred.

Nowadays, a reader is not always sure about the veracity of what they are seeing or hearing, which provides many opportunities for those who seek to exploit and misdirect public perception, limit press freedoms, create divisions and increase polarization for their own political gain, as we are seeing President Trump do here in the US. This can lead us down a very slippery slope if we are not careful.

What can we do to tackle the problem in which people have much more information than ever before yet do not necessarily know how to decode it without falling into a politically motivated trap?

Media literacy is, in my opinion, one of the solutions. It is important that people don a critical thinking hat whenever they read, whether it is a Facebook post, a Tweet, or even an article in a mainstream publication. It is ok for a reader to ask questions, check sources and to think critically about finding out what they are seeing and hearing. Nobody can afford to be a passive consumer of media these days.

Mainstream media must also do a better job of delineating where they are coming from politically, as well as letting people know whether what they are saying is fact or opinion. Here in the US, Fox News has essentially been operating as a propaganda arm for President Trump. In some ways, I would not mind them doing this if they actually admitted that this is what they are doing. However, to present their agenda-driven news as if it is objective is simply wrong and misleading to those who trust and rely on them. It also distorts how people see the country in which they live, as well as what they think are the best ways of tackling the country's problems.

Young people have grown up in this challenging, content-rich online environment, and they are really the ones we must worry about, since they are the voters and citizens of the future. Recent elections in the UK and US have made it clear that young people, turning out to vote in droves, are increasingly politically aware and motivated to make change. In times of noise and flurries of opinion, politics can appear to be a tiresome battlefield of irreconcilable opponents, which can be off-putting and overwhelming. Anyone looking to join the ranks of the political journalist really should focus on joining an organization – or creating one – which has its focus on quality journalism, which requires journalists with a real commitment to integrity and truth. In this era of changing business models, this is a real challenge. However, it is a necessary one.

I, in the meantime, will continue to fight the good fight, and to use political journalism to make the world in which I live a better place. ■



Lola Adesioye (SPS, 2000) is a social and political writer, commentator and broadcaster who lives in New York. She graduated from Robinson in 2003, with a degree in Social and Political Science. Lola's work has been published in The Guardian, The Economist, The New Statesman, The Atlantic, The Tablet, and many other international publications. She is also a regular contributor of political analysis and opinion to UK and US TV networks.

Focus on Politics



Change for the better: **Student Political Engagement at Robinson**

Tom Hinch



Tom Hinch (HSPS, 2017) is the RCSA President for 2018/19 and a second year HSPS student specialising in Politics and International Relations from Exeter. Before coming to Cambridge, Tom worked as a teacher of English in Catalonia, Spain. He is looking to pursue a career in teaching once he graduates.

Studying HSPS, I like to think that I enjoy thinking about politics just as much as I enjoy being involved in it. Coming to Cambridge, therefore, I was keen to start applying all the theoretical things I learn in my degree straight away.

As President of the RCSA - the organization designed to represent all students at Robinson - I am delighted to see just how politically engaged we are as a college. Students across the College are engaged in several different campaigns and hold a large variety of positions across the University.



I was delighted that we were able to get a full committee of 21 members in the first round of elections to the RCSA. In total, there were 10 contested elections and over 200 students voting. Our hustings, held in the Umney Theatre, was well attended, with many probing questions asked of the candidates. The highlight was certainly the Green Officer election, where, building upon the success of our Green Officer last year, we had four candidates running!

I am excited to get going in my new role and continue some of the outstanding work the RCSA has done in promoting the welfare and security of students. We have put on welfare events to help students deal with the stress of a Cambridge degree, helped make the case for a more affordable cost of living at Robinson and created a funding guide that will help students in search for any assistance they might require. We have also backed the Period Poverty campaign, running the hugely successful RCSA Sanitary Products scheme, which is vital in showing that Robinson is there to

support all its members. As a democratic body, I am proud that it is our members who decide how and what we spend our money and endeavors on.

However, there are many other great ways students from Robinson can get involved in politics at Cambridge. There are political and debating societies such as the Cambridge Union, which always see a number of Robinson students elected to prominent positions; grass roots campaigns have grown across the University on issues such as environmental protection, a decolonized curriculum and paying University staff the living wage; and then of course there is also the Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU). Robinson alumni have been represented in the CUSU sabbatical team for the last two years (Martha Krish and Matt Kite, while Alice Gilderdale is the current Ethical Affairs officer).

What is clear is that whatever you care about and want to change for the better, there are opportunities to be part of that change here. ■

Association members:

On the table [L to R]: Becky Teagles, Seb Williams, Kieran Mylrea

Standing [L to R]: Lily Rose-Sharry, Anna Maloney, Annalise Whitehead, Alex Williams, Valentine Lauwereins, Sian Evans, Alice Gilderdale, Matthew Brickell, Tom Hinch, Sophie Adams, James Hedge, Flo Balmer, Emma Macrae, Emily Hall, Paul Durbaba, Sam Sully

Sitting [L to R]: Chris Cheng, Maisie Hobbs, Phoebe Cranmer, Sarah Beck, Victor Ellwood

Focus on Politics



A Green Officer's Role is a Political Role

Alice Gilderdale



Alice Gilderdale
(HSPS 2017),
Robinson College
Green Officer,
member of the Robinson College
Environmental Committee.

Robinson College Students' Association has gone from strength to strength over the past year in engaging the wider student population with political and more active groups within Cambridge University. As Green Officer from 2017-18, my role was traditionally viewed as more of a light or 'green' role - publicising which bins to put your rubbish in, and making students turn off the lights when they leave their rooms. However, over the past year I have worked to encourage students to come to terms with the real impact we are having on our planet, not just as individuals but also as a university and society as a whole.

With the recent IPCC report and the publication of the stark facts of the climate catastrophe we are facing, this issue has come to the fore as the most pressing issue of our generation. It is now up to us as young people, and as students of this prestigious institution, to question how we have got into this situation, and what must be done to stop the coming climate collapse. It is up to institutions like Cambridge University to stand up and provide a lead by producing hard and attainable targets for the future. For example, the Green Officer role has been a way to support the University's Zero Carbon campaign by encouraging Robinson students to get involved and become aware of the current University-wide campaigning on this issue.

Students of Robinson have been incredibly supportive of my work - not only coming along

to the numerous events, which I have hosted - from film screenings to panel discussions - but also suggesting their own ideas and taking on the work I have done to create new sustainability initiatives themselves. To combat the serious threat to our planet we must all work together as a community to support and inspire each other. I hope that as Green Officer I have sparked new ideas to inspire this community here in Robinson. It has also humbled me how many people from all intellectual and subject backgrounds are interested in the work I have been doing here, and that students from the natural sciences, engineers, historians, political scientists and artists alike are willing to question whether institutionalized powers have led us to this global breakdown. It is not just up to political activists - each of us can be active: we need engineers, medics, and artists to create a sustainable and liveable world.

I have spent this year offering the Robinson students a new lens through which to see the climate reality and our roles in creating a new sustainable future. It does depend on students recycling, using our famous 'Community Fridge' and consuming ethically. However, we also need to be using these positions to encourage students to look at the bigger picture - to question whether some industries and institutions are destroying our planet, and how we can have a hand in changing this for the better. ■

Changing Faces in the Library –

The beginning of a new Chapter



Dr Charlotte Reinbold



After many years of service as College Librarian, Miss Lesley Read has retired. For many Binsonites, myself included, Lesley has been a fixture during their time at College: unfailingly polite and helpful, and often known to turn a blind eye to mounting library fines. I sat down with Lesley to talk a little about her time at Robinson, the College's history, and her plans for retirement.

So, how many years have you been at Robinson?

I started in September 1990.

September 1990! [I thought about mentioning the fact that I hadn't been born then but decided against it.] Have you seen significant change during your time here over that period?

Oh, yes! Chiefly computerisation – it was still very paper-based when I arrived.

Was there a card catalogue?

Yes! Yes, we didn't close the card catalogue until...ooh...the beginning of this century.

Oh, wow! And did you have to spend a lot of time teaching the undergraduates how to use it?

To begin with, yes, but we were just on the edge of being one of the last [colleges to use one] – most picked it up quite quickly. The main problem I found towards the end was that I would watch the students walking up and down the catalogue, because they didn't know their alphabet!

Well that's... quite extraordinary!

Yes, I found it very strange, but I gather there was a phase when the alphabet wasn't taught in schools. I think that was the most surprising thing: well, surprising and not surprising, because the students were becoming much more computer-literate, and were used to doing everything on a computer, and looking through these little cards...

Well, I mean, the whole nature of research has changed completely now, hasn't it?

Yes, completely. It's a very, very different world, actually.

And what was the College like then?

Oh, it was very nice! Very, very friendly. Smaller, I think, than it is now: fewer graduates than we have now, and I think the Fellowship was smaller, too. There were lots of staff fun days – Fellows and staff – and a cricket match, too, though I'm not sure how the teams were made up – lots of people's children making up the numbers. And there was a croquet match too.

Continued...

It's interesting that Robinson is a young college, but we also have many traditions from older Cambridge colleges, like having a High Table. And of course, we have our chapel. I heard a story that the chapel nearly wasn't built – is that true?

Apparently, it is true, though I don't think anyone can verify it. The Library was going to be where the Chapel is now – that's the original site, and they moved it to make room for the Chapel.

(Editor's note: It is reported that Sir David Robinson insisted: "No chapel, no college" so there was never any doubt that we would have one, although its location was changed as Lesley suggests.)

So that would have been a larger site?

I think so. It would certainly have been easier for the porters, because they would have been able to see people coming up into the college – and the Porters' Lodge was not going to be the main Lodge. That was going to be down by where the AV Room is now [next to the Umney Foyer].

One of my favourite things to show people when they come to college is to take them into the library to look at the architectural models [which show the different plans proposed for the college by competing architectural firms]. I don't think the undergraduates know they're there, and they're so interesting. And of course, we're opposite the UL. I only recently discovered that Gilbert Scott, who designed the University Library, also designed the red telephone box.

Well, you need only look at the tower!

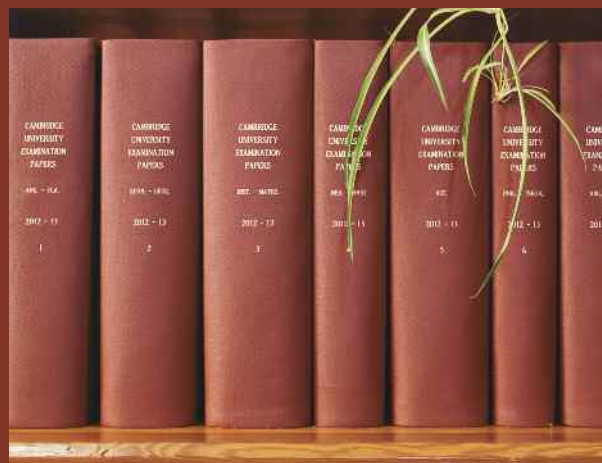


My mum was an undergraduate when Robinson was being built. She was at Newnham, and they used to come and stare enviously at the college, having heard all about our en-suites.

It was revolutionary. No other college had them.

And do you think the library has changed much under your stewardship? What do you think has changed?

Well, apart from computerisation, it's changed physically. However, we can't do too much, as the bookshelves and desks are fixed, and you can't move them without damaging the woodwork. You may



have noticed that the desks are a little low, and it's hard to find chairs to fit under them.

Oh, well, as a short person, I'd never noticed. It felt designed perfectly! And the library is well located: it feels, architecturally, like it ought to be where it is on Front Court. I've always liked coming up the ramp to Robinson in the darkness and seeing the windows of the library lit up: it's really welcoming.

Yes – we had a May Ball one year, and they convinced us to have a video running in the library window. It was great, and I'm told by the people who attended that it looked fantastic.

I really like it when May Balls use the architecture of the College. Actually, that might be a shifting in the ethos of the college more generally, perhaps, towards celebrating the College's architecture rather than trying to disguise it, particularly in the gardens.

Yes, it's a very difficult balance.

I love the bricks! I think we're lucky, too, in our library that we have so many resources – as a medievalist, I'm very spoiled.

You are! The Directors of Studies try to make sure that the books the undergraduates need are there. And I think it's nice, too, to have a physical book, as well as things being available electronically. However, things being available online does make things easier. Study skills have changed: as resources become more complicated to find, and there is so much misinformation around, people need help to sort out what is useful and what is not, and that is where the librarians come in. The move in academic librarianship now is away from being the keepers of the books, and towards 'This is how you can do this'. It's teaching study skills to allow junior members to do their work efficiently and get the right information.

And maybe that's something that the college library in particular can provide?

Absolutely. Judith [Brown, the new Librarian] will be moving the College on. I started the transition from paper to computers; Judith will complete the transition, and start the new stage. Things change – everyone expects it, and it is good that they change. If you

stagnate a library, nobody is going to use it. I'm really looking forward to seeing what Judith does.

I like the idea of continual transition. However, we will miss you! Speaking of moving on, what are you going to do in your retirement?

I have a garden to sort out, various things to do, and I have joined the U3A [University of the Third Age], I am going to various classes and societies – and perhaps there'll even be a little more time to do some reading.



Thank you so much Lesley, for taking the time to talk to me about your time at Robinson. We will miss you greatly, and hope that you come back and visit often.

Dr Charlotte Reinbold (English 2010) is a Bye-Fellow and Director of Studies at Selwyn College.

Ms Judith Brown



It was a joyous moment when I heard that I had been successful at interview, as I had visited Lesley some time previously and had gone away with art envy at the primal Alan Davie painting that set the tone so strongly in the surrounding space.

I come to Robinson after some fourteen years of working in libraries and archives, both at university and school level. It feels very fitting to be here - to be meeting the people who were formative for my son whilst he read History.

Ambitious for the service, I aim to bring the best of the new to this beautiful library. Fresh from a research project, a secondment opportunity from the Department of Psychology, I have been investigating future information, archive and library needs in the School of Biological Sciences. There are some exciting initiatives taking place in the library world and listening to users and non-users alike will allow us to evolve organically.

I have signed us up to take part in the Illuminating Cambridge Libraries photographic study, started a Be Well Collection of books and there will certainly be colouring for stress relief during exam term! The challenge for us now, in the next five years, is to undertake a review and sympathetic refurbishment of our library space and services. Thus, we hope to announce a fundraising project in the not too distant future. ■



PARTNERS IN INNOVATION:

A new Fellowship in HSPS



As a modern college within an ancient university, Robinson has always been a bit different. Co-educational from the beginning and determinedly forward-thinking, it has a tradition of innovation in teaching. In keeping with that tradition the College recently identified subjects where there is significant potential for improvement and proposed a unique way of delivering ‘a shot in the arm’ to these areas. The shot in the arm has arrived in the shape of Dr Lucia Rubinelli, the first, we hope, of a number of Junior Research and Teaching Fellows at Robinson. Dr Rubinelli’s subject is Human Social and Political Sciences (HSPS), where Robinson’s students perform well, but where teaching is under-resourced. Lucia’s brief is to develop new teaching methods and to pursue her own research in the field, enhancing our undergraduates’ learning experience and enriching the intellectual life of the College.

Lucia's appointment was made possible by a unique partnership between Robinson College, the University of Cambridge's Department of Political and International Studies (POLIS), of which Lucia is a member, and Simon Godwin (Law, 1985). Simon contributed more than two-thirds of the cost of Lucia's three-year post, and we are enormously grateful to him for his generosity and the trust he has placed in the College's educational strategy.

On making his donation, Simon said:

'I very much enjoyed my time at Robinson, from being actively involved with the JCR to the heady heights of the 3rd XI Football team. The friends I made there remain a fantastic group. Getting involved with Robinson's alumni has also been tremendously rewarding. Making contact again with people I have lost touch with, and indeed meeting fellow Robinsonians from different vintages, reminds me that Robinson helps to develop interesting people who are great to be around.

Speaking to the College about its financing and opportunities for giving, I was genuinely impressed by how clear their view was of where money can be of help. Their plans and ideas are all focused on improving the opportunities available to future Robinsonians and becoming better as a place of learning. At a time when university funding is under increasing pressure, Robinson has a strong leadership team who have developed an interesting and innovative plan to continue to improve what the College offers. One aspect of the plan is the idea of creating the Teaching and Research Fellowship in HSPS. This, it seemed to me, benefited all parties allowing Robinson to significantly enhance its teaching staff in a much needed area and giving Dr Rubinelli the opportunity to combine her research and teaching. It is very much a prototype and an innovative move, which perhaps typifies the College's approach. It is exciting for me to be helping with this innovation and being able to help shape the idea. Maybe it is just because we have so little history that Robinson is able to innovate, or maybe it is just because that is the type of people who are attracted to the College, but it is this fresh thinking, that I found compelling. I am sure it will be a great success, but even if it isn't, it is a great thing to try.'

Lucia tells us more of her story:

'Since I joined Robinson in October I've been discovering the joys of my new role and membership of the College. I grew up in Verona, a beautiful city in northern Italy, famous for its feuding families and its delicious Amarone wine. I obtained my bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Trieste, went back and forth between London and Paris for my Master's degrees and landed in Cambridge for a PhD in Politics. After that, I worked for two years as fellow in Political Theory at the London School of Economics. I very much cherished my time in London – the lights of the city and the quality of its restaurants – but I am now incredibly grateful to be back in Cambridge, whose parks and pubs have secured a special place in my heart since my first days here as a student.

At Robinson, I teach Politics for the HSPS Tripos and, more specifically, I supervise for the History of Political Thought papers in Part II and for the first-year introductory politics course, Pol 1. I think there is a very distinctive way of studying and thinking about politics in Cambridge, one that emphasises the importance of political thought and ideas, as well as the contingent and unpredictable nature of politics as a human activity. While I myself was educated in this tradition, I am grateful to have the opportunity to discuss, explore and challenge it with my students at Robinson.

Similarly, my research greatly benefits from my association with the university in general, and the College in particular. I am now completing my first book, which will soon be published by Cambridge University Press. It offers a history of the idea of constituent power, a concept that, I maintain, has greatly shaped how we think about the principle of popular power from the French Revolution up to today. Thanks to my fellowship at Robinson I will be able to also start a new project, which aims to uncover why the referendum has come to be considered a fundamental way of expressing the will of the people. Starting from early uses of the plebiscite during the French Revolution, I plan to retrace arguments used in favour of the referendum throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth-century in France. It is indeed at this point in history that politicians from all sides of the political spectrum – Napoleon, liberal activists as well as socialists – started thinking about the referendum as the ultimate appeal to the will of the people. In due course, I hope that this research will result in another book, which will hopefully shed new light on why referenda have become such a critical aspect of contemporary politics.

Besides being addicted to everything political, I enjoy all Alpine sports, especially if I can practice them in the Dolomites, where I have spent much of my childhood. I also occasionally comment on Italian politics, either on podcast or in writing.'

We are delighted to welcome Lucia to Robinson and look forward to seeing the outcome of her partnership with our students in HSPS, with POLIS, and with Simon, who made her appointment possible. ■

FRIENDS OF ROBINSON COLLEGE

We are very conscious of the support the young people who join us at Robinson receive from their families, and we work in partnership with parents and other family members to ensure our students have everything they need to flourish as scholars and as individuals whilst they are with us. We enjoy meeting our students' families on occasions such as Freshers' and Graduands' lunches and at graduation itself.



Many of those family members have expressed a wish that there was a formal mechanism for staying in touch with Robinson after their child's graduation, and with this in mind Robinson launched 'The Friends of Robinson College' in 2005. We now warmly invite parents, friends and relatives of our college members to become part of this wider Robinson community.

Friends receive *Bin Brook* and the *Robinson Record*, and invitations to events such as the Christmas concert and summer drinks reception. They also enjoy discounts on

bed & breakfast accommodation and conferencing facilities at Robinson. Membership of 'Friends' costs from £5 per month and may be given as a gift. ■



For further information, please email: Catherine Biggs at cb810@cam.ac.uk or join via our website at: www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/friends-robinson-college.

Fellowship in Profile: Professor Alison Young



Alison Young is the new Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law. She comes from

Sheffield; she studied Law with French at Birmingham, and has a BCL and D Phil from Oxford. Before coming to Robinson, she taught public law at Oxford for nearly 20 years. She is a Professorial Fellow of Robinson and an Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford.

We are delighted to announce that Professor Young will speak on Human rights post Brexit at the Robinson College Law Dinner at Norton Rose Fulbright on Wednesday 13th March 2019. If you studied Law at Robinson, or are now working in the field, and have not received an invitation to this hugely enjoyable annual event, please contact the Development Office on development-office@robinson.cam.ac.uk

Professor Alison Young

Since my arrival in January 2018, I have enjoyed settling in to life in Robinson, getting to know the undergraduate and postgraduate law students, the Fellowship, and, most importantly, the all-welcoming, omniscient - and probably omnipotent - Glenys Denton. As part of my 'smooth and stable Oxit', my time was originally split between teaching commitments in Oxford and my new duties in Cambridge. Since October, I've completed my transition period and am now fully installed in Cambridge – though I'm still commuting until my family can move over after my daughter finishes her GCSEs. I am enjoying teaching constitutional law supervisions and being Director of Studies for the Part IA students, lecturing in human rights law and administrative law, and teaching the LLM legislation course. I am also Director of the Cambridge Centre for Public Law and hope to establish a new LLM course in advanced public law.

The most common reaction I seem to get when people meet me is that I am not what they expected. I am not sure which expectations I am inadvertently thwarting, so it may be best to explain my background. I did not go to an independent school, but a rather run-down comprehensive, whose most famous alumnus is Jarvis Cocker from Pulp. I also did not do my undergraduate degree at Cambridge or Oxford, though I did end up doing both of my postgraduate degrees at Oxford. I am

from the North, spent my formative years growing up on a council estate, still self-define as working class, and will never relinquish short vowels.

It is harder to explain what I do. I mostly work in constitutional theory and public law of the UK and the EU. I also work in human rights law and comparative public law. Being a constitutional theorist means that I spend a lot of time reading books on legal and political theory, as well as trying to keep up to date with case law, legislation and conventions concerning the government, the constitution and the UK's ever-changing relationship with the European Union.

Now, a lot of my time is spent trying to work out the legal and constitutional implications of Brexit, focusing in particular on its implications for human rights and equality. This now means appearing before parliamentary committees, liaising with public interest groups, giving lectures, writing articles and blog posts and, occasionally, even appearing on television and radio. When I am not teaching or supervising postgraduates, you will find me writing about populism and its impact on the UK constitution, or about the role of case law in public law, or about the ever evolving inter-relationships between the courts, Parliament and the government. You may also find me editing posts for the UK Constitutional Law Association blog site. You will definitely find me drinking strong black coffee and, if writing, listening to Muse. ■

CAMBRIDGE TEAM TO STUDY CONCUSSION IN INTERNATIONAL MOTORSPORT

Cambridge researchers are to take part in a study to examine the impact of concussion in motorsports, with the aim of reducing traumatic brain injury and helping drivers recover.

The RESCUE-RACER study, announced, today, is a two-year study of motorsport concussion, in partnership with world motorsport's governing body Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). It will incorporate the most promising and technologically advanced concussion assessment tools currently available to establish and assess the progression of concussion symptoms in motorsports.

The study consists of two parts. The first investigates 40 UK-based racing drivers at baseline, recruiting mainly from the British Touring Car Championship and its associated series. Post-injury tests are open to international motorsport competitors, to be carried out during the 2019 race season. The second part assesses a minimum of 20 drivers in the acute post-injury period (up to three weeks after injury).

The tests will involve measures such as eye tracking, balance, and reaction time, with data collected using technology developed by Neuro Kinetics, Inc, with whom the researchers are collaborating. The team will also collect data using the Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery (CANTAB) as well as salivary biomarkers. They will use the latest, powerful 7T functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) scanners, which assess brain activity by measuring changes in blood flow.



The Principal Investigator for RESCUE-RACER is **Professor Peter Hutchinson** from Cambridge's Department of Clinical Neurosciences, and a neurosurgeon at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

"The project represents a significant step for motorsport medicine," says Professor Hutchinson. "RESCUE-RACER will follow drivers through a racing season and uses state-of-the-art assessment tools and imaging. This represents a tremendous opportunity to improve the management of drivers with concussion and traumatic brain injury in terms of assisting recovery and enabling return to safe driving."

Primary study support is provided by the FIA's 2018 Sid Watkins Scholar and RESCUE-RACER Study Coordinator



Dr Naomi Deakin. Dr Deakin is a PhD student at Robinson College, where Professor Hutchinson is a fellow and Director of Studies for Clinical Medicine.

The goal of the study is to establish the progression of symptoms and signs of concussion sustained in motorsport activity using a comprehensive battery of scientific tests by exploring emerging technologies for objective assessments that can assist with concussion diagnosis and prognosis. Improved care for head-injured racers could translate into enhanced care for road-traffic accident victims from the general population.

"After an accident there is obvious concern for the individual racer, but a concussed driver also presents a potentially lethal risk to other competitors as well as spectators and crew," says Dr Deakin.

"We hope that our study will lead to evidenced-based, medical decision-making protocols for track-side evaluation after potentially concussive incidents, as well as enabling a plan for clinical management of motorsports concussion, including the important 'return-to-race' decision."

The RESCUE-RACER (Research Evaluating Sports Concussion Events – Rapid Assessment of Concussion and Evidence for Return) programme is funded by the FIA Foundation and supported by Neuro Kinetics. It is jointly sponsored by the University of Cambridge and Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which comprises Addenbrooke's Hospital and the Rosie Maternity Hospital. ■

Supporting Robinson from Near and Far: The 2018 Telephone Campaign THANK YOU

From 26th June until 9th July last year, Robinson students called alumni from all around the world to share College memories, chat about their experience after leaving Robinson and thank alumni for their ongoing support. Callers also sought donations to support a range of projects.

2018 was a particularly special year for our telephone campaign because alumnus **Ben Habib (Natural Sciences, 1984)** pledged to donate £200 for every new regular gift and £75 for every one-off gift received during the telephone campaign.



In making his gift, Ben said:

"I believe in the pursuit of excellence and investing in institutions which enable this pursuit. Robinson College is such an institution and one to which I have a lifelong debt of gratitude. The College has a good financial footing but it has a modest endowment fund compared to other Cambridge colleges and there is a great deal more that needs to be done to assure its security into the future. It is my pleasure therefore to do what I can to support the College, and encourage others to do the same".

This additional incentive provided by Ben resulted in a record-breaking total of £167,000, which will come in over the next four years and contribute to every aspect of college life. We are grateful to all

our donors for their generosity. Their gifts will provide us with the flexibility to deal with issues of urgent need that arise over the next few years, including:

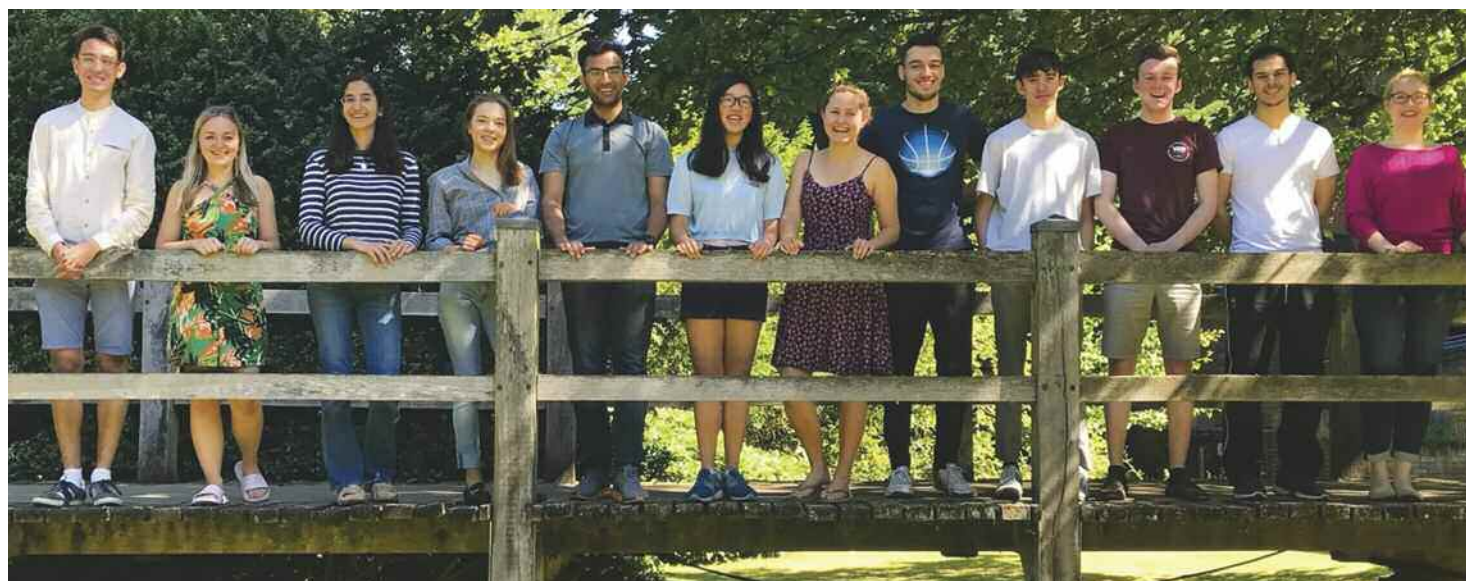
- Academic Excellence - it is the individual colleges that bear most of the costs of the supervision system and Robinson currently subsidises the cost of each undergraduate's education by at least £2,700 per annum.
- Student Support - our students are accepted on their academic merit alone, regardless of their financial situation, and each year there are students whose financial circumstances change through no fault of their own, or who find themselves in need of financial assistance. The College is contributing an ever greater proportion of this support.
- Building development and maintenance –

maintaining the living and teaching spaces and facilities, construction of new College buildings and managing the beautiful gardens.

- College Societies and Sports – provide an outlet and relaxation in a high-pressure environment, as well as bringing other members of the community into college. ■

We look forward to speaking to more of you during our next telephone campaign in September 2019.

[The Calling Team, from left to right: Joe Farnworth, Elle Shea, Zhuan Faraj, Elizabeth Shaw, Rushi Patel, Sophie Tran, Katya Duncan, Zdravko Zahariev, James Hazzard, Ben Popham, Omar Jamil, Margo Osier]



NEWS: Alumni events

Reunion 2018, 22/23 September

Alumni, Fellows and Senior Members were welcomed to the College's Reunion Dinner on Saturday 22nd September. This year College was hosting matriculands of 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008 who were celebrating their anniversaries of becoming members of Robinson College.

The Reunion Dinner, as always, was an opportunity for Robinsonians to meet old friends, remember old times, and catch up on the passing years with those they had not seen since, in some cases, their graduation day. We are looking forward to hosting the 2019 Reunion Weekend on Saturday 21st September with matriculands of 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009. ■



Architects Drinks Reception, 4 October

On Thursday 4th October, **Jo Bacon (1980)** and **Simon Gathercole (1991)** hosted a reunion of Architectural alumni at the studios of Allies and Morrison. The Warden, Directors of Studies in Architecture and current students, joined Jo and Simon. The evening was a celebration of the Isi Metzstein Fund and its impact on the lives of the Architecture students at Robinson. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this important source of support for our Architecture students now stands at over £25,000, providing grants to allow Robinson architecture students to meet some of the additional costs of their training. Over a delicious oriental buffet and drinks, the guests, including Mrs Danielle Metzstein, the wife of the late Isi Metzstein, discussed the future of the fund and its continued success. ■



Commemoration of Benefactors Service and Supper Come and Sing, 4 November 2018

On Sunday 4th November, former Robinson choristers joined the current members of the Robinson College Chapel Choir for Come and Sing in the Chapel. They rehearsed in the afternoon and then took part in the Commemoration of Benefactors Service. The combined choir sang: *A Prayer of King Henry VI* – Henry Ley; *Worthy is the Lamb* (from the Messiah) – George Frideric Handel; *Ave Maria* – Anton Bruckner; *Bring us, O Lord God* – William H Harris.

The present choir has had an excellent year, culminating in a very successful tour of Portugal in June. It has sung combined evensongs with Downing and Trinity Hall, and joined with the choirs of Clare Hall and Queen's University for a performance of Fauré's *Requiem* in March. Our Spring Concert included Vivaldi's Gloria and a selection of Purcell anthems, in which no less than 15 singers took solo parts. New works performed this year have included several new Christmas carols by members of the choir, and Ben Finn's haunting anthem *Such Knowledge*.

The Commemoration of Benefactors service and supper is an annual event in the Robinson College calendar. The Service allows the Warden and the Fellowship to remember the generosity of our founder Sir David Robinson and his family, as well as all the other college benefactors who have supported the College for a great number of years in various ways. This year the service included an address by Dr Joel Humann, Preceptor at Westfield House, Cambridge. ■

City Drinks Reception, 8 November

On Thursday 8th November **David Mathers (1984)** hosted this year's City Drinks event at the offices of Credit Suisse in Canary Wharf. David was joined by the Warden, Robinson Alumni working in the City and current students of Law and Land Economy at Robinson. Our guest speaker for the evening was **Jane Tufnell (1983)** who reflected on her long and successful career in the world of finance. Over delicious canapés and champagne, guests enjoyed chatting about their professional lives and experiences whilst catching up on Robinson news. We are looking forward to seeing you again in 2019. ■



Christmas Concert and Freshers' Parents' Lunch, 1st December

Robinson College was delighted to welcome Freshers and their families to lunch in Hall on 1st December. This annual event is hosted by the Warden, Professor David Yates, and gives families the opportunity to break their journey home at the end of term and meet members of the College over a relaxed buffet lunch. ■

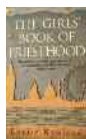
NEWS: Alumni

1980

Professor Tim Luckhurst (History) writes: 'Since February I have been working with three colleagues in the University of Kent's Centre for Journalism on a funded research project to assess the delivery of BBC Radio 5 Live's public service commitments. Our report will be published shortly. In November 2018, the Centre for Journalism was proud to co-host with the BBC, Google News Labs and City University the XXIII Congress of the Worldwide Association of Women Journalists and Writers'.

Dr Jeff Mockridge (Engineering) has been working as Programme Manager on a ground-breaking project at Cambridge Consultants which focuses on storing data as DNA (quite a topical area that has the likes of Microsoft and Google pursuing similar goals). On 20th October this year, *The Economist* published an article (*Virtuous Spirals* pp. 81-2) which talks about the client of Cambridge Consultants and this project. DNA is the ancient medium that stores encoded data necessary to bring all the living things on the Earth into being. Now scientists want to harness it and to store data generated by humans. It is a very costly medium and process: a single gigabyte of data would cost several million dollars to encode. Some biotechnology firms hope to bring that price down to \$10 per gigabyte. It is truly fascinating and not science fiction any more.

Louise Rowland's (English) first novel, *The Girls' Book of Priesthood* is now out in paperback, published by Muswell Press in 2018. The novel follows a young female curate battling to make it through her pivotal first year in the parish - while taking on one of the most traditional, conservative worlds of them all.



1981

Alicia Robinson (History), Senior Curator of Ironwork, V&A Museum, London, has been working with colleagues to restore four massive surviving sections from the iconic cast iron Coal Exchange building (opened by Prince Albert in 1849, demolished 1962). Following the success of a previous project, they used dry ice, blasting the surface with tiny crystals, which sublimate on impact, which lifts loose rust and dirt from the surface with no detrimental effect. This is then painted with rust converter protection and a primer for future paint matching on top. It is planned to reassemble the sections to be a star exhibit in future.



1982

Professor Andrew Clapham (Law) is a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. He has been a Commissioner since September 2017 and his next written report will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in February 2019. The Commission's mandate is to determine and report the facts and circumstances of, collect and preserve evidence of,

and clarify responsibility for, alleged gross violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence and ethnic violence, with a view to ending impunity and providing accountability.



1984

Recently, **Hugh Maule (Law)** acted as Consultant Editor to the second edition of *World Stock Exchanges: A Practical Guide* published by Globe Law and Business. This follows the first edition in 2007 for which he was also Consultant Editor. The sales pitch from the publisher includes: 'Whether you are comparing the relative merits of floating a company on NASDAQ or the London Stock Exchange, in China or in Singapore, on Euronext or OMX, this new edition will be an extremely helpful source of information. It features fully updated contributions from leading practitioners in the field in the major markets, including Australia, China, Dubai, Germany, Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. Lawyers, accountants, bankers, corporate finance advisers and brokers, will find the new edition to be an invaluable source of information when analysing the key criteria applying to major stock exchanges around the world.'

1989

Ed Furness (Land Economy) Ed has returned to rowing, after an 18-year absence, as a member of the Marlow RC Young Veterans squad. Ed competed at Henley Masters and the Head of the Charles in 2018 and won events at both Henley Town & Visitors and Maidenhead regattas. Ed wishes to announce that he no longer quite qualifies for the MLwt (Mens Lightweight) category. In other news, Ed's consulting firm Oaklin, in which both he and James Ball are partners, has been recruiting heavily over the past year. Ed and James are still waiting for the elusive third Robinson alumnus to apply to join them in the growing team. Details can be found at www.oaklin.com.

1991

Dr Francisco Ricardo da Cunha (Mathematics) heads the Fluid Mechanics of Complex Flows Group and the Microhydrodynamics and Rheology LAB at The University of Brasília in Brasília, Brazil. The primary focus of his research is the investigation of microscopic and macroscopic models of particulate systems, particularly those with direct physical applications. Dr da Cunha's current research interests include rheology of complex fluids; hydrodynamics of magnetic fluids, non-Newtonian fluid dynamics, microhydrodynamics of active and passive particles in suspensions; and mechanics of mobile suspensions in general. It is a highly interdisciplinary research. He is also the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of the Brazilian Society of the Mechanical Sciences and Engineering* - Springer (March 2015-Current, Springer Publishing House) and highest level of research fellow (PQ-1A) within the rank of the most prestigious Brazilian Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (CNPq - Brazil).



Dr Gordon Davies (Classics) and Professor Xenophon Papademetris (Electrical and Information Sciences)

happened to be visiting Robinson College over the same weekend in July 2018. Xenios was visiting Cambridge with his family, while en route back from Cyprus to the USA. Gordon was hosting a garden party in the grounds of Robinson College to synchronize with a performance of the Cambridge Shakespeare Festival in the Maria Björnson Outdoor Theatre. Both grateful to the catering team and Dr. Steve Trudgill, Chair of the Gardens Committee for the tour of the Robinson College gardens.



Xenios Papademetris (left), Gordon Davies (right) during their visit to Robinson College, July 2018



From left to right: Andreas Papademetris (Engineering 1997) and his wife Nikolettia. Xenios Papademetris, his wife Susan and their children Maria and Alex, Professor Liz Guild who was both Xenios' and Andreas' tutor during their time at Robinson

1992

Dr John Hindmarch (Philosophy) reports: 'For the last year



I have been a research associate in the Institute of Archaeology, Heritage Sciences and Art History at the University of Bamberg in Germany. Bamberg is an amazingly beautiful medieval town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the brewing capital of Bavaria. I am continuing my doctoral research into the use of 3D imaging techniques for cultural heritage, teaching on the Digitale Denkmaltechnologie masters programme (loose translation: Digital technologies in heritage conservation) and failing miserably to learn German. All very different from my previous job interviewing pop stars for Smash Hits...'

Dr Eric Kline (Law) was recently appointed to the Board of the Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association. The PVCA is one of the largest organizations in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region which connects entrepreneurs with investors. Previously, Mr. Kline was Chairman of the Pittsburgh Venture Capital Fair. He is the Managing Partner of the corporate law practice for the Pittsburgh office of Pepper Hamilton, a US-based law firm.

Rosanna Law (Architecture) informs

Bin Brook: 'Casting my mind back to my first year at Scroope Terrace, I was pleasantly surprised to find more women than men! Yet, women rarely pursue a full career in the construction industry. During my career in the field of urban design, I have experienced first-hand how women underestimate their abilities allowing their internal critic to become the biggest barrier to their success. My spiritual practice has sustained me throughout my own path. After training with Brandon Bays,



NEWS: Alumni

the founder of the Journey Method, I felt guided to share my wisdom as a Journey Practitioner. My commitment is to work alongside women finding their own true voice and internal power. May I invite you to join me on this journey of self-discovery and to celebrate your own truth. www.rosannalaw.com

1997

Stuart Macdonald (Law) writes: 'Since 2011 my research has focused on terrorists' use of the internet, most recently conducting content and discourse analysis of violent extremist narratives, examining the dissemination of terrorist publications on social media and considering different forms of response, particularly criminalisation and automated removal of terrorist content. I have been appointed as a member of Europol's Steering Committee on terrorist online propaganda and my team at Swansea University has been chosen as one of the members of the research network of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism established by Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Twitter'.

2002

At the beginning of the year, **Stephanie Summers (History)** published her first book, *Indigo Lost*, the first of eight books in the *Infinity Squared Series*, the opening book in a huge story similar in size to the Harry Potter series, except for adults. As someone who is passionate about writing, I am also involved in speaking at schools and colleges to share my publishing journey, and the other aspects of my career so far that might help those in the younger generations. I greatly appreciated my time at Cambridge and am a firm believer in passing on the gift of learning and enlightenment in all its forms.

2003

Astronomers **Professor David Kipping (Natural Sciences, Physical)** and his colleague Alex Teachey on 3rd October 2018 published their results of a possible discovery of the first known moon outside our solar system in *Science Advance Journal*. They say that further observations are needed to understand the distant planetary system. This 'exomoon' is not like any in our cosmic neighbourhood: it's the size of Neptune and orbits a planet the size of Jupiter - but with 10 times the mass. The object was spotted in data from NASA's Kepler spacecraft, and later observed using the Hubble telescope. Dr Kipping, from Columbia University in New York writes: 'We've tried our best to rule out other possibilities such as spacecraft anomalies, other planets in the system or stellar activity, but we're unable to find any other single hypothesis which can explain all of the data we have.' Congratulations to our Robinsonian Dr Kipping and his colleagues. We wish them further stellar successes in exploring the unexplored corners of the universe.

2004

After graduating in Mathematics, **Ricardo Schlundt Inglês, né da Conceição Inglês (Mathematics)** moved to Germany in

2005, where he took part in a PhD Program in Mathematics in the University of Heidelberg. He started working in Finance in 2007. He currently lives and works in Munich. He has three children.

2005

Natalie Freeman (Medicine), Natalie is delighted to announce: 'My husband David Nicholls and I got married on 28th June 2018 at the Watermill at Priston, Bath. David is an Australian Design Engineer I met while working at the Royal Adelaide Hospital several years ago. I am now working as a GP'



Christos Hadjiyiannis (English) (MPhil Criticism & Culture, 2006) has published his book *Conservative Modernists: Literature and Tory Politics in Britain 1900-1920* with Cambridge University Press (March 2018). As the first study to pay attention to modernism's relationship to Conservatism, the book shows the great extent to which modernist writing was imbricated with Tory rhetoric and ideology — from when it emerged in the Edwardian era. Focusing on the writings of T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, T. E. Hulme, and Ford Madox Ford, the book also highlights the contribution to modernism of lesser-known writers, including Edward Storer, J. M. Kennedy, and A. M. Ludovici.



2006

David Grundy (English) is currently a Teaching Associate in the Cambridge English Faculty. His first book, *A Black Arts Poetry Machine: Amiri Baraka and the Umbra Workshop* is forthcoming from Bloomsbury in February 2019, and develops from the PhD research David carried out at Robinson on the little known African-American modernist poetry collective the Umbra Poets' Workshop, which operated in New York during the 1960s. David continues to run a small press publishing and reading series called Materials, and has recently started a co-edited poetry magazine called *Splinter*. A book of poetry, *Relief Efforts*, came out with Barque Press earlier this year.



Simon Leaf (Management Studies, 2004) informs us that his wife **Hannah Leaf (née Penn) (Philosophy, 2006)** was recently identified as one of Management Today's 35 Women under 35. Now in its 18th year, Management Today's 35 Women under 35 is the country's longest-running, most prestigious list of young, female business talent. Hannah joins Stella McCartney, Martha Lane Fox and Karen Blackett, amongst other female business talents. Congratulations to Hannah!

2008

I-Ying Chen and Joe Griffiths (both Natural Sciences Physical) were married on 1st September 2018 in Bury St Edmunds, with

a Bridal Party including fellow 'Binson alumni **James Li (Medicine)** (Best Man), **Sue Yan (Medicine)** (Maid of Honour) and **Ryan Williams (Natural Sciences Biological)** (Groomsman). Joe writes: 'It was a very special day and we are so happy to have spent it with our close friends and family'.

2009

Stefan Vukotić (International Relations, 2009) married Ana Scepanovic (Trinity Hall, 2011) in 2014 and in December 2017, they welcomed a baby boy named Aleksandar. Since leaving Cambridge, Stefan worked for the Government of Montenegro (2010-2017), spending some time on secondment at the Cabinet Office in Whitehall (2015), and as press officer for the European Union Delegation to Montenegro (2017). In September 2017, Stefan joined the United Nations Office in Geneva as an international civil servant, where he currently resides with his family.



2012

Matej Hamaš (Computer Science, 2012) writes: 'After finishing my master studies at ETH Zurich and completing two internships in Facebook and Palantir, I joined computer vision start-up Blue Vision Labs in London in 2017. We specialize in building city scale maps using visual SLAM. After the acquisition by Lyft in October 2018, I now work on visual mapping for self-driving cars.'

2013

Carman K M Fung (Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies) is now a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne researching on queer Asia. She has recently completed a three-month research trip to Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Taipei. This year also finds Carman presenting her research findings at the Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference at Shanghai University and the Queer Legacies, New Solidarities Conference at Deakin University and the State Library of Victoria. Carman was also invited to speak at the What Does It Mean to Be Queer? *Intercultural Perspectives* panel at the Australian National University. She now lives in Melbourne, Australia.



Chun Ning Yuen (Land Economy, 2001) has been CEO of WWPKG Holdings Company Limited (HKEX: 8069, stock code) since 2017.

2014

Julian Proctor (Sustainability Leadership, 2014) has recently published in two journals, *Oxford Journals* and *Progress in Development Studies*, with focus on wellbeing, poverty and sustainability. He also contributed a chapter to a book focused on the environment and change with the Strategic Foresight Institute: *The Perfect Storm: Navigating the Sustainable Energy Transition*. Julian continues to live in Hong Kong and Tokyo and is planning the next round of research.

Obituaries and tributes

Sir Hugh Cortazzi GCMG, 1924-2018



Sir Hugh, who was an Honorary Fellow of the College from 1988 for thirty years, died in August. He learned Japanese at SOAS during the war and interrogated war-crimes suspects in Singapore before taking part in the occupation of Japan. He joined the diplomatic service in 1949 and served as the British Ambassador in Japan from 1980 to 1984. In retirement, he was Chairman of the Japan Society of London and was a prolific author of books about Japan: his last book will be posthumously published next year.

Professor Peter Kornicki, Fellow, Robinson College

The full version of this obituary is published in Robinson College Record Michaelmas 2018

Professor Mikuláš Teich MA (Cantab) PhD (Leeds) RN Dr (Prague), 1918 – 2018



A very old man has died. His clear blue eyes full of life remain in our memories, just like his subconscious movement when he would stroke his forehead whenever deep in thought. How long he would always roll each sentence on his tongue. He cannot be remembered without a smile on our faces.

Mikuláš Teich was born on 23rd July 1918 in Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. He grew up in interwar Czechoslovakia that he never stopped adoring. Yet he emigrated twice, the first time in 1939 because of his Jewish descent, the second time in 1968 because of his Marxist beliefs. In both cases, he left for the United Kingdom. During the war, he obtained his PhD in chemistry in Leeds, after 1968, he was fully acknowledged for his scientific work in the field of the history of sciences. In 1978, he became a founding member of Robinson College.

Mikuláš Teich passed away on 16th August 2018. He is missed by his children and by everyone who was lucky enough to work with him, to have discussions with him or just to drink a glass of good red wine that he so loved whilst informally talking with him.

Antonie Doležalová Bye-Fellow, Robinson College

The full version of this obituary is published in Robinson College Record Michaelmas 2018

Back in March 2018 **Angus Parker (Geography, 2016)** interviewed Professor Teich as part of his project Humans of Robinson which in its design was to bring the College a little closer together. This is what Professor Teich said in his interview with Angus:

'I studied Chemistry here during the war and got a PhD from Leeds but after the war I returned to Czechoslovakia. However, my hobby was history and so I became a member of the Institute of History of the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences and was sent on an exchange fellowship to America in 1968, around the time that the Red Army entered the country. Whilst I was in America

I was offered a year in Cambridge and two years in Oxford, so I returned here hoping that somehow it would materialise into a permanent position. Fortunately I was offered a 3 years residence at Gonville and Caius as a visiting scholar. The Master there was also one of the first trustees of Robinson and he suggested that I could be the first fellow librarian for Robinson, and I've been in Cambridge ever since. However, there is certainly no secret to living to 99 - in fact, my father told me when I was about 13 that we are not a long living family! I certainly wouldn't want to give advice to anyone about his or her own life because I fear it is presumptuous. I can speak, I can answer questions and I can discuss issues, but it is up to everybody, individually, to decide what is best for them - everybody has their own unique situation and their own path in life. I had grown up in a very political environment and that remains with me to this day. When I was younger, for example, I thought that social progress, whatever that means, would be quicker than it is. It may be that this was a utopian view. I thought social inequalities would, by my age, be something of the past but on a world scale, the inequalities are even more pronounced - hunger, wars and so on. Unfortunately, if the world was to learn from history, it would look very different'.

Dr Louis Cha OBE, 1924-2018



Dr Louis Cha OBE enjoyed a formidable international reputation as an author, philanthropist, newspaper publisher and journalist. Known throughout Chinese East Asia as the famous author Jin Yong, his literary achievements made him a household name across many Chinese-speaking parts of Asia, having sold millions of books and inspired a whole genre of TV shows, comics and, in more recent times, video games as well as greatly influencing Hong Kong popular culture.

He was a prominent newspaper owner and publisher. His papers, including the Ming Bao Daily News from Hong Kong and the Shin Min Daily News from Singapore and Malaysia, were among the most important and influential in their field. While maintaining an interest in mainland China, they supported political independence and resistance to political repression, particularly during the two critical periods of the Cultural Revolution and Tian'anmen Square. Louis Cha was actively involved in the content and production of his newspapers. His editorials often advocated liberal values and resistance to corruption and arbitrary government.

He gave generously for scholarship and education, including the donation a very significant sum of money to Robinson.

Some indication of Louis Cha's stature outside Chinese East Asia is indicated by the recognition bestowed upon him over the years. He was awarded the OBE in 1981, made a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1992. He had honorary degrees from Universities in Canada, Hong Kong and Japan and held honorary professorships in ten universities as well as being an Honorary Fellow of this College and of St John's College.

Compiled by Elizabeth Petit, the Warden's Secretary

The full version of this obituary is published in Robinson College Record Michaelmas 2018 ■

Welcome

NEW FELLOWS:

Ms Fiona Brockbank, Fellow, Finance Bursar
Professor Carlos Caldas, Fellow, Professor of Cancer Medicine
Dr Jamie Glistner, Fellow in Private Law
Dr Gabriele Kaminski Schierle da Rhodos, Fellow in Modern Biotechnology and Biophysics
Dr Emily Kate Price, Fellow in Modern Languages (French and Italian)
Dr Johan Larsson, Fellow in Land Economy
Dr Lucia Rubinelli, Fellow in the History of Political Thought

NEW COLLEGE STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome to Robinson College **Ms Ruth Miranda Carvajal** (Housekeeping), **Ms Jenny Woodfield** (HR), **Mr William Fenwick** (Admissions), **Ms Pascoela Do Carmo Moniz** (Housekeeping), **Ms Molly Harding** (Catering, Bar), **Ms Grace Morley** (Catering, Bar), **Ms Jodie Pallett** (Housekeeping), **Ms Claire Wilkinson** (Academic), **Ms Diana Ramirez Perea** (Housekeeping), **Ms Nicole Parker** (Conference), **Mr Marco Ariano** (Porters), **Mr Roger Maxfield** (Porters), **Ms Francesca Goddard** (Catering), **Mr Ryan Seeburn** (Catering, Kitchen), **Ms Rusergi Valle Volcanes** (Housekeeping) ■



Window and shadow taken by Sara Rawlinson Photography. This image is a part of the series "Illuminating Cambridge Libraries". Copies of this and other photographs in the series are available from www.sararawlinson.com

Memories of places and experiences:

An exhibition in the Chapel by John Woodman

Dr Steve Trudgill



John Woodman, a London-based artist, exhibited his work in the College Chapel from 25th until 27th October 2018. He wrote that 'The paintings were inspired by memories of places and experiences which were chosen with the College in mind. The chapel and its beautiful stained-glass window, *The Light of the World* by John Piper, have influenced their shape and colour. Very tall and thin, the paintings stand directly on the floor to be viewed simultaneously with the Piper window. These paintings imply forms and spaces, but nothing is ever fully present. Rather, marks and colours collected over time wait to be uncovered by the viewer.'

Visitors to the exhibition appreciated the relationships between the window and the paintings and we learned more about the aspect of how memories inspired John during his insightful talk on this work. The Robinson College Music Society, led by Thomas Moy, performed a concert in Chapel during the exhibition, selecting music they felt to be appropriate after viewing the pictures, forming an altogether rich occasion of music, art and meaning.



From left to right: *Night play*, *Wall*, *Over the fence* exhibited at the Robinson College Chapel

The exhibition came about through John's brother David, who is Robinson's new Senior Tutor. At David's suggestion, the Chair of the College Visual Arts Committee Gary Doherty visited John's exhibition in Westminster Abbey, which included a group of paintings around the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. As a result, Dr Doherty invited John to exhibit in Robinson Chapel. ■

Further information about John and his work can be found on his website: www.johnwoodman.com



Dr Steve Trudgill is Emeritus Fellow, Geography, and President of RC Alumni Association (Pegasus)

Dates for the diary

13/03/19

Robinson College Law Dinner

26/03/19

Robinson in Asia, Singapore Dinner

28/03/19

Robinson in Asia, Hong Kong Dinner

23/03/19

Alumni Open Weekend: The 2019 Alumni Forum, RC Alumni Association AGM

18/05/19

MA Congregation and Lunch

14/06/19

May Ball

22/06/19

Donors' Day

28/06/19

Graduands' Dinner

29/06/19

General Admission

02/07/19

Annual Reception, Houses of Parliament

21/09/19

Reunion Dinner (1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2009)

For further information on events and bookings, please visit:
robinson.cam.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events

Keeping in touch

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Souvenirs of Robinson College

Souvenirs are available to purchase on-line via the College website at www.robinsonshop.co.uk

