



Rothermere American Institute
2017-18 Travel Awards
Recipients' Reports

POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

DOMINIC BARKER, LADY MARGARET HALL

D.Phil. History

Award in support of archival research in California

I would like to express my sincere thanks for your support of the Postgraduate Travel Awards Programme at the Rothermere American Institute. The award allowed me to conduct two weeks research at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and a week at the Hoover Institution, which is based on the campus of Stanford University, throughout May 2018.

I am currently a doctoral student in History undertaking a project entitled 'Ronald Reagan and Race: The Evolution of Colour-Blind Conservatism'. The thesis employs intellectual and political history to overturn our understanding of Reagan's ideology and examine the broader rise of American conservatism from the 1960s parallel to the Civil Rights movement and the emergence of 'colour-blind' politics.

The purpose of the trip was to investigate events which led to Ronald Reagan's rise to the governorship of California in 1966, where he defeated two-time incumbent Pat Brown, and Reagan's conduct in office from 1967-75. Whilst at the Reagan Library, I examined thousands of pages of letters, memos and speeches which had been authored by Reagan during the 1960s and 70s. It is in the speeches, that I could find Reagan's ideological musings on the role and size of government which will be of greatest importance to my project. Furthermore, I was granted

access to some of Reagan's private papers, a privilege which has been reserved for noted Reagan scholars such as Lou Cannon and Edmund Morris. I examined a collection of essays Reagan wrote during his college years (the earliest known material authored by Reagan) which should provide valuable insight into the formation of Reagan's ideological core.

Similarly, my time at the Hoover Institution was immensely helpful for my project. Being able to study the papers of vital aides such as Pete Hannaford, I gained a real understanding for how events such as the Watts Riots of 1965, fundamentally altered Californian, and ultimately national politics. This material will be employed in four of my six substantial chapters to demonstrate that by galvanising a grassroots movement on the right as described in Lisa McGirr's *Suburban Warriors*, the New Right was able to overturn national American politics, and moreover, Reagan lay at the heart of the ideological shift.

Ultimately, this trip was hugely successful in providing valuable material for my consideration of Reagan's ideological core, and for how the emergence of the Civil Rights Movement shaped the broader politics of the 1960s and 70s. I once again would like to thank the benefactors of the Rothermere American Institute for their support, and I look forward to discussing this project at future RAI events.

HELEN BAXENDALE, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

D.Phil. Public Policy

Award in support of fieldwork in New York and Los Angeles

Over the summer of 2017, I undertook six weeks of fieldwork in several major cities of the United States to deepen my understanding of the politics of education policymaking and the recent impact of the so-called 'education reform movement' on the shape of American schooling. My research focusses primarily on the inception, development, and legacy of the Teach for America program – a totemic example of the 'reform movement,' which, since its founding 1990, has challenged the jurisdiction of conventional teacher training institutions, teachers' unions, and traditional modes of public education administration. I am seeking to explain how TFA has managed to 'disrupt' substantially traditional public education systems, especially when powerful vested interests are hostile to the organisation's mission and existence.

To this end, I conducted interviews with current and former Teach for America personnel, (including the founder, Wendy Kopp, and many other senior staff) with leading educational researchers at universities, think tanks, and in the national media, and with union leaders and other critics of the reform movement, such as Diane Ravitch. I have returned to Oxford with a large volume of interview data, and a long list of contacts to draw on as I continue my research. Travel to the United States also permitted me to access school board meeting minutes and local

media coverage of the expansion and growth of the Teach for America program to particular locations, such as Los Angeles, New York City, and Phoenix. This material has provided essential contextual information for my dissertation, and would otherwise have been inaccessible, as very little of this material is likely to be digitised soon.

The Rothermere Graduate Travel Grant also supported me to attend the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, which was an incomparable opportunity to discuss my dissertation with some of the leading scholars in my field and to learn more about the latest research in closely related areas. The exchanges I had at APSA yielded considerable theoretical insights and introduced me to new sources of data I had not previously considered. More generally, the conference was a very useful insight to the 'culture' of the American academy which differs from the British scene in ways I had not previously appreciated.

I am very grateful for the support of the Rothermere Institute's benefactors. Without their generous endowment I would not have been able to cover nearly as much ground, make as many fruitful connections, or glean as much useful data as I did.

TODD CARTER, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

D.Phil. History

Award in support of archival research in Michigan, Washington, DC, Virginia, and Georgia

The generous funding provided by the Rothermere American Institute allowed me to conduct research of crucial importance to my doctoral project, which examines the Anglo-American Special Relationship and the Rhodesian crisis, from 1963-80.

Beginning my trip in Ottawa, at the National Archives of Canada, I spent three days consulting the papers of former Prime Ministers Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau, alongside those of the Canadian Department of External Affairs. Through their communication and discussions with the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, and many of the Frontline African nations, successive Canadian administrations played a significant (if underappreciated) role in bringing minority rule in Rhodesia to an end. These collections revealed much about the attitude of the 'old' Commonwealth nations toward the emerging African bloc at the United Nations; the tactics concocted (particularly with the British) to influence this burgeoning international powerbase and, moreover, gave me a sense of how HMG made use of her links with Canada to encourage US President Lyndon Johnson to take on a more proactive role in Southern Africa in the late 1960s.

Swiftly crossing the border, at an almost Kissingerian pace, over the next three weeks I visited a further seven archival venues, shuttling across six different US states. I began with the papers of the former-Senator for New Jersey Clifford Case held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. In 1978, alongside his congressional neighbour, Jacob Javits (Rep. New York), Case

cosponsored a compromise bill that required incumbent President Jimmy Carter to lift US sanctions against the rogue Rhodesian regime after an election was to be held there, if two conditions were met: (i.) voting was conducted in a free and fair environment; and (ii.) that the newly elected Salisbury government agreed to join talks with the Patriotic Front without delay.

My next stop was Princeton University and the Seeley G. Mudd Library, where – in an effort to better my understanding of how successive United States diplomats and politicians approached both the Cold War in Southern Africa and the Special Relationship with the United Kingdom in the period being investigated – I examined principally the papers of former US Ambassadors to the United Nations Adlai Stevenson and Charles W. Yost, diplomats George Ball and David Aaron, as well as the records of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Thereupon I travelled to Ann Arbor, Michigan, for a longer period of research at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library – to whom I am equally indebted for the substantial financial travel subsidy they awarded me. As Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's 'African safari' in 1976 occupies a central place in my thesis, it was vital that I took the opportunity to spend as long as possible consulting the Ford Library's collections pertaining to Africa, US-UK cooperation and the United Nations. Though I have not, as yet, had the chance to read through all of the 9,000+ images of documents taken, the evidence I collected here certainly suggests that, initially, Kissinger was very hesitant in his approach to Africa, and that he both relied upon and grew exceptionally close to British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland before his untimely death in February 1977. Equally, I came across a wealth of – as I am told – previously unused telegrams sent between Washington and the United States Embassy in Switzerland during the ill-fated Geneva Conference that resulted from Kissinger's less-than-honest diplomacy in the region. As an aside, I was also able to view several boxes of material from the papers of G. Mennen Williams, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs from 1961-66 and author of the influential (and, at the time, controversial) book *Africa for the Africans* (1969), stored at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.

After a fleeting visit to the Minnesota Historical Society/Center in St Paul to examine the papers of Vice-President Walter Mondale – who was influential in the creation of the Carter administration's Africa policy and conducted an infamously fiery meeting with South African Prime Minister John Vorster in Vienna in May 1977 – I then made my way to New Haven and to Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library. Whilst there, I was able to survey the Henry Kissinger, Cyrus Vance and Dean Acheson paper collections. Of great interest to my project, I found the dictated record of one particular meeting between Kissinger, President-elect Carter and his advisors during the Ford-Carter transition phase, where Kissinger outlined his approach to the Rhodesian crisis quite succinctly, as well as offering some advice on coordinating successfully with the British Labour government. Furthermore, I found Vance's handwritten notes of meetings and discussions – many of which have not yet been declassified – of huge benefit to my understanding of the initial approach taken by the fledgling Democrat administration before any meaningful consultations with the British had taken place.

EMMA DAY, PEMBROKE COLLEGE

D.Phil. History

Award in support of archival research in New York and San Francisco

With the generous support of a RAI Travel Award, I spent two months of the summer between the first and second year of my DPhil in New York and California carrying out primary research for my dissertation. The funding I received from the RAI was vital to the progression of my doctoral project, and I am hugely grateful for the opportunity.

My dissertation is a history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, with a particular focus on New York and San Francisco, from 1980 to the present. I am tracing the experiences of HIV+ people from a wide variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds and sexual identities who used diverse activist sites and mediums to resist the epidemic.

During the first month in New York, I visited the Manuscripts and Archives Division of the New York Public Library, located in mid-town Manhattan. I explored the work of feminist organisations founded in the 1990s to agitate for social change while addressing intersecting issues pertaining to women, such as healthcare services, reproductive rights, and the developing AIDS crisis. I consulted the records of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the Women's Action Coalition (WAC), and the AIDS Activist Videotape Collection. At the Tamiment Library at New York University, I consulted the papers of the Women's Health Action Mobilization (WHAM!). I also consulted the collections of author Joseph Beam and poet Essex Hemphill at the NYPL's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem.

New York is home to a number of brilliant independent archives dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, run by volunteers who ensure that the lives of groups and individuals often neglected by the more conventional forms of record keeping and documentation are preserved. At the Lesbian Herstory Archive in Brooklyn and the LGBT Community Center National History Archive in Greenwich Village, I continued exploring the ways in which diverse groups of women challenged their marginalized position in the political and medical responses to the HIV/AIDS crisis during the 1980s and 1990s.

My next stop was San Francisco, a city with a grassroots history, that, like New York's, is reflected in its archives and libraries. Here, I visited the James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center at the San Francisco Public Library and the GLBT Historical Society Archive, archives housing extensive collections documenting San Francisco's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and allies' history and culture.

I also visited a number of universities around California, such as the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, and the ONE National Archives at the University of Southern California (USC).

My research trip to the US enabled me to explore first-hand the rich historical record of the social movement activism that developed in response to the AIDS epidemic from the 1980s into the twenty-first century. I am extremely grateful to the wonderful archivists who helped facilitate my research, and of course to the RAI who helped make the trip possible.

OLIVIA DURAND, PEMBROKE COLLEGE

D.Phil. History

Award in support of archival research in Louisiana and Washington, DC

Last Trinity term, I had the honour to be granted a Travel Award for the Rothermere American Institute, an institution funding and supporting research revolving around North America and more specifically the United States in the realms of History, Politics and Literature. I am myself a second year doctoral student, and my own research, although belonging to the field of Global and International history, is contingent with the extensive utilization of archival funds located in the United States. Thanks to the generosity of the Rothermere, the travel grant contributed towards a ten-week stay in the United States, from mid-January until the end of March.

I was able to work extensively in archives located in Washington D.C., New York city, and most importantly in New Orleans, where I spent a little bit more than a month and a half. In this last city, I was able to consult the Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC), as well as the Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC), for which I received some help from academics based at the University of Tulane, such as Dr. Kris Lane or Dr. Emily Clark. They directed me towards the archives deposited in the Public Library and also religious archives linked to the Archdiocese. In Washington, most of my archival work revolved around the National Archives, and more particularly the consular papers. My time in New York city was the shortest, and I mostly engaged with documents held at the Public Library.

In addition to this time spent doing research, I also took the opportunity of being already in the United States to apply to conferences taking place on the same side of the Atlantic. I was fortunate to see my papers selected for two conferences: the first one took place at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville (“Rethinking the History of Modern Political Concepts: Race and Division of labor in Global Western Empires, 1791-1888”), and I presented a comparison between the modes of bounded labour implemented in the Americas and the European system of serfdom. The second conference was organised by Northeastern University, in Boston (“Interrogating Boundaries: Mapping the Mental and Material in World History”), where I proposed a discussion on continental empires and internal colonization in contrast with the French and British overseas expansion. Writing these papers allowed me to confront myself directly with the archival material I was simultaneously working on, and although the double task was challenging, it also allowed me to have a more critical stance towards my own research and the archives I was then reading. The papers produced for the aforementioned conferences

allowed me to develop my thought on key but separate topics of my doctoral research: the systems of (unfree) labour on the one hand, and the dynamics of settlement, internal colonization, immigration and social reproduction.

I would like to thank once again the Rothermere American Institute for their support for my graduate research; I would not have been able to undertake such an extensive and productive trip to do field research without the financial help of this grant. I hope I can contribute more to the institute in the coming months, and I am optimistic about the usefulness of the various documents I have consulted or copied during this journey. In particular, I would like to thank the different patrons and benefactors who make it possible for graduate students and researchers to accomplish their projects.

RIVERS GAMBRELL, KELLOGG COLLEGE

D.Phil. History

Award in support of archival research in California

President Richard M. Nixon once declared, ‘Once you get into this great stream of history, you can’t get out. You can drown. Or you can be pulled ashore by the tide. But it is awfully hard to get out when you are in the middle of the stream’. Nixon’s sentiments suitably reflect my recent visit to his Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California. Once there, it was incredibly easy to become sucked into the stream of history, which in this case consisted of the thousands of documents pertaining to Nixon’s connection with the world of athletics.

My dissertation focuses on the American presidency and the changing politics of sport, with a particular emphasis on Nixon’s politicisation of sport, and the lasting implications of his football fandom on presidential politics. I was therefore eager to comb through the thousands of documents related to his meetings and correspondence with coaches and players, and further explore files detailing his political deployment of sport during the 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns.

Thankfully, the archives did not disappoint. The most compelling documents I discovered were related to the issue of race. During the campaigns, Nixon’s team ardently recruited black athletes such as heavyweight boxer George Foreman, and hoped to form a group called ‘Black Professional Athletes for the Re-election of the President’, with membership of the group based around men like Bonnie McCrae of the New York Giants, Buddy Young, Assistant to the Commissioner of Football, Roger Brown of the Indianapolis Pacers, and Brady Keyes, a former defensive back for the Pittsburgh Steelers (Nixon’s aides wrongly assumed Keyes played for the Philadelphia Eagles—an error that the football-obsessed president himself would have undoubtedly spotted).

As is often the case with archival research, some of the greatest gems I found were in the locations where I least expected them. A search through speechwriter David Gergen's files on my final day revealed the transcripts of a football safety film that Nixon lent his voice to in 1971, and a scan through White House Communications Director Herb Klein's files contained colour commentaries of presidential meetings with professional athletes and coaches. These anecdotal reports of Nixon's activities were designed to show 'the human side of the President', and will contribute enormously to my chapter.

On 17 September, I pulled myself away from Yorba Linda and headed toward Simi Valley, home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Center for Public Affairs. After soaking in the gorgeous views of the Santa Susana Mountain Range that surround the Library, I ploughed once again through the archives, with the hope of finding hard evidence of Nixon's lasting impact on sport and politics.

Once again, I was not disappointed. Reagan, too, deployed sport in ways that effectively contributed to his use of populist language and imagery, although—unlike Nixon—his aides were quick to say no whenever they spotted potential political controversies in the football world. For example, in 1982, when NFL franchise owner Al Davis threatened to go to court over the relocation of the Oakland Raiders to Los Angeles, White House Counsel Fred F. Fielding alerted Deputy Chief of Staff Michael K. Deaver that Reagan should avoid involvement at all costs, as it was a 'no-win for the President'.

These examples provide a mere glimpse into the treasure trove of archival material that I uncovered during my research trip to the presidential libraries this summer. I would have never been able to afford this visit to the United States without assistance from the benefactors of the Rothermere American Institute, to whom I must express my deepest gratitude. There is no doubt that the material that I uncovered during this experience will contribute to what Nixon once described as the 'great stream of history'.

CHRISTOPH NITSCHKE, KEBLE COLLEGE

D.Phil. History

Award in support of archival research in Massachusetts, New York, and Oklahoma

From June to August 2017, I was able to undertake a prolonged research trip to the United States. The work in nine different archives yielded a treasure trove of material, which sets me up well for the third year of my DPhil in U.S. History at the University of Oxford. Without the generous support of the Rothermere American Institute and its donors, this would not have been possible.

My dissertation deals with the financial and economic crisis of 1873 from a foreign relations perspective. At the heart of the early-1870s boom was the bottomless supply of credit. Financial

instruments easily crossed the Atlantic, and European capitalists were heavily invested in American federal stability and economic growth as they bought both U.S. government securities and bonds of private companies. Yet investors' confidence in American enterprise and stability was tied to a larger assessment of American "credit" and prestige in the world.

I therefore ask how capitalist sales networks and networks of U.S. foreign relations overlapped socially and combined for the same goal of "selling" America abroad. U.S. foreign relations at the time, I argue, were characterised by political-economic exchanges greatly dependent on a transnational elite of financiers, traders, journalists, consuls, and diplomats. These people, who I call "brokers of foreign relations", collectively built and maintained the social and business circuitry necessary for the conduct of U.S. economic and diplomatic foreign policy.

Leveraging his ties to the Treasury, banker Jay Cooke (1821-1905), for example, successfully pushed into the booming international bond market and became the most important agent for U.S. economic interests abroad – before the advances to his railroad project caused his failure in the Panic of 1873. The networks cosmopolitan brokers like Cooke made were essential foreign relations infrastructure, but they were also the conduits of panic and financial contagion in 1873. American national interests, I suggest, thus involuntarily contributed to causing the transatlantic financial crisis of 1873.

Primary research, of course, lies at the heart of my project. I have completed work in several U.S. archives over the last year, but this research trip was a huge step forward. The size and diversity of the collections I looked at are the main reason for this.

In Boston, I consulted sources in three different archives: At Harvard's Houghton Library, situated right by Harvard Yard, I looked at the papers of Adam Badeau (1831-1895). In his capacity as U.S. Consul General in London, Badeau exchanged letters with several important U.S. businessmen and financiers abroad, as well as consular colleagues. At Harvard Business School, the Baker Library yielded two main collections: The business papers of German-American railroad entrepreneur Henry Villard (1835-1900) were particularly useful for his ties to German bankers involved in the financing of American infrastructure projects. Harris Fahnestock's (1835-1914) papers, then, provided insight as to Jay Cooke's early soundings of European capitalists' interest in his railroad. "[R]ecent experiences in American railway securities have not had time to be forgotten," wrote Fahnestock to Cooke, "and longer time must elapse before new enterprises can find favor." At the Massachusetts Historical Society, finally, it was American minister to Germany George Bancroft's (1800-1891) papers that I was looking for. Hoping to find evidence on how the reputation of the United States in Europe changed between the Civil War and the Panic of 1873, I was not disappointed: Bancroft relayed a story, for example, about a "noted German" who had bought one million dollars' worth of U.S. government bonds, yet "who a few years ago was a bitter friend of the secessionists, a proof that in the breasts of our bitterest enemies scepticism about our future is at an end."

The New York part of my trip may have been the most fruitful. Thanks to the support of my donors, I was able to spend four weeks here and managed to go through 16 collections in four

main archives. It would be impossible to do them all justice in this space, so I will point out some interesting findings instead: At the New York Historical Society, the diaries of widely-travelled businessman Edward Neufville Tailer (1830-1917) pointed to an article which linked U.S. credit abroad to the 1872 presidential election. Government bonds had risen in price, which was good for the Union – were the Democrats likely to do better than this? New York public servant Samuel B. Ruggles (1800-1881), meanwhile, was instructed in detail by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish on how to promote the United States at the International Statistical Congress of 1869 so that it may attain its position “among the family of nations”. Ruggles papers are at the New York Public Library, which also keeps the archives of former U.S. ambassador to France John Bigelow (1817-1911). Bigelow recorded in his diary one particularly revealing (and very believable) episode about Orville Grant, Ulysses Grant’s brother. In monetary difficulties with the bank Clews & Co., Orville begged the President to award a government agency to the financial house so that things would be settled (Grant obliged). Bigelow commented that Orville “had not the remotest idea apparently that there was anything in the transaction discreditable to himself or the President, in the matters.”

The last third of my trip took me to the University of Oklahoma’s special collections, which held the archives of the Seligman banking family. The Seligman correspondence was very interesting to read; with various brothers running different branches in different countries, the letters were not only providing great information on transatlantic banking, but were also incredibly frank, often rife with Yiddish swear words, and full of great quotations. Isaac Seligman’s brutally honest assessment of American railroad bonds, for example, bemoaned how “these are ruled by so many thieves and scoundrels, [...] one is never paid for the trouble and anxiety.” My main takeaway, however, may have been how seamlessly the Seligmans used the same “infrastructure” of consular and diplomatic contacts after 1873 as Jay Cooke had before the financial crisis. This allows me to broaden my argument about the brokers of foreign relations, and partly answers the question of who filled the gap in governmental influence once Cooke was bankrupted.

The Seligmans are only one of many names that are still around, and who still represent financial and political power. This was especially the case with the New York collections that I consulted. It made it all the more interesting – outside the necessarily narrow academic goals – to dive into the lives of various 19th century transnationals and see the remains they left in place, such as the impressive New York Public Library.

Once again, therefore, I have to express my honest gratitude to the donors whose contributions to study awards and research grants have made this trip possible. They have contributed a great deal to a variety of academic epiphanies and experiences that will be central to my dissertation.

MITCHELL ROBERTSON, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

D.Phil. History

Award in support of archival research in California

Thanks to the generosity of the Rothermere American Institute Travel Awards, I was fortunate enough to be able to spend a very rewarding fortnight at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California in the Summer of 2017.

While at the Library, I could consult material from 31 different collections and reproduce over 250 different folders. This material collected on this trip will form the backbone of the primary material on which my dissertation rests.

Primarily, the visit to the Nixon Library enabled me to understand the President's views on the Federal anti-poverty programs, which is the issue at the core of my dissertation. In many ways, given that he rarely commented on the War on Poverty in public and the transcribed and audio-enhanced versions of the Nixon Tapes tend to emphasise foreign policy, this is the only way that we can truly know the President's personal views on these matters. This is particularly emphasised in the "President's Office Files" collection which holds all the materials that the President annotated during his Presidency. It is in these brief and punctuated fountain pen scrawls that I could truly gain an insight into his thinking on these issues.

The collections housed at the Nixon Library are broadly organised around two sets of materials – "Staff Member and Office Files" and "Subject Files". Due to the length of time afforded by the travel grant, I was able to stay at the Library long enough to view both sets. Viewing the Staff Member files enabled me to more greatly understand the advice that was being communicated up to the President, as well as to understand the inter-office rivalries and factions which plagued the West Wing. The Subject Files, on the other hand, enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of the policy matters at hand.

Due to the unusual nature of my thesis topic, I was able to take advantage of some unusual collections which have long been ignored by scholars. An example of this were the papers of Joseph Blatchford, the Director of Action, an agency that forms a case study in my dissertation. I was informed by the archivist that I was the first person to use this collection.

Visiting research rooms can also be very fruitful for making academic connections, as I found on this trip. Over the course of a week I was fortunate enough to spend a lot of time with Professor Allen J. Matusow (Rice University). He was very generous with his time and advice and these encounters greatly improved my work.

I was also able to visit the University of California Los Angeles special collections to consult the papers of Augustus F. Hawkins, the first African American to represent California in the Congress and who was particularly influential during my period for his service on the House Committee on Education and Labor, as well as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities. Being able to consult this collection enabled me to widen the scope of my

research to the legislative branch and to ensure that I was not too narrowly focusing on just the executive branch.

I am very grateful to the donors of the RAI's Travel Awards for enabling me to undertake this critical research for my dissertation.

KATE SIM, WADHAM COLLEGE

D.Phil. Information, Communication, and Social Sciences

Award in support of interviews in California

With the RAI's generous gift of £1000, I was able to conduct nearly twenty semi-structured interviews and observations, and present my early draft during the works-in-progress session at the SIGCIS conference.

At the Oxford Internet Institute, I research sexual assault reporting technologies in the ecosystem of sexual violence response in US higher education. As a project deeply concerned with the role of emerging technologies in reconfiguring information collection and sharing practices, my research takes ethnographic methodologies to investigate the organizational context of technology developers and adoption process by university employees. This past summer, I conducted two extended observation at field sites where reporting tools are developed and over thirty semi-structured in-depth interviews with developers, adopters, and users. The fieldwork generated valuable ethnographic data that I will be transcribing and coding, as I begin to write my dissertation.

In addition, I presented my research thus far at the annual Special Interest Group for Computers, Information, and Society (SIGCIS) conference in Philadelphia, PA on 29 October 2017. As a branch of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), SIGCIS brings an interdisciplinary group of historians and sociologists with an interest in the history and applications of information technology. My submission, titled "Touching safety: Anti-rape technologies and the politics of safety," was presented during the works-in-progress session where I received valuable feedback from senior scholars. It was an incredible experience to receive insightful feedback from leading scholars in my field, and an opportunity to articulate my early research findings.

ANETTE STIMMER, NUFFIELD COLLEGE

D.Phil. International Relations

Award in support of interviews in New York

I would like to thank you very much for the generous funding of my fieldwork in New York City. The award of £700 helped me to shoulder the accommodation costs in New York City and thus made it possible for me to conduct this fieldwork. I very much appreciate your help.

Recent events such as the election of Donald Trump and Brexit have heightened awareness of the extent to which norms are contested. My research contributes insights on the impact of the arguments and tactics actors use when contesting norms and on the outcomes that norm contestation can have.

From October 1-13, 2017, I conducted 16 interviews with diplomats at the UN and permanent diplomatic missions in New York City, which helped me to find out more about how diplomats interpret international law and about the strategies they use to convince other Security Council members of their interpretations. In my DPhil thesis, I study norm contestation in the United Nations Security Council such as the debate over the Iraq intervention in 2003 (Res. 1441), the 1267 sanctions regime for terror suspects and over the no-fly zone over Libya (Res. 1973). I was able to speak to current (and one former) diplomats of the five permanent United Nations Security Council members and of non-permanent members who were involved in some of these debates. The interviews provided me with valuable insights into how diplomats view international law, go about convincing others of their viewpoints and they also allowed me to understand the process better that led to the passing of the above-mentioned resolutions. Thus, the fieldwork in New York provided me with important empirical data for my DPhil thesis.

The fieldwork in New York was not only valuable for my doctoral research but also provided me with an idea for a post-doc project. In my doctoral research, I focus on disagreement between the five permanent Security Council members. As post-doc project, I would like to study the role of nonpermanent, elected Security Council members (P5). The impact of elected members (E10) is understudied as they are widely regarded to play an insignificant role because of the P5's veto-power. Yet, through my interviews, I found out that non-permanent members have repeatedly punched above their weight and were able to facilitate agreement on contested topics such as passing sanctions on wildlife trafficking or providing humanitarian aid to Syrians. The fieldwork in New York inspired me to do research on the conditions under which E10 initiatives to break Security Council deadlock are successful.

In sum, my research trip to New York City was very successful and I would like to thank you very much for making it possible.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

DANIEL MCATEER, PEMBROKE COLLEGE

B.A. History

Award in support of archival research in New York and Washington, DC

From September 9-23rd I undertook a research trip in the US to collect archival material for my undergraduate thesis. I accessed four collections at three locations: the Margaret Mead papers in the Library of Congress, Washington D.C.; the Institute of Pacific Relations Papers and Frank Tannenbaum Papers in the Butler Library, Columbia University, NY; and the Ruth Benedict Papers in Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.

The subject of my research is the History of Anthropology, more specifically, the evolving attitudes and thought of American cultural anthropologists with regard to the Japanese during WWII. Prominent figures such as Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead were proud of their cultural relativism, and consciously saw themselves as opposed to Physical Anthropologists that were fond of racial theory.

Overall, it was a very academically successful trip. The Margaret Mead papers proved to be a real treasure trove, with reams and reams of personal correspondence preserved in the archive.

Of particular interest, a letter by Mead's husband Gregory Bateson from 1941 indicated that the war work carried out by him and Mead was done with the intention of raising the status of Anthropology vis-a-vis Economics in the eyes of the authorities. Bateson looked forward to a post-war settlement in which Anthropology and Economics would sit as social scientific judges over the problems of the world. I am currently unaware of any reference to this letter in other academic literature, although this is not yet certain.

Indeed, I also uncovered something new about a third player in this group of anthropologists, Geoffrey Gorer. In a draft of his popular wartime study of the Japanese, 'Japanese Character Structure and Propaganda,' distributed by Bateson's Institute for Intercultural Studies, I came across a passage which was deleted in the final document. In it, Gorer states that he hopes that his work on the Japanese will be a "first step" towards a "unified social science," which integrated Anthropology, Psychology, and Economics into a true social science.

In short, it would appear that this influential group of Bateson, Mead, Benedict, and Gorer carried out their work on the Japanese during WWII with the conscious intention of proving the worth of Anthropology to the military authorities, but more interestingly, with the explicit expectation that this was part of a process of forging a virtually omniscient social science capable of sophisticated social engineering.

In total, I took 953 photographs of relevant material, which is testament to the fruitfulness of the trip.

On a personal note, it was also my first time researching, as well as my first time in America. I thoroughly enjoyed the actual research itself, but am also very grateful to the RAI for enabling me to visit a country which has fascinated me for so long.

In DC, I was working in the James Madison Memorial Building, right next to the Supreme Court, and was able, after the archives closed at 5pm, to explore the central Washington area. Similarly, Columbia University's central location was also an excellent location from which to explore New York City in the evenings.

This was an invaluable experience from a personal perspective, and one that I have the RAI to thank for. As an undergraduate who came to Oxford via Pembroke College's Access Programme, a recreational visit to the US was unlikely to happen any time soon, and so my research trip was highly rewarding from both an academic and personal perspective.

I would therefore like to offer my thanks to the staff and donors of the RAI for making this trip possible. I feel very lucky to have been offered this opportunity, and I hope that my thesis does your generosity justice once it is completed in the summer.