

SPRING 2020



JESUAN news



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Front cover: possible first positively identified image of Katherine Bray, first female benefactor to the College—from a painting in the collections at Stanford Hall, Leicestershire; reproduced by kind permission of the Fothergill family.

Edited by James Woodall
Assistant Editor: Rebecca Fell

The Development and Alumni Relations Office
Jesus College
Cambridge CB5 8BL

Tel: + 44 (0)1223 339301
E-mail: development@jesus.cam.ac.uk

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From the Master

Hello to you from my first column for *Jesuan News*.

Welcome to our 2020 issue.

It's fantastic to have this chance to connect with all alumni. Since my election in May of last year and official arrival in October, the warmth of welcome from so many of you has meant a great deal to me.

While some people might mistakenly think of us a Cambridge-only institution, you and I know that, in fact, we are a worldwide community of brilliant Jesuans connected by a joint experience. While student life has continuously evolved since 1496, the bonds that each College member builds during their time here remain a constant.

Those bonds—to College and each other—have been clear at events I've attended so far. Meeting alumni at lunches to mark 50, 60 and even 70 years since their matriculation has been such a pleasure, giving me a lively window onto College life in decades past.

It was also very special that my first official engagement was The Fortieth, celebrating the anniversary of our move to co-education. It was an honour to meet trailblazers from the 1979 cohort along with so many other alumni. Thank you to everyone who supported, spoke or came along. You helped create what was really an exceptional day that showed our College off at its best.

Joining Jesus College as its custodian for the next 10 years has been and is a joy. This community of excellence, energy and enthusiasm is one I am very proud to be part of, along with you all.

I do hope you enjoy this *Jesuan News*, which showcases just some of the highlights of an eventful and exceptional year. I look forward to being part of many more.

Sonita Alleyne

Environment and sustainability

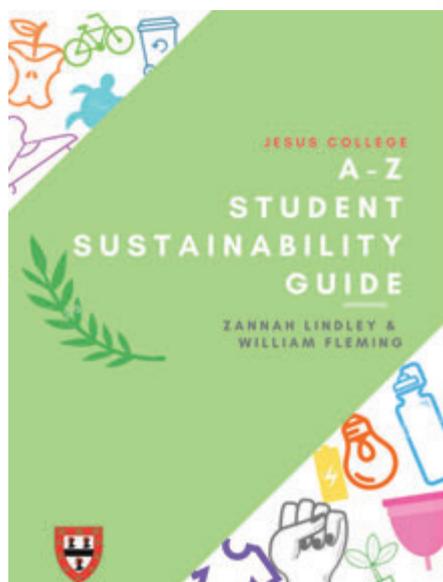
At Jesus College we are working on the best ways to respond to the urgent challenge of climate change and looking at a wide range of areas where we can play our role in the transition to a zero-carbon future.

As a community, we are increasingly aware of the importance of doing our best to behave in a more sustainable manner. Our focus this year is on developing our first Sustainability Strategy and Responsible Investment Policy. We have been hosting a variety of events and meetings to ensure that we consult and engage the College community and our wider network in order to make the right decisions. Some of the most significant benefits of our developing strategy might not be noticeable for some years but the impact will benefit the environment for decades.

The College now has an active Environment Committee made up of academics, staff and student representatives. It meets every term to help all departments of the College to develop best practice. The Committee reviews environmental policies and guidance, and sets up working groups to consider and report on particular issues.

The Committee's sustainability vision for the College is: to be recognised globally as a leading academic institution where sustainability is intrinsic through engagement, collaboration and innovation, and where every member of our community understands and embraces the principles of sustainability, and acts as a catalyst for positive, sustainable change for generations.

To contact the Environment Committee with your ideas about how to make Jesus College a more sustainable place to live and work, please e-mail: environment@jesus.cam.ac.uk



have to scrape their plates rather than just leaving it to Caff staff. Working with the catering manager, we have significantly reduced the number of meals containing ruminant meats (those with the highest carbon footprint) in College fare. Tuesdays have become completely vegetarian.

From now on, all College-branded clothing available to students for purchase will be sourced from a sustainable clothing manufacturer. We have also produced a comprehensive "Green A-Z" for students, Fellows and staff. We are working continuously to move towards a provision that is as locally and seasonally sourced as possible.

We search for environmentally friendly alternatives to paper- and plastic-based materials to reduce waste. Michaelmas 2019 saw Jesus's first ever "Green Week", now to be an annual event. This included a College discussion about how we respond to the climate crisis, a plant sale, a clothes swap, a vegan Formal and campaigning workshops.

With the Bursar, we have been consulting all members of the College to develop the abovementioned Responsible Investment Policy. Other more structural

changes might include, we hope, a move towards sourcing the College's energy from entirely sustainable sources and retro-fitting College properties to make them, too, as sustainable as possible. We believe Jesus is on the way to becoming a leader in sustainability and are committed to making the bold changes necessary to respond to the climate crisis.

The MCR and JCSU Green Officers have been working really hard to try and make Jesus as sustainable a community as possible. We are committed to individuals taking responsibility for their carbon footprint and the waste they produce.

In the past year, we have set up a composting system for all students to dispose of their food waste. All such waste is now being weighed and students



JCCS Annual Dinner

This year's dinner will be held in the Forum Building (to the side of West Court—see overleaf) while work proceeds in Hall during the next academic year.

We are delighted to announce Adrian Greenwood (1970) as our guest of honour.

Invitations to this black-tie event will be sent out by e-mail in May.



The Forum Building

A major new Jesus College project nears completion

The Forum, to the west of what is now West Court, has had many lives in its 100-plus-year history, including being the home for Marshall's garage from 1912. It has also been the gardens and maintenance compound, an eclectic open-market and art-exhibition space, as well as a storage unit for College departments and the May Ball Committee.

Building work there began in December 2019 to transform the industrial warehouse into a temporary home for our catering operations for the next academic year. The Forum Building will offer, first and foremost, a brand-new open-plan kitchen: a mobile one, hired for the site, was considered but better value is to be had from starting from scratch, which from 2021 guarantees the facility's long-term future in the College for catering, meetings and events—in both academic and commercial functions.

A new Caff has an entrance just to the west of the Roost Café and Bar. Adjacent to Caff is a recreation of Upper Hall, identical in size to Hall's historic one. Further down are a connection to West Court reception and a separate Fellows' entrance, which lead to High Table, positioned in the biggest creation of all: the replacement dining-hall. With exposed steel trusses creating a vaulted ceiling, the modern refurbishment of this space will offer seating for around 160. It has seven capacious windows, four of them giving great views on to the Hockey Pitch, the Lower Park Street cottages and College buildings beyond the Orchard.

The design emphasis throughout has been on sustainability and accessibility. The Forum Building will benefit from natural light and be free of steps, providing multiple routes for wheelchair-users. Recyclable building materials that cannot be used by the College are being donated to Bottisham Village College for its woodwork classes.

The making of these new facilities in the Forum Building is to allow a significant refurbishment of our main old Kitchen, Caff, Hall and Upper Hall, including the installation of passenger lifts.



Work is currently scheduled to commence in July 2020 and will contribute significantly towards reducing our day-to-day carbon emissions, with no fossil fuels used for cooking or heating.

As many visitors to College will have seen, most of Pump Court was sealed off last summer to conduct initial archaeology and put in place services diversions in advance of the renovation. Work to our 500-year-old Kitchen is long overdue, as it is a cold and uncomfortable environment, with low ceilings, restricted natural light and a reliance on fossil fuels. It is expected that normal service in the Kitchen and Hall will resume in October 2021.



A computer-generated image of the proposed dining-hall currently being created in the Forum Building

Intellectual Forum

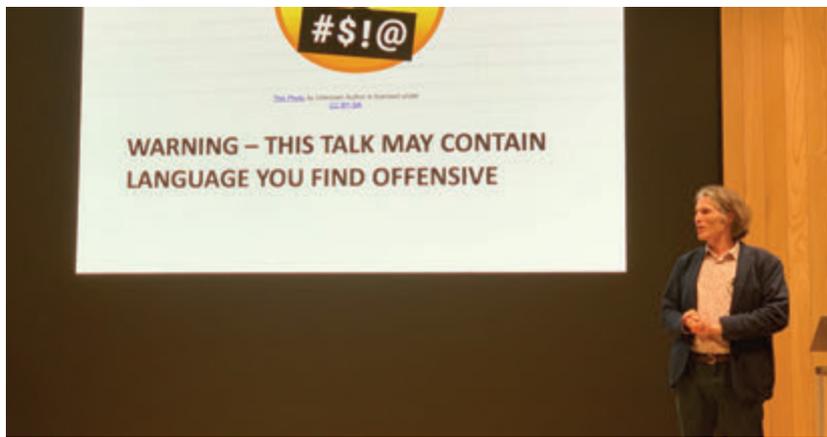
This is the third year for the Intellectual Forum—“IF” as we now know it. We have continued to grow and develop, showcasing the amazing work done by Jesuans past and present, bringing outstanding external speakers to College, and fostering internal discussions and thinking.

Highlights have included a number of alumni—including Miranda Green (1989, *below left*) from the *Financial Times* talking about whether British politics was in turmoil (coincidentally during the unexpected 2019 General Election), Simon Reid-Henry (1996, *below, far right*) describing a global history of democracy since 1970, and Honorary Fellow Belinda Wilkes (1978), one of the first female graduate students at Jesus and now Director of NASA’s Chandra X-ray Center in the US (see *Jesuan News* 2019), who beautifully illustrated what Chandra has revealed about the universe. Megan Hunter (2006) talked last spring about her debut novel of 2017, *The End We Start From*, with a panel discussion about how we think about our environmental future.

Highlights from those currently at Jesus included our President, James Clackson, whose lecture on taboo language—“Swears, Bears and Mother-in-Laws: Forbidden Words”—had a rapt audience and is still available to watch on the Jesus College website: parental advisory (accessible to adults and children in year seven and above)! Tim Wilkinson wowed his audience with pixel-free holography, including a demonstration of holographic Virtual Reality.

Stunning external speakers included the Rt Hon Stephen Twigg, former Chair of the International Development Select Committee, and the award-winning deaf poet Raymond Antrobus. We were also delighted to be asked to host an edition of Radio 4’s flagship *Any Questions?* on 10 May last year, with around a million people hearing the debate from the Frankopan Hall.

Climate change was selected as a theme throughout the year, with a conference in January for Fellows, staff and students about what we, as individuals, as a College and as a country, should do to try to tackle it. Attendees commented that it was a special occasion for all sectors of the College to meet and discuss such issues together. Another event looking at climate change and college endowments attracted a large number of



Bursars and Masters from across Cambridge: it is always good to see Jesus College leading the way!

It would be great to welcome alumni to any of our events. There is much more information about our activities in the past year to be found at www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/research/intellectual-forum

Dr Julian Huppert, Director





The Panellists

The Fortieth

Women were first admitted as undergraduates to Jesus College in 1979. Last autumn a celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of this historic breakthrough took place in West Court and across College. Nearly 30 women from that famous Michaelmas Term attended, among a total of over 200 alumni, current students, Fellows and staff

It wasn't everyone's idea of perfect conditions for such an important party—thick drizzle and cloud prevailed on Saturday 12 October 2019—but spirits refused to be dampened. The buzz of anticipation from around 10 a.m. onwards in the reception area of West Court as dozens gathered, drank tea and coffee, and recognised and greeted each other promised a day of mental stimulation, memories and quite a lot of fun.

The Fortieth Committee, chaired by Margaret White (1979), along with College Fellows Mary Laven (1989), Shailaja Fennell (1991), Helen Skaer, Annemarie Künzl-Snodgrass and Emily Williams, and Archivist Robert Athol, had worked tirelessly over two years to set the agenda and the right tone. A salient aim was to anchor in the early 21st century just what a rich record there is of women's participation in College life over not just decades but centuries.

Robert Athol's introduction to little short of a millennium's worth of female presence on site—starting of course with the 12th-century Priory of St Radegund—and the subject of an exhibition until early January in the Marshall Room, "Sisters, Servants and Students: 850 Years of Women at Jesus College"—was revelatory and compelling. For many, the notion of a woman benefactor to the College, Katherine Bray—the first such, in the early 16th century—would, in this talk, have been quite new. She is pictured on the front cover of this issue.

This—and most other major Fortieth presentations and events—took place in the Frankopan Hall. Yet, with a place as old as Jesus, history throughout the day couldn't help but be prominent; and no more so than in a brilliantly illustrated lecture by Dr Turi King (1993) based on momentous events a mere decade before the founding of the College. The bones

of the last Plantagenet monarch, killed in 1487 at Bosworth, were found in 2012 in a Leicester car park. Turi, now a geneticist at the University of Leicester, told a riveting story of detection and coincidence that led to the irrefutable identification of Richard III's remains. (Should you still have it, *Jesuan News* 2013 features an early version of the story of Turi's pioneering work.)

The heavy rain sadly closed down the open-air tour of the College gardens but many were more than eager to revisit the Jesus Boathouse: a hugely popular option.

A Graduate Showcase was introduced by Fellow Dr Sybil Stacpoole (1998). Mini-lectures were given by three of our current postgraduate students on their varied research interests. These were Emma Findlay (2011), who talked on novel transistor design for high-power applications; Bethany Connolly (2016), who told us about the future of fuel; and Róisín Donohoe (2018), who spoke on the hidden world of medieval childbirth. The breadth of research done by the speakers, and their accomplished presentation skills, were remarkable and stimulated plenty of discussion—representing an excellent example of the joys of being a member of Jesus College, prompting a comment from the audience: "This is why you come to Cambridge".

Another packed event was the late-afternoon Panel Discussion chaired by Professors Laven and Skaer. They introduced four alumnae from different walks of life and eras, who then recalled their time at College and described their professional trajectories since.

Joanne Yates (1980) and Louise Gilchrist (1989) had happy, if somewhat edgy, recollections of a college that even after a decade, in Louise's case, of the two sexes at Jesus wasn't always able to cater ideally to young women's needs! There were plenty



Master Sonita Alleyne with Margaret White



Graduate speakers Bethany, Róisín and Emma

of lively interventions, all from alumnae, on this front from the audience, as well as from College Fellow Dr Jana Howlett, whose comment on, in those days, a certain male carelessness towards a simple bathroom activity raised a few loud laughs. Marina Bradbury (2003) and Heba Bevan (2011) were later arrivals at Jesus; in their era the College gender mix had become settled and natural for both men and women, and each had much to say about their lives in the modern workplace. Marina's extended account of her particular 21st-century experience can be read immediately below.

Evensong, led by the Revd Canon Philippa Boardman (1982), one of the first female graduates of the College to be ordained, included a specially commissioned piece of music by one of Jesus's most recent graduates, Joanna Ward (2016), entitled "She is more precious than rubies". A celebratory dinner in Hall followed, with speeches given by Margaret White and the Master. They were proud to launch a new undergraduate

bursary, called "The Fortieth", which will enable more students in financial need to enjoy a world-class Cambridge education. (See www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/articles/fortieth-bursary-launched-anniversary-event for information about the bursary and how to donate.)

Carrying the theme of The Fortieth spectacularly into 2020, on 25 February we welcomed Professor Amanda Vickery to West Court. She delivered the Lisa Jardine Memorial Lecture, an event commemorating the first woman Fellow of Jesus College, Professor Lisa Jardine (1944-2015). Entitled "What Women Wanted: Beauty, 1946-c.1970", Professor Vickery gave a fascinating insight into what was considered attractive, using a trove of historical archives held by Morecambe Council about the Miss Great Britain contests. It contains information about entrants' ages, physical attributes, employment detail—and more. Amanda was an excellent and entertaining speaker, and the audience was enthralled.

Marina Bradbury is Global Diversity and Inclusion Business Partner for the life-services multinational Sodexo in Paris. She offers here a brief view of progress in gender equality in the 21st-century workplace

Ensuring diversity and inclusion is imperative as we prepare the future of work. Imagine a world in which women are not included in the most cutting-edge and influential jobs. The low numbers of women pursuing careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is a worrying case in point. A 2015 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report showed that parents are likelier to expect their sons, rather than their daughters, to work in STEM. Yet it has been proven that there are no innate differences in boys' or girls' competencies in this area. Women who *do* study and work in STEM often face other barriers, such as absence of female role-models, not having their ideas heard and, in some cases, sexism.

According to a new report by the World Economic Forum and LinkedIn looking at emerging gaps in the economy, women outnumber men in just two of eight job clusters: "content production", and "people and culture". Conversely, only 12% of professionals in "cloud computing" are women, 15% in "engineering" and 26% in "data and artificial intelligence". In a rapidly digitalising world, we cannot afford to leave behind 50% of the world's population.



This is one of the topics I'm working on at Sodexo. Our goal across the company is to guarantee that, by 2025, at least 40% of our senior leadership are women. We are currently at 34%, the result of an ambitious strategy that we have had in place for over 17 years. I'm working on a specific project to foster increased gender diversity in our more "technical" roles, starting with facilities management.

We have no time to waste—technology is providing us with tools to revolutionise how we live and work. Let us not miss this unprecedented opportunity to rewrite the rules, and ensure that both women and men have equal chances to thrive, and shape the society of tomorrow.



The Jesus student

Current President of the Jesus College Student Union, Aurelio Petrucci (2018, Philosophy), reviews the academic year for College undergraduates so far and flags up a number of bright new initiatives

Since being elected at the end of Michaelmas Term, the members of the JCSU 2020 Committee have been working hard in their roles. We have sought to build a more effective student-welfare system and work with College to increase sustainability (*see p. 1*), and continued to put on events for the student body. Many have particularly enjoyed the Master’s new “Business Of” programme—which allows students to meet, first-hand, high-flying professionals in many different careers—as well as a rich range of events at the Intellectual Forum. As always, the Chapel and its Choir and Dean are an important source of calm and inspiration for students.

At the start of Lent Term, we held Jesus’s second Refreshers Week, which aims to help first-years settle back into College life. We have successfully repeated the Friday Night Jesus events from last year, using the Brewery Room for bops, silent discos and ceilidhs. Our Women’s Officer, Jess Molyneux, also organised a week celebrating female and non-binary achievement, marking International Women’s Day (8 March). This included a night of spoken-word poetry, and an all-female Blues and Chill in the Chapel. We have been glad, too, to host themed Formals celebrating LGBT+ History Month and Mental Health Awareness Week. Our Halfway Hall, in February, was the highlight of many

people’s academic year so far: it was the first Halfway Hall to be attended by a Master of College.

Our sports teams have performed well. Jesus’s W1 boat team won the Fairbairn Cup race, in competition with town crews and boats from Oxford and Cambridge colleges. In Michaelmas, we came up against our sister Oxford institution, whom we hosted here in College: football, hockey, netball, lacrosse, badminton, tennis, rugby and squash were all on the menu. We look forward to being welcomed by Jesus College, Oxford, later this year. The JCR President there will also be the guest in Michaelmas Term of the JCSU here, to discuss more “Jesus-Jesus” collaboration.

Between 7 and 9 February, the John Hughes Arts Festival was a great hit. The annual art exhibition in the open-hang gallery was accompanied by exciting events over the weekend, with live jazz at brunch, and wine-and-cheese and open-mic evenings. Easter Term has moved online: the fine community for which Jesus College is renowned has grown only stronger thanks to initiatives—all to be accessed via computer—such as yoga, seminars and film nights. The new “Virtual Jesus” platform will bring students, Fellows and staff together in all sorts of innovative ways. I thank everyone working in College for their tireless contributions during this crisis. Despite personal pressures, you have all been phenomenal and it’s a real privilege to work alongside you.

NEWS FROM THE MCR

The MCR Committee has continued to build on previous years’ successes throughout this past academic year. At the start of Michaelmas Term, we hosted our popular MCR Freshers Fortnight, which included a Welcome Hall and a speech by our new Master—her first address to new students at College. We also welcomed new postgraduates to Jesus with our other staple events, including a welfare brunch, punting, Formal swaps, movie nights and wine-tasting.

Things didn’t stop there! Our Halloween-themed Graduate Halls, Christmas Super Hall and Burns Night Super Hall sold out in record time. All Grad Halls and High Table Tuesdays continue to be popular Formal bookings. A big thank-you to the social officers, Chris Green, Joe Shaughnessy and Luis Alberto Ramírez García, for continuing to host this range of events for our postgraduate community.

As for academic events, our academic officer, Laura Taylor, has so far organised two Thesis Halls, during which Fellows and College Post-Doctoral Associates explain their research in three minutes. Laura also put on our Postgraduate Conference, with keynote speaker Craig Bennett, CEO of

Friends of the Earth, followed by a hugely enjoyable dinner. I’d like to thank Laura and everyone involved for making this day such a success.

Our welfare officers have continued to support the MCR community with brunches, workshops, yoga and Conversational English Tea. As a final-year PhD student, and MCR President, I am honoured to have behind me the most supportive Committee, College community, Tutorial Department and College staff. In spite of the sad loss now of Easter Term, I’m excited about our postgraduate community continuing to blossom for years to come.

Belinda Fonseka, MCR President



The lure of America

NICHOLAS GUYATT

After undergraduate years in Cambridge—where he read English at Emmanuel—a doctorate at Princeton, teaching in Canada, and posts in York and at Trinity Hall (as well as several *In Our Time* radio discussions with Melvyn Bragg), historian DR NICHOLAS GUYATT has finally arrived in Jesus College, with a magnificent view over Chapel Court. *Jesuan News* hears about his imminent sixth book and a College figure who long inspired him

Jesuan News: We understand that you are in full book-writing mode at the moment. Please could you tell us something about it?

Nicholas Guyatt: Yes, with pleasure. In the context of my usual work, this will be an exciting book! I am writing about 6,500 sailors—mostly Americans—who wound up as prisoners in Dartmoor during the Anglo-American War of 1812. It's a little-known fact that before the Second World War the largest number of American PoWs held overseas were in south-west England, in 1814-15. It was during a crazy little spat between the US and Britain that has an outsized role in US history but is really a footnote to the Napoleonic Wars here in the UK.

JN: Would you explain for our readers why this war was fought?

NG: I've taught in the UK, the US and Canada—in Vancouver, for three years. In each of these three places people understand the war of 1812 completely differently. It lasted from June 1812 to February 1815 and in the US is almost thought of as a second War of Independence from Britain, waged to defend the principles of free trade, and to stop American sailors being commandeered from American ships and conscripted into the Royal Navy: in other words, press-ganged. In Canada it's seen as a glorious defence of the motherland from US invasion—which is sort of true. And in Britain—well, we don't think about it much. The British might remember it as the conflict in which we set fire to the White House but beyond that it's quite fuzzy: Britain's concerns were Napoleon and military strength.

JN: And the book's title?

NG: It's called *The Hated Cage*, which comes from an 1820s poem about Dartmoor that mentions the prison where the Americans were kept. The book will appear in London with Oneworld, a trade publisher that does all kinds of things—two of its novels won the Man Booker Prize in consecutive years recently [2015 and 2016]. In the US it will be published by Basic Books, a New York trade press.

JN: Do you, as a historian, have a great influence or mentor?

NG: Michael O'Brien was a hugely important Fellow here, from 2002 until his untimely death in 2015. He was one of the pre-eminent historians of the US working outside that country,



indeed, probably one of the pre-eminent historians working anywhere. He was among a relatively small number who argued that Southerners in the United States actually had an intellectual history, something he proved spectacularly in his two-volume study, *Conjectures of Order: Intellectual Life and the American South*.

Funnily enough, I got an e-mail out of the blue from the *London Review of Books* to write about the book when it was published in 2004. I said yes, of course, but didn't know it was nearly 1,500 pages long! I subsequently got to know Michael a bit and he was kind enough to "blurb" my first book. When I returned to Cambridge in 2014, he was approaching retirement, so teased me that I would have to fill his shoes: I could never do that. It is a tragedy that he didn't have the chance to enjoy a long and happy retirement. But given his connection to Jesus I was thrilled to find out in 2019 that it might be possible to join the College. Michael did so much not only for the College but also within the wider profession: an incredibly collegial person, of formidable intelligence, wit and sharpness.

JN: Was Cambridge an inevitable destination for you?

NG: The simple answer is "no". I come from a fairly ordinary background. None of my family had been to university. Getting here as an undergraduate felt novel and strange. When I moved to Princeton in 1997 I was convinced I'd try to make my way in the United States and then in Canada. A return to Cambridge was not in my thinking for most of the time. But when I got a job here in 2014 I was contacted by University IT and told that it had been keeping my old e-mail address—my first, from 1993—on ice. "Would I like it back?" I was asked. Someone at least was looking ahead...

JN: And do you have any extra-curricular passions we should know about?

NG: Ah, well, I love to bake. I am not very good at it but I do love it!



Photo: Patricia Bonhosa

Giant novels, long century

REBECCA BARR

Dr Rebecca Barr (1996), University Lecturer in Gender and Sexualities, and our newest Fellow in English, talks about her immersion in 18th-century literature

During her meeting with *Jesusian News* Dr Barr hands over for inspection one of the fattest paperbacks anyone's likely to lay hands on. It's jammed full with post-it notes and stickers. The book is an edition of Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa*, a colossal "epistolary" novel published in 1748, about the downfall of well-to-do heroine Clarissa Harlowe at the hands of arch-villain Robert Lovelace.

As part of a year-long project to conquer the novel in "real time"—Richardson's fictional letters start on 10 January and continue over about 12 months (and 1,500 pages)—Rebecca is reading *Clarissa* at the moment, or, rather, *re-reading* it. This is partly for pleasure and partly to get back into the swing of things at Jesus College, where she will supervise undergraduates taking English. Rebecca's also "back" in the sense that she studied English here as an undergraduate, when she first studied the novel. She'd been introduced to it by her then College Teaching Officer, Dr Charlotte Grant.

"She was an 18th-centurist and when I was digging around for things to do, she asked me, 'Why don't you read *Clarissa*?' She added: 'I haven't read it, but *you* could'. So I did. In my final year, I wavered between Modernism and the allure of the 'loose baggy monsters' of the 1700s. It was my undergraduate thesis on Richardson's final novel, *The History of Sir Charles Grandison*, that decided the question and I have never quite been able to escape the 18th century since!"

Dr Barr believes 18th-century fiction has much to tell us in the 21st century. "My (admittedly somewhat outrageous) contention is that we are *still* living in the long 18th century, and that the 19th and 20th centuries were interludes. We are living in a world of violent flux, politically, and in terms of ideas of the self and sexuality. Today we are so mediated by the internet and its relentless stream of perfect images: so, how do we negotiate being a flawed person in such a world?"

"The 18th century was wrestling with similar pressures: the demands of reputation and decorum, and accompanying anxieties, feelings of inauthenticity or objectification. I look at the literature and culture of that time in conjunction with more contemporary theories of sexuality and identity. Frequently I find myself reading 18th-century novels through the lens of contemporary issues. I'm just finishing an article on how novels imagine and promote the ideal of a 'good man' as a moral and romantic ideal. In practice this ideal turns out to be pretty toxic to women and their happiness."

“English is a *lingua franca* in the Gulf states but I did pick up some Arabic slang”

Born in Northern Ireland, Rebecca is the eldest of six, four of whom are boys—"pertinent to my study of masculinity: living in close proximity to that much testosterone makes you aware of its power and peculiarities"—and attended convent school. After Cambridge, she taught full-time for two years in Oxford, to fund the completion of her PhD, then realised she was coming into a UK job market in which (she recalls) "there were no jobs!" So she took a post at Qatar University, lecturing on British literature for two years in Doha.

It was the time of the financial crash. "It was profoundly strange to be in the Middle East, witnessing such accelerated change both there and in the West: it gave you a vertiginous perspective on the global economy." A close friend was a language teacher from Beirut. Together they travelled around the region, including Lebanon and Jordan. Did she learn Arabic? "Sadly, I didn't, partly because English is a *lingua franca* in the Gulf states and partly due to my indifferent linguistic skills. But I did pick up some colourful Lebanese slang..."

She then took a job at the National University of Ireland in Galway, or "NUIG" (as it is known) and taught there for several years. She also bought a house in Oughterard, in County Galway, in 2016. The move back to Cambridge was unexpected but an opportunity she couldn't turn down.

"It's an incredibly exciting time to come back to Jesus. It's wonderful to be here at the start of Sonita Alleyne's leadership and join a vibrant Fellowship with a real sense of community. In personal terms, it feels like beginning anew somewhere already much loved."

Debating the world

In 2019, thanks to philanthropic support from the Jesus College Cambridge Society, undergraduates were able to apply for a travel grant to help them fund a trip ideally connected to their studies or intended career. In Scotland and Spain last year, *Phoebe McDonnell* (2018, History, *far right*) attended gatherings of the Model United Nations (MUN): simulations of the United Nations in which each delegate is assigned a country and must discuss a relevant political issue from that country's point of view



Unlike student-level debate, MUN is not meant to be competitive. Rather, it encourages international co-operation and collaboration to consider serious world issues. My first experience of university MUN was in Edinburgh at ScotMUN, at the beginning of March 2019. There, I could improve my public-speaking skills in a relatively small environment (my committee was composed of roughly 20 delegates). Representing China, I talked about the potential regulation of the further development of semi-autonomous weapons.

WorldMUN later in March 2019 allowed me to expand further my speaking, diplomatic and negotiation skills. WorldMUN is one of the three largest MUN conferences in the world, attracting nearly 2,000 delegates from over 110 countries. Each year, it is held in a different city: in 2019 it was in Madrid and this year it will take place in Tokyo.

In Madrid, I and my co-delegate represented Lebanon on a committee, addressing the legality of US military action in Syria, one of the many pressing concerns facing the world. It was an honour to hold discussions with some of the most distinguished young debaters of our time.

My committee had over 300 delegates, so making speeches in front of this many people was quite intimidating. Beyond speeches, there were extended periods of negotiation in which we were expected to discuss the subject with other delegates and collaboratively draft a resolution aiming to solve the problem. This was a valuable opportunity to see how and

why people are motivated to make certain decisions, and to help me understand problems in real-life negotiation and conundrums encountered on a daily basis by the UN.

A fundamental focus of WorldMUN is on cultural connection, and how to enable people to come together peacefully to form friendships and debate topics that affect us in different ways. I met two people studying in Paris. One was from a small town in Mexico and the other had come to France three years before as a refugee from Syria. A discussion that especially stood out was about our different experiences of crime. Having led a relatively sheltered life in Canada and England, I had never really thought about what it would be like to live day-to-day without all the stability I have enjoyed. From this perspective, WorldMUN is important in making the global concerns we discuss within the confines of our Cambridge bubble significantly more real.

This has led me to look at a possible career in some sort of international or diplomatic role, in which I can try to work towards helping make the world a safer place. MUN is an essential tool by means of which students can evolve and hone their skills: these two conferences remain central to my personal development. So I would like to thank warmly those involved in awarding me the JCCS bursary, which has helped me gain invaluable new experiences, as well as cover the costs of travel. Further, being involved in MUN has given me great opportunities to meet high-level UN diplomats. The conferences definitely form a key part of my education, and I will continue to nurture what I have learnt from them throughout the rest of my university time here at Jesus and in Cambridge.



The future of research: our Junior Research Fellowships

Junior Research Fellows are at an early stage in their careers, typically within a year or two of the award of their PhD. They have an outstanding record of achievement and the potential to carry out groundbreaking work in their chosen subject

First, the College President explains the value of the Fellowships at Jesus; four JRFs then tell us about their research.

“These Fellowships,” says Professor James Clackson, “prepare young researchers for academic careers, whether as principal investigators on a project or with teaching positions at leading universities. JRFs at Jesus College are situated at the cutting edge of their disciplines. While with us, they can increase the critical mass of expertise in their fields in the College, and contribute to undergraduate supervision and graduate mentoring. They typically have links to the relevant University department and engage closely with more senior Cambridge academics.”



Dr Jane Dinwoodie: American History

I am revising my doctoral dissertation into a book tentatively titled *We Remain: Indian Non-Removal in the 19th-Century American South*. During my time at Jesus College, I have also written an article on indigenous Southerners’ use of difficult and isolated terrains in their struggle against removal, and travelled to present my work at major American conferences.

The greatest gift of a Research Fellowship is time. My JRF has allowed me to spend three years writing, reading and visiting archives. The space to consider my work and its broadest implications has proved invaluable. Writing can be solitary but the JRF offers the incredible collegiality of the Fellowship and College lunches. I’ve also enjoyed the chance to contribute to College life by presenting to alumni, conducting admissions interviews and supervising excellent undergraduate students whose probing questions have given me new perspectives on the past.

Dr Mark Dyble: Anthropology (University College London)

I was a JRF at Jesus for two years (2017-19) after completing a PhD in Anthropology. During it, I conducted an ethnographic study of a community of hunter-gatherers in the Philippines. I lived with this community, the Agta, for about a year, collecting data on their economy and social organisation. Like many hunter-gatherers, the Agta live in egalitarian and highly co-operative societies. This research got me thinking about broader questions relating to the evolution of co-operation.

While at the College, I used the independence afforded to me to take a bit of an academic risk, shifting my focus from anthropology to zoology and collaborating with a research group in the Department of Zoology led by Professor Tim Clutton-Brock (Magdalene) that is interested in the evolution of co-operation in mammal societies. This led me to spend some time working on the social behaviour of wild meerkats, swapping the green tranquillity of the College for the heat (and night-time cold) of the Kalahari Desert. I already look back on my time as a JRF with envy—several years of being in the thick of academic life without any responsibility but doing interesting research!



Dr Christoph Eigen: Natural Sciences

After my PhD in Experimental Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory, I was left with several concrete research avenues that suggest some valuable experimental work, as well as myriad less-developed ideas. Crucially, the JRF offers the necessary freedom and flexibility to explore more novel ideas, as well as facilitating opportunities to expand existing, and develop new, experimental platforms.

Jesus College is an ideal place to focus on my research, while more generally providing a nurturing environment for constructive thought, with balanced influences from the sciences and humanities. Witnessing the many ways in which College acts as a very lively extended family is delightful and makes me proud to be part of it.

“ A JRF offers the necessary freedom and flexibility to explore novel ideas, and facilitates opportunities to expand existing, and develop new, experimental platforms ”



Dr Esther Osorio Whewell: English

My PhD focused on the work of two 16th-century writers—Edmund Spenser and Lancelot Andrewes—who were both Cambridge undergraduates at Pembroke College. I'm interested in the idioms of influential teachers and mentors, and the distinct charisms of their curricula and methodologies; but also in the conversations that students have between themselves, whether in print or in person.

In my research into early-modern literature I think a lot about academic environments and communities (both their personalities and their bookshelves), and the particular sorts of writing they might produce. It's a pleasure, then, to be working, teaching, chatting, reading (and eavesdropping) in a place where exactly these sorts of stimulating conversation go on all the time. I've not yet worked on any Jesuans but I did once spend a November afternoon peering at the marginal inkings—pointing hands, curly brackets and asterisks, self-righteous typo corrections, snarky comments—in Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's own Bible in the Old Library: lots more to explore there, I hope, in the future (clean dry hands, no white gloves).

A day in the life of our Organ Scholar



Dewi Rees (2016, Music)

The Organ Scholars of Jesus College have many roles to fulfil in contributing to the life of the Chapel and College. The primary function of the College Choirs is to maintain the tradition of worship that has existed in various forms in this place since the Chapel was built in the 12th century. This involves providing music for Evensong four times a week, as well as extra services at certain times in the liturgical and College calendars. The Organ Scholar's job is to play the organ and occasionally conduct for these services, and to assist in the training of the choristers and Choral Scholars that is necessary to uphold a high standard of music-making.

A great deal of my time is spent preparing choral accompaniments, where the organ's versatility is invaluable. Although each one is unique, common traits in a college chapel's organ will include very large dynamic and pitch ranges, an ability to produce sounds suitable for a solo melody, and a smorgasbord of tone colours. In much choral music the organ plays a supportive and enhancing role for the choir, rather than working completely independently. It is therefore important that the organist's choice of sounds is sufficiently supportive for the choir but not overpowering, and that the sounds used reflect the text and musical style of the piece. To do this well requires a

knowledge of musical styles, an awareness of the choir's overall sound, its strengths and weaknesses, and a certain degree of imagination to try to pre-empt things, such as how loudly the choir will sing and where the conductor might vary the tempo.

I find the process of preparing accompaniments for the emotive texts and dramatic imagery of the Psalms particularly enjoyable. We have a handy CCTV system in Chapel that allows the organist to see the conductor and it is essential to watch him closely to make a coherent performance—the power of the organ could be catastrophic if the organist goes on his own little journey. Good preparation and adaptability are therefore essential!

Opportunities to direct the College's two Choirs present challenges in planning and group management. Preparation for directing the Choir is again a predictive game to guess what issues might come up and what the conductor can do that the Choir will find helpful. When playing the organ, it can only be the sound that can help or hinder the Choir; when conducting, a range of factors is involved, including arm gestures, facial expression, posture and tone of voice. I have noted that a careful choice of words and manner of address to the group or individuals can have various effects on alertness and on the quality of sound produced. Just as importantly, this experience is always teaching me to value preparation—to nitpick with the Choir if I don't myself know the music well feels fraudulent.

In addition to playing the organ and conducting in Chapel, rehearsals provide valuable experience as a *répétiteur* and teacher. During rehearsals on Wednesdays and Sundays the Organ Scholar takes out individuals or small groups of choristers to give them tuition in music theory, solos to sing in Chapel and general musicianship. While working with the choristers it is interesting to learn how different approaches to issues work differently for each boy—it can be challenging to explain a particular way of singing to a chorister when almost nothing about the instrument he is using is visible to him.

The Organ Scholarship at Jesus has been the most enjoyable and enriching venture I have experienced. The teamwork and shared goals of all who participate in the musical life of the Chapel make it very easy to aim to do one's best, and the long list of my eminent predecessors reinforces what a great tradition this is to have been a part of.



A signature in all things

Gurnee Hart Fellow in History and Keeper of Jesus's Old Library, Dr Michael Edwards, sleuths through a handful of fascinating books once owned by a major 17th-century woman philosopher—and hopes for more treasure

Old books tell stories—not just those contained within their covers but also of the people who have read and owned them. Many readers in the past were not precious about their books but annotated them, marked them, even scribbled in them. Many of the rare books in the Old Library at Jesus College bear these traces of previous owners, ranging from learned annotations in the small, neat hand of a former Master, Charles Ashton (1655-1752), to more irreverent comments. My favourite is a scribbled outburst inside the Jesus College copy of the 17th-century *Mémoires de Madame de la Guette*: “horribly stupid”.

In the autumn of 2018, I found in the Old Library an ownership inscription in a copy of John Wilkins's *A Discourse concerning a New World and Another Planet* (1640): “Anne Conway”. It caught my attention for two reasons. First, the handwriting was 17th-century and in this period women who owned philosophical books were rare; fewer women than men were literate and very few women had the chance to study philosophy. Second, and most strikingly, I recognised the name.

Anne Conway (1631-79) was an English aristocrat who spent much of her life confined to bed by a mysterious illness that puzzled her doctors. She was also one of the most original philosophers of the period, although her philosophical system, *The Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy*, was published after her death. Conway was a pioneer: not only a woman who pursued philosophy when many believed that women were incapable of doing so but also a philosophical radical who criticised the ideas of Descartes, Hobbes and

Spinoza, and developed her own original theory of the universe and our place in it. She married into a bookish family and owned a large library of her own, which has long been believed to be lost or destroyed. Was this book part of it?

Historians often have moments like this: a flash of recognition, sometimes followed by disappointment. But here there was no disappointment. Comparing the handwriting with Conway's surviving letters proved that the book was hers. For several months, I looked—carefully—inside every one of the nearly 9,000 volumes in the Old Library for other Conway books. I found three more owned by her and a further two that once belonged to her uncle, Francis Finch (1586-*c.*1658), a lawyer with a large library who passed books on to his niece.

The six books, all in English, are varied: they range from Wilkins's *Discovery* (1638), an account of an imagined voyage to the moon sometimes described as one of the first works of science fiction, to the Catholic scholar Richard Verstegan's learned *Antiquities* (1605). Together, they give unique evidence of what Conway might have been reading at a crucial stage in her intellectual development. Given her importance and the limited amount we know about her life, this is an exciting discovery.

Reconstructing how Conway's books came to Jesus College took me from the Old Library to Christ's College (where some of her letters are held), to the British Library, and then to archives in Nottingham and Edinburgh. The books came here from the library of Francis Sterling (*c.*1652-92), who was a Fellow from 1687 until his death. Sterling had an unusually adventurous life for a Jesus College Fellow, combining his academic position with a military career. He fought in the armies of Charles II, James II and William III, while also amassing a library of philosophical, literary and historical books in French, Italian, Spanish, Latin and English. He died at the Battle of Steinkirk in 1692 and left his library to us.

Sterling came to own Conway's books through his commanding officer, the third Earl of Mulgrave (1647-1721), who (in a plotline worthy of a 17th-century soap opera) was the second husband of the third wife of Anne Conway's late husband. A twisting chain of coincidence, involving inheritance, war and pure luck, brought the books to the Old Library, where they have rested, safe and apparently unnoticed, ever since.

The full story of my research on Conway's books will appear as an article in the journal *The Seventeenth Century* later this year. I am now looking for further books from the lost library of Anne Conway in other collections in the UK and abroad; I am also hopeful that more surprising book stories like Conway's will emerge from the Old Library.



“Follow what you’re really passionate about”

Tilly Franklin (1990) has recently taken up the reins as Chief Investment Officer of the Cambridge University Endowment Fund. As an undergraduate she put on plays, but investment management has been her profession, and passion, for over two decades. She has also kept close to College



Jesuan News: How did it all start for you at Jesus?

Tilly Franklin: We have to go back to my 17-year-old self. I always wanted to read English, my favourite subject. My particular interest was in critical and literary theory, as well as contemporary fiction and poetry. Stephen Heath and Rod Mengham were then—and still are—the two Jesus English dons, who taught me. Rod was Director of Studies; Stephen was also giving some classes at the time.

JN: Student drama became important too...

TF: I loved theatre and got involved with the College drama society in an administrative role. Initially I tried to participate in both drama *and* rowing. When that proved inconsistent with studying, I had to choose just one. I ended up directing plays.

JN: Was theatre post-Cambridge a possibility?

TF: There were a lot of other people on the theatre scene then who, even in my undergraduate state, I could tell were vastly more talented than me. Instead, I focused on a literature PhD—on the modern novel. I was lucky enough to win a Kennedy Scholarship to study at Harvard but was unfortunately not accepted onto the PhD programme there. Nonetheless, the Kennedy Trust allowed me to attend as a “special student”—almost as if you’re Minister without Portfolio. It was a gift of an option to reconsider what to do in the future.

“I always wanted a play to stack up from a budgetary perspective”

JN: So you had a free postgraduate year, as it were, didn’t do a PhD and went into finance...

TF: My degree in English is obviously entirely distinct from finance. After academia, broadly speaking I went into business, beginning as a management consultant. I was with a number of companies before doing an MBA; I started working in investment management in 2000. Most of it was in London. At one point I was with BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the Corporation.

JN: And now?

TF: The University has an endowment that invests its long-term capital, as well as that of a number of colleges and various trusts: the overall value is around £3.5 billion. I’m the

Chief Investment Officer, responsible for making decisions about what goes into the endowment fund over time and managing the investment office that supervises all the activities of the endowment, which then reports back to the investors. Our small team identifies managers all over the world and selects those that we think are best suited for the endowment.

I also run a charity called GAIN—short for Girls Are Investors—which is trying to address the gender imbalance in investment management. Women only account for around 20% of graduate applications to the investment industry. Misconceptions about it, which GAIN is attempting to address, currently seem to put women off applying; however, investment management offers wonderful opportunities for any applicant—male or female!

JN: How long have you been with GAIN?

TF: For about two years. It became a registered charity in March 2019 and officially launched in October. So it’s just ramping up.

JN: You’re also connected to the College...

TF: In my younger days—in 2006—Jesus kindly asked me to sit on the Investment Committee that helps supervise its endowment. Because the committee meets in Cambridge once a year, I have returned to Jesus at least annually for the past 14 years.

JN: What advice might you give to your Fresher self?

TF: Follow the things you’re really passionate about. People might say, “Well, directing plays isn’t necessarily relevant to what I *will* do”, but it doesn’t matter because as a student theatre director I learned about managing a team, through managing a cast. And I was always very concerned to get a play to stack up from a budgetary perspective! You might not know it at the time but you are picking up all kinds of different experiences and skills through whatever you do, as long as it’s full of commitment and passion.

JN: What does good alumni engagement mean to you?

TF: In my case, it’s about using my experience to help the College. I was lucky in that my professional direction took me along a path that became additive for me as an Investment Committee member. I’ve so enjoyed that. It’s a privilege to contribute to Jesus, based on what I know and have done, in a very concrete way.

JESUS COLLEGE COMPOSITION COMPETITION

In November 2019, the Choirs of Jesus College announced the inaugural Jesus College Composition Competition (www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/articles/choir-launches-new-competition-young-composers). With the support of former Choral Scholar, Max Hadfield (1961), composers aged 25 or younger were invited to submit a setting of a text by Saint John Henry Newman.

Entries were received from around the UK, the USA and Canada, and the exceptionally strong field was judged by a panel consisting of Director of Music, Richard Pinel, and the renowned composer Grayston Ives. Grayston commented:

“Jesus College has a fine tradition for commissioning new music for its Choir. This competition is its latest venture,

encouraging young composers to submit new settings of a beautiful text by Cardinal Newman. The standard from home and abroad was very high, and it was a pleasure to be invited to help with the adjudication.”

We are delighted now to announce the two top prize winners, both of whose pieces will be premiered by the Choirs in Michaelmas Term 2020.

The runner-up is Isaac Adni and the winner is Sarah Cattley. Sarah studied Music at Newnham College.

She continues to gain recognition as a composer and more information about her can be found at www.sarahcattley.co.uk. In addition to a first performance of her new work, Sarah will receive prize money of £500.



“I’m completely thrilled to have won Jesus College’s Composition Competition. I really enjoyed setting the beautiful prayer by Saint John Henry Newman to music and bearing it sung by the College Choir in its own lovely Chapel will be very special.”

THREE GIFT IDEAS TO SUPPORT THE VISUAL ARTS AT JESUS COLLEGE

The Jesus College Works of Art Committee is proud to offer:



A limited-edition silk square scarf designed by Stephen Chambers RA and printed by the Armani silk printers, Maver of Como, featuring the cockerel emblazoned with the College motto and complete with presentation box. £325 plus postage and packing



“Art for Tomorrow”, a portfolio of 10 original prints specially curated for Jesus College, including works by world-famous artists such as Richard Long RA, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Humphrey Ocean RA, Alison Wilding RA and Cornelia Parker RA. Prices available on request



Thirty Years of Contemporary Art: Jesus College, Cambridge 1988-2018 by Jean Bacon and Jim Roseblade is a richly illustrated photographic memoir of three decades of Sculpture in the Close biennials at Jesus College and the development of the permanent sculpture collection. £12 plus postage and packing

To purchase, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office, Jesus College
Tel: +44 (0)1223 339301 or E-mail: development@jesus.cam.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2020

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER: Postgraduate Reunion

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER: JCCS AGM and Annual Dinner

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER: Fifty Years On Lunch (1970)

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER: Sixty Years On Lunch (1960)

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER: Seventy Years On Lunch (1950)