

NOVEMBER 2017 | ISSUE 46



# MAGDALENE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE





# MAGDALENE MATTERS

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Magdalene Matters is published by the Alumni & Development Office, twice yearly, in Michaelmas and Easter terms. For further information or if you would like to submit content for future issues please contact the Communications Officer, Matthew Moon, or the Editor.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Magdalene College Cambridge.

Photo on the front cover courtesy of Matthew Moon.



Alumni and Development Office Team.

## COMMENT from the Development Director

Dear Members,

Summer in Cambridge brought the usual pleasures: graduation, garden parties, and May Balls. It will come as no surprise that Magdalene's Ball was a triumph and you will find details of that magical event on page 15.

The annual Family Day in early July was great fun, the sun shone and three hundred Members with guests came to enjoy the occasion – a record five Magdalene families joined us from Singapore. We are always delighted to see you at our events whether at College, at one of our London receptions or at one of the College Dinners overseas. We receive warmest greetings wherever we go and this year, following the Campaign launch, are gratified with the enthusiastic reception of the new *Future foundations* Campaign. Hundreds of you have already reacted positively to our entreaty to help us raise significant sums to build a new library building, to bolster our bursary schemes and to allocate yet more money for the support of teaching and research. The response has been truly humbling. We have received some exceptionally generous donations as well as many more modest gifts from Members keen to do their bit. Thank you all so very much for your wonderful generosity, it is enormously appreciated by all of us at Magdalene. More detailed information about the Campaign can be found in the enclosed Annual Campaign Report, the first such report, listing, among other things, the many, many donors we are so very fortunate to have.

The Alumni & Development Office moved recently and is situated in Mallory A in the Village. Kevin Bentley, Matthew Moon and Roxanne Vose have been joined by William Thong (2012), William Southwell and this year's Intern, Harriet Lamden (2013). She succeeds Leonora Cherry (2013), our fabulous first Intern. We look forward to Emma Tunbridge-Hibbert and Sarah Reynolds coming back from maternity leave in November and January respectively but will be sorry to say goodbye to Sophia D'Angelico and Jennifer Williams who looked after events and gift administration in their absence. Do pop into the new Alumni & Development Office to buy a Magdalene mug, postcards, tie or teddy bear, book a guest room, apply for event tickets or simply to say hello. You are most welcome.

MRS CORINNE LLOYD  
EDITOR AND DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

# MUNICH CHOIR TOUR

Magdalene College Choir embarked on its annual international tour in July, to Munich, where we performed a total of four concerts and two masses in Augsburg, Bergen, and Munich, between Sunday 2 and Thursday 6 July.

The Choir, directed by Graham Walker and accompanied by the College Chaplain, Nick Widdows, gave its first concert in the historic town of Augsburg on Monday 3 July. The third oldest town in Germany, Augsburg was picturesque and filled with cultural treasures – including the world’s oldest social housing system! At the beautiful Evangelisch St Ulrich, the Choir gave a concert to a packed church of over 100 people. This concert featured the international debut of Alex Woolf’s *Salve Regina* and the audience was spellbound. So favourable was the thunderous applause at the end that the Choir was compelled to come out for a second bow!



together with their travelling brass band! We had the opportunity to perform with the American Choir as well as alone in this glorious baroque church, and it was interesting to compare differing choral styles and repertoire choices.

The Choir tour was hugely enjoyable, and the performances were all extremely well received. Many thanks go to Graham Walker for organising the tour and for polishing the Choir! We are also very grateful to the Chaplain, Nick Widdows, who chaperoned the Choir, doubled as photographer, and sourced a range of excellent eateries and beer gardens where the Choir could relax. Touring with the Choir is always a delightful and enjoyable way for the group to develop into a more cohesive unit, and to celebrate singing together before the graduates depart. We are extremely thankful to the College for its continuing support of the Choir’s activities, and especially to Philip Carne, whose generosity made this trip possible.

**MISS JESSICA LIM, ASSISTANT ORGANIST**



## A Grand Gift

We are most grateful to Mrs Joyce Beechey whose very generous gift in memory of her late husband, **DR GWILYM BEECHEY (1956)**, enabled the College to purchase a C.Bechstein Grand Concert Piano. Dr Beechey was a most accomplished musician, prolific composer, passionate about Magdalene and a regular visitor. This splendid piano, a fitting memorial, will bring joy to many for years to come.

# FELLOWS' NEWS

We are delighted to welcome a number of new Fellows to the College whilst sadly bidding farewell to a number of others.

## Official Fellows



**DR FINBARR LIVESEY**, Official Fellow, is Senior Lecturer in Public Policy in the Department of Politics and

International Studies (POLIS) where he is currently director of the MPhil in Public Policy (MPP) which he helped to launch in 2013. His research focuses on two main themes – the changing structure of the global economy and government's role in supporting innovation and industrial growth, and how policy making is changing due to political and technological pressures.



**DR NICK CARROLL**, Official Fellow, has been a consultant gastrointestinal radiologist

at Addenbrookes Hospital for 20 years. Having sub specialised in interventional endoscopic techniques he has pioneered and developed the use of endoscopic ultrasound for patients with a wide range of conditions including gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancer. He is an executive member of the Cambridge Pancreatic Cancer Centre and has published on endoscopic ultrasound guided tissue acquisition, staging of lung cancer and early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

## Junior Research Fellows

**DR OLIVER HAARDT**, the Lumley Junior Research Fellow. After his undergraduate studies in History,

International Politics, and Law at Jacobs University Bremen, he came to Trinity College Cambridge for an MPhil in Historical Studies in 2012. During this time, he developed a focus on the political and constitutional history of modern Europe and on questions of identity. His PhD research examined the evolution of the federal state in the German Empire from the unification in 1871 to the collapse of the imperial monarchy in 1918, winning the Helmut-Coing Prize of the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History.

**DR PIERRE HAAS**, the Nevile Junior Research Fellow, is an applied mathematician from Luxembourg, working on problems in biological and soft matter physics. At the end of his undergraduate studies in mathematics at Gonville & Caius College, he was awarded the Mayhew Prize, and stayed on in Cambridge for his doctoral work. His research, currently funded by an EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellowship, explores how shapes arise in biological and soft matter systems, be they spherical cell sheets that turn themselves inside out during their development or microscopic oil droplets that flatten into polygonal shapes upon cooling.

## Visiting Fellows



University of Ireland, Galway (formerly University College Galway)

This year's Parnell Fellow, **PROFESSOR DÁIBHÍ Ó CRÓINÍN**, has been based at the National

since 1980 following studies at University College Dublin, the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, and the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. His research interests are in Early Medieval Irish and European History, Hiberno-Latin literature, Computistics (everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about the calculation of the date of Easter), Irish Traditional Singing, and Soviet Espionage, 1918–48.



**PROFESSOR DANNY WONG** joins us as a Yip Visiting Fellow. Danny is the Director of the Global Planning

& Strategy Centre, University of Malaya, based at Kuala Lumpur. As Professor of History at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, he teaches the history of Indochina and Southeast Asia and is also the Director of the Institute of China Studies. His research interests include the history of Sabah, the Chinese in Malaysia, and China's relations with Southeast Asia.

**PROFESSOR SILVIA VIGNATO**, Associate Professor in the Università di Milano-Bicocca, is working on a book project entitled *Children of Disasters: Marriage, work and illegality among poor young people in post conflict, post-tsunami Aceh*, which will develop from work she has done since 2008 in Indonesia in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami and the signature of a peace agreement putting an end to a 30 year-long murderous civil conflict.



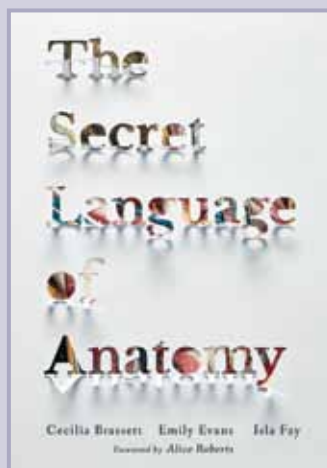
### Bye-Fellows

**MR NIKITA MAKARCHEV**, Bye-Fellow (Humanities) is a PhD candidate in Development Studies at Cambridge University. He completed an MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies at Oxford and a BA in Government at Harvard. His research centres on corporate governance in the petroleum sector. He is interested in issues of distributive justice, internationalisation and social networks and his research is supported by the Cambridge China Development Trust, Universities' China Committee in London, the Sidney Perry Foundation, the Humanitarian Trust and the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust.

**MR FAZAL HADI**, Bye-Fellow (Sciences), who is originally from Swat, Pakistan, did his undergraduate degree in Biotechnology at the University of Camerino, Italy. In 2014, he joined Dr Walid Khaled's laboratory (Department of Pharmacology, Cambridge) for Erasmus Placement to work on the role of BCL11A in triple-negative breast cancer. In 2015, he undertook another placement at Institut Curie, Paris, to learn new bioinformatics skills by working on a project aimed at reconstruction of mutational networks in breast cancer using a computational pipeline. Fazal won Gates Cambridge Scholarship and came back to Dr Khaled's lab in October 2015 to do his PhD. His PhD research aims at identification of novel tumour suppression mechanisms in the naked mole-rat.

**MR JAMES WOODALL**, Teaching Bye-Fellow, is a writer, editor and journalist. He joins us as our Royal Literary Fund Fellow. Before turning freelance 25 years ago, he spent five years in London publishing – in an ancient era of paper, proofs and jacket blurbs when he learnt as much about the practicalities (and commerce) of writing as the art. James's main role in the College will be to assist our students in all subjects with their writing skill.

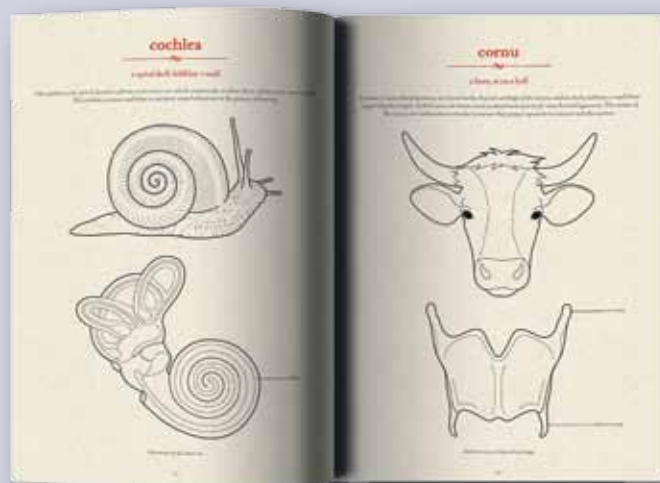
## THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF ANATOMY – Dr Cecilia Brassett (2009)



Magdalene Fellow, **DR CECILIA BRASSETT**, was a medical student and anatomy demonstrator at the University of Cambridge, and, as the current University Clinical Anatomist, is responsible for organising the anatomy teaching programme. Dr Brassett initially qualified as a general surgeon, and then trained in field linguistics to work among an ethnic minority group in China for some years before returning to the UK. Together with colleagues she has co-authored a new book called *The Secret Language of Anatomy*.

*The Secret Language of Anatomy* is an initiation into the mysterious subject of anatomical terminology. Beautifully crafted illustrations uncover the close relationship between the parts of the human body and the evocative names given to them by anatomists. Decoding the body's secret language brings to life the history of anatomical terms, and explains why some words are used to describe very different organs and structures.

Complete with a guide to anatomical prefixes and suffixes, this book will appeal not only to medical students and practitioners, but also to readers interested in the history of anatomy, in the structure of the human body, and in medical etymology, as well as the history of language.



**The Secret Language of Anatomy**  
Publisher: Lotus Publishing • ISBN: 9781905367795

# COLONEL BELCHAMP'S BATTLEFIELD TOUR

– Dr Adrian Crisp (1968)

Adrian Crisp matriculated at Magdalene to read Medicine in 1968. He was a consultant in Rheumatology and Metabolic Bone Diseases at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, for 30 years and is a Fellow of Churchill College where he was Director of Studies in Clinical Medicine for 20 years.



Dr Crisp's new book *Colonel Belchamp's Battlefield Tour* is an historical novel focused on the hopeless but heroic defence of Calais immediately before Dunkirk in May 1940. James Butland, the main character, served as an 18 year old in the Queen Victoria's Rifles, an ill-equipped territorial battalion trained for motorcycle reconnaissance but plunged into the role of front

line infantry against the German 10th Panzer Division supported by Stukas and artillery. Winston Churchill rejected the Royal Navy's requests to evacuate the Calais garrison to reassure the French that at least a part of the British forces would remain and fight on French soil.

Wounded in the defence of Calais in May 1940, James is hidden from the Germans by a French medical student, Agnès, and following a brief affair she helps him to escape to England in a small boat. James's war ranges from coastal defence duties in Norfolk to the bitter campaign in Tunisia where he is again wounded and discharged from active service. He resolves to replace killing, which he had to admit provoked physical pleasure, with saving lives and, influenced by Agnès's example, chooses to study medicine.

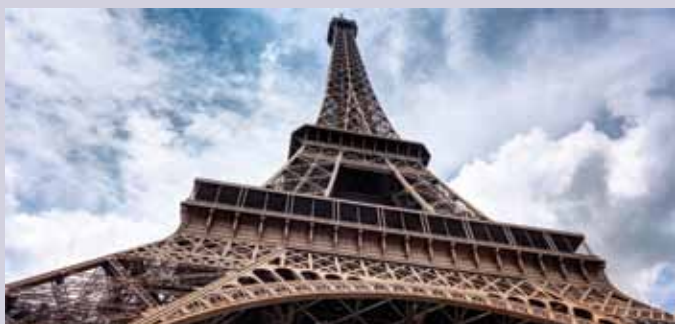
In May 1964, devastated by the death of his small son, James Butland returns to the 1940 battlefields. On a whim he traces Agnès. Their reunion against a background of despair creates new conflicts of conscience but also some prospect of recovery and hope.

This novel shines light on two underexposed episodes in the Second World War – Calais and Tunisia – and also offers insights into the disruption inflicted by war and into one man's reaction to loss and grief.

Colonel Belchamp's Battlefield Tour • Publisher: Troubador Publishing • ISBN: 9781788036818

## THE CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY OF PARIS

BY MR ANDREW LYNDON-SKEGGS (1967)



Cambridge is global; its network is worldwide. In Paris, this network is represented by the Cambridge Society of Paris, where I was recently elected as President.

The Society, active since 1996, works to gather alumni and undergraduates, facilitate access to Paris, liaise with other alumni groups, and provide bursaries to assist students with projects relevant to France.

It also organises a busy events calendar; in the coming months, we will host a Challenge Debate against the Cambridge Union, the first-ever overseas performance by the musical revue group the Fingask Follies, play readings, guided walks, and a fabulous Christmas Party. Taking place during the evening of Monday 18 December, this year's Christmas Party will be held in the stunning *Salons Vénitiens* at the *Musée des Arts Forains*, as featured in Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*. It will feature a packed programme of jazz, tap dancers, and perhaps even a conjuror.



The Society hopes to double its membership over the next year, with special emphasis on younger members. If you would like to learn more about joining this fast-growing group, please contact Andrew Lyndon-Skeggs via email: [anls@lyndon-skeggs.com](mailto:anls@lyndon-skeggs.com)



# STELLAR NURSERIES:

## STUDYING THE BIRTH OF STARS AND PLANETS

BY DR JENNIFER WISEMAN (2016)

**The Westerlund 2 Star Cluster, as imaged with the Hubble Space Telescope. The recently formed cluster of massive stars in the centre is cradled by its colourful natal cloud of remaining ionised gas and dust, in which smaller stars are continuing to form.**

Vast numbers of stars filling the night sky have always given humans a sense of awe and humility.

As a Yip Visiting Fellow of Magdalene College, while immersed in the inspiration of Cambridge, I have been able to delve more deeply into the scientific investigation of how those stars come into being.

The irony of our modern age is that while professional telescopes are increasingly powerful, more people are personally deprived of seeing the night sky than ever before. Our careless lights in cities, neighborhoods, and parking lots create a kind of air glow that causes dim stars to fade from view. We are no longer able to experience the brilliance of innumerable stars filling the sky from horizon to horizon, inspiring shepherds, prophets, and poets. Yet at the same time, our sophisticated telescopes, combined with the worldwide explosion of internet access, have made deep space images of galaxies, stars, and planets accessible to everyone.

One such telescope familiar to people around the world is the Hubble Space Telescope. Named after

famed astronomer Edwin Hubble, the telescope is a mission jointly supported by NASA and the European Space Agency. With five astronaut servicing missions to the telescope since its launch in 1990, the orbiting observatory has been kept fresh with new scientific instruments and supporting equipment. So even after 27 years of operation, the Hubble Space Telescope is currently at the peak of its scientific capabilities.

I have the privilege of being NASA's Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope. The short version of my job description is "to ensure the maximal scientific return of the Hubble Space Telescope mission." That is truly both a great honour and a formidable responsibility. Fortunately I am not alone; there are literally hundreds of people who contribute to the operation and oversight of the Hubble Space Telescope mission, along with thousands of scientists around the world who use the telescope for their research. My duties involve everything from oversight of the mission science

budget and mundane policies to the joys of spreading the word about Hubble's newest discoveries from across the cosmos.

Hubble is revealing to us a very active universe. Recent detections include colliding asteroids and moons with erupting water plumes in our solar system, light-bending distortions in space around massive clusters of galaxies, and galaxies so distant their light began its journey to us over 13 billion years ago, near the beginning time of the universe itself. Hubble is also revealing that stars are active participants in the shaping of the character of the universe. Stars form deep within dense pockets of gas and dust that populate the vast spaces between stars with galaxies like our own Milky Way. While these vast clouds are turbulent, denser pockets can form where the gravitational pull inside can overpower the turbulence, causing a collapse of material into a highly pressured core of dense gas, mostly hydrogen. The pressure in the center

*...continued*





NRAO/AUI/NSF

**The Very Large Array radio telescope observatory, New Mexico, U.S.A. Radio telescopes enable study of dense interstellar clouds where stars and their planets form.**

can be immense; if there is enough mass in the object, the core pressure will incite the fusion of hydrogen atoms, creating helium and releasing photons of light. This is essentially the birth of a star, with the fusion engine at the core enabling the eventual release of brilliant light from the surface.

In such clouds of star birth, new stars can form in isolation, but they can also form in multiples, like pairs or triplets or even clusters. Globular clusters near the center of our own Milky Way galaxy contain thousands of stars, including some of the oldest stars in the galaxy. Once formed, the fusion engine inside stars produces not only helium, but also heavier elements like oxygen and iron – elements we need for life. After millions or even billions of years, depending on the star’s mass, these products in the stellar atmosphere will be expelled into interstellar space as the star ages and burns out. Thus the next generation of stars forming from interstellar clouds will be enriched with some of these heavier elements. As new stars condense from this enhanced gas, they often are encircled by discs of dusty material formed from these heavier elements, like carbon and silicon; these orbiting discs of solid debris are the formation zones of planets.

The Hubble Space Telescope has imaged many such spectacular regions of stellar birth. Newly ignited clusters of stars are surrounded by their natal gas clouds, which are lit up into colorful nebulae by the light of the young massive newborn stars within. While the most massive stars form fastest, the more common lower mass stars, similar to our Sun, are often still in the process of forming deep within the surrounding dense dusty gas. Therein lies the challenge for observing these embedded phenomena: most stars spend their formation period buried deep within interstellar clouds that obscure the view for any visible-light telescope, including Hubble.

My research therefore involves using a suite of diverse telescopes that, by using longer, invisible wavelengths of light, can peer into these enshrouded interstellar clouds and glimpse the formation of stars. I use radio telescopes, such as the Very Large Array in New Mexico, and the Atacama Large Millimeter Array in South America, to study the dynamics of the gas that feeds the formation of stars. With such tools, we can detect the structure of the interstellar clouds, the infalling material that is accreting onto new stars, and the powerful outflows that are propelled

by the infant stars as infalling material interacts with their winds and magnetic fields. Hubble itself can peer into some of these obscured regions thanks to the infrared-light capabilities of its newest camera, the Wide-Field Camera 3.

I am particularly interested in protostars at the very earliest stages of their formation, that is, when most of the material that will eventually be in the star is still in a circumstellar “envelope”. If we can understand better the environmental conditions that allow such objects to develop into fully mature stars with planetary systems, we have a better sense of how our own solar system formed and which kinds of interstellar cloud environments are more conducive to star and planet formation.

My time as a Yip Visiting Fellow of Magdalene College enabled a rich and rare opportunity to concentrate on this study of star formation while interacting with the world’s top astrophysicists. The University of Cambridge boasts one of the top research institutions in the world, the Institute of Astronomy (IoA). Because I was welcomed to spend my days there as a Visiting Scholar, I was able to give multiple talks there about the Hubble Space Telescope program and about my own research, and I was able to interact with several active research groups, including renowned scientists from the adjacent Cavendish Radio Astrophysics Laboratory. IoA boasts a very active group concentrating on star formation and in particular the mechanisms of planet formation with the dusty discs that form around stars. Planet formation is a “hot topic” in astrophysics these days, because planets orbiting stars other than our Sun, i.e. “exoplanets”, are now rather suddenly understood to be common, thanks to recent surveys from specialised facilities like NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope. In fact, it now appears that nearly every star in our galaxy has a planet, on average. Some have none, and some (like our Sun) have several.



But with over 200 billion stars in the Milky Way, this implies a huge number of planets. If even a small fraction of them have Earth-like conditions, the possibilities of life existing across the galaxy, and maybe all galaxies, suddenly becomes tantalisingly possible! One way of understanding whether Earth-like environments are common is to better understand how and where Suns and Earths most likely form. Thus the research at the IoA is invigorated with early-career scientists eager to investigate the origins of stars, planets, and even life. The related new field of astrobiology endeavours to understand the breadth of environments in which life can thrive, and to determine how remote sensing (like with telescopes) could discern biological activity on a distant exoplanet.

The gift to me of time and inspiration from being in such an environment resulted in two research publications, including a general overview of new techniques in the observation of star forming regions, and a more detailed paper on a particular young protostar system known as HH111. This intriguing source includes two protostars that are going through the common adolescent phase of expelling fast outflowing jets, via their magnetic fields, while they are accreting gas and growing into stars. Using data from the Very Large Array radio observatory, my research team found a dense core



The Hubble Space Telescope.

of gas right in the path of these fast outflows, with observable effects from the interaction. Thus we have been able to show that protostars in the process of formation can disrupt the surrounding environment to such a degree that other, slower-forming stars may be unable to fully form. If such systems are common, it may imply that small stars with Earth-like planets may not form easily in environments where other stars have started forming and disrupting the global environment of the stellar nursery.

While in Cambridge, I found that enthusiastic interest in the richness of the universe extended far beyond the Institute of Astronomy. I was invited by the British Science Association to talk about NASA's *Search for Exoplanets and Life Beyond Earth* as part of their science fiction film festival, and the audience was intrigued at the growing prospect of finding habitable worlds beyond our own. The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion at St. Edmund's College invited my reflections on *Investigating a Fruitful Universe*. And Magdalene College itself encouraged several presentations, including a Chapel talk on the awe and insights we glean from the heavens, and a public lecture on discoveries with the Hubble Space Telescope.

For me, however, the greatest inspiration of my time as a Yip Fellow came through my interactions with the Fellows, students, and staff of Magdalene College. The evening conversations with poets, literary experts, musicians, historians, business experts, linguists, engineers, and other scientists, just to name some of the disciplines I encountered, were priceless interactions. I truly experienced our diverse disciplines, and our varied international experiences, enriching, informing, and broadening each other's perspectives. While studying the birth of stars and planets, the warmth and richness of Magdalene College has forever enriched my universe.



## DR JENNIFER WISEMAN

visited Magdalene College as a Yip Fellow for the Easter Term

of 2017. She is a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center where she serves as the Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope. Previously, Jennifer headed Goddard's Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics.

Jennifer's scientific expertise is centered on the study of star forming regions in our galaxy using a variety of tools, including radio, optical and infrared telescopes.

As an undergraduate, Jennifer studied Physics at MIT, where she discovered the comet 114P/Wiseman-Skiff. She then earned a Ph.D. in Astronomy at Harvard University, and continued her research as a Jansky Fellow at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and as a Hubble Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University.

Jennifer is also interested in science policy and public science outreach and engagement. She has served as a Congressional Science Fellow of the American Physical Society, an elected Councilor of the American Astronomical Society and a public dialogue leader for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She enjoys giving talks on the excitement of astronomy and scientific discovery, and has appeared in many science and news venues including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the BBC, NOVA and National Public Radio.

Jennifer grew up on a small farm in the Ozark Mountains of rural Arkansas and loves animals, forests, night skies, and exploring nature.

# GREG CLARK MP: GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

BY PROFESSOR TONY COCKERILL (2008)

Greg Clark (1986) wrote his dissertation for the Economics Tripos on incentives. He drew on personal experience. He chose to apply to Magdalene not because of its reputation for Economics teaching but because it offered free overnight accommodation for those coming to Open Days. This was crucial for a state-school educated prospective student travelling a long distance from home in a relatively deprived region of England whose father was a door-step delivery milkman.

Newly reappointed as Business Secretary in Prime Minister Theresa May's minority government, formed after June's indecisive General (Parliamentary) Election, Clark finds time to reflect on the life chances and opportunities that so far have helped him climb the greasy pole of politics.

He grew up in Middlesbrough in the north-east of England, a region of mining and heavy industry. Most children left school at sixteen; Clark's state secondary school did not offer A-Level courses, essential for university entrance. He transferred to a Sixth Form College where he discovered his interest in, and aptitude for, Economics. This was with the encouragement of an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who was keen on applying Economics to current affairs and to issues of public policy.

Clark says that he 'began to hear of a mysterious place called Oxbridge'. He could not find it on a map but people spoke of it in glowing terms. He was intrigued and set about finding out more. At the Magdalene Open Day he was welcomed by Brian Deakin, Fellow and Director of Studies in Economics: they discussed the aims, structure and content of the Economics Tripos. Clark was encouraged to apply and was accepted as one of a group of six freshers for Economics.

Then as now, Magdalene Economics supervisions were arranged as part of a network of co-operation with other Colleges. In addition to Deakin's careful tuition and

support, Clark recalls in particular encounters with Brian Mitchell and Peter Tyler. Mitchell's work with Phyllis Deane on British historical statistics broke new ground<sup>1</sup>, while Tyler was already prominent in regional economics.

In the Economics Faculty, the Post-Keynesian debates were at their most intense. Analysis was mainly in terms of concepts and theory; the tidal wave of modern mathematics-based microeconomics had not yet swept over Cambridge. Clark's interests remained firmly in applied economics. He took courses that included analysis of industry, labour and regional economics, laying a firm foundation for his future career. He was elected to be a student representative on the Faculty Board.

Among the wider student body, Clark became Chair of the Cambridge University Social Democrats. He supported Shirley (now Baroness) Williams, who contested (unsuccessfully) the Cambridge constituency for the Social Democratic Party (SDP) at the 1987 General Election. Williams was one of the 'Gang of Four' that had founded the SDP in 1981 in a breakaway from the Labour Party. When the SDP itself split in 1988, most party members left to merge with the Liberal Party, forming the Liberal Democrats. Clark moved to the Conservatives.

Faced with life after Cambridge, Clark says he called to mind his family origins and 'went on the milk round' of potential employers. He secured a place with the Boston

<sup>1</sup> Mitchell, B.R. and Phyllis Deane (1962). *Abstract of British historical statistics*. Cambridge University Press.





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*At the Magdalene Open Day he was welcomed by Brian Deakin, Fellow and Director of Studies in Economics: they discussed the aims, structure and content of the Economics Tripos. Clark was encouraged to apply and was accepted as one of a group of six freshers for Economics.*

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Consulting Group (BCG). He was allowed to defer his starting date in order to work for his PhD at the London School of Economics (LSE).

His Cambridge dissertation had been supervised by two LSE staff. It made a smooth transition to work on wage incentives, specifically the effectiveness of performance-related payment schemes. He extended his model beyond Economics to take account of other relevant disciplines, in particular Psychology.

At BCG, Clark's work gave him intense, diverse and very valuable experience. His international assignments included reports on topics as varied as the Mexican economy; the manufacture of cement, furniture, and breathing equipment; and services in the City of London. Prefiguring his present Ministerial position, between 1995 and 1997 he became Special Adviser to Ian Lang MP (now Lord Lang), the Secretary of State for an antecedent of the present Business Department.

Out of office when the Labour Government under Tony Blair as Prime Minister was returned at the 1997 General Election, Clark joined the BBC. He was Controller, Commercial Policy with responsibility for the Corporation's for-profit international activities, in particular BBC Worldwide. It was a time of rapid technological change and of increasing competition for media distribution and content. Clark saw the launch of the 24-hour rolling news channel and the joint venture with the Discovery Channel that led to renowned series such as Frozen Planet and Planet Earth.

After a period as Policy Director for the Conservative Party, Clarke was elected to Parliament in 2005 as Member for the Kent constituency of Tunbridge Wells. His first experience of Ministerial responsibility was in the Conservative-LibDem coalition government of 2010–2015 when he was able to use and to extend his policy interests in decentralisation and devolution. Among several legislative initiatives he sponsored was the provision for elected mayors in selected city and metropolitan areas. Keeping his cities brief, in the coalition's last year Clark also took responsibility for universities and for science.

In the Conservative Government of 2015–2017 Clark headed first the Department for Communities and Local Government before moving to the newly-reorganised Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, a Cabinet post to which he was reappointed in June this year. Now he is called on to support, promote and regulate business during the process of Britain leaving the European Union. This has to be done in conditions of great political and economic uncertainty. Clark will need to make use of all he knows about incentives.

Interview took place on 20 June 2017. This article also appears in *Cambridge Economics*, the Annual Alumni Newsletter of the Faculty of Economics, No. 10, September 2017.

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# HONG KONG ON THE BRINK

BY MR BEN BLAND (2001)

Why China is losing the battle for young hearts and minds in the former British colony.



Imagine a political science experiment in which one of the world's most freewheeling cities, with a constitution that guarantees freedom of speech and the rule of law, is injected into the world's most powerful authoritarian state, at a time when the power of that nation is growing at a rapid pace. Then ponder the following questions: can the new sovereign maintain overall dictatorial rule while allowing this single, semi-autonomous city to develop its own democratic system? If not, can freedom survive in this city without democracy? Twenty years after Hong Kong was handed back from British to Chinese control in 1997, and promised civic freedoms and a high degree of autonomy for 50 years, these questions are no longer academic. This city of seven million people is in the midst of an existential political battle, as democracy campaigners fight with Beijing and its anointed local government over the shape of the future.

A foreign correspondent for the *Financial Times*, I arrived in early

2015, after the large-scale Occupy protests, which had been led by young activists like Joshua Wong (who was recently jailed for his part in the demonstrations). More than 100,000 people occupied swathes of the city centre for weeks and thrust Hong Kong's fight for democracy against an uncompromising Chinese government into the global spotlight. But I feared I had missed all the action, with many of my earliest contacts telling me that Occupy was the high-point for the democracy movement in Hong Kong.

Having failed to force Beijing to grant democratic elections for Hong Kong's leader, activists were dejected. They worried that, with little prospect of concessions from the Chinese Communist Party, Hong Kongers would fall back on the 'pragmatism' so often praised by their former colonial rulers and their new masters in Beijing, putting career and financial advancement ahead of sacrifice in the name of political ideals. They – and I – turned out to be wrong.

The Occupy movement sparked a political awakening among young people in Hong Kong – and an intensifying backlash from Beijing and its allies in the Hong Kong establishment. Student activists went from the streets to founding political parties and got elected to the city's partially democratic Legislative Council, only to be ousted and jailed shortly afterwards. Booksellers critical of the Communist Party have been abducted and held in secret detention in the mainland, in a further sign of Hong Kong's eroding autonomy. The deepening social conflict and

crumbling trust in the authorities have hampered the ability of the Hong Kong government to tackle the everyday problems facing the city, from soaring property prices (the least affordable in the world) to entrenched urban poverty. Hong Kong is a city on the brink, uncomfortable with its past, unhappy with its present and unsure of its future.

Hong Kong has long been an anomaly, first as a British colony tacked on to China and now as a mostly free city incorporated into a dictatorship that crushes opponents, blocks access to the internet and is deepening control over all aspects of society under President Xi Jinping.

The 'One Country, Two Systems' arrangement under which Hong Kong was handed back to Beijing in 1997 was a messy compromise. It promised Hong Kongers human rights, autonomy and a possible path to democracy while also requiring the city to implement a draconian security law against 'treason, secession and sedition' and submit to the final judgement of Beijing on all matters.

Today, these inherent contradictions are unwinding, as President Xi's China loses patience with the city and young Hong Kongers step up their opposition to Beijing. Many analysts have argued that the disaffection of young people in Hong Kong is driven mostly by politics, and their failure to secure democratic elections. Others insist it is an economic problem, stemming from the high cost of living and declining social mobility, issues afflicting millennials in other global cities from London to Tokyo.





But I felt there was a third, related, element that deserved more attention: identity.

Lau Ming-wai, an outspoken 36-year-old billionaire, told me that his generation – those who had come of age since the handover – had grown up in an ‘identity vacuum’, feeling disconnected both from Hong Kong’s colonial legacy and its place within China. Just as air rushes into a vacuum, so a new Hong Kong identity has grown to fill this gap over the last 20 years. It is a trend that is both empowering for many of those involved and deeply worrying for other Hong Kongers – and outsiders – who fear how Beijing is reacting to this growing feeling of separateness in the city.

The young citizens whom I dub *Generation HK* in my book (entitled *Generation HK: Seeking Identity in China’s Shadow*) say they are first and foremost Hong Kongers. Many say they are Chinese second. But a growing number are rejecting outright a Chinese identity that they believe has been hijacked by the Communist Party. Many Hong Kongers, young and old, profess commitment to a series of core values: respect for freedom, a desire for democracy, belief in fairness and the rule of law.

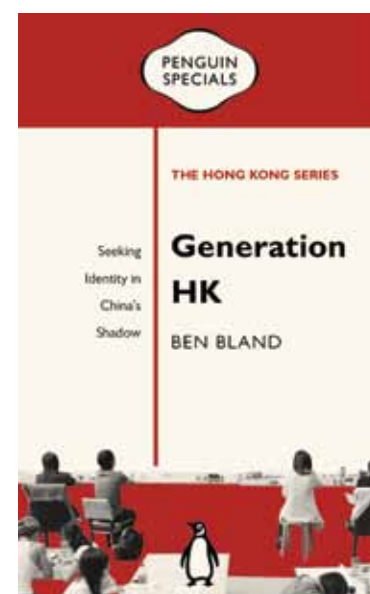
They also have a unifying culture, including the Cantonese version of the Chinese language, and a preference for the use of traditional Chinese characters, rather than the simplified form used for writing on the mainland. What sets an increasing number of young Hong Kongers apart from their parents and grandparents is that these values are crystallising into something stronger, akin to a nascent national identity. More and more, members of *Generation HK* consider themselves part of an ‘imagined community’ of Hong Kongers, to use the phrase coined by Benedict Anderson, the late historian of nationalism in Southeast Asia, to whose work I was introduced by Professor Tim Harper, Fellow at Magdalene.

The proportion of 18–29-year-olds who describe their ethnic identity as ‘broadly’ Chinese has dropped from 32 per cent just after the handover to only three per cent this year, according to a survey by the University of Hong Kong. Over the same period, the proportion describing their broad identity as ‘Hong Konger’ has jumped from 68 per cent to 94 per cent. One reason is the post-handover vacuum previously mentioned. Chinese officials and pro-Beijing figures in Hong Kong like to say that those who came of age over

the last 20 years only care about the ‘Two Systems’ element of Hong Kong’s unique governance system and not ‘One Country’. Many young people from across the political spectrum agree. They never really felt part of China. Even some pro-Beijing leaders like Ming-wai, who chairs the Hong Kong government’s youth commission, admit that the Chinese government struggles to communicate on a wavelength that is received by young Hong Kongers. The second reason for the growth of the Hong Kong identity among young people is the deepening political conflict between Beijing and the 60 per cent or so of Hong Kongers who want full democracy. The Chinese authorities appear to be locked into a vicious circle with these Hong Kongers, where repression drives a stronger rejection of Beijing, and vice versa.

As elsewhere in this ‘age of anger’, as Indian writer Pankaj Mishra has called it, the middle ground in Hong Kong is notable by its absence. The battle to define the future of one of the world’s great cities is only just beginning.

Ben Bland is the author of *Generation HK: Seeking Identity in China’s Shadow* and the South China correspondent for the Financial Times.



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# THE TOUGHEST FOOTRACE ON EARTH

BY DR GEORGIE PETERS (2012)



In July, I graduated from Magdalene after nearly five years, with a PhD in Archaeology. My time at Cambridge was more or less an exercise in how to cram a million-and-one extra experiences in alongside completing my PhD, and this is reflected in me handing in after four years rather than three!

I started back in 2012 with ideas of assessing the spatial relationships between Iron Age hillforts in Britain – a thesis that would build upon my Masters dissertation as well. However, despite using some great software to map out these spatial relationships and analyse them, I still felt like there was something missing. My sites were based down in Cornwall (where my parents were living) and in East Anglia, and on a visit to the southwest I went off to see some of my sites and take photos. I wanted to get a real impression of how these sites felt in person, rather than just through a digital interface.

However, me being me, just visiting and taking photos was clearly not enough. I've always been super active, and I've always been a keen runner, although not especially far or fast! So naturally I decided to run between a couple of my sites as many of them were only a few miles apart. And that's when the focus of my PhD changed.

So, I went running. I ran between hillforts in both Cornwall and East Anglia, and then I did some more

running. In the Sahara Desert. In April of 2017, I competed in the Marathon des Sables, a 250km self-sufficient ultra-marathon in the Sahara. It wasn't my first ultra, but it was the longest. And self-sufficiency means you have to carry everything you need with you (food, clothes, sleeping bag, iPod containing the full Harry Potter audiobook series), apart from water – which is given out at checkpoints, but rationed. I realise it sounds slightly crazy, but honestly it's one of the best things I've ever done, and six months later I keep finding myself navigating back to the sign-up page, or looking at other, similar, ultras.

I did the race just because I wanted to, because I was coming to the end of my PhD and needed something else to focus on during the last few manic months of writing up. Training was quite easy to fit into my schedule – I was running for my research anyway, and in the five months between my hand-in and my viva, I ended up working about eight miles away from my home so got quite used to the run-commute (I really do recommend a good run-commute, it's very stress-relieving). I also wanted to do something big, a real challenge, in order to raise money for two charities that are close to me personally – Bloodwise and Alzheimer's Research. It means a lot to me that I could do something that inspires people to support these causes, and it was truly an honour to run for these charities. All race costs were

paid for by myself, so every penny I raised has gone towards helping these two extremely worthwhile causes.

Someone asked me if I'd gone through any sort of existential crisis whilst in the desert, and I can honestly say "no". Because I always knew I would, and could finish, it was just a matter of getting there. I'm not entirely sure I was always so confident about my PhD but I finished that in the end as well! I'd much rather run an ultra-marathon than do another PhD, that's for sure.

My recommendation to anyone is that, if you think you can't, you probably can, but you'll never know if you don't start. And, if anyone ever says you can't do six months of PhD corrections in six weeks, just send them my way and I'll set them right!

I'm currently looking for my next adventure – both intellectually and physically – so if you've got any suggestions please let me know. For now, I'm settling in to the nine-to-five life (a PhD can sometimes be more like 8am-to-midnight, especially towards the end...), and trying some shorter running distances – I'm aiming for a PB on my half marathon time next.

My fundraising page is still open, so if you would like to join me in supporting these two great causes, please go to [www.bit.do/georgieruns](http://www.bit.do/georgieruns). And I'll see you out there at the next race!



# MAY BALL REVIEW

BY MR WILL THONG (2012) AND MISS HARRI LAMDEN (2013)

Pristine white ties and elegant ball gowns laced the trail from the College, over Magdalene Bridge and up the Quayside.

The sticky heat of the midsummer night did not seem to bother the 1300 guests as they patiently waited for the iron gates to open and swallow them up into nothing less than a world of magical mystery.

Empty hands were quickly passed flutes of France's finest bubbly, opened by waiters wielding sabres, as guests wandered into Second Court, curious to see the splendour of the evening's decor. A giant birdcage, adorned with roses and fairy lights, stood in the centre, with various acrobatic, crystal ball and magic acts in and around it. Later in the evening, the cage would appear strikingly silhouetted against the colourful light show which projected a tale of the seasons onto the Pepys Library.

Gliding into the Fellows' Garden, guests enjoyed freshly-shucked oysters and marvelled at the traditional Circle Bar, which spiralled around the huge

oak tree centrepiece draped with flowers. A sumptuous seven-course meal awaited the revellers inside the lavish Dining Tent, including such delights as a pea and watercress posset, cured mackerel, fig and stilton arancini and succulent duck confit.

As they drifted out of the tent, guests were dazzled by an endless expanse of entertainments, not least the headline acts, folk-pop sensation KT Tunstall, whose performance hit the perfect sweet spot between nostalgia and fresh tunes, and DJ Kristian Nairn who appeared in the Master's Garden straight from his stint as Hodor on *Game of Thrones*. Guests whirled and swayed at the silent disco, fruitlessly attempted to play crazy golf in the Fellows' Garden and whipped up tasty concoctions in the cocktail masterclasses until the early hours of the morning. Drinks flowed in every crease and corner across the College's beautifully transformed grounds; every



nook and cranny had something to offer, be it boat swings soaring high, a miniature train journey through the hidden orchard or gentle punt rides on the still and silent River Cam, mirroring the euphoric decadence of the Ball until sunrise.



Marton Gorke



Olivia Buckland

# Forthcoming EVENTS

**25 NOVEMBER 2017**

Geneva Dinner

**1 DECEMBER 2017**

Annual Christmas Carol Concert at  
All Saints Margaret Street, London

**20 JANUARY 2018**

Medical Society Dinner

**23 JANUARY 2018**

Magdalene in the City

**23 FEBRUARY 2018**

Friends of the Pepys Lunch (open to  
Friends of the Pepys Library)

**2 MARCH 2018**

Edinburgh Dinner

**22 –23 MARCH 2018**

Parnell Conference 'Joyce to Beckett'

**19 MAY 2018**

MA Day for 2011 Matriculands

**26 MAY 2018**

Magdalene event at the Hay Festival

**2 JUNE 2018**

Buckingham Society Luncheon

**20–27 JUNE 2018**

Magdalene Choir tour in the USA

**21 JUNE 2018**

Boston Dinner

**1 JULY 2018**

Family Day

*Additional events may be added; please check  
[www.magdalenecambridge.com/events](http://www.magdalenecambridge.com/events) and look  
out for updated listings in Magdalene E-Matters.  
Please email [events@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@magd.cam.ac.uk) to register  
your interest in any of the above events.*

## THE FESTIVAL OF CHANGE

The Magdalene College Triennial Festival is a unique opportunity to hear speakers across disciplines engaging with a key theme in the modern world: this year, the theme is Change. Events will be happening in College over the next six months. To find out more please visit [magd.cam.ac.uk/change](http://magd.cam.ac.uk/change)



## MAGDALENE CHOIR CAROL CONCERT

We are pleased to invite Members and their guests to join us at the Magdalene Choir Christmas Carol Concert on Friday 1 December 2017 at All Saints Margaret Street, London.

The doors open at 6.00pm and the Concert will begin at 6.30pm. Following the Concert we would be delighted if attendees would join us for mulled wine and and mince pies to celebrate the beginning of the festive season.

## Non-Resident Members' Guest Nights 2018

27 January\*

10 March\*

28 April

26 May

13 October

16 November

\* Fully booked

These evenings are hosted by a group of Fellows and include pre-dinner drinks. They offer Members the opportunity of bringing one guest to dine at High Table. Please note that numbers of NRMs are limited to a maximum of ten at any one night. Please book via the Alumni & Development Office.

## 2018 REUNIONS

### FRIDAY 13 APRIL

Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1992–1994

### SATURDAY 5 MAY

Lunch for those who  
matriculated in 1958–1964

### FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1995–1997

### FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Dinner for those who  
matriculated in 1998–2000

Reunion invitations will be sent out three months in advance. The programme usually begins at 4.30pm with tea and coffee in the Senior Combination Room. Pre-dinner drinks will be served in the Cripps Gallery or Pepys Cloisters at 7.15pm, with dinner being served in Hall from 8pm. There will be an opportunity to visit the Pepys Library before dinner and to attend Evensong in Chapel.

Those who matriculated in 2011 will be invited to take their MA in person or in absentia on 19 May 2018.

*The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily  
represent the views of Magdalene College, Cambridge*