

About the Contributors

STAAR 2009

Dr Nina Alphey recently completed a DPhil in mathematical biology at St Anne's and the Department of Zoology, modelling new genetics-based strategies for controlling pest insects, such as mosquitoes, that transmit human diseases. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. From these facts you can guess that she has wide interests, which motivated her to set up the Sciences Discussion Group at St Anne's. They also explain her appreciation of the benefits of finding your own funding for conference travel.



Dr Alberto Behar is an ESRC Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of African Economies and Biegun Warburg JRF, St Anne's College. Broadly, his interests are in the fields of trade, labour and development. His research interests include growth spillovers in Africa, gravity models of trade, the interactions between skilled and unskilled labour, skill biased technical change in developing countries and labour demand.



Dr Martin J. Bishop is a Drapers' Company Junior Research Fellow, St Anne's College, Oxford, and Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellow. His current research goal is to develop a novel technological framework to facilitate the incorporation of highly detailed cardiac structure-function information at unprecedented resolution into computational simulations. This will allow the precise relationship between cardiac structure and function on the microscopic and macroscopic level to be probed.



Christopher Brown is a DPhil student in American History who is researching the Republican Party and the issue of isolationism in the early Cold War. He holds degrees from the Universities of Edinburgh and Oxford and will be spending much of this academic year at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress in Washington DC.



Dr Ling Ge is a Leverhulme Research Fellow having completed her DPhil at St Anne's College and the Materials Department in 2008. Prior to this she held the Clarendon Scholarship of Oxford University from 2005 to 2008 and Domus Scholarship of St Anne's College. Her research interests are in the use and development of computer modelling techniques to aid the optimisation of materials performance and the design of new materials. Current projects include: ionic liquids, nanomaterials for quantum computing and solar cells.



Hannah Greene finished her undergraduate degree in Biology earlier this summer, and is currently preparing to leave for Senegal to spend two months as a Research Assistant for Dr William Hawthorn from the Department of Plant Sciences. The team will be carrying out the botanical component of an Environmental Impact Assessment for a mining company looking to extract gold from the area. Her research interests include plant systematics and taxonomy and forest ecology.



Sarah Hegenbart is a graduate student in Philosophy at St Anne's. She is particularly interested in virtue ethics and is therefore delighted that Roger Crisp supervises her work. She believes that ancient thoughts may be employed to solve problems in contemporary philosophy. Accordingly, she has argued in her Master's thesis that contemporary virtue ethics would profit from a reconsideration of Plato's philosophy.



Rhianedd Jewell is a second year DPhil candidate in Italian at St Anne's. She has completed a BA in French and Italian and an MSt in Italian. Under the supervision of Dr Emanuela Tanello, her research focuses on modernism in the works of the Sardinian author Grazia Deledda (1871-1936). She is particularly interested in the representation of language, identity and subjectivity in Deledda's works.



Daria Luchinskaya is a second year MPhil student in Russian and East European Studies. Her current research is on comparative higher education systems in an international context, with a focus on the Bologna Process in Russia, Ukraine and the UK. She completed her BA in Economics and Management at St Anne's in 2007 and was on the St Anne's Year in Japan scholarship prior to starting her postgraduate studies.



Christina Mayer is studying for a DPhil in Structural Biology. She uses different biophysical techniques to look at malarial proteins. Her aim is to understand molecular mechanisms of the disease, starting by determining the three-dimensional structure of the proteins and how they interact with other molecules.



Sacha Nandlall holds a BEng degree in Electrical Engineering from McGill University (Montreal, Canada). He started his DPhil with the Oxford Institute of Biomedical Engineering in October 2007. His research focuses on control and signal processing for High Intensity Focussed Ultrasound (HIFU) treatment.



Zim Nwokora has recently submitted his doctoral thesis in Politics, under the supervision of Dr Nigel Bowles. His thesis is titled 'Do the Candidates Matter? A Theory of Agency in American Presidential Nominations'. He intends to continue writing and researching nomination politics, but has also developed research interests in campaign finance and candidate debates.



Emefa Takyi-Amoako holds a BA degree in English Literature & Language, a Diploma in Education, Master's Degrees in Women Studies, Educational Research Methodology and Literature. She is completing a doctorate in International Education at St Anne's. Her research interests include education policy, aid and development, gender studies, feminist theory, and literary and post-colonial theories.



Dr David V. Williams is a Professor of Law at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He has university qualifications in law, history and theology. The primary focus of his research is colonial legal history, especially the impact of British colonial rule on indigenous peoples and their responses. Professor Williams was a Visiting Fellow at Exeter College when he delivered his talk at St Anne's College.

