

# Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference and Training Scholarships 2020-21

## Introduction

The Bristol Collegiate Research Society generously donated £10,000 to fund postgraduate research students (PGRs) and early career researchers (ECRs) to attend conferences, symposia and training in 2020-21. The fund was administered by the Bristol Doctoral College in two rounds and supported a total of 50 applicants.

**The first round** ran from May 2020-December 2020 and we invited applications from PGRs and ECRs who had an active role in a conference, such as presenting a paper or poster, chairing a session etc.

**The second round** ran from January 2021-April 2021. In this round we relaxed and expanded the eligibility criteria and invited applications for conferences, this time with no requirement for the applicant to have an active role in the event, as well as training courses. The change in the eligibility criteria allowed us to support higher numbers of applicants.

All successful applicants provided receipts for their expenses and the funding was provided on a reimbursement basis.

## Reporting

This report provides an overview of all applicants that received funding in both rounds. It also provides short reflective reports from successful applicants, covering attendance to events that took place between June 2020 – mid-March 2021.

Please note that the second round of funding invited applications for events that run up until June 2021, with a requirement for applicants to claim their reimbursement by April 2021. This was permitted in order to maximise the eligibility period and number of applicants, whilst ensuring no overlap with any further funding that we may receive in the future by the society. Reports for events that take place between mid-March and June 2021 were not yet due at the time of putting together this document, but the Bristol Doctoral College will collate those and provide to the society in time for its annual meeting in 2022.

### Summary of all applicants that received funding in 2020-21:

Name	Faculty	PGR/ECR	Amount awarded	Event	Report
Betzabé Torres Olave	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£340.40	29 Encuentros de Didáctica de las Ciencias Experimentales	Y
Qian Yang	Health Sciences	PGR	£90	European Human Genetics Virtual Conference (ESHG 2020.2)	Y
Elizabeth Bermeo	Social Sciences and Law	ECR	£500	European Microfinance Week	Y
Kacper Sokol	Engineering	PGR	£63.95	The European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (ECML-PKDD 2020)	Y
Shivaprasad Shridhara Bhat	Engineering	ECR	£156	59th Annual British Conference on Non-Destructive Testing	Y
Martina Delucchi	Arts	PGR	£15.44	2021 Annual Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies	Y
Jafia Naftali Camara	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£133.80	IMISCOE Annual Conference	Y
Sofia Kanavou	Health Sciences	ECR	£223.85	41st Annual Conference of the International Society of Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB)	Y
Laura Tinner	Health Sciences	PGR	£228.06	16th World Congress on Public Health 2020	Y
Daniel Chukwuemeka	Arts	PGR	£160.64	63rd African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting	Y
Robbie Herring	Engineering	PGR	£90.02	2nd International Symposium on Leading Edge Erosion of Wind Turbine Blades'	Y
Zhuoren Sun	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£500	Vision of International Schools (China)	Y

Hannah Sallis	Life Sciences	ECR	£75.85	World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics	Y
Sahar Khodabakhsh	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£190	European Sleep Research Society	Y
Sami Ullah	Science	PGR	£132.50	MRS Fall Meeting 2020	Y
Naomi Warne	Health Sciences	ECR	£200	Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Eating Disorders Annual Conference 2020	Y
Mohammud Junaid Bocus	Engineering	ECR	£471.84	IEEE Globecom 2020	Y
Adriana Suarez	Health Sciences	ECR	£293	IV International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology	Y
Ganapathi Ammasai Sengodan	Engineering	ECR	£224.87	14th WCCM & ECCOMAS Congress 2020	Y
Basu Chakrabarty	Life Sciences	ECR	£146.51	International Continence Society 2020 Online	Y
Jenna Shapiro	Life Sciences	ECR	£306	World Biomaterials Congress	Y
Christin Hoffmann	Health Sciences	ECR	£25	NCRI Virtual Showcase	Y
Samir Sweida-Metwally	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£75	2020 CILIS Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference, The University of Melbourne	Y
Richard Cole	Arts	ECR	£40	Historical Fictions Research Network 2021 online conference; Theme: Remembering Catastrophe	Y
Lingfeng Ge	Science	PGR	£18.00	Time-resolved imaging of photo-induced dynamics Faraday Discussion	Y
Yanchen Zheng	Engineering	PGR	£38.80	European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2021	N
Huiling Zhao	Health Sciences	PGR	£310	The European Human Genetics Conference 2021	N

Haotian Tang	Health Sciences	PGR	£345.32	The European Human Genetics Conference 2021	N
Helen Smith	Health Sciences	PGR	£500.00	An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Clinicians	Y
Joe Matthews	Engineering	PGR	£166.68	Society for Research of Nicotine and Tobacco	N
Szabina Orosz	Arts	PGR	£350.00	Filmmaking For Fieldwork™ (F4F)	N
Paco Lopez Cuevas	Life Sciences	PGR	£95.00	62nd Annual Drosophila Research Conference	N
Melike Kiraz	Engineering	PGR	£103.06	EGU General Assembly 2021	N
Yunyan Li	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£165.00	Training: Social Research Association-Research and evaluation project management	N
Catherine Morgan	Health Sciences	PGR	£201.00	PerCom 2021	Y
Mohammud Junaid Bocus	Engineering	ECR	£285.00	2021 IEEE Radar Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, USA	N
Vitalie Sorcha Duporge	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£260.79	Re-imagining education	Y
Obiageri Bridget Azubuike	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£57.21	CIES 2021 - SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN CHANGING CONTEXTS	N
Sina Hossaini	Health Sciences	PGR	£73.80	IDEAL Conference 2021	N
Hernaldo Mendoza Nava	Engineering	PGR	£108.00	International Conference of the Engineering Mechanics Institute 2021	Y
Vladimir Krajnak	Science	ECR	£99.26	SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems 2021	N

Helen Sheehan	Engineering	PGR	£168.39	Wind Energy Science Conference 2021	N
Aurore Loisy	Science	ECR	£496.00	APS March Meeting 2021 (online)	Y
Yujia Zhai	Life Sciences	PGR	£20.00	The British Feeding and Drinking Group (BFDG) 45th Annual Meeting	Y
Paulina Ruiz-Cabello	Social Sciences and Law	ECR	£55.00	The IX Conference on Childhood Studies - Childhood and Time	N
Leonardo Arturo Mena Rivera	Science	PGR	£130.00	ASLO 2021 Aquatic Sciences Meeting	N
Kirsty Marie Garfield	Health Sciences	PGR	£500.00	Decision Modelling for Health Economic Evaluation online course - University of York	N
Isolde Glissenaar	Science	PGR	£64.92	EGU General Assembly 2021 (#vEGU21)	N
María Jesús Vega Salas	Social Sciences and Law	PGR	£90.00	ISBNPA XChange Initiative 2021	N
Christian Jannete Stevens Hernandez	Health Sciences	PGR	£192.88	Flow cytometry course, Pt1: Fundamentals of flow cytometry & Pt2: Beyond basics	N
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£9576.84</b>		

Each of the successful applicants was asked to submit a short report detailing how they used the funds they were allocated, and an optional quote that can be used by the society. These reports are detailed below.

Thanks to the Bristol Collegiate Research Society I was able to attend the 29 Encuentros de Didáctica de las Ciencias Experimentales. Without this funding, I couldn't have attended this event since my scholarship doesn't consider attending events. This event was beneficial for me because it was my first time presenting in Spanish. Usually, the conferences and events in my field are in English. Even though I have had excellent experiences in these events, I was always conflicted about presenting in my first language. This was a challenge since I have all my work in English; however, while preparing my presentation for this event, I could also share it with other people in my country that do not speak English. Finally, I would recommend PhD students to apply to this funding since it is not difficult to get support even if you are an international student. - **Betzabé Torres**

The BCRS conference scholarship supported me to attend the European Human Genetics Virtual Conference from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June by paying my registration fee. The conference is one of the leading conferences in human genetics with more than 5,000 participants this year. I delivered an e-poster presentation entitled 'Investigating causal relations between sleep duration and risks of adverse obstetric outcomes: a Mendelian randomization study' in the session of genetic epidemiology, population genetics and evolutionary genetics. Participation in this conference helped me to learn new techniques and novel statistical methods used to explore genetic associations with phenotypes in both academia and clinical practice. The conference gathered many representatives from well-known institutes and companies, and thus made me rethink my career development. It would not have been possible without the generous support from BCRS.

"The BCRS conference scholarship provided me with a great opportunity in participating a world-leading scientific meeting and presenting my PhD work." - **Qian Yang**



#### CERTIFICATE OF PRESENTATION

This is to certify that the abstract with the title

**Investigating causal relations between sleep duration and risks of adverse obstetric outcomes: a Mendelian randomization study**

and the presentation number P13.064.B was presented as an e-Poster in the session P29 Genetic Epidemiology, Population Genetics and Evolutionary Genetics at the

**European Human Genetics Virtual Conference 2020**  
taking place from June 6-9, 2020

#### Authors:

Q. Yang<sup>1,2</sup>, E. Sanderson<sup>1,2</sup>, M. C. Burgess<sup>1,2</sup>, K. Tillig<sup>1,2,3</sup>, D. A. Lawlor<sup>1,2,3</sup>, IMRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup>Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup>NIHR Bristol Biomedical Centre, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF HUMAN GENETICS | www.eshg.org | @ESHGgenetics | #ESHG2020  
Contact: ESHG 2020 | www.virtualgenetics.org | #ESHG2020 | #ESHGVirtualGenetics  
T: 0041 20 1 405 12 80 20 | F: 0041 20 1 405 82 74 | E: [congress@eshg.org](mailto:congress@eshg.org) | [www.eshg.org](http://www.eshg.org)

The Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference and Training Scholarship allowed me to present my research at the Virtual European Microfinance Week 2020, which has had a significant impact on my research career. Attending this prestigious conference offered me the great opportunity to interact with leading practitioners and scholars in the field of financial inclusion. As a result of these interactions, I have developed new perspectives and methodological approaches for my research, which focuses on the role of financial technology (Fintech) in advancing access to financial services among vulnerable groups. Second, presenting before experts in my field allowed me to establish research collaborations and obtain valuable feedback, helping me to significantly improve my research. These achievements would not have been possible without the generous support of the Bristol Collegiate Research Society. - **Elizabeth Bermeo Velasquez**

The Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarships covered our registration fees for the 2020 European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases, which was held virtually this year. At the conference, we organised and presented a 4-hour long hands-on tutorial on transparency in artificial intelligence. Participating in the conference allowed us to develop our skills in organising and delivering such events. Not many PGRs have the opportunity to lead such events and the scholarship helped us to achieve this goal. The Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarships gave us an opportunity to organise a tutorial at a premier European Machine Learning conference. - **Kacper Sokol**

I was awarded a travel scholarship of £500 from the Bristol Collegiate Research Society to support my travel and registration to attend Non-destructive Testing conference, NDT 2020 organised by the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT) in Northampton. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was held virtually from

14-18th September 2020. The conference had participants from across the globe and my presentation titled “Modelling and simulation of ultrasonic arrays for sizing non-sharp defects” was attended by over 100 delegates. I did my presentation live during my allotted time schedule on 17th of September. My presentation was followed by a dedicated question and answer session. It was an interesting experience to participate and engage with researchers in a conference virtually, as it is becoming a new normal. - ***Shivaprasad Shridhara Bhat***

The scholarship provided by the Bristol Collegiate Research Society would have allowed me to travel to Chicago, U.S.A. to participate in the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the Meeting was moved online, so the funds that had been so generously offered could only be used to pay the Conference Fee. Nevertheless, taking part in such a big conference (5th-10th January 2021) allowed me to have access to many interesting panels and to confront myself with different approach to my subject – Classics and Archaeology. I also had the chance to speak about my research on the myth of Telephus as portrayed in Imperial Epics in the context of the panel organised by the American Society of Papyrologists. My paper was well-received and scholars from different parts of the world asked me many questions, igniting a fruitful debate on the subject.

“Even with difficulties due to the pandemic arose, the BCRS supported me in presenting my research on the prestigious stage of the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting!” - ***Martina Delucchi***

In July of 2020, I was lucky to be able to attend and present my research at IMISCOE’s first virtual conference thanks to the Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarship. The funding I received to attend the conference was especially welcome given that we were all living in increased isolation. I am thankful for the opportunity to engage with like-minded scholars despite lockdowns and travel restrictions. As a third year PhD candidate, I was happy to be able to share my research and gain valuable experience presenting my work to larger audiences thanks to the funding I received. - ***Jáfia Naftali Câmara***

Bristol Collegiate Society’s grant allowed me to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> International Society of Clinical Biostatistics and do an oral presentation of my work on “Defining impaired olfaction in Parkinson’s disease: assessing agreement on four published methods”. Being able to attend a well-known scientific conference, where statisticians, epidemiologists, trial methodologists and data scientists from all over the world gather to exchange ideas and present their work, was a privilege. The conference was initially scheduled to be in Krakow and after it became virtual – due to the pandemic – more people were able to attend and a new section was added just for this year, focusing on the statistical challenges in Covid-19 research. There was a variety of keynote speakers, including Miguel Hernan who lead a discussion about target trial emulation, as well as a variety of sessions to attend, including a very interesting talk about “Biostatistical inference in practice” led by Jonathan Sterne.



Having the opportunity to expose myself to so many new ideas that can positively impact my research and my progress as a biostatistician, and being able to present my work for the first time at a conference of its prestige, was a rare opportunity that I am very thankful for. the opportunity. - **Sofia Kanavou**



I benefited from the Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarship as I was able to attend the 16th World Congress on Public Health. The conference was supposed to be in Rome, Italy, but due to COVID-19 became a virtual conference. It is one of the largest conferences in public health with hundreds of seminars and researchers. Therefore, it was still relatively expensive to attend. I had a poster presentation at the Congress so it was of great benefit to attend and showcase my research. I also watched a wide range of presentations and workshops on empirical and methodological topics, which have already begun to shape my ideas for future research. It is important that early career researchers can go to conferences to be exposed to the other research going on in their field, especially in such isolating times. I am grateful the scholarship allowed me to do this.

“In receiving the Conference Scholarship I was able to attend an international conference, which has been hugely beneficial in showcasing my research and being exposed to other projects and researchers in the public health arena.” - **Laura Tinner.**

With the £160 reimbursement from the Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarship, I was able to pay the annual membership fee and conference fee for the 63rd African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting. At the Meeting, which held online, I presented a paper, 'Poetics of Prosperity and Paucity: E-fraud Literature and the Question of Post-economic Criticism'. The paper was delivered in an on-demand panel, 'New Theoretical Approaches to African Literature', chaired by Susanna Sacks (College of Wooster) and also attended by Francesco Genovesi (Sapienza, University of Rome). The recorded session was made available on the ASA website and conference schedules (see: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VqOPHMBj9yhM4NTB1uPAWEYVF1UjnbDu/view?usp=sharing>) throughout the conference period. It is also available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/I8NOAGKUEMU> I am happy for the opportunity to share my work with fellow academics and receive helpful feedback that will impact the paper and my research

generally – all thanks to Bristol Collegiate Research Society funding award. - **Daniel Chukwuemeka**

I am very grateful to The Bristol Collegiate Research Society's Conference Scholarship for enabling me to attend one of the most important conferences in my field. My research project focuses on offshore wind turbines and specifically on a problem called "leading edge erosion". At the start of February 2021, the International Symposium of Leading Edge Erosion of Wind Turbine Blades was being held online over three days. The conference features the latest developments in the topic and is a perfect environment for meeting and collaborating with the other researchers. Through this award, I was able to deliver an oral presentation on my research. The presentation was well received, and I have since been in conversations with other institutions about potential future work. Without this award, I wouldn't have been able to attend this conference and benefit from the opportunities it provided. Thank you! - **Robbie Herring**

Dr Hannah Sallis, a post-doctoral researcher in the Tobacco and Alcohol Research Group based in the School of Psychological Science, was awarded funding to attend the annual World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG). Hannah presented work investigating the relationship between maternal smoking during pregnancy and offspring schizophrenia using a proxy gene by environment approach. Due to COVID, this year's WCPG was held online and although it was a shame not to visit Florence, the conference offered plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues from across the globe and to hear about the latest developments in psychiatric genetics. I really enjoyed this year's WCPG conference – the online format made it much easier to listen to all the talks as all sessions were recorded. Hosting a poster session on Zoom and via an online chat was unusual but made it really easy to interact with everyone. - **Dr Hannah Sallis**

I applied for the Bristol Collegiate Research Society scholarship to cover the registration fees for the European Sleep Research Society virtual conference. I was granted the fund which allowed me to register for the conference. Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to attend the conference and present my poster and share my results with other researchers in the field. In addition, I benefitted from the talks and workshops at the conference, I met researchers in my field and got to know about the most recent studies in my field. This would not have been possible without the generous fund and very helpful team at the Bristol Collegiate Research Society. -**Sahar Khodabakhsh**

Materials Research Society (MRS) conferences are of immense value to the scientific community. It is a matter of triumph for an early career researcher to get his research selected for oral or poster presentation in these conferences. Thankfully, my paper was selected for oral presentation in virtual MRS 2020. As we know, meetings and conferences

like these are equally expensive as their popularity, which made me seek the funding opportunities available in our university. I was really impressed and relieved to know that Bristol Collegiate Society has reserved funds for conference registrations and travel. The whole process of applying to the funding and even getting it was smooth. I was able not only to join other researchers from around the world in pursuit of knowledge and excellence but also get the chance to meet other senior researchers and expert in my field to enhance my insight into the research. - **Sami Ullah**

With the support of the Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarship I was able to attend the Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Eating Disorders Annual Conference. As I am relatively new to researching eating disorders, being able to attend this conference and learn from researchers, psychiatrists and experts by lived experience has been invaluable. I have no doubt that I will transfer important insights from this conference into how I think about my current research into eating disorders. My poster presentation was available online throughout the 2-day conference and for the following 2 months. This has enabled me to disseminate my research to others at the conference but also more widely via Twitter. I have gained several new connections from presenting my poster and hope to have established myself as a key contact for others researching eating disorders and self-harm.

“Thanks to this funding I have been able to attend an important conference on eating disorders and share my research with psychiatrists and experts by lived experience.” - **Naomi Warne**



EEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM) is dedicated to driving innovation in nearly every aspect of communications. Although I attended the conference virtually, it allowed me to liaise with people working in similar areas, establish partnerships with people from both academic and industrial backgrounds and learn about the state of the art in the communication field. Opportunistic passive sensing is a research area that we are currently

working on at the University of Bristol and Globecom 2020 was the best conference for me to establish a presence and talk about my research. The Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarship has enabled me to cover the high cost of registration and participate in the conference. The registration allowed me to access all sessions, including in-person and virtual Technical and Industry sessions, keynotes, exhibitions, and symposium paper proceedings. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the Bristol Collegiate Research Society for awarding me this conference grant.

“A big thank you to the Bristol Collegiate Research Society for awarding me the generous conference scholarship. Participating in academic research conferences usually incur a high cost but thanks to the BCRS award, the financial burden for attending the conference was alleviated. Indeed, having been able to attend a research conference in my field has been rewarding for me, both academically and personally.” - **Junaid Bocus**

I am very grateful to the generous scholarship provided by the Society which allowed me to attend the IV International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology (25th February 2021) where I presented the preliminary findings of my research in the BioSmart project. My presentation was entitled "The Social Organisation of Silvopastoral Projects in Columbian Amazon: Is This a Way to Protect the Forest?" I gained valuable feedback from colleagues working with Institutional Ethnography (IE), a bottom-up approach to sociology we are using in BioSmart. Moreover, I chaired and co-organised a panel discussion that brought together senior and early career academics working with IE. We received great feedback and the session was attended by more than 40 participants. We were able to create a sense of community even though the session was run online, and we all benefited from insightful discussions. - **Dr Adriana Suárez Delucchi**

I have attended the 14th WCCM & ECCOMAS Congress 2020 by securing the Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarship. This scholarship is my first independent award that boosted my confidence in preparing and applying for other internal and external funding's. The WCCM virtual conference gave me an opportunity to prepare and present my research work using online and offline presentation platforms. I have recorded and uploaded my presentation in the conference repository that could be accessed and distributed any time from <https://slideslive.com/38943934>. During the live sessions of the conference, I was virtually able to interact with fellow researchers and receive valuable feedback. Embrace the uncertainty by striking the best opportunities like BCRS scholarships” - **Dr Ammasai Sengodan Ganapathi**



I am extremely grateful to have received the Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Award as it provided me the opportunity to attend and present, virtually, at the International Continence Society Annual Meeting 2020. I had four abstracts selected to be included in the programme, and one of the highlights was being awarded the Best in Category Prize – Pharmacology which was included in the Best Basic Science Session in the programme. Another abstract received the Best Presentation Award. This provided the platform to communicate my research that I am passionate about, receive extremely valuable feedback from international leading experts, and gain exposure within my field. In addition, it enabled me to be enlightened by other presentations and workshops in the programme, network, and foster collaborations, to further develop and excel as an early career researcher. - **Basu Chakrabarty**

Scholarship used to cover registration fees (£306) for World Biomaterials Congress, held virtually 11-15 December 2020. The Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference scholarship enabled me to attend and present my research at the World Biomaterials Congress in December 2020, held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. This conference brings together global thought leaders and innovators in the field of biomaterials, with a heavy focus on tissue engineering, which is my area of expertise. As this conference had been moved online, many of the presentations were made available on-demand and remain available for several months after the conference. This was my first experience with preparing a pre-recorded talk and having it as part of the on-demand session will enable a broader audience to be able to engage with it. Furthermore, as an alternative to in-person events and informal interactions, a Biomaterials Community forum was set up, with conference registration including two years of access to facilitate networking opportunities with biomaterials researchers and stakeholders worldwide.

“The BCRS Conference Scholarship enabled me to share my research with a global community of biomaterials researchers, and to experience first-hand how new ways of working due to the pandemic have given rise to alternative methods of presenting, networking, and community building worldwide”. - **Dr Jenna Shapiro**

The scholarship enabled me to attend the NCRI showcase which had personal benefits: This was the first conference I attended since starting the role in the Centre for Surgical Research because projects funds for conference attendance had been ringfenced for project leads. It was also my first virtual conference which allowed me to gain valuable experience about the runnings of these, which will benefit involvement in future virtual conferences or indeed, organisation of our own events. Attendance also had wider benefits: I was able to feed back about specific presentations other colleagues expressed an interest in beforehand. This saved time and money as other researchers were not required to register. All conference sessions were recorded and made available to those who attended the conference. This enabled me to share these with colleagues who were interested in more details about some talks.

“The scholarship offered by BCRS is a great opportunity for Early Career Researchers. It allowed me to attend my first virtual conference that I would have otherwise not been able to register for, because there were no project funds allocated to my attendance.” - ***Dr Christin Hoffmann***

I am grateful to have been awarded a Bristol Collegiate Research Society Conference Scholarship. I am particularly grateful for having been awarded the full amount of the scholarship I applied for (£90) to support making a more ethical consumption choice. I used the funds to purchase a headset with a microphone to present at the 2020 CILIS Islamic Studies Postgraduate Conference. As the conference was organised by the University of Melbourne, my panel presentation was at 3am (UK time). It was therefore extremely helpful to have a headset, as it ensured I could present at the conference without disturbing other members of my households or the neighbours at such an unsociable hour. This was particularly important in light of the current lockdown situation.

“I am very grateful to the Bristol Collegiate Research Society for being flexible with how I could use the funds in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and for supporting my choice for more ethical consumption.” - ***Samir Sweida-Metwally***

I would like to convey my gratitude to the Bristol Collegiate Research Society for their generous support to attend the Historical Fictions Research Network 2021 online conference; theme: Remembering Catastrophe. Over the past year, it has been exceptionally difficult as an early career researcher to carve out the time to undertake, write up, and present research beyond the remit of my two University roles. While I am fortunate to have a part time research associate position, this is tied to a major research project, while my other role is in Professional Services. The scholarship encouraged me to dedicate time to a new field of research focused on the impact of video games on cultural memory, to present my initial findings to an international community of scholars, and expand my network. It also helped to show support for the work required to run online conferences. - ***Dr Richard Cole***

On 1–4 Feb I attended the online conference ‘Time-Resolved Imaging of Photo-Induced Dynamics Faraday Discussion’ held by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Without the Bristol Collegiate Research Society covering my conference registration fee, I wouldn’t have been able to attend this conference. Although the registration fee was low (£18), it could be a hurdle for a broke final-year PhD student like me. On the evening of the second day of the 3.5-day conference was the poster session, during which I presented a poster about Coulomb explosion imaging of methyl iodide. My poster attracted questions by live chat and by email, and it also got me new connections on social media. Some questions were thought-provoking and helped me see more clearly what I should do next for my thesis. This might be the last conference I’ve attended before I finish my PhD. - **Lingfeng Ge**

An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Clinicians. I am writing today to thank Bristol Collegiate Research Society once again for its provision to me of a £500 Conference Scholarship so that I could attend the Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Clinicians which was run online yesterday at UCL in conjunction with Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, UK. I am currently undertaking my PhD which is investigating the ethical and legal challenges of using artificial intelligence in clinical decision making. My background has previously been either academic or clinical in the context of intensive care, so my knowledge of AI has always been abstract rather than grounded in experience. This course gave me a solid basis of practical knowledge on how AI could be developed and deployed in a technical sense in the healthcare environment. This additional training will allow me to better conceptualise how AI may affect clinical practice; the chief result being that it will help me write up my thesis. Many thanks again 😊 - **Helen Smith**

With the Bristol Collegiate Research Society Fund, I was able to attend The 19th International Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications (PerCom 2021), held virtually. I was invited to present my paper on data labelling in the wild in Parkinson’s Disease at a workshop. I was able to then get some useful feedback and comments about my ongoing PhD research work from experts in the community of annotating media, specifically videos. This cross-discipline discussion was vibrant and added depth to my thought processes around the best way to use the data generated from my research. - **Dr Catherine Morgan**

The Bristol Collegiate Research Society enabled me to attend a five-day online conference called “Reimagining Education”, hosted by the Ecoversities Alliance. This conference was focused on exploring non-formal educational approaches and actions toward tackling environmental issues, such as grassroots activism, ecovillages, transition town networks, indigenous organizations, etc. Attending this conference was hugely beneficial for furthering my knowledge on the types of non-formal sustainability-related educational activities taking

place across the world (the focus of my PhD), as well as enabling me to network and build contacts with relevant people interested in the same topic. - **Vitalie Duporge**

Presenting at the Engineering Mechanics Institute (EMI) International Conference has been of great benefit for my research and my professional growth. During the three-day virtual meeting, I attended sessions with remarkable topics from which I have learned about novel studies and methods in my research field. Participating in a virtual conference poses a different challenge but it has been an enjoyable experience. I was able to share and present the advances of my research and I had the opportunity to interact and network with experts in the field, which is an advantage during this virtual event. Overall, it has been a reassuring experience towards the following step, submitting my work for publication. I am very thankful for the conference scholarship provided by the Bristol Collegiate Research Society. - **Hernaldo Mendoza Nava**

The Bristol Collegiate Research Society funded my participation to the online APS March Meeting 2021, which is arguably the largest international physics conference and a unique opportunity to get an overview of the latest breakthroughs during 5 intense days of fast-paced talks. Rather than stating extensively the obvious benefits of such a conference (such as ending up with pages of potential ideas, research directions and names of people to follow-up with), I wanted to emphasise an unexpected and very concrete outcome of the scholarship : I came across what is known as “active learning”, a subset of machine learning, which turned out to be highly relevant to a problem me and my collaborators were struggling with. So thank you BCRS for the support, you’ll be duly acknowledged when the paper comes out! - **Aurore Loisy**

Thanks to the Conference Scholarships from Bristol Collegiate Research Society, I grasped the opportunity to attend the first big conference (i.e., the British Feeding and Drinking Group (BFDG) 45th Annual Meeting) in my research area. I have initiated PhD for only a couple of months, thus attending the conference was a wonderful experience for me to know recent academic trends and get some inspirations for my research. I not only listened to many excellent oral talks given by my peers but also had constructive chat with them during the interactive sessions (e.g., poster sessions) and luckily kept in close touch with some of those sharing overlapping research interests, which has benefited me a lot. I hope that in the further, I will have more opportunities to actively participate in conference, symposia or seminars in the field as a presenter or assistant staff to have an even better meeting experience. - **Ruby (Yujia Zhai)**