2019 Laidlaw Scholars

Farida Augustine
Arts, Humanities and Cultures
Identifying West Africans in the French Resistance
This research project forms part of a larger ongoing research project to identify members of the French Internal Resistance who were subjects of the French Empire. It examines how these men and women's racial identity influenced their decision to join a resistance group or movement, the roles they were given or undertook and their interactions with both their comrades and the enemy.

Janet Eniraiyetan
Arts, Humanities and Cultures
The Metaphysical Implications of the Double-Slit Experiment
This self-proposed project examines different ideas and metaphysical implications of the double-slit experiment via experimentation and examining past philosophical papers.

Jennifer Hurst
Arts, Humanities and Cultures
Medieval Leeds Today
This project examines medieval heritage sites in Leeds, which are either medieval in origin or medieval-inspired, and aims to develop sufficient expertise to create online resources and physical activities to disseminate knowledge of them. Areas for examination include Kirkgate and Briggate.

Ciara Lawn
Arts, Humanities and Cultures
Wikipedia and Archives: case studies of the British Volunteer Units in the French Wars, 1793-1815
This project will explore the potential of Wikipedia to bring together and highlight resources from multiple archives in one location on a topic. The research for this project will focus on the mass wartime mobilisation of British manpower in the early nineteenth century.

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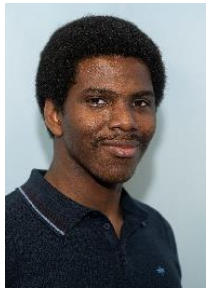
Roanna Pedley
Arts, Humanities and Cultures
Challenges for Higher Education: An International Perspective
This project will examine Music degree programmes in the UK and overseas, and how different institutions around the global are responding to changing cohorts (e.g. student demographics, pre-HE education etc.) and post-HE expectations (e.g. around employability, digital literacy, collaboration etc.)

Mitchell Cottam
Engineering
Computer Games Development for Rehabilitation Robotics
This project will work on the user interface of a neurological impairment rehabilitation device called MyPAM. The software modules created during this project will be used to improve the MyPAM rehabilitation robot, which aims to improve clinical outcomes for people with neurological conditions (stroke and cerebral palsy).



Tobias Hendricks
Engineering
Can we use Machine Learning to Create Effective Planners in Video-Games?
This self-proposed project aims to develop planners for AIs (artificial intelligences) in video-games. The goal of the first year will be to create a prototype AI which can work to further and improve its current state, taking into account environmental stimuli and the odds of success.

Hendrik Ottmann
Engineering
Digital Fabrication of Free-Form Shells
This project, which brings together architecture, structural design and fabrication, will investigate digital design processes and develop fabrication procedures for shell pavilions. In the first year, a prototype will be fabricated to enter an international competition for free-form shell pavilion design.

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Priya Hill
Environment
Identifying micro plastics in soil-plant systems
This project will evaluate whether previously published approaches can be used to extract micro plastics from plant samples, which are increasingly being detected in our natural environment and foods we consume.

Tilen Kolar
Environment
Critical Analysis of Spaces of Queer Memorialisation
This project aims to gain deeper understandings of the relationships between sexual diversity and social inclusivity through the lens of LGBTQ/queer memorialisation, and will examine the nature of social engagement with public monuments dedicated to the lives of LGBTQ people. Interviews will be conducted with in and around Leeds on the perceived values and uses of queer memorialisation.

Meegan Worcester
Environment
Traditional Markets in the 21st Century as Community Spaces
This project forms part of a multi-institutional project to capture the community value of traditional retail markets in the UK. Focus groups will be held at three case study markets (Bury, Newcastle Grainger and Queens' Market in Newham), the results of which will be analysed to determine market users' behaviours and attitudes.

Shauna Corrigan
Social Sciences
Citizenship acquisition practices of EU nationals after the Brexit vote
This project seeks to contribute to the ongoing debate about the thinning of citizenship and what it means to become a citizen in contemporary global societies. The scholar will examine how and to what extent the Brexit vote impacts on citizenship practices for high and low skilled EU citizens, and develop new methodologies based on creating new innovative statistical indicators on naturalisation to be able to better capture the impact of Brexit.

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Henna Tammi
Social Sciences
YouTube and Everyday Militarism?
This project explores how social media users comment on and engage with pro and anti-military content hosted on YouTube. This involves analysing a database of over eight million comments which offer a rich array of views both in support of the military and critical of it.

Sreya Vadlamani
Social Sciences
Analysing UK Media Representations of China
This project will examine UK media representations of China and how they can potentially influence public understanding of the Chinese Government. Using content analysis, the scholar will examine new stories about China e.g. Military Power, Investment in the UK etc., and whether the representations are positive or negative and to what intensity.

Lillie Bell
Biological Sciences
HDAC Inhibitors and Microglia Activation
Inhibitors of HDACs have shown much potential promise as therapeutic agents for many neuronal disorders including motor neurone disease and Alzheimer's, through their ability to inhibit microglia activation, reducing inflammation in the brain. The aim of this project will be to investigate the mechanisms by which HDAC inhibitors reduce microglia activation and the identity of the target HDAC enzymes.

Yu De Chao
Biological Sciences
Linking Biodiversity and Human Health in and Urban Landscape
This project examines urban biodiversity and how it relates to the health of people living in cities, using Bradford as a focus point. Detailed field surveys of biodiversity in Bradford will be conducted to understand how different landscape features are currently associated with ecological processes and biological communities, and the link between those biological phenomena and human health.

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Paige Stevenson
Biological Sciences
HDAC Inhibitors and Microglia Activation
Inhibitors of HDACs have shown much potential promise as therapeutic agents for many neuronal disorders including motor neurone disease and Alzheimer's, through their ability to inhibit microglia activation, reducing inflammation in the brain. The aim of this project will be to investigate the mechanisms by which HDAC inhibitors reduce microglia activation and the identity of the target HDAC enzymes.

William Southall
Leeds University Business School
"Mind the (Employment) Gap" - Supporting academics to develop work ready accounting/banking and finance students
This project forms part of a wider project aimed at supporting academics with helping accounting/banking and finance students with their "work readiness." A 'work-readiness heat map' will be created from surveys of year 2 students, based on skills awareness data and an attributes and skills audit, and will be used to identify areas for development and growth. Industry visits and workshops will be planned and held to help develop these areas.

Ziran Yang
Leeds University Business School
Investigation into the nature and causes of the global productivity puzzle
This project concerns the international productivity slowdown, and aims to shed further light on the extent, significance and scale of the productivity problem across a panel of OECD countries. The scholar will contribute by conducting a survey of relevant literature into the causes of stagnation in productivity.

Li Tao Chong
Mathematics and Physical Sciences
Supporting Diet Quality Across Europe
This project aims to review available short forms of dietary assessment, or dietary 'screeners', and develop a draft screener which could be useful in assessing diet quality across Europe. This supports the work of the new WHO Collaborating Centre in Nutritional Epidemiology at the University of Leeds.

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Catherine Giblin
Mathematics and Physical Sciences
Inhibition of the eIF4E/4E-BP1 interaction using lactam constrained peptides
This project involves working with an interdisciplinary team focused on the development of constrained peptide based chemical probes which interfere with protein-protein interactions involved in cancer development.

Billy Hobson
Mathematics and Physical Sciences
Programming of Laser Spectroscopy Experiments with End-User Specifications
This project involves using Python to handle and analyse large datasets from experiments in molecular spectroscopy. The project aims to produce a graphical user interface for other researchers to use to interpret their data sets.

Elizabeth Mitchell
Medicine and Health
Social media: a resource or a risk for people at risk of self-harm?
This project examines how people at risk of self-harm use social media for beneficial purposes (i.e. a reduction in self-harm or improved quality of life) or harmful purposes (i.e. increasing mental health problems or leading to more self-harm).

Simran Shergill
Medicine and Health
Antimicrobial potential of industrial citrus waste extracts against Streptococcus mutans
This self-proposed project investigates alternative therapeutics to conventional drugs for the treatment of oral biofilms. Phytochemicals will be extracted from citrus waste using different methods, and tested for their ability to reduce plaque formation and growth.