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Molecular Biophysics



Welcome

From the President
Professor Helen Moore



As befits the edition of the *Sundial* that arrives in the long vacation, you will find Corpus in a reflective mood in these pages. We showcase some of the research that is the Fellows’ main focus at this time of year, as well as looking outwards with an article about old members who have pursued careers in the not-for-profit sector, and a feature on our fledgling student-alumni mentorship schemes.

The research articles in this issue are linked by the theme of re-reading – of texts, cultures and intellectual assumptions. Dr Emily Rutherford, Brock JRF in History, introduces us to her work on the intersection of gender, sexuality and class as inflected by and in the teaching of humanities subjects. Universities are, by definition, vibrant sites for discussion, renovation and innovation, and Emily’s work sheds new light on the way in which universities not only provided the milieu for new thinking on these topics, but also participated in the process of social change through their own institutional structures and practices.

Victorian classicists are Emily’s special subject and one of their modern-day successors, Corpus Professor of Latin Tobias Reinhardt, reveals in his article how intellectual debate and scrutiny are central to Cicero’s philosophical dialogues, the subject of Professor Reinhardt’s two recent books. It is an annual pleasure to welcome Visiting Fellows and Scholars to Corpus, who are often working on material in our special collections. In the latest instalment of the ‘Corpus Papers’ one of this year’s visitors, Ricardo Salles, unpicks the evidence contained in a Corpus manuscript of Aristotle’s *Metaphysics* that brings into question the scholarly consensus on the two manuscript ‘families’ of this famous text.

A new arrival at Corpus this year is Professor Simon Newstead, recently elected to the David Phillips Chair of Molecular Biophysics associated with the College. Like his Corpus colleagues in the humanities, Simon also locates his research within the rapid changes taking place in his discipline of biochemistry, changes that have enabled his research team to enhance understanding of drug transport in a range of conditions including cancer, inflammation, neurodegeneration and metabolic disorders.

While Simon’s focus is on biomedical problems, others in our community are actively addressing problems of human making. As David Miliband remarks in our article on working in the third sector, politics is too often ‘in retreat from big global problems’ and we are proud to feature here a number of Corpuses who are, by contrast, working hard to address some of the pressing issues of our times, both nationally and internationally. Optimism, creativity and innovation ring out in their stories, and we hope that there will be inspiration aplenty there, not only for those who are contemplating careers in this area, but for all of us who care about the future of our planet and human society.

Putting care into action has been the hallmark of the Corpus alumni mentors who give generously of their time to help our current students prepare for their lives after Oxford. At the hugely enjoyable dinner celebrating the first scheme, for Black and minority ethnic students, Hassan Damluji emphasised how much mentors themselves learn from their student mentees. In that spirit, we are delighted to feature PPE student Wes Bond as the ‘College Face’ of this issue, to introduce the newly-launched parallel scheme for students who are the first in their families to go to university. As Wes puts it, the day he received his Oxford offer he felt like ‘a muggle who had got into Hogwarts’. It’s a different kind of magic we practise here, but we sincerely hope it works just as well.

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COVER: Watercolour of the Merton Street Façade by Ian Davis

Profile

Dr Emily Rutherford
M.G. Brock Junior Research Fellow in History

Dr Emily Rutherford started as the M.G. Brock Junior Research Fellow in History in October 2022, exactly ten years after she first came to Corpus as an MPhil student in Modern British and European History. In between, she received her PhD in History from Columbia University in New York, and spent two years as a Junior Research Fellow next door at Merton.

My research focuses on how, in early-twentieth-century Britain, the concepts of heterosexuality and homosexuality – the ‘hetero/homo binary’ – came to be the primary structure through which middle-class people conceptualised gender and sexuality. Previous historians have largely sought to explain this development by focusing on expert scientific discourses and on radical political and artistic movements. My research has instead explored the intellectual impact of humanities disciplines such as classics, and has identified universities as key sites for understanding how middle-class cultural norms can be transmitted across generations but can also be challenged and change over time.

I pursue these themes in the book I am currently finishing, *Teaching Gender: Higher Education Reform and Heteronormativity in Britain, 1860–1939*. *Teaching Gender* offers a new explanation for how the British higher education sector became gender-integrated in the decades around the turn of the twentieth century, and argues that gender-integrated universities played a key role in transmitting norms about heterosexuality and homosexuality among middle-class adults. My book redirects attention away from the Oxford and Cambridge colleges that admitted women in the 1970s. Instead, through sources ranging from meeting minutes and financial records to photographs and love letters, I show that the nationalisation and centralisation of higher education at the turn of the twentieth century resulted *incidentally* in coeducation, over the protest of feminist activists who supported gender segregation; that students’ negotiation of cross-gender interaction in coeducational universities ultimately led them to identify heterosexuality as



a seemingly less fraught paradigm than more gender-neutral conceptions of what they called ‘corporate life’; and that single-sex men’s and women’s colleges, though increasingly marginal, became important sites for the theorisation of life paths and identities outside the heterosexual norm. This story, I suggest, allows us to rethink narratives of ‘inclusion’ and ‘progress’. It reveals how social norms and the politics of gender are made and remade within the intimate context of daily life, but also in dynamic relationship to the structures of the university, the city and the state.

I am also in the early stages of a second book project: an intellectual history of male homosexuality and gay studies in the Anglo-American Atlantic, between about 1850 and 1990. For many years, I have been studying writers, teachers, and academics who contributed to the conceptualisation of male homosexuality in late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Britain: figures like William Johnson Cory, John Addington Symonds, Edward Carpenter, Edward Perry Warren, Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson, and E.M. Forster. As I have spent time with the archival records of these thinkers, I have been struck by three things: one, the comfortable place they had within elite educational institutions; two, the importance of the ancient classics to their thinking; and three, relatedly, the continuity and longevity

of a classicising, age-differentiated ‘pederasty’ model for conceptualising same-sex desire. I am planning a book that traces the development of these men’s ideas from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth century, and that then demonstrates how classicising conceptions of homoeroticism and homosexuality fed into twentieth-century debates about ‘western civilisation’ and the status of the western canon in university curricula on both sides of the Atlantic. I suggest that it is necessary to appreciate the impact of my thinkers’ conceptions of homosexuality in order to understand the trajectory of both LGBTQ+ rights activism and academic queer theory in the context of the ‘culture wars’ of the late twentieth century.

It’s been a real pleasure to come back to Corpus at this stage in my career. In years past, I spent many hours in the college archives, working on Corpuses, and my thinking on the reception of the classical tradition has been and continues to be enriched by the profusion of classicists who are always on hand at Corpus! Above all, I have been happy to find that Corpus is still the same friendly, tight-knit, and academically rigorous community to which I first came a decade ago. I am grateful to all the donors whose generous gifts have helped to make the M.G. Brock JRF possible.

Research

Professor Tobias Reinhardt
Corpus Christi Professor of Latin

Academic
scepticism in late
Republican Rome

Already for readers in antiquity the corpus of Plato’s dialogues was open to two quite different interpretations. On one their author was a philosopher intent on developing doctrines relating to the nature of reality, ethics, moral psychology, and political theory. Plato so understood opted for the dialogue as a literary and didactic device, although a philosopher of this outlook could in principle have chosen the medium of the treatise to expound his thought. The character Socrates’ irony, on this reading, can be seen as a ploy to conceal substantial views which bore some relation to those of the historical Socrates or were in fact Plato’s. On the other interpretation of the corpus Plato was actually a sceptic. While he was attracted to some elements of Socrates’ outlook and while he had certain intuitions on various issues, these never came up to the level of what one might call a belief, a firmly held opinion, or even knowledge. For Plato so understood the dialogue as a literary form delivers something quite specific, viz. the opportunity to explore ideas and conceptions in an open-ended way and non-committal way.

Historically, it is clear which side won. The Platonist philosophers of the Empire, of the medieval and Renaissance periods, and their successors working well into the twentieth century saw Plato as a dogmatic philosopher. This makes it all the more striking that for a brief period of around two hundred years in the Hellenistic era the sceptical interpretation did not just prevail, it was the official position of the Academy, the school Plato established in Athens. Much of our evidence for this phase comes from hostile sources: later Platonists who deemed the sceptical turn an aberration, or Sextus Empiricus who was a sceptic of a different persuasion and intent on dismissing the Academy for that reason. Yet there is one extensive body of texts which represents Academic scepticism positively and on its own terms: the philosophical dialogues of Cicero.

Today scepticism has some currency outside of scholarly and scientific debate. It often involves an

active refusal to believe something. Philosophers in antiquity would not view such an attitude as scepticism. Rather, they would think of it as negative dogmatism. Agnosticism is another familiar notion. The agnostic fails to believe something positively. Yet ancient scepticism is also unlike modern agnosticism because the ancient sceptic is deeply invested in all kinds of things, whereas the modern agnostic will often claim that the issue they are agnostic about is one to which they are indifferent, or which plays no role in their life. Academic scepticism is an attitude characterised by doubt, yet animated by a keen desire to know and the hope to find the truth. It is curious, open, and engaged, yet it finds, time and again, that those with firm convictions employ unreasonably low standards of what it means to know something, or find themselves committed to views just because they are entailed by other views which they hold or – worse – because others with whom they think they share an outlook adopt the position in question. The Academic sceptic values independent judgement over authority.

At the beginning of the first century B.C., the Academy was under internal pressure from two directions, represented by two high-profile departures from the school. One, Aenesidemus, felt that the Academy had become too ready to entertain philosophical positions, if under sceptical proviso; he went on to revive Pyrrhonism and is an important intellectual ancestor of the above-mentioned Sextus. The other, Antiochus of Ascalon, became disenchanted with the sceptical stance and felt that a form of dogmatism, explicable as an exegesis of Plato’s works, but in its detail quite different from later Platonism, was a more accurate reflection of the school’s heritage and of Plato’s own outlook. In particular, Antiochus accepted the Stoic theory of knowledge, but appears to have emphasised that it can be viewed as a formalisation of lines of thought which we find already in Plato’s *Theaetetus*.

While still a very young man, Cicero met and studied with the last head of the Academy as a functioning school, Philo of Larissa, under whose tenure the above-



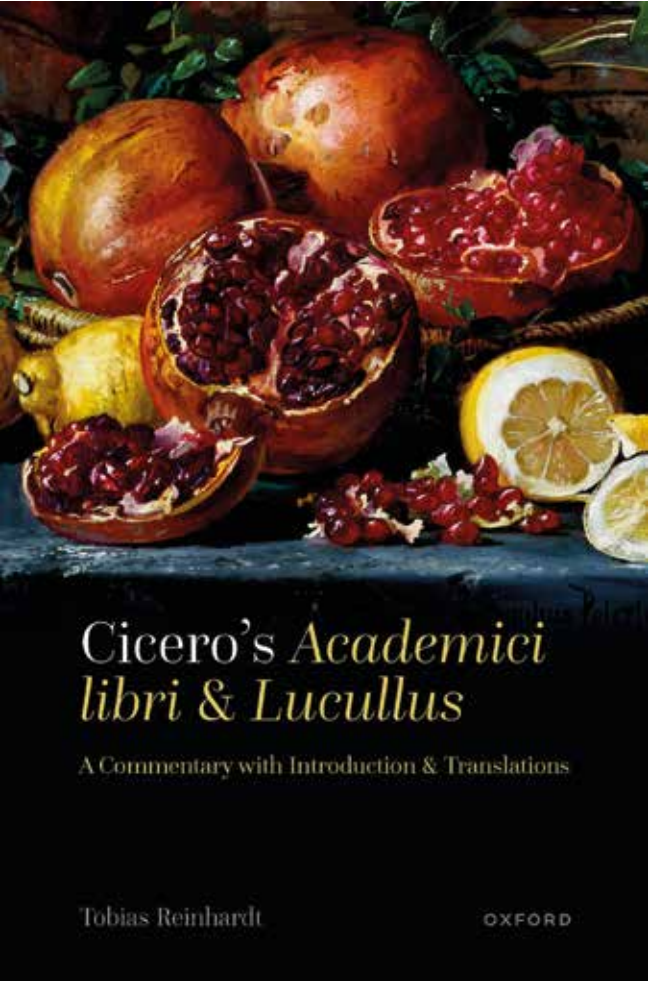
Academic scepticism is an attitude characterised by doubt, yet animated by a keen desire to know and the hope to find the truth.

mentioned departures had happened but who was upholding a sceptical outlook. Philo had come to Rome as a refugee from Athens. The encounter proved a formative experience for Cicero, although it would take several decades for Cicero to start writing philosophical works himself – his dialogues are the product of two phases in his life when his greatest political successes were behind him and when circumstances prevented him from playing an active role in public life. Both as narrator and as a character in his own dialogues Cicero promoted Academic scepticism.

In the so-called *Academica*, devoted to epistemology, there are two major strands to the discussion, one systematic and one historical. In the systematic strand, the Stoic theory of knowledge, which was very influential in the Hellenistic period and endorsed by Antiochus, is explained: it envisaged that there is a certain kind of thought arising from perception which is invariably true. Thoughts of this kind were, for the Stoics, the starting point for human cognitive development, our best path to becoming virtuous and wise (a state in which we hold only true beliefs and avoid acquiring false ones), as well as the basis for any kind of technical expertise. After these views have been introduced by a speaker who endorses them, they are scrutinised by an Academic speaker, who goes over them point by point, cites counter arguments, and offers possible alternative explanations for the phenomena the Stoics seek to explain. In the historical strand, we get two competing versions of the history of philosophy. Both serve a specific purpose: to validate the sceptical outlook and Antiochus’ revived dogmatism respectively, and to underpin each side’s claim to being the true heir to the intellectual heritage of Socrates and Plato.

My recent commentary tries to explain the *Academica* in all its aspects, including its linguistic form: it is only the second text in Roman literature, after Lucretius’ didactic poem on Epicurean philosophy, which attempts to discuss intricate problems in the philosophy of perception in the medium of the Latin language, mostly using its pre-existing resources rather than coining new technical terms. My critical edition aims to offer the closest approximation to what Cicero actually wrote based on the medieval manuscript tradition.

➤ ‘Cicero: *Academica* (*Academicus Primus, Fragmenta et Testimonia Academicorum Librorum, Lucullus*)’ and ‘Cicero’s *Academici libri* and *Lucullus*’, both edited by Tobias Reinhardt, are published by Oxford University Press.



Third Sector Special

Why the Third Sector?

Old Members who work in the Third Sector reflect on their experiences and offer advice to graduates considering the sector.

International Rescue Committee

Kathryn Hoven (English, 2016) joined Corpus after the Brexit vote but before the 2016 US election. Following her degree, she opted not to take up her DPhil offer in favour of trying to do some good. She is the Program Officer for Strategic Growth at the International Rescue Committee.

I was aware of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) through its domestic refugee resettlement work and international crisis response efforts and was happy to discover a Corpus connection – our president is fellow Corpuscle David Miliband. IRC has an academic eye that appealed to the skills I developed at Corpus, including a research and innovation branch named Airbel Impact Lab, which develops best humanitarian practices and interventions in partnership with universities and institutions, and the open-source Outcomes and Evidence Framework, designed to lift the sector through shared research and implementation findings. I encourage you to check it out!

In 2018, I joined the New York and New Jersey resettlement offices, where we supported refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers. In 2021, I moved to IRC’s headquarters as the Program Officer for Strategic Growth, exploring public funding portfolio diversification for our network of 28 US offices. My proudest moment with IRC was during Operation Allies Welcome in 2021, when IRC worked in concert with federal departments to process over 78,000 airlifted Afghans. I spent three weeks on a Safe Haven in southern New Jersey helping IRC lead in the largest rescue effort in a generation. It is an experience I will not soon forget.

For graduates considering the humanitarian sector, you will join a dynamic, chronically challenged but desperately needed world of like-minded spirits working towards a better future. It is challenging, but I know from my many conversations with friends in other sectors over the years that a sense of purpose is invaluable, especially as you begin your professional careers. And more importantly – it takes all skillsets! These are human problems, with all of the varied possible needs each of us have, and they deserve a human response. If you are at all curious, please do get in touch and visit www.rescue.org.



Kathryn is such a great example of the range of talent that IRC is recruiting around the world. Humanitarian needs arising from conflict, the climate crisis and economic shocks have never been greater. Our belief is that ‘aid as usual’ is no answer. That explains our commitment to innovation and impact as well as to scale and partnership. With much of politics in retreat from big global problems, now is the time for the private and NGO sectors to step up.

David Miliband (PPE, 1984), President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee

Volunteering in Oxford

Current students describe their voluntary work in Oxford.

A DPhil Student (Pharmacology, Year 2): I work with the Longford Trust mentoring people in higher education who currently are or have been in prison. People who experience the prison system are often indiscriminately excluded from full societal participation and re-integration both at the economic and moral level. I believe this to be wrong. I mentor a Longford Scholar studying here at Oxford, explaining the peculiarities of Oxford and how to thrive here.

Eli Morhayim (Physics, Year 1): Following the Earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria in February, the Turkish community in Oxford organised charity work to help the victims. We gathered clothes, food and medicine and I helped with a three-day bake sale, which raised £14,425 for the local NGOs. The help we gave to the earthquake victims was a reminder of hope and compassion at a time of intense mourning.

Ellie Vohra (Classics with Oriental Studies, Year 3): I volunteer with the Youth Service at Asylum Welcome, a local charity offering information, advice and support to asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Oxfordshire. In the Youth Service most of our clients are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. We help them to navigate their asylum claims, age assessments and housing and financial situations. We also provide them with emotional support at the Venda Youth Club. Volunteering offers me an incredibly rewarding opportunity to connect with the broader Oxford community and I have learnt about the complexities of the UK asylum system.

The Sutton Trust

David Bell (CAAH, 2012) arrived at Corpus in 2012 as the first person in his family to attend university, with a background quite different to most of his peers at Oxford: comprehensive school educated, from North East England and from a low income household. He is a Programmes Manager at The Sutton Trust.

Studying at Corpus was a transformative experience. Access to such transformative experiences, however, is far from evenly distributed. The educational opportunities and life chances of young people are strongly linked to their socio-economic background. It is this stark inequality which led to me taking up my current role at The Sutton Trust. The Sutton Trust, founded by Sir Peter Lampl (Chemistry, 1966), is a charity which champions social mobility through programmes, research and policy influence. I work on university access and school engagement, and manage the Trust’s flagship summer schools programme which supports over 2,500 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds every year to access leading universities.

Having previously worked in various guises in the public and private sectors, I now arrive at work every day knowing that what I do supports people against whom the odds have always been stacked. My work still involves plenty of spreadsheets, but being entirely bought into the end result makes quarterly budget meetings all the more palatable!

UK Youth

Jacob Diggle (History & Politics, 2009) has worked in the charity sector since he graduated, supporting causes relating to housing, mental health and youth work. He is Chief Impact Officer at UK Youth, which represents 8,000 youth work organisations. He is responsible for research, evaluation, service design, policy and strategy.

Charities offer the opportunity to tackle important social issues, support marginalised people and amplify voices that have been ignored. They can be exciting places to work and offer greater flexibility than public services and corporate roles. Working in this sector can also be precarious, poorly paid and emotionally draining. It is not an automatically good thing!

If you want to work for a charity, find a cause you care deeply about but make sure it doesn’t take over your whole world. I loved working at Mind for eight years and am proud of what we achieved. However, there



Working for a philanthropic organisation (like the Wolfson Foundation) gives a bird’s eye view of civil society. Despite current pressures on charities, it remains a wonderful and eclectic sector to build an interesting, varied career based on purpose not just profit.

Paul Ramsbottom (Modern History, 1994), Chief Executive, The Wolfson Foundation

were times when mental health problems were almost all I thought about. We all need balance. Choose the ‘flavour’ of your charity carefully. Do you want to work on local causes or international issues? Do you want to deliver services or focus on campaigning? Do you want to work in a corporate role or something more sector-specific?

We know that young people are growing up in a complex and increasingly challenging world. There are severe pressures on their mental health, employment prospects and even physical safety. Youth work is an essential tool to help young people navigate these difficulties and set them up with skills for life. But over ten million young people are currently unable to access this life-changing and even life-saving support. UK Youth is changing this. You can find out more at www.ukyouth.org.

St Nicholas Hospice

Clare Chater (Law, 1997) says that her passion for working in the charity sector stemmed from a realisation that a career in law was not for her, but she still wanted to feel that her work would contribute to ‘making things better’. She is Director of Income Generation at St Nicholas Hospice.

There is a misconception that hospices are depressing places, focused on dying and grief. I think they are actually somewhere that people come to live, make memories and feel human. My role is hugely varied, with responsibility for fundraising, retail, catering, marketing and communications. Being a senior leader in a smaller organisation allows me to contribute to its strategic direction and help move things forward.

For any new graduate considering the charity sector, I’d say please do! Your intellect and talent will make a big difference. I have met some inspiring people during my career and have been privileged to have some incredible experiences, from trekking the Sahara to visiting 10 Downing Street.

It is important to understand that the charity sector isn’t a soft option. You are held to higher ethical standards, may be working with limited resources and are often reliant on unpredictable voluntary income. But these challenges can drive huge creativity and innovative thinking. You will also be surrounded by some of the most passionate and driven people. It is hugely rewarding. You can find out more at www.stnicholashospice.org.uk.

Pacific Foundation Services

Angela Eshun (English, 2007) says that since graduating, the entirety of her career has been dedicated to working in the charity and philanthropic sectors. Her motivation throughout has been working directly with communities to address systemic issues, often disproportionately impacting marginalised groups, and empowering them to become agents of social change. She lives in California and is Director of Grants Management at Pacific Foundation Services (PFS).

PFS is a professional services firm supporting the grant-making of private and family foundations in the San Francisco Bay Area by providing operational and strategic expertise to support our clients in high-impact giving to non-profit partners.

In my role I oversee all aspects of grants management, including developing and sustaining strategies, policies and procedures that ensure efficient grant-making activities. The aspect of my role I love the most is putting our commitment to equity into practice – exploring how we can implement fair, effective and transparent grant-making processes and streamlined systems for grantees and organisations applying for funding and remove barriers to participation by underrepresented groups.

I would strongly urge a new graduate searching for mission-driven work to consider a career in the charity sector. As well as providing the opportunity to contribute to building a more just and equitable society, the sector offers experience and skills development in a wide range of areas. Look for organisations that align with your values and social impact areas of interest and you can find yourself at the start of a highly rewarding career path.



LEFT: David Miliband in Peshawar, April 2023

The Big Picture

► The first edition of *Experiencing Oxford* by Ian Davis has sold out and a second edition is in preparation.

Painting in watercolour
Ian Davis

These watercolours span thirty years and I have been pondering why Corpus Christi College is such a delightful place to paint. Having trained as an architect, I have always enjoyed painting fine buildings in their settings and the process is just as important as the product. Time spent selecting what to paint and looking hard at a building, door, window or drain-pipe in ever-changing light or weather conditions while drawing with pencil and brush can be wonderfully rewarding, but also frustrating. So often, the developing image fails to do justice to the subject. Corpus contains such a diversity of spaces and, unlike its vast neighbour Christ Church, the buildings, quad and gardens retain an intimate human scale. I also value the rich sensory appeal: smells of cooking or newly mown grass, echoing sounds of distant music or loud student voices calling each other, tactile doorknobs or handrails, rich associations, and the world's greatest sundial.



These watercolours together with the image on the front cover complete a set of five greeting cards and five postcards to be sold from September on the College's website ccc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/merchandise.



Equality & Diversity

Would you like to be a mentor?

We would love to hear from Old Members, from all professions, who are willing to join our alumni and student mentoring schemes. For more information please email sara.watson@ccc.ox.ac.uk.

The length of each mentorship is envisaged as being one year, after which mentors/mentees may continue or leave the scheme.

FROM THE EAST MIDLANDS TO OXFORD

Wes Bond (PPE) comes from a single-parent, working class background in the East Midlands. Throughout his school life he was a recipient of free school meals. He is excited about the new, parallel mentoring scheme for ‘first generation’ students. He talked to us about being the first in his family to go to university and what the mentoring scheme will mean for him.



What barriers did you experience that may have prevented you applying to Oxford?
Not being familiar with Student Finance, I was worried that I would not be able to afford to live in the South, particularly in Oxford. I also had doubts that I was the ‘right’ person for Oxford. None of my friends had applied to Oxford, none of my family had gone to university and I was worried that I would not be able to find friends or a group to fit in with. Finally, education was not valued in my family and further education was considered to be a waste of time particularly since I had been offered an apprenticeship with an accountancy firm.

What changed your perspective of Oxford?
I think the largest contributing factor was the interview. My visit to Oxford, spending time exploring the city and college dispelled my misconceptions completely. I realised that college food, the college bar and on-site accommodation were all reasonably priced. The people I met were from diverse backgrounds, some similar to mine, and were open-minded, non-judgmental and extremely respectful. The subject ambassadors explained about teaching and activities and reassured me that Corpus was an inclusive and exciting environment.

How did it feel when you got your offer?
The day I got my offer was stressful. After the interview I had decided I didn’t just want to go to Oxford, I needed to go to Oxford. The experience, the people, the teaching style, the architecture and atmosphere. It was the complete package. I remember waking up early, refreshing my email, checking the group chat. I was not the first to receive the email, four or five PPEists got theirs before me. When it finally came through, I felt like a muggle who had got into Hogwarts. The rush, the happiness, the excitement, it is not something that can really be expressed in words, but it was one of the best moments of my life.

What surprised you when you arrived?
I am a keen sportsman. Growing up, I played for two football teams as well as my local rugby team. I thought that at Oxford sports would be a low priority but what I found out in Freshers’ Week was that sport was almost guaranteed with the collegiate system. Also, I had seen a reading list for my subject and was wondering how I would afford the books. I was surprised to find the exceptionally well-stocked libraries, dotted all around Oxford, with the Corpus Library providing every book I would need. The final thing I had not taken into account was

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I hope my mentor will give me the reassurance, advice and opportunities that are not easily accessed by those of us who are ‘first generation’ students.

the scholarship and bursary financial aid I was entitled to. I was worried about how I would afford activities with friends. What I had missed was that, under the means tested criteria, I would be granted additional funds. With this being the case, a financial burden, which had caused me such stress over the summer, vanished.

What will having an alumni mentor mean for you?
I am looking forward to connecting with someone who has experienced Corpus like I have. Specifically, it will give me something I have not had before – guidance. With my background, I am not able to ask people around me for employment advice, whether I should be considering postgrad studies, or where my CV or interview skills might need improvement. I hope my mentor will give me the reassurance, advice and opportunities that are not easily accessed by those of us who are ‘first generation’ students.

Gaining new perspectives

Mentors and mentees reflect on what they have learnt from the Black and Minority Ethnic Student and Alumni Mentoring Scheme.

Paul Ralley (Maths, 1992) has been a mentor for Willow Farr (Maths and Philosophy):

Willow writes: “The outcome for me so far has been amazing. I have learnt about many careers which might suit my skills which I had never heard of before. I have learnt how to sell myself and built my confidence. Paul supported me through the process of applying for a job and gave me valuable advice on how to navigate the professional world. I am very happy to have accepted a graduate role in software development for a financial services company in London. I definitely hope to continue working with Paul in the future, and would recommend the scheme to anyone considering how best to develop and achieve their career goals.”

Paul writes: “Willow and I have talked through the areas of early career progression and job applications. We discussed the various roles she could consider, what those roles entailed, what recruiters were looking for, and how to demonstrate her skills and potential. Willow has incredible promise, so I was confident that in making herself known to various recruiters, she would soon attract interview offers and hopefully then job offers, as happened for her. She did this through application/CV discussions, interview preparation based on scenarios she had experienced, and promotion

though LinkedIn, which generated a lead for the role she secured. We also spent time discussing the structure of the industry she was applying to, to give her the background she needed to be confident at interview. At the scheme dinner I was told that she had shared some nuggets from our discussions with her friends, so it is great to have a potential wider impact!”

Hassan Damluji (Oriental Studies, 2001) spoke at the Dinner for the Black and Minority Ethnic Student and Alumni Mentoring Scheme in February. “What is sometimes missed when thinking about mentoring, is how enriching it is for the mentor. This is not limited to a ‘good feeling’ that you are helping someone else. There is a lot that can be learned, that is tangibly useful, from the experience. Rarely as we go through our careers do we have the opportunity to step back, take some perspective, think about how far we have come. Rarely as we get older do we have the opportunity to engage deeply with people of a different generation, and think about what we might have lost or forgotten, or what simply we have never known, that younger people can teach us. Yes, there is a positive feeling of altruism associated with mentoring, but as I look back on the last year working with Effie on the Corpus mentoring scheme, what stands out most for me is what I have learned.”



The Corpus Papers 18

A MANUSCRIPT OF ARISTOTLE’S METAPHYSICSIN CORPUS

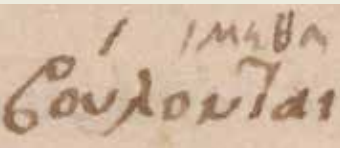
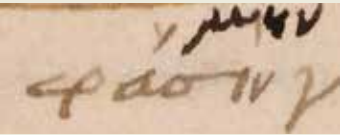
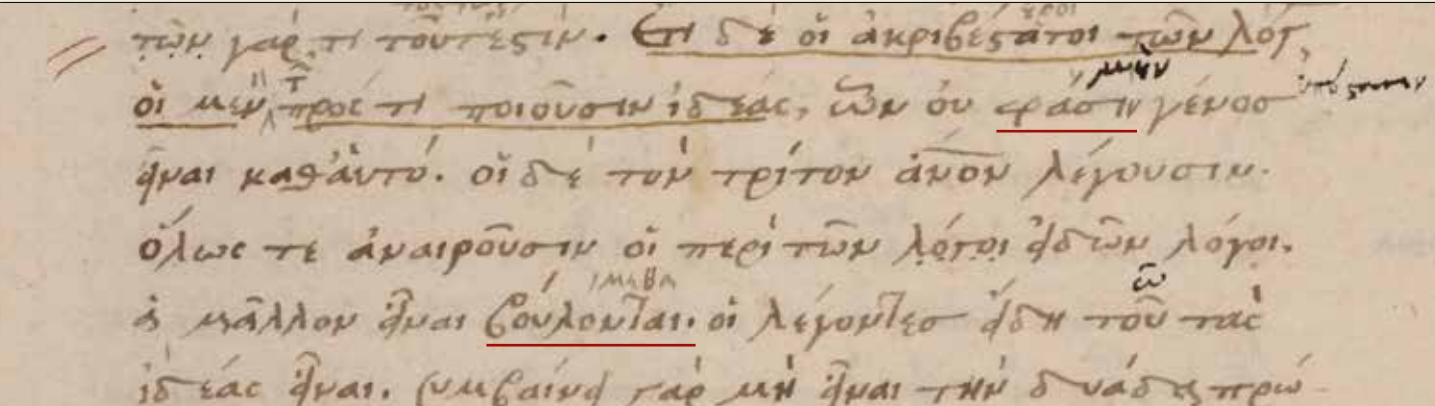
Dr Ricardo Salles, researcher at the National University of Mexico, specialising in Ancient Philosophy; Visiting Fellow and Scholar at Corpus Christi College, 2022-2023. Dr Teresa Rodríguez, researcher at the National University of Mexico, specialising in Late Ancient and Renaissance Philosophy.

There are currently at least 53 manuscripts of Aristotle’s treatise known as the *Metaphysics*, a major landmark in ancient Greek philosophy. Three of them are in Oxford. One is in Corpus: ‘CCC ms. 110’ often abbreviated as ‘Oc’, bequeathed to the library by a ‘Hugh Turnbull’ (Corpus Scholar in 1532, Fellow in 1536) in 1566, who may be related to the Charles Turnbull (Scholar 1573, Fellow 1579) who designed the famous Sundial in the college’s Front Quad. The other two are the ‘Oxon. Can. 121’, abbreviated as ‘O’, held at the Bodleian Library and the ‘Oxon. N.C. 230’, abbreviated as ‘Ob’, held at New College. Item O is in fact constituted of two manuscripts, the ‘Canonicianus Gr. 121’ and the ‘Lipsiensis Rep. I 44 c’, that at some point in the past formed a continuous whole as was shown by Silvio Bernardinello in his 1968 article ‘I Testi Bessarionei della Metafisica di Aristotele’.

What interests us here is that Dieter Harlfinger, in his 1979 study of the history of the text of the *Metaphysics* (‘Zür Überlieferungsgeschichte der Metaphysik’) classified the three Oxonian manuscripts as belonging to the ‘Alpha’ family of manuscripts of the *Metaphysics* (‘A-family’), as opposed to the ‘Beta’ family (‘B-family’). This classification had also been proposed by Bernardinello in his own work on the subject nine years earlier (‘Eliminatio codicum della Metafisica di Aristotele’). This classification of the Oxonian manuscripts has not been questioned since then. As we will show, however, there are good reasons for calling it into question in the case of Oc.

But first what are the two families? Recent work on the *Metaphysics* manuscript tradition and its stemma (notably by Oliver Primavesi in ‘The transmission of the text and the riddle of the two versions’ in 2012), has revealed that the two families are based on a single manuscript, now lost: the ‘common text’. This text is itself a copy of another manuscript, also lost, that was used by the great Aristotle scholar Alexander of Aphrodisias in the late 2nd century AD in his commentary to the *Metaphysics*, still extant today. The two main differences between the two families are that (i) the manuscripts of the B-family correct the common text in light of Alexander’s commentary and those of the A-family do not, and that (ii) the latter contain several additions to the common text that are absent from the former. To give an example, the manuscripts from the A-family Aristotle, in Book 1 of the *Metaphysics*, refer to the Platonists in the first-person plural, ‘we’. This ‘we’ suggests that, at the time he wrote this Book, he regarded himself as still belonging to the Platonic school (in his youth Aristotle studied under Plato and spent nearly twenty years at the Academy). In the manuscripts of the B-family, in contrast, Aristotle, in this Book of the *Metaphysics*, refers to the Platonist in the third-person plural, ‘they’. This in turn implies that he no longer regarded himself as part of the Academy by the time he wrote Book 1. This difference can be accounted for by the influence of Alexander of Aphrodisias in the earliest manuscripts of the B-family from his role in the debate at the end of the 2nd century AD over the authenticity of Book 1 (as explained on pp. 412-420 of the Primavesi work cited above).

So to return to our question: why may we doubt that Oc belongs to the A-family? The reason, so far overlooked by Aristotle scholars, turns precisely on this example. In a crucial passage of Book 1 where Aristotle refers to the Platonists,



ABOVE TOP Figure 1
ABOVE MIDDLE: Figure 2
ABOVE BELOW: Figure 3

in chapter 9 at lines 990b15-19 (following the line numbering of modern editions of Aristotle), Oc refers to them in the 3rd person plural as manuscripts of the B-family standardly do. The passage reads: ‘Further, of the more accurate arguments, some lead to Ideas of relations, of which they say there is no independent class, and others involve the difficulty of the ‘third man’. And in general the arguments for the Forms destroy the things for whose existence they are more anxious than for the existence of the Ideas’ (modifying the Revised Oxford Translation). So at least from the angle of this particular passage Oc ought to be classified as belonging to the B-family, and not to the A-family as Bernardinello and Harlfinger do. This passage occurs on the verso of folio 12 (‘12v’) of Oc. Figure 1 is a photograph of the passage in 12v where the verbs in the 3rd person plural are underlined in red: ‘phasin’ (‘they say’) and ‘boulontai’ (‘they are more anxious’). And there is a very interesting complication. This is that Oc includes, throughout the manuscript, a large number of interlinear annotations which were made by a second copist, as was noted by Nigel Wilson in his 2011 *Descriptive Catalogue of the Greek Manuscripts in Corpus Christi College*. What is striking here is that, in our passage, this second copist corrected Oc by writing the 1st person plural of the verbs just above their 3rd person plural forms as we can see in Figure 2, where the second copist wrote ‘[pha]men’ (‘we say’) above ‘phasin’, and in Figure 3, where he wrote ‘[boulo]metha’ (‘we are more anxious’) above ‘boulontai’. There may be other passages in Oc that are typical of the B-family, but we do not currently know.

What conclusion may be drawn from these facts? There is very little that we can affirm with certainty until a full collation of Oc is carried out, a task that is yet to be done. But here are a few conjectures that can be made. (1) The manuscript that was used by the first copist when he produced Oc in the late 15th century belonged to the B-family, not the A-family, which implies that the classification of this manuscript by Bernardinello and Harlfinger is wrong. (2) The second copist who annotated Oc years later made the corrections on the basis of a manuscript or set of manuscripts that belonged to the A-family, and to which he had access but that are not currently in the library of Corpus Christi. Instead of (1), we can also conjecture that (3) Oc does belong to the A-family but is contaminated by the B-family as our passage would prove. The phenomenon of cross-contamination between the two families had already been noticed by Harlfinger though not specifically in connection with Oc. In any case, this third hypothesis is disquieting. The very existence of ‘hybrid’ manuscripts such as Oc puts into the question the boundaries between the two families and may imply the collapse of the distinction itself if a better explanation of such manuscripts can be found. To quote Silvia Fazzo: ‘a radical rethinking of the whole tradition cannot be dealt with within the present contribution but must remain at least as an open possibility’ (in ‘Editing Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*: why should Harlfinger’s stemma be verified?’, 2014).

Fundraising

Telethon 2023

Support present and future generations of Corpus students

Our annual Telethon Campaign will take place from 22 September to 1 October. The Telethon plays an important role in the life of the College; its success over the years is testament to the generosity of both our alumni and students who take part, and our collective commitment to supporting present and future generations of Corpus students.

As we move into the final phase of our capital campaign with the Spencer Building, it has been wonderful to see the Corpus community coming together in a shared commitment to safeguard our intellectual heritage and improve the study environment for our students. In this year's Telethon, we will be continuing to seek support for this landmark project, alongside other strategic priorities including graduate scholarships, our access and outreach programme and student support initiatives.

This year, a group of nine students will be making calls to Old Members and they would very much appreciate it if you are able to take their call.

To have your name included within the Spencer Building, and to visualise the location of the various opportunities please visit: www.thespencerbuilding.co.uk/tour.

If you wish to make a donation but would prefer not to be contacted this September, please email development@ccc.ox.ac.uk.



As the Captain of Oxford University Rugby Football Club, one of the highlights of my experience has been the opportunity to connect with a wide range of interesting people. Meeting them and hearing their stories about the club has been fascinating. I am excited as I look forward to connecting with Corpus alumni and sharing their memories of Oxford.

Lauren Webb (Law, Year 2), Telethon Caller 2023

The President's Circle

In recognition of significant support to Corpus

We are grateful for the support of our benefactors, whose continuing involvement in the life of the College enriches the Corpus community.

We will continue to recognise all our donors in *The Pelican Record* Donor Roll, publishing the names of all who have supported the College during the academic year, and everyone who gives a donation to the Spencer Building, of whatever size, will be offered the opportunity to have their name included in a Spencer Building Benefactors' Book.

We also acknowledge the generosity of our major donors through a range of new and existing recognition opportunities, in partnership with the University. This includes the recently re-launched President's Circle, established to recognise those who have made substantial contributions to the life of the College.

The Frost Society

The Society recognises those who have chosen to make a gift to the College in their will. Members are invited to an annual event and the Benefactors' Garden Party.

The President's Circle

Major donors may be invited to join. Each year the President shares college news and holds a dinner in London for members.

The Vice-Chancellor's Circle

An annual drinks reception is held for members who have provided generous support to the University and colleges.

Foundation Fellowship

Those who have given exceptional support to Corpus may be elected.

The Vice-Chancellor's Guild

An annual dinner is held in Oxford to celebrate giving at a higher level.

For further information please contact the Development Director at elizabeth.lyle@ccc.ox.ac.uk.

Naming Opportunity	Gift Amount	Number	Remaining
1st and 2nd Floor Book Bay	£10,000	8	7
3rd Floor Group Work Desk (1 x DDA compliant)	£7,500	2	2
1st and 2nd Floor Reading Room Desk (pair)	£5,000	14	4
3rd Floor Reading Room Desk (single)	£2,500	14	7
3rd Floor Singular Bookcase	£2,000	12	4

New Arrivals

Professor Simon Newstead
David Phillips Chair in Molecular Biophysics



Corpus has a long and rich history of supporting innovative biochemical research. I look forward to carrying on this legacy.

Simon Newstead joined Corpus in Hilary Term 2023 as David Phillips Professor of Molecular Biophysics, a statutory Professorship held with the Department of Biochemistry in the South Parks Science Campus.

Simon joins us from our neighbour Christ Church, where since 2013 he held the position of Ordinary Student in Biochemistry and Professor of Molecular Membrane Biology in the Department of Biochemistry. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Bath in Biochemistry, followed by a PhD at the University of St Andrews. He held a post-doctoral fellowship at Imperial College London before moving to Oxford in 2009 as an MRC career development fellow to start his research group.

Simon becomes the third incumbent of the David Chilton Phillips Professorship, established in honour of Professor David Phillips, later Baron Phillips of Ellesmere KBE FRS, who was a pioneer in the development of the new science of protein crystallography, which enables researchers to understand the atomic structure of molecules that make up our bodies. He says: "It is a great honour to take up this prestigious post at the University of Oxford and to join the Corpus community. Corpus has a long and rich history of supporting innovative biochemical research. I look forward to carrying on this legacy."

Simon's research concerns understanding how nutrient transporters function at a molecular

level. In our bodies, many proteins that absorb nutrients from our diet are also responsible for drug transport and distribution into specific organs, including the central nervous system, liver, kidneys, and intestinal tract. Nutrient transporters, therefore, profoundly impact the effectiveness of many administered drugs.

Simon's research group uses the latest structural biology methods to understand drug transport in cancer, inflammation, neurodegeneration, and metabolic disorders. Its goal is to understand, at a molecular level, how the body interacts with drug molecules to reduce side effects, increase effectiveness and generate a deeper understanding of how the cells in our body interact with and respond to nutrients and drugs. Simon's latest research, for example, explains how a drug used to treat gout works by blocking uric acid uptake in our kidneys. He says: "Structural biology is going through a tremendous period of change right now. It is truly an honour to undertake this research in association with Corpus." He looks forward to meeting any alumni interested in his team's research.

Listing

► Did you know that we regularly send out College news and invitations to events by email? Please email development@ccc.ox.ac.uk if your contact details have changed and you would like to keep in touch. More information about the Development Office can be found on the College website www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/alumni.

Corpus Christi College

Alumni events 2023

For more information on all these events please go to: www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events-and-reunions

September 2023

Friday 29 September 1970s Decade Dinner

Fully booked. Email us to join the waiting list.

October 2023

Wednesday 11 October Bateson Lecture

A Quiet Gathering: James Baldwin and the Art of Late Style in *The Welcome Table*. All welcome.

Wednesday 25 October Brock Lecture Livestream

To be delivered by Dr Emily Rutherford. All welcome to attend in person or virtually.

November 2023

Thursday 9 November President's Circle Dinner

For members of the President's Circle.

Thursday 30 November College Carol Service Livestream

More information to follow.

December 2023

Saturday 2 December Carol Service for Alumni and Parents

Booking to open in November.

Wednesday 13 December London Christmas Drinks

Booking to open in October.

March 2024

Friday 15 March Gaudy for 1961 to 1968

Invitations will be sent in December.



Donations support Corpus students

This year's Expanding Horizons Scholars are making full use of the opportunity provided by the scheme to work and volunteer abroad. They are travelling to a range of countries, including the USA, Peru, Jordan and Hungary.

Zain Parvez (Law) will be studying music production at the world-leading 343 labs in New York. He hopes to learn specialist industry knowledge of systems, sound design, mixing and mastering. He will also be volunteering at the Holy Apostles Foundation, working in the soup kitchen and food bank.

Thomas Shotton (Maths) will be a teaching assistant in the maths department at an English-speaking school in Lima and will also be accompanying a trekking trip to Huaraz. He will also volunteer for the Bridges NGO, which is involved in building crucial infrastructure in local communities.

Ellie Vohra (Classics with Oriental Studies) will be doing an intensive language course in Ammiyeh (Levantine Arabic Dialect), continuation classes in modern standard Arabic, two internships in refugee policy, volunteering with a refugee charity, and visiting archaeological sites and nature reserves.

Effie Armah-Tetteh (Classics) will be doing voluntary work and community outreach in Miami, working with refugees

and learning about the black diasporic experience from an African American perspective. She hopes to volunteer at the International Rescue Committee.

Maeve Ewing (PPE) will be an intern at an NGO, CEEweb for Biodiversity. CEEweb is completing essential work in the areas of climate change and biodiversity. She will learn about the world of EU politics and the work of NGOs.

We are grateful to all the Old Members who have donated to the scheme and are also delighted that, owing to further generosity, this year the College has introduced a fund for students who would find it difficult to participate in professional internships, research placements or professional training without financial support – the Career Development Fund. The new fund is open to internships across all disciplines, including for those students interested in a career in academia. It is also open to those who are going on to graduate study but would find the transition financially difficult. This year it has offered support to eight students.

A novel inspiration

Alumna Alis Hawkins (English, 1981) explains how a character in her novel *A Bitter Remedy* was inspired by her experience as a member of the Corpus women's second eight.

Like most novelists, I'm not much of a team player. Sports-wise, the only team I've ever belonged to is the Corpus women's second eight which I stroked for most of my three years at college. And I loved it, though early mornings in Hilary could be a bit grim.

So, when a walk-on character in the first of my new Victorian crime fiction series refused to walk off again and required some fleshing out, I made him a rower. Not that this was entirely for nostalgic reasons: his eight's being interceptible as

they went to and from the river was an essential plot point.

I also made him a Corpuscle, partly for geographical reasons, but also because I needed him to be a man who might plausibly support women's admission to the University. And my research into events in the early 1880s, when the book is set, revealed that the Oxford Union passed a resolution, proposed by 'a Mr Williams of CCC', calling for female householders to have the vote on equal terms with men. I may just have to put a Mr Williams into the Corpus eight with Tarley Askew for the next book – it's too delicious an opportunity to pass up!

