

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 15 June 2009

Welcome to the fortnightly Fellowship newsletter, a regular insight into the various activities, projects and events that are happening throughout the RSA Fellowship network.

News and Events



Changes to Governance and Bye-Laws

A key part of the transformation of the RSA has been an assessment of our governance structures.

Feedback from Fellows has informed a review of the current Bye-Laws, including the introduction of the Fellowship Council, and ensuring that Fellows can contribute to the governance of the Society.

We welcome your comments on the proposals to change how the RSA is governed. For further information on these proposals [read more](#).



Fellowship Council Election process has begun

Fellowship Council Elections voting begins on **Wednesday 17 June** and closes on **Tuesday 7 July** at 5pm. Fellows are encouraged to vote and participate in this process.

The election process will be managed by Electoral Reform Services (ERS). Please note that 4 regions, Scotland, South Central, North West and South East are uncontested so will not have a regional Election. In regions where elections are required, ERS will issue ballot papers, candidate statements and a candidate broadsheet directly to Fellows for completion. Fellows can vote by internet or return their ballot paper by post. Fellows will vote by ranking their preferred candidates.

Following the election period the Nominations Committee will meet again in late July to approve the outcomes of the election process and make their recommendations for the 20 Trustee Board nominated positions on Council.

For further information please see the [RSA website](#). Please vote and make sure your voice is heard!



RSA Event Live streaming

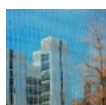
On Tuesday 30 June, RSA Fellows can catch the RSA event '**Free: the future of a radical price**' live on the RSA website!

Chris Anderson, the groundbreaking author of the 'Long Tail', will outline a dramatic new change in the way our economy functions. This live [video streaming facility](#) is currently available only to Fellows. To access the live page, register on the RSA website well in advance. [View more information on how to access](#).



Newark Network: How Can We Do What Matters Here

The Newark network started as a Coffee House challenge group in 2007, and has met monthly ever since. Early topics the group focused on were litter picking and illegal riding. More recently they have turned their attention to ways in which our established buildings can be made greener. Peter Mansfield FRSA talks about the group and invites Fellows to join. For further information on this network [read more](#).



Future Cities Project and Tomorrow's Investor

Following a survey that was released to Fellows working in financial services in London last month the RSA Networks team is working in conjunction with Tomorrow's Investor to create a new 'Future of the City' network. For further information about the project, next steps and how you can get involved [read more](#).

North

A Ning networking site has been set up for Fellows in Yorkshire.

If you would like a place to meet other Fellows online and share ideas, build relationships and discuss possible projects, please join the [Yorkshire Ning site](#) and start networking.

For any further queries about the region please contact [Vivienne Long-Ferguson](#).

South

RSA Fellows in Chichester and Portsmouth have set up a network on the Ning social networking site as a means of communication specific to this geographical area (PO1-41 postcode and the GU28-33 postcode).

Please see the link to the [Portsmouth and Chichester network](#) to sign up.

RSA

On 24 June experimental neuroscientist Beau Lotto will speak at RSA lecture [Seeing Myself See: The Ecology of Mind](#) as he shows how our perception and conception of the world reflects our past physical, social and cultural interactions.

Don't forget that if you cannot be at an event in person you can always [listen live](#) to the event. Alternatively, you can subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events and watch filmed events on [RSA Vision](#).

East

The Norwich network meets every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Please contact [Clare Reilly](#) with any questions.

Wales/West

A city network at Bordeaux Quay in Bristol is taking place on Tuesday 16th June



Fellow's Profile

Zaiba Malik FRSA talks here about her work as a journalist, being a Fellow and the importance of communication within society:

I've been working as a freelance journalist/broadcaster for about ten years, specialising in social and community affairs for BBC News, Newsnight, Channel 4, Radio 4 and The Guardian. My interest lies in longer term investigations and features that allow me to look further into issues and grasp how policy affects people at a grassroots level. I try to bring a fuller understanding of the many communities that live here ranging from Muslims to Tamils to Somalis to travellers.

I've spent quite a long time as a journalist looking at some of the most salient issues of our time - radicalism, social deprivation, migration, racism, drugs and gun crime. Most of my work has focused upon highlighting problems and I've just got to the stage in my career and life where I want to look in more detail at solutions - what can be done to improve the way that we live together in this diverse and complex society. I wanted to find a network that encourages a broad and holistic approach to problem-solving, one that allows both debate and action and certainly, for me, the RSA fits the bill.

I think it's crucial that we really strive to have a better understanding of each other. Society will never improve if we have communities who refuse to mix; I know from my own experience that years of stereotyping based on ignorance can vanish within the space of a half-hour conversation. The onus to communicate should be on individuals as much as it is on communities, organisations and authorities.

I hope that I can bring the insight that I have acquired through my journalism where I've had extensive access to many people in different situations around the UK - juveniles involved in knife-crime, migrants working illegally in hotels, Tamil Tiger foot soldiers in hiding in the UK, victims of racism in rural areas - to add to the thinking and research and policy of the RSA by getting involved in its projects and the work of other Fellows.

One of the most wonderful things about being a Fellow is that you never know who you're going to bump into at the RSA building. I was recently in there, having a quiet coffee when a gentleman called Dr Mohamed Hussein, a journalist from the Middle East, introduced himself to me. We had a long and interesting conversation about what circumstances and environment might trigger a young Muslim to become a violent radicalist. Though we disagreed on many fronts, it was fascinating to hear the view point of somebody who'd had very different experiences to mine. That afternoon, I ended up not doing the work I was supposed to do and with a stone-cold cappuccino but there you go! That's what the RSA is all about.

And finally...

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the newsletter. We want this to work for you so please let us know your thoughts about the content and format.

You can help shape the future of the RSA and develop Fellowship networks.

Nominate a Fellow

Fellows are passionate about joining forces to achieve positive change. Do you know more like minded people – optimistic, innovative and engaged – who can help us build a better society together? Please [nominate them](#) to join! You will need to log-in and have your membership number handy to complete the form.

Any news?

Communicating the activities of the Fellowship is the first step to creating the Fellowship network. As an RSA Fellow if there is anything you are doing in your area which other Fellows should know about and can get involved in, [please contact us](#).

We will only include items which relate to the goals of the RSA, where Fellows can get actively involved. Any decisions will be at the editor's discretion.

from 5.30pm. If you would like to attend please contact [Chris](#) for information.

For further activities in the region please contact [Chris Luffingham](#) or please see [here](#) for more events and contacts in the area.

Scotland

All Fellows are invited to the upcoming Edinburgh City Network which takes place on the last Thursday of each month – it is an informal opportunity for Fellows to meet each other and build relationships.

The next get together will take place on Thursday 25 June 5pm – 7pm, at [Le Monde](#) 16 George Street. If you would like to let us know you are coming, please [email](#) Judith.

International

USA

Following a busy spring full of successful Fellows' meetings, plans are underway for the next round of networking events, workshops, exhibitions and even a film screening.

A number of Fellows' meetings will take place in September to coincide with the visit of RSA Fellowship Director, Belinda Lester and Networks Director, Michael Devlin. For further events coming up in June please see the [American Coffee House](#).

Please visit the [American Coffee House](#) for other discussions such as [What can be done to reduce the cost of textbooks?](#) Please contact [Lynn Broadbent](#), US Fellowship Director, for more information.

You have received this email as a Fellow of the RSA.
Unsubscribe from the Fellowship Newsletter.

Copyright © RSA 2009 | [Privacy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [RSS](#)
<http://www.thersa.org/>