

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 24 August 2009

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News and Events



Fellowship Council Site

Great conversations have started on the [RSA Fellowship Council site](#) – join now to make sure your voice is heard and to take part in this exciting new development for the Fellowship!



Opening Minds Conference- 3 Nov 2009

The RSA is holding a national conference on **Tuesday 3 November** to explore what our Opening Minds curriculum framework has to offer primary schools in a changing policy environment. Sir Jim Rose and Barry Sheerman MP will be keynote speakers.

The event is targeted both at practitioners and at educational thinkers, and the [Education Team](#) would be delighted if Fellows with an interest in primary education and/or curriculum change would like to attend; feel free to pass the invitation on to others who might be interested! [Find out more and book now](#).



RSA at the International Book Festival

An [RSA Event](#) is taking place at the Edinburgh International Book Festival on **Sunday, 30 August 2009**, 20.00 at RBS Main Theatre, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.

Witty, clever and entertaining, [Douglas Coupland's](#) internationally bestselling novels walk the tightrope between optimism and paranoia. *Generation A* mirrors his debut *Generation X*, this time with a near-future world where bees are thought extinct, until five people in different countries are stung on the same day.

Tickets are available from the [Edinburgh book festival website](#).



RSA Cymru

Following a very positive response from Fellows in Wales to a Fellow-led proposal, the RSA Trustee Board has agreed the formation of RSA Wales. Two new UK Regions will be enacted on 1 January 2010: RSA Cymru Wales and RSA West.

The RSA administrative structure has historically joined the nation of Wales with the West of England, creating a Region with a very large geographical area and mixed governmental jurisdiction. Wales was also the only devolved nation of the UK not to be recognised as such by the RSA.

RSA Cymru Wales will not be a separate organisation; it will function and be funded as a Region, like any other Region in the UK. However, this change to the regional governance of the RSA will offer a tremendous opportunity for growth and for Fellows in Wales to develop new project initiatives.

For more information on transition arrangements, please [see Matthew Taylor's email](#) to Fellows in Wales. If you have any questions please contact Networks Manager, [Chris Luffingham](#).



Fellow's Profile- Karla Hill

Karla Hill FRSA talks here about the importance of climate change, creating a society together and the role of women within that:

I'm a lawyer at [ClientEarth](#) which is a non-profit environmental law and policy organisation, and I work on climate change and energy law, regulation and policy. We see ourselves as "activist" lawyers

South

Calling all Fellows in the South East and South Central!

An online space dedicated to Fellows and Fellows' activities has now been created for both regions. Containing all the latest news, up-to-date RSA project blogs, event information, local event groups and opportunities to make those all important connections, these unique spaces are an ideal way to increase your involvement with the Fellowship!

Join now at [FRSA South Central](#) and [FRSA South East](#).

For further information about activities in the South East and South Central region please contact [Olivia Rainford](#).

RSA

Events at the RSA restart on [Tuesday 8 September](#). Please check [our website](#) for further event information.

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

You can also follow RSA Events on [Twitter](#).

North

You can find out more information about regions in this area including events and discussion on the [RSA Merseyside site](#), [RSA Yorkshire site](#) and [RSA Manchester site](#). Please click on the above links to join up.

For further details about these regions and if you would like to get involved please contact [Viv Long-Ferguson](#).

East

The Norwich network meets every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Please

law, regulation and policy. We see ourselves as 'action' lawyers in the sense that we develop programmes focused on key environmental challenges – climate change, marine environment, environmental justice – and we work alongside non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and decision-makers bringing public interest legal expertise to the table.

I joined ClientEarth as the first staff lawyer in 2007. ClientEarth allows me to combine law and policy, building on my previous experience first in private legal practice and then at the Sustainable Development Commission. It gives me the opportunity to work on issues that involve some of the defining questions we face as societies – can we respond quickly and collectively to climate change? – and to collaborate in finding and implementing the political, legal and technical solutions to those questions. My work puts me at the interface of energy and environment issues in the UK and EU. As a new organisation, **ClientEarth** has also allowed me to contribute to defining our priorities at an early stage in the organisation's life and developing a programme of work. We now have a strong team of nine lawyers in our offices in London and Brussels.

I joined the RSA because I support its commitment to social progress and thought-leadership. Society is something we create together and the RSA's history demonstrates that these principles can be a force for positive change in society. I feel privileged to be part of the network of Fellows at a time when there is renewed focus on the Fellowship and recognition of the possibilities of convening and engaging Fellows. As I am originally from New Zealand, I see the international nature of the RSA's network as an important feature in our interconnected world.

I would like to contribute to the RSA/the Fellowship as an active participant in networking, collaboration and the exchange of ideas. Civil society has a crucial role in helping our political systems to shift away from a short-term focus where "the environment" is seen as a special interest to enlightened self-interest which integrates the environment into our long-term political and personal choices. The Fellowship, with its diverse school of engaged individuals, seems a good place to find multiple ways into that conversation.

In addition to sustainability and environment issues, I'm also passionate about women's leadership and development and I'm interested in the role of networks such as the RSA in supporting and facilitating women's leadership. This is an area where I would like to collaborate with other Fellows. If I had the chance to change something in society I would create the conditions to enable every human to realise their potential while living within the boundaries of the earth's natural systems.

I recently heard the Rwandan Foreign Minister, Rosemary Museminali, describe Rwanda's vision for 2020. The vision includes both women's participation and environmental protection. In Rwanda, women's participation in politics was embedded in the constitution after the 1994 genocide, and women are now equally represented in government and parliament.

At the recent new Fellows evening I gained an appreciation of the RSA's activities, the place of the Fellows within the RSA and the exciting new developments with the Fellowship. I had interesting conversations with a diverse range of new Fellows and found it refreshing to speak with open and interesting people.

*If you know any inspiring Fellows who would be suitable for a profile please **contact us** and let us know their name and details.*



Who to Contact at the RSA

To find out exactly which staff member you should contact at the RSA please see the **contacts page** on the RSA website.

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.

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

contact **Clare Reilly** with any questions.

Wales/West

For activities in the region please contact **Chris Luffingham** or see **here** for more events and contacts in the area.

Scotland

The City networks in **Glasgow and Edinburgh** will take place as usual throughout August and September.

Please **email** Judith Friedman with any queries about regional activities.

International

USA

We are now just three weeks away from the Fellowship meetings taking place around the country in September. Visit the **American Coffee House** for full details of where and when you can meet UK staff, US trustees, and **US Based Fellows on the Fellowship Council**.

Also in September, **The Age of Stupid Arrives in the US**. This critically acclaimed film and live panel discussion will be simulcast on **September 21** to over 400 cinemas across the country.

Recent Fellow to Fellow invitations include: **Grand Rapids, Michigan: Meyer May House Symposium** and in San Rafael, **Social and Scientific Solutions to Environmental Issues**. Turning to the economy, **Thinking Tank debate: business as usual?** asks if it's time for a new kind of leadership. Join in the online debate on **August 26** or leave a comment on the site at any time.

Please contact **Lynn Broadbent**, US Fellowship Director, for further information on any of the above activities.

Australia

Regular Fellows events are now taking place in Australia with Fellows meeting in August in Melbourne.

Should you have any queries about the networks or activities being set up, please contact **Leigh-anne Shannon**.

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.

You have received this email as a Fellow of the RSA.
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