

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 11 October 2010

In this issue:

[Social Enterprise Spotlight: the launch event](#) | [Four more Fellows' projects awarded funding](#)
[RSA Japan Network: the story so far](#) | [Activities in Australia: passions shared](#)
[Fellow's Profile- Alejandro Litovsky](#) | [Fellowship directory](#)

News and Events



Social Enterprise Spotlight: please join us for the launch event

Following the launch of the **Social Entrepreneurs network**, we are pleased to announce the creation of the Social Enterprise Spotlight. This will follow 9 different social enterprises as they develop their knowledge and experience over the next 12 months. We would like to invite you to the launch event on **Wednesday 3 November**. [Read more...](#)



Four more Fellows' projects awarded funding

RSA Catalyst, the seed fund for Fellows, continues to gather pace. Last week the Fellowship Council heard from two project leaders- who streamed into the meeting from Tennessee and the UK- to explain how Catalyst grants and the skills bank, **RSA Support** have helped. Recent projects that have been awarded Catalyst funding include a community enterprise hub based in Harrogate and an initiative to safely recycle low-cost light bulbs. The next deadline for applications is Friday 15 October. [Read more...](#)



RSA Japan network: the story so far

The **Japan Fellows Network** began in March 2010 in Tokyo and since then has met regularly. The next meeting takes place on **Monday 18 October**. Utz Reiff FRSA, the convenor of the network talks about the set up and aims of the Japan Fellows network and what will be featured in the next meeting. [Read more...](#)



Activities in Australia: passions shared

RSA networking is alive and well in Australia, and there have been some recent developments that might interest other Fellows. In September, two new informal networks were launched in Sydney. These were 'Big Ideas for Breakfast' and 'Evening Enlightenment'. The next meeting is a 'Knowledge Cafe' in Melbourne on **Wednesday 20 October**. Paul Vittles FRSA, Head of Australia and New Zealand describes recent and upcoming activities. [Read more...](#)



Fellow's Profile- Alejandro Litovsky

Alejandro Litovsky FRSA is Director of **Volans Innovation Lab**. His work focuses on scaling solutions to social, environmental and governance challenges. He is the driver behind **The Biosphere Economy**, a global initiative pursuing a vision of an economy that works in balance with the Earth's ecosystems, rather than against them. He talks here about experiments to create 'infrastructures for scale' -the political, market and social platforms that are needed to help take the work of entrepreneurs from their 'Eureka moments' to having a deeper influence on our economic and governance systems:

"After years of working with entrepreneurs to advance sustainability solutions in contexts as different as Tanzania, Brazil, Russia or Indonesia, I am convinced that while it is important to support the growth of innovative enterprises, a critical part of the scaling agenda is about creating new ecosystems of action to overcome barriers to scale, and raise the levels of ambition to impact the prevailing cultures, politics and the rules of the economy."

"In catalysing the Biosphere Economy agenda I have been exploring how to create more robust connections across leaders. One action involved leading scientists, activists and investors on a learning journey to the Ecuadorian Amazon to explore ideas for a new governance system for the rainforest which overlans with the

In brief

A selection of activities taking place worldwide...

Sheffield

Join us for the **FRSA Hub event** in Sheffield on



Wednesday 27 October

from 2.30pm. We will be exploring how to tap into the skills of the Fellowship and running a number of workshops on social media, exploring a social enterprise network for the area, and RSA Catalyst, followed by an ideas exchange. It promises to be a challenging and exciting event. We hope you can join us.

[Register and find out more.](#)

Peterborough

The Peterborough Curriculum project will be supporting schools in Peterborough to co-design a curriculum with partners from the community – this means people from outside the school system getting fully involved with what is taught to children. Community partners could be individuals, local businesses, cultural organisations, voluntary groups or anyone else with something to offer and the time to do some really exciting work with schools.



We are inviting Fellows in the region to volunteer or nominate any organisation, group or individual they think would be good – all nominations by email to [Louise Thomas](#).

Thames Valley

On **Friday 22 October**, a panel of local MPs, including Home Secretary Theresa May, will be answering questions from Fellows on the future of development in Thames Valley. Venue is to be confirmed. [Find out more and register.](#)



new governance system for the remainder, which overlaps with the political boundaries of 9 countries. Another has been the convening an innovation meeting between large investment funds and change-makers, such as the **Forest Footprint Disclosure Project** and **Trucost**, which are devising new ways for companies to 'internalize' the costs of their environmental liabilities. The results are opening very exciting possibilities."

On why he joined the Fellowship: "Success will rely on the 'pool of talent' that is engaged with this agenda. I feel that many leadership networks are built around narrow identities, like 'social entrepreneurs' or 'business CEOs' and that limits the creativity and strategic clarity that is available for leaders to tackle these complex challenges. The more diverse the leadership community, the more likely the chance of serendipity in finding common interests and complementary capacities across sectors."

On recent bits of news which inspired him: "The creation of a partnership between NASA and CISCO, **The Planetary Skin Institute**, which plans to aggregate data on the state of ecosystems globally, and use it to align the values and decisions of companies, governments and investors with greater ecological stability. I'm also inspired by Sylvia Earle's **Mission Blue**, which seeks to move the agenda on oceans by challenging how we think about the governance of international waters. Here is an entrepreneur who is going to the heart of the problem; it is timely and ambitious. As Sylvia begins to cross-connect to Google Earth's monitoring capabilities, it is exciting to imagine these connections as a new kind of global governance 'meshwork', a system that is bubbling up. It is also interesting to see funders and philanthropists moving to support these kinds of efforts. A quote comes to mind, by Buckminster Fuller, the great American architect, poet and philosopher: 'You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.'"

On connecting with other Fellows: "Many great things begin with casual conversations, and I hope to meet Fellows that are interested in this agenda. For those interested in these ideas, I can suggest a **special issue** on 'Rethinking Scale' that I did with the Alliance Magazine, the publication of the social investment and philanthropy community, earlier in June 2010."

If you want to contact Alejandro you can get in touch **by email**.

*Know of an inspiring Fellow whom you'd like us to feature in the next newsletter? Please **contact us** and let us know their name and details.*



Connect to other Fellows today

Are you making the most of the Fellowship directory? This 'opt-in' search directory of our 27,000 strong Fellowship provides an opportunity to find other Fellows all round the world. **Register now** and don't miss out!

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.

Trouble reading this email? [View the latest and previous newsletters online](#).

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.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, you can **unsubscribe**. You might miss out on the latest RSA news!

Liverpool

Join other Fellows at **Delifonseca** in Liverpool for the next OpenDinner on **Monday 29 November**. The theme for the evening is *Dr Duncan: his relevance for 21st century Liverpool* and Val Walsh from the Duncan Society will be speaking. Book direct with Delifonseca on 0151 255 0808 to attend.



Canterbury

The third in our Kent panel debate series takes place on **Wednesday 3 November** in Canterbury on the subject of Education. A panel of local Fellows will be speaking about The Value of Qualifications. [Find out more and register](#).



RSA

Join us on **Tuesday 26 October, 6.00pm** for *The Big Society: Challenges and opportunities for membership organisations* when Matthew Taylor, Sir Stuart Etherington and Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE will explore the important role that membership organisations can play in social change initiatives. **Book now to attend**.



Remember, you can **listen live** to our events, or you can subscribe to our **podcast** for past events. Filmed events are available to watch on **RSA Vision**.

USA

Visit the **American Coffee House** for further details of events. All Fellows travelling through the US are welcome! Contact **Lynn Broadbent** for all Fellowship and event questions.



Nominate a Friend

Do you know someone who you think should be a Fellow? Do you have colleagues, friends or contacts who could benefit from the opportunities of Fellowship?

Tell us who and why, and we'll send an invitation to apply citing your recommendation. Please note, you will need to log-in and have your membership number handy to complete the form. If you have any questions, please contact the **Fellowship team**.

