

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 13 December 2010

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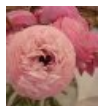
Please note that the next Fellowship newsletter will be released on **Monday 10 January**. On behalf of the Fellowship team and all the staff at the RSA, very best wishes for the season.

News and Events



Looking forward to 2011: message from Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive

The last few months of 2010 have been pretty intense for RSA staff. There has been lots of good news. Our Academy in Tipton is achieving amazing results, views of RSA Animate continue to rise, and best of all there has been the steady growth in FRSA networks and projects. [Read the rest of Matthew's letter](#).



Result of poll: 2010 AGM

The 256th AGM took place last week on 6 December 2010. You can find further information and final poll results, in the [Governance section](#) of our website.



Further FRSA Projects are awarded Catalyst grants

The Catalyst panel has decided on the last round of Catalyst applicants for 2010. [Grants](#) went to five projects to: allow Fellows to train public sector workers in social enterprise; turn vacant retail spaces in Bedford into performance spaces; enable students, the elderly and prisoners to form a clothes recycling business; and facilitate an exchange of ideas between Polish educators and the RSA Opening Minds Curriculum. These and other projects out of the 19 that applied this month will be supported by [RSA Skills Bank](#) and the Fellowship Networks team. [Read more...](#)



Youth awards now open

The London regional committee has developed a Youth Award for Innovation designed for young people who want to achieve something new for themselves and their communities. There is now a dedicated [website](#) where you can find more details and apply for the awards. Deadline for the next round of applications is **1 March 2011**. [Read more...](#)



Social media surgeries in Leeds

As part of [Leeds Digital Festival](#), a special festival edition of the [Leeds Social Media Surgeries](#) was held at the Round Foundry Media Centre on Tuesday 9 November. These are to be followed up with further surgeries led by John Popham FRSA in the new year. [Read more...](#)



Fellow's profile- Fabian Pfortmüller

Fabian Pfortmüller FRSA is a Fellow based in New York. He is Co-Founder of [Sandbox](#) and is currently studying at Columbia University. He talks here about the value of networks and why he joined the Fellowship:

"I currently wear three hats in my life: I'm building Sandbox, a global incubator for the most active young achievers worldwide between 20 and 30. We help extraordinary young doers by providing them with a trusted global community and giving them access to the right resources. I have also co-founded an eco-fashion label called [Holstee](#), where we're producing meaningful products and selling them online. And lastly I'm finishing up my studies at Columbia University in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures."

On why he joined the Fellowship: "I'm truly convinced that this is the time of collaboration. If we are able to build trusted

In brief

A selection of activities taking place worldwide...

Coming up in 2011

New networks are launching in **Oxford** and **Hexham**. Watch this space for further details and dates in the new year. Join us for an FRSA Hub event in Newcastle on **Monday 24 January**. For further details of this event and if you would like to be involved contact [Jamie Cooke](#).

Social Enterprise Spotlight Blog

Following the launch of the [Social Enterprise Spotlight](#) project, which you may have seen in the newsletter issue on **11 October**, we are pleased to announce the [Spotlight blog](#), where you can follow the journey of the eight Fellows and social entrepreneurs over the year as they highlight their successes and challenges. Keep up to date with the [Social entrepreneurs network](#) online.

RSA Projects

Social class is still the strongest predictor of educational achievement in the UK. In an effort to tackle this, the RSA will be launching an exciting new project on [social justice](#) in the Further Education sector in 2011.



The Capitals Exchange project seeks to increase educational engagement and future opportunities among young people from working class backgrounds. It will do this by bringing together young people studying in Further Education colleges with RSA Fellows who are expert in their curriculum areas.

If you are interested in getting

relationships with like-minded peers and start collaborating, we can tackle any problem in the world. I'm convinced that a diverse and accomplished group of individuals such as the RSA Fellows can make real change happen. I feel humbled to be part of this group and would love to contribute in whatever capacity possible. At **Sandbox** we have now a very strong network of almost 500 young achievers in 22 cities worldwide. If any Fellow ever wants to tap into this network and meet some of the top young entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs, designers, artists, young politicians or change makers, please let me know and I'd be more than happy to connect you."

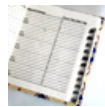
On what he would change in society given the chance: "I have been thinking a lot about how to change the public education system here in the US, which in my opinion can be compared with the systems in the developing world. Several Sandboxes are working on concrete projects in this field and I'm supporting them with our resources. Sandboxer Kosta Grammatas, a research fellow at MIT in Boston, is working on a project to bring free internet access to the developing world. Originally he wanted to raise money to buy a satellite. Last week he heard that Terrestar, the company that runs the world's largest communication satellite is about to go bankrupt. He's now trying to create buzz and raise funds to buy their satellite, and re-position it over Africa. How crazy but amazing is that idea?! See [the website](#) for more details and contact me if you have any ideas on how to help Kosta."

On what he learned recently: "We learned a lot about how to build real trusted communities when building up Sandbox. In the last few weeks, I realized that this knowledge will also be important for big organizations. Many large institutions and corporations have a need to build real communities within, where people actually trust each other and collaborate."

On connecting with other Fellows: "I'd love to offer my help if any Fellow is ever travelling in one of our 22 Sandbox hubs. Please let me know if we can connect him with local young achievers on the ground. The map of members can be seen on the [Sandbox website](#). I also [blog](#) and I'm always eager to get feedback and inputs."

You can also contact Fabian [by email](#).

Know of an inspiring Fellow whom you'd like us to feature in the next newsletter? Please [let us know](#).



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 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 strengthening 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 let us know](#).

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!

involved in this project, or would just like some more information, please do get in touch with [Emma Norris](#).

RSA

Join us on **Wednesday 12 January, 1pm** for



How the West was Lost as economist Dambisa Moyo argues that the western world must fundamentally change its game-plan to compete with emerging economies. [Book now](#).

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](#) or [download the RSA Vision iPhone app](#). If you have an iPhone, check out the RSA iPhone app for the latest videos and RSAnimates. An Android version is out now!

USA

RSA US looks forward to the election of new members of its trustee board in 2011 and as well as the continued growth of networks around the country. In New York, Fellows have set a regular [meeting schedule](#) for the second Tuesday in each month starting on **January 11**. Regular meetings take place in Chattanooga usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. DC Fellows are invited to the [Center for Policy on Emerging Technology](#) on **December 15** for Holiday cheer and "light touch intellectual stimulus". Fellows in New Orleans are welcome at the [Westminster Debates](#) on **January 7** to discuss the future of online education vs. conventional universities. Fellows met in Vancouver despite a snow storm and plan to meet in Edmonton in the spring.



For more details and events visit the [American Coffee House](#) or contact [Lynn Broadbent](#).

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](#).