

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 1 March 2010

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News and Events



Focus on: Women

What is the contribution of women and women Fellows to the aims of the RSA? How do we achieve this? **Calling all those with an interest to get involved!** In recognition of **International Women's Day** and in conjunction with the **Fellowship Council Working Group on Gender**, the 'Focus on: Women' event at RSA House on **30 March at 6.30pm** is the first in a series of opportunities to meet other inspirational female Fellows, introduce a friend to the RSA, and explore the role of women in the 21st century. If you would like to attend this event or get involved, [read more](#).



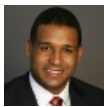
Wanted: Fellow to lead on Community Garden Project

Gardening can be a great tool for regeneration and for building a community. Rethinking the Community Garden is a project that seeks to maximize urban land use by finding ways to use underused land. In New Cross Gate we're already working on a small-scale project. We need someone with imagination and expertise to take the project's reins. We're looking for someone – ideally local – who can, with our assistance, fundraise for the pilot project, liaise with local stakeholders, create the budget, help stakeholders plan the year ahead, and hopefully draw in other Fellows. If you think you are the right person for this, [read more](#).



Birmingham Roundtable: Agenda for the West Midlands

With the development of the RSA Fellowship Council, several regions have taken the opportunity to review their role and objectives and convene working sessions for Fellows to discuss future regional direction and aims. The Roundtable on the **24 March from 5pm to 7.30pm** at the **Studio** in Birmingham provides such an opportunity for Fellows to help set the agenda of the RSA West Midlands. Working in groups, Fellows will discuss experiences and expectations of being a Fellow and propose a way forward for the region to operate. Mark Ball, a member of the Fellowship Council, will be present as well as other Fellow leaders from the region. If you wish to attend the event and find out further information, [read more](#).



Fellow's Profile - Jason D. Colburn

Jason D Colburn FRSA talks here of his experiences as a Fulbright Scholar in England and how he sees the RSA Fellowship contributing:

"I practice law in Chicago, aiding clients to resolve commercial issues in matters of real estate, finance and corporate, at the firm of **Schiff Hardin LLP**. A large amount of my time is spent representing pro bono—a foundation and a community-based organization, both striving to expand educational opportunities for Chicago's underprivileged. I gain great satisfaction from working with clients to navigate the complexities of the law in the pursuit of a successful outcome. I am also looking at ways to build a practice around sustainably oriented development.

I joined the RSA while serving in the European Union as a Fulbright-Schuman scholar and working at the **Prince of Wales's Foundation for the Built Environment**. Living in London, I was attracted to the RSA's lectures and debates, drawing from leading experts with not only breadth of experience, but also depth of wisdom on wide-ranging topics. The RSA has long been at the forefront of progress, channeling innovation through a dynamic platform of initiatives and programming. Since my interests lie in advancing cutting edge reform, it has turned out to be a perfect fit

In brief

Please see a selection of activities taking place worldwide...

At the RSA

Fellows are invited to attend the **RSA Environment Awards** as it announces the UK Finalists to the European Business Awards for the Environment 2010. The event on **Tuesday 2 March from 4pm-6pm** in the Great Room will include presentations by Dan Norris, Minister for Rural Affairs & the Environment and there will be a drinks reception from 6pm. [RSVP to attend the event](#).



Manchester

Fellows in the North West are invited to The Campaign for Learning Annual Lecture and Reception, titled *Skills for Jobs and Growth - a route to recovery*. The lecture by Chris Humphries, Chief Executive at the UK Commission for Employment and Skills will take place **Tuesday 9 March**, in The Great Hall, Manchester Town Hall from 5.45pm. A drinks reception will take place from 6.45pm.



This event is by permission of Manchester City Council and the Campaign for Learning is working in association with the RSA Fellowship. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [Katie Bloom](#) at the Campaign for Learning. For all other enquiries in the region please see the [North West Online Space](#) or contact [Vivienne Long-Ferguson](#).

RSA

Come and join us this **Friday**, for **Reason, Fiction and Faith: Are any of the arguments for the existence of God any good?** on **Friday 5 March, at 1pm**.



Award-winning novelist and philosopher Rebecca Newberger Goldstein and

I was in Europe to figure out what the United States could learn from major players who are involved in governing, financing and designing transit systems. Of the 150 people I met from 13 countries, most were eager to share their insights and create working relationships with their counterparts in the United States. And, a consensus is growing in the United States around the promise of retrofitting built-up areas to help reinvigorate the economy and regenerate neighborhoods, if not bring an end to the recession. I believe the RSA could occupy a vital role in this effort, especially in light of its prior success in linking up and mobilizing creative thinkers and doers through forward-looking activities.

I would like to see society take a longer view on development, designing places that will thrive well into the future. Since the economy is increasingly carbon constrained, settlements with greater density and a mixture of uses, providing fast, cheap, safe, reliable and friendly public transport tends to reduce costs to their residents and retain property values for homeowners. Baby boomers and young professionals are especially seeking out neighborhoods with amenities in walking distance of homes, thereby allowing many needs to be met at very little, if any, transportation cost.

I learned last week that the United States Department of Transportation pledged \$1.5 billion to stir innovation around the twin aims of enhancing the transport system and improving national prosperity. I am hopeful that these funds could trigger the creation of industries that produce new kinds of transit technologies, services and infrastructure, offering ample opportunities for much needed employment. Last week I met with Ray Gindroz of [Urban Design Associates](#), expert urban planner and former Yale professor, to discuss potential opportunities for the transfer of European design models to the United States. We talked about the Obama Administration's undertaking to partner the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This would ensure an integrated approach, fostering collaboration amongst key institutions involved in rolling out eco-friendly development that combines affordable housing and inexpensive transport.

On the 16th of February, I met Belinda Lester, Director of Fellowship, along with other Fellows living in Chicago. I was delighted to exchange ideas about expanding the RSA's presence in Chicago and the Midwest and about the possibility of introducing more transit-oriented development projects within the Chicago area. I mentioned visiting various cities in Europe such as Strasbourg, France where housing and retail space are connected to public transport infrastructure, enhancing the landscape and quality of life of residents in the city and those traveling in from outside areas. We all agreed that Chicago could profit in some way from Europe's experience in planning transit-centered communities.

I would like to continue to discuss with other Fellows how to strengthen the RSA's leadership on issues engaging members in the United States. I think the RSA could find value in partnering up with other organizations in the United States that have similar goals, but have an established audience. I am also interested in speaking with Fellows working on sustainable development and keen on discussing how to create an ongoing process for exchanging information between the United States and other countries that could lead to concrete proposals and workable schemes". **Contact** Jason if you would like to discuss these issues further.

*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.*



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.

Newberger Colusten and her husband, world-renowned cognitive theorist Steven Pinker, visit the RSA to address a fascinating array of topics at the interface of literature, science, religion and philosophy, including the dynamic between reason and emotion, the role of fiction in intellectual life and the mystery of consciousness.

This event will also be [live-streamed](#), so if you cannot make it the RSA House, you can go to the [Watch Live](#) page and tune in!

Alternatively you can [listen](#), or you can subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events. Filmed events are available to watch on [RSA Vision](#).

Winchester

Come along on **Wednesday 17 March** to a screening of the RSA Lecture, **'Whoops!'**. If you're interested in meeting RSA Fellows in your local area then join us on the third Wednesday of every month, at 6pm upstairs at the Slug & Lettuce, Winchester. For more information on the event and further information on the region, visit the [FRSA South Central online space](#).



Bristol & Cheltenham

Two events taking place in the West in the next couple of weeks include: a Cheltenham event on **Thursday 11 March** looking at Fellowship engagement in the area, and on **Friday 12 March** a new network will be taking place at [Colstan Hall](#) in Bristol following the concert performance. For further details of both networks and how to register please visit the [RSA West webpages](#).



USA

Participate in the [American Coffee House](#), which currently includes [Social Networks in 1757](#); a discussion on Benjamin Franklin's social group, the Junto.



View other discussions on the [American Coffee House](#). For further details of US activities and events contact [Lynn Broadbent](#).

Nominate a Friend

Do you know someone who you think should be a

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.
[Unsubscribe](#) from the Fellowship newsletter.

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 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 [Laura Billings](#).