

Press Release: 10 July 2018

RSE Young Academy of Scotland Welcomes New Members

New cohort of members includes outstanding members of Scotland's Refugee Community

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) is pleased to announce the appointment of 53 new members. The group, comprising 31 women and 22 men in their early-to-mid careers from across Scotland, make up the fifth intake cohort of new members since YAS was founded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011. They will join YAS's existing members in realising its mission 'to achieve transformative societal change through citizenship, innovation, collaboration, evidence, and leadership'.

The cohort includes three members who have been appointed through YAS's At-Risk Academic/Refugee (ARAR) membership initiative. The ARAR initiative was launched in 2016 to recognise young professionals of outstanding talent from Scotland's refugee and displaced migrant communities. YAS has committed to reserving membership spaces for at-risk academics and refugees in its recruitment rounds until at least 2020.

Unique among the growing number of young academies worldwide, YAS encourages membership applications from individuals in all sectors of society. This year, YAS is pleased to welcome members joining from business, the non-profit sector and public service, who include:

- Pinar Aksu**, Admin and Development Officer at the Maryhill Integration network and a human rights campaigner, who develops activities to support the integration of refugees into Scotland's communities.
- Jonathan Rayner**, Aviation Director, Edinburgh Airport, who is responsible for the aeronautical income stream and passenger growth at Edinburgh Airport.
- Catriona Wallace**, Head of Early Years, Scottish Book Trust, who oversees the vision and direction of Bookbug, the national early years literacy programme.

The new cohort also includes a diverse group of academics with specialisms ranging from astrobiology to theology. In addition to academic achievements, the selection committee placed significant emphasis on public outreach and interdisciplinary collaboration. Among the new academic members are:

- Claire Cousins**, Royal Society of Edinburgh Research Fellow and Lecturer, University of St Andrews, an astrobiologist seeking to understand how planetary environments support microbial life.

-Iain Donald, Lecturer in Interactive Media Production and Enterprise Leader, Abertay University, who researches the intersection of game, digital media, and history.

-Raphael Heffron, Professor for Global Energy Law and Sustainability, University of Dundee, whose research focuses on achieving a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Professor Nasar Meer, YAS co-chair, commented, “This is an incredibly talented cohort that brings to YAS a variety of expertise which promises to both enrich and expand our wide-ranging activities. We are delighted to welcome them and look forward to working collaboratively in the pursuit of transformative societal change”.

Ms Kate Walker, YAS co-chair commented, “Our new members are drawn from all sectors of society but share a common goal: to address the most pressing issues facing Scottish society and beyond. By convening members drawn from higher education, public service, the private and third sectors, we aim to facilitate interdisciplinary activities in the service of Scotland and its people. We look forward to welcoming our new members and supporting their contributions.”

Professor Dame Anne Glover, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh commented “I am pleased to welcome this diverse and accomplished group of new members to the Young Academy of Scotland. I also congratulate the Young Academy on their continuing commitment to bringing at-risk academic and refugee professionals into its membership, and look forward to seeing the contributions they make to the Academy’s activities.”

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Notes for Editors

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) fosters interdisciplinary activities among emerging leaders from the disciplines of science and humanities, the professions, the arts, business and civil society. Established by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011, the Young Academy of Scotland provides a platform for young entrepreneurs, professionals and academics to develop a coherent and influential voice, and to address the most challenging issues facing society in Scotland and beyond.

For more information about YAS, including details of the above projects, please visit www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk

<u>New Members of the Young Academy of Scotland 2018</u>		
Pinar Aksu	Admin and Development Officer	Maryhill Integration Network
Mohamed Zaher Al Bakour	PhD Candidate in Biomedical Sciences (Pharmacology)	University of Aberdeen
Miranda Anderson	AHRC Research Fellow	University of Edinburgh
Lily Asch	Founder and Director•	Real Talk
Nathan Bailey	University Reader and Natural Environment Research Council Independent Research Fellow	University of St Andrews
Vaishak Belle	Chancellor's fellow	University of Edinburgh
Ruth Bowness	Medical Research Council Research Fellow	University of St Andrews
Aidan Brown	Postdoctoral Researcher	University of Edinburgh
Heidi Burdett	Research Fellow	Heriot-Watt University
Julie Cameron	Head of Programmes (Scotland)	Mental Health Foundation
Sandro Carnicelli	Senior Lecturer	University of the West of Scotland
Sarah Chan	Chancellor's Fellow	University of Edinburgh
Ayse Basak Cinar	Senior Research Fellow	University of Dundee
Murray Collins	Chief Executive Officer	Space Intelligence
Claire Cousins	Royal Society of Edinburgh Research Fellow	University of St Andrews
Megan Coyer	Lecturer	University of Glasgow
Emily S Cross	Professor of Social Robotics	University of Glasgow
Margaret Cunningham	Independent Researcher/Fellow	University of Strathclyde
Iain Donald	Lecturer in Interactive Media Production & Academic Enterprise Leader	Abertay University

Claudia Magdalena Duffy	European Patent Attorney	Ellis IP
Ruth Dukes	Senior Lecturer in Employment Law	University of Glasgow
Jessica Enright	Lecturer in Mathematics	University of Stirling
John-Robert Eunson	Area Authority , BP Khazzan	BP Plc
Dylan Fotoohi	Development Officer	Scottish Refugee Council
Jonathan Fraser	Lecturer in Mathematics	University of St Andrews
Agomoni Ganguli Mitra	Chancellor's Fellow	University of Edinburgh
Ellen Garland	Royal Society University Research Fellow	University of St Andrews
Erik Manuel Gauger	Research Fellow	Heriot-Watt University
Raphael Heffron	Professor in Global Energy Law & Sustainability	University of Dundee
Allison Jackson	Executive Director, Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance	University of Glasgow
Asimina Kazakidi	Lecturer	University of Strathclyde
Laura Kelly	Lecturer in the history of health and medicine	University of Strathclyde
Aude Le Guennec	Associate Professor, Director of Fashion	Heriot-Watt University
Leslie James Mabon	Lecturer in Sociology	Robert Gordon University
Churnjeet Mahn	Chancellor's Fellow	University of Strathclyde
Jacqueline Ann Maybin	Clinical Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
Andrew Graeme McKeachie	Clinical Research Fellow and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disability	University of Edinburgh
Kitty Meeks	Research Fellow	University of Glasgow

Helen Mulvana	Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Research Fellow	University of Glasgow
Rachel Myles	Clinical Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Cardiologist	University of Glasgow
John D O'Connor	Teaching Fellow in Philosophy	University of Edinburgh
Stephen Robb-Russell O'Rourke	Advocate	Faculty of Advocates
Jimmy Paul	Permanence Consultant	University of Strathclyde
Gareth William Peters	Chair Professor of Statistics for Risk and Insurance	Heriot-Watt University
Giuseppe Pezzini	Lecturer in Latin	University of St Andrews
Jonathan Rayner	Aviation Director	Edinburgh Airport
Amanda Seed	Senior Lecturer	University of St Andrews
Stefania Spano	Personal Chair	University of Aberdeen
Roy Scott Spurlock	Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies	University of Glasgow
Clare Taylor	Senior Lecturer in Medical Microbiology	Edinburgh Napier University
Catriona Wallace	Head of Early Years	Scottish Book Trust
Rebecca Warren	Physics teacher	St George's School for Girls
Oliver Witard	Lecturer in Health and Exercise Science	University of Stirling