

THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS 2023

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SUPPORT THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

From its first award in 1959, the AngloDanish Society's charitable Scholarship Programme continues to - grant scholarships for the purpose of post graduate study or research to British and Danish Students for study in the other country.

It is an investment in our youth that underpins our aim of strengthening relations between the UK and Denmark.

This funding makes a real difference to Scholars by enabling further research and providing them with an opportunity to enjoy the whole experience of living and working in another country.

The Society and its Scholarship Programme rely entirely on the work and commitment of its volunteers, with no paid staff, no overheads and very few administrative costs and we need your help in raising funds to ensure that we can continue this valuable work.

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THANK YOU

Published May 2025

Sophie Nielsen

MSc Russian and East European Studies

Oxford University

During the academic year 2022-2023, I completed my MSc in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Oxford with the support of the Anglo-Danish Society.

The academic journey I embarked on was particularly enlightening, amidst significant regional upheavals, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the consequential shifts in neighbouring countries' relations with Europe. Oxford provided a dynamic environment enriched by a steady flow of expert speakers who offered invaluable insights into the region's political landscape, making it an ideal setting for my master's studies.

One of the most rewarding opportunities I encountered was the chance to study the Ukrainian language. Building upon my proficiency in Russian, I found the linguistic nuances between the two languages both intriguing and essential, given my aspirations to work in Ukraine post-graduation. Despite not being a standard component of the MSc programme, mastering Ukrainian became a priority for me, given its relevance to my future endeavours.

For my master's thesis, I opted to explore a less conventional topic, focusing on the Russian Federation's engagement with Sub-Saharan African states. Rather than adhering to the conventional narrative of West versus Russia, I sought to understand the intricacies of partnerships and discourse beyond our immediate geopolitical sphere. This allowed me to broaden my perspective and delve into the complexities of global dynamics, focusing on Russia's use of anti-colonialism in its discourse.

Oxford's location, just a short train ride away from London, allowed for not only academic pursuits but also



professional experience. During my first semester at Oxford, I interned at the Danish Embassy in the UK, where I primarily focused on political-military developments, particularly in relation to the collaboration between Denmark and Britain concerning their support for Ukraine. Being able to use in practice the knowledge I obtained at university was a great opportunity.

Beyond this, Oxford offered a vibrant social and cultural scene that shaped my overall experience. Oxford's vast number of cozy pubs to meet with friends combined with a rich university sporting society kept me busy from day to night. Picking up rowing, and ending up representing my college's, New College, Women 1st boat in rowing regattas such as the Summer Eights and Torpids was an incredible experience.

Upon graduating, I relocated to Kyiv, where I started as a Humanitarian Mine Action Specialist with the Danish Refugee Council. Here I get to spend every day working towards the safety and well-being of civilians affected by conflict.

I am certain that my postgraduate studies at Oxford, and the financial contribution from the Anglo-Danish Society, were a contributing factor in allowing me to start my career in the Humanitarian sector.

Lloyd Griffin

Advanced Postgraduate Diploma (Trumpet)

Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus

During the last year of my Advanced Postgraduate Diploma, the Anglo Danish Society scholarship was able to support me in so many ways. My academic year started off with a study trip to the picturesque town of Chiaramonte Gulfi in central Sicily, where I attended a masterclass with world renowned trumpet Professor, Reinhold Freidrich. For years, I have desired to receive lessons and masterclasses from Professor Freidrich and so to attend the 8-day course was a career enhancing experience. During my time with Reinhold, we worked on various solo pieces, such as the ever-demanded Haydn Trumpet Concerto. This piece, particularly the first movement, features in every trumpet audition and so to be able to work intensely with Reinhold on such elements as style, periodic nuances and fine tuning really was an audition defining moment. Reinhold spoke so passionately about how we can take our fine tuning and intonation from the work of Pythagoras, who, two and a half thousand years ago, discovered that certain intervals within a scale should be higher or lower, giving them the sense of being more "in-tune". He discovered this in his mathematical equations.

From August, I started back in my final year of studies at Det Jyske Musikkonservatorium. During my lesson time, I worked with my Professor, Kristian Steenstrup on French repertoire, particularly from the period of 1890-1920, where French trumpet work was growing in popularity largely thanks to the invention of both the modern-day cornet and trumpet. We looked at the more technical side of trumpet playing within the music. I also accompanied the practice of the solo work with the Jean Baptiste Arban study book. This book was written around the same time and features every element of trumpet playing such as single, double and triple tonguing, lyrical, lip flexibilities, intervals and ornaments.

Throughout the course of the year, I also took part in various solo repertoire concerts. This allowed me to perform the works in a concert/audience setting. At the same time, I was also able to practise performing during the concerts, where I worked with my professor on positive mental performance attitudes. I also featured in a solo concert where I performed trumpet works entirely by Danish composers such as Geog Wilkenschildt, Axel Jørgensen and Thorvald Hansen. Thanks to this, I was invited to perform the Wilkenschildt at Det Jyske Musikkonservatorium graduation ceremony in spring 2023.



Rebekah Ball

Masters in Architecture

Aarhus School of Architecture

I would like to thank the Anglo Danish Society and the Ove Arup Foundation for the support I received during the final year of my masters studies at Aarhus Arkitektskolen. The Danish attitude to design is very different to that of the UK and studying in Aarhus opened my eyes to new ways of working and aspects of Danish design history that I was previously unaware of.

The autumn semester was spent exploring the past, present and future of Faaborg Museum (Carl Petersen, 1915) which is considered to be a nationally significant example of Scandinavian Neo-Classical architecture. My proposal sought to improve the museum's facilities and widen its reach through a series of re-use and new-build interventions, taking design inspiration from the old building and the surrounding local context. As an introduction to the project, we worked in small groups to conduct a study of the existing heritage spaces in the museum, creating a series of drawings and interior models that helped to deepen our understanding of the architect's original intentions and this went on to greatly influence my design.

Following a small feature published in Arkitekten, I was part of a team of students approached by Skagens Museum to re-create three interiors, designed by the Danish artist Marie Krøyer (1867-1940), in model form for the first major exhibition of her work. We worked from old photos and watercolours to replicate the various architectural details and furniture in miniature, and the models are a central focus of the exhibition which has been shown in Skagen, Copenhagen and Stockholm (until Aug 2024).

My thesis project titled 'Rhapsody in Brass' proposed the creation of a community music hub in Wakefield, UK, celebrating the brass banding tradition of Northern England. The role of sound is explored in the building, with consideration given to how spaces can be connected sonically and how the acoustic needs of musical and non-musical spaces can be expressed at spatial and tectonic scales.

Sara Romby

MSc in Climate Change, Management and Finance Imperial College London

Climate change has become a focus of studies across academic disciplines. The degree I studied at Imperial College London combines the disciplines of natural science, business, and finance to study climate change and how society can decarbonise and adapt to the unavoidable impacts. Coming from an academic background of politics and economics, the degree has not only helped me build on my policy knowledge through a better understanding of how we can design climate change policies that align with science, but also helped me explore how business and finance can become a mobilising rather than constraining force of climate action.

During my time at Imperial, I specialised in climate change finance and financial policy for climate change. This is reflected in my choice of electives in risk management and clean technology investments, as well as my thesis about the effect on financial and capital flows from regulation that prohibits sustainability-related disclosures in the US. I graduated with an overall Distinction but most importantly enriched with new knowledge, a sophisticated analytical toolbox, and friendships for life.

I am now working at a one-of-a-kind consultancy firm in London specialised in the policy, politics, and regulation of the climate transition. Here I mostly work with financial institutions and renewable energy businesses to help them navigate and deploy a political understanding of the decarbonisation. One of the partners at the firm studied the same degree, which was ultimately how I discovered them, meaning my time at Imperial has been essential to my further professional development.

The scholarship from the Anglo-Danish Society has been an important contribution to allowing me to pursue this degree, and I will be forever grateful that you found my application worthy of support.

Philip Boserup Lemire

Mphil, Classics

Cambridge University

I wish to thank The Anglo-Danish Society for generously supporting my Master of Philosophy in Classics at Queens' College, Cambridge.

As opposed to the Classical archaeologist, who studies the ancient world through material remains, the Classical philologist is focused on texts. Indeed, it is Classical Latin texts that are at the core of my interest in Classics. During my time in Cambridge, the main focus of my studies was the textual transmission of Latin literature, with a particular focus on the two Roman poets Lucretius and Martial. Apart from minor fragments of papyri, the vast majority of manuscripts of Classical Latin texts were copied during the Carolingian Renaissance. Copying books by hand meant that no two copies contained an identical text. This was not only due to scribal errors but also because copying by hand allowed scribes freely to exclude or change parts of the text.

My studies thus involved examining textual variants in medieval manuscripts and their relation to one another.

Having studied both in Denmark and the United Kingdom, I discovered how Classics is taught differently in different countries. Each country offers a unique approach to the field, and I believe that engaging with Classics on an international level, and at different institutions, is necessary to fully understand the discipline. I am immensely grateful to The Anglo-Danish Society for their contribution to my studies in Cambridge.

Alexandra Morton-Hayward

Dphil Earth Sciences

University of Oxford & Aarhus University

The following is an extract from a report completed by Alexandra and her colleagues while funded by the AD Society

The brain is thought to be among the first human organs to decompose after death. The discovery of brains preserved in the archaeological record is therefore regarded as unusual. Although mechanisms such as dehydration, freezing, saponification, and tanning are known to allow for the preservation of the brain on short time scales in association with other soft tissues (≈4000 years), discoveries of older brains, especially in the absence of other soft tissues, are rare. Here, we collated an archive of more than 4400 human brains preserved in the archaeological record across approximately 12,000 years, more than 1300 of which constitute the only soft tissue preserved amongst otherwise skeletonized remains. We found that brains of this type persist on time scales exceeding those preserved by other means, which suggests an unknown mechanism may be responsible for preservation particular to the central nervous system. The untapped archive of preserved ancient brains represents an opportunity for bioarchaeological studies of human evolution, health and disease.



Since the mid-17th century, more than 4400 human brains have been unearthed from the last 12 000 years of the archaeological record, over 1300 of which are preserved among otherwise skeletonized remains. Despite this volume of finds, the perception remains that preserved brains represent ‘unique’ or ‘extremely rare’ discoveries. Human soft tissues are understood to persist through time by well-characterized mechanisms of preservation such as dehydration, freezing and tanning, brought about by anthropogenic (i.e. the result of deliberate human intervention) or naturally occurring factors. Thus, it is not surprising that the brain endures alongside other internal organs where there is extensive soft tissue preservation. Brains are found in the desiccated remains of desert burials, the frozen corpses of mountain passes, and the tanned bog bodies of low-lying wetlands. However, the preservation of brains in the absence of other soft tissues—for example, among ancient human bones dredged from a swampy pond—is unexpected, poorly reported, and represents an untapped source of bioarchaeological information.

Despite the prospective palaeobiological applications, no comprehensive or systematic effort has been made to collectively investigate preserved brains for factors that might explain why this organ persists when other soft tissues do not. At the dawn of the 20th century, anatomist and Egyptologist Elliot Smith (1871–1937) derided the ‘scanty literature’ on preserved brains, arguing that ‘almost every archaeologist who has excavated ... is aware of the fact that the brain is preserved in the crania of a very large proportion’ of human remains disinterred. To test the long-held hypothesis that human brain preservation is a rare phenomenon, we compiled an archive of preserved human brains in the archaeological record. We statistically analysed this body of data to establish their prevalence, persistence, and diversity of preservation types, described the nature of differentially preserved nervous tissues, and quantified their global and temporal distribution. We then discussed the value of leveraging preserved human brains for studies of palaeopathology and archaeogenetics.

The discovery of more than 4400 preserved human brains, with more than 1300 as old as 12 000 y and preserved in the absence of other soft tissues, suggests that nervous tissues persist in an abundance that has been overlooked in the archaeological literature. Our analyses reveal statistically significant differences in the geographical, climatic and temporal distribution of human brains preserved throughout the Holocene by ephemeral conditions that arrest their decay. Molecular crosslinking and metal complexation (with or without subsequent mineral precipitation) represent feasible, testable mechanisms by which labile nervous tissues might preserve brains on even longer, geological time scales.

The archive we compiled represents the first step toward a comprehensive, systematic investigation of ancient brains beyond 12 000 y BP, and is essential to maximizing the molecular and morphological information they yield as the most metabolically active organ in the body, and among the most commonly preserved soft tissues. Ancient brains may provide new and unique palaeobiological insights, helping us to better understand the history of major neurological disorders, ancient cognition and behaviour, and the evolution of nervous tissues and their functions.

Benjamin Fischermann

MA Directing Documentary

National Film & Television School

The support from the Anglo-Danish Society played a pivotal role in shaping my educational journey in the UK. Enrolled as a documentary director at the esteemed National Film and Television School, I not only acquired essential knowledge and skills but also crafted two impactful films during my tenure. These works delved into personal narratives and explored profound themes like mental health and psychiatry.

One of my productions, "Only in my Head," an observational documentary set in Copenhagen's national hospital's electro-convulsive therapy department, premiered globally at the renowned CPH:DOX documentary

festival. Furthermore, it received the title of Best Short Documentary at Barnes Film Festival in London.

My time at the school has been transformative, nurturing me into a more adept filmmaker. The lessons from this experience are invaluable and will significantly influence my professional trajectory. The creative abilities and practical skills acquired during my tenure are fundamental to my career progression.

The Anglo-Danish Society's Scholarship enabled me to fully immerse myself in the educational environment. Without their support, accessing such a comprehensive learning experience would have been difficult.

I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity afforded by the Anglo-Danish Society's Scholarship. It has not only fuelled my pursuits but has also laid a solid foundation for my future endeavours in filmmaking.

