The British Academy is the UK’s national academy for the humanities and social sciences. Since 1902 it has supported high achievement in the humanities and social sciences and championed their role and value.

The Academy supports innovative research and outstanding people, seeks to provide independent policy advice, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas and raise the level of public understanding through reports, publications and events.

WHO WE ARE

The British Academy has three roles:

- **A Fellowship** composed of distinguished researchers and scholars from all areas of the humanities and social sciences, elected by their peers to promote the work of these disciplines and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

- **A Funding Body** providing support for the best ideas, individuals and intellectual resources in the humanities and social sciences, wherever they are located.

- **A Voice** representing the humanities and social sciences in the UK and internationally by providing independent advice about the health of the humanities and social sciences and enhancing public understanding and debate.

THE ACADEMY’S PURPOSE IS TO INSPIRE, RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES THROUGHOUT THE UK AND INTERNATIONALLY, AND TO CHAMPION THEIR ROLE AND VALUE.
Research stemming from a detailed understanding of human behaviour, economies, cultures and societies can dramatically redefine the crucial decisions we need to make. These decisions may involve the future direction of our economy, ways of broadening and strengthening education provision at all levels, or how we deal with the effects of climate or constitutional change.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES?

- History
- Literature and Languages
- Psychology
- Economics
- Law
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Archaeology
- Classics
- Geography
- Linguistics
- Sociology
- Africa, Asia and The Middle East
- Theology and Religious Studies
- Medieval Studies
- History of Art and Music
- Political Studies
- Anthropology
- International Relations
- Education and Management
- Cultural and Performance Studies

THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES TEACH US HOW PEOPLE HAVE CREATED THEIR WORLD, AND HOW THEY IN TURN ARE CREATED BY IT.
Each year, the British Academy elects to its Fellowship up to 42 outstanding UK-based researchers and scholars who have achieved distinction in any branch of the humanities and social sciences. Others based overseas are elected as Corresponding Fellows, and the Academy can also elect Honorary Fellows.

**FELLOWS**
This is the major category of Fellowship at the Academy for UK-based scholars and researchers who have achieved outstanding success in any branch of the humanities or social sciences. Election is a mark of real distinction, as only a very small number of academics in any field are elected. There are now over 900 Fellows.

**CORRESPONDING FELLOWS**
Corresponding Fellows, living outside the UK, are elected for attaining high international standing in any humanities or social science discipline. This is taken to mean even greater distinction than that required for UK Fellowship. There are currently over 300 Corresponding Fellows.

**HONORARY FELLOWS**
Honorary Fellows are elected for making a significant contribution to the Academy’s purposes, either through distinction in other fields whose work has a bearing on the humanities or social sciences or as leading figures or philanthropists who have done distinguished work in the Academy’s fields of interest.

**PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY**
Professor Sir Nicholas Stern (Lord Stern of Brentford) is a leading British economist, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government and Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics. He has taught and researched at universities around the world including Oxford, Warwick, MIT, the Collège de France, the École Polytechnique in Paris, and the People’s University of China. He was knighted for services to economics in 2004. Lord Stern has made a major contribution to the economics of public policy and to development economics; as head of the Government Economic Service, he led the ground-breaking Stern Review on the economics of climate change, published in 2006, which has had great influence around the world.

For quotes or interviews with Fellows of the British Academy, please contact the British Academy Press Office: press@britac.ac.uk, 020 7969 5227.
The British Academy “for the Promotion of Historical, Philosophical and Philological Studies” was first proposed in 1899 so that Britain could be represented at meetings of European and American research academies.

The organisation, which became the British Academy, received its Royal Charter from King Edward VII in 1902.

In 1998, the Academy moved to its present headquarters at 10–11 Carlton House Terrace. The Terrace, one of London’s finest Georgian treasures overlooks St James’s Park. It was designed by John Nash and built in the 1820s and 1830s. Number 10 was formerly the London residence of the Ridley family and number 11 was the home of former Prime Minister William Gladstone from 1856 to 1875.

MANY OF BRITAIN’S MOST DISTINGUISHED ACADEMICS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE ACADEMY INCLUDING JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES, ISAIAH BERLIN, C.S. LEWIS AND HENRY MOORE.
THE ROLES OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY

RESEARCH AND FUNDING
Each year the British Academy provides around £30 million of research funding to the research community within the UK and internationally. Its funding schemes are supported by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and a range of other organisations and individuals through private funds, gifts and legacies, contributions made by Fellows and grants from research foundations.

Funds are primarily used to support individual research; facilitating the work of small networks of researchers and scholars; encouraging pilot studies and speculative research; and underpinning long-term infrastructural research projects. The Academy also fosters international collaboration and cultural interchange.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT
The British Academy is a powerful advocate for the humanities and social sciences and provides independent informed advice on higher education and research policy to the Government and other bodies. We also champion excellence across our disciplines within the research community.

A key part of the British Academy’s work is the promotion of language learning and quantitative skills — reflecting its longstanding concerns about the UK’s deficits in these areas. The Academy produces high-level reports and activities, funds research, seeks to influence policy in these areas, and identifies and promotes best practice. A significant part of the programme includes support targeted at school, undergraduate, postgraduate and research levels.

In 2009 the Academy created a Policy Centre, which draws on leading academic expertise in the humanities and social sciences to shed light on contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges and provides independent, evidence-based advice and reports. The British Academy’s policy work ranges from health, human rights, culture and heritage, to economics, national security and global influence.

THE BRITISH ACADEMY SEEKS TO RAISE UNDERSTANDING OF SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME THROUGH POLICY REPORTS, RESEARCH, FORUMS, CONFERENCES, PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS.
THE ROLES OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY

EVENTS
The British Academy organises a varied programme of events for a range of public and academic audiences, including conferences, lectures, panel discussions and policy round-tables. They range from pivotal events of lasting significance in their field, to discussions which share new knowledge and stimulate public debate for non-specialist audiences.

In these ways the events programme seeks to promote ways in which research across the humanities and social sciences can offer new insights that help us to face the challenges of modern life as both individuals and a society.

British Academy events take place in London and in other parts of the UK, and recordings are made available to a wider audience through the Academy’s website.

PUBLICATIONS
The British Academy publishes a range of academic titles including monographs, themed volumes, catalogues and editions. These are mostly published in partnership with the Oxford University Press.

The British Academy Review, a magazine featuring articles on new scholarship across the humanities and social sciences, is published 2–3 times a year, and the open access Journal of the British Academy contains outputs from the Academy’s wide-ranging lecture programme.

PRIZES AND MEDALS
Each year the British Academy awards a range of prizes and medals on the recommendation of specialist committees. The British Academy Medals, which were awarded for the first time in 2013, recognize and reward landmark achievement in any branch of the humanities and social sciences. President’s Medals, first awarded in 2010, reward significant service to the cause of the humanities and social sciences; these could be for insightful journalism contributing to public understanding, use of research in policymaking or public leadership concerning the value of the humanities and social sciences.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT
A vital part of the Academy's function is to promote the interests of UK research and learning around the world, developing the role of humanities and social science research in tackling global challenges. As well as providing funding and support to researchers overseas, the Academy develops and maintains links with a variety of partner institutions across a range of countries and supports several British institutes and societies based overseas.

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The British Academy is based at 10–11 Carlton House Terrace, next to St James’s Park, Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square.

The British Academy is wheelchair accessible and is equipped with an induction loop system.

VISITOR INFORMATION

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Sign up for our enewsletters at www.britishacademy.ac.uk/signup

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The British Academy relies on voluntary and statutory contributions to fund approximately 500 research grants, essential higher education and public policy work and over 40 topical events per year. There are a range of partnering opportunities across British Academy programmes and activities, including:

- Public events
- Research awards
- Public Policy reports
- International collaborations
- Prizes and medals

SUPPORT THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Academy funds research, supports early career academics and seeks to raise the level of public understanding of some of the big issues of our time.

If you or your organisation share our passion for knowledge and ideas and would like to explore imaginative ways in which your help will make a difference please contact Jennifer Hawton, the Academy’s Development Officer, on 020 7969 5258 or j.hawton@britac.ac.uk
CONTACT US

For interviews or filming requests with Fellows, or more information about the British Academy please contact the Press Office at the British Academy on press@britac.ac.uk or 020 7969 5227

The British Academy is located at 10–11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

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