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Council and Main Committees

General Purposes Committee of Council

The General Purposes Committee of Council has made the following changes to regulations, to come into effect on **16 June**.

(a) Changes to Regulations for the O'Donnell Fund

Explanatory Note

These changes are made to combine the regulations for the lecturer and associated fund for administrative expediency and to add in standard trust provisions.

Text of Regulations

1 In Council Regulations 24 of 2002, delete the sections concerning O'Donnell Lecturer in Celtic Studies.

2 In Council Regulations 25 of 2002, delete the sections concerning the Celtic Studies: Lectures endowed by C J O'Donnell, and replace with the following:

'O'Donnell Fund

1. The University received with gratitude gifts bequeathed to it by Mr Charles J. O'Donnell, and holds these gifts as expendable endowment. Further money or property may be paid or transferred to the University as either expendable or permanent endowment to be held on the same trusts. The assets so held will be known as the O'Donnell Fund ("the Fund").

2. The University shall retain as permanent endowment those of the assets in the Funds which are contributed on the express understanding that they are to be treated as permanent endowment ("the Permanent Endowment").

3. The University shall (a) apply the income of the Permanent Endowment; and (b) apply the income and, in its discretion, the capital of the remainder of the Fund for the advancement of education for the benefit of the public as follows:

(1) by establishing lectures to be called the O'Donnell Lectures ("the Lectures"); and

(2) by establishing and maintaining a visiting lecturer to deliver the lectures, to be called the O'Donnell Lecturer in Celtic Studies ("the Lecturer").

4. The Lectures shall be connected with one or other of the following subjects (a) the British or Celtic elements in the English language and the dialects of English counties and the special terms and words used in agriculture and handicrafts, and/or (b) the British or Celtic elements in the existing population of England.

5. The Lecturer shall hold office for one year but shall be re-eligible and shall be required to give not less than one or more than three lectures, the number of lectures within these limits being left to the lecturer's discretion.

6. The administration of the Fund, and the application of its income, shall be the responsibility of the Humanities Divisional Board.

7. Any balance of the income not so applied shall be carried forward for expenditure in subsequent years.

8. The University shall have power to pay out of the income of the Funds all costs of and incidental to the creation of the Funds and the management and administration of the Funds and the post.

9. The University may exercise any of its corporate powers in the management and administration of the Funds in so far as those powers are not inconsistent with these regulations.

10. These regulations shall be deemed to be Trust Regulations under the provisions of Part D of Statute XVI.

11. Subject to regulation 10, Council may amend, repeal or add to these regulations in accordance with Part D of Statute XVI, but no amendment is valid if it would cause the Fund to:

(1) cease to be exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales; or

(2) be outside the objects of the University.

12. Any amendment to regulation 3 is an amendment to the main objects of the Funds for the purposes of Part D of Statute XVI and must be approved both by Congregation of the University and subsequently by His Majesty in Council.'

(b) Changes to Regulations for the Hiorns Memorial Prize and the Crowther Memorial Prize

Explanatory Note

These changes streamline the administration of the Hiorns Memorial Prize and the Crowther Memorial Prize, by removing the administrative details of the terms on which each prize is awarded from regulations. The opportunity is taken to remove outdated references, and to clarify Council's power to make changes as required by Statute XVI.

Text of Regulations

1 In Council Regulations 25 of 2002, amend part concerning the Hiorns Memorial Prize as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

'Hiorns Memorial Prize

1. The moneys establishing the Bob Hiorns Memorial Prize ("the Fund") shall be retained by the University as permanent endowment, and the net income of the Fund shall be applied to the award of a prize, to be known as the Bob Hiorns Memorial Prize, for the advancement of Human Sciences.

2. The administration of the Fund, and the application of its income, shall be the responsibility of Teaching Committee for Human Sciences.

3. (1) The prize shall be open to student members of the University and shall be awarded annually, if suitable

~~candidates present themselves, by the Teaching Committee for Human Sciences; on the basis of outstanding for performance in relation to the Final Honour School of Human Sciences in such assessment(s) on such terms as the Teaching Committee shall from time to time determine.~~

(2) If two or more candidates for the prize are judged to be of equal merit, additional prizes may be awarded. If no candidate is deemed to be of sufficient merit the Teaching Committee has discretion to make no award.

(3) The value of the prize or prizes shall be determined by the Teaching Committee for Human Sciences.

4. For administrative efficiency, the Fund is aggregated with the Crowther Memorial Prize Fund, both Funds having the same purposes in all material respects.

5. Regulations 2, 3 and 4 above may be amended by Council.

2 In Council Regulation 25 of 2002, amend part concerning the Crowther Memorial Prize as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

‘Crowther Memorial Prize

1. The University accepts with gratitude the sum of £2,000, and any further sums which may be contributed for the purpose, to establish a prize in Human Sciences to commemorate the work of Mrs Wilma Crowther, Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall and University Lecturer (CUF) in Zoology.

2. The administration of the Fund, and the application of its income, shall be the responsibility of the The Teaching Committee for Human Sciences ~~shall be the board of management for the prize and shall determine the value of the prize from time to time.~~

3. (1) The prize shall be open to student members of the University and shall be awarded annually, by the

Teaching Committee for Human Sciences provided that there is a candidate of sufficient merit, for on the basis of outstanding performance in relation to the Final Honour School of Human Sciences in such assessment(s) on such terms as the Teaching Committee standing committee shall from time to time determine.

(2) If no candidate is deemed to be of sufficient merit the Teaching Committee has discretion to make no award.

4. Any surplus income arising from the non-award of a prize, or from any other cause, shall at the discretion of the ~~Teaching Committee standing committee~~ either be carried forward for expenditure in a subsequent year or be applied in awarding one or more further prizes of such value as the Teaching Committee standing committee shall determine.

5. For administrative efficiency, the Fund is aggregated with the Hiorns Memorial Prize Fund, both Funds having the same purposes in all material respects.

6. Council shall have authority to amend these regulations from time to time provided that the main object of the benefaction, as set out in regulation 1 above, is always kept in view.’

(c) Change to regulations for the Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetic Science

Explanatory Note

The following changes have been made to update the electoral board composition to widen the remit of the post to include non-clinical applicants. Currently the regulations specify the electoral board composition to include a person holding a clinical appointment appointed by the relevant NHS body with which the postholder will hold an honorary contract. It is proposed that this requirement is removed and only added if any of the shortlisted applicants

are clinical consultants. The opportunity is also being taken to include research in the duties of the Professor and to update outdated references.

Text of Regulations

In Council Regulations 24 of 2002, concerning individual professorships, amend the Nuffield Professorship of Anaesthetic Science as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

‘Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetic Science

1. The Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetic Science shall undertake research, lecture and give instruction in Anaesthetics.

2. The professor shall be elected by an electoral board consisting of:

(1) the Vice-Chancellor, or if the Master of Pembroke is Vice-Chancellor, a person appointed by Council, or, if the Master of Pembroke College is Vice-Chancellor, a person appointed by Council on the occurrence of a vacancy to act as an elector on that occasion;

(2) the Master of Pembroke College or, if the Master is unable or unwilling to act, a person appointed by the governing body of the college on the occurrence of a vacancy to act as an elector on that occasion;

(3) a person appointed by the Governing Body of Pembroke;

(4), (5) two persons appointed by Council;

(6)–(9) four persons appointed by the Medical Sciences Board;

(10) if any of the short-listed candidates are clinical consultants, a person holding a clinical appointment appointed by the body or bodies which may issue an honorary clinical contract or contracts to the professor, the relevant NHS body with which the postholder may hold an honorary contract.

3. At least three members of the board, of whom one shall be a professor, shall hold clinical appointments.

4. The professor shall be subject to the General Provisions of the regulations concerning the duties of professors and to those Particular Provisions of the same regulations which are applicable to this Chair.'

(d) Change to regulations for the Nuffield Professor of Population Health

Explanatory Note

The following changes have been made to update the electoral board composition to widen the remit of the post to include non-clinical applicants. Currently the regulations specify the electoral board composition to include a person holding a clinical appointment appointed by the relevant NHS body with which the post-holder will hold an honorary contract. It is proposed that this requirement is removed and only made mandatory if any of the short-listed applicants are clinical consultants.

Text of Regulations

In Council Regulations 24 of 2002, concerning individual professorships, amend the Nuffield Professorship of Population Health as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

'Nuffield Professor of Population Health

1. The Nuffield Professor of Population Health shall undertake research, lecture and give instruction in population health.

2. The professor shall be elected by an electoral board consisting of:

- (1) the Vice-Chancellor, or if the head of the college specified in paragraph (2) below is the Vice-Chancellor, a person appointed by Council;
- (2) the head of the college to which the professorship may be allocated by Council from time to time; or if the head is unable or unwilling

to act, a person appointed by the governing body of that college;

(3) a person appointed by the governing body of the college;

(4), (5) two persons appointed by Council;

(6)-(9) four persons appointed by the Medical Sciences Board;

(10) if any of the short-listed candidates are clinical consultants, a person holding a clinical appointment appointed by the relevant NHS body with which the post-holder ~~will~~ may hold an honorary contract.

3. At least three members of the board, of whom one shall be a professor, shall hold clinical appointments.

4. The professor shall be subject to the General Provisions of the regulations concerning the duties of professors and to those Particular Provisions of the same regulations which are applicable to this chair.'

Congregation

29 May

Degree by Resolution

This content has been removed as it contains personal information protected under data protection legislation. [Members of the University with a SSO account can log in to read the redacted content.](#)

Council of the University

Register of Congregation

The Vice-Chancellor reports that the following names have been added to the Register of Congregation:

Sarah Ball, Radcliffe Department of Medicine
 Nigel Jonathan Cribb, Estates Services
 Richard D'Arcy, Worcester
 Aneurin John Cynan Ellis-Evans, University College
 Thomas Korff, Social Sciences Divisional Office
 Malachi Simeon Alexander McIntosh, St Hilda's
 Kevin John O'Flaherty, Estates Services
 Ian Duncan Ohr, IT Services
 Peter Gordon Robert Stokes, Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences
 Katy Vincent, Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health
 Naomi Ruth Wray, St Hilda's

Divisional and Faculty Boards

For changes to regulations for examinations see '[Changes to Examination Regulations](#)' below.

Congregation

Congregation 5 June

Degree by Resolution

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Congregation 8 June

Contested elections

Council
Curators of the University Parks

Details are in '[Elections](#)' section below.

Congregation 13 June

Voting on Suspension to Congregation Regulations 3 of 2002: Religious Services and Sermons

Explanatory Note

The following part-suspensions of paragraphs within Part 6 of Congregation Regulations 3 of 2002, made on the recommendation of the Committee for the Nomination of Select Preachers, suspend the regulations to hold the University Sermon on the Sin of Pride on Sunday 19 November 2023 and the University Sermon on the Grace of Humility on Friday 9 February 2024, it having not proven possible to host the University Sermons on the Grace of Humility and on the Sin of Pride on Quinquagesima Sunday and the last Sunday before Advent respectively.

Text of Regulations

In Congregation Regulations 3 of 2002, concerning the Conduct of Ceremonies in Congregation and certain other Ceremonies, suspend part of regulations 6.15 and 6.17 in respect of the University Sermon on the Grace of Humility and the University Sermon on the Sin of Pride only, in the manner indicated below (suspended text struck through):

'SERMONS TO BE PREACHED ELSEWHERE THAN IN ST MARY'S CHURCH

Sermons on the Grace of Humility and the Sin of Pride

6.15 The Sermons on the Grace of Humility and on the Sin of Pride, for which a benefaction was given to the University in 1684 by the Revd William Master, Vicar of Preston, near Cirencester, shall be preached ~~on Quinquagesima Sunday and the last Sunday before Advent respectively,~~ on one of a selection of texts specified by the benefactor.

6.17 Sermons shall be preached before the University in certain colleges, on certain days, namely:

(8) in rotation, in one of those colleges and societies which have so agreed with the Committee for the Nomination of Select Preachers, the Sermon on the Sin of Pride (preached in accordance with Regulation 6.15 above), ~~on the last Sunday before Advent;~~

(9) in rotation, in one of those colleges and societies which have so agreed with the Committee for the Nomination of Select Preachers, the Sermon on the Grace of Humility (preached in accordance with Regulation 6.15 above), ~~on Quinquagesima Sunday.~~

Meeting information

Members of Congregation are reminded that any two members may, not later than **noon on 5 June**, give notice in writing to the Registrar that they wish to oppose or amend the suspension of Congregation regulations below (see the note on the conduct of business in Congregation below). If no such notice has been given, and unless Council has declared otherwise or the meeting has been adjourned, the suspension of regulations shall be declared carried, and the meeting may be cancelled.

Convocation 16 June

Election

Professor of Poetry

Details are in '[Elections](#)' section below.

Note on procedures in Congregation

¶ Business in Congregation is conducted in accordance with Congregation Regulations 2 of 2002 (<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/congregation-regulations-2-of-2002>). A printout of these regulations, or of any statute or other regulations, is available from the Council Secretariat on request. A member of Congregation seeking advice on questions relating to its procedures, other than elections, should contact Louise Hasler, Council Secretariat, University Offices, Wellington Square (email congregation.meeting@admin.ox.ac.uk); questions relating to elections should be directed to the Elections Officer, Ms S L S Mulvihill (email: elections.office@admin.ox.ac.uk).

Notices

Appointments

Humanities

GOLDSMITHS' PROFESSORSHIP OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

Peter Boxall, BA MA S'ton, PhD Sus, Professor of English, University of Sussex, has been appointed to the Goldsmiths' Professorship of English Literature in the Faculty of English Language and Literature with effect from 1 September 2023. Professor Boxall will be a fellow of New College.

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences

REAPPOINTMENTS

Alexander Lvovsky, Associate Professor of Quantum Information; Professor of Physics and fellow of Keble, from 18 May 2023 until retirement

Iain McCulloch, Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry; Professor of Polymer Chemistry and fellow of Worcester, from 17 May 2023 until retirement

Graduate Awards and Prizes

This content has been removed as it contains personal information protected under data protection legislation. [Members of the University with a SSO account can log in to read the redacted content.](#)

Examinations and Boards

Examinations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Exhibitions

St John's

LAUDIAN VESTMENTS

A display of liturgical vestments and embroidery from the late medieval period will take place 2pm-5pm on Saturday, 10 June in the Garden Quadrangle Reception Room, St John's. Further information can be found at www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/discover/events/laudian-vestments-to-go-on-display.

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[Members of the University with a SSO account can log in to read the redacted content.](#)

Changes to Examination Regulations

For the complete text of each regulation listed below and a listing of all changes to regulations for this year to date, please see <https://gazette.web.ox.ac.uk/examination-regulations-0>.

Continuing Education Strategic Management Board

MST IN CREATIVE WRITING

minor changes to length of items submitted as screenplay or drama

Elections

Contested elections

8 June

The nomination period for the elections below closed at 4pm on 11 May. The elections on 8 June will be held electronically. An email with further instructions was sent to eligible voters on Wednesday 24 May, using the email addresses provided in the electronic register of Congregation (NB with few exceptions, notably clinical staff, this will be the work address ending ‘ox.ac.uk’). The voting period will close at **4pm on 8 June**. More information: <https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/elections>.

Congregation elections

COUNCIL

- One member of Congregation elected by Congregation from members of the faculties in the Divisions of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences and of Medical Sciences, to serve until the start of MT 2027 [vice Professor Kia Nobre]

The following nominations have been received:

Professor Armin Reichold, MA Oxf, Dipl Phys Dr rer nat Dortmund, Balliol, Faculty of Physics

Nominated by:

Professor Phil Biggin, Lady Margaret Hall, Department of Biochemistry
 Professor Fabian Essler, Worcester, Department of Physics
 Professor Adrian Kelly, Balliol, Faculty of Classics
 Dr Samina Khan, St Anne’s, Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach
 Dr Sandra Paoli, Balliol, Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics
 Mr Simon Probert, Brasenose, Department of Physics
 Dr Natalie Nairi Quinn, Lady Margaret Hall, Department of Economics
 Professor Ian Shipsey, St Catherine’s, Department of Physics

Dr Lisa Walker, Balliol, Faculty of Clinical Medicine
 Professor Jan Westerhoff, Lady Margaret Hall, Faculty of Theology and Religion

Candidate statement:

I am a Professor of Physics and Tutorial Fellow at Balliol College. Educated in Germany (University of Dortmund), I have worked at NIKHEF (Amsterdam), Fermilab (Chicago), DESY (Hamburg) and PTB (Braunschweig). In 1998 I started as a research officer and became a University Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow at Balliol in 2011. My research interests are neutrino- and accelerator-physics and dimensional metrology with applications across industry and science. I chair my department’s innovation and enterprise committee, working to increase the societal relevance of my colleagues’ research. I am experienced in college and departmental governance e.g., as elected member of the Physics Management Committee. As admission co-ordinator for Physics, I introduced quantitative contextual measures into our admissions metrics and optimised these through correlations with final examination results.

During the 2018 pension crisis I campaigned to protect pension benefits. If elected I will do my utmost to ensure that they are restored to pre-2022 levels.

I will work to persuade Council to refocus its attention on people as its first priority. This demands a remedy to the problems of ever-increasing workloads and ever-decreasing real-term salaries.

Sustainability in all facets of University’s life is a topic I care about and am actively involved with in my Department, applying solar cell technology from one of our spin-out companies.

I am convinced of the merits of academic self-governance. If elected by Congregation, I will view it as my duty to strengthen Council’s connection to our democratic processes.

Professor Krina T Zondervan, MSc Leiden, MSc Rotterdam, DPhil Oxf, St Edmund Hall, Faculty of Clinical Medicine/Nuffield Department of Women’s and Reproductive Health

Nominated by:

Professor Baroness Kathy Willis, Principal of St Edmund Hall, Department of Biology
 Dr Jane Barlow, St Hilda’s, Department of Social Policy and Intervention
 Professor Francis Barr, Trinity, Department of Biochemistry
 Professor David Clifton, Reuben, Department of Engineering Science
 Professor Sir Rory Collins, St John’s, Nuffield Department of Population Health
 Professor Richard Cornall, Magdalen, Nuffield Department of Medicine
 Professor Henrike Lähnemann, St Edmund Hall, Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages
 Professor Helen McShane, Harris Manchester, Nuffield Department of Medicine
 Professor Melinda Mills, Nuffield, Department of Sociology

Candidate statement:

As a student, staff member, and University/College committee member, I have long-standing experience of Oxford University life and leadership.

I arrived as an Erasmus exchange student in 1993, read for a DPhil in epidemiology, and held several fellowships to establish my career in women’s health and genomic research. As Director of Graduate Studies, I gained in-depth understanding of the rewards and challenges of educating our next generation. As Head of Department, I led our staff and students through the pandemic, the after-effects of which continue. With my team, I have provided new strategic directions; built cross-departmental and -divisional collaborative

opportunities; replaced long-term fixed with permanent contracts to increase job security and satisfaction; and established a leadership framework focused on greater transparency and inclusion in decision making, and career/leadership development opportunity.

I am acutely aware that the University and its faculties/departments face substantial economic and societal challenges due to the pandemic, Brexit and long-term concerns such as climate change. However, I believe that Oxford is well placed to face these challenges through innovative leadership, building on strengths and embracing change where needed. This University should be a place where people from all backgrounds come to be inspired and challenged, but also to feel supported, secure, and invested in. I care deeply about issues of inequality, and the rewards reaped by increasing diversity and providing people with working environments in which they can thrive.

It would be a privilege to serve as your representative on Council to work towards these goals.

CURATORS OF THE UNIVERSITY PARKS

- One person elected by Congregation, to serve until the start of MT 2027 [*vice* The Revd Dr Elizabeth Macfarlane]

The following nominations have been received:

Mrs Emmanuelle Denis, BSc Concordia, MSc McGill, DEC Dawson College, Pandemic Sciences Institute, Nuffield Department of Medicine

Nominated by:

Professor Proochista Ariana,
Mansfield, Nuffield Department
of Medicine
Dr Xin Hui Chan, Nuffield
Department of Medicine
Mr Jo Harris, Nuffield Department of
Medicine
Professor Richard Haynes, Nuffield
Department of Population Health
Professor Sir Peter Horby, Brasenose,
Nuffield Department of Medicine

Ms Laura Merson, Nuffield
Department of Medicine
Dr Leon Peto, Nuffield Department
of Population Health

Candidate statement:

I moved from Montreal to Oxford in 2005 to take up my first post with the University, in the Clinical Trials Service Unit (CTSU). At that time CTSU was based in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter and my commute to work changed from a dreary suburban car journey to a glorious walk through Mesopotamia and the University Parks. My instant affection and appreciation for the parks has deepened further in the intervening years.

The University Parks are one of the greatest treasures of our city. They beautifully complement our magnificent built environment and, most importantly, provide a freely-accessible green haven to everyone, University members, residents and visitors alike. It's a joyful experience to see individuals, teams, families and groups of friends engaging in a huge range of activities, and I'd love to play a part in maintaining them for park users now and into the future.

If I am elected to become a Curator of the University Parks I would bring to the role almost twenty years of experience as a senior University Administrator. I have practical expertise in managing multimillion-pound research budgets and working closely with academics, professional services and external collaborators. I also have experience as a Leader for the Oxford Conservation Volunteers, a voluntary organisation that undertakes a wide variety of nature conservation work in the Oxford area. Most importantly, I have a great love of nature and an eagerness to help ensure the stewardship of our precious parks.

The Revd Dr Elizabeth Macfarlane, MA
DPhil Oxf, St John's, Faculty of History

Nominated by:

Professor Jeremias Adams-Prassl,
Magdalen, Faculty of Law
Professor Julia Bray, St John's,
Faculty of Asian and Middle
Eastern Studies
Professor Philip Ross Bullock,
Wadham, Faculty of Medieval
and Modern Languages
Professor Theresa Burt de Perera,
St John's, Department of Biology
Professor David Dwan, Hertford,
Faculty of English
Professor Stefano Evangelista,
Trinity, Faculty of English
Professor Cecile Fabre, All Souls,
Faculty of Philosophy
Dr Tristan Franklins, Wolfson,
Faculty of Classics
Dr Rosalind Harding, St John's,
Department of Biology
The Revd Professor William Whyte,
St John's, Faculty of History

Candidate statement:

I walk in Parks with my dog every day - you may well have seen me with a very bouncy spaniel - and I would be keen to serve as a curator, both to learn about the strategy for this part of the University estate, and to be a voice for those who participate in our green spaces. I am particularly keen on wildlife initiatives like the hibernaculum, and I would like to advocate for better quality (informational and aesthetic) signage and minimising of vehicular activity. I am chaplain and fellow at St John's, where I've been for twelve years, and a member of the History Faculty. I served as a pro-Proctor for three successive Junior Proctors from 2017-2020, and I now serve on the Appeals Panel, as well as undertaking occasional case reviews for the Proctors' Office.

C J Noble, MEng Sheff, Atomic and Laser Physics

Nominated by:

Dr D Blakey, Research Services
 Dr J F Goodwin, Department of Physics
 Professor D M Lucas, Balliol, Department of Physics
 Professor D C O'Brien, Balliol, Department of Engineering Science

Candidate statement:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my election as a Curator of the University Parks. I am lucky enough to find myself typing this from my office in the Beecroft Building, about as close as one can get to the Parks without being in them, and I have gained a huge appreciation of just how special the space is. A veritable oasis in the city, and one that is open to all - be they staff, student, resident or tourist. A typical walk through the Parks (and I take many) may see you encounter birdwatchers, cricketers (or quidditch players!), or those simply looking for a few moments of respite and tranquillity in their day. My interest and priority as a Curator would be in the sustainable management of the Parks to ensure their continued place in Oxford for the enjoyment of generations to come, and to help deliver the vision of the Superintendent and the Parks team to make the site more biodiverse, improve the quality of the greens, and reduce the environmental impact of management activities.

Convocation 16 June

Election of the Professor of Poetry

An election by Convocation will be held in Trinity term 2023 in order to elect the Professor of Poetry, to hold office for 4 years from the first day of Michaelmas term 2023. A meeting of Convocation will be held at 3.45pm on 16 June to announce the results.

Further information on the Professorship is published on the University webpages: ox.ac.uk/poetry.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

This election will be conducted electronically by Civica on behalf of the University of Oxford. A shortlist of applicants has been drawn up by the Professor of Poetry Committee. The successful candidate will be determined by members of Convocation, who will be entitled to vote on the shortlist in Trinity term 2023.

All members of Convocation who wish to vote in the election must register their intention to vote. [Voter registration](#) opened on **24 March** and will close on **12 May**. Eligibility to vote in the election will be checked. An email will be sent to anyone whose registration to vote has been unsuccessful. Current status as a member of Convocation may be checked in advance of registration through the relevant College Secretary or Head of Administration.

Convocation

Convocation consists of all the former student members of the University who have been admitted to a degree (other than an honorary degree) of the University, and of any other persons who are members of Congregation or who have retired having been members of Congregation on the date of their retirement. Membership of Convocation is conferred automatically to members of Congregation whose names have been entered in the Register of Congregation and to

Oxford degree-holders after having attended a formal degree ceremony (either in person or in absentia). The functions of Convocation are set out in the University Statutes ([Statute III: Convocation](#)).

Voting arrangements

Members of Convocation who have registered to vote will be entitled to vote electronically for one of the shortlisted candidates. Voting will be open from **18 May to 15 June**.

Result of the election

The result of the election will be announced in a meeting of Convocation at **3.45pm on 16 June** in Convocation House. Members of Convocation wishing to attend the meeting are asked to note that the wearing of gowns is optional. The result will subsequently be reported on the University's website and published in the *Gazette*.

NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Christian Bök

Thank you, Members of Convocation, for taking time to consider me for the Oxford Professorship of Poetry. I am a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada, and (like the incumbent Alice Oswald) I have also won the Griffin Poetry Prize (earning it for my book *Eunoia*, which the writer Giles Brandreth has called: 'irresistible'). I am now on the verge of announcing to the world in early 2024 that, after decades of effort, I have used my skills in microbiology to create a work of 'living poetry,' entitled *The Xenotext* – a poem encoded into the genome of a deathless bacterium, able to survive forever in any environment. I have written a 'book' that might outlast our civilization – and if appointed to the professorship, I plan to highlight the historical resilience of poetry in the face of crises that imperil our future in times of tyranny, pandemic, and warfare, when critics often predict the death of poetry itself.

With more than thirty years of experience, addressing schools all around the world

(promoting poetry from every continent, including, among other forms: Japanese *haibun*, Persian *ghazals*, Balinese *ketjacks*, and Russian *zaum*), I expect to fulfill my duties by keeping this persistent durability of poetry in mind, discussing an inclusive, equitable selection of perspectives across time in genres both conventional and experimental. If appointed, I foresee collaborating with my peers in the college to transect boundaries between disciplines, addressing topics that might demonstrate the aptness of poetry to other fields of study (particularly in the domain of natural science, where I have learned skills required to write poems that can literally transform the behaviour of living things). I can deliver talks that invite engagement from areas outside the humanities, thereby highlighting the appeal of poetry to everyone.

I have dedicated my career to the study of ‘limit-cases’ in the history of poetry, writing lyric poems in books made from materials as varied as Lego tiles, Rubik’s cubes, QR codes, AI chats, and DNA genes – often using the tools of scientific technology to escort poetry into the 21st century. I look forward to mentoring students from all walks of life during this professorship, offering my time openly to young poets, helping them to foster their talent so that they might thrive in their careers. I have benefited from the guidance of my own mentors, including the poet Charles Bernstein (the winner of the Bollingen Prize) – and the calibre of his diplomacy has provided the model for my own engagement with my community of peers. I have come to appreciate that I have no means by which to repay my debt of gratitude for such guidance, except by extending such an equal level of generosity to others.

With your support, I look forward to continuing my innovative endeavours under the aegis of All Souls College.

You can learn more about me at my website: <https://www.umlautmachine.net/ephemera/the-oxford-professorship>

And you can follow my activities on Twitter: [@christianbok](https://twitter.com/christianbok)

Mark Ford

In 1919 T.S. Eliot wrote of the ‘peculiar personal intimacy’, the ‘overwhelming’ sense of ‘profound kinship’ that a young writer may suddenly come to feel with a newly discovered poet. This passionate relation or connection may be experienced, Eliot explains, as both a crisis and as a decisive moment of transformation: within a matter of weeks the young writer may be ‘changed, metamorphosed almost ... from a bundle of second-hand sentiments into a person’.

My belief in the power of poetry to transform would pervade all aspects of my approach to the Oxford Professorship of Poetry. Having spent nearly four decades involved in poetry from a variety of angles – reading it, writing it, writing about it, teaching it, editing it, translating it, delivering public lectures on it, giving poetry readings, and talking on radio features and podcasts – I am acutely conscious of the best ways of communicating my enthusiasm to diverse audiences.

On learning that I had been shortlisted for this post, I at once found myself considering the sorts of lecture I would like to give: provisional titles that came to mind ranged from ‘It Is Later Than You Think: Poetry and Threat’ to ‘Langston Hughes, Derek Walcott, and the Deep South’; from ‘Queer Pastoral: Gerard Manley Hopkins and A.E. Housman’ to ‘The Smile of Accomplishment: Self-Elegies from Christina Rossetti to Sylvia Plath’. I am especially interested in elegiac traditions, having just completed a book on Thomas Hardy’s poems about his wife Emma. I am keen to expand this research and would use these lectures to address poetic commemorations of the dead by such as Elizabeth Bishop, Adrienne Rich, Denise Riley, Mick Imlah, Kei Miller, Jay Bernard, and Caleb Femi.

As a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books* and the *New York Review of Books*, I am experienced at presenting sophisticated critical arguments to a wide readership. I think of myself as at once a poet-critic in the tradition of Eliot and as

a literary historian of British, American, and French poetry from 1800 to the present day. My publications include four collections of poetry, three volumes of essays (the most recent of which, *This Dialogue of One: Essays on Poets from John Donne to Joan Murray*, won the Poetry Foundation’s 2015 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism), and monographs on Raymond Roussel and Thomas Hardy. Admirers of my own poetry include Helen Vendler, Marjorie Perloff, John Ashbery, Peter Gizzi, Daljit Nagra, and Sarah Howe.

This post will also involve organizing poetry events. For these I would replicate a format I have already developed at University College London, where I teach: work by a range of poets was circulated in advance of our annual ‘Poets Poets Day’, on which fellow poets and members of the public engaged in detailed and animated discussion with our chosen writers of the poems submitted. Participants agreed that this format worked extremely well, in its fusion of the rigours of practical criticism with attention to the empirical dilemmas confronting the contemporary poet.

Links:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/english/people/mark-ford>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrBxKhs_cJE
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Ford_\(poet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Ford_(poet))
<http://www.poetryarchive.org/poet/mark-ford>
<https://www.lrb.co.uk/search-results?search=Mark+Ford>
<https://www.nybooks.com/contributors/mark-ford/>

Don Paterson

I have worked for decades as a poet, a university professor, a commercial editor and publisher, and a musician. Each role has developed my interest and insight into the gap between what we think poetry is or should be, and the way it actually comes into being and does its work in the world. But social networks, digital platforms, new media, the structure of the market, and (stealthily, but perhaps most significantly) AI are in the process

of radically changing both poetry's readership and the nature of poetry itself. Poetry's new genres are recruiting diverse audiences, but they are often independent of one another; some are forging symbiotic relationships with other branches of culture. Poetry is undergoing a period of intense cultural redefinition, and the increasingly unstable relationship between poet and reader seems to call for some urgent interrogation.

Are all these verbal arts still part of the same word-game we call 'poetry'? Do we still share a working definition of talent, skill and inventiveness, of a tradition which fosters and embodies them? Should these older values maintain their primacy, or must they adapt to the more immediate claims of identity, inclusion and social conscience? Is the poetry of lived experience compatible with a poetry of the imagination? Is still true to claim that a poet is just 'one skilled in the making of verses', and that poems 'begin in delight and end in wisdom'?

Computers fast became an indispensable tool in music, without shaking the foundations of our notions of musical creativity and value. Will poetry survive the only serious technological change it has faced since Gutenberg, namely AI? Contemporary poetry may soon discover that it is only too easily imitable: where will this leave our virtues of originality, unique authorship, authenticity? Should poets be thinking like musicians, of ways new tech and AI might help them write better poems?

The professorship would allow me to address these questions through both lecture and public event - as well as the opportunity, I confess, to explore my own current obsessions: how a newly resurgent metropolitanism may be fuelling a regional poetry of 'alternative Englishes' and of the UK's various national and ethnic identities; the shamefully neglected 'loner' women poets of the mid-20th century (rehabilitations still tend to focus on women associated with male-centred schools); the complex prosody of hip-hop and rap; Seamus Heaney's little-imitated use of deep etymologies; and new insights

from the field of cognitive poetics. I've written both technical monographs and books of 'popular literary criticism', and defended the latter as an alternative home for academic research; I have some experience in making new or esoteric ideas accessible to the much-maligned 'general reader' in whom I continue to place my faith. In a time of accelerating change, the professorship would offer a rare still moment in which to take stock of the past, assess the present cultural status and 'use' of the poem, and look to where it might be headed - as well as what it may yet achieve.

AE Stallings

The principal responsibility of this post - to deliver twelve original lectures on the subject of poetry - is right up my alley. As a freelance poet, translator, critic, and commentator based in Athens, I travel and lecture on poetry, poets and their craft, and the art of translation. I have delivered the Messenger lectures at Cornell (2012), the Triennial [Gilbert Murray lecture](#), Yale's Parry lecture (2023), and even a [TEDx talk](#). I have recently spoken on poets such as Byron, Cavafy, Homer, and Plath, on Classical reception, and on strategies of allusion - always seeking to bring into play a practitioner's view, an appeal to broad audiences, and a light touch.

As a reviewer, I have written on modern American, English, Canadian, Greek, Irish, and Afro-Caribbean poets. As a blogger, I have addressed "[sonnetude](#)," [Afro-formalism](#), the [business of blurbs](#), neo-formalism and the avant-garde. I've also written expansive essays on [literary shipwreck](#), on [refugees in Aegean literature](#), on [statues and ruin](#), and on poets and the Parthenon. Collaboration with the Faculties of English and Classics is certain to help me generate new themes during my tenure.

I enjoy teaching, and have served as faculty at US writers' conferences including Sewanee, Bread Loaf, West Chester, and Poetry by the Sea. For ten years I directed a workshop through the Athens Centre focused on form and generating new poems. Since 2016 I have

run a weekly workshop in Athens with refugee women from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, and Congo (DRC) at the [Melissa Network for Migrant Women](#). Our emphasis isn't only on war and the harrowing journey, but on the future, their authorship of their own stories. I would hope to collaborate productively with the University's Refugee Studies Centre.

As an American writer who has lived over twenty years in Greece, I bring a broad perspective on and knowledge of poetry that crosses borders and languages. As Oxford Professor of Poetry I would speak not only on anglophone poets, living and dead, but on translation, Classical poetry, and modern Greek poetry. Among the poets I have translated from are Lucretius, Virgil, Catullus, Horace, Hesiod, Dante, and Seferis.

I believe music is an essential element of poetry's intelligence. (Perhaps it's no coincidence many of my poems, such as <https://humanshields.bandcamp.com/track/aegean-blues> and <https://soundcloud.com/burnley-vest/song-for-the-women-poets>, have been set to music.) I am known for my interest in technique, especially in rhyme, meter, and stanza. (Of these, the most controversial tends to be rhyme, a subject I address playfully in this [Presto Manifesto!](#)) More of my thoughts on sound and pleasure in poetry can be heard in recent interviews with [Front Row](#) and [The Book Club](#). My website is here: <https://aestallings.wixsite.com/aestallings>.

I would keep an open door to discuss student work, would run workshops with members of the Oxford community, visit schools, arrange translation seminars, and host readings from American, foreign-language, and refugee poets. I would hope that published forms of many of my lectures would take their place among the wide-ranging and often provocative writings of previous Professors of Poetry.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Queries about the post should be sent to poetry.election@admin.ox.ac.uk. All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence.

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St Giles' Parish Rooms for hire. Ideally located close to the city centre at 10 Woodstock Rd OX2 6HT. There is a main hall and a meeting room that can be hired together or separately, and full kitchen facilities. For enquiries regarding availability and to arrange a site visit, contact Meg Peacock, Benefice Manager: 07776 588712 or sgsm.benefice.manager@gmail.com.

Restore - mental illness affects one in four of us in our lifetime, but people can, and do, recover. Restore is a well-established Oxfordshire mental health charity that supports people to take control of their own recovery, develop skills and lead meaningful lives. We offer recovery groups, training and employment coaching to make this possible. Founded in 1977, we are also part of OMHP, a partnership of local mental health organisations (<http://omhp.org.uk>). More information: www.restore.org.uk.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust wants you to take part in its future. If you have a contract of employment with the University of Oxford in a department within the Medical Sciences Division, or hold an honorary contract award with OUH for at least 12 months, you can join our staff constituency. University of Oxford staff belonging to other departments can join us as public members. To join us, visit www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft.

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Research participants sought

Physiological Neuroimaging Group: Oxford researchers are looking for healthy volunteers to improve understanding of brain function and gain more insights into the brain's response to non-invasive stimulation. For more information please visit: www.ndcn.ox.ac.uk/research/physiological-neuroimaging-group/research-studies/connectivity-modulation-by-tacs.

Groups and societies

The Oxford University Newcomers' Club is run by volunteers and supported by the University. Our aim is to welcome all partners of graduate students, academics, visiting scholars and staff members, especially those who have recently arrived. As a globally diverse and inclusive group, we offer a warm and friendly environment in which to meet others in Oxford. We also provide information, both general and of special interest, and many opportunities to share experiences as well as to take part in organised events and activities. Please go to our website, www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk, for more information and up to date details of all our activities.

The OUP Orchestra is seeking violinists!

We are a high-quality amateur orchestra mostly made up of staff of the University and OUP, conducted by Simon Chalk. Rehearsals are 5.30-7.30pm on Wednesdays at the OUP offices in Jericho, and include sectional coaching from professional musicians. We are currently rehearsing a programme of Delius, Glazunov, Barber and OUP composer Phyllis Tate for a concert on Wednesday 5 July. All other instrumentalists are welcome to register their interest now for future playing opportunities. More information: ouporchestra@gmail.com.

Oxford Research Staff Society (OxRSS) is run by and for Oxford University research staff. It offers researchers a range of social and professional networking opportunities. Recent activities include pub and board games nights, college dinners, interdisciplinary discussion forums, Oxford walks and wellbeing workshops. Membership is free, and all researchers employed by the University of Oxford are welcome. To hear about upcoming events and other information for researchers, join the mailing list for our fortnightly emails by emailing researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk or by writing to us at committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk. For more information, see: www.ox.ac.uk/oxrss, Twitter [@ResStaffOxford](https://twitter.com/ResStaffOxford), and Facebook www.facebook.com/oxrss.

Get involved in Reproducible Research Oxford (RROx), a grassroots collective of students and staff across the University who encourage research to be 'reproducible' in a broad sense: open, transparent and rigorous. Lately, RROx has appointed 8 new leads and liaisons to run initiatives around networking, training and other activities. Learn more at <https://researchsupport.web.ox.ac.uk/article/get-involved-with-reproducible-research-oxford>, and/or get involved by joining the mailing list at <https://ox.ukrn.org/get-involved>.

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Oxford's low-cost packing and shipping experts. Specialised in packing and shipping computers, musical instruments, fragile laboratory equipment, rowing oars, valuable art and antiques, books, clothing or other household items, we specialise in custom packing and worldwide delivery by road, sea and air. Pack & Send, 3 Botley Rd, Oxford, OX2 0AA. Tel: 01865 260610. Email: oxford@packsend.co.uk.

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St Hilda's; Meetings and Events Host; £24,715; open until filled; www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/content/meetings-and-events-host

Worcester; non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship in the Social Sciences; 5pm, 19 June; www.worc.ox.ac.uk/jobs/junior-research-fellowship-social-sciences

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External Vacancies

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Next *Gazette*: Thursday, 8 June

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