



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council



## AHRC Beyond Text Programme: Small Grants and Student-Led Initiatives

### Introduction

The **Beyond Text** Programme aims to explore current developments in the arts and humanities concerning questions of communication across time and place through performances, sounds, images and objects. The full programme specification can be found [here](#). This is the second call for funding for the programme and the schemes offered under this call will be Small Research Grants and Student-led Initiatives. There will be a final Student-led initiative call in 2010.

The overall themes of the **Beyond Text** programme, reaching across disciplinary boundaries, have been identified throughout the programme as:

- Making and Unmaking
- Performance, and Embodied Knowledge
- Technology, Change and Tradition
- Mediations
- Transmission and Memory

The aims and objectives are designed to ensure that the programme has:

1. Stimulated high-quality research in the thematic areas, and in response to the research questions posed by the **Beyond Text** programme which will both draw on a wide range of disciplinary resources and skills and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, in and beyond Higher Education Institutions.
2. Made distinctive contributions to the theoretical, conceptual, thematic, practice-led and empirical study of these areas.
3. Created an arena for shared debate both within and beyond the academic community on how to use evidence, approaches and methods to generate new questions and issues for those working with performances, sounds, images and objects.
4. Developed a body of theory, methods, approaches and case studies which allow for a comparative analysis of issues concerning these questions and themes across time and place.
5. Facilitated connections, communication and exchange – at both project and programme levels – between researchers and a wide range of individuals and organisations outside academia with an interest in the research and its outcomes, including but not limited to those in the ICT, public policy, legal, creative and cultural sectors, museums, galleries, libraries and archives, performance spaces and the media. These connections will be international as well as British in scope.

6. Contributed to public awareness of this research through programme and project-based outputs and events.
7. Generated research findings and outcomes of international significance, and disseminated them to an international audience both within and beyond academia.
8. Developed a vibrant research community whose activities will continue beyond the life of the **Beyond Text** programme.
9. Built capacity in this field, in part by supporting early career researchers and postgraduate students.
10. Informed and inflected public policy in this field.

**This call is open across the full programme specification** but the AHRC is particularly keen to encourage proposals for **Small Grants** that would help us meet objectives **3, 4** and **10**:

3. To create an arena for shared debate both within and beyond the academic community on how to use evidence, approaches and methods to generate new questions and issues for those working with performances, sounds, images and objects.
4. To develop a body of theory, methods, approaches and case studies which allow for a comparative analysis of issues concerning these questions and themes across time and place.
10. To inform and inflect public policy in this field.

To achieve these objectives we would like to encourage proposals that use practice as the primary method of inquiry and investigation; proposals that deal with questions and themes that have a strong historical nature; and proposals that address issues of technological change with a relevance for policy makers.

Attention to the Beyond Programme's aims, objectives and themes, and overall quality, will be deciding factors in the assessment of proposals. The final call is highlighting the areas listed above in the light of commissioning to date, in order to ensure that all the objectives in the Beyond Text programme are well represented once the commissioning process is complete. Proposals dealing with the other Programme themes, aims and objectives are not excluded, even though commissioning has already taken place in these areas.

#### **Student-led initiative scheme:**

To ensure that we meet objective 9 we are also inviting proposals for the **Beyond Text** Student-led initiative scheme. The aim of the Student-led initiative category is to support the establishment of innovative collaborative research training programmes, originated by and run for postgraduate doctoral students. The Student-led initiative category provides awards of up to £2,000 towards the costs of setting up the programme of training. Examples of possible initiatives are as follows: (please note that these are only examples and we welcome other proposals as long as they meet the aims and criteria of the scheme):

- Conferences (as long as these are student-led and student organised)
- Career Development Initiatives
- Networks or Research Forums
- Journals or on-line web resources, which could include students both submitting, reviewing and editing papers, as well as students organising and administering the journal
- On-line video resources
- Roundtable events with academics and practitioners in the relevant field to discuss career pathways and career development issues
- Showcase/Demonstration Events, where students can present their research to local or national employers, government bodies, community organisations, media, primary and secondary educational pupils, etc.
- Knowledge Transfer Activities, involving interaction between students and non-academic organisations.

Attention to the **Beyond Text** Programme's aims, objectives and themes, overall quality and the ability to deliver high-quality training in **Beyond Text** areas and issues for postgraduates, will be deciding factors in the assessment of proposals.

The closing dates for proposals are:

**Student-led initiatives – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 (outcomes week of 4<sup>th</sup> May)**

**Small Research Grants – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (outcomes October 2009)**

Enquiries about the scholarly content of the Beyond Text Programme, its aims, objectives and themes should be directed to Evelyn Welch at the contact address below:

**Beyond Text Programme Director**

Professor Evelyn Welch

Email: [e.welch@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:e.welch@qmul.ac.uk)

Enquiries about the application procedures, competitions and timetables, application forms and application process should be directed to one of the officers as detailed below:

**Senior Awards Officer**

**Susanne Hart**

Email: [s.hart@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:s.hart@ahrc.ac.uk)

Tel: 0117 987 6633

**Workshop:**

The AHRC **Beyond Text** Programme is holding a half day afternoon workshop on Wednesday **25<sup>th</sup> March 2009**. The workshop is primarily aimed at researchers and postgraduates within the areas that are being specifically highlighted (see above) for the forthcoming final round of bids for Small Research Grants and Student-led initiatives. An applicants' clinic will form part of the workshops to allow attendees to discuss a specific proposal. This workshop is only for those with an interest in making a proposal to the

**Beyond Text** Programme who have a firm proposal in mind. Places are free of charge but numbers are strictly limited and early registration is advised. Registration details will be posted on the Beyond Text website: [www.beyondtext.ac.uk](http://www.beyondtext.ac.uk).



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