



AHRC Audio Slide-Show Transcription

Peer Review Interview 1

What was your motivation to join the Peer Review College?

This audio slide-show features interviews with:

Professor Laura Bishop, Liverpool John Moores University

Dr Neil Boynton, Lancaster University

Dr Joanna Drugan, University of East Anglia

Narrator:

At the recent 'Follow the Members Peer Review' Event, members of the AHRC's Peer Review College discussed what motivated them to join up.

Interviewees introduce themselves:

My name is Laura Bishop I'm at Liverpool John Moores University and I'm the Director of the Research Centre in Evolutionary Anthropology and Palaeoecology.

My name is Neil Boynton I'm at Lancaster University in the Institute of Contemporary Art and my research is focused on Sound, Music Composition and Visual Arts.

My name is Jo Drugan and I'm at the University of East Anglia and the School of Language and Communication Studies and my specialism is Translation Studies.

There now follows a conversation between the three interviewees, each paragraph represents a different comment:

I was really excited to get the opportunity because my research specialism Translation Studies is quite a new, young area. Obviously there's been translation done since texts have been written, that's what translation is, it's the translation of written text rather than spoken text which is interpreting. It's quite a young academic discipline and historically there's been problems with getting funding for research because it's not represented on a lot of the research funding bodies so it seemed like a very good opportunity to start to spread awareness of translation studies as a discipline rather than just as part of language departments or something that people who are specialists in literature did as a side line, almost as a hobby. It's become much more of a scientific discipline, there's a lot of work and a lot of research exploring how translation happens inside the black box of the translators mind and what's happening when you transfer

ideas from one language to another and it seems like a really important time to have representation on bodies like the Peer Review College where we can give expert opinion on the proposals coming through from a very innovative and vibrant discipline and which perhaps has been underfunded in the last few years as it's grown. I think it's a two-way street really, I benefit personally from finding out a lot more about how the peer review process works, how grant applications are processed and I hope that will feed into my own proposals in the future, but also I think it works in the other direction to institution's benefit, whether it's the AHRC or the research organisation or the university where you work because you know that knowledge goes in both directions. So that's my main motivations.

My trigger came initially from the faculty office, the core faculty were interested in trying to increase its representation on the College. I thought this would be a good opportunity to learn more about grant writing and the application process and indeed that's what's happened over the course of review applications and being on several panels. You get to see a wide range of applications across, particularly through the panel work across many discipline areas. You can also start then to observe the different cultural practices across different areas.

Other people's research then feeds back into your own, it gives you ideas about how to approach it.

Yes I think that perhaps more than individual things it's more a recognition of the application process overall you get a sense of this is what a good grant is and so it would be hard to tie it down and say specific things, you know, it's that you start after a while to get a sort of more holistic grasp of the whole thing at that kind of more fundamental level.

We had an e-mail sent around by our Director of Research saying that the AHRC was looking for panel members and particularly in my field the Archaeology of Early Human Origins and I thought this is a great opportunity both to engage with the research agenda on a higher level and also find out what's going on within AHRC so it was the personal benefit, but also because our institution doesn't have a history of acting with research councils and particularly with AHRC, there is a bit of a drive there to feed both ways, really to see what's going on here and also to be able to help researchers at our institution improve their access to what the AHRC offers so it went both ways.

But when did you as an individual want to do that because that happened to me too, but when did you think why should I give up my time to help everyone else or are you just a very nice kind person?

I would like to think so! But obviously I would benefit as well from this expertise but also because I'd been in the science sphere for so long the opportunity to re-engage with the Humanities on what's essentially a national level is really fantastic, I really enjoy all of the contacts I've had with people who do things that are just so massively different from what I do. It's still part of the same larger project it's great.