

Press release: Embargoed until 0001 Wednesday 8 October

“Arts and Humanities research is vital but undervalued in Scotland”

As Scotland begins the process of forging a new society in the wake of the Independence Referendum, a group of researchers, academics and creative practitioners from across the country have come together to make the case that greater value should be put on the arts and humanities.

THE HOLYROOD PARLIAMENT EVENT – WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2014 (6-8pm)

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland is holding a special event at the Scottish Parliament on October 8th to debate these issues. It will be hosted by **Clare Adamson MSP** and addressed by **Humza Yousaf MSP** the Minister for External Affairs and International Development. **Prof Rob Dunbar**, **Pauline McLean** (BBC), **Dr Fiona Watson** and **Prof Christopher Whatley** will also be on the expert panel.

The event will also showcase projects that show how research and innovation in the arts and humanities can benefit society. These include:

- **The Foundry** – creating culture out of Glasgow’s industrial past
- **Technophonia** – innovation in music and technology in Edinburgh
- **Prison projects** – bringing arts and culture to Scottish prisons
- **Coastal heritage at risk** – from Wemyss caves in Fife to Sanday in Orkney
- **New Speakers of Gaelic** – emerging from urban Scotland and abroad.

STATEMENT FROM THE RSE YOUNG ACADEMY ARTS AND HUMANITIES GROUP:

“Both sides in the Independence Referendum campaign talked about creating a better and fairer society in Scotland. Culture, heritage and creativity can help sustain relationships, foster ideas of identity and develop strong and resilient communities. Research and funding in this area is vital for addressing social inequality and exclusion, poor health, educational disadvantage, environmental change and economic hardship. We want to see the arts and humanities valued more in Scotland”

The Parliament event on Wednesday 8th October is by invite only. But if journalists would like to attend or interview anyone on the panel please contact Sam Webb on swebb@royalsoced.org.uk or 0131 240 5027

Most of our showcased projects are also available for interviews and filming opportunities before the event. Please contact: Sam Webb swebb@royalsoced.org.uk

Please see the brochure that will accompany the event here:

http://www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk/images/Arts_and_Hums_Brochure.pdf

Further info and website for the event:

<http://www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk/events/current/arts-and-humanities-event-2.html>

Notes for Editors

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland fosters interdisciplinary activities among emerging leaders from the disciplines of science and humanities, the professions, the arts, business and civil society. The Young Academy provides a platform for the talented and creative members of the rising generation to develop a coherent and influential voice, and to address the most challenging issues facing society in Scotland and beyond.