

**Press Release: Date**

# **RSE Young Academy of Scotland Welcomes New Members**

## **New cohort of members includes outstanding members of Scotland's Refugee Community**

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) is pleased to announce the appointment of new members. These members will make up the fourth intake cohort and join YAS's existing members in realising its mission 'to achieve transformative societal change through citizenship, innovation, collaboration, evidence, and leadership'. The group comprising 25 women and 19 men in their early-to-mid careers from across Scotland, will bring a range of important and diverse skills to YAS.

For the first time in YAS's history, the cohort includes four members who have been appointed through YAS's At-Risk Academic/Refugee (ARAR) membership initiative. The ARAR initiative was launched this year to recognise young professionals of outstanding talent from Scotland's refugee and migrant communities. Going forward, four spaces will be reserved for at-risk academics and refugees in each of the academy's next two recruitment rounds.

Unique among the growing number of young academies worldwide, YAS encourages membership applications from individuals in all sectors of society. This year, YAS is pleased to see an increase in the number of members joining from the arts, business and the public sector, who include:

-**Debora Kayembe**, a human-rights lawyer with extensive experience campaigning on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees.

-**Peter McColl**, Head of Policy for Scotland, Nesta, who works to integrate and adapt Nesta's policy and research work to and for Scotland.

-**Kate Walker**, UK Education Advisor, British Council, who advises public bodies worldwide on educational reform.

The new cohort also includes a diverse group of academics with specialisms ranging from political philosophy to bioengineering. In addition to academic achievements, the selection committee

placed significant emphasis on public outreach and individual commitment to contributing to the public good. Among the new academic members are:

-**Dr Stephen Brusatte**, Chancellor's Fellow in Vertebrae Palaeontology, University of Edinburgh, who studies the anatomy, genealogy, and evolution of dinosaurs and other extinct animals.

-**Dr Alice König**, Lecturer in Classics, University of St Andrews, who specialises in the literature and culture of different communities within the Roman Empire.

-**Dr Julie Miao**, Lecturer in Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, whose research explores economic, spatial, and social perspectives in housing systems and urban planning.

Dr S. Karly Kehoe, YAS co-chair, commented, "This is an outstanding cohort for YAS and we're all looking forward to seeing what contribution each of them will make to our activities. Our ARAR membership scheme is the first of its kind for a young academy anywhere in the world and we're incredibly proud of what we have achieved here. I'm incredibly proud to be a part of such an innovative and forward-thinking organisation."

Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh commented "I congratulate and warmly welcome these new members of the Young Academy of Scotland and look forward to their contribution to the Academy, and through it to Scotland. I am also particularly pleased that several members of Scotland's refugee community have become members and congratulate the Young Academy on this initiative."

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**Notes for Editors**

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) fosters interdisciplinary activities among emerging leaders from the disciplines of science and humanities, the professions, the arts, business and civil society. Established by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011, the Young Academy of Scotland provides a platform for able and innovative young entrepreneurs, professionals and academics to develop a coherent and influential voice, and to address the most challenging issues facing society in Scotland and beyond.

YAS was the first such academy to be established in the UK and is part of a growing network across Europe and beyond. YAS has already benefited society with a range of projects including the following: the *Research the Headlines* blog, which shares members' expertise to inform the public; *Numeracy Counts*, which supports the school curriculum; *FIRST LEGO League*, which helps school children develop engineering and robotics skills; and *Arts and Humanities at the Parliament*, which fosters public discussion of the contribution of the Humanities and Arts in relation to major societal challenges.

For more information about YAS, including details of the above projects, please visit [www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk](http://www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk)

<b>NEW COHORT OF YOUNG ACADEMY MEMBERS - JULY 2016</b>		
Dr Ahmad Albran	Orthopaedic Physician	Refugee Doctors Programme, Scottish Refugee Council
Dr Emily Alder	Lecturer in English	Edinburgh Napier University
Dr Shawki Al-Dubae	Assistant Professor in Computer Engineering	Taiz University, Yemen
Mr Daniel Barreto	Lecturer in Geotechnical Engineering	Edinburgh Napier University
Miss Emma Boffey	Lawyer	CMS Cameron McKenna LLP
Dr Stephen Brusatte	Chancellor's Fellow; Palaeontology	University of Edinburgh
Dr Davide Bulgarelli	RSE Research Fellow; Plant Microbiota	University of Dundee
Dr Emma Louise Carroll	Marie Curie Fellow; Molecular Ecology	University of St Andrews
Dr Matthew Chrisman	Reader in Philosophy	University of Edinburgh
Dr Emilie Combet	Lecturer in Nutrition	University of Glasgow
Dr Kathrin Cresswell	Chief Scientist Office Postdoctoral Fellow, Health Informatics	University of Edinburgh
Dr Maria Dornelas	MASTS Lecturer in Biodiversity	University of St Andrews
Dr Kathryn Elmer	Lecturer in Evolutionary Biology	University of Glasgow
Dr Javier Escudero Rodriguez	Chancellor's Fellow; Biomedical Engineering.	University of Edinburgh
Dr Calum Forsyth	Enterprise Clinic Director - Strathclyde Business School	University of Strathclyde
Dr Andy Gardner	NERC Research Fellow; Reader in Biology	University of St Andrews
Dr Tracey Gloster	Wellcome Trust Research Fellow;	University of St Andrews

	Biochemistry.	
Dr Sotiria Grek	Lecturer in Social Policy	University of Edinburgh
Dr Alaa Hamdon	Research Fellow in Geosciences	University of Aberdeen
Dr Philip James Walton Hands	Chancellor's Fellow; Microelectronics.	University of Edinburgh
Dr Fiona Luisa Henriquez	Reader in Parasitology	University of the West of Scotland
Dr Louise Horsfall	Lecturer in Biotechnology	University of Edinburgh
Dr Wenxuan Hou	Reader in Finance	University of Edinburgh
Dr Olof Johansson	Royal Society of Edinburgh/BP Trust Research Fellow; Chemical Physics.	University of Edinburgh
Ms Debora Kayembe	Board member	Scottish Refugee Council
Dr Maiwenn Kersaudy-Kerhoas	Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellow; Medical Diagnostics	Heriot-Watt University
Dr Alice Rebecca Konig	Lecturer in Latin and Classical Studies	University of St Andrews
Dr Lesley Lancaster	Lecturer in Environmental Change/Evolution	University of Aberdeen
Mr Ian LeBruce	Marketing Director	Adopt an Intern
Dr Victoria Loughlan	Strategic Assessment Architect	Scottish Government
Mr Peter McColl	Head of Policy, Scotland	NESTA
Professor Lesley McMillan	Professor of Criminology and Sociology	Glasgow Caledonian University
Ms Jillian Louise Merchant	Solicitor	Thompsons Solicitors
Dr Julie Tian Miao	Lecturer in Urban Planning and Development	University of Glasgow
Dr Claire Miller	Senior Lecturer in Statistics	University of Glasgow
Dr Nikki Moran	Lecturer in Music	University of Edinburgh
Mr Callum Murray	Founder & Chief Executive	Amiqus Resolution Ltd
Ms Siobhan O'Connor	Lecturer in Nursing	Edinburgh Napier University
Ms Catherine O'Shea	Freelance Playwright and Lecturer	Unlisted Organisation
Dr Mark Duncan Symes	Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Research Fellow; Lecturer in Chemistry.	University of Glasgow
Dr Stephen Thomas	Royal Society University Research Fellow; Organic Chemistry.	University of Edinburgh

Dr Niki Vermeulen	Wellcome Research Fellow; Lecturer in history/sociology of science.	University of Edinburgh
Ms Kate Elizabeth Walker	UK Education Advisor	British Council Scotland
Dr Lysimachos Zografos	CEO	Parkure Ltd