

# Henrietta Hutton Research Grant Recipients

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*NOTE: These projects include only those awarded since 2003. Information about earlier projects (1964 - 2002) can be provided by the Grants Officer.*

**Year:** 2008

**Principal Investigator:** Kate Hardy, Queen Mary, University of London

**Project Title:** Comparative geographies of sex worker organisation: the case of Argentina

**Abstract:** This project investigates the practices and experiences of sex workers in two organisations in Argentina, AMMAR-CTA (a trade union) and AMMAR-Capital (a women's collective). Using a feminist collaborative comparative analysis, the research examines the political practice, subjective experience and spatial strategies of sex worker organising. Sex worker organising is often presumed to be a phenomenon of the Global North. This study shifts the focus in order to examine the unfolding phenomenon in a country of the South, where sex work is an increasingly important element of the survival of individuals, households and nation-states. It emphasises sex workers' agency in contrast to dominant discourses which deny sex workers' subjectivity in defining, analysing and changing their reality.

**Year:** 2008

**Principal Investigator:** Mojka Kralj, University College London

**Project Title:** Detecting the nitrogen input caused by inappropriate sanitary practices in relation to eutrophication in Slovenian alpine lakes using diatoms and C/N ratio

**Abstract:** European mountain lakes are some of the last undisturbed habitats in Europe. Because of the thin soils, extreme Alpine climate and their remoteness the lakes are highly sensitive to increase in nutrients and temperature and are widely used to monitor environmental change (Rose et al; 2004). Lake Planina is one of the 14 mountain lakes found in Triglav National Park. Most of the lakes are oligotrophic whereas Lake Planina is severely affected by direct human activities and suffers from eutrophication. The two main contributors to the eutrophic state of the lake are the introduction of fish and inappropriate sanitary practises. This project aims to investigate the latter because there is a need to quantify the impact of effluent on the lake water quality. This project will use a multi-indicator paleolimnological approach using the N15 as a tracer of human effluent where C/N ratios are used to enhance the precision of analyses and diatom counts to asses biological change over the last 100 years.

**Year:** 2007

**Principal Investigator:** Katherine Fitzpatrick, University of Sussex

**Project Title:** Investigation of environmental tolerances of key food resources of the critically endangered Andean Brown-Headed Spider Monkey

**Abstract:** The tropical Andes qualify as one of the world's exceptional hotspots. Flagship species, such as the critically endangered frugivorous brown-headed spider monkey (*Ateles fusciceps*), endemic to the study area, are representative of these areas and provide a focal point for the conservation effort. In recent times the distribution of *Ateles fusciceps* has been dramatically reduced due to habitat loss. The aim of this project was to investigate the relationships between meteorological and soil conditions and primate food resources. The main objective was to identify essential meteorological and soil thresholds for the presence and absence of key fruit tree species used as a resource by *Ateles fusciceps*.

**Year:** 2007

**Principal Investigator:** Lindsay Banin, University of Leeds

**Project Title:** Cross-continental comparison of tropical forest structures and dynamics

**Abstract:** The key aims of this project were to assess (1) if different tropical forests have different above-ground wood production rates (an important component of net primary productivity); and (2) whether these differences are caused by environmental resources such as nutrient limitations, biogeography (species assemblage as a result of historical processes) or both. The project undertook above-ground productivity and soil nutrient availability studies using standardised methodology in two geographically separated tropical forest regions which are climatically very similar but have no species in common: North West Amazon and North Borneo.

**Year:** 2006

**Principal Investigator:** Caitlin O'Neill, University College London

**Project Title:** Social exclusion in Cambodia: an investigation into how Khmer women with impairments negotiate socially-constructed notions of 'disability'

**Abstract:** As a result of its recent history, Cambodia has a disproportionate number of citizens living with disabilities. In Cambodia, as in most societies, those with disabilities are marginalised. This project studied how Cambodian women with disabilities cope, how they are labelled, and how their disability affects their chances in life.

**Year:** 2006

**Principal Investigator:** Julia Toone, Loughborough University

**Project Title:** River morphology of Drôme

**Abstract:** The River Drôme is aggrading and degrading over small spatial scales and at a rapid rate. This research continued research from a field site established in May 2005. The overall project aims were to explore the relationship between channel morphology and macroinvertebrate ecology in zones that are characteristic of different phases of channel adjustment (alluvial, bedrock and mixed alluvial-bedrock zones). The specific aims for the 2006 field campaign were: 1) to sample macro invertebrate communities distributed through distinct zones of bedrock, mixed bedrock-alluvial and alluvial morphology; and 2) to compare macro invertebrate communities found dispersing in the drift over a distinct structure and in the gravel substrates lining it.

**Year:** 2005

**Principal Investigator:** Emma Clifton-Brown, University of Durham

**Project Title:** Research into Schistosomiasis in Malawi

**Abstract:** This project aimed to determine the presence of *Schistosoma mansoni* and *Schistosoma haematobium* in the southern shore of Lake Malawi and to find out the areas in which *S. mansoni* and *S. haematobium* are most prevalent by means of mapping the snail population and the proportion of the snail populations carrying the diseases. Approximately 20 transects were sampled in each of 4 different study locations; Namalaka and Malindi on the eastern shore of Lake Malawi and Senga Bay and Monkey Bay on the western shore. Approximately one month after the initial sampling each transect was repeated. *Bulinus nyassanus* was found at the first 3 locations, indicating that they are possible Schistosomiasis transmission sites

**Year:** 2005

**Principal Investigator:** Kelly Edmunds, University of East Anglia

**Project Title:** Feeding the pigeons: supplementary feeding and wild foods in the endangered Pink Pigeon

**Abstract:** The Pink Pigeon is one of the world's rarest pigeons. Lack of suitable feeding habitat is thought to be one of the factors limiting the growth of the population. However, it is not known which plants are the most important for the Pink Pigeon and, although supplementary food is provided at each site as part of the conservation effort, it is not known to what extent the pigeons utilize this food source. This research focused on the importance of wild native foods to the species and long-term management guidelines for the future habitat restoration and the establishment of further Pink Pigeon sub-populations.

**Year:** 2004

**Principal Investigator:** Clare Buckley, University of Oxford

**Project Title:** Oxford University vulture research and local awareness expedition, Waterberg Plateau, Namibia

**Abstract:** The primary objective of this project was to determine the population densities and distribution of Cape Griffon, Lappet Faced and White Backed vulture colonies in and around the 11000ha area of REST at the Waterberg Plateau Park. A secondary aim was to carry out a local publicity campaign for vulture friendly habitats. The objectives included: 1) determining the densities, distributions and spatial patterns of the different vulture species and nests in and around the 11000ha of REST land; 2) calculating the minimum population of the vultures in the area; 3) observing how often the same vultures are returning to specific vulture feeding stations; and 4) establishing local knowledge and enthusiasm concerning vultures, especially among school children.

**Year:** 2004

**Principal Investigator:** Kerry-Anne Mairs, University of Edinburgh

**Project Title:** Geomorphology and settlement in the Faroe Islands: an analysis of humanenvironment interactions

**Abstract:** The Faroe Islands are thought to have first been permanently settled c AD 825, at which point an anthropogenic factor was introduced into a landscape previously driven exclusively by natural processes. This research, that examined the Holocene landscape of the Faroes through soil stratigraphy and surface geomorphology, suggests that the (geomorphic) impacts of settlement were essentially limited but with some spatially localised human impacts. As settlement of the Faroe islands and subsequently Iceland was undertaken by a homogenous population, a major question that emerges is whether the contrasting outcomes of human impact on these islands is a result of their essentially dissimilar geomorphic environments, or as a result of contrasting cultural trajectories that must have diverged rapidly after settlement.

**Year:** 2003

**Principal Investigator:** Lucy Bale, the University of Wales Swansea

**Project Title:** Community based initiatives in rural Botswana: providing opportunities and empowering local people through livelihood diversification

**Abstract:** This research project focused on providing a detailed appraisal of community based tourism in Botswana. At present there is much literature regarding Community Based Natural Resource Management in Botswana, but little focusing specifically upon the community based tourism sector. This project sought to redress the balance and provide additional information on community based tourism. The aims and principles of

implementation and the project pitfalls experienced are highlighted through various case study examples. The past decade has seen the Government of Botswana emphasize the need to attract and encourage more tourism as a means of supporting its economy and as a result tourism is now a major industry within the country. This report investigates whether local rural communities can tap this resource of income sustainability and if it is advantageous to do so.

••• **Year:** 2003

**Principal Investigator:** Elizabeth Bishop, University College London

**Project Title:** Maasai schooling strategies: A case study of Engare Naibor, Tanzania

**Abstract:** Maasai areas in Kenya and Tanzania have historically been characterised by low levels of school participation. Engare Naibor is an area that has high rates of school participation, both primary and secondary compared with other parts of Tanzanian Maasailand. It is also an area that is relatively commercialised, and there has been considerable livelihood diversification. This project aimed to analyse ecological, economic and socio-cultural factors influencing take-up of education amongst Maasai pastoralists.

This study aimed to reveal the factors that have led to these high rates of participation and to understand how the Maasai people in this area conceptualise and make school decisions. Methods used included a structured questionnaire, semi-structured interviews, participant observation and wealth ranking exercises.