

University of Sussex

Researcher-Led Initiative Fund Application Form

[View full entry at CognitoForms.com.](#)

Entry Details

About the lead applicant

NAME

[REDACTED]

SUSSEX EMAIL ADDRESS

[REDACTED]@sussex.ac.uk

SCHOOL OF LEAD APPLICANT

Media, Arts and Humanities

ARE YOU A DOCTORAL OR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER?

Doctoral researcher

About your application

WHICH OF THE FOUR RLI STRANDS DOES YOUR INITIATIVE FIT INTO? CHECK THE GUIDELINES ON OUR WEBSITE IF YOU'RE NOT SURE.

Training and development

About your training and development initiative

TITLE OF INITIATIVE

Reimagining 'Rebecca': A Symposium on du Maurier's novel and its adaptations

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE

A one-day symposium to gather PhD and early-career researchers working on Daphne du Maurier's novel Rebecca and its many cinematic, literary and cultural adaptations. The symposium will include a keynote speaker as well as nine 20-minute presentations by delegates divided into three panels across the day. At the end of the day, the symposium will conclude with a drinks reception to allow for networking.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE RUNNING? On a single date

DATE 20/05/2022

WHAT IS THE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOCUS OF YOUR ACTIVITY?

For the organisers this will be a vital opportunity to develop the skills and experience associated with organising an academic conference including navigating funding and budget planning, writing and publicising a Call for Papers, assessing academic proposals, organising a programme of events, liaising with delegates and a keynote speaker, and hosting the event. It will also give us the chance to engage with the wider academic community and develop a platform for discussion. We have included a networking aspect in the symposium for this reason. Further, we are aiming this symposium specifically at doctoral researchers and ECRs to provide space for the development of skills such as communicating research ideas, which include engaging with questions and discussion of their research. We hope that the symposium will also prompt further opportunity for training and development in academic publishing, as we aim to produce an edited collection or special issue of a journal from the proceedings.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE AND HOW WILL YOU ENGAGE WITH THEM EFFECTIVELY? IF YOUR FOCUS IS ON A SPECIFIC GROUP OF RESEARCHERS, HOW COULD YOUR INITIATIVE BE ROLLED OUT TO OTHERS?

Our target audience is PhD students at all stages of their PhD as well as ECRs. We understand that large, international conferences can often be daunting for these groups and therefore we hope to create an intimate, supportive, accessible and approachable space. To this end, this symposium will only be one day, there will be no concurrent panels, and constructive and supportive discussions will be encouraged throughout. After the symposium, we hope to make the discussions accessible further afield through an edited collection or similar.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF YOUR ACTIVITY? INCLUDE LEARNING OUTCOMES, AND HOW ALL THOSE INVOLVED WILL BENEFIT (INCLUDING PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS).

Our primary objective is to create an inclusive and supportive space for PhDs and ECRs in the field, where delegates can share, discuss and develop their research with colleagues and peers from multiple disciplines. Our secondary objective is to create a valuable contribution to the field of study, which we hope will be evident in the production of an edited collection. As mentioned above, through

organising the symposium we, the organisers, will develop vital skills including organisation, communication, networking and problem-solving in an academic context. Attendees will gain the opportunity to present and discuss their work in this supportive environment as well as network with each other and potentially produce work for publication.

HOW WILL YOUR ACTIVITY ADDRESS THE VITAE RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (RDF)? PLEASE REFER TO THE GUIDANCE NOTES WHEN COMPLETING THIS SECTION.

The symposium will provide a space for producing and sharing knowledge (A1, D2) with a specific focus on critically discussing these ideas with colleagues and peers, thinking about interdisciplinary connections (A2, D3, D1), ultimately aiming to contribute to the field and create engaging and interesting arguments (A3). As organising researchers this will require us to develop skills in planning and organising research activities (C2, B2), including managing finances and resources (C3), in a way that is professional and considerate of rules and regulations (C1). Lastly, this symposium and its potential outputs will offer opportunities for professional and career development for both organisers and delegates (B3).

HOW WILL YOUR ACTIVITY BE ORGANISED? INCLUDE DETAILS OF WHO WILL BE INVOLVED, HOW THE INITIATIVE WILL BE MANAGED, AND HOW IT WILL BE PROMOTED.

The main organisers are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We will be responsible for the organisation of the symposium including writing the CfP and promoting it via email mailing lists (internally at Sussex as well externally via academic networks), social media and personal connections. We will also be primarily in charge of hosting the event but we plan to enlist volunteers to help on the day with the running of the event. We also have the support of our mutual supervisor, Dr [REDACTED], who will be available to mentor, to offer guidance and feedback on any of the above.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT? INCLUDE START AND END DATES, AND KEY MILESTONES.

31 October - Submit funding application
November - Reach out to potential keynote speakers and write CfP
Early January - Confirm keynote speaker
10 January - Start circulation of CfP
1 March - Deadline for Abstracts
Early March - Book room
1 April - Notify applicants of success
Mid-April - Create draft programme and confirm

with presenters; organise catering
1 May - Finalise programme; open registration; confirm catering; print booklet
17 May - Technical checks
20 May - Day of symposium
Late May - Email thanks & feedback form; reach out to potential publishers; complete budget & submit any reports

GIVEN THE CURRENT PANDEMIC, HOW WILL YOU ADAPT YOUR PLANS IF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS MEAN AN IN-PERSON ACTIVITY IS NOT POSSIBLE?

If an in-person symposium is not possible, we will move the event to Zoom.

HOW WILL YOU MEASURE SUCCESS AND IMPACT, AND WHETHER YOU HAVE ACHIEVED YOUR OBJECTIVES? CONSIDER HOW YOU WILL EVALUATE AS THE INITIATIVE PROGRESSES, AS WELL AS AT THE END OF THE PROJECT.

As we are planning the symposium we will have regular meetings to evaluate progress. This will include check-ins with our mentor. At the end of the symposium we will set aside time for closing reflections and we will also send out a feedback form to all participants to give the opportunity for anonymous feedback.

THE RLI FUND IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SHORT-TERM SUPPORT TO RESEARCHER INITIATIVES. DESCRIBE HOW YOUR INITIATIVE WILL BE SUSTAINED IN THE FUTURE (IF THAT IS THE INTENTION). WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL LEGACY OF THE PROJECT?

This symposium is planned to be a one-off event, however we hope that it will have many afterlives, particularly through the interdisciplinary network of ECRs and PhDs working within the field that it will have brought together. In the short term, we hope this will lead to an edited collection or special issue within a journal based on the research produced and presented at this conference. In the long term, we will have acquired and developed the tools, skills and experience to organise larger events and conferences as we progress in our academic careers.

Budget

Budget details

Item 1

ITEM DETAILS

Keynote Speaker Fee

£

£150.00

Item 2

ITEM DETAILS

Keynote Speaker UK Travel Expenses

£

£50.00

Item 3**ITEM DETAILS**

Lunch for 30 people at £8.50 per person, via Sussex catering

£

£255.00

Item 4**ITEM DETAILS**

Drinks for 30

£

£100.00

Item 5**ITEM DETAILS**

30 booklets from Print Unit

£

£30.00

Item 6**ITEM DETAILS**

Coffee and biscuits x2 (morning and afternoon) for 30 people at £2.40 per person, via Sussex catering

£

£144.00

£ TOTAL

£729.00

TOTAL REQUESTED

£729.00

BUDGET CODE**Supporting statement**

UPLOAD YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT HERE

Supporting statement [REDACTED].pdf

Declaration

I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I AM SUCCESSFUL I WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A SHORT REPORT AND FINAL BUDGET STATEMENT AT THE END OF MY INITIATIVE.

Yes

I UNDERSTAND THAT I MUST INFORM THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF ANY BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND AWAIT APPROVAL BEFORE MY INITIATIVE TAKES PLACE.

Yes

I UNDERSTAND THAT ANY FUNDING MUST BE SPENT BY THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR (31 JULY 2021) - IF THIS WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS PLEASE EMAIL RESEARCHER-DEVELOPMENT@SUSSEX.AC.UK TO DISCUSS ONCE YOU'VE SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION.

Yes