



MANIFESTO

ME

I'm a PGR Student in English Literature, 'Castle raised. My ties to Keele go back to nursery (!), whilst I've volunteered with community arts organizations and worked in the area for years. Having lived and studied in Oxford, Glasgow and London, with spells teaching in China and Poland, arts journalism, editing, social media, and finally support work and project coordinating within mental health and social exclusion, I came back to Stoke, and Keele, for a Masters in English Literature in 2016, before staying on to start my Phd. I'm invested in the campus and wider community, with its artists, bands, writers, researchers and inventors. Over the last year at Keele I've had the opportunity to teach, attend conferences and deliver peer workshops; along with outreach I've also helped run the PG Research Forum, serve as a Humanities PGR Student Rep, and worked for Keele's HUMSS Post-Graduate Journal 'Under Construction' along with the Humanities PG Symposium team. Beyond this I'm part of Creative Writing Society and the chapel community, and play sport. Becoming more involved with the KPA through attending coffee mornings, OGMs and events I've come to realize the impact it has and can continue to have on student life as well as its potential . Hence my running....

THE ROLE

Clearly, the secretary role requires reliability, organizational skills and a good team ethic, along with the ability to communicate online and in person with the KPA student population. However, given the KPA's growth and its potential, it can, and should, be more than that - one proactively representing the distinct needs of the postgraduate experience, including its variety of postgraduate backgrounds and outlooks. Building on the present secretary's use of social media and the Digest I will communicate present opportunities whilst pushing forward new ones through the KPA and in conjunction with societies and student reps. The Secretary position offers access to resources, including funds but also materials and decision-making bodies, which I will employ to promote the interests of the KPA membership's diverse intellectual and social community on campus and further afield. I believe the onus on the Sec is to ensure KPA members are engaged though consultation and visible delivery, information is passed on to academic reps or volunteer committee members in E and D, Activities and International positions, based upon a good working relationship with committee members and regular communication. As part of the KPA committee I will also be active in reviewing the constitutional role of the secretary to ensure provision is maintained and structures clear.

POLICIES

I will: provide and monitor a database matching post-grads to projects and promoting collaboration in academic and creative activities, along with serving as an intermediary

As part of serving the mature-student community push for more family-friendly events and an official mature-students meet-up

As an officer, push to ensure that the equality agenda around disability as well as gender and race is upheld by KPA officials on senate and academic committees

Attend the KPA coffee morning and work to ensure representation in person from academic reps at PGT and PGR level or information about concerns is communicated back to them

Ensure that the Graduate Research Forum runs regularly and with a committee structure, along with sweet and savoury snacks

Promote more formal Phd mentoring schemes through liaising with university schools and current doctoral students

Set up collaborative support on applying for research degrees through help-sessions as well as taking feedback to PG/PGR reps and to the university through the President/VP

Curate news and local events for post-graduates through the Facebook page, twitter and a supplementary digest

Work to ensure that sport opportunities are offered for post-grad students

Promote more regular collective cooking sessions with vegetarian cooking for students looking to eat healthily/cheaply

Lead on 'Showcasing your research' through KPA posters

Advocate for more cross-collaboration or spaces in which writing can take place, providing solidarity and free nutritious food as well as good coffee.

Look at one-stop paperwork for getting authority and resources from the KPA, approvable by the sabbatical team, for KPA members to run activities under the KPA umbrella, for instance workshops or themed-day

Build university-community social links through developing relationships and feeding into community arts and entertainment venue consultations as a representative