

pressrelease

THE INDEPENDENT

ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH BOARD

A leg-up for arts funding

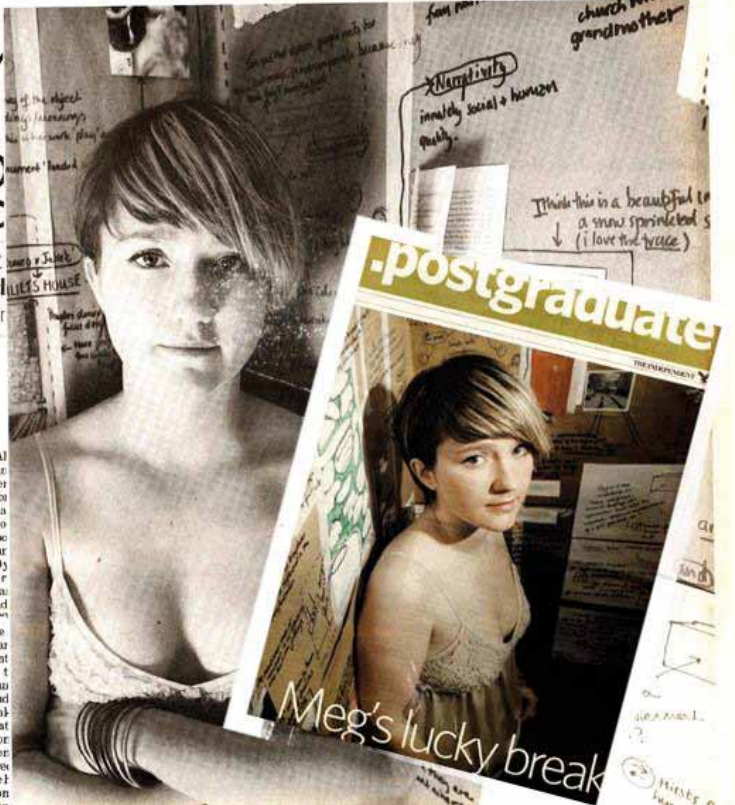
After 40 years of exclusion, the arts and humanities finally got their own research council. Arabella Schiller investigates the impact of a long-awaited decision

It's taken 40 years but at last the arts and humanities have a research council of their own. It will mean more influence and access to better funding, but what will be the impact on postgraduate studies and research? Meg Mosley admits that she has never taken quite as much trouble over an application form. She was well aware that a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), as it is still known last year, is a much-prized source of funding, and would make the difference to her fine Masters course at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. "So many of the other MA students were trying to find jobs to pay for

themselves," she says, "and I just knew that this kind of pressure would put me off my studies." So she set about giving a detailed account on the grant form of the kind of research she wanted to do. "I am fascinated by the objects that we surround ourselves with, and the nostalgia and meaning that we invest in them. I explained that I wanted to take this further and look at the psychological and social processes by which human identity can be identified by the possession of artefacts. I made sure what I wrote was detailed and clear. It is too easy to sound wishy-washy in this sort of area." Mosley, now 24, was right. Her obvious passion and

clear thinking, along with a first-class honours degree in fine art from Middlesex University, contributed to a successful application and she is now studying full time at the Slade. She has been awarded a maintenance grant of £10,100 per year and course fees of £3,010. She also has a £5,000 disabled students allowance for her dyslexia, to cover equipment and extra teaching support. She is certainly one of the lucky ones. Only about a quarter of the 5,500 applications for postgraduate funding made to the AHRB last year were successful. Professor Geoffrey Crossick, the head of the newly christened Arts and Humanities Research Council

(All funding derived from the main budget) will be made available to the council to fund postgraduate research.



Meg's Lucky Break



Meg Mosley Artist

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