**ARTS & HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE**

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**Open University filmmaker shortlisted for prestigious national Award**

A film made by Dr David Scott from the Open University has been shortlisted for the Arts and Humanities Research Council’s [1] prestigious 2018 Research in Film Awards.

The film, called ‘[Grenfell tower and Social Murder’](https://vimeo.com/267392807/14968df54b), has made the shortlist for the Best Research Film of the Year. [2]

Nearly 150 films were submitted for the Awards this year and the overall winner for each category, who will receive £2,000 towards their filmmaking, will be announced at a special ceremony at 195 Piccadilly in London, home of BAFTA, on 8 November.

Launched in 2015, the Research in Film Awards celebrate short films, up to 30 minutes long, that have been made about the arts and humanities and their influence on our lives.

There are five categories in total with four of them aimed at the research community and one open to the public.

Criminology filmmaker Dr David Scott said: ‘The tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, following a catalogue of errors and mismanagement, led to the loss of 71 lives and is one of the biggest indictments on the toxic and deadly harms generated by the policies of deregulation and austerity in the last decade. The Open University film ‘Grenfell Tower and Social Murder’ draws upon the powerful testimonies of survivors and families of the bereaved of the fire, and to be nominated for this prestigious award is a great honour. The film is dedicated to the continued struggle for truth, justice and recognition for all those who lost their lives and hopefully the film can provide an important educational tool to help ensure that there is no future repeat of the horrible events of the 14th June 2017.’

Mike Collins, Head of Communications at the Arts and Humanities Research Council, said: "The standard of filmmaking in this year's Research in Film Awards has been exceptionally high and the range of themes covered span the whole breadth of arts and humanities subjects.

"While watching the films I was so impressed by the careful attention to detail and rich storytelling that the filmmakers had used to engage their audiences. The quality of the shortlisted films further demonstrates the fantastic potential of using film as a way to communicate and engage people with academic research. Above all, the shortlist showcases the art of filmmaking as a way of helping us to understand the world that we live in today."

A team of judges watched the longlisted films in each of the categories to select the shortlist and ultimately the winner. Key criteria included looking at how the filmmakers came up with creative ways of telling stories – either factual or fictional – on camera that capture the importance of arts and humanities research to all of our lives.

Judges for the 2018 Research in Film Awards include Joanna Norman, Director of the V&A Research Institute, Steve Harding-Hill, Creative Director in Commercials and Short Form at Aardman Animation and Dorothy Byrne, Head of News & Current Affairs, Channel 4 News. [3]

The winning films will be shared on the Arts and Humanities Research Council website and YouTube channel. On 8 November you’ll be able to follow the fortunes of the shortlisted films on Twitter via the hashtag #RIFA2018.

-Ends-

**For further press information and images please contact:**

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**Notes to editors**

[1] The Arts and Humanities Research Council, which is part of UK Research and Innovation, funds world-class, independent researchers in a wide range of subjects: archaeology, area studies, the creative and performing arts, design, digital content, heritage, history, languages, philosophy and much more. This financial year we will spend approximately £98 million on research and postgraduate training in collaboration with a number of partners. The quality and range of research supported by this investment of public funds not only provides economic, social and cultural benefits to the UK, but contributes to the culture and welfare of societies around the globe.

[2] **2018 AHRC Research in Film Awards Shortlist:**

Best Research Film of the Year

*The Born-Free Generation*, *Phendulani's Story and Me*, Professor Paul Cooke, University of Leeds

*Black Snow*, Professor Stephen Andrew Linstead - University of York

*The Faces We Lost*, Dr Piotr Cieplak - University of Sussex

*Now Circa (1918)*, Professor Redell Olsen - Royal Holloway, University of London

*Grenfell Tower and Social Murder*, Dr David Scott - The Open University

Doctoral Award or Early Career Film

*Articulating Archives*, Sophie Everest - University of Manchester

*Shelf Life*, Dr Mariana Lopez - University of York

*The Saving Tree*, Dr Brett Matulis - University of Leicester

*Correspondence O*, Ilona Sagar - Royal College of Art

*Sitting on a Man*, Onyeka Igwe - University of the Arts London

People on the Move Award: Stories of New Beginnings

*To Be Here*, Sam Jury - University of Hertfordshire

*Amukta*, Dominique Unsworth - University of West London

*Che Fang/Edge Town*, Austin Williams - Kingston School of Art and XJTLU universities

*Blood Sugar*, Dr Susanne Seymour - University of Nottingham

*Untold Stories: A Documentary of Kent's Black History*, Helen Curston - University for the Creative Arts

Social Media Short Award

*Missed Call,* Victoria Mapplebeck - Royal Holloway, University of London

*The Born-Free Generation, Phendulani's Story and Me,* Professor Paul Cooke - University of Leeds

*Mobility, Mood and Place,* Professor Catharine Ward Thompson, University of Edinburgh

*Our Home, Dr Brett Matulis - University of Leicester*

*George Harrison The Story of the Beatles and Indian Music Performance Teaser,* Chen-Yu Lin - University of Liverpool

Inspiration Award (public category)

*Heritage and Arts Charity give me today, anytime*, George Harris

*Edward Woodman*, Ellie Porter - Charity Art360 Foundation

Their Rancid Words Stagnate Our Ponds, Andrew Kotting

*Blackbird*, Dr Jamie Chambers - University of Glasgow

*Singing With Nightingales*, Katie Stacey - Sunbittern Media

[3]The awards were judged by a panel of academic and film industry experts, including:

Jan Dalley, Arts Editor of the Financial Times

Richard Davidson-Houston, Head of All 4, Channel Four Television

Steve Evanson, TV producer

Matthew Reisz, Editor, Times Higher Education

Lindsay Mackie, co-founder of Film Club

Professor Lucy Mazdon, Head of Film, University of Southampton

Lord Stevenson of Balmacara (Wilf Stevenson), Former Director of the British Film Institute

New this year:

Dorothy Byrne, Head of News & Current Affairs, Channel 4 News

Jemma Cole, Campaigns Officer (social media), Cardiff University

Steve Harding-Hill, Creative Director in Commercials and Short Form – Aardman

Professor David Hendy, Professor of Media and Cultural History (Media and Film), University of Sussex

Dr Islam Issa, AHRC New Generation Thinker 2017

Catherine Mallyon, AHRC Council and Executive Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company

Joanna Norman, Director of the V&A Research Institute

John Rowe, Head of Digital Effects, National Film and Television School

Please note: The hashtag for this year’s Research in Film Awards is #RIFA2018