



PTAS Project Report (for SMALL PROJECT GRANTS)

Project Title: R.L. Stevenson's 'The Bottle Imp': a graphic adaptation

**Principal Investigator : Professor Michelle Keown
School / Department : LLC/English Literature**

Team members : Michelle Keown, Harvey Dingwall (ECA)

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Grant recipients are expected to submit a brief report at the conclusion of their project which outlines briefly the following : nature of work completed; outcomes; benefits to student learning/student experience; dissemination activity (where relevant – actual and planned) and how the activity could inform future work or be transferred to other subject areas in the University. The brief report will be published on the IAD web pages.

Brief Report (maximum 500 words)

What did you do?

Across the 2017-18 academic year, I co-ordinated a collaboration between English Literature and Edinburgh College of Art students and staff in order to produce graphic adaptations of two Robert Louis Stevenson stories: 'The Bottle Imp' and 'The Isle of Voices'. Myself and Harvey Dingwall began the activities with lectures and presentations on the historico-cultural context behind Stevenson's Pacific writings, and on the process of adapting literary texts to a visual format. LLC and ECA students collaborated on storyboarding the adaptations, and the ECA students produced two double-page spreads each, which were compiled into the finished graphic adaptations, published through Blurb.

What did you find out?

That the process of collaborative adaptation, informed by relevant pedagogical/historical material, results in high-quality work that offers a valuable contribution to a newly-established field of academic study, and has been hugely beneficial to the students involved.

How did you disseminate your findings?

Through the published adaptations; reports on the LLC and ECA websites; and presentations by Professor Keown to Edinburgh staff/students, alumni, and international conference audiences (eg in Honolulu in June 2019).

What have been the benefits to student learning?

Students benefited hugely from the interdisciplinary context in which the work took place, combining students' knowledge in their own respective fields, as well as acquainting them with new pedagogies relevant to the field of the graphic novel. ECA students were able to submit their double-page spreads as part of a portfolio for assessment on their Illustration degree, and the LLC students were able to write about the project in their course essays, and also had reflections on the experience published in the introduction of the 'Isle of Voices' volume. With funding from LLC we were also able to organise a linked event in which graphic novelist Paul Karasik visited Edinburgh



to give an open lecture and run a workshop for LLC and ECA students, as well as the wider student/staff community.

How could these benefits be extended to other parts of the university?

Copies of the graphic adaptations will be deposited in the Main and ECA libraries at the university; and are freely available in digital form. We hope our project and outputs will stimulate further interdisciplinary activity in the university, and we plan to continue collaborating on graphic adaptations in future years.

Who can be contacted for further details?

Professor Keown (michelle.keown@ed.ac.uk), and Harvey Dingwall in ECA.



Financial statement (please delete as appropriate):

Either

This project has utilised the funding awarded to it by the PTAS adjudication committee and the Principal Investigator or School Administrator appropriate can provide financial statements showing the funding usage as and when required by the UoE Development Trusts who may require it for auditing purposes.

Please send an electronic PDF copy of this report to:

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