

The Academic Fund has helped me as it has allowed me to conduct the necessary research for my dissertation.

My dissertation is on 'mixed race' selfhood and identity politics in England between c.1972 and 1993. It brings to light what it was like being a 'mixed race' person in this period and the ways in which they approached their racial identity. Indeed, this study has found that there was no coherent, positive 'mixed race' identity until after this period. Instead, 'mixed race' people had to navigate black and white identities with varying results.

My primary sources have been several oral interviews conducted between July and September 2016. The Academic Fund enabled me to purchase a dictaphone in order to record these interviews, as well as fund train fares to London to meet with people. I will be donating my dictaphone to the Director of Studies for History at the end of my studies so it can be used by other History students. Although I did not meet face to face with all those interviewed - some interviews were conducted over Skype - I found that the face to face interviews were more successful as I was able to connect better with people in person than over a computer screen. For this reason the Academic Fund was essential to my research.

As well as this I have spent time doing archival research at the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton, and the British Library at St Pancras to supplement my oral interviews. Again, the Academic Fund has helped me through train fares into London. At the Black Cultural Archives there was a charge for photography which the Academic Fund has helped me with.

Another key source is Harmony, a group for 'mixed race' families, interracial relationships, and white adoptive parents of black children. I have used their newsletter archives to understand better the issues surrounding identity politics for 'mixed race' people. As they are based in London, the Academic Fund helped me with travel expenses.