**Interdepartmental St Andrews PGR Retreat**

**Schools/Department/Unit involved:** Philosophy, Social Anthropology, Geology, Management

**Amount awarded:** £5000

**Aims and objectives of project:**

The PGR retreat aimed to build strong interdisciplinary relationships that might not have develop otherwise. The goals of the event were therefore twofold: First, to develop interdisciplinary friendships and bring disparate PGR communities closer together. Second, to introduce members of one discipline to the sorts of work in other disciplines, bringing to focus chances for interdisciplinary collaboration that may not otherwise be recognized.

**Outcome of project:**

The retreat was a success, bringing together nearly PhDs across the university at the Burn retreat center in Brechin, Angus. The PGR development fund was able to cover the travel and board of almost 30 PhDs from St Andrews.

The retreat had a number of events as well as unstructured time meant to bring PhDs together. Despite running an advertisement in the Monday Postgraduate for two months, we had some trouble recruiting PhDs to run structured events, and we had to settle for three instead of the four originally planned.

As structured events, the retreat included:

- A geology hike - run by James Edwards. He gave a short history of the geological history of Scotland and then took participants on a walk that crossed the highland boundary fault, showing the lessons of geology in real life.

- A wine tasting - run by Arola Morales. Participants were told how to understand tasting notes, then given wines without being told what they were. Participants then worked in teams to match tasting notes with the wines they were drinking. *Note: the wine was not paid for by the PGR development fund.*

- A competitive ethics bowl - run by Ethan Landes and Lisa Bastian. Split into 4 teams, participants were given tricky ethical scenarios. Given an hour to prepare, teams were judged by their ability to understand and breakdown ethical scenarios and explain what should be done.

Moreover, the event fulfilled a secondary main goal of fostering future interdepartmental interactions in the future, as a second PhD interdepartmental retreat is currently in the final stages of planning, the organization of which is led by Dan Robins.