

Royal Holloway Doctoral School Research Awards Travel Report by Adrian So

The Royal Holloway Doctoral School Research Awards has allowed me to travel to Leipzig Germany and Geneva Switzerland last summer to participate and give presentations in various conferences.

I participated in the 'Bach Network in Dialogue' in the 2023 Leipzig Bachfest in June. I presented on 'New Insights into Johann Kuhnau's 1709/10 Cycle of Cantata Texts,' exploring Kuhnau's attitude towards theatrical elements in church music. Leading Bach scholars, such as John Butt, Michael Maul, and Ruth Tatlow, as well as early career scholars also gave their presentation in this conference, which no doubt provide me a precious opportunity to realise some of the latest findings in the Leipzig church music in the early eighteenth century.



In addition to the 'Bach Network in Dialogue' session, I also participated in the Internationale wissenschaftliche Konferenz zur Neubesetzung des Thomaskantorats im Jahr 1723 (International conference on the appointment of the Thomaskantor in 1723) in Leipzig at the same time. This conference was mostly presentations by scholars and researchers in German, illustrating their latest research on the Thomaskantor candidates, including J.S. Bach, Christoph Graupner, Georg Philipp Telemann, and Johann Friedrich Fasch. In fact, this conference inspired me to deliver an online lecture on the process of the 1723 Thomaskantor election in November 2023.

Subsequently, I travelled to Geneva to present at the 20th Biennial International Conference of Baroque Music. Unlike the conferences in Leipzig, the Geneva conference included a much wider range of topics, not only the music in Leipzig or in Germany, but also seventeenth- and eighteenth-century music across the Alps in Italy, as well as in France, England, and even Mexico. After the conference, I collaborated with Alexander Norman and Chiara Girlando to co-write the conference report 'Biennial Baroque in Geneva,' published in the journal *Early Music* (Oxford University Press).

I would like to express my gratitude once again to Royal Holloway's Doctoral School for granting me this award, enabling me to share my research findings across Europe. It was undeniably a precious and unique experience to me.