The Landscape Research Group ([www.landscaperesearch.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org)) is a charity that works for public benefit by advancing education and research, encouraging interest and exchanging information on landscape matters. Through its Strategic Research Fund, the LRG supports landscape research projects.

Following the European Landscape Convention, the LRG defines landscape as ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors’[[1]](#footnote-1). The LRG adopts a broad definition of ‘research project’ in this context and will consider proposals for fundamental research, applied research, research & development, knowledge exchange, dissemination activities and research capacity-building.

### 2018 Research Fund: Theme

Landscape justice is one of the four themes highlighted by the LRG Research Strategy ([www.landscaperesearch.org/research/](http://www.landscaperesearch.org/research/)) and is discussed on page 7 of the booklet as follows:

“*The term 'landscape justice' has emerged to reflect a new and integrated approach to the well-recognised problems of social and environmental justice. The wider context for this development is a growing emphasis in public discourse and in public policy on problems of power, exclusion and inequity in decision-making relating to environmental and landscape issues.*

*Landscape justice is concerned with issues of access and exclusion, ownership and dispossession, connection and disconnection within and across communities, societies, generations and species.*

*It concerns decision-making power and disenfranchisement, and fairness or lack thereof in the distribution of the potential benefits deriving from landscape. Better analysis and understanding of landscape injustice is needed in order to enable us to tackle it*.”

This year, we would particularly welcome projects focusing on **the impact of borders and boundaries on landscape justice**, which was one of the concerns that arose during our recent Landscape Justice Debate, in December 2017.

We will support applications for:

* research into the circumstances in which injustice is generated and sustained in landscape contexts;
* research into injustices that are historically-embedded in the landscape, that are emerging now or that might emerge in the future;
* projects and activities that make use of research in the development and implementation of policies, practices and/or actions that address landscape injustice;
* projects and activities that create opportunities and mechanisms for the generation, dissemination and/or use of knowledge, understanding or insight into landscape justice.

### Applicant eligibility

There are no restrictions as to discipline, sector or nationality. All applications will be assessed against the criteria specified below.

However, funds are limited and where the number of high-quality applications exceeds the amount of funding available, preference will be given to applicants who are LRG members (including those who have recently registered and whose membership registrations are pending).

The LRG wishes to support early career researchers and practitioners in the field of landscape and we encourage applicants at any stage in their career to apply for funding for projects appropriate to their experience.

### Criteria for the evaluation of applications

LRG will assess applications for the 2018 Research Fund against the following criteria:

*1. Alignment with the 2018 Research Funding Call*

Does the proposed project align clearly and strongly with the specific theme of the 2018 Funding Call; i.e. ‘Borders, boundaries and landscape justice’?

*2. Contribution to advancing landscape research and, specifically, to the delivery of the LRG Research Strategy.*

What contribution will the proposed project make to *advancing* landscape research and/or to realising the outcomes of landscape research for society? How significant will the contribution be?

Does the proposed project clearly align with the LRG Research Strategy? What contribution will the project make in relation to the LRG’s over-arching priority of advancing research that contributes towards just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape? What contribution will the project make to one or more of the LRG’s stated priority objectives, i.e.:

* addressing the challenge of injustice in landscape contexts;
* responding to rapid environmental change by helping to develop human responses to change at the landscape level;
* helping society to move beyond short-term decision making and a narrow franchise in the governance and development of landscapes;
* questioning conventional modes of thought and developing new ways of thinking about landscape.

*3. Credibility and* deliverability *of the project*

Is the project coherent? Are the proposed activities reasonable, proportionate and appropriate in relation to the stated aims and objectives of the project? Will the proposed activities realistically deliver the stated outputs and outcomes?

*4. Credibility of the applicant/project team*

Are the applicant and, where applicable, the project team suitably qualified and/or experienced to undertake the project and deliver its stated outputs and outcomes?

*5. Financial justification*

Is the funding sought appropriate and realistic in relation to the project’s aims and objectives? Is the budget for the proposed project coherent and reasonable? Does the LRG funding contribution represent value for money?

*6. Ethics*

Has the applicant identified any reasonably-foreseeable ethical concerns which arise in relation to the proposed project? Has an appropriate outline ethical protocol been provided which addresses these concerns?

### Funding available

The LRG Board has allocated a total of £10,000 to the 2018 Research Fund. Applications are invited for an LRG funding contribution of between £1,000 and £5,000.

Preference will be given to applications that propose to maximise the impact of LRG’s funds by securing additional funds and/or in-kind contributions. In sections 4 and 5 of the Application Form, applicants should provide details of the costs to be covered by LRG funding and the costs to be covered from other sources.

### Arrangements for payment

For smaller grants, payment will be made in two stages: 1) part payment following confirmation of the award, and; 2) payment of the balance following satisfactory completion of the agreed deliverables (e.g. an end-of-project report to LRG; submission of agreed projects outputs). For larger grants, payment will be in three stages, with an additional stage payment being made part-way through the grant period. LRG will specify details of the funding stage payments in its letters of award to successful applicants and reserves the right to withhold any part of the payment if the specified conditions of grant are not complied with.

### Timing

Deadline for submission of applications: **1st March 2018**

Applicants notified of funding decision by: **23rd March 2018**

Earliest possible project start date: **1st April 2018**

Projects to be completed by\*: **31st March 2019**

\* The project completion date refers to the main project activities. It is accepted that some activities, particularly relating to project outputs, may continue on after this date (e.g. where a paper has been submitted to a journal for publication but has yet to go through peer review and be published), although it is expected that continuation of activities beyond 31st December 2018 will be avoided wherever possible. Applicants should specify a project timetable in Section 2 of the Application Form and, where an activity is anticipated to continue beyond 31st March 2018, this should be explained and justified.

### How to Apply

Completed applications should be submitted to the LRG Research & Policy Co-ordinator, Professor Hannes Palang at the email address [research@landscaperesearch.org](mailto:research@landscaperesearch.org).

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| **1. Applicant Information** |
| Name of applicant: |
| Date: |
| Institution/organisation: |
| Address: |
| Email address: |
| Total funding support requested from LRG: |

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| **2. Project description** |
| Title of project: |
| Aims & objectives [maximum 200 words]:  *State the aims of the project (i.e. the desired outcomes which the project is intended to deliver) and the specific objectives through which the aims will be achieved.* |
| Methods/activities [maximum 500 words]:  *Describe the methods/activities through which the project objectives will be met.* |
| Outputs [maximum 300 words]:  *List any outputs which the project will generate and briefly describe any dissemination/promotion plans.* |
| Project timetable:  *Please include start and end dates. Where appropriate to the scale of the project, please detail major phases, significant milestones and any reporting arrangements.* |
| Project applicant/team [maximum 300 words]:  *Summarise the relevant qualifications and/or experience of the applicant and, where relevant, the project team and any partners/collaborators who will contribute to delivery of the project. Indicate the roles that the different contributors will play in delivering the project.* |

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| **3. Contribution to delivery of the LRG Research Strategy** |
| Contribution to advancing landscape research [maximum 500 words]:  *Explain how the project will make a significant contribution to advancing landscape research and/or to realising the outcomes of landscape research for society. Describe the contribution which the project will make in relation to the LRG’s over-arching priority of ‘advancing research that contributes towards just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape’. Describe the contribution which the project will make to one or more of the LRG’s stated priority objectives (listed on page 1 above).* |

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| **4. Costs**  *Give detailed estimates of: 1) the costs directly incurred by, or on behalf of, the applicant while pursuing the planned project and which are being sought from the LRG (section 4a below); and 2) other costs relevant to the project which are not requested from the LRG (section 4b below).* | |
| ***4a Costs requested from the Landscape Research Group*** | |
| *Description of cost* | *Amount* |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
| **Total requested from the Landscape Research Group** | **£** |
| ***4b Additional project costs (not requested from the Landscape Research Group)*** | |
| *Description of cost* | *Amount* |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
| **Total additional project costs** | **£** |
| **Total project cost (total requested from LRG + total additional project costs)** | **£** |

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| **5. Budget narrative** [maximum 500 words] |
| *Provide a justification for the resources requested from LRG, with reference to each item listed in section 4a above. Confirm whether or not the project is dependent on LRG grant support. Provide details of other funding sources which have been secured or are being sought (funder and amount of funding). Describe what added value LRG grant aid will bring to the project.* |

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| **6. Ethics** [maximum 500 words] |
| *Consider and explicitly answer the following questions: Are there any ethical issues arise in relation to your proposed project? Will your project involve or impact upon vulnerable people, either directly or indirectly (see Appendix A below for the LRG Policy for Safeguarding Vulnerable Beneficiaries)? Will your project and its delivery be consistent with the LRG Equality & Diversity Policy (Appendix B)?*  *If appropriate to the nature of your project, provide an outline of any measures or actions which you propose to take to address ethical issues which arise in relation to your project.* |

**LRG Research & Policy Co-ordinator’s evaluation and decision**

Applicants should leave this section blank

*Summary of evaluation*

(evaluator to briefly summarise conclusions in relation to the four funding criteria):

1. Contribution to advancing landscape research and, specifically, to the delivery of the LRG Research Strategy.

2. Credibility and deliverability of the project

3. Credibility of the applicant/project team

4. Financial justification

5. Ethics

*Funding decision and conditions of grant*:

Signature Date

**Appendix A: LRG *Policy for Safeguarding the Charity’s Vulnerable Beneficiaries***

*[For clarification: the statement below that “LRG recognises that its activities might result in it being indirectly involved with such beneficiaries or with vulnerable people in other capacities” includes a recognition that LRG may become indirectly involved with or impact upon vulnerable people through grant-aiding the research activities of others. It is for this reason that we require grant applicants to consider this matter in Section 5 of the application form.]*

Landscape Research Group’s (LRG’s) objectives and activities as a charity do not directly relate to children and young people, people with disabilities, and the elderly/old people, and therefore the charity does not specifically have any ‘vulnerable beneficiaries’ in this regard. However, LRG recognises that its activities might result in it being indirectly involved with such beneficiaries or with vulnerable people in other capacities.

Accordingly, in the event that LRG develops any roles or undertakes any activity that might foreseeably involve vulnerable people, then before engaging in such work it will:

1. adopt formal protection guidelines supported by appropriate procedures and a code of conduct for trustees, personnel and volunteers, developed having regard to the latest available Charity Commission guidance;
2. identify the trustees, personnel or volunteers who it would intend to involve in such roles and check whether they have any relevant criminal record using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS); and
3. furthermore, LRG requires that all its Trustees, personnel and volunteers adopt the guidelines indicated in (i) above when on LRG business.

**Appendix B: LRG *Equality & Diversity Policy***

*[Applicants to the LRG research fund should refer, in particular, to: Section 1 of the policy (which clarifies the overall aims of our policy), and; Section 3 (LRG considers that those who receive LRG grants are ‘partners’ in this context and, therefore, award of an LRG grant is conditional on acceptance and implementation of the provisions of this section of the policy.)]*

*1. Our aim*

1.1 In carrying out its functions as a Charitable Trust and in the planning and delivery of any of its activities, the Landscape Research Group (LRG) is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all and to avoiding discrimination against any individual on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, income, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation (the ‘Protected Characteristics’ defined in the Equality Act 2010).

1.2 We aim to ensure that the values of equality, diversity, and respect for all are embedded in everything that we – our trustees, staff, volunteers, and partners - do.

1.3 We aim to create an environment which respects and welcomes everyone, and in which no form of bullying, harassment, disrespectful or discriminatory behaviour is tolerated by anyone towards anyone.

*2. About our policy*

2.1 We recognise our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, and are committed to meeting them in full.

2.2 This policy has been agreed by our Board of Trustees

*3. Our responsibilities*

3.1 LRG recognises that for equality to be achieved, this policy needs to be understood and embraced by trustees, staff, volunteers and partners.

3.2. All trustees, staff, volunteers and partners have a responsibility to ensure that their own language and actions are consistent with the spirit as well as the contents of this policy.

*4. Our commitments*

4.1 Through this Policy we will seek to:

1. place equality and diversity at the centre of everything we do.
2. create an environment in which diversity and the contributions of all trustees, staff, volunteers, and partners are recognised and valued in all that we do, thus providing an example of good equality practice and to promote community cohesion.
3. promote equalities’ awareness and understanding among our trustees, staff, volunteers and partners
4. ensure our employment practices and procedures are consistent with this policy.

*5. Working with contractors, and partners*

5.1 Contractors and any other individual or organisation working on behalf of LRG will be made aware of, and will agree to comply with our equality and diversity policy while that work is underway.

*6. Monitoring and review*

6.1 This policy will be kept under review to ensure it is being followed and that it continues to reflect current equality legislation and best practice.

1. <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)