Academic visits UK 2017
Bart Danon

The funds I received from the Hugh Last Fund have been financially supporting my academic trip to the United Kingdom in late June and early July 2017. The trip encompassed three main objectives, (1) to give a presentation at the International Ancient Warfare conference (IAWC) 2017 in Aberystwyth, (2) to attend the Probabilistic methods in Ancient History workshop at St Andrews University and (3) to meet my prospective supervisor for my PhD studies to be commenced in September 2017. The trip was successful on all three accounts, of which I present the highlights bullet-wise below.

- My presentation at the IAWC went well and I received very valuable feedback on the research I am currently doing on marching speeds of Roman armies, including tips on ancient and modern sources I need to consult, as well as (suggested) connections with scholars who are working on similar subjects.
- The conference was organised in the National Library of Wales (NLW). I took advantage of the situation to become a reader at the NLW and consulted a book by Combès (Imperator. Recherches sur l’emploi et la signification du titre d’Imperator dans la Rome républicaine, 1966, Paris) which is unavailable in South Africa, but which I needed for a manuscript I am writing on my MA thesis research.
- It was amazing to encounter a group of scholars at the workshop who were all interested in the probabilistic methods I have engaged in for my MA thesis research. Especially, meeting Dr Myles Lavan, who organised the workshop, was very inspiring. As the application of these methods to ancient history is very new, it was good to hear the perspectives of like-minded scholars on the challenges of these methods.
- During the workshop I also had a long discussion with Dr Cristina Rosillo López on my research and she asked for my opinion on assumed marching speeds in a draft manuscript she is preparing.
- My presence in the UK allowed me also to meet in person my prospective PhD supervisor for the first time.
- In the meantime, the networking aspect of the trip is already paying off, as I was invited to give a presentation at a postgraduate seminar at the ICS in London later this year by one of the participants of the workshop.