

Eyes wide open

The Society's bursaries help get new work out there. We find out how

EVERY YEAR, The Royal Photographic Society awards four photographers vital funding to help them bring a project to life. With applications for 2015 opening at the end of this month, we catch up with those who were awarded bursaries in 2014, to see how their projects are coming on, and offer some pointers as to why the bursaries are awarded.





THE RPS POSTGRADUATE BURSARY
RE-EMERGING HISTORIES

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As part of the PhD I'm doing I will photograph families who have been affected by dam projects in Brazil and, as a collaborative work, I will encourage these families to guide me on the best way to represent their history.

Hydroelectricity has been mistakenly accepted as a green energy source, despite its irreversible consequences for both nature and human beings. In China, Ghana, India, Singapore and Brazil, to name but a few, the construction of dams for hydroelectric purposes has led to the loss of wild species habitats as well as to the impairment of traditional cultures.

I decided to make an intervention in this historical, economic and political context by means of visual storytelling. Without the Society's bursary I simply wouldn't be able to conduct the first part of my fieldwork – the core of my project – as I'm using the funds to cover travel, food and accommodation expenses.