Images Of Research 2017 Winners:

Andrew Blain - "Mauna Kea Panorama" - Winner of the Best Image from the College of Science and Engineering

From the summit of Mauna Kea, outside the James Clerk Maxwell telescope, as it is observing distant galaxies about two hours after sunset, the Zodiacal light from dust in the solar system, with Mars in the centre, rises in a strip to the right of the snow on the Poliahu cinder cone, the Milky Way arches across the sky, and along the horizon, the huge volcano of Mauna Loa, the distant lights of Honolulu, and some lingering faint twilight can be seen.

Christopher Nedza - "A Slice of Fish" - People's Choice Award

The pigment melanin has a variety of vital roles within the body of animals as well as giving colour to hair and skin. Amazingly, this pigment often fossilises! Knowing where melanin is located within living animals is crucial to understanding key evolutionary innovations such as the eye. These colour negative slices through the anatomy of an extant lamprey help palaeontologists understand the distribution of melanin in 'living fossils', allowing more accurate interpretations of some of the most ambiguous and bizarre earliest animals. Melanin, stained white, can clearly be seen in the lamprey eyes (middle), the gills (left) and gonads (right).

Oliver Williams – "The Price of Inequality: Health is a Social Issue" - Winner of the Best Image from the College of Life Sciences

Health is undoubtedly influenced by choices people make. However, we must also consider the circumstances in which choices are made. Social inequalities and environmental conditions significantly impact health and define the freedom with which people act. Despite this poor health is regularly framed as the result of bad choices made by irresponsible individuals. My research explores how social inequality influences health. It demonstrates why people who live in deprived areas tend to die much younger than those living in more affluent areas. Focusing on the 'choices' of individuals obscures the bigger picture: health is a social issue and inequality kills.

Dr Clare Gunby and Dr Rebecca Barnes - "Coercive control" - Winner of the Best Image from the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities and Winner of the Best Staff Image

Evan Stark coined the term 'coercive control', highlighting that the core of domestic abuse was not physical violence, but a pattern of controlling behaviour aimed at eroding a victim's liberty. Control can creep into relationships, 'micro-regulation' masquerading as romance. Buying her clothes [that she must wear, irrespective of tastes], escorting her out [regardless of wanting him to] and checking she's safe [by monitoring communications] appear innocent if we ignore the bracketed subtext. When women have told us, 'violence wasn't the worst part', our research has strived to illuminate the subtext and communicate what being in an abusive relationship looks like.

Tim Hannigan - "Dervla: dog, book, beer" - Winner of the Best PGR Image

Of all the travel writers I've interviewed for my PhD project (a creative-critical investigation of travel writing's ethical issues) the most memorable – if perhaps not the most forthcoming – has been the mighty, eighty-six-year-old Dervla Murphy. I took a few photos of her at the end of our frequently hilarious conversation at her home in Lismore, County Waterford, but she didn't actually feature in the image that best encapsulated her persona: an old sleeping bag, a bottle of ale, a mongrel terrier, and a travel book (by Isabella Bird, aptly enough, with Dervla's handwritten draft of an introduction for a new edition tucked inside).

Images Of Research 2017 submissions:

Amanda Gillam - "1700s Europe - An early example of Angel/ Russian map-work collaboration"
This picture is part of a hand drawn map which measures about 4 by 2.6 feet- held in the National Archives at Kew. It was commissioned by Peter the Great, tsar of Russia and shows clear divisions of states in the Baltic region in 1719. It is fascinating for me as it appears to belie Peter's imperial ambitions in that area, during the last years of the Great Northern War. My PhD examines Peter's relationship with British sovereigns, in particular George I - also elector of Hanover.

Andy Beardmore - "Lord of the Rings - Return of the King"
In June 2015, the black hole X-ray binary V404 Cygni went into outburst, temporarily becoming the brightest X-ray source in the sky. The images show observations taken by the Swift X-ray Telescope which revealed a series of rings around the source that expanded (to the size of the full moon) and faded with time. The rings are light echos, caused by X-rays scattering off layers of interstellar dust between the Earth and black hole. By measuring their expansion, the distances of the layers were accurately calculated to lie between 4000 and 7000 light-years from Earth.

Angela Stienne - "Not a mummy: behind the scene at the British Museum"
On 6th June 2017, coffin EA6695 was taken off display from the Enlightenment gallery at the British Museum. After months of speculation, I had been invited to study this very peculiar object: it is the first ancient Egyptian coffin to have entered the museum. More curiously, it was linked to a myth that an Egyptian mummy was coming to life in the museum. As it turns out, it was the coffin that had a rotating system, a unique display strategy. PhD research in the archives is all about resolving these little mysteries, all before the public comes to the museum!

Azzah Alharbi - "In vitro modelling of inflammatory platelet leukocyte aggregates in sepsis"
In sepsis, there is extensive formation of inflammatory platelet leukocyte aggregates (PLAs) that circulate and adhere to inflamed vascular endothelium. PLAs correlate with severity of disease.Whole blood stimulation assays and flow cytometry are widely used to study blood PLAs formed in vitro in response to pathogen associated molecular patterns (PAMPs, most commonly LPS). However, this approach lacks robust methodology. For example, the extent of spontaneous formation of PLAs ex vivo is often unclear. Thus, we develop a reliable in vitro model to investigate sepsis relevant formation of PLAs and their adhesion to inflamed endothelial cells in response to common bacterial PAMPs, on which to test therapeutic agents using scanning electron microscope (SEM)

Chanhyo Jeong - "Pictures of incongruity in organisational space"
I am a visual ethnographer who studies how a building can inhibit an organisation from collaborating. During my fieldwork in April 2017, I photographed these images from modern organisation, a state of the art facility with gender neutral toilets on their lobby. As well as wheel chair friendly entrances and Braille signage, gender neutral toilets are examples of inclusive and accessible space building. The sign, a shape of toilet and the text "for everyone" shows that there is no representation of a gendered body in this space, as binary gender is removed and replaced by the image of non-human. This new organisational symbol is now challenged and juxtaposed with a series of handwritten notes "broken / do not use" on the doors.

Charlotte Van Regenmortel - "A Fort with a View: Panakton overlooking the Oinoe Plain"
My research concentrates of the social conditions of Greek soldiers in the early Hellenistic period. Pictured here is part of the remnants of 4th c. BC Athenian fortification, located along the main road between Athens and its rival for power, Thebes. This is what remains of one of the watchtowers along the 300 m wall. This was one of the forts in which the Athenian youths completed their obligatory military service. The Mazi plain, so green it is almost ungreek, can be seen in the background. It remains a fertile area to this day, which is probably why it was a site of many disputes in the ancient world. Although nowadays mainly grain is cultivated, the name of the neighbouring village of Oinoe gives its ancient cultivation away: vines.

Charly Feldman - "Fun at PANTER, MPE, Germany"
Myself and a colleague (Dr James Pearson) at the entrance of the detector tank at the end of the 130m PANTER X-ray test facility of the Max-Planck-Intitute für extraterrestrische Physik, Munich, Germany. This image was taken at the end of a weeklong testing programme of the SVOM (Space-based multi-band astronomical Variable Objects Monitor) MXT (The Microchannel X-ray Telescope) breadboard, which had been populated with 7 MPOs (Micro Pore Optics). SVOM is a French-Chinese space mission to be launched in 2021 with the goal of studying gamma-ray bursts, the most powerful stellar explosions in the Universe.

Christian Faber - "How to feed a supermassive black hole"
Galaxies like our own Milky Way have a supermassive black hole (SMBH) at their heart. For the SMBH to reach masses far exceeding a million times that of the Sun, it requires equally vast amounts of gas as food. However, as all matter is in motion, the gas cannot plunge into the hungry abyss directly and instead forms a thin doughnut around the SMBH. The image shows a visualisation of the gaseous streams chaotically falling towards the SMBH. The collisions between the various streams funnel matter closer to the SMBH allowing it to devour its galactic doughnut more effectively.

Clare Anderson - "Convict Graveyard, Abashiri, Japan"
Between 1881 and 1908, the Japanese government sent thousands of convicts to its newly acquired island territory of Hokkaido. It put them to forced labour on road building and other infrastructural development projects, and around one third of them died in the harsh conditions. This image shows the site on which the Japanese government has memorialized the lives of some of these convicts, in the town of Abashiri. Clare Anderson's research on Hokkaido is one of the case studies of her €1.5m European Research Council funded project, 'The Carceral Archipelago: transnational circulations in global perspective, 1415-1960'. It is based in the School of History, Politics and International Relations.

Daryl Blanks - "What Lies Beneath"
Zambia is a country rich in mineral resources. Geological research undertaken in partnership with the mining industry enables the study of rocks from around the world, unravelling where and how ore deposits form. Thin sections created from rock samples taken from the Munali nickel deposit in Zambia, allows us to take a closer look and examine rock textures and compositions, opening a window into the ore forming processes that took place over 800 million years ago.

Diane Urquhart - "The Prison Puzzle: In search of the missing pieces"

The prison walls contain dark secrets that are to most, unknown. They house the most 'deviant' and 'dangerous' of society. Yet those who are feared, similarly captivate, hence the enduring public interest in crime and punishment, through drama, film, news, literature and the like. This has remained a somewhat curious paradox. However, Government strategy to decommission some of the UK's Georgian and Victorian prison estate has created opportunity for exploration, as former prisons open temporarily to the public. My research seeks to piece together this puzzle through an examination of Prison Tourism, by talking to those who choose to visit.

Emily Williams - "Stories in Stone (and Bone)"

My thesis examines the ways that nineteenth-century memorialization strategies in Virginia reinforced individual, regional and national narratives about identity and race. I am particularly interested in how both modern and historical preservation approaches to memorials buttress or subvert historical accounts. To me, this picture, taken on the anniversary of the founding of the National cemetery in Gettysburg, PA, encapsulates the imperfect fusion between the present and the past and the way in which ultimately each modern interpretation stands in semi-isolation from the past to which it refers.

Emma Parker – "Joe Orton: 50 Years On"

The photograph features artist Tim Youd typing Orton's Complete Plays on a single sheet of A4 at Islington Public Library, London. The finished artwork was shown at the exhibition 'What the Artist Saw: Art Inspired by the Life and Work of Joe Orton' in London and Leicester in 2017. I co-curated the exhibition as part of my project 'Joe Orton: 50 Years On'. Like the books that Orton stole, playfully redesigned and returned to Islington Library before being jailed for 'malicious damage' in 1962, Youd's beautifully ripped and blackened paper blurs the boundary between destruction and artistic creation.

Eva Krockow – "Pick 'n' Mix Antibiotics"

Over-prescription of antibiotics contributes to the development of drug-resistant bacteria, and therefore poses a dangerous health threat. We are investigating how antibiotics are used and controlled in hospitals in high and low/middle income countries, to understand reasons for inappropriate antibiotic use. In Sri Lanka, no national guidelines on antibiotics existed before 2016, and monitoring of antibiotic use is hindered by the lack of computers. Scant facilities in rural hospitals lead to antibiotics being stored openly on hospital wards. The pick 'n' mix-style display of medications on a Sri Lankan hospital ward looks inviting, but reflects the significant challenges to drug control in low and middle income countries. Tailored interventions are needed to address antibiotic resistance in the resource-limited setting of developing countries.

Georgios Patsiaouras – "Protest Art for Social Change"

From the squares of Athens and Istanbul to the streets of New York and Cairo, social movements have been rising during the 21rst century. Contrary to public perceptions of urban protest camps as arenas of violence and confrontation, our research at the 2014 Hong Kong Umbrella Movement indicated that protest camps can transform the city into an open space of massive arts participation. Thousands of protesters, citizens and tourists participated in collaborative arts projects that communicated universal values related to freedom, equality and democracy. We suggest that, in an increasingly turbulent world, peaceful and collective protest art has the capacity to empower, unify and motivate people." Researchers: Dr Georgios Patsiaouras (School of Business, University of Leicester), Dr Anastasia Veneti (School of Media and Communications, University of Bournemouth), Dr William Green (School of Business, University of Leicester). The research project was recently

published online at the prestigious journal, “Marketing Theory” in August 2017. Patsiaouras, G., Veneti, A., and Green, W., (2017) Marketing, art and voices of dissent: promotional methods of protest art by the 2014 Hong Kong’s Umbrella Movement. Marketing Theory. Online first: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1470593117724609

Gina Fox – “The ‘Dissertation Journey: Thinking Out Loud' project”

The ‘Dissertation Journey: Thinking Out Loud' project is an ongoing, students-as-partners activity which aims to obtain student perspectives as they undertake each stage of their dissertation. Students get involved by creating a series of digital diary-like entries lasting 2-5 minutes each. The project aims to: increase students’ sense of belonging (at a time when many feel isolated); promote an effective and organic learning environment through communication, self-reflection and peer learning; and act as a motivational guide for other students. As further vlogs are added to the bank, the breadth and depth of student experiences will continue to grow, further enhancing the impact of the project on student experience.

Ian Powley – “Immune Landing”

Harnessing your body’s own in-built anti-tumour immune responses is a novel and exciting approach to help treat certain types of cancer. This new field is gaining rapid traction and has already led to the development of drugs that stimulate your immune response with great success. Our image highlights the important role of two types of immune-cells, called T-helper cells (green) which activate macrophages (red), that can localise to tumour cells (yellow), engulf and chomp on the cells, digesting and destroying them, while leaving the normal cells (blue only) alive, limiting toxic side effects.

Javier Williams – “Early medieval germanic jewellery: ornament or symbol?”

This close-up image of an ornate Visigothic-period (7th-century AD) belt buckle reveals the characteristic, intricate geometric pattern of worked coloured glass segments set within a bronze structure underneath. Previously interpreted by scholars as objects defining the ethnic identity of the Visigoths, a Germanic tribe who came to occupy the former Roman territory of Spain. But recently (including within my own doctoral research) this artwork has seen re-interpretation as markers of status and of social display. In the centuries when the old Roman world was being transformed into Germanic or 'barbarian' kingdoms, these fine pieces of post-Roman craftsmanship give voice to new emergent social fabric.

Jun Li – “The city with a public garden”

This image was took in China Wuxi where has practiced the garden city around 1910s in September 2017.

Lanzhou Luo – “Reconstructing The Nation”

“Reconstructing the Nation” by Lanzhou Luo China’s images in the 1970s were disastrous: the “bloody” Cultural Revolution, the “failure” of Communism, and the peak of “totalitarianism”. The images constructing the stereotype are widely accepted even now. However, my research on the Chinese international exhibitions is revealing China’s approach to seek recognition during that period. Knowing that “ancient Chinese art” was better received in the Western context, the Communist Government added up the myth by creating its own on the archaeological finds since the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Domestic academic support for the exhibitions joined in a gradual changing process to a new nation.

Laura O'Regan – "Super-resolution imaging: breaking the diffraction barrier to understand how cells work"

Just as humans have a skeleton, so do cells. This is critical to maintain cell shape and enable accurate cell division. The so-called 'cyto'-skeleton is built around a structure called the centrosome. In fact, human cells have two centrosomes that sit alongside or just above the nucleus (shown in blue) and are tethered by a linker composed of specific proteins, shown in green and purple. Centrosomes are tiny structures measuring less than 0.5 micron across and it is only with the advent of super-resolution microscopy, a new technique that breaks the diffraction barrier of light, that we can see how the linker is constructed (magnified view). The importance of this lies in the fact that defects in this structure contribute to cell division errors in cancer and understanding how this structure is organised will open up new ways to treat this terrible disease.

Layal Jambi – "Giant steps into medical imaging"

Gamma cameras can be used in nuclear medicine in order to determine the cause of medical problems based on organ function. The sensing elements in these cameras are called radiation detectors which can detect the gamma radiation. Scintillation detectors are the most commonly radiation detectors used in nuclear measurement systems to convert radiation energy into an electronic signal. This scintillator has been produced with a columnar structure, with tightly packed narrow needles of thallium doped caesium iodide (CsI:TI) crystal with approximately 1 µm diameter extend vertically through the thickness of the scintillator. The image shows the columns of the Giant's Causeway which simulate the features of the CsI:TI scintillator used in my research.

Magdalena Brzeska - "Homelessness amongst polish migrants in Leicester and Derby"

In this research, I would like to explore the nature and possible distinctiveness of the experience of homelessness within the Polish migrant community in Britain, and how this impacts on identification and belonging. It will do so by exploring participants' own experiences and perspectives on their pathways into, through, and out of homelessness. The research will also consider whether or not the risk factors are different from other groups and for women and men, in relation to differences such as class, level of education, regional variation, and networks.

Mark Williams – "The fossil worm that turned"

Half a billion years ago this worm lived on the seabed of southern China. At death it was trapped in sediment and immaculately preserved: the black line running down the middle of the animal shows the gut. About 5 cm long from tip-to-tip, the worm was likely a predator: but perhaps hunter became hunted, as this worm is colonized by several tiny worms. Are these tiny worms hitching a ride? Or is the relationship sinister? Perhaps the tiny worms are parasites? Whatever you decide, the fossil shows the ancient and precious roots of Earth's complex ocean ecosystems.

Martina Santillan – "Going shopping or making art?"

This photograph was taken at the observation stage for the work I an doing towards my PhD in Museum Studies entitled "The conflicting relationship between Socially Engaged Art Practice and Museums through the eyes of Mexico City artists." I was observing as artist Iris García Navarro interacted with residents from her community for her project Archivo del Lago. The intervention was performed in 2015 within the programme Ciudad y Conflicto, developed by Proyecto Changarrito. Projecto Changarrito and its exhibition Changarrito en Acción at the Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico in October 2016, are the main case studies of my thesis.

Maxwell Rayner - "Recovering signs of Spring"

A male Yellowhammer; a once common farmland species, recovering thanks to conservation efforts in the Welland Catchment, is perched on an Ash tree. The distinctive black buds of Ash spring growth are visible too. Ash is another iconic UK species that has struggled; the Lichen on this Ash shows its health and maturity. It will support numerous species of flora and fauna. It was one of those crisp, clean April days where you can still see your breath in the morning but all around you nature is kicking into action. Continued research and conservation will ensure that beautiful British species such as these continue to flourish.

Michael Wilde – "Breathprint"

This image shows the hundreds of different chemical compounds present in our breath. Each ellipse represents a chemical and makes up a chemical signature or 'breathprint' unique for every person. The chemicals in our breath reflect the metabolic processes within our body. By profiling the chemical signatures and analysing 'breathprints' we aim to develop breath tests for the improved diagnosis and monitoring of cardiorespiratory diseases such as asthma, COPD, pneumonia and heart failure. Submitted on behalf of Michael Wilde, Rebecca Cordell, Luke Bryant and Paul Monks, part of the EMBER project (https://embernode.org/web).

Miranda Chavis – "Reflections of Community"

When museums leverage talents and assets in a socially purposeful manner, these institutions connect collection material and scholarship to contemporary society, and public service becomes a powerful agent of social development and community well-being. This can manifest itself in a myriad of ways. In the course of deepening my research and understanding, I explored an exhibition at the RAF Museum, whose diverse histories and deeply personal objects built connections between the visitors' lives and the past. Through common experiences and identity, the museum becomes a mirror for the community served and offers visitors a new perspective on contemporary society.

Neda Nezam Abadi – "A keen observer"

The increasing development of antibiotic resistance has been described as a "catastrophic threat" by the Chief Medical Officer, Prof. Sally Davis. Thus alternative forms of antimicrobial treatment are in grave need. One such alternative approach, originally cast into the shadows by the antibiotic revolution, is bacteriophage therapy. Bacteriophage are viruses that infect and replicate exclusively in bacteria, killing the bacteria in the process. This killing can be seen on a plate of bacteria as small zones of clearing called "plaques" and in this image the killing action of bacteriophage on a lawn of bacteria, with one keen onlooker, a bacteriophage.

Robert Ott – "The Hammer"

While Elizabethan novelist Thomas Deloney has celebrated cordwainers as masters of "the gentle craft", there is little gentility in handcrafting a pair of shoes. The process entails physical, if not violent, acts of transformation that require energy, endurance and control over body, materials, and tools. Here, the shoemaker shapes the toe of the shoe by anchoring the leather to a wooden form, the shoe last. The hands stretch the leather tightly and place the nails strategically to mold the material into an artifact. The hammer, invisible but for a blurred streak, embodies an animate and energetic quality in an otherwise seemingly static moment in time.

Rosalinde Nicholls – "Rock 'n' roll in rivers"

This image shows the first wave of a flash flood arriving in a usually dry river channel in the Negev Desert, Israel. Within seconds of taking this picture, a fully flowing river was running by. It was amazing to witness such a feat of nature and to hear the rocks rolling along the riverbed as the flow

moved them. My PhD looks at predicting what strength flow events would be needed to initiate sediment transport in gravel-bed rivers, like the one pictured. I am looking at how factors including shape, size and position affects a particle's chance of being transported.

Sarah Andrews - "The structure of life"

Image depicts a macrophage, a white blood cell of the immune system that is responsible for identifying and "eating" and removing foreign bodies such as cell debris and microbes from the body. The cell is stained to show the actin cytoskeleton network that forms the structure of the cell. This network provides strength and tensile force to allow movement to seek out the foreign bodies and to support membrane invagination to allow engulfment of target particles. Cells have internal structure and provide the structure for organisms that form part of the structure of the planet. In this way every living being is interconnected. This image, therefore, depicts the structure of life in its most basic form.

Sarah Cook – "Makan nanas?"

A little girl sells pineapples grown on her family's smallholder oil palm plantation in Sarawak, Borneo. For my PhD research I am investigating the impact of converting tropical peat swamp forests into oil palm plantations on aquatic carbon dynamics. These ecosystems are valuable stores of carbon, yet conversion is common throughout Southeast Asia. The findings of my research will help to support more sustainable plantation management, and bring awareness to the importance of conserving tropical peatland ecosystems. This is important not only for environmental and ecological conservation but also local communities.

Shawn Bhimani- "Human Trafficking"

The darkness of human trafficking is all around us, but hides behind a wall where we cannot see it, or reach those in need of help. It is estimated that there are currently over 20 million people enslaved worldwide, the highest number in human history. Even worse, these dark businesses are growing, with 2016 profits estimated at £110 million GBP. My PhD looks at how to break the systems which allow modern slavery to persist in western society so that we can hold onto our humanity, our friends and family, and reach towards a brighter future — out of the darkness.

Simon James - "Eagle's eye view of ancient Dura-Europos, Syria, c.AD220, from the North"

Reconstruction drawing, in Adobe Illustrator, of the Greco-Syrian city of Dura-Europos on the Euphrates, in the early third century AD. It was then also home to a large garrison of Roman soldiers, who turned its northern quarter into a sprawling military base (foreground), subject of a research project I am currently writing up. Archaeology is a highly visual discipline, and drawing is a core medium of presentation. But more, it is also a valuable research method. Having to draw something yourself—from a pot to a city—makes you look at it and analyse it much more closely than just eyeballing a photograph.

Stephanie Bowry - "The Secret Garden"

More than three hundred years ago, this tiny garden was concealed within an embroidered casket. Its intricate fruit trees and flowers, made of wire, thread, cloth and wax, are complemented by four ivory statues. One depicts a contemplative man leaning on a book which rests upon a human skull. The inclusion of this melancholy figure suggests that life's pleasures are fleeting. The garden encapsulates many seventeenth-century ideas about nature, art and life, such as the importance of privacy. It represents a secret world only its creator – a young girl – could enjoy. What does your favourite garden say about you?

Tom Matherson – "The gene genie"

Two genetically similar desert locusts face each other across stylised strands of DNA. The markedly different colouration of the two animals is not mediated by differences in their DNA sequences, but brought about by differences in population density. The animals also exhibit striking differences in behaviour, morphology and physiology. Our recent research asks how environmental differences – including population density - regulate the expression of genes; thus turning shy and camouflaged green locusts found in low density populations into bold, brightly coloured swarming animals that form vast aggregations to devastate crops and livelihoods.

Wendy Fitzgibbon – "Calm & Chaos"

Photovoice is a new approach to hear the voices of women in a visible way. The participants take photographs they choose to convey their life experiences and then talk about their meanings. The images and words used in this project are a reflection of the womens' lives and their diverse backgrounds. A "mistake" can throw us into a new place. The camera helps us re-see the world and our feelings in it. We find ourselves valuing the "mistakes" more than the planned. "Alana House brought us together, the camera helped us talk and as we opened the shutter we opened our creativity, imagination and communication. To find calm in the chaos." Enrich Photovoice Women's Group 2017

Zakia Shiraz – "Night vision of marijuana cultivations in Toribío, Colombia"

The municipality of Toribío is an indigenous reserve of the Nasa community in northern Cauca. Since 1983, this area has gained notoriety for being one of the most violent places in the country. Armed groups, such as the FARC, and the country's armed forces were locked in a long battle for control. Today, Toribío is relatively peaceful. However, the cultivation of coca and marijuana are growing at an increasing rate, attracting organised criminal bands and dissidents of armed groups.