

Issue 2

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for our postgraduate research student community



Making a Difference

Our Research Students Rising to the Challenge



PLUS STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY | THESIS EXCELLENCE | LATEST EVENTS



Graduate College Newsletter is the newsletter of the postgraduate research student community at Oxford Brookes University.

Thank you to all students and staff who have contributed to this edition of the Newsletter.

The University accepts no responsibility for the content of any material in Graduate College Newsletter. Readers should note in particular that the inclusion of news and editorial items does not imply endorsement by the University of the matters reported of the views expressed.

We reserve the right to edit contributions before we publish and to refuse editorial items.

Co-ordinated and edited by the Research Degrees Team.

Designed and co-edited by Creative Services, Oxford Brookes University.

Contributions are welcome from all sections of the University and should be sent to:
asa-gcnewsletter
@brookes.ac.uk



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A year in the life...

Bedour Alshaigi talks about her experiences as a PhD student



Hello and welcome...

...to the latest edition of the Graduate College Newsletter. I am the chair of the Graduate College Steering Group, and it's extremely important to me that we make every part of being a research student at Brookes as good as it can possibly be. Research students are at the core of a good university. The community that they form is a crucial component of the research that goes on at the institution, and the Graduate College gives each and every research student a voice that you can be assured is heard at the highest levels within the University.

Most people only get one shot at being a research student, so it's a time in your life when you need to be sure that you're getting the most out of our systems and facilities. We're doing everything we can to develop a genuine research student cohort identity, to ensure research students are linked across the University and all its campuses. We have also developed a 'research student entitlement framework', so that anybody who is a Brookes' research student can be sure they will receive everything they need in order to make their studies a success.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. We also hope that you enjoy reading about the wide range of research being carried out across the University.

Professor Alistair Fitt, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange)

News



Hong Kong Young Artist Award for **Literary Arts**

First year PhD student Jennifer Wong receives prestigious award in recognition of her contribution towards arts development in Hong Kong.

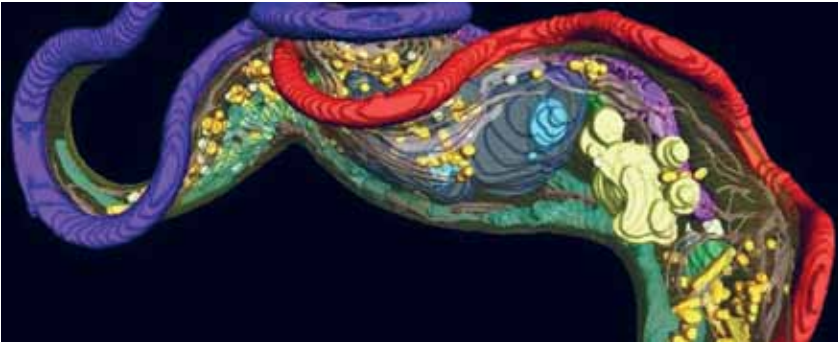
Having had her collection of poetry 'Goldfish' published by Chameleon Press last year, Hong Kong born Jennifer Wong's achievements continue to grow. She recently received the Young Artist Award for Literary Arts by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Currently a PhD student in the Department of English and Modern Languages, studying contemporary Asian American poetry and the power of ethnicity, Jennifer's writing is continually inspired by the rich and colourful history of China, Chinese culture and Hong Kong traditions. 'Goldfish' captures many scenes and settings familiar to the Chinese Community, with the collection as a whole examining the pervasiveness of childhood memories, Chinese rituals,

superstitions, and social taboos, with a section containing adaptations of classical Chinese poems.

On receiving the award Jennifer commented, "It is my honour to receive an award from my home city, it motivates me to produce better writing. I am also thankful to my supervisors and the department for being so supportive during the initial stages of my studies."

Jennifer's writing has been reviewed in a number of publications, including Magma Poetry, where Matt Merritt described the volume as having a 'restrained, pared-down style' and a 'delicate, unshowy language'. She was also a featured poet in the Hong Kong Readers Festival where she offered school talks and writing workshops to children aged 6 to 14.



State-of-the-Art Technology for **BMS** Researchers

Researchers in the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences (BMS) have been awarded £749,000 from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) for a new high resolution scanning electron microscope. The grant was one of only 20 successful bids nationwide.

The facility will give BMS researchers, along with PhD and MSc students, access to state-of-the-art technology for the production of extremely high resolution 3-dimensional images of cell structures. The acquisition will greatly aid cell biology research carried out at both Oxford Brookes and Oxford University, as well as plant cell biology research communities across the UK.



German Anthroposophical Society Awards Noteworthy Scholarship

Stephan Siber, a second year PhD student working in the Social Sculpture Research Unit in the School of Arts, has recently been awarded a one-year scholarship worth 12,000 Euros for his research on Aesthetic Education and Social Sculpture. The scholarship was awarded by the "Stiftung Forschungsfoerderung" of the Anthroposophical Society in Germany.

Siber, along with his collaborator Christian Stoeger, a postgraduate student who is currently completing his

PhD at Humboldt University in Berlin, have also found the time to establish the "Deinhardt Archive" in Vienna; a research centre for the development of Deinhardt's work. To support the work of the archive, and for the preparation of a highly anticipated edition of Deinhardt's collected works, the pair have received additional funding of 13,000 Euros from several sponsors linked to the field of Curative Education and Social Therapy in Austria.

PhD Student to aid **Stear** Wetlands Research Project

Adam George, a PhD student from the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, has been appointed to work with Oxford Brookes University, Bridgewater College, and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) in a new research partnership.

Alongside teaching on the BSc (Hons) Animal Conservation Programme at Bridgewater College's Cannington Centre, Adam will be conducting research on the UK's largest new coastal wetland that is being created at Steart, near Bridgewater.

The research will focus on how the starting states of saltmarsh and mudflats combined with the role of tides bringing in marine organisms, sediment and nutrients influences the nature of the establishing saltmarsh and mudflat communities. Understanding these processes will provide better guidance for habitat creation schemes situated elsewhere, while the research project as a whole will allow students at Bridgewater College, studying for a degree at Brookes, to play an active part in the Steart studies as part of the ecological and research modules on their programme.



Graduate College On-line Conference and 'live event'

June this year brought about the 'live event' that traditionally ends the Annual Graduate College On-Line Conference. The conference, in its fifth year, was open to all research students, full time or part time, in any subject area, and at any stage in their studies.

Students were invited to submit an abstract and an on-line presentation, with the focus being on the communication of complex issues into simple, understandable and visual matter that a broad and non-specialist audience could access. The range of subjects submitted this year was remarkable, reflecting the diversity of the excellent postgraduate research currently taking place at Brookes.

Prizes were awarded to Emmanuel Debrah, Kimberley Hill and Joquim Moura Flores for their clear, eye catching and engaging on-line presentations. These submissions, along with all other presentations, can be viewed by visiting the conference site. You can also engage on-line with the presenters and other 'conference delegates' by leaving your comments.

** To view the presentations, visit the conference site as follows: visit 'Brookes virtual', select 'wiki' and log in – the 'Graduate College Online Conference' is listed on the left hand side of the page.*



Seminar Series Success

This year the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences saw their weekly seminar series make a move from a staff-led to a student-led experience. Laura Jacobs (pictured above) and Hanna Wickenden, two PhD students within the department, rose to the challenge in organising the events and encouraged fellow PhD students to invite speakers from their research areas who they actually wanted to meet.

The aim of the move was to promote more in-depth scientific

discussion and additional interaction amongst those involved. The year's schedule included nineteen external speakers from across the UK, some travelling from as far as Scotland thanks to generous sponsorship, as well as talks from postdoctoral researchers and final year PhD students. The Seminar Series was a resounding success, with positive feedback being received from both students and staff, along with compliments from many of the visiting speakers.

International Primate Conference

April this year saw Brookes and the Primate Society of Great Britain jointly organise a two-day international conference to explore the evolution of nocturnal behaviour in humans and other primates.

The conference was preceded by a workshop, organised by PhD student Johanna Rode and Fauna and Flora International's Stuart Paterson, on fund raising for research and conservation. The workshop was attended by twenty young researchers from ten UK universities, all of whom left feeling better prepared for their future careers.

Johanna also collected second prize for the best student presentation during the two-day conference.





Sasakawa Foundation Grant Awarded

Recent PhD graduate, and long-serving, now retired, Brookes staff member Dr Anna Fraser has been awarded a generous grant from The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation. The Foundation, chaired by the Earl of St Andrews, was established in 1985 in order to enhance and develop positive relations between the United Kingdom and Japan.

The grant will allow Anna to continue her research into Japan's culture, yet with an entirely different focal point than her previous studies. As a Social Anthropology student in the Department of Social Sciences, both Anna's MA and PhD centered on Japan's thermo-mineral springs and their use in bathing

and medicine. However, the money awarded from the Foundation will be put towards travelling to Kyoto, Japan to interview four WWII survivors.

While collecting patient data for her PhD, Anna met an elderly Japanese journalist who was trying to publicize a pictorial war diary written between April 1943 and April 1944 by a class of ten-year old girls. It is four of the original class members, now in their eighties and still living in the same small village in the vicinity of Kyoto that Anna is planning to interview. Anna's intention is to publish the findings and stage an exhibition in Oxford displaying selected pages of the diary on her return.

Thesis Excellence Awards

Recent PhD graduate from the Faculty of Business, Dr Anastasia Mariussen, has been awarded 3rd place in the 2014 Thesis Excellence Awards.

The awards, held at the annual ENTER conference in Dublin, were judged and organised by the International Federation for Information Technologies in Travel and Tourism (IFITT); a global community for the discussion, exchange and development of knowledge about the use and impact of new information and communication technologies in the travel and tourism industry.

Anastasia's thesis was on 'A Grounded Theory of Affiliate Marketing Performance Measurement in Tourism and Hospitality'. She now works as an Associate Professor at the Oslo School of Management, which forms part of Kristiania University College that offers studies in Oslo and Bergen.



Nigel Messenger Award 2014

Dr Antonia Mackay, Associate Lecturer in English Literature, was honoured with this year's Nigel Messenger Teaching Teapot Award. The award, which was set up four years ago by Dr Daniel Lea, and is voted on by students, recognises an outstanding contribution to English teaching.

Antonia, who studied English at Brookes for her BA, MA and PhD, has had a remarkable academic year, having successfully completed her PhD in 2013 and now adding evident teaching prowess to that research triumph. Dr Simon Kovesi, Head of Department, declared Antonia's award as "something we can all be proud of", with Antonia responding that without her students "engagement and enthusiasm" her achievement would not have been realised.

Coming up

Training and networking events to look out for this academic year.

Semester 1 – 2014

| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| 9 October | 2-5pm | Enhancing Personal Effectiveness for Researchers using MBTI Personality Framework |
| 9 October | 3-5pm | Research Student Writing Workshop – Session 1, 2 & 3 (Max 16 Students – must attend all 3 sessions) |
| 15 October | 12-4.30pm | Induction Session for New Research Students |
| 15 October | 5pm | Networking Social Event for Research Students and Supervisors |
| 22 October | 12-1pm | Time Management: Planning Your Research Degree and Keeping Up Momentum |
| 26 November | 4-5pm | The Viva Examination |
| 3 December | 12-1pm | Training to Enable Supervisors and Students to Develop Applications for Ethical Approval |
| 10 December | 12-1pm | Tackling the Writing Up Stage of the Research Degree |

Services and Support Brookes Library

The library is here to support your research through a variety of services, resources and specialist help. Each academic discipline has its own librarian available to advise you on all aspects of library resources. They can help you locate relevant information, utilise the numerous resources more effectively, manage your research and keep you up-to-date with your subject area. Find out who your librarian is from Brookes' library website and contact them if you would like an individual appointment.

Brookes' three site libraries provide you with an extensive range of print and online resources, as well as a number of special collections. Electronic resources include journals, books, newspapers and databases, along with some wonderful multi-media sites. These online resources are available wherever and whenever you need them, just contact the library to discuss availability and specific access.

Further details about library services and resources are available on our website at <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library> or contact Helen Whittaker (Library Team Leader), hkwhittaker@brookes.ac.uk

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Semester 2 – 2015

| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 7 February | 10.30-3.30pm | Strategies for Employment: Effective CV Applications and Interviews for Researchers |
| 4 February | 4-5pm | Endnote Training |
| 18 February | 12-4pm | Induction Session for New Research Students |
| 18 February | 4-5pm | Electronic Submission of Theses, RADAR and the Ethos Project |
| 4 March | 12-1pm | 'Publishing your Work – Citations, Impact and all that Stuff' |
| 11 March | 4-5pm | Finding Information for your Research – An Exploration of the most Effective Methods of Searching, Discovering and Accessing Information for your Research |
| 18 March | 4-6pm | Research Degrees – Strategies for Successful Part-Time Study |
| 25 March | 4-5pm | Data Management and Storage |
| 1 April | 4-5pm | Managing your Supervisor and Building a Good Working Relationship with your Supervisory Team |
| 15 April | 1-3pm | Presentation Workshop – Session 1 (Open to all students) |
| 22 April | 12-3pm | Presentation Workshop – Session 2 (Open to all students) |
| 6 May | 9am-5pm | Media Training Workshop |
| June TBC | TBC | Managing a Career in Academia |
| 10 June | 10am-5pm | Graduate College Poster Competition and Guest Lecture |
| September | 9am-6pm | Skills Summer School |



For further information about all the events and venues, and new additions added throughout the year, please visit: www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team or email: rd-enquiries@brookes.ac.uk

Doctor(s) in the house

Throughout 2015 we will be celebrating our history, achievements and the future of Oxford Brookes University as we reach our 150th year. As part of this celebration, the University continues to focus on enabling its graduates to enrich the communities they work in, all around the world. The Graduate College, in recognition of the celebration, will be offering 150 awards towards funding for full-time studentships.

Research at Oxford Brookes enjoys an international reputation, attracting high quality staff and students, as well as major funded projects. Research students join a supportive environment and benefit from expert supervision and a strong programme of research training.

Over the years the number of research students, range of topics and degrees conferred, has grown consistently. The University has also developed its portfolio of research degree programmes and in addition to MPhil and PhDs, we now offer Practice Based PhDs, PhD by Published Work, Professional Doctorates and a number of Masters by Research programmes.

In this edition of the Graduate College newsletter, we are able to review the achievements and successes of some of our research students, see the degrees conferred during the year, and read about the research undertaken by some of our current research students.

If you are interested in undertaking a research degree at Oxford Brookes, you can find out more about the range of subject areas offered within our research communities, centres, groups, academic faculties and schools, by visiting the following website:

www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/courses/postgraduate/research-degrees/



Sue Ash

Department of English and Modern Languages

The title of my PhD is *Dancin' Modernism: Moving Bodies Performing Identity and British Cultures of Modernism (1909-1939)*.

I have a non-traditional profile for a research student. I left school without A levels to take up a career as a professional ballet dancer. Later, having raised a family and worked in a number of jobs that did not require qualifications, I came to academic study not having written an essay for over thirty years.

I undertook both my BA and MA in Modern History at Oxford Brookes, while also becoming a staff member once I had completed my BA, taking up the position of Administrator for the MA Arts students. My desire to stay on at the university to carry out my research was due to the positive years I had already experienced during my previous studies, and although my subject area isn't typical for Brookes, I had heard of a lecturer in the Department of English and Modern Languages whose research interests included 'the moving body'. I am now thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to encompass the highlights of my career profile in my inter-disciplinary thesis, which is a historical enquiry into dance and movement in early twentieth-century Britain, an incredibly important area of cultural modernism.

My research aims to reframe the way dance is written about in modernist studies, with the focus being on the formal production of the Ballets Russes in the British context and utopian natural dance in Britain in the early twentieth century. This will not be framed through other related

disciplines but specifically through the somatic expression and the effect of the moving body. The aim is to show how the moving dancer's body is a fundamental but often overlooked expression of modernism.

By its very nature dance is ephemeral; it travels into a space leaving only a trace, as soon as the movement has been performed. Yet the effect of dance and movement is felt, it is embodied by those who see it and those who experience it. Dance has the ability to connect with current discourses or 'conversations', and 'to voice' these conversations corporeally.

As far as I know, there is almost no-one writing about the early British pioneers of utopian 'natural' dance as a way of reading British cultural modernism. My research will bring new knowledge in support of our understandings of cultural modernism, which will be underscored by my unique life experience as a dancer.

While completing a PhD can be an isolating experience, the challenge of my research area and the opportunity of linking up with the research and dance community in both Brookes and the University of Oxford, which I knew nothing of prior to my research, has been incredibly rewarding. I have recently presented a paper on 'Dance and Modernism' at an international conference, and have been lucky enough to have another paper published that I completed for the Bloomsbury Adaptations Conference in 2011 entitled 'Jeux (1913), Sometimes Known as "The Bloomsbury Ballet": Vaslav Nijinsky's Modernist Work'.

My research aims to reframe the way dance is written about in modernist studies... to show how the moving dancer's body is a fundamental but often overlooked expression of modernism.



Julia Ehmann
School of Arts

My PhD deals with conceptions of style in the music of Radiohead and argues for a relevance of discourse-based approaches for the study of popular music genres.

In particular, I am interested in exploring the idea of genre as a multidimensional system of meaning that allows for a number of distinct yet equally valid interpretations based on the varying listening conditions of distinctive audience groups. A central focus of my research is to provide a new methodology for studying issues of musical categorisation and interpretation, which is available to people with varying musical backgrounds and from contrasting disciplines.

Genre is a controversial and ambiguous concept, one that plays an important role for the way in which popular music is perceived and evaluated on a daily basis. Informed by a vast number of individual perceptions and opinions, popular music genres are complex constructs that are subject to constant processes of change and progression. In my research I explore the possibilities of a study of generic diversity in individual musical oeuvres, specifically in the music of Radiohead, through a combined analysis of text-based characteristics and critical discourses.

Since their formation, Radiohead's music has become subject to a particularly wide and varied discourse in relation to genre, which has influenced journalists and audiences alike. From labels such as post shoegazing, progressive rock and post-rock, to ambient, dance and electronic music. It is this generic diversity that I am particularly interested in. My research aims to explore how these

varying interpretations can originate from a single piece of music, and consequently to what extent their study can be utilised in achieving a better understanding of the nature of genre as a whole, during the course of music analysis.

My research topic is largely based upon work undertaken during my previous studies. While my undergraduate studies were mainly focused on the methodologies and debates of classical music, they did allow me a first glimpse into popular music studies as an academic discipline, as well as opening up new perspectives into how this varied class of music could be approached and analysed. My MA then gave me the opportunity to focus on popular music as my main research area, allowing me to explore some of the ideas that have influenced my PhD so far.

While the study of popular music in the UK has developed over the last thirty years, in my home country of Germany, the discipline is still evolving and is less academically established. Brookes has afforded me the unique opportunity and fascinating experience of being able to conduct research on a topic and work in a discipline that is still very new in the academic environment at home. Consequently, this has given me incredibly interesting insights into the differing perspectives and development stages involved in both countries, helping me to form a more all-encompassing and transitional view of the discipline.

Radiohead's music has become subject to a particularly wide and varied discourse in relation to genre, which has influenced journalists and audiences alike.



Kimberley Hill

Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health

The title of my PhD is Understanding and Preventing Alcohol Misuse in Young People: Affordances and Ecological Approach to Cognition.

I have always had a fascination with the mind along with a natural interest in tackling important theoretical problems. My undergraduate studies and my postgraduate research equally relied on an information processing approach to cognition. Through this, I became interested in looking beyond the brain to investigate how complex behaviour could be explained by dynamic relations between an individual and their environment.

My doctoral research uses contemporary ideas about the ecological approach and affordances to investigate alcoholic drinking behaviour in young adults. This research is funded by the Oxford Brookes Doctoral Training Programme, which supports innovative cross-disciplinary research, focusing on the scientific study of young people's psychological development, education and health.

Alcohol misuse is a pressing area of public health concern, particularly for the UK, which has one of the highest levels of alcohol consumption in the world. Young adults are most likely to engage in heavy episodic alcoholic drinking behaviour and are also most at risk from alcohol related injury or harm. However, this population segment tends to be overlooked by prevention approaches and public health policy.

Many dominant alcohol misuse prevention approaches are underpinned by psychological theory, yet taking behaviour back to be explained solely in terms of brain functioning

neglects the fact that the brain is embodied within a body and embedded within the world. My research puts the focus back onto this relation, through the exploration of how the relationship between an individual and their environment promotes or inhibits opportunities to consume alcohol in certain contexts. This is influential and exciting as it turns existing psychological principles on their head, by suggesting behaviour emerges from complex individual-environment relations and that cognitive processing may be secondary to this.

As well as promoting under-used methods in psychology, my findings have practical implications for premise design, policy formation and behaviour prevention. This includes restricting features that promote alcoholic drinking behaviour and understanding why certain action potentials are taken up by particular individuals in certain settings. There is also additional scope to develop these ideas to investigate other health-risk behaviours conducted by young people, including smoking, drug use and unhealthy eating.

Brookes Doctoral Training Programme has enabled me to make a high profile contribution to an area of pressing policy concern. Additionally it has provided me with the opportunity to present my research at conferences all over the world, publish my research outcomes and further develop my professional research skills through ongoing training. Also, following the successful completion of my PhD, I will be eligible for professional recognition of Chartered Psychologist status from the British Psychological Society.

Young adults are most likely to engage in heavy episodic alcoholic drinking behaviour and are also most at risk from alcohol related injury or harm.



Ifonima Essein

Department of Real Estate and Construction

My PhD focuses on exploring the influence of the complexity of the external environment of construction systems on building construction performance in Lagos, Nigeria.

Prior to joining Brookes in 2013, I had gained extensive work experience in the construction industry in various regions of Nigeria. In 2000, I started my professional career in an architecture practise working in a project management role on numerous Government and private construction projects. It was astonishing to note that despite the best practice and intentions of the professional's, contractors and client's organisations, these construction projects seldom met the performance expectations of the stakeholders. This scenario and further identified inadequacies have informed the underlying motivation for my research.

The majority of construction projects around the world, with Nigeria being no exception, continue to fail to achieve project objectives of budget, schedule and quality as set out at inception. Much of the blame for this failure is attributed to environmental factors that are outside of the control of construction organisations and practitioners, such as uncertain economic conditions, widespread corruption, technological gaps, slow litigation procedures and ineffective construction regulatory bodies. These forces interact to yield outputs that act as stimuli for change in the construction industry the world over.

Additionally, the external environment of construction projects differs across various countries of the world and developing countries, like Nigeria, particularly exhibit increasingly complex and dynamic scenarios.

Lagos is Nigeria's most populous city with a population estimated to attain 25 million by 2015, according to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and will rank among the top megacities in the world. It was Nigeria's capital city from 1960 until 1991 and still remains the country's commercial hub, currently accounting for approx. 52% of Nigeria's economic activity, resulting in massive rural to urban migration. Providing housing, social and infrastructural facilities to match its requirements remains a challenge, which may be due to its peculiar environmental complexities.

With particular regard to building construction, Lagos has witnessed a flourishing industry in recent times with both public and private initiatives geared towards rapidly reducing the building deficit, especially in housing development. Having recently spent several weeks in Lagos to conduct a pilot study, I was pleasantly surprised at the on-going efforts at physical transformation in the state. I was also amazed at the warm reception and enthusiasm with which my inquiries were addressed. This experience helped me to improve upon my research design and to clearly identify suitable respondents for the primary data gathering exercise.

Overall in my research, I am seeking to develop a conceptual framework for evaluating the extent of environmental influences on building construction projects, and proffer methods for operationalizing pragmatic responses. It is hoped that the results will contribute knowledge for developing building construction projects into learning and complex adaptive organisations that can respond favourably to environmental forces.

Lagos is Nigeria's most populous city with a population estimated to attain 25 million by 2015... and will rank among the top megacities in the world.



Vicky Taway
School of Education

The title of my PhD is A Mixed Method Study of the Impact of an Intervention Programme Designed to Enhance Creativity in a Context of Solving Problems in Thai Mid-adolescence (13-15 year old students).

Creativity is and will always be fundamental for our society. In Thailand, the Summary of the Direction of the Eleventh National Development Plan has placed large emphasis on developing human resources, requiring people to be more reasonable and creative, supporting children in all facets in order to develop the country in the future. Consequently, the Office of Thai Basic Education Commission (OBEC) constructed their core curriculum to support the national plan, with one of the curriculum's requirements being a student's capacity in creativity and solving problems.

My research will focus on creative capability of students between 13-15 years old in Benjamarachuthit School, Southern Thailand, with approx. 40 students. Many educators and psychologists agree that the defining mental characteristic of young children is mainly concerned with curiosity. Therefore, support and development of the creative ability should begin in childhood to increase the ability of thinking to its ultimate potential. However, since inventive thinking is crucial for mankind of all ages, creativity should not only be urged in the primary level but also given precedence to adolescence.

The reasoning behind this is to counter a major change in cognitive aptitude currently occurring from late children

to mid-adolescence, and to fully prepare the youth of today for university. At present, findings have illustrated that Thai pupils appear to lack confidence in the classroom in presenting their own thinking; they prefer to listen rather than taking the initiative to stand-out. The traditional teaching style in Thailand cultivates students to follow the teacher, accepting what they hear and consequently making them afraid to discuss when they disagree. It is this fear of failure that obstructs creativity.

A study of Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education (CASE) has shown that British schools using an intervention programme have produced significant gains in academic achievement, along with having a positive impact in promoting creative capability. My intention is to use an intervention programme to develop creativity in Thai students using extra classes and a variety of teaching strategies, which will not be particular to any subject.

Prior to my PhD I was living and teaching Mathematics in Thailand, which initially made it quite difficult as an international student adapting myself to live and study in a different country. However, having done a pre-PhD course in University English run by Brookes I have found the research experience to be, along with the academic support, exceptional. I plan to return to Thailand following the completion of my research, in order to use the knowledge I have gained in developing the quality of education in both Thailand and South East Asia.

Findings have illustrated that Thai pupils appear to lack confidence in the classroom. It is this fear of failure that obstructs creativity.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our Research Students on the successful outcome of their vivas and the conferments during the period August 2013 – July 2014.

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

Ioannis Argyropoulos

Factors affecting target perceptibility in object substitution masking

Scott James Bright

The role of lysosomes in radiation induced genomic instability

Ethel Burns

Intrapartum birthing pool use in the United Kingdom

Jean-Michel Carter

Oogenesis and maternal regulation of early development in the Speckled Wood Butterfly *Pararge aegeria*

Alice Gallienne

Genetic basis of hereditary persistence of fetal haemoglobin

Hassan Hartman

Genome-scale metabolic modelling of *Salmonella* and *Lactobacillus* species

Sarah Hillier

The effects of fluctuations in oestrogen and progesterone during the menstrual cycle on glucose homeostasis, energy balance, exercise and premenstrual syndrome

Simone Mazzaferro

The emerging role of the $\alpha 4(+)/\alpha 4(-)$ interface as determinant of functional signatures of $\alpha 4\beta 2$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

Melissa Prunty

Developmental co-ordination disorder: a focus on handwriting

Farheen Raza

Analysis of baculovirus auxiliary proteins P10, cathepsin and chitinase : unravelling protein modifications and interactions

Mona Sakr

Meaning and medium in young children's picture-making

MSc by Research

Findlay Redvers

Bewicke-Copley
Investigation into stress response in bacteria and eukaryotes

Jaser Mahmoud

Gait control in Parkinson's disease: insights from dual tasking

Faculty of Business

Doctor of Philosophy

Wan-Ju Liang

Antecedents of travellers' eWOM communication

Ivan Mitchell

Outsourcing to trust: a social exchange analysis of the employee experience

Hany Shoukry

Coaching for emancipation: a framework for coaching in oppressive environments

Pimpika Thongrom

The effect of interpreted filmic signs on destination image through a consideration of semiotics

Doctor of Coaching and Mentoring

Tina Salter

A comparison of mentor and coach approaches across disciplines

Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

Doctor of Philosophy

Marco Cecotti

Development of a remotely-controlled electric vehicle with characterization of the ground grip

Samuel Hare

Online structured learning for real-time computer vision gaming applications

Robert Irving

Assessing the potential of heat pumps to reduce energy-related carbon emissions from UK housing in a changing climate

Khairul Hisyam Bin Kamarudin

Criteria and indicators for sustainable Community Based Rural Tourism (CBRT) development: The case of East Coast Economic Region (ECER), Malaysia

Gemma Lawrence

Friction characteristic prediction within a carbon-carbon race clutch

Jyotsna Ram

From the grassroots: ecologically sustainable systems of food and energy provision

Samuel Roberts

A portfolio of compositions exploring the role of the electric bass guitar in contemporary western art music

David Rodrigues

Saline surface modification of boron carbide in epoxy composites

Singhanat Sangsehanat

Locally appropriate sustainable urban form: the case of Sukhumvit Superblock

Krishna Sapkota

Semantic frameworks for regulatory compliance support

Claudia Dorothe Schluermann

“Material” as gateway to other forms of knowing: what the secrets in materials and processes have to offer in the field of transformative social practice

Veronika Schropfer

Knowledge transfer in project teams delivering office buildings to sustainable building standards in Germany and the UK

Walter Sweeting

A framework for evaluating the sustainability of advanced powertrains

Eberechi Weli

Maximum risk reduction with a fixed budget in the railway industry

Ziming Zhang

Efficient object detection via structured learning and local classifiers

PhD by Published Work**Richard Carver**

The evolution of national human rights institutions: mandate, structure and effectiveness

Duncan Heining

Jazz and social criticism

MA by Research**Ye Wang**

Stakeholder participation involve communities in the urban design process in the context of England

MSc by Research**Harry Green**

Bifurcation and chaos theory in ecological modelling using dynamical systems

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**Doctor of Philosophy****Mohammad Almaharmeh**

Judicial jurisdiction and legal conflicts on the internet: an analysis of Jordanian cyber jurisdiction rules

Rihab Alteraifi

Disability, Citizenship and Education in England

Patricia Bennett

Relationality and Health: Developing a transversal neurotheological account of the pathways linking social connection, immune function, and health outcomes

Stephen Byrne

Classification, variation, and education: the making and remaking of the normal child in England, C.1880-1914

Mansi Desai

Phytoremediation: a tool for restoring land degraded due to opencast coal mining

Linda Fisher-Hoyrem

What matter? Human nature beyond the Cartesian framework - an essay in metapsychology

David Hughes

Contemporary US Liberalism in post-secular perspective

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An analysis of the degree of sustainability of desertification control projects within the Iranian national context

Nissa Parmar

In “the American Strain”: the hybrid poetry of Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, William Carlos Williams, Adrienne Rich, Marilyn Chin and Sherman Alexie

Frank Pearson

The formulation and development of instruments to measure field dependence -field independence using spatial and verbal modalities

Kornelia Nella Robertson

Jacobethan Legacy: Motive and Practice in British Architecture 1870-1914

Sally Tye

Religion, the SPCK and the Westminster workhouses: ‘re-enchanting’ the Eighteenth-century workhouse

PhD by Published Work**Morag Joss**

From whodunnits to literary fiction: the charting of an author’s transition from crime writer to literary novelist

MA by Research**Annie Webster**

The origin and evolution of language

Alexandra Cernanova

Multi-dimensional identities and the disruption of ‘home’ in Marguerite Duras and Assia Djebar

MSc by Research**Anna Elvidge**

Captive breeding programmes for Nocturnal Prosimians

Stay connected

With nearly 5,000 postgraduates, Brookes has a strong and vibrant research and taught master's student community. Here are just some of the ways you can stay in touch:

Graduate College Events

The Graduate College aims to nurture and encourage a community amongst its research students at Brookes. Several activities are run across both semesters to enable you to network with likeminded students and share ideas.

Here are a selection of Graduate College events scheduled for semester one;

Postgraduate Shout-out

Sports Café, Sport Center, Headington Campus
Monday 29 September from 7pm

Oxford Walking Tour with Footprints Tours

Opposite Fudge Kitchen, 5 Broad St, OX1 3AJ
Saturday 11 October from 11am

Networking Social Event for Research Students and Supervisors

Location TBC
Wednesday 15 October from 5pm

Speed Networking Event

Location TBC
Wednesday 12 November from 5pm

We're always open to new suggestions for our events, so if you would like to share your thoughts or simply get involved please email: asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk



The Postgraduate Student Society also runs a number of other activities alongside the Graduate College. Find them on Facebook by looking for the 'Oxford Brookes University Postgraduate Students' Society'.



Interested in your University's research?

Research Forum, Brookes' bi-annual magazine, brings you the latest and most topical research, along with opinion pieces from our leading researchers. If you'd like to be kept up-to-date with how the university's research is making an impact in the real world, subscribe now by emailing your details to: researchforum@brookes.ac.uk

For further information on all of our activities please visit: www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team/current-students/research-students/



A year in the life

BEDOUR ALSHAIGY

Faculty of Design, Technology and Environment

Follow the experiences of one of Brookes PhD students through a year of their research.

Bedour's study focuses on the development of an interactive learning tool in order to teach the Python computer programming language.

This article might be of interest to current and prospective PhD students, other research students and their supervisors. It gives an insight into the challenges that PhD students face, along with the opportunities and experiences that become available to them during their studies.

Days glued to the computer; batches of emails all similarly titled urgent; piles of research papers put to one side but labelled 'to read'. Experiments, deadlines, crunching data, registration applications, progress reports, or more specifically in my case executing lines of code hoping there won't be yet another error message. This year, in order to break up the monotony that it becomes easy to fall into with research, I decided to take part in activities and events that would fulfil me socially and enrich me academically.

In September 2013, the beginning of my second year as a PhD student, I enrolled in Brookes free language module in Spanish, which I thoroughly recommend to others looking to brush up on their language skills or develop their proficiency. In addition to Spanish, they offer courses in French, Italian, Japanese and Mandarin. During this period I was also the associate lecturer for two programming modules run by the Department of Computing and Communication Technologies for the undergraduate students. I helped the lecturers in running the practical sessions as well as marking coursework. This was an extremely beneficial experience, as part of my research looks into how different learners respond to various teaching methods while learning computer programming.

In regards to academic events, I was invited to the first ACM-W womENcourage Europe Conference in Manchester earlier this year, which celebrates the achievements of women in the field of computer science. It was a wonderful opportunity to network with colleagues in my specific field, along with discussing their latest accomplishments. I was also invited back to the 10th London

Hopper Colloquium held at the British Computing Society headquarters in London, to be a part of the judging panel of the Research Spotlight Competition they held earlier in the year. The quality of the entries was outstanding, making it incredibly difficult to select one winner at the end of the day.

My most memorable experience of the year, however, was winning the travel grant to attend the New Educators Workshop in Atlanta, Georgia. This forms part of the Special Interest Group in Computer Science Education (SIGCSE 2014) Conference; seen as the Oscars of all conferences in my field. One of my friends had suddenly fallen ill and asked me to stand in and present his paper on his behalf. I was honoured, and knowing his work almost as well as my own, I decided to take on the challenge. It was fantastic, and has made me incredibly excited for presenting my own work next year.

Currently, I am teaching Key Stage 3 students, aged between 11 and 14, computer programming once a week at Marlborough School in Woodstock, Oxford. It is incredibly rewarding to see them succeed and get excited about completing an exercise that I have set.

It has been an especially valuable year both personally and professionally, which has only been made possible through the enormous support provided by my supervisors Dr Samia Kamal, Dr Faye Mitchell and Dr Clare Martin. They have continually ensured that I am at the top of my game, a formula that appears to be working as I have just received news that my transfer from MPhil stage to PhD has been successful.

EVENTS

2013/14

Here are a selection of some of the University's events coming up over the year.

27 OCTOBER

Intelligence in the Digital Age:

Britain's "top spy" discusses the challenges of cyber terrorism for national security.

12 NOVEMBER

Peace, Power and Protest: what can faith say about how society relates to authority?

4 FEBRUARY

Reputation, Consequences and Empowerment:

making the most of business as partners in tackling public health challenges

11 MARCH

Our Long Love Affair with Magazines:

portraying confidence from the 18th century to the present day.

22 APRIL

Buds, bubbles and bottles: breaking barriers in brewing.

6 MAY

The Life and Work of John Henry Brookes:

the man who inspired Oxford Brookes University.

17 JUNE

Bio-medical Systems: where electronics meets biology.

22 OCTOBER AND 4 FEBRUARY: POSTGRADUATE FAIR

Come and find out more about research degrees at Brookes

To book on any of our events, please visit
www.brookes.ac.uk/events