

ISSUE 10

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community



Exhibiting Success

Graduate College Annual Research Student Exhibition



PLUS NOVEL PUBLICATION SUCCESS | TEA AND A 3 MINUTE PHD | FTDE RESEARCH STUDENT CONFERENCE



Contents



Graduate College Newsletter, the newsletter of the 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.

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

News



Graduate College Research Student Exhibition 2018

This year's annual showcase of research students' work took place in The Forum of the John Henry Brookes Building on 2 and 3 May 2018.

There were a fantastic number of posters, impressive abstracts and video presentations, as well as a practice-based installation. The exhibition was held over two days, enabling a large number of visitors from across the University to see the diverse range of research being undertaken by our students. The entries were judged by a panel of three: Professor Susan Brooks, Director of Researcher Development; Dr Tom Crook, Chair of the Research Degrees Committee; and Richard Francis from Learning Resources.

Blanca Rodriguez Beltran from the School of Arts presented her research on '*Being home: exploring the idea of home and belonging through art practice*'. She presented a compelling piece of artwork, embroidered with the words "I am homesick but I am at home" next to a poster that read "What do you call home?" Blanca invited visitors to think about what home means to them and to write their private answers down on paper, or to join her for an informal chat. It led to some very interesting conversations and Blanca was delighted to be one of the three winners at the exhibition!

Blanca spoke about her research; "I wanted to create an installation that made the public reflect about the meaning of home. Home can be a place, a person, a feeling... even

a smell. For some, 'home' can be a stable concept. It always remains the same. No matter what they experience through their entire life, it never changes. For others, their sense of home may be in a constant change, transforming itself depending on their desires and needs."

Another winner at the Exhibition was Haiping Zhu from the Oxford Brookes Business School, with her poster titled 'Are Chinese People All Luxury Consumers? Comparative Study of Chinese Three Philosophic Religious Traditions'. The purpose of Haiping's research is to explore how the Chinese philosophical religious traditions of Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism impact on the consumption behaviour of contemporary Chinese consumers. Her poster presented her research in a simple and methodical way and was really eye-catching, with great use of imagery!

The third winner at the Exhibition was Nicole Collaco from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. Nicole's poster, titled 'The challenges on the family unit faced by younger couples affected by prostate cancer; a qualitative study', communicated her research in an expert way; detailed, yet understandable to a lay audience.

As well as the three winners, there were three 'Highly Commended' posters and these were awarded to: Shwetha Kumar Shrayamsa from the Oxford Brookes Business School; Parmida Mohammadpour from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences; and Rita Phillips from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. Congratulations to all and well done to everyone who took part! It was a fantastic event and we encourage research students from across the University to take part next year. We also invite all staff and students at Brookes to come along and visit next year's exhibition, which will be held on 3 and 4 April 2019.



Medical Humanities student travels to Houston

In April 2018, research student Ross Brooks travelled to Rice University in Houston, Texas; following in the footsteps of the English biologist Julian Huxley (1887-1975). Huxley was largely responsible for establishing the biology department at the Rice Institute and his extensive archive can now be consulted at the Woodson Research Center in Rice's Fondren Library.

Ross' trip facilitated archival work for his PhD programme, funded by the Wellcome Trust, on approaches adopted towards the subject of homosexuality by twentieth-century British biologists, which he is pursuing within the Centre for Medical Humanities at Brookes. Ross is now beginning the second year of his doctoral project which is entitled *'Evolution's Closet: The New Biology and Homosexuality in Britain, 1885-1967'*.

Ross' interest in Huxley centres on his sexological writings which occupied his attention throughout his career, but particularly during his time at Oxford between 1919 and 1925. Ross was keen to find out his motivations for pursuing a subject which was still largely taboo in Britain at the time. Whilst the scientific study of sex-related matters had taken off on the Continent and in North America, the British medical and scientific professions largely remained standoffish towards the new sexology; a situation which Huxley was integral in changing.

Ross said; "Rice, like everything in Texas, is huge, but like Brookes, has a very friendly scholarly community. The archivists are brilliant. Everything was ready for my arrival, but it was hard work; Huxley's handwriting is terrible and defeated me on some occasions. There are about 500 large boxes of material and on my first day looking at them, I got through three! Fortunately, I was tightly focussed on his early career and I quickly found some archival gems."

"I had plenty of time to explore Houston during my trip and I was delighted to find a buzzing LGBT scene in Downtown Houston. As a Graduate Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, I was also glad of the opportunity to visit Houston Zoo where I saw my first cougar! Other highlights of my trip included visits to the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Museum of Fine Arts. Now I'm back home I miss the grackles, the city cowboys, and freshly-made Texan iced tea. I would like to return one day to explore Huxley's later career. There is no comprehensive biography of the man which is unfortunate, but possibly a plum opportunity for a budding postdoc!"

PhD by design student shortlisted for World Habitat Award

Salem Al Qudwa, PhD by design student in the School of Architecture, was delighted to find out that his project "Rehabilitation of Damaged Houses, the Gaza Strip, Palestine" had been shortlisted for the World Habitat Award. The World Habitat Awards seek to identify and promote outstanding work internationally in furthering the right to housing and Salem's project received a commendation and was shortlisted from almost 200 applications.

David Ireland, Director of World Habitat, said "We commend Salem's outstanding work in rehabilitating homes to provide security and safety in conflict-affected areas of the Gaza strip. We particularly value the focus on those communities that are hardest to reach and his work to embed skills and resilience within the local community."

Success at VPFA conference

In July 2018, third year PhD student Rachel Egloff travelled to London to attend the Victorian Popular Fiction Association's annual conference and was delighted to be awarded the Greta Depledge Prize for best postgraduate conference paper. The Association is committed to the revival of interest in understudied popular Victorian writers, literary genres, and other cultural forms and this five-day conference on 'War and Peace' marked a decade since their foundation.

Rachel presented a paper entitled 'The Continental Other: Imperial Rhetoric within Europe and a Literary Attempt at Parley', which focused on the work of the little-known writer Rose Blazé de Bury. Rachel said, "I would like to extend my gratitude to the conference committee for a wonderfully insightful event and for the Greta Depledge Prize!"



Novel success for Creative Writing student

Anne Youngson, PhD student in the Department of English and Modern Languages, was delighted when her first novel 'Meet Me at the Museum' sold in a major publishing deal just 48 hours after submission.

To support her Creative Writing PhD, Anne is writing a collection of short stories exploring how stories start. The stories are not linked by theme, giving her the freedom to write about whatever occurs to her as a suitable topic. On her wall, she has pinned up a picture of an Iron Age body dug up from a bog two thousand years ago, yet perfectly preserved. From this unlikely starting point she began a story about a woman contemplating this same picture and wondering about where life went. She started the story with a letter, from the woman to the Danish archaeologist who wrote a book about the body, and then imagined a Danish museum curator writing back. This turned out not to be a short story, but a novel, written entirely in letters between these two people, who have never met, but share experience of recent bereavement. As the exchange continues, over more than a year, they learn to understand themselves and their own lives better.

Anne said, "My tutor, Dr James Hawes, introduced me to an agent soon after I began writing the novel, and I secured a publishing deal as soon as I had completed it; first with Doubleday in the UK and subsequently with Flatiron in New York, and then publishers in eight other countries. In addition to this, a film company is currently negotiating an option on the film rights."

'Meet Me at the Museum' was launched in the UK in May 2018. Reviews have been positive and Anne has had a fantastic reception from readers in bookshops and libraries around the country.

The US launch is in August, but in June, Anne was able to travel to the States for a pre-publication round of dinners with booksellers and the media, and to the Association of Librarians conference in New Orleans. Anne said, "I am past retirement age, and this is my second or even third career, and I am therefore making the most of these new experiences. One of the unexpected pleasures has been meeting people from the world of books and publishing, and learning more about how the industry works. Meanwhile, I am still working on finishing my PhD, and starting the next novel."



Nursing student travels to the US

Neesha Oozageer Gunowa, PhD student within the Department of Nursing, was delighted to be awarded a Florence Nightingale Foundation (FNF) Travel Scholarship, giving her the opportunity to travel to the United States. The scholarships aim to advance the study of Nursing and Midwifery and promote excellence in practice, and Neesha was excited to be able to further explore her research interest around Nurse Education and Patient Safety.

Neesha's trip included visits to two different universities. In May 2018, Neesha travelled to the School of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, where she shared her PhD research, compared international healthcare systems and explored healthcare inequalities. A visit to the local hospital helped her visualise current practice and contextualise material that had been read in books and journals about the US healthcare system.

Neesha then travelled to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she was able to discuss and question current practice in the United States relating to wound care management and how this was disseminated to the student population within the university.

Neesha said, "I am very thankful to the FNF for this opportunity and I strongly encourage fellow students to apply for funding to develop international links, disseminate research findings and learn about international innovations which can help improve practice."

Tea and a 3 Minute PhD



During May 2018, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences were pleased to host 'Tea and a 3 Minute PhD', as part of the Think Human Festival. Research students within the faculty each spoke for three minutes about their thesis, and tea and cake was served to the audience of fellow students, academics and external visitors.

The event was chaired by Hamish Chalmers, a PhD Student in the School of Education. Hamish's research centres on English as an Additional Language learners' use of their home languages as a tool for learning English, and other curriculum content, in mainstream schools in the UK.

Research students presenting at this event included: Aimee Oxley, who spoke about her research on the impacts of tropical forest fragmentation and human habitat disturbances on forest-dependent species; Kathleen Reinhardt, whose research concentrates on the Javan slow loris as a model species to reveal the extreme physiology and energetics

of mammalian thermo-regulation in the contexts of evolution and climate change; and Rachel Egloff, who presented her research on female participation in nineteenth-century discourses on transcultural identity in the context of European international politics, focusing on writer Blaze de Bury.

Also presenting at this event was Ben Burbank from the School of Education. Ben's ethnographic study includes the complementary use of photo-elicitation and chest-mounted Go Pro cameras, and explores young children's multifaceted and multi-modal experiences of visiting museums. Ross Brooks, who was in the first year of his PhD, then spoke about how 20th-century biologists approached the subject of homosexuality in Britain. Ross first pursued LGBT history here at Oxford Brookes both at undergraduate and master's levels. Ross also researches local LGBT history in Oxford and is currently devising a new LGBT city trail which will accompany the forthcoming 'No Offence' exhibition at the Ashmolean.

FTDE Research Student Conference



The annual Faculty of Technology, Design & Environment (FTDE) Research Student Conference, held in May 2018, showcased the diversity and quality of PhD research within the faculty through presentations, posters and an art exhibition. The conference is part of the faculty's Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) and was organised by research students Edward Hopkins, Mireya Munoz Balbontin and Serkan Gunay; a former arts research student, Aya Kasai; and other staff within the faculty.

The conference opened with a welcome by Paul Inman, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of TDE, and Professor Nigel Crook, Associate Dean of Research and Knowledge Exchange FTDE. Mr Inman welcomed the new initiative of introducing a peer-reviewed publication following the conference, which will be produced by a new Publications Committee comprising FTDE research students. The publication will include articles written by student conference participants and will be available later this year through the Oxford Brookes library.

Professor Crook noted that the conference provided an important forum for research students to develop their academic careers, including the opportunity to communicate high-level research to a diverse audience, and to develop a friendly critical ability during the question and answer session following each presentation.

Three parallel sessions ran throughout the day covering areas ranging from live performance art, short films, and social sculpture; to refugee assistance in urban Jordan and criticality control of glucose-insulin release. The conference concluded with a summer social at the Sports Centre.

Brookes' PhD Alumna visits Downing Street

In July 2018, staff from across Oxford Brookes took part in a range of celebrations to mark the NHS turning 70; an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of one of the nation's most loved institutions. Oxford Brookes has many connections with the NHS, through educating future healthcare professionals and pioneering research in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

Dr Lisa Ayers, Brookes' PhD Alumna and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, had a particularly special opportunity to celebrate the anniversary with a trip to 10 Downing Street. Lisa said, "The NHS 70 event was an amazing opportunity to represent Oxford Brookes and healthcare scientists. I also had the chance to chat to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care about the importance of the role of healthcare scientists within the NHS."

Tour of the Oxford Botanic Garden



In June 2018, a group of 15 research students were fortunate to experience a guided tour of the Oxford Botanic Garden. The tour started in the Walled Garden, which dates back to the Garden's foundation in 1621, with a history of the Garden and an introduction to the work being done there today. Tour guide Kate explained how the formal taxonomic (family) beds are currently being reconfigured to reflect their genetic relatedness, using the most modern and objective classification system called APG (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group).

Next, the group visited the Garden's most iconic glasshouse, featuring the tropical water lily pond. It dates from 1851, when it was built to allow the Garden to grow the giant Amazonian waterlily (*Victoria amazonica*). The more manageable species *Victoria cruziana* is now grown today and, when fully grown, can support the weight of babies and small children! Another plant of particular interest was the *Nepenthes*, also known as tropical pitcher plants; a type of carnivorous

plant which has special adaptations to enable it to capture insects, with sugary nectar luring them into pitfall traps. Their waxy sides prevent the prey climbing out, so they fall into a liquid and drown. They are also quite striking to look at, with attractive colours and sweet smells to entice their prey!

Kate then took the group around the jungle environment, where an assortment of tropical crop plants are grown, including cocoa, coffee, rubber, peanut, cotton and pineapple. Important medicinal plants are also grown here, including the rosy periwinkle which is used in the treatment of leukaemia.

The group then walked around the Lower Garden, which holds ornamental collections including the Rock Garden, which has many Mediterranean species, the Gin Border, the Herbaceous Border, Plants That Changed the World beds, and the Merton Border. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event and although we weren't treated to any sunshine, at least the rain held off!

Research Student Breakfast Seminar

In March 2018, the Graduate College held a University-wide Research Student Breakfast Seminar and were pleased to have four research student speakers; two PhD students and two Masters by Research students. The event began with tea, coffee and pastries and an opportunity to network.

The event was well attended with research students from across all four faculties coming together to hear about the wide range of interesting research being carried out and to support their fellow students. Three students from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences presented: first was Rita Phillips from the Department of Psychology, Health and Professional Development speaking about her research into 'understanding and explaining the perception of veterans in society'; second was Mamdooh Alzyood from the Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery presenting about 'the role of patients' involvement in promoting hand hygiene among nurses in the hospital setting'; and third was Ben Franks from the Department of Sport, Health Sciences and Social Work talking about his research on 'quiet eye as an insight into perception-action coupling in football goalkeepers'. Last but not least, Robbie Thielker from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences presented research on 'transgender performance and early modern dramatic texts'.

All four presentations were really thought-provoking, inciting some interesting questions from the audience and fuelling some engaging discussions. It was a remarkably supportive environment in which our students could practice their all-important presentation skills so thank you to everyone who came along, and especially to our speakers. We will be running our next Breakfast Seminar in December 2018 and would encourage students from across the University to get involved.

Coming up...

Research student training sessions to look out for this academic year.

Please check for updates to this programme, including dates and venues, at www.brookes.ac.uk/research-student-training/

GRADUATE COLLEGE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Semester 1

- Induction session for new research students
17 October, 10.30am to 4.00pm
- Time Management: planning your research degree and keeping up momentum
24 October, 12.00pm to 1.00pm
- How to look after yourself during your PhD
1 November, 12.00pm to 2.00pm
- An Introduction to Mindfulness
8 November, 12.00pm to 2.00pm
- Introduction to Research Impact: What, Who, Why, When, Where, How?
14 November, 12.00pm to 2.00pm
- The Viva Examination
28 November, 12.00pm to 1.00pm
- Training to enable supervisors and research students to develop applications for ethical approval
5 December, 11.00am to 1.00pm
- Tackling the writing up stage of the research degree
12 December, 12.00pm to 1.00pm

Semester 2

- Research Intensive Skills Event (RISE)
15 and 16 January
- Induction session for new research students
27 February, 10.30am to 4.00pm
- Data Management and Storage
6 March, 4.00pm to 5.00pm
- Research degrees – strategies for successful part-time study
20 March, 12.00pm to 2.00pm
- Managing your supervisor and building a good working relationship with your supervisory team
10 April, 4.00pm to 5.00pm
- The Viva Examination
17 April, 4.00pm to 5.00pm
- Induction session for new research students
8 May, 10.30am to 4.00pm
- Communicating your findings: publishing, Open Access, and sharing your data
5 June, 4.00pm to 5.00pm
- 12 tips on how to make LinkedIn work for you
12 June, 4.00pm to 5.00pm

CAREERS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For details of the Careers Training Programme for Researchers, please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/news-and-events/researchers/

Services and Support

New LIBRARYSEARCH platform: helping to improve your research and saving you time

Over the summer, the Library has been implementing new software to help improve their services to users, including the research student community. The new discovery features, re-branded as LibrarySearch, make it easier for users to find the wealth of resources that are available, as well as material that is held beyond the physical or network confines of Brookes. There are also lots of new features which should help free up more of the Library staff's time to spend directly supporting you all in your research.

At a time when the only word that seems to accompany 'frictionless' is 'borders', Library staff want to welcome students to their frictionless library! New features in the software, and policy and practice changes, will make it easier for you to manage your library account whenever and wherever you are.

These developments will not change the way in which you access the Library and you will be able to access the new software using existing credentials. The new interface is pretty intuitive and the Library will be running some sessions in September that will include general familiarisation with the software and how to get the most out of the platform.

Keep an eye out for more news as additional features are unlocked over the coming months, and if you would like any help, please contact your academic liaison librarian or use the library chat service. For further details visit www.brookes.ac.uk/library/subject-help/

LIBRARYSEARCH

The screenshot shows the LIBRARYSEARCH interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search Oxford Brookes University and beyond." Below the search bar, the search term "John Henry Brookes" is entered. A red arrow points from the search bar to the search results page. The search results page displays a list of search results, including "John Henry Brookes: the man who inspired a university" and "The history of Henry East of Montreal". A red arrow points from the search results to a book cover titled "JOHN HENRY BROOKES: THE MAN WHO INSPIRED A UNIVERSITY".

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 the events currently scheduled for the 2018/19 Academic Year:

Networking Social Event for all Research Students and Supervisors

Wednesday 17 October, from 5.00pm

Guided Tour of MINI Plant Oxford

Tuesday 6 November, 1.30pm

Research Student Breakfast Seminar

Tuesday 18 December, 9.30am to 12.00pm

3 Minute Thesis Event

Wednesday 13 February, 10.00am to 2.00pm

Annual Research Student Exhibition

Wednesday 3 April, 10.00am to 5.30pm

Guided Tour of Oxford Castle Unlocked

May / June 2019 – Date TBC

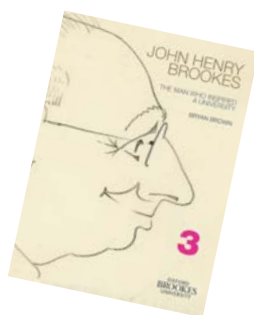
Further details will be circulated via email, or you can check for updates on events at any time at www.brookes.ac.uk/graduate-college/events/

For further information about all the Graduate College social and networking events, please visit:

www.brookes.ac.uk/graduate-college/events

or email:

asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk



Watch our 'how to' video guide to this service at www.brookes.ac.uk/library

Research Student and Alumni Profiles

Here, along with our regular research student profiles, we speak to one of our Masters by Research students



Robbie Thielker

Masters by Research student
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The title of my thesis is 'Understanding Early Modern theatre through modern transgender studies and performance'.

"I have found the Masters by Research programme a very steep learning curve. It is a huge challenge, but I love the opportunity to learn and pursue my own interests, and I am beginning to discover networking and research in my field, which is hugely exciting."

Shakespeare studies is full of phrases like 'ambiguous gender', 'fluid gender', 'queer', 'cross-dressing', 'transvestite'; but there is very little that includes people who we might these days identify as 'transgender'. The Early Modern, for a period obsessed with policing gender, with gender difference, with theatre that plays with gender roles and politics, is a field that feels strangely empty of transgender people. In a modern context where transgender characters are more often appearing in mainstream media and at the same time transgender actors are not being cast, it seems a good time to take a crow-bar and prise open the Pandora's box of Early Modern gender. I want to metaphorically put transgender bodies centre stage and see what light can be shed through such analysis on the context the play was written; particularly the context of how bodies were gendered and how an Early Modern audience might have seen the social and political discourse played out on stage before them.

My research begins with the text. I am pulling apart John Lyly and William Shakespeare and seeing what falls out; how gender is 'constructed' in those texts and on stage. I am using both written criticism and performance history as sources, along with the primary texts. Alongside this, I am looking at modern transgender, finding out how, when and where trans people become visible on stage, and looking at criticism in Transgender Studies that looks at embodiment, visibility and performance. I am looking for correlations and crossovers between these two contexts and examining what implications this rich intersection (between historic

dramatic text and modern performance and criticism) might have. I argue that there is huge potential in staging Early Modern drama in a transgender context. I am hoping that the results of examining this intersection will shed a little light on the Early Modern social context and why there was such fervour and anxiety over these plays.

I have been really impressed with the opportunities available to research students at Brookes, as well as the research community; both the social side and the networking events. I find networking a challenge, due in part to disability, so the opportunity to build those skills in a low pressure environment, meeting my peers and other students who are also learning, has been invaluable.

I have also discovered that writing up research is different to writing an essay in a lot of ways. I am still working out strategies for that. I have found the Masters by Research programme a very steep learning curve. It is a huge challenge, but I love the opportunity to learn and pursue my own interests, and I am beginning to really discover networking and research in my field, which is hugely exciting. I have met two early career academics who are also working on transgender performance; one looking specifically at Shakespeare, and the other with a research interest in the Early Modern. Networking is hard but the people I get to meet through that makes the effort 100% worth it.

After completion of my Masters by Research, I am hoping to undertake further research in this area for PhD.



Nicole Collaco

Department of Midwifery, Community and Public Health

The title of my PhD is **'Exploring the experiences and needs of younger men with prostate cancer and their partners; a qualitative study'**.

I am a complementary therapist by background and previously worked as a massage therapist for chiropractors, as well as being involved in a charity project that provided aromatherapy sessions for people with sickle cell anaemia. I also undertook a work placement at the University of Southampton on a research project investigating how the therapeutic relationship, practitioners' beliefs, clinic environments and patients' beliefs can affect the outcomes of lower back pain therapy.

My PhD project aims to provide a detailed understanding of the experiences of a sample of younger men with Prostate Cancer (PCa), (aged 65 and under) and their partners. The project is part of an ongoing UK-wide study called Life After Prostate Cancer Diagnosis (LAPCD). The LAPCD study aims to identify the impact of PCa on everyday life with the view to establish ways to inform the development of healthcare service delivery and better support the needs of men with PCa and their partners. LAPCD is led jointly by the University of Leeds and Queen's University, Belfast, in collaboration with Oxford Brookes University, the University of Southampton, and Public Health England. The wider LAPCD study is surveying around 100,000 men diagnosed with PCa (18-42 months previously) in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This

survey is asking men about their experience of life following PCa diagnosis and problems they have experienced. This PhD project will use telephone interviews to gain a richer understanding of the experiences of younger couples affected by PCa in order to identify their issues and concerns. This will help to inform the development of appropriate interventions to address the needs of this patient group and their partners.

For me, the best thing about being a research student has been collecting data. My project specifically entails interviewing couples affected by prostate cancer and it's been an incredible experience to get to talk to them, understand their experience and learn from them. Reading so much around the topic of interest made me develop expectations or preconceptions about what their experiences may be, so it has been an interesting process to learn things about them which is different to what I've read about. I have also enjoyed the opportunities to present my work and meet other people in both similar and different areas of interest to me; it has really opened my eyes to the breadth of research being carried out.

My goal is to develop my research skills and hopefully build on the work that I am currently carrying out. On completion of my PhD, I hope to secure a post-doctoral position, researching on the experiences of people affected by cancer.

My project specifically entails interviewing couples affected by prostate cancer and it's been an incredible experience to get to talk to them, understand their experience and learn from them.



Alison Baxter

Department of English and Modern Languages

The title of my PhD is ‘**Debatable Lands: exploring the boundaries of fiction and non-fiction through family history**’.

My research project has two distinct parts. The first makes up 80% of the whole and is a work of historical non-fiction that tells the story of an obscure Victorian family and their experience of living through the changes brought about by the age of steam. The other 20% is a critical commentary that examines aspects of the blurred boundary between ‘fact’ and ‘fiction’ in literary writing.

In my creative writing, I aim to challenge the assumption that family history belongs solely to the domain of personal interest or celebrity television. As a genre, it overlaps with history, biography and memoir, but is rarely taken seriously by critics. Yet genealogical research is now one of the most popular online pastimes. My writing addresses a shared preoccupation that I hope will allow my personal story to resonate with others.

I define myself as a life writer rather than biographer or memoirist, although I write about other people (biography) and about my own family (memoir). My starting point is a set of characters who are unsuitable subjects for a traditional biography; they led unexciting lives and left behind no diaries or letters to illuminate their thoughts and feelings. They are part of my extended family but they cannot be the subject of a true memoir because they are beyond the reach of living

memory. I believe the lives that I have rescued from obscurity can act as a window on the Victorian age. I aim to shape my historical research into a compelling story, create characters that engage the reader by appealing to universal emotions and experience, and thereby shed light on what it felt like to be a Victorian.

In the critical analysis, I examine the role of invention and imagination in literary writing. Biographers and historians tend to be scrupulous about factual evidence while novelists, and to an extent memoirists, are prepared to blur boundaries. We may view both fiction and non-fiction as literary narrative, using the same kind of structures and devices to engage the reader, but there remains an essential difference. Novelists are free to invent but what should a life writer do when faced with gaps in the evidence and the mysterious interior life of another human being?

I am interested in how family history fits into this discussion of fact, fiction and truth. Our objects, photographs, and family myths carry their own reality within them; a reality that straddles past and present. They transport us back to a time beyond personal recollection and create a web of associations that is not available in curated museum collections.

My goal is to become a full-time writer and I hope eventually to be published!

Novelists are free to invent but what should a life writer do when faced with gaps in the evidence and the mysterious interior life of another human being?



Shwetha Kumar Shrayamsa **Oxford Brookes Business School**

The title of my PhD is ‘**The potential of product placement in mobile games as an advertising strategy: A study evaluating the effectiveness through recall and recognition for Indian female consumers**’.

After completing my Masters by Research at the University of Exeter, I was looking for universities to apply to for a doctoral degree which provided a high-quality student experience and would prepare me for a career in academia. I was impressed with the research student profiles across Oxford Brookes University and, most importantly, the research interests and experience of my potential supervisors, who are now my current supervisors: Dr Sarah Quinton and Professor Janine Dermody.

The purpose of my research is to investigate the effectiveness of product placement through recall and recognition in mobile games as experienced by Indian female consumers. In the last few years, with advancements in technology, advertisers are looking for new ways of reaching target consumers and product placement is a creative tool which combines the advertisement with the entertainment; blurring the advertised content. Movies and television programmes have been popular choices for product placement because of their wide reach, and over the past few years, this has expanded to other forms of media such as video games, computer games and games played on social networking platforms.

A mobile phone is the easiest form of entertainment whilst on the move. Mobile games are an interactive and engaging platform and provide a way for gamers to interact with the

products placed in the game rather than just being mere passive viewers of advertisements. Many video games are now moving to the mobile platform to increase their audience reach. Digital games are traditionally associated with men, but with the increased use of mobile devices, games have attracted more female consumers. Men and women approach and interpret advertisements with different motives and perspectives. The growing number of women playing mobile games, the increase in disposable family income, and their response to media can have a positive impact for gaming companies in India, attracting advertisers to reach these women gamers. Thus, the underpinning idea of this study is to conduct gender-specific research examining the effectiveness of product placement through recall and recognition in an interactive and engaging platform like mobile games. Furthermore, this research will be conducted in a naturalistic environment to explore the opportunities and limitations with product-placement strategy in a hand-held environment.

I enjoy being a research student because it gives me an opportunity to explore my research topic in detail with a new perspective; to read different theories and other researchers’ insights about the topic and at the same time see the practical implementation. My supervisors have been really supportive and constantly encourage me to work hard and produce quality work within the agreed deadlines.

After completing my PhD, I aspire to continue my career in academia; however, I am also open to interesting market research work.

Digital games are traditionally associated with men, but with the increased use of mobile devices, games have attracted more female consumers.



Gokhan Budan

School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

The title of my PhD is **'Non-signalised Intersection Control for Connected Human-Driven and Autonomous Vehicles'**.

I am currently working full-time at Zeta as an Electronic Design Engineer, whilst undertaking a part-time PhD as a member of the Low Carbon Vehicles Research Group within the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics. I heard about Oxford Brookes University through Phil Shadbolt OBE, who is the Chairman and CEO of Zeta, as well as an Oxford Brookes alumnus. The School of Engineering is well known for its automotive and motorsports technology and engineering courses and this was an important decision factor for me during my application process. The University also has some state-of-the-art computing and laboratory equipment available to research students.

There is an urgent need to address the urban traffic congestion issues (economic and environmental) caused by increasing numbers of vehicles. The introduction of traffic light control for intersections has helped to improve the congestion issues, and several recent studies investigating adaptive signal-control argue that they outperform traditional traffic light control methods. However, traffic lights still lack coordination to detect the spatial and temporal evolution of traffic congestion within the control regions and they do not take advantage of the increased sensitivity and precision of connected and autonomous vehicles.

Intersection management plays a key role in ensuring traffic safety and smoothing traffic flow. Recently, a lot of work has been reported on the theme of connected and driverless vehicles, with increasing interest in autonomous intersection

management, where traditional traffic lights are replaced with intelligent roadside units. This has been shown to reduce traffic congestion and delays significantly by taking advantage of the increased sensory precision of connected and driverless vehicles as compared to human-driven traditional vehicles.

My PhD project seeks to design an autonomous intersection control system for connected human-driven and driverless vehicles without traffic lights. In this system, the intention is that vehicles will reserve time and space as they approach an intersection, and intersection manager agents will control vehicles crossing in a conflict-free way. A machine learning framework will also be included to improve traffic control efficiency in terms of vehicle delays and intersection throughput by learning from experience dynamically.

Researchers are pushing the boundaries of human knowledge every day and I would say this is the best part of being a research student; knowing that your contributions are going to improve the lives of the next generation and make the world a better place.

My prime ambition in life is to become one of the leading engineers in intelligent machines and systems design. Studying for a PhD in this field is my first step towards achieving this goal. I believe that research is of prime importance in understanding the complexities involved in developing such systems. Hands on experience in real-time applications, accompanied by in-depth knowledge of the subject, will help me contribute to this growing field.

The intention is that vehicles will reserve time and space as they approach an intersection, and intersection manager agents will control vehicles crossing in a conflict-free way.



Cheryl Birdseye
Department of English and Modern Languages

The title of my PhD is **'The Rise of Female Testimony on the Early Modern Stage'**.

I did my undergraduate degree and MA at Oxford Brookes and really enjoyed both experiences. I was very keen to continue working with my MA supervisor, Dr Katharine Craik, and she encouraged me to apply for an Oxford Brookes Studentship to fund my PhD; which I was delighted to be awarded.

I am working on the rise of female testimony on the early modern stage, prompted in particular through the development of the experimental and transitional genre of domestic tragedy. My research looks predominantly at plays written between 1580 and 1620 that were inspired by historical crimes, and how the testimonies of the women involved were then reconceptualised for the stage when compared to accounts from other contemporary documents. I am focusing on the role of audience response within this area, and exploring how audiences were expected to serve as witnesses and juries to the testimonies played before them. Playwrights were acutely aware of the popular beliefs held by their patrons, and were writing at a time when the playhouses were physically changing, as were attitudes towards them, and the very constructs of theatrical genre as they had previously been understood were being re-assessed. My period of study includes the dawn of indoor playhouses and part of my research is in considering how playwrights approached the performance space they had in order to represent the intimate domestic crises of their characters.

I love spending every day researching and writing about a topic I am extremely passionate about. Working alone can be difficult at times, and it can take a toll on your motivation as there are very few people who really 'get' what you are doing! The support at Brookes is amazing though and contact with other research students and staff is really encouraging.

Lots of training is offered at Brookes and I have gained some really valuable research skills, in addition to working habits and tips that would be helpful across several fields. Some of the best preparation I have received has been through department opportunities: I have worked as a Research Assistant for my supervisor on a project, and also have completed Associate Lecturer training and taught on undergraduate modules. These opportunities have been fantastic and given me a great insight into what an academic career might look like.

I am hoping to continue in academia as I still feel that I have plenty to discover through my research interests. I really enjoy teaching, and it's so rewarding to see students interested in areas that I am passionate about, and to be able to watch their own research interests develop. I am due to submit my thesis soon and I can't quite believe how quickly the last three years have gone!

For more current research student profiles please visit:
www.brookes.ac.uk/graduate-college/student-profiles

I am focusing on the role of audience response within this area, and exploring how audiences were expected to serve as witnesses and juries to the testimonies played before them.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our research students on the successful outcome of their Vivas and conferment of their degrees during the period August 2017 – July 2018.

Oxford Brookes Business School

Doctor of Philosophy

Susan Akinwalere

An Empirical analysis of the Determinants of Nigeria's Inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows: A Cointegration Analysis

Rosa Codina Sotomayor

The Role of Tourism in Local Power Relations A Case Study of Pisac, Peru

Nadia Singh

Political economy of bioenergy in developing capitalist economies: a case study of bioenergy projects in Punjab, India

Doctor of Coaching and Mentoring

Catherine Evans

'Having a mentor made this journey easier'. An exploration of a formal, virtual, time-bound and paid-for mentoring programme in a dispersed third-sector organisation

Suzanne Fontannaz

The Role of Coaching in Supporting Team Leader Development and Team Performance: Skippers of a Global Sailing Race as a Microcosm of Organisational Team Leadership

Jacqueline McCartney

Poetry, Practice and Potential - A Heuristic Inquiry into the Potential of Poetry for the Reflective Coaching Practitioner

Roger Noon

Exploring Presence in Executive Coaching Conversations

Sonia Watlal

The role of coaching in supporting private sector organisations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to manage diversity and to achieve inclusion

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

Kailash Adhikari

Genome scale metabolic modelling of Arabidopsis thaliana and Chlamydomonas reinhardtii

Yetunde Marion Dairo

Physical activity of adults with intellectual disabilities: Feasibility and validity of measuring physical activity and physical activity intention and their relationship to the spectrum of adults with intellectual disabilities

Eman Elbakrawy

Radiation-induced chromosome instability and intercellular communication: the role of dose rate and implications for carcinogenesis

Briony Enser

Alcohol-related collateral harm: The unseen dimension? Study of students aged 16-24 in Southern England

Silvia Garcia del Villar

The role of the subunit interfaces in the function of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor

Sarah Louise Gillespie

Exploring Students' Views on Persistence on Nursing Programmes: An Interactive Qualitative Analysis

Petra Kiviniemi

The role of RTN1B3 in endoplasmic reticulum structure and cytokinesis

Daniel Leite

Homeobox gene and microRNA duplication in Chelicerata

Francesca Liu

The impact of exercise in children and adolescents with lower motor skill proficiency

Luca Livraghi

Hox3 duplication and divergence in the Lepidoptera

Claudia Nunes Esposito

Motivational dynamics predicting waste efficiency implementation within SMEs

Ruth Shaw

Carbon dynamics of three contrasting freshwater ponds

Dipali Singh

Genome-scale modelling of Phaeodactylum tricornutum

Kim Wallis

The effect of construction activity on SPA waterfowl: a case study of the Abberton Reservoir Enhancement Scheme

PhD by Published Work

Ruth Clark

Resolution of paraphyly in caesalpinoid legumes

Andre Schuiteman

Evolution and Systematics of the Orchid Genus Dendrobium Sw.

Master of Philosophy

Wala' Ahmad Jaser

Mahmoud

Motor skill acquisition in children with poor motor coordination

MA by Research

Charlotte Parrington-Tyler

Developing a tool to promote confidence and self-efficacy in initial teacher training for Physical Education delivering non-traditional methods

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

Michela Balestri

Ecology and Conservation of the Southern Woolly Lemur (*Avahi meridionalis*) at the Tsitongambarika Protected Area, South-eastern Madagascar

Oliver Bridge

Turkish Teachers' Beliefs Regarding Moral Psychology and Implicit Moral Education: A Case Study

Lucia Brieskova

Rights, Mobility and Integration of Intra-corporate Transferees in Europe: The Case of Slovakia and England

Jill Buttery

Sixteenth-Century dialogic discourse: an exploration of Protestant selfhood in the writings of Edmund Spenser and his contemporaries

Marco Campera

Ecological flexibility and conservation of Fleurette's sportive lemur, *Lepitemur fleuretae*, in the lowland rainforest of Ampasy, Tsitongambarika Protected Area

Virginia Flew

London Exhibitions of Contemporary Art, 1760-1782: The Impact on Landscape Painting and its Reception

Sarah Frodsham

Developing Creativity within Primary Science Teaching. What does it look like and how can Classroom Interactions Augment the Process?

Ido Gideon

Education as a Political Experience: A Phenomenology of Citizenship Education in Israel

Aoife Healy

Conservation of Africa's most ubiquitous primates: management, mitigation and mapping

Desmond Newell

Masculinity and the Plebeian Honour Fight: Dispute Resolution in Georgian England

Stephanie Ann Poindexter

Navigating the night: Spatial cognition, locomotor and ranging behaviour in Nycticebus species

Catherine Lucy Rushmore

Uses and Misuses of Chemicals in the British Home: 1930-1980s

Shane Szarkowski

There is no Afghanistan - The Historic Indeterminacy of Afghan Sovereign Identity

Mary Thompson

The Furrowed Face: The Depiction of the Elderly in Painting; England and the United States, 1870-1910

Marcus Vestberg

A Compatibilist computational Theory of Mind

PhD by Published Work**James Eaton**

Status, distribution and conservation of taxonomically cryptic bird species (*Aves*) across insular Southeast Asia

Sonia Morano-Foadi

Citizenship, Migration and Fundamental Rights: Challenges at the Crossroads of European Integration

Malgorzata Nowak-Kemp

The vertebrate zoological collections of the University of Oxford - studies on the changing nature of collecting, displays, teaching and the role of specimens in research over the last 400 years.

Doctor of Education**Kathleen Greenway**

To understand how the practice of a group of adult branch student nurses who are learning to administer intramuscular injections (IMI) is affected by their clinical placement experiences

MA by Research**Rosella Louise Miles**

The Representation of Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Women as Heroines: in Novels of Four Jewish-American Women Writers

James Purton

The modernization of Nazism: Continuities and Innovations in the Development of Inter-war Nazism into a Global Creed of Militarized Racism

Tomasz Stainer

Coherentism in Moral Epistemology: Moral Science or Elaborate Intuitionism?

Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment**Doctor of Philosophy****Adedetun Adedeji Adeyemo**

Design and analysis of memristor based reliable crossbar architectures

Bedour Abdullah M Alshaigy

Development of an interactive learning tool to teach the Python Programming Language

Michael Austin

Spark breakdown voltage sampling during early stage compression - A method for cycle by cycle combustion control

Anna Barry

The Dream of a Madman: Constructing the Male Opera Singer in Nineteenth-Century Britain

Andrew Bradley

Vehicle dynamic analysis with a computer vision system

Veronica Cordova De La Rosa Images of Violence from Mexico: A Performance Art Based Enquiry

Késia Decote Rodrigues

For a 'Dramaturgy of the Piano Recital' - an investigation of interdisciplinary strategies for live classical piano performances

Maha Putra I Nyoman Gede

Defining and Sustaining the Place-identity of a Traditional yet Rapidly Developing City. The Case of Denpasar-Bali, Indonesia

Deniz Ikiz Kaya

Global Heritage Cities: Managing Complexity of Cultural World Heritage Sites in Global Cities

Bonnie Kwok

Evaluating methods of enabling children and young people to engage in the design of local environments

Jong Hyun Lim

Traditional-Style Architecture in Modern Korea: Conceptual Transformation of 'Korean-Style' Urban Housing from 1920s to Present

Yunchuan Liu

Joint design methodologies to aid dismantling and closed-loop recycling

Suman Saha

Spatio-temporal human action detection and instance segmentation in videos

Austin Sherlaw-Johnson

What use is Music in an Ocean of Sound? Towards an Object-Oriented Arts Practice

Erick Silva Omena De Melo

Exerting State Power in Core and Semi-peripheral Countries: Land Clearance and Domination Strategies in London, Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg

PhD by Published Work**Lora Nicolaou**

The value of briefing in managing urban change

Master of Philosophy**Dennis Stevenson**

The Conservation of Ancient Trackways



Stay connected

Brookes has a strong and vibrant research student community. Here are just some of the ways you can stay in touch:

Guided tour of MINI Plant Oxford

Tuesday 6 November 2018, 1.30pm

Research students are invited to a private guided tour of the birthplace and heart of MINI production. Since production of new MINI started in 2001, more than 2.5 million cars have been made at Plant Oxford. Manufactured to individual customer specifications, hundreds of MINIs leave the plant's assembly lines each day, off to meet new owners in more than 110 countries around the world.

But even if you have absolutely no interest in cars, this tour is a mind-blowing experience and definitely not to be missed. The MINI Plant in Cowley is like nothing you have ever seen before. Experience not only incredible 21st century engineering, the phenomenal logistics of every car

coming off the line being made to a unique specification, but the highlight of the tour – the robots at work, like something from a science fiction fantasy. You won't forget this in a hurry!

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis so book early to avoid disappointment! Bookings open on Monday 8 October 2018.

Further details will be circulated via email, or you can check for updates on events at any time at

www.brookes.ac.uk/graduate-college/events/



Research Student Web Forum

The Oxford Brookes Research Student Forum is a Google Groups web forum where you can chat and network with other research students at Brookes. It is a student-led forum so please feel free to ask a question or start a new discussion.

You can join the Research Student Forum now at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/brookes-research-students>

 Follow us on Twitter @BrookesGC

For further information on all of our activities please visit:

www.brookes.ac.uk/graduate-college/events

Year in the Life

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

KÉSIA DECOTÉ RODRIGUES
Faculty of Technology,
Design and Environment



This last year has been very busy with the finalisation of my PhD. I was extremely proud to present my final performance project '*myths & visions*' which combined elements of dance within my piano performance. The performance started outdoors then carried on indoors. The musical programme was weaved with elements from dance and the audience was guided by ushers to walk and sit in designated areas at specific moments in the performance. I presented it in three sold out evenings in the Drama Studio. This was closely followed by the writing up of my thesis and viva examination. Throughout this time, I had the chance to share some findings of my research and its impact in my practice as a classical pianist at a conference in Brazil (via Skype as I was still in the UK) and as a guest lecturer at the University of Nottingham.

This has been a rich year outside of academia too. I have been very fortunate to give concerts and participate in several musical events, which has helped me to build up a strong classical music profile in the UK. In September 2017, I played in the prestigious St. John's Smith Square Music Marathon in London for the second consecutive year, presenting a repertoire of piano and toy piano works written by women composers. Between March and April 2018, I became even more involved in championing music written by women, touring with the Illuminate Women's Music project. In this project, we performed pieces written by historical

and contemporary women composers, in a series of concerts in London, Oxford, Stafford, Birmingham, Cardiff and Brighton. Throughout history, the work of women composers has been so neglected, so I was so proud to be part of this project; such an important enterprise to promote enjoyment and appreciation of women's music from past and present!

Also in March, I was very happy to be invited by Dr Xenia Pestova to participate with my toy piano in the Piano Day celebrations at Daylight Music, at Union Chapel in London. It was really special to play in this lovely venue, in this amazing series, and to be sharing the stage with contemporary piano heroes such as Xenia Pestova herself, Sarah Nicolls and Eliza McCarthy.

I also had the joy to be invited by the Contemporary Arts Research Unit (CARU) to revive my PhD final show '*myths & visions*' and present it to the general public at the Pegasus Theatre as part of Outburst Festival, and at OVADA in Oxford. In May, I performed '*myths & visions*' again at The Abbey Sutton Courtenay (such a beautiful venue!) with the added honour of making the concert a fundraising event for refugees in the Oxfordshire area.

Speaking of helping charity through my music, in June I gave a concert in aid of the Exuberant Trust, which helps young artists in Oxfordshire. In this concert, I paired works by masters of the 20th century with music by talented emerging composers of the

21st century based in the UK. This concert is going to evolve into a series of concerts, that I will be performing in London, Oxford and Cardiff during the Autumn.

Meanwhile, still during the summer months, music took me through some very special journeys: I went up North to Orkney to play with Gemma McGregor (who I met through the Illuminate Women's Music Project, and became a dear friend) in a flute and piano recital, and in an epic all-day performance of Satie's *Vexations* (we alternated on the piano in order to play the 840 repetitions of the piece, as instructed by the composer).

Currently, I am visiting my family in Brazil and enjoying my parents' 50th wedding anniversary celebrations! Later this summer, I am flying to Waterloo in Canada to take part in a contemporary music workshop, then I am flying back to the UK to perform a series of concerts during September and October (take a look on <https://kesiadecote.wordpress.com/concerts-diary/>).

Music can take us to unimaginable paths, and bring very special people to our lives. Over the coming year, I plan to seek research and teaching opportunities in order to continue developing my passion within academia; while also pursuing my musical career, building up my artistic profile in this country and beyond.

RESEARCH DEGREE STUDENTSHIPS

Oxford Brookes University is pleased to offer funding towards a range of full-time Studentships.

Visit the following website to access full details of all funding opportunities currently available:

www.brookes.ac.uk/studentships

Postgraduate Doctoral Loan Scheme

The Postgraduate Doctoral Loan scheme is available from August 2018. A total of £25,000 is available over the duration of a course.

Further information can be found at:

www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/finance/postgraduate-finance---uk-and-eu-students/postgraduate-doctoral-loans/

Postgraduate Loan Scheme for Masters programmes

Information about loans available for Masters by Research and MPhil programmes can be found at:

www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/finance/postgraduate-finance---uk-and-eu-students/postgraduate-loan-scheme/