

Issue 1 | November 2013

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for our postgraduate research student community

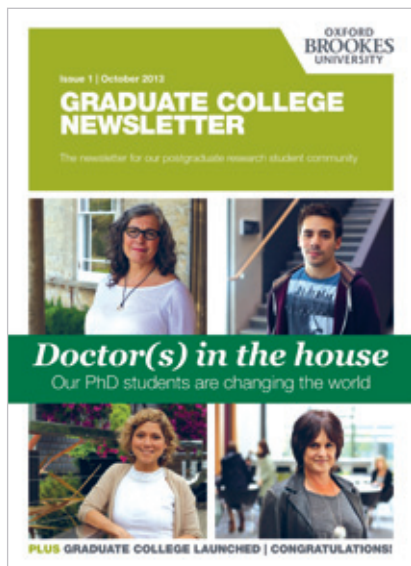


Doctor(s) in the house

Our PhD students are changing the world



PLUS GRADUATE COLLEGE LAUNCHED | CONGRATULATIONS!



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 Degree 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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Coming Up

Keep up to date with events and training throughout the academic year

Congratulations!

The round of students who have been conferred this year



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A year in the life...

Hear about Lisette Toetenel's experiences as a PhD student



Hello and welcome...

...to the first edition of the Graduate College Newsletter. I Chair the Graduate College Steering Group, so it's something that's naturally very close to my heart. Research students are the life blood of a university. The community that they form is a key part of the research that goes on at our institution, and the Graduate College has been set up to make sure that all research students have a voice that is heard at the highest level in the University.

We are continuing to develop a genuine research student cohort identity, so that research students are linked across the University and all its campuses. We're also currently developing a 'research student entitlement framework' so that anybody coming to Brookes to be a research student can be sure that they will receive all the key things that they need to make a success of their studies.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. We also hope that you enjoy reading about what it's like to be a research student in one of the faculties across the University.

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

News



New Graduate College launched

A new, revamped student-led college for Brookes will develop a stronger research student community within the University.

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

May of this year saw the introduction of the new student-led Graduate College at Brookes. At an event attended by staff and students from across the University, the launch was a vehicle to promote a new agenda for the College which will strengthen the research student cohort identity. The College will also seek to bolster better networking, and provide opportunities for multi and inter-disciplinary research, leadership development, work experience, internships and other external engagement activities.

Professor Alistair Fitt, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange, and Head of the Graduate College, shared his ambitions, "Student involvement is critical to ensure our research students have a corporate and representative

voice across the University."

One of the highlights of the launch was an online conference with presentations from our postgraduate students on a range of their PhD topics, from computational geometry, through to the study of baculoviruses and research on the levels of alcohol consumption by 11-13 year-olds. The presenters were praised for their skilled and innovative use of new software technologies to present their complex information.

The online conference will continue to be an annual event and all research students are encouraged to take part, so if you have not done so before, submit a presentation next year. This is a wonderful opportunity to communicate and share your research ideas, and is a great addition on your CV.

PhD student wins award to attend conference in Brazil

Melissa Prunty, PhD student from the Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health, has been awarded a grant of £1,000 from the College of Occupational Therapists to travel to Brazil to attend a conference and deliver training.

Melissa will attend the tenth International Conference on Developmental Coordination Disorder

in Ouro Preto, north of Rio de Janeiro. She said, "Having the opportunity to present my work at an international conference is really valuable at this stage of my PhD."

As well as attending the conference, Melissa will also spend two days helping to run a training course for local occupational therapists.



First Cotutelle Agreement at Brookes

The Faculty Health and Life Sciences has signed our first Cotutelle Agreement with Blaise-Pascal University, Clermont-Ferrand II. PhD student Axel Poulet has enrolled on the programme and will be supervised by Professor David Evans and Dr Katja Graumann at Brookes, and Professor Christophe Tatout in Clermont Ferrand.

Originating in France, the programme encourages students to reach beyond familiar borders to enhance their education, take part in a world-class research network and to culturally broaden their horizons.

The Brookes Cotutelle collaboration will build on the well-established research links between both institutions and formalise the already proven track record for joint supervision of PhD students. This is the first time Brookes will have successfully engaged in this type of agreement and it is hoped that, once established, this model will be applied to other areas in the University.

Runner up in Young Scientists Award



Vidya Pawar, a PHD Student from the Department of Biological and Molecular Sciences, was runner up in a Young Scientist Award at the Society for Experimental Biology Annual Main Meeting in Valencia, Spain. Vidya's talk, entitled 'A novel family of nuclear envelope-associated proteins in *Arabidopsis thaliana*', was given in front of a large audience including nine judges.

Vidya is the fifth member of the Plant Cell Biology Research Group at Brookes to win a prize in this competition in recent years, reflecting the high standards of presentation achieved by the group.

Anthropology student wins conservation award



Brookes Anthropology PhD student Aoife Healy, from the Department of Social Sciences, has been awarded a £5,000 grant from the global environmental organisation, Conservation International, to support her research into studying vervet monkeys.

Vervets are relatively common and abundant monkeys found in sub-Saharan Africa and are assigned a 'Least Concern' threat status by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. They also notoriously exhibit anti-social behaviour by raiding crops, stealing from houses and in some cases, consuming alcohol - so why would they be considered a candidate for conservation?

"I'm a fan of being proactive," says Aoife, "where they come into contact with people, problems follow for both parties. Add human expansion and these problems become more and more prevalent. As robust as they are, they are not impervious to the threats associated with losing optimal habitat and living in close proximity to humans."

Aoife will be investigating the international trade in vervets through analysis of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) trade database, and reporting on the sheer numbers of vervets being extracted for international trade, the majority of which are used to supply the biomedical industry. She said, "I am developing maps to show changes in the distribution of vervets over time from a combination of historic records and current literature and records of field researchers."

"As vervets are not endangered, their populations are not monitored. I hope these analyses will tell us a bit more about these monkeys and their relationship with the humans with whom they share their habitat."



Nigel Messenger Award 2013

Brookes' Dr Niall Munro is this year's winner of the Nigel Messenger Award for Outstanding Contribution to English Teaching. Niall started at Brookes in 2006 as a PhD student, having been a teacher in secondary education. After a few years as an Associate Lecturer, at Brookes and elsewhere, the past year has been Niall's first year of full-time lecturing on our English and Drama degrees, which makes the award of the Teaching Teapot all the more remarkable. On receiving the award, Niall said, "I would not have won this award without two inspirational groups, my students and my colleagues."





Showcasing at the annual faculty symposium and conferences

Research students from three faculties successfully took part in their annual symposium and conferences which ranged from organising the events to presenting their work and producing posters. These events brought together research students from across the various departments and provided them with a great platform for exchanging information on their research and projects.

The conferences were supported by the Graduate College Central Training Fund and resulted in extremely well-received events that contributed training and networking opportunities for research students in the Faculties. Following the events, students commented that they felt the programmes had been particularly helpful and stimulating, with the sessions being of great use. In a number of cases, students felt that they had come away feeling inspired and re-charged.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved in your faculty's next annual symposium and conference, please email the Research Degrees Team: rd-enquiries@brookes.ac.uk



Interested in your University's research?

If you'd like to be kept up-to-date about the research being carried out within the four faculties at Brookes, subscribe to *Research Forum*. Our bi-annual magazine brings you the latest and most topical research and, in addition, contains opinion pieces from our leading researchers.

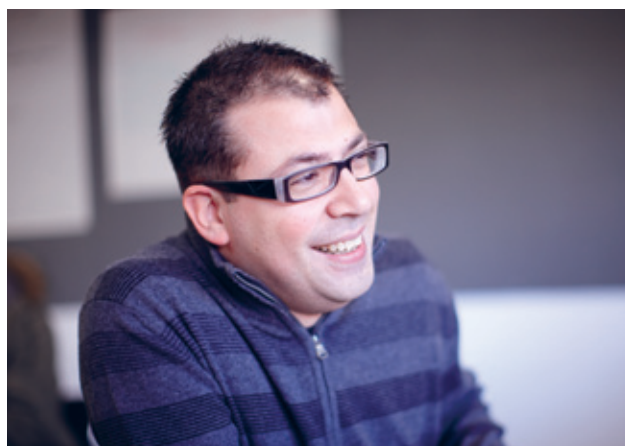
Research Forum demonstrates how Brookes' research is making an impact in the real world. Subscribe now by emailing your details to: researchforum@brookes.ac.uk

Coming up

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

2013

DATE	TIME/ROOM	EVENT
30 October	12-1pm BG01	How to set up a Prezi presentation
6 November	12-2pm BG01	Social media training workshop
13 November	5pm TBC	Speed networking event
20 November	12-1pm BG01	An introduction to careers for research students
27 November	4-5pm BG01	The viva examination
4 December	12-1pm BG10	How to apply for ethical approval for a research proposal through UREC
11 December	12-1pm BG10	Tackling the writing up stage of the research degree
11 December	4pm TBC	Christmas tea party



2014

DATE	TIME/ROOM	EVENT
14 January	TBC	Researcher career pathways event
3 February	3-5pm TBC	Research degree writing workshop – session 1
5 February	4-5pm BR1(GL)	Endnote training
10 February	3-5pm TBC	Research degree writing workshop – session 2
15 February	10.30am-3.30pm TBC	Strategies for employment: effective CV applications and interviews for researchers
18 February	12-4pm BG05	Induction session for new research students
19 February	4-5pm BG11	Electronic submission of theses, RADAR and the ETHOS project
24 February	3-5pm TBC	Research degree writing workshop – session 3
26 February	4-5pm BG11	Data management and storage
5 March	12-1pm BG10	'Publishing your work – citations, impact and all that stuff' with the PVC for Research
12 March	4-5pm BG11	Finding information for your research - an exploration of the most effective methods of searching, discovering and accessing information for your research
19 March	4-6pm BG10	Research degrees – strategies for successful part-time study
2 April	4-5pm TBC	Managing your supervisor and building a good working relationship with your supervisory team
14 April	1-3pm BG10	PowerPoint presentation workshop – session 1
28 April	12-3pm BG10	PowerPoint presentation workshop – session 2
7 May	9am-5pm TBC	Media training workshop
9 June	10am-5pm TBC	Graduate College poster competition and guest lecture
9 June	5.30pm	Research student and supervisor social networking event
27 June	TBC	Managing a career in academia
September	9am-6pm TBC	Skills summer school

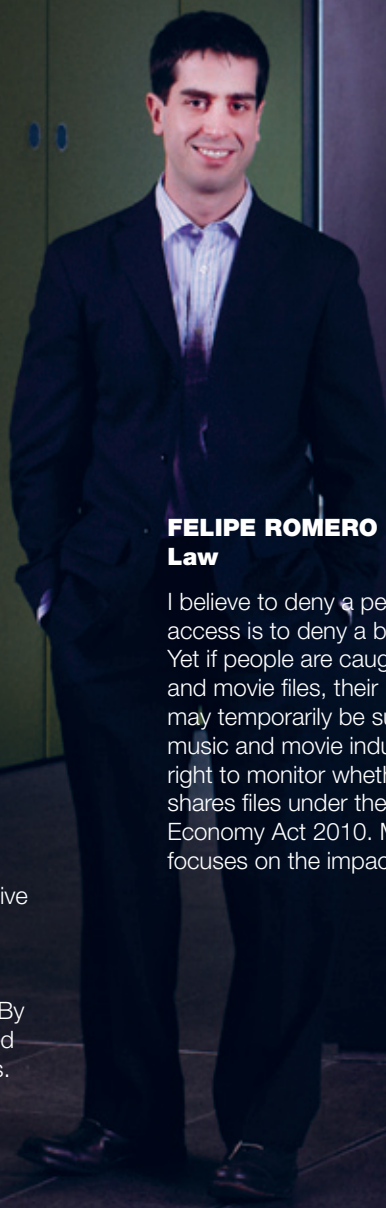
For further information about all the events and venues, and new additions added throughout the year, please visit: www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team or email: rd-enquiries@brookes.ac.uk

Doctor(s) in the house



SAM BARRY
**Biological and
Medical Science**

I'm putting a nasty organism to positive use. I study single-celled parasites called Trypanosomes to learn more about diseases of the cilia such as female infertility and kidney disease. By using this parasite we can understand more about human genetic disorders. I'm the first person ever to see this particular process – that gives me a real buzz.



FELIPE ROMERO MORENO
Law

I believe to deny a person internet access is to deny a basic human right. Yet if people are caught sharing music and movie files, their internet access may temporarily be suspended. The music and movie industries have the right to monitor whether a person shares files under the UK Digital Economy Act 2010. My research focuses on the impact of this law.

We have a very strong commitment to our research students here at Brookes. We nurture and develop doctoral minds that go out into research and business.

In March of this year we featured five PhD students from across the faculties in the University's magazine *Observe* who are all doing ground breaking research at Brookes, here's a snapshot of their stories:

WILL MCCALLUM
Fine Art

I want us to break the conditioning of the institution we call society by improving our ability to think critically about the world we are creating. It's about explaining the moments when change does happen and has happened, or is happening. Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt, was the focal point of the Arab Spring in 2011. I'm fascinated by what created the momentum of change within the square – and subsequent political inertia.

NOUR AL-OKAILY
Business

I want my research to shed light on the role tour guides play in building a positive picture of Jordan. The country has significant cultural attractions yet this gets overshadowed by problems in the wider Middle East. I explore how tour guides influence the image tourists have of Jordan. So far I have interviewed 35 tour guides and 12 US tourists in Jordan and accompanied an eight-day tour of cultural sites.

STEVE BARKER
Computing

I'm building a robotic human head and neck with artificial muscles. We are the first team ever to use a human skeleton so this will accurately mimic human movement. We are going to use it for human-robotic interaction because in the future we see robots as becoming more pervasive. It will use artificial intelligence.

Four more students from across the faculties tell us about their fascinating work on a wide spectrum of research.



Rosa Codina

Faculty of Business

My PhD deals with sustainable tourism, in particular investigating the socio-cultural impacts of tourism on Andean host communities.

I recently spent several weeks collecting primary data in Peru. After spending the first year of my PhD reading about tourism in Cuzco and the surrounding village of Pisac, it was exciting to finally get there, see the sights and meet the people.

I collected data mainly through participant observation and semi-structured interviews. This meant I spent most of my days walking around talking to market sellers, street vendors, guesthouse owners and restaurant staff. Conducting qualitative research gave me the opportunity to soak up my surroundings and engage in fascinating conversation with locals.

Strangely, in a country mostly known for its archaeological ruins and its past, it was mostly through the living, and their personal stories about very real 21st Century dilemmas, that I obtained a real insight into local culture

and livelihoods. With this in mind, I conducted participant observation at both popular tourist spots such as Machu Picchu, as well as less tourist frequented spaces such as food markets and remote Indigenous communities. Conducting observation in these different spaces gave me a more comprehensive picture of how tourism affects local lives in different ways.

As exciting as it was to conduct primary research in the Andes, field research can sometimes be unpredictable and this proved to be my case when I fell suddenly ill with brucella, a bacterial food infection.

But this less than desirable episode proved to be an eye-opening experience. It gave me access to spaces I would normally not have reached such as the emergency room of a public hospital. This was definitely a wakeup call to the harsh reality of poverty in Peru. Public hospitals are severely under-funded which translates into poor sanitary conditions, lack of

staff and overworked doctors. This is why most people who can afford it, visit private clinics. I was fortunate enough to visit a private clinic in Lima.

It was an unfortunate experience to fall ill in the middle of fieldwork but it showed me how considerate and helpful people in Pisac could be. In a strange way, it meant I developed closer friendships with people with whom I may not have otherwise interacted on such an intimate level. It also meant I got to hear personal family stories about Pisac and its fascinating history, building lasting friendships in the process.

Field research can sometimes be unpredictable...
I fell suddenly ill with brucella, a bacterial food infection.



Suzanne Watts

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

The focus of my PhD is the inter-agency communication which occurs between primary health care professionals and child protection social workers.

I am undertaking my research within the Doctoral Training Programme in Children and Young People, the central philosophy of which is multi-disciplinary research, drawing from psychological, educational and health perspectives. Coming from a professional background in health care, where the inclination is to concentrate attention on your own discipline, this programme has challenged my narrow disciplinary viewpoint.

My research explores the early stage of the statutory process when primary health care professionals refer or notify child protection services of their concerns about the safety and well-being of a child or young person. From the outside this would appear to be a simple task, however from reviews of fatal child abuse inquiries it is apparent that this communication

process is not straightforward and is beset with problems and difficulties. The consequence of ineffective communication is that families remain unsupported and children remain at risk of harm and further abuse.

In order to explore this communication process in depth, a qualitative multiple case study approach has been adopted. The unique aspect of this study is that it explores referrals from the perspectives of both health and social care professionals.

Health care professionals, who make a child protection referral during the period of data collection are invited to participate. The inclusion criteria is that they work in either universal child health services (for example, health visitors, family nurses and school nurses) or general practice (GPs).

There are a number of ethical concerns in the design of this study, namely confidentiality, privacy and data protection. To overcome these issues the support of an administrator,

acting as an information gatekeeper within social services, has been crucial in identifying the cases and recruiting participants to the study. The administrator is an employee of social services and has access to social service IT case management systems as well as the contact details of the professionals involved with the referral. As the investigator of the study, I cannot approach potential participants directly, nor am I able to access any identifiable personal information until they agree to participate. The administrator has a key role in inviting participants and providing anonymised data for case selection and analysis.

Embarking on a PhD mid-career can be daunting, challenging and at times may seem out of reach. However, the Doctoral Training Programme has given me the opportunity to undertake a full time PhD to investigate the complex and sensitive issue of child protection.

The consequence of ineffective communication is that families remain unsupported and children remain at risk of harm and further abuse.



Sam Kamperis

Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

My PhD is in computational geometry. Specifically, I'm involved with research into three-dimensional polyhedra, which are 3-D shapes like a cube or a pyramid.

The nature of my research is abstract but I enjoy being able to explain problems to non-technical audiences.

I graduated from Brookes with a first-class honours degree in Mathematics with Computer Science in 2012 and I was awarded the John Birch Memorial Prize 2012 for the most outstanding graduate in the University.

I work on applying my research to the real world. People are often surprised by what we do and don't know about polyhedral.

Being able to involve others in my research pushes me forward and I want to engage with them as well as my scientific peers. I find the easiest way to explain my work to anyone is that I make computers draw triangles!

After graduation, I worked as a research assistant within the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Mathematical Sciences for three months, extending the research undertaken during my undergraduate project. Since January 2013, I've been reading for an MPhil/PhD in Mathematics. The main reason behind returning to Oxford Brookes for my PhD is to continue working with my supervisor, Dr Cristiana Sebu. Having a good working relationship with my supervisor is so important and makes all the difference to me. I'm also the postgraduate research student representative for Mechanical Engineering and Mathematical Sciences and I organised the Research Student Conference 2013 for the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment.

In June 2013, I became the postgraduate liaison officer for the IMA (Institute of Mathematics and its

Applications) where I'm responsible for postgraduate student engagement with the IMA. As well as raising awareness of the IMA with the postgraduate student population, I'll also be supporting and developing postgraduate conferences and careers events.

I work on applying my research to the real world. People are often surprised by what we do and don't know about polyhedral.



Catriona Gilmour-Hamilton

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

My PhD uses oral history to consider the experience of cancer research in late 20th Century Britain from the perspective of the research participant.

Current histories manage to leave out the stories of research participants without whom no research can take place. We have the 'naturalistic/technical' histories of cancer, science, technologies, and doctors; we have the 'normalistic/cultural' histories of research politics, research methodologies, and research ethics. But we lack the subjectivity of the research participant: the stories of being part of research, what it is like to possess the body under scrutiny, what happens to that body as a consequence of trial therapies and what the implications are for individual lives.

Without that subjectivity our historical understanding is limited, and at risk of assumption and oversight. The period 1960-2005

saw exponential change in research conduct and in how our culture talks about cancer. My research will consider the implications of historical change for individual participants: expectations, understanding, choices, faith in research and trust in medicine. By considering these lives in historical perspective, I hope to expand on our historical understanding of what cancer research means. I trust that my work might have wider implications for research ethics and informed consent.

I am a mother of two and my choice of subject represents a union of various strands of my working and academic life. I began my career as a nurse, training in Sydney, Australia in the 1980's. After moving to England, I worked for a national cancer charity, supporting people with cancer and writing information about the disease and its treatments. During this time, I completed an undergraduate degree in History of Art, graduating in 2009.

I immediately took to academic study, and knew that I wanted to continue to postgraduate level, so I decided to move into History of Medicine as this would combine my interest in history with my prior working life.

After completion of a Wellcome Trust funded Masters in History of Medicine at Brookes in 2011, I was fortunate to be offered funding for my PhD, as the faculty had been awarded a Wellcome Trust grant for a programme of research that matched my interests and my background.

The period 1960-2005 saw exponential change in research conduct and in how our culture talks about cancer.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our research students on the successful outcome of their vivas and the conferments during the period June 2012-August 2013.

FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES

Doctor of Philosophy

Jibin He

Spatial patterns of wheat grain composition in relation to nutritional quality and processing properties

Hassan Al Mayah

Radiation-induced genomic instability and cellular communication-mechanistic investigations

Peter Wooton-Beard

Determination of phytochemicals in vegetable juices and their effects on postprandial glycaemia

Lisa Ayers

Circulating cell-derived microparticles - potential markers of cardiovascular risk

Jennina Taylor-Wells

Structural and functional investigation of the organic anion transporting polypeptide 1B1 (OATP1B1)

James Hogan

Taxonomy, systematics and biogeography of the Scaritinae (Insecta, Coleoptera, Carabidae)

Bridget Taylor

Couples living in twilight: a Heideggerian hermeneutic study of sexuality and intimacy in life-limiting illness

Richard Newton

Parents, children and Primary School mathematics: experiences, identity and activity

Emma Sumner

Children with Dyslexia: spelling as a constraint on writing development

Saad Arif

The genetic basis of morphological evolution in *Drosophila*

Simone Mazzaferro

The emerging role of the 4(+)/ 4(-) interface as determinant of functional signatures of 42 nicotinic acetylcholine receptors

Master of Philosophy

Deepashree Bapu

Imaging studies of glycan mediated breast cancer epithelial cell-endothelial cell interactions

PhD by Published Work

Charlotte Winward

Exploring altered sensations in neurological conditions

FACULTY OF BUSINESS

Doctor of Philosophy

Karen Dennis

Value drivers within SMEs: growth and value creation within the context of the economic value added

Sung Ho Han

A cross cultural study of consumer-based global brand equity in the restaurant industry

Gregory Dooley

Authenticity in place branding: a case study of South Africa

Nadezda Sorokina

Creating shared meaning(s) in Sustainable Tourism: a social semiotic approach

Anastasia Mariussen

A grounded theory of affiliate marketing performance measurement in the tourism and hospitality context

Taban Ndlovu

Credit Rating Agencies: regulatory changes and market participants' perspectives

Faten Nael Jaber

Organisational adoption of CRM

PhD by Published Work

Sally Harridge-March

Exploring customer trust and relationships in the online environment

Sarah Quinton

The digital marketing journey: reflections thus far on the digitalisation of marketing and the implications for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)

Doctor of Coaching and Mentoring

Colleen Harding

From alignment to emergent academic: the role of coaching and mentoring in supporting the development of academic staff in a post-1992 university

Sally-Ann Worth

An exploration of coaching women towards authenticity in the workplace: A heuristic study with women in academia

Rhiannon Washington

How does a developmental relationship mentoring model affect toxicity experienced in mentoring relationships?

**Carmelina Silvana
Lawton-Smith**

Resilience in leaders: conceptualisation and changes brought about by coaching

**FACULTY OF
TECHNOLOGY,
DESIGN AND
ENVIRONMENT**

Doctor of Philosophy

Paula Naukkarinen

Profitable thermal renovation of hotels to combat climate change and depletion of fossil fuels: the case of Cyprus

Susanne Dahm

The role of local facilities in fostering social interaction in suburban housing developments in England

Barry O'Reilly

Irish vernacular settlements: a GIS-based study of their context, evolving morphology, origins and social and architectural character

Leyon Nanayakkara

Site layout: how it is perceived to affect productivity in public sector construction projects in Sri Lanka

Drusilla Taylor-Lewis

Entrepreneurial support for Black (Afro-Caribbean) and Asian construction businesses: can it enhance their growth?

Yunqing Xu

Property-led Urban Development and urban sustainability in China

Hai Thanh Truong

The quality of public open spaces in Hochiminh City, Vietnam

Elizabeth Heighway

Sounding Severn: landscape and music

Luke Bennett

Ride and handling assessment of vehicles using four-post rig testing and simulation

Emad Masuadi

Non-parametric competing risks with multivariate frailty models

Glenn Sheasby

Object recognition and tracking as a game input mechanism

Mahesh Poolakkaparambil

Multiple bit error correcting architectures over finite fields

Master of Philosophy

Julian Hoseason

A great day out: The re-examination of the 'Doughnut Effect' in day trip behaviour

Thomas Lafon

Biotic pump of atmospheric moisture: A conceptual model

**FACULTY OF
HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Doctor of Philosophy

Nam Hee Cho

An exploration of the nature of teacher/peer feedback: interactions on pre-sessional English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses in UK Higher Education

Julia Iprgrave

'First the original': the place of Adam in Seventeenth Century theories of the polity

Olive Barnes

The Catholic Church in England: the politics of allegiance and identity 1791-1908

Victoria Bancroft

'Cross over' comedy in Seventeenth-Century England: from Michaelmas Term to the Roundheads

Nancy Langham

Communicating divine beauty and truth: the art of John Rogers Herbert, R.A. (1810-1890)

Michele Paule

SMARTGIRLS.TV: DISCOURSES OF ACHIEVING GIRLHOOD IN SCHOOLS, ON SCREEN AND ONLINE

Aleksandra Loewenau

The Impact of Nazi Medical Experiments on Polish inmates at Dachau, Auschwitz and Ravensbruck

Fraser Joyce

Naming the dead: establishing the identity of the unknown body in England and Wales, 1800-1934

Stefan Fisher-Høyrem

Time machines: technology, temporality, and the Victorian social imaginary

Richard Moore

Assessing the possibility and measuring the viability of Indonesian slow loris re-introduction: a case study of the critically endangered Javan slow loris

Anna Awsiekiewicz-Tomczak

Motherhood experiences through transformations: narratives of intergenerational continuities and changes in post-communist Poland

Ashley Parton

Late quaternary environmental and climatic changes in Arabia: implications for human dispersal and occupation

Stephanie Oeben

Massively multiplayer online role-playing games in Europe and Japan: a comparative anthropological study

Camille Coudrat

Species distribution, abundance and conservation in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Central-Eastern Laos

Anna Fraser

An investigation of the medical use of thermo-mineral springs found in Misasa (Japan) and Jáchymov (Czech Republic)

Karen Hiser

Crop raiding and conflict: farmers' perceptions of human-wildlife interactions in Hoima District, Uganda

Master of Philosophy

Eleanor McDonald

Mothering children with vision impairment: family, disability and individualisation

PhD by Published Work

Andrew Perkin

Contributions to our understanding of the biogeography, taxonomy and conservation of the cryptic and endemic forest-dwelling vertebrate taxa of Tanzania and Kenya

Sam Shanee

Conservation and ecology of Andean Primates in Peru

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:

Postgraduate Student Society

Supported by Brookes' Union and the Graduate College, the society aims to nurture and encourage a community amongst postgraduate students at Brookes.

The society runs several activities during the year that you can participate in and it enables you to meet with other students from across the University to network and share ideas.



Find us on Facebook by looking for the **Oxford Brookes University Postgraduate Students' Society**

Graduate College Research Student Forum

This is a new part of the Postgraduate Society that holds events and fora just for research students. These are organised by the Graduate College via the Research Degrees Team.

We are looking to attract new members to join the group and a list of all our planned events can be found on pages 8 and 9.

We're always open to new suggestions for our events, so if you want to get involved and meet other research students please email: asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

Design our logo!

We're holding a competition to design a logo for our Graduate College Research Student Forum. The winning entry will receive a £20 Amazon token.

The logo needs to be strong and eye catching, and really capture the essence of what we're about. The logo will be used to brand our publications, online presence, events and other activities.

Please email your entries to:
asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

The closing date for the competition is 29 November and the winner will be notified by 16 December.

For further information on all of our activities please visit:
www.brookes.ac.uk/students/graduate-office



A year in the life

LISETTE TOETENEL

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

In the first of a new series, we feature the experiences of a PhD student during a year of their research.

This particular article might be of interest to current and prospective PhD, other research students and their supervisors. It gives an insight into the challenges Lisette faces of combining academic study with a teaching role, as well as the opportunities that such a combination provides.

Lisette's study focuses on the impact of dedicated instruction of the informal English language in a foreign language classroom.

October 2012 was a milestone – I was officially a PhD student for a year! The first term focused on official registration and UREC. Both were granted in October and November respectively. For those currently going through the process I recommend, perseverance and attention for detail. They really helped me in completing these successfully.

My pilot study started in January and ran until the end of February 2013 at a small language School in Spain. The owner of the school is a member of Eurocall and agreed to ask her students whether they would like to take part in my study. Fifteen students participated over a period of five weeks. The results of the pilot study were presented in a poster format at the Brookes School of Education Conference in July and they were also presented at the Eurocall Conference in Évora in September 2013.

Having attended the 'Getting in and Getting on' workshop provided by academic staff at Brookes, I was aware of the importance of focusing on publications and funding, as well as the work on my intervention study. I submitted an abstract for the Special Edition on OERS of the CALL journal and was invited to write the article. The feedback from the editors was critical, but I persevered (as advised by my supervisors) and the article was accepted and will feature in the October 2013 issue.

I also took the opportunity to apply for the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Student Research Expenses Fund and was awarded £200 to fund the Ning subscription fees and in February I visited Scholen aan Zee in the Netherlands to train the staff on the use of Ning and discuss my intervention project. The school were

very enthusiastic about the visit and the materials provided. In fact, the local news published an article about my study, referring to Oxford Brookes as 'chic'. The article title was 'Students aim for Oxford'.

Having focused on publications and funding, as well as the fact that my day job became slightly more manageable, I started to look at guest lecturing opportunities. I delivered a session as part of an undergraduate sociolinguistic class and was an expert participant on the Massive Open Online Course, 'First Steps in Teaching in Higher Education' here at Brookes.

My intervention study ran from April to June 2013 and I am currently in the process of analysing the data and expect to complete this process next year.

In June, my research featured in the Bedford College monthly magazine. I also participated in the online graduate conference, in which I was awarded a 'special commendation' for my presentation using Powtoon software. I was invited to deliver a workshop on creating Powtoons, which took place in July at Gipsy Lane.

Looking back, this has been a very productive second year. My own progress and experience as a researcher is testament to the experience and support provided by my supervisors Dr Androula Yiakoumetti and Dr Annie Haight. Over the summer, I was working on new funding opportunities and will start analysing the data of my intervention study. I hope to write an article on the outcomes of my pilot study and start my final thesis in preparation for my viva. I aim to complete my PhD in 2015.

EVENTS

2013/14

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

13 NOVEMBER

Extreme primates:
20 years of research on Asia's enigmatic lorises

4 DECEMBER

Auditory archaeology and the soundscapes of the everyday

29 JANUARY

From pessimism to optimism: can we really change?

19 FEBRUARY

Dementia: aging gracefully

19 MARCH

The future of higher education: the role of humanities and philosophy in the contemporary academy

9 APRIL

The societal impacts of digital technology

5 FEBRUARY, 23 APRIL AND 2 JULY: POSTGRADUATE FAIR

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