

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for our research student community

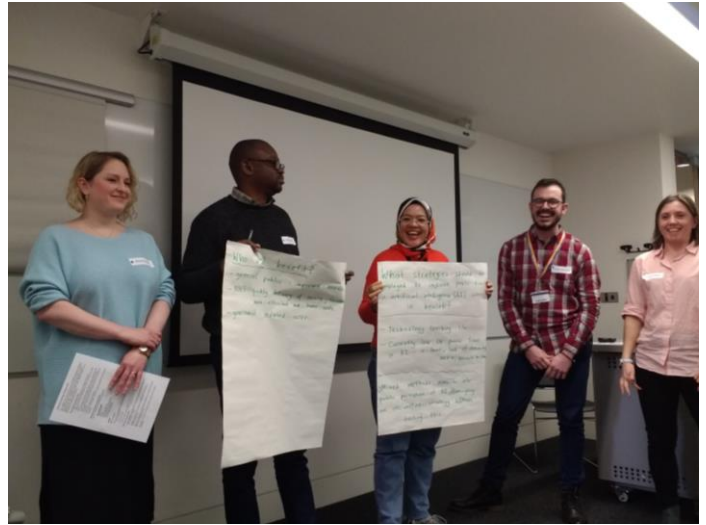
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RISE to the challenge New two-day Research Intensive Skills Event



Research Intensive Skills Event (RISE)



In January 2019, thirty research students participated in the new two-day Research Intensive Skills Event (RISE). The day started with a welcome from Professor Susan Brooks and an introduction to the aims and objectives of RISE, with a spotlight on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) as a tool for researchers to promote their research skills and experience to potential employers. This was followed by a lively networking ice-breaker activity, run by Michael Esvelt. Researchers lined up to introduce themselves and their research, with a take away message of announcing their names and key research interests in a memorable way, in order to leave a lasting first impression.

A particular highlight of the event was the collaborative challenge, run by Jennie Cripps and Dr Jo Moyle. Teams from mixed disciplines worked together to design innovative and creative projects in one of the UKRI's current priority areas for multidisciplinary research. Groups had limited time to identify a new contribution to knowledge, design a collaborative project using expertise of all team members, be mindful of the impact of their research, and then present it in a three minute pitch. The winning team (Polly Bell, Claire Cardinal, Tim Lloyd, Steven Taylor and Elaine Ulett) created a well-defined collaborative project on "Reducing Carbon Footprints by Promoting Behavioural Change in Frequent Leisure Flyers".

Dan Croft then delivered a session on "Publishing for a Change" in which participants identified the academic, economic, and societal changes, or impacts, their research is trying to make and considered how those aims will affect their publishing choices. This was followed by a useful session on using social media, hosted by Dr Anne Osterrieder. Researchers were asked to write key words to describe their personality and professional interests to raise their online professional profile, promote their research and expand their networks. Dr Tudor Georgescu and Professor Susan Brooks ended the day with a thought-provoking reflective exercise, asking researchers to analyse which activities from the day were within their comfort zone, which stretched them and what made them panic, in order to identify areas for development. Researchers also focused on what they are going to start, stop and continue as a result of the day's activities.

Day two began with a review of the previous day's reflections, followed by a session from Dr Steve Barker on critical thinking, looking at ontology, epistemology and methodology and asking "What kind of researcher are you: positivist, constructivist, or pragmatist?" This led into a session from Professor Khaled Hayatleh on writing an effective abstract. The session focused on getting across key points and reaching your target audience with a clear written message.

After lunch, Dr Steve Barker hosted a session on time management strategies which provoked an interesting discussion on the varying and divergent strategies used (and avoided!) by research students and staff in the room. The key message which grew out of this discussion was the importance of researchers making time for themselves as well as their research.

The event concluded with a round-up from Professor Susan Brooks who asked researchers to set personal objectives in the form of postcards to themselves outlining realistic and achievable actions arising from the past two days that they want to hold themselves accountable for completing in three months' time. By the time this goes to print our researchers will have received these reminders from their past selves and hopefully put their plans into action! Researchers cited their next steps after RISE to include: developing a detailed research plan, focusing on completing their thesis, writing for publication, creating more opportunities to practise presenting, improving their social media skills and establishing interdisciplinary networks with fellow researchers.



EdD student receives Emerald Literati Award

Robert Curry, Doctor of Education student, and Associate Director for Learning Resources at Oxford Brookes, recently received an Emerald Literati 2018 award for an outstanding paper.

His article on the emergence of makerspaces (community workspaces that encourage innovative projects using emerging and older technologies) in Academic Libraries was written by Robert from work completed as part of the Doctor of Education programme he is undertaking at Brookes.

Robert's paper was described by the awards panel as "one of the most exceptional pieces of work the team has seen throughout 2017." Robert commented, "I was very pleased to receive the award, especially as this is the first article I have had published, apart from informative pieces promoting the University's National Brewing Library. As well as being a result of a lot of hard work in terms of the research and writing, it is also a testament to the excellent teaching and support provided on the Doctor of Education programme, and the inspiration provided by the Academic Liaison Librarians and Digital Services Teams I manage; some of whom have already had high quality research published."

Robert also delivered a presentation recently at a Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) event, based on his ongoing EdD research and professional experience. In addition, he has posted an article (written with a colleague) for consideration for SCONUL Update defending subject specialism in academic librarianship, based on the philosophy of logic and language engaged with in the research paradigm for his thesis.



PhD student recognised in WeNurses #100outstandingnurses

Emma Pascale Blakey, PhD student in the Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery, was delighted to be named as one of WeNurses' "100 outstanding nurses" - a list of 100 registered nurses who have made an impact in nursing in 2018.

#100outstandingnurses was promoted via the WeNurses Twitter account, which has over 80,000 followers and is used as a forum by clinicians to share experiences, support and ideas. Emma, who works in the Endoscopy department at the John Radcliffe Hospital, was nominated after clinicians were asked to talk about nurses who have made a real difference to patient care and have positively promoted the profession. Emma also had the opportunity to talk about nursing and the NHS in an interview with Kat Orman on BBC Radio Oxford.

Emma said, "A large part of nursing is wanting to make a difference. It is incredibly humbling to be recognised by my peers, but a bit of a strange feeling because I'm not really one for having my name out there. I work with people every day that I think should be recognised too and I'm very lucky to have such supportive and encouraging colleagues. It makes all the hard work worth it!"



GRADUATE COLLEGE EVENTS

Annual Research Student Exhibition

This year's annual showcase of research students' work took place in The Forum of the John Henry Brookes Building on 3 and 4 April 2019, with a fantastic display of posters, abstracts and video presentations. The exhibition was visited by large numbers of research students, undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, and staff from across the University. The entries were judged by Dr David Bowen, Head of Doctoral Programmes, Oxford Brookes Business School; and Professor Ramin Keivani, Postgraduate Research Tutor, Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment.

The three deserving winners, who each received a £50 cash prize, were: Polly Bell, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; Kathleen Reinhardt, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; and Sheila Isabel Irigoyen Zozaya, Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment. As well as the three winners, there were four 'Highly Commended' entries and these were awarded to: Ella Reeves, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences; Edoardo Paolo Ferrari, Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment; Sam Connelly, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences; and Anerida Coetzee, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. Congratulations to all and well done to everyone who took part!



Left to right: Sheila Isabel Irigoyen Zozaya, Polly Bell, Sam Connelly, Edoardo Paolo Ferrari, Anerida Coetzee (Kathleen Reinhardt and Ella Reeves were unable to attend the prize-giving but have been awarded their certificates!)

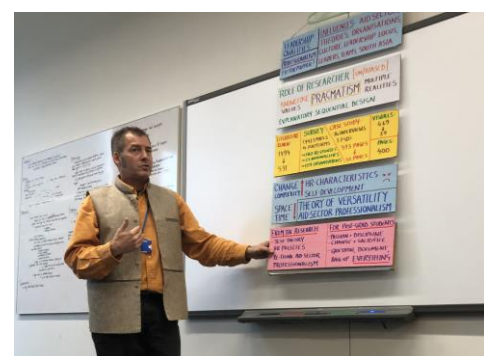
Research Student Breakfast Seminar

During December 2018, the Graduate College held a research student breakfast seminar, with a fantastic turn out! After an initial chance to network over tea, coffee and pastries, the event kicked off with Jasmin Dall'Agnola, whose presentation was titled 'Can Nationalism & Globalism coexist within the former Soviet space?' Jasmin invited the audience to give their opinions on this topic following her talk, and a really though-provoking discussion ensued! Jasmin was followed by Annie Webster, speaking about 'Meaning in Language' and the different ways in which our words can be interpreted. Next up was Charlotte Pain from the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, presenting on 'Shaping the plant endoplasmic reticulum'. Charlotte's presentation included some really clever visuals, making the complex technicalities of the inside of plant cells understandable to all – and pretty fascinating too!

Adi Walker, from the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment, spoke next with his 'unconventional' presentation entitled 'Mostly about the Success Factors for Leadership in the Aid Sector in South Asia'. Due to working and researching in under-developed countries in South Asia, Adi is less used to the modern technologies of laptops and projectors and instead went with a hand-crafted presentation involving cardboard, string and a coat hanger! Having successfully defended his thesis just the day before the seminar, Adi was excited to speak about his now complete PhD research into leadership in the aid sector, and gave a really informative and engaging talk.

The day concluded with Mamdooh Alzyood speaking about patients' role in prompting nurses with hand hygiene compliance. Mamdooh gave an overview of his PhD research, looking at the reasons nurses, in the UK and Jordan, may not always carry out hand hygiene compliance, and patients' attitudes towards this; whether they would feel comfortable asking a health care worker to wash their hands, and the reasons why they may not!

All five presentations were insightful and engaging, giving a really clear insight into the aims and initial findings of the research, and all were understandable to a lay audience; something important for all researchers to master, with these University-wide cross-disciplinary events providing an ideal opportunity to hone this important skill!



RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



Vanessa de Sousa Vieira
Department of Biological and
Medical Sciences

The title of my PhD is '**The role of Atgolgin-84A at the endoplasmic reticulum-Golgi interface**'.

How do we feed nine billion people in the near future? How can we do that without overwhelming the planet? This is the biggest challenge humankind is about to face and is one of the reasons we need to understand the plant endomembrane system. The endomembrane system is how cells organise and coordinate all vital processes by a system of membrane-delimited compartments that have specific functions but are also in close association.

In plant cells, the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and Golgi are central organelles of the plant endomembrane system and are the most vital sources of plant biomass as they are responsible for protein and carbohydrate production. In a plant cell cytoplasm, there are numerous stacks of membrane bounded cisternae forming stacks, each of which comprises a discrete Golgi body responsible for the processing of proteins received from the ER and their distribution to the plasma membrane and other compartments. How this motile structure is maintained while providing vital functions for the cell is still poorly understood. The ER is

physically connected to Golgi bodies and Golgi matrix components, such as golgins that have been identified and suggested to function as putative tethering factors. Golgins are proteins anchored to the Golgi membrane by the C-terminus either through transmembrane domains (TMDs) or interaction with small regulatory GTPases. The golgin N-terminus contains long coiled-coil domains which consist of a number of α -helices wrapped around each other to form a structure similar to a rope being made from several strands, reaching into the cytoplasm.

Atgolgin84A may act as tethering factor at the ER-Golgi interface and at the ER exit sites (ERES). To test this hypothesis, fluorescent fusions to Atgolgin-84A and a truncation lacking the coiled-coil domains were transiently expressed in *Nicotiana tabacum* and *Arabidopsis thaliana* and imaged by confocal microscopy with an Airyscan detector. This is cutting-edge imaging technology and is the perfect combination of standard confocal with super-resolution with the Airyscan detector, allowing imaging of details and substructures in the Golgi body cisternae.

I find the plant endomembrane system fascinating; how cells organise and coordinate all vital processes, making them adaptive and resilient. After completing my PhD, I hope to publish my work. I would also like to stay at Oxford Brookes for longer (maybe a postdoc) to continue with this research and finish some of the work we developed in collaboration with the University of Leeds.



Geeta Sinha
Oxford Brookes Business
School

The title of my PhD is '**Mining led Industrialisation and gender-based violence within indigenous communities of Odisha, India**'.

The overall aim of my research is to examine and understand the inter-relationship between mining led industrialisation and growth of violence amongst indigenous communities (particularly women) in India, through an eco-socialist and feminist theoretical framework, and empirical evidence.

The path to development of Indian economy is perceived through large scale industrialisation. This approach, designed to eradicate poverty and debt, paradoxically targeted elite and urban sections of India with residual impact on rural and tribal population. The study focuses on the issues and transitions in gender relationships and gender roles of the tribal communities, particularly women, who are more vulnerable in the process of mining led industrialisation. The mining projects in the name of development are not only a threat to environment and livelihoods but also a predicament to the status of the tribal women.

This research focuses on how the current industrialisation process not only has been violating all environmental and other regulations of the government in the form of deforestation, mining, displacement by its own institutional set ups, but it has also been contributing to strengthening patriarchal relations among the tribal communities; a phenomenon which is less noticed. This research will analyse the encounters and social structural changes through mining induced displacement where the position of women in tribal societies is threatened. Largely, due to the fact that employment in mining industry is predominantly male, tribal women are not only rendered unemployed, but they are also getting marginalised in the communities, losing access to livelihoods due to changes in the land use patterns, displacement and deforestation. This research intends to explore, understand and analyse the transformations within indigenous societies caused by mining led industrialisation and the growth of a patriarchal culture of violence.

My main aim is to complete my PhD within stipulated time. I also hope to continue publishing REFable articles in the ABS list of journals and teaching in different areas of development economics.



Ross Brooks
School of History, Philosophy
and Culture

The title of my PhD is **'Evolution's Closet: The New Biology and Homosexuality in Britain, 1885-1967'**.

My research project explores approaches to homosexuality which were developed within the biological sciences in Britain in the wake of Charles Darwin's momentous *The Descent of Man*, and *Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871) through to the so-called 'sexual revolution' of the 1960s and 70s. This timeframe covers the period when 'any act of gross indecency' between males was illegal in Britain, outlawed by the infamous Labouchère Amendment to the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 which remained in force until the Sexual Offences Act 1967.

Whilst socio-political, legal, and medical (mainly psychiatric) aspects of criminalisation, and the protracted process of decriminalisation, have previously been explored by historians, the diverse ways in which biologists and biology shaped attitudes towards the law and the wider cultural milieu relating to homosexuality in Britain through the period has received barely any attention. My thesis will rectify this. It will demonstrate that leading British biologists, and various essentialist models of sexuality, were integral to situating homosexuality as an important subject of intellectual and popular discourse in Britain through

the decades following *Descent* and progressively so through the twentieth century.

2021 will mark the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's momentous *The Descent of Man*, and *Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871). The occasion presents an opportune moment for historians to reassess the ways in which modern understandings of sex differences and sexuality have both shaped, and been shaped by, evolutionary biology and allied sciences. My project will therefore make a timely contribution to diverse historiographical fields - history of science and medicine, history of sexuality, gender history, and modern cultural history - thereby helping to provide greater historical context for today's socio-political debates pertaining to designer babies, sexed brains, 'gay genes,' marriage equality, and same-sex parenting.

Looking forward, I intend to become a fully-fledged academic historian. My project provides me with a broad base of subjects that I will be able to continue researching and which students increasingly want to learn about.



Jonida Murataj
School of Architecture

The title of my PhD is **'Investigating the most effective retrofitting strategies for improving comfort and energy use in residential buildings in Albania'**.

For the last five years, I have been developing properties with my family in Brighton. Prior to starting the PhD, I had also been involved in the project of 'Waste House' at the University of Brighton; from the building's construction to installing and commissioning of the monitoring system for collecting environmental data regarding the building's performance.

In an acknowledged reality, where improving the energy performance of existing housing stock provides the greatest potential to energy savings and achieving national and global carbon reduction targets, different cases of unsuccessful retrofitting activities have indicated multiple barriers, even when they are technical and financially viable. Often, they are associated with relatively high levels of uncertainty of their acceptance or successful outcome because of the number of stakeholders that are involved and their backgrounds, knowledge, position, objectives and interests. Therefore, the retrofits that take place

need to be considered in a wider context than purely technical and must include occupants' behaviours and practices in the housing.

Against this context, my doctoral study aims to investigate the most effective retrofitting strategies to achieve energy and emission reductions, which are not only technically feasible and affordable but also acceptable to people. This research will bring monitoring, energy modelling and people's perceptions together to develop feasible measures for energy retrofits. Treating households as in-depth case studies and developing better energy modelling informed by reality and pre-retrofit surveys that creates a full picture of the actual performance of the houses, will be central to predicting energy savings.

Being a research student is a once in the life-time opportunity to focus 100% on one research project, to read and to contribute to knowledge. I have been very lucky to work with two internationally recognised professors, Professor Rajat Gupta and Professor Fergus Nicol, who above anything else have been very supportive throughout my studies.

I have found that retrofitting existing buildings is one of my greatest interests. I have also realised that research can take everything to another level. Therefore, my professional future will be related to buildings, design and research. Unquestionably, I would also like to contribute to my country, Albania, through creating collaborations for research projects in the future.

ONE STUDENT'S STORY



Sharon Brownie
**Oxford School of Nursing
and Midwifery**

The title of my PhD by Published Work is '**Nursing and Health Service Leadership: The Power to Influence**'.

During the past few years, I was involved in a collaborative research project about strengthening the neonatal nursing workforce in Kenya. The team involved Professor Mike English from the Kemri-Wellcome Trust and Nuffield Department of Medicine, Oxford University and Professor Debra Jackson, Professor of Nursing at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Director, Oxford Institute of Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Research at Oxford Brookes University. Throughout the course of the project I came to know Professor Jackson and developed a high level of respect for her experience in nursing leadership and research. I was drawn to Oxford Brookes University by the opportunity to engage in a research degree programme under her supervision.

I am in full-time employment as the Dean of Nursing & Midwifery at Aga Khan University in East Africa. My responsibilities include leadership of nursing and midwifery campuses in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda along with capacity development projects in Mozambique and Aswan in Upper Egypt. My research degree at Oxford Brookes is progressing as a work-study

endeavour. I already hold a doctoral qualification, completed in 2007, which focused on local development and capacity building - a very useful background to my current role. However, given the potential for nurses and midwives to have an increasing role in progressing universal healthcare, I decided to pursue my interest in nursing leadership research and enrolled in a PhD by Published Work under the supervision of Professor Jackson.

Globally, almost a billion people are disadvantaged by lack of affordable and accessible healthcare services and support. Revised health systems and new models of care are needed and Governments are increasingly turning to the nursing and midwifery workforce as the solution to increase health service access and enhance health outcomes. A global Nursing Now campaign has been launched and simultaneous to the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale, the World Health Organization has announced 2020 as the Year of the Nurse. Never before has the profile and contributions of nurses and midwives been so visible. The participation of nurses and midwives at policy tables and debates is essential in this context; however, well-honed leadership and policy influence capacities are critical for effective participation. As a nurse leader, this signalled an opportunity to engage in a research degree with the aim to work alongside nursing experts and develop a new model of leadership focused on enhancing the effective policy engagement of nurses within global health systems.

The subsequent development of a new 'purposeful' model of leadership is informed by more than 25 years of nursing and health service leadership experience and scholarly work. My completed thesis has recently been submitted for examination. Analysis of the body of submitted work focuses on six original research publications founded in rigorous methods of inquiry, with results disseminated via peer reviewed journals and ISBN reports. The included works provide exemplars of politically engaged nursing leadership utilising global networks, crossing geographical boundaries, straddling multiple sectors and working within varying cultural contexts; the aim being to influence health workforce policy and practice, and build capacity in human resources for health (HRH). The collection was published with the intent to influence major issues of public opinion, health policy and HRH development; urgent necessities given contemporary global health issues such as rising levels of non-communicable and chronic diseases.

A range of additional publications are referenced from my previous broad-ranging scholarly endeavours, including communiqués in health periodicals, policy briefs, news and social media, and photographic competitions. This adds strength to the concept of policy influence via persistent and purposeful messaging of key themes. My thesis provides a unique contribution by concluding with a new model of politically engaged, 'purposeful' nursing leadership with power to influence health service delivery and facilitate effective care for populations challenged by contemporary health and population issues.

The past year has been marked with several highlights. I had the privilege of working with Lord Nigel Crisp and Charlotte Refsum to co-author the first nursing related WISH report for the 2018 WISH Forum (World Innovation Summit for Health). Titled '*Nursing & Midwifery: The key to rapid and cost effective expansion of high-quality universal health coverage*', the report was released at a session chaired by Stephen Sakur of BBC Hard Talk with subsequent comment by the Director General of the World Health Organization and the International Council of Nursing.

Another highlight involved the publication of two books containing 65 photographic essays of Aga Khan University Nursing and Midwifery Alumni at work across East Africa – Kenya, Uganda, Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. The two books, titled '*Nurses and Midwives: Transforming the Landscape of Health*' and '*Nurses and Midwives: Leaders in healthcare in East Africa*' contain personalised narrative and photos of nurses and midwives in practice, nursing research, management and education and the amazing contributions they make to health care across the region. In addition, I am privileged to be the representative of the Aga Khan Development Network on the WHO stakeholder consultation group providing input to the first WHO report on the State of the World's Nursing (SOWN). The report is being prepared in readiness for International Nurses Day 2020 and the WHO Year of the Nurse.

The greatest benefit of being a research student is the immersion in questioning, inquiry and learning. Working alongside scholarly leaders with expertise in my field expands perspectives and increases insight. I hope to continue to make contributions in the fields of nursing and midwifery leadership and socioeconomic capacity development while maintaining a commitment to lifelong learning and the exploration of new ideas and ways of working.

STAY CONNECTED

POSTGRADUATE
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
SURVEY

HAVE YOUR SAY

We are always looking for ways to enhance the learning and supervision experience. To do that, we need to know what you think as one of our postgraduate research students.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY BY FRIDAY 17 MAY 2019.

Check your Brookes email for further details and the link to the survey.

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Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment RESEARCH STUDENT CONFERENCE 2019

Our student-led conference features a day of presentations, posters and performances from research students in the Schools of Art, Architecture, Built Environment, and Engineering, Computing and Mathematics.

Thursday 16 May 2019
JHB206 and JHB207, John Henry Brookes
Building, Headington Campus

For more information, please contact Allison
Stevens: a.stevens@brookes.ac.uk

Research Degrees Team Office Hours

9.00am – 4.30pm

When Student Central is closed and the shutter is down at the counter, we are still available during office hours. A phone is mounted on the side of the drinks vending machine opposite the office. Please call us on x4244 (or on 01865 484244 from your mobile) and one of us will come out and help you with your query.

GRADUATE COLLEGE UPCOMING EVENTS

Details of all upcoming Graduate College social and networking events can be found at
www.brookes.ac.uk/graduate-college/events/



We are always looking for contributions for future editions of the newsletter and they are welcome from all sections of the University. If you would like to get involved please email:
asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk