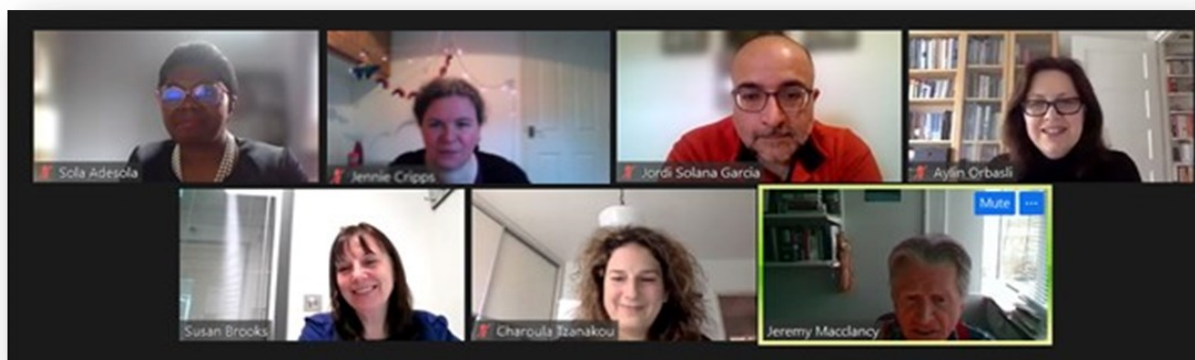


GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for our research student community

NEWS



Research Career Pathways Event

The fifth biennial Researcher Career Pathways Event took place online for the first time on 21st January 2022. The purpose of the event was to help our research students and contract research staff to explore their research skills in careers both within and beyond academia.

The event opened with a poll of the career destinations that delegates saw themselves in long-term. The majority saw themselves in an academic career (43%), followed by a research career beyond academia (28%). Conversely, Professor Susan Brooks, Director of Researcher Development, showed us a startling graphic that only 3.5% of graduates remain in university-based permanent research positions and only 0.5% make it to Professor. The message of the day was to be open to all opportunities.

The “Beyond Academia” panellists comprised: Dr David Bonnett (Director, David Bonnett Associates), Dr Laëtitia Kulyk (Managing Director, La Guilde Française des Scénaristes), Dr Anne Osterrieder (Public Engagement Coordinator, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford) and Professor Jackie Potter (Head of the Oxford Centre for Staff and Learning Development, Oxford Brookes University). Their advice was:

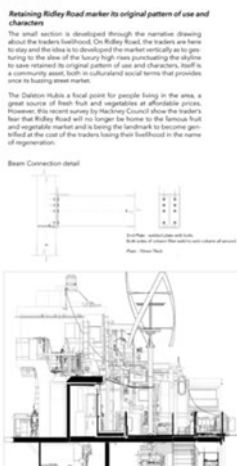
- Get as much experience as possible. Trust your intuition.
- Align your work with your personal values and passions.
- Spread kindness, collaborate and network.
- Be mindful of the role of government policy/legislation in creating opportunity for generating greater knowledge.

- Identify gaps in provision and fill those gaps with your knowledge and expertise.
- Find what energizes you.
- Use your research as evidence to inform your practice.

The “Academia” panel comprised academics representing all Faculties at Oxford Brookes University, Dr Sola Adesola, Professor Jeremy MacClancy, Dr Aylin Orbasli, Dr Jordi Solana Garcia and Dr Charoula Tzanakou. Their advice was:

- An academic career can be all-consuming. You need to love what you do!
- Consider the role of mentors in shaping career trajectories.
- Network – People can open doors and offer key advice. Don’t work on your own.
- Build expert knowledge in a particular area and make sure you get known for it.
- Academic recruitment panels are looking for a track record of publications, teaching experience and where possible, research grant funding.
- Academia involves juggling teaching, research and admin. Prioritize and don’t take on too many things.

Research student, Fiona Tierney, said of the event: “I have been inspired and motivated to search for jobs I am/will be qualified for and have found one that is a great fit and which I couldn’t have applied for prior to my PhD. It’s great to know such jobs are out there and I am feeling energised by this morning.”



Student won prestigious architectural prize

Elliott Afoke honoured in annual RIBA Awards for the world's best student architecture projects.

An Oxford Brookes University postgraduate student has been revealed as the winner of The Serjeant Award for Excellence in Drawing in The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 2021 President's Medals.

Elliott Afoke won this prestigious award for his Masters project 'The Dalston Hub: A Vertical Market'. The annual awards for the world's best architecture student projects are now in their 185th year and celebrate the best work of students from 102 architectural schools around the world.

Elliott's project explores how gentrification has raced through Dalston, in East London, from luxury high rise developments to the threat of demolishing the Ridley Road market, which is under mounting interest from developers who want to regenerate the site into high-end flats, retail and offices.

The Dalston Hub concept taps into the beating heart of Hackney; run by traders' activists, powered by wind energy and with shops and stalls placed on top of one another, Elliott believes that "the vertical market proclaims a new social order and system of measure of trading in the expression of retaining and saving Ridley Road's unique characters and culture."

Commenting on his award, Elliott said: "I am very pleased to be among this year's winners of such a prestigious architectural award. I am honoured to be nominated by Oxford Brookes University and just participating in this RIBA award is special for me. It is the ideal platform to showcase my work and a chance to learn more from other individuals.

Leading author on butterfly research publication

Dr Joe Middleton-Welling completed his PhD 'New approaches to understanding functional traits and butterfly responses to environmental change in Europe' at Oxford Brookes in 2019, supervised by Professor Tim Shreeve, within the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences.

Joe is the first author on a multiauthor publication on 'A new comprehensive trait database of European and Maghreb butterflies, Papilionoidea' (Scientific Data (2020) 7:351). This paper has drawn on the expertise of 16 European researchers from 11 research centres in 7 European countries, a collaboration supported by sDiv, the Synthesis Centre of the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Germany.

Joe explained: "This publication is important for the future of conservation. It provides a new open-access resource, which assembles the existing information on the life history, ecology and resource use of all the European and Maghreb butterflies to allow researchers to understand the variation in 217 character states of these 542 different butterfly species. This will hopefully allow us to get to grips with what butterfly traits make species more vulnerable to climate and land use change, and to help us understand why some species have different distribution histories at both continental and local scales. This comprehensive data also allows us to examine the evolution of traits within different butterfly groups.



HELPING EACH OTHER



Veronika Schröpfer alumna 2014 is Head of EU Research Projects at the Architects' Council of Europe in Brussels. She talks about how architects supported the health sector during the Covid-19 crisis.

"The European Commission launched a call to all participants in their research projects, whatever subjects they were working on, searching for ways the funded research and development could be used to support the health sector. "As a result, I launched a call to all European architects searching for:

Small 3D printing companies able to print medical equipment and for larger companies able to print building parts for emergency clinics to overcome the gap in supply chain.

HVAC simulation companies able to switch to monitoring the spread of a virus through ventilation in supermarkets and shopping centres.

Companies who could provide modular building parts and containers and those able to quickly build extra clinical space etc.

"The response was overwhelming!

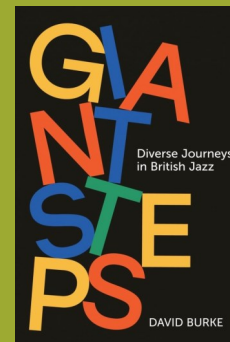
"The European Commission shared the lists collected by so many of us with all member states, so each country could decide who to contact for what they required. The best of it was that no one in Brussels was interested in Brexit, the UK is our friend and needed our help – together we are stronger!"

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

NEWS IN BRITISH JAZZ

Kristopher Reeder, current PhD student in the School of Arts, has been recognised as one of '25 of the artists who have engineered the cultural transformation of British jazz over the past four decades' in the book by David Burke entitled 'Giant Steps: Diverse Journeys in British Jazz'.



HOPES AND FEARS

The first online research conference, 'Hopes and Fears' organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, was hosted from Wednesday 5 May to Friday 7 May 2021. The conference comprised panel discussions and a book launch. Researchers from across the faculty and presenters joined via Zoom.

Questions were also posted in advance. The first day started with three panel discussions that focused on the themes of "Futures", "Emotions" and "Animals and Humans". Day two looked at themes around "Social Justice" and "Aesthetics". Friday closed with a final panel on "Fears and Control" followed by the first online Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Book Launch.

Conference abstracts, presentations and discussions can be accessed at the [hopes and fears google site](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

Latest research student's publications

26 July 2021, Science and Technology for the Built Environment. "In-use energy and carbon performance of a true zero carbon housing development in England" by Luka Oreskovic, Rajat Gupta and David Strong.

7 February 2022, Textile. "Textiles and the Acknowledgement of Unidentified Dead" by Katie Taylor.

8 February 2022, International Journal of Primatology. "Fostering Intrinsic Motivation and Expanding Our Criteria for Conservation Success" by Claire Cardinal, Miranda Strubel and Aimee Oxley.

17 February 2022, Agronomy. "Flower Visitation Time and Number of Visitor Species Are Reduced by the Use of Agrochemicals in Coffee Home Gardens" by Sophie Manson et al.

Let us know about your recent publications by emailing asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



Britany Carol Rapone
School of Social Sciences

My research involves exotic pets and pet cafés and their unique prevalence in Japan. Following the concept of a “Cat Café”, exotic pet cafés are businesses where customers can pay for time to interact with various exotic animals. While cat cafés frequently feature drinks and food to combine a dining experience with interacting with house cats, exotic pet cafés are often more akin to an indoor petting zoo.

These exotic animal cafés are found in multiple countries throughout Southeast and East Asia, but they are by far the most common in Japan. Most often located in dense urban areas such as Osaka and Tokyo, these cafés allow a sort of “temporary pet”. They feature a variety of animals, but owls and small mammals such as otters, prairie dogs, meerkats, and slow lorises are some that you may see. These animals are not restricted to cafés and are legal for sale with appropriate permits, in exotic pet shops as well.

Academic and social discourse relating to exotic pet cafés is relatively sparse. In and outside Japan, animal welfare has been an issue of concern in the café’s ability to care for the exotic species, but not so much that these cafés have difficulty functioning or opening new locations, based on evidence of their increasing numbers.

Previous work on this topic has noted the variety of species present and questioned the sources of these animals and Japan’s influence the international pet trade, especially as it relates to species threatened by extinction. Publications on Japanese cat cafés have offered insight by explaining regular customers motivations to go to cat cafés in that they receive, *iyashi*, translated as mental or emotional healing, by visiting and spending time with the cats. They described themselves as looking for temporary relief from the ongoing stress of a busy urban lifestyle so they could reengage in their daily obligations refreshed.

Is the receiving of *iyashi* the same reasoning behind customers going to exotic animal cafés? If it is, are customers seeking healing for the same reasons? Do exotic cafés even have “regulars” like the cat cafés? Is an otter more healing than a cat? Can animal qualities associated with *iyashi* be correlated to the import of certain exotic species or the predominant species in exotic pet shops?

Many unknowns have yet to be investigated. To explore the answers to these and other questions around the phenomena of the exotic pet café and to publish study results for both a Japanese and non-Japanese audience is the goal of my doctoral studies. Ultimately, I would like my work to have a practical influence on the discourse around these cafés so that potential issues relating to international trade and animal welfare will be addressed in a culturally relevant manner.



Caroline Schuhmacher
Oxford Brookes Business School

The title of my thesis is “**An evaluation of voluntary guidelines as tools for supporting effective wildlife conservation in tourist-accessible animal sanctuaries**”.

Wildlife has always been my passion and whenever I could, I travelled around the world to see each country’s wildlife. I was fascinated by wildlife tourism and the positive impact it can have on conservation but also learned about the negative impact wildlife tourism can have. Animal sanctuaries are becoming more popular around the world and can be a great alternative to wildlife attractions such as elephant riding which often have negative effects on animal welfare. They are, however, a quite under researched topic and rules and regulations for sanctuaries are generally missing. I therefore decided to focus my research on animal sanctuaries and how they can effectively contribute to wildlife conservation with the help of tourism. I mainly focus my research on emerging economies and am planning to return to Zambia, Africa to undertake my field research.

After completing my PhD I would like to continue researching the field of wildlife tourism and conservation. Ideally, I will find a job in the industry where I can combine research and practice to help improve the tourism industry for animals around the world.

Helen Ayres
School of Nursing

My research project involves exploring the experiences of mental health nurses who have been assaulted. Violence and aggression directed at nurses is a significant problem internationally and across fields of nursing and clinical settings with recent reports highlighting the significantly higher level of violence experienced by those staff working in mental health Trusts.

The high incidence of violence and aggression towards mental health nurses has been acknowledged and discussed in the mental health nursing literature with studies demonstrating prevalence, and policy/clinical guidelines directing strategies to prevent and manage violent incidents. Links to nurses' intention to leave the profession have also been established.

My study aims to progress the current understanding of mental health nurses' experiences of being assaulted by patients with particular attention being on the ways in which mental health nurses understand or *make sense* of their experiences. My clinical and leadership experience has led me to believe that understanding the meaning the nurse ascribes to the assault is important if both organisations and individual professionals are to respond appropriately and effectively. I have a diploma in cognitive behavioural therapy, the theoretical basis for which is the idea that the meaning of an event for an individual influences both their emotional and behavioural responses. Therefore, developing a better understanding of how individuals make sense of their experience in this context could meaningfully inform training, support positive culture and impact burnout and retention. Within the existing nursing literature, studies focus on the description of the assault and the associated emotional and behavioural responses, as opposed to the interpretation of the event made by the individuals. Thus a well-developed understanding does not exist and cannot therefore be used to inform the response to mental health nurses who have been assaulted.

The context of my study – secure or 'forensic' mental health inpatient services -reflects my clinical experience. These services provide assessment and treatment for people with mental illnesses and/or disorders who have committed criminal offences. I have acknowledged that there will be commonalities in mental health nurses' experiences of being assaulted, but I believe the differences in culture, expectations, patient characteristics and the nurse's role in this specialist area of practice are likely to impact meaning and interpretation so I am beginning by focussing on this population separately.



Andy Bird

Oxford Brookes Business School

Ever since finishing my MSc in Coaching & Behavioural Change at Henley Business School in 2016, the idea of doing a doctorate at Oxford Brookes has been a tempting one. The course seems unique in providing the opportunity to deepen one's academic understanding of coaching and mentoring, whilst also maintaining a professional practice at the same time.

I have been working independently for several years as an executive coach-mentor for leaders in charities, start-ups and larger corporates. The specific trigger for me engaging in the doctorate programme at this stage was the Covid crisis. Before the pandemic hit, charities had already been facing a wide range of strategic difficulties. The impact of austerity, funding pressures, declining public trust, digital disruption and Brexit were just a few of the issues they were typically dealing with. But Covid transformed the situation to create a perfect storm in which demands for service provision skyrocketed, funding collapsed and the usual

ways of working became impractical. When you add on top the further challenges that have arisen more recently relating to diversity and inclusion, COP26 and the Ukraine war, we have certainly been living through exceptional times!

In the eye of this storm have been the CEOs of charities who have had to handle these extreme circumstances, often with little personal support. For this reason, I am intrigued to learn more about the role that coaching and mentoring can play in supporting people in this role. Research evidence suggests that coaching and mentoring is not widely used by charity leaders, partly because the disciplines are not well understood and partly because many CEOs feel a bit self-indulgent spending their time, and potentially also the charity's money, on their own personal development. However, those that do benefit from this kind of help rate it as their most valuable form of personal and professional development.

My hope is that my research project will help to strengthen the knowledge base about the characteristics of coaching and mentoring for CEOs. Having been involved in the programme for a few months now, I have thoroughly enjoyed being a student again. I'm conscious that I'm probably one of the oldest students on campus – in fact, I'm probably older than most of the staff members too! But you're never too old to learn something new and I've found the support and challenge from everyone involved in the Oxford Brookes community has been very inspiring.

ALUMNUS PROFILE



Adil Al Ghamdi

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

My PhD project is based on empirical fieldwork that consisted of two Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) studies investigating the acculturation experiences of Saudi international students in the UK. It further explored the identity negotiation process and perceived consequences on their sense of self and identities by combining the original acculturation framework from Berry (1997, 2011) with the Dialogical Self Theory of Hermans (2001).

The aim of Study One was to examine transitions when moving to and studying in the UK for Saudi Arabian students focusing on the experiences that students reported as challenges. A sample of 8 Saudi international students studying at a university in South East England was used to collect data. Using IPA method, the analysis identified 14 primary themes relating to the Saudi Arabian students' experiences of the UK. Drawing on Berry's model (1997; 2011), the themes were organized around two stages of transition: 1) pre-moving to the UK and 2) arriving and living in the UK; and a third major theme emerged in the data, which was the impact of change on self-development. The findings reinforced experiences that are common to all international students, but in particular, they highlight experiences that were very specific to the sample of Saudi students studied. The findings showed that Saudi students experienced various challenges and difficulties. However, Study One also reported

self-development as the outcome of students' acculturation. Further, the participants addressed the dialogue in identity positions linked to their home culture (Saudi) and being in the UK.

The novel findings were used to guide the development of Study Two. The aim of this study was to understand how Saudi students negotiated the demands of different identity positions. This study involved a sample of 11 Saudi international students studying at universities in South East England. This involved an expansion of the theoretical framework by combining the original acculturation framework from Berry (1997, 2011) with Dialogical Self Theory from Hermans (2001) to obtain a more in-depth understanding of how Saudi students gave meaning to the idea of being Saudi students in the UK. Using IPA (Smith et al., 2009) and DST (Hermans, 2001), combining both phenomenology and interpretation, the analysis identified three distinct I-positions: I-as a Saudi in the UK, I-as a Saudi Arabian national identity, and Identity negotiation processes among these positions. The findings illustrated key areas of dialogical self experience of Saudi students. In this study, the dialogical self of the participants was engaged in negotiating I-positions and repositioning processes, which were dependent on and prompted by the participants' goals of studying abroad and their preferred future.

The original and important findings generated by this research have distinct implications for the acculturation of Saudi international students and identity negotiations and contribute to the literature on cross-cultural experiences and international students' issues. This research contributes to helping prospective and current Saudi students to become more informed regarding the experiences they may encounter when studying in the UK.

The transition from my home country's educational system to the UK one was like a huge step. Despite several challenges, it has, however, been a positive transition that reflected on my self-development. Everyone at Oxford Brookes University has been very supportive particularly my supervisory team. I was lucky to have them as supervisors.

My PhD was an enlightening learning progress, that has made me appreciate the significance of qualitative research in behavioural science and human experiences. It was a really enjoyable learning experience.

This research contributes to helping prospective and current Saudi students to become more informed regarding the experiences they may encounter when studying in the UK.

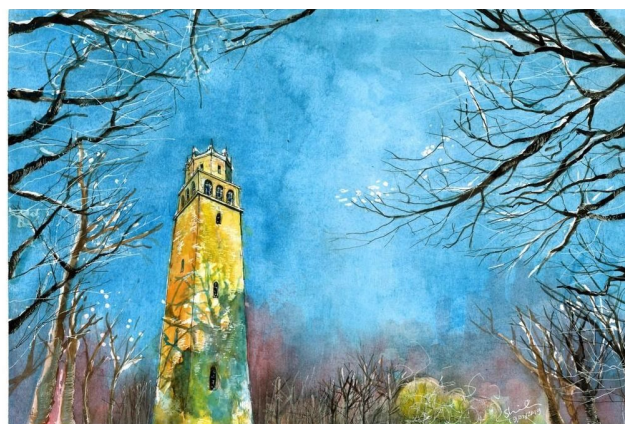
STAY CONNECTED

Guided Tour at the Oxford Botanic Gardens

Tuesday 24 May from 12 noon

Join us for a 60-90 min guided tour at the Oxford Botanic Gardens by Dr Andrew Lack. Bring a pack lunch - weather permitting! We will be meeting at the gardens entrance.

Let us know if you are coming at asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk or book on the [graduate college events page](#)



Oxfordshire Arts Week Festival - May 2022

Congratulations to Isabel Irigoyen Zozaya, PhD student in Urban Design at Brookes; she has been invited to present one of her works - Folly - at this year's Arts Week exhibition. This is a free event. Isabel will be presenting on 14/15 and 21/22 May at Holloway House, Great Coxwell nr Faringdon, SN7 7LZ.

Three Minute Thesis Competition



Tuesday 21 June at Headington Hill Hall, 12 to 2pm

Record your presentation using only a single static PowerPoint slide, no props, sound, moving images, poems or songs. There will be prizes for first place and runner up towards research or conference expenses.

The people's choice winner will receive a voucher.

The winner will be entered into the UK 3MT® online competition to be held in July/August

If you would like to enter this competition please email asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk

Deadline for video submissions: **8 June**

Let us know if you are coming to the prize giving and lunch by **Friday 10 June** - book your place on the [graduate college events page](#)

The Graduate College

The Graduate College organise and support a variety of events for research students, including training and social get-togethers.

For further information on all our activities please visit:

[The graduate college events page](#)

Research Degrees Team

Office Hours

9.00am – 4.30pm

You can contact us on:

rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk

Research Student Forum

Join the [Research Student Forum](#) - 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.

Why wait until you leave? Join our LinkedIn group [Oxford Brookes Research Alumni Community](#) for all research students, past and present, to network and stay in touch.



Follow us on Twitter for all the latest research student news and events [@BrookesGC](#)