

ISSUE 6

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community

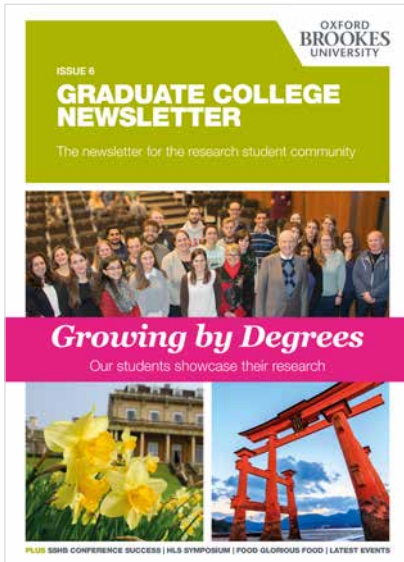


Growing by Degrees

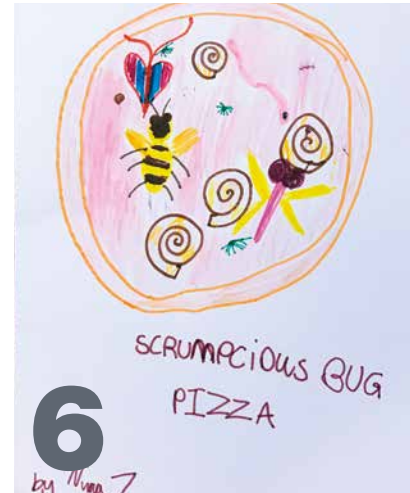
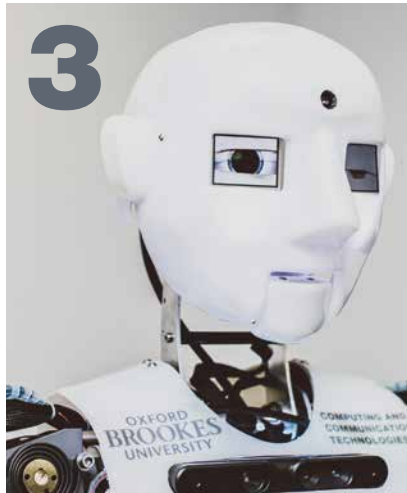
Our students showcase their research



PLUS SSHB CONFERENCE SUCCESS | HLS SYMPOSIUM | FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD | LATEST EVENTS



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

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

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

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

Co-ordinated and edited by the Research Degrees Team.

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

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

News



Milly Farrell (far left) with Simon Underdown from Oxford Brookes University, Dr Djuke Veldhuis from Aarhus University and Dr Charlotte Houldcroft from Cambridge University

Conference Success for Humanities and Social Sciences Student

Brookes' research student and staff member, **Milly Farrell**, won best poster at the Society for the Study of Human Biology conference in Denmark.

Milly Farrell, second year research student in the Department of Social Sciences, was fortunate enough to secure a travel grant to attend and present at the Annual Society for the Study of Human Biology (SSHB) conference.

The SSHB conference was held last December at Aarhus University in a chilly and festive Denmark. Human biologists from across the globe gathered at this three day conference to discuss current research projects that had a particular focus on the effects of human migration. Delegates came from a variety of research specialisms as far ranging as ancient hominin health to current interventions in midwifery.

Milly said "This theme of migration and its role in human biology is especially relevant to my research. The opportunity to attend and present proved to be immensely valuable and helped shape the direction of my own research."

Milly's research project is an assessment of the health and social status of Irish immigrants living in London during the mid-nineteenth century, having fled the Great Potato Famine of Ireland (1845-52). She hopes to gain some insight into how these Irish immigrants fitted into the wider Victorian London society, through studying their skeletal remains for clues about their health.

Milly presented a poster on her work at the SSHB conference, which featured some preliminary results on age at death comparisons between three populations known to contain individuals of differing social status. She was delighted to be awarded the prize for best poster. This provided a big confidence boost and has encouraged her to keep up the momentum of her research, which is often a struggle as a part-time student.

Milly spoke of her success "For any fellow research students or colleagues working in human biology in any capacity, I thoroughly recommend becoming a member of the SSHB. The conference brought together specialists in such a broad range of disciplines that it could only help to foster new research ideas and potential collaborations for the future. I'm very grateful to the SSHB for providing the travel bursary to enable me to attend and to my supervisor, Dr Simon Underdown, for encouraging me to apply and present my work."

OxINMAHR Writing Retreat

Georgia Cook, third year research student in the Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health, recently attended a residential writing retreat organised by the Oxford Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Research (OxINMAHR). Having collected all of the data for her two studies, Georgia is now assimilating all of this information into a written thesis, so when she received an email about the writing retreat, she was really intrigued.

Georgia said "I must say a huge thank you for all of those involved in OxINMAHR for providing me with a place to attend. I must admit I wasn't quite sure what to expect or how I would handle solidly writing for three days! All I can say is WOW what a great experience! It was an incredibly useful and productive few days with great food, company and limited distractions – not a common environment for me. I went to the retreat with the aim of finishing off a draft publication (which I achieved) and making significant progress with writing up my qualitative results.

"I would highly recommend a writing retreat to anyone as it really does help you to focus, it is great to get feedback from fellow peers and mentors and really allows you the time and space, with no excuses, to make big strides in achieving your writing goals."



School of Education to launch collaborative project with Japanese primary schools

Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) student and Lecturer in the School of Education, Clare Fenwick, along with colleagues Mary Briggs and Debbie Wright, will be building on three years of successful collaboration on a research project that compares mentoring practices in teacher education in the UK and Japanese primary schools.

The aim of this project is to explore how systems of teacher education in both the UK and Japan can benefit by developing an understanding of cross-cultural patterns in mentoring for both the students (mentees) and the staff (mentors). After two research visits to Japan, the team has conducted observations and interviews with trainee teachers.

More data is required on UK practice to extend the comparative scope of the research and colleagues from Japan will be visiting Brookes in February 2017 to continue the co-construction of the research.

This project is funded by Kyoto University of Education and Daiwa Foundation, and the School of Education is working alongside Professor M Mizuyama, Dr A Obermeier, and Kaoru Nishii.

Artie and Robbie at TeenTech City

In December 2016, Department of Computing and Communication Technologies' PhD student, Suman Saha, and Department Head, Professor Nigel Crook, took robots Artie and Robbie to the TeenTech City event at the Copperbox Stadium in London.

The event was attended by over 570 school children from 45 different schools across London and the Oxford Brookes team joined 200 scientists and engineers to give the school children a taste of careers in technology. Challenges were set by key STEM industry players including Barclays, BBC, Cisco, National Grid, Atkins, JVC and Samsung, testing innovation and creativity and aiming to blur the lines between education and employment. In addition to interacting with our robots, the school children were able to experience an earthquake simulator, Twitter sentiment analysis challenges from Bloomberg, Crime Scene Investigation, BBC micro:bit coding challenges, VFX Film and 3D Animation.



Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Postgraduate Symposium Showcases Research Student Excellence

The annual Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS) Postgraduate Symposium on 10 January 2017 showcased, as it always does, both the diversity of projects undertaken by research students in the Faculty and the professionalism of their presentation skills. Research students in the Faculty are required to give an oral presentation at the beginning of their second year full time equivalent, and a poster at the beginning of their third year full time equivalent. In this way, the symposium models the presentation formats that researchers in the Health and Life Sciences would encounter in external conferences. In addition to being a brilliant opportunity to showcase their research to the Faculty, it is excellent training in the skills needed to communicate complex ideas to a broad audience. Those presentation skills were very much on display and the presenters put more experienced academics to shame in the professionalism of their performances. It was a hugely enjoyable day.

The symposium opened with a welcoming speech by Professor David Evans, the Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Exchange in the Faculty. The audience then split into two parallel sessions, one featuring research in the Biosciences and one featuring research in Psychology, Community and Health Sciences. The two themed sessions were Chaired by postdoctoral researchers and newly appointed lecturers, the experience of Chairing adding to their transferable skills portfolio. Over lunch there was the

opportunity to view the poster presentations. The Symposium was organised by a small team of research students and early career researchers supported by Dr Barbara Jennings, one of the academic staff in FHLS and Philip Voysey, Research Administrator. As well as seamlessly organising a very successful day, the team raised sponsorship from Oxford Expression Technologies and GT Vision.

The guest of honour at the Symposium was Professor Nigel Groome, much loved and respected retired member of FHLS staff who has, over many years, contributed enormously to the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences and the Faculty in general. Royalties from pharmaceutical products developed by Nigel and his team have supported a very large number of PhD studentships, named in his honour, over the past decade or more and support the prizes awarded for the best presentations at the symposium. Nigel was one of the judges along with Dr Deborah Pearce and Dr Ravinder Kanda (Biosciences); and Dr Peter Wright and Dr Kate Wilmot (Psychology, Community and Health Sciences). The judges had a very tough job because, as ever, the presentations were remarkably diverse, from butterflies, to cancer, to nurses, to food, and the standard of presentation was so high. The winners for the best talks were Joanna Hagen and Michael Mawhinney, and the winners for the best posters were Sarah Howcutt and Findlay Bewicke-Copley.

Food Glorious Food, Fried Bugs and Mustard!

Indroneel Chatterjee, Research Student, and Professor Janine Dermody, from the Department of Marketing, tell us about their research project on entomophagy.

Eating insects, yes we mean those creepy crawlies that fascinate children but send adults running in fear, could be the next big solution towards alleviating global food insecurity triggered by accelerated climate change. Fried, roasted or grilled... they are a healthy, protein-rich food source. Adding ants to cocktails to add a 'lemony piquant' may be considered less nutritious, but very enjoyable we are sure!

So why do we have a food insecurity problem? Climate change makes it much harder to grow food (disease, drought, flooding, pests) along with an increasing food demand from rising population. The United Nations has warned that in order to feed the global population of 2050, food production will have to double. The problem with this is livestock production is already unsustainable, and this is going to be exacerbated by the Westernisation of diets across the planet. As a rejoinder to these problems, new avenues to produce protein – sustainably – are being sought. Attention is increasing on the feasibility of insects for human consumption, namely entomophagy.

While there is parallel research being conducted on the health, agricultural and economic facets of entomophagy, our research focuses on the pivotal psychology of consumers: 'How acceptable is eating insects to British consumers as part of their normal diet?'

The study is entitled "Applying experimental psychology and neuroscience to evaluate consumer fear and disgust towards entomophagy." Utilising a complex experimental method, it explores two primary emotions underlying acceptance of insect eating – novel food related fear (Neophobia) and disgust. Finally, it

takes the ambitious leap of measuring the neural basis of acceptance, liking, fear and disgust in the form of a neuroimaging study using the EEG (electroencephalogram).

This study will therefore significantly increase academic understanding of consumer acceptance of entomophagy. In addition these essential consumer insights will inform stakeholders' understanding and sharing of the market development and marketing of entomophagy to boost its acceptance by Western consumers.

During 2016 we attended conferences to proactively engage with academics and entomophagy business entrepreneurs. We also successfully engaged the public at our 'Eating our Grubs' exhibit at the 2016 Oxfordshire Science Festival and the Brookes Science Bazaar (for which we had the support of the Royal Entomological Society). At the science events it was interesting to observe the initial horror of adults asked to taste a fruit bar containing cricket flour. Meanwhile their children or grandchildren were desperate to eat the insect exhibits and could only be mollified by eating handfuls of the insect bar samples. It told us a lot about the psychology of disgust, fear and acceptance!

**Food, glorious food!
Hot weevils and mustard!
While we're in the mood –
Cold cockroach and custard!
Bee pudding and dragonflies
What next is the question?
Rich gentlemen have it, boys –
indigestion!**

We ran various insect-inspired food idea competitions, and again children excelled in their imagination, with winners aged from 3-11 years producing wonderful drawings including a 'Flying Dragonfly Pizza' and the 'Brilliant Bug Burger'. These events were a great way to talk to curious minds about the importance of entomophagy and the bigger issue of climate change and sustainability. In addition, they are changing people's thinking into becoming 'entomotarians', a term we have created for people who eat insects!

Reflecting on this study, Indroneel Chatterjee, Research Student says: "The interdisciplinary framework, supervision and the facilities that Oxford Brookes University has provided me, is like a well-oiled machine. The journey would have been impossible without the close supervision of my Director of Studies, Professor Janine Dermody. This study falls within her broader umbrella of international research on pro-environmental self-identity and the psychosocial barriers that can impede sustainable consumption."

In the spirit of this study, as you look forward to your next glorious meal, we leave you with our modified lyrics of "Food Glorious Food" – please do join in!

Book Launch for Brookes' PhD Alumna and Academic



A new book by an Oxford Brookes' PhD alumna and current academic has challenged historians who cast nineteenth-century working-class women as the villains of infant life.

In her book, Dr Melanie Reynolds, author of *Infant Mortality and Working-Class Child Care, 1850-1899*, unlocks the hidden history of northern working-class child care and disputes the entrenched assumption that working mothers were to blame for the high infant mortality rate (IMR) where up to 249/1000 infants died per year in the northern industrial districts during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Melanie found that there are deep-seated suspicions among historians that working-class mothers were incompetent and neglectful and that this was the prime cause of the high northern infant mortality rate.

In fact, northern working-class mothers did care for their babies and they went to extraordinary lengths to do so. For what was the purpose of their full-time work, if not to provide for and protect their families? As valued workers in brickyards, factories, salt works and agricultural fields industrial mothers used this value as leverage to adapt their work places into far more domestic and infant friendly environments, than we have been led to believe, to ensure infant life.

Workhouse nurses were equally as pro-active when caring for poor infants in the workhouse. Unlike the infamous drunken and incompetent Sarah Gamp, northern workhouse nurses worked in tandem with medical doctors and as usually mothers themselves, demonstrated a strong positive work ethic capable of excellent nursery skill.

Lancashire day carers were, contrary to the murderous baby-farmer stereotype propagated in the nineteenth century, 'identified as reliable and responsible' and northern infants benefitted from the kindness given to them by neighbourly day-carers.

What led to infant death for example, was the penny pinching factory owners who refused to invest in improving the factory conditions and incorrect medical knowledge. Nineteenth century workhouse doctors were obligated to provide 'up to date' medical care to infants in the workhouse, but how accurate was their medical knowledge? Was it defined by excellence, or flawed and built on a class bias which defined working-class mothers ill equipped to feed their infants, the remedy of which rendered them ill, in turn increasing the high northern IMR?

The book uses research from a new and wide range of source material, which includes medical and poor law history to show how working-class mothers saved infant life. *Infant Mortality and Working-Class Child Care, 1850-1899* is published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Dr Melanie Reynolds is an Associate Lecturer in the School of History, Philosophy and Culture at Oxford Brookes University.

Research Student and Alumni Profiles



“As a member of staff, I am grateful to Oxford Brookes for giving me support and encouragement with my PhD through the Continuing Professional Development programme. This part-time route brought its own challenges, particularly in keeping abreast of current research and maintaining momentum through the progression of achievable goals. However, the reward has been in seeing such a long-term project come to fruition.”

DR ROSEMARY LEADBEATER, Oxford Brookes' Alumna and Associate Lecturer, School of History, Philosophy and Culture

My PhD is entitled 'Experiencing smallpox in eighteenth-century England'.

The purpose of my study was to explore the incidence, spread, experience and prevention of smallpox in the eighteenth century. My final project had two strands. Firstly, it presented new knowledge on pathways of smallpox transmission and the nature of familial proximity. The relationship between smallpox mortality, inoculation (immunisation) and overall declining mortality is an ongoing historiographical debate. My research indicated that parental immunity to smallpox was a key factor in reducing smallpox and overall infant mortality in the late eighteenth century, offering a forerunner to modern debates on the protection against childhood diseases today such as polio, mumps, measles and rubella and possibly, in the future in the management of meningitis and ebola. My thesis also argued that influences on the course of smallpox, even before inoculation was widely practised in the second half of the century, were community-constructed rather than epidemiologically based. This factor had been relatively neglected so far in the secondary literature. Through a study of the prevalence of the disease in Oxfordshire I concluded that smallpox mortality in the county was being controlled through local and familial responsibility; containment and isolation practices were successful in impeding the disease.

The second strand drew from a national body of life-writings in order to investigate theory and practice in smallpox nursing, a much neglected aspect in the history of disease management in the eighteenth century. The role of the smallpox carer had been scrutinised, revealing high levels of stress but also resilience, thanks to integrated and reciprocal support. Spousal, parental and kinship networks were vital components of this care.

My MA in the History of Medicine presented a comparative analysis of the experiences of sickness amongst pauper communities in Northern England, the East Midlands and Essex. Letters written on behalf of migrant paupers to their home communities were analysed, concluding that regional variations were a significant factor in the characteristics of sickness relating to age, place and environment. This work led itself naturally to a research project on a specific disease.

I entered higher education as a mature student. Having seen four children and two step-children through higher education (cleaning countless student kitchens along the way!) I resolved to find out what had enticed them in this direction. I soon came to appreciate the passion for exploring new areas of research in the field of the history of medicine. The whole process was made possible by the support provided through the University's Continuing Professional Development programme and was made even more enjoyable by the training that Brookes provides for its research students. Networking with fellow students at training days and symposiums provided a valuable environment for inspiration and knowledge sharing and support in grappling with some of the vagaries of studentship.

One of my future plans is to progress and publish some of the strands of my research which, through the necessary culling process, had to be omitted from the final thesis. I would also like to pursue other lines of enquiry prompted by my research.



Yetunde Dairo
Department of Sport and Health Sciences

The title of my PhD is 'Physical Activity in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities'.

I first heard about Oxford Brookes University whilst working as a Lead Physiotherapist at an NHS Trust in Buckinghamshire. There were Brookes' students on clinical placement at my clinic and they seemed very positive about their student experience.

My PhD is designed to determine Physical Activity (PA) levels in adults with Intellectual Disabilities (ID). In the UK, approximately 1.5 million people have Intellectual Disabilities and this group of individuals have poorer health than their non-disabled peers with differences in their health status that are avoidable. The cost of supporting an individual with an intellectual disability during his or her lifespan is £1.5 million in the UK. These costs are much higher than for non-ID individuals with many of the causes associated with an inactive lifestyle.

Despite clear guidance about the need for an active lifestyle, people with ID appear to fail to achieve the level of physical activity recommended. This health inequality is compounded by a lack of good evidence about physical activity and also by lack of information guiding people supporting activities in this group. This research will improve our understanding of physical activity levels and behaviour in order to inform risk factor identification for low activity and to develop more targeted physical activities to promote to people within ID population.

As a Physiotherapist, I have always been passionate about improving physical activity levels especially amongst minority groups. Therefore I am immersing myself and thoroughly enjoying the experience.

My research will comprise of three studies with the first one being a systematic review of published scientific evidence on measurements of physical activity levels in adults with ID. It will form the basis of the research, as well as informing the design of the other two studies. The first of which will be a methodological study investigating physical activity measures in people with ID by using an objective measure (accelerometry) and a physical activity questionnaire. The second one, a longitudinal study, will determine physical activity levels in a representative sample of adults with ID.

We expect the studies will establish a clear understanding of how physically active people with ID are compared to the non-disabled population, inform us about the measurement of physical activity in people with ID and help improve our understanding of their physical activity/inactivity and its health related impact.

The best thing about being a research student is learning to be an expert in an area that has always fascinated me. As a Physiotherapist, I have always been passionate about improving physical activity levels especially amongst minority groups. Therefore I am immersing myself and thoroughly enjoying the experience.

As well as working as a Physiotherapist for many years, I have experience of teaching physiotherapy undergraduate students and after my PhD I am hoping to go back into lecturing or research.



Jane Freebody
School of History, Philosophy and Culture

My PhD title is 'What did they do all day? Patient work, psychiatry and society in France and England, 1900-1940.'

Whilst studying for my Masters in the History of Medicine at Oxford Brookes, I became very interested in the history of psychiatry and mental illness. I wanted to continue working at PhD level with my MA Supervisor, Professor Waltraud Ernst, a specialist in the history of psychiatry. I was very fortunate to receive a studentship from the Wellcome Trust to conduct my PhD research.

Although belief in the therapeutic properties of work and pastimes for mentally ill people has a long history – Galen proclaimed as early as c. ACE170 that work was “nature’s physician” – patient work is rarely the subject of systematic historical analysis. This can largely be accounted for by the enduring emphasis in the history of psychiatry on medical ideas and treatments, rather than interventions that do not appear to require medical expertise. Research that focuses on patients’ activities is limited and there remains a dearth of material on patient work in France and Britain during the early twentieth century.

My research project contests the view that the early twentieth century was a “dead period” in the history of psychiatry. The turbulence of the period, World War I followed by economic depression and political instability, contributed to a dynamic

environment in which attitudes towards work, non-work and care of the mentally ill were fundamentally challenged. Aude Fauvel (2013) highlights the advent of shock treatments, rest cures and psychoanalysis, as well as the establishment of outpatient clinics, as evidence of therapeutic innovation. However, patient work and related activities also formed a crucial aspect of this therapeutic mix, though this has yet to receive the attention it deserves. This project will rectify this significant historiographical omission.

The project is relevant to contemporary debates regarding employment and mental health, notably those concerning the number of workdays lost due to mental ill-health. In England, in particular, reductions in disability allowances are forcing the mentally ill to be financially independent, despite unemployment standing at nearly 6% (Guardian, 18 February 2015). Equipping those suffering from mental ill-health with workplace skills remains just as pressing today as in the 1920s and 1930s.

My thesis will address how attitudinal changes (which were far-reaching during the early twentieth century) were incorporated into asylum practice, thus highlighting the way in which society and psychiatry are intrinsically linked and how work and activity in mental institutions have evolved over time in response to wider social, institutional and medical contexts.

In England, in particular, reductions in disability allowances are forcing the mentally ill to be financially independent, despite unemployment standing at nearly 6% (Guardian, 18 February 2015).



Nadia Singh
Oxford Brookes Business School

The title of my PhD is 'Political Economy of bioenergy in developing economies: A case study of bioenergy projects in Punjab, India.'

I first heard about Oxford Brookes when I met Professor Pritam Singh in New Delhi, while he was on a lecturing tour to India. At that time I was an MPhil student in Delhi and I was greatly impressed by his radical perspective on ecology as well as his research on the federal structure of Punjab, India. I searched the University’s website and was highly impressed by the Business School’s research cluster on Environmental and Development Economics. I talked to Professor Singh about the possibility of undertaking a PhD degree at the Business School and he encouraged me to apply.

My research project looks at the political economy of bioenergy in developing countries through the case study approach. In the last few years, the global economy has been facing a multi-pronged crisis in the energy sector and concerns have led to a global shift towards development of alternative bioenergy sources. Many scholars believe that bioenergy has the potential to replace fossil fuels on a commercial basis. However, some adverse impacts of commercial production of biofuels have come to the forefront. These include limited sustainability and low energy returns, direct and indirect land use change and competition with food crops leading to food insecurity and food riots across developing countries. There is a strong need for research that

explores this and this study intends to fill this gap in literature by exploring the opportunities and limitations of bioenergy initiatives.

The study will comprise of an in-depth exploration of bioenergy projects in Punjab. This region has been chosen because it is being promoted for a leading role in the bioenergy sector in India and is being touted as a “green power” economy by the state and the national governments. A number of bioenergy initiatives have been promoted in the state in recent years. However there has been little research on the sustainability of these initiatives and their impact on the lives of the people involved.

The University offers excellent resources for students and a number of opportunities to present our research in a supportive environment at seminars as well as University level conferences.

The research training at Brookes is very comprehensive and helpful in preparing one for a career in academia. The research methods summer school training by the Business School enabled me to understand and learn about research paradigms, a range of research methods, their application and analysis. The Associate Teacher’s course gave me an insight on various teaching techniques, developing a curriculum, accommodating for diversity in the classroom and alternative teaching pedagogies.

After completing the PhD degree, I hope to pursue a career in academia.

The study will comprise of an in-depth exploration of bioenergy projects in Punjab. This region has been chosen because it is being touted as a “green power” economy by the state.



Anja Tschörtner
School of Arts

The title of my PhD is 'Idyll and Ideology: A Comparative Study of English and German Popular Fiction for Girls in the First World War'.

I graduated with an MA in English Philology, German Philology, and Medieval and Modern History from the University of Cologne in 1996, and have worked in publishing ever since. I knew I wanted to work on popular fiction in the First World War and I had read Dr Jane Potter's book 'Boys in Khaki, Girls in Print: Women's Literary Responses to the Great War, 1914-1918 (OUP 2005)'. I got in touch with her and discussed possible topics for a PhD in that area of research.

Ever since the 1870s and the Franco-Prussian War, the topic of war had been taken up in German girls' literature quite frequently, but it was never before as relevant and up-to-date as from 1914 to 1918. War propaganda plays a huge role in these stories. While before the First World War, storylines often focused on a tomboyish girl who needed to be turned into a marriageable housewife and future mother, this character is now replaced by the new concept of plucky and patriotic girl character who tries to find her space in her society-at-war.

A similar type of literature existed in Great Britain. Girls in wartime had been a relevant topic in fiction here only fairly recently in connection with the Second Anglo-Boer

War (1899–1902), and just as in German girls' fiction, propaganda was one of its main objectives. The notorious German spy and 'evil Hun' are recurrent elements of the storylines, immediately recognisable to the frequent reader.

The approach of my thesis focuses on the age group of 13 to 17 year old German and English girls as readers against the backdrop of the growing enmity between their countries, culminating in the Great War. The oeuvre of German and English female authors who wrote for this audience will be investigated. The relevant primary sources will be reviewed and compared, by concentrating on the aspects of propaganda and construction of concepts of the enemy in these stories.

Furthermore, the role of publishing houses in the flourishing of this literary genre will be highlighted, and the question of whether and how it was influenced by governmental bodies of the two countries looked into. Finally, the thesis will assess to what extent war literature for girls may have participated in creating a lasting impact on the image that Great Britain and Germany had of each other after the First World War had ended.

I like working in publishing and could well imagine staying on in this business. However, I also enjoy working with people and carrying out research, so if the opportunity arose, I may well apply for a lecturing post either in Germany or the UK.

The topic of war had been taken up in German girls' literature quite frequently, but it was never before as relevant and up-to-date as from 1914 to 1918.



Dr James Pritchard
Oxford Brookes Business School

The title of my PhD is 'Coaching for Mindful Action'.

I was aware of Oxford Brookes from a young age and have watched it grow in status and reputation. The International Centre for Coaching and Mentoring Studies has a worldwide reputation and I was aware of the excellent work being done there through my professional life as a coach.

My career has been varied. I qualified as an engineer and completed a PhD in engineering, exploring the properties of carbon materials used in experimental aircraft brakes. From there I had a career in the oil industry, starting in engineering jobs but rapidly moving into strategy and then the testing of lubricants. Through this work, I became aware of the importance of working relationships and teamwork that could make or break a project. I developed an interest in coaching and had a coach myself (quite radical then!). Currently, I work as a Civil Servant, developing and leading the coaching and mentoring offer for 450,000 Civil Servants across the world. Although my research work is part-time, it benefits from the access and experience I gain through my civil service work and vice-versa.

As well as working as an executive coach for 25 years, I have been teaching Iyengar Yoga for over a decade. For much of that time, I have been struck by the connections between yoga, coaching and leadership. My research explores the application of yoga practice in coaching leaders, in order to help them be more mindful in their actions. Most of us have experienced the frustration of rushing round in circles creating

activity, where a pause to think or to listen might have been more helpful. The mindfulness brought by yoga practice, together with the opportunity to be challenged and reflect through coaching, can bring a different quality to leadership.

My approach to the research is to introduce some simple yoga practice into my coaching sessions with senior leaders. The clients who collaborated in this research also completed some home practice and kept a reflective journal of their experiences. The second stage of research brings in experienced coaches who I have instructed in using the simple yoga protocols as part of coaching sessions with their own clients. Different styles of yoga posture are said to influence the consciousness in different ways, so a tailored programme can help each individual client to see their situation more clearly.

This project is a vehicle for my learning in the next few years and an opportunity to explore yoga philosophy and practice and its application to today's challenges. This is endlessly fascinating and I can see the work becoming a more central part of my working life as I withdraw from employment. For the moment I am more than fully occupied in completing the research.

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

The mindfulness brought by yoga practice, together with the opportunity to be challenged and reflect through coaching, can bring a different quality to leadership.

Stay connected

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



Graduate College Annual Event

The Graduate College aims to nurture and encourage a strong community amongst its research students at Brookes. Come and join us in celebrating the extensive display of work submitted by our research students, either as an exhibitor or if you are interested in finding out more about doing a research degree at Brookes.

Wednesday 3 May, 10.00am – 5.30pm
THE FORUM, JOHN HENRY BROOKES BUILDING
GIPSY LANE SITE

The display will also be available to view on Thursday 4 May 2017.

If you would like more information, please go to www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team/current-students/graduate-college/events/annual-event/ or email: asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk

Research Students Society

The Oxford Brookes Research Students Society organise regular meet-ups for research students. You can find out more about current events by joining their Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/OBRSS/

 **Follow us on Twitter @brookesGC**

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

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN & ENVIRONMENT

TDE Research Student Conference

Our student-led conference features a day of presentations, posters and performances from research students in the Faculties of Technology, Arts, Culture & Media and Environment.

Wednesday 17 May 2017
ROOMS JHB206, 207 & 208
JOHN HENRY BROOKES BUILDING
GIPSY LANE SITE

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

Edd Colloquium

'Being a Doctoral Researcher'

Saturday 24 June 2017, 9.00am-5.00pm
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
HARCOURT HILL CAMPUS

We are inviting the submission of abstracts, particularly from doctoral students, to present on any research subject connected to education. Presentations of work in progress are most welcome.

For more information, please contact Marinka Walker: mwalker@brookes.ac.uk

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

HSS Research Conference 2017

Wednesday 14 June 2017, 9.15am to 4.45pm
FLOOR 3, JOHN HENRY BROOKES BUILDING
GIPSY LANE SITE

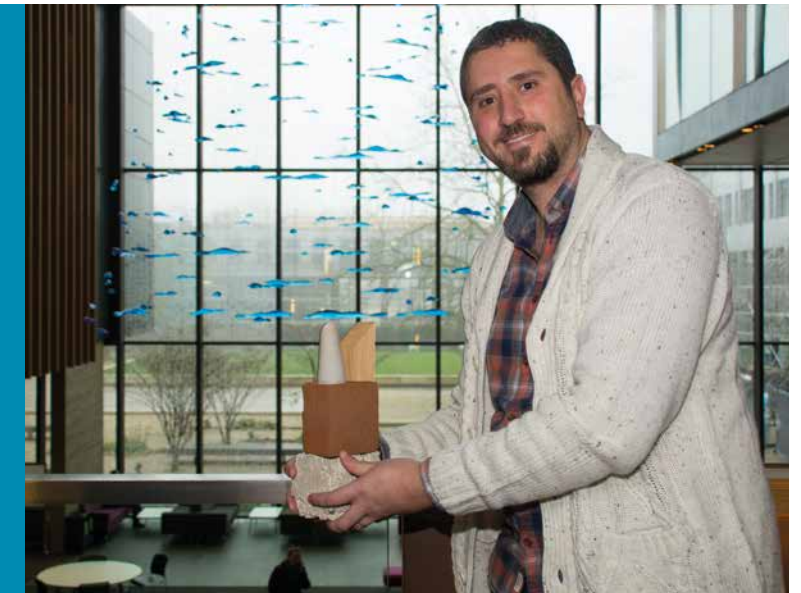
A full programme of papers from academics and research students on the theme of "The Other" Followed by a drinks reception from 5.45pm

For more information please email hss-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk

A year in the life...

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

SALEM AL QUDWA
Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment



I joined Oxford Brookes as full-time PhD by Design student in 2015. My research project is titled "Architecture of the Everyday as a Responsive Possibility for the Gaza Strip, Palestine". My research curiosity resides in how to engage local affected communities in the reconstruction process and to empower them to build their own appropriate homes that respond to their socio-cultural practices while using efficient resources.

After 11 years working in design, construction and architectural teachings in Palestine, being a research student is a transformative experience. I have great supervisors who are always available for advice and checking on the development of my research, providing me with a much focused research aim. In my first year, I made excellent progress on the specific topic and also on how to manage my research project, providing a strong foundation for my PhD. The School of Architecture has earned an outstanding reputation as one of the top five architecture schools in the UK. I am always surrounded by high quality teaching and research, imagery sketches, drawings and craft models.

During my first semester at the School of Architecture, I attended most of the academic events for researchers, including extensive training sessions and learning about others' methodological approaches through the weekly lunch research seminars, which I found really valuable. In addition, I was regularly attending art sessions at the School of Arts. Through presenting

my work to a different audience and reading my work through sketching and mapping, it was subjected to analysis and discussion. Presenting my research at its initial stage and receiving constructive feedback enabled me to firm up my ideas and further develop my research, encouraging a more cross-disciplinary learning process and networking opportunities.

In May 2015, I presented my research with a presentation and a poster at the 3rd Annual Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment Student Research Conference. My colleagues' presentations were vibrant and supported by their mapping and works in reality. This gave a real value to the essence of our research and its role towards the development of our communities. My poster was judged to be the most informative and graphically appealing and I was pleased that my work was recognised in this way.

I have attended most of the Architecture Society's lectures by high profile professionals. The city of Oxford has given me the chance to fulfil my artistic potentials by visiting exhibitions and art galleries. Walking tours have developed my understanding of contemporary and modern architecture within the 'city of dreaming spires'.

Trying to give something back to Brookes and the city of Oxford, I am working as a guest tutor in reviews and tutorials for undergraduate and master studios. I took part in installing the School of Architecture's end of year show in May 2015 and volunteered with

a registered charity caring for elderly people with physical and mental health problems.

I financed the first year of my study with very limited resources. I was aware of the challenges and financial constraints related to leaving my family and starting with a new life as a research student in the UK but I was persistent to take the challenge. I believe my studies will help me offer something meaningful in return, not only for myself but as a form of contribution to the whole community and families in Gaza who are desperate for a change to happen.

In January 2016 I received the Oxford Brookes 150th Anniversary Funding (Architecture Student Award). I am proud to have received this recognition which has encouraged me to push on with my studies and never give up. I also became a research assistant to the Design Theory and Practice research group and working closely with design researchers is an exciting research experience.

Achieving such a great deal during my first year at Brookes, I am so thankful for my inspiring Supervisors, the Research Team and my cheerful PhD colleagues. It is amazing when you have the chance to be in a foreign country and have the support of a great group of people and this will always be the most beautiful part of my journey in Oxford.

Time is flying and right now I am carrying out my field work in Gaza, looking forward to returning soon to Oxford and to Oxford Brookes.

EVENTS

Spring/Summer 2017

Here are a selection of the University's events coming up over the next few months.

Graduate College Annual Event

3-4 May 2017

10.00am to 5.30pm

OBU Documentary Club: 2nd OBUDOC SHORT-DOCS AWARDS CEREMONY

4 May 2017

7.00pm to 9.00pm

7th International Conference on Coaching Supervision

13 May 2017

9.00am to 5.00pm

TDE Research Student Conference

17 May 2017

Founders' Day Lecture: "We have ways of making you laugh"

24 May 2017

6.00pm to 7.00pm

School of Architecture

End of Year Show

27 May – 5 June 2017

Postgraduate Study Fair (Including Research Degrees)

14 June

4.30pm-7pm

HSS Research Conference

14 June 2017

9.15am to 4.45pm

EdD Colloquium – 'Being a Doctoral Researcher'

24 June 2017

9.00am to 5.00pm

Business School Postgraduate Open Morning

15 July 2017

9.30am-12.00pm

For further details, or to book on any of our events, please visit

www.brookes.ac.uk/events