Welcome to the second School of Social Sciences research newsletter for the academic year 2011/12.

As you will be aware since September we have embarked upon the realignment of the School with the aim of strengthening our academic disciplines. This presents us with a well-timed opportunity, through the portfolio review to revisit our research strengths and areas that we would want to see developed in future.

During the past few months the main focus of research activity within the School has been on preparing for REF. I would like to thank our UoA coordinators who have done a stirring job in pulling material together and preparing presentations and narratives that were considered by the College REF panel before Christmas and again in January as a follow up meeting. During these sessions we were joined by external colleagues who have considered the submissions and given feedback on where we are currently with a view to enhance our performance as we move into the next stages of preparation.

The discussion in the panels centred upon how we ensure quality of outputs and how we demonstrate the impact of our research. Impact as a measure is still being debated for the different Units of Assessment and I am particularly grateful to Jean Underwood who has attempted to unpack this for us a bit more in the following section.

Since the last newsletter we have launched our first round of research funding applications of which 7 out of 11 have been successful. We are intending to make further awards before Easter and the next deadline for submissions is the 5th March. This initiative links with the more systematic introduction of individual research plans in the School and fits with our overall strategy to support staff to engage in research and scholarly activity that is REF related for 2013 and beyond.

Other news is that I am delighted to have been appointed as Editor for the international Journal of Social Work and Social Sciences Review which is a Whiting and Birch publication. This presents us with a valuable opportunity for increasing our refereed published outputs within the School. Some staff have already contributed papers which are in the review process. I am currently seeking papers relating to management and leadership issues in the social science disciplines for a themed edition and subsequent book so please do get in touch if you have material that is relevant. We are still accepting papers on any relevant topic, for publication before the end of 2013 which makes this a great opportunity to get that last paper out before the REF deadline.

Professor Di Bailey
Director of Research for the School of Social Sciences
Impact is for Life not just for the REF

Impact of your excellent research outside academia will make up 20% of the Grade given to any Unit of Assessment (UoA). Impact is critical if you want to have a future in UK government-funded research.

The argument is that if your work is not contributing to society in any way, shape or form, if it is not having any impact, then why should it be funded?

HEFCE acknowledges that not all of the work you do generates identifiable impact but that some should.

UoAs will contribute an overall impact statement and then a minimum of two impact case studies. The case study needs to be both attention grabbing and supported by clearly presented evidence.

“Impact is here to stay so factor it into your research thinking”

Whether you are entered as an individual into REF or not you can contribute to the impact of your UoA. Below are the 5 areas of impact most relevant to us with an example of the criteria by which we will be evaluated.

- **Impacts on health and welfare**: Evidence of enhanced awareness of health risks and benefits by consumers.
- **Impacts on society, culture and creativity**: Documented evidence of changes to social policy.
- **Impacts on public policy and services**: Documented evidence of policy debate (for example, at a parliamentary Select Committee, material produced by non-governmental organisations).
- **Impacts on practitioners and services**: Literature/web information from practitioners and advisers, including the research findings and how they are applied in practice.
- **Impacts on international development**: Documented evidence of changes to international development policies.

### Key Dates

- **January 2008-December 2013**: REF census period for outputs
- **July 31st 2013**: Only grant income SPENT by this data can be entered in the REF
- **October 31st 2013**: Only staff in place on that day can be entered into the REF (but their grant income and impact can be entered even if staff are no longer at NTU).
- **Late 2014**: Results of the Assessment

There are currently 6 UoAs to which Social Sciences staff may contribute to:

- A4 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- C9 Business and Management Studies
- C20 Law
- C21 Politics and International Studies
- C22 Social Work and Social Policy
- C25 Education

A decision has yet to be taken by the SMT as to whether all of these units will be entered. Hopefully we will have an answer before we break for Easter.

**Academic Divisions**

**Criminology, Public Health & Policy Studies**

Dr Paul Sparrow has now left NTU and has taken up his role at Wolverhampton University as Assistant Dean of Law. The whole of Social Sciences wish him every success in his career following his 15 years of service here. Criminology staff will now report to Dr Rose Gann, Public Health and Policy staff to Professor Di Bailey and staff in the informatics group to Professor Mick Gregson.

The GYS Division is hosting the final seminar of the ESRC seminar series ‘Reframing service delivery, professional practices and professional identities in UK careers work’ on 20th June 2012. The seminar title is: Learning from others: diversity and inequality - international perspectives.

**Guidance, Youth Studies & Youth Justice**

**Politics & Sociology**

Prof. Cecile Wright is involved in organising the Black and Ethnic Minority Women’s Health and Well-being Conference, being held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham, on 16th March. This event will be held in partnership with the NHS Midlands and East, and the universities of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent. The keynote speakers include Diane Abbott MP, Shadow Minister for Public Health. A summary report of the event will be published in the journal *Diversity in Health and Social Care*.

Dr Oli Harrison is giving a paper titled ‘Seaton’s scream: fetishisation in Alan Sillitoe’s Saturday Night and Sunday Morning’ at the *Marx and the Movies* conference, to be held at the University of Preston (March 16th-17th).

**Social Work, Health & Social Care Counseling**

Di Bailey, Adam Barnard and colleagues from Social Work, Guidance and Youth Studies and the Business School were successful in their bid to provide analytical support to Nottingham County Council’s services for young people who misuse drugs and alcohol. The project will involve an 18 month study of the patterns of service user, outcomes and intervention impact in order to improve care delivery.

Matthew Gough was awarded the Higher Education Academy (HEA) Social Policy and Social Work subject centre’s 2011 teaching award for innovation in technology. The award recognised the contribution of using time released information which students were able to shape to gain an authentic social work assessment experience.

Nottingham Evening Post has recently published a double page spread about the rise in the number of Nottinghamshire children going into care. Fiona Boyd’s column, as part of the article, locates the local picture in the national context of child protection practice which is aiming to speed up the decision making process about children’s safety when poor parenting practice is identified (see page 7).

Fostering Futures (Nottinghamshire County Council) have agreed to fund £10,000 for an evaluation of their Fostering Futures evaluation which will be led by Jo Ward. Graham Whitehead is currently researching part-time students and attrition rates.

**Psychology**

The Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health Newsletter is available at:

Dr Mark Griffiths was presented with a Responsible Gambling Recognition Award by the institute for Commercial Gambling (Macau) for longstanding work in the field of responsible gambling. This was Mark’s 11th national and/or international research award.

Alex Sumich was invited to present at the first, of what is hoped will be many, Down Syndrome Research Foundation (DSRF) conferences in September. The event was organised by Professor William Moberly (Stanford University) and Peter Elliot (DSRF, UK), and aimed to bring service users and leading researchers together to explore strategies for the development of therapies for precocious ageing in people with Down’s syndrome. Alex’s presentation on electrophysiological studies of ageing in Down’s syndrome received positive responses from parents, practitioners and researchers.

Nicholas Blagden (SOCAMRU, Division of Psychology) was awarded £15,000 from the National Offender Management Service for a project investigating the rehabilitative climate of a prison. He has also been invited to present a keynote at the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers International Conference.
“Following on from a successful inaugural event, the Alternative Futures Conference returned for a second year on February 22nd 2012. Bringing together academics from a range of disciplines from across the City and Clifton campuses, the conference provided academic staff and postgraduate students with an opportunity to present research papers that are being subsequently considered for other conference presentations or publication. There were 3 Panels, with themes ranging from: political and social theory, political sciences and international relations, emergency services research, social inclusion and support, crime, prison and offending, work and health, land society and community, and the big society and localism. A total of 27 papers were presented throughout the day, with 55 attendees. The conference convenors, James Hunter and Larry Wilde, would like to thank both those participating in the conference and those individuals who have worked behind the scenes in supporting and organising the event.”

Dr James Hunter

**Speakers Included**

**Political and Social Theory**

**Adam Barnard**: ‘Truth, power and self of the coming community’.

**Kevin Love**: ‘Exhortation– ‘Ethics, ontology and the Speculative Élan’.

**Emergency Services Research**
- **Peter Murphy, Kirsten Greenhalgh, and Patricia Coleman**: ‘The development of new support and intervention arrangements for fire and rescue services’.

**Jeff Goatcher, James Houston and Viv Brunsden**: ‘Signs of entitlement: the relationship between leisure, heritage and rights’.

**Thomas Simpson, Viv Brunsden and Rowena Hill**: ‘Safer communities? Evaluation of fire and rescue services’ initiatives’.

**Inclusion**
- **Mark Weinstein and Graham Bowpitt**: ‘Service users as peer researchers—researching multiple exclusion homelessness using participatory methods’.

**Amanda Smith**: ‘Urban resilience and transitions for alternative futures: Scalar issues with community planned urban energy descents’.

**Ricky Gee and Phil Mingot**: ‘Alternative visions of employability-locating the discourse of employability within a wider career development narrative’.

**Politics and International Relations**
- **Rick Simon**: ‘On the nature of the Russian state’.

**Imad El-Anis and Ashraf Hamed**: ‘From Arab spring to Arab summer: Democratisation in Tunis, Egypt and Libya’.

**Work and Health**
- **Sian Buckley, Richard Howarth and Glenn Williams** with support from **Hugh Miller, Jean Underwood** and NTU SPUR 2 Success: ‘Towards sustainable lifestyles— reflections on a case study of active travel at NTU.

**Maria Karanika-Murray**: ‘The context in which work, well-being and performance are embedded— contextualising well-being for healthy work environments.

**Kevin Maguire**: ‘ Zombies, drones and workplace risk— treading the line between safe working systems and worker autonomy.

**Prison and Offending**
- **Paul Hamilton**: ‘A preliminary investigation of resettlement policy and provision provided at HMP Sudbury.

**Claire de Motte**: ‘Growing old gracefully? Exploring the quality of life and experiences of custody in older men in HMPs.

**Karin Spenser**: ‘Deficits in pro-social skills as contributory factors to offending and anti-social behaviour in young people.’
**Land, Society and Community**

**Sian Buckley:** ‘Land, community and society—do I want to eat this? Reconnecting with food’.

**Richard Howarth:** ‘Food, community and society—A framework of/for action from the National Trust.

**Ann McCarthy:** ‘Land, food, community and society—A framework of/for action from the Social Housing Movement.

**Crime**

**Andromachi Tseloni:** ‘Household burglary victimisation and protection measures: who can afford security against burglary and in what context does it matter?’.

**Rebecca Thompson:** ‘Product selection and the crime drop: focus on theft and robbery—Have reductions in crime in England and Wales been influenced by the choice of product stolen?’.

**Matt Long, Phil Hodgson, Kevin Maguire, Ken Kamoche and Kevin Love:** ‘The criminal justice practitioner as risk-assessor’.

**Social Support and Social Mobility**

**Rowena Hill:** The family perspective within the work-family interface: the dynamic, monitoring, supporting and proactive family.

**Cecile Wright:** ‘Young black people and social mobility—in new times’.

**Big Society and Localism**

**Simon Holdaway:** ‘Policing and the big society’.

**James Hunter:** ‘A new type of commons? An alternative localism agenda’.

**For more information on the conference, please contact**

James Hunter james.hunter@ntu.ac.uk or

Larry Wilde lawrence.wilde@ntu.ac.uk

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**Your Views ……**

**“Alternative Futures, held on 22nd February 2012, was a great opportunity to showcase the vibrant, dynamic and interesting research being conducted in social sciences. The conference was an extension from last years including a diverse range of papers and an open to a wider community of researchers. It was heartening to see colleagues from Clifton join the proceedings that were expertly stewarded by James Hunter and Larry Wilde. Each paper demonstrated the commitment to social science research, and the varied range of interests and exciting projects with which people are currently engaged. The closing plenary on the Big Society and Localism drew proceedings together to present alternatives in uncertain times. The strength of the event is to collate research papers into one event and show a clearly articulated and dynamic presence of social science research activities. It was tremendously encouraging to be part of a community of practice of high quality research that makes a difference. There are plans for Alternative Futures III to be held next year.’**

Dr Adam Barnard, Social Work, Health and Social Care & Counselling

**“After some gentle persuasion from my Director of Studies I submitted an abstract to present at the Alternative Futures Conference. The day soon came around and to say I was apprehensive about my presentation would be putting it lightly. Upon arrival, I was immediately put at ease (despite getting lost in the Newton building...I blame Roger!) The conference provided a fantastic opportunity for me to network with fellow research students, members of the Department and external attendees. It was also a chance for me to present a paper I am considering for publication in front of a very receptive, friendly and inquisitive audience. I received some great insights and (constructive) criticism which will shape and inform future work. It was also good practice for future conferences and presentations. Most importantly, the buffet was lovely...I highly recommend the cheesecake.”**

Becky Thompson, PhD student, NTU

**“On the basis that there are very few opportunities to interactively engage with colleagues about their research activity, AFII is a hugely welcome addition to the academic calendar at NTU. Personally, I found the opportunity to discuss my preliminary results in an environment that was constructively critical invaluable to thinking about how best to develop and refine my research outputs. I look forward to AFIII!”**

Dr Paul Hamilton, Criminology

**“The highlight of this year’s Alternative Futures conference for me was the inclusion of PhD students. This meant that there were new faces, whose research and expertise was not previously known to me. The PhD students gave the more experienced researchers a run for their money presenting with impressive skill and enthusiasm. James Hunter and Larry Wilde deserve our appreciation for organising the conference, which not only provides food for thought, but also brings together colleagues from across the School in a very productive way.”**

Andrea Lyons-Lewis, Criminology Public Health & Policy Studies
Approved SRC Funding Applications

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<td>Conference paper / REF output</td>
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<td>Duncan Guest</td>
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<td>Christina Howard</td>
<td>Conference paper/REF output</td>
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<td>Deb Hall</td>
<td>To support data collection on the understanding that the funds are</td>
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<td>utilised by the project team as a whole.</td>
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<td>Jo Ward</td>
<td>To fund a Research Assistant to collect and analyse data relating to</td>
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<td>Maria Karanika-Murray</td>
<td>Conference paper/REF output</td>
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<td>Preethi Premkumar</td>
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<td>Cecile Wright</td>
<td>To conduct a literature review for an ESRC Grant application.</td>
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<td>Towards the costs of the venue for the Conference on Health Inequality.</td>
<td>£1000</td>
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‘Questions to Ask Yourself When Writing a Grant Application.’
Courtesy of Professor Robert Dingwall

Does it address an important scientific question or policy dilemma?
- Is it novel?
- Will it make an impact on the field or on policy and practice?
- Is it topic relevant?

Does the Project have Scientific Quality?
- Has the applicant taken account of the important discoveries or other research in the field and placed their research within this wider context?
- Is it based on sound pilot data/reviewed literature?
  - Will the research design proposed answer the question?

Can the project be realistically completed within the timeframe?
- Is the level of resource appropriate?
- Are the appropriate facilities available?
- Is the appropriate expertise on board?
- Is there a Plan B if plan A fails early in the life of the project?

Is the project value for money?
- Is the planned approach the most cost effective way of answering the question?
- Does the application clearly justify the resources requested?

Taken from [http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/prod_consump/groups/cr_common/@fre/@fun/documents/generalcontent/grant-writing-guide.pdf](http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/prod_consump/groups/cr_common/@fre/@fun/documents/generalcontent/grant-writing-guide.pdf)
Matt Henn was invited to the Michigan State University’s London summer school as a visiting lecturer for the ‘Political Science Summer Programme’ in 2011. Matt and Nick Foard then visited the USA (Seattle) in mid-October to present their paper, ‘Young people and politics in Britain: How do young people participate in politics and what can be done to strengthen their political connection?’, with a return trip to the States (New Orleans) in January 2012 to present their paper ‘But will they vote? An examination of young people’s political engagement in Britain’. Matt was also recently invited as a visiting Professor for the University Autonoma Barcelona to introduce a new ‘Doctoral Research Methods Programme’.

Chak Kwan Chan presented a conference paper ‘Is Workfare a Wise Approach for China?’ at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China.


Gary Young:
Transcending Taboos To Be Published March 30th 2012

Di Bailey:
Interdisciplinary working in mental health
To Be Published 30th March 2012

Nicholas Blagden:
Policing and Psychology Published 22nd February 2012

Simon Watts:
Doing Q Methodological Research To Be Published 31st March 2012

Belinda Winder & Phil Banyard:
A psychologist's casebook of crime: From arson to voyeurism. To be published April 2012
Forthcoming Attractions continued

**The HOME Study**
Comparing the priorities of multiply excluded homeless people and support agencies

*Graham Bowpitt, Eva Sundin & Mark Weinstein:*
The Economic and Social Research Council-funded study was launched on the 24th February 2012.

**Young People and Politics in Britain**
How do young people participate in politics and what can be done to strengthen their political connection?

*Matt Henn and Nick Foard, Nottingham Trent University*
March 2012

**Health Trainer Project Evaluation: Waddington Street Centre**
Health Trainer located in community mental health setting

*Professor Di Bailey & Lianne Kerlin*
School Of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University
Final Report Available Since August, 2011

**Honour based violence and the Multi-Agency Approach in Nottingham**
Response of local agencies to honour based violence

*Terry Gillespie, Kristan Hopkins-Burke and James Mellett*
School Of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University
Final Report Available Since December, 2011
Ricky Gee provides his experiences of attending the Action Learning Set for Staff Undertaking PhD’s.

Inkson (2005) suggests that ‘journey’ is the most common of all metaphors used to conceptualise and understand one’s own career. As a lecturer at the beginning of the professional doctorate programme at NTU this metaphor appears very fitting. I currently feel as though I am standing at the bottom of a large mountain that is to be climbed, a personal journey that feels exciting yet daunting as many pitfalls and obstacles are already anticipated. This journey is made exponentially more difficult as the mountain has yet to be fully defined and the submit already requires philosophical contemplation.

The consideration of such a journey was comforted by an invitation to share experiences with other travellers in a similar boat – other academics from the school – via regular learning action sets, arranged and chaired by an experienced guide – Professor Di Bailey.

The format is simple and effective adhering to the principal that working as a group can aid the research process. Staff undertaking doctoral study - both PhD and Prof Doc – meet to share their research endeavours and then discuss limitations, perspectives and solutions. Such a format provides a useful peer perspective a catalyst for potential re-enactment whilst also providing much needed empathy on the stresses and strains experienced. The learning set also allows for us to request further support – e.g. sessions on Ref Works. Although the doctoral study is a lonely path it is agreeable to touch base and hear the stories of fellow travellers.

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**Date:** Wednesday 28th March, 2012  
**Venue:** DICE, Conference Room, City Campus  
**Time:** 11am – 3.30pm

NTU’s UK Research Office European Advisor, Chloe Somers, has been invited to share recent developments relating to Horizon 2020, the successor to Framework Programme 7. The key features of the new programme as set out in the draft proposal published last November will be presented, explaining how it differs to FP7, and identify opportunities about how we can get involved.

*Please contact your Research Coordinator for more information.*
Kevin, tell us a bit about how the cross school research group around working life and wellbeing came about?

The Work and Health Special Interest Group (WaHSIG) came about following a conversation that I had with Maria Karanika-Murray. We are both work psychologists and, being based in different divisions at the time, were aware of quite a few researchers whose work impinged on work and health. We sent out a general email to all members of the school and were amazed at how many came forward and then attended the first meeting.

How many people from the divisions are involved?

We have about twenty members (it does vary overtime) and all divisions are represented.

Can you tell us about the main focus of the research group?

We deliberately wanted it to have an umbrella function which (forgive the mixed metaphor) supports interest in all aspect of work and health. It is intended for both researching and teaching interests where, as the name on the tin says, health and work are involved.

What do you think are the benefits of a cross school research group?

There are both theoretical and practical aspects. The notion of a Social Science is one that continues to fascinate several of us. We can ask whether it is a credible notion and how the Social Sciences relate to each other. As individuals who bear the name social scientist (but whose practice differs) we can reflect on our particular stance and ask ourselves how we see and relate to the others. The dialogue that can ensue is rich and challenging. Rejecting some simplistic notion of a social science continuum from micro to macro, we develop a reflexivity that helps us to grow as academics.

“We find that we deal with similar problems; it is often just the language that varies”.

We are also constantly surprised and pleased at how often we find that we deal with similar problems; it is often just the language that varies. Of course, the practicalities that follow from cross disciplinary study and research are just so sensible – as I’ll demonstrate in answer to your next question. We have also looked at modules taught across the School that relate to work and health with the intention of exploiting opportunities for potential post-graduate teaching.

Is there anything that cross school research has supported, that working in a divisional research group wouldn’t have done?

An excellent positive example of all of the above is a piece of work for which we are about to submit our first paper. A team of one psychologist, two criminologists, and a philosopher, along with a member of the business school, studied the workings and culture of Nottinghamshire Police’s Child Protection Unit. Each brought their skills to bear on the topic (for example the criminologists engineered the access) and, as a result, we mined a rich seam of evidence from which each will be able to write a journal article oriented towards their own discipline. As a general point, meeting as a group just widened our eyes to the variety of skill and knowledge that there is in the school related to work and health; it is a brilliant network.
**Dates for the Diary**

**Wednesday 11th April**  
Undergraduate Conference

**Thursday 8th March**  
Next Round of Research Funding

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### 2012

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**NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY**

Next Issue: June 2012

Thank You to Lianne Kerlin for her help in the development of this issue.

To feature in the next issue please contact Claire de Motte by May 2012 at claire.demotte@ntu.ac.uk

Many thanks to all that have contributed to this issue.