Next Issue: November 2012

If you wish to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter, then please contact Claire de Motte at claire.demotte@ntu.ac.uk

As the academic year draws to a conclusion it gives me great pleasure to write this editorial for our final research newsletter of this academic session.

When we embarked upon this endeavour in September 2011 it seemed like a tall order to pull together and disseminate our research activity across the School in a more accessible way. I was also mindful that we might struggle to find sufficient material to disseminate or that the newsletter format might not find favour with staff. In hindsight I needn’t have worried.

The feedback that I have received from colleagues about the content and format of the newsletters has been overwhelmingly positive and staff are now proactively sending through copies and raising awareness of their activities. My thanks to all of you who have contributed to this and previous editions and to Kathie as our new Dean for providing her vision for research as we move forward.

Of course the production of the newsletter would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of Claire de Motte and Lianne Kerlin. So on behalf of us all I would like to offer them both a very big thank you.

At this time in the academic calendar I thought it would be timely to mention the place of research and scholarly activity in the PDCR process. All of you will already have been meeting to review your objectives for 2011-12 and I would like to remind reviewers and reviewees of the individual research plans which should be completed and considered as part of the setting of PDCR objectives as we move forward into 2012. If anyone needs sight of the research plan Sharan Sohanpal can circulate additional copies electronically.

The research plan and PDCR process also affords us a really useful opportunity to consider staff’s training and development needs. This information will be especially useful to me in my role as Director for Research and also for the School’s Research Committee as we consider what training and development opportunities we should prioritise for in-house delivery in 2012. I am very mindful of our need to help those new to research publish their first paper and enhance their appetite for scholarly activity. I am also committed to ensuring that our more experienced researchers have the time and collegial support to continue to publish and submit grant applications.

Therefore in respect of the objectives that I intend to include in my PDCR going forward into 2012-13, I will be looking to include the development and delivery of short ‘mind-set’ sessions to assist staff develop their research capability and to use this to enhance their teaching and learning as we move forward with our School wide portfolio review.

Thanks to all of you for making this such a productive year for research in the School of Social Sciences.

Professor Di Bailey
NTU
When deciding on any future plans or agendas the most important aspect is to acknowledge the good practice that already exists. Therefore I would like to state that my vision builds upon the considerable success that S3 already enjoys. However we need to celebrate this success through greater publicity and dissemination of our School’s work, a vital aspect of ensuring impact. I have been delighted over recent weeks by some of the very high profile media attention our research has received and we need to promote this further, ensuring that our close collaboration with stakeholders results in greater opportunities to influence policy and practice and to inform public debate.

The second aspect is to make sure that any future proposals do not have a negative impact on the areas of good practice that already exist. I therefore need to ensure that successful schemes or approaches already in existence are incorporated and built upon. Consequently whilst I celebrate the diversity of approaches and the breadth of disciplines in the School, I also think we can achieve more if we work collaboratively both within and beyond the School.

Finally, whilst I want our proposal for research to be challenging and stretching it also needs to be seen as reasonable and achievable. I accept that there is life beyond this; to be in stronger position for the REF that follows requires investment and acknowledging that there is life beyond this; to be in stronger position for the REF that follows requires investment and planning now. I will therefore be working very closely with Di Bailey and ATLs to identify specific research plans for each team that feeds into the School wide objectives for research. My vision therefore is to have a vibrant and inclusive research culture that embraces the diversity of our engagement in research; where everybody’s contribution is valued and our reputation both internally and externally is recognised as first class.

Kathie Moore
Dean of the School of Social Sciences

Awards, Recognitions & Funding

Michael Keenan, a lecturer in Sociology is undertaking a one year research project called “Coming out and fitting in: A qualitative exploration of lesbian, gay, homosexual, bisexual, trans and queer students’ university experiences”. The project is funded through the Society for Research into Higher Education’s ‘Newer Researcher Award 2012’. The award (one of two awarded each year) provides funding of £3000, membership of the society, and an offer of joining the Society’s Research and Development Committee.

The above project will run from 2012-2013 and will utilise focus group and Facebook narrative collection methods to explore LGBTQ students’ experiences of university life. Though the project is currently in its infancy a Facebook page has been set up at http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-COFI-Project/136701966469457, please ‘like’ the page and spread the word!

Congratulations to Lucy Betts and Rowena Hill (Psychology) who have been awarded £1600 by the BPS for an undergraduate summer research studentship.

Nicholas Blagden, also of Psychology, was awarded £15,000 by NOMS for a project investigating the rehabilitative climate of a prison.
Conferences

- Di Bailey gave a key note presentation at a DH health event in Leeds on 20th April showcasing the work on reducing self-injury in women in prison as well as a paper at the 1st Mind Change Conference Villach Austria May 2012. Di also gave an international paper on Ethical Issues and Decision Making for Improving Outcomes for Women who Self Harm in Custody at the 8th Annual Pacific Forensic Psychology Conference from 28-30th March in Canada.
- Adam Barnard presented paper on ‘Supervision on Professional Doctorates’ at the International Conference on Professional Doctorates (3) in Florence, Italy in April 2012. He is to submit a paper to the Work Based Learning e-journal.
- Jens Binder: July 2011 – Invited symposium talk at the EASP (European Association of Social Psychology) tri-annual meeting, Stockholm, on acculturation and interethnic prejudice.
- Fiona Boyd presented a paper ‘Social networking for proactive child protection in prohibited contact situations’ at the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect’s (BAPSCAN) 8th International Congress, Keeping Children Safe in an Uncertain World: Learning from evidence and practice in Belfast, 15-18 April 2012. The paper has been published on BAPSCAN’s website.
- Jane Challinor presented a paper “Lost in wiki space?” at the the HE Social Sciences conference in Liverpool in April 2012 and was tweeted about by Shirley Ayres from the Campaign for Social Sciences.
- Brendan Gough gave an invited lecture at City University New York (Graduate School), May 14th 2012. “Men, masculinity and mental health: A critical discursive analysis”. This paper is based on research conducted by Kevin Marks, one of our current PhD students, who was funded by Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust for 6 months during 2011. Brendan also presented two papers at the international Qualitative Inquiry conference, University of Illinois, May 16th -19th, 2012.
- Mark Griffiths presented his paper ‘An overview of online addictions’ at the International CLICK (ComputuLsive Computer use and Knowledge) Seminar in Brussels, Belgium.
- Duncan Guest presented a paper “Slogans influence spatial memory and evaluation of logos: Evidence for embodied cognition in marketing” at the 2012 conference of the European Marketing Academy, Lisbon.
- Nottingham Trent University co-hosted the Black and Minority Ethnic Women’s Health and Wellbeing Conference at the East Midlands Conference Centre on March 16. The conference was held in partnership with the University of Nottingham and NHS Midlands and included talks by Diane Abbott MP, Shadow Health Minister and Professor Cecile Wright of Sociology.

Social Work, Health & Social Care Counselling

Matthew Gough is organising an event: Conference for Sexuality in Social Work Symposium, at NTU, in September 2012, and along with co-author Lianne Kerlin has had a paper ‘Limits of Mental Capacity Act training for residential care homes’ accepted by The Journal of Adult Protection which will appear later this year.

Graham Whitehead presented a paper ‘Developing inclusive environments in mental health provision for people with disabilities’ at the 1st Mind Change Conference Villach Austria May 2012.

Adam Barnard submitted an article on ‘The Self in social work’ to the Social Work and Social Sciences Review along with three other members of staff who undertook the Researcher Developer Initiative in 2010-2011, funded by the ESRC.

Psychology

Alex Sumich has become a Visiting Lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry, London.

Lucy Betts and Rowena Hill have been awarded £1600 by the British Psychological Society for an undergraduate summer research assistantship. The project involves a current second year student, Sarah Gardner, working alongside Lucy and Rowena to examine digital inclusion and wellbeing in older adults. Age UK Cheshire are also collaborating on the project.

Nicholas Blagden (SOCAMRU,) 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.

Congratulations to one of our newest academics Karen Slade on the acceptance of what we anticipate will be the first of many papers: Slade, K., Edelmann, R., Worrall;, M. & Bray, D. (in press). Applying the Cry of Pain Model as a predictor of deliberate self-harm in an early stage adult male prison population. Legal and Criminological Psychology.

Criminology, Public Health & Policy Studies

Andromachi Tseloni alongside Dr Kershaw, of the Home office, organised a workshop on the’ The International Crime Drop’ for the Royal Statistical Society and the Crime and Justice Statistics Network in May. It was well attended by both social statisticians and criminologists and initiated ‘heated’ discussions.

Machi was also invited to the present on ‘Analyzing Trends of Crime. Exploring Crime Victim Surveys and other Data-Sources’, at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium: Focusing on Victims of Crime - Comparing Crime Patterns and Improving Practice in June. The Symposium is organised around the work of the criminologists who gets the prize each year and it just so happened that Machi’s co-author Jan van Dijk won the Stockholm prize in this year!
Hot Off The Press!


Guest, D, Gellatly, A, & Pilling, M (in press) Why is OSM reduced when display duration is increased, loading into VSTM or temporal tagging of mask and target? Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance


Farewell……

Following 16 years at NTU, Mike Ahearne of the Criminology division, is retiring in August. He will be sorely missed by both staff and students, many of whom have become fond of his characteristic lecturing and humorous impressions!

We wish to thank Mike for his dedicated years at NTU and all wish him an extremely restful and enjoyable retirement!

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Young people, by and large, are interested in politics, but that they are nervous

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“It is an achievement”

Nick has just raised parallels the findings revealed by the focus groups that we conducted in 1999. Those particular focus groups were conducted face to face rather than online. At the end of those focus groups, the young people would come up to us and say ‘if the council did more of this sort of activity, then we would be really interested in talking with them’. So I think it’s more about the dialogue that you have with young people, and the intention behind the interaction – it has to be authentic and genuine.

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So what’s the next step?

MH: We have taken the research to the Political studies Association’s EPPOP (Elections, Public Opinion and Parties) conference last September, and our research went down very well. We’ve attended two conferences in the States, one in Seattle and one in New Orleans, and we gave an invited seminar paper in Barcelona. We were invited by the Labour party to present to a special group of youth activists. We’ve contacted all the parties and have met with some of them. They all sent through feedback on the initial plans for the study, suggesting questions etc. and we have incorporated some of their ideas. At the moment we are in the process of disseminating the findings with groups like the Citizenship Foundation, the British Youth Council, the NUS and various other such agencies, and we are planning meetings with them later this summer. We are also in discussion with several of the political parties. So there seems to be quite a lot of interest out there for our research.

In that case, I won’t take up any more of your time! Congratulations once again, and Good Luck with the rest of the project.

Thank you to Nick Foard and Matt Henn for taking the time to be interviewed.

You can hear more about the project and from young people at the Radio 1 and Radio 1 Newsbeat website http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/11806602

Hot Off The Press!


Guest, D, Gellatly, A, & Pilling, M (in press) Why is OSM reduced when display duration is increased, loading into VSTM or temporal tagging of mask and target? Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance


Fieldwork and sampling was carried out by Ipsos MORI, which also received a grant from the ESRC to conduct similar research. What was special about 2001 was that the general election had the lowest voting turnout since 1918, with a slump from around 71% in 1997 to only 59% - and alarm bells started ringing in the corridors of Westminster.

So this current study is to see if 10 years later from 2001, things now are in any way different. And the results seem to suggest that young people today seem just as disconnected with ‘formal’ politics as they were a decade ago. That sounds incredibly interesting. So how are you defining young people?

NF: It’s actually a very specific definition for this particular research project. It’s aimed at young people who were eligible to vote for the very first time at the general election in 2010. One of the problems with previous research is that young people tend to be defined as 18 or 19 year olds. To get a more specific sample we recruited just those who were 18 at the time of the general election, which is quite unusual.

MH: These are young people who have never “experienced” formal politics before. If anything, we are researching fresh faces. They haven't been involved in politics before. If anything, we are researching fresh faces. They don't want politicians to try and engage with them using ‘their’ language. So it's all live, very frantic, very exciting and we got some really great data.

NF: We also set a scenario within the focus group about a school closure in a local community and asked them what they thought that they could do about that, and how successful different means of challenging it might be.

Did you find that a useful method to obtain rich data?

MH: Yes. I think we both feel that it was very effective - although we have only really started to scratch the surface of the focus group data. That’s the next step of the project. The survey data is the obvious data to focus on at present because we are confident that we can get some good publications from this, and we have two journal articles already. But we feel there are some really very interesting issues arising from the focus group data. For instance, there is a lot of literature which suggests that political participation might be enhanced through twitter, social networking and other electronic tools - as if these methods provide the way ahead. But I am not sure that we found much evidence in our early analysis to support the idea that young people have much confidence in those sorts of methods.

NF: It was quite challenging to those ideas in the literature actually, what it seemed to suggest was that young people are deeply distrusting of politicians across the board, and because of that distrust, young people have this reluctance to let politicians into what they consider to be their domain - the territory of the young, social networking. They don't want politicians to try and engage with them using ‘their’ domains, they want the politicians to prove to them first that they actually understand them and do listen to them. That’s the crucial issue. So it was a surprising finding actually.

MH: There’s not actually a lot of empirical research that considers these new methods for enhancing political participation; there’s a lot of speculation, and our research findings seem to contradict that speculation.

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MH: We were first approached in 1998 by Nottinghamshire County Council to conduct a survey of about 1500 young people, to inform the council about how they might convince young people to vote. The council really liked it, so we did a follow up study the next year which was another large scale survey, as well as several focus groups. Then in 2001 we received a grant from the ESRC to conduct similar research. What was special about 2001 was that the general election had the lowest voting turnout since 1918, with a slump from around 71% in 1997 to only 59% - and alarm bells started ringing in the corridors of Westminster.

So this current study is to see if 10 years later from 2001, things now are in any way different. And the results seem to suggest that young people today seem just as disconnected with ‘formal’ politics as they were a decade ago.
CHANCELLOR BURSARY AWARD

Scholarship Projects for Undergraduate Researchers (SPUR)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>Claire Davies</td>
<td>The project will focus on culture in the police force. The supervisory team are Professor Di Bailey as DOS, Roger Hopkins-Burke and Professor Simon Holdaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Eva Prikrylova</td>
<td>This qualitative research will explore psychological issues in relation to infertility treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Rebecca Charman</td>
<td>This PhD will look at language and reading impairment in SLI (specific language impairment) and ASD (autistic spectrum disorder) children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Jack Bramwell</td>
<td>This qualitative research will focus around self-help support groups for prostate cancer</td>
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Hanne Barron, a Year 2 student on BA Youth Studies, is currently studying 'Transitional homes for young people: an evaluation of a prevention project for young people at risk of homelessness'. This project is currently being undertaken in collaboration with Notts YMCA and involves focus groups and interviews with young people currently living in a supported housing project in Mansfield. The aim is to try and find out why it is that young people who have been through the project seem to sustain independent tenancies more effectively over a longer period than those housed directly from a hostel.

Charlotte Ellis is a student on BA Criminology and is spending her summer working on the ‘ASB Repeat Victimisation Study’ with Roger Hopkins Burke and Phil Hodgson. The research project involves a collaboration between NTU and Nottingham City Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP). The research will investigate how repeat victims of anti-social behaviour are dealt with by the police. The ultimate aim of this research is to a) develop a typology of victims of anti-social behaviour and calls received from the general public and b) design procedures and an aide-memoire which alert police to problematic issues at an early stage.

Nikita Duncan is working with Maria Karanika-Murray and Mark Griffiths on a study titled ‘Understanding work behaviours: From unhealthy absenteeism to healthy work engagement’.

SPUR student, Harriet Gleeson, is working with Dr Duncan Guest, Dr Christina Howard and Dr Louise Brown, in the Division of Psychology. The project ‘Information processing in visual perception’ will explore the ways in which older adults (65+) and younger adults (under 30) differ in their processing of visual information. The main interest of the project seeks to explore under what circumstances older adults may process visual information at a slower rate, and how this might tell us about the effects of ageing on processing visual information.

The Division of Psychology have another SPUR student, Loukia Travella, whose project is ‘Measuring change in clinical symptom severity relative to baseline: a meta-analysis of recent randomised controlled trials of pharmacological and psychological interventions for schizophrenia’. Loukia will be working with Dr Preethi Premkumar.

James Mellett, a third year BSc (Hons) Psychology with Criminology student, has obtained an extremely sought after post at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as a graduate Statistician and Social Research Officer. James had to compete against a large number of other applicants for the role, many of whom held postgraduate qualifications while some were Oxbridge educated.

James was able to showcase the Scholarship Project for Undergraduate Research (SPUR) research at the competency-based interview. James worked with Terry Gillespie and Kristan Hopkins Burke last summer on the SPUR research project, which examined the multi-agency approach to working with honour-based violence in Nottinghamshire. A jointly written research report was completed in December and has been disseminated to practitioners working within the field of domestic abuse, including police officers, lawyers and other professionals who were interviewed for the project. A copy of the report is available in the Boots library. The findings from the research are being written up for publication in relevant academic journals.

Terry Gillespie, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, said “James’ achievement demonstrates the value of the SPUR award. It also shows NTU’s reputation for encouraging knowledge specific and generic transferable skills that are highly sought after by employers. We are extremely proud of James’ success and wish him luck for his future career at the Office for National Statistics”.

Helen Puntha, Research Officer for NTU’s Centre for Academic Development and Quality (CADQ) explained that all students who have participated in the SPUR scheme will attend a Certificate Awards and Poster Exhibition in the autumn term, wherein they will present their research findings in the form of a poster to other scheme participants and invited guests.

Photos from a previous event are available here: [http://www.ntu.ac.uk/cadq/spur/current_previous_projects/current_projects/en-us-95530gp.html](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/cadq/spur/current_previous_projects/current_projects/en-us-95530gp.html)