WHO ARE THE REAL VICTIMS OF THE RECESSION?

{How the downturn has affected everything from charity to bumblebees}
Welcome from the Dean

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of So...

Each edition of So... will discuss a current social science related issue. This first issue looks at the recession and its impact on welfare, living, crime and social cohesion with many of our academics providing articles and opinion pieces.

In late 2008 many countries around the world, including the UK, entered official recession for the third time in 30 years – the previous two being in 1980/81 and 1990/91.

It is recognised that past recessions have had a negative effect on society. However, current debate has focused on the effects on business and services rather than the impact on people. Whilst the full effects of the 2008/09 recession are still to be fully understood, this edition of So... discusses the recession and the everyday life experiences of people living in the UK.

I feel that this first edition really does showcase this, with articles on our cutting edge research, success stories, national and international recognition, as well as student stories which highlight the opportunities many of you are seizing to improve the prospects of our local community.

I hope this edition will provide you with further insight into what is happening across the School, and act as a source of inspiration and motivation for you to get involved with everything that the School of Social Sciences has to offer.

Kathie Moore
Dean of the School of Social Sciences

Contents

In Focus

WHO ARE THE REAL VICTIMS OF THE RECESSION?

(Not the decision has altered everything for charity fund raisers)

Succeed with Social Sciences

International fever

Research

Alumni

News and events

04

08

10

12

14

18

So... Do you want to be a contributor?

If you are a School of Social Sciences student or member of staff and would like to feature in a future edition of So... then contact the Marketing Team on s3.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk

We hope you enjoy.
In focus • Victims of the recession

WHO ARE THE REAL VICTIMS OF THE RECESSION?

(How the downturn has affected everything from charity to bumblebees)

Research into charitable behaviour has shown that during periods of recession there is a reduction in the amount of charitable donations and government investment in conservation-related projects (Perigam et al. 2004; Whilking, 2010). However, much of this research is founded upon the availability of expendable income an individual has and, despite the gloomy prospect of reduced investment in our environment (a key factor in improving wellbeing), it does not necessarily reflect the actual grass roots engagement with conservation projects by communities and individuals. This could suggest that despite an economic downturn impacting on cash donations to conservation, there is not necessarily a reduction in public engagement.

In terms of making an impact on grass root conservation projects and public policy, there has been a recent trend towards alternative ways to approach the issue of saving our environment and preserving biodiversity.

Recent research has suggested that as government spending on conservation is reduced, the non-government organisation and smaller charities take over in shaping public opinion and changing policy (Cook & Stilman, 2012). This shift in focus in many respects is more powerful as it returns a lot of the decision making to those who genuinely wish to support such causes via donations, transfers of money and, as a result, a more hands on attitude to conservation schemes. This could potentially widen participation in conservation schemes.

So taking the plight of the bumblebee, honey bee and solitary bee in the UK, it is easy to see how grass roots work in many areas can demonstrate continued altruistic behaviour and engagement with conservation during times of recession.

During the last recession new conservation charities have emerged with a more specialised focus, such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (founded 2006). With the assistance of smaller charities with a more community based focus there is a shift towards a more hands on attitude to conservation and, although it is early days in the preservation of bee species, public opinion has been largely positive. For example, the increase in growing your own food during times of recession is providing a new landscape for foraging insects. Here the benefit of environmentally friendly activity outweighs any perceived financial costs.

Charitable giving, conservation and bumblebees in the current recession

An example of this can be seen in the recent debate surrounding the ban of neonicotinoid pesticides on agricultural crops by the EU. Research has shown that the application of such pesticides can be detrimental to the honey bee, bumblebee and solitary bee populations (Blacquiere et al. 2012; Brown & Paxton 2009). Although there is still some debate as to what extent these pesticides play in the overall observed decline in many insect species, they are recognised along with habitat destruction as a major cause for concern.

However, despite a reduction in funding for conservation charities in times of recession, there has been overwhelming public support for the neonicotinoid pesticide ban, which to a large extent has been motivated by such charitable and non-government organisations as Friends of the Earth, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, RSPB and WWF.

More significantly, social media such as Facebook and Twitter have enabled charities to gain support from a wider sample than those individuals that are members or regular donors to the organisations. So, while individuals may not have the money to support such causes via donations, they have demonstrated that public attitudes are very much in support of preserving biodiversity via the signing of online petitions – a low cost action which can have significant impact. This highlights that despite there being a perceived change in behaviour in terms of economic support, this is not reflected in the attitudes and beliefs demonstrated via public support of low cost online petitions. Arguably, the measure of charitable behaviour based upon financial donations is outdated and does not reflect true engagement with conservation projects.

To conclude, although the current recession does have an alarming negative impact on financial donations to conservation projects, the associated changes in how charitable behaviour is expressed could potentially widen participation in conservation schemes. This could be via a reduced focus on those with income to spare and acknowledging the power of enabling support via donations of time, the use of online petitions and by returning control over our environment to local communities. Arguably charities need to consider how best to allow individuals to express their beliefs and desires in relation to conservation.

James Stiller
Lecturer, Psychology Division

So... +
Victims of the recession
Victims of the recession

In focus

Sapere aude

Victims of the recession
In focus

Who are the real victims of the recession?

In July 2013, a survey was published claiming that more adults bank on winning the National Lottery than saving for their retirement. The findings were based on an independent research survey carried out on 1000 adults (aged 18-75 years) by Wightman Research on behalf of the Equity Release Council. More specifically, the research found that almost one in four UK adults (24%) felt that winning the lottery offered a better chance of a financially comfortable retirement compared to just over one in five UK adults (22%) who believed that making a conscious effort to save was their best chance of financial security in later life. As a Professor of Gambling Studies and someone who has carried out a lot of research into lottery playing over the years, my initial reaction to the survey was that it was surprising given the fragile state of the economy. Any spare cash people have is likely to be spent on - As of 2013. (Image: 41x187 to 335x596)

Victims of the recession
In focus

Gambling in a time of economic recession

Over several years, the global financial crisis has had a number of knock-on effects on the free world – governments to cut their national deficit, with organised crime in cities, public services, including health and social services, offering a better chance of living people view playing lotteries as a chance to win the money. Gambling does not appear to be an activity that is recession-proof as evidenced by the numbers of bookmakers and betting shops closing down. In fact, some bookmakers have gone out of business. The problem is becoming increasingly fragmented. By contrast, some community groups are supporting each other and developing a heightened sense of resilience to cope with the challenges of having fewer resources available to them. Some community groups and organisations are under pressure to be more creative and imaginative to get funding to still deliver services to those who need it most. For example, where a community arts organisation might usually apply to The Arts Council for funding to provide support to those with ongoing physical and mental health problems, such a service provider might need to turn to other funding bodies to keep the programmes running. The problem remains, however, that the costs of a healthy and well-being programme can have for operating it and considerations on how to keep these costs to an absolute minimum. Certainly, some applied psychologists (such as clinical and educational) have also had to contemplate with increased waiting lists for their services and reacting to their clients’ problems, rather than proactively preventing difficulties before they happen through effective health promotion. What is also very evident is that cuts to services affect many of the most vulnerable in society, namely older people, women with disabilities, the poor, those who are out of work. Given that there are some European countries (e.g. Greece, Spain, Portugal) that face rising levels of unemployment, with particularly high levels among young people, the task of psychologists is to examine how best to support those who are suffering from the effects of the recession. Even though the United Kingdom is beginning to undergo an economic recovery, there are still those who are struggling with finding it difficult to get employment or who are encountering day-to-day problems with a chronic mental health problem. With these situations, it is little wonder that some of these vulnerable people struggle with depression, suicidal thoughts, and feelings of isolation. Through appropriate psychological and social support, such people can be equipped with skills to make them more resilient to cope with everyday stressful situations, to work with others to find meaningful paid or voluntary work opportunities, and to collaborate with others who are in similar disempowering situations to draw strength from their experiences and know how to advocate for changes to services on a local or national level. Rather than blaming individuals, and certain sectors of our community, we can best serve all members of the community by encouraging a greater feeling of responsibility to each other in need of support and by instilling a heightened sense of community with a strong education for the future.
Succeed with Social Sciences

CV hints and tips

When applying to any employer it is important to put together a carefully thought out and well written CV that showcases all your relevant skills and experiences. Here are some useful hints and tips to help you through the process of creating your own CV.

A potential employer will skim-read your CV first and will decide in about one minute whether it is worth reading it fully or not. Getting the right layout is therefore extremely important:

- Decide on a layout and stick to it. Make sure you keep a consistent layout throughout your CV. This will help the reader and will make it easier for them to find the information they need.
- Don’t overcrowd your CV. A clear font in at least a size 11 for the main text is recommended and don’t forget the use of headings to break up your CV.
- Depending upon the position and experience, two sides of A4 is considered good for a graduate or postgraduate CV.
- Ask yourself ‘why am I including that?’ and ‘why in that style?’.
- If there is not a simple answer, change it!

A good CV should stand out from the 100s of CVs an employer could receive. To achieve this make sure you include:

- A focused personal profile
- An understanding of yourself and your capabilities
- Your experiences and their impact on you in relation to the job
- An understanding of the post being applied for (or area of work for a speculative CV)

Don’t let your personal profile (this should be at the beginning of your CV) be a few lines. Editing, amending and re-writing it will help you explore your skills and experience. Once you get your profile right, your CV should flow from there. References should be one academic plus an additional if possible, and both need to be recent. There is no need to include a complete postal address on your CV as references are not usually sought at this stage. Name, position and organisation, a contact phone number and email address are sufficient. If you are short on space references available on request is ok to use, however if you do have the space this can look lazy.

Don’t forget your covering letter. Covering letters are as important as your CV. Just as with your CV you need to make sure you get the right layout, that it stands out from all the other applicants and includes the relevant information.

Use the job advert, description and person specification if available and other relevant sources to make a list of essential and desirable criteria. Make sure you use these in your covering letter.

Don’t lie about your skills or attributes through taking apart your own life, study and work experiences and reflect on generic and specific work skills, and then promote these.

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Our career events

All current students and graduates from the School of Social Sciences are invited to a series of workshops specifically designed to help you realise your employment opportunities with a Social Sciences degree.

The workshops also provide guidance on making career plans, the current job market, finding job vacancies, putting together CVs and applications and developing those all-important interview skills.

To find out more visit www.ntu.ac.uk/s3events

What are employers looking for in graduates who want to enter social science professions?

Social sciences qualifications provide an excellent background for a wide range of careers. Opportunities can be found across all sectors and in a number of occupations. Education, central and local government, finance, health and social care, law, the media, public services, campaigning and research are frequent career choices. These professions want students that have the ability to:

- Put together reasoned arguments and question assumptions
- Understand the processes of change in society and its institutions
- Commercial awareness of social enterprises and public services
- Draw together, analyse and critically evaluate information
- Communicate concisely, clearly and accurately with others
- Use ICT to research, identify and present information
- Manage time and take on responsibility for your own development
- Respond positively to critical feedback
- Interpret, use and evaluate data.

Careers Clinic sessions
- Searching for opportunities workshop Tuesday 26 November 12pm – 1pm
- Winning Interviews Tuesday 3 December 10am – 1pm

Careers in Series...
- Careers in Teaching for Social Scientists Thursday 6 February 2014 1pm – 4pm
- Careers in Social Sciences Wednesday 19 February 2014 1pm – 4pm
- Careers in Law for Social Scientists Wednesday 26 February 2014 1pm – 4pm
- Other career events...
  - New Year Networking Event – TBC January 2014
  - Career Choices Wednesday 15 January 2014 1pm – 3pm

Sapere audere

Graduates from the School of Social Sciences have an enviable track record of going on to achieve successful careers. The School provides extensive services and facilities for all our undergraduate and postgraduate students and graduates. We offer career events, mentoring and one-to-one specialist guidance. Find out more on how we support you at www.ntu.ac.uk/s3careers

The School’s dedicated careers consultant is available every Tuesday from 10am – 1pm in Chaucer 3131.

This drop-in session is an excellent opportunity to get specific advice on extracurricular activities to make you stand out from the crowd, the pros and cons of working in different types of organisations and whether a postgraduate qualification will be beneficial to you. Sometimes people know exactly where they want to be career-wise in five or ten years time and others are not so sure. Whatever you want to do we recommend that you take your career ambitions seriously. Seriously enough to look at the national press to see what is happening in your chosen sector and how you may need to adapt to be successful.

Research current vacancies using national and local media, take note of the skills, experience and qualifications that they require. Then look at progression and promotion vacancies and look at the skills, experience and qualifications needed for these roles.

This should help you develop a career plan. This needs to be done as a continual research process to understand the shifting needs of the employment market.

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In August 2013, a team of ten Nottingham Trent University undergraduate students and two members of university staff travelled to Romania to take part in a volunteering scheme.

Six of the ten students who volunteered were Social Sciences undergraduates: Sophia Tedaldi and Kirsten McIntosh BSc (Hons) Psychology; Hannah Godfrey BA (Hons) Sociology; Justice; and Nicole Aldous BA (Hons) Criminology; Hannah Cantrell, volunteering as an English teacher, and Roseanna Bayfield and Hannah Cantrell, volunteering as Social Sciences undergraduates.

The team was led by Dr. Maria Varisco and Dr. Linda Shaw from the University’s Schools Colleges and Community Outreach department. They said: “This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience a different culture and, as the project involves working with children with various disabilities, it appeals to students on sociology, psychology, childhood and youth studies courses.

“They will be able to apply what they are learning in their degrees to their time in Romania, while also experiencing a different culture.

“Hit our third year of travelling to Romania and many of our previous students have gone on to continue to do more around the world.”

**Why study abroad?**

There are a wide variety of benefits to studying abroad, including the opportunity to:

- enhance your CV
- gain life experience
- experience a foreign culture
- meet new people
- gain international network of friends
- travel

**Partner universities**

You may be able to study in places such as:

- Erasmus foreign exchange
- International fever

**International fever**

**Why did you decide to take part in the Erasmus foreign exchange programme?**

“I have always been very keen on travelling and immersing myself in cultures and societies different to what I am used to.

Tell us more about your experience of studying abroad

“It was a great experience, and one I’ll never forget. It wasn’t easy though – initially I felt that I would struggle with the language as I only have a basic grasp of French, but whilst I’m still not fluent, I now have a working knowledge of the French language and my vocabulary has vastly broadened.

What did you enjoy the most about your experience?

“The opportunity to meet people from across the globe and share each other’s culture as well as explore different political views.

Do you think studying abroad will help your future career?

“I believe that my study abroad has helped me develop my communication skills as well as my interpersonal skills. And I now know that I definitely want to work abroad once I graduate.”

**Students visit Romania**

Students take world of carnivals to Romanian children

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There are a wide variety of benefits to studying abroad, including the opportunity to:

- enhance your CV
- gain life experience
- experience a foreign culture
- meet new people
- expand your knowledge
- learn new language skills
- make an international network of friends
- travel

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**Criminologists hope to tailor best security measures home burglaries**

Criminologists are hoping to pinpoint the most effective home security measures in a move which they hope could one day make domestic burglary a thing of the past.

Professor Andromachi Tseloni, alongside Nick Tilley, University College London; Dr Louise Grove, Loughborough University; and Professor Graham Farrell, Simon Fraser University are aiming to identify the most successful and cost-effective burglary devices for different people – depending on a variety of issues including area, accommodation types and occupants’ characteristics.

They are analysing more than 20 years worth of British Crime Survey data to uncover what works best for certain people and property types, as part of the 18 month Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project.

It is hoped that the findings will be used by the police to successfully target different population groups, in a move which the researchers believe could have a dramatic effect in reducing home burglaries.

The range of security measures the research team will be looking at will include alarms, dummy alarm boxes, security chains, indoor and outdoor lights on timers and sensor switches, bars or grills on windows and doors, deadlocks and window locks, and even dogs.

The study – the first of its kind – comes at a time when, due to the recession, there are fears that domestic burglary may start rising after a prolonged period of sustained falls.

The researchers are hopeful that the knock-on effect of cutting burglary could mean a drop in other crimes, which they hope could one day make a move which the researchers believe could have a dramatic effect in reducing home burglaries.

A theory behind this is that because many young people started on their path to crime through stealing cars for joy-riding, when this was made more difficult there was a marked reduction in other offences.

This was proposed during an earlier project on ‘Explaining and Sustaining the Crime Drop in the Industrialised World’ in which the researchers undertook with ESRC funding in 2007-2009.

The need for identifying tailor-made, cost-effective – and targeted – home security is seen as crucial, at a time of massive public spending cuts and declining disposable incomes. It is hoped that the results from the research will be both societal and economical, by deterring burglary and preventing wasteful financial decisions.

Professor Andromachi Tseloni, said: “Domestic burglary is a high volume crime affecting many UK households. As well as substantial financial loss and damage to property, burglary—and the possibility of being burgled—causes high levels of anxiety. It is such a blight on society, that surveys documenting public priorities about crime, place burglary at the top. We know that burglary alarms and other security devices work in principle to deter burglars—but now, for the first time, we want to uncover what works best and for which people. Our earlier research showed that burglary protection may not be commensurate to investments in security. We will be engaging with public and voluntary sector representatives and hope our findings will be used to inform national and international guidelines on burglary prevention. The findings will also be of interest to the security and insurance industry.”

Professor Andromachi Tseloni
Division of Sociology

**The use of medication to treat sexual preoccupation and hyper-sexuality in sexual offenders**

Members of the Sexual Offences Crime and Misconduct Research Unit (SOCAMRU) including Dr Belinda Winder (Head), Rebecca Laverley, Helen Elliott and Dr Christine Norman have been involved in an evaluation of pharmacological treatment of male sexual offenders at Her Majesty’s Prison Service Whatton.

The three year pilot began in 2007, with research continuing due to on-going funding. The research involves the prescription of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIS) and anti-androgens to 64 sexual offenders on a voluntary basis, as the method to reduce sexual preoccupation, sexual compulsivity and hyper-sexuality. Preliminary findings from a large mixed method evaluation have been extremely promising.

The research team has found significant reductions in sexual preoccupation, sexual compulsivity and hyper-sexuality post medication compared to pre-medication.

In addition, qualitative research with offenders has indicated positive effects of the medication in terms of reducing intrusive sexual fantasies and arousal and giving offenders ‘head space’ to process thoughts and make conscious decisions.

Interviews with staff have demonstrated the good standard of practice of the intervention team at the prison, and have allowed for recommendations to be made in areas requiring further work or improvement. HMP Whatton readily responded to the research team’s initial findings and have delivered training packages for various staff groups.

The evaluation is on-going, with further data being collated to strengthen the analysis.

**The research team has found significant reductions in sexual preoccupation, sexual compulsivity and hyper-sexuality post medication compared to pre medication.**

**British Psychological Society Undergraduate Research Assistantship Scheme**

Mihini Bowe and Viv Brunsden, along with Holly Wharton who is a second year BSc (Hons) Psychology student, have been successful in bidding for British Psychological Society (BPS) funding through their Undergraduate Research Assistantship Scheme. This scheme provides researchers with the opportunity to give an undergraduate hands-on experience of research during the summer vacation.

Successful applicants are marked out as a future researcher and potential academic. There is an expectation that the academics will then develop the research assistant’s potential and their interest in research.

Awards are made not only on the quality of the research project proposed but also on the quality of the student to be employed. Holly is therefore to be particularly commended on this achievement, as well as beating off 60 other applicants, for one of the twelve research assistantships offered.

Throughout the summer the team used photo-elicitation with individuals who have Alzheimer’s Disease. The research explored whether places can help construct a sense of self and a sense of memory and connection over time. It is hoped that the findings will aid the development of tools to assist in memory retention and identity preservation.

Viv Brunsden
Division of Psychology
Alumni • Mentoring scheme

Dezrika benefits from her alumni mentor

The University has launched a one-to-one mentoring scheme which matches current students with alumni volunteer mentors. The Employability Mentoring Programme is specifically aimed at improving the employability of second and final year students by tapping into the knowledge and expertise of former students working within their areas of interest.

Current third year Psychology student Dezrika Ramsey is being mentored by alumnus and BAFTA winning BBC Panorama reporter Paul Kenyon (BA (Hons) Social Sciences 1987). Dezrika and Paul have been communicating by telephone and email, and Paul even arranged for Dezrika to visit him at the BBC in London. Dezrika said: “I enjoyed seeing behind the scenes of a variety of programmes created at the BBC. It was the first time I had travelled on my own to meet someone I had never met before, so it really helped my confidence.”

Dezrika has found having Paul as her mentor a great experience. She said: “At first I didn’t know what to expect but I was excited by the prospect. Paul has a variety of expertise and experience and he genuinely wanted to support me and listen to my aims. Paul was enthusiastic and open to the idea of being a mentor so it made the relationship easy.”

Paul’s advice has helped Dezrika to clearly define her goals and ambitions in terms of what she wants to do there in the working world: “Paul provided me with an insight into what employers look for and what I can do to make myself a more appealing candidate. He also gave me guidance as to where to look in terms of my career.”

Dezrika encourages more alumni to volunteer as mentors. She said: “If you feel that you would have benefitted from having a mentor when you were a student, then you could be a great mentor. Hearing from someone that has already been in your shoes is so useful.”

You can get free, personal one-to-one advice from our successful alumni as well. To find out more visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/mentoring

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Julie Gosling – A resilient champion of social justice for disabled people and others

Julie Gosling has been awarded a Honorary Degree of Doctor of Social Science (DSc(Soc)) in recognition of her outstanding contribution to social justice campaigning. Julie — a survivor of domestic violence and homelessness — has channelled her expertise into activities and networks that help people on the edge of society, in Nottinghamshire and across the world. She works as the Practice Manager and Community Worker before setting up Advocacy in Action in 1989, which has helped to transform social work education internationally.

She brings together grassroots organisations, health trusts, local authorities, universities and the media to promote the understanding of professionals in social work and the inclusion of local communities in training and provision.

At NTU Julie has helped to shape the social work curriculum and taught on courses. She was an Executive Director for the local Racial Equality Council, and founder of FJANN (Friendly Irish Advice Nottingham and Notts). Julie has received investment worth up to £230,000 from Yorkshire-based serial entrepreneur Graham Leslie. Mr Leslie is the founder of Galpharm International Ltd, the largest privately-owned store brand pharmaceutical company in Europe, and a former chairman of Huddersfield Town Football Club.

His investment in Adam’s business, which is based at The Hive, will enable Adam to re-launch his website, establish a mobile phone app, recruit additional sales staff, invest in online marketing and expand its directory of restaurants. Adam has received investment worth up to £320,000 from Yorkshire-based serial entrepreneur Graham Leslie. Mr Leslie is the founder of Galpharm International Ltd, the largest privately-owned store brand pharmaceutical company in Europe, and a former chairman of Huddersfield Town Football Club.

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Can you share details of how your career has developed since leaving NTU?

I left NTU with the ambition of establishing my own practice in the field of forensic psychology once I had gained a good level of experience.  I was in post until July 2008 leading the delivery of open and closed group psychological services once I had established a footprint in the local area.

What is your current role involve?

As much as I liked it there, I wasn't sure that it was the right career for me.  I started as a Business Generation Consultant at Ricoh, Canon, Toshiba, BNP Paribas, Computhink and other local and national companies.  I got on well with the team there.  However, once I was in post as a forensic psychologist working in the community, I discovered that I had no idea that I would move into the field of forensic psychology once I had gained a good level of experience.  I was then set to move to Australia at the end of 2011, when I was set to move to Australia for a period of three months before gaining my current role in August 2011 as the DAAT Prison Substance Misuse Coordinator.  I left NTU with the ambition of establishing my own practice in the field of forensic psychology once I had gained a good level of experience.  I was in post until July 2008 leading the delivery of open and closed group psychological services once I had established a footprint in the local area.

Can you share your plans for the future?

The IDTS Project Manager role involved the responsibility for implementation of a new substance misuse treatment system within the establishment in order to ensure provision of a high standard of treatment services as a whole.  I was then set to be a key part of the Apogee business model.  It was because of my success within Apogee in such a short amount of time that I decided to stay in the UK.  I enjoyed the job, my job was great and my path for progression was set out in front of me by my mentors.  I had carved myself a career without even realising.

What are they doing now...

Jason Staniforth
Course: BSc (Hons) Psychology
Year: 2007
Job title: UK Marketing Manager
Employer: Apogee Corporation Ltd

What does your current role involve?

My role as the Marketing Manager for all 13 UK based offices for Apogee Corporation Ltd involves the management of all social media assets for the business, including the management of e-based campaigns.  The design of internal publications, news, email templates, email signatures and online news flipbooks and the management of the Apogee Connect Intranet Site.  Collection and distribution of news articles and imagery.  I am also the main point of contact for communications between partner marketing departments, these include; Ricoh, Canon, Toshiba, BNP Paribas, Samsung, Sharp, IBM, and others.  As well as the main point of contact for liaising with our external PR company.

What is a typical day for you?

The best thing about my job is that there is no such thing as a typical day.  I work on a number of different projects in different sectors and my role as a Marketing Manager involves me being flexible about the path that my career will take.  It is about different opportunities that enable you to diversify working practices as you move across a role that you never knew existed but really interests you.

Can you share your plans for the future?

After leaving university, I went into recruitment for a year to gain some office experience.  I was then offered a Psychology-based role in Australia.  I was set to move to Australia at the end of 2011, when I was set to move to Australia for a period of three months before gaining my current role in August 2011 as the DAAT Prison Substance Misuse Coordinator.  The IDTS Project Manager role involved the responsibility for implementation of a new substance misuse treatment system within the establishment in order to ensure provision of a high standard of treatment services as a whole.

Donna Timms
Course: BSc (Hons) Psychology
Year: 2009
Employer: Cambridge County Council
Job title: Drug and Alcohol Action Team Prison Substance Misuse Coordinator

What does your current role involve?

I am responsible for the provision, commissioning and performance management of prison-based substance misuse treatment (prescribing and non-prescribing) across the locality prisons within Cambridge County.  I work as a leader and assistant and involving works within partnerships with a large number of stakeholders.

What is a typical day for you?

The things that I do are very varied.  I have my own one-to-one caseload, however, I usually spend a lot of time on the phone, on email, and meeting with colleagues.  I have limited opportunities to access work in this field encouraged me to apply for my role as a Prison CARAT (Counselling Assessment, Referral, Advice).  Through my Drug Worker in 2005 with the intention that I would transfer across into prison psychological services once I had established a footprint in the local area.

Can you share details of how your career has developed since leaving NTU?

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Top learning and teaching award

Phil Barnard, who teaches and researches psychology has received the British Psychological Society (BPS) Distinguished Contributions to Psychology Education Award.

Phil’s research focuses on education – for the last ten years he has been a leading member on projects studying the impact of digital technologies in schools. This work has attracted grants in excess of £1 million from government agencies and from European Commission.

This allowed students to get a feel for how psychology is conducted, as well as learning about its findings and impact on society.

Phil also held exam examiner roles at both GCSE and A-Level and wrote the first University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) GCSE in Psychology.

Congratulations Phil!

Vice-Chancellor Teaching Award

Jane Chidler is from the Division of Social Work and Rowena Hill from the Division of Psychology both were awarded the prestigious Vice-Chancellor’s Teaching Award for their inspirational teaching at NTU.

The criteria for the award are based on a set of attributes that have been decided on by staff, students and alumni of NTU. The attributes include someone that creates an intellectually challenging learning environment, has disciplinary intellectually stimulating and staff

Both Jane and Rowena were nominated for very different reasons by colleagues or alumni for their inspirational teaching at NTU. Rowena, Principal Lecturer of Psychology was nominated for her focus on real-world experiences, employability and industry and her personal philosophy that places the students at the heart of what she does. Rowena, commenting on the award, said: “It’s amazing to be awarded the Vice Chancellor’s Teaching Award in recognition of my approach to learning and teaching. My colleagues and external partner organisations also share in this achievement as I work closely with them to create these valued opportunities for our students.”

Jane, who is Subject Lead and Principal Lecturer for the BA (Hons) Health and Social Care, was nominated for a module she teaches to final year students which develops digital literacy skills – skills which are becoming increasingly important for future employability. Commenting on the award, Jane said: “The award means a great deal to me. It is great to see teaching being honoured and especially the integration of technology into university teaching”.

Over the last 30 years he has organised and presented at hundreds of INSET events for teachers of psychology, spoken at student conferences, and is currently editor of Psychology Review, a magazine aimed at A-level students. An important area of his work has been the development of a level psychology in the school sector – he wrote an A-level course which took a radical approach by focusing on key studies in published research. This allowed students to get a feel for how psychology is conducted, as well as learning about its findings and impact on society.

Phil also held exam examiner roles at both GCSE and A-Level and wrote the first University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) GCSE in Psychology.

Congratulations Phil!

New Student Forum Executive

In October 2013 the School launched its new Student Forum Executive. The forum is a great opportunity for our students to get involved in the School as well as enhancing their employability by gaining experience and skills that employers want. Such skills include: advanced communication, project management, engaging with carriers small-scale evaluations and working in partnership with academic staff.

Successful applicants will act as ambassadors for the School of Social Sciences and for their course.

An important part of the role is to take an active part in the promotion and running of the Student Forum. Successful applicants will also take part in at least one School project or committee which aims to enhance the student learning experience.

They will be asked to take the lead on specific tasks which they have a particular interest in.

Examples may include:

- Developing a protocol for more effective communication between students and staff.
- Contributing to how we might improve the use of NOW on our courses.
- Reviewing new teaching methods.
- Developing induction sessions for new students.
- Helping us to evaluate our courses more effectively.

We are delighted to announce the successful appointment of Claire Britton, Caris Preece, Hannah Saffer, Jack Aldridge – Deacon, Annette Pears, Lee Johnson, and the new Student Executive as the new Student Executive members.

We are also inviting Final Year applications, for more information please email s3 enquiries@ntu.ac.uk

Run by our students for students, there are over 70 special-interest societies with everything from art and Amnesty International to politics and poker

The Social Science focused societies include Psychology, Politics, International Relations, Sociology, Criminology and Forensics.

This edition introduces the Criminology Society.

Introducing the…

Criminology Society

In a little under a year the Criminology Society has grown from just 3 to 50. They now have a new committee and have been busy planning for the coming year.

Priorities this year include the organisation of a trip to a local prison. The society also teamed up with De Montfort University’s Criminology Society to host a joint social in Nottingham in October, with the next one to be held in Leicester.

Wike Buntam, president of the Criminology Society said: “Because we are still a ‘new’ society we have spent the first year trying to build up a member base and get activities off the ground. But we have grown the society from 13 when I took it over to 53 and it is about to grow even more as this is the first year all first year students will be automatically signed up for the society.”

The society has a blog that is updated regularly. Contributions are made from lecturers and

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the National Student Survey 2013. Your comments and views will help us shape the future of the School of Social Sciences informing real change to make the NTU experience even better.

Here’s what you think of…

- Politics and International Relations at NTU were rated as joint 3rd out of 70 institutions for with 100% student satisfaction.
- Psychology at NTU was rated joint 69th out of 74 institutions for student satisfaction.
- 92% of our BA (Hons) Criminology students are satisfied with their course.
- 98% of our BA (Hons) Sociology students think that their course is very well organised.
- 95% of our BA (Hons) International Relations students agree that staff are good at explaining things, the course is intellectually stimulating and staff make the subject interesting.
- 98% of our BA (Hons) Health and Social Care students are satisfied with their course overall.
- 94% of our BA (Hons) Youth Studies students are satisfied with their course overall.

National Student Survey 2013

Sapere aude

To find out more visit www.ntu.ac.uk/s3careers

For more information on upcoming events visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/s3events

Our upcoming events include:

- Distinguished Lecture Series Professor Sir Albert Ayiomoye – Green MIB 12 November 2013
- Graduate School Open Event 27 November 2013
- Postgraduate and Professional open evenings Wednesday 13 November 2013 Wednesday 22 January 2014 Wednesday 26 March 2014 Wednesday 11 June 2014
- Distinguished Lecture Series Sir Christopher Hum KCMM 26 November 2013

Don’t forget that we hold career events throughout the year to find out more take a look at page 9.

For more information on upcoming events visit: www.ntu.ac.uk/s3events

Societies

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