

So...

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES MAGAZINE

NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY



WHY COLLABORATION MATTERS

- | Criminology graduate named Alumna of the Year 2015 |
- | Qualification in Career Guidance team receives UK Career Development Award |
- | Succeed with Social Sciences |

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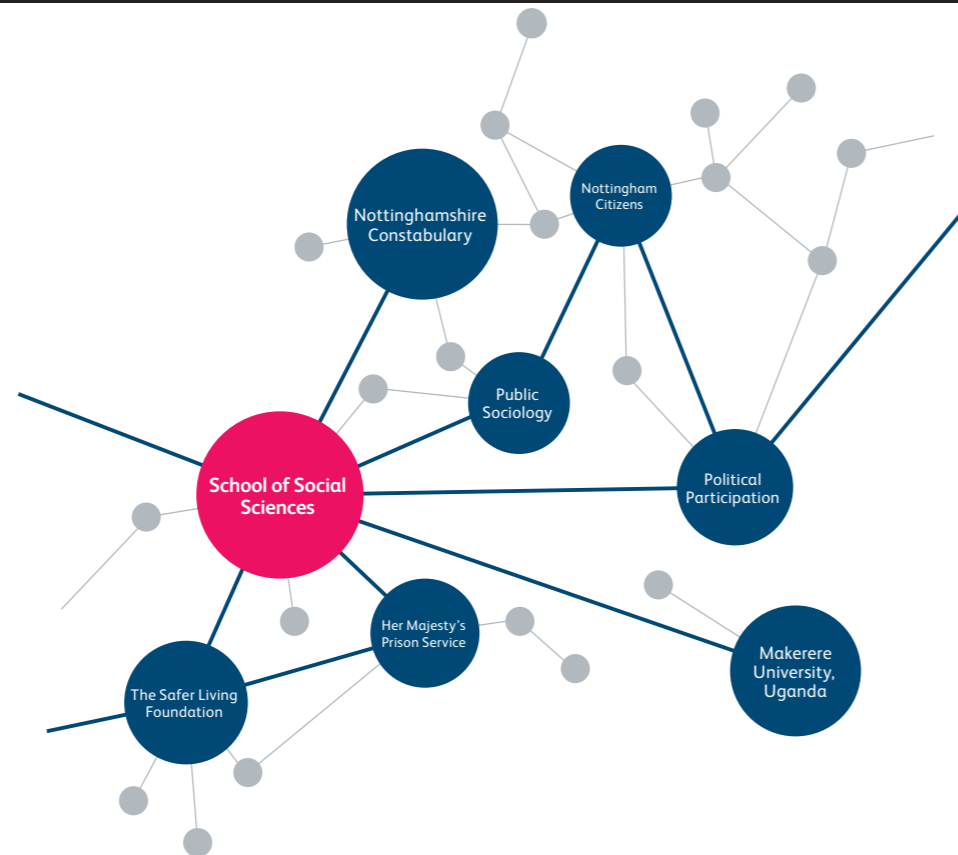
One of the five key pillars in the new strategy for the University is 'enriching society'. At the heart of this ambition is the desire to play a leading role in the social, cultural, economic and environmental development of the city of Nottingham, the East Midlands and the wider United Kingdom.

The School of Social Sciences has important relationships with a wide range of groups and organisations within the local community. This edition of **So...** magazine will put a spotlight on just some of these relationships, from the

award-winning Safer Living Foundation to the School's links with Nottingham Citizens, a diverse alliance of community organisations committed to working together for the common good in Nottinghamshire.

This issue also includes articles designed to help you with your employability. There are top tips on how to prepare for a job interview, as well as details about the exciting Succeed with Social Sciences events coming up this term. You can also find out about the latest news stories and the achievements of staff and students from within the School.

WHY COLLABORATION MATTERS



Welcome to the 2016 spring/summer edition of So... magazine



We are now well into the spring term and the next few weeks and months will be busy for staff and students alike.

This edition of **So...** aims to celebrate the strong links between the School of Social Sciences and a range of organisations in and around Nottingham. I am proud of the way in which students and staff within the School are able to use their knowledge, skills and expertise to enrich the lives of individuals and groups within our local community. This issue will look at why such collaborations are so important, both for the School and for the organisations that we work with.

This edition of **So...** also highlights the achievements of our staff and students. Last term the Qualification in Career Guidance (QCG) team was presented with the Best Practice in the Use of Technology Career Development Award and we were delighted that Criminology graduate, Emily Macaulay MBE, was named as Nottingham Trent University's Alumna of the Year for 2015. You can find out about these achievements and other successes from within the School on the following pages.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition and that it encourages you to reflect on the important and positive impact that graduates from the School of Social Sciences can have in their local communities, in the UK and across the world.

Kathie Moore
Dean of the School of Social Sciences

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

So... aims to showcase the excellence of our students and staff, and content for future editions is welcomed from all. If you would like to submit an article for the next edition of **So...** please email s3.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk

Criminology graduate Emily Macaulay named University's Alumna of the Year



A School of Social Sciences graduate who was awarded an MBE for services to equality and diversity has been named as Nottingham Trent University's Alumna of the Year for 2015.

Emily Macaulay, who graduated with a degree in criminology in 2003, was recognised in last year's Queen's Birthday Honours for her previous work as chair of the Devon and Cornwall Gay Police Association (GPA).

This involved leading ground-breaking activities to improve equal opportunities within the service as well as instigating the Visible and Everywhere campaign to tackle isolation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender colleagues.

The University's Alumna of the Year award recognises former students' distinctive attainments,

professional successes and contributions to society.

Emily, who was chair of the Devon and Cornwall GPA for six years, received her award during a University graduation ceremony on 28 November 2015.

She held several roles within criminal justice until 2013. These included engagement and volunteers officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall; community engagement lead for the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority; and community justice business analyst for the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice Board.

Emily was involved with the LGBT Society during her time at Nottingham Trent University. She will continue to work closely with the University to engage with

students in relation to LGBT issues and to support course curriculum development within the School of Social Sciences' Succeed with Social Sciences programme.

Emily, who is currently senior supervisor for operations at Exeter Library, said: "I am thrilled and shocked to hear I am the 2015 Alumna of the Year. There are so many successful people that have graduated from Nottingham Trent University that are making a difference in our world and I feel humbled to be considered worthy of such an award.

"Looking at previous winners I am in awe of some of the company I now stand in. My time at university was hugely important to me and very formative. Beyond the academic, being involved in societies and feeling like part of a huge

community was an experience that I will forever hold close to my heart and look back on fondly.

"I am very much looking forward to being back in Nottingham to receive my award, 12 years after I last stood on that stage clutching my undergraduate certificate."

Nottingham Trent University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Edward Peck, said: "We are delighted that Emily has accepted our invitation to be our alumna of the year. It is particularly appropriate that she receives this award in the year in which NTU is placing enhanced emphasis on the importance of mutual respect between all members of our global community of students and staff."

Alternative Curriculum Events (ACE) Week

The School of Social Sciences held the first school-wide Alternative Curriculum Events week, which took place between 16 and 20 November 2015. The week was an opportunity for students to take part in a range of extracurricular activities that would support their learning and engagement with their academic studies. It was also a chance for students to mix with other undergraduates from different years and from different courses.

During the week there was a whole host of events and activities that students could get involved in. These ranged from a talk on the threat from the Islamic State and a screening of a crime documentary followed by a discussion, to an introduction to mindfulness and a workshop on how to develop academic writing skills.

The week culminated with an ACE Week Question Time event, which was based on the format of the popular BBC television show. Prior to the event students were asked to put forward questions relating

to immigration, radicalisation and new politics. These questions were then read out during the event and answered by a panel that included Sajid Mohammed (Co-founder and Executive Director of Himmah), Rebecca Wilson (Advice Services Manager at the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum) and Dr Chris Baker-Beall (Lecturer in International Relations at NTU). The panel was chaired by Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Kathie Moore.

The second ACE week of the academic year was held in February 2016, with students from across the School taking part in a range of activities. These included a trip to the Houses of Parliament, a debate on climate change and an introductory session on mindfulness.

The feedback from students regarding ACE week has been highly positive and it is hoped that the week will become a regular fixture in the School's academic calendar.

Spotlight on the ACE week film screening of *It's a Free World*, directed by Ken Loach

"As a first year student I have found ACE week to be the perfect opportunity to participate in workshops tailored around health and social care. I was able to take part in open debates with my colleagues as well as getting an insight into current affairs. I found the social policy workshop very useful, in particular, when watching the film entitled *It's a Free World*. The film allowed me to appreciate and understand the journey a migrant endures to reach UK borders and the exploitation he / she faces in order to have a better life."

Sayka Naz,
BA (Hons) Health and Social Care student

Ken Loach's 2007 film *It's a Free World* was shown during the School of Social Science's ACE week in November 2015. The film centered around the experiences of two young women who start up an employment agency recruiting migrants illegally in the East End of London.

Social Policy lecturer Dr Chris Towers, who asked students to consider who they saw as the victims in this story, a question that drew a variety of responses.

The students attending the screening came from different backgrounds and courses, with those on the Health and Social Care course joined by Sociology students and others. There was also the hope expressed by many students that ACE week would continue, as it was felt that the week brought students from different backgrounds together and was a good learning experience.

Lecturer Chris Towers said: "I look forward to presenting more films in subsequent ACE weeks, to inform, educate and allow students from different disciplines to share knowledge and experiences."

Dr Chris Towers
Lecturer in Social Policy

UK Career Development Award for the Qualification in Career Guidance team

The Qualification in Career Guidance (QCG) team has scooped the Best Practice in the Use of Technology Career Development Award, sponsored by Prospects, at the UK Careers Development Institute Awards in Cardiff.

The award recognises the team's innovative use of technology to support student careers advisers on the University's Postgraduate Diploma in Career Guidance.

The UK Careers Development Institute Awards celebrate the achievements of the career

development sector and reflect the role employers play in delivering high quality and innovative career development services.

Jo McFadden, Senior Lecturer in the Division of Sociology, said: "The success of this project is reflected in both high levels of student achievement and feedback as well as external interest in the methods we employ.

"Our postgraduate, qualifying diploma is jointly awarded by the Career Development Institute - the sector's professional body -

and we are highly delighted to have won this award.

"The methods we employ enable students to develop their theoretical knowledge and career development skills. Carefully staged activities facilitate progressively ambitious learning and a key feature allows students, even if they are studying remotely, to learn from each other and their tutors, in a safe and supportive environment. These approaches are also being piloted to help undergraduate students develop employability skills."

For more information about the Postgraduate Diploma in Career Guidance (PGDip) / Qualification in Career Guidance (QCG) visit www.ntu.ac.uk/s3careerguidance



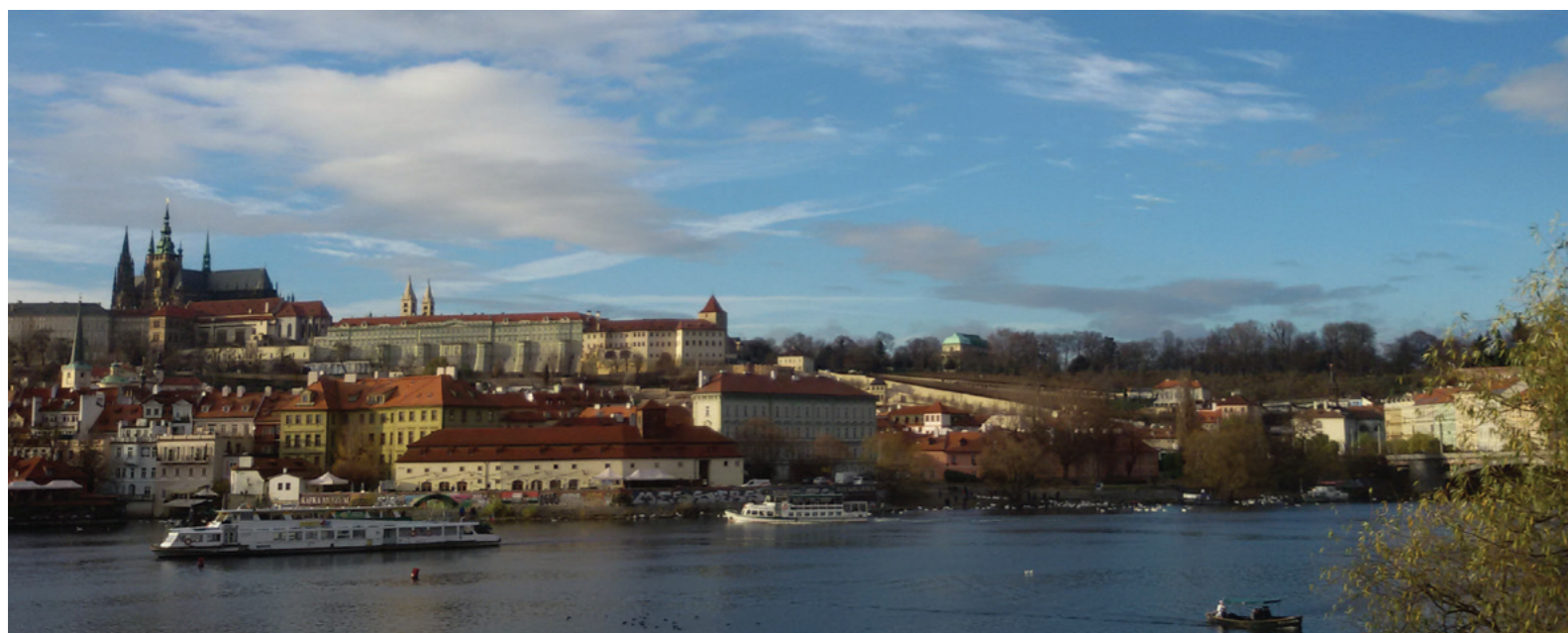
Doctoral researcher attends 7th Annual International Prague Conference on Asian Studies

Following the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) and the British International Studies Association (BISA) conferences in London last summer, I had the opportunity to participate in the 7th Annual International Prague Conference on Asian Studies in Prague, the Czech Republic. The conference took place on 20 November 2015 and was entitled 'Non-Traditional Security Issues in the Indo-Pacific: Threats and Opportunities'. It attracted delegates and scholars from various countries who share an interest in non-traditional security issues.

The conference programme showcased the complexity of human security issues, including economic challenges, food, health, environmental degradation, migration pressures, arms proliferation, transnational crime, water, energy security and personal, community and political security. The keynote speaker was Dr. Roy Smith from NTU who addressed the topic of existential threats and opportunities for the low-lying atoll states of the Pacific. The conference was described as a historic event as it was the first ever joint conference on non-traditional security issues organised by the Metropolitan University Prague and NTU.

I presented a paper entitled 'An Assessment of the Economic and Political Impacts of the Agadir Agreement: Promoting Peace and Stability in the Middle East and North Africa?' The paper was well received by the audience and inspired questions and debate. I received great feedback and was approached to work on joint future research. The conference provided a great opportunity to network with delegates, scholars and government officials from Prague, Vienna, Queensland, Frankfurt, Lodz and Brno. I also used the opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Prague, enjoy its classical music (Dvořák and Smetana) and its rich medieval and modern architecture and history.

Tarik Oumazzane,
Doctoral Researcher,
Division of Politics and International Relations.



MA Public Health students attend Health Through Peace conference

Last term four MA Public Health students attended the Health Through Peace conference in London. The School of Social Sciences provided funding for the students' travel to London to take part in the two-day event. MA Public Health students Sylvia and Jasper write about their experiences at the conference.

The Health Through Peace conference was a two-day event hosted by Medact, Saferworld, Oxford Research Group, Kings College London, Quakers in Britain, ICAN UK, Campaign Against Arms Trade and others, at which attendees could learn and take action on issues related to war, armed conflict and militarization. The event took place on the 13 and 14 November 2015 at Friends House in London.

The two-day conference aimed at discussing the role of health professionals in advocating for the abolition of nuclear weapons, arms proliferation, violence and the importance of health education for health workers. The conference discussed the impact of war and armed conflict; the need to deliver health care and protect health care workers; the protection of civilian, humanitarian and public health organisations in conflict and violent zones; as well as the relevance of unity among health professionals.

Professor Paul Rogers from Bradford School of Peace Studies and Oxford Research Group gave the opening lecture 'Global Trends of War, Violence and Conflict (1945-2045)'. In the course of this lecture, he outlined three world threats: militarization, widening economic divide and environmental degradation. Rogers argued these threats could hinder the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the only way to avert this would be the use of solar power, dialogue, understanding and promotion of peace. The rest of the conference sessions centred on these themes.

As Public Health students, attending the Health Through Peace conference gave us a broader perspective about public health. We learnt that a biomedical approach to public health is no longer sufficient in addressing the multifaceted health challenges facing humanity; what is needed is a multidisciplinary sociological approach.

The experience enabled us to understand our roles as public health professionals in the preservation and promotion of peace, which can only be achieved through dialogue and understanding and not through war. We now have knowledge of what inequality is, how it affects individuals and societies, and the ways in which inequality can be minimised or eradicated.

The conference furthered the knowledge that we had gained in the International Politics of Health module and supported our understanding of how the politics of states are being influenced by neoliberal, neo-colonial and realist perspectives. Our analytical and problem solving skills were enhanced due to various activities we engaged in during the conference.

Sylvia Ntamack Maput and Jasper Lawani,
MA Public Health students

BA (Hons) Health and Social Care students help influence Nottingham Health and Wellbeing Strategy



Students on the BA (Hons) Health and Social Care course helped influence the strategic direction of the next Nottingham Health and Wellbeing Strategy by taking part in a student focus group. The focus group was held on 27 November 2015 as part of the City Council's wider consultation on what is important to Nottingham citizens in relation to their health and wellbeing. The session was facilitated by James Rhodes, Strategy Insight Manager for Strategy and Commissioning at Nottingham City Council, alongside Tim Harrison and Ann McCarthy, Senior Lecturers in the School of Social Sciences.

The Health and Wellbeing Board are in the process of developing their next strategy for implementation this year. A key part of the development is ensuring that the strategy is informed by the views of citizens, service providers and frontline workers. The initial engagement has been designed to find out what is important to people in regards to health and wellbeing.

Tim Harrison, Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Care, said: "We were approached by James to see if we could help - the City Council had realised that within their wider consultation, the student population had not been considered. Health and Social Care students have an appreciation of the wider determinants of health via the public health messages conveyed in our teaching.

"The student focus group was made up of a diverse group of our student cohort. Through the process the volunteers gained valuable experience and realised the significance of their voice."

During the session the barriers to improving health and wellbeing were discussed. The students identified that the barriers preventing people from improving their health and wellbeing were applicable to the population in general, as opposed to being specific to students. They also identified that there could be more public health messages within the University, particularly around the issues most prevalent for them, such as alcohol, drugs and the associated vulnerability.

One of the major barriers identified by students was the accessibility of information, with individuals unaware of what was available in terms of services and activities in their local area. In response to this the students provided a range of suggestions including the creation of a single service directory, an orientation guide for new arrivals to the city and a single 'What's On' guide outlining the offer within communities and the city. They also suggested highlighting more health promotion messages through a variety of approaches, including adverts, campaigns, active engagement and workshops.



WHY COLLABORATION MATTERS

There is something axiomatic about the relationship between social sciences and the external world. Try to imagine what a School of Social Sciences would look like without any external collaboration. Say, for instance, an MSc Forensic Psychology with no links to prisons or secure units? Or a BA Criminology (Policing) without any relationship to the local police service? More generally, how far could we claim to be doing social science research in the absence of connecting with society at large?

At NTU we believe the study of social sciences is more than just an academic pursuit and collaborative working is at the heart of what we do. It benefits our students by providing opportunities to gain first hand work experience and the vital link between what is taught in the classroom and what matters on the ground. It benefits our academics by creating new opportunities to undertake life-changing research, and to ensure what we teach is grounded in the real world.

For us though, there is a broader goal and one that redefines the relationship between the University and our neighbours. This is articulated in NTU's strategic plan where 'enriching society' appears as one of its five key themes, a welcome move that signals a serious intent to "play a leading role in the social, cultural, economic and environmental development" of the city and beyond.

Our School sees itself as being active in enriching and influencing the lives of individuals, communities and societies. In so doing, we see ourselves as a key partner in challenging the most pressing social, civic, economic and moral challenges of our time. Such noble ambitions are impossible without meaningful partnerships with the communities we are part of.

The first step is to realise that a university can be much more than merely a passive presence in the place in which it is housed.

The University as a public good?

Despite the common sense relationship between social sciences and collaborative working, the history of deliberate and impactful university community engagement is patchy.

Universities undoubtedly make a contribution to the social and economic development of their immediate locale, not least through the economic contribution of students to a city for example. Schmuecker and Cook (2012) state that by simply being present in an area, universities provide a positive economic effect, though they acknowledge that this is a somewhat passive notion of 'contribution'. Beyond this, active engagement on the part of universities has normally been driven by the potential commercial opportunities for universities, with little strategic support for work with, say, disadvantaged communities. Consequently "university-community engagement remains peripheral in terms of universities' organisation, funding, management and strategic control, reducing their benefits for excluded communities" (Down et al 2010: 5). Hollander's work on universities and their contribution to civic education, found that where such work is developing, it is "doing so in the face of faculties with varying degrees of interest in civic education, knowledge of community-based learning methods, and pressures to put their time elsewhere" (Hollander, 2011: 174).

However, as Bamber and Hankin observe: "shifts are said to be occurring in higher education pedagogy, where efforts are being made to expand the social, cultural and human capital of universities and their local communities" (Bamber and Hankin, 2011: 190). As a result, there has been increased awareness of "the social responsibility of universities... third stream work with both employers and community groups is becoming

as much a part of the mission of many universities around the world as teaching and research" (Millican and Bourner 2011: 92).

What steps are we taking?

In the School of Social Sciences, we've taken some bold steps in the past few years to cement a more meaningful relationship with the outside world and to build on the already evident good practice of working externally. There are a number of principles that underpin the approaches we take.

Our partnerships are mutually beneficial

Our starting point has always been to move beyond narrow commercial self-interest. We recognise that the School has within it a huge resource – the genuine opportunities to use research, expertise, staff and student time to make a real difference. In return, we benefit enormously in the ways that we described at the start of this article.

A good example of this is our relationship with HMP Whatton, led by Professor Belinda Winder in Psychology. This partnership started out by Belinda offering to support the work of Whatton through undertaking small projects and giving advice at no cost to the prison. Some ten years later, the two institutions underpin one of the most innovative and pioneering approaches to addressing sexual offending – an award-winning social enterprise called The Safer Living Foundation.

The benefits have been enormous for all involved, with genuine and lasting impact on policy and practice, and huge opportunities for NTU staff and students to undertake new research.

Our partners are experts too

We try to avoid the trap of believing that universities have all the answers, especially when it comes to solving the grand challenges of our time. For us, working in partnership

means bringing different forms of knowledge, expertise, resources and power together – in something we would call 'co-production'.

For example, we're proud to be founding members of Nottingham Citizens, an alliance of over 43 different civil society organisations. Each year, this alliance undertakes extensive research on what issues need to be addressed in Nottingham and takes action together in response. Over the past two years, 100s of NTU students and staff have been involved.

Working with this diverse group puts us on an equal footing with trade unions, churches, mosques, temples, community groups and charities. No one voice is more powerful and everybody's expertise is valued.

Finally, we want to make an impact

Both examples show that making a difference is at the heart of why we work collaboratively. I am impressed on a daily basis by the work that our staff and students do. From groundbreaking discoveries in research through to fantastic examples of social action, there are so many great stories we need to share with the world.

Our partnerships enable us to do this – they connect us beyond the corridors of NTU to networks that stretch across the city, beyond the region and across the world.



Dr Jason Pandya-Wood is Head of Sociology and the School Lead for Strategic Partnerships.

The Safer Living Foundation: A partnership between HMP Whatton and the School of Social Sciences

HMP Whatton is one of the largest sex offender prisons in Europe, holding 840 adult men, all of whom have either been convicted of a sexual offence or have shown sexual elements and motivations to their offending. The prisoners include men from every walk of life, as Lynn Saunders, the Governor of HMP Whatton has affirmed: "We've got everybody here you could imagine, vicars, teachers, airline pilots, police officers, prison officers, doctors... people with learning disabilities, people who have low IQ and people with complex mental health problems."

The School of Social Sciences has a very close relationship with Whatton, such that ten members of the Division of Psychology 'draw keys' - that is, have ongoing access to the prison on a daily basis for their research. The Sexual Offences, Crime and Misconduct Research Unit (SOCAMRU) in the Division of Psychology has its own office space in the prison, meaning university staff are now part of the furniture. Ongoing research projects there range from the national evaluation of the use of anti-libidinal medication with sexual offenders and understanding the role of religiosity for prisoners, to identifying what makes a therapeutic climate within a prison and looking at the relationship between personality disorder and sexual offending.

On 13 February 2014 the School of Social Sciences set up a registered charity with HMP Whatton. This charity is the Safer Living Foundation (SLF) (www.saferlivingfoundation.org) and is the first of its kind worldwide. The charity was formed as a joint venture between senior prison staff and academics, and established with the support of Sean Macaskill in NTU's enterprise centre, The Hive. The charity's objectives

are to promote the protection of people from, and the prevention of, sexual crime and to promote the rehabilitation of persons who have committed or who are likely to commit sexual offences against others.

The charity's initial project was to run the first ever prison-based Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) for high risk, elderly (55+) and intellectually disabled male sex offenders. Managed by a Volunteer Co-ordinator, a Circle is a group of four volunteers who meet regularly with a sex offender (the Core Member) to offer social, practical and emotional support, in addition to monitoring and supervision. The charity's first three Circles are coming to an end, with ex-prisoners settled and stable, and importantly, they remain offence-free. Fourteen Circles are currently in progress, with more starting each month.

"The charity's first three Circles are coming to an end, with ex-prisoners settled and stable, and importantly, they remain offence-free".

The charity has two more projects in development: a prevention project which offers treatment for individuals who are concerned that they may be about to offend, perhaps because of their attraction to children; and a Young Person's Circles projects for adolescents demonstrating sexually harmful behaviour.

One of the most valuable tools we have in helping us understand what works are the prisoners themselves. SOCAMRU runs the first sexual

offender service user research and evaluation group in the UK to pre-check research that is carried out at the prison. We see this as a vital part of good research and the relationship between the prison and the University would not be complete without a relationship between prisoners and the University.

"We see this as a vital part of good research and the relationship between the prison and the University would not be complete without a relationship between prisoners and the University"

Whilst researching sexual crime may not be for everyone, for those students keen to engage with this challenging area, there are other opportunities made possible through the partnership between the prison and the University. Postgraduate and PhD students from the School conduct their research projects within the prison, typically publishing them on completion, as their work has made a tangible contribution to the evidence base on sexual offending.

Final year undergraduate students studying the module 'The Psychology of Sex Offending' will be visiting HMP Whatton, where the students will talk to the governor, Lynn Saunders, and meet some of the prison psychology team. Later in the term our MSc Forensic Psychology students will not only meet the governor and clinicians, but also get to spend some time with

some of the prisoners – and have the unparalleled opportunity to apply some of the learning about theories as to why people offend sexually, by talking one on one (under the watchful eyes of ourselves) to sex offenders. Academics from NTU also supervise and conduct teaching at Whatton, whilst psychologists and staff from Whatton come and teach in the School for one-off guest lectures.

There seems so much more to say about the bridges we are building between the University and Whatton. Sufficient to say, these are exciting times, and the opportunity to 'shape lives and society' through focusing on real needs and challenges, as per NTU's mission statement, and particularly that of the School of Social Sciences, is one that resonates strongly through all of us.

Belinda Winder, Rebecca Lievesley, Nicholas Blagden, Helen Elliott, Jessica Faulkner

Notes

The SLF has received a number of plaudits for its pioneering work and in 2015 was awarded The Robin Corbett Award for Prisoner Rehabilitation.

Fundraising event

NTU staff can attend a fundraising event as part of their volunteering work (with manager's permission) on 12 April 2016 from 1.15 pm onwards. We are looking for 30 individuals to volunteer and the event will involve team challenges and activities at Whatton prison. Please contact Belinda Winder: belinda.winder@ntu.ac.uk for more information.

Working together: Nottingham Citizens and the Division of Sociology

Bilal Hussain, full-time Community Organiser with Nottingham Citizens and NTU alumnus, and Andrea Lyons-Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Sociology reflect on the value of this collaboration.

The opening phrase of the preamble to the United States constitution is "we the people". These three words go further in explaining the core of our work than any other phrase. Nottingham Citizens is made up of 40 civic institutions from faith-based organisations to schools, colleges and trade unions. We are a broad based organisation that works on finding commonality between diverse groups in an effort to break down divisions and perceptions of the other in order to find problems and issues that are akin to us all, building alliances of leaders that work to eradicate the ills they face.

Growing up I was told that the sum of my worth would be to find a job on the conveyor belt in a factory; I didn't understand that someone like me could go on to be a part of a team that changed the landscape of

hate crime in Nottingham. I went on a journey that started with training in leadership, action and negotiation and culminated with being able to share with an audience of 300 people, the story of how my father was attacked in a racially motivated hate crime.

Being an NTU student and part of a team in Nottingham Citizens showed me that "we the people" could get the change we deserve if we all stood with one another and acted together. I graduated in economics from NTU last July and started working as a full-time paid organiser with Nottingham Citizens in November 2015.

Bilal Hussain, Community Organiser with Nottingham Citizens

NTU is a member of Nottingham Citizens, and many colleagues, especially in the School of Social Sciences have been involved with a variety of joint projects with the organisation.

In the Division of Sociology we have service learning modules for our second year Sociology and

Criminology students and for MA Sociology students, where they work on projects with local community and voluntary groups and apply and extend their disciplinary skills and knowledge at the same time. This academic year will be the third year in a row that we have run a service learning project in collaboration with Nottingham Citizens. This year it will be on the participation of the local Muslim community in public life.

Our engagement with Nottingham Citizens allows us to do "organic public sociology" (Buroway, 2005), working with local community organisations, in partnership with students, to tackle issues of social justice where the sociologist works "in close connection with a visible, thick, active, local and often counter-public" (p 7, 2005). In our Division we have a research cluster dedicated to public sociology and community engagement and a Masters in Public Sociology.

NTU's engagement with Nottingham Citizens is beneficial for the institution and for the individual staff and students who get involved. It allows NTU to be

part of a sustainable network of civil society groups across the city, allowing us to learn from other organisations and to develop collaborative projects, whether for students' learning or for research.

For staff and students who've worked with Nottingham Citizens it can be an enriching experience meeting people from all walks of life. Last year some of our students organised a chalk walk to raise awareness of street harassment as part of their collaboration with Nottingham Citizens, and learnt some valuable lessons about leadership, event organising, media management, public relations and more. I personally have found myself in all sorts of fascinating and unlikely scenarios in my work with Nottingham Citizens – for example dressed as Robin Hood outside Paul Smith's shop in Nottingham as part of the living wage campaign or sharing a platform with Paddy Tipping, Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottingham.

Andrea Lyons-Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Sociology



Social Work student helps raise awareness about mental health in Nottingham

BA (Hons) Social Work student Lauren Hunt talks about her experience of supporting Carnival Mad 15, an event which aims to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing.

On Saturday 10 October an exciting event took place in a usually quiet academic space in Nottingham. The Institute of Mental Health kindly made their space available for Carnival Mad 15, a tumultuous celebration of Mad Pride that took place in the heart of the University of Nottingham's Jubilee campus. Described in the run up to the event as a "heady mix of conference and carnival", the event certainly lived up to its name.

Carnival Mad 15 is the brainchild of local organisations Making Waves and Open Futures. The event takes place every year as a part of Nottingham's Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW), the purpose being to raise the awareness of mental health and wellbeing and to reduce stigma (MHAW, 2015).

The title 'Carnival Mad' comes from Mad Pride, a movement created by survivors of mental illness and mental distress that aims to challenge long standing societal prejudice and stigma. Schrader et al, (2013) describe the movement as a shared culture and discuss how it has solidified an active socio-political minority identity.

With mental health services experiencing cuts (Buchanan, 2015), bed shortages (McNicoll, 2014), ward closures (BBC, 2015) and uncertainty (Ham, 2015), there couldn't be a better time to promote a positive shared identity among those affected.

"The title 'Carnival Mad' comes from Mad Pride, a movement created by survivors of mental illness and mental distress that aims to challenge long standing societal prejudice and stigma."

My involvement with the event began after I approached Matthew Gough, one of the principle lecturers in Social Work in the School of Social Sciences, with the idea of creating an interactive exhibition to explore the impact of mental health upon individuals and society. Matthew listened to my ideas and suggested that I approach local organisation Making Waves to see if they would be interested in working with me.

Matthew supported me to become involved and continued to offer direction and advice throughout the entire process. As a Social Work student, a keen artist and advocate for the disadvantaged in life, it was with great enthusiasm that I was able to participate in an event that not only celebrated my values and ethos towards mental health, but also encouraged community participation and helped to raise awareness.

Carnival Mad 15 took place on World Mental Health Day, a global celebration of education, awareness and advocacy. The event consisted of a wide range of talks, performances, presentations, workshops and activities, all geared around promoting the voices of those

who have experience of mental distress. Visitors heard powerful tales of recovery, transformation, trauma and transcendence. Through artistic performances, spoken word, dancing and a musical procession that incorporated ritualistic chants, visitors were able to explore the impact of stigma, the depth of human experience, survival and acceptance.

As part of the event, an interactive art exhibition called Face Value showcased local artistic works, created by people drawing upon their own experiences of mental health.

Face Value is a concept that aims to explore the themes surrounding a particular subject beyond its surface value. Artists came forward to contribute to the display from many differing perspectives and through a huge variety of mediums.

I was involved in organising the content of the exhibition, which was one of the highlights of my involvement with the Carnival. It offered me the opportunity to meet people and hear their stories. It was fascinating to hear people's different ideas and support them in their journey to create works of art that fitted the theme of the event.

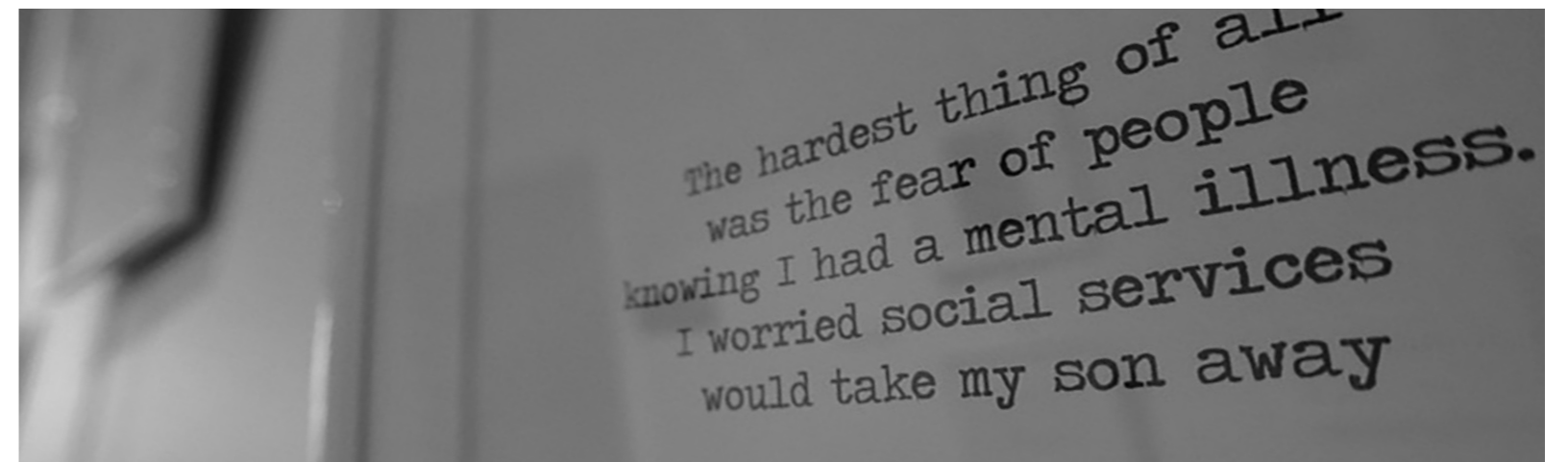


I had never curated an exhibition prior to this and I had a lot to learn, but the staff at the Institute of Mental Health were incredibly helpful in supporting me.

The exhibition was opened up to the public through a local artist troupe, The MollyQueen Collective. Founded in 2007, the collective's main function is to unite the local community through creativity, encouraging active participation in regular community events.

In addition to providing a platform for creativity and the exploration of mental health, the event aimed to promote the services of local charities and organisations that support people experiencing mental health problems.

Open House (2015) is a local charitable organisation set up to support mothers experiencing maternal mental health problems, anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder. Open House exhibited their work entitled 'It's not the baby blues', a wonderful series of photographs depicting the reality of how post-natal depression affects people's lives. In collaboration



with photographer Paul Dale and artist Debra Urbacz, the exhibition explored the personal survival stories of ten women. Handmade books accompanied each of the photographs, which shed further light on the personal stories of these women.

Being part of Carnival Mad 15 has been a highly rewarding and valuable addition to my studies. I feel very grateful for being offered the opportunity to be involved in such an event and for having the chance to meet so many fantastic people doing so many amazing things. I also feel humbled by the strength and resilience that survivors of mental health distress exhibit.



I would recommend the experience to all students, studying any course; get out there and get involved with events that link in to your course, there is no better way to learn.

I feel passionate about challenging prejudice and discrimination surrounding mental health. As a Social Work student, I am daunted by the fact that I will be entering a profession where I will want to be able to offer the services that people need, while knowing that budgets and structural constraints will impact on the availability of such services. Learning about this in lectures is one thing, but hearing the reality of this from someone who has experienced it first hand is another thing entirely.

"I feel passionate about challenging prejudice and discrimination surrounding mental health."

Although there is stereotypically a dark cloud hovering over the field of mental health, there is also a lot of positive action taking place. Brilliant organisations like Breakthrough Initiative exist to celebrate and encourage positive practice with a recognition and award scheme (Breakthrough, 2014). World Mental Health Day takes place each year to bring current themes within mental health to the forefront, such as this year's theme, Dignity in Mental Health (MHF, 2015). Nottingham's own Mental Health Awareness Week extends over two weeks to incorporate the amount of input and positive happenings that occur in the city. As a part of that, Carnival Mad 16 sits nestled firmly into the agenda for next year.

Lauren Hunt,
BA (Hons) Social Work student

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MA Politics student and competition winner attends the World Expo 2015 in Milan

In Milan, Italy between 1 May and 31 October 2015, the scene was set for the World Exhibition Expo 2015. 145 countries participated, as well as several NGOs (non-government organisations), corporations and international organisations, all showing off their contributions to this year's main theme: Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life. All participants had created exhibitions that link their nation or organisation to the past, the present and most importantly, the future of food.

I was given the incredible opportunity to visit this event after winning the Green Academy Expo competition with my article 'Sustainable Food Production - The focus on organic farming in agricultural policy'. I based this article on one of the conclusions in my masters dissertation, arguing that agricultural policy in many cases focuses too much on the very narrow organic concept in farming policies. Instead, more focus should be put on sustainable agriculture in order to incorporate farming practices that might be sustainable but not organic. The organic concept leaves out aspects such as social equity and economic security for farmers. If we could widen the definition we would be one step closer to the sustainable food production system the world so desperately needs.

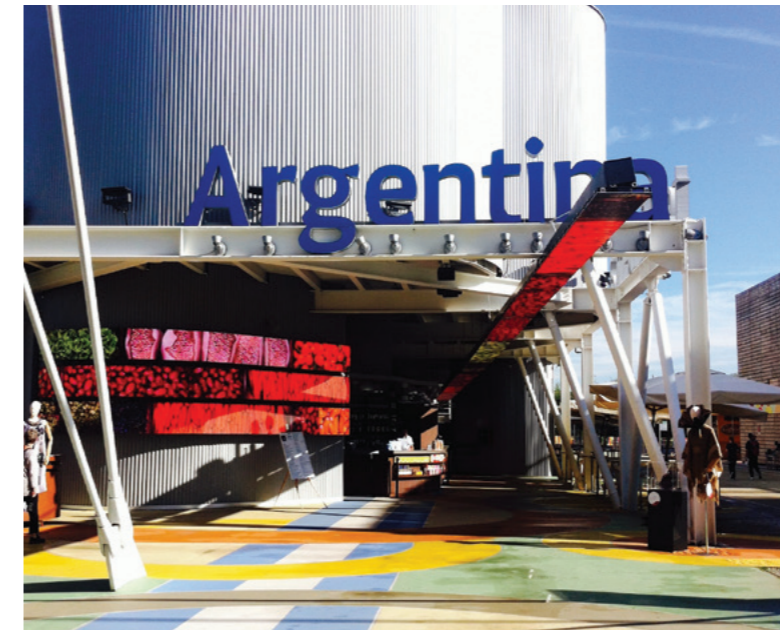
“More focus should be put on sustainable agriculture in order to incorporate farming practices that might be sustainable but not organic.”

Each of the participants in Expo 2015 produced different exhibitions showing how the dilemmas around the modern day food production system can be faced and how future issues can be solved. The challenge of securing future generations' access to food by creating a sustainable food production system

is more acute than ever, and the goal of the Expo 2015 was to raise awareness about the solutions available and to get sustainable food production on the global agenda. Food production is something that affects everyone and is something that was reflected in the number of countries that were represented at Expo 2015.

The exhibition area was located about 10 miles northwest of Milan. The area, previously dominated by agricultural and industrial land, had been completely transformed into a state of the art exposition site, with a brand new train station, tramlines, metro station and a comprehensive road network. The exhibition site itself covered an area of 1.1 million square metres and had the capacity to welcome 250,000 visitors every day. It consisted of a main boulevard, surrounded by smaller streets, water and green areas. The final cost was estimated to be a staggering 1.3 billion euros (about 930 million pounds) and was mainly financed by contributions from participating countries, sponsors and ticket sales.

The Expo Milan was a global affair - something that was made clear the moment you entered the gigantic exhibition area. Through elaborate architecture and creative exhibitions, each of the participating countries and organisations were trying their best to stand out from the competition and attract the most visitors. There was a sense of rivalry between the participants, with everyone trying to outshine each other through architectural creativity and eye-catching art installations. The most dazzling creations were in fact the best visited, whilst the less eye-catching pavilions received a lot less attention, despite their important messages and exhibitions. Each nation tackled the topic of sustainable food production from their own unique, national angle and the different pavilions offered traditional food and local produce from each country or region.



One of the largest exhibitions was the Future Food District, an interactive showcase that discussed the future of how we produce and consume food. A model of a supermarket had been built which showed how technological advances will help people to become more aware of the choices they make when consuming and preparing food. The exhibition also showed how to create more efficient sources of protein, that could help us move away from the unsustainable, large-scale meat production that we rely on for protein today. (Inside tip: it might be a good idea to start getting used to the idea of eating insects).

“To create a sustainable food production system is not a choice, it's a necessity.”

Another trend, not just in the Future Food District but also seen on a number of different pavilions, was so-called vertical farming, a concept that would solve the current issue with land scarcity and degrading soil in many parts of the world. Instead of growing crops on the ground, space would be utilised that in other cases would be lost, such as house facades and walls. This would create possibilities for urban agriculture, which would not only lead to a wider range of locally produced vegetables, herbs and fruits in cities, but also create cleaner air in urban areas and an adequate solution to the dilemma of access to fertile soil. The Future Food District also touched on the subject of the United Nations Zero Hunger Challenge, an action plan with the goal to eliminate hunger in the next couple of decades through sustainable production systems and by eliminating waste and achieving global, equal access to food.

The Biodiversity Park was located in one of the more hidden corners of the exposition site and was sadly one of the areas with the least visitors, despite the very important message this exhibition was trying to convey. The current food production system is degrading biodiversity and the problem needs a solution. A giant hourglass in the middle of the pavilion demonstrated how we are running out of time; every year 27,000 species of animals and vegetables become extinct, and if we don't do something about this problem soon, it will be too late. Biodiversity is one of the most important things for a sustainable food system. It gives us healthier ecosystems, a greater variety of crops and a better resilience towards pests and natural disasters, something this exhibition managed to present in a simple and direct manner.

Will the Expo 2015 matter? It is a spectacle, no doubt about it, and the main question is if the message about sustainable food systems and the future challenges we are faced with is lost amongst the flashy pavilions and commerciality. Hopefully the theme of the Expo 2015 will live on in visitors' minds, at least for a little while, and make people more aware of their own relationship with food. To create a sustainable food production system is not a choice, it's a necessity. To be able to guarantee food security for future generations, whilst adjusting to the natural limits the planet sets up for humanity is an acute issue and the seriousness of the situation cannot be emphasised enough. Most people seem to be more mesmerised by the stunning architecture and the extravagant exhibitions than concerned about the underlying theme of the Expo, but hopefully visitors will take away key parts of the message about sustainable food. The topic is important and the Expo 2015 has played an important part in bringing sustainable food production up on the global agenda and inspiring people to take the necessary precautions in order to create a more sustainable future for the entire planet.

Top tips to help you ace that interview

Interviews are one of the most stressful parts of the job application process. Whilst you can spend hours refining your CV and drafting your job application, what happens in the interview room is – in many ways – out of your control. However powerless the prospect of an interview might make you feel, there are plenty of things you can do to make sure that you're prepared. We've put some top tips together to help you do just that!

Do your research

Find out about the company that you're applying to work for. Often the company website is the best place to start. Whilst you need to have a good idea about what the organisation does, how they work and why you would like to work for them, see if you can dig a little deeper. Look at the news or events pages to find out about recent success stories from within the organisation or the company's next big venture. By having a thorough knowledge of the company, you'll demonstrate your conscientiousness and your enthusiasm for the role.

Get to know the sector

Getting to grips with the company's sector can be really useful in an interview scenario. It can demonstrate your understanding of the business environment and show that you are really clued-up on how the organisation fits into the wider market. Find out about the key issues and big debates affecting this area of work and see if you can talk about these in relation to the role that you are applying for.

Re-visit the job description

Take another look at the job description and – if applicable – the person specification. Think about the skills and qualities your potential employer is looking for and come up with examples of when you have demonstrated these skills. These examples don't necessarily have to be from work-based scenarios; there will be plenty of skills that you have acquired during your time at university that can evidence your suitability for a role. You can't accurately predict the sorts of questions your interviewer might ask but the job description might give you some clues.

Practice your interview skills

Practice might not make perfect, but it can certainly make you feel more confident and self-assured. There are plenty of websites where you can look at example interview questions. Spend some time going through some practice questions and thinking of the answers you might give. You can also prepare by asking a friend or relative to give you a mock interview.

Prepare your own questions for the interviewer

Make sure that you have thought of some questions that you would like to ask your interviewer. These can be related specifically to the role that you are applying for, or to some aspect of the company that you are interested in finding out more about. It's really important to go into your interview with a few questions already prepared. You don't want to ask a question that your interviewer has already answered!

Finally, there are simple things that you can do to make sure that your interview day is as stress free as possible. Plan your journey in advance to make sure that you arrive at your interview on time. Don't just rely on Google Maps to get you there; make sure you have a hard copy map or the address and location of your interview written down, just in case technology fails. Ensure that you take all the information that you need with you, especially if you are asked to bring along things like degree certificates and a form of ID.

Above all, don't panic! You have the skills and the knowledge that your potential employer is looking for, this is just another opportunity for you to demonstrate what you can do.

Upcoming Succeed with Social Sciences 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.

Careers and Postgraduate Study in Politics and / or International Relations

Wednesday 2 March 2016,
1.30 pm – 4 pm, Newton building

Run in conjunction with the University of Nottingham, this event will give you the opportunity to find out about careers in politics, international relations and related disciplines.

Careers and Postgraduate Study in Criminal Justice

Wednesday 9 March 2016,
1.30 pm – 3 pm, Newton LT5

This event will give you the opportunity to discover the roles that are open to you in the criminal justice field. Hear from local criminal justice practitioners working in a range of settings and get advice and information that will help you pursue a career in criminal justice.

For more information visit www.ntu.ac.uk/swss

Careers and Postgraduate Study in Health, Guidance and Social Support

Wednesday 16 March 2016,
1.30 pm – 3 pm, Newton LT1

Find out about the wealth of opportunities on offer to graduates within the health, guidance and social care sector. This event will cover a range of roles, including those in the NHS and with private and charitable providers.

Broadening Graduate Horizons – An insight into possible careers

Wednesday 23 March 2016,
1 pm – 5 pm, Newton building

At this event employers and NTU graduates will share their experiences of managing their career paths. You'll also have the chance to network with a range of employers.

60 seconds with... Dean Penford



Tell us about your role as careers consultant for the School of Social Sciences.

As careers consultant I offer advice and guidance relevant to all aspects of employability. I also develop and deliver a range of employability and careers education sessions including, but not exclusively limited to, practical application sessions.

What aspect of your role do you most enjoy?

I feel that it is a great privilege to be involved in a young person's life and help them plan for their future. There is a great deal of job satisfaction when a student gets the job opportunity they have applied for.

What was your first job after graduating from university?

After I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Career Guidance at NTU I was employed with what used to be

the Derbyshire Careers Service as a careers adviser in schools.

Tell us something that Social Sciences students may not know about you.

Something that many Social Sciences students may not know is that my first name is Christopher! Dean is actually my middle name.

What has been the most challenging thing you have ever done?

The most challenging thing I have done was to overcome my stammer. It wasn't until I was around 20, or 21 years old, that I managed to do this. Part of this was due to finally being able to accept my stammer and not trying to hide it. By making myself engage in conversation and having the confidence to not feel embarrassed about it, I was able to gradually overcome it.

What is your favourite pastime?

I collect rare northern soul records. Because of the rare records that I own, I have had the opportunity to DJ at various clubs in London and Manchester.

What advice would you offer to Social Sciences students regarding their employability?

I would advise Social Sciences students to believe in their ability to achieve success, whatever that might mean to them. I would tell them to take their ambitions seriously and not to dismiss them simply because they might seem difficult to achieve. I would also tell them to recognise that although it takes effort, if you believe in yourself and put the effort in, you can succeed on your own terms.

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey

What is the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey?

The Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey collects information on what recent graduates from NTU and other higher education institutions across the UK are doing six months after qualifying from their course. All graduates are asked to complete the survey, whether they are UK, EU or International students, and the survey includes those on both full-time and part-time courses.

What questions will I be asked?

The survey takes place annually and you will be asked a series of questions about what you are doing, including any employment or further study that you are undertaking. We are interested in finding out about the employment that is most important and relevant to your career trajectory, even if this is not your main source of income or principle job role. For example, you may be working full-time as a marketing assistant, but feel that your most important activity is the work you are doing to set up your own business in your spare time.

Why is it important?

The DLHE survey is important because it allows us to learn more about the experiences of our graduates. The information informs teaching and learning across the University and enables us to tell current students about the employment opportunities available to them.

Find out more at www.ntu.ac.uk/dlhe

‘The Future of Integrated Care’: A guest lecture by Professor David Croisdale-Appleby OBE

On Tuesday 3 November the School of Social Sciences was delighted to welcome Professor David Croisdale-Appleby to NTU for his guest lecture ‘The Future of Integrated Care: Realising the value for healthcare, social care and social work in contemporary society’.

Professor Croisdale-Appleby is deeply involved in health and social care policy, with a particular interest in the role of social work in making the integration of healthcare and social care a reality. He holds many national and international roles, and has chaired international conferences on social care.

In his guest lecture Professor David Croisdale-Appleby set out his view of the numerous political drivers influencing policy in relation to the integrated care agenda. In doing so, David drew on his involvement in informing and influencing policy and the initiatives in which he has occupied leadership positions.

The lecture considered how innovations such as those contributed by David, including

his work in dementia care, support for those with learning disabilities, general practice, hospital discharge and social work education, can serve the health and social care profession itself. He went on to suggest how we can address the challenges of commissioning and providing integrated care in the future.

Professor Di Bailey, Head of the Division of Social Work and Health said: “This was a really interesting and thought provoking lecture, which will inform the way we design our health and social care curricula moving forward.

“The opportunity to think about integrated care as rather like Alice in Wonderland’s garden was a novel approach, which made the challenges associated with integration seem achievable. Also of note was the international perspective David brought to the topic. This was really illuminating as there is much we can learn from our global community.”

Sylvia Lancaster, Chief Executive of the Sophie Lancaster Foundation, speaks to staff and students



The School of Social Sciences welcomed Sylvia Lancaster, Chief Executive of the Sophie Lancaster Foundation to NTU on Friday 4 December 2015.

The Sophie Lancaster Foundation was set up in response to the murder of Sylvia’s daughter, Sophie, in August 2007. Sophie was targeted solely because of her alternative appearance.

Dr Irene Zempi, Lecturer in Criminology in the Division of Sociology, said: “Since Sophie’s death on 24 August 2007, following the horrific attack on her and her

partner Rob in Stubbylee Park, Bacup, Lancashire, the Sophie Lancaster Foundation was set up in order to challenge the intolerance and prejudice faced by alternative subcultures.

“Sylvia spoke from a personal perspective about Sophie’s murder, the trial and the work that the Foundation has undertaken. It was a deeply moving, inspirational and informative talk.”

To find out more about the Sophie Lancaster Foundation visit www.sophielancasterfoundation.com

The Division of Sociology welcomes local community partners to the Service Learning Fair

On 25 November the Division of Sociology welcomed a range of local community partners to NTU to take part in the Service Learning Fair. The fair is linked to the Service Learning module – a core module for students studying on the BA (Hons) Sociology, BA (Hons) Criminology and MA Sociology courses. This module gives students the chance to take part in a focused piece of work with a local organisation, presenting them with an opportunity to apply their academic knowledge and the skills acquired throughout their degree to respond to authentic community needs.

The purpose of the fair was to provide partner organisations with a forum to present their projects and engage directly with the students. Organisations that attended included Himmah, a grassroots community-based organisation that deals with issues of race, poverty and educational inequalities, Catch 22, which works with a range of vulnerable people and Roots Up, an organisation that aims to empower local people and work in participatory ways to promote a sense of identity and community in Nottingham.

The event gave students the opportunity to speak to representatives from the partner organisations and get a feel for the range of projects on offer.

This year there are 32 projects that students have the opportunity to engage with and 200 students working with community partners within the city of Nottingham. The projects not only enable students to gain experience of addressing contemporary social challenges experienced at a local level, but also facilitate meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships between the University and participating organisations.

Sharon Hutchings, Senior Lecturer in the Division of Sociology, said: “It was a joy to see our students and community partners so engaged in conversations and excited about their service learning projects.” The students began working on their service learning projects in January 2016.

Find out more about the BA (Hons) Sociology, BA (Hons) Criminology and MA Sociology courses by visiting www.ntu.ac.uk/s3



Upcoming events

A guest lecture by Dr Lucy Johnstone

Wednesday 9 March 2016, 6 pm – 7.30 pm

Dr Lucy Johnstone is a clinical psychologist and trainer with extensive experience of working in adult mental health. In this lecture Lucy will discuss the implications of the major shift in our understanding of severe mental distress and suggest possible routes forward.

Find out more at: www.ntu.ac.uk/lucyjohnstone

Postgraduate and Professional Open Events

Wednesday 16 March 2016, 4 pm – 6 pm

Wednesday 22 June 2016, 4 pm – 6 pm

Our open events are a fantastic opportunity to get a taste of what it is like studying on one of our postgraduate and professional courses. You will have the chance to discuss your study options and career plans with a member of academic staff and find out more about fees and funding opportunities.

Find out more at: www.ntu.ac.uk/s3openevent

Middle East and North Africa Research Cluster Third Annual Conference (MENA)

Security, Insecurity and Prospects for Peace in the Middle East and North Africa

Thursday 7 April 2016

MENA studies have a long tradition of examining security issues in terms of state interests and interstate politics, focusing primarily on high politics. There is clear value in this and the conference will adopt a broad approach to examining the challenges facing both state and non-state actors in the region. The conference will examine the prospects for peace in the MENA as a whole and in its sub-regions. It will also consider a range of political, economic, security, socio-cultural and environmental issues that lay at the heart of the instability the region is experiencing. This conference will bring together scholars from different fields of study to consider these issues by using varying theoretical and methodological approaches.

Find out more at: www.ntu.ac.uk/mena2016



So...

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES MAGAZINE

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