Hello!!!!!!!

Hello to you all from the School of Psychology at Keele! We have had another busy six months since our Christmas newsletter.

We have had some staff leave whilst new members have joined us. We say a fond farewell to Dr Mark Tarrant who leaves us for Exeter University – good luck Mark! But we are very happy to welcome Dr Jim Grange who joined us in July after completing his PhD at Bangor University. His research interests largely encompass executive functions (cognitive control), but he is particularly interested in the control of working memory contents during rapid task switching. Jim is currently setting up the "Keele Cognitive Control Lab", which in time will comprise of students and other researchers interested in the processes enabling flexible cognitive control. Jim is keen to hear from any undergraduates/postgraduates who are interested in getting involved in this research. You can visit the website of the Keele Cognitive Control Lab and find contact details for Jim at http://cognitivecontrol.web.officelive.com.

We also welcome Dr. Serena Petrocchi from Malano, Italy. Serena will be working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow on the Marie Curie Grant, "Paediatric Medical Trust" in collaboration with Professor Ken Rothenberg and Dr Sally Sargeant (School of Psychology, Keele University), Professor Warren Lenney (University Hospital of North Staffordshire), Dr. Lesley Rimington (Health and Rehabilitation, Keele University), and Ms. Jenny Versnel (Executive Director, Research and Policy of Asthma UK). Serena received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in 2008.

Congratulations are due to PhD student Annelies van Goethem and to our e-learning fellow Pete Lonsdale who have both recently successfully defended their theses. Pete’s thesis is titled “Design and evaluation of mobile games to support active and reflective learning outdoors”. Pete’s interest in facilitating learning using online technologies is further reflected in a recent award of £600 to him, Dr Chris Stiff and Dr Alex Lamont from the Teaching Innovations fund for 2010-11 for the PsyText project. The PsyText project will be exploring the effectiveness of using mobile text messaging to support interactive asynchronous activities, and will include research into the educational affordances of this technology for supporting psychology teaching as part of the project evaluation.

Dr Richard Stephens continues to generate interest in the media with his swearing research, whilst Dr Claire Fox (together with Dr David Gadd in Criminology) has been awarded a prestigious ESRC award to investigate domestic violence.

You can read all about this research and more in the pages below. We hope you enjoy!

Happy Holidays!

Eds.
The Economic and Social Research Council has announced that it will fund a major new research study on what can be done to stop more young men becoming perpetrators of domestic violence in later life. The research study will run over the next three years and be based in North Staffordshire. The study will be led by Drs Claire Fox (Psychology) and David Gadd (Criminology) at Keele University, in collaboration with Ian Butler, Professor of Social Work at the University of Bath.

The main aim of the research is to produce an answer to the question as to why some young men grow up to be perpetrators of domestic abuse - and to learn more about how we can prevent them from becoming reliant on a range of violent, controlling and threatening behaviours. There are three key elements to the research design.

An attitudinal scale, together with questions about victimization and offending, will be administered to 1200 school children.

Focus groups will be conducted with teenagers about the circumstances in which violence becomes regarded as acceptable and unacceptable.

In-depth interviews will be conducted with 30 young men aged 16-19 who have either suffered domestic violence in their own homes, and/or have perpetrated it against their own partners.

The study is particularly timely as it comes ahead of the planned roll out of compulsory domestic violence education in the UK from 2012. It will also be of paramount local significance. The project team will provide a quasi-experimental evaluation of the Relationships Without Fear Programme currently provided to children in North Staffordshire by Arch. They will also host a series of best practice events over its duration aimed at developing dialogue between practitioners working in this field and establishing best practice guidance for those working with young people at risk of victimization or becoming offenders. A multi-agency steering group will be formed shortly to support the project. The role of the steering group will be to: ensure the research team adopts safe and collaborative working practices in conjunction with local practitioner organisations; to identify the kinds of events and guidance the project should develop in order to support organisations working locally and nationally in the field of domestic abuse prevention; to maximise the benefits of the research to those working within the locality.

Further details are available on request from:

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Dutch Care Farms—John Hegarty

With the ageing population frequently in the news, and the consequent challenge of keeping people active and out of (expensive) hospital or social care services, the Dutch model of providing day support and opportunities on ordinary working farms is potentially of great interest to the UK. These are “zorgboerderij” (care farm) and are an established part of the independent sector of care and support in Holland, with over a 1000 catering for people with various special needs (learning disability, mental health issues, drug rehabilitation etc) and over 100 farms specifically for older people.

There are currently no care farms for older people in the UK and there is a need for a pilot that, as a piece of action research as well as a working service delivering day opportu-

nities, would test the concept in the UK. To gain first-hand experience of care farms for older people my wife and I visited 8 care farms in Eastern Holland and stayed at one (with resident owl in loft overhead – slightly unnerving!).

The overall experience was extremely positive. We saw established, friendly day services on tidy, modern farms/smallholdings each catering for up to about 15 people. Unusually, the majority of the older people attending were men. The typical model was a converted farm building with lounge, dining and activity areas with workshop, poly-tunnel and garden outside. These were small businesses, farm diversifications, with people paying a fee typically provided by an individual’s state “personal budget” so at no cost to them. UK has been very slow to pick up on the possibilities for care farming, but there are signs of increasing national interest now.

Care farming in Holland has been enthusiastically supported by the Dutch department of agriculture because it has been seen as a way literally to save small farms from economic collapse, and it has had considerable economic, social and psychological research carried out, mostly at Wageningen University which formerly did plant breeding and other kinds of agronomic research. The UK has been very slow to pick up on the possibilities for care farming, but there are signs of increasing national interest now.
Professor Ken Rotenberg is the editor of *Interpersonal Trust During Childhood and Adolescence* published by Cambridge University Press this year.

“Since the beginnings of psychology as a discipline, interpersonal trust has been regarded as a crucial aspect of human functioning. Basic levels of interpersonal trust among people were believed to be necessary for the survival of society and the development of successful psychosocial functioning. Some research has shown that interpersonal trust is linked to physical health, cognitive functioning, and social functioning (including close relationships) across development.

The book presents the current research in the growing field of interpersonal trust during childhood and adolescence (up to the onset of adulthood). It deals with the extent to which children and adolescents demonstrate the multiple facets of trust and trustworthiness, and how these multiple facets affect their social relationships with a wide range of social contacts: parents, peers, and social groups. It will be of interest to developmental, social, educational and clinical psychologists.”

Reviews for the book include:

‘Interpersonal trust is an important topic which has been unjustly neglected. This book plays a significant role in redressing the balance. Taking a developmental perspective through childhood and adolescence, and bringing in disciplines such as behaviour genetics and neurobiology, this excellently organised and comprehensive volume is an invaluable resource.’ Peter K. Smith, Goldsmiths, University of London.

A collection of wide-ranging and impressive scholarship on a subject matter that has been shamefully neglected by most psychologists. In fourteen lucid chapters, readers are challenged to consider what it means for children and adolescents to trust someone and to be trusted in return, and why some individuals are more trusting and trustworthy than others. Even scholars working in areas somewhat removed from the study of children’s developing relationships will find something to contemplate and connections to their own work. Trust me.’ Jeffrey G. Parker, University of Alabama
New Books

Paula Roberts (Nursing) and Helena Priest are the editors of the recently published Healthcare research. A textbook for students and practitioners. (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell)

In the book Paula and Helena provide detailed explanations of the main concepts and methods used in critical appraisal of published research, and guide the reader in integrating these quality indicators into their own studies to ensure rigour in planning, design, and implementation. Drawing on both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the authors write with an emphasis on the development of sound research skills through case–based illustrative examples and scenarios, with helpful summaries and practical exercises throughout. They also give advice on writing abstracts, presenting papers at conferences, and liaising with publishers. Ultimately, this text will enable readers to have full confidence in understanding, undertaking, and disseminating empirical research.

Undergraduate student news

Two students from Psychology have had essays accepted for publication recently:

Katie Wright-Bevans (2nd year undergraduate student) has written an article about modern applications of classical conditioning, adapted from an essay submitted for a first year module. It is to appear in the British Psychological Societies Student Members group periodical - Psych-talk.

Masters student Dan Wright’s independent study essay in Cognitive Neuropsychology is to be published in a future issue of the Psychologist. The essay, “No self without self delusion”, examines representations of the Capgras delusion in the popular media (novels like Richard Power’s The Echomaker, and TV crime series like CSI).

Well done to both Katie and Dan – budding researchers in the making.
Emee Vida Estacio has been awarded £9,980 by the Richard Benjamin Memorial Grant to carry out a participatory action research project that aims to understand the subjective experiences of overseas nurses in the UK. Insights will be generated through diary-writing, workshops and stakeholder events. It is anticipated that the process will enable overseas nurses to voice their concerns and to provoke action to help improve healthcare delivery and employee morale. It is also anticipated that the workshops and stakeholder events will facilitate partnership building and networking between relevant agencies in the healthcare setting to allow more efficient and effective communication between these groups. The project commenced in May 2010 and is expected to be completed by February 2011.

John Hegarty has been appointed to the editorial board of the new European Journal of Ecopsychology.

Alex Lamont presented her research on strong emotional experience of music and music festivals at the annual BPS conference in Stratford on Avon in April, as part of a strand on psychology and the arts. She has also spoken about this work at an invited seminar at Roehampton University organised by the Centre for Research in Cognition, Emotion and Interaction in the School of Psychology. In May, Alex stood in a short notice to give a guest research seminar at the annual gathering of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama’s postgraduate cohort in St Andrews, on her research on music and emotion.

Alex was also invited to give a keynote lecture on music and emotion at the Advanced Bionics International Conference on Music and Cochlear Implants in Budapest in January this year, and as a result she has begun discussions with Mary Hare School for the Deaf and Advanced Bionics on developing a programme of qualitative research into the experiences of hearing music amongst children and adults with cochlear implants. Watch this space!

Michael Murray has been invited to present details of his work at a number of universities and conferences. He has also been appointed to ESRC Peer Review College and nominated to the REF Psychology Panel by the BPS Qualitative Section.

Over the past year Michael Murray has convened an interdisciplinary Arts & Health Group through Keele Research and Enterprise Services. This group provides a forum for discussion about teaching and research activities in arts & health across the university. Besides Michael, the group includes staff from Psychology (Alex Lamont), English, Music, History, Nursing, and a range of arts and health agencies locally.
Ageing research

Professor Michael Murray continues his research on two large projects concerned with social and psychological processes among older people. These have been funded by the intercouncil New Dynamics of Ageing research programme.

The first project, known as the CALL-ME project, is a participatory project working with older people in disadvantaged communities in Manchester. Members of the research team are exploring different ways of promoting social interaction in four different neighbourhoods.

In the neighbourhood where he is working, Professor Murray and his colleague Amanda Crummett have been developing a number of community arts projects with older people. These have been very successful and attracted considerable media attention (www.thisismanchester.com). The older people have produced a range of artworks and exhibited these in the neighbourhood.

The research group has been keen to maximise the impact of their research. Currently, there work is detailed on a university website (www.keele.ac.uk/callme) but they have plans to develop a new website which will be a source of information on working with older people.

In addition, the research team has produced regular newsletters. These have not only been distributed locally but also nationally through the NDA research programme. The team has also held a range of meetings with different agencies in Manchester. These have been very successful and plans are afoot to organise other events.

The team is now working with Manchester City Council and with other agencies to explore ways of influencing policy, developing practice guidelines and ensuring the sustainability of the various projects.

Last, but not least, the team are moving forward on the more formal academic front. They have presented a series of papers at different conferences and have begun to publish a number of papers detailing their work with plans for a book.

In the other NDA project Michael is involved in a large collaborative project led by Mim Bernard (Gerontology) and including David Amigoni and Lucy Munro (English), and Jill Rezzano (New Vic Theatre) on a study of the role of the theatre in reflecting and shaping representations of ageing. This project, known as the Ages and Stages project has three sub-projects. The first is exploring the substantial theatrical archives developed by the recently deceased Peter Cheeseman who was the founding director of the New Vic theatre. The second is a detailed interview study of the actors, volunteers and audience members. The third stage is to develop a collaborative dramatic production based upon the two previous strands. Again, this project has opened up a range of new opportunities.


**Presentations**


**Hegarty, J.** (2010, May). Gave a workshop: "Green exercise" at the annual Stoke on Trent "Living Well Conference" at the Britannia Stadium.


**Lamont, A.** (April 2010). Strong intense experiences of music. Roehampton University Department of Psychology (Invited seminar).


**Murray, M.** (2010, May). Making sense of cancer through stories. Storytelling and health / Voices of experience. Storyworks (University of Glamorgan) & Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff. (Keynote lecture)


Keele Psychology Research

Cognitive Group News

Prof John Wearden has a new collaboration with Dr. Christine Falter of the Psychiatry Department at Oxford, on timing in people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Dr Richard Stephens' research on swearing and pain was featured on BBC1’s The One Show hosted by Paul Merton on Thursday 6th May 2010. Dr Stephens also gave a research seminar on swearing and pain at the School of Psychology, University of East London, on 14th April 2010.

Publications


Presentations


Dr Claire Fox has been invited to give several presentations recently on her child humour styles research. These include invited seminars at the University of Central Lancashire and the University of Strathclyde, and a workshop for Derbyshire County Council as part of their Schools Anti-Bullying Conference. Her presentation at the Annual BPS conference was covered in the June edition of the Psychologist Magazine. Claire has also been appointed to ESRC Peer Review College. Well done Claire!

Mark Tarrant recently received the reviews/classification of my end-of-award report for my ESRC grant "Effects of perspective taking on attitudes towards outgroups: the moderating role of group identification". It was awarded a grade of "outstanding". The report will shortly be published on the ESRC website.

**Presentations**


Fox, C. (2010, June). £385,000 from ESRC for Boys to Men project. See press release (p2). The research proposed was featured in the Sentinel on Tues, 1st June 2010.

Fox, C. Part of new international network on interpersonal violence that has received 30,000 euros to fund a series of research meetings from 2011-2013 in Linkoping (Sweden), Cape Town and London.

**Publications**


**Grants**

Fox, C. £9800 from the Richard Benjamin Memorial Social and Occupational Research Trust: "Facebook as a means of managing stress associated with life transitions: can social networking help new university students?"
Dr. Jim Grange, recently appointed Lecturer in Cognitive Psychology.

A special awards ceremony was held in June to celebrate the recipients of several awards. The picture above shows Sophia Lewis (winner James Hartley award), Professor James Hartley, Professor Michael Murray, Dr. Adam Bourne, Dr. Sarah Dean, Dr. Claire Fox (recipient of University Learning & Teaching Excellence award), Julie Whitney (winner BPS Award and John Sloboda award).
Keele Psychology Research is produced twice a year by staff at Keele University.

This issue was put together by Sue Sherman and Michael Murray.

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Dates for your diary

Cognitive Psychology Section

The School of Psychology is pleased to announce that they will be hosting the annual BPS Cognitive Section Conference in 2011.

The conference will run from Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th September 2011.

Confirmed keynote speakers: Professor Harlene Hayne, University of Otago and Professor Andrew Mayes, University of Manchester

Preliminary enquiries should be addressed to the conference organiser Dr Sue Sherman, s.m.sherman@psy.keele.ac.uk