Season’s greetings!

It’s been a while since our last newsletter, with everyone focusing their attentions on the REF. Now that is out of the way, we thought we’d present a round-up of all that’s been happening in the Centre in 2013.

Inside this issue, we report on our new teaching collaboration with Ludong—not strictly research at this stage, but hopefully these links will develop over time and future editions of the newsletter will update you on progress.

In other news, we have recently been awarded a Bronze Departmental Award by Athena SWAN. We are proud that all our efforts to promote women’s advancement have been formally recognised and we look forward to working towards a Silver Award over the coming months.

Dr Claire Fox reports on two extremely successful and large projects which she has led on—Boys to Men and Humour and Bullying. Professor Michael Murray reports on various ageing projects, including his lead role in Keele’s Initiative on Ageing. Dr Chris Stiff is one of 3 staff awarded grants recently and you can read about this as well as our extensive list of publications and presentations.

It sounds like a cliché but the Centre really does feel like a family and so it was lovely to get together recently to celebrate Dr Maggie Robson, who is retiring from full-time work, but fortunately for us still staying on part-time. She is pictured below surrounded by colleagues from Counselling and the Centre. We are also delighted to be welcoming several new members to our family and we look forward to reporting on their progress in future editions.

Best wishes and season’s greetings! Ed.
The Department has recently developed a teaching collaboration with Ludong University in Yantai, China. Students at Ludong will study psychology modules designed and taught by academics from Keele by distance learning or in blocks of intensive face-to-face tuition in September and March. Then, in their third year students will have the opportunity to come to Keele to complete their BSc degree in Psychological Studies.

It was with some trepidation that Dr Martin Rowley and Dr Yvonne Skipper travelled to Ludong for three weeks in September to deliver the first of the face-to-face modules to students. There was a little excitement too, at being the two members of staff responsible for representing the School in its first international collaboration of this kind. It turned out to be an enjoyable visit which involved a lot of hard work and a fairly steep learning curve for both students and lecturers. Although the students found it challenging learning research methods and statistics in a different language they worked very hard and enjoyed the course. For the lecturers, the need for an innovative approach and the ability to respond to the unexpected was required both to help students learn English and statistics simultaneously and also in dining on the local delicacies, such as cicadas, with chopsticks!

The students are currently working on their distance learning modules and we are receiving their weekly blogs. At Keele we are currently in the process of designing our modules for delivery in 2014. In March next year Dr Donna Berry and Dr Helen Williams will be travelling to China to deliver the second of the face-to-face modules.

We are very much looking forward to 2015 when our first cohort of Ludong students will arrive at Keele and the Ludong students are looking forward to trying the ‘Great British Fish and Chips’ (without chopsticks)!
News from the Brain & Cognition Group

We are delighted to welcome a new lecturer to our group: Dr Helen Williams, who was previously a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Victoria, Canada.

Dr Andrew Rutherford has been busy recently organizing the Annual Scientific Meeting and AGM of the BPS Mathematical, Statistical and Computing Section will be held on Saturday, 14 December, 2013, at the BPS London Offices, at which he will be presenting a paper entitled, ‘What effect will research council requirements for data sharing have on science?’ (See presentations section for details of presentation by other members of the Brain & Cognition Group).

Dr Jim Grange is currently on research leave and was recently invited to the Institute of Psychology, RWTH Aachen, Germany, to give a presentation to the cognitive control research group based there. Headed by Professor Iring Koch, the lab has been very influential in the field of cognitive control during task switching, and Jim was invited to give a talk concerning his development and testing of computational models of task switching. In particular, Jim has developed computational simulations that shed light on whether human attentional settings for task performance in memory decay passively as a function of time, or whether they are degraded due to interference. Also, Jim presented simulations of inhibitory mechanisms during task switching, and reported novel experimentation that seems to confirm these models. The results are currently being prepared for submission for publication.

Dr Sue Sherman is Honorary Secretary of the BPS Cognitive Section and is helping to organise the 2014 Annual Conference which will be held in Nottingham. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details: https://www.facebook.com/BpsCognitiveSection

The Neuro-cognition of Developmental Disorders Affecting Language Workshop took place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in July. The British Academy-sponsored workshop brought together researchers interested in various cognitive and neural aspects of language impairments across a number of developmental disorders. As an invited member of a discussion panel, Dr Donna Berry fielded questions from delegates about Psychological research into language and communication difficulties faced by people with Autism and Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Congratulations to Professor Nicola Edelstyn who was awarded a Chair in 2013!

Richard Stephens’ Research Lab

Over the summer Keele undergraduate student Amy Zile worked with me in my lab on a British Psychological Society funded Undergraduate Research Assistantship entitled: “Swearing as emotional language”. Amy developed a measure of swearing fluency and assessed the effects of an emotional manipulation on the fluency with which people are able to swear. Findings will be presented at the British Psychological Society Annual Conference in May 2014. This is part of an on-going series of studies looking at the psychology of swearing.

Meanwhile Dr Lauren Owen of Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, continues to work in my lab as Postdoctoral Research Fellow on our £148,975 EU-funded Marie Curie Research Fellowship. The fellowship aims to transfer knowledge to EU institutions and to research the cognitive consequences of the alcohol hangover. Over summer Dr Owen visited the lab of Dr Joris Verster at Utrecht University, in the Netherlands.

Appearance on BBC World Service programme The Why Factor in an episode entitled “Swearing”. Available to listen here http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01j2yps

Involved visiting BBC at New Broadcasting House. See photo (below) of me and a dalek (!).

Blog:
Find out about some of psychology's coolest research on my Cool Psychology blog. Latest post: Do the summer months make us happy?

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01j2yps
Brain & Cognition Presentations and Invited Talks


(list continues on next page...)
Brain & Cognition Presentations (contd.)


**Tolstrup, J, Stephens, R, Grønbæk, M.** (2013). Do the severity of hangovers decline with age? Survey of the prevalence of severe hangover in different age groups. 5th Alcohol Hangover Research Group meeting, Keele University, 1 Aug.


Brain & Cognition Publications


This inter-group includes staff from both the Brain & Cognition and Social & Developmental Groups. Its aim is to integrate different psychological perspectives to enhance our understanding of health, wellbeing and ageing. Over the past year staff members associated with the group have been involved in a range of initiatives some of which are detailed below.

**KIA Keele Initiative on Ageing**

Professor Michael Murray has taken on the role of Lead for the Keele Initiative on Ageing. This cross-university initiative is designed to enhance university capacity and to promote interdisciplinary research into all aspects of ageing. Professor Murray has met with a wide range of staff across the university and with representatives of numerous agencies in Staffordshire and Shropshire to discuss how to take this initiative forward not only in terms of research but also of teaching, community engagement and working conditions. He has also organised two events.

The first was a joint Ageing Research Forum with Aston Research Centre for Healthy Ageing (ARCHA) which was very successful attracting almost 40 researchers from the two universities.

There were presentations by Dr. Alex Lamont, Katie Wright-Bevans and Dan Herron. The forum co-organiser from Aston was Dr. Liz Peel who has now taken up the post of Chair of Psychology at Worcester University. We are discussing a West Midlands forum for next year.

Professor Murray also organised a one day mini-conference of Narrative and Ageing (see picture below). The key speakers included Dr. Arko Oderwald, Professor of Medical Humanities from Amsterdam who spoke on Ageing and Literature, Professor David Amigoni from Keele University who spoke on Later Life Creativity. This was a very successful event attended by over 70 people from the university and surrounding community.

Further details of these and other developments around this initiative can be found at [www.keele.ac.uk/ageing](http://www.keele.ac.uk/ageing)
New Dynamics of Ageing

Professor Murray presented details of the Call-Me project at the closing showcase of the New Dynamics of Ageing Research programme which was held in London and attracted over 500 participants. This included keynote speeches by David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Professor Paul Boyle, Chief Executive, ESRC. Further details are available at http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk/home.html

Critical Health Psychology

The eighth Bi-annual conference of the International Society of Critical Health Psychology was held in Bradford in July. Staff and students from Keele made a major contribution to the conference. Professor Murray organised a symposium on a Critical History of Health Psychology with colleagues from Lausanne, Switzerland and Guelph, Canada. He also contributed to another symposium on Qualitative Methods organised by Professor Brendan Gough from Leeds Met University. Dr. Emee Estacio presented a total of four papers on a range of topics including literacy, micro-aggression in health care settings and globalisation. Finally, Katie Wright-Bevans presented details of her photo-voice project. The next conference will be at Rhodes University, South Africa.

Cancer research

Dr Sue Sherman and colleagues from University Hospital of North Staffordshire and Leicester NHS Trust had their publication “The psychological implications of cervical screening reviews” selected as Editor’s Choice in Cytopathology.

New lecturer

We are delighted to welcome a new lecturer to our group: Dr Kirsty Budd, who was previously a Post-doctoral Research Associate at Lancaster University.
Budds, K., Hogg, M., Banister, E., & Dixon, M. (2013) “A good mum is someone who kind of stimulates their child and does lots of things with them and interacts with them all the time”. Exploring women’s adherence and resistance to intensive parenting ideology. BPS Psychology of Women Section Annual Conference, 10-12 July, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor.


Estacio, E.V. (2013). Critical health psychology. Invited speaker (19 Feb), Cape Town University, South Africa (via Skype).


Murray, M. (2013). Community narratives and community change [Invited lecture], University of Twente, Netherlands, 7 March.

Murray, M. (2013). Narrative research: Science and imagination. [Invited lecture]. Narrative Care Congress, University of Twente, Netherlands, 8 March.

(list continues on next page...)
Health, Wellbeing & Ageing Presentations (cont’d.)


Health, Wellbeing & Ageing Publications


Journal of Health Psychology. 18, 997-1003.


Locke, A. & Budds, K. (2013) “We thought if it’s going to take two years then we need to start that now”: Age, infertility risk, and the timing of pregnancy in older first-time mothers. Health, Risk, & Society. [Online first]

Murray, M. (2013: On-line). The time has come to talk of many things: some comments on Ogden and Friedman. Health Psychology Review.


Congratulations to Dr Claire Fox and Mrs Ann Ireson who organized a coffee morning for Macmillan and raised £240.

Also to Ms Hayley Gilman who organized staff to go bare-faced for Children in Need and raised £210.

(list continues on next page...


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**Health, Wellbeing & Ageing Publications (cont’d)**

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**Athena SWAN success!**

The School of Psychology at Keele was awarded a Bronze Departmental Athena SWAN Charter Award in the latest round of awards.

The Athena SWAN Charter recognises commitment to advancing women’s careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

For more information, please contact the School Athena SWAN Champion, Dr Sue Sherman, s.m.sherman@ Keele.ac.uk
We are delighted to welcome a new lecturer to our group: Dr Yvonne Skipper, who was previously a Post Doctoral Research Associate at Royal Holloway.

Welcome also to Lucy and Grant – our new PhD students: In September 2013, Lucy James and Grant Bosworth joined the Centre for Psychological Research as PhD students, following successful completion of their MSc courses at Keele University. Despite stiff competition for the internal PhD studentships offered by the Social Sciences Research Institute, they were both awarded full studentships for three years. Lucy’s PhD, supervised by Dr Claire Fox and Dr Mark Trueman, will examine both the positive and negative uses of humour in younger children (aged 8-11 years) and involve further refinement of a measure of humour created by Lucy, suitable for this age group. The project will also involve designing and implementing an intervention aimed at tackling negative uses of humour and encouraging the use of more positive ones. Lucy has previously gained experience of carrying out research in schools working with Dr Claire Fox on the ESRC Humour and Bullying project and is looking forward to beginning data collection early next year.

Grant’s PhD, supervised by Dr Chris Stiff and Dr John Hegarty, will consider people’s attitudes towards recycling, and the factors that come in to play when deciding whether to recycle or not. The project will involve collecting data in schools and universities to build upon the limited number of studies considering institutional recycling rates. Interventions will be implemented to increase the participation in recycling schemes in the institutions.

Leverhulme Trust grant success!

Dr Chris Stiff (pictured right) was recently awarded £71,291 by the Leverhulme Trust to investigate “Campus Citizenship Behaviours: Predicting students’ pro-social behaviours”.

Creating Impact - Geraldine Leighton and Alexandra Lamont

Extending the dissemination of the findings from our project on children’s musical identity development from academic conferences, we wrote an article, ‘Please draw a musician’ – aimed specifically at string teachers. This explored the relationship between children’s drawings of ‘a musician’ and indications of their sense of musical identity. It was published in the winter 2013 edition of ‘Arco’, the quarterly journal of the UK branch of the European String Teachers’ Association (ESTA).

It is very important to help teachers explore wider issues in teaching. Some members of ESTA have teacher training qualifications as well as professional musical training, but not all. Typically they work in state schools providing anything from whole-class instrumental learning initiatives to small group or individual lessons, in independent schools or in private practice. Teachers’ attitudes and expectations can have considerable impact on a student’s sense of positive or negative musical identity.

So, to widen the dissemination yet further, in August, Geraldine attended the ESTA International Conference in Oxford, where she displayed a poster from this project and also gave a presentation to give further details and show more of the drawings the children had made. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates from all over Europe and beyond. It provided excellent opportunities to talk to delegates in addition to the presentation. Comments received suggest that these opened up new or less familiar aspects of teaching for many delegates.
Domestic abuse is an enduring problem in many countries. Efforts to protect victims and raise awareness are having only a limited effect on younger generations of men, a sizeable minority of whom still grow up to become perpetrators. The From Boys to Men Project aimed to explore why some boys become domestic abuse perpetrators when others do not, and establish what more can be done to reduce the number of young men who become perpetrators. Dr Claire Fox, one of the researchers on the project, was interviewed about the project by Nick Ross on BBC Midlands today in May 2013 (see picture). The final project event took place at Manchester University in October 2013, which was attended by over 100 delegates. As the project draws to a close, further information about the project can be found at: www.boystomenproject.com.

Humour and Bullying ESRC funded Project

The main aim of the Humour and Bullying research project was to examine how children’s use of humour might put them at risk or protect them from the experience of being bullied. The final event for the Humour and Bullying project took place in April 2013 and this generated a great deal of press interest. A report on the BBC new website (01/05/13) was one of the 10 most popular news stories that day and attracted 425 comments (see picture). On the same day there was a piece in the Times and Dr Fox gave radio interviews on BBC Radio Stoke and BBC Radio Wales. In addition, the Guardian featured the research in their ‘news in brief’ (03/05/13). Further information about the project can be found at: (www.esrcbullyingandhumourproject.wordpress.com).

Invited talk and more grant success

In October Dr Alexandra Lamont gave an invited presentation on Music Preferences to an audience of about 75 people in the Department of Psychology at Uppsala University, including members of the department and other parts of the university, visitors from Stockholm and members of the public. Uppsala began its research programme in music psychology around the same time as Keele, under Professor Alf Gabrielson (who has now retired but is still involved in research and came along to the presentation). It is now run by Professor Patrik Juslin, who Alexandra first met at a conference in Montreal in 1996 when they were PhD students, and Patrik manages a team of two postdocs and four doctoral students.

Dr Alexandra Kent has been awarded £9,990 by the Richard Benjamin Memorial Trust for a project entitled “Finding Order in a Crisis: Practices for managing time-critical calls to the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline” Her research partners on the project are: NSPCC, Prof Jonathan Potter, Dr Alexa Hepburn, Prof Paul Drew – Loughborough University.
Social & Developmental Group Presentations and Invited Talks


Lamont, A. & Murray, M. (April 2013). Singing in later life. Presentation at Setting the Tempo: SEMPRE conference on Music, Health & Wellbeing, Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health, Canterbury Christ Church University

Keele Psychology Research

Social & Developmental Group Publications


Qualitative Psychology

Staff from the Centre are playing an increasingly visible role in qualitative psychology. A few recent developments are detailed here.

QMIP

Dr. Alexandra Kent recently took on the role of Associate Editor of the BPS Qualitative Methods in Psychology newsletter and edited the autumn issue. In that issue Dr. Kent presented a report on teaching qualitative methods. There was also a book review by Dan Heron and a report on Professor Michael Murray’s keynote presentation at the QMiP AGM in April. At the last BPS QMiP conference in Huddersfield in September a series of papers were presented by staff and students. This included a presentation by Dr. Kent on Getting someone to do something and two posters by Dan Heron and Helena Priest on Support workers knowledge of dementia, and on People with intellectual disabilities and dementia.

Narrative

Professor Murray continues to develop his work on narrative psychology and is currently editing a special issue of the Journal of Health Psychology with Dr. Anneke Sools and Professor Gerben Westerhof from Twente University, The Netherlands. http://medicalhumanities.wordpress.com/2013/10/17/cfp-special-issue-on-narrative-health-psychology-deadline-31st-march-2014/

Professor Murray recently visited Twente (pictured below right) to discuss this and several other collaborative initiatives.

Arts & Culture

Professor Michael Murray was one of six people selected from 200 submissions to present details of his work on the arts in the Vox Pops session at the European Culture Forum in Brussels in November. This Forum attracted over 1,200 participants from across the EU and was opened by José Barroso, President of the European Commission.

Keele Counselling Conference

We are pleased to announce that the 8th annual Keele Counselling Conference which takes place 22-23 March 2014 will have as its theme ‘Daring to Make an Impact: Dynamic Qualitative Research’. For further details see our ad or go to: www.keele-conferencemanagement.com/counsellingconference2014
Keele University 8th Counselling Conference
22-23 March 2014
'Daring to Make an Impact: Dynamic Qualitative Research'

This dynamic, interdisciplinary conference will offer a range of qualitative methodologies and viewpoints and aims to support the cross-fertilisation of ideas and 'disturbing disciplinary boundaries' (Gergen & Gergen, 2004). We are delighted to have 5 keynote speakers of national repute who are considered to be very much at the cutting edge of qualitative research and who are highly respected in this field. Their specialisms are an intriguing mix of narrative, autoethnographic, phenomenological, performative, discourse and IPA approaches to research.

**Our confirmed keynote speakers are:**
- Professor Carla Willig
- Dr Kip Jones
- Dr Michael Larkin
- Professor Michael Murray
- Professor Andrew Sparkes

The conference programme will be an energetic mix of keynote presentations, research papers and research related workshops. There will be an opportunity to hear a panel of keynote speakers discuss some of the key issues of the day. The conference will be held on the Keele University campus with its award winning conference facilities, beautiful grounds and Grade II listed Keele Hall. We warmly welcome researchers, practitioners and students from all disciplines with an interest in or passion for qualitative research, whether relatively new to the field or very experienced.

**Research papers and workshops:** we very much encourage research papers and workshops with a research or qualitative methodological focus. For further details please click onto the abstract submission link tab.

For further details please go to:
www.keele-conferencemanagement.com/counsellingconference2014

If you are a Keele University Student then please read the information below about making a booking in order to access reduced rates.

**Keele University Students or Keele University Presenters**
If you are a Keele University student or a Presenter based at Keele University please make a booking by contacting:
Beverley Davies 01782 733538 or e-mail at b.davies@psy.keele.ac.uk
or Jo Gravano 01782 733578 or e-mail at g.gravano@psy.keele.ac.uk

**Important Information**
Friday 10th February 2014: Submission of abstracts for research papers or workshops.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BOOKINGS WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 14TH MARCH 2014.**
The School of Psychology at Keele University is carrying out research to further our understanding of Autism, Asperger’s and Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

We are looking for local volunteers to take part in this research. Any help is greatly appreciated and you will be reimbursed £10 for 1 hour of your time.

Could you / your child spare an hour to help research into Autism, Asperger’s and ADHD?

Who can take part?

Typically developing children and adults
Children or adults with Autism, Asperger’s or ADHD

What does it involve?

You / your child will be shown some pictures, and asked to identify facial expressions
You will also be asked to rate your / your child’s attention and understanding of others.
Your / your child’s eye movements will be monitored with specialist recording equipment.

PLEASE CONTACT DONNA BERRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Keele Psychology Research is produced by staff at Keele University.

This issue was put together by Dr Sue Sherman.

A big thank you to all our wonderful administrative and technical staff who help to make it all possible!

Wishing all our readers a peaceful, healthy and happy festive season and a wonderful 2014!

And finally!

Professor Jim Hartley blogs on the LSE’s Impact of Social Sciences blog and is achieving considerable impact. One blog written on 10 July, 2012 entitled “Is social psychology still the psychology of undergraduates?” has, to date, received over 2,500 hits, whilst another blog written on 30 September, 2012, entitled “Three strikes and a blog: What to do with papers that are continually rejected” has received over 3,500 hits.