

July Graduation 2015

School of Psychology graduates and staff enjoyed a wonderful graduation ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday 16 July. Photos from the celebratory drinks reception, held at the nearby Westgate Hall, are available on the School's Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/1D6IKvy>. For more ceremony photos, please go to: <http://ow.ly/PGDiH>.



New Autism Research Started This Summer

This summer saw Drs Heather Ferguson and David Williams preparing for their exciting new research project, 'Imagining the self in fictional worlds: Evidence from Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)'. The project is funded by the Leverhulme Trust, and will run for four years from the 1st September.

The project will explore some of the difficulties that people with ASD have in imagining novel events and self-representation. To do this, they will test people's understanding of counterfactuals—events that are 'counter to reality' or false. To understand a counterfactual sentence, such as, 'If I had won the lottery, I would have bought a Ferrari', we need to temporarily accept false information as true (that I won the lottery), and integrate subsequent events according to that hypothetical model of the world (that I bought a Ferrari). However, we must also infer the implied facts (that I did not win the lottery), in order to understand the sentence's actual meaning (that I did not buy a Ferrari). This sort of counterfactual thinking plays an important role in everyday social communication, for instance in reflecting on past events with negative outcomes (e.g. 'If I had revised harder for my exams...'). Interestingly, counterfactual thinking engages some of the same cognitive skills that underpin Theory of Mind (understanding other peoples' mental states—beliefs, desires, intentions), which is one of the key impairments in ASD.

The research will test the prediction that people with ASD experience difficulty understanding counterfactuals when they require vivid imagination of an alternative fictional world (e.g. 'If margarine contained detergent...' or 'If Harry Potter lost all his magic powers...'). In addition, we test the prediction that understanding in ASD will decline even further when the counterfactual story involves the self (e.g. 'If you had a time machine...') compared to an anonymous story character. The research team will test these predictions across numerous experiments using behavioural methods (accuracy and reaction times) and highly sensitive eye-tracking and event-related brain potential (ERP) recordings, which will provide valuable information on the time-course of counterfactual understanding.

For more information about Autism research at Kent, please see our website at www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/autismresearch.

Events Round-Up

The School of Psychology has enjoyed so many events and activities recently. Below are just some of the highlights!

As part of the 50th Festival, which marked the end of the University of Kent's 50th anniversary year, the School of Psychology offered alumni, current and former staff, and friends of the University a chance to find out about our excellent research facilities and also to celebrate the past, present and future of Psychology at Kent.

The School of Psychology would like to thank all who attended and helped out at the 50th Festival including several former Heads of School, Professors Dominic Abrams, Rupert Brown, Diane Houston, Lyn Quine (pictured below), Derek Rutter and our founding Head of School Professor Geoffrey Stephenson (pictured below).



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Student Achievements

The School of Psychology is very fortunate to celebrate the many achievements of its undergraduate and postgraduate students. These include Phil Ulrich, Alvaro Rodriguez, Louise Chapman, Ruvimbo Marume and Ferzana Salim to name a few.

Following a successful application for top-up funding, PhD student and Associate Lecturer Phil Ulrich was able to visit the York Neuroimaging Centre for fMRI. Phil describes his visit below. Phil says:

"Imaging brain activity has captivated me since before my undergraduate degree, but the expense of these techniques often means gaining experience can be difficult and exclusive.

After searching for institutions that use fMRI, the University of York stood out to me. The psychology department has multiple lab groups with similar interests to me (face recognition) and I have written about many of the department's teaching staff (including Baddeley and Hitch, Andy Young, Gerry Altmann, Peter Thompson, etc.). I contacted Prof Tim Andrews from York who I had seen present at conferences, and who uses paradigms and statistical methods that I knew would be useful and productive for my own research. I told him my interests and explained why I wanted to visit, and before the day was out he had replied with an invite to spend one month at the York Neuroimaging Centre.

Following an unsuccessful application for funding from a society, I applied for, and was awarded, a top-up fund from the Faculty of Social Sciences to help support costs of the visit (i.e. travel and accommodation).

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Student Achievements Continued

The month was extremely intensive like I had hoped, going through three MSC Cognitive Neuroscience modules in three weeks, before then working with recently collected fMRI data in the final week. The ever-present help from postgrads, post-docs and other PhD students was very helpful. During my visit I got to speak with many of the academics about their work and mine, and I got to experience the department as a whole, which has its own distinct research atmosphere.

I am still in contact with several of the people I met in York, and am still involved with the research project I worked with. The visit was a fantastic experience, contributing to my development as a researcher as well as bringing back skills and building a relationship between our departments. I am extremely grateful for the support from our department as well as my supervisors, and I would actively encourage others to make opportunities like this and apply for funding to help achieve them”.

For more information about the Faculty top-up fund, please go to: www.kent.ac.uk/socsci/studying/postgrad/.

Forensic Psychology MSc student Alvaro Rodriguez was the recipient of the first prize in the 50th Anniversary Employability Points Competition. The Employability Points Rewards Evening, which gives recognition to the University's most engaged students, took place on Tuesday 2 June. Below, Alvaro describes the activities he took part in and was rewarded for.



“One of the things that resulted in many points is that I completed the Global Skills Award (I actually attended several more lectures and seminars than were necessary to complete it). I attended eight workshops on things like leadership, teamwork, cross cultural issues and communication and careers management. I also attended twelve lectures in which they addressed topics of relevance in the current global world; my favourite ones were the lecture on the system of rendition, the open lecture on the loss of trust in institutions, and the lecture on prejudice and extremism. In addition to this, I completed over 230 hours of volunteering throughout the year. This included doing outreach for a charity in prisons and also assisting a lecturer with research for a short time. I have also attended events organised

by societies including a legal aid panel with the Kent Critical Law Society and three conferences run by the Feminist Society on Lad Culture, Sexism in the Workplace and Women in Leadership (all of them amazing). Moreover, I have helped to coordinate a debating competition put together by the Debating Society. I have also been to conferences, away from university, about the criminalisation of protest, which is an area I find really interesting. I was also present at several of the café psychology sessions as well as to the research seminars, and a few sessions of the research training programme, all offered by the School of Psychology. Finally, I engaged in other activities, like attending careers events and recruitment fairs.

There are lots of things to do at the university and I would have done more if I had had the time. I think it's really important to develop yourself in as many areas as possible, not just to get an award, employability points, or for the sake of how it looks on one's CV. Some of the most rewarding moments in my life have occurred while volunteering, the GSA was very interesting beyond any piece of paper I may get in exchange for doing it, and in general, I feel I have grown even more as a person during my time in university thanks to these kinds of activities (both as an undergraduate and a postgraduate).

Personally, I would mainly recommend the Employability Points Award to undergraduates, since they have more spare time during the summer than postgraduates, although it's also good for postgraduates as well since it's an extra motivation to engage in different activities”.

For more information about the Global Skills Award, please go to: <http://bit.ly/1NOD4gu>. You also find out about the Employability Points Scheme from their webpage: www.kent.ac.uk/employabilitypoints/.

In June, the School of Psychology was delighted to receive the news that three of its undergraduate students had been successful in securing placements as part of the KentHealth Student Vacation Scheme.

The students taking part in the bursary scheme, which provides outstanding undergraduates with clinical/health research experience, are **Jana Brinkert**, **Nicki Chisnall** and **Jaimee Sheila Mallion**.

Both Jana and Nicki have been working with KentHealth in the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust on the EMERGE and GLIDE projects. The aim of the EMERGE and GLIDE projects are to devise a weight loss and exercise programme for obese patients who have undergone or are entering weight loss surgery.

Jaimee's placement is based at Trinity

House in Ashford and involves attending focus groups and undertaking a literature review.

To find out more about the projects the students are involved in, please go to: www.kent.ac.uk/health/student-vacation-scheme/index.html. You might also like to read about the experience of being on placement through Jaimee's blog: <http://bit.ly/1D8RIIK>.

On 8 June, two Psychology undergraduate students in their final year of study, under the supervision of Dr Kirsten Abbot-Smith, presented a poster titled 'Predictors of imagination and creativity in verbally fluent children with ASD. **Louise Chapman** and **Ruvimbo Marume** wrote the following to tell us how it went.

“We travelled up to the University of East Anglia on Monday for a conference entitled 'Psychological Perspectives on Autism'. The first speaker was Dr Matthew Belmonte who painted a picture of autism as a difference in neural connectivity. A couple of things he focused on really reflected what we had seen on our placement year. He said, 'If you've seen one person with autism, then you've seen ONE person with autism', which refers to the immense variation within autistic populations. He also advocated for the reconceptualization of restrictive and repetitive behaviours, a key feature of autism, as an adaptive strategy rather than challenging behaviour to be reduced. Other speakers focused on autism research into social cognition, atypical gaze behaviour and visual illusions. We also had the opportunity to share our final project findings through a poster presentation. Our research compared predictors of imagination and creativity in children with ASD using their ADOS assessment scores. We found that social communication was a better predictor of imagination and creativity than restrictive and repetitive behaviours. The day was extremely engaging and we were able to have interesting conversations with the different researchers. The poster presentation was a brilliant and challenging experience. We would recommend final year students to look out for opportunities to share your final projects through poster presentations!”.

Louise and Ruvimbo were not the only students to have their work presented at external events. Below are examples of conference presentations which included some of our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Nurmsoo, E., **Eydam, A., Carby, A., & Rater, L.** (2015, July). Children's social learning of tool use. Paper presented at the 23rd annual meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Tartu, Estonia.

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Introducing Frances, Jacqueline, Tom and Yasmin

The School of Psychology would like to introduce some new faces to our fantastic team of support staff.

Frances James, who joined the School at the end of March, is our new Employability and Placements Officer. Her responsibilities include creating more work experience opportunities for students across all programmes of study including the Applied degrees. This includes management of the Research and Work Experience Schemes which are available to those in their second and final year of study. Frances also supports students in their applications for



further study, work experience and employment.

Moreover, she is a contact for Psychology alumni and would really like to hear from them about ways to engage with the School of Psychology.

Jacqueline Aldridge took up her role as the new Research and Enterprise Associate within the School of Psychology in June. Her role is to facilitate grant writing, research collaboration, impact pathways and

external visibility. Jacqueline brings a wealth of experience to the position; she formerly worked in Research Services organising the Grants Factory across the University and was most recent employed by Kent Business School as a Research and Impact Manager.



Administrative Assistant Tom McCormick coordinates all of the undergraduate coursework for the School of Psychology. This entails logging coursework and distributing the work to the markers. Once the work is marked and moderated, it is



returned to Tom so that the marks can be logged on the Student Data System. If you have any queries regarding your deadlines, submitting work or Moodle, Tom will be happy to assist you.

Yasmin Ghandour started working in the School of Psychology as Reception and Clerical Assistant in January 2015. In this post, she is responsible for dealing with student/visitor enquiries, receiving and returning student coursework, administering student DBS applications, updating staff pages as a member of the School's web authoring team and other general administrative duties. Before joining Psychology, Yasmin held various administrative posts in Higher Education, including Canterbury Christ Church University and Kent Business School.



Yasmin said the following: I thoroughly enjoy working with students, particularly since they come from such a diversity of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. My own children live in Dubai, Saudi Arabia and the Lebanon. I love working at the university and living in Canterbury because it really does make me feel like part of a global community.'

Events Round-Up Continued

The University of Kent hosted the British Psychological Society Cognitive Psychology Section Annual Conference 2015 on 1-3 September. Organised by Professor Bob Johnston, this year marked the 32nd Annual meeting of the BPS Cognitive Psychology section. The Section was formed in 1978 as a national forum for the discussion of research and issues of professional concern to cognitive psychologists. For full details and to register, please go to: <http://bit.ly/1DcYrWi>.

A multidisciplinary symposium on the title 'Change, Resistance, and Collective Action in Southern Italy' took place in Keynes College on 4 September. The organising committee included Dr Giovanni Travaglino, Dr Maria Ridda (School of English, University of Kent, and Birkbeck College, University of London) and Benjamin Abrams (Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge). To find out more about what the event involved, please go to: <http://inspr.eu/event-info/sisymposium/>.

On 13 May, the Kent Child Development Unit (KCDU) hosted a recruitment event at Kingsmead Leisure Centre in Canterbury. The event was aimed at parents of infants around 12 months of age, and offered a wide range of information on child development, as well as refreshments, soft-play and crafts. Students and staff hosted interactive demonstrations where parents could observe their child's abilities, such

as the Mirror Self-Recognition task, the A not B task and Gaze Contingency tasks using an eye-tracker. The event was a great success, with about 130 people attending, and 58 families signing up to volunteer for studies run by the KCDU. We received very positive feedback and noted things to include at future events. The KCDU now has approximately 3000 potential young scientists to call upon to participate in various areas of research. We are already welcoming some of our new recruits to eye-tracking and gender-bias studies. Thank you to all who organised, helped out and attended. A job well done team!



In April, staff including Dr Georgina Randsley de Moura (Head of School), Dr Hannah Swift, Abigail Player, and Lynsey Mahmood took the role of judging a student poster conference. The students were registered for SP311 Business Psychology: An Introduction and the poster conference formed part of their assessment.

Master's students registered on the

module SP852 Developmental Psychology in Professional Practice took part in a poster event in May this year. The event was attended by lecturers who teach on the module and also by professional psychologists whom students could learn from and discuss careers with in an informal setting.



As a direct consequence of this module, two students have secured jobs as assistant psychologists and another has been given the opportunity to gain valuable work experience.

The Eastern ARC Quantitative Social Science Section and the Political Psychology Lab held a workshop in June to which academic staff and postgraduate students were invited. Topics included (but were not limited to) political ideology, political behaviour and attitudes, social justice and inequality, system legitimacy, group identity and so on. The aim was to establish new interdisciplinary research collaborations.

Farewell Professor Norbert Kerr

The School of Psychology wished a fond farewell to Professor Norbert Kerr in May 2015. At a gathering which included staff and student members of GroupLab, Norb's contribution to the School was celebrated and he was presented with a University of Kent Monopoly game as a small token of thanks.



Ben Tappin, who was a student on the MSc in Research Methods in Psychology at Kent, wrote this about Norb:

"I first met Norbert in GroupLab during the winter term of the 14/15 academic year. He was offering some probing questions to a fresh-faced PhD student who had just given a presentation, characteristic of a scenario which I would come to synonymize with Norb during my time at Kent. His delivery was disarmingly friendly, yet insightful and scrutinizing – traits which are essential to fostering a conducive learning environment that cultivates new and inquisitive research minds. The presentations I attended subsequently were nearly always shared with Norb; keen to comment upon, dissect, and question the research put before him. The consistent enthusiasm of his attitude

belies his long and illustrious career. One might expect the interest in first-year PhD research to wane after such an esteemed academic journey, but not in Norb's case. This is a testament to both his character and his commitment to science, and formed the basis for the great respect I came to have for him.

Norb's professional impact became clear to me in its entirety during the spring term later that academic year. He was a guest lecturer in several of my MSc seminars on group processes; a role he commanded with great authority and knowledge. I soon realized that within the social psychological field of group performance and group decision-making, Norb was as accomplished an academic as I was ever likely to meet. A particular highlight was his contribution to the development of my interest in social dilemmas. The various factors that influence such an important area of everyday group behaviour were clearly elucidated and engagingly discussed during these seminars; inspiring me to develop some of my own research ideas along these lines. For this I am especially grateful.

Though I only briefly knew Norb during his time at Kent, it is clear to me that he will be sorely missed both personally and academically. I feel lucky to have met such a distinguished and friendly professor, and wish him every luck in the future."

MSc student **Fatima Tresh** had this to say about Norb: "Professor Kerr taught me on my third

year undergraduate module and the whole experience was different, in its layout, content and style. I appreciated Professor Kerr's unique teaching style, it has encouraged me to think outside the box, question arguments and draw my own conclusions using scientific reasoning. For me, Professor Kerr's module drew a bittersweet end to my degree- ending an inspirational three years as an undergraduate student at Kent but taking away valuable skills that would serve me in my everyday life. I imagine that Professor Kerr's departure from Kent is also bittersweet - leaving a School that is incredibly fond of him whilst feeling pride in his immeasurable contribution to our work. Knowing Professor Kerr outside of the module at GroupLab meetings showed me that not only was he an excellent teacher to undergraduate students, he was an excellent academic, willing to share his knowledge and give his time and support to aspiring academics such as myself.

I am incredibly grateful to Professor Kerr for the time he put into helping me with my own research, unravelling and interpreting my findings to draw plausible conclusions. I am proud to say I have been taught by such an inspirational academic. Although it was only the past two years that I had the pleasure of his company, I am honoured to say that every spring he came to our School."

To find out more about GroupLab, please go to: www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/csgrp/grouplab.html.

Dr Dinkar Sharma Hosts Visitors from Myanmar

On 1 May Dr Dinkar Sharma met with a teacher and four pupils who were visiting England from Myanmar (formerly Burma) through the Andrew Clark Trust (www.myanmar-aid.org/home.htm).

The group sought to find out about the academic environment which the University of Kent offers and, amongst other faculties, the School of Psychology was able to show them what it is like to study with us.

Dinkar was also able to carry out some demonstrations including visual illusions which were really enjoyed by our visitors some of whom are pictured below.



Student Achievements Continued

Nurmsoo, E., **Davis, S., & Haji-Abdullah, S.N.** (July, 2015). Tool innovation: Are groups better than individuals? Poster presented at the 23rd annual meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Tartu, Estonia.

On 27 May final year student **Ferzana Salim** (picture below) was presented with the Canterbury Association of Women Graduates' (CAWG) annual award.



Each year the award is given to a female student based in Keynes College in recognition of their hard work and perseverance in overcoming certain challenges. This year, the School of Psychology was delighted to nominate Ferzana to receive this award and to

also celebrate with her and her daughter at a small prize-giving event. Those in attendance included Dr Georgina Randsley de Moura, Dr Tim Hopthrow, Lizanne Allcock, Lisa Clark and Tom Finley along with the President of CAWG and a number of its members. The event was hosted by Sian Stevenson, Master of Keynes College, in the Keynes Senior Common Room.

For more announcements of student achievements, please see the Congratulations section on page 6.

Student Success (EDI) Project

Thanks to the work of Web Support Co-ordinator Dominic Sandiford, the Student Success (EDI) Project has successfully launched its own website: www.kent.ac.uk/studentsuccess/.

For information about how the School of Psychology is participating in the Project, as one of its pilot schools, and our current initiatives, please go to: <http://bit.ly/1gxokFx>.

Celebrating the Career of Professor Mirek Kofta

Lecturer in Social Psychology Dr Aleksandra Cichocka contributed the following piece about her former PhD supervisor.

If you have ever presented your work at a social psychological conference, the chances are you were asked an elaborate and deeply theoretical question that fundamentally changed the way you saw your research. Quite likely, the person who posed that question was Professor Mirosław (Mirek) Kofta – my PhD supervisor. Mirek is an experimental social psychologist, mostly known for his work on the informational model of learned helplessness and his pioneering research on conspiracy beliefs (both developed in collaboration with his first PhD student, Grzegorz Sędek). Originally trained in clinical psychology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, he later took a position at the University of Warsaw, where he developed research in experimental social and personality psychology, in recent years focusing intergroup relations and political psychology. The breadth of Mirek's interests, and his outstanding theoretical sensitivity have made him not only a great researcher but also an inspiring teacher. As Grzegorz Sędek aptly once put it, Mirek possesses the amazing ability to recognize important theoretical advances even in the smallest ideas his students might bother him with. By challenging us into lengthy theoretical

debates, he shaped a generation of Polish social and personality psychologists. It has been a great privilege for me to be one of them.

On June 20th 2015 a group of Mirek's students, colleagues and friends conspired to organize a surprise seminar in his name. The seminar was an opportunity for sharing new research and debating the new developments in the field. The seminar was also a sneak peek into the beginnings of Mirek's career, in which against all odds he was determined to do world-class social psychology in then communist Poland. As we have learned, the biggest problems were not the experimental design, small sample sizes, or replicating the findings. The major challenges he and his collaborators faced were getting the questionnaires past the communist censorship and... finding white paper on which to type the manuscript for submission to JPSP. We are all very grateful that he never got discouraged and continues to inspire passion for psychology. The seminar was concluded with Mirek's distinguished address on his new three step model of control deprivation. Although Mirek is officially retiring from the University of Warsaw this year, he will continue working on his new theory as part of our grant on "Control deprivation, (inter)group relations, and political cognition".

We hope that in preparing his Festschrift, entitled "The Psychology of Conspiracy", we have expressed our gratitude to Mirek. This volume, edited by Michał Bilewicz, myself and Wiktor Soral, brought together an international team of conspiracy researchers, including Kent's Professors Karen Douglas and Robbie Sutton. Judging by the photo below, our Mentor was pleased.



Science & Religion: Exploring the Spectrum

The origins of humans and ways in which life has developed are questions that many are interested in. Although the relationship between "science" and "religion" is often talked about in media and debated amongst public intellectuals, little research has actually explored how people think and experience their own views on science and religion in everyday life. To fill this gap the Templeton Religion Trust has recently awarded approx. £1.8 million to a project team led by Dr Fern Elsdon-Baker (Newman University, Principle Investigator), Prof. Bernard Lightman (York University, Canada, Co-Principal Investigator) and Dr Carola Leicht (University of Kent, Co-Investigator). This project is taking a multi-disciplinary approach to examine in an open minded way how the relationship between "Science" and "Religion" is viewed and experienced using historical research and social scientific approaches and it will run over the next three years. The complete project team consists of 15 researchers (10 postdoctoral, 2 post-graduate) and various project affiliates with backgrounds in Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Science, Psychology of Religion, Critical Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, History of Science and Oral History of Science. It will have a number of workshop, conferences and public events in the UK, Canada and the US. If you are interested in events and results of the project, you can join a mailing

list on scienceligionsspectrum.org.

To conduct the social science research, the project is currently establishing a participant pool. If you are interested in taking part in this research, please visit the website and follow the "engage button": scienceligionsspectrum.org.

There will be regular price draws in which you can win vouchers for various online and offline retailers in the UK!

SCIENCE & RELIGION
EXPLORING THE SPECTRUM



Carola Leicht joined the School in her three year position as Research Associate to the Head of School last year.

I joined the School of Psychology in November last year after being a post-doctoral researcher in a multi-disciplinary research Centre at Coventry University for 18 months. My PhD, which I completed at the Centre for the Study of Group Processes in Kent in January 2012, focused on

exploring how biases preferring individuals who are group representative for leadership positions can be attenuated. More generally speaking I am interested in exploring how leaders in groups and organizations are perceived, evaluated and chosen and how different psychological processes and biases that contribute to a lack of diversity in leadership positions can be attenuated.

Next to my interest in understanding how we can increase the number of women and minorities in leadership, I am also working as a Co-Investigator on a large multi-disciplinary project that was funded by the Templeton Religion Trust, called "Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum". In this project we aim to identify historical, societal and cultural drivers that lead to the commonly repeated notion that science and religion are incompatible. As Co-Investigator working on the project for 30% of my time, I am leading the Social Psychological strand of the research and contribute to the development of a large survey that will poll public opinions on this topic in the UK and Canada. Similar to my leadership research investigating why women and leadership roles are perceived as incompatible, this research explores why other dual group memberships, such as "being a scientist" and "being religious" are commonly regarded as conflicting.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following staff who are promoted with effect from 1 October: Drs Anna Brown, Lindsey Cameron, and Afroditi Pina are promoted to Senior Lecturers; Drs Heather Ferguson and Jane Wood are promoted to Readers; and Dr Ayse Uskul is promoted to Professor.

Congratulations to Dr Joe Brooks who has been awarded £2,500 by the Experimental Psychology Society for a project entitled "Oscillatory influences on perception and attention".

Congratulations to Prof Dominic Abrams who has been awarded £1,100 by the University of Sheffield for "REF Consultation". Dominic was also recently awarded £2,000 by the PVC (Research) following an application entitled "Boosting the Profile and Impact of Kent's Centre for the Study of Group Processes".

Congratulations to Nichola Tyler who has been awarded £977 by the East London NHS Foundation Trust for a project entitled "Evaluation of the Firesetting Intervention Programme for Mentally Disordered Offenders (FIP-MO)".

Congratulations to Phil Ulrich who has been awarded a £200 PsyPAG Study Visit Bursary, a PsyPAG Domestic Bursary of £100 and a Travel Bursary of £48 toward the costs of attendance and presenting at the 2015 European Conference on Visual Perception (ECVP) in Liverpool. Phil was also recently awarded a £250 conference bursary from the BPS Cognitive Section to cover the conference registration fee plus £400 from the Faculty of Social Sciences' PhD Top-up Fund scheme to support a month long research/training visit at the University of York's Neuroimaging Centre (see page 1 for details). Earlier this year Phil was also awarded an EPS Grindley grant of £500 to support attendance at the 2015 ECVP in Liverpool.

Congratulations to Rotem Perach who has been awarded £1,000 by the Kenneth Lindsay Scholarship Trust - an educational trust fund of the Anglo Israel Association. It provides scholarships for Israeli students to study in the UK.

Congratulations to Dr Tim Hophthrow who was recently appointed to Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for Social Sciences. Tim has also been awarded £500 by Ruskin Air Management for a project entitled "Ruskin Team Building".

Congratulations to John Allen and Frank Gasking who have received funding from Learning and Development and the School to attend PyCon 2015, the community-organised conference for the Python programming language.

Congratulations to Dr Aleksandra

Cichocka who been elected as a member of the Governing Council of the ISPP (International Society of Political Psychology). Aleksandra is also one of the recipients of the 2015 Otto Klineberg Intercultural and International Relations Award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) with a prize of \$1,000.

Congratulations to Dr Heather Ferguson (Co-I) who with Dr James Cane (PI) from London South bank University has been awarded £9,538 by the British Academy/ Leverhulme Small Research Grant for a project entitled 'The impact of alcohol, alcohol environments and alcohol rumination on social perspective-taking ability'.

Congratulations to Prof Robbie Sutton and Dr Ellie Lee (SSPSSR) who have been awarded £4,977 by the Faculty of Social Sciences' Research Committee for a project entitled "Drinking during pregnancy: Investigating slippages between scientific data and their interpretation, communication, and impact".

Congratulations to Dr Kristof Dhont who has been awarded £4,427 by the Faculty of Social Sciences' Research Committee for a project entitled "Identifying the psychological and situational factors driving support for right-wing radicalism: The role of social attitudes and intergroup contact".

Congratulations to Dr Ayse Uskul who has been awarded £2,825 by the Faculty of Social Sciences Research Fund - title of the application was "Data collection to revise a manuscript for the top journal in social psychology".

Congratulations to Prof Theresa Gannon (PI), Dr Caoilte Ó Ciardha (Co-I) and Dr Emma Alleyne (Co-I) who have been awarded £1,871 by the British Psychological Society for a Firesetting Workshop.

Congratulations to Dr Hannah Swift who has been awarded £5,013 by Age UK Sevenoaks Tonbridge & District for a project entitled "Support at Home Service Evaluation". Hannah is also Co-I on a project with Prof Marialena Nikolopoulou (PI), Dr Giridharan Renganathan (Co-I), Keith Bothwell (Co-I) and Dr Richard Watkins (Co-I) from the School of Architecture. The funder is Kent County Council/Thanet District Council and the amount coming to Psychology is £1,222.

Congratulations to Lois Donnelly, Luisa Stevens, and Hannah Tummon on being awarded Stage 3 Faculty Prizes.

Congratulations to Lois Donnelly on winning the Undergraduate Essay Competition as part of the Student Prize for Feminist Scholarship 2015.

Congratulations to Kathryn Cox, who was awarded the University Music Awards Committee Prize in the final year of her undergraduate degree. The prize was given in recognition of Kathryn's valuable contribution to University Music as a singer, as a member of Chorus, Chamber Choir, Cecilian Choir and the Lost Consort.

Congratulations to Dr Jane Wood (PI), Dr Eddie Vasquez (Co-I) and Dr Emma Alleyne (Co-I) who have been awarded £24,000 by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner for a project entitled "Evaluation of Neighbourhood Responsibility Panel".

Congratulations to stage two Psychology and Law student Brenda Bruggen on receiving a special commendation from the Head of Kent Law School for outstanding and exceptional performance in a core Law module.

Congratulations to Dr Ana Leite who was awarded £269 by the Faculty's Internationalisation Fund to support a visit to Norway, which forms part of the School's wider strategy for developing visibility.

Congratulations to Prof Roger Giner-Sorolla who will be taking over the role of Chief Editor of the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology on 1st January 2016. Roger's appointment will be formally announced at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology meeting in September.

Congratulations to Dr David Williams who has been awarded a grant of £322,536 by ESRC for a project entitled "Metacognition and mindreading: One system or two?". David has also recently been appointed Associate Editor of the journal Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, which is published by Elsevier. Furthermore, David is a co-investigator on a grant with Dr Shaun May (PI) and Dr Oliver Double (Co-I) from Drama and Theatre Studies in the School of Arts who have been awarded £7,849 by The British Academy for a project entitled "Comedy on the spectrum: exploring humour production in adolescents with autism".

Congratulations to Prof Joachim Stoeber who has been elected Treasurer of the British Society for the Psychology of Individual Differences (BSPID) and he is now a BSPID Committee member.

Congratulations to Dr Kirsten Abbot-Smith and co-authors on being awarded the International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders 2014 Annual Prize for their article 'How much exposure to English is necessary for a bilingual toddler to perform like a monolingual peer in language tests?'.

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Recent Publications

- Abrams, D., Houston, D. M., Van de Vyver, J., & Vasiljevic, M. (2015). Equality hypocrisy: Equality is a universal human right that we apply unequally. Peace and Conflict: *Journal of Peace Psychology, Special Issue: Psychologies of Human Rights*, 21, 28-46. doi.org/10.1037/pac0000084.
- Abrams, D., Pelletier, J., Cameron, L., & Lee, S. (2015). Children's prosocial behavioral intentions toward outgroup members. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*. doi:10.1111/bjdp.12085.
- Abrams, D., Travaglino, G.A., Randsley de Moura, G., & May, P.J. (2014). A step too far? Leader racism inhibits transgression credit. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 44, 730- 735. doi: 10.1002/ejsp.2063.
- Brown, A. (2014, December 10). Item Response Models for Forced-Choice Questionnaires: A Common Framework. Psychometrika. Advance online publication.
- Brown, A. (2015). Personality Assessment, Forced-Choice. In Wright, J. D. (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioural Sciences*, 2nd Edition. Elsevier. doi:10.1016/B978-0-08-097086-8.25084-8.
- Brown, A. & Croudace, T. (2015). Scoring and estimating score precision using multidimensional IRT. In Reise, S. P. & Revicki, D. A. (Eds.). *Handbook of Item Response Theory Modeling: Applications to Typical Performance Assessment* (a volume in the Multivariate Applications Series). New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.
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- Ferguson, H.J., Cane, J.E., Douchkov, M., & Wright, D. (In Press). Empathy predicts false belief reasoning ability: Evidence from the N400. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*. doi:10.1093/scan/nsu131.
- Grant, P.R., Abrams, D., Robertson, D.W., & Garay, J. (2015). Predicting protests by disadvantaged skilled immigrants: A test of an integrated Social Identity Relative Deprivation, Collective Efficacy (SIRDE) model. *Social Justice Research*, 28, 76-101. doi: 10.1007/s11211-014-0229-z.
- Gunsoy, C., Cross, S. E., Uskul, A. K., Adams, G., & Gercek-Swing, B. (in press). Avoid or fight back? Cultural differences in responses to conflict and the role of collectivism, honor, and enemy perception. *Journal Of Cross-Cultural Psychology*. doi:10.1177/0022022115594252.
- Hitti, A., Mulvey, K.L., Rutland, A., Abrams, D., & Killen, M. (2014). When is it okay to exclude a member of the ingroup? Children's and adolescents' social reasoning. *Social Development*, 23, 451-469. doi: 10.1111/sode.12047.
- Hoffmann, A., Stoeber, J., & Musch, J. (2015). Multidimensional perfectionism and assortative mating: A perfect date? *Personality and Individual Differences*, 86, 94-100.
- Hu, X., Bergström, Z. M., Bodenhausen, G. V. & Rosenfeld, J. P. (2015). Suppressing Unwanted Autobiographical Memories Reduces Their Automatic Influences: Evidence From Electrophysiology and an Implicit Autobiographical Memory Test. *Psychological Science*. doi:10.1177/0956797615575734.
- Klein, N., Grossman, I., Uskul, A. K., Kraus, A., & Epley, N. (2015). It pays to be nice, but not really nice: Asymmetric evaluations of prosociality across seven cultures. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 10, 355-364.
- Lamont, R., Swift, H.J., & Abrams, D. (2015). A review and meta-analysis of age-based stereotype threat: Negative stereotypes, not facts, do the damage. *Psychology and Aging*. doi: 10.1037/a0038586.
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- Marques, S., Vauclair, C.M., Lima, M.L., Brat, C., Swift, H., & Abrams, D. (2014/15) 'Being old and ill' across different countries: Social status, age identification and older people's subjective health. *Psychology and Health*. doi: 10.1080/08870446.2014.938742.
- Page, T.E., & Pina, A. (2015). Moral disengagement as a self-regulatory process in sexual harassment perpetration at work: A preliminary conceptualization. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 21, 73-84. doi: 10.1016/j.avb.2015.01.004.
- Page, T.E., Pina, A., & Giner-Sorolla, R. (2015). "It Was Only Harmless Banter!" The Development and Preliminary Validation of the Moral Disengagement in Sexual Harassment Scale. *Aggressive Behavior*. doi: 10.1002/ab.21621.
- Ponari, M., Rodríguez-Cuadrado, S., Vinson, D., Fox, N., Costa, A., & Vigliocco, G. (2015). Processing Advantage for Emotional Words in Bilingual Speakers. *Emotion (Washington, D.C.)*. doi:10.1037/emo0000061.
- Reeves, J., Ferguson, H.J., Shemmings, D., & Drew, I. (In Press). 'Rosie 2' a child protection simulation: perspectives on neglect and the 'unconscious at work'. Child Abuse Review. doi:10.1002/car.2362.
- Stoeber, J., & Corr, P. J. (2015). Perfectionism, personality, and affective experiences: New insights from revised Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 86, 354-359.
- Rutland, A., Hitti, A., Mulvey, K. L., Abrams, D., & Killen, M. (2015, April). When does the in-group like the out-group?: Bias among children as a function of group norms. *Psychological Science*. doi: 10.1177/0956797615572758 [and supplementary material: <http://bit.ly/1MX852J>].
- Sayers, J. (2015) Review of *Creatures of a Day* by Irvin Yalom, *Times Higher Education*, 2 April, p.55
- Sayers, J. (2015) Review of *Art and Analysis* by Meg Harris Williams, *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 31(2, May):275-278
- Stoeber, J., & Yang, H. (2015). Physical appearance perfectionism explains variance in eating disorder symptoms above general perfectionism. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 86, 303-307.
- Stoeber, J., & Yang, H. (2016). Moral perfectionism and moral values, virtues, and judgments: Further investigations. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 88, 6-11. doi: 10.1016/j.paid.2015.08.031.
- Travaglino, G.A., Abrams, D., Randsley de Moura, G., & Russo, G. (2015). That's how we do it around here: Levels of identification, masculine honor, and social activism against organized crime in the South of Italy. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. doi: 10.1002/ejsp.2100.
- Uskul, A. K. (2015). Cultural conceptions of social relationships and interdependence. In C. Psaltis, A. Gillespie, and A. Perret-Clermont (Eds.), *Social relations in human and societal development* (pp. 149-164). Hampshire: Palgrave Publishers.
- Uskul, A. K., Cross, S., Gunsoy, C., Gercek-Swing, B., Aozkan, C., & Ataca, B. (in press). A price to pay: Turkish and... **Continued on page 8**

Recent Publications Continued

...American retaliation for threats to personal and family honor. *Aggressive Behavior*. doi: 10.1002/ab.21598.

Uskul, A. K., & Horn, A. B. (2015). Emotions and health. In J. D. Wright (Ed.), *International encyclopaedia of social and behavioral sciences* (2nd ed.), vol. 7, pp. 496-501. Oxford: Elsevier.

Van de Vyver, J., & Abrams, D. (2015). Testing the prosocial effectiveness of the prototypical moral emotions: Elevation increases benevolent behaviors and outrage increases justice behaviors. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 58, 23-33. doi: 10.1016/j.jesp.2014.12.005.

Vauclair, C.M., Marques, S., Lima, M.L., Bratt, C., Swift, H., & Abrams, D. (2014). Subjective social status of older people across countries: The role of modernization and employment. *Journal of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbu074.

Vauclair, C-M, Marques, S., Lima, M.L., Abrams, D., Swift, H.J., & Bratt, C (2014). Perceived age discrimination as a mediator of the association between income inequality and older people's self-rated health in the European Region. *Journal of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbu066 (free url: <http://bit.ly/1JltbSi>)

Wood, J.L. (2015). Gang Members: Group Processes and Social Cognitive Explanations. In D. A. Crighton & G. J. Towl (Eds.), *Forensic Psychology*, (2nd ed. pp. 353-365). Chichester, England: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Kent Psychologists in the Media

Dr Rachel Calogero was recently interviewed about her research in relation to an article on cosmetic surgery for the news site ATTN:. The piece, which was published on 28 August, is titled 'Why Cosmetic Surgery Is on the Rise in the U.S.?' and is available to read online: <http://bit.ly/1FkH9r2>.

Rael Dawtry was lead author on the research which found that people use their own neighbours as a gauge of how much wealth other people possess. The findings which were published in *Psychological Science*, were covered by ScienceDaily.com and The Washington Post. To read the press release, go to: <http://bit.ly/1NJxZWV>.

In May Professor Joachim Stoeber's research was highlighted by sciencenewsline.com in an article

Congratulations Continued

Congratulations to Dr Carola Leicht who has been awarded £42,077 by Templeton Religion Trust for a project entitled "Science and Religion: Exploring the spectrum" (see page 5).

Congratulations to Dr Hannah Swift (PI), Ruth Lamont (Co-I) and Amanda Bates (CHSS Co-I) who have been awarded £1,700 by the PVC (Research) for their application to the Public Engagement with Research Fund.

Congratulations to Dr Anna Brown who has been awarded £5,375 by the Department of Health (via the Anna Freud Centre) for a project entitled "Systematic review of the psychometric properties of ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE".

Congratulations to undergraduate students Alex Acaster, Sharni Ecott, Maria Norman Bermudez and Francesca Simpson on being awarded places on the Scholarship Summer School in either Paris or Brussels this July. Congratulations also to Radostina Hubenova on being awarded a place on the External Summer School through the Santander Summer School Fund.

Congratulations to PhD student Libby Cuthbert who has been awarded a Graduate Student Travel Award of \$500 by SPSSI. This award will contribute towards the costs of attending the 2015 SPSSI Conference in Washington, DC.

Congratulations to Carly Turnham on winning a Kent Union Teaching Award under the category of Best Administration/ Technical Staff.

Congratulations to final year undergraduate Fatima Tresh who was short-listed in the Outstanding Student Achievement category

in the Association for Business Psychology Workforce Experience Awards 2015.

Congratulations to Prof Theresa Gannon who has been elected as an academic Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. The honour is given in recognition of Theresa's significant contribution to the development of social science, and her promotion of social sciences nationally and internationally.



Need Help/Advice?

If you have any personal or academic issues that may affect your ability to study you can talk to Lisa Clark, Student Advisor for Psychology.

Please email her at: psychadvisor@kent.ac.uk

There are a range of services available to all Kent students including the following:

- Careers and Employability Service
- Disability and Dyslexia Support Service
- International Students
- Counselling
- Chaplaincy
- Medical

Plus many more...

You can find more out about Student Services from the following webpage: www.kent.ac.uk/guidance/

Any Suggestions?

If you have any comments or suggestions for the staff in the School of Psychology, then you can feed these back to us by using our suggestions box located outside the Psychology Student Office (Keynes M1.13).

Kent Psychologist

The School of Psychology's Newsletter is for students and staff. We welcome contributions from both staff, students and alumni for future issues. If you would like to write an article or have any news you'd like to share, please contact Carly Turnham.

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