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# KENTPSYCHOLOGIST

An update from the School of Psychology at the University of Kent

February 2020

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?



## National Student Survey

February saw the launch of the annual National Student Survey (NSS), where final year undergraduate students are invited to comment on their experiences and satisfaction with studying and learning at their institutions, a process that helps shape the experience of future students.

This year in the School of Psychology, instead of giving individual rewards to a lucky few, we invited our students to select charities close to their hearts and promised that we would make a contribution for every student taking the NSS survey so that those in most need can benefit.

Currently Barnardo's and Samaritans charities are "neck and neck" so if there are any students out there that haven't

## Complete the survey by 30 April 2020. It only takes ten minutes!

completed their surveys please do so here and then visit the Moodle page to vote for your preferred charity! In case of a tie, we will split the donation evenly to both charities.

For every student who completes the survey, the School will donate £1.00 to the charity and if we reach a 70% response rate, the total amount raised will be doubled!

The survey is anonymous and will help us understand about your views of studying here so we can improve our student experience at Kent.

It will run until 30 April 2020. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Read more on each of the two frontrunners on page 7.

## The Dementia Island Journey

**Contributed by Rianna Patterson, final year psychology student.**

My name is Rianna Patterson, I am a final year psychology student. I am also the founder of Dominica Dementia Foundation, which aims to raise awareness of dementia in Dominica to support families and caregivers affected by dementia. We also facilitate research towards dementia. I am currently working on a documentary film about dementia.

This project will focus on dementia, culture and my personal journey in creating an impact in the lives of the elderly in Dominica. I want to highlight ageing and living well in a cultural context. I will explore holistic treatments for dementia, which will compose the research part of this project as I am keen in formulating research on ageing and the media.

The film is currently in the developing stages. We will be launching a Crowdfunding page under the name "The Dementia Island Journey" on the platform "seedandspark" in June 2021. If you would like to support this project you can email me on [dominicafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:dominicafoundation@gmail.com) as there are opportunities to fundraise for us. You can also follow the hashtag #jointhejourney to see updates on the film as we set to launch it in 2021.



# News

## Events and News



We are well into spring term now, and as always, have much to celebrate in the way of student and staff achievements.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr Andy Russ on the birth of his daughter, Emmeline (pictured above)! Emmeline was born on 22 January weighing 7.5lbs.

Congratulations to postgraduate researchers Zaffie Cox, Chloe Farahar, Louise Malkin and Ioanna Kapantai on successfully securing two Teaching Enhancement Small Support Awards (TESSAs). Zaffie, Chloe and Louise received an award of £4,901.20 to develop an online training programme to educate student-facing staff on neurodiversity.

Ioanna has been awarded £783.75 to develop an online interactive module on Moodle to provide critical thinking skills for psychology students. These awards are great news for the School, supporting activities that aim to improve the student experience and benefit academic and support staff.

Professor Ayse Uskul has become a member of the GM 3 Fellowship Assessment Panel on Psychology, Pedagogy, Didactics and Social Work of the Research Foundation Flanders (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen [FWO]). Her appointment started on 1 January 2020 and will last 3 years. The duties involve evaluation of doctoral and postdoctoral research proposals at meetings held in Brussels.

Congratulations to Professor Joachim Stoeber and Dr Kristof Dhont on being awarded a Lush charity pot grant



of £3,300 to support their three-day conference 'Animal Advocacy: Insights from the Social Sciences'. This conference will bring together researchers from different fields in the social and behavioral sciences, and animal activists and advocates from around the world.

Congratulations to Stage 3 student Aisha Dosanjh on being elected as Vice-President (Welfare and Community) in the Kent Union Leadership Elections 2020. She will take up her post in July after completing her studies.

### New Undergraduate Common Room

The Student Experience Team have been working hard to open the new undergraduate common room, which is pictured above with some of your student representatives! It is located on the ground floor of Keynes in MG.14 where the Economics reception used to be placed. We are still working to make this space more accessible and enjoyable to use but anticipate that it will be a great place for students to come together.

### Vice-Chancellor's Cup

Staff members from across the School have taken part in the first two events of the Vice-Chancellor's Cup. This is an inter-departmental staff competition for all abilities to encourage staff to keep active and have fun. The first two events were Volleyball and It's a Knockout, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed by the School team (Pink Freud; pictured above, right).

The current team includes James Coultrip (Taught Programmes



Assistant and Team Captain), Sam Hurn (EPS Administrator and Vice-Captain) and John Allen (Experimental Officer) from Psychology.

In the words of the Vice-Captain, it isn't about trying to be the best, it is a fun way to be active and talk to people in other departments (whether you know them or not). If you'd like to join the team and take part in some of the many events to come please contact the team captain James Coultrip ([j.coultrip@kent.ac.uk](mailto:j.coultrip@kent.ac.uk)).

### Kent Psychologists in the Media

On 12 January, Dr Arnaud Wisman gave comment to Huffpost on why people stave off thoughts of death, drawing from theories, such as Terror Management Theory, and his own research.

On 16 and 20 January, Lazaros Gonidis wrote two pieces for the University's News Centre on gambling behaviour and computer gaming in response to the credit card ban by the Gambling Commission, and calls from the NHS for "loot-boxes" to be banned.

On 20 January, Professor Karen Douglas joined Brian Cox and Robin Ince on BBC Radio 4's The Infinite Monkey Cage to discuss conspiracy theories. The show can be listened to here: <https://bbc.in/2vL7pg6>.

On 21 January, Professor Theresa Gannon and colleague's research on polygraph testing was featured in both The Guardian and The Independent in relation to the introduction of this kind of testing for terror offenders.

Continued on page 7.



# News

## The Playground Project and KSA



**Contributed by Nera Bozin and Jolie Keemink, third-year PhD students**

We have recently published our consultancy report on the Playground project; a project funded by Arts Council England looking at the impact of creative play sessions for families with 0 to 4-year-olds living in disadvantaged areas in Kent. The project ran in partnership with Kent County Council.

Research has shown that growing up in disadvantaged areas has a negative impact on children's cognitive and behavioural development (McCulloch, 2006). In order to prevent long-term adverse consequences, it is essential to address this issue early.

Arts activities have been shown to help alleviate the negative influence of disadvantaged children's home environments, enhance children's emotional well-being (Creedon, 2011) and to reduce stress (Brown, Garnett, Anderson, & Laurenceau, 2017). Yet, arts for preschool children is often overlooked, because of an increased emphasis on school readiness and academic achievement.

The Playground project was developed to demonstrate the beneficial effects of the arts and offered weekly professionally led music and arts activities for children aged zero to four living in the 10% most disadvantaged areas in Kent.

The aim of the project was to increase children's confidence, reduce stress and to nurture the relationship with their parents and other children. Our role was to scientifically evaluate the impact of the project by collecting data from interviews and questionnaires.



Eight artists conducted weekly sessions in four libraries located in Northfleet, Ramsgate, Tunbridge Wells and the Isle of Sheppey. In total, 92 creative sessions took place over a time span of six months. The sessions were visited by 30 preschool children accompanied by their parents. To assess the impact of the sessions, we collected data from all the participants involved: the children, the parents, the artists, and the library staff.

Our results suggest that the artistic sessions had an impact on all participants involved. Both parents and staff reported being more comfortable and confident engaging in artistic activities with children. The sessions allowed parents to form connections with other parents from the area, and their children were more confident engaging with other children and adults.

Moreover, the project inspired parents to engage in creative activity with their children at home, using affordable and accessible materials. The creative and artistic aspects also encouraged parents to be fully involved in the activity with their children, fostering important parent-child connections.

Furthermore, the artists reported increased skills for their creative practice with infants and they developed essential skills for participatory art as opposed to just performing art. Finally, the library staff recognised the benefits of arts and creativity for young children and their parents, as well as for their own practice with young children.

Playground was a very successful pilot project, and laid important foundations for a longitudinal follow-up project. It is



a great example of how we can use psychological research to positively impact our local area and inform local councils/agencies.

Nera and Jolie are pictured above at the documentary screening of the project in the Gulbenkian.

*“The sessions allowed parents to form connections with other parents from the area, and their children were more confident engaging with other children and adults.”*

### Kent Student Awards

This year the Kent Student Awards (KSA) are open for nominations until 22nd March. Staff and students can all nominate individual students or groups who deserve recognition for the co-curricular work they've done while at Kent in areas including sustainability, media and the arts, and developing academic communities. A full list of categories and the nomination form are available on the website: [www.kent.ac.uk/student/kentawards](http://www.kent.ac.uk/student/kentawards).



ALL WELCOME

# PUBLIC INVITATION

## The launch of the Final Report of the National Evaluation of Police Polygraph Use in the UK

~ with LIVE polygraph demonstration ~

— ∞ —  
Wednesday, 18th March 2020

Darwin Building at the University of Kent

Getting here: [www.kent.ac.uk/maps/canterbury/canterbury-campus](http://www.kent.ac.uk/maps/canterbury/canterbury-campus)

### ORDER OF EVENTS

13:30 - 14:00  
**ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION**

14:00 - 14:05  
**OPENING ADDRESS**  
by the University of Kent

14:05 - 14:20  
**POLICE CHALLENGES WHEN  
SUPERVISING PERSONS WHO HAVE  
SEXUALLY OFFENDED**  
by Chief Constable Michelle Skeer QPM  
(Cumbria Police)

14:20 - 15:00  
**POLYGRAPH DEMONSTRATION**  
Conducted by a police polygrapher

15:00 - 15:20  
**REFRESHMENT BREAK  
& NETWORKING**

15:20 - 15:50  
**LAUNCH OF REPORT**  
by Professor Jane Wood  
(CORE-FP)

15:50 - 16:30  
**IMPLICATIONS OF FINDINGS**  
by Professor Jane Wood  
(CORE-FP)  
Doug Naden  
(National Police Lead for MAPPA)

...  
**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
The Polygraph Evaluation  
Team (CORE-FP)  
Members of the Police

16:30 onwards  
**DRINKS RECEPTION  
& NETWORKING**

PLACES AT THIS FREE EVENT ARE LIMITED.  
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT:

**COREFP@kent.ac.uk**

University of  
**Kent**

Centre of Research  
and Education in  
Forensic Psychology  
(CORE-FP)

 **NPCC**  
National Police Chiefs' Council

FREE EVENT



# Brain. Cognition. Emotion. Music. the quartet with a missing link

Canterbury May 20-21, 2020

University of Kent, UK



David Huron



Stefan Koelsch



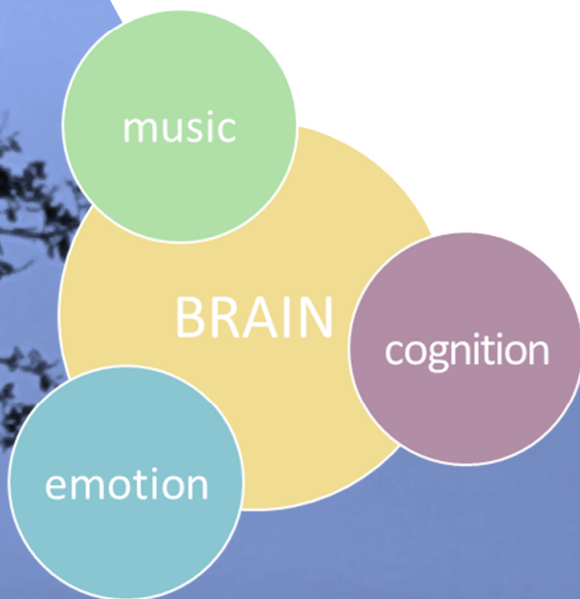
Joydeep  
Bhattacharya



Andrea Halpern



Marcus Pearce



## Free Registration:

[www.bcem.uk](http://www.bcem.uk)

## Contact Us:

[info@bcem.uk](mailto:info@bcem.uk)

01227 82 770

## Submission Deadline:

Oral Presentations: 29-Feb-2020

Poster Presentations: 31-Mar-2020

University of  
**|E|P|S| Kent**

# Recent Publications

- Abbott, N., Cameron, L., & Thompson, J. (2019). Evaluating the impact of a defender role-play intervention on adolescent's defender intentions and responses towards name-calling. *School Psychology International*. doi: 10.1177/0143034319893410
- Aczel, B., Szaszi, B., Sarafoglou, A., Kekecs, Z., Kucharský, Š., & Benjamin, D. et al. (2019). A consensus-based transparency checklist. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 4(1), 4-6. doi: 10.1038/s41562-019-0772-6
- Barzy, M., Filik, R., Williams, D., & Ferguson, H. (2020). Emotional Processing of Ironic Versus Literal Criticism in Autistic and Nonautistic Adults: Evidence From Eye-Tracking. *Autism Research*. doi: 10.1002/aur.2272
- Davidson, P., Hellerstedt, R., Jönsson, P., & Johansson, M. (2019). Suppression-induced forgetting diminishes following a delay of either sleep or wake. *Journal Of Cognitive Psychology*, 32(1), 4-26. doi: 10.1080/20445911.2019.1705311
- Everett, J., & Kahane, G. (2020). Switching Tracks? Towards a Multidimensional Model of Utilitarian Psychology. *Trends In Cognitive Sciences*, 24(2), 124-134. doi: 10.1016/j.tics.2019.11.012
- Frisby-Osman, S., & Wood, J. (2020). Rethinking How We View Gang Members: An Examination into Affective, Behavioral, and Mental Health Predictors of UK Gang-Involved Youth. *Youth Justice*. doi: 10.1177/1473225419893779
- Giner-Sorolla, R., & Russell, P. (2019). Not Just Disgust: Fear and Anger Also Relate to Intergroup Dehumanization. *Collabra: Psychology*, 5(1), 56. doi: 10.1525/collabra.211
- Hässler, T., Ullrich, J., Bernardino, M., Shnabel, N., Laar, C., & Valdenegro, D. et al. (2020). A large-scale test of the link between intergroup contact and support for social change. *Nature Human Behaviour*. doi: 10.1038/s41562-019-0815-z
- Ildeniz, G., & Ó Ciardha, C. (2019). A dangerous world implicit theory: examining overlap with other criminogenic constructs. *Journal Of Sexual Aggression*, 1-17. doi: 10.1080/13552600.2019.1695003
- Ko, A., Pick, C., Kwon, J., Barlev, M., Krems, J., & Varnum, M. et al. (2019). Family Matters: Rethinking the Psychology of Human Social Motivation. *Perspectives On Psychological Science*, 15(1), 173-201. doi: 10.1177/1745691619872986
- Landsiedel, J., & Williams, D. (2019). Increasing Extrinsic Motivation Improves Time-Based Prospective Memory in Adults with Autism: Relations with Executive Functioning and Mentalizing. *Journal Of Autism And Developmental Disorders*. doi: 10.1007/s10803-019-04340-2
- Morais, C., Abrams, D., & Randsley de Moura, G. (2020). Ethics Versus Success? The Acceptance of Unethical Leadership in the 2016 US Presidential Elections. *Frontiers In Psychology*, 10. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.03089
- Nieuwland, M., Barr, D., Bartolozzi, F., Busch-Moreno, S., Darley, E., & Donaldson, D. et al. (2018). Dissociable effects of prediction and integration during language comprehension: Evidence from a large-scale study using brain potentials. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 375(1791). doi: 10.1101/267815
- Prunty, J., Jackson, K., Keemink, J., & Kelly, D. (2020). Caucasian Infants' Attentional Orienting to Own- and Other-Race Faces. *Brain Sciences*, 10(1), 53. doi: 10.3390/brainsci10010053
- Pyke, W., Ifram, F., Coventry, L., Sung, Y., Champion, I., & Javadi, A. (2020). The effects of different protocols of physical exercise and rest on long-term memory. *Neurobiology Of Learning And Memory*, 167, 107128. doi: 10.1016/j.nlm.2019.107128
- Zajackowska, M. K., Abbot-Smith, K., & Kim, C. S. (2019). Using shared knowledge to determine ironic intent; a conversational response paradigm. *Journal of Child Language*. Retrieved from <https://kar.kent.ac.uk/77823/>

# News

## News and events

### National Student Survey continued

#### Barnardo's

Barnardo's support and protect children and young people facing a wide range of issues, from drug misuse to disability, sexual abuse and domestic violence. Barnardo's believe that with the right help children can change their lives and achieve their potential. In 2018-2019 they directly supported more than 294,300 children, young people, parents and carers through individual work, children's centres and family hubs as well as school-based programmes. They have 8,000 dedicated staff and more than 20,000 volunteers who work tirelessly to identify vulnerable children, intervene early and support them towards a positive future

#### Samaritans

Samaritans answer a call for help every six seconds. Every year they answer more than 5 million calls via their 24-hour listening service, email, sms, letter and face to face. They are available day and night for anyone who is struggling to cope, who needs someone to listen without judgement or pressure. Their vision is that every life lost to suicide is a tragedy and that fewer people die by suicide. Samaritans have a network of more than 20,000 volunteers in 201 different branches. They want to encourage, promote and celebrate connections between people that can protect and save lives. They work in schools, prisons, workplaces and communities and are in partnership with organisations like Network Rail. They offer confidential listening services that are non-judgemental and supportive and give people time and attention reducing their distress and despair.

Thank you to all our students who chose these charities and who are enabling the School of Psychology to make a contribution with their participation in the NSS.

### Kent Psychologists in the Media continued

On 22 January, Professor Jane Wood also gave comment to BBC's The Wake Up Call to discuss research on the use and efficacy of polygraph testing in response to the introduction of polygraph testing for terror offenders.

On 18 to 21 February, research from Dr Amir-Homayoun Javadi on moderate intensity exercise and memory improvements featured on The Indian Express, News 24 Online, International Business Times, Hindustan Times, Yahoo, Daily Express (print), and Daily Star (print).

On 20 February, Dr Afroditi Pina featured in a video from the Government Equalities Office to inform on what steps can be taken and what help is available if sexual harassment has been experienced in the workplace.



**Government Equalities Office**  
@GEOgovuk

Would you know what to do if you experienced sexual harassment at work?

@AfroditiPina sets out what to ask your employer so you know the steps to take 🗣️



### Student Support in the School of Psychology

Sometimes you might experience problems that can impact on your ability to study. Problems may be academic, personal or health-related. The role of the Student Support Team is to provide advice and assistance to undergraduate and taught postgraduate students to help you overcome such problems so that you are able to achieve to your full potential. The Student Support Office is located in Keynes L1.14 and is open from 9:30-12:30 and 13:30-16:00, Tel: 01227 827061.

Appointments are for 20 minutes and are available on the hour and on the half hour weekdays from 10:00 until 12:00 and 14:00 until 16:00. If you wish to book an appointment then please email [psychadvisorappointments@kent.ac.uk](mailto:psychadvisorappointments@kent.ac.uk) from your Kent account with two or three suitable times/days. They will book you in for the earliest available opportunity.

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/](http://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)

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to keep up to date with the latest events and news!

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Distinguished Speaker series: Professor Sam Gosling**

- Wednesday 11 March 2020
- 16.00 to 17.00, Location TBA

**National Evaluation of Police Polygraph Use in the UK Conference**

- Wednesday 18 March 2020
- 13.30 to 16.30, Open to all, registration required
- Contact COREFP@kent.ac.uk

**Brain, Cognition, Emotion and Music: The quartet with a missing link**

- 12.00 May 20 to 17.00 May 21, Sibson, open to researchers from related disciplines, including students and postdocs
- Contact Dr Amir-Homayoun Javadi, A.H.Javadi@kent.ac.uk

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

Email: L.E.Hyam@kent.ac.uk  
Telephone: 01227 816342

University of  
**Kent**