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

June 2019



On 6-7 June, the School hosted a free two-day conference 'What Now? The Future of Gender Relations after #MeToo'.

The conference, organised by members of the Political Psychology Lab and the Centre for the Study of Group Processes, was supported by the Eastern ARC and aimed to bring together students, academics and the public to talk all about gender, feminism, sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement.

Professor Robbie Sutton delivered an introductory talk which considered the impact and success of #MeToo as a movement. He pointed out that an increased number of #MeToo posts may help increase collective anger towards sexual harassment, which in turn could help build support for the movement.

Keynote speakers included Professor Michelle Ryan, University of Exeter; Dr Finn Mackay, University of West England; Professor Julia Becker, University of Osnabrück; and Dr Joyce Endenijk, University of Utrecht.

Professor Michelle Ryan's talk encouraged us to rethink how we measure and examine 'gender' and stereotyping, demonstrating how some measures that are used in gender research are themselves gendered and therefore biased.

The panel that followed this, chaired by Dr Afroditi Pina, explored how systems are failing to protect individuals against sexual harassment, and how responses to harassment are influenced by the risks victims face in coming forward.

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#### **Awards for Kent Professors**

Professor of Forensic Psychology and Deputy Head of School, Theresa Gannon, has won a prestigious award from the British Psychological Society -Division of Forensic Psychology.

The Lifetime Contribution Award is given to those 'who have made an outstanding and sustained contribution professionally. This might be through work which has had a significant impact on the public, in developing our understanding of psychology in work contexts or a substantial contribution to the Division'.

This is fantastic recognition of the work that Theresa has done, and the research that she has contributed to the area of Forensic Psychology. Especially, her contributions to the fields of firesetting and arson, and male and female sexual offending have led to pioneering treatment developments and legislation changes.

The award was presented at the Division of Forensic Psychology Annual Conference 2019 on 18 June.

Professor Heather Ferguson has been awarded the Psychonomic Society's Early Career Award. This recognises Heather's outstanding contributions to scientific psychology early in her career

Heather has been awarded various grants to fund her research and is currently an Honorary Secretary for the Experimental Psychology Society. The award will be presented in Montreal, Canada in November 2019 at the Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to both!

### News

### Congratulations



Now that another busy academic year has drawn to a close, we would like to say well done, students and staff, for all of your hard work!

#### Congratulations, Professors!

On 18 April, the School celebrated the inauguration of Professor Jane Wood. A pre-conference organised by the Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology saw Drs Emma Alleyne, Afroditi Pina and Eduardo Vasquez give various talks related to the forensic psychological perspectives of different violent behaviours. Jane's inaugural lecture focused on 'Forensic Psychological perspectives of gang membership: Theoretical and empirical advances'.

The event was extremely well-attended by staff, students and visitors. Even the Kent Bunny paid a visit! In addition to the various research posters presented by students, Stop It Now! UK & Ireland, The Tizard Centre, Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust, Circles South East



Forensic Psychology @core\_fp Apr 18
Thank you @ProfJaneWood for sharing your important and ground-breaking research on gang membership in your Inaugural Lecture! Congratulations, you've earned this! #ProfWoodGangs





and the Journal of Sexual Aggression were also present as stall holders to talk about the work that they do.

On 2 May a special event was hosted to celebrate the inaugural lecture of Professor Heather Ferguson. In addition to her family, colleagues and students, Heather invited participants from her research with the local community to attend her lecture 'From Language to Meaning: Interpreting our Social World'.

Heather's talk included some recent findings from her research funded by the European Research Council Starting grant examining the cognitive basis of social communication and how this changes across the agespan. Heather also made reference to the fact that since joining the School 10 years ago, there are now six female professors in comparison to one when she started, and the ratio of male to female professorial staff is now equal.



The lecture was followed by cake and prosecco, with a chance for participants and staff to engage.

#### Congratulations, Kerry!

The School wishes a very warm congratulations to Stage 3 student Kerry Sildatke on receiving the Canterbury Association for Women Graduates prize on 29 May. This was



awarded to Kerry for her hard work and determination to overcome certain challenges to achieve well.

The Master of Keynes hosted a reception for the award to be presented to Kerry by the Association. Academic and professional services staff were also present to congratulate Kerry.

#### **Kent Student Awards**

Congratulations to Psychology students Juliette Ash and Grace Lau on being shortlisted for Kent Student Awards - Juliette for the Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Culture award, and Grace for the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community award.

#### **Warrior Women Seeking Old Phones**

'Warrior Women' are a group looking to support people who have experienced sexual violence. One of their initiatives is to provide mobile phones for people currently in the Criminal Justice System who have had to hand in their phones as evidence. This can often see people without a mobile phone for over a year. Often, people are contractually obliged to keep paying for these phones, even though they cannot be used.

The Warrior Women are asking for people to donate any old (working) mobile phones that they have to put towards this cause. Ideally, the phone will have a charger, but if you do not have the charger, please donate anyway. There is a box in the Student Support & Wellbeing reception in Keynes College for those able to donate. Please ensure that you have reset the phone to factory settings, and removed iCloud.

### News

### News and Events



#### **Grant Successes**

Congratulations to a number of our academic staff, who have been awarded various research grants.

Dr Markus Bindemann, Reader in Psychology, has been awarded a Leverhulme Trust Research Grant, entitled 'Face Detection by Humans'. This three-year project is worth £249,000 and focuses on the issue of how humans first detect faces in a visual scene, with the aim of finding a human face detection "signature". In collaboration with the grant coinvestigator at the University of York, Dr Rob Jenkins, Markus will test the novel hypothesis that detection occurs through use of a computational average: a statistical summary of all the faces one has encountered.

Dr Emma Alleyne, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology, has been awarded a Leverhulme International Academic Fellowship, entitled 'Understanding why adults abuse animals: Theory and evidence-based practice'. The award is worth £22,239, and will fund a six-month research visit to Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Lindsey Cameron, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, has been awarded £30,000 by the British Orthodontic Society to conduct a project entitled, "Is there a relationship between malocclusion, peer interactions and incidence of bullying among school children?" The project examines dental-related bullying amongst school children and will be conducted over the next year in partnership with Andrew Dibiase, consultant orthodontist at the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.



#### Kent Psychologists in the Media

On 1 April, Professor Karen Douglas' research on conspiracy theories featured in an article on the Guardian website.

On 19 April, research from Professor David Wilkinson and PhD student Emma Denby featured in The Times. The research featured showed that the dizziness caused by brain injury in military veterans may be one cause of long-term depression.

On 23 April, Professor Jane Wood commented for BBC South East for a piece on gang membership which was also featured on BBC Radio Kent.

On 24 April, Professor David Wilkinson commented for The National (UAE) on the experience of, and treatment for patients in a minimally conscious state, in reference to the case of patient Munira Abdulla, who has made significant improvements upon receiving intensive treatment after being in a minimally conscious state for 27 years.

On 30 April, Professor Karen Douglas and former PhD student Varoth Chotpitayasunondh's research on phubbing, the act of ignoring a social partner in favour of using one's phone, featured on Psychology Today.

On 16-17 May, research from Kent Psychologists including Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura featured on the Economic Times and Hindustan Times news websites. The research investigates women's overlooked leadership potential.

On 4 June, Professor Karen Douglas joined BBC Radio 4 to discuss her research on phubbing for The Digital Human with Aleks Krotoski.



On 5 June, Karen commented to BBC Radio Gloucestershire on why people believe in conspiracy theories.

On 20 June, Professor Dominic Abrams commented for Wired on group behaviour and the tendency to support leaders who transgress, in relation to Elon Musk and Tesla.

#### **Annual Lecture**

On 22 May, the School hosted its Annual Lecture. given by Chris Jarrold, Professor in Cognitive Development, University of Bristol. Chris' talk focussed on 'Rehearsal and the development of verbal short-term memory', and challenged the widely held position that apparent changes in verbal short-term memory capacity in children reflects a change in the use of rehearsal to support performance. The event was free and open to all, and the lecture was followed by a drinks reception in the Keynes Atrium.

#### **Vice-Chancellor Visits CORE-FP**

The Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Karen Cox visited the Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology on 1 May to take a look at the research facilities. She was hooked up to a polygraph for a test and even served the academics some drinks in the bar lab!



### **Recent Publications**

- Beck, B., Gnanasampanthan, S., Iannetti, G. D., Haggard, P. (2019). No temporal contrast enhancement of simple decreases in noxious heat. *Journal of Neurophysiology*, 121(5), 1778-1786. doi:10.1152/jn.00335.2018.
- Booth, R. W., Sharma, D., Dawood, F., Dogan, M., Emam, H. M. A., Gönenç, S. S., ... Shahzad, A. (2019). A relationship between weak attentional control and cognitive distortions, explained by negative affect. *Plos One, 14*(4). Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0215399
- Brown, A., Page, T., E., Daley, S., Farina, N., Bassett, T., Livingston, G., ... Banerjee, S. (2019). Measuring the quality of life of family carers of people with dementia: Development and validation of C-DEMQOL. *Quality of Life Research*, 1-12. Retrieved from https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11136-019-02186-w.
- Brunsdon, V. E. A., Bradford, E. E. F., & Ferguson, H. J. (2019). Sensorimotor mu rhythm during action observation changes across the lifespan independently from social cognitive processes. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 38. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2019.100659.
- Burgmer, P., Forstmann, M., & Stavrova, O. (2018). Ideas are cheap: When and why adults value labor over ideas. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 148(5), 824-844. Retrieved from https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1037/xge0000473.
- Capraro, V., Everett, J. A. C., & Earp, B. D. (2019). Priming intuition disfavors instrumental harm but not impartial beneficence. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *83*, 142-149. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2019.04.006.
- Crowley, R., Bendor, D., & Javadi, A. H. (2019). A review of neurobiological factors underlying the selective enhancement of memory at encoding, consolidation, and retrieval. *Progress in neurobiology*. doi:10.1016/j.pneurobio.2019.04.004.
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- Gunsoy, C., Cross, S. E., Uskul, A. K., & Gercek-Swing, B. (2019). The role of culture in appraisals, emotions, and helplessness in response to threats. *International Journal of Psychology*. Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ijop.12589.
- Hasbún López, P., Martinović, B., Bobowik, M., Chryssochoou, X., Cichocka, A., Ernst-Vintila, A., ... & Lamberty, P. (2019). Support for collective action against refugees: The role of national, european, and global identifications, and autochthony beliefs. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, Retrieved from https://kar.kent.ac.uk/73904/.
- Javadi, A., Patai, E. Z., Marin-Garcia, E., Margolis, A., Tan, H. M., Kumaran, D., ... Spiers, H. J. (2019). Prefrontal dynamics associated with efficient detours and shortcuts: A combined functional magnetic resonance imaging and magnetoencenphalography study. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 1-21. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1162/jocn\_a\_01414.
- Keemink, J. R., Keshavarzi-Pour, M. J., & Kelly, D. J. (2019). Infants' responses to interactive gaze-contingent faces in a novel and naturalistic eye-tracking paradigm. *Developmental psychology*. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0000736
- Madigan, D. J., Curran, T., Stoeber, J., Hill, A. P., Smith, M. M., & Passfield, L. (2019). Development of perfectionism in junior athletes: A three-sample study of coach and parental pressure. *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology, 41*(3), 167-175. doi:10.1123/jsep.2018-0287.
- Meleady, R., Crisp, R. J., Dhont, K., Hopthrow, T., & Turner, R. N. (2019). Intergroup contact, social dominance and environmental concern: A test of the cognitive-liberalization hypothesis. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* Retrieved from https://kar.kent.ac.uk/73713/.
- Player, A., Randsley, d. M., Leite, A. C., Abrams, D., & Tresh, F. (2019). Overlooked leadership potential: The preference for leadership potential in job candidates who are men vs. women. *Frontiers in Psychology, 10,* 755. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00755.
- Romano, D., Tamè, L., Amoruso, E., Azañón, E., Maravita, A., & Longo, M. R. (2019). The standard posture of the hand. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception & Performance*. doi:10.1037/xhp0000662.
- Sainz, M., Loughnan, S., Eyssel, F., & Pina, A. (2019). We share the euro, but not our humanity: Humanity attributions are associated with the perceived causes, consequences, and solution to the greek financial crisis. *The Social Science Journal*. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soscij.2019.03.007.
- Sainz, M., Martínez, R., Sutton, R., Rodríguez-Bailón, R., & Moya, M. Less Human, More to Blame: How Animalizing Poor People Increases Blame and Decreases Support for Wealth Redistribution. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430219841135.

### News

### **Events and Information**



**Canterbury Pint of Science event** 

### Contributed by Mahsa Barzy, Kent Psychology research student

In May 2019, I gave a talk at a Pint of Science event in Canterbury. Pint of Science is a non-profit organisation which aims to build a bridge between scientists and the public.

During this event, scientists from different backgrounds gather in a pub to talk about their research in an accessible format to the public. I found the idea an interesting way of exploring different avenues to communicate my research outcomes, so I decided to volunteer and present my research at this event.

During the event, I discussed how language is interpreted in its context based on, for example, the speaker/ listener's mood/facial expressions. I discussed how individuals with autism seem to have difficulties in using context to interpret language and talked about two experiments in which we measured eye-movements and brain responses to research this.

In all, I found the event very engaging, people asked me questions and I met other academics who work on a similar topic but pursue it from different approaches. The organisers were very friendly and they gave me constructive feedback regarding how to present my research in an engaging manner. Furthermore, I believe this event gave me the opportunity to develop a wide range of transferable skills, and to present my research in an informal environment.

#### PhD student global network

PhD student Sam Hales is looking to establish a new student group for postgraduate and post-doctoral researchers who are investigating university-based sexual assault or harassment.

The aim is to bring together those with similar research interests and encourage inter-disciplinary knowledge exchange and collaboration. If you are, or know anyone who may be interested in getting involved with this global network, please contact Sam via sth21@kent.ac.uk.

Taught master's and undergraduate students are welcome to reach out, but their involvement is likely to be more limited. Calls for academic researchers interested in being stakeholders for the network will be made later in the year.



### MSc Developmental Psychology Scholarship

If you are considering, or have applied for the MSc in Developmental Psychology, do not forget that a scholarship opportunity is available for one award worth £1000. To be eligible, you must have achieved an excellent result (First Class Honours or equivalent) in your Psychology undergraduate degree and become a full-time registered student of the MSc Developmental Psychology programme in September 2019. For full information, terms and conditions, please see the Kent Psychology website or email psypgadmissions@kent.ac.uk.

### 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 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/.

#### **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 and Twitter to keep up to date with the latest events and news!



## The impact of digital technologies on the health and wellbeing of children and young people

Following the success of the Identity and Belonging events in 2017 and 2018, the University of Kent and Kent Educational Psychology Service are hosting a one day conference on social media, how young people use social media, and the positive and negative effects that this has on their developing peer relations and personal identity.

While there are multiple benefits that can stem from young people's use of social media, specific online risks have been identified including poor mental health, cyberbullying, sexting and sexual harassment, online pornography, sexual solicitation online and radicalisation.

The conference programme will offer a combination of recent research into how young people use social media, the effects of social media and a series of workshops focussing on specific areas of concern to schools, colleges, youth and community groups and services. The voice of young people will take the form of a short film prepared by students from East Kent College.

Confirmed Speakers include: Duncan Stephenson, Royal Society for Public Health; Sally Williamson, Director of Salus Group; Professor Jane Reeves, Centre for Child Protection, University of Kent; Dr Afroditi Pina, School of Psychology, University of Kent; Dr Simon Hammond, University of East Anglia; Dr Laura Gray, Educational Psychologist, South Tyneside Council

## Thursday 4 July 2019, 09.30-16.00 Woolf College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent

Places at the conference cost £99 and can be booked via https://bit.ly/2G43jBd Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Organisers: Kent Educational Psychology Service and the University of Kent

For more information please contact Jackie Fotheringham
E: J.C.Fotheringham@kent.ac.uk
T: 01227 824804





### News

### News and Events



#### **Continued from Page 1**

Dr Finn Mackay's keynote speech addressed topics such as the gender gap of housework and care between men and women, which affects female professional development and male parental involvement.

The keynotes of the second day, given by Professor Julia Becker and Dr Joyce Endendijk, explored the role of male allies in solidarity-based action, and sexual double standards respectively.

Other Kent psychologists speaking at the event included Dr Aleksandra Cichocka on Catholic collective narcissism and the endorsement of gender conspiracy beliefs, Aino Petterson on men's control over female reproductive rights, Alina Salmen on veganism and sexism, and Dr Nikhil Sengupta on sexism and violence against women in India.

Aife Hopkins-Doyle closed the event with a talk on 21st century feminism, questioning stereotypes about feminists as man-haters. The event was live-streamed and can still be viewed via the School's Facebook page. Many thanks to the organisers, panels, keynote speakers and everyone who attended this special event!

#### **Biz Psych Newsletter**

The latest Biz Psych Newsletter written by research students Ben Steeden, Dawn Nicholson and Christie Marsh is available to read. It explores how believing gender and age stereotypes can suppress the talent of women and older workers, drawing from recent research from Kent Psychologists: https://bit.lv/2wwRJKO.



### Collaborating to Develop Mental Health Research in Kent

On 28 May, around 100 attendees registered for an inaugural Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust and University of Kent event to facilitate collaboration and research. The event brought together those with lived experience, clinicians and academics to start conversations on how to improve mental health and dementia care. The event was very well-received and attended. Many thanks to all those who were involved!

#### Ombea TESSA Bid Success

Frank Gasking and Dr Lindsey Cameron have recently had a successful TESSA application approved for £1400 to fund a new set of 30 Ombea clickers (which can be split into two separate kits). These are to replace our obsolete Turning Point voting kits and coincide with the availability of Ombea across the University. Ombea is an interactive audience response system that displays live feedback during teaching sessions and includes seamless integration with PowerPoint and other packages. It is currently available on all teaching PC's across campus.

The majority of participants will be expected to use their own mobile/ tablet/laptop devices to vote, though the clickers have been purchased to ensure full inclusion for those who do not have a suitable device. A demonstration of the equipment will be shown at a future School event, and training will soon be made available. For more details on Ombea and what it can do, please visit https://www.kent.ac.uk/elearning/ombea/index.html or feel free to come and chat with a member of the technical team.

#### **Recent Publications Continued**

Tresh, F., Steeden, B., Randsley, d. M., Leite, A. C., Swift, H. J., & Player, A. (2019). Endorsing and reinforcing gender and age stereotypes: The negative effect on self-rated leadership potential for women and older workers. *Frontiers in Psychology, 10*. Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fpsyq.2019.00688.

Uskul, Ayse K., Ryan, Michele (2019) Time out! *British Academy Review*, 35. pp. 54-57.

Van Assche, J., Dhont, K., & Pettigrew, T. F. (2019). The social-psychological bases of far-right support in Europe and the United States. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.2407.

Van Assche, J., Roets, A., Van Hiel, A., & Dhont, K. (2019). Diverse reactions to ethnic diversity: The role of individual differences in authoritarianism. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*. Retrieved from https://kar.kent.ac.uk/73895/.

Wood, J. L. (2019). Confronting gang membership and youth violence: Intervention challenges and potential futures. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*, 29(2), 69-73. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1002/cbm.2113.

# DATESFORYOUR DIARY

Identity and Belonging Conference 2019: Growing Up in the Digital Age

- 4 July 2019, 9.30-16.00
- £99 per person

#### **Graduation Ceremony**

• 19 July 2019, 10.30

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 Hvam

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

