Hi there! My name is Angie Maitner. I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working with Richard Crisp. I study the impact of multiple categorization on stereotyping, prejudice, and the reduction of general cognitive biases.

It is incredibly interesting to be studying categorization here because I am a foreigner, living abroad for the first time. I have a heightened sense of the ways in which I am different, but this feeling makes me want to try even harder to be a positive, contributing member of British society… so far that means that I pay taxes and donate blood…. Recently I signed on to take part in the Inca Trek Challenge. The challenge is a 5-day, high-altitude trek up the Inca trail to Machu Picchu (Peru; 4th-14th September, 2008). The trip is sponsored by the Anthony Nolan Trust, an organization dedicated to taking lives back from leukaemia. The trust raises money for leukaemia research and treatment, while also supporting the largest bone marrow registry in the UK.

It is my pledge to raise £3,000 for the trust. The money I raise will in part sponsor my trek, but a minimum of 60% of my sponsor ship will go directly to Anthony Nolan to fund life-saving research and the recruitment, matching, and treatment of donors.

I’m asking for help to raise these funds. If you’ve known anyone who has suffered from cancer or if you value fitness, please consider donating. If you know anyone else (friends, family, heads of state) who might be willing to contribute, please pass this message along to them. Finally, if you have any good fundraising suggestions or if you want to help me train, please let me know. In return, I pledge to take you and your intentions with me on the trek and I will write a few update articles in the newsletter for anyone interested in tracking my progress.

If you are interested in donating, please visit http://www.justgiving.com/angelamaitner to donate easily and securely by credit card. If you would prefer to contribute via cheque or cash, please let me know and I will bring you a sponsor form to complete. If you are interested in contributing to the challenge, please donate now (the majority of my pledge must be turned in by early July). Every dollar, pound, euro, or nuevo sol helps.

Thank you for your support.

Angie

My email address is: A.Maitner@kent.ac.uk

The Anthony Nolan Trust is charity number 803716 and for more information, you can visit the following websites:
The Anthony Nolan Trust: www.anthonynolan.org.uk
The Inca Trek Challenge: www.anthonynolan.org.uk/index.php?table=event&id=1704&parent=3.2.1.16

Your Chance to help A Good Cause

Final Year Student

Hayley Camp is in her final year of the BSc Psychology degree and has kindly written the following article:

I am a thirty year old mature student here at the University of Kent, but I tend to live my life as if I were an eighteen year old experiencing all the university has to offer. I consider myself a greedy person, and if there is anything available to me, it is for the taking! After all, the University has so many opportunities and, in my first year, I joined about six societies! These included Cathsoc, fencing, dance, Jewish, socialist and film. I was a little over ambitious seeing as I had two part-time jobs - one teaching dance locally and one working in Sainsbury’s. In the second year, I decided I did not have enough time for all the activities so just joined the fencing and Cathsoc society. These to me were the best; I have made invaluable friendships through both the societies and had lots of fun. I enjoyed fencing so much, I have decided to continue the sport at a local club, after my graduation.

Other fantastic opportunities here at Kent have been the FREE courses for learning support at the UELT office. These range from study skills such as, effective reading, essay writing, to computer skills and writing your CV again, all invaluable. What amazed me was how few students have taken advantage of these courses. I know I have improved my grades and writing skills due to these courses. I am dyslexic and I have found the support offered invaluable, my tutor has helped me reach my full potential and I have gained more confidence in my academic ability as a result.

I am now going onto postgraduate studies in counselling psychology, and have just finished a course at the Canterbury College on counselling concepts. This course helped me decide on the next path I wish to take. In the next year, I will work as a support worker in mental health for older adults. I also had a volunteer position at St. Martin’s Mental Health Hospital in Canterbury which has educated me about mental health clients and their needs. It is something I think all students should do if they want to work in the field of clinical or counselling psychology. I will miss the university life but I am sure I will get just as much out of postgraduate studies, if not more.
Welcome to new staff

A warm welcome to Francesca Prati who has just joined the Department. As it is now a Psychology Department tradition, Francesca has written a piece for the newsletter about herself and has kindly sent it in. Staff should look out for Francesca around the Department and introduce themselves to her.

I would like to say how pleased I am at being given the opportunity to work at such a prestigious Department! When I first started to write the project that earned me the funding to come to the University of Kent and work as a Research Assistant in Richard Crisp’s laboratory, I didn’t realise I would have the chance to attend so many interesting seminars and meet such welcoming people!

I graduated in Psychology at the University of Bologna, writing my thesis on the development of the sense of procedural justice in the relationship between parents and adolescents. My supervisor was Professor Lawrence Steinberg whilst I was an exchange student at Temple University, Philadelphia (USA). The combined crucial experience of USA research and Italian academic work and research in a Social Psychology Department (under the supervision of Monica Rubini), not only allowed me to explore the field of social justice’s development, but also led me to become interested and passionate about intergroup bias and multiple categorizations. Together with Richard Crisp, I’m currently working on “The psychological impact of perceiving multiple identities on stereotyping, prejudice and intergroup discrimination”.

Faculty Teaching Prize

Congratulations go to Anat Bardi who has been awarded a “runner up” Faculty Teaching Prize of £250 to purchase books. Anat’s success is due to an innovative method of assessment of coursework on her final year module, SP615 Psychology of Well-being, which was well received by the students as well.

MSc Congratulations

Many congratulations to Ann-Marie Towers who has just been awarded an MSc in Psychology by Research and Thesis, subject to minor corrections.

Grant Successes

It’s been a great couple of months and congratulations go to the following:-

Dominic Abrams - £10,000 from the Equality and Human Rights Commission for a study entitled “Prejudice and good relations”.

Richard Crisp - £140,742 - British Academy Research Development Award for a project entitled “Perceiving multiple identities: benefits beyond intergroup relations”.

Robyn Holliday and Dirk Janssen - two grants in connection with Knowledge Transfer Partnerships for £48,000 and £44,696. The research involves working with a private foster care agency to develop a tool for selection of foster carers and children.

Jane Wood - £101,368 from Economic and Social Research Council for a project entitled “Judging offenders: the role of observers’ emotions”.

International Collaboration

Extra special congratulations to Robbie Sutton and Karen Douglas who have been awarded two grants under the bilateral scheme run by the ESRC and the ARC (Australian Research Council). As far as the Research Office are concerned, this is the first time in the University that anybody has received funding from the ESRC under one of its international collaborative schemes, so a real coup!

The grants are for £101,145 for “Making a difference? Understanding the impact of criticism on groups”, awarded by the ESRC to Robbie and Karen and AUD$72,129 for a project entitled “Negotiating the minefield: Social conventions surrounding group criticism and their role in explaining defensiveness”, awarded by the ARC to Matthew Hornsey (University of Queensland), Robbie and Karen.

Recent Publications


Staff News

Well done to the following who have been promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer!

Theresa Gannon, Ana Guinote & Tendayi Yiki

Finally, farewell to Robyn Holliday who is leaving Kent to take up a Forensic Psychology post at the University of Leicester where she will be heading up the campus-based MSc Forensic course. However, prior to this, Robyn is off to New York and visiting Cornell as a Visiting Professor.
Test your Knowledge with Psychology Crossword

Here’s your chance to test your knowledge with the crossword below that has been kindly provided by Roger Giner-Sorolla. Completed crosswords should be sent in to Lizanne Allcock and they will be put into a draw and the winner will receive £20. This competition will be open until the end of July so feel free to take it home with you after the exams and email it in during the vacation!
If any of you have any ideas for future competitions or features, please let us know by emailing Lizanne in the normal way!
On Friday, 14th March, an exciting football match took place on one of the astro turf pitches on campus. The two teams from Psychology and Biosciences consisted of staff and students with some ex-Psychology students and even some from other departments.

The final score was 9-1 to Psychology with Mark van Vugt getting a hat-trick! The only goal scored by Biosciences was actually from a penalty but the Editor is not mentioning any names, suffice it to say that it was conceded due to a handball in the area! During the course of interviewing various players, I was told that the goals scored by Psychology and Biosciences’ lack of goals:

was due to the creative and defensive lynchpin of the side – David Wilkinson in central midfield!

One guess who gave the newsletter that quote! Unfortunately, David was not around at the end of the match and therefore not able to appear in the team photo.

The other six goals came from Stuart Brownings (2), Dinkar Sharma (1), David Wilkinson (1), Sebastian Spicher (1) and Carl Toomey (1). The Department can thank Lewis Campion for the clean sheet as he made a heroic effort as goalkeeper for the first hour.

The teams raised money for Sports Relief, as well as getting some healthy exercise! Perhaps this can be the start of an annual event in the future!

The Psychology team was made up of Dinkar Sharma, David Wilkinson, Brian Spisak, Roberto Gutierrez, Stuart Brownings, Lewis Campion, Francis Samora, Bernard Ryan (from Law), Seb Spicher (Politics), Carl Toomey (Economics) and Dennis Nigbur (ex-Psychology student now working at Christchurch). Although not present for this match, the following have been known to play:- Adam Rutland, Arnaud Wisman and Mike Forrester.

Triumphant Psychology team, minus David Wilkinson and Francis Samora (who had to leave straight after the match). Back row from left to right:- Dennis Nigbur, Stuart Brownings, Roberto Gutierrez, Bernard Ryan, Seb Spicher, Lewis Campion & Carl Toomey. Front row from left to right:- Brian Spisak, Mark van Vugt & Dinkar Sharma.

We have a selection of photos of the teams in action, courtesy of James Cane who was ably assisted by Olga Zubko and Lindsey Cameron whilst watching the match and giving the teams some moral support!

Anyone interested in playing should contact Dinkar Sharma (D.Sharma@kent.ac.uk).

Kent Psychologist

We welcome contributions from both staff and students for future issues. If you would like to write an article or have any news you’d like to share, please contact Lizanne Allcock.

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