A number of Kent Psychologists entered into the Christmas spirit and donned festive hats to wish all of our current students, applicants and alumni a fantastic winter break!

Furthermore, the annual Staff-Student Christmas Party took place on Friday 7th December in KBar.

The night was a great success with karaoke proving to be very popular once again, including some impressive staff-student duets!

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**Tell Us About Your First Term**

First year PhD student and the University’s 50th Anniversary Research Scholarship recipient Lynsey Mahmood tells us about her first term:

Having been at the University of Kent since 2008, studying as an undergraduate and continuing on to a Masters by Research within the Psychology department, I anticipated knowing exactly what to expect from my first term as a PhD student. In reality, almost everything has changed!

The experience of doing a Masters by Research did help bridge the gap between the undergraduate taught degree and postgraduate research (PhD), where there is a noticeable jump in how responsible you are for your own learning and research. A Masters by Research is like a mini PhD in that you do just one big research project (although only about a quarter of the word count of a PhD!) and you don’t have to attend lectures or seminars. So in terms of my academic expectations for my PhD, I knew that I would need to be driven to do the work myself, without the strict deadlines that taught courses offer.

The biggest difference is that I now teach; leading second year seminars, helping final year project students at drop in sessions and marking essays - which has taken some getting used to! Although teaching is a new and quite daunting experience it is one which I am enjoying and think is a really valuable experience.

As a postgraduate you are also invited to attend skills workshops with the graduate school. These are a really good opportunity to meet other PhD students from a range of schools and realise that we are all experiencing the same highs and lows, but that it will all be worth it in the end!

For information on how to apply for a number of research scholarships with the School of Psychology, please see page 4 or go to: http://bit.ly/eSCJFr.

We offer PhD supervision in a variety of areas including cognitive, developmental, forensic and social psychology: http://bit.ly/VZinkv.

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**Where Are They Now?**

Kent Psychology alum Kirsty Goss got in touch to tell us what she is doing now:

I chose to study Psychology with Clinical Psychology at Kent because I had heard that the Psychology department was excellent and when I visited, I was impressed with how beautiful the campus setting was. During my degree, I found the lecturers to be really helpful and willing to answer any questions. I also...
WATN? Continued

found the Psychology Student Advisor to be really supportive and this helped to keep me on track with my studies. The course was really good and I specifically enjoyed the third year, where I was able to choose modules that I was interested in. I graduated in July, and am currently working as a support worker for adults with learning disabilities. I am really enjoying my current role and the experience will be helpful for my future as I hope to complete a Clinical Psychology Doctorate in the future. I am really happy that I chose to study Psychology at Kent and would recommend it.

Students - Get Published!

Final year student and Editor-in-Chief Julian Himmerich wrote this call for papers:

Are you a student? Have you ever disagreed with your lecturers? Have you ever wished that a topic that really interests you would be covered in your course? Have you got a perfectly obvious psychological explanation for phenomena that others are just baffled by? Then this is your chance! The Student Journal of Psychology, published by the Psychology Society of the University of Kent, provides undergraduates and postgraduates with the unique opportunity to get published! You can write about anything that relates to psychology free from the topical constraints of a university essay. It does not have to be long and you can work together with others.

Although students invest a lot of time and energy writing essays for their degree, these essays usually get forgotten after being marked and the only thing that remains is a number on your transcript. A publication in a journal is something that is very rare, which is packed full of articles on a range of issues, just this month there were articles all about our senses – including how it affects us to dine in the dark and the social neuroscience of touch. You also get free electronic access to several journals and books; job adverts and careers advice; reduced rates for conferences; access to many different lectures and talks; and other high street discounts. Please check out their website for more details about the benefits and how to join http://bit.ly/Um5UGn.

Even if you do not join the BPS, you can subscribe to their Research Digest – http://bit.ly/qYoaOs - a fortnightly summary of interesting new research articles and how they fit in with your curriculum. You can find this on Facebook and Twitter too.

British Psychological Society

All Psychology degrees at Kent are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS). This brings several advantages in that you are assured excellent resources and standards of delivery. It also provides you a benchmark of quality – important for potential future employers if you are applying for postgraduate study. Accreditation shows that you have coverage of many areas within the discipline such as biological, cognitive, developmental, individual differences and social psychology, with lots of practical experience using different methodologies – both qualitative and quantitative – and statistical methods. The BPS also applies excellent professional and ethical standards. But what else does the BPS do for its student members and why would you join?

Anyone registered on an accredited BPS degree course can join the society as a student member from £24 per year. As a member you will receive the Psychologist magazine every month – which is packed full of articles on a range of issues, just this month there were articles all about our senses – including how it affects us to dine in the dark and the social neuroscience of touch. You also get free electronic access to several journals and books; job adverts and careers advice; reduced rates for conferences; access to many different lectures and talks; and other high street discounts. Please check out their website for more details about the benefits and how to join http://bit.ly/Um5UGn.

Even if you do not join the BPS, you can subscribe to their Research Digest – http://bit.ly/qYoaOs - a fortnightly summary of interesting new research articles and how they fit in with your curriculum. You can find this on Facebook and Twitter too.

CORE-FP Workshops Open to Public

The Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology (CORE-FP) at the University of Kent will run a series of expert lectures over ten weeks from Wednesday 13th February 2013. The evening course will explore the psychology of crime and criminal behaviour and will be led by some of the UK’s most prominent Forensic Psychologists. Go beyond what you see on the TV shows and learn about the psychology of victims, offenders, crime investigation and rehabilitation.

This engaging and entertaining series of lectures should suit anyone with an interest in forensic psychology including those thinking of pursuing a similar topic at university or those who simply have an interest in psychology and crime and would like to learn a bit more about the history as well as the latest developments in this fascinating field.

For further details, please go to: http://bit.ly/Vja4hV.
Kent Psychologists in the Media

Dr Karen Douglas appeared in BBC News Magazine in November giving her comments on footballer Joey Barton’s adopted French accent in a press conference in Marseille. Dr Douglas said that “Psychologists theorise that people do this sort of thing for a number of reasons but it is mainly to make themselves understood and to make themselves more likeable.” However, she concluded by saying that speech accommodation is not unique to Brits but is ‘something that occurs in other linguistic cultures as well’. Read the full piece here: http://bbc.in/WVYAae.

The Canterbury Times and Kentish Gazette each featured comment from Professor Dominic Abrams in relation to Canterbury City Council’s public consultation about the Westgate Towers traffic trial. Prof Abrams’ report, commissioned by the Get Canterbury Moving campaign group, found that the consultation questionnaire was flawed, ‘the questions are largely leading or confusing or both. The scope and focus of the consultation is unclear and as a consequence it cannot be considered to be an adequate piece of research’. To see the full article, go to: http://bit.ly/UDbVGH

Connect with us on Social Media

The School of Psychology regularly communicates with almost 700 people who have ‘liked’ our page on Facebook (Kent Psychology) and 415 followers on Twitter (KentPsychology). Connect with us on social media to see photos, events details, answer/ask questions and to share/receive information.

Recent Publications


Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr Caoilte O’Ciardha and Dr Markus Bindemann who have been awarded £4,999 by the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers for a project entitled “Comparing multiple indirect measures of sexual interest with an implicit but direct eye-tracking and pupil dilation paradigm”.

Congratulations to Dr Karen Douglas who has been awarded £5,000 by BAE Systems (Operations) Limited for a project entitled “DHSTC Tools and Techniques for Influence Activities Conspiracies”.

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kentpsychologist
Inauguration Event for Professor of Forensic Psychology

2013 promises great things for Psychology at Kent. One exciting event on the horizon is the celebration of Theresa A. Gannon’s inauguration as Professor on Wednesday 16th January. The event will include an inaugural lecture by Professor Theresa A. Gannon on ‘Sexual Offending and Firesetting’ and the launch of a new book ‘Crime and Crime Reduction: The Importance of Group Processes’. All staff, students and alumni are invited to attend the event. Please let us know if you will be joining us by emailing COREFP@kent.ac.uk.

To find out about Theresa’s research interests, publications and contact details, go to: http://bit.ly/VCqhz3

Brain Bites on CSRfm

The academic year 2012/13 saw the introduction of a new show called Brain Bites on CSRfm, Canterbury’s Community and Student Radio station. So far this term, there have been two Brain Bites shows, each including commentary from around Kent on current Psychology trends.

Produced by Dr Georgina Randsley de Moura, Lynsey Mahmood and Dr Tim Hopthrow, the first programme featured Giovanni Travaglino and Eugene Nulman. The organisation of a multidisciplinary conference Theory, Action and Impact of Social Protest (TAISP) was the topic of discussion. They also talked about developing the open access journal Contention: The Multidisciplinary Journal of Social Protest. More information about both of these can be found at the following link: http://bit.ly/RW4V4e.

This month, Dan Jolley and Mike Wood joined Lynsey in the studio to talk about their research on conspiracy theories (pictured right). If this is an area which interests you, check out their profile pages on the School website: http://bit.ly/VLk4XB and http://bit.ly/TMOLYc.

Tune in every third Tuesday of the month to hear more about the psychological research taking place at Kent.

Listen on CSR 97.4fm or online at http://bit.ly/1ss8Cj.

PhD Funding 2013

The School of Psychology is delighted to announce that it is currently inviting applications for a number of Research Scholarships to commence in September 2013. Some scholarships will take the form of Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) funded either through the University of Kent’s 50th Anniversary Research Scholarship scheme or by the School of Psychology. We will also be bidding for ESRC studentships as part of the South East ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (DTC).

To apply, email a member of Kent Psychology staff whose expertise matches your interests and attach your CV, transcript and proposal outline. Once supervision is agreed, submit an online application for a PhD place with us (and an MSc place if applying for 1+3 ESRC funding). The application should include the following: the name of the proposed supervisor; a transcript of degree marks to date and certificate, if completed; and a research proposal up to a maximum of 1,000 words in length including brief references.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 17.00 GMT on Thursday 31st January 2013. Please note that references should also be received by this deadline.

Interviews will be held in the week commencing 11th February 2013. For further details on applying for these Research Scholarships, go to: http://bit.ly/eSCJFr

Movember Success

Staff and students teamed up last month to raise money for the Movember Foundation and men’s health partners The Prostate Cancer Charity and The Institute of Cancer Research. The 16 members of Shrinks with Soup Strainers raised a total of £1,242 and did it in style. Well done Mo-Bros and Mo Sistas!

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.

There is 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 and students 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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