Welcome and Welcome Back!

The School of Psychology is excited to welcome its new students and staff and to welcome back returning Kent Psychologists!

Welcome Week 2017 was a huge success with lots of informative induction events and activities. As is tradition, the new undergraduate students took part in a treasure hunt in groups around campus and posted some great team photographs before our annual Welcome Week barbecue.

As well as new students, the School has also welcomed some new lecturing staff members this year. Julia Ulber, Laura Smith, Stefan Leach, Miriam Tresh, Matt Fysh and John Sabo have all joined the School as teaching staff in recent months.

In Julia's research she explores the conditions and developmental trajectory of children's sharing, helping and comforting behaviour. Julia's current research projects expand on these topics by investigating the specific circumstances that lead to early sharing behaviour. Another part of her work focuses on assessing the influence of peer and adult partners in early social interactions and collaborative acts.

Laura’s research interests focus on cognitive neuropsychology. She is particularly interested in understanding the effects of brain damage and the insights this can offer into cognitive processing and rehabilitation. Laura’s previous research has explored what happens to cognitive processes such as memory and attention when the vestibular system becomes dysfunctional.

Stefan is interested in exploring the links between social life, cognition and subjective experiences. His main line of research focuses on how differential access to rewards predicts subjective experiences. In a second line of research Stefan explores whether people are able to form accurate representations of their implicit cognitive process.

Miriam’s research interests are in embodied social cognition and how individuals construct simulations of social experiences that are grounded in the brain's modality-specific networks. Her previous research has focused on how language comprehension and communication are facilitated through the construction of simulations in individuals with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Matt’s research interests encompass the cognitive processes surrounding the identification of unfamiliar faces. The focus of his PhD research was on face matching, now Matt plans to investigate face processing in infant observers to further understand the similarities and differences between infant and adult perception of face stimuli.

John’s research interests include moral emotions and moral judgement. In particular, John is interested in comparing the amount of moral condemnation and negative emotion that is directed towards people who commit moral code violations in real versus those who engage with them in fictional contexts such as playing violent video games.

We would also like to welcome Katie Watson our new Student Experience and Placements Officer and, Jane Voller, the new Student Support Assistant.

As of July, Katie is our new Student Experience and Placements Officer. Katie supports students in the placement year, the Research Experience Scheme and the Work Experience Scheme. Katie will also act as the first point of contact for all placement and employability related queries. 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.

Jane, the newest member of the Student Support Team, will act as a first point of call for all student support related queries from staff as well as students.

League Table

Psychology at Kent was ranked 9th in The Times Good University Guide 2017, 10th in The Complete University Guide 2018 and 14th in The Guardian University Guide 2018. The criteria used by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide includes an analysis of student satisfaction with the quality of the teaching at each institution, and the wider university experience.

We are delighted to announce that Psychology at Kent has been ranked 84th worldwide in the 2018 Times Higher Education World University Rankings’ table. Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura, Head of the School of Psychology, was delighted to receive this news. She said: 'Being part of Psychology at Kent means being part of an academic community, with all staff and students striving for excellence and positive impact in all that we do. This result is a fantastic external recognition of all our hard work and commitment to advancing the discipline.'

In the National Student Survey 2017 over 92% of final-year Psychology students were satisfied with the overall quality of their course. Psychology at Kent was ranked 1st in The Complete University Guide 2018 and 2nd in The Guardian University Guide 2018 for graduate prospects.

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Congratulations to Dr Anna Brown, who has won a Social Sciences Faculty Teaching Prize for the development of an integrated statistics curriculum at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Professor Theresa Gannon has been shortlisted for a Criminal Justice Alliance Award for her role leading pioneering research into the treatment needs of fire-setters. The Awards give prizes to individuals who have contributed materially to improving outcomes across the criminal justice pathway, from policing to prisons and probation.

Congratulations to Joachim Stoeber (PI), Mike Forrester, and David Williams who have been awarded £298,259 by The Leverhulme Trust for a project entitled ‘Development of childhood perfectionism: early indicators and parental factors’.

Dr Jane Wood appeared on Victoria Derbyshire’s BBC television show to discuss perceptions of crime. Dr Wood explained that the fear of crime is fed by a number of different factors such as immediate neighbourhoods or a person’s ability to defend themselves. This, she explains, is why women and the elderly often feel more vulnerable to crime when statistically it is men under the age of 24 that are most likely to become victims of crime.

Findings by Professor David Wilkinson showing that the application of gentle cooling and warming currents inside the ear canal can provide relief for migraine sufferers were featured in the Daily Mail and Business Insider. Professor Wilkinson explains that the experimental device affects the nerves in the ear leading to changes in part of the brain stem thought to be involved in the triggering of migraines. The research, entitled ‘Preventing episodic migraine with caloric vestibular stimulation: a randomized trial,’ (Wilkinson et al., 2017) was published 27 June in the journal Headache.

Dr Giovanni Travaglini’s research suggesting that disconnected people are more likely to support Anonymous was featured in The Statesman. After carrying out two studies, in the UK and US, Dr Travaglini found in both contexts anger against the political system was the common factor in explaining the relationship between people’s belief that they could or could not influence political affairs and their attitude towards Anonymous. The research also found that people who considered themselves to have an individualistic outlook were more likely to have a supportive attitude to groups like Anonymous. The research, entitled Support for Anonymous and Vicarious Dissent: Testing the Social Banditry Framework (G. Travaglini) is published in the journal Group Processes & Intergroup Relations.

Professor Dominic Abrams’ research linking engagement with the arts and prosociality was featured in The Statesman. After carrying out two studies, in the UK and US, Dr Travaglini found that engaged people who described themselves as intuitive did not perform better and had no superior beliefs that they could or could not influence political system as the common factor in explaining the relationship between people’s belief that they could or could not influence political affairs and their attitude towards Anonymous. The research also found that people who considered themselves to have an individualistic outlook were more likely to have an affective relationship with groups like Anonymous. The research, entitled Support for Anonymous and Vicarious Dissent: Testing the Social Banditry Framework (G. Travaglini) is published in the journal Group Processes & Intergroup Relations.

Summer Congregations

School of Psychology graduates and staff enjoyed a fantastic graduation ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral followed by a celebratory drinks reception in Westgate Hall on Thursday 13 July. Photos of the drinks reception are available on the School’s Facebook page: http://ow.ly/yD4l30gpoj2

For more photos of the ceremony, please visit the University’s Flickr page: http://ow.ly/JceA30gpmD

Kent Psychologists in the Media

We are delighted to announce the following academic promotions:

Dr Zara Bergström promoted to Senior Lecturer
Dr Aleksandra Cichocka promoted to Senior Lecturer
Dr David Wilkinson promoted to Professor
Dr David Williams promoted to Professor
Dr Georgina Randsley de Moura promoted to Professor

Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to Giovanni Travaglini (Founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief) and Benjamin Abrams, University of Cambridge (Editor-in-Chief) who have had Contention accepted and re-launched by Berghahn Press. Contention is a journal dedicated to research on and about social protest and political behaviour. Contention was first launched in 2012 with the support of the University of Kent’s Postgraduate Experience Award. It is available online at www.berghahnjournals.com/contention.

Congratulations to David Etchells, Libby Drury, Tom Kupfer and Laura Smith for successful completion of their PhD vivas.
Bayesian Analysis Workshop

By Mahsa Barzy and Matthew Plummer

A common and possibly defining hallmark of psychological research is the use of inferential statistics. The typical and most frequently used statistics used in Psychology are frequentist statistics, including null hypothesis significance testing and confidence intervals. However, the limitations of frequentist statistics have, in recent years, been vocalised in published literature and social media. With these criticisms, alternative schools of thought of inferential statistics have been proposed, one being the use of Bayesian statistics. However, the opportunity to learn how to use Bayesian analysis is limited, these topics are rarely incorporated into undergraduate or postgraduate degree programmes. One step to address this problem was to host a workshop on 6 July 2017, introducing students to Bayesian analysis.

With the aid of funding from PsyPAG, the Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group, and the University of Kent Graduate school, we were able to invite Dr Mark Andrews (Nottingham Trent University) and Professor Zoltan Dienes (University of Sussex) to provide an introduction of Bayesian analysis and why Psychology should embrace this analytical approach in their own studies. In addition, we felt it was important to introduce a practical element to the workshop, where students could experience how to use Bayesian analysis in Psychology studies. For this, we used JASP (https://jasp-stats.org/), an open-source statistical software programme that similar to the well-known SPSS programme. Practical examples were delivered to show the ease in which Bayesian analysis could be performed, with delegates saying “[It was] good to have the opportunity to play with JASP. It has inspired a desire to know more”.

The workshop was well received by the attendees and invited speakers, with one delegate stating "...a very good introductory session to understand the concept behind using the Bayesian Analysis.’ We argue that this workshop, and other introductory courses like this, provide a stepping stone for researchers to explore alternative statistical approaches in psychological research. Potentially, such steps have a proactive effect in improving the theoretical advancement of many fields in Psychology.

EASP Conference

By Courtney Allen

The 18th general meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology recently took place in Granada, Spain at the Granada Conference and Exhibition Centre from the 5-8 July 2017. The EASP general meeting occurs every three years, taking place in different locations across Europe. In 2014 the meeting was held in Amsterdam and the 2011 meeting was held in Stockholm.

An aim of the general meeting is to gather members from across the continent and provide them with the opportunity to network and disseminate their research. This year the general meeting was an extra special occasion as the organisation was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Hundreds of researchers from all career stages were in attendance and the conference organizers chose a conveniently located large venue that easily accommodated the 128 symposia, 26 blitz presentations, posters, and round table discussions. During the prestigious awards ceremony, our very own Dr. Aleksandra Cichocka was awarded the Jaspers’ award. This award is given to young scholars who have already greatly contributed excellent research to European Social Psychology.

Overall, the meeting was a major success thanks to it being well organized, entertaining, and full of outstanding social psychological research.

PhD students were large in number and made great contributions to the meeting. The Kent attendees were among some of the symposia organizers, research talks, blitz presentations, posters, and round table discussions. During the prestigious awards ceremony, our very own Dr. Aleksandra Cichocka was awarded the Jaspers’ award. This award is given to young scholars who have already greatly contributed excellent research to European Social Psychology.

Recent Publications


Award Winning Undergraduate Research

By Jade Ford

After a year of working incredibly hard on my final year project, it was eventually completed and submitted. Both my supervisor and I were extremely happy with the results from my paper which led to Dr Alleyne, my supervisor, recommending that I entered it for publication. My supervisor knew of the yearly competition ‘The Animals and Society Institute and Wesleyan Animal Studies undergraduate paper prize’ which is specifically for undergraduate students who conduct research within the human-animal field; this was perfect for my paper on animal abusers. The winning paper is chosen based on its effort to provide the field of human-animal studies with outstanding and original scholarly work and is then published within the Society & Animals Journal. This sounded like an incredible opportunity for me to enter my own research for publication within a renowned journal. My study, titled ‘Man’s Best Friend... and Sometimes Target: How Negative Interpersonal Relations are Related to Animal Abuse Proclivity’, looked at how our relationships with other people may impact how we relate to non-human animals. Specifically, I explored how attachment styles and social anxiety may indicate a likelihood or proclivity to engage in acts of animal abuse. The current animal abuse literature has established that offenders who engage in animal abuse commonly come from dysfunctional family environments as well as experiencing high levels of anxiety; yet no study had looked at this possible connection. The results from my study did in fact show an association between maladaptive attachment styles (by-products of dysfunctional familial environments) and social anxiety as being significant predictors of animal abuse proclivity. My research not only emphasises the importance of exploring how people’s interpersonal relationships can influence their relationships with animals; but also aids identification of at-risk individuals and gives insight as to how we can rehabilitate those who do perpetrate such offences.

About six weeks after I had submitted my paper to the competition, I received an email announcing that it had won! My paper is now due to be published within the upcoming Society & Animals Journal and I still cannot quite believe that my research won this competition. I would strongly encourage undergraduate students who are conducting research within the field of human-animal studies to submit their paper for this competition; it really is an amazing opportunity and is a fantastic chance to have your hard work recognised by many!

Progressing BAME Talent in the Workplace

By Fatima Tresh

PhD student Fatima Tresh formed part of the research team that produced “The Middle Research” report, dedicated to progressing Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) talent in the workplace through collaborative action. The report was commissioned by co-founders of the Black British Business Awards Sophie Chandauka and Melanie Eusebe. It highlights and addresses the barriers that inhibit the recognition and development of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) middle managers’ potential.

The research lead for the report Dr Doyin Atewologun, is a lecturer in the School of Business and Management at Queen Mary University of London. Doyin and Fatima share research interests in leadership, diversity and identity and have provided complementary academic perspectives towards the research and research report. The research benefitted from a team of academics and practitioners, for maximum impact and practical relevance to industry. Diane Greenidge, founder and chair of the Network of Networks and Sheekha Rajani, independent diversity and inclusion consultant and senior manager for D&I at PwC, supported the research and report writing process providing advice on how to make the report accessible and user friendly to maximise its use in organisations. The launch of the report, which was hosted by Bloomberg on 19 September 2017, had 250 delegates in attendance. David Tyler, chairman of Sainsbury’s, gave a keynote speech at the event in which he reaffirmed Sainsbury’s commitment to inclusivity and diversity as well as the impact of the report in highlighting issues and providing practical guidelines. Fatima also participated on a panel during the event alongside other members of the research team, answering questions about the focus and emphasis of the report.

The report has been commended for being both practically relevant and academically impactful. Fatima, who is supervised by Professor Georgina Randsley de Moura and Dr Ana Leite from the School of Psychology alongside Kent Business School’s Dr Madeleine Wyatt, will continue to work with the Black British Business Awards exploring the barriers that prevent fulfilment of minority employees’ leadership potential throughout the duration of her PhD. The report is available for download via the link: http://www.thebbbawards.com/middle-research/

To discuss the report or any of the research findings please email Fatima Tresh (ft88@kent.ac.uk)

New Student Representatives

Following the conclusion of the Autumn Kent Union Representatives Election the School of Psychology would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to our newest Student Representatives.

Stage One Representatives: Rianna Patterson and Zaina Imam
Group Processes, Research Methods & Social & Applied Psychology Student Representative: Kiia Huttunen
Forensic Psychology Representatives: Aleksandra Cywinska and Aaroohi Khare
PGR Psychology Stage 1 Student Representative: Saghi Arabi
PGR Psychology Stage 2 Student Representative: Hannah Tunmon
PGR Psychology Stage 3 Student Representative: Natalie Gentry
Associate Lecturer Representative: Emma Garcia

Earlier this term the Undergraduate Student Representatives met with Dr Caoilte O Ciarda (Head of Recruitment and Student Experience) and Dr Mario Weick (Director of Education) to discuss plans for the next academic year. Sean Kinnair, School Representative, outlined his goal for the year “One thing I really would like to improve this year is the assessment and feedback part of the School. I want to create a more open dialogue between students and staff, and I want there to be a clear understanding on both sides. I want staff to understand more what students expect, and I want students to understand, to a greater extent, the reasons for why the marking process can take some time.”

Pictured L-R: Melanie Eusebe, Fatima Tresh, Diane Greenidge, Sheekha Rajani, Sophie Chandauka, Rob Friend, David Tyler, Dr Doyin Atewologun.
Welcome to Woodlands

In September of this year the School of Psychology formally opened the Woodlands Community Laboratory Building. Staff and students enjoyed a tea party on the lawn outside the new building before viewing the facilities. The Woodlands building has a state of the art meeting room as well as two assessment rooms, used primarily by our cognitive and developmental researchers. The building is also home to a mix of academic and administrative staff as well as PhD students, and features communal areas and social spaces.

Annual PhD Conference

The annual School of Psychology PhD conference took place on 27 September. This conference serves to showcase the variety and quality of PhD research undertaken within the School and prizes are awarded to the best oral and poster presentations.

Heather Rolfe, a third year research student, was the winner for the oral presentation. Heather's research on the novel topic of moral aspects of music preferences showed a clear, logical progression between studies and was presented with great verve and enthusiasm.

Fadi Ifram and Hannah Tummon walked away with joint first prize for their posters. Fadi's poster was a highly professional and uncluttered presentation of work on the effects of exercise on long-term memory. Conversely Hannah's poster conveyed lots of detail about a multi-study programme of work on face matching, which simulates airports in VR.

Overall the conference was a great success. Thank you to all the staff and students involved in creating such an intellectually rich and stimulating day.

Think Kent

The Think Kent lecture series provides an overview of academics and their research and teaching expertise throughout the University. The series of videos gives an insight into some of the areas of research our world-leading academics are investigating and gives viewers the opportunity to see the breadth of our curriculum.

Dr Amir-Homayoun Javadi, one of the School’s Lecturers in Cognitive Psychology/ Cognitive Neuroscience, recorded a Think Kent lecture that is now available on YouTube. The lecture discussed memory consolidation and how it can be modulated. Dr Javadi talks about sleep, brain stimulation, music and physical exercise as effective methods of consolidation that can be used for cognitive enhancement. To view the lecture in full on YouTube please visit: http://ow.ly/9eZg30gqYAa


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**Recent Publications Continued**

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**New Student Support**

Thank you to all students who provided feedback on the changes to Student Support Team office hours. After a successful trial the changes have now been made permanent. This means extended meeting availability, which is by appointment only.

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 and provide Kate Scott or Jane Voller with 2 or 3 suitable times. They will book you in for the earliest available appointment or redirect your query to the relevant staff member.

If you have any personal or academic issues that may affect your ability to study you can contact the Student Support Team for Psychology.

Please email the team from your Kent email account at: psychstudentsupport@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/

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**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).

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**Kent Psychologist**

The School of Psychology’s Newsletter is for students and staff. We welcome contributions from 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 Hana Brown-Onigbanjo

Email: h.brown-onigbanjo@kent.ac.uk
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