Welcome from the Head of School

On behalf of all staff here in the School of Psychology, I warmly welcome all new and returning students. Over the summer the School has been busy in your absence; the Oaks study hub, which will provide 24/7 computer and study space access, has been refurbished, and academics have continued their efforts to cast new light on key psychological questions – both basic and applied - that you will learn about in your modules.

Beyond the discipline-specific knowledge that your degree programme will provide, it is also important that you seek to enrich your broader intellectual and motivational capacities. Your degree programme is carefully tailored to hone your skills of communication and of critical, independent and open-minded enquiry. But to leave university with the ability to take on impactful leadership roles in society, you will also need bagfuls of resilience, aspiration, confidence and a past-time or hobby that gives work-life balance.

To this end and when time allows, I encourage you to supplement your academic studies with some of the challenging experiences offered by the many clubs and societies available across campus.

In closing, I want to wish you the very best for the coming year. You belong to a vibrant, ambitious school, and its continued quest for intellectual discovery and innovation relies by no small measure on your active participation.

Professor David Wilkinson
Head of School

July Graduation Ceremony

On Monday 16th July 2018, the Graduation Ceremony for Kent Psychology students took place. Bachelor degree students and some PhD students graduated in an evening ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral.

The graduation was preceded by a Graduate Reception (pictured below) complete with canapés and prosecco, where the then graduands caught up with members of academic and professional services staff in Psychology.

The School of Psychology Final Year Prize was awarded to Sarah Fong as the best final year student, the Best Applied Prize was awarded to Sarah Derveeuw for the best marks in her placement year and the Janet Miele Prize was awarded to Bethany Aherne for the best final year project in Psychology. The two remaining Social Sciences Faculty Prizes for outstanding degree programme performance were awarded to Harjivan Kaur Chhokar, and Emily Jane Goldsack.

The annual Graduate Prize Winners were also announced by Professor Robbie Sutton. Two prizes were awarded to Naomi Butcher: the British Psychological Society Undergraduate Prize, for the student with the highest overall grade upon graduation, and the Social Sciences Faculty Prize for outstanding performance in degree programme.

The School of Psychology would like to congratulate all of its 2018 graduates for their hard work and achievements here at the University of Kent.

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Dr Hannah Swift, in collaboration with the Kent School of Architecture, Thanet District Council and Kent County Council is involved in a pioneering multigenerational and climate change project involving a historic house in Margate, which has been shortlisted for the Kent Design Development Awards.

The historic house, 12a Dalby Square, (pictured far opposite, photo credit: Lee Evans Partnership) is owned by Kent County Council and it is part of the £2.7 million Dalby Square Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Thanet District Council.

On Saturday 21st July, approximately 40 artists came to the University of Kent to creatively explore topics and issues of ageing across their talks. The day was rounded off with a provide some wonderful creations. These included dance, poetry, sculpture, drawing, music and lego creations, which will hopefully provide the beginning of many further projects. The day was rounded off with a discussion (pictured below).

The project has ‘future-living’ at its heart and seeks to tackle the multiple challenges of climate change, an ageing population and housing shortages by renovating and converting the property in Margate for environmental sustainability and multigenerational living.

Dr Hannah Swift’s role is to explore how the design elements of the house lend themselves to multigenerational living.

Many thanks to all of the speakers: Nick Wilkinson from Kent County Council; Mark Pearson, Excelsior Safeguarding; Stephanie Waddell, Early Intervention Foundation; and workshop leaders: Matt Tate and Kendra Houseman, Hartsdown Academy; and Gabin Sinclair-Constance, Ahmed Moallim, and Michelle Caffrey, Kent Educational Psychologists.


LISTEN: Experts on youth violence are meeting in #Kent today amid growing concerns young people are getting involved in gangs. Dr Jane Wood has done research on the issue and is speaking at the event in #Canterbury. #Kentgangconf

FULL INTERVIEW bit.ly/2JbIZ4M

On 11th July, the University of Kent and the Kent Educational Psychology Service hosted the Identity and Belonging 2018 conference ‘Gangs, Schools and Community: Psychology, Research and Practice’.

The conference gathered a wide range of professionals from the education, social care, psychology and criminology sectors to present current research practice on the nature of gangs and why young people get involved. The day consisted of a selection of talks and interactive workshops.

Kent Psychologist Professor Jane Wood gave a talk on “The Psychology of Gang Membership”, exploring her own research into questions such as ‘Do gang members differ in the way they think and feel?’

The keynote speaker for the event, Sammy Woodhouse, is a CSE survivor who helped expose the Rotherham child abuse scandal. Her talk spoke of her personal experience as a victim and where she feels improvements need to be made.

The event aimed to encourage artists to think about ageing across the life-course, rather than as an issue that only impacts older people. On the day, we welcomed photographer Dylan Collard, who brought his ‘Ages of Us’ project to campus with his bench (pictured opposite, top: an example picture from Dylan’s project taken on campus) to inspire artists to think about ageing as a process affecting young, middle-aged and older people.

Contributed by Dr Hannah Swift.

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Contributed by Dr Hannah Swift.
Congratulations and Welcome

Congratulations to:
Dr Amir-Homayoun Javadi on his promotion to Senior Lecturer.
Professor Roger Giner-Sorolla and Ayse Uskul on being made fellows of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, the world’s largest organization of social and personality psychologists.

Congratulations to Laura Roscoe and Jess Barkham on their new permanent roles in the School. Laura is now our Student Experience Assistant, which will see her continue to cover reception duties whilst also helping with student satisfaction and employability. Jess is our Research Programmes Assistant, handling administration for taught and research programmes and providing assistance to the Directors and Deputy Directors of Graduate Studies and MSc Programme Directors.

Welcome and congratulations to Sally Warren, our new Taught Programmes Assistant who will be joining us on 8th October. Sally will work alongside the professional services team to provide administrative support for students on undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes.

Offending Behaviour Treatment Programmes: Where Do We Go From Here?

On 6th September, the Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology (CORE-FP) hosted a free special event ‘Offending Behaviour Treatment Programmes: Where do we go from here?’ The event focused on presenting recent research findings on the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes in forensic settings.

This was followed by refreshments back in the Keynes Atrium alongside a Poster Exhibition (pictured below).

Lasty, Professor Theresa Gannon (pictured below with Dr Nichola Tyler) presented the findings from a new meta-analysis, ‘Can Psychological Treatment for Sexual Offending Reduce Recidivism?’

The overarching comments of the day seemed to be that policy makers, managers, practitioners and researchers need to focus on generating an evidence base for offending behaviour treatment programmes, and that consistent psychological input in treatment is imperative for reducing recidivism.

Hello, Goodbye

As well as welcoming new faces over the Summer, the School of Psychology waved goodbye to some of our excellent staff.

Thank you to:
Alice Forbes, Administrative Assistant.
Dr Anne Templeton, Research Associate to Professor Dominic Abrams.
Emily Fell, PA to Professor Dominic Abrams.
Dr Jo Black, Research Associate.
Dr Julia Ulber, Lecturer in Psychology.
Dr Laura Smith, Lecturer in Cognitive Psychology.
Dr Libby Drury, Lecturer in Psychology.
Dr Mario Weick, Senior Lecturer in Psychology.
Dr Mark James, Lecturer in Forensic Psychology.
Dr Tom Page, Research Associate.

We wish each staff member every success in their future endeavours.

PhD Conference

On 19th September, the School hosted its annual PhD conference. This well-attended event saw third year PhD students present on their research within a fifteen-minute timeslot, with space afterwards for questions from their peers.

Pictured above: Mahsa Barzy mid-presentation

A poster presentation session was also held over a lunch break, which encouraged a great deal of discussion amongst staff and students (pictured below).

Many supervisors were also in attendance to support their students, and even challenge them with a question or two!

After questions from a panel and open discussion, the students gathered in K Bar to celebrate and welcome new students.
Psychology Annual Lecture

On Tuesday 25th September, the School of Psychology welcomed University staff, students and members of the general public to the Psychology Annual Lecture. Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, Chair in Cognitive Science and Royal Society Wolfson Fellow at the University of Bristol, gave the lecture entitled "Beyond misinformation: Parallel universes in a post-truth world."

In his lecture, Professor Lewandowsky reflected on the abundance of misinformation in the public sphere, and how this misinformation including so-called "fake news" can be dangerous, especially in the domains of science and politics.

Professor Lewandowsky then explored ways to counter misinformation, arguing that efforts to do so must include technological solutions that incorporate psychological principles. Over 150 people attended the lecture, which was preceded by a drinks reception in Keynes College (pictured below.)

The event also coincided with the 50th anniversary of the college. The next lecture, which was preceded by a drinks reception in Keynes College (pictured below), will be given by Professor Chris Jarrold, University of Bristol. More details to follow.

If you want to find out more about Professor Lewandowsky and his research, you can view his university web page here: http://www.bris.ac.uk/exppsych/people/stephan-lewandowsky/index.html

Contributed by Professor Karen Douglas.

Useful Links

Kanopy is a free-to-use library streaming service for staff and students, which includes award-winning documentaries, acclaimed classic films and rare titles. This will be useful for seminar or essay research, or just for a study break! There is a specific psychology category which we recommend you take a look at.

digest.bps.org.uk

The British Psychological Society's Research Digest is a platform which shares one new psychology study every weekday, in an accessible yet accurate and critical fashion. There is an app available for download which makes access even easier.

Conspiracy Theories Training School

From 30th July to 3rd August, Kent Psychology hosted a training school, organised by the COST Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories Action Group.

The week involved a series of seminars from active researchers in the field of conspiracy theory research, including Kent Psychologists Professors Karen Douglas and Robbie Sutton, and Dr Aleksandra Cichocka.

Karen Douglas opened the week with an introductory talk on the Psychology of Conspiracy Theories. Robbie Sutton's talk (place at 2pm in KLT4, online) surveyed methodology in measuring belief in conspiracy theories, whilst Aleksandra Cichocka delved into the details of intergroup conspiracy theories.

In addition to the various seminars, the group (pictured below) had plenty of time to socialise and explore Canterbury whilst talking over new research ideas.

Thank you to all the visiting guest speakers: Dr Varath Chotpitayasunondh, Dr Jaimee Mallion, Dr Joe Uscinski, and Dr Türkay Nefes.

If you are interested in the psychology of conspiracy theories, you can follow the COST Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories (COMPACT) Twitter page here: https://twitter.com/COST_conspiracy


Fascinating talk by Prof Robbie Sutton this morning discussing the use of surveys in the study of conspiracy theories! A lot to think about @COST_conspiracy #COST_canterbury

Guest Speakers

Thank you to:

Professor Andrea Hildebrandt, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald, for her talk "Beyond Means and Single Experimental Paradigms - Bridging the Gap Between Experimental Psychology and Individual Differences Research with Structural Equation Modelling" on 5th July.

The School’s Distinguished Speaker series will continue this term. These are one-off talks from active researchers in Psychology from institutions across the UK and abroad. Keep your eyes peeled as they will be advertised via email, Facebook and Twitter.

The next speaker visiting us will be Dr Alicia P. Melis, from the University of Warwick, on Wednesday 7th November. The talk will focus on the evolutionary roots of human collaboration and will take place at 2pm in KLT4.

You can follow the School on Twitter @kentpsychology.
Upcoming Events

CORE-FP workshops

CORE-FP are hosting some exciting new workshops this autumn, suited to professionals and those working in the relevant fields:

• HCR20-V3 Workshop
  Monday 15th October 2018

• RSVP (Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol)
  Tuesday 16th October 2018

• Assessment and Treatment of Adult Firesetters
  Wednesday 24th October 2018

• Schema Therapy / Two Day Workshop
  Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st November 2018

For more information, including cost and times, please contact j.c.fotheringham@kent.ac.uk or go to: https://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/core-fp/workshops.html

Good for: Professionals

Encouraging Positive Leadership

How can leadership help us flourish? This was the topic of our second HR Quarterly event on 19th September 2018. These events were set up within the Centre for the Study of Group Processes in partnership with Kent Innovation and Enterprise, and are an invaluable opportunity for us to connect with local businesses, sharing our research and getting feedback so we can ensure our research is relevant to applied practice.

The events are attended by people from a range of different types of business, including academia, recruitment, leisure and learning and development, so it is great forum to explore how our research can be used in different organisational contexts.

Our focus for this session was Positive Leadership, which is a style of leadership that develops potential, promotes flourishing, increases energy and encourages people and organisations to strive for excellence. Positive Leadership has been linked with increased financial performance, individual performance and employee wellbeing, so the benefits to business can be significant, and meant that the workshop generated a lot of interest!

Christie Marsh, starting the first year of her PhD in the influence of positive leadership on employee wellbeing and the role of social identification in this association, led the session with a presentation outlining the research into Positive Leadership.

After taking us through the four strategies of Positive Leadership, Christie shared examples of how they had been applied in organisations, sparking a lively debate on the differences between research and practice, and encouraging people to share their experiences of Positive Leadership in action. Everyone then took part in an exercise to experience how one strategy of Positive Leadership, positive communication, could work in practice.

The feedback on the event has been really positive, and we look forward to running the next one on 5th December when Professor Georgina Randles de Moura will be speaking.

Contributed by Ben Steeden and Dawn Nicholson.

New: Community Scholarships

The British Psychological Society are hosting two careers events for anyone looking to discover where psychology can take them in their chosen career. This event will help attendees find out more about the different career options that are available, with inspirational talks from psychologists across several fields offering an insight into their own journey to a career in psychology. You will also have the chance to explore opportunities for additional study and meet potential employers at our exhibition stands.


Good for: New and returning undergraduate and postgraduate students

Careers in Psychology

17th November 2018: Northumbria University, Newcastle.

4th December 2018: Tower Hill Hotel, London

Admission: BPS Society Member £13.33, Non-Member £16.67

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Good for: New and returning undergraduate and postgraduate students

The Community Scholarships programme, previously known as Medway Community Scholarships, is now open to all students registered at both the Canterbury and Medway campuses; from all stages, disciplines and modes of study. Projects can be related to sport, arts, music, cultural or any other interest area.

The Community Scholarships programme aims to empower students to either deliver self-devised projects or collaborate on an existing project which engages with the local community, and develops the student experience. The hope is that the scholarship will give students the opportunity to demonstrate leadership, enthusiasm and organisational skills, whilst benefiting the community.

The Community Scholarships can support co-curricular projects that either stem from a students personal interest, a community organisation, or a University of Kent department.

What’s included in the scholarship?

• £1,000 financial support to cover personal expenses and project running costs.
• Advice, training and project management support from the Student Activities and Scholarships Officer in delivering your project.
• Personal and employability skills development.
• Employability points.
• Access to additional project funding dependent on the nature and quality of the individual scholarship project.

For further information please contact: communityscholarships@kent.ac.uk

Please also see the poster on Page 7.

An Update from the Technical Team

The University of Kent has recently signed up to the Technician Commitment initiative, a scheme which aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technical staff working in higher education and research across all disciplines.

The School, which fully supports the initiative, is represented on the newly formed Technician Commitment Working Group by Senior Experimental Officer, Gary Samson. Members of the group, comprised of technical staff from across the Canterbury and Medway campuses, have drafted a 24-month action plan addressing each of the four themes identified for improvement together with ways in which these can be achieved and evidenced.

A dedicated website and blog are already under development and will highlight the invaluable contributions technical staff make to research and teaching across the University. Next year, Kent will host the third KTN Technicians Symposium, a major collaborative event between the University of Kent, the University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church University.

The symposium, planned for May 2019, will include talks and workshops on sustainability, technician development and teamwork and provide opportunities for technical staff from all three institutions to network and discover more about each other’s knowledge and expertise.

Contributed by Gary Samson.
Recent Publications


COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

- Up to £1,000 personal award plus additional support towards co-curricular projects
- Projects can be related to music, art, sport, environment, education or another discipline
- Develop the transferable skills that employers want
- Gain Employability Points
- Open to all students registered or due to register at the University of Kent Canterbury or Medway campuses

For information or to apply online visit:
www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/search/FNADMEDCOM01
communityscholarships@kent.ac.uk
PSYCHOLOGY / AT KENT DAY

Saturday 10 November, 09.30-15.30
Keynes College, University of Kent, Canterbury

Find out what it is like to study in the School of Psychology at Kent. This day will provide a unique opportunity for you to meet and interact with our academic staff members and to see our excellent research facilities in action. Our academic staff will also share their expertise and research through engaging lectures. Topics may include Child Development, Cognition and Neuroscience, Forensic Psychology and Social Psychology.

Further information
T: 01227 824775
E: psyugadmissions@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/psychology