Kent Psychology Students Awarded at Gala Event!

The 2017 Kent Student Awards were announced at a Gala Dinner on Friday 5 May and we are delighted to see our students’ outstanding co-curricular achievements celebrated. Final year BSc Psychology student Joseph Aina won Outstanding Student Entrepreneur of the Year for funding and designing an innovative creative arts website, JMArt’space, where artists can build their professional profiles and sell their work. Amber Bytheway, a final year BSc Psychology student, won the Outstanding Fundraiser of the Year award for her dedication and fundraising efforts as the President of Kent’s ‘Uni Boob Team’ a society that supports the important work of the breast cancer awareness charity ‘CoppaFeel!’ Outstanding Contribution to Academic Communities was awarded to our BSc Psychology final year student Max Carrington. Max has been a wonderful Student Representative for the School of Psychology over the last two years, working tirelessly to represent the interests of Psychology students.

Thank you to Amber, Joseph and Max for all their contributions to not only the School of Psychology but to the University as a whole!

BPS Hub Evening: Psychology for Fashion

By Natalie Gentry and Hannah Tummon

On 9 May we attended the BPS London and Home Counties (LHC) Branch’s very first Hub Event in Kent. The branch already has two hubs established in Hertfordshire and Windsor. These hubs have been set up as part of the branch’s endeavour to hold more events outside central London, to make them more accessible to individuals living outside the capital. It therefore gave us great pleasure to be able to organise this hub event hosted by the University of Kent.

Our speaker for the event was Professor Carolyn Mair, who currently serves as the Chair of the London and Home Counties Committee. Carolyn is also the subject director for psychology at the London College of Fashion, where she has set up the only undergraduate and masters courses in the UK that directly apply psychological science to fashion.

The talk was thought provoking and engaging. Carolyn considered the problems caused by the fashion industry and how applying psychology could help to make the industry more ethical and sustainable. The audience were excellent and asked Carolyn plenty of discussion questions and gave very positive feedback.

Due to the success of our first hub event, we are looking to organise another one in November. We look forward to seeing many of you there! If you have any suggestions for events or speakers, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us on social media via Facebook (@bps.lhc), Twitter (@bps_lhc) or Instagram (@bps_lhc).

Athena SWAN Awareness Day

The Athena SWAN Awareness Day was held on 21 June with a central focus on the theme of “Creating an Inclusive Workplace for Everyone.” Following a series of talks, including an opening speech by Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, attendees separated into various workshops. Two of the workshops were hosted by Kent Psychologists, Dr Erika Nurmsoo and PhD student Dawn Nicholson who each led engaging sessions about preparing content for submission and creating an inclusive workplace respectively. The University is committed to the principles of the Athena SWAN charter, which aims to advance the representation of women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics. The School of Psychology's Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team was first set up in April 2014 and immediately began working on achieving a Bronze award. This collective effort culminated in the School's Bronze award in October of the following year.

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Congratulations to **Professor Ayse Uskul**, who was recently selected as a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. Fellow status is awarded to APS members who have made sustained outstanding contributions to the science of psychology in the areas of research, teaching, service and application.

Congratulations to **Dr David Williams**, who was quoted in *The Guardian*, who have been featuring discussions on leadership. "Leaders more harshly punished when they do something wrong?" Here she explains that people have a need to reduce their feelings of uncertainty and threat, but this need is normally higher for conservatives. To read the article in *The Guardian* please follow this link: [http://bit.ly/2slfbWw](http://bit.ly/2slfbWw)

Dr Amir-Homayoun Javadi’s article “Hippocampal and prefrontal processing of network topology to simulate the future” was featured in a highly selective special collection of articles in *Nature Communications*. The article is available to read online here: [http://go.nature.com/2sgrPuR](http://go.nature.com/2sgrPuR)

New findings by **Dr Mario Weick** showing that reactions to staring gaze displays can be changed when people feel powerful can be featured on *Yahoo* and *The Business Insider*. Dr Weick explained that the team’s findings advance understanding of how social relations are manifested non-verbally. The paper, titled “Power Moves Beyond Complimentary: A Staring Look Elicits Avoidance in Low Power Perceivers and Approach in High Power Perceivers” is published in the *journal Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Dr Aleksandra Cichocka was quoted in *The Guardian* article “Strong and stable leadership! Could Theresa May’s rhetorical carpet-bombing backfire?”. Here she explains that people have a need to reduce feelings of uncertainty and threat, but this need is normally higher for conservatives. To read the article in *The Guardian* please follow this link: [http://bit.ly/2qW7Mk9](http://bit.ly/2qW7Mk9)

Dr Cichocka’s research discussing the possibility that conservative ideology is linked to grammatical preferences that foster feelings of stability and predictability is available to read here: [http://bit.ly/2sfIbwW](http://bit.ly/2sfIbwW)

Congratulations to **Professor Theresa Gannon, Dr Caolte Ó Ciaradh, and Dr Emma Alleyne**, who have been awarded £331,260 by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria for a project entitled “Evaluating Polygraph Use for Managing Sexual Offenders and Suspects in Greater Manchester”. This 2 year enterprise award is a significant achievement and has very high impact potential.

Congratulations to **Dr Jane Wood (PI), Professor Theresa Gannon, Dr Caolte Ó Ciaradh, and Dr Emma Alleyne**, who have been awarded €1,600 by the British Psychological Society to attend the Annual Meeting of the Psychometric Society (IMPS 2017) in Zurich. Ana will be presenting a poster entitled “Modelling circumplex data with latent trait models” and participating in a short course (“Dynamic structural equation modelling of intensive longitudinal data using Mplus version 8”).

Congratulations to **Dr David Wilkinson**, who has been awarded £6,500 by the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Impact Fund to support his research.

This project will pay for David to seek advice from the Office for Market Access at the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) about the pathway that his vestibular stimulation procedures must take for clinical recommendation. In the first instance, he will seek to indicate the procedures for migraine and stroke. The stimulation devices are low cost and non-invasive with the potential to revolutionise treatment and management of these refractory, disabling conditions.

Congratulations to **Ana Crispim**, who has been awarded £300 by the Eastern Lodge Doctoral Students Conference, 29 August – 1 September 2017.

Congratulations to **Dr Georgina Randsley de Moura**, who has been awarded a total of £17,234 by Agulhas Applied Knowledge Limited for two projects entitled “Global Challenges Research Fund Survey” and “Independent Commission for Aid Impact”.

Congratulations to **Dr Marta Ponari**, who has been awarded £9,401 by the British Academy for a project entitled “Where I end and you begin: the role of facial mimicry and interoception in emotion recognition”.

Congratulations to **Dr Ana Leite**, who has been awarded £2,000 by the European Association of Social Psychology for a project entitled “Are women (vs men) leaders more harshly punished when they do something wrong?”

Congratulations to **Dr Erika Nurmsoo**, who has been awarded £1,734 by the Royal British Legion Industries Ltd for a project entitled “Game of Zones”.

Congratulations to **Dr David Wilkinson**, who has been awarded €1,600 by the Centre for Social and Economic Behaviour (C-SEB), in support of a short-term research stay at the Social Cognition Centre in Cologne. Stefan has also been awarded a travel grant of €1000 by the European Association of Social Psychology, which will facilitate a research visit to Dr Joris Lammers at the University of Cologne from October to December this year.

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Congratulations to **Dr Lindsey Cameron**, who has been awarded £4,998 by the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Impact Fund for a project entitled “Identity and Belonging: Supporting Refugee and Migrant Children”.

Congratulations to **Dr Zara Bergstrom (PI) and Professor Howard Bowman**, Computing (Co-I) who have been awarded £4,870 by the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Research Committee for a project entitled “Forensic Memory Detection in Old Age”.

Congratulations to **Dr Kirsten Abbot-Smith (PI) and Dr David Williams (Co-I), who have been awarded £4,788 by the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Research Committee for a project entitled “What enables children to have good conversation skills?”

Congratulations to **Dr Giovanni Travaglini** who has been awarded £4,387 by the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Research Committee for a project entitled “Cultural Beliefs and Political Engagement: Exploring the Association between Cultural Values and Political Behaviour”.

Congratulations to **Courtney Allen**, who has been awarded the University of Kent’s Postgraduate Research Bursary of £4,680 by the Graduate School, which will help towards tuition fees and maintenance in 2017/18. Courtney was actually awarded this bursary this academic year, in the sum of £6,000.

Congratulations to **Stefan Leach**, who has been awarded £450 by the Graduate School to attend an event entitled Life Beyond the PhD at the 10th Cumberland Lodge Doctoral Students Conference, 29 August – 1 September 2017.

Kent Psychologists in the Media

New findings by **Dr Mario Weick** showing that reactions to staring gaze displays can be changed when people feel powerful can be featured on *Yahoo* and *The Business Insider*. Dr Weick explained that the team’s findings advance understanding of how social relations are manifested non-verbally. The paper, titled “Power Moves Beyond Complimentary: A Staring Look Elicits Avoidance in Low Power Perceivers and Approach in High Power Perceivers” is published in the *journal Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

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The Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology (CORE-FP) recently hosted a conference to celebrate 21 years of forensic psychology at Kent. Our MSc in Forensic Psychology was one of the first in the UK when it was launched in 1995 and has grown to be one of the top postgraduate programmes in the country. Graduates of the programme have gone on to be leaders in research and clinical practice worldwide.

The conference, titled “Innovations in Forensic Psychology” consisted of keynote talks by world-leading academics in the fields of forensic clinical practice and offending behaviour.

Delegates, including those from the police, prison service, national offender management, NHS and the NSPCC, had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions in specialist topics such as animal cruelty and online sexual offending.

In March our first year Business Psychology students had the opportunity to present their group poster projects in a conference style session. It was another very successful and enjoyable event and our two new judges were highly impressed with the professionalism of the poster presentations. Thank you to our judges from Santander, Kent Innovation and Enterprise, KIMS Hospital and Sustainability and Connections, as well as other members of the School of Psychology. Congratulations to all the students involved!

In celebrating 25 years of Forensic Psychology at Kent, we are pleased to announce that our Centre for the Study of Group Processes (CSGP) and 20 years of the journal of Group Processes and Intergroup Relations. The theme of the conference was “Future Challenges for Psychological Research on Group Processes and Intergroup Relations: What we know and what we need to know”.

On the first day of the conference, Professor Michael Hogg gave a keynote address on his uncertainty-identity theory and its implications for group identification and extremism. This was followed by research discussions about Stereotypes, Methodology, Intergroup Processes, and Contact and Diversity. On the second day there were two excellent keynote addresses by Professor John Levine and Professor Susan Fiske.

Professor John Levine discussed a typology of minority action based on a broader conceptualization of minority influence, with emphasis on the need for greater depth in our understanding of groups and the impact of context. Professor Susan Fiske presented an optimistic view of the developments within social psychology and her own extensive research career, highlighting how the discipline has faced various crises over the years, and how these can improve our work and focus – take courage! On the final day of the conference, the keynote address was delivered by the Centre’s Director - Professor Dominic Abrams who introduced intriguing examples of how the study of group processes enables researchers to connect research with reality, and an emphasis on the necessity of considering the real world context.

Over 100 delegates attended from a wide range of Universities in the UK including University of Oxford, University of Birmingham, Cardiff University, and the University of Cambridge. Also many delegates from Universities across the globe including University of Saskatchewan, Hamburg University, University of Queensland, University of Pittsburgh, Lehigh University, the University of Porto, and Princeton University. The conference was an outstanding success and provided the opportunity for open discussion and informal networking. International visitors were extremely positive about the School’s Centre for the Study of Group Processes, and our far-reaching recognition as a centre of excellence. We had many requests to do something again soon – so watch this space!

Find out more on the conference website www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/csgp/conference.html, Twitter (@GroupLab) or via email (grouplab@kent.ac.uk)