Welcome to the March e-bulletin

The last three months saw yet another impressive surge in research funding. Alongside several new Collaborative Doctoral Studentships, the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities has secured funding for prestigious research projects which will deliver major public benefits, with investigations into social issues such as vaping and tobacco-use together with research projects focusing on refugees, asylum-seekers and immigration.

The College is also celebrating more awards and accolades for individual researchers, notably Stevie-Jade Hardy’s National Hate Crime award.

There are newly published books on topics ranging from women surgeons (Brock) to Chinese cultures of anxiety (Gong). Among the list of new publications is this month’s featured book by Mark Banks, Creative Justice: Cultural Industries, Work and Inequality, praised by Philip Schlesinger for overturning ‘current delusions about the nature of cultural work and education and proposing remedies to present inequalities’. I could not resist featuring Richard Thomas’ “chicken project” this month: ‘Going Places: Empowering Women, Enhancing Heritage and Increasing Chicken Production in Ethiopia. Enjoy the photographic accompaniment.

Corinne Fowler, College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Research Environment Director

If you have research stories to include in the next bulletin, please email: cssahbulletin@le.ac.uk
Newly funded projects, 2017

O. Harris. Archaeology and Ancient History. The Leverhulme Trust (£100,000). The Philip Leverhulme Prize.


Neil Chakraborti and Stevie-Jade Hardy. Criminology. Commission for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. ‘The Regulation of E-Cigarettes in and Around Organisational Lives.’ This study explores the implications of non-statutory regulations to inform workplace vaping policies.

Neil Chakraborti and Stevie-Jade Hardy. Criminology. Commission for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. Hate crime project which will help to inform and improve the wider delivery of hate crime support services in the West Midlands.


Francesca White. English. Malcolm Bradbury Travel Award. Francesca will travel to the University of Lincoln and to the Cather Archives in Red Cloud Nebraska to undertake research on her doctoral project on multilingualism in her work on Willa Cather.

Andrew Hopper. History. ARHC (£1,019,593). ‘50th Anniversary History of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles.’


Laura Morales. History, Politics and International Relations. Leah Bassel. Media, Communication and Sociology. Italian Ministry of Interior: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (£20,000). ‘Refugee Women and Integration Programs: National and International comparison.’ Professor Morales and Dr Bassel have obtained funding as UK partners of a project based at the University of Molise.

José Miola. Law. Wellcome Trust (£35,784). ‘Real and Perceived Barriers to Medical Innovation’. The PI and co-applicants will run focus groups to see what doctors feel are the barriers to responsible medical innovation.


Ipek Demir. Media, Communication and Sociology. Santander Travel Award (£650). Support networking activity between Mexico and Britain.


Stephanie Bowry. Museum Studies. Leverhulme Trust (Early Career Fellowship) (£86,241). ‘Cultivating the Art Gallery in the Early Modern Garden.’ This research investigates the physical, conceptual and experiential relationships between gardens and picture galleries in England from the 1500s to the 1750s.


New book publications and journal special issues

http://www.rowmaninternational.com/books/creative-justice

http://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/history/history-medicine/british-women-surgeons-and-their-patients-18601918?format=HB

Carol Beardmore, Steven King and Geoff Monks. (eds.) (2016). The Land Agent in Britain. Past, Present and Future. (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars). Relatively little is known about the fascinating and complex role of the land agent across time. For the very first time, this volume brings together historians, practitioners and representatives of the bodies overseeing the continuing professional development of agents to explore, in overview and through detailed case studies, the wide variety of skills required by those entering this profession. 

Campbell, Vincent (2016). Science, Entertainment and Television Documentary. (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan). The shift from traditional documentary to “factual entertainment” television has been the subject of much criticism, particularly with regard to the representation of science. Campbell considers if in fact these shows offer more complex representations that construct sciences as objects of wonder, awe and the sublime. 

http://www.participations.org/Volume%2013/Issue%201/contents.htm


Forchtner, B. (2016). Lessons from the Past? Memory, Narrativity and Subjectivity. (Basingstoke: Palgrave). This book reconstructs how claims to know ‘the lessons’ from past wrongdoings are made useful in the present. It does so by conceptualising four rhetorics of learning and how each of them links memories of past wrongdoings to opposition to present and future wrongdoings, drawing extensively on narrative theory. 


Suzanne MacLeod. Museum Studies. AHRC (£25,512). ‘A Cinematic Musée Imaginaire of Spatial Cultural Differences.’


Other institutional and College-level awards

The Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund providing a number of internal funding opportunities over the next five years including in Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences.

The funding of the new Kurdistan International Studies Unit in the School of History, Politics and International Relations funded by the Kurdistan Regional Government.
Creative Justice is a book which intervenes into urgent contemporary debates around inequality and injustice in the cultural industries. It has won critical praise for “skewering current delusions about the nature of cultural work and education and proposing remedies to present inequalities” (Philip Schlesinger), “demolishing the ‘creative industries’ hype about the new meritocracy” (Andrew Ross), and for making “music out of the social necessity of normative judgement” (Catherine Murray).

The book first aims to ‘do justice’ to the kinds of objects and texts produced by artists, musicians, designers and other kinds of symbol-makers – by appreciating them as meaningful goods with objective qualities. It also shows how cultural work itself has objective quality as a rewarding and socially-engaging practice, and not just a means to an economic end. But this book is also about injustice – made evident in the workings of arts education and cultural policy, and through the inequities and degradations of cultural work. In worlds where low pay and wage inequality are endemic, and where access to the best cultural academies, jobs and positions is becoming more strongly determined by social background, what chance do ordinary people have of obtaining their own ‘creative justice’?

Scholars have long recognized the media’s role in the policing and construction of gender. Now, this new four-volume collection from Routledge’s acclaimed Critical Concepts in Media and Cultural Studies series enables users to readily access and make sense of the essential texts of gender-and-media scholarship.


Griffiths, R., Adams, S., Hastings, S., and Griffiths, J. “The Letterbox Club in Birmingham: children’s and foster carers’ views, 2015-2016”. (Leicester: University of Leicester). Rose Griffiths, Jo Griffiths and colleagues have had their final report of their evaluation of the Letterbox Club in Birmingham published. They followed nine children and their foster carers for up to a year, including the six months where they received their parcels from the Letterbox Club, using interviews to explore the ways in which the children used the books and games they were sent, and what they thought of them.


http://www.nordicom.gu.se/en/publikationer/voice-matter


Karatzogianni, A., with Nguyen, D., and Serafinelli, E., (eds.) (2016). The Digital Transformation of the Public Sphere: Conflict, Migration, Crisis and Culture in Digital Networks. (London: Palgrave Macmillan). This volume explores how the public sphere is transformed by digital media, and in turn how this digital public sphere shapes and is shaped by debates surrounding crisis, conflict, migration and culture. Case studies from Bulgaria, Nigeria, China, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, UK, Mexico and India are discussed in detail.


Moseley, R., Wheatley, H., and Wood, H., (eds.) (2017). Television for Women: New Directions. (London: Routledge). Professor Helen Wood is co-editor of this new collection which reconsiders the question of ‘television for women’. The essays take the existing scholarship in this field in significant new directions, expanding its reach both in terms of territory - looking beyond the paradigmatic Anglo-American axis - and also historical span.


significance of physical space and embodiment in protest events. Looking at a range of assemblies, this volume illuminates how square and street politics and their mediation become vehicles for new ideas of community, citizenship and public life. http://www.rowmaninternational.com/books/taking-the-square


Wicks, E. (2016). The State and the Body: Legal Regulation of Bodily Autonomy (Oxford: Hart). This book investigates the limits of the legitimate role of the state in regulating the human body. It questions whether there is a public interest in issues of bodily autonomy, with particular focus on reproductive choices, end of life choices, sexual autonomy, body modifications and selling the body. http://www.bloomsburyprofessional.com/uk/the-state-and-the-body-9781509909971/
Featured research project

‘Going Places: Empowering Women, Enhancing Heritage and Increasing Chicken Production in Ethiopia.’

Richard Thomas, Archaeology and Ancient History

Going Places is an eight-month Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Large Grant Innovation Award (£205,000) that brings together a team of archaeologists, anthropologists and geneticists from four different universities in the UK, to conduct female-centred cultural/scientific research into chicken husbandry, past and present, to support Ethiopia’s future economic/heritage development.

Our primary aim is to empower women and ensure their centrality in the future development of Ethiopia’s poultry industry. We will do this by exploring the context, practices and challenges faced by female poultry keepers in Ethiopia today and placing these in a deep-time perspective, through the analysis of the archaeology of chicken keeping - examining the material culture and the remains of the birds themselves.

We will also be working with the British Museum and the National Museum of Ethiopia to develop educational resources to support heritage development in the country.
Other news

Awards

Francisco Goncalves, Criminology won the prize for best communication at the 3rd Conference of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences held by the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences in Portugal.

Stevie-Jade Hardy, Criminology. Winner of Research and Innovation Upstander Award at the National Hate Crime Awards 2016.

This award was given in recognition of Stevie’s outstanding contribution to tackling hatred, intolerance and prejudice through her work with the Centre for Hate Studies. This includes research funded by the ESRC, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Hertfordshire’s Office for Police and Crime Commissioner and Amnesty International UK, and the ongoing programme of hate crime training she delivers to professionals across the UK from a range of sectors including criminal justice, education, health and social care.

Stevie-Jade Hardy, Criminology won the College prize for best image in the Images of Research competition. The photo, which appears on the front page of the bulletin, was taken by Hayley Evans from the University’s Creative Services team.

The photo’s caption in the competition was as follows:

This is Shireen. For Shireen, her family and her friends, hate-fuelled violence and hostility are ‘everyday’ experiences. The impact on Shireen’s life has been devastating; she no longer feels safe to walk down the street, to travel on public transport or to do a supermarket shop. Through our research we have connected with thousands of people just like Shireen who have been verbally abused, spat at and harassed because of their identity or perceived ‘difference’. Too many victims suffer in silence, which is why we work with policymakers and practitioners throughout the UK to improve their responses to hate crime.

Events

Cultural and Media Economies research institute (CAMEo) hosted a week of events in November exploring the contemporary significance of craft. Researchers, teachers, students, makers, artists and practitioners engaged in workshops and networking events and attended a keynote speech featuring international experts in the field.

http://www2.le.ac.uk/research/institutes/cameo/cameo-events/cameo-craft-cultures

Matt Hopkin, Teela Sanders and Josh, Criminology ran a very successful PhD Cross College Conference in December with speakers and delegates from departments across the College.

Appointments

Andrew Futter, Politics and International Relations has been invited to take up a fellowship position at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Spring/Summer 2017, and to speak at this year’s Nobel Conference on ‘High-level Dialogue on Advancing Global Nuclear Security Architecture’.

Marion Krauthaker, Modern Languages has been awarded a research fellowship by the Moore Institute of Research at the National University of Ireland Galway and will be in residence as a research Fellow there in May to conduct a project on Diversity in the Modern Languages Curriculum.

Media, Communication and Sociology staff were elected to the following positions at the recent European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) conference in Prague: Ian Somerville - Chair of the Organisational and Strategic Communication Section; Ranjana Das - Chair of the Audience and Reception Studies Section; Galina Mizhevich - Member of the ECREA Executive Board.

Peer review college membership

Ipek Demir, Media, Communication and Sociology has been appointed as a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council’s Peer Review College until 2021.

Deborah Toner. History. Successful application to the AHRC Peer Review College, via the Early Career Route.
Other research news

Neil Chakraborti, Criminology was invited to participate in a specially convened panel to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict at the University of East London. The panel discussion focused on hate crime, the mainstreaming of racist discourses in the UK and France and the revival of populist far-right movements in Western democracies.

The Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh project, English is delighted to have gained a new partner: the Huntington Library, Pasadena. The Huntington has recently acquired a new archive of Waugh materials courtesy of Loren and Frances Rothschild. In May, the project’s Prof Martin Stannard and Dr Barbara Cooke will speak in Pasadena at a symposium organised to celebrate the Huntington’s new collection and funded by the Rothschilds and the Evelyn Waugh society.

Francisco Goncalves, Criminology started a consultancy work for the Belgium Police in Brussels to recruit new forensic examiners with the collaboration of Silke Jensen (Psychology, also an INTREPID Forensics fellow).

Lisa Smith, Criminology embarked on a Knowledge and Enterprise funded trip to Kosovo to visit with the War Crimes Investigations Unit, Institute of Forensic Medicine, British Ambassador to Kosovo, and EULEX mission. The trip went very well, and has paved the way for research opportunities (especially related to CPD funding) and also capacity building enterprise activities.

Helen Wood and Jilly Boyce, Media, Communication and Sociology have contributed to BBC History’s new archive to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the launch of the first British television service by the BBC. Their contribution is called ‘Watching at Home’ and is based on Helen’s research in the Mass Observation archives: http://www.bbc.co.uk/historyofthebbc/birth-of-tv/watching-at-home?lang=gd

The School of History, Politics and International Relations has four new Collaborative Doctoral Partnership studentships: Clare Anderson, with the Salvation Army International Heritage Centre, The Salvation Army’s overseas settlements and colonies, 1890-1939; Simon Gunn and Sally Horrocks with The Science Museum, ‘Science, Technology and Road Safety in the Motor Age’; Sally Horrocks and Ben Clements with The National Archives, ‘Defending Modernity? Communicating with the Public about Nuclear Energy: Historical Perspectives’; Jo Story with the British Library, “Franco-Saxon manuscripts in the later 9th century”, within the Polonsky digitization project on ‘France and England, 700–1200’.

The Centre for New Writing launched its 74th commission called ‘Artificial Intelligence’ to combat Orwellian fears of new technologies and prepare the ground for technological advances to benefit the elderly. Three further commissions were also awarded to commemorate Adrian Mole’s 50th Birthday Party on 2 April (‘Let Them Eat Custard Creams’, ‘Rocking On’ and ‘The Age of Convenience’). The event will be covered by BBC radio 4’s Front Row arts programme. http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/creativewriting/centre