

Political leanings

A new study from the University of Leicester Department of Economics reveals that highly educated people make wrong assumptions about their political leanings – they are more likely to think they are left wing when they are more likely to be relatively conservative.

The study suggests that some people may end up voting for left of centre parties because they hold the mistaken belief that they are left wing.

The research by Dr James Rockey, a lecturer in Economics, used data from the World Values Survey and described the opinions and characteristics of 136,000 individuals, in 82 countries,

over a period of over 20 years.

His study, *Who is Left-Wing, and Who Just Thinks They Are?*, analysed whether people misperceive their relative ideological position by measuring on a scale from 1 to 10 what people think they are – and measuring their opinion against a substantive issue ie how income should be divided.

“The most startling result is that the more educated tend to believe that they are more left-wing than they are measured as being,” said Dr Rockey. “That is, well-educated individuals are more likely to think that they are quite left-wing but actually believe things that compared to the rest of the population would make them comparatively right-wing.”

World first remote heart operation using robotic arm

A pioneering world first robotics system operation was conducted at Glenfield Hospital Leicester thanks to expertise at the University of Leicester and University Hospitals of Leicester.

Dr André Ng, Senior Lecturer in Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Leicester and Consultant Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist, Glenfield Hospital, University Hospitals of Leicester, became the first person in the world to carry out the operation remotely on patients using this system.

He used the Catheter Robotics Remote Catheter Manipulation System for the first time in a heart rhythm treatment procedure.

The system is novel because it allows a doctor to carry out a common heart treatment procedure remotely using a robotic arm.

Dr Ng and his team’s international standing and leading position in the management of heart rhythm disorders are reflected in the invitation to be the first to apply this new Robotics System



Dr Ng operating the robotic arm from a nearby room

in clinical procedures which also affirms the world-class research and pioneering work at the University of Leicester.

The Remote Catheter Manipulation System (RCMS, Catheter Robotics Inc., New Jersey) is a new system and Dr André Ng, who has extensive experience in EPS procedures, has been selected to apply the system in human studies for the first time in the world.

Wireless chip in brain to control prosthetic limbs

A team of researchers, including academics from the Engineering Department at the University of Leicester, have been awarded a £1.2 million grant by the EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) to develop a chip which can be implanted in the brain.

The chip will be wirelessly connected to prosthetic limbs. It will collect data from neuron activity in the brain, and send the information wirelessly to move prosthetic arms or legs.

The technology has the potential to enable patients with spinal cord injuries to move paralysed parts of their bodies by using robotic devices which are controlled by the wireless chip.

The use of wireless technology provides an alternate to cables, which can be obtrusive and have risk of infections.

This ground-breaking research is being developed by academics from the University of Leicester, Newcastle University and Imperial College London..

Professor Rodrigo Quian Quiroga, who is a Bioengineer and is heading up this research at Leicester, commented:

“This research is the first of its kind. We are addressing the problem of how to transmit a signal of hundreds of neurons from inside the brain to outside the brain. The answer is by using wireless technology and advanced processing in a chip. This research will develop new technology to transmit messages from the brain to elsewhere in the body.”

