A Message from the Head of College

As the nights begin to draw in and the evenings become colder the new academic year hove’s into view. It is a time often to reflect on what we achieved over the last year and the lessons for the upcoming year. If I look at our research performance as a College, I see a mixed pattern with some departments showing strong growth whilst some remain stubbornly resistant to research income growth. We do not need to bring in research income “just for the sake of it”. If we want to become and grow as an internationally competitive university, we need to be bringing in the research income to support that vision. There are few areas where research funding is not required to remain at the cutting edge of science. Therefore, we as a College will be taking a number of actions over the coming year to support individuals and teams to grow that research income and drive impact from already funded research. Mark Purnell, as our College Research Director will be undertaking a number of distinct measures around for example Funder Groups. Look, prepare and engage with those upcoming opportunities.

If we turn our gaze back to the year gone by, in respect of student satisfaction, as detailed in this issue of the E-zine, we see a mixed picture. A number of our departments, Chemistry, Physics & Astronomy, Geography and Geology maintain high levels of student satisfaction. Even across these there is one area that we all need to stay guarded on and focused on and that is the assessment and feedback
which is uniformly challenging. We all need to work with students to help them recognize that many of the things that we do and our interactions with them are all a part of that assessment and feedback. We again as a College will be supporting departments on the implementation of new measures to improve NSS and student outcomes in the coming year.

Again, the E-zine highlights a wonderful range of activities undertaken in the College. If I can bring to your attention the inaugural lecture series which starts on 28th November 2017. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear about a wide range of excellent science as well as gain a greater understanding of our colleague’s endeavors and a celebration of their achievement in attaining professorial status. Can I encourage all of you to attend these lectures.

Among our appointments I would highlight our new Chinese Leicester International Institute with the Dalian University of Technology which has just admitted its first student cohort. Professor Eric Hope has become Dean of that and will be working with colleagues from Chemistry, Mathematics and Engineering to roll out the first year of what is an exciting venture for the College.

As the student cycle starts again with a new intake and the beginning of open days for the 18/19 entry, I think we can look forward to an exciting academic year and push forward with significant effort to both continue and improve our student experience while coupling that to the exciting science that we undertake as both individuals and research teams across the College and University.

Ys -Paul-

Part of the first Student Cohort at Leicester International Institute
Promotions

Congratulations to:

Dr Clare Madge from the Department Geography and Dr Sybille Schroll from the Department of Mathematics on being promoted to Professor – congratulations to you both!

Congratulations to:

Professor Suzie Imber from the Department of Physics & Astronomy

Who has been selected as one of the final 12 to appear in a series of programmes which started on Sunday 20 August on BBC 2 entitled Astronauts: Do you have What it Takes. Space scientist Dr Suzie Imber from our Department of Physics and Astronomy will be competing to realise her dream of becoming an astronaut as part of a televised competition broadcast by the BBC. As part of the programme, famous astronaut and former Commander of the International Space Station, Chris Hadfield, former NASA medical researcher Dr Kevin Fong, and psychologist Dr Iya Whiteley, have chosen 12 exceptional applicants, including Suzie, from thousands who applied. They will be competing to receive the ultimate reference - Chris’s backing for their application when the space agencies next take on recruits to become astronauts. Colleagues are encouraged to watch how far Suzie goes in the challenge.

Suzie, 33

Associate Professor of Planetary Science – Leicester

Suzie is a 33 –year-old associate professor of Planetary Science at the University of Leicester. She has held posts at NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre and the University of Michigan, and is currently involved in instrument design and operation for ESA’s next mission to Mercury. Suzie is also an elite rower and a highly-experienced mountaineer. She has written computer code to identify and map unclimbed peaks in the Andes and Himalayas before setting off to climb them herself. Suzie has been interested in space from a young age, and has spent her academic career looking at the solar system – her current research looks at Mercury’s magnetosphere.
Professor Mark Lester from Department of Physics & Astronomy and the SuperDARN Team

On receiving an award from the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of their work. Professor Lester said: “I am delighted that the RAS have made this award to the SuperDARN team. It recognizes the scientific and technical achievements of over 200 researchers and engineers who contributed to the project. It is a pleasure to work with such a talented team and the project represents the best traditions of international scientific collaborations”.

Professor Andy Ellis from the Department of Chemistry

Has been elected as Chair of the Molecular Physics Group (MPG) of the Institute of Physics. Molecular Physics is a flourishing interdisciplinary field of research in the United Kingdom, encompassing theoretical and experimental activity in many areas such as molecular reaction dynamics, laser chemistry/physics, spectroscopy, quantum chemistry, surfaces, and solid state physics. Molecular physicists work at the interface of physics and chemistry and the primary objective of the MPG is to provide a forum for the promotion of this rapidly developing field of research, including organising conferences and symposia.

Dr Audrey Mudrov (as the PI) together with Dr’s Ivan Tyukin and Alex Baranov from the Department of Mathematics

On securing a very successful KTP grant application with Photek Lt. This grant was the highest scored of all applications in May, and 25% of the grant will be funded by the STFC. The amount of grant is £182,577, and the project aim is “To develop a product range of image intensifiers enhanced with data analytics capabilities”.

Professor’s Karl Ryder & Andy Abbott from the Department of Chemistry

On winning EU funding for a blue-skies project entitled SAIBAGE, aimed at developing a new and revolutionary type of battery based on aluminum and Sulphur. The project is funded under the EU (Horizon 2020) Future Emerging Technologies scheme which is the most competitive of the EU funding mechanisms. This award is the first of its type for the University.
Dr Caroline Upton from the Department of Geography

On being part of the Mikoko Pamoja Kenya initiative which was awarded the UN’s Equator Prize in late June. The winners were selected from a pool of 806 nominations across 120 countries by an independent Technical Advisory Committee of internationally renowned experts. The selection process emphasised community-based approaches that provide a blueprint for replication. The Mikoko Pamoja is a community based initiative that has pioneered carbon credit payments for mangrove restoration, and is reinvesting the profits into local community developments. This is a really prestigious award and Caroline’s work on the social dimensions of activities at Gazi have been central to this very important award – Many congratulations on your contribution!

Dr Sarah Gretton from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences

On being a finalist for a Green Gown Award namely the Sustainability Champion Award, which recognises her efforts above and beyond her job requirements, to drive sustainability. Alongside her work in The Centre for Interdisciplinary Science Department, Sarah has voluntarily pushed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) – chairing the ESD forum, helping to develop the Sustainable Futures online course and organising workshops to inspire and help academics to embed sustainability into their courses. The winners for the Green Gown Awards will be announced on 15 November 2017.

Dr Dylan Williams from the Department of Chemistry

On being awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy (HEA) for teaching excellent. Dr Williams’s work on Context and Problem Based Learning has changed the way chemistry is taught at Leicester. An increasing number of institutions have started using his methods in order to enhance the student experience.

Professor Paul Boyle, President and Vice-Chancellor said of both Dylan and Dawn Watkins from the Department of Law, “It is a great honour to be recognised at the highest national level for the excellence of your contributions to student learning. I congratulate Dawn and Dylan on their remarkable achievements – they are exemplars for how inspirational teaching at Leicester is helping to transform the student experience of higher education. This continues a very strong record of success in the National Teaching Fellowships for Leicester academics”.
Mrs Aimee Harrisonwild, Relationship Manager for STEM and the Manager of the College Industrial Placements Office

On being selected to receive the September 2017 Safety Champion Award from the Safety Services Office for her work regarding safety in placements. Aimee said “I have recently set up the Student Placement and Travel safety group with Claire Banfa from the International Office. The idea is to bring colleagues from across the University to share good practice and to develop guidance and policy around student safety when on placement or travelling abroad (work/study abroad).

The group is very new and we welcome stakeholders from across the institution who may also be involved in this kind of activity. Please contact Sue Howell on cseplacements@le.ac.uk to find out when the next meeting is.

I am currently working on guidance for lone and home working for placement students as I have seen an increase in this kind of offer for industrial placement students; particularly in the technology sector. This is also in its early stages and if anyone would like to collaborate on this activity, please do get in touch.

Thank you for the Safety Champion Award. It is nice to have the recognition”. 
Congratulations also to our students:

**Mathematics Student – Yasha Asley**

Yasha was only 12 when he embarked upon a 3 year undergraduate degree at the University, studying Mathematics. At the recent graduation ceremonies Yasha, who has just turn 15 in June, joined some 3,500 graduates at Leicester to become the youngest graduate in the University’s history when he was presented with a first-class Honours BSc degree in Mathematics.

**Engineering Students on winning the top two places in the UniFi Formular 1 Aerodynamics Championship**

For the second year in a row, students from the Department of Engineering took top spot with Team Hill winning the best aerodynamic design of a FIA Formula 1 car and, this year, another team, Team Mansell, also took the runner-up place. Team Hill won the constructors’ championship in the penultimate race of the UniFi Motorsport competition, having secured four race wins in the five-race 2016/17 championship. Team Mansell fended off stiff competition against teams from the UK, Portugal and Italy to design a winning Formula 1 car body which was tested in a virtual wind tunnel.

Team Hill consisted of Philip Noble, Parthil Patel, Georgeous Gabriel, Michael Brooker and Jamie Gollins. Team Mansell consisted of James Thresh, Nicholas Watts, Eeva Karner, Kyle Nicholls, Tendai Kachale and Shane Perera.

**Physics Students who have had an article about the ascent into Earth’s Stratosphere using GoPro & Weather Balloon featured on Forbes Website**

Forbes is one of the top five business websites in the world and it’s wonderful seeing the great work of our students appearing there – congratulations to all involved! The article can be read at https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2017/08/07/students-film-breathtaking-ascent-earths-stratosphere-gopro-weather-balloon/#3690a94932fo
College Appointments

Professor Kevin Tansey from the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment

Has been appointed as the new Director of Post Graduate Research. Kevin will be working with all departments and schools to embed college practice in the new doctoral college.

Dr Sandeep Handa from the Department of Chemistry

Has been appointed as the Deputy Academic Director. Sandeep will pick up the portfolio around the development and delivery of taught postgraduate courses across the College whilst assisting Professor Graham Wynn, our Academic Director, in the wider duties of that role.

Professor Eric Hope from the Department of Chemistry

Who has appointed as the first Director and English Dean of the Leicester International Institute, Dalian University of Technology working alongside the Dalian University of Technology Dean of the Institute. Within the University Professor Hope has been conferred the internal title of Dean. The Institute is part of the University’s ambitious plans to increase international engagement with this top quality Chinese University and in the near future will allow UK students from Leicester to study in China. It also presents a unique opportunity to develop strong research collaborations with an outstanding Chinese institution.

Professor Hope has been leading the academic team across the Departments of Engineering, Mathematics and Chemistry to prepare for the first intake of around 18o students to the campus at Panjin next month.
News from Departments

Professor Sarah Hainsworth from the Department of Engineering was featured in an episode of BBC Watchdog on 2 August investigating the safety of fidget spinners. The Spinners, originally designed to help children with conditions such as autism to deal with stress, have become a playground craze, spreading globally in recent months.

Professor Jan Zalasiewicz from the Department of Geology was asked for Think: Leicester “if by some miracle, we had been able to position ourselves above the Archean Earth – 4 to 2.5 billion years ago – what would we have seen? Would it have been an entirely alien vista?” Jan replied that “one thing you could say is that the Earth would be a different colour – these were the days of no oxygen and therefore no oxidation, colours would be shades of greys, browns, blacks, perhaps some green, but maybe not biological green, but mineral green, rather than the reds and yellows of the rust that developed when oxygen came in the atmosphere some billions or so years later. The shape of the land and the sea – plate tectonics was probably working differently then. The Earth was hotter inside. Continents might well have been smaller and moving around rather more quickly. The amount of sea in relation to land is a big unknown. Oceans are not preserved from those days. Nonetheless one has the vaguest of pictures of a different and alien planet then”.

Dr’s Leandro Minku, Nervo Xavier Verdezoto and Stephan Reiff-Marganiec from the Department of Informatics have discussed future technologies and how they could provide benefit for us. In an article for The Conversation the team suggests technology has been evolving at such a rapid pace that, in the near future, our world may well resemble that portrayed in futuristic movies, such as Blade Runner, with intelligent robots and technologies all around us. They discussed the near reality of:

- Smart homes
- Virtual secretaries
- AI Doctors
- Care Robots
- Flying Warehouses and Self-Driving Cars

and suggest that thanks to technology, the future is already here – we just need to think hard about how best to shape it.

Professor Emma Bunce from the Department of Physics & Astronomy was interviewed for BBC Online about the BepiColombo mission to Mercury. BepiColombo is Europe’s first mission to Mercury, which will set off in 2018 on a journey to the smallest and least explored terrestrial planet in our solar system. It will arrive at Mercury in late 2025 and will endure temperatures in excess of 350 degrees centigrade and gather data during its one year nominal mission.

Professor Mark Williams from the Department of Geology together with other international researchers led by the British Antarctic Survey has been involved in a study which has shed new light on how environmental change could impact rising sea levels in the future. Mark states “the work demonstrates the huge societal importance of research in remote polar regions, where changes in the volume of ice-sheets may have a significant impact on global sea level rise, with consequences for densely populated coastal regions around the world”.

A state of the art telescope for detecting optical signatures of gravitational waves (GOTO) has been officially launched. An inauguration took place on 3 July 2017 at the Astronomical Observing Facility in La Palma, Canary Islands. Professor Paul O’Brien, heading up the Leicester GOTO Team stated “We are delighted to create this innovative and powerful facility which
will be a unique probe of the universe”.

Dr Leigh Fletcher from the Department of Physics & Astronomy has been involved in the NASA Juno mission looking at new images from Jupiter. On 11 July, the Juno spacecraft took a look at the closest ever views of the swirling maelstrom known as Jupiter’s Great Red Spot.

Dr Graeme Hansford, from the Department of Physics & Astronomy has been part of an international team of researchers looking at developing a new method for conducting materials analysis on historical objects. This has been done via a pioneering X-ray technique that analyses artifacts of any shape or texture in a non-destructive way.

Professor Roland Leigh, Technical Director of EarthSense and Director of Enterprise at the SEO Institute has co-authored a study investigating a possible link between air pollution and the rise in type 2 diabetes. The new research published in the journal Environment International examined data from 10,443 participants from diabetes screening in Leicestershire. The authors concluded that demographic factors largely explained the association between air pollution and type 2 diabetes.

An international team including palaeontologists Mark Williams, Sarah Gabbott, David Siveter and Mark Purne from our Department of Geology have published a striking new book illustrating exceptionally preserved fossil animals from 500 million years ago. ‘The Cambrian Fossils of Chengjiang, China: The Flowering of Early Animal Life, 2nd Edition’ illustrates fossils of the Chengjiang Biota in southern China – one of the most significant palaeontological discoveries in history. The book illustrates life on Earth at a pivotal point in our planet’s evolution, when the oceans first began to teem with animal life.

Researchers, Professor Alexander Gorban and Dr Ivan Tyukin have been looking at new stochastic separation theorems which could enhance capabilities of artificial intelligence. A paper in the journal Neural Networks outlines the mathematical foundations for new algorithms which could allow for Artificial Intelligence to collect error reports and correct them immediately without affecting existing skills – at the same time accumulating corrections which could be used for future versions or updates. This could essentially provide robots with the ability to correct errors instantaneously, effectively ‘learn’ from their mistakes without damage to the knowledge already gained, and ultimately spread new knowledge amongst themselves.

A paper led by the research group of Professor Martin Barstow, PVC Strategic Science Projects has been highlighted on the cover of the electronic journal Universe. Postdoctoral researcher Matthew Bainbridge is the lead author of the study entitled “Probing the Gravitational Dependence of the Fine-Structure Constant from Observations of White Dwarf Stars”.

Engineers from the ASDEC team have contributed to the creation of a new ultra-high performance, range extended, electric sports car entitled HIPERCAR. Standing for High Performance Carbon Reduction, the project is destined for full release in 2019 and production by Ariel Motor Company in 2020 alongside Atom,
Nomad and Ace. As with other Ariel Motor Company Vehicles the focus of HIPERCAR is on extreme performance, agility and usability, now couple with zero and ultra-low emissions.

Dr Rebecca Cordell and Professor Paul Monks have been involved in providing data for some new research undertaken by the University of Cambridge, published in Nature that provides potential new targets for developing cancer treatments. They said “Cutting edge analytical capability, developed at the University of Leicester, has been translated from atmospheric chemistry to molecular biology. This is one of those unusual collaboration that came from people recognising they had complimentary skills from adjacent fields. Truly demonstrates the power of interdisciplinary research”.

Leicester researchers including Professor Sarah Gabbott from the School of Geography, Geology & the Environment have been involved in an international collaboration/study published in Nature Ecology and Evolution examining 520 million year old Chinese fossils. The fossils, show two species of marine worms with other, smaller worm-like animals attached to the outer surface of their body. Symbiotic relationships, which involved two different kinds of organism interacting with close physical contact, are common in nature. However, few prehistoric examples involve soft-bodies animals because they are not normally fossilised.

An international team led by researchers from the Department of Physics & Astronomy have been undertaking a study that will ‘test our understanding of how the Universe works particularly outside the relatively narrow confines of our planet’. The research probes whether fundamental laws of physics are the same everywhere in the universe.
News about our students

Katie Raymer, who is studying for a PhD in the Department of Physics & Astronomy has co-authored a report as part of her STFC internship with the Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology examining how people access news and information and the rise of fake news. The report outlines how internet search engines and social media platforms are an increasingly popular way of accessing news and information. Research shows that in 2017 the proportion of UK adults consuming news online exceeded those who watched news on TV (74% vs 69%).

Tom Potter, a doctoral researcher from CLCR, has used state-of-the-art mobile LiDAR sensors across multiple and complex forest environments at the Eden Project. Tom set out to further develop a technique to estimate biomass and carbon and to do this he took his research and GeoSLAM’s SEB-REVO, a lightweight mobile 3D laser scanner to the Eden Project in Cornwall. The next step will be to convert the point cloud data into 3D volume-based plots and derive above ground biomass and carbon densities for multiple type of tropical forest. These will then be referenced against the Eden Project’s own data, which will allow the total amount of biomass and carbon above ground to be calculated in terms of a forest plot rather than specific trees above an arbitrary size.

Aqqid Saparin, a student from the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment has been sketching characters (drawing under the name RKIDZ) for his ‘Mineral Moe’ Project which is supported by the Holloway Trust Outreach Bursary. Millions of people worldwide read manga – a style of Japanese comic books and graphic novels – but geology rarely features in these stories. Aqqid, is changing that by bringing the work of rocks, minerals and geology to manga with his ‘Mineral Moe’ Project.
In last month’s release of the 2017 National Student Survey (NSS), Geography’s overall satisfaction increased dramatically; leaping from 74.6% to 92.1% overall satisfaction, representing an impressive 17.5% increase from 2016. Geography outperformed the University where overall student satisfaction mirrored the sector in decreasing two percentage points – from 88% to 86%.

Commenting on the results, Professor Kevin Tansey said “I wish to thank everyone in the Department for the turn-around in fortunes that we have seen in the release of the latest NSS results. This includes colleagues who work in the office, those who prepare the labs, those who support and accompany field trips, process CW, exam and dissertation scripts, process the module evaluation forms, PhD and RA demonstrators and finally the academics who teach their research and supervise and tutor our students. I particularly want to thank Nick Tate who has chaired the Student Experience Committee over the last year that resulted in some clear, positive outcomes. I knew our teaching offer was competitive, high-quality, supportive and challenging and these results show that we have the foundations of a great teaching team and environment in Geography that can be taken forward into the new School of Geography, Geology and The Environment”

The Departments of Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy also received a well done from the VC congratulating them on their excellent NSS results.
University to offer a unique esports course to help students gain experience in the video games industry

The University has gone into partnership with a global esports company ESL UK to provide students with valuable insights into the esports business. The course, which is the first of its kind, will help students to gain knowledge in developing services for esports, giving them hands-on access to data and intelligence from esports specialists to provide them with a unique advantage in gaining employment in the sector. Professor Jeremy Levesley from the Department of Mathematics will be leading the development of the course.

Launch of One Stop Show Resource on Blackboard

Blackboard Resource for Enterprise in the College: “CSE Enterprise (CHX015)”: Enterprising colleagues across the college are encouraged to login to new resources for to help with carrying out enterprise work. To view content, colleagues need to be added to the module. In some instances, please check as you may be already included. Please email alex.goddard@le.ac.uk to be added to this module if you cannot access it. Particular highlights are up-to-date “Key Roles in RED” document for primary contacts in Research and Enterprise facing the College, an “Introduction to Consultancy” and all minutes, slides and papers from Enterprise Committee, chaired by Professor Andy Abbott.
Events Occurring

Our University, in partnership with University of Nairobi in Kenya, has secured funding from the British Council’s Newton-Utafiti Fund for an international workshop which brings together early career researchers (ECRs) from the UK and Kenya. The workshop will take place in Nairobi from 26-30 November 2017 and will explore ways in which Earth Observation Scientists and Ecologists will work across disciplines with other scientists to strengthen action to promote food security in Kenya. Professor Heiko Balzter, Director of the University’s Centre for Landscape and Climate Research is the UK Workshop coordinator.

College Events Occurring

Inaugural Lectures
The following inaugural lectures are due to take place over the next few months – all are welcome to attend.

Professor Sarah Gabbott from the Department of Geology will be presenting her lecture on 28 November 2017 in the Centre for Medicine LT1 at 6pm
Professor Gawen Jenkins from the Department of Geology will be presenting his lecture on 20 February 2018 in the Ken Edwards LT1 at 5.30pm
Professor Hartmut Boesch from the Department of Physics & Astronomy will be presenting his lecture on 20 March 2018 in Ken Edwards LT1 at 5.30pm
Professor Clare Madge from the Department of Geography will be presenting her lecture on 8 May 2018 in Ken Edwards LT1 at 5.30pm
Professor Graham Wynn from the Department of Physics & Astronomy will be presenting his lecture on 15 May 2017 in Ken Edwards LT1 at 5.30pm
Professor Effie Law from the Department of Informatics will be presenting her lecture on 22 May 2018 in Ken Edwards LT1 at 5.30pm

The fourth in the series of George Fraser Memorial Lectures
In memory of Professor George Fraser will be taking place on Monday 30 October 2017

Details and registration information can be found at: http://www.star.le.ac.uk/GWFMemorial/
Research News

The University of Leicester International Research Festival 2017

The University of Leicester International Research Festival is aimed at providing insight into national and international funding opportunities and grant writing, and to encourage and support applications to both European funding sources (H2020), and research with an international focus (ODA, GCRF etc.).

Over two weeks, from Monday 11 September to Friday 22 September, a range of workshops, forums and presentations will offer colleagues practical opportunities to explore further tools and knowledge in support of research development in their professional academic life.

To reflect and celebrate Leicester's collaboration with international partners we are very proud to welcome our keynote speaker, Professor Donatilla Mukamana, Dean of the School of Midwifery and Nursing at the University of Rwanda. Professor Mukamana will give an open talk entitled, 'Management of the long term psychological effects of rape among women survivors of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi: A grounded theory approach.'

The Festival is open to all Leicester researchers and the wider university community.

As part of the International Research Festival

Understanding Theory of Change Speaker: Dr Isabel Vogel
This day-long session is aimed at helping participants understand the concepts and practical application of Theory of Change (ToC) for international development research in order to inform their approach to proposal development, bidding practices and delivery. It will contribute directly to developing internal capability and capacity, whilst also developing strategic awareness and influence. Participants will leave with a basic understanding of ToC and a degree of confidence in placing ToC in project planning and proposal development.

Target Audience: Any UoL academic planning an international development project and PGRs

Link to book a place<https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/red/researcher-development/University%20of%20Leicester%20International%20Research%20Festival%202017%20/LRF2017>
Food for thought!

Greater access to Higher Education could have reversed the result of the 2016 EU referendum, according to a paper written by Dr Aihua Zhang from the Department of Mathematics and published in the journal *World Development*.

The paper suggests that access to Higher Education was the ‘predominant factor’ dividing those who voted Remain and those who voted to Leave. The research also suggests that great access to higher and further education can produce different political outcomes – which has been demonstrated in the 2017 General Election, where it can be argued that voting populations with a higher education had a decisive effect on the result. The research applied Multivariate Regression Analysis combined with a Logit Model to the real data to identify statistically significant factors that have influenced voting preference simultaneously as well as the odds ratio in favour of Leave.

Dr Zhang stated “The EU referendum raised significant debate and speculation of the intention of the electorate and its motivations in voting. Much of this debate was informed by simple data analysis examining individual factors, in isolation, and using opinion polling data. This, in the case of the EU referendum where multiple factors influence the decision simultaneously, failed to predict the eventual outcome. On June 23rd 2016, Britain’s vote to leave the EU came as a surprise to most observers, with a bigger voter turnout – 72.2% - than that of any UK general election in the past decade”.

The research also suggests that areas in England and Wales with a lower unemployment rate tended to have a higher turnout to support Leave while areas in Scotland and Northern Ireland with a higher proportion of university-educated British people have a higher turnout to support Remain.

The article has been widely reported on, including by the Independent, the Huffington Post, the National Student and Inside Higher Education, as well as extensively on Reddit and other digital platforms and has received thousands of comments and opened intensive discussion!

And finally,

If anyone has any news that they would like putting in the next edition of the College E-zine then please let Sue Howell know at skh14@le.ac.uk