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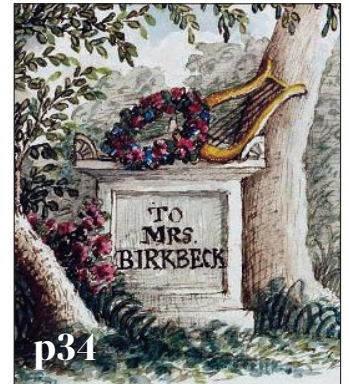
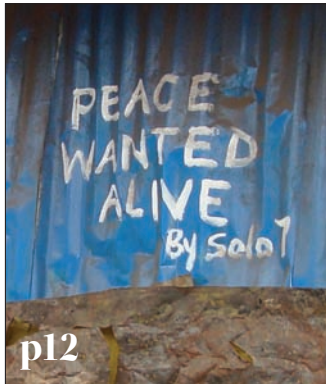
BIRKBECK'S MAGAZINE ISSUE 30: REVIEW 2011



## A nineteenth century blog

Preserving the past in  
Mrs Birkbeck's diary

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# Laying the foundations

## Work starts on University Square Stratford

The excitement that is Stratford, east London, is becoming tangible: the inspiring stadiums in the Olympic Park are complete, the massive newly opened Westfield shopping centre hosts thousands of visitors daily, while Anish Kapoor's iconic Orbit Tower is beginning to define the skyline.

In the midst of all this frenzy, work began this summer on another new building: University Square Stratford. The foundations of the new Birkbeck and University of East London (UEL) building are now in place, marking a significant milestone for this unique collaboration between two distinctive higher education institutions.

"Seeing the concrete being poured and the foundations going in is a tremendously important step," said Professor Philip Dewe, Vice-Master of Birkbeck. "It means we now have the beginning of a physical identity in Stratford, which will help us embed ourselves even more in the east London community."

The building symbolises Birkbeck's long-term commitment to this diverse part of east London. Its location – next door to the historic Theatre Royal Stratford East and opposite the Olympic Park – will put a centre of higher education right at the heart of the transformation of what was once industrial wasteland.

While the London 2012 Games have been the catalyst for much of this transformation, Birkbeck's commitment to the area pre-dates this. The College took its unique model of high-quality part-time evening higher education to Stratford in 2007, to address statistics that showed the area had the lowest participation in higher education in the capital. Working closely with the UEL, Birkbeck has seen student enrolment in east London almost double since then.

The new building will open in October 2013. Before then, a huge amount of collaborative work is



Above: Aerial view over London 2012 Olympic site and Stratford (Getty Images)

going on. Tricia King, Birkbeck's Pro-Vice-Master for Student Experience, said: "We have a joint Birkbeck/UEL group planning the student experience in the new building. Our aim is that, as prospective students walk through the door for the first time, they don't need to know whether they want to be a Birkbeck or a UEL student.

"We will create an integrated set of services at the pre-entry stage, which will hold events in the new Learning Centre, sponsored by the Garfield Weston Foundation. This space will be dedicated to helping all students in the building both before and after they start to study. Providing the right information, advice and guidance to non-traditional students is vital.

"We will also have a student helpdesk, open when students need it, which will enable them to enrol,

pay fees and change modules. It will operate on the same principle as our Malet Street building, connecting the institution and the individual, in as easy and accessible a way as possible," she added.

Partners in the project are Birkbeck, UEL, the London Thames Gateway Regional Development Corporation, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Newham Borough Council. Birkbeck will help deliver education in east London true to the vision of founder George Birkbeck, who believed passionately in bringing high-quality higher education to parts of London where people are struggling to access it.

"This building in east London symbolises why Birkbeck exists," said Professor Dewe. "It shows that George Birkbeck's vision continues to take shape into the 21st century."

## Talking about fees

# Martin Lewis visits Birkbeck to explain part-time fees and finance

Since the student protests in November 2010, the media has focused relentlessly on negative stories about tuition fee increases and large debts on graduation. Whatever one feels about government policy in this area, at Birkbeck, we believe that students thinking about entering university need to be equipped with unbiased information, so they can weigh up the value and costs of a university degree, and make an informed decision on whether it's the right choice for them.

In August, the College welcomed Martin Lewis, of MoneySavingExpert.com, and Wes Streeting, former NUS president, who came to Birkbeck to launch the Independent Taskforce on Student Finance, which they chair, and which has been established to provide

impartial, clear information on the new fees and finance system to prospective undergraduate students.

In September, Birkbeck and Martin Lewis joined forces once again, when he came to Birkbeck to film a student information video specifically about how the fees and loans affect part-time undergraduate students. Martin said at the event: "There are a lot of myths and misunderstandings about the new fees regime. I am not in favour of the increases in tuition fees, but I do want to make sure that people understand the realities of the new system.

"This is a revolutionary change; for the first time part-time students will be able to access a loan. They will no longer have to find the money to pay the tuition fees before they study and they will be able to repay the loan

Above: Martin Lewis gives his presentation at Birkbeck (Jon Moore)

later, according to how much they are earning."

The video will form part of a range of information being developed to communicate the new system to part-time undergraduate students applying for entry into university in autumn 2012, and is available to any university wishing to use it.

As the College prepares for the 2012 intake, we are committed to ensuring that our non-traditional, mature students, who are not in school and college and don't have the support of careers advisors, are able to access the information and advice they need about the new fees and student loans system.

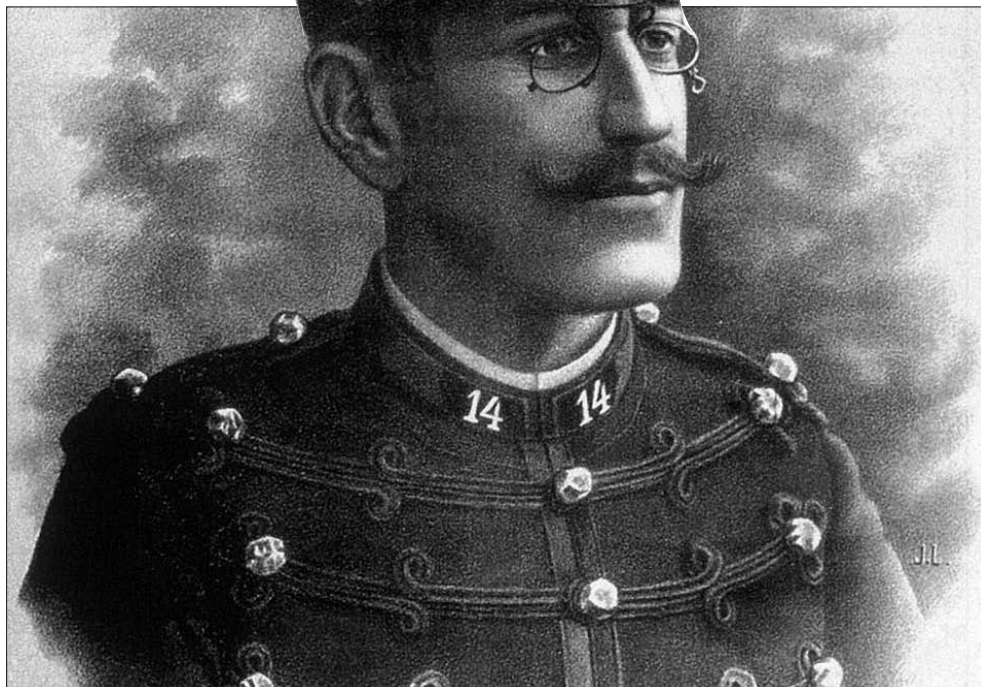
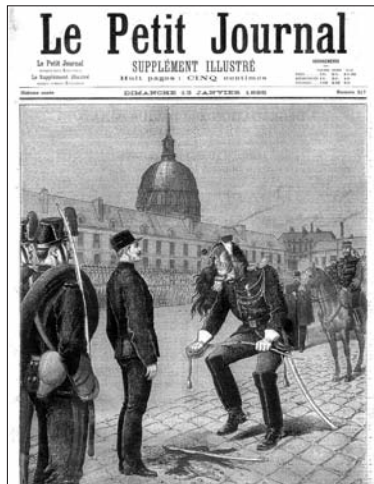
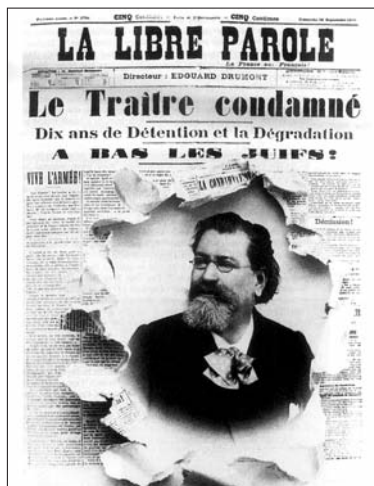
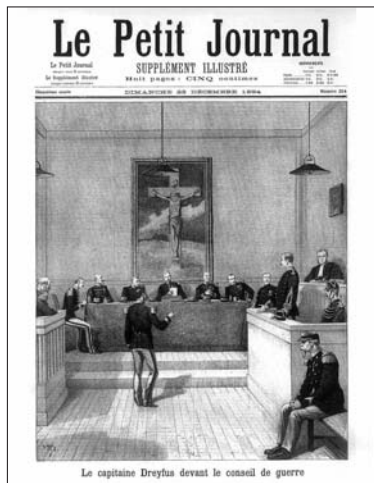
Our outreach team are active across London, giving face-to-face advice about studying at Birkbeck and what the changes mean for our students. We are also providing career-planning master classes, run by impartial and independent careers advisors, to help students identify the courses they need to achieve their goals. We continue to work with the government, the Student Loans Company and UCAS, to make sure that part-time, mature students are included in the campaigns and information that they are developing, and that the systems and processes for applying for student loans don't disadvantage part-time students.

In 2012, the College will charge lower undergraduate fees than other colleges of the University of London, and our bursaries and scholarships will continue our tradition of ensuring that lack of money is not a barrier to education. We know that higher education changes lives, and we will do all that we can to make sure that prospective students fully understand the system and Birkbeck's fees and finance package before making a decision about studying.

For more information on fees and funding at Birkbeck, see [www.bbk.ac.uk/fees](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/fees)



# The Dreyfus Society Society and its collection move to Birkbeck



A fascinating collection of material relating to the Dreyfus Affair is now housed at Birkbeck, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the College and the Dreyfus Society.

The Society, with its archive, will be housed in a recently refurbished building in Russell Square, adjacent to the Wiener Library, the world's oldest Holocaust memorial institution.

The Dreyfus Affair began in 1894, when a young Jewish officer of the French army, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, was falsely convicted of passing French military secrets to the German Embassy in Paris. He was stripped of his rank and deported to the infamous Devil's Island penal colony in French Guiana, to serve a life sentence in solitary confinement. When evidence emerged identifying the real culprit, the military suppressed it, prompting Emile Zola to write his famous *J'accuse!* open letter to the President of France.

The scandal exposed the issue of

racial discrimination in the French army, dividing French society and leading to antisemitic riots. Dreyfus was finally cleared after twelve years. He was reinstated in the French Army as a Major and later served in the First World War.

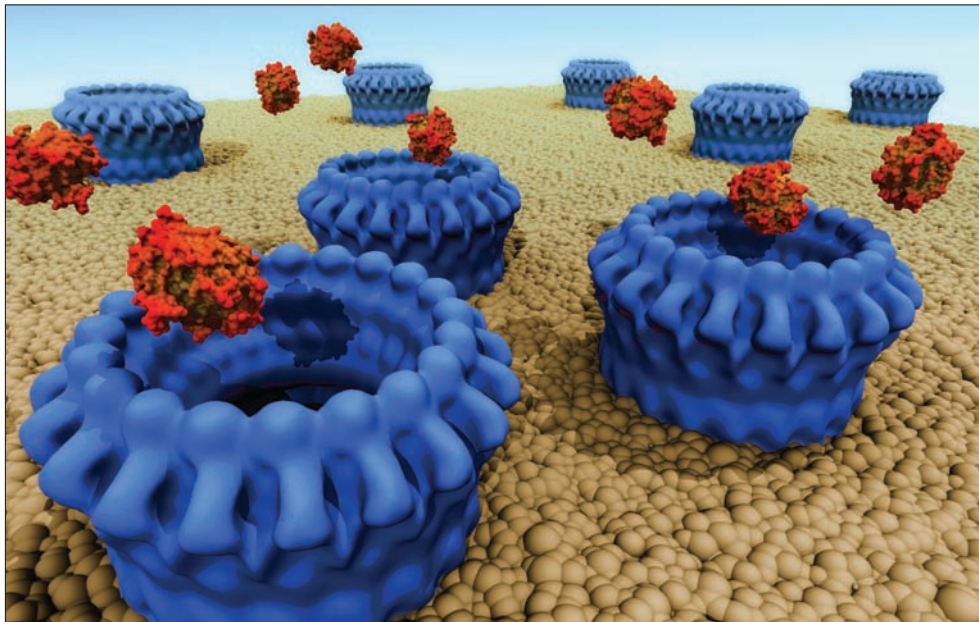
Professor David Feldman, Director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck, said: "The arrival of the Dreyfus Society library will support teaching and stimulate research across a number of departments. It is an exciting development for Birkbeck, which builds on the establishment of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism last year, and the relocation of the Wiener Library, with its extensive Holocaust archive, to the College campus this autumn. It reinforces Birkbeck's position as an important centre for the research and study of antisemitism and racism."

For more information, visit [www.pearsinstitute.bbk.ac.uk](http://www.pearsinstitute.bbk.ac.uk)

Top right:  
Captain Alfred Dreyfus  
Left: Publications  
covering the trial,  
including the antisemitic  
*La Libre Parole*

## Nature publications

### Prestigious journal publishes Birkbeck researchers' work



Two staff from the Department of Biological Sciences have published papers in the prestigious journal, *Nature*.

In November 2010, Professor Helen Saibil's research into a 'killer' protein revealed the molecular structure of perforin, which kills rogue cells. Nobel Laureate Jules Bordet first observed that the human immune system could punch holes in target cells over 110 years ago, but it is only now that we are beginning to understand how.

Combining the detailed structure of a single perforin molecule with an electron microscopy reconstruction of a ring of perforins forming a hole in a model membrane revealed how perforin assembles to punch holes in cell membranes. If perforin isn't working properly, the body can't fight infected or malignant cells.

However, it is also the culprit when the wrong cells are marked for elimination, in autoimmune disease conditions or in tissue rejection following bone marrow transplantation. Saibil's collaborators are now working on potential

inhibitors to suppress perforin and counter tissue rejection and unwanted inflammatory responses.

A second paper was published by Professor Gabriel Waksman in May 2011, on his team's discovery of the protein complex that assembles pili – the tiny, hair-like structures which cover the outside of bacteria. Pili enable bacteria to link together and stick to human cells, causing infection. Understanding the structure of the protein, which acts as an assembly platform for the pili, will enable scientists to develop new antibiotics that disrupt this process. The research focused on the pili of the cystitis bacteria, which often causes recurrent and painful infections. Professor Waksman explains: "Pili are a prime target for a new breed of antibiotics to target cystitis and other conditions, as without pili, bacteria are unable to attach themselves to each other or the walls of human cells, and therefore much less likely to cause serious infections. This was the first view of the transportation and assembly of pili in action."

Above: Perforin  
(Helen Saibil)

## Celebration in memory of Barry Coward

In June 2011, Birkbeck held an event to celebrate the life of Professor Barry Coward, a leading historian and a highly valued member of Birkbeck's academic community for over 40 years. The event was attended by representatives from a huge number of learned societies and professional associations, who had had the pleasure of working with Barry over the years. Professor Julian Swann, who organised the event, and who worked with Barry for over 20 years at Birkbeck, said: "The number of people who came is testimony to the impact that Barry had, not just here at Birkbeck, but across the wider historical academic community."

One of Barry's former students has made a generous donation to provide financial support for history students at Birkbeck. The Historical Association, of which Barry was president, is also raising funds in Barry's honour to support history students. Julian concluded: "Barry's enthusiasm and passion for history have inspired many students over the years, and it is wonderful that these funds, set up in his memory, will continue to open up the joy of studying history to future students".



## New Fellows

# Birkbeck welcomes five new Fellows to the College

During 2010–2011, Birkbeck welcomed five new Fellows to the College. At our November 2010 graduation ceremonies, Frank Dobson MP and Sir Robin Wales were awarded fellowships. Frank Dobson has represented Birkbeck's constituency, Holborn and St Pancras, since 1979. During this time, Frank has supported the College and its students, particularly when governments have threatened funding for part-time higher education. He has offered strong campaigning support to the College on the funding needs of part-time students. Sir Robin Wales became the first ever directly elected Mayor of the London Borough of Newham in 2002. He has been a firm backer of Birkbeck's expansion in east London, and of University Square Stratford, Birkbeck's new building, shared with the University of East London.

In March 2011, Richard Agutter, Trevor Pears CMG and Professor William Vaughan joined the College's fellowship. Richard Agutter has served as a Governor of the College since 1999. He is a former partner of KPMG, with over 40 years' experience as a chartered accountant in the City. Trevor Pears CMG has been Executive Chair of the Pears Foundation, a British family foundation rooted in Jewish values, since 2003. In 2010, the Foundation established the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck. Professor William Vaughan has been Emeritus Professor of History of Art at Birkbeck since 2003, having joined Birkbeck in 1986. He has been instrumental in developing joint research projects in the area of computer applications in the history of art, between Birkbeck and institutions in the museum world.

Clockwise, from top left: Frank Dobson MP, Sir Robin Wales, Trevor Pears CMG, William Vaughan and Richard Agutter



## Dr J Keith Gibson (1940–2011)

On Wednesday 23 November 2011, I attended the funeral of my former colleague, Keith, who died on 7 November. The service was my first experience of a Quaker funeral. Instead of the usual organised activities and music, everyone sat in silence. But, every now and then, whoever wished to stood up and recounted their best memories of Keith. He had organised over 400 'Friends' Rambles in his life, bringing people together.

Keith came to Birkbeck's mathematics department around 1964. His interests were primarily in algebra, but when the first desk-top computer (memory 4Kb!) arrived, he became very proficient and interested in computers, and this led to his interest in cryptography.

Later, he transferred to the computer science department, subsequently obtaining his PhD in Cryptography under Professor Fred Piper. At Birkbeck for over 40 years, Keith was known for his willingness to help students and gave his time unstintingly. Listening to the individuals speaking at the funeral, you realised that his attitude to work at the College, and his work for the Friends, had the same underlying source: to help people in their lives by true example.

He leaves behind Mrs Lynn Blackmore, Mrs Jean Gibson, Kate Gibson and daughters Cally and Rebecca, who sang "Sure, on this shining night" beautifully, unaccompanied, like the opera singer that she hopes to be.

This piece was provided by Dr Richard Wilson (Department of Mathematics, 1962–2000), attending with Professor T Fenner (Department of Computer Science) and Dr Jerzy Herszberg (Department of Mathematics, 1962–1983).

# Research round-up 2010–2011

## A selection of research news, awards and collaborations

### Awards

**Dr Carol Watts**, Reader in Literature and Poetics in the Department of English and Humanities, has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy, the most prestigious award for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning. Herself a poet and critic, Dr Watts co-directs the Contemporary Poetics Research Centre at Birkbeck.

In this context she developed *Voiceworks*, a unique cross-arts collaborative programme involving colleagues from the Poetics Centre, the Composition and Vocal Studies Departments at Guildhall Conservatoire, and Wigmore Hall, the international venue for song repertoire.

Dr Watts has also initiated and led an Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project to create a digital platform, [voiceworks.org.uk](http://voiceworks.org.uk), to document and curate the programme.

A project by **Dr Isabel Davis**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities, on *The Perpendicular Imaginary in the later Middle Ages*, has won a 2011 Leverhulme Fellowship. Looking at the late medieval world from its own perspectives, the project investigates the strong vertical imaginary in late medieval culture, using specific examples – the representation of ceilings, of kneeling people, of flying – in order to intervene in historiographical and theoretical debates which have not always considered the pre-modern evidence, or which have misconceived it to fit easy historical narratives. The project grew out of Isabel's recently

published work *"The Trinite is our everlasting lover": Marriage and Trinitarian Love in the Later Middle Age*, *Speculum* 86 (2011), 914-64, and considers images such as the one from Princeton University Library (below).

**Dr Katrina Pritchard**, Lecturer in the Department of Organizational Psychology, has received a grant from the Richard Benjamin Trust to investigate age in the workplace. Using a variety of online research methods, Dr Pritchard will be interrogating online conversations to understand how age is constructed and defined in different settings. PhD student Rebecca Whiting will work with Dr Pritchard to look at differing concepts of 'older' and 'younger' workers as defined by employers, campaign groups and the popular press. Katrina is blogging about her research at [www.ageatwork.wordpress.com](http://www.ageatwork.wordpress.com)

Lecturer in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences **Dr Vincent Tong** is the Birkbeck principal investigator of a major joint geophysical and

oceanographic experiment funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). The £3.6m NERC consortium grant will fund a novel study of underwater volcanoes and their effects on ocean circulation. The research consortium consists of Birkbeck, the Universities of Durham and Manchester, and NERC's National Oceanography Centre.

The NERC has awarded **Dr Gerald Roberts**, Reader in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, an £888,983 NERC Standard Grant for a study aiming to identify those active faults which are likely candidates for future earthquakes, and to share the findings with at-risk populations through civil-protection project partners in Italy. As lead scientist, Dr Roberts will conduct and manage the research in central Italy, which is to be spread across Birkbeck, UCL, the Universities of Durham, Leeds and Ulster, the Scottish Universities Accelerator Mass Spectrometer Facility, the National Institute of Geophysics in Rome, the Italian Geological

Survey, and the National Oceanographic and Geophysics Observatory in Trieste.

**Dr Silvia Posocco**, Lecturer in the Department of Psychosocial Studies, has been awarded a British Academy Small Grant for her research project *Governing Transnational Adoption in Postwar Guatemala: Ethnographic Reflections on Documents, Law and the State*. The project approaches transnational adoption as a field of contested meanings, complex and changing institutional arrangements, and multiple, interlocking and fractious social relations. It aims to connect transnational adoption to local histories of militarisation, conflict and neoliberal adjustment to address complex and shifting vernacular understandings, practices and figurations of the state and its laws.

### Recognition

Birkbeck academics **Professor Mark Johnson**, Director of the award-winning Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, and **Professor William Rowe**, Anniversary Professor of Poetics in the Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies, have been elected Fellows of the British Academy. This distinction is bestowed on a small number of UK-based scholars each year in recognition of their outstanding contribution to research and scholarship in the humanities or social sciences. Professor Johnson, an MRC scientist and co-editor of the international journal *Developmental Science*, researches the development of







human social and cognitive skills, and the brain systems that support these abilities. The author of numerous books on Latin American literature and culture, Professor Rowe is a founding editor of the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies: Travesia* and was recently awarded the 2011 José María Arguedas prize in Peru for his contribution to the study of this Peruvian novelist, poet and anthropologist.

The *Times Higher Education* magazine has awarded Birkbeck a **Leadership and Management Award**, its top award out of 16 categories, in recognition of the depth, quality and reach of the changes implemented at the College since 2009. In particular, the award noted the College's implementation of the major strategic review it undertook in response to the introduction of the Equivalent or Lower Qualification (ELO) policy, which saw the loss of nearly 40 per cent of teaching funding and funded

student numbers. The competition judges noted that Birkbeck had "reinvented itself as a very modern institution through strong leadership and management ... achieving a 38 per cent increase in student recruitment, a hugely successful fundraising campaign and a radically streamlined institution within a short time."

An article about the Spanish influenza epidemic in Germany, at the end of the First World War (above), has won **Dr Eckard Michels**, Reader in the Department of European Cultures and Languages, the award for best article in 2010 in the journal *Vierteljahrshefte fuer Zeitgeschichte* [*Contemporary History Quarterly*], one of the leading academic journals in history in the German-speaking world. The article considers the course, consequences and perceptions of the influenza epidemic in the context of Germany's military defeat and internal political turmoil.

## Collaboration

Staff in the **Department of Management** are continuing to make progress with their research into developing an integrated governance, risk and compliance software tool. They are part of the iGRC Consortium, which includes Cranfield and Loughborough Universities and a number of highly specialised companies working in the information security sector. Work has included developing technologies to automatise threat level and control status changes in real time, so that critical information infrastructures can become more resilient and able to withstand the increasing number of cyber attacks launched against the UK.

Funded by a Wellcome Symposium Grant, a two-day symposium in June 2013 entitled *Sexology and Translation: Scientific and Cultural Encounters in the Modern World 1860–1930* is being organised by **Dr Heike Bauer**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities. The symposium will consider the evidence and significance of global scientific and cultural exchange during the first phase of sexology, c. 1860–1930.



Dr Heike Bauer

International experts from literature, history, translation studies, cultural studies, anthropology, sociology and politics will gather to map, examine and compare a range of nationally specific discourses of sex, and explore their transnational connections. By rethinking the relationship between the hubs of sexological research and its margins, the symposium will aim to gain fresh insights into the flow of information between culture and science, and between the East and the West around the turn of the last century.

**Professor Mike Hough**, Professor of Criminal Policy and Co-Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research, has been coordinating the Euro-Justis project, a major project on survey indicators of public trust in justice. Funded by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, the team held a one-day conference in May to share the project's ideas and findings with policy-makers, practitioners and academics.

The central idea being tested by the team's research is that if people trust the police and the courts, they will regard them as a form of legitimate authority and they will be readier to obey the law and cooperate with the justice system. The team has developed a standardised approach to measuring confidence in criminal justice and public feelings of security.

A Trust in Justice module, developed by the team, was included in the fifth European Social Survey, conducted in 2010 and covering 28 countries. The results will provide a unique resource for monitoring public trust in justice across Europe.

## New international links

# Chinese delegation visits School of Business, Economics and Informatics

The Department of Management in the School of Business, Economics and Informatics (BEI) has developed an innovative partnership with the School of International Business at China's Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE). A delegation from the Chinese institution came to Birkbeck in June, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The partnership will include collaboration at PhD, Master's and undergraduate levels.

The partnership is designed to promote comprehensive and sustainable development in western China, and allows for the delivery of Birkbeck's Master's/MPhil programmes to students at the School of International Business at SWUFE.

There will also be a visiting staff programme, and two staff members from Birkbeck's Department of Management have already visited China to collaborate on SWUFE programmes. A further visit is planned for December, when Dr Julian Sims will deliver a short course on 'Transfer Pricing in International Firms' and a public lecture on 'Emergent strategy and technology-induced change'.

A dual degree has been agreed between the two Schools, enabling 15 students from SWUFE to come and study at Birkbeck's School of BEI for the second year of their Master's degree. During that time they will complete one of the Master's programmes in Birkbeck's Department of Management.

An undergraduate progression route has been established, which will see up to 15 selected graduates from SWUFE's Bachelor's degree invited to progress onto a taught postgraduate programme in BEI at Birkbeck.

Already, a group of Chinese students have been selected to attend a summer school at Birkbeck in 2012.

Professor Philip Powell, Executive Dean of BEI, and Dr Linda Trenberth, Head of the Department of Management, said: "We were delighted to welcome delegates from the School of International Business at SWUFE to Birkbeck in June. The exchange of ideas between the two Schools has been well received on both sides. We look forward to a long and productive collaboration with our Chinese colleagues."

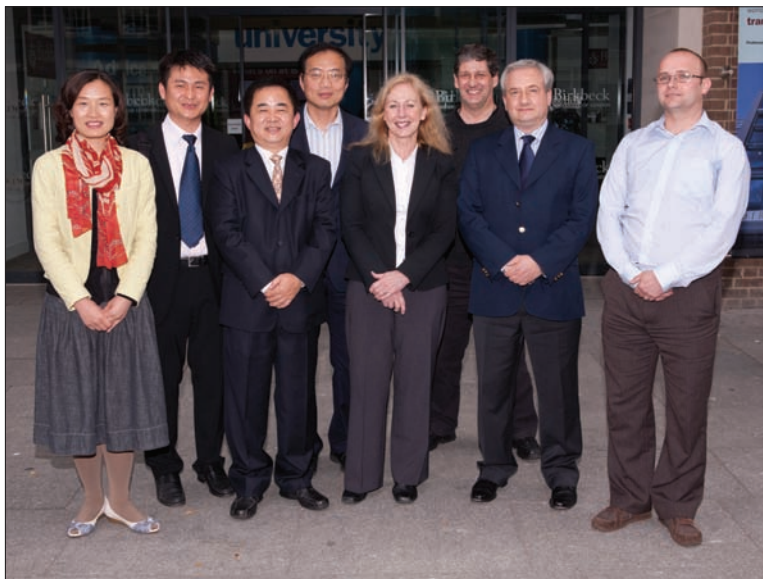
## Visiting professors of law

The School of Law has appointed two new visiting professors, both of whom have extensive experience of practising law, further strengthening the links between the School and the legal community.

The Rt Hon Sir Terence Etherton's career spans the judiciary, legal practice, social and legal policy development, law reform and legal scholarship. In 2008, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal for England and Wales, following his Chairmanship of the Law Commission. Since his appointment to the Court of Appeal, he has written the lead or second judgements for a great variety of legal matters. Lord Justice Etherton has already participated in a range of events at Birkbeck, including the Judicial Conversation Series.

Ruth Herz, a former judge, was appointed to the court of Cologne, Germany in 1974. In 1985, she introduced 'victim offender mediation and reparation' as an alternative sanction for juvenile offenders to the German legal system, for which she received the Cross of Merit of the State in 1998. Her academic activity is centered on the topic of the representation of justice on the television screen, and from 2001–2005 she played a judge in a daily fictional court series on German television. Her new book, *The Art of Justice: The Judge's Perspective*, is due for publication in spring 2011.

Professor Patricia Tuit, Executive Dean of the School of Law, said: "We are delighted to welcome our new visiting professors to Birkbeck. Their willingness to share their experiences of practising law will enrich teaching and research in the School and bring our students a fresh and exciting insight into the legal community."



Left: The delegation with Birkbeck staff outside the main building

## Harvey McGrath

Birkbeck is well placed to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities which lie ahead



I have now been in post as Chair of Governors for over a year, and it has been a year of dramatic change in higher education policy. Through sustained and effective lobbying of government, the College has secured strong political support for the interests of part-time students who have in the past been much overlooked.

The College is now preparing for 2012 and the first year of the new fees and loans system, and will continue to seek out and maximise opportunities for the part-time sector, as it joins the higher education mainstream.

### Fundraising

It has been another very successful year of fundraising, with significant donations and pledges from many generous donors who are supportive of the important work that the College does to make the best higher education accessible to all. Overall, £2,170k was raised, with a key focus on the development of University Square Stratford and on financial support for students.

A number of significant donations were received, including a £500k gift, the largest ever given by an alumnus, a £500k legacy pledge and a growing number of five-figure gifts. To acknowledge their valued support, all those who gave over £1000 were welcomed to the newly formed Master's Circle which held its first event in April this year.

Over the year, Alumni Fund income increased by 30 per cent raising £160k. Over 1400 former students made a gift, helping to secure the future of Birkbeck and provide financial support to those students who need it most.

As well as providing financial support, alumni have also continued to play an active role at student recruitment, orientation and outreach events, and through their lobbying and advocacy on behalf of the College.

### College finances

The College's audited Financial Statements for 2010–2011 will be published in January 2012. Year on year, the total income of the College increased by £7,236k (8.9 per cent). Income from academic fees and support grants was up £8,604k (32 per cent), reflecting the healthy growth in our student numbers and, thanks to strong financial management, the College ended the year with a surplus of £6,748k.

### Green agenda

The College continues to work with the other Bloomsbury Colleges on energy and environmental commitments. In



Above:  
An impression of the new University Square Stratford building (MAKE Architects)

June 2011, the College was audited against the BS8555 Environmental Management System requirements and was again found to be meeting the standard, for which it was first certified in 2008. This standard helps to ensure environmental legislation is met, processes are well controlled, and improvements are continuously sought.

The College has committed to reducing emissions by 46% in 2020 against a 2005 baseline. This target equates to a year-on-year reduction target of 5.9%. Steps taken to help achieve this include awareness campaigns such as the newly launched 'GreenThing' initiative to encourage behaviour change, onsite energy generation and use of renewable sources, as well as better controls, such as sensor lighting, in our buildings.

Higher education is in a period of fundamental change with many challenges and uncertainties, but also with great opportunities for the part-time sector. With the ongoing support of our donors, alumni and friends, together with our effective organisational structure and management, we are well placed to meet the challenges and to seize the opportunities which lie ahead.

## David S Latchman CBE

# Birkbeck's initiatives make part-time study a highly relevant option



In last year's Annual Report, I noted that Birkbeck appeared in the *Times Higher Education (THE)* listing of the global elite top 200 universities in the world for the first time. This year we improved our position and moved into the top 150 universities in the world, being ranked above several much larger Russell Group universities. This is a significant validation of Birkbeck's high research standing, which I believe is particularly impressive for a relatively small institution that has been significantly under-resourced due to the relative lack of funding for our specialist part-time teaching model.

In terms of teaching, I was delighted that the College's teaching was once again highly rated by its students in the annual National Student Survey (NSS), in which students are invited to give their opinions of the universities at which they are studying. We were placed joint first in London for overall student satisfaction and first in London for quality of teaching.

In addition to these research and teaching successes, the

Below: Marking the success in the *THE* awards, Birkbeck's senior management team

College this year won the *THE* Outstanding Leadership and Management Team of the Year, the most prestigious award at the *THE* Leadership and Management Awards. The citation stated: "Birkbeck reinvented itself as a very modern institution through strong leadership and management."

This refers to our response to the withdrawal of funding for students studying for equivalent or lesser qualifications (ELO) to those which they hold already. This resulted in the loss of approximately 40% of the College's teaching funding and was followed by a major review of our strategy and College structure. In turn, this review resulted in our securing both additional funding and over 1000 additional funded student places per year from the HEFCE Strategic Development Fund (SDF). Our excellent recruitment campaigns resulted in our successfully recruiting all these additional students by the academic year 2011–2012.

In turn, our restructuring and the creation of five large academic schools with delegated financial responsibility has positioned us to meet the latest challenge being faced by the entire sector, namely the significant reduction in HEFCE teaching funding. As you will probably know, it is the government's intention that universities replace this shortfall by charging significantly higher fees, supported by government-backed loans to students.

Until now, such loans have been unavailable to part-time students, with only the poorest part-time students receiving a grant covering, at best, a part of their fee. As I reported last year, the Browne Independent Review of Higher Education recommended the extension of loans to part-time students and the government accepted this recommendation.

Since that time, we have been working energetically to ensure that part-time students benefit to the maximum from the availability of such loans. This has involved a series of negotiations with government ministers. This resulted, for example, in a change to the intensity of study that would qualify students for loans. The Browne Review originally recommended that loans should only be available for students studying at one-third of full-time or above. However, we were successful in getting the government to allow loans for all part-time students studying at 25% or more of full-time. Our calculations suggest that this would extend loan eligibility to around 1000 more of our students.

A particularly contentious issue was the point at which the loans would become repayable if the student has an income above the repayment threshold of £21,000 p.a. For full-time students this occurs in the April after they graduate, i.e. 3.5 years after they begin study. The



**“We were placed joint first in London for overall student satisfaction and first in London for quality of teaching.”**

government proposals indicated that this 3.5 year period would also apply to part-time students. This would make it impossible for a part-time undergraduate degree student to finish studying before they had to begin repaying the loan. For example, Birkbeck students studying for a part-time degree over a four-year period would have to begin repayment (if their income was above the threshold) in the April of their final year of study, just before their final examinations. After a long campaign, the government finally accepted a Liberal Democrat amendment to the Education Bill which changed the loan repayment point for part-time students to 4.5 years after they begin study. This will allow all Birkbeck undergraduate degree students the opportunity to complete their studies before any loan repayments become due and will make it much easier for us to explain the loan system to prospective students.

As well as ensuring that the loan system is as favourable to our students as possible, we obviously also need to set our fees at a level which allows continued high-level recruitment of prospective students. Unfortunately, with the significant decrease in our HEFCE grant, we have no alternative other than to significantly increase our fees for undergraduate programmes. However, unlike many high-quality universities, we have not simply opted to charge the maximum £9000 p.a. fee for all our courses. Rather, Governors approved a tiered fee structure in which the lowest fees will be targeted at entry-level programmes for which the fees will be set at or below pro rata to a full-time fee of £6000. Our standard fee for our degree programmes would be set at pro rata to £8000 p.a., i.e. the actual fee will be £6000 p.a. for students studying at 75% full-time and completing degrees in four years. The highest tier will have a fee pro rata to £9000 p.a., representing an actual fee of £6750 p.a. for those studying over four years. This will be charged for programmes with strong professional outcomes, for example, professional accreditation or direct access onto professional training.

To support these increased fees, the College has developed a financial support package that will minimise the level of loan that needs to be taken out by students on lower incomes. This will be funded both by our allocation from the Government National Scholarship Programme (NSP) as well as our own resources. Our proposals in this area were rated as “incredibly strong” by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). Clearly, however, the number and level of scholarships which we can offer will be contingent on financial support from alumni and other donors, and this will therefore be a major focus of our fundraising campaign.



Above: Patrick McGhee, Vice-Chancellor of UEL, Mark Stevens, Chair of UEL's Governors, and Master of Birkbeck David Latchman pour the first cement at the new building in Stratford (Geoff Wilson)

In parallel with these developments, we continue to develop our joint project with the University of East London (UEL) in Stratford. We currently have over 1000 students studying in Stratford in premises rented from UEL. This success has encouraged us to move forward with a major building project involving the construction of a joint building with UEL, to be known as University Square Stratford. Following the signing of a lease for the land with Newham Council, the contractor has now begun work on site with a view to the new building being ready for the start of the 2013–2014 academic year.

Clearly, uncertain times lie ahead for all universities and particularly for Birkbeck, which will not only be charging higher fees but also dealing with the consequences of the new loan system for part-time students. I am confident, however, that the initiatives we have developed in terms of loans, fees and student support as well as our Stratford development will allow us to weather the storm and to move forward into a new era where part-time study will be a highly relevant option for a wide variety of students.

# “Peace wanted alive”

Annie E Coombes describes how Kenyan peace museums hope to help to avert trouble erupting in next year’s national elections



Above: Graffiti by Solomon Muyundo (tag name Solo 7) in Kibera one of the flashpoints for the post election violence

Top left: Newspaper cutting documenting the reconciliation between Mau Mau veterans and former Home Guard takes pride of place on the walls of the Lari Memorial Peace Museum curator’s family home  
Top right: Curator Munuve Mutisya with elder Mbulla Mbelu at the Akamba Peace Museum in Kyanzasu  
(All images © Annie E Coombes)

In January 2008, Kenya was in the headlines with reports of an alarming wave of violence following the contested re-election of Mwai Kibaki in December 2007. The killing spree devastated the populations of towns and rural areas all over the country. Local reporting mostly cited the cause of the bloodbath as the result of historical rivalries and tensions between two of the largest ethnic groups: Kikuyu and Luo.

The violence was exacerbated by land tenure grievances directly resulting from the British colonial policy of forced removals. With the next election looming in 2012, many Kenyans are rightly concerned about the prospect of further violence.

For three years, I have collaborated in AHRC-funded research exploring the close relationship between two historical moments: Kenya’s struggle for independence from British colonial rule and the manifestations of ethnic violence which have routinely followed national elections in Kenya. A better understanding of the impact of this divisive colonial legacy and how it is remembered or suppressed in Kenya today is vital if the escalating inter-ethnic conflict is to be stopped.

Nowhere are the challenges more evident than in the developing heritage sector, tasked with producing coherent narratives of nation and belonging. However, it is at grassroots and local level rather than through the larger national institutions that narratives of belonging, which more adequately reflect the complexities of Kenyan society, are being produced.

One extraordinary response to inter-ethnic violence is a phenomenon led by elders and youths, where traditional practices of conflict resolution are being revived as part



of an initiative to establish local community peace museums nationwide.

Lari, in what is now Lari District just north of Nairobi, was the site of a hideous double massacre on 26 and 27 March 1953, during the period of emergency declared in October 1952 under British colonial rule. On the evening of 26 March, Mau Mau insurgents brutally murdered a number of prominent British collaborators, including a powerful local chief, Luka wa Kahangara, and most of his wives, children and supporters – burning some of them alive in their homes.

That same evening and into the dawn of the following day, grimmer reprisals followed the Mau Mau violence – this time by the British, their local allies and their Kenyan loyalist forces (the Home Guard).

The memory of this violence, perpetrated under British rule, is still very much present in Lari, where those who have killed or are survivors from the Mau Mau strike are living cheek by jowl with those from the Home Guard retaliation. For many, there is still no possibility of forgiveness, because they live with the economic and physical effects of that historical violence on a daily basis. Until very recently, it was taboo for any kind of social intercourse or intermarriage between the families on both sides of this divided community.

The Lari Memorial Peace Museum has a serious and potentially far-reaching agenda which could offer a model for future reconciliation processes in Kenya, despite its unpromising surroundings and cramped headquarters on the side of the busy Nairobi-Naivasha highway. In 2001, key elders from both sides – former Mau Mau fighters and Home Guard – came together to form the Lari Memorial Peace Museum

in an attempt to bridge the divide in the community. They began a series of symbolic reparations, for example planting trees associated with peace as part of earth-cleansing rituals at sites where Home Guard had colluded in identifying Mau Mau, whose bodies had subsequently been dumped in mass graves. These massacre sites have become key arenas for the promotion of dialogue between both sides.

At the heart of this initiative is the collection and display of objects used in the promotion of peace education. Traditional methods of conflict resolution gleaned through oral histories passed down via the elders, have been painstakingly gathered by the curator Waihenya Njoroge, grandson to the Mau Mau veteran and co-founder of the museum, Kaboro Tumbo.

There is both an attempt to reinvent Kikuyu 'cultural tradition', which serves locally to reconcile different and historically antagonistic constituencies within the community, *and* an attempt to produce a comparative museum display, where a mixed range of artefacts from a number of different ethnic groups, including Luo, Pokot and Maasai, are deployed precisely in order to demonstrate that nationally there is more that unites than divides different ethnic groups in Kenya. The Lari museum is unusual in the consistency of this message.

The Museum also directly mobilises historical memory as a tool for brokering peace in the present, gathering the names – from both sides of the political divide – of those killed in both massacres and displaying photographs taken in the 1950s as a way of highlighting the violence done to the community and as a warning for the future. Resources are scarce and creative

management is crucial – many of the images turn out to be xeroxes from British propaganda disseminated in the 1950s to highlight the barbarity of Mau Mau to an increasingly alarmed British public. Here they are put to a new use.

It seems to me that the way this tiny community museum is prepared to commemorate the memory of the massacres which divided their community represents an engagement with the past that reinforces the complicated and fragmentary lived experience of the struggle for independence in Kenya – not least through their admission of oral testimony from both Mau Mau veterans and former Home Guard. This is in sharp contrast to many national initiatives and to some other key sites associated with Mau Mau history.

It is the kind of brave local initiative that might be critical in averting the bloodbath which many fear will erupt again in the next Kenyan national election due in 2012. But it suggests the kind of complicated account that is generally obliterated by the neater, grander histories of national liberation, represented by the newly commissioned statues of heroes and heroines appearing in Kenya's cities.

Annie E Coombes is Professor of Material and Visual Culture in the Department of History of Art and Screen Media. She is Co-investigator on 'Managing Heritage, Building Peace: Museums, Memorialisation and the uses of Memory in Kenya' together with Dr Lotte Hughes (PI Open University) and Professor Karega-Munene (Lead Consultant USIU Nairobi).

# The language of illness and pain

## What is it, and who creates it?



What is the language of illness and pain? And who creates this language? Does the patient who suffers the embodied experience make it? Or is it created by the doctor who must diagnose, treat and care for this patient? From the metaphors of patient depictions in art, music and literature, to the scientific terminology of biomedicine, the language employed between doctor and patient is constantly changing to reflect the subjectivity and objectivity of illness.

In July this year, an international group of doctors, healthcare practitioners, academics and artists met at Birkbeck to pose and investigate these questions at a two-day conference titled 'The Language of Illness and Pain: Identity, Communication and the Clinical Encounter'. Running alongside the

conference, and exemplifying its unique multidisciplinary, the Irish Museum of Contemporary Art curated a group show titled 'This is My Body', which brought together the work of eight emerging contemporary artists who explore the experience and ownership of the body in the context of medical intervention and practice. Both conference and art exhibition sought to break down the artificial boundaries between the arts and biomedical science to identify mutually beneficial fields of enquiry.

In the context of profound changes in our political landscape, our medical education and in the structures of the NHS in this country, a deep analysis of the challenges that the experience of illness has on our ability to communicate and the consequences of this on clinical practices, is crucial. Such an analysis

Above:  
'Pre-op'  
(Daire Irwin)

forms the core of Dr Joanne Winning's current book project, *A Confusion of Tongues: Illness, Language, Writing*. She takes her title from the pioneering work of the doctor and psychoanalyst Michael Balint who, when writing about the clinical encounter in 1957, described communication between doctor and patient as a "dangerous confusion of tongues", in which "each party talks in a language not understood and apparently not understandable by the other". Joanne says: "The sense that such miscommunication is endemic is echoed in the many patient narratives that proliferate as the twentieth century progresses."

How might we better communicate in the clinical encounter? One place to start is to understand the ways in which that which is not spoken – the feelings, or what psychoanalysis would call the affect of both doctors and their patients – structure and transform the encounter between them as much as the words they use. One such affect is fear. If pain and illness make a patient fearful, what effect does this have upon a doctor? Studies in cultural memory and trauma show that affect can be transmitted between people. Joanne says: "We need to think about the way fear might be one of the key feelings that determines clinical practice. In my book I ask to what extent certain current practices, such as the use of leading questions to direct a patient's account of their symptoms, or the move in medical training away from traditional methods of history-taking to a reliance on diagnostic tests and investigations, might speak as much of a way of controlling fear as instances of best and efficacious practice."

Dr Joanne Winning is a senior lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities and Course Director for the MA Medical Humanities. *A Confusion of Tongues: Illness, Language, Writing* will be published in 2013.



## Successful students from the School of Arts



Taiwo Omolaso  
BA English

Taiwo Omolaso chose to study at Birkbeck because she wanted a qualification that would be well respected by both employers and other academic institutions.

Taiwo found that her classmates and tutors were a great source of support during her studies. She comments: "Throughout my degree I enjoyed regular debates and discussions with my classmates. Whenever one of the group was struggling with something, the rest of us would offer support and encouragement, which was really important. The lecturers were absolutely brilliant and extremely supportive. They were all extremely passionate and enthusiastic about their subject."

Taiwo believes that her experience at Birkbeck has been life-changing: "I have grown in confidence and developed my self-esteem." Attaining her English degree was the next step to fulfilling her life-long ambition of becoming an English teacher, and in September 2011, Taiwo started her post-graduate teaching qualification.

Dennis Duncan  
PhD English Literature

Dennis Duncan has been a postgraduate student at Birkbeck for some years. He started with a Master's in Computing Science and followed with a course in Ancient Greek, before going on to a PhD in English, which he completed in summer 2011. This summer Dennis organised a conference on the contemporary British novelist Tom McCarthy, at which McCarthy gave a reading and took part in a Q&A session. The event was a resounding success, and Dennis says: "There were some absolutely captivating papers, and the conference did exactly what you'd hope a first conference on any subject would do: it defined the field. Although the papers addressed lots of different aspects of McCarthy's work, common themes emerged, linking them. The event left us with a sense that people who are working on McCarthy are thinking along the same lines. That doesn't sound like much, but I think it's important when any research community is trying to understand something new."

Above:  
Taiwo Omolaso

### Dean's highlights

Following a successful School Research Day, we officially inaugurated the beautifully refurbished Keynes Library, in March, with a collective book launch, celebrating the publication of no fewer than seventeen authored and edited volumes published within the previous few months.

Arts Week grows from strength to strength, and this year was no exception, including contributions from Luisa Calè, Isabel Davis, and Sarah Lightman (University of Glasgow) talking about 'The Body and the Book', Sue Wiseman, who led a National Portrait Gallery 'Salon' discussing 'Was there an English Renaissance?', and Michael Rosen, Visiting Professor at Birkbeck, who read, performed and answered questions about his poetry.

Another of our distinguished visiting professors, Anthony Julius, ran a research masterclass for postgraduate students in the summer term on the *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *Satanic Verses* controversies.

An interdisciplinary symposium on 'New Directions in Comics Studies', conceived and organised by a graduate student, Tony Venezia, took place in November. Also in November, the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies convened a symposium to celebrate the work of our late friend and colleague, Professor Sally Ledger, on the theme 'Radical Imagination'.

It was announced in July 2011 that Dr Carol Watts, Reader in Literature and Poetics in the Department of English and Humanities, had been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy, the most prestigious award for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning.

Professor Hilary Fraser, Executive Dean,  
School of Arts

# Net. gain

**European football must embrace its  
corporate social responsibilities,  
writes Dr Geoff Walters**



Left: Young footballers take part in a training match (Getty Images)

**“A majority of clubs reported that making connections with their local community was a significant challenge.”**

The Premier League and Champions League maintain an almost ubiquitous presence within the English media. The same can be said for other major leagues across Europe, such as La Liga in Spain, Serie A in Italy and the Bundesliga in Germany. However, while media attention focuses on sport reports, details of player salaries and transfer fees, or football player kiss-and-tells, the ways in which football clubs embrace the issue of corporate social responsibility (CSR), through community involvement, educational activities, health initiatives, and social inclusion programmes, receive very little attention.

While many commercial organisations are under increasing pressure to demonstrate accountability and commitment to society through social and environmental activities, why should anyone care about what football clubs are doing in relation to CSR? Surely what is most important is what happens on the pitch, as the football industry is essentially part of the entertainment industry? These are valid questions. However, as Dr Geoff Walters explains: “Academic analysis has suggested that there may be a natural fit between sport and CSR, given sport’s popularity, youth appeal and potential to deliver health benefits and other personal and social outcomes. Moreover, the past 20 years have seen the role of sport in society grow in prominence, and sport organisations have become increasingly influential members of the global community. The concerns of transparency and accountability evident within the corporate world, which underpin the CSR agenda, are also relevant for the football industry – as demonstrated by the lack of transparency that blights the organisation of FIFA, the world governing body for football, which has been widely criticised in the media.”

Although some research has detailed the extent to which individual football clubs engage in CSR activities, little is known about the overall state of CSR within European football. In 2010, UEFA, the governing body for European football and organiser of the lucrative Champions League tournament, provided funding for Dr Geoff Walters and Richard Tacon, a PhD student in Birkbeck’s Department of Management, to undertake the first comprehensive, comparative survey of all top division football clubs in Europe and the 53 national federations that are members of UEFA. The survey supports the European Union’s recognition of the role of CSR within small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (defined as a firm with less than 250 employees and either a turnover of less than €50m or less than €43m of assets on the balance sheet). This is highly relevant when considering CSR in sport as most football clubs fall within this definition of an SME.

A total of 46 national federations and 127 football clubs from 44 different European countries responded to the survey, which examined key managerial aspects of CSR including implementation, communication, stakeholder engagement and measurement. The analysis demonstrated that the large majority of national federations and football clubs are involved in a number of initiatives with various stakeholders such as local communities, young people and schools, although supporters were deemed the most important stakeholder group for the football clubs. Despite this, a majority of clubs reported that making connections with their local community was a significant challenge. Resource constraints and securing funding were also two significant challenges faced by both national associations and football clubs in relation to CSR implementation, with only a

minority of football clubs revealing that they receive funding assistance through government funds and from other sources of funding. Dr Walters comments: “It will be interesting to see whether the pressure to meet the break-even requirement of the UEFA licence (which will be implemented in the 2014–2015 season) will result in football clubs continuing to invest in community activities or whether they will reduce their financial commitment.”

Club responses were also analysed by size, revealing that there are a number of significant differences between large clubs and small clubs in relation to the types of CSR activity that they implement. For example, it was found that clubs with a turnover of more than €5m are more likely to work on community projects in developing countries, be involved in community engagement projects, work with local schools, use energy from renewable sources, invest in environmental technology and implement pollution prevention and recycling schemes.

Dr Walters concludes: “The results from this project provide the first step to better understanding the extent to which CSR is being addressed within the football industry in Europe. It also represents a significant step in furthering understanding of CSR more broadly within the SME sector and in organisations in general. Building on this research, further studies are required to understand in more detail the processes and mechanisms that contribute towards the implementation, communication, stakeholder engagement and measurement of CSR within European football.”

Dr Geoff Walters is a lecturer in the Department of Management and Director of the Birkbeck Sport Business Centre. For more information, visit [www.sportbusinesscentre.com](http://www.sportbusinesscentre.com)

# Innovation and economics

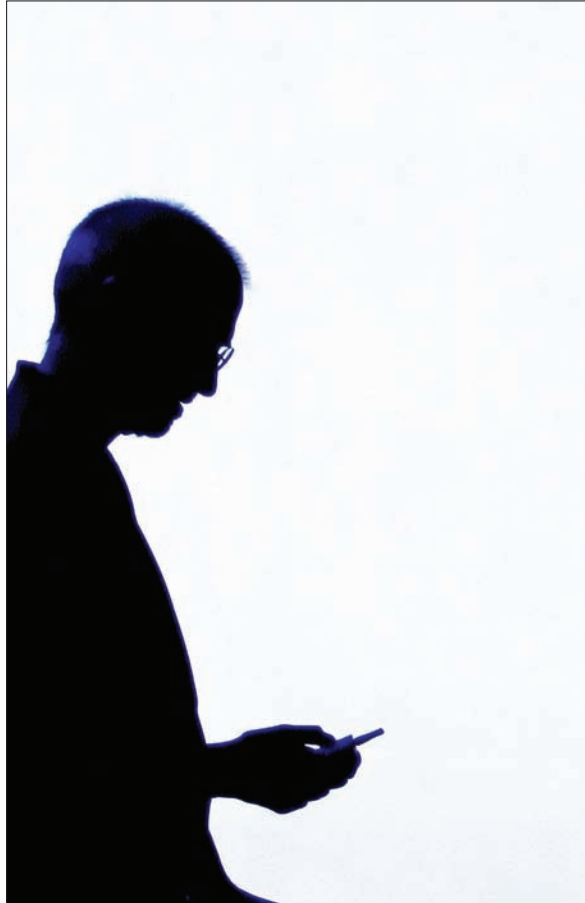
## Who will lead us out of the crisis?

The economic landscape since the 2008 financial crisis has been characterised by a huge plunge in demand and international trade, a generalised worsening of credit conditions on financial markets, an unprecedented intervention of governments and central banks, as well as a growing uncertainty about the future direction of technological change and profit opportunities. Within this scene, the economic policies of national governments and international organisations have obsessively focused on two recipes: provide liquidity to prevent a collapse of economic activities and cut public expenditure to reduce public debts and deficits.

Unfortunately, much less attention has been paid to another question: who will lead us out of the crisis? A focus on public expenditure cutting is elusive and misses the point about creating new business opportunities. A new recovery will need new products and new industries, and they will, in turn, need to be based on invention and innovation. The important questions that economists need to address are not those on which, so far, the debate has focused. What has been the effect of the economic crisis on product and process innovations? Do companies become more or less reluctant to risk bringing artefacts and merchandise to markets and investing in exploring new fields?

If companies become more reluctant to innovate as a consequence of economic downturn, this could lead to a vicious circle: the crisis will be cutting the energies needed to generate a recovery! Governments and international organisations should take this into account when defining their strategies.

We have observed different behaviour across countries, industries and companies. While some European countries have reacted very badly to the crisis and



Above: Steve Jobs at a product launch in 2005 (Getty Images)

have cut their investment in innovation, other European countries have managed to maintain their investment. We have labelled the 'aristocrats' of innovation those countries who have always been world leaders in introducing new products and processes and that continue to be so in adverse conditions: Sweden, Finland, Germany and Austria. To retain their leadership, these countries cannot reduce investment. Other countries that have long been world leaders in scientific and technological developments, the UK among them, have been less keen to innovate and are reacting to the crisis by reducing their efforts in this area: we have labelled them

'declining nobility'. There is another group of 'parvenus' countries, mostly in the East, that have low innovative intensity, but that have reacted to the crisis by investing relatively more.

The results at the country level are also dictated by companies' strategies. Many companies have faced the economic crisis by cutting expenses, including expenses on innovation. But we have also found that there is a substantial group of companies that are reacting to the adverse economic climate by increasing their expenditure for innovation: these companies are often young, employ high-skilled personnel and are located in growing industries. We bet on these companies swimming against the stream as those that will bring us out of the crisis, creating new markets, new products and new job opportunities. The Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckers of the twenty-first century are likely to be born among these companies. One thing is certain: our economies need more visionary entrepreneurs than hazardous bankers.

Daniele Archibugi is a Professor of Innovation, Governance and Public Policy in Birkbeck's Department of Management, and Research Director at the Italian National Research Council in Rome. Andrea Filippetti is a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Management and a Research Fellow at the Italian National Research Council. For more information visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/management](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/management)

Daniele and Andrea's new book *Innovation and economic crisis: Lessons and prospects from the economic downturn* is out now, published by Routledge as part of their *Studies in Global Competition* series. Two chapters were prepared with the help of Marion Frenz and Frederick Guy, also of the Department of Management.

# Successful students from the School of Business, Economics and Informatics

**Karen Gray**

MSc Career Management & Counselling  
Karen enrolled at Birkbeck because: "it was the best career-related Master's in the UK. The subject was just emerging, and I was keen to work in it and get properly qualified." However, the flexible distance learning it offered also turned out to be invaluable, as it meant Karen could continue studying while having her first baby and moving to Ireland in the middle of the two-year course.

Her hopes for the course were more than fulfilled. "I wanted to meet people who were inspired by careers and personal development in the way I was, and I certainly did this," she says. She met her business partner, Elaine Gennery, on the course, and together they set up T-Space, a business offering organisational supervision to help companies and teams take on new strategic directions.

**Nazim Mirza**

BSc Financial Economics

Nazim Mirza was committed to pursuing a career in finance, and it was Birkbeck's reputation, particularly among colleagues in the City, which drew him to the BSc Financial Economics, from which he has just graduated.

Because he was able to work while he studied, Nazim was able to establish a career in finance while he completed his degree.

The best thing Birkbeck has done for him, he says, is provided him with a good grounding and qualification in his professional field: "I am able to say that I have got a qualification in financial economics, and I work in finance. People have heard of Birkbeck and it has a good reputation, which is one of the main reasons that I chose to study here."

Below: Nazim Mirza

## Dean's Highlights

Birgitte Andersen, was appointed Director of the Big Innovation Centre, an initiative from The Work Foundation, aiming to deliver a step change in Britain's capacity to innovate and generate wealth.

Sue Konzelmann is leading research into The Varieties of Liberalism and a book, *Banking Systems in the Crisis*, is forthcoming.

Ron Smith received the Lewis Fry Richardson lifetime achievement award for contributions to the scientific study of militarised conflict.

Rebecca Gumbrell McCormick is part of an international study of informal economy workers and how trade unions represent them, sponsored by the AFL-CIO.

Linda Trenberth is part of a team who made headlines in New Zealand with research on workplace bullying.

Dell Zhang contributed the second-best algorithm to the Wikipedia Participation Challenge, and Roman Kontchakov and Michael Zakharyashev won best paper awards at three international conferences.

Steve Maybank was made a Fellow of the IEEE, while Philip Powell was made a fellow of the BCS, to go with the award of academician of the Academy of Social Sciences, that he and Philip Dewe achieved earlier.

Helen Lawton Smith has been appointed an honorary professor in Sussex and a visiting professor in Halmstad, Sweden.

Hélyette Geman has been nominated as a Scientific Advisor to the EU on Agricultural Commodities.

Walter Beckert is a member of the Nuffield Trust Steering Group on Competition in Healthcare Markets and is advising the Hong Kong Consumer Council on supermarket competition.

Professor Philip Powell, Executive Dean, School of Business, Economics and Informatics



# MINIMAL JUSTICE

Dr Paul Turnbull argues that, for some drug-using offenders, prison is only a political solution rather than one that rehabilitates

Drugs are a perpetual feature of prison life in countries across the world. Ever-increasing numbers of drug-using offenders are being imprisoned, and many of them have been using several types of drugs over many years. Most of them will have been in prison on many occasions. For countries which are in the process of developing modern prison and probation systems, the question of how to tackle this issue is one of growing concern.

Dr Paul Turnbull, Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck, recently presented at a Council of Europe conference on drugs in prisons, with representatives from over 12 countries, many of them south-east European states, who will be attempting to improve their prison systems as part of their preparations for applying for EU membership.

The conference was designed to support these states as they develop their prison and probation services to meet the requirements of EU membership, by addressing issues including treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction. Many prisons, in south-east Europe and elsewhere, are focused on developing a programme of care, treatment and intervention for drug-using offenders. However, Paul proposes an alternative approach. He explains: "While prisons are under immense pressure to develop and deliver treatment programmes, in reality, for many prisoners it would be far more effective to keep them out of prison, and to treat them in the community."

Clearly there are many criminals who do require a custodial sentence because of the seriousness of their crime. However, the prisoners that Paul's research has focused on are those who have minor, non-violent acquisitive offences such as shoplifting, which they often commit in order to fund their drug habit. They will usually be given shorter prison sentences, and Paul argues that, for many of them, prison becomes an

integral part of a chronic relapsing condition. During their time in prison many will reduce their level of drug use. Some will use their sentence as a 'clean time', some will fear sanctions, and some will simply have found that the availability of drugs was limited. However, in the majority of cases, the prisoners are then released back into the community without a support structure and with no continuing treatment plan in place. Paul says: "Often, the first thing they do when they get out with a small amount of money is to go drinking and, from there, on to look for some drugs. Not only does this plunge prisoners back into the chronic relapsing cycle of drug use, but they are also, at this point, at a far higher risk of overdose and death.

"Their drug tolerance has been reduced, and they go and use drugs, not realising how much their tolerance has come down during their prison stay. Many overdose, and for some this can be fatal. It is, therefore, a major public health issue, which prisons fail to address."

In the week following release from prison, male prisoners are 29 times more likely to die than males in the general population, and female prisoners are 69 times more likely to die. Paul states: "I believe that countries looking to strengthen their probation services need to be moving the focus away from short prison sentences for drug-using offenders towards community-based treatment. To be able to do this, however, these countries require strong community treatment programmes, and this is something that is still lacking in many parts of eastern Europe."

In the UK, Drug Rehabilitation Requirements, as part of community sentence, were developed to begin to address these issues. These community orders, which are quasi-coercive in nature, require the offender to comply with a treatment regime as an alternative to imprisonment. Alongside their drug

treatment, they will also be required to participate in offender behaviour courses, which challenge them on why they offend and why they make those choices. Evidence shows that addressing the crime and the addiction in this way is much more effective than addressing it through a prison sentence and prison-based drug treatment. Offenders who complete a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement were significantly less likely to be reconvicted within two years (53 per cent) than those who had not (74 per cent).

The benefits of community-based treatment to the individual drug users are self-evident. However, there is a definite financial benefit to treating offending drug users in the community.

It has been well documented by the media that our prisons are full to bursting point, and that the resources of the criminal justice system are being stretched beyond their limits. It is estimated that, in 2007, almost £1 billion could have been saved in the UK, if all those sentenced to 12 months or less in prison had instead been given community-based drug treatment.

These are compelling figures, but it is not just a financial argument that must be won. Paul explains: "The continuing imprisonment of minor offenders with short sentences is a response to a political and public mindset about being 'tough' with offenders, and punishment being the most important outcome to be delivered by the criminal justice system. Unless the emphasis begins to move towards rehabilitation as a function of the criminal justice system, we can expect to continue to see high levels of ex-prisoners relapsing back into drug-use reoffending and experiencing increasingly longer periods of imprisonment."

Dr Paul Turnbull is a Senior Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research. For more information visit [www.icpr.org.uk](http://www.icpr.org.uk)

A black and white photograph of a hand held palm up, with several small, round, white pills resting in the center. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the skin and the individual pills. The pills are scattered in a small cluster, with some showing a score line and others showing faint markings.

**“In 2007, almost £1 billion could have been saved in the UK if all those sentenced to 12 months or less in prison had instead been given community-based drug treatment.”**

## “Pale, male and stale”

# Professor Leslie Moran on his pioneering research about barriers to careers in the judiciary



‘Pale, male and stale!’ is a charge that continues to haunt the senior judiciary in England and Wales, and a state of affairs that appears stubbornly resistant to change. In 2009 the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) published a report, *Barriers to Application for Judicial Appointment*. One of the primary aims was to investigate the barriers to careers in the judiciary across different groups. These were defined by sex, ethnicity and employment status, the diversity strands targeted by the Judicial Diversity Strategy, agreed upon by the Ministry of Justice, Judiciary and the JAC. Sexual orientation, among other strands, was not covered.

Professor Moran, from Birkbeck’s School of Law explains: “The failure to extend this research to lesbians, gay men and bisexual members of the legal profession created a knowledge gap and demonstrated an ongoing

resistance to taking this aspect of diversity seriously.”

As a response to this gap, Professor Moran, together with the Interlaw Diversity Forum, an inter-organisational forum for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) networks in law firms, launched a unique collaborative project, the result of which is a pioneering report, *Barriers to Application for Judicial Appointment: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Research*. It is the world’s first study of the impact of sexual orientation on perceptions and experiences of judicial appointment.

While the study found many positive elements, such as that between 85% and 90% of LGBT lawyers believe the creation of the JAC is a positive development, more disturbingly, 70% of LGBT lawyers thought that the selection process was prejudiced, with 50% saying

judges are not selected on the basis of merit only.

Professor Moran comments: “This combination of findings suggests that the enthusiasm of LGBT lawyers for potential judicial careers, and support for the more meritocratic appointments process that was introduced with the establishment of the JAC, may well be subject to the chilling effect of perceptions and expectations of prejudice.”

The findings from Professor Moran’s report have already informed a number of reform debates. The Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity’s final report contained the first reference to ‘sexual orientation’ as a recognised strand within judicial diversity. A summary of the findings of the study was presented to the ‘Inquiry on the judicial appointments process’, conducted in the summer of 2011 by the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution. The report will also form the basis of a response to the Ministry of Justice’s consultation on judicial appointments.

Despite the exclusion of a ‘sexual orientation strand’ in their original Barriers Report, the Judicial Appointments Commission supported this study. Professor Moran states: “The JAC approved the use of their original survey as the basis for the LGBT study and provided invaluable feedback on early drafts of the report. It was encouraging to find support from the JAC for some of the report’s recommendations for change.” Just prior to a seminar on the report, hosted by the Law Society in July 2011, the JAC announced that it would begin to include sexual orientation when collecting demographic data.

The report, including recommendations for reform, can be downloaded from Interlaw’s website: [www.interlawdiversityforum.org/publications](http://www.interlawdiversityforum.org/publications)

Above: Judges attend their Annual Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey (Getty Images)



## Successful students from the School of Law



Francis Tienga Ngale  
LLB Law

Francis decided to study law because of a personal interest in the subject and because he felt that a deeper understanding of the legal system would help him in his work as a welfare advisor. Returning to study wasn't easy, but Francis attended a number of academic support programmes run by the College, designed to help students get back into formal university study.

Birkbeck's reputation as a world-class institution was a strong draw for Francis. He says: "Given the profile of the University of London, I found it easy to choose it as my first option."

Francis enjoyed the flexibility that evening study offers and found it easy to fit his three evenings at Birkbeck around his work and spending time with his son. Fortunately, his son understood the importance of his dad's studying. "He's very good," Francis says: "He doesn't cry, he just goes off and plays and I was able to get on with my studying."

Studying law at Birkbeck has given Francis new ideas for his career and he is now contemplating continuing with an LLM at Birkbeck.

### Mairead Molloy

LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice  
So far Mairead has completed a BA, and a Master's degree, and is in the process of applying for a PhD at Birkbeck. When she attended her BA interview, she felt valued and welcome, and knew this was the right place for her: "At Birkbeck I got a real sense that I would be part of something important if I chose to study here."

She says that, despite the sacrifices that she has made in terms of her social life, and the fact that she has commuted from France for her classes for the last five years, the fulfilment and enjoyment that she got from learning more than made up for it. She says: "Studying at Birkbeck has changed me as a person and given me a different outlook on life and achievement."

Above: Francis Ngale,  
with his son on  
graduation day

## Dean's Highlights

The Institute for Criminal Policy Research moved to Birkbeck from King's College. Its Directors, Mike Hough and Paul Turnbull have proved a considerable force already and will lead this year's Law on Trial.

We welcomed the first intake of students studying for the University of London, International Programmes, Diploma in Law. This programme represents a significant development in relations between an internal college of the University of London and the external system. Birkbeck is the only University of London college offering this course, which serves as a prestigious exit qualification as well as enabling those who successfully complete it to transfer to the second year of the LLB.

Postgraduates will soon be able to choose from one of three LLM/MA programmes in intensively taught mode, condensing classroom teaching between April and July. Dr Stewart Motha comes to us in January 2012, as a Reader from Kent Law School, to lead this important initiative.

The new Centre for Law and Humanities was splendidly launched by Professor Achille Mbembe, who addressed a crowded lecture theatre in November 2010.

Our faculty members and PhD scholars continue to play host to an array of workshops, conferences and reading groups. Of particular note is the Judicial Conversations series, devised by Professor Les Moran, which saw undergraduate and postgraduate students in thrall to a challenging dialogue between Lady Justice Mary Arden and Justice Edwin Cameron.

The School is well poised to enter its twentieth anniversary year in 2012, for which we have planned a variety of celebratory events.

Professor Patricia Tuitt, Executive Dean,  
School of Law

# Life on Mars (in Iceland)

Drs Claire Cousins and Ian Crawford on how the search for life on the Red Planet can begin at a subglacial volcano in Iceland

Although it might seem surprising, the search for life on Mars can begin on Earth. There are certain places on the earth which are very similar to what we believe to have been past, or even present, environments on Mars. These analogue environments provide us with natural laboratories within which to understand the biological processes that may have once operated on Mars, and what signs of life – ‘biosignatures’ – are left behind in the rock record. Mars, like the Earth, has a geologically diverse terrain, suggesting the planet was once much more dynamic and active than its current quiet state. The earlier view of Mars as a vast windswept and pock-marked terrain has been comprehensively swept aside as orbital and in-situ data gathered during the past decade have revealed complex valley networks, past hydrothermal activity, delta plains and evidence of glaciological processes.

One major process that is thought to have been widespread on Mars is the interaction between volcanism and glaciers or ice-rich ground (the ‘cryosphere’) – a process also common to Earth today. Interaction between volcanic activity and ice can manifest itself in many forms, ranging from the flow of lava over ice-rich ground, to the production of whole volcanic edifices beneath a glacier. The Eyjafjallajökull (2010) and Grimsvötn (2011) eruptions in Iceland provide recent examples. The relevance of these



Images courtesy Ian Crawford

## “Interaction between volcanism and glaciers is thought to have been widespread on Mars”



environments to astrobiological research on Mars lies in their capacity to support microbial life. Steep geochemical and physical gradients provide life with a wide variety of environmental niches and an energy source to exploit, together with the generation of liquid water via geothermal heating of ice. Furthermore, many habitats exist within the subsurface, beneath the glacier. This means these environments would also have been shielded from any hostile surface conditions present on Mars, such as high UV and cosmic radiation, and a desiccating, low-pressure atmosphere.

The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Birkbeck is actively involved in researching this area (funded by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust), and a two-week expedition to the Kverkfjöll subglacial volcano in Iceland was conducted in June 2011, in collaboration with the University of Leeds. This volcano lies beneath the northern edge of the Vatnajökull ice cap – one of Europe’s largest glaciers – and the high-temperature geothermal heat emanating from below produces localised geothermal fields around the rim of the volcano, melting away the ice to create large meltwater lakes, bubbling mud pools and geothermal springs. Around the edge of the glacier, unstable ice-caves grow and collapse, carved by warm geothermally heated meltwater escaping from deep within the glacier.

The expedition sought to sample the geothermal fields up on the ice, with the aim of understanding the geochemistry and microbiology of these environments. A small team of six people – Ian Crawford and Claire Cousins (Birkbeck), together with Terrence Kee and Barry Herschey (Leeds), Laura Carmody (UCL), and Magnus Karlsson (Icelandic Glaciological Society) – spent eight days near the Kverkfjöll summit, housed in a mountain hut looked after by the Icelandic Glaciological Society. The expedition departed from Reykjavik and followed a route up towards the glacier edge at Jokullheimer, before driving up onto the glacier itself and heading towards Kverkfjöll, stopping off at the recent Grimsvötn caldera that had erupted just two weeks previously.

The eight days spent at Kverkfjöll

entailed sampling environments such as hydrothermal pools, meltwater lakes, geothermal sediments, fumarole deposits and thick rubbery biomats. Additionally, in-situ measurements such as temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen were taken from the environments sampled. Environments range from boiling, anoxic pools to hydrothermal streams that precipitate out iron oxides, to acidic sulphurous fumaroles that lie meters away from glacial ice. Due to the altitude, boiling point here is reduced to 94.4°C.

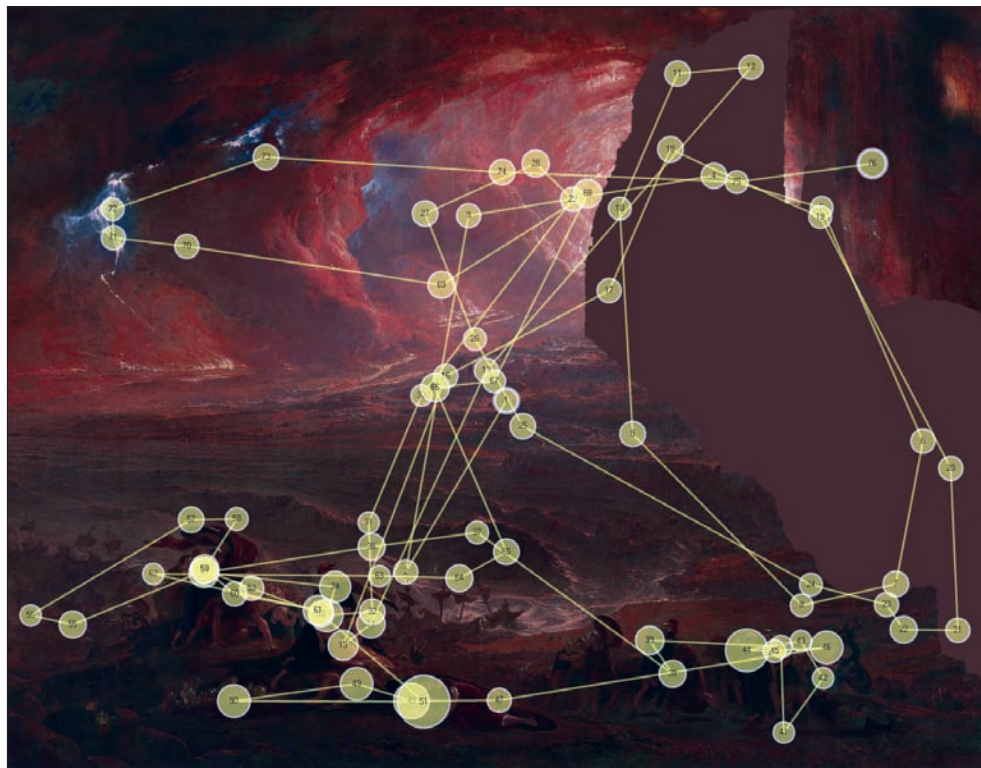
One major concept underpinning astrobiology research is the utilisation of techniques from different scientific fields. In the case of this particular project, the boundary between geology and biology is very much blurred, with bacteria eating and inhabiting the rocks and minerals created by volcano-ice interaction. This, combined with the geographical isolation of Kverkfjöll, means that it is possible to explore the complex relationship between planetary processes and life. Techniques were employed from both the fields of biology and geology, with sterile samples collected for DNA analysis to be done later and in-situ geological mapping of the volcanic environments themselves. Additionally, reflectance spectra of rocks and minerals were measured in the field, to simulate the type of data acquired on rover missions to Mars. These observations essentially measure the ‘colour’ of rocks, with the spectrum produced showing distinctive absorptions at particular wavelengths that are indicative of the minerals present and their chemical composition. This information will be vital to the selection of rock targets on the surface of Mars and deciding which outcrop the rover should go and explore. The combination of all these different lines of investigation – the microbiology inhabiting the site, the geological processes producing the environments and the techniques used to detect them with rover instrumentation, forms the multi-disciplinary approach required to hunt for life on the Red Planet.

For more information about the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, see [www.bbk.ac.uk/geology](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/geology)



# A vision of destruction restored

## How a John Martin masterpiece was restored from water damage



When the Thames broke its bank and flooded the basement of Tate Britain in 1928, John Martin's (1789–1854) masterpiece, *Destruction of Pompeii and Herculæum* (1821), was considered damaged beyond repair, after one-fifth of the canvas was lost to severe water damage. In 2010, Tate Britain decided to attempt a restoration of the work and called on the help of Birkbeck vision scientist, Dr Tim J Smith.

Tim investigates how people attend to visual scenes and the influence this has on what they see. The same features that may attract our attention in the real world, such as people's faces, points of high contrast and violent imagery, also guide our attention when looking at a painting. Tim worked with Tate and compared how viewers attended to different digital reconstructions of the John Martin piece, by recording their eye movements using high-speed infrared

cameras. This process allowed the Tate to prototype the restoration and see how viewers might attend to the final product before embarking on costly and time-consuming work on the original painting.

The prototypes were created using an intact smaller copy of the painting made by John Martin. The smaller losses were retouched, while a modified version of the smaller painting was inserted into the larger lost area. The versions showed either a fully restored version, a similar version but with less detail in the filled section, a restored version with muted colour in the filled section or a neutrally coloured infill with no details. Tim then presented the images to viewers in his lab, and from the gaze locations on the fully constructed version could immediately see that there were only a few strong focal points in the original, such as the heart of the

volcano, the city in the midground and the foreground figures. It was clear that the mouth of the volcano is one of the first areas fixated upon and that the viewer then follows the diagonal sightlines laid out by Martin down through the city to the foreground figures. In the neutral version of the painting, the mouth of the volcano and part of the city is lost, and the viewer dwells on the edges of the loss, spending significantly less time on the foreground figures. The consequence of the different gaze pattern is that, when asked to describe the content of the painting, viewers of the unreconstructed version did not realise it was a painting of an erupting volcano. The painting had lost its meaning, and viewers could not view it as originally intended by Martin.

The Tate team were also aware that they did not want to create a reconstruction that would draw the viewer's attention away from the original content. A decision was made to omit some detail in the reconstructed section, allowing viewers to see the entire main content of the painting while spending most of their time viewing the original sections. This would preserve the original viewing pattern without distracting from the original content. Tim's study demonstrated that such a viewing pattern could be created by filling the lost section with an abstracted version of the original content with less distinct details.

Informed by Tim's findings, Tate conservator Sarah Maisey embarked on a reversible reconstruction of the lost section. Given the scale of the loss, this was a major undertaking, but by a combination of vision science, Photoshop and Sarah's skill as a conservator, John Martin's vision of destruction has been given a new lease of life and can now be appreciated by future generations, rather than lying abandoned in the Tate stores.

Above: Eye movement scan path during viewing of neutral version (Tim J Smith)

## Successful students from the School of Science



### Dean's Highlights

A new set of Master's programmes in the Department of Psychological Sciences were launched this year, and the new BSc in Planetary Sciences with Astronomy has attracted a large intake. The MSc Bioanalysis and MRes in Microbiology in the department of Biological Sciences have had a successful first year.

Professor Mark Johnson was elected to the Fellowship of the British Academy, which means we have fellows of the Royal Society, Academy of Medical Sciences and Academy of Social Sciences amongst our current staff in the School of Science.

The school obtained 29 new research grants in the year, with a total income of £4.8 million, including an EU grant to Professor Denis Mareschal, on tracking early development, which will bring an outstanding cohort of PhD students from across the EU to the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development.

Cancer Research Technology, the drug development arm of Cancer Research UK, have contracted to place their structural biology team within the Department of Biological Sciences for a further 5 years.

Dr Pieter Vermeesch in Earth and Planetary Sciences not only obtained a highly prestigious European Research Council Starting Grant but also a large NERC grant.

The School has published over 250 research papers in the period under review. Work from the School has featured on Radio 4, the BBC website, the *Times*, *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* and the *Guardian* amongst many places. A blog by Dr Tim Smith in the Department of Psychological Sciences, on how we watch movies, attracted 860,000 hits.

Professor Nicholas Keep,  
Executive Dean, School of Science

#### James Obili

CertHE Life Sciences for Subjects Allied to Medicine

James Obili hadn't studied for some time when he applied to Birkbeck, and was quite daunted. However, he says: "Once I was accepted onto the course I knew I had it in me. It was just a question of getting started and being able to find myself again.

"The first couple of essays were difficult but the tutors were always there. I am dyslexic and initially found it difficult to understand what some of the teachers were saying – it takes me time to grasp things. However, Birkbeck offers dyslexia support and I was given great support to get me through my course."

After his Certificate, James went on to study for a BSc Pharmacy. He says: "Birkbeck has given me that knowledge and confidence to know I can succeed. I'm really enjoying myself and it has inspired me to go further – I won't stop telling people to come to Birkbeck."

#### Saloni Krishnan

MSc Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, PhD Psychology  
After completing her Master's degree at Birkbeck, Saloni Krishnan realised that she really missed the research atmosphere at the College, and came back to study for her PhD. She says: "The fact that at Birkbeck I could get up and listen to twenty world-class speakers on the same day is just brilliant, and it's something that you don't realise until you leave. That's one of the things I love about Birkbeck."

Saloni also enjoyed being able to see what departments at other universities were doing, thanks to Birkbeck's central London location, and says: "Birkbeck is right in the middle of London so you can not only take advantage of Birkbeck's own academics, who are obviously great, but also academics from all around London. That's really fantastic."

Above: Saloni Krishnan

Dr Derek Hook has been working on an international archive of everyday narrative accounts of racism during apartheid

# AFTER APARTHEID

It has been sixteen years since apartheid was abolished in South Africa. The impact of this traumatic period are still evident in South Africa's public landscape today. The effects on the inner worlds of those who lived through this period of oppression and institutionalised racism are equally enduring: memories, identities and subjectivity were altered by the experiences of apartheid. While there have been valuable contributions to the process of addressing and interrogating this period, notably by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, these tend to focus on the more 'dramatic' narratives of the period. The Apartheid Archive Project (AAP) was established to ensure that the everyday personal accounts of the apartheid era are not forgotten, recognising that the day-to-day manifestations of apartheid were no less significant than the dramatic narratives of the atrocities.

Dr Derek Hook has been working on the AAP since 2008. He explains: "Each contributor was asked to write down, in narrative form, their earliest significant experience of racism. This relatively open-ended task was approached by different narrators in different ways, which together with the incredible variety of contributors has contributed to the richness of the AAP." The project is not just a record of these narratives of memory, however; it also

brings together over 25 international researchers, with a variety of theoretical backgrounds, to offer a range of analyses aimed at understanding apartheid history and its sometimes enacted, sometimes denied, resonance in the present. Derek continues: "The project aspires not just to record these narrative accounts – in itself an important aim in remembering history – but also to engage thoughtfully and theoretically with the narratives. In these ways, the AAP encourages both a commitment to personal remembering and a joint intellectual commitment to interrogating narratives, rather than taking them at face value."

Derek's analysis of the archive has shown that there are particular types of account which surface many times in people's narratives. Many contributors recounted experiences of what Derek describes as 'the holiday disrupted'. Accounts of being stared at negatively, on the beach, in bars or other leisure areas, surfaced again and again. Similarly, there were many stories of travelling and an intrusion into the semi-autonomous domain of the family car. Derek explains: "There is a sense of the car as a protected space, and many of the project contributors told of incidents where they were pulled over by white policemen, and the pervasive white racism intruded into that private space, where the black family had previously felt in control."



Left: Dignitaries lay flowers in Soweto on 16 June 2010 at Youth Day, which honours young people who lost their lives in the struggle against Apartheid (Getty Images)



Derek continues: "It is interesting to see that from all the years of apartheid, people's remembered accounts frequently converge on a series of over-arching themes – key 'primal scenes' – of apartheid racism."

Another aspect of the narratives is that there were many accounts of seemingly minor gestures that possessed a disproportionate symbolic impact. "One is struck by the role of key signifiers in formative memories of racism," says Derek, "many of which were not verbal, but took the form of enactments, demonstrative acts." A few examples suffice: a refusal on the part of a white miner to shake the hand of the black miner who had saved his life; a boy castigated for saluting a mixed-race scout-master; the use of 'boy' rather than 'man' to refer to black workers; the non-recognition implicit in the question 'Is anyone here?' asked by a white man of a black farm worker. Derek comments: "Racism exists here in a vast matrix of designations, role-allocations and intimations. The racism contained in each of these examples takes the form of an

everyday instance of social exchange, a gesture, whose greater symbolic value endured in the memories of our narrators."

Derek concludes: "The act of remembering is never a transparent one. What we see in South African memorialisation is the past struggling to assert itself onto the present. Whilst we can see this on a broader scale in the public landscape of South Africa, everyday interactions and the imagery of the individual psyche show this in a way that is both clearer, yet can be more difficult to extract."

The Apartheid Archive Project will help to ensure that everyday accounts of this defining era of South African history will not fade into a forgotten past.

Dr Derek Hook is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychosocial Studies.

See [www.bbk.ac.uk/psychosocial](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/psychosocial).

Derek's book *A Critical Psychology of the Postcolonial: The Mind of Apartheid* will be published by Routledge in 2012.

For more information on the Apartheid Archive Project visit [www.apartheidarchive.org](http://www.apartheidarchive.org)

## An abridged narrative taken from the Apartheid Archive Project

A black man in blue overalls ... walk[ed] towards me as I left a café. The café was just across the road from a public toilet, essentially a black man's toilet, built of sand-coloured brick, an intimidating, squalid little building where I never saw any whites go.

The toilet was opposite a bottle store, which, in later years, I would frequent ... Black men would buy milk stout beer there, a type of beer marked apart ... 'black man's beer' ... a very cheap mass-produced beer ... Even that was an upmarket product compared to ... 'leopard beer' I think it was called, a very cheap mass-produced beer which seemed ... to be a more traditional form of beer, bottled in large plastic ... containers. It looked toxic, untrustworthy... I would never drink that ...

This ... 'African toilet', which always smelt bad and whose walls seemed stained with piss, was a kind of infra-zone, a grey-area that somehow existed below (but within) the norms of a white suburb ... The bus that dropped me home from school stopped ... a little way away ...

The toilet was scary – I always wondered what it looked like on the inside of those brick walls ... [I never felt] that I would not be allowed in ... it was just that this was a black man's place. I was frightened, a little disturbed ... always too young ... not man enough (not black man enough?) to go in there.

# Britain's forgotten empire

## Dr Julia Lovell explores a little-known part of British colonial history



Despite Niall Ferguson's recent efforts to partially rehabilitate British imperialism in, for example, his bestselling *Empire*, in Britain it's still far more usual these days to feel embarrassed by, rather than proud of, our colonial past. But in comparison to other colonial misdeeds – the slave trade, centuries of institutionalised racism, and so on – one enormously profitable skeleton in the cupboard of British imperialism is little known or understood in this country today: opium – the dark, sticky, highly addictive narcotic that bankrolled the British empire through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

For it is an inconvenient truth that much of the nineteenth-century empire – an empire that made Britain a wealthy world power – was built on drug money: on profits from the British opium monopoly in India.

When the British secured Bengal in the second half of the eighteenth century, they quickly established a monopoly on opium production there, forcing local Indian farmers to sign contracts for poppy cultivation. When the harvest was ready, raw opium sap was processed in British-run factories (thronged by euphoric monkeys who drank from the rivers into which the factory waste flowed), packaged in mango-wood chests and sold – at enormous profit – in China.

Opium was important to the British empire for many reasons. It reversed its trade deficit with Asia, funding the British tea addiction; duties from British-bought tea, in turn, covered many of the costs of the Royal Navy. Well past the 1850s, opium sales in China substantially underwrote the Raj and generated the silver for Britain to trade along the Indian

Ocean. Careful management of opium production generated most of Singapore's state revenues in the nineteenth century.

And Britain did more than just profit from drugs: it fought wars for them too. In 1839–1942 and 1856–1960, it launched expeditions against China and its government's refusal to legalise the contraband opium trade, while claiming that its main purpose was to open the Middle Kingdom to free trade. The story of the wars that Britain fought for opium is one of striking opportunism, as politicians, traders and soldiers concealed their fight to protect an illegal narcotics trade under the flags of civilisation and progress.

And this is a history that still has powerful resonances for contemporary global politics. In Britain today, our opium-trading past is largely forgotten. The Opium Wars are seen as a sideshow, relative to our nineteenth-century exploits in India or Africa. In China, by contrast, historical memory of these conflicts could not be more different. There, the Opium Wars – which schoolchildren learn about in textbooks, museums, memorials and films – are the founding episode of Chinese nationalism. They are seen as the start of a Western conspiracy to destroy the country with drugs and violence; they begin China's 'century of humiliation' by a bullying West and China's battle to stand up as a strong modern nation. To understand China's troubled relationship with the West today – one of the key diplomatic relationships in contemporary geopolitics – you have to understand how and why China remembers the Opium Wars, and Britain's role in these conflicts.

Dr Julia Lovell is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology. Her latest book, *The Opium Wars*, is out now, published by Picador. For more information visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/history](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history)

Above: A poppy field in full bloom on Salisbury Plain (iStockphoto)



# Successful students from the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy



## Sebastian Hale-Smith

BA Philosophy

Sebastian Hale-Smith, 21, is in the final year of his BA Philosophy. Thanks to the flexibility of part-time study, Sebastian has been able to immerse himself in several jobs, get elected as a town councillor, become president of Birkbeck's Philosophy Society and gain many valuable skills that he says he would never have had the time for on a full-time course.

Sebastian comments: "As my course has progressed, my organisation skills and ability to analyse an argument have improved. As president of the Philosophy Society, I've had the opportunity to talk to some brilliant philosophers and invite them to give papers for the society, which has also improved my confidence."

Other students have been a source of inspiration to Sebastian as well: "It's impressive to see people with full-time jobs dedicated to learning something new. I never want to lose

that, and I think that Birkbeck is going to instil that in me permanently."

Lucy Pollard  
PhD Classics

Lucy Pollard completed her PhD on seventeenth-century travellers in Greece. Lucy had always wanted to do a PhD and it had been in the back of her mind for years. When she retired from her teaching career, she decided to look into the courses on offer and, largely because of the reputation of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, she chose Birkbeck.

Lucy said: "For me, doing a PhD at this stage in my life was about proving to myself that I could. My PhD has given me a great deal of satisfaction and an ongoing interest in the subject. I'd like to develop part of my thesis further and turn it into a book. Studying at Birkbeck has been a wonderful experience, and I would definitely recommend it to others."

Above:  
Sebastian Hale-Smith

## Dean's Highlights

The Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck was launched by its Director, Professor David Feldman, with a series of research and public events which have been extremely well-supported.

The Centre for the Study of British Politics and Public Life was launched at a seminar chaired by Tony Wright, its first Professorial Fellow, and hosted its first lectures and events.

We welcomed our first intensive part-time students to the Department of Philosophy, who joined other undergraduates, postgraduates and staff from the department at a retreat in May, where the sense of belonging to a large and diverse cohort of philosophers was palpable.

Colleagues achieving outstanding success at securing research funding included: Joanna Bourke for a project on 'Rhetorics of Pain' (Wellcome Trust); Claire Callender for a project to study the impact of higher education for part-time students (UK Commission for Employment and Skills); and Serafina Cuomo for her project on ancient numeracy (Leverhulme).

Julia Lovell won the Philip Leverhulme Prize; Sasha Roseneil was awarded a fellowship from the Norwegian Research Council and also won an ESRC-funded project 'Living Apart Together: a multi-method analysis', with colleagues from the University of Bradford. Filippo de Vivo was awarded a Fellowship at Villa I Tatti, the Harvard University Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence, and also won a British Academy award; Deborah Mabbett won a grant from Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin Für Sozialforschung gGMBH and Nik Wachsmann was awarded a Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation research grant.

Professor Miriam Zukas,  
Executive Dean, School of Social  
Sciences, History and Philosophy

# Alumni update

## News in brief

### Alumni Fund

Each year we ask former students to help improve the experience of those currently studying at Birkbeck, by contributing to the Alumni Fund. This year, once again, the response has been overwhelming with 1412 alumni making a donation. The gifts we received ranged from £5 to £4000 and were given via our website, in response to *BBK* magazine, over the phone when talking to our students and by post. Collectively, alumni gave over £150,000, making this the most successful year for the Alumni Fund yet.

Donations made to the Alumni Fund are allocated to the areas of greatest need around the College. In view of the current changes in student funding, £50,000 has been committed to postgraduate and undergraduate bursaries, and a further £10,000 to the Hardship Fund, which provides help for students who find themselves in acute financial difficulties that threaten their ability to continue with their studies.

The ongoing improvement of support services in the Student Centre has also been supported with £40,000 from the Alumni Fund. The remainder will be disbursed among individual Schools and Departments and will have a direct impact on the academic and social life of students.

### End of Matched Funding Scheme

The matched funding scheme, where every £1 donated to Birkbeck benefited from a 50p

match from the Government, ended in July 2011 after three years. Encouraged by the scheme, many alumni donated for the first time, more regularly, or at a higher level, and the College raised an additional £180,000 by matching their donations. As a whole, the matched funding scheme has raised £1.3m for Birkbeck since August 2008.

Birkbeck is fortunate that so many of its alumni and friends believe in education and maximising the potential of students. Their commitment, generosity and goodwill continues well beyond their student days and graduation, and the donations they make today will continue to provide financial support and great facilities and services for generations of students to come. You can donate online at [www.bbk.ac.uk/donateonline](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/donateonline)

### 10% fee discount for returning students

If you have successfully completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree at Birkbeck, you can apply for a 10% discount on tuition fees for postgraduate programmes starting in autumn 2012.

The discount only applies to tuition fees and may not be used to cover any other programme costs (for example, travel, materials or membership fees).

### Volunteering

Many students come to Birkbeck through the recommendation of a friend or family member and often need a little extra encouragement or reassurance

that Birkbeck is the right choice for them. Our alumni volunteers have been providing this additional support for a number of years and have become a vital asset to student recruitment and retention at Birkbeck.

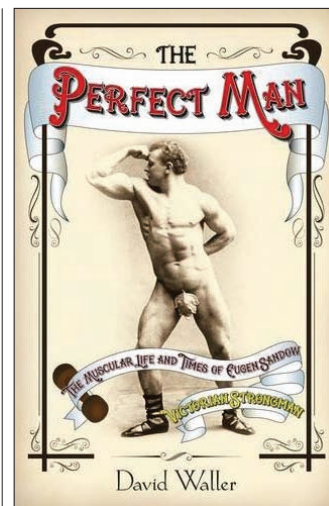
They advise prospective students at Open Evenings, guide new students at orientation events, speak at events, provide personal mentoring and attend subject taster evenings.

Elizabeth Negus, who graduated with an MA Cultural and Critical Studies in 2001, is a regular volunteer. Head of English at Barking and Dagenham College since 2007, she has a particular passion for working with mature learners who are aiming to go to university: "I am still fully committed to Birkbeck and really enjoy talking about the impact the College has had on my life. Educational issues are so important today, and these events provide a priceless opportunity to think and talk about what it means to study at university. I feel privileged to be able to inspire and encourage undergraduates to come to a world-class institution like Birkbeck and show them how to successfully manage the demands of personal and educational life."

There are always upcoming opportunities if you would like to volunteer. Contact us at [alumni@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@bbk.ac.uk)

### Alumni authors

David Waller's latest book, *The Perfect Man*, started as a dissertation for his MA in Victorian Studies at Birkbeck, which he completed in 2004. The



perfect man, Eugen Sandow, was a Victorian strongman, music hall entertainer, entrepreneur and owner of 'the most perfect male body', according to the press of the time. David has produced an entertaining and engaging biography that befits a star of the music-hall stage.

In *Fragmented*, Jeremy Worman brings together a collection of short stories and sketches about London. Many are set in Hackney or Hornsey Rise, where Jeremy lived as a squatter in the seventies, before becoming a teacher and writer. *Fragmented* brings to life characters and places, and explores themes not only of childhood, family and relationships, but also of the nature of writing and political idealism. The stories are both self-contained fragments and a cohesive narrative of a city, as much as of an individual.

# Good Energy

## Juliet Davenport

Building a successful company, sitting on government advisory boards, and being a regular polo player requires a lot of energy. But that is something that Juliet Davenport, Birkbeck MSc Economics alumna and founder of the Good Energy Group, has in bags.

Good Energy is the UK's leading 100% renewable electricity provider and was founded by Juliet in 1999, as a response to climate change. She says: "Setting up another NGO was an option, but the biggest group to convince about the need for change are the people who run our economy, and that's the corporations. If you can create a corporation that demonstrates that you can manage the environment, then I think that's more powerful."

It was while studying atmospheric physics, as part of her undergraduate degree at Oxford, that Juliet developed an interest in climate issues. She decided that studying economics would enable her to address the root cause of the problem and completed a Postgraduate Certificate at Birkbeck. She explains: "Physics tells us what is going on, but economics was the route to working out how to shift the economy, because that was where the problem was being created." Her Certificate was followed by a year in Brussels, working on energy issues at the European Commission and European Parliament, before coming back to Birkbeck to complete her MSc Economics.

When Juliet set up Good Energy in 1999, the green agenda was not yet well established. She recalls: "I would tell people what I did and receive blank looks. Climate change was still only beginning to register with people." Only relatively recently did the government and the public begin to pay real attention to renewable energy. Says Juliet: "It wasn't until 2007, when we started to see economic reports coming out of the City, saying, 'climate change is



going to cost us', that people sat up and took notice. People understood that there would be a backlash from using so much of the environment and not considering its cost."

Good Energy has over 27,000 customers and, with Juliet at its head, has paved the way for implementing new policies. "We have used the company to show the importance and viability of renewables," says Juliet. "We are now at the stage where we are being asked to sit at the table of key energy policy advisory groups. It's taken a long time for people to finally accept that we can't just continue in the same way, or we'll run out of planet."

Her ability to challenge and influence is something that Juliet says she developed during her time at Birkbeck. She comments: "My degree here taught me the language of economics, in order to be able to dispute it. One of the great things about the Birkbeck lectures was that there was a lot of debate, and it empowered us to challenge the status quo. I think Birkbeck gives

people the opportunity to challenge."

Juliet is passionate about ensuring government and the public truly understand how closely energy and the environment are intertwined. When Fukushima blew up, Japan, a wealthier nation than the UK, began importing a lot more gas to make up for the loss of nuclear energy, which pushed up underlying wholesale prices. That's why UK consumers have seen fuel bills rise this winter. Juliet says: "We've got these inextricably linked economic systems and energy fundamentally underpins all our economies, so we need to understand where it comes from and who controls it. Renewables bring an alternative solution that answers both the economic questions and the environmental questions, and that's why it's such an interesting time at the moment."

Juliet delivered a guest lecture to students on the Energy and Climate Change module, part of the MSc Business Strategy and the Environment and MSc Climate Change Management, on 6 December 2011.

# Mrs Birkbeck's diary

How Anna Birkbeck's eighteenth-century album was saved with the help of alumni funds

In 2010–2011, funds from alumni library memberships were used to digitise and conserve the album of Anna Birkbeck, the wife of the founder of the College, George Birkbeck. The digitisation of the volume means that this unique part of Birkbeck's history is available worldwide for researchers and others to view.

Anna Birkbeck's album, collected between 1825 and 1847 by the wife of the founder of the College, George Birkbeck, is a rare example of an early-nineteenth-century album, which has survived intact and with a well-documented provenance. It contains poems, songs and other texts, as well as drawings and watercolours by famous women and men of her time. Some of them also taught at the Mechanics' Institution (as the College was then called). Like the collections that aristocratic women were able to spread throughout galleries and libraries, the album formed and displayed her taste, showcasing her husband's reputation and the cultural, artistic and political circles in which the couple moved.

The album has an international flavour, including poems and texts in Italian, Arabic, French and Russian. George Birkbeck himself contributed a poem, written when he was young (and pasted on page eight of the album), ending with the verses: 'when memory's power prevails [...] should thy beaming eye these traces see, / though absent long, and far away, thou'lt think on me'. And this is exactly what the digitisation of the album has now allowed us all to do.

Other famous contributors include Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797–1851) the author of *Frankenstein* (1818), who wrote a poem on 'The Death of Love'. Letitia Elizabeth Landon (1802–1838), celebrated writer of poetry, fiction and literary reviews, contributed two 'Songs'. The social reformer Robert Owen (1771–1858) signed a short sentence: 'The character of man is without

a single exception formed for him'.

It is not known if Mrs Birkbeck herself sketched any of the images in the album. They include classical nudes, picturesque locations and the occasional humorous vignette. The sculptor William Behnes (1795–1864), who worked on a portrait bust of George Birkbeck, now in the College's main building, contributed in 1847 a drawing of a cherub surrounded by doves, a theme he also used in his later sculpture of *Cupid with Two Doves*, exhibited at the 1862 International Exhibition. Another drawing, of a female nude sculpture lying down on the rough marble she has been sculpted from, is by Edward Hodges Baily (1788–1867) who sculpted Lord Nelson in Trafalgar Square. Towards the end of the album, a humorous watercolour shows a man wearing a university gown, asleep by a table covered with many empty bottles, in a room strewn with a violin, globe, books and pens.

Several contributors to her album also worked for annuals, fashionable publications combining pictures with short texts. Unlike these mechanically produced pages, Mrs Birkbeck's album, marked by individual hands rather than by printing presses, is the result of gift exchanges, removed from the world of commodified culture, even as it partakes of its glamour.

The availability of the album in digital form makes it a valuable primary material for teaching – it is already being used in MA modules on 'Romantic Objects' and 'The Book Unbound', taught in the School of Arts. It is also going to enable further research on the cultural, social and political networks of Regency London that clustered around the Birkbecks.

A fuller discussion of Mrs Birkbeck's album is available in 19: *Interdisciplinary Studies on the Long Nineteenth Century* (No1, 2005), a freely available e-journal published by the Birkbeck Centre for Nineteenth-Century

Studies (<http://19.bbk.ac.uk/index.php/19/article/view/435>).

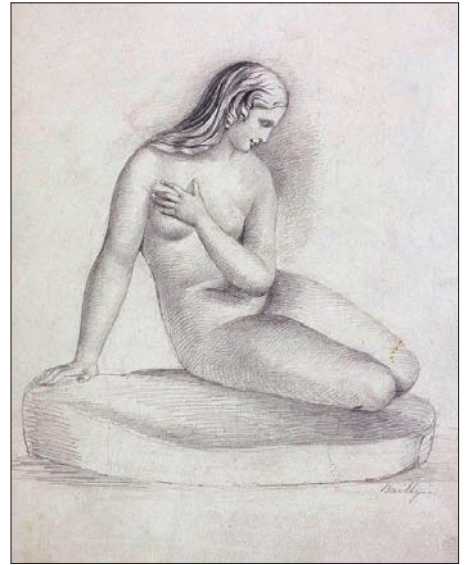
By 2010, the album was in a very poor state of repair. It had become a major concern for the Director of Library and Media Services, Philip Payne, that part of the College's heritage was literally falling apart. Its fragile state meant that it would not be possible for researchers and others to consult the volume for much longer. It was decided that digitisation and conservation of the album would be the first project funded by alumni library memberships.

A specialist survey identified that the album should be digitised before the conservation work was undertaken. The album was photographed and the high-quality images were put into a special online collection on Luna (a digital image management system). The Luna software allows the collection of images to be recreated as an online book. This means that the pages can be turned as if looking at the original volume. However, it is also possible to zoom in on specific pages to see the detail of this magnificent work.

Having addressed the issue of digitisation, the album is now being professionally conserved by the Special Collections team in Senate House Library. Meticulous attention is being paid to these treatments to ensure that the volume is sensitively preserved. This painstaking work will ensure the integrity of the original volume, enabling the preservation of Birkbeck's rich heritage for future generations.

Mrs Birkbeck's Album can be freely consulted at [www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/elib/digitalimages/diary-of-mrs-birkbeck](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/elib/digitalimages/diary-of-mrs-birkbeck)

Information about the album contents was provided by Patrizia di Bello, Lecturer in the Department of History of Art and Screen Media.



# Financial summary

## 2008–2011

Income and Expenditure Account	2010–2011 £000	2009–2010 £000	2008–2009 £000
<b>Income</b>			
Funding council grants	38,103	38,945	36,316
Academic fees and support grants	35,429	26,825	22,944
<b>Research grants and contracts</b>			
Research councils	4,143	4,322	4,747
Charity	2,385	2,693	2,031
Government/Health	1,641	1,980	2,503
Industry	196	260	208
EU Government and other bodies	357	549	824
Overseas and other	379	366	462
Total research grants and contracts	9,101	10,170	10,775
Other operating income	5,241	5,320	5,734
Endowment income and interest	740	118	174
<b>Total income</b>	<b>88,614</b>	<b>81,378</b>	<b>75,943</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff costs	55,559	55,599	53,002
Other operating costs	23,438	23,924	21,276
Depreciation	2,887	2,502	2,709
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>81,884</b>	<b>82,025</b>	<b>76,987</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) after depreciation	6,730	(647)	(1,044)
Transfer (to)/from endowment funds	18	22	(43)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) retained in general reserves</b>	<b>6,748</b>	<b>(625)</b>	<b>(1,087)</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
Fixed Assets	68,791	67,128	65,708
Endowment Assets	3,374	3,124	2,781
Net Current Assets	17,173	10,707	1,708
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>89,338</b>	<b>80,959</b>	<b>70,197</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
Deferred capital grants	48,311	47,635	37,592
Endowments	3,374	3,124	2,781
Revaluation reserve	1,706	1,001	–
Income and expenditure reserve	35,947	29,199	29,824
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>89,338</b>	<b>80,959</b>	<b>70,197</b>

# Student statistics 2010–2011



## Students

	Part-time	Full-time
Undergraduate	4660	23
Postgraduate taught	3310	895
Postgraduate research	528	342
Other undergraduate	8064	



## Gender

	Male	Female
Undergraduate	2149	2534
Other undergraduate	3136	4928
Postgraduate taught	1867	2338
Postgraduate research	444	426



## Age

	18–20	21–29	30+
Undergraduate	169	2002	2512
Other undergraduate	444	2585	5035
Postgraduate	5	2060	3010
Total	618	6647	10557

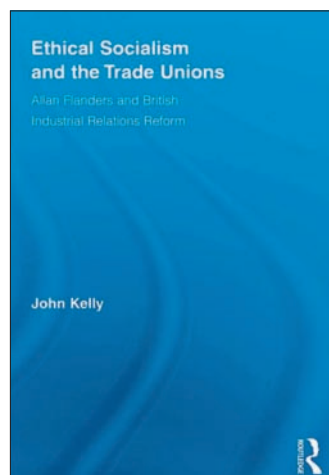


## Qualifications

Bachelors degree	567	PgCert/PgDip	190
UGCerts/Diplomas	2	Research degrees	127
Foundation degrees	89	Extra-mural Certificates/ Diplomas	2282
Master's degree	1325		

# Birkbeck books 2010–2011

## A selection of titles authored or edited by our academic staff



**Ethical Socialism and the Trade Unions: Allan Flanders and British Industrial Relations Reform**  
John Kelly, Routledge 2010

Allan Flanders was a leading British industrial relations academic, whose ideas exerted a major influence on government labour policy in the 1960s and 1970s. He was also a lifelong political activist, trained in German revolutionary ethical socialism in the early 1930s.

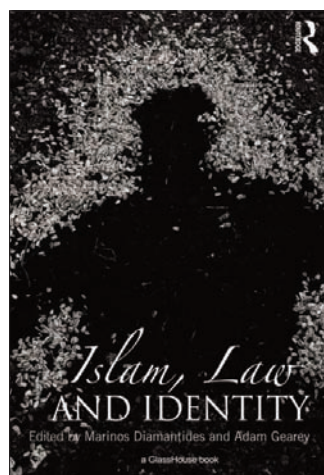
Author John Kelly (Department of Management) argues that Flanders' ethical socialist ideas constituted both his strength and his weakness. Their clarity and sweep enabled him to influence government attempts to negotiate labour reforms with the trade unions. Yet Flanders proved unable to explain the failure of the reforms amidst rising levels of industrial conflict, as his intellectual rigour turned into ideological rigidity.



**Feelings (Shortcuts series)**  
Stephen Frosh, Routledge 2011

Everyone talks about their feelings, but what exactly are they? What are their distinguishing features, and how do they differ from emotions and affects? How do our feelings influence the kinds of people we are, and the sorts of communities and societies in which we live?

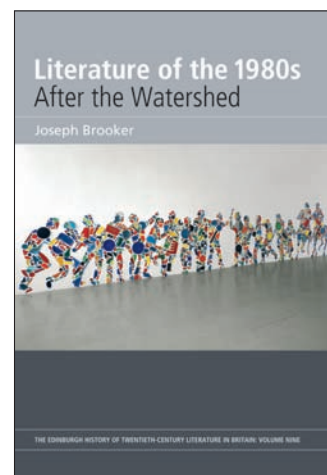
Stephen Frosh (Department of Psychosocial Studies) interrogates the terrain of feelings and asks how this 'hidden' dimension of the self helps shape our worlds. *Feelings* provides an accessible and thought-provoking introduction to the major debates around feelings in the modern world. It aims to engage students, academics and anyone with an interest in gaining a better understanding of this fundamental area of life.



**Islam, Law and Identity**  
Marinos Diamantides and Adam Gearey (Eds),  
Routledge-Cavendish 2011

The essays in *Islam, Law and Identity* are the product of a series of interdisciplinary workshops convened over two years in London, Cairo and Izmir. They focus on recent debates about the nature of sacred and secular law and offer case studies from countries including Egypt, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Pakistan and the UK. Marinos Diamantides and Adam Gearey (School of Law) also address broader concerns about relationships between religion, human rights, law and modernity.

Drawing on a variety of theoretical and empirical approaches, the collection presents law as central to the complex ways in which different Muslim communities and institutions create and re-create their identities around inherently ambiguous symbols of faith.

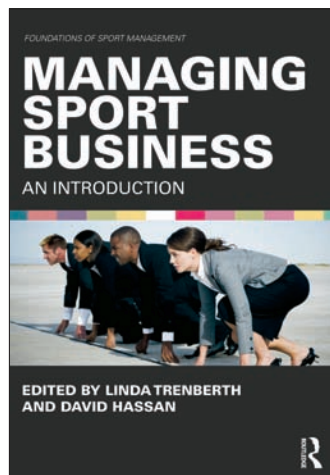


**Literature of the 1980s: After the Watershed**  
Joseph Brooker,  
Edinburgh University Press 2010

From the new generation of London novelists, such as Martin Amis and Ian McEwan, to feminism in the writing of Angela Carter and Jeanette Winterson, Joe Brooker (Department of English and Humanities) relates developments in fiction, poetry and drama to social change. He shows how working class writers such as James Kelman and Tony Harrison protested against Thatcherism, and he explores the voices of Black British writers such as Fred D'Aguiar and Hanif Kureishi.

As for the theory of the decade, Brooker relates the rise of postmodernism to the popularity of self-conscious modes of writing and other developments in literary theory.



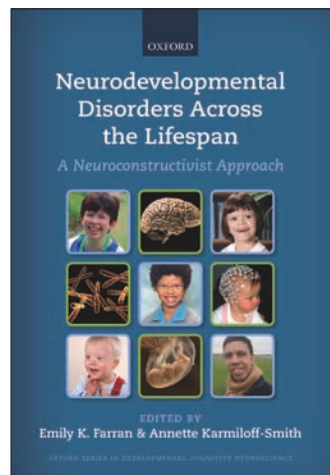


**Managing Sport Business: An Introduction**  
Linda Trenberth (co-editor with David Hassan), Routledge 2011

Contemporary sport is both a sophisticated and complex international business and a mass participatory practice run largely by volunteers and community organisations.

*Managing Sport Business*, co-edited by Linda Trenberth (Department of Management) is an authoritative and comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of sport management and helps to explain the modern commercial environment that shapes sport at all levels. It provides clear and sensible guidance on best practice in sport management, from elite sport to the local level.

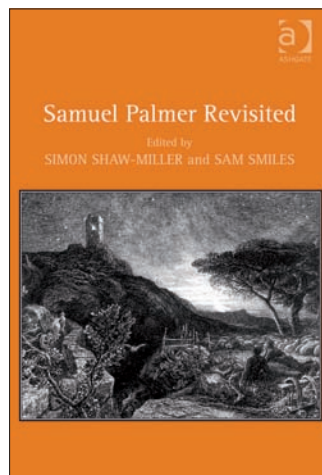
Essential reading for all students of sport management and sport business, it provides a complete package of theory, applied practical skills and a state-of-the-art review of modern sport business.



**Neurodevelopmental Disorders Across the Lifespan: A neuroconstructivist approach**  
Annette Karmiloff-Smith (co-edited with Emily K Farran), Oxford University Press 2011

It is now widely accepted that there is no single influence – be it nature or nurture – on cognitive development. Cognitive abilities emerge as a result of interactions between gene expression, cortical and subcortical brain networks, and environmental influences. Co-editor Annette Karmiloff-Smith (Department of Psychological Sciences) has chosen a well-defined disorder, Williams syndrome, to explore the impact of genes, brain development and behaviour, as well as the individual's environment, on development.

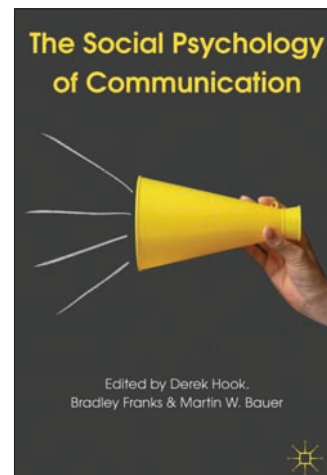
The first book to consider atypical development across multiple levels, it covers development from infancy to adulthood, encouraging the reader to think about the importance of development in understanding neurodevelopmental disorders.



**Samuel Palmer Revisited**  
Simon Shaw-Miller (co-editor with Sam Smiles), Ashgate 2010

These deliberately diverse essays, co-edited by Simon Shaw-Miller (Department of History of Art and Screen Media), reassess the life and work of the popular nineteenth-century artist Samuel Palmer. While other scholarly publications have primarily considered the artist in isolation, the essays in *Samuel Palmer Revisited* examine his work in relation to a wider art world.

The contributors analyse areas of Palmer's life and output that have, until now, received little attention and provide a fresh perspective on his work, its context and influence, reinstating the study of Palmer's work within broader debates about landscape and cultural history.



**The Social Psychology of Communication**  
Derek Hook (co-editor with Bradley Franks and Martin W Bauer), Palgrave Macmillan 2011

The first comprehensive introduction to social psychological perspectives on communication, this accessible guide, co-edited by Derek Hook (Department of Psychosocial Studies), offers an overview of key theoretical approaches from a variety of different disciplines, including cognitive, developmental and evolutionary psychology, as well as practical guidance on how to implement communication interventions in differing contexts.

An invaluable resource for students, academics and practitioners in psychology and communication, *The Social Psychology of Communication* includes a section on special topics in communication, including identity and resistance, rumour and gossip, evolution and communication.

## Alan Milburn

# Independent Reviewer on Social Mobility & Child Poverty



In recent years it has become commonplace to focus on the economic good that universities bring to Britain. Today there needs to be an equal focus on the social good universities should bring. Over the last year, my team and I have visited many universities with different histories, missions and visions for the future. It has become clear that for some universities, broadening access is deeply ingrained in their DNA. Birkbeck is a great example of an institution which, from its outset, has been dedicated to the improvement of people's lives through the power of education. Birkbeck understands that quality and diversity are not values that conflict; rather, they are mutually reinforcing.

### Part-time study and social mobility

Too often the debate on higher education suggests there is only one route into university. The reality is that 40 percent of undergraduate students are part-time. Many are mature. That is good for social mobility as it widens the

Below: From 2012, everyone will have the opportunity to gain a higher education qualification (Jon Moore)



net of potential students. In that regard, I was particularly impressed by Birkbeck's initiative to provide higher education programmes in Sure Start centres in deprived areas.

We will not create a mobile society unless we can create a level playing field of opportunity. As our economy becomes ever more reliant on high levels of skills and education they will become more crucial to social mobility in the future.

We are fortunate in the UK to have some of the greatest universities in the world. A university education changes lives. In recent years, more and more people have been able to enjoy those benefits. In the 1960's there were 200,000 university students. Today there are over 2.5 million. But that great expansion, with young people now 20% more likely to go on to higher education than in the mid-1990s, is coming to an end. In future, universities will need to work ever harder to ensure they are guaranteeing fair access to the widest possible pool of talent. Obviously government policy – such as tuition fees – counts here, but so too do the policies of the universities themselves.

Access to university remains inequitable. Young people from lower-income groups are still under-represented – pupils from a deprived background are half as likely to go on to study at university as their peers from professional backgrounds. In recent years, universities – taken as a whole – have tried hard to address these problems. They have embarked on a myriad of outreach, mentoring, aspiration raising and widening access schemes. I applaud those efforts. I have seen many tremendous initiatives that are delivering great results. But taken as a whole, much more needs to be done.

If we want to see social progress, the principle we should surely be aiming for, as a country, is to ensure that all those who have the ability, aptitude and potential to benefit from a university education should be able to do so. That requires of our universities that they pursue approaches that broaden the range of those they recruit as students. The social mobility agenda should not just be part of the corporate responsibility of a university, but should be at the heart of what each and every university is there to do. In many ways Birkbeck is showing how that can be done. I hope it continues to do so in the years to come.

Alan Milburn was appointed as Independent Reviewer on Social Mobility and Child Poverty by the Coalition Government. He will present his report on social mobility through higher education in Spring 2012.



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Cover image: From Mrs Birkbeck's Diary, a picture from the original (as its caption in the album explains) of the famous Mosaico delle Colombe (Mosaic of the Doves), a second century BC mosaic found in the Villa Adriana (now in the Museo Capitolino in Rome).

Image p35, top left:

Pen and ink picture illustrating a long poem by John Thelwall (1764-1835) apologising to Mrs Birkbeck for not fulfilling sooner his promise of a poem.

Image p35, top right:

A pencil drawing of Edward Hodges Baily's famous sculpture *Eve at the Fountain*.

Other images p35:

Some drawings in the album are likely to be by the sculptor William Behnes, who created George Birkbeck's portrait bust, and is known to have borrowed Mrs Birkbeck's album for some time.

Image bottom left, p6: Robert Garrett Collection of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, No. 126, fol. 154r, Princeton University Library, New York (by permission of the Manuscripts Division Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library).

**Birkbeck is unique.** Part of the University of London, our mission is to make the very best higher education accessible to all. We are a world-class research and teaching institution and we specialise in evening higher education for non-traditional students. In 2011 we were ranked in the top 150 research-intensive universities in the world and our students voted us number one in London for the quality of our teaching. We educate a community of learners as diverse as the capital city population. Over 17,000 students study with us annually on a wide range of programmes to suit every entry level, gaining University of London qualifications.

As London's evening university, we offer the unique opportunity to fit university study around busy lives – and Birkbeck is geared to supporting the needs of students who are juggling work or other commitments with evening study. Students frequently tell us that 'Birkbeck changed my life'. Evenings are when Birkbeck comes alive, when students arrive from across London to study with us.

The College was founded in 1823 by Dr George Birkbeck, who started a revolution in London's education system by establishing a college specifically for working people. At a critical time of change for universities and students in England, Birkbeck's plans breathe new life into its traditional mission and enable the College to continue to balance the highest quality university education with a powerful ongoing commitment to accessibility and social mobility.



Birkbeck is a world-class research and teaching institution, a vibrant centre of academic excellence and London's only specialist provider of evening higher education.

