

research forum

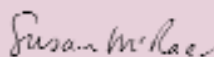
A newsletter for the **research community**

New PVC for Research

As you will no doubt be aware, my term of office as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) finished at the end of July.

I am delighted to announce that Professor Diana Woodhouse has been appointed as my successor from 1 September 2005. Diana is an Assistant Dean in the School of Social Sciences and Law and will continue with this role on a half-time basis, combining it with the Pro Vice-Chancellor role, also half-time. This issue of *Research Forum* profiles Diana's research experiences in Forum Focus (pages 6–7).

Personally, I am looking forward to returning to life as an active researcher and finally writing the book that has been following me around for too many years to count. I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past three and a half years and to wish both Diana and everyone involved with research at Oxford Brookes all the very best for the future.



Professor Susan McRae

Fourth European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education

Oxford Brookes University hosted the Fourth European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education in August/September 2005. Delegates arrived in Oxford on 31 August where they were welcomed by the Lord Mayor at a civic reception held in the Town Hall.

The conference was the result of a partnership between Oxford Brookes University, the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, the Equality Challenge Unit, and the European Network of Gender Equality in Higher Education. It was the fourth in a series of European conferences on equality between men and women in higher education since 1989, with previous conferences held in Helsinki, Zurich and Genoa.

Men outnumber women in all the most powerful positions in universities and this conference brought together 170 delegates to explore the underlying reasons for the persistence of gender inequality, and to develop practical ways to give more value to women's work and to achieve gender equality.

International and UK academics and practitioners presented over 80 papers, workshops and posters, organised into five broad themes: women's careers, work in academia, student experience and the curriculum, institutional policies and practices, and national policies. In addition, six distinguished keynote speakers addressed plenary sessions.



Professor Teresa Rees, Cardiff University, addressing the conference

Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal of Somerville College and Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford presented a paper entitled 'Real choice a threat or an opportunity?'

Professor Virginia Valian, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Linguistics at Hunter College and the Graduate Centre of the City University of New York gave a paper: 'Why so slow? The advancement of women'. Reviewers have called her book of the same title 'compelling', 'scholarly and convincing', 'accessible and lively' and 'a breakthrough in the discourse on gender'.

Professor Harriet Bjerrum Nielson, Professor in Gender Studies and Education at the University of Oslo and Academic Director of the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research spoke about gender inequality in Swedish higher education in a paper entitled 'Timing and tactics. Revitalising gender equity work at universities. The case of Oslo'.

Pierre Bismuth, Senior HR Executive for Schlumberger and adviser to the EU on diversity issues for international companies spoke on 'The business case of gender diversity'.

Professor Teresa Rees, Professor in Social Sciences at Cardiff University gave a paper entitled 'Gendered construction of scientific excellence'.

Professor Kate Pretty, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Cambridge presented a witty and illuminating after-dinner speech: 'Chasing a moving target; the increasing complexities of equality'.

The UK took up the Presidency of the EU in July 2005 and the conference received the official endorsement of the UK Presidency. Papers from the conference will be included in a special edition of *Employee Relations* edited by Dr Liz Doherty and Simonetta Manfredi, co-directors of the University's Centre for Diversity Policy Research, and published in October 2006.

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*Contributions are welcome
from all sections of
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Human-wildlife conflict in Uganda



Women working in the field

Leading international conservation agencies have named human-wildlife conflict as a conservation priority for the century. Growing competition between people and wildlife, through increasing human population and habitat fragmentation and degradation, are cited as potential causes of human-wildlife conflict. Conflict may also escalate through increasing animal populations, as a result of successful conservation programmes, and/or the declining value of wildlife to local people – a consequence of the change from wildlife as common property to state-owned, and thus state controlled.

University anthropologist **Dr Catherine Hill**, of the Anthropology Centre for Conservation, Environment and Development, has been

awarded £140,000 by the Leverhulme Trust with **Professor Katherine Homewood**, University College London, to examine human-wildlife conflict in Uganda over a three-year period. The project will use the growing problem of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) crop-raiding in the Hoima District to examine the relationship between changing land use patterns, habitat loss, changing socio-economic conditions, and human-wildlife conflict to understand how future clashes can be better managed.

Dr Hill said: 'Uganda is an ideal site for this study. Human population density is increasing at an estimated 3% per annum and extensive forest clearance in certain regions has created a fragmented landscape with pockets of remnant forest surrounded by agriculture. These forests, protected and unprotected, provide a refuge for a diversity of threatened species, including chimpanzees. However, recent government initiatives, funded by external development agencies, are promoting cash cropping instead of subsistence farming to reduce rural poverty, resulting in further clearance of forest fragments. Alongside this, increasing reports of chimpanzee-farmer conflict (and other human-wildlife conflicts) in agricultural areas, such as Hoima District, indicate a growing problem requiring informed intervention.'

The project comprises two components. A detailed case study of farmer-chimpanzee conflict in Hoima District, Uganda, examining the issue from both farmer and chimpanzee perspectives will be completed by two PhD students, Karen Hiser and Matt McLennan. The second part of the project will build on the case study by examining how changing habitat structure, conflict rates, human population density, and agricultural policies and practice might precipitate people-wildlife conflict in Hoima District and other parts of Uganda.

The project offers a unique opportunity to explore a priority area of conservation research within an interdisciplinary framework, incorporating social and natural science methods and perspectives that link the fields of anthropology, primatology, conservation, and development. Dr Hill said: 'We expect that a better understanding will result of the inter-relationships between shifting land use patterns, changing socio-economic conditions, habitat loss and people-wildlife relationships. This could lead to reforms in development and land use policy that reduce the risk of further conflict escalation, while taking into account the livelihood needs of rural populations.'

Second mock RAE

The University is carrying out a second mock RAE this year with all potential units of assessment taking part. All colleagues who potentially qualify for submission are being identified by schools and included in a mock submission report that follows the official guidelines issued in July 2005. It is important to remember that this exercise is designed to gain further information and to enhance our understanding about our research performance so far. No member of staff who might qualify for inclusion in 2007 should be excluded from consideration at this stage.

In many schools, staff are being included in more than one unit of assessment's submission in order to identify where their strengths are best recognised. Sometimes an alternative unit of assessment lies within the same school; in most cases, however, it is in a different school. Ultimately, if staff are submitted across school boundaries, equitable financial rewards from the RAE will come back to the home school. In the short-term, cross-school submissions might reveal new opportunities for collaboration.

Following the procedures developed in the first mock RAE, unit of assessment submissions will be sent to external assessors in October. Assessors have been asked to comment on the research output of the unit using the categories established for RAE 2008, and to return their comments by the end of December 2005. Throughout January, February and March, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) will meet with school research directors and deans and a senior researcher from another school to discuss each unit of assessment. A report on each unit of assessment will subsequently be made available to deans for discussion with colleagues. The Pro Vice-Chancellor will report to Executive Board in May 2006 on the outcomes of the second mock RAE.

rae2008
Research Assessment Exercise

Startling new report on Japanese asylum policy



Professor Meryll Dean

In stark contrast to the image Japan seeks to promote, namely as a country which is the second largest donor to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and one with extensive programmes for overseas aid and assistance, a report by Professor Meryll Dean, Head of the Department of Law, reveals for the first time the full extent of Japan's failure to fulfil its obligations under international law.

In a highly unusual step, the UNHCR commissioned Professor Dean to write a report on Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Japan. Normally, UNHCR reports examine the human rights record of countries that produce refugees rather than those that receive them. However, Japan's record is poor both as a country which accepts refugees and in

its treatment of those who arrive seeking asylum.

Japan joined the United Nations (UN) in 1956 but did not become party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol until 1981. Between 1982 and 2004, Japan received 3,544 applications for asylum but granted refugee status in just 330 cases. During the 1990s the country recognised just one or two applicants a year. In 2005, this reached 15, of which eight were dependants and not primary applicants. In 2004, Japan was ranked 48th out of 50 industrialised countries in relation to the number of refugees accepted per 1,000 of population (UNHCR, 2005). Only Korea (49th) and Georgia (50th) accepted fewer.

Professor Dean's report asks why, when Japan is the second largest economy in the world and signatory to most of the major international human rights instruments, are there so few applicants? She said: 'This question is all the more interesting given Japan's proximity to some of the world's significant refugee-producing countries. For example, China is a near neighbour with a poor human rights record and has consistently ranked as one of the highest refugee-producing countries, yet Japan has only recognised three Chinese seekers – and one of those was after eleven years and three attempts.'

According to Professor Dean, the answer lies in a procedure that the Japanese government would prefer not to be widely known or discussed, namely the Landing Prevention Facilities (LPF). It is estimated by Japanese Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that as many as 10,000 potential refugee applicants never reach immigration control. Picked up before formal entry procedures can be attempted, they are sent to LPFs at the international airports or taken to Airport Rest Houses run by private security firms before being deported. Amnesty International and Japanese NGOs have documented cases of ill-treatment and abuse of human rights that demonstrate that Japan is failing to observe its obligations under international law. In addition, the deportations are contrary to the principle of *non-refoulement* contained in Article 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention; that is, an undertaking not to return asylum seekers to the countries where they have been persecuted or are in fear of persecution.

Japan's scant regard for international law was illustrated in January 2005 when the Japanese government deported two Kurdish refugees who had been granted mandate status by the UNHCR (recognised as in need of international protection). This was unprecedented and prompted the UNHCR to issue one of its strongest condemnations on record. Furthermore

the government had previously sent a Ministry of Justice delegation to Turkey (the alleged persecutors of the Kurds) to discuss the refugees with local officials. Since the Ministry of Justice is responsible for refugee status decisions there was an obvious conflict of interest and a breach of the principle of confidentiality of cases. The visit resulted in subsequent reports of Kurdish families coming to the adverse attention of the Turkish authorities and placed Kurdish returnees at risk of further persecution. It should be noted that Japan has never granted refugee status to a Kurdish asylum seeker.

Professor Dean's report shows that Japan continues to pursue restrictive closed-door policies toward asylum seekers and refugees and treats those detained pending decisions in ways which breach their human rights. In addition, procedures for refugee determination and appeals are seriously flawed and lacking in transparency and Japan has shown a clear willingness to flout international law and ignore its obligations under international treaties to which it is a signatory. Whilst this research will throw an unwelcome spotlight on a dark corner of Japan's policy and practices, it may also generate international pressure at a time when Japan seeks its long-coveted permanent seat on the UN Security Council and thereby effect change and improvement.

Informed consent in a changing environment

The first major conference organised within the Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Network (see *Research Forum*, Volume 2, Issue 2) was held at St Catherine's College, Oxford in June. This brought together 50 participants from around the world, including Estonia, Ghana, Kenya, Canada and Great Britain for two days of discussion and debate on the topic of informed consent in 'low risk' health and medical research.

One of the most exciting aspects of the conference was the discussion and debate between social scientists, anthropologists, philosophers, doctors, lawyers and historians. Empirical data on informed consent challenged traditional philosophical and legal concepts but, in turn, raised further issues that will require ethical, and more general conceptual, analysis.

Abstracts of the papers and an overview of the main themes of the conference are available on the discussion website at <http://ssl.brookes.ac.uk/mdhrn/Conference/index.htm>.

Financial support for the conference was provided by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Wellcome Trust, Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford.

Reusing brownfield sites



CABERNET members at Stormont, Belfast, 2005

In 2002 **Dr Katie Williams** of the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD) was invited to join an EU-funded expert network on the regeneration of brownfield sites. The invitation arose as a result of Dr Williams' previous research on land reuse and urban sustainability policies. The network – entitled CABERNET as a shorthand for the Concerted Action on Economic and Brownfield Regeneration Network – had 55 members from 21 countries, most of whom were practitioners, and was co-ordinated by teams from the University of Nottingham and the German Federal Environment Agency.

The network aimed to facilitate solutions for urban brownfields. Its official vision was to 'Enhance rehabilitation of brownfield sites, within the context of sustainable development of European cities by the provision of an intellectual framework for co-ordinated research and development of tools'. However, as Dr Williams recalled: 'At our first meeting, we realised that we didn't even have a shared understanding of what a brownfield site was, and that each country was at a different stage in terms of policies and solutions. So the first job was to agree a common definition – we agreed "brownfield" meant any previously developed site – and to gather information on the state of the art in each country. Once this was completed, we could concentrate on identifying problems and solutions in a number of specific areas.'

Six working groups were established, each of which published position papers, conceptual models, and recommendations for research. Published reports were on subjects as diverse as citizen participation in brownfield development, recommendations for EU policy action, and social and cultural objectives to consider in land reuse.

Dr Williams said: 'Standing back now the network has officially ended, it is clear that real progress was made. There is a far better understanding at the European level of the scale and nature of the problem of brownfield sites, and also of the opportunities for good practice in rehabilitation. We learnt from each others' experiences of differing approaches to land reuse and how best to tackle particular problems. We were able to advise the EU on best practice in policy, financial instruments and the skills required to rehabilitate land successfully. We also collated a huge amount of information on successful case studies of regeneration schemes from around Europe.'

The network is continuing on a self-funding basis and hosted a major conference in Belfast in 2005. For more information see www.CABERNET.org.uk.

Culture and spatial strategy

The Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD) was recently commissioned by Culture South West to carry out research that will ensure that the cultural dimension is fully reflected in the Government's regional spatial strategy for South West England. Culture South West is a partnership organisation dedicated to supporting, championing, and promoting culture across the region. The culture dimension encompasses activities and events from performance, visual arts and heritage to sport, media and tourism that strengthen and add value to the regional cultural infrastructure. In the South West, the cultural sector employs over 117,000 people and has an annual turnover nearing £6 billion.

Professor Martin Elsom, who carried out the research with **Lesley Downing**, said: 'There are many potential links between the cultural agenda and the aims of spatial planning, and it is important that cultural interests are considered in strategy development and investment decisions at regional level. The basic rationale of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006–26 is to predict and guide the spatial development of the region over the long-term. It provides an opportunity to achieve greater co-ordination and consistency in community infrastructure requirements and to raise the profile of cultural facilities in particular.'

Professor Elsom's and Ms Downing's report, *Culture and the Regional Spatial Strategy of the South West*, provides an account of the priorities and programmes of partner agencies that have a particular importance for spatial planning. Many cultural providers have not traditionally thought long-term or strategically; nor, most importantly, spatially. Lesley Downing said: 'Their tendency is to think in terms of new and expanded activities and experiences, rather than facilities, locations, and buildings; although the cultural sector in the South West has been effective in supporting regeneration. Recent successes include landmark cultural projects such as the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth, the Plymouth Theatre Royal Production Centre, the Eden Project, and Tate St Ives, all of which have led to the creation of new jobs, higher retail expenditure, and an increased number of visitors.'

Recommendations offering a way forward for Culture South West and its partners included:

- an update of the Regional Cultural Strategy with a clear spatial dimension taking into account questions of spatial concentration versus dispersal of facilities
- an assessment by regional cultural agencies of different approaches to provision and their usefulness in fostering increased participation
- the preparation of comprehensive and strategic guidance for planning obligations for cultural activity in selected sub-regions
- a study to examine the scope for and success of Joint Service (activity) Centres for aspects of cultural provision
- an investigation of the validity of different forms of joint cultural service centres in rural locations, and other ways of improving participation in rural areas, in the context of the regeneration and social inclusion agendas
- an investigation of the preferred form, and methods of working, for sub-regional cultural partnerships in the region
- an investigation of the links between characterisation, the protection of culturally valued elements of an area, and tourism activity.

The report is available at www.culturesouthwest.org.uk.

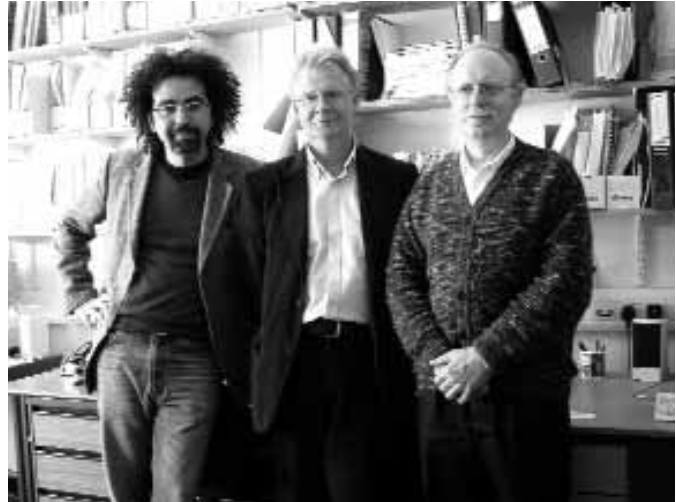
Social capital, social cohesion, and immigration

University researchers have taken part in a major new research programme on immigration policy funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF). **Professor Roger Zetter, Nando Sigona, and Dr David Griffiths** of the Development and Forced Migration Research Unit in the School of the Built Environment explored how migrant communities identify and develop resources and networks, how they interact with the host society, and what these processes may reveal about the cohesiveness of migrant communities.

Immigration policy has played a key role in the UK's political landscape since the early 1990s. Six major pieces of controversial legislation on immigration and asylum alongside citizenship tests, ID cards, managed migration policy, asylum reception centres, and restrictions on migrants, testify to the political saliency of the issue. The timeliness of the JRF-funded project is further underscored by Government action to prioritise community cohesion policies to tackle the impact of migration on community relations and what it has termed 'parallel lives'.

Building on earlier research funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, Professor Zetter and his colleagues carried out interviews with 15 migrant organisations in the UK, in collaboration with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. Professor Zetter said: 'Not surprisingly, the relationship which emerges in the study between social capital, social cohesion and immigration is complex and contradictory. The social capital of migrant groups and their links to wider social networks are mediated by many factors, not just the organisational characteristics and specific needs of the migrant communities themselves: the immigration policy environment of restrictionism and repression has been particularly instrumental.'

Some of the project's findings directly question Government policy. For example, contrary to the Government's current stance, the study reinforces the view that cohesion is a two-way process – the interactions which take place between migrant communities and local hosts and vice versa, not just the performance of migrant communities themselves. Further, competing national policy agendas were found to challenge the policy of cohesion the Government seeks to promote, thereby encouraging separation by migrant groups, who perceive themselves as outsiders and form their own social capital as a defensive reaction to exclusion.



Left to right: Nando Sigona, Dr David Griffiths and Professor Roger Zetter

In support of the Government's policies, the study highlights the significance of social networks, leadership, community bonds, and trust as the basis of social cohesion and the development of social relations between different groups. Professor Zetter said: 'Migrant communities often develop social capital as an initial process of organising their needs and delineating boundaries between themselves and the settled community. Difference and separateness are used to negotiate entry into the host society, not to define a permanent separate identity. Once access has been obtained to public and welfare services, perhaps specific ethnic health or educational priorities, ethnic difference may be less significant than cohesion on wider community aims and shared values.'

Migrant groups cope effectively with the demands of multinational social and ethnic identities: globalisation means this is part and parcel of their contemporary world. In other words, separateness and cohesion coexist, but this is a challenge for migrant communities in a host society that increasingly demands unilateral assimilation under the guise of cohesion.

New centre launched to research human resources issues



A new centre dedicated to linking academic and practitioner research was opened by the Business School in February 2005. The Centre for Applied Human Resource Research (CAHRR) is a collaboration with Capital Consulting Ltd. It brings key corporate expertise into the University through its advisory board, which includes 25 corporate human resource (HR) directors from major UK companies, including Lloyds TSB, Kingfisher, B&Q, Arriva, T-Mobile, and Whitbread.

The new centre is being guided by a management committee comprising Co-Directors Professor William Scott-Jackson from Capital Consulting, Mr Richard Beresford from the Business School's Enterprise Centre, and Dr Denise Skinner, leader of the HR Management and Organisational Behaviour Research Team within the

Business School. Colleagues in the Centre have recently completed two projects:

- *Getting the basics right: a guide measuring the value of your workforce* – undertaken in collaboration with Oracle on behalf of the Chartered Management Institute
- *HR outsourcing* – a best practice guide produced on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Five further projects are in the pipeline, alongside a collaborative project with the British Psychological Society to explore client use and perception of benefits of the services of occupational psychologists.

Forum focus

An interview with **Professor Diana Woodhouse**, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Assistant Dean, School of Social Sciences and Law



Diana Woodhouse was appointed as a graduate teaching assistant in 1989 and as lecturer in law in the Business School in 1991. She became Head of the Department of Law in 1998, following its integration into the School of Social Sciences in 1996. She was awarded a personal professorship in 2000 and since 2002 has been Assistant Dean for Research and Development in the School of Social Sciences and Law. In September 2005, Professor Woodhouse took up a new role as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Professor Woodhouse is the author of several books, including *Ministers and Parliament; the Theory and Practice of Accountability* (1994, Clarendon Press), *In Pursuit of Good Administration; Ministers, Civil Servants and Judges* (1997, Clarendon Press) and *The Office of Lord Chancellor* (2001, Hart Publishing, Oxford), and was editor of *The Pinochet Case: a Constitutional and Legal Analysis* (2000, Hart Publishing, Oxford). She is also published widely in both law and politics journals. She has held two Economic and Social Research

Council (ESRC) grants and is involved in several international research collaborations, including the Sino/Dutch Rule of Law project under whose auspices she gave the keynote address at a conference for Chinese judges, held in Beijing in 2004.

Professor Woodhouse has undertaken work for several public bodies, including the National Assembly for Wales, where she reviewed its standard procedures and Code of Conduct (her recommendations are currently being implemented), and the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee, for whom she acted as a special adviser to its 2004 inquiry, *Government by Inquiry*. She has given written evidence to numerous select committee inquiries and in 2004 appeared before the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to give oral evidence on the Constitutional Reform Bill.

Professor Woodhouse is a member of the Law 2008 RAE panel.

Q What was the first piece of research you were involved with?

My first research was on the accountability of Government ministers and it involved looking at the theory of ministerial responsibility and how it operated in practice.

Q What did you learn from that initial experience and has your focus been affected by it?

First and foremost I learnt how enjoyable and satisfying research can be. I also learnt some practical lessons, including the need to keep research projects tightly framed, both in terms of content and timescales, and to have a good filing system for references etc. In addition I learnt to accept advice and criticism and use it to improve my work, to ensure that I complied with the requirements of the journal I was targeting, and – a hard lesson – not to become attached to what I was writing, as this makes it difficult to edit effectively.

My research focus continues to be on the accountability of Government ministers, although it has broadened to include other aspects of public accountability and the constitution more generally.

Q What is the most recent/current project you are involved in and what particularly interested you about the work?

Thanks to a Leverhulme Study Abroad Fellowship, from January to the end of April I was Visiting Professor at the Centre for Comparative Constitutions at Melbourne University undertaking research on judicial independence and accountability. I am currently writing this up and so far have one article forthcoming in an Australasian law journal.

The reason for going to Australia (other than it being a nice place to visit, particularly during the English winter!) was to learn from their experience. Constitutional developments in the UK, notably the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights through the Human Rights Act 2000 and the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 which establishes a UK Supreme Court, have brought issues of judicial independence and accountability to the fore. Such issues have been the subject of considerable debate in Australia over the last few years and we can learn a lot by considering the UK developments in the context of these debates.

Q Who would you most like to have worked with in your field? And why?

I am fortunate in that I worked with one of the greatest names in my field – Geoffrey Marshall from Queen's College, Oxford. He was my PhD supervisor and, subsequently, my mentor. Sadly he died a couple of years ago. Looking further back than that, I would have liked to work with some of the 19th-century constitutionalists, particularly

Maitland but also Dicey and Bagehot. In different ways, they set out the principles which govern our constitutional arrangements and laid the foundations for our understanding (and at times misunderstanding) of them and the relationship between law and politics.

Q What outcomes from your research are you most proud of?

There are two in particular. The first is *Ministers and Parliament: the Theory and Practice of Accountability*, which stemmed from that first research project and was published in 1994. Not only was this well received by the academic community but, I am told, it has been, and possibly still is, required reading for senior civil servants. The second is the book on *The Office of Lord Chancellor*, published in 2001, which sets out a case for abolition and, as I understand it, was influential in the reform of the Office as detailed in the Constitutional Reform Act. The Government actually sought to abolish the Lord Chancellor but, in the face of opposition in the House of Lords, agreed to the retention of the title, albeit that its holder will no longer sit as judge or be the head of the judiciary and may be appointed from the House of Commons.

Q If time and/or money was no restriction, what areas/issues would you most like to investigate?

I have become very interested in judicial independence and accountability which has received little attention in the UK, and if I had time and money I would like to undertake a comparative study which looks at developments across a range of common and civil law countries.

Q You are now Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research. Which aspects of the position most attracted you to undertake this role?

I am particularly attracted by the prospect of operating across the University which will mean getting to know people in other schools and disciplines and learning about their research.

Q What do you think will be the most important aspect of the role in the next couple of years?

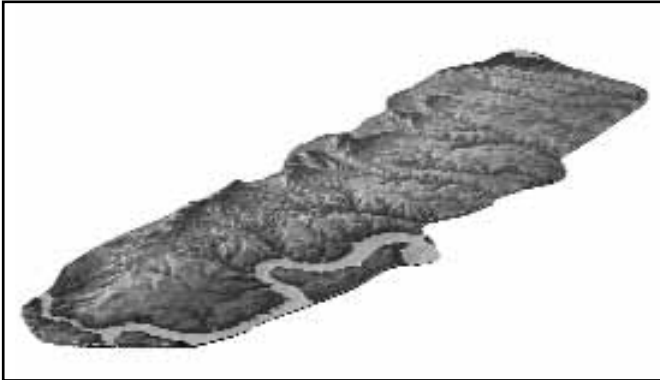
The focus will undoubtedly be on the Research Assessment Exercise.

Q What do you most want to achieve in the position?

I want to build upon the excellent foundations laid by Susan McRae and work with colleagues across the University to ensure that we achieve the best RAE outcome possible.

Sarah Taylor, Research and Business Development Office

Landscape Opportunities Visualisation Toolkit (LOViT)



GIS generated image of the Chiltern Hills

At the heart of characterising terrestrial biodiversity are databases of species and environmental data. In the UK there has been a long history of observation and recording of species' distribution, with the data forming the basis of decision-making and planning at a range of spatial scales and tiers of organisation. Species data describe the presence, abundance and changes in time and space of species' status. As a minimum, the data records comprise species' name, geographical locality of observation, date of observation and the identity of the recorder.

The concept of a strategic approach to biodiversity management has been increasingly accepted, with its central premise being the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity levels. Just over four years ago **Dr Stewart Thompson** and **Dr John Lee**, of the Spatial Ecology and Landuse Unit (SELU) in the School of Biological and Molecular Sciences were awarded a grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to build a Landscape Opportunities Visualisation Toolkit (LOViT). The Toolkit identifies the best locations in a landscape for habitat creation and for analysing, exploring and visualising the alternative conservation scenarios that arise in doing so.

LOViT utilises existing species and habitat data sources,

manipulates these data under a series of separate applications, which identify areas of core habitat and key areas for habitat expansion. Ultimately the user accesses the information via a map-based interface, which allows an examination of habitat and species conservation scenarios.

The grant was specifically awarded to support investigation into biodiversity and landscape ecology applications of distributed computing. The project aimed to build a suite of tools to enable users to collate and examine different datasets and to explore and visualise alternative scenarios for a given landscape based on a variety of different environmental starting conditions and assumptions. Initially this was undertaken outside the constraints of grid computing, but as methods, standards and software evolved it became easier to develop within a distributed architecture.

A major outcome of the project was the development of methods for spatially targeting conservation and enhancement efforts in a landscape. These methods were based on the geographical distribution of both biodiversity, in the form of protected species and habitats, and socio-economic and environmental variables such as population centres, topography and soil type. The methods were tested with an existing database of land use for the Chiltern Hills, developed on behalf of English Nature by SELU. The methods

identified several key locations in the landscape for the restoration and/or re-creation of protected or declining habitats. Many of these sites were assessed in the field for their suitability for these habitats.

Another outcome was the generation of a species database offering web service-based access. Data showing the distributions of sightings of UK Biodiversity Action Plan-listed species were collected from county records archives for Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and input to a single dataset. In the collation process, these data were standardised and where possible metadata were generated. A simple user interface was designed and web services built to enable machine-to-machine data access.

The experience and expertise gained from the project led directly to understanding of related concepts and to collaborations with other institutions. Drs Thompson and Lee worked with the Open University and the Royal College of Agriculture to examine the potential of grid computing in computational-poor environ-

ments and the use of appropriate technology. This work led to a conference presentation at the European GIS Education Seminar (EUGISES), 2004. They also collaborated with the Ordnance Survey by developing an ontology of inland topographic terms with a view to improving data interoperability and thereby informing future data products. The culmination of the project led to SELU convening and chairing the UK's first conference on e-Biodiversity at the National Institute for Environmental e-Science in Cambridge.

LOViT has the potential to be developed as an aid to environmental policy formulation, development and delivery. Recent changes to agri-environment schemes and requirement for Government to deliver on new European Union Directives provide an ideal platform against which the stated objectives of the research can be tested. In particular, the visualisation of what the take-up of environmental enhancement schemes would look like at the landscape level would be a valuable policy support tool.

Coaching and mentoring conference

The first annual coaching and mentoring research conference was held at Oxford Brookes University in April 2005. This one-day conference was attended by around 60 coaching and mentoring practitioners, students, and academics, all with an interest in the current development of research in this growing field. The conference provided an opportunity for recent graduates from the MA in Coaching and Mentoring Practice to present their work to a wider audience.

The keynote speaker was Dr Grant Ledgerwood, until recently Reader in Strategy at the University of Greenwich. Dr Ledgerwood is now Director of Academic Research for the UK College of Life Coaching (www.ukclc.net/) and the College of Executive Coaching. His talk focused on the coaching style of Admiral Viscount Nelson, whose 'Rules of Engagement' appear to echo coaching principles recognised today.

Papers from the conference were published in a special edition of the *International Journal of Evidence Based Coaching and Mentoring* in August 2005.

New publications



The Legal Framework of EU-China Investment Relations – A critical appraisal

Dr Wenhua Shan, Department of Law, School of Social Sciences and Law

EU investment in China has increased dramatically since the early 1990s and is poised to increase further in light of China's recent accession to the World Trade Organisation. Dr Shan explores and critically appraises the existing legal framework governing EU-China investment relations, particularly EU investment in China.

and East European and Soviet cinema on the other. *Hollywood behind the Wall* addresses issues that have proved central to critical debates on national cinema, but take a rather specific inflection in the context of Germany's split screen. It examines the signifying practices and narrative strategies employed by East and West German feature films in the construction of nation-building myths and competing national identities.



Spatial Planning, Urban Form and Sustainable Transport

Dr Katie Williams, Department of Architecture, School of the Built Environment

The ways in which we travel have a huge impact on sustainability. Dr Williams addresses the relationship between travel patterns and the physical form of cities, and considers the role of spatial planning in that relationship. Presented in three sections, the book combines empirical research with commentaries from leading academics and practitioners from Europe, the USA, Australia and Japan. Section one considers the impact of urban form in combination with factors such as lifestyles and socio-demographic change on sustainable transport. Section two addresses the impact of different elements of urban form, such as density, configuration and mix of uses, on mobility. The final section focuses on issues surrounding the implementation of spatial planning policies to support sustainable travel. The book will be of particular interest to practitioners, academics and students in the fields of planning, transport and geography.



Boys in Khaki, Girls in Print – Women's literary responses to the Great War 1914–1918

Dr Jane Potter, School of Arts and Humanities

Modernist texts and writings of protest have until now received most of the critical attention of literary scholars of the First World War. This book turns the spotlight on the novels and memoirs of women that appealed to a British reading public hungry for amusement, news, and above all, encouragement in the face of uncertainty and grief. The writers of 1914–18 had powerful models for interpreting their war, as a consideration of texts from the Anglo-Boer War of 1899–1902 shows. They were also bolstered by wartime publishing practices that reinforced the sense that their books, whether fiction or non-fiction, were not simply light entertainment but powerful agents of propaganda. Generously illustrated, *Boys in Khaki, Girls in Print* is a scholarly yet accessible illumination of a hitherto untapped resource of women's writing and is an important new contribution to the study of the literature of the Great War.

Music is unique among the arts in its ability to bring large numbers of people together in a communal creative activity transcending social, cultural and linguistic boundaries. This book looks at many examples of composers working in schools, community centres, hospitals and other situations which are not traditional contexts for music. Examples are taken from the UK as well as projects from other places in Europe which participated in the EU-funded *Rainbow across Europe* programme. This study examines the development over the past hundred years of what has come to be known as creative music-making, and traces its spread in other parts of Europe and beyond. It also shows how the composer's role has developed from the 19th century romantic view of a heroic figure expressing his own inner emotional life in music, towards a more socially conscious inspirational catalyst whose role is to stimulate musical creativity in others.



Hollywood behind the Wall: The cinema of East Germany

Dr Daniela Berghahn, School of Arts and Humanities

Published as the first representative history of East German film culture from 1946 to the present day, Dr Berghahn's study is based on extensive archival research and interviews with East German filmmakers and cultural officials, including the GDR's last deputy minister of culture and chief film censor. Dr Berghahn demonstrates that East German cinema occupies an ambivalent position between German national cinema on the one hand



Pathophysiology – An Essential Text for the Allied Health Professions

Dr Delva Shamley, School of Health and Social Care

Pathophysiology is a vast and rapidly changing subject in every medical and allied health professional student's programme. This book carefully selects and captures the key components in each of the subjects presented. Each chapter provides fundamental descriptions of diseases followed by current knowledge on the cellular and molecular mechanisms driving the disease processes. It includes enhanced chapters on muscle, nerve and pathophysiological effects of movement, immobility and ageing.



A Changing Role for the Composer in Society

Dr Jolyon Laycock, School of Arts and Humanities

News in brief

Congratulations to Dr Detlef Muhlberger, School of Arts and Humanities, who has been awarded the title of Professor.

Mr Pritam Singh, Business School, was elected to the Executive of the European Association of Modern Asian Studies (ESMAS) after the Association's 17th Conference in Lund, Sweden last year. ESMAS is the largest professional association in the world on modern Asian studies and Mr Singh is one of the only two elected from Britain to its Executive.

Mary Chamberlain, Professor of Caribbean History, School of Arts and Humanities, has been awarded £65,918 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to carry out research on a project entitled 'Culture, Migration and Caribbean Nationhood: Barbados and Empire, 1937-1967'. Based on oral history and using Barbados as a case study, Professor Chamberlain's research will explore decolonisation from the West Indian and British perspective.

Professor John Glasson, Associate Dean for Research, School of the Built Environment, has been appointed Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Major Review of environmental planning postgraduate (research) provision in the UK. Professor Glasson is one of the 18 chairs across the social sciences – all but two from pre-1992 universities.

Dr Wenhua Shan, School of Social Sciences and Law, was elected Editor of the Chinese Journal of International Law (CJIL). The Journal is the leading forum for articles on international law by Chinese scholars and on international law issues relating to China.

Oxford-based artist **Roma Tearne** has been awarded a prestigious £147,000 three-year Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Fellowship in the Creative and Performing Arts from October 2005. Roma Tearne is a well-known artist in the region, particularly through her work at the Ashmolean Museum in 2003 made during her research as a Leverhulme Trust Artist in Residence. Sponsored by Craig Richardson (Research Coordinator in the Arts Department, School of Arts and Humanities), the research programme, entitled 'Investigating and Accessing Narrative and Memory through Artistic Practice in a Museum Context' sets out to explore the relationship between museum and archival collections and artistic practice. The working theory is that the artist, by revealing the hidden history of objects, is able to stimulate the imagination of museum audiences and curators into new and fresh responses. Two principle sites have been identified: the Imperial War Museum and Pompeii, because each is a memorial to disaster. Her research includes installation, photography, narrative text and film and will be assessed through interactive methods including a website and audience discussion in seminar as well as on-site exhibitions.

Old Bones - Dr Simon Underdown from the Department of Anthropology, School of Social Sciences and Law, gave an interview to ITV News on Wednesday 27 April where he spoke on the re-dating of the Kent's Cavern jawbone. The bone, which has lain in Torquay Museum in Devon for nearly 80 years, was thought to be about 31,000 years old, but re-dating shows it is actually between 37,000 and 40,000 years old. However, the early dates led the team behind the research to wonder if the jawbone is actually from a Neanderthal. A new examination of the fragment along with DNA analysis could help determine this. If the bone is from homo sapiens, as is believed, it would be the oldest directly dated modern human in Europe.

In June 2005 Dr Helen Lightowler, Nutrition and Food Science Group, School of Biological and Molecular Sciences, was elected as Council Member of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health. The Society was founded in 1876 with an aim to promote continuous improvement in human health worldwide through education, communication and the encouragement of scientific research.

Dr Anna Barnett, Department of Psychology, School of Social Sciences and Law, has been awarded £102,480 from Harcourt Assessment publishing company to update Tests of Perceptual-Motor Competence in Children with Dyspraxia or Developmental Co-ordination Disorder. The project will update a popular test used by researchers, teachers, occupational therapists and physiotherapists – the Movement ABC, first published in 1992. This is a test of motor competence for children, assessing manual dexterity, ball skill and balance. It allows for the identification of children with significant movement difficulties (clumsiness). This condition, referred to as 'dyspraxia' or Developmental Co-ordination Disorder may have a serious impact on a child's life. This nine-month project, which started in July 2005, will involve an extension of the Movement ABC test to make it suitable for a wider age group than previously.

Professor Ray Ogden, acting head of the Department of Architecture, School of the Built Environment, has been asked by the steel manufacturer Corus (formerly British Steel in the UK and Hoogovens in the Netherlands) to establish the Corus Centre for the Building Envelope at Oxford Brookes. This will be a national and European centre for knowledge leadership in cladding technology, and will provide additional resources to consolidate the University's rapidly developing profile in this area. It will be closely linked to the activities of the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development technology research cluster.

Dr David Nash, Reader in History, School of Arts and Humanities, has been invited to be keynote speaker at the Conference on Blasphemy and the Sacrilegious to be held this November at the Australian National University, Canberra. The conference will discuss the concept of sacralisation and desecration in artistic creation and will address the concerns about sensitivity towards religious and cultural difference. Dr Nash will be discussing the historical context of these forms of religious and cultural conflict.

Dr Sin Yi Cheung, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, School of Social Sciences and Law, was awarded a £20,967 Study Abroad Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust to carry out research on Social Stratification in Comparative Perspectives. She will spend the coming year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of California, Los Angeles where she has been appointed honorary fellow and visiting scholar, respectively.

Ms Shelley Sacks, Principal Lecturer, School of Arts and Humanities, took part in a round table discussion connecting artists, scientists, communities and the natural world. Entitled 'Artists as Visionaries for a Sustainable Future', the discussion took place in San Francisco in June.

Dr Andrew Spicer, Senior Lecturer in Early Modern European History, School of Arts and Humanities, has been awarded a grant of £19,918 by the Wellcome Trust for a one-year project on Medical Provision and the Huguenots. This pilot study will examine the medical assistance provided for immigrants in the context of poor relief during the early modern period. Exploiting the unique survival of two sets of Huguenot records, the project will examine practical medical provision in the French-speaking communities established in London and Sandwich between 1568 and 1573.

Diary October 2005 – January 2006

Thursday 6 October

Mitochondrial oxidative stress: steps towards a model for age related disease

Dr Karl Morten, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, John Radcliffe Hospital and the Department of Physiology, University of Oxford

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane 4:10–5:00pm

Contact: Angela Robinson, ajrobinson@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 13 October

Using photoactivatable GFP to study dynamics of the plant secretory pathway

Dr John Runions, Plant Endomembrane Research, School of Biological and Molecular Sciences

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane 4:10–5:00pm

Contact: Angela Robinson, ajrobinson@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 20 October

Acetylcholine nicotinic receptors: discovery and development of new therapeutics for neurological and psychiatric diseases

Dr Emanuele Sher, Senior Research Scientist, Lilly Research Centre, Eli Lilly

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane 4:10–5:00pm

Contact: Angela Robinson, ajrobinson@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 27 October

Humpback whales in Hawaii

Sue Rees, Pond Conservation, School of Biological and Molecular Sciences

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane 4:10–5:00pm

Contact: Angela Robinson, ajrobinson@brookes.ac.uk

Friday 28 October

The School of Biological and Molecular Sciences Research, showcasing research within the School

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane

Times to be confirmed
Contact: Angela Robinson, ajrobinson@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 3 November

Orphans in the endocrine system: the role of SF-1/NR5A1 in pituitary and obesity pathways

Dr Rob Fowkes, Royal Veterinary College, London

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane 4:10–5:00pm

Contact: Angela Robinson, ajrobinson@brookes.ac.uk

Wednesday 16 November

New researcher induction and networking

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane 12:30–3:00pm (commences with lunch)

Contacts: Sarah Taylor, staylor@brookes.ac.uk or Louise Wood, louise.wood@brookes.ac.uk

Wednesday 18 January

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) support for IP workshop

Donald Mair, BBSRC

BG10/11, Buckley Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane 10:00am–2:00pm (includes lunch)

Contacts: Sarah Taylor, staylor@brookes.ac.uk or Louise Wood, louise.wood@brookes.ac.uk

Full details of **research training events** throughout the year are available on the Research and Business Development Office intranet page www2.brookes.ac.uk/researchtraining.html.

For details of **research seminars** taking place in each of the schools during the year please visit the website at: www.brookes.ac.uk/research/Seminars.html.

There will be a comprehensive generic training programme available for all research students and research supervisors during the next academic year. Details of training can also be obtained either from Jill Organ in the Graduate Office or from: www.brookes.ac.uk/research/graduate/studenttraining.html www.brookes.ac.uk/research/graduate/supertraining.html.

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

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