

research forum

A newsletter for the **research community**



Introducing the Buckley Building

We are pleased to announce that the new research building being constructed on Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane, is to be called the Buckley Building after Howard Buckley who was the Principal of Oxford College of Technology from 1956. He became the first Director of Oxford Polytechnic when it was designated on 1 April 1970, and retired later that year.

The building will be handed over in mid-August, ready for the move of departments into their new location. At this time the main building will be complete, with the associated computer/IT suite adjacent to the new building finishing by Easter 2006, along with the roof terrace connection for the Abercrombie Building. The official opening is being planned, watch this space for further information about timing and events.

Launch of new Health Research Network

The **Multidisciplinary Health Research Network** will bring health experts together, and encourage multidisciplinary research across the many university and NHS departments and independent research organisations in the Oxford area.

In his welcoming remarks, Vice-Chancellor Graham Upton said how pleased he was to see so many organisations represented, including DIPEX, five Primary Care Trusts in Oxfordshire, the Picker Institute Europe, the Royal College of Nursing Institute, the Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority, Thames Valley Primary Care Research Network, and the YWCA.

'I am delighted that Brookes is taking the lead in this initiative,' he said. 'Above all, it is the people of Oxford who will benefit. This sort of network will have a positive impact on health care for everyone.'

Chancellor Jon Snow spoke of the need for health researchers to share expertise: 'Excellent and revealing research is going on, but there is a danger that we don't link it all up.'

Reflecting on her own experience in health services' research, Angela Coulter, Chief Executive of the Picker Institute Europe and a governor of Oxford Brookes, also welcomed the initiative to encourage researchers in Oxford to work together across the sectors.

Ray Fitzpatrick, Professor of Public Health and Primary Care at the University of Oxford, said that the Network would support vital multidisciplinary work amongst those engaged in a wide array of research to improve patient care.



Left to right: Professor Angela Coulter, Professor Ray Fitzpatrick, Jon Snow, Professor Graham Upton, Professor Mary Boulton at the Network launch on 11 March

'Oxford is a very special city, best known for its basic medical research in areas such as molecular biology. What people are less aware of is that we also have a very distinctive cluster of patient-oriented work that is as striking as the lab work that grabs all the headlines,' he said.

The Network was set up by Professor Mary Boulton, of the School of Social Sciences and Law. The Network will promote multidisciplinary and collaborative research through the provision of facilities such as a website (<http://ssl.brookes.ac.uk/mdhrn/home.htm>) and register of research interests, and through seminars, meetings and conferences on subjects which draw in researchers and professionals from across disciplines and institutions.

Collaborative activities already organised include a symposium on Inspecting Health Care and a seminar series on Methodological Issues in Qualitative Health Research. An international conference on Informed Consent in Health and Medical Research will be held at the end of June.

Plans for the next academic year include a second joint seminar series with the University of Oxford, an autumn conference on General Practice and Primary Care, and a spring meeting on families and childhood disability.

If you would like to join the register of research interests or propose the subject for a meeting or conference, please contact Professor Boulton on mgboulton@brookes.ac.uk.

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*Contributions are welcome
from all sections of
Oxford Brookes University*

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Microscopy under pressure



Postdoctoral research assistant Dr Maité Vicre with laboratory manager Barry Martin

Electron microscopy is one of the few techniques that allows biologists to study, at high resolution, the structure of cells and the distribution of the many components that are needed to make this basic unit of life operational. To look at cells using a beam of electrons, it is first necessary to preserve them by fixing in a cocktail of chemicals (living cells cannot survive in the vacuum of an electron microscope) and then to slice them thinly enough (microtomy) so that the electron beam can penetrate the specimen. All this can induce structural alterations to the cell resulting in artefacts which can be seen in the final picture taken with the microscope (electron micrograph). One method of avoiding such artefacts is to preserve the cell by freezing it as quickly as possible. Unfortunately common cryogenics such as liquid nitrogen freeze tissue and cells relatively slowly and ice crystals form which

destroy cellular structure (one reason why preservation of humans by freezing, so called cryonics, will not work). However, by the application of immense high pressure milliseconds before freezing, the formation of ice crystals in cells is prevented and they are instantaneously preserved for electron microscopy without any preparative artefacts.

Over the past three years, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) has sponsored the establishment of a high-pressure freezing facility in the School of Biological and Molecular Sciences through a £290,000 grant to Professor Chris Hawes. Professor Hawes said: 'This has permitted the purchase of a BalTec high pressure freezing apparatus and the employment of postdoctoral research assistants plus technical support by Barry Martin who has become an expert in the technology. The facility and equipment has now been used by a number of plant cell biology groups around the UK and is also used to support the work on the plant secretory pathway, which is the major research area of the plant cell biology group in the School of Biological and Molecular Sciences.'

To date, one major paper has been published on the pathway of protein deposition in the castor bean seed in collaboration with researchers at Warwick University, and other publications are in preparation. A second set of major analyses to use the technology concerns analysis of the distribution of recombinant pharmaceuticals within plant cells. This project is part of the EC funded Pharma-Planta collaboration (see *Research Forum*, Volume 2 Issue 1), and involves working on the development of plants as biofactories for the production of protein-based pharmaceuticals. The current grant finished at the beginning of April and an application is currently being considered by the BBSRC for continued support of the facility.

Rural Economy on the South Downs



Post Office and local store in Alfriston, a village in the Downs

Throughout 2004 a research team within the School of the Built Environment led by Dr Jake Piper investigated the rural economy of the South Downs, looking at social, economic and environmental factors which affect the sustainable development of the region. This work was commissioned by the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and the East Hampshire Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Advisory Committee and part-funded by SEEDA. It coincided with a period in which the designation of a South Downs National Park and Park Authority were the subjects of a public inquiry - the Inspector's report is expected at the end of 2005. The key aims of the research project were to contribute to the promotion of sustainable economic and social development and to the establishment of a sustainable and integrated rural economy for the South Downs.

Dr Piper said: 'This is an area of 115,000 inhabitants - an unusually high population for a National Park. Whilst average incomes in the park are high, there is variation from west to east. Important employment areas within the park are the public sector (26% of all employees),

financial and business services (21%), and wholesale/retail distribution (14%). Employment has grown rapidly in the decade to 2002 compared with the South East overall, with resultant pressures, which our research investigated.'

Business within the South Downs economy is based not only on local land and natural resources but also upon the environmental economy and the knowledge economy. The landscape of the downs depends on downland agriculture (traditionally livestock production, but new ventures include wine production), although fewer than 5% of all employees work in the farming sector. Tourism and recreation activities are already significant within the area, but are expected to increase with National Park status. Environmental issues are important: this is an area where agriculture may be strongly affected by future CAP reform and where climate change may have major impacts. The research explored business linkages within the park and means of promoting those linkages. Barriers to development include transport and communications links, lack of affordable housing and appropriate skills, and shortages of services (banking, business linkages, shared office space, etc).

The research team undertaking the project included Dr Jake Piper, Lesley Downing, Andrew Chadwick, Jenny Crawford and Professor John Glasson. Together they employed a variety of methodologies, including a questionnaire survey of local businesses, interviews with institutional and business stakeholders in the region, and analysis of published statistics and a literature review. The outputs of the study include the compilation of a database on many social and economic indicators for the area at district and in some cases, ward level. The project clients requested guidance on measures to improve opportunities for sustainable business within the downs - these included actions aimed at business development, employment and training, infrastructure and facilities, community needs and improving sustainability.

Curating Raphael



Left to right: Giuliano Urbani, the Arts' Minister, of Italy and Dr Tom Henry

On 18 October 2004 the Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali (the Arts' Minister) of Italy, Giuliano Urbani opened an extraordinary exhibition at the National Gallery in London. *Raphael: from Urbino to Rome*, comprising more than one hundred works of art with spectacular loans from 39 collections in 13 countries, was the largest international loan exhibition of the artist's work ever to have been mounted.

The exhibition represented the fruit of six years' complex negotiations and research. It was proposed to the National Gallery in 1998, by Dr Tom Henry, Reader in the History of Art, and finally commissioned in 2000 from Dr Henry and co-curator, Carol Plazzotta. Subsequent years were spent compiling lists of works of art wanted for the exhibition from other collections, negotiating these loans, researching and writing the catalogue, lecturing, and organising two international conferences. There had never been an exhibition of Raphael's paintings and drawings in this country, but the unparalleled holdings of the artist's works in British collections (a testament to

our long-standing enthusiasm for Raphael) guaranteed success.

A painting by Raphael is almost invariably the jewel in the crown of the museum that owns it, and we had to convince these institutions to part with their fragile and priceless treasures.

Dr Henry said: 'But we also had a great story to tell – how the artist was shaped by a series of encounters in his young maturity (we took Raphael from his birth in 1483 up to 1513; he died seven years later, age 37) – and the long gestation of the exhibition allowed me to focus my research on this great artist's formative years.' Dr Henry spent four months on an Arts and

Humanities Research Board (AHRB) Research Exchange at the National Gallery. During this time, each of the nine paintings by Raphael held at the gallery was removed from display and taken to the conservation studios where they were thoroughly examined, front and back, using all the diagnostic tools available to the 21st-century art-historian (infrared reflectography, X-radiography, ultra-violet, etc).

Preparation also involved visits to prospective lenders in the pursuit of loans. Dr Henry said: 'This invisible effort is essential in exhibition planning, but never more so than when one is asking for a work by one of the greatest artists of the Renaissance. A painting by Raphael is almost invariably the jewel in the crown of the museum that owns it, and we had to convince these institutions to part with their fragile and priceless treasures. These diplomatic embassies also gave us the chance to study each of these loans very carefully, and it became increasingly clear that there was a great deal more to be said about the artist.' Newly discovered documents shedding light on Raphael's patronage and early activity also

emerged from the archives of Central Italy, and archival research was made possible by a one-year fellowship at Harvard University's Florentine outpost: Villa I Tatti (2002/03).

Dr Henry said: 'There were many hiccoughs along the way. The moment when our letter seeking advice on Vatican negotiations was faxed to the wrong cardinal, the disappointment of travelling thousands of miles to visit collections which thought they had a Raphael, only to discover that they had something else (much less interesting), the appalling moment when it looked as though the *Madonna of the Pinks* would be sold to the Getty Museum in California. The end result was, however, very close to my original dream and none of the nightmare scenarios unfolded.'

By the time that the exhibition closed on 16 January 2005 it had been seen by 225,000 people and received worldwide press coverage. The catalogue was published in three language editions and sold 37,000 copies in three months, while related research appeared in a series of articles.

Working for workplace equality



Workplace equality co-directors of the Centre for Diversity Policy, (left to right) Dr Simonetta Manfredi and Dr Liz Doherty

The Centre for Diversity Policy Research brings together skilled researchers and human resource practitioners in order to deliver evidence-based interventions to build equality of opportunity in the workplace. A joint initiative between the Business School and the Directorate of Human Resources, it is co-directed by Dr Liz Doherty and Dr Simonetta Manfredi. The Centre was launched in May 2004, and this summer will host the Fourth European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education.

One key project being undertaken in the Centre focuses on the under-representation of women at senior levels in universities across the globe, in order to understand the barriers to women's progression beyond middle management and the principal lecturer level. The study was supported by a £35,000 grant from the European Social Fund (ESF).

Preliminary findings from the first stage of this research suggest that women are still significantly under-represented as professors and in senior management in universities. Dr Doherty said: 'One key problem seems to be that women do not come forward for promotion. That is,

women apply for senior positions in far fewer numbers than men, but when they do apply they appear to have a relatively good chance of success. Moreover it would not be too difficult to make more opportunities for part-time work at very senior levels – it just requires the will to do it.'

The study also shows greater equality between men and women is achieved when the criteria for progression are clearly stated and selection decisions are based on evidence. Career routes also need to be made clearer and support is needed to help women plan their careers and access the relevant advancement procedures.

The project ends in September 2005. From October, further funding from the ESF will enable the Centre to build on its findings and recommendations. New development activities will be created to help women academics manage their careers strategically, and short courses provided for senior academic managers, equipping them better to support women's development.

Last year the Centre completed an action research project on

work-life balance partly funded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), under the Partnership at Work Scheme, to develop work-life balance best practice in higher education.

Moreover it would not be too difficult to make more opportunities for part-time work at very senior levels – it just requires the will to do it

Findings from the project were presented at a one-day seminar held at the University in November 2004. Keynote speakers included the Director of the Equality Challenge Unit, Professor Joyce Hill and Pauline Henderson from the DTI. Professor Hill described the Brookes' approach to developing work-life balance as 'an exemplar of best practice and a model for the sector as a whole'. This project was also featured in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* published on 17 December 2004.

An important finding that emerged from this project is that the attitudes of line managers are crucial to the success of work-life balance policies. A management style based on trust and empowerment was found to be an important prerequisite for the establishment of work-life balance arrangements, especially for support staff. Dr Manfredi said: 'There were also indications that the leadership/management style of the managers of academic staff could be a barrier to the take-up of work-life balance arrangements. For example, our questionnaire revealed that academics were the group most likely to feel they could not discuss matters relating to work-life balance with their line manager. These findings are broadly consistent with those of other studies carried out on work-life balance.' To build on this work, the Centre has been awarded a grant from the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education to investigate aspects of leadership and management style adopted within different contexts in universities that facilitate the take up of and development of working practices that support work-life balance.

By Royal Appointment



On 8 November 2004, HRH The Princess Royal formally opened the new School of Health and Social Care on its Marston Road site, and launched the University library's Dorset House Archive Website.

Dorset House was the first School of Occupational Therapy in the UK, founded in Bristol in 1930 by its visionary Medical Director Dr Elizabeth Casson (pictured aged 21). During the

Second World War the School was forced – after heavy bombing – to move to Bromsgrove. With an increase in demand for occupational therapists during these years, the School expanded and soon outgrew its temporary home. In 1946, Dorset House moved to Oxford, firstly to Nissen Huts on the Churchill Hospital site and then (in 1964) to more permanent accommodation on the London Road in Headington. In 1992 the School became part of Oxford Polytechnic, just before the Polytechnic became Oxford Brookes University.

The Dorset House Archive provides a unique perspective not only on the history of the School, but also on the history of the Casson family and the wider story of occupational therapy, both nationally and internationally. Alongside the books and papers of Dr Casson and the School's principals and staff, the real jewels of the collection are photographs, scrap books, and ciné films charting developments in the field.

To make some of these items more widely accessible, photographs and promotional films from the 1940s have been digitised and mounted on the Dorset House Archive Website (www.brookes.ac.uk/services/library/speccoll/dorset.html).



Antony Brewerton, the librarian in charge of the Dorset House Archive, demonstrating parts of the website and collection to The Princess Royal, Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists

Work on the rest of the archive continues, thanks to a generous grant by the Elizabeth Casson Trust.

For more information on the archive contact Antony via awbrewerton@brookes.ac.uk.

Parliamentary oversight in Ukraine and Russia

In timely recognition of the continuing change and development of post-Soviet countries, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has awarded Dr Sarah Whitmore, Senior Lecturer in Politics, £38,500 to study parliamentary oversight in Ukraine and Russia. Dr Whitmore will examine the nature, impact and meaning of parliamentary oversight of the executive, in other words, the ability of the legislature to check the executive and hold it to account.

Dr Whitmore said: 'I hope the investigation will provide important insights into post-Soviet democratisation and broaden our understanding of parliamentary oversight more generally (sometimes called 'scrutiny' in the UK), as theorising so far has been based almost exclusively on (a small number of) Western legislatures. The research also aims to examine the potential for parliamentary oversight of the executive to become an *avant-garde* of popular accountability and good governance in Russia and Ukraine.'

As this area has not been investigated before, the study is genuinely exploratory, comparing the practical application of oversight in terms of both process and output in a number of sites (committees, plenary sessions, by individual deputies and organs like the audit chamber). It will assess the incentives for parliamentarians to engage in oversight and the responses these engender from executive organs. A range of qualitative methods will be used, including observation in both parliaments, archive work and in-depth interviews with politicians and civil servants, and will be supplemented by quantitative data. Field

work will be conducted in Moscow in January–March 2006 and in Kyiv October–December of the same year. Dr Whitmore said: 'The orange revolution and its aftermath in Ukraine has thrown up a number of conceptual challenges for the project, as ostensibly Ukraine appears to be moving away from semi-democratic super-presidential politics, while Russia for the time being seems set on this path. This project will provide an excellent opportunity to explore in-depth the extent of these differences and the potential for more open and accountable government in post-Soviet states.'



Forum Focus

Who are Brookes' research people? What makes them tick? What do they think about their own research? In each issue, Forum Focus will put a Brookes' researcher into the spotlight to find out.



Nancy Jachec, BA MA PhD,
Head of the History of Art
Department, School of Arts
and Humanities

Dr Jachec has been in the History of Art Department since 1997 and is currently Principal Lecturer and Head of Department. She will be a visiting researcher at the University of Ontario, Waterloo in 2005/06, and a member of the Advisory Committee for the exhibition, *Cold War Culture*, at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2008.



Sarah Taylor, Research and Business Development Office, asks the questions.

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

My earliest independent activities were as a freelance exhibition critic in London in the late 1980s, writing for leftist publications like *Spare Rib* and *Marxism Today*, as well as for mainstream periodicals like *The Burlington Magazine*. My approach was always historical in orientation, requiring research to support my arguments.

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

I think now, that brief period was more important for me than I previously thought. The type of work I was doing awakened my interest in the way that visual material can be used to direct or reinforce public values; also, how it can function as propaganda for specific social types. In short, it laid the foundations for my current interest in cultural diplomacy, and how governments, and cultural institutions, have sought to negotiate social and political alignments through cultural exchanges.

Q What is the most recent/current project (research project, book, article etc) you are involved in and what particularly interested you about the work?

I'm currently involved in several projects. I am in the final stages of my book on the Venice Biennale during the cold war, and what drew me to the topic was the fact that, in spite of that exhibition's incredible prestige, and its fundamentally political nature at that time (it was directly controlled by the national government in Rome throughout the period in question), no political history had really been done of it. Thumbing through the exhibition catalogues, it was evident to me that a) a clear aesthetic bias was rapidly developing at the Biennale during the cold war for, what I suspected and later confirmed, were political reasons, and b) a thorough political history of the institution could in fact present international cultural diplomatic relations in a substantially new light. Typically, this topic is approached through US-Soviet relations, the idea of European agency being generally overlooked. My work on the Biennale has shown that Western Europe was deeply involved in helping to shape politico-cultural alliances in the cold war, and that its relationship with the United States at this time was substantially different from the assumed European passivity and American dominance. This feeds directly into my next monograph project, a history of the Council of Europe's cultural programmes, provisionally entitled *The Idea of Europe*. I'm also involved in publishing the proceedings of my recent conference, organised with Reuben Fowkes, *1956: Cultural Legacies of Political Change* (September 2005). This will appear in various formats, firstly a partial reproduction of the proceedings in the journal *Third Text*, but also in a book that will be truly international in scope.

Q What book/article/piece of art, etc has most inspired your work?

Inspiration is a continual process, ideally. When I was an MA student, I admired Freud for the clarity of his writing. I'd say that at the moment I get most inspiration from certain Italian scholars, for example, Leopoldo Nuti's *Gli Stati Uniti e l'apertura a sinistra: Importanza e limiti della presenza americana in Italia*, (Bari: Editori Laterza, 1999). It's substantial, it's seriously empirical, but it's also theoretically sophisticated. His book has really challenged that idea of simple American domination and manipulation, and has exposed an exchange between the American and Italian governments that is very policy specific. His work has been incredibly important for my own interpretation of the Biennale, not only because of the substance of his arguments, but the way they're constructed, the types of evidence they rely on.

Q Who would you most like to have worked with in your field? And why? (Don't be restricted to the current era!)

I'm most interested in working with people who are interested in collaborating in the type of work I'm doing now. That's why I'm excited about turning '1956' into a book. When we did the conference, we were hoping for a reasonably strong showing from non-western countries. This failed to materialise, largely for financial reasons – lots of interest was expressed from scholars in the Far East, for example, but there wasn't enough money to bring everybody over. What the conference taught me, however, is that in many non-western countries, and in Central/Eastern Europe, there is a very strong interest in the political history of visual arts. Finding scholars who are interested in examining international relations through culture, and commissioning work from them has been exciting. It's refreshing to step back from that dominant US-Soviet model that has overshadowed so much of cold war scholarship, and to consider the activities of other nations in the shaping of post-war cultural relations.

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

Undoubtedly, the work I'm doing now. Although I trained as an art historian, my work was never object-based. I'd always considered how objects were used to be more interesting, and to me, more important. Finding a somewhat different audience, and different set of peers, has enabled me to produce work that I'm more comfortable doing, institutional histories such as my work on the Biennale and the Council of Europe.

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

I would like to look into the rise of modernist cultures in the Middle East and Far East, maybe a history of the cultural policy of the Non-Aligned Movement versus those of the Baghdad Pact countries. My work on Egyptian cultural policy for '1956' opened up new ideas for me, but finding the time and money to undertake a properly researched study of these issues is currently beyond me.

Institute for Historical and Cultural Research



In January 2005 Professor Elisabeth Jay (left) took up the directorship of the Institute for Historical and Cultural Research, which has been created to foster, develop and sustain inter- and multi-disciplinary research across the University in the broadly-defined areas of historical and cultural research.

The Institute has its home within the School of Arts and Humanities where many of its departments and centres already enjoy an international reputation for their research output. Inspired by the desire to exploit to the full the interdisciplinary potential of the School's research activities and to gain more systematically from the research taking place in cognate areas across the University, the Institute will provide a forum for pooling the knowledge and ideas of a university-wide community of scholars. It will supply an infrastructure designed to enable innovative and efficient networking, and, in addition to developing its own programme of seminars and conferences, will work to co-ordinate and publicise the events sponsored by the research groupings it brings together. In developing this research resource for the benefit of the wider

research community, the Institute will offer opportunities for visiting fellowships. The Institute's commitment to the local, regional and national communities will be seen in the work of initiating and sustaining imaginative and productive links between academic researchers and the galleries, libraries, museums and other exhibition spaces where the wider public can participate in the fruits of the research sponsored by the Institute.

Professor Jay said 'the first phase of the Institute's activities involves building up databases. This has involved much hard work by Sue Neale, a postgraduate student, on our staff webpages so that we can better showcase the research that we are producing. The Institute is also building a picture of the various collaborative networks and contacts which already exist between the University and galleries, libraries and museums, so that we can better focus and exploit these. The first round of small grants to enable publications of an interdisciplinary and collaborative nature has also been awarded.'

The Director will be putting out regular bulletins to research directors of other schools but would also like to invite direct contact from researchers from other schools who see their work fitting within the remit of the Institute. The Institute will be launched in the autumn.

Proof of Concept Fund

The South East Proof of Concept Fund (see *Research Forum*, Volume 1, Issue 3) has been a great success for the University with the first two awards granted to projects for a clarifying agent for the brewing industry and a gene expression technology used in the research of new drugs. Overall nine applications have been submitted of which eight, worth over £190,000, have been approved by the internal Commercialisation Review Panel (formerly called the Exploitation Panel). So far four of these projects have been reviewed and approved by Finance South East and the main investment panel.

The fund is a collaboration between Oxford Brookes, Portsmouth, Greenwich, Brighton and Kent Universities, and is managed by Finance South East. The fund provides grant funding between £5,000 and £50,000 to take projects closer towards commercial exploitation. The grant can be used for market research and technology validation which could include developing a prototype or assessing the potential market with industry experts.

Successful applications have covered projects such as a hand held device to help children identify species of flora and fauna, a novel coating on processed food products to reduce the fat content of the food and still maintain a good flavour, a wireless linked pressure sensor for blood pressure monitoring, and a process for producing high yields of a receptor which could be used to develop drugs for a variety of brain disorders such as memory loss and learning difficulties. Funding has been allocated to enable these technologies or business ideas to be developed to the point where a business



Left to right: Research student, Aimen Sabkha, and Professor Chris McLeod

organisation can clearly be shown the commercial opportunity which they offer. The fund is open until the end of July 2006 and there is still time to submit good quality applications for projects. Please contact the Oxford Brookes Research and Business Development Office for advice on potential applications and application forms.

Open Source Science - Evolution of the Swikipedia

Wikipedias are open-source encyclopaedias on the Internet that are built by the people who use them. The idea of open-source programmes is revolutionary and they are booming in cyberspace as key tools for the knowledge-based economies of the 21st century. Rajat Gupta and Professor Susan Roaf of the Architecture Research Unit in the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development are working with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India, and Institut Català d'Energia (ICAEN), Spain, to develop the first multilingual, online, encyclopaedia on sustainable buildings. The two-year SHADA (Sustainable Habitat Design Adviser) project, funded by the European Commission, will build the Swikipedia (sustainability wikipedia) as an evolving repository of information on the practices and successes of sustainable building design, tools on building performance evaluation, case studies, e-forums, and links to other online resources.

Swikipedia is about you and me, and the buildings we live and work in. It is about creating a common international language for sustainable buildings and a global resource on them, open to all to contribute to, with their particular expertise, and for all to use.

Please join us in this exciting challenge of testing whether open-source science really does work, and building together a great tool for the future, for the benefit of all. Become a Swiker yourself, adding to the site, and help us build a sustainable future. See: www.sustainable-buildings.org

For further information please contact Rajat Gupta, rgupta@brookes.ac.uk.

Accommodation for visiting researchers



Scott House, on the Harcourt Hill Campus of Oxford Brookes University, has had an extensive makeover and been upgraded for use as dedicated conference accommodation as well as for visiting researchers. Scott House contains 24 single rooms which are bright and comfortable with en-suite lavatories and showers, and each has its own TV. There are tea and coffee facilities in each room.

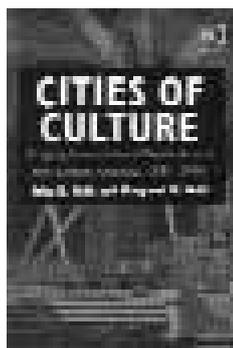
As well as a large and well equipped kitchen area with fridge and microwave, Scott House boasts a comfortable social area. For further information contact:

Gunnar Jendis, Accommodation Co-ordinator
International Centre for Open and Continuing Education
Westminster Institute of Education
gjendis@brookes.ac.uk

New Publications

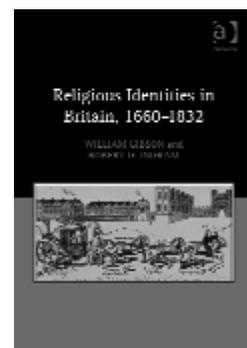
Cities of Culture: Staging International Festivals and the Urban Agenda, 1851-2000, Professor John Gold, Department of Geography, School of Social Sciences and Law.

Since antiquity, cities have staged events that have illuminated the life of their inhabitants and drawn in visitors. Recently, however, their role as the setting for festivals and fairs has been dramatically enhanced as city managers have recognised the potential that the larger international festivals have for fostering economic, social and cultural development. *Cities of Culture* examines the growth of this role in Western cities over the last 150 years. It highlights the development of three different forms of staged cultural events – international expositions, the Summer Olympics and the European Cities of Culture programme – culminating in an overview of the events that celebrated the millennium. The final part examines the lessons to be drawn from the historical experience of international festivals for the urban agenda of the 21st century.



Religious Identities in Britain 1660-1832, Dr William Gibson, Director of Lifelong Learning, Westminster Institute of Education, co-edited with Professor Robert Ingram of Ohio University.

Whilst religion has long enjoyed a central role in the study of 16th- and 17th-century British history, scholars of religion in the 18th century have often felt compelled to prove their subject's worth. This study makes clear, in spite of the undoubted innovations and developments of this period, that religion continued to be a prime factor in shaping society and culture. By exploring important connections between religion, politics and identity, and asking broad questions about the character of religion in Britain, the contributions put into context many of the big issues of the day.



News in Brief

Congratulations on the conferment of the title of professor to **Professor Mark Saunders**, Director of Research Strategy, The Business School; **Professor Hong Zhu**, Department of Computing, School of Technology; **Professor Margaret Price**, Head of Teaching and Learning, The Business School; and **Professor Philip Torr**, Department of Computing, School of Technology.

Professor Jeya Henry, School of Biological and Molecular Sciences, has been appointed a governor of The British Nutrition Foundation – the most influential body in the UK regarding nutritional matters.

Dr Tina Miller, School of Social Sciences and Law, was a guest on the *Heaven and Earth* show on BBC One in March, which ran a special programme on mothering. Dr Miller has interviewed mothers to gain an understanding of how ideas of motherhood vary and to what extent the role is a social construct. Dr Miller is the author of *Making Sense of Motherhood*, a study of various ideas of the role of mothers, based on interviews with women in the UK and fieldwork overseas.

Professor Alan Jenkins, Westminster Institute of Education, has been invited to be a plenary speaker at The Canadian Summit on the Integration of Teaching and Research to be held at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, in August. The Summit brings together major Canadian universities for discussions on the integration of teaching and research as a fundamental pillar of the undergraduate curriculum.

Professor Mary Boulton, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, School of Social Sciences and Law, has become a trustee and director of the Foundation for the Sociology of Health and Illness. The charity was established for public benefit to promote and improve social scientific research, education and scholarship in the field of sociology of health and illness and owns the Journal *Sociology of Health and Illness*, which is one of the three top international journals in the field.

Professor Diana Woodhouse, Assistant Dean, School of Social Sciences and Law, has been appointed a sub-panel member for Law Unit of Assessment and **Professor Nick Hewlett**, School of Arts and Humanities, has been appointed a sub-panel member for the French Unit of Assessment in the forthcoming 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The sub-panels will be responsible for the detailed assessment of research submissions to that unit of assessment.

Professor Philip Torr, Department of Computing, School of Technology, gave the keynote speech at the PRASA (Pattern Recognition Association of South Africa) 2004 conference. Professor Torr has also been awarded £20,000 as part of a larger bid in conjunction with the University of Adelaide from the Australian Research Council under their artificial intelligence and signal and image processing category.

Dr William Gibson, Director of Lifelong Learning, Westminster Institute of Education, led a panel at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies held at Riverside, California, at Easter. The Panel was entitled Puritans, Patrons and Communities; Dr Gibson was joined on the panel by Professors Paul Seaver, Stanford University, and Sears McGee, University of California at Santa Barbara.

Mr Craig Richardson, School of Arts and Humanities, co-chaired The New Moderns Conference at The Showroom Gallery in London in March – the second in a series of conferences being held at the Gallery. Speakers at the 2005 conference included Nicholas Bourriaud, curator at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, and artist Thomas Lawson Dean of CalArts, Los Angeles. A publication will appear in late 2005.

Professor Philip Torr and first year PhD student **M Pawan Kumar**, together with Professor Andrew Zisserman from the Department of Engineering Science at the University of Oxford, were given the Best Paper Award for *Learning layered pictorial structures from video* presented at the Fourth Indian Conference on Computer Vision, Graphics and Image Processing.

Diary June – September 2005

Wednesday 8 June

Interactive teaching in primary humanities – a practical approach to problem solving through geography and history
Simon Catling and Peter Vass
Room FG/07, Harcourt Hill Campus
1:00–4:00pm
For further details contact
smallmond@brookes.ac.uk

Public Lecture Series – The science and technology of adhesion or ‘...of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings’
Professor Keith Allen, Honorary Fellow 2002
Lloyd Lecture Theatre, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane
6:00pm
To find out more or to book tickets for this lecture, contact Beth Hill, Alumni Relations and University Events Manager on 01865 484864, email events@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 9 June

Coming together for children and young people
Jeremy Burrows, Oxfordshire Asylum Seeker Service
Room FG/11, Harcourt Hill Campus
5:00–7:00pm
For further details contact
mpye@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 9 – Sunday 12 June

4th International Annual Conference of The Treasure Within network, Making a difference – effective change for powerful learning in schools
Westminster Institute of Education and the European Comenius Network
Harcourt Hill Campus
For further details contact
hrnoonan@brookes.ac.uk

Wednesday 29 June

Public Lecture Series – ‘Death is being born backwards’ – Matthew aged 7
Sister Frances Dominica, Honorary Doctor 2003
Lloyd Lecture Theatre, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane
6:00pm
To find out more or to book tickets for this lecture, contact Beth Hill, Alumni Relations and University Events Manager on 01865 484864, email events@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 30 June – Friday 1 July

Informed consent in challenging circumstances
An international conference on consent in health and medical research involving human participants.
A collaborative event between Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford
St Catherine’s College, Oxford
For further information visit
<http://ssl.brookes.ac.uk/mdhrn/home.htm>

Tuesday 5 – Friday 8 July

Embodiment and Environment
A conference organised by the Westminster Institute of Education
Lloyd Building, Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane
For further details contact
hrnoonan@brookes.ac.uk

Thursday 7 – Saturday 9 July

Assaulting the Past: Placing Violence in Historical Context
An international conference hosted by the Oxford Brookes History Department
St Anne’s College, Oxford
For further information visit
<http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/conferences/assaultingpast/index.html>

Saturday 9 July 2005

Making the Church Holy: The Fabric of the Sacraments, 800–1800
Building and refurbishment rhythms of the parish church, 800–1800
The first of a series of workshops at Oxford Brookes University
For further information visit
http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/conferences/making_church_holy/

Thursday 14 – Saturday 16 July

Perspectives on 20th-century Pharmaceuticals
An international conference hosted by the Oxford Brookes Centre for Health, Medicine and Society: Past and Present
St Anne’s College, Oxford
For further information please visit
<http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/conferences/pharmaceuticals/index.html>

Wednesday 31 August – Saturday 3 September

4th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education
Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane
For further details visit:
www.business.brookes.ac.uk/events/genderinhe2005.
To book a place contact
hrnoonan@brookes.ac.uk.

A number of research seminars take place in each of the academic schools during the year. For further details please visit the website at:
www.brookes.ac.uk/research/Seminars.html

Apology

Dr William Gibson wishes to apologise to Professor Jeremy MacClancy, and any other Oxford Brookes University contributors to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* for their omission from his article in the last issue of *Research Forum*.

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

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