

ISSUE E14

OXFORD
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GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community



Shining Brightly!

Celebrating your Research
and your Achievements



NEWS

SHADE-GROWN COFFEE HELPS BIODIVERSITY



A comprehensive review paper published in *Science of the Total Environment* from a team of researchers at Oxford Brookes University reveals that shade-grown coffee not only tastes good, but is helping coffee-producing countries to conserve their rich and biodiverse wildlife.

Agriculture is one of the greatest threats facing species around the world. Whether it is cutting down trees to make way for farms, or using chemical pesticides and fertilisers, bad farming practices can hold dire consequences. Yet it doesn't have to be this way. Paving the way in combining agriculture and conservation, shade-grown coffee has the ability to challenge our perception of agriculture, and reframe the way we look at farming. Shade-grown coffee is not novel.

Coffee was first discovered growing wild under the dense canopy of the Ethiopian lowland forests, with the trees above creating the ideal conditions for coffee growth. Whilst maintaining a temperate micro-climate for coffee,

the surrounding trees also allow birds, bats, insects, and mammals to call these farms their home. Almost all coffee-producing countries are "biodiversity hotspots", unique areas with a wide and diverse range of species.

Weaving agriculture into conservation initiatives, through practices such as shade-grown coffee, will enable countries to reach biodiversity targets and maintain their rich cultural, ecological heritage. Researchers from the Nocturnal Primate Research Group at Brookes wanted to evaluate how effectively shade-grown coffee can provide habitat for biodiversity.

Although it may seem that more trees equals more species, the conservation value of shade-grown coffee remains unclear. Combining all existing studies comparing biodiversity in coffee farms with differing levels of shade (sun, low shade, and high shade), they separated them into those looking at species abundance (number of individuals) and species diversity (number of different species). Adding how species abundance and diversity changed depending on shade intensity, they examined how certain species responded differently to shade, and whether this change depended on what area of the world the study was done.

Their research showed that coffee grown in high shade conditions (>30% canopy cover) was capable of harbouring higher diversity than in sun and low shade farms (0% and <30% canopy cover). When looking at birds and insects specifically, species that provide money-saving pest control and essential pollination services, more species were found in both low shade and high shade conditions than in sunny spots.

The lead author of the study, Sophie Manson current PhD student, explained, "This is great news for farmers, as this means that relatively small increases in canopy cover can produce disproportionately large changes to insect and bird species diversity." What the team at Oxford Brookes also brought to light was the limitations of shade. What they found was that when looking at mammal and epiphytes (plants such as ferns), species diversity was only higher in the high shade treatment. Co-author of the study Anna Nekaris said "What this means is that if we want to conserve mammals and air-purifying ferns and orchids, we can only do that in areas of high shade. Low shade simply isn't enough!"

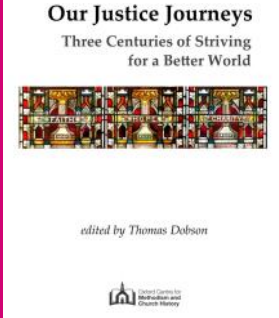
Finally, the team gives support to the concept that it is all about location, location, location. Whilst studies conducted in Latin America indicate that species diversity increases in farms with higher canopy cover, studies in Africa showed the opposite trend. So what may work in one place may not apply elsewhere -- a rule to bear in mind when considering any conservation initiative.

The team at OBU, and researchers across the world, are keen to promote the benefits of shade-grown coffee for the environment, but this can only be done alongside the understanding that further encroachment into forests will render the value of shade-grown coffee entirely redundant. Our focus now should lie on conservation, and how we can optimise productivity alongside biodiversity.



NEWS

A Better World The Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History is delighted to announce the publication of *Our Justice Journeys: Three Centuries of Striving for a Better World* edited by Thomas Dobson.



Methodist commitment to social justice predates the Church itself, and is often what draws members to the Connexion. Our Justice Journeys brings together papers from the 2022 Methodist Heritage conference celebrating the 250 anniversary of the birth of Hugh Bourne, alongside other essays touching on Methodist collections, histories, and work in the present day. Between them, they explore many different aspects and narratives of Methodist engagement with social justice, encompassing nearly three centuries of striving for a better world. Contributors: Jonathan Hustler, Rachel Lampard, David Leese, Tim Macquiban, Elizabeth Morris, Mike Norman, Kate Rogers, Ruth Slatter, Allison Waterhouse, and Hannah Worthen.



HSS Research Conference The Humanities and Social Sciences Research Conference took place on Tuesday 16 January, under the theme of 'Belonging'. There were panel discussions on Writing Activism, Investigating Belonging, Not Belonging, People Power and Place, Textual Belonging and Belonging Online.

Common threads arose through the papers on diverse subjects from across all areas of the Faculty. Discussions on cloth and 'Twilters', Greenham common, Shakespeare, citizenship and migrants, home schooling, the Irish War of Independence, Taiwanese corporate due diligence

legislation, academic public engagement and digital hate, immigration detention, Tamils in the London diaspora, colonial policing in Australia, the future of education, to name a few.

Papers were delivered by academic colleagues and research students and there was also a range of research student posters to view. The next conference will take place in January 2025.



Is Belonging Still Important to Today's University Students?

Jacqui Thijm is a new part-time EdD student at Brookes who also works at the University College of Estate Management (UCEM), a fully online university that provides courses for professional part-time students. She presented some of her research at the ALDinHE (Association for Learning Development in Higher Education) conference, and also contributed to the

special conference edition of the Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education. Her research explores the concept of belonging in Higher Education. It is generally accepted that a student who feels a sense of belonging at university is more likely to be engaged and successful in their studies. This is easier to achieve in a bricks and mortar setting. With students increasingly moving to more online platforms as online courses, lectures, the VLE and e-libraries, it resulted in students spending less time on campus. Jacqui's research examined the individual relationships between Academic Support Tutors at UCEM and students and found that students valued individual members of staff that went "above and beyond" at a time when they needed support in their studies. They felt cared for and as if they "mattered". Interestingly some students felt that belonging to the university was not important to them. You can read full article [here](#)

NEWS

Let's Talk About Waste

As part of the Terrain Talks series of public lectures, Tom

Ebdon PhD student from Architecture, was invited to chair this event and host a Q&A session around the theme of Waste. Terrain Talks, based in Dartmoor, Devon describing themselves as a forum for the discussion, reflection and celebration of regional and rural architecture and landscape.

The theme "Waste" sought to explore how "surplus products from our local landscapes have the potential to create opportunities for more circular building systems, at both strategic and practical levels." Invited

to present and discuss their ideas and processes were Rosanna Martin, a ceramicist and community engaged brickmaker, Tom Kemp, co-director of Working Woodlands Cornwall to discuss stewardship and forestry and Loretta Boscene, director of Local Works Studios, designers, builders and hands-on circular economy specialists. The talk hosted at Falmouth University was very well attended, with over one hundred guests joining for the presentations and Q&A session. The following day architecture students from Falmouth University were engaged in workshops at the Tre-fusis estate woodland to craft, make and collaborate on how waste forestry material can be used experimentally.

Additional information about these topics can be found in the following links:

[Terrain Talks](#)

[Rosanna Martin](#)

[Local Works Studio](#)

[Working Woodland Cornwall](#)



Every Little Matters James Dunlop MBE and current PhD student, enjoys making documentaries about people and their lives. He recently made a short documentary about Hayling Ferry - Britain's 3 Minute Ferry. Little did he know that by showing it in YouTube it was going to save the ferry from closure.

After the documentary was released, the community were in uproar

that the ferry was being forced into the red by the Harbour Board and it went down as a storm, spurred action and saved the ferry. James caught up with Colin and had a ride without a camera for once! Colin was extremely pleased the ferry will be continuing to operate into the future. You can watch James [documentary in Youtube](#).



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Research Degrees Team

You can contact us on:

rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk

NEWS



A Successful Internship As part of the Oxford Interdisciplinary Bioscience Doctoral Training Partnership, students are required to undertake an internship. Joanna Cull PhD student at the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences undertook an internship at the Royal Microscopical Society, involving the design and delivery of the Learning Zone as part of an exhibition at the Microscience Microscopy Congress 2023 (mmc2023), 4-6 July 2023. The Learning Zone aimed to provide core microscopy knowledge and provide early career researchers with advice and tools to help them

progress. Joanna liaised with Leica Microsystems, Nikon UK Ltd, MetPrep Ltd and ZEISS to arrange sponsorship through the loan of microscopes that were used in the Learning Zone for demonstration. She worked alongside the Outreach and Education Committee to create and deliver a programme of 25 lectures. Two workshops were also delivered around the theme of open-source hardware and software. These included introductions to image analysis and also a demonstration from the Natural History Museum on their use of 3D printed models and 'Museum in a box'. Joanna also liaised with the Historical Committee to showcase their collection of rare historical McCormick collection of microscopes and slides. Whilst attending the conference she gave her first talk at the Early Career Symposium based on her PhD research, '*Investigating the functional significance of O-linked glycosylation in epithelial motility*'. Joanna says "overall, I learnt so much from my internship and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to give my first talk!"

Talking about Fashion At the upcoming 4th International Creative Industries Festival, April 23-26, Oxford Brookes Business School's doctoral student Mitaali Katoch is hosting a round table discussion with filmmaker Frédéric Tchong and Professor of Sociology Dr Yuniya Kawamura exploring how fashion documentaries are conceived and how they may be significant tools in gaining academic insight. Frédéric Tchong is known for his extraordinary fashion films such as *Diana Vreeland, The Eye Has to Travel, Dior & I*, and his recent release *Invisible Beauty*, which presents a peek into the fashion industry through the eyes of model Bethann Hardison. Dr Yuniya Kawamura is a Professor of Sociology at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, and is known for her unique insight into the world of fashion. She is the author of *Fashionology, Doing Research in Fashion and Dress, Fashioning Japanese Subcultures*, and *Sneakers*.

At the Turing Institute Pareena Verma PhD student at the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences attended in December 2023 a Data Study Group (DSG) at the Alan Turing Institute, organised by the UK government's AI institute. She was selected to perform the role of social facilitator along with being a participant. She successfully managed to participate in the challenge along with performing her roles as a facilitator ensuring the smooth workflow by promoting a fair and inclusive team culture. The selected team of approximately 15 participants were given the challenge of "*Using machine learning methods to best utilise in-silico toxicity prediction for drug discovery efficacy in new medicines*" by Ignota Labs. The team explored state-of-the-art methods such as Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) and image-recognition concepts of ML to solve the challenge. The team successfully delivered a presentation on the last day along with a report which is soon to be published by the Turing Institute.



NEWS

No More Resistance

Pareena Verma, current PhD student at the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, was selected to present her research on antimicrobial resistance in just 10 minutes. The title of her talk was "Modelling, engineering and applications of microbiome" and took place at the first MPA conference in Asia on July 24-27, 2023 at Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



Metabolic Pathway Analysis (MPA) is a leading meeting for the scientific community analysing topological structure-function relationships of metabolic networks to study fundamentals of biology and biotechnological applications.

MPA 2023 is the ninth conference in the biennial series that integrates a highly interdisciplinary group of international biologists, computer scientists, engineers, and mathematicians on four days of discussions focused on state-of-the-art advances in network analysis methodology, theory, and applications.

Hear my Voice

As part of her research, Sylvia Morgado current PhD student at the Faculty of Arts, collaborated with Modern Art Oxford investigating how art can be used as a transformative experience to create more inclusive institutions. She hosted the event 'Hear My Voice' on Sunday 8 October 2023 at the Boundary Encounters programme.

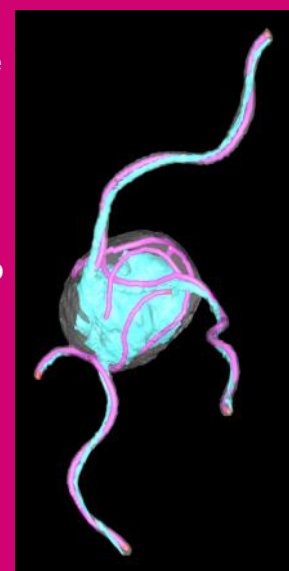


Flagellum Assembly Within 10 Mins



Transmission of *Plasmodium* spp. from an infected mammalian host to a mosquito requires the parasite to switch from asexual to sexual reproduction. In the mammalian host asexual schizonts differentiate into sexual merozoites which give rise to male and female gametocytes. Within the mosquito, environmental changes activate the male gametocytes (microgametocyte) to undergo three rounds of mitosis and to assemble eight axonemes within 10 minutes. The microgametocyte undergoes exflagellation to release eight haploid motile microgametes capable of fertilizing female gametes.

We have analysed microgametocytes in this 10 minutes time frame to understand how these 8 axonemes form and ex-flagellate out of the microgametocyte. Using SBF-SEM (serial block face scanning electron microscopy) and serial tomography we have discovered that the 8 assembling axonemes form a band surrounding the nucleus and that the genome is organized in a coiled arrangement around the axoneme as it exits the microgametocyte and is incorporated into the male gamete. This is an extract from Molly Hair's 2023 publication in *Nature Communications* entitled "Atypical flagella assembly and haploid genome coiling during male gamete formation in *Plasmodium*". Molly is currently a doctoral student at the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.



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NEWS

Scholarly Grateful Alara Erenel, PhD student at HLS, presented a poster at the European Developmental Biology conference, held at Keble College, 25-28 September. The title of her poster was “*Investigating the molecular mechanism of groucho protein function during development in Drosophila Melanogaster*”. Alara writes ‘this event was not only my debut presentation on developmental biology but also my first participation in a gathering hosted by the British Developmental Biology Society. The speakers, included some notable award winners, profoundly inspiring me, making this experience both enlightening and transformative. Engaging in



intellectual discussions at the formal dinner at Keble College's dining hall, reminiscent of scenes from the Harry Potter series, offered a unique blend of scholarly discourse and social camaraderie. I am immensely grateful to the BSDB for not only organizing this remarkable event but for providing me with a grant that enabled my participation. I am also grateful to my director of studies Barbara Jennings, and my second supervisor Korneel Hens for their endless support and for making all of this possible! I couldn't wish for a better environment to do my PhD and for a more exciting research to work on! “

Five Minute Presentations Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery recently held a mini symposium for postgraduate students to present their work to an audience of peers and supervisors. The afternoon started with lunch and networking before a welcome address by Professor Eila Watson, Deputy Director, Oxford Institute of Allied Health Research (OxInAHR).



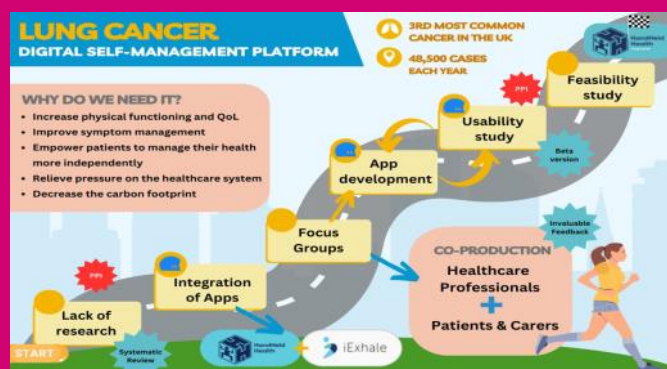
Students contributed five-minute presentations on the three themes of the day – methodological issues, theoretical highlights and creating impact - in relation to their studies on wound care as a fundamental of nursing; patient experiences following oropharyngeal cancer; and optimising care for people with inoperable pancreatic cancer.

This was followed by a series of ‘quick fire’ three-minute thesis presentations encompassing topics such as recruitment and retention of international students, self-management for people with lung cancer, and caregivers' experiences of end-of-life care for people with Advanced Heart Failure.

The presentations were followed by a

Melanie Diggle: *What are Bereaved Caregivers' Experiences of End-of-Life Care for People with Advanced Heart Failure?*

panel discussion on creating research impact. Panel members – Professor Eila Watson, Dr Sarah Bekaert and Professor Koula Asimakopoulou, Associate Dean Research & Knowledge Exchange, gave examples from their own research of creating impact, and provided students with advice on how to think about research impact throughout their study. ‘I really enjoyed listening to the students’ presentations and answering their questions afterwards,’ said Koula. ‘I think yesterday was a superb example of how the research we do at OxInAHR has the potential to be truly impactful!’



Suriya Kirkpatrick: *The development of a digital self-management platform for people living with lung cancer.*

NEWS

PRES – the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey - Results are Announced

Thank you to nearly a third of our entire research student community who took the time to complete the 2023 'postgraduate research experience survey' or PRES. PRES is a national survey of research students that runs every 2 years, with nationally, more than 100 institutions taking part.

It's a brilliant opportunity for us to canvas your views on your experience of being a research student at Brookes, so that we can see what we are already doing well, and make improvements where you highlight issues.

We can track our progress over time, by comparing what you tell us now with how our research students have responded in the past, and we can benchmark research student experience at Oxford Brookes against the sector.

Below are some of the areas measured and the results:

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE We are delighted that what you told us is so positive! 81% of you agreed that you were satisfied with the experience of your research degree programme, which is higher than the sector average and shows a big increase from 77% in the 2021 survey.

CONFIDENCE AND CREATIVITY 85% of you agreed that your confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during your programme, a huge increase of 13% since 2021.

OVERALL STUDENT EXPERIENCE 81% of you reported that you are coping well with your studies, up 16% since 2021. This suggests that the overall experience of research students at Brookes has improved markedly since the difficult times of the Covid pandemic.

SUPERVISION Other stand-out results suggest that our supervisors are doing a great job, with 93% of you having regular contact with your supervisors, appropriate to your needs and 95% reporting that your supervisors have the skills and subject knowledge to support your research. 96% of you commented that your supervisors provide useful feedback.

ABOVE SECTOR AVERAGE In terms of the complete set of 50 or so questions across diverse topics, Oxford Brookes scored above the sector average in every single category compared to other post-92 universities, and were in top quartile in comparison to the entire sector on supervision, research culture responsibilities and research skills.

However, no matter how positive these results are – and we are delighted that you report having such a positive experience of your research degree at Brookes – we know that we can always improve things further.

IMPROVING OUR SUPPORT Each Faculty is looking closely at the responses from its own research students and is agreeing and implementing an action plan going forwards. So that, hopefully, we can improve our support for research students even further and we will be able to report even more positively on your experience in PRES 2025.



Professor Susan Brooks
Director of Researcher Development

NEWS

Researcher Career Pathways Event

The sixth biennial Researcher Career Pathways Event took place on Friday 19 January. The event began with a welcome and introduction from Professor Susan Brooks, Director of Researcher Development.

Key messages from the “Beyond Academia” panel:

- Leaving academia is not failure. You will always be a Researcher and you can apply your valuable research skills and experience to other worthwhile sectors.
- Reflect on what you like doing and think about how you can do that in different work contexts. Your research has application in the wider world.
- Identify what motivates you and follow your passions.
- Try to FAIL every day - First Attempt In Learning. Keep trying new things and 'try before you buy' to find out what roles suit you best.
- It's much more important to do something you enjoy, rather than trying to be something you think you should be.
- Identify your values, beliefs and career anchors. They will change at different points in your life.
- Don't limit yourself. Be open-minded and look at all the possibilities, to find a career which resonates with your lifestyle.
- Have a CV of two halves - one for academia and one for non-academic achievements.
- Celebrate your uniqueness, have faith and persevere.

Key messages from the “Academia” panel:

- To maximise your chances of moving from researcher to academic post, get experience of teaching, get published and apply for external research grant funding.
- Focus on one key publication and go for a Lectureship as soon as possible after your PhD. You will be judged on your potential.
- Look at the job description – what is required of the role? Build a portfolio of skills and get experience to fill any gaps.
- Think about how to sell yourself in the context of the next Research Excellence Framework (REF).
- There's a big difference of being research-only and taking on a teaching and admin workload. It's not for everyone. Get experience of teaching to see if it works for you.
- Be curious, ask questions.
- Get known for something. Become an expert and establish your unique selling point.
- Get a Mentor – either informal or formal, within your discipline and beyond.
- Do the things you love. Becoming an academic gives you the opportunity to choose your own research questions and to reinforce the links between teaching and research.

The event closed with a career planning exercise from Dr Jo Moyle, Careers Consultant, to help our Researchers to identify what small step they were going to take next. Feedback from our Researchers includes a number of inspiring next steps, such as: completing the doctorate; arranging a meeting with the Careers Centre; talking to the person working in your dream job; looking at careers resources; reflecting on current skills, abilities and interests; completing a paper; applying for grants; undertaking further professional development; networking; and recognising that if a future in academia does not work out, it is not failing, it's an opportunity to enter an exciting new career path.



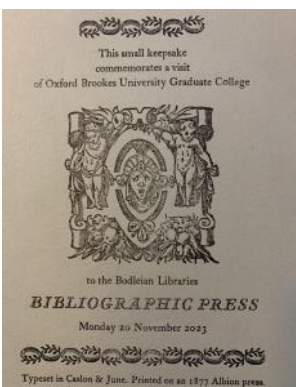
PAST EVENTS

Christmas Party A very holly jolly time was had from all the students attending the Postgraduate Research Degrees Christmas party on Friday 5 December at the Brookes Student Union Bar. There were bubbles, snacks, crafts and games with prizes for the winners (pictured is the winner of 'best bauble'). There was lots of festive fun and it was a great opportunity for all PGRs to get to know



each other better. We are hoping to plan more social events next year. Thank you to the Brookes Union Bar for allowing us to use the venue. And thank you to everyone who attended! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Many

thanks to Lottie, Casey and all volunteers who help to plan and organise this party!



A Forgotten Art?

A Bodleian workshop on letterpress printing was held on 20 November, 2023 organised by Oxford Brookes Graduate College. A select group of students learnt about how to print text using letterpress and other different techniques. Alara writes: "It was genuinely amazing to see the changes in printing and how much we don't know about this art form. One specific piece of information that was surprising was that letterpress was not only used for printing but editing, font selection, style and punctuation, to create the right message and emotion that a text conveys. It was a great experience to be able to touch and handle all this history. We were able to see all the machines used in different periods, using different materials, metal letters, copper and wood-engraved plates, old books that were printed using these machines. For me, copper plates were especially mesmerising. We learned from Richard – who runs the letterpress – that there are up-to-date books that use digital versions of some of these plates. The workshop ended with us printing a commemorative piece under Richard's supervision. This workshop will be a marvellous memory for everyone interested in books, history, how technology develops, how society and technology coincide in history, into arts and aesthetically pleasing pieces. Thank you, Maria, for organising this and Richard, for welcoming us to the letterpress."



The Graduate College

The Graduate College organise and support a variety of events for research students, including training and social gatherings.

Visit: [The graduate college events page](#)

Careers Training Programme

The Careers training programme for researchers is now live for bookings on www.brookes.ac.uk/Students/Careers/Researchers/Events

CONGRATULATIONS!

Wildlife Expert and Oxford Brookes Professor Receives OBE



Anna Nekaris, Professor in Anthropology and Primate Conservation and the University Lead for Public Engagement of Research at Oxford Brookes University, has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to conservation.

Working in zoos, museums, rescue centres, laboratories and in the wild, Professor Nekaris has carried out 30 years of research in 11 countries. Her main focus is on the con-

servation of Asian nocturnal animals, especially lorises. Her conservation work also extends to other primates, especially lemurs, colobines and macaques, and other nocturnal mammals (civets, wild cats, colugos). Professor Nekaris is the Subject Lead for the Oxford Brookes MSc in Primate Conservation and MRes in Primatology and Conservation, and Head of the University's Nocturnal Primate Research Group (NPRG). She is Director of the Oxford Brookes Development Office's Slow Loris Fund, through which she directs the Little Fireface Project in Java. The project's mission is to obtain data about all loris species and to contribute to their conservation in the wild and in captivity, including aiding rescue centres in reintroductions and aiding in the welfare of slow loris pets in countries where it is still legal to keep them. Professor Alistair Fitt, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University, said: "Congratulations to Professor Nekaris. I am delighted her contribution to global conservation has received this recognition in the New Year Honours list."

Student's Publications

Manson S, Nekaris K.A.I., Nijman V., Campera M. 2024 Effect of shade on biodiversity within coffee farms: A meta-analysis. *Science of The Total Environment*, Volume 914.

Thijm, J. 2023 Mattering vs belonging and the impact of academic advisors: online professional part-time students – a case study. *Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education*, 29: ALDinHE Conference Collaborative Proceedings.

Dobson, T. 2023 Edited his first book entitled *Our Justice Journeys: Three Centuries of Striving for a Better World for the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History*.

Hair M, Moreira-Leite F, Ferguson D, Zeeshan M, Tewari R & Vaughan S. 2023 Atypical flagella assembly and haploid genome coiling during male gamete formation in *Plasmodium*. *Nature Communications* 14: 8263

Let us know about your publications at asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

Congratulations

To ALL students who have successfully defended their theses, especially to HELEN AYRES and LUCY SPEAKMAN who have completed their Professional Doctorate in Nursing.

We are always looking for contributions for future editions of the newsletter and they are welcome from all sections of the University.

If you would like to get involved please email: asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



Chris Holden

School of Education,
Humanities and Language

Thesis Title: Loneliness amongst the British labouring classes 1780-1920.

The so-called "epidemic of loneliness" has become a central concern of socio and biomedical investigation in the twenty-first century, most recently as a result of the pandemic. It was also however germane to my pre-retirement work as a safeguarding professional in local government, where so many lonely people were put in harm's way through their desperate need for connection, notably becoming the victims of targeted financial, physical and emotional abuse. It is a subject which continues to interest me, and I am seeking through my research to better understand the antecedents of our present day concerns.

Loneliness, variously described in terms of a perceived lack of intimate personal relations, is a multidisciplinary area of research, although, until very recently, historians have given the subject very little attention. Furthermore, the existing historiography has tended to focus on the elite and bourgeois experiences of loneliness as expressed in life writing and literary sources. My PhD, however, focuses on the emotional and embodied experience of loneliness within the labouring classes, with particular emphasis on people who lived and worked in rural Britain, during and following the seismic transformation of the Industrial Revolution.

Loneliness was originally a spatial concept referring to the absence of other people rather than a feeling or emotional state. It is only within the last two hundred or so years that subjective loneliness has emerged. Although we still talk about lonely places, loneliness is generally now recognised to be a compound of circulating feeling states, including anger, resentment, fear, sadness and grief. Loss or absence of intimate attachment are characteristic features in the life experiences of lonely people.

I am taking a cultural history approach to my research and in addition to undertaking a close reading of the limited amount of autobiographical sources, I am engaging extensively with the cultural products of the era, including newspapers, literature (high-brow and popular), scriptural and artistic representations. These other sources, much of which became steadily more accessible to the labouring classes, commonly informed the expression of their emotions. The expression of feelings of loneliness, and its cognate emotional states, such as isolation and alienation, were, however equally contingent on the processes of socio-economic and political change, notably found in the increasing demands of industrialization and the concomitant urbanisation and empire building. One of my research questions focuses on how these processes of change impacted the experience of loneliness, reflecting particularly within the context of family, and notions of home and community. Furthermore, I am investigating loneliness in the context of radically changing generational and gendered life trajectories.

In due course I hope to publish my research and do some lecturing. Also though, one un-anticipated direction my research has taken me is into the field of art history and the use of images. I have found this absolutely stimulating and something I wish to delve deeper into as a methodological tool for the historian of the emotions.

**Loss or absence of intimate attachment are characteristic features
in the life experiences of lonely people.**

RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



Larissa Thurlow

Oxford Brookes Business School

Thesis Title: Supervision for team coaches: The issues, challenges and experiences and what those may indicate about the capabilities needed for supervisors to be fit for this role.

My research will explore the experience of team coaching supervision from the perspective of both supervisors and coaches in order to develop an understanding of the capabilities required of supervisors to provide an effective service to their team coach clients.

I plan to conduct and analyse semi-structured interviews on the individual reflexive experiences of coaches and supervisors, as well as the meanings constructed by observers based on their reflections on the recordings.

The study seeks to address the following questions:

1. What happens in supervision sessions with team coaches? i.e. What do coaches bring as issues to reflect on, what else is explored in these sessions and what difficulties do supervisors and coaches experience in their work together?
2. What do the experiences indicate about the capabilities needed of supervisors to provide a quality supervision experience?

Conducting this research is essential to expanding the existing literature on coaching supervision. It will contribute to developing the coaching and supervision knowledge base, and my inquiry has the added benefit of examining the novel and emerging context of team coaching.

I have completed registration and ethical approval and am currently recruiting participants.

My Director of Studies and Supervisor and their work was what initially attracted me. I had met both separately in Canada at different conferences. In many ways, the UK is much further ahead with coaching and coaching supervision research than North America. When I asked others, familiar with Brookes, they all had good things to say about the campus and Oxford in general. I have lived and worked overseas for a good portion of my life, and following Covid, I was excited to get out and explore the world again while also pursuing my dream.

The year before a milestone birthday I noticed a post about studentships, and thought “why not”. I had a week to apply and did not think I would be able to put together a quality application in that time. I was pleasantly surprised with how much reading and thinking I had already done in order to put together a proposal that ultimately ended up in my being offered the studentship.

The time of year I started was a bit challenging (January 2023), as I was the only new student at OBBS so I felt a little bit isolated and didn't have a lot of people around to ask for help or to show me the ropes. But I noticed this fall there is a larger group of new researchers, which adds to the buzz and community feel. I think there is a lot of support and excellent resources available across OBBS and campus. I keep discovering new opportunities and things, so that's great.

In many ways, the UK is much further ahead with coaching and coaching supervision research than North America.

RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



Mitaali Katoch

Oxford Brookes Business School

Thesis Title: Survival learnings of family-run luxury fashion firms facing disruptive innovation: a historical perspective

Opportunities for cross-faculty supervision between the humanities and business are rare. Oxford Brookes offered me a unique avenue for my doctoral work through the support of its leading scholars: Dr Ioanna Iordanou, Dr Simon Adderley from OBBS and Dr Ian Holgate from the School of Education, Humanities and Languages. Before joining the programme, I completed a Master's in Research from the Royal College of Art, London. Now, my work at the university sits at the confluence of fashion and organisation studies at Oxford Brookes Business School (OBBS).

My PhD thesis aims to identify and explore the outcome of strategic decisions made by family-run luxury fashion businesses when faced with disruptive innovation. 'In the global and highly competitive fashion industry, creativity is very important.' Unlike creative problem-solving, artistic creativity cannot be taught (Karpova et al., 2013). If the uniqueness of a luxury fashion brand is derived from the artistic proclivities of its founders, there is little understanding of how a luxury fashion house survives after the passing of the creator.

My thesis investigates the survival learnings of long-standing fashion organisations that continue to thrive. The interdisciplinary work I am pursuing at Brookes crystallises my scholarship and teaching goals.

In alignment with my interests in creativity and business, I presented a lecture at the Work In Progress (WIP) exhibition at London's Central St Martin's Masters Architecture Programme titled *Survival Learnings in a Creative Organisation* in March of 2023. In the spring of 2022, I planned and co-produced the *Education and Creative Technologies Testbed Symposia* launch of the *Human-Machine Collaboration Conference*, organised by the University of Oxford's Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, supported by Amazon Web Services (AWS). Similarly, I produced the British Council's GREAT webcast lecture, *Local Knowledge, Global Networks: Digital Futures for Higher Education*, featuring Dr Howard Hotson, Professor of Early Modern Intellectual History, University of Oxford. I continue collaborating with researchers at the University of Oxford's TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, a research hub centred on innovative pedagogical platforms) and the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) on the role of advanced media technologies.

“If the uniqueness of a luxury fashion brand is derived from the artistic creativity of its founders, there is little understanding of how a luxury fashion house survives—even after the passing of its original creator.”

COMING UP

Open Day Event - 2 March at The Forum, JHB Building



Join us on this exciting event, there will be research presentations through poster and video displays.

Come and meet future students, network with your peers and see the launching of the new Research Degrees Placement programme.

Meet business representatives and see what they may be able to offer you.

For more details go to the Research [Degrees Open Day webpage](#).

Science Bazaar The Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar is back on **Saturday 3 February 2024** from 11:30 - 16:00. Join us at our Headington Campus for mind-bogglingly spectacular science fun! This event is open to all. Fun for all the family and most suitable for 5-16 years. Visit us to meet our staff, students, and partners, explore our interactive stands, listen to our talks, learn something new, and to get stuck into our many activities! We will be following the theme of "curiosity", encouraging you to ask questions, investigate our wide range of topics, discover new interests, and be curious!

There will be a relaxed autism-friendly early opening from 9:30am - 11:30am. This ticketed event will have a limited number of visitors allowing for a quieter festival experience. When booking tickets please select the relaxed autism-friendly session.

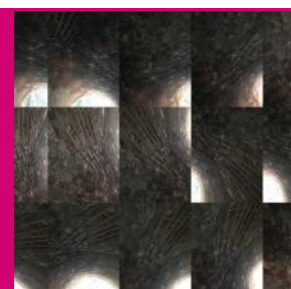
For more details go to the [Science Bazaar Webpages](#).

Upcoming Network Events

- 4th International Creative Industries Festival: Power and Change on 10-13 April 2024
 - Festival of the Artificial Intelligence and Data Analysis Network on 3-7 June 2024
 - Children and Young People Network Festival of Research on 9-10 July 2024
- More information at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/>

Art Display in Summertown Catherine Ross and James Elliott - PhD by Fine Art Practice researchers at Oxford Brookes University - will be presenting their research at [The North Wall](#), in Summertown from **26 March - 13 April 2024**. They will be showing digitally manipulated films and photographs, photopolymer etchings, poetry, and sound walks/works. All students are cordially invited. There will be a range of activities as part of the show.

This is a free event.



Tunnel Series XVIII - Transformation

STAY CONNECTED

Graduate College Annual Research Student Exhibition

All research students are invited to showcase their work at the 2024 Graduate College Research Student Exhibition

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to share your research with fellow students, staff members and external visitors. You can present your research using posters, journal articles, audio-visual



performances, PowerPoint presentations, book chapters and many more mediums. You will also compete with your fellow research students for a chance to win a range of cash prizes.

When: 30 April 2024 at The Forum, John Henry Brookes Building, 10am—5.30pm

Deadlines: Complete your submission form by the **18 March 2024** and send

your event submission by **15 April 2024** to asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk

Prize giving will take place during the networking lunch that will be provided for all those attending the event. For more information on how to participate please go to the [graduate college events page](#)

Oxford Botanical Garden— A Guided Tour

Tuesday 7 May, 3-5pm

Join us for a delightful afternoon with our great guide Dr Andrew Lack, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Biology at Oxford Brookes.

You will visit the greenhouses full of exotic plants, the walled garden with medicinal plants and much more!

You may like to watch this [video](#) prepared by one of our research students.

Entry to the garden is free but please bring your ID card. Book your place on the [graduate college events page](#).



Three Minute Thesis Competition

Tuesday 25 June 2024, Headington Hill Hall, 1pm to 3pm

Present your thesis in three minutes using only a single static PowerPoint slide, no props, sound, moving images, poems or songs. There will be cash prizes for first place, runner up and for the people's choice winner.

The winner of this competition will be entered into the UK 3MT® online competition in August.

Deadline for video submissions is **Monday 10 June 2024**.

Find out what to do and register for this event or for the celebration on the [Graduate college events page](#)



And More.....

Graduate College Training Programme

All sessions can be booked through our [pages](#).

Semester 2 - 2024

- Integrating Public Engagement into your Research
- Keeping up to date with your research
- Everything you need to know about KTPs
- Evaluating your public engagement activities
- Research ethics process for PhD students
- How to get the most out of conferences
- Managing your supervisor and building a good working relationship with your supervisory team
- Endnote training - Managing information overload
- Strategies for successful networking
- Research degrees – strategies for successful part-time study
- Research integrity at Brookes - a brief guide to general principles*
- Managing your research records and your data management plan*
- A step by step guide to publishing your research findings*
- The Viva Examination*

*available on demand from [Research Student Training Moodle site](#). More details about them and when they are running can be found in the [Research student training pages](#).

Research Degrees Placement Opportunities Oxford Brookes University!



The Research Degrees Team, is excited to provide outstanding 1-3 months Placement opportunities for our Research Degrees Students.

This initiative will provide you with the chance to:

- Gain direct experience within industry and or other organisations, which does not have to be within your discipline.
- Develop new and existing transferable skills.
- Expand your network and professional horizons.

A work placement will give you the opportunity to develop skills such as:

- Interpersonal skills and working as part of a team.
- Liaise with staff in different roles, including senior staff.
- Organisational skills, including project and event management, making effective use of resources and working to specific deadlines.
- Engage with different audiences and interact with external stakeholders.
- Data management and analysis.
- IT skills (e.g. web-pages development) and many more.

Currently all our opportunities are fully funded by the university.

(Eligibility criteria apply - for more information please contact rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk)
We are looking forward to hearing from you!