

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for our postgraduate research student community

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NEWS

HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES 'DRESS FOR SUCCESS'

Image coach **Shenda Collins** puts HLS through their paces in her visual presentation workshop.

In October this year research students and research only staff in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, met with image coach Shenda Collins for a 'Dress for Success' workshop.

While 'image' may sound like a slightly frivolous concern for researchers, it does form an essential component of non-verbal communication. Intended or not, people make judgements about others instantaneously when they first meet, and a large part of this judgement is based upon a person's visual presentation. Shenda uses her expertise to demonstrate that by presenting yourself to your best advantage, you can communicate more effectively through managing another person's perception of you. This is an extremely valuable skill to have in the workplace, in a job interview, for a conference presentation or for that all important PhD viva.

Shenda gave an entertaining and visually focused presentation illustrating how different you can look by choosing colours and styles of clothing that harmonise with your own personal colouring and body proportions. This was followed by an individualised 'colour analysis' for all those who participated.

Hanna Wickenden, a PhD student from the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, commented after the event that she was pleased she attended; 'I don't want to seem too authoritative while teaching, but when presenting at a conference I want to feel in control.' For Hanna it was incredibly helpful to learn which colours, tones and shapes suited her and when it was appropriate to wear them.

Shenda commented to the participants during the evening, that although this matter was hardly 'rocket science' compared to the research everyone was involved in, it can pay great personal and professional dividends to consider how you present yourself to others to a little more detailed and methodological analysis. As Shakespeare famously wrote: 'the clothes doth oft proclaim the man' – or woman.



Images taken with permission from Shenda Collins' website imagecoach.co.uk

One Bowl
a Social Sculpture performance
Realised by Dianne Regisford

Ubuntu
Encounters



PhD Student Engages Social Issues in Oxford with ONE BOWL Journey Makers

For the past year, School of Arts PhD student, Artist and Social Sculpture practitioner Dianne Regisford, has been invited to perform ONE BOWL: Ubuntu Encounters at Art Festivals, academic conferences and projects throughout the UK.

The performances are a collaborative journey experienced through the communal sharing of a meal. Inspired by the South African IsiZulu word and life philosophy Ubuntu - 'without you, I do not exist' - Dianne creates spaces where people can consider what binds us as people and planet. As an environmental and social justice activist, Dianne's artistic works engage various social issues, such as urban sustainability, food sovereignty and extreme poverty.

In April, Dianne organised a week of performances at Fusion Arts, East Oxford Community Centre, as a research residency. During the residency, she was able to evolve her work through the input and reflections received from those involved; the ONE BOWL journey makers. One participant commented that they 'would love to experience this with more people, taking it to teenagers and sharing it in schools', as it is such an intimate journey that brings global issues to your doorstep.

£12.5M FUNDING for Bioscientists of the Future

Following the October announcement of £125M of funding over five years to leading universities and scientific institutions, by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Oxford Brookes will partner with the University of Oxford, the Pirbright Institute, Diamond Light Source, STFC Central Laser Facility and the ISIS Neutron Source in a £12.5M Doctoral Training Programme.

The programme will train research students to the level of PhD (doctorate) as part of a group undertaking a year of high-level intensive training followed by three years of PhD study in some of the world's most technically advanced facilities.

BEST PAPER at Doctoral Colloquium

Dr Maureen Pei-Fang Li, who received her doctorate last year from the Faculty of Business, has been awarded best paper at the 2014 Academy of Marketing Doctoral Colloquium.

The Colloquium took place this year at the Executive Business Centre at the Lansdowne Campus of Bournemouth University, Dorset on 7th July 2014. This was an excellent arena for doctoral students at all stages of their research to meet, discuss and share ideas with fellow students and experienced researchers.

Maureen, whose paper was entitled 'Technology Paradoxes: UK and Taiwan Mobile Phone Markets', expressed a real surprise in being given the award, never contemplating prior to the announcement that she would win anything for her research. She further commented that it was incredibly important to be recognised so early in her career and was extremely grateful to her supervisors, Dr David Bowen and Dr Yuksel Ekinici, for all their support and guidance.



RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



SUE LEDWITH
Business School

The title of my PhD by Published Work is Challenging Gender Hegemony in Labour Movements.

For the last 30 years I have researched and published in the field of gender/women and trade unions. Formerly a newspaper journalist, and then a trainer, in the 1980s I became an academic, teaching labour studies and personnel management in the Business School at the Polytechnic of North London. I then moved to Oxford Brookes in the 1990's, and finally to Ruskin College, now based in Old Headington, in 2000, where I ran the MA in Women's Studies, later setting up an MA in International Labour and Trade Union Studies. During my time in each institution I continued my research on gender and trade unions, becoming involved with a number of professional bodies such as SOGAT, ESRC and UNISON. I also joined the Global Labour University, where I became

academic coordinator of the Gender and Trade Unions Research Group, and have recently published a book with a number of other members titled 'Visibility and Voice for Union Women: Country case studies from Global Labour University researchers'.

Once retired, I used a two-year Leverhulme Trust Emeritus scholarship to spend time researching with union women in Brazil and South Africa, and have delightedly been offered a book contract for that work.

As you can see, I am both a researcher and an activist, and it is this conjunction that forms the basis of my PhD. My work is rooted in the thinking of the Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci, who was imprisoned by Mussolini in the 1930's. His working model encompassed the idea of 'consent of the masses' to the fascist hegemony, going on to identify critical factors including crisis, and how change could be achieved through pedagogy, intellectuals and revolution. As established by Mitchell (1996), the Gramscian revolution 'war of position', which involves capturing the culture, fits well with the 'longest revolution' for women. In certain proportions of my writing I have drawn on and illustrated these themes, developing them into a model of change in my PhD; a political project to challenge and change labour movement gender politics, gender power relations and the gendered culture of hegemonic masculinity.



ALFRED FULLAH
School of Law

The title of my PhD is The Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

The aim of my research is to investigate the extent to which the SCSL, considered to be a 'hybrid' tribunal drawing on both international and nationally applicable laws, has been effective in achieving justice and sustainable post-conflict stability within Sierra Leone through its establishment and judicial practice.

I came to Brookes in 2000 to study for a Masters degree in Social Policy, later returning to complete an LLM in International Human Rights Law, following this with my PhD. Prior to joining Brookes, I trained and worked as a teacher and Trade Unionist in Sierra Leone. I was Vice President of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union for over ten years, while also working for the American Centre for International Labour

Solidarity in Partnership with the Sierra Leone Labour Congress. All of these particularities have contributed to my current research interests.

There has been very little published to date on the impact and legacy of the SCSL model, particularly in regards to academic analysis within the International Criminal Law (ICL) literature. In addition there have been no detailed studies undertaken on the hybrid nature of the SCSL. My research will strengthen the current understanding of ICL by focusing on the SCSL's establishment, experience and in particular its unique hybrid nature. My research methodology will rely upon the examination and evaluation of primary and secondary sources, as well as involving aspects of socio-legal analysis, which uses social theory for the purpose of analysing and understanding the law. In this case, I will look at the historical context and principles of both justice and transitional justice, as it will aid in analysing and evaluating the effectiveness of the SCSL in serving justice and contributing to peace and stability in Sierra Leone. Following on from my PhD I hope to teach while continuing my research within my nominated field.

ONE STUDENT'S STORY



VERONICA CORDOVA DE LA ROSA
School of Arts

My name is Veronica Cordova de la Rosa and I am a PhD student in the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment. I would like to share my experience of taking part in the LADA Live Art Development Agency workshops that I attended during the months of August and September this year.

My thesis is entitled 'Images of Violence from Mexico: a performance art based enquiry', so my supervisor, Dr Tracey Warr, suggested I apply for the various sessions offered by LADA, knowing it would be beneficial for my research. I applied for a number of sessions, explaining why I wanted to be involved in addition to sending across my art portfolio, and happily I was accepted for four individual workshops.

The first session, which was based in Manchester, was called 'Call and Response' by Harold Offeh. The workshop used the structure of Call and Response; a form of communication rooted in African diaspora, but additionally found in other cultures. Activities encouraged participants to develop 'calls' (actions, provocations, questions etc) with the aim to elicit 'responses' from other participants and a wider audience. Using conventions of West African tribal gathering, we shared food, drink, music, conversation and general experiences across a three day period, and presented a short performance piece at the end.

The second session was titled 'A Walk through Performance' by Nando Messias. It was a four-day workshop primarily focused on walking through the city of Plymouth with likeminded artists, performers, and people interested in psychogeography. I wanted to be more aware of and attentive to my walking movements during my

art performances, as I felt my part-time gallery assistant job and its repetitive activities had restricted my body movements. This session helped me a great deal and enabled me to answer questions like: 'What does it mean to walk in an art environment?'

The third workshop called 'Criticism is Community' by Gillie Kleiman was held over a weekend in Leeds. It consisted of practices that would prepare performers to face and embrace criticism, and to cement the understanding that criticism is highly individualistic; it is one person's opinion on one other person's actions.

The fourth and final session was titled 'A World of Your Own' by Geraldine Pilgrim, which was a developmental exercise in becoming someone else. The workshop allowed me to become my grandmother, Gregoria Sanchez de la Rosa, who suffered from Alzheimers but who is remembered as more than a person with an illness. She lived through and survived the Mexican Revolution; she gave birth to my mother and my aunties; and she inspired and motivated me to be brave, confident and independent. The exercise helped me to answer some of my practice in performance concerns.

There is so much more I could reflect on and share from each individual experience, and I have taken away many memorable moments. The sessions also offered me the opportunity to collaborate with others outside of the academic environment and find new ways of producing knowledge.

I would advise any of my fellow research students to try something 'outside of the box' in pursuit of, or as an aside to, their research, and I hope the unforgettable experiences I had this year will be reflected in my final PhD submission.

COMING UP

GRADUATE COLLEGE ON-LINE CONFERENCE

Take part in this year's Annual Graduate College On-line Conference and compete for a range of cash prizes for the best presentations!

The event, taking place on 10 June 2015 in John Henry Brookes Building, Gipsy Lane, is open to all research students, whether you are studying for PhD, MPhil, Masters by Research or a Professional Doctorate.

Why get involved??

Employers and research funders are increasingly asking for evidence of your skills in 'public engagement', so by taking part in the conference you will gain:

- Advice and experience in presenting your research in poster format or your discipline equivalent to communicate with a broad audience – an invaluable skill for conferences and more.
- Experience of communicating your research through a 'virtual' environment, as the conference takes place on Brookes' Wiki.
- An opportunity to gain feedback and advice on your research and to engage with other research students and research staff.
- Something meritable to put on your CV and discuss in job interviews
- The possibility of winning a cash prize!

For further information contact Dr Susan Brooks sbrooks@brookes.ac.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Following the formation of the Graduate College On-line Shop, we are looking forward to releasing our event schedule for Semester 2 in the New Year.

Remember to bookmark the link below to be one of the first to purchase a ticket, and keep an eye on your emails in January for the full itinerary:

<http://shop.brookes.ac.uk/>

SEASONS GREETINGS

From the **Research Degrees Team**



Wishing you a happy and relaxing Christmas holiday. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

We're always looking for contributions for future editions of the newsletter, so if you would like to get involved please email: asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

POSTGRADUATE FAIR

Wednesday 4 February 4-6pm
JOHN HENRY BROOKES
BUILDING, HEADINGTON CAMPUS

Come to our university-wide postgraduate fair to find out about any of Brookes' postgraduate programmes both **Masters** and **Research**. Whatever path of postgraduate study you choose, we're confident you'll encounter some amazing research and visionary teaching.

For further information please call: **+44 01865 483713**

Online registration is now open:
<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studyin-g-at-brookes/postgraduate-fair/register/>

For further information on all of our activities please visit:

www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team/current-students/research-students/