

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community

Listen, Learn, Lead



The stakeholder shift

Fixing the Governance Gap



Corporate governance may sound like a dense, technical subject, but at its core, it is fundamentally about people, trust, and responsibility. This year's graduate from Oxford Brookes Business School, Dr Samira Issa's latest research on the UK Corporate Governance Code brings this into focus, demonstrating that businesses do not operate in isolation. Every strategic decision a company makes ripples out to affect a wide matrix of stakeholders, including employees, customers, suppliers, pension trustees, local communities, and shareholders.

Her findings highlight that effective governance goes far beyond procedural compliance: Stakeholder expectations naturally collide. Shareholders may prioritize financial returns, employees demand better pay and conditions, while local communities push for environmental safeguards. Good governance isn't just about collecting feedback; it's about balancing these competing priorities fairly and explaining the trade-offs transparently.

Engagement should never be treated as an annual compliance exercise or a emergency tool reserved for crisis management. Early, continuous dialogue allows organisations to spot operational risks, catch supply chain vulnerabilities, and protect their public reputation before issues escalate.

A broader definition of stakeholders yields real operational benefits. Employees often spot system flaws long before they show up in data, while customers and suppliers hold critical insight into product weaknesses and market risks.

To help organisations bridge the gap between abstract corporate principles and everyday practice, Dr Samira Issa developed a practical Stakeholder Engagement Handbook. Filled with action-oriented tools, timelines, and reporting templates, it gives leaders a practical roadmap to move away from saying "we consulted" to clearly demonstrating how stakeholder views directly informed their final decisions.

Dr Samira's work is already shaping policy and practice at the highest levels. She has submitted formal recommendations to the UK Parliament aimed at making workforce engagement more inclusive, encouraging earlier risk detection, and pushing for simpler, more accessible corporate reporting. Recognized with the Dean's List Award for her contributions to academic excellence and institutional leadership, Dr Samira Issa remains committed to bringing these insights to the wider public.

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 Listen to Dr Samira Issa discussing her research on: <https://lnkd.in/eR9QYPCG>


**STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT
AND THE UK
CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE
CODE**



Transforming ambitions into action

Student Spotlight: Research Degree Placements

The 2025/2026 Research Degree Placement program has proven to be a defining milestone for early career scholars, offering hands-on experience that bridges academic theory and real world application. Two research students, Larissa Thurlow and Rasheedat Lawal, recently reflected on how their placement roles broadened their career visions and reshaped their approaches to impactful research.

Larissa Thurlow: Research and Editorial Assistant - Social Change and Leadership.

Larissa used her placement to build momentum toward a long-term career in research and academia. Beyond sharpening her editorial abilities, the experience provided a vital space to cultivate collaborative skills and expand her professional network. For Larissa, the placement reshaped her understanding of what makes a researcher successful. She noted that technical expertise is only one piece of the puzzle; long-term academic success relies just as heavily on strong communication, adaptability, and an ongoing willingness to learn from others. As she moves toward the next phase of her academic journey, the connections, confidence, and foundational skills developed during her role will continue to open doors for future research collaborations and scholarly ventures.

Rasheedat Lawal: Public Engagement with Research Assistant

Rasheedat centered her placement on connection, creativity, and clarity. The role allowed her to see research through a broader lens, revealing how open dialogue and accessible communication can amplify the real world impact of academic work. The experience solidified Rasheedat's identity as a researcher while highlighting new career trajectories in research impact, science communication, and public engagement leadership. Working alongside dedicated professionals underscored the intense passion that drives academic inquiry, reinforcing her belief in the power of research that is shared openly and collaboratively with the wider public.

Both Larissa and Rasheedat demonstrated the core mission of the Research Degree Placement scheme: equipping researchers with the dynamic skills, networks, and perspectives needed to lead in their respective fields. Their success highlights how interdisciplinary collaboration and effective public engagement are vital to the future of academic research.

Other students undertaking placements: Tochukwu Onyeogulu successfully wrapped up his placement as an AI Training Developer with the School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics, reporting a highly positive outcome from his time in the role. Soham Bandyopadhyay is currently advancing well in his role as a Research Funding Data Analyst with RIE. Sofia Pellaschiar continues to make great progress on her placement with Oxfordshire County Council as a Local Authority Research Assistant.



For more information, please contact rdt-placements@brookes.ac.uk

3 Minutes. 1 slide. Your research on stage

Oxford Brookes Postgraduates Shine at the 2026 Three Minute Thesis Competition

Another year, another fantastic showcase of student presentation talent! On June 3, eleven Oxford Brookes doctoral students stepped up to the challenge for this year's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. The challenge? Deliver a compelling, three-minute spoken summary of their research to a non-specialist audience—using just one static slide and no props or multimedia. Every participant rose to the occasion, offering a fascinating window into the diverse research happening across the University while gaining crucial public speaking skills along the way. Here's what a few of this year's competitors had to say:

Sian Anderson (PhD student in Social Work) "I took part in 3MT because there was nothing to lose, and a lot to gain from the experience. Like many people, I don't particularly enjoy public speaking, but I try to embrace doing hard things as a way to develop myself. I found the process of condensing my research into three minutes quite challenging, but it gave me the opportunity to consider the absolute key aspects of my work and recognise those which were less central. Overall, I really enjoyed the competition. Not only has this experience given me more confidence to discuss my work, but I also enjoyed listening to my peers discuss their work and learning about all the range of research that is being undertaken at Oxford Brookes across so many fields. I would wholeheartedly encourage other students to take part in the future competitions".

Loujain Badi (PhD candidate): "I am really grateful to have taken part in the Three Minute Thesis competition at Oxford Brookes. Sharing my work in just three minutes wasn't easy, but it was such a great experience to step outside my comfort zone and listen to the amazing work of other researchers. Every opportunity like this helps me learn, grow, and enjoy the journey even more."

Shannon Skeffington (PhD student in Psychology): "I really enjoyed taking part. It was fascinating to hear about the wide variety of research being carried out by PhD students across the University and to meet students from different subjects. There was such a supportive and encouraging atmosphere throughout, and the lunch afterwards was a lovely opportunity for us all to chat, socialize, and get to know one another. Condensing a PhD project into just three minutes—while still communicating why the research matters—was definitely a challenge, but a great opportunity to practice my communication skills."

A huge thank you to our judging panel—Professor Susan Brooks, Professor Nigel Crook, and Professor Khaled Hayatleh—who did a stellar job evaluating the talks with only a couple of minutes to spare between presentations.



Congratulations to our 2026 prize winners!

Winner: Sian Anderson (PhD in Social Work)

Runner-Up: Philippa Eddie (PhD in Management & Organisational Behaviour)

People's Choice: Shannon Skeffington (PhD in Psychology)

Join us in June 2027 for the next Three Minute Thesis competition, push your boundaries, and master your communication skills.

Visit the [Three Minute Thesis webpage](#) for more information and details on how to register!



A Summer of Innovation & Achievement

Welcome to the September edition of our research highlights, where we celebrate the incredible achievements of our Postgraduate Research Students (PGRs) during the past few months. From winning awards at prestigious conferences to publishing groundbreaking papers, our community continues to push the boundaries of their respective fields.

Spotlight on Technology and Innovation

Muhammad Shahzad PhD student at the School of Built Environment has had a prolific summer, representing the university at two major events. In June, he joined his supervisor, Dr. Avar Almukhtar, at Ox Tech Week 2026 to explore how Extended Reality (XR) and Digital Twins are revolutionising urban design. His specific PhD focus involves visualising real-time IoT sensor data within immersive Mixed Reality (MR) environments to enhance building maintenance.



Following this, Muhammad travelled to Corfu for the July 2026 European Council for Computing in Construction (EC3) Conference. There, he presented two significant papers: one comparing IoT data pipelines for Unity-based Digital Twins, and another evaluating BIM-AR integration on an active construction site in Oxford.



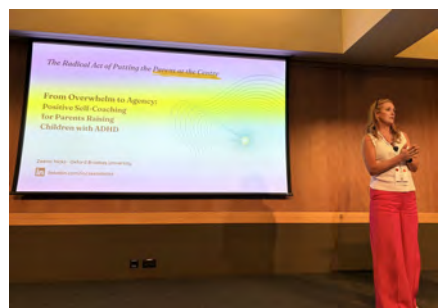
Award-Winning Research

PhD students in Coaching and Mentoring at the Business School made a fantastic impression at this year's University Forum for Human Resources Development (UFHRD) Conference at York St. John University.

Zeena Hicks took home the Best Doctoral Creative Response prize for her outstanding poster presentation.



Recently she received top honors at the International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA) Student Case Forum for her research presented at the 12th European Conference on Positive Psychology held in Dublin.



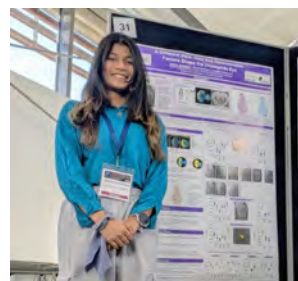
Additionally, Zeena featured on the University of Sydney Coaching Psychology alumni [podcast](#) to discuss her research work.



Fellow PhD student Grace Graham also presented at the Conference in York, sharing her insightful conceptual framework on the tripartite relationship between coaches, mentors, and apprentices.

PhD student at School of Biological and Medical Sciences, Heshika Hematilake recently presented her poster at the BSDB 2026: Molecules to Morphogenesis Spring Meeting at the University of Warwick.

Heshika's research offers a fresh perspective on a classic question in developmental biology, exploring how sex determination factors shape the eye of *Drosophila melanogaster*, not just morphologically, but in terms of functional outcomes.



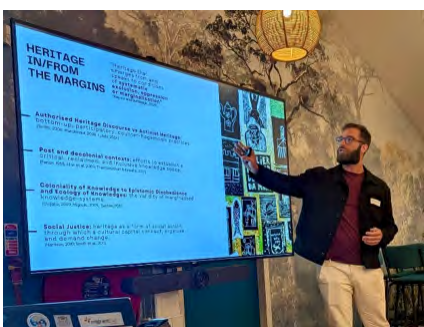
News from our students

Social Impact and Education

Our students continue to drive meaningful change through social and educational studies:

MSc by research alumna in computing, Nafisa Salsabil Zaman - presented the final results of her research project at The Oxford SDG Impact Lab, held at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. Working with the Oxfordshire County Council, Nafisa investigated how Personal Independence Payment (PIP) affects the education, employment and training decisions of young people.

Her work involved extensive qualitative and quantitative analysis, including interviews with support workers, to help inform future policy.



Bernardo de la Vega, PhD student in the Business School, shared his findings on "emotional geographies" at Wageningen University & Research, emphasizing the importance of community narratives in heritage.

Bernardo also virtually presented at the #Kaleidoscope Conference 2026 at the University of Cambridge, detailing five years of collaborative work in Rio de Janeiro. His research explores how decolonial pedagogies can create culturally responsive and supportive learning spaces for racially minoritised groups.



Global Business and Knowledge Sharing

Nic Rattle, PhD student in the Business School, spent the past months actively sharing her research on knowledge sharing with diverse audiences.

She presented at the Centre for Business, Society & Global Challenges, at the Oxford Martin School's LEAP conference and the Annual Research Student Exhibition at Oxford Brookes. Most recently, she engaged with global business leaders at the EuRA (European Relocation Association) annual conference in Malta, discussing the nuances of global mobility.



Art and Materials: ART FORUM 2026

A standout moment this spring was at the ART FORUM 2026's 'Materials Matter' panel in Summertown, Oxford. On Wednesday, May 20, Fine Art PhD student Katie Taylor shared the stage with Susan Moxley, Mychael Barratt, and Vali Lalioti to discuss the pivotal role physical media plays in artistic expression and research.

News from our students

Designing Beyond the Code: Highlights from Manchester

While AI dominates the headlines, PhD student in the Business School, Jan Nardini's latest study reminds us that human creativity is still the real engine of innovation.

Presenting at the R&D Management Conference at the University of Manchester, on 26 June, Jan unveiled early insights from the ACE framework. Based on empirical research of practitioners in Professional services, the framework offers a roadmap for adopting AI with purpose and creativity, moving well "beyond the code."

The presentation was part of a collaborative panel alongside Robert Clegg and facilitator Angel Jimenez-Aranda.



A Historic Finish for Oxford Brookes Racing Autonomous!

Robotics PhD student in the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, Aduen Benjumea, is celebrating a spectacular conclusion to his five-year journey with Oxford Brookes Racing Autonomous. The team recently returned from the IMechE Formula Student competition at Silverstone, where they delivered a dominant performance to sweep the AI class. The team took home 1st Place Overall, securing victories across multiple categories: Dynamics, Skidpad, Trackdrive and Autocross.

After also picking up a 2nd place finish in Acceleration, the team capped off their weekend with a major engineering milestone: fielding the very first UK vehicle built in a single year to move autonomously in a dynamic event.



Dziga Vertov at 130: New Perspectives on the Film-Eye Legacy



Oxford Brookes Masters by Research student Richard Bossons took part in a round-table Symposium at Cambridge University on the 9 June 2026 to mark the anniversary of the Soviet documentary film-maker, Dziga Vertov. Organised and chaired by the film scholar Kirill Goriachok, the author of a new definitive book on the creation of Vertov's seminal 1929 film *Man with a Movie Camera*, the one-day event brought together international scholars to revisit one of cinema's most radical and influential figures. The symposium explored new perspectives on his films, writing, collaboration, and lesser-known periods of his work, through talks, discussion, and archival screenings. The audience heard the contributors discuss what Vertov's cinema means today, how we watch his films now, what they reveal to a contemporary audience, and how we understand the legacy of his revolutionary Film-Eye method in relation to documentary practice and film history. The Symposium concluded with an introduction by Richard and the first UK screening of Eye Filmmuseum's new print of *Man with a Movie Camera* with its original music, reconstructed in a two-year project by Richard and the composer Dr Leo Geyer.

News from our students

Gestures of Memory : A Performative Response To Hidden Migration History

Clare Carswell, MA by Research student in the School of Arts, was invited by Live Art Ireland, to perform in July, for the international performance event 'Unfinished Business' at The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, Ireland.

Performing on a programme including artists and musicians from Ireland, Ukraine, Canada and the UK, her work, SHIM & SHIM, used objects, drawings, stylised gesture and sound, to share overlooked stories of forced migration of the artist's family, as of so many others, from Ireland in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, when fleeing famine or sectarian violence. The work attempted to give new voice to this history, and to honour the lived experience of the artist's forebears.



<https://www.live-art.ie/2026/07/07/clare-carswell/>
www.clarecarswellperformance.com
[@performazingzingBody](https://twitter.com/performazingzingBody)

This work is part of her practice based research at Brookes, in which she employs auto ethnography in recursive enquiries into the haptic experience of making, observing adaptations made with age and informing hybrid responses to the archive of the woman artist. Cultural, societal and economic factors that led to discernible absences in the content and chronology of it are examined and traces of overlooked life stories surfaced through performative actions.

From Scratch to Screen: Inspiring Girls in Game Dev



During July, School of Arts PhD student Loujain Badi led an engaging game development initiative for 13 to 15-year-old girls in Manchester. In collaboration with Ahead Partnership and three local schools, Loujain mentored students as they created original games from scratch using Scratch, Delightex EDU, and iPads.

Loujain writes 'the energy and creativity from the students were unmatched as they turned their concepts into working games. With women remaining underrepresented across STEM, initiatives like this play a critical role in showing young women what is possible in tech. The experience working alongside colleagues from diverse STEM disciplines reaffirmed a shared passion for teaching, mentoring, and opening doors for future innovators'.

Research students' latest publications

Abu Hassan, N. R. (2026) 'A Phenomenological Perspective of Heritage Planning and Policy: The Case of Kuala Lumpur', *The Historic Environment: Policy & Practice*, pp. 1–20. doi: 10.1080/17567505.2026.2709867.

Preston, S. (2026) 'Beyond Inclusion: Recognising the Strategic Power of Autistic Educators', Chapter 10 in *The Sen Practitioner: Status, Skills and Support* (nasen Spotlight), edited by Dr Tristan Middleton and published by David Fulton Books.

Wright, B. H., et al. (2026): "Effects of a 4-Week Multi-Exercise Isometric Resistance Training Programme on Resting and Ambulatory Blood Pressure in Normotensive Adults," published in the *European Journal of Sport Science* e70202. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsc.70202>.

Graduate College Training Programme		
Session title	Date	Time
Finding information for your research	5 October 2026	11:30-12:30
Research ethics process for PhD students	12 October 2026	14:00-15:15
Introduction to Knowledge Exchange	19 October 2026	14:00-15:00
Top ten tips for making the most of your Research Degree	20 October 2026	14:00-15:30
An introduction to impact	22 October 2026	11:30-13:00
An introduction to public and community engagement with research	2 November 2026	11:30-13:00
How to make a research poster	4 November 2026	16:00-17:00
Using AI tools for your literature review	10 November 2026	11:00-12:30
EDI best practice in research engagement	11 November 2026	15:00-15:00
An introduction to intellectual property	16 November 2026	12:00-13:00
Effectively managing the stresses & challenges of a doctoral student	17 November 2026	14:00-15:30
EndNote training - managing information overload	24 November 2026	11:00-12:00
An introduction to commercialisation of research	27 November 2026	12:00-13:00
Applying a gender dimension in research	2 December 2026	11:30-13:00
How to give a terrible talk	2 December 2026	16:00-17:00
Tackling the writing up stage of the research degree	8 December 2026	11:00-12:30
Bouncing back (and forward): Surviving and thriving in the PhD journey	9 December 2026	11:30-12:30
Time management for researchers	9 December 2026	13:30-15:00
Knowledge-based commercialisation: consultancy, contract research, CPD and KTP	14 January 2027	12:00-13:00
Engagement tools: pitching your research	18 January 2027	12:00-13:30
Personal branding for academics	25 January 2027	11:00-12:00
AI and research	1 February 2027	11:00-12:00
Keeping up to date with your research	9 February 2027	11:00-12:00
Research ethics process for PhD students	15 February 2027	13:30-14:30
Engagement tools: storytelling in research	22 February 2027	11:30-13:00
How to do a research poster that people actually want to look at	2 March 2027	12:00-13:00
The research degree playbook	3 March 2027	16:00-17:00
Using AI for your literature review	8 March 2027	14:30-16:00
Tools for impact evidence collection	9 March 2027	11:30-13:00
Imposter syndrome	16 March 2027	11:30-13:00
Tools for evaluating public engagement activities	18 March 2027	12:00-13:30
How to get the most out of conferences?	13 April 2027	12:00-13:30
Academic blogging - raising the profile of your research	19 April 2027	14:00-15:00
EndNote training - managing information overload	27 April 2027	12:00-13:00
Managing your supervisor & building a good relationship with your supervisory team	28 April 2027	14:00-15:30
Engagement tools: optimising engagement through social media	29 April 2027	12:00-13:30
Effectively managing the stresses & challenges of a doctoral student	11 May 2027	12:00-13:30
Engagement tools: infographics, podcasts and working with the media	17 May 2027	11:30-13:00
Strategies for successful networking	25 May 2027	12:00-13:30
What can open research do for you?	27 May 2027	14:00-15:00
Research degrees - strategies for successful part-time study	22 June 2027	11:00-12:30

2026-2027 Networking Events

Sign up at the [graduate college events](#) page

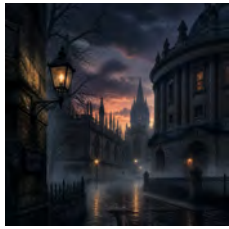
Oxford Mystery Hunt: Can Your Team Solve the Case? 28 October 2026, 3-5.30pm



A mystery is brewing in the historic streets of Oxford, and we need your eagle eyes to solve it! Join us for this entertaining walk in Oxford.

Starting at 3:00pm, Bonn Square outside Westgate shopping centre and ending around 5:30pm in the Castle

Oxford's Dark side: 2 November 2026, 6-7pm



Join our fearless guide Rob as we travel back through a millennium of Oxford's most sinister history. Together, we'll navigate a maze of creepy medieval lanes where shadows linger and forgotten stories come back to life.

Meeting point: 6pm Martyr's Memorial, 13 Magdalen Street, Oxford OX1 3AE

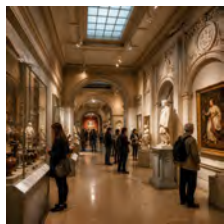
Tabletop & Chat: A Chill Board Games Evening - 1 December 2026, 4-7pm



Got a favorite board game you've been dying to play? Join us for an awesome session of tabletop gaming and networking!

Meeting at 4pm outside Thirsty Meeples, 97-98, Oxford OX1 2DF

Step into history at the Ashmolean Museum - 26 January 2027, 3-4pm



Join us as we uncover the true stories behind some of the Ashmolean Museum's most awe-inspiring treasures! Guy Fawkes' lantern, Alfred Jewel, Jericho Skull, Powhatan's Mantle and many more.

Meeting point: 2:55pm Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St, Oxford OX1 2PH in Gallery 21 - to the left of main entrance door. Places are limited to 15 people.

Unlocked: The Ultimate Behind-the-Scenes Museum Tour - 3 February 2027, time tbc



Since opening its doors back in 1860, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History has brought together the brightest, wildest, and grandest scientific discoveries in human history. And for one special visit, we're getting the VIP treatment on an exclusive, personalized tour behind closed doors to see the museum like very few people ever get to.

Meeting outside the museum, time tbc.

From Gutenberg to Gadgets: The Art of the Printed Word - 10 March 2027, 2-4pm



Step inside the Bodleian Library's hidden jewel—the Bibliographic Press—for an immersive journey through 600 years of publishing history. Guided by Richard Lawrence master printer, you'll witness firsthand how revolutionizing technology from the 1400s set the world on fire, evolving right up to today's 21st-century innovations.

Only 15 places available

CONGRATULATIONS

To all our research students on the successful outcome of their vivas and conferment of their degrees and awards for the period September 2025 - August 2026.

School of Architecture

Doctor of Philosophy

Katharine McAuliff

'Deaf Refugees in Jordan: a conceptual framework of agency and double displacement'

School of Biological and Medical Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

Emily Armstrong

'Functional characterisation of the honeybee *Apis mellifera* and diamondback moth *Plutella xylostella* alpha 5 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor identifies a subset of ion channels with unusual pharmacological properties'

Daniel Bardey

'Barking up the right tree: the evolutionary and ecological drivers of niche diversification and an adaptive radiation of feather-legged assassin bugs (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Holoptilinae)'

Grace Blakeley

'Developmental dynamics of posterior segment addition in the spider *Parasteatoda tepidariorum*'

Nadine Field

'Confocal and Electron Microscopy Investigations of the Plant Endoplasmic Reticulum - Nuclear Envelope Interface and Meristematic Cell Divisions'

Hayley Beth Free

'Untangling the evolutionary history of endogenous retroviruses in Anuran genomes'

Emily Hood

'Investigating the Functional Effects of Genes Involved in Genital Divergence between *Drosophila* Species'

Emma Michelle Kennedy

'Defining the human immune signature following infection with Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever virus'

Gabrielle Mastrodonardo Raymond

'A multidisciplinary investigation into the function of NFXL1'

Alastair James McGinness

'Modifying N-linked glycosylation in tobacco to produce human-type post-translational modifications'

Barrack Omondi Owino

'Unravelling the molecular mechanisms of *Leishmania mexicana* adhesion in the sand fly vector'

Pareena Verma

'Genome Scale Metabolic Modelling to Identify Metabolic Responses of Resistant Bacteria to Antibiotic Challenges'

Master by Research

Rhiannon Marr

'Comparison of Revvity soluble fms-like tyrosine kinase-1 and Placental Growth Factor methods on the DELFIA Xpress with Roche methods on the cobas

e411, in a patient cohort with suspected preeclampsia as defined by NICE'

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Doctor of Philosophy

Alicia Diaz Gil

'Care needs of people with dementia in perioperative environments from the perspective of healthcare professionals'

Carol Forde-Johnston

'An exploration of nurse-patient interactions in acute hospital settings when Electronic Patient Record (EPR) systems are used'

Aasia Rajpoot

'An Appreciative Inquiry into the Integration of Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) in England: Perspectives from IENs and Home-Educated Nurses (HENs)'

Diana Yardley

'Battling Boundaries and Conscience: A Grounded Theory of Paediatric Diabetes Healthcare Professionals' Experiences of Safeguarding and Child Protection'

Professional Doctorate in Nursing

Claire Coughlan

'A study of the follow-up priorities of colorectal cancer survivors from ethnic minority groups'

Lian Foong Lee
'The experiences of nurses with communication encounters when assisting in robotic-assisted surgery (RAS)'

PhD by Publication

Abdelhafeez Hassan Abdelhafeez
'Improving Surgical Documentation in Paediatric Oncology: Evaluating the Outcomes of Synoptic Operative Reports on Documentation Completeness in Childhood Cancer Surgery'

Tahmina Banu
'Surgical Care of Children Born with Birth Defects in Low and Middle Income Countries [LMICs] Using Anorectal Malformation [ARM] as a Case Study'

Abebe Bekele
'Evolving Paradigms of Surgical Education in Africa: Historical Contexts and Outcomes'

Simon Fletcher
'The lived experience of haemophilia and impact of gene therapy on the haemophilia patient community and their families: The Exigency Programme'

Meredith Newman
'Developing and evaluating physiotherapy rehabilitation interventions for people with vertebral fragility fractures'

School of Sports, Nutrition and Allied Health Professions

Doctor in Philosophy

Elizabeth King
'Exploring the long-term consequences of physical impairment following critical

illness'

Sarah Helen Paterson
'Physical Activity Behaviour After Stroke: A COM-B Informed Analysis of Activity Accumulation and Post-Stroke Determinants'

Matthew Poulter
'The State of Prisoner Dietary Health and the Impact of Dietary Interventions on Prisoner Health, Wellbeing and Behaviour'

Francesca Tabacchi
'Malnutrition screening and nutritional support in cancer care: dietetic challenges and the role of multidisciplinary collaboration'

PhD by Publication

Charlotte Lilien
'Tracking individual disease-trajectory of patients with Neuromuscular Disorders (Duchenne muscular dystrophy and Spinal muscular atrophy)'

Master of Arts by Research

Michal Drobny
'Identifying Hegemonic Masculinity in Youth Ice Hockey Programmes and Investigating its Effects on Male Players' Conduct On and Off the Ice'

Master of Science by Research

Chelsea Fullman
'Gaze behaviour and gait smoothness when navigating complex environments'

Saba Khanam
'Assessing Adolescents' Knowledge, attitudes and practices of Food Sustainability in the UK: A Mixed- Methods Socioeconomic Comparison Study'

School of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health

Doctor of Philosophy

Shannon Kong
'Word learning strategies in early childhood: mutual exclusivity across language backgrounds'

School of the Built Environment

Doctor of Philosophy

Nur Rasyiqah Abu Hassan
'The Effectiveness of Heritage Policy and Practice from the Perspective of Liveability: The Case of Kuala Lumpur'

Oscar Natividad Puig
'Networks of participation in favelas in Rio de Janeiro: the experiences of community leaders fostering continuous and affective networks to resist oppressive power'

Valerian Vanessa Tuhaise
'Enhancing Data Interoperability and Connectivity in Digital Twin Applications for Building Operations and Maintenance'

Alice Walker
'Passing Through the Ages: Later-Life Housing Decision-Making'

School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

Doctor of Philosophy

Federico Biagiotti
'Combustion and Soot Formation Modelling in Modern Gasoline Direct Injection Engines Using Computational Fluid Dynamics'

Debalina Ghosh Paul
'Testing and Evaluation of Machine Learning's Capability of Generating Program Code'

Safras Mohammed Iqbal
'Replay and bogus information attacks : simulation and empirical validation of machine learning-based cybersecurity threat detection in connected and autonomous vehicles'

Muhammad Mubashar
'Generative Modelling under Epistemic Uncertainty'

Master of Philosophy

Alessio Peluso
'The Use of Hourly, Rather Than Averaged, Data Time Series Modelling to Improve Projections of Power Usage and Demand in California Through to 2030'

Master of Science by Research

Fraser Bayle
'Investigating Neuronal Network Dynamics: Scale-Invariance; Preferred Firing Rates; and Plasticity via Phase-Shift Encoding'

Travis Brown
'Conceptual Evaluation of Hydrogen Hybrid Combustion for Heavy-Duty Engines Using CFD Modelling'

Sebastian Donnelly
'Edge Processing for Remote Operation of Automated Vehicles in Variable Network Environments'

Nafisa Salsabil Zaman
'Occupational gender bias in large language models: a multi-level analysis using the OccuBias Dataset'

Oxford Brookes Business School

Doctor of Philosophy

Samira Abdullahali Issa
'Stakeholder Engagement and the UK Corporate Governance'

Sadiya Machingal
'A grounded theory study exploring Indian travel Instagrammers' communication behaviors'

Ayodeji Makinde
'How does who we are affect what we do: An exploration of the organizational identity's strategy nexus in a UK based megachurch'

Amina Mahmood Yakubu
'Gender and Education: A Microeconometric Analysis of Returns to Education in Nigeria'

Doctor of Coaching and Mentoring

Sophia Andeh
'How coaching can help people with concealable stigmatised identities (CSIs) navigate inclusion challenges in the workplace'

Jane Darvill-Evans
'How does intercultural coaching influence coachees' learning? Exploring the experiences of coaches and coachees in Japanese-Western dyads'

David Lowe
'Exploring how spontaneous humour affects dyadic coaching experiences. A heuristic inquiry'

Pat O'Leary
'An exploration of the lived experiences of coaches who adopt a mindfulness-informed approach when dealing with difficulty in their coaching practice'

Phoebe Simmons
'Connecting to what matters: How meaning in life is explored and developed in coaching'

School of Arts

Doctor of Philosophy

Maria de Carli Ball
'The Mind-Game Film in the Age of the Anthropocene: At the Limits of Productive Pathologies'

Paul John Glynn
'The perception and experience of autism expressed through visual constructs'

Anne Griffiths
'Phallic Metaphors and Feminist Perspectives: Unsettling the Linnaean Botanical Archive through Historiographic Technique and Studio Practice'

Ireneusz Koper
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Research Student Profile

Yevheniia Shapochka

School of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health

Thesis title: Designing a behavioural screening tool to address reducing alcohol consumption among women in Mid-Life

While public health campaigns frequently focus on alcohol consumption during pregnancy, early motherhood, or young adulthood, mid-life women remain a largely untargeted population. Yet, this demographic navigates a unique matrix of physiological transitions, evolving care giving responsibilities, and complex career and social pressures.

Research shows that midlife women frequently use alcohol as a coping mechanism for stress, isolation and burnout. Despite these pressures, social stigma around female drinking create powerful barriers to seeking help. Speaking to healthcare professionals, women are less likely to talk about their alcohol consumption, while healthcare professionals do not ask women these lifestyle questions as often as they do to men.

A core challenge in identifying at-risk individuals lies in the diagnostic tools currently available to medical professionals. The majority of standardized alcohol screening questionnaires were originally designed and validated on male cohorts. By adopting a "one-size-fits-all" model, these universal screening tools miss the nuanced psychological drivers, emotional rationalizations, and subtle disclosures characteristic of mid-life women's drinking patterns.

To solve this problem, this research is setting out to establish a new paradigm: co-designing a women-specific screening tool tailored to the specific lived experiences of this demographic.

Would like to know more? Get in touch at 19368728@brookes.ac.uk

**..little is know about
how mid-life women
perceive and
rationalise their
drinking behaviours**



Research Student Profile

Loujain Al Ibadi

School of Arts

Thesis title: Exploring how interactive VR storytelling games affect emotional engagement in young adult players

New research is exploring how interactive narrative design in virtual reality (VR) shapes young adults' emotional experiences. Unlike traditional media like films or books, VR places players directly inside the narrative, enabling them to explore virtual environments, interact with characters, and make decisions that influence their journey.

This research investigates how specific design elements such as player choice, dialogue, character development, environmental storytelling, and pacing, trigger specific emotional responses, including curiosity, tension and reflection.

Rather than asking if VR evokes emotion, this research seeks to pinpoint which specific design techniques drive those reactions.

Using an iterative, practice-based approach, the project unfolds in two main phases:
Pilot Study: Analyzing existing VR storytelling games to observe current narrative techniques and refine methods for measuring player emotion.
Prototype Development & Testing: Designing an original VR game prototype to gather player feedback via questionnaires, interviews, and gameplay observations. The findings will inform a second, refined version of the game.

By comparing both versions, the project will see whether changes to specific design elements leads to differences in players' emotional experiences.

Ultimately, this research aims to deliver practical guidelines for game developers while advancing academic understanding of interactive storytelling games.

How do different narrative design elements influence young adults' emotional experiences in interactive VR storytelling games?



Research Student Profile

John Manton

School of Arts

Thesis title: Producing publics for the post digital artist book: digital surrogacy, twinning, and the library as studio

This research examines the potential of digital twinning approaches to resolve problems in artist publishing. Drawing on the extensive collection of artist's books housed in the Special Collections Department at Oxford Brookes University Library, the study explores how practitioners transform diverse creative mediums into compact, reproducible, and bound formats. Publication naturally imposes formal, material, and institutional constraints on artistic output: work must remain physically containable within book structures and standard materials like paper or card, while conforming to conventional distribution networks such as shops, catalogues, and libraries. A central pleasure of the genre lies in how artists actively subvert these boundaries.

While digital twinning typically refers to creating a dynamic virtual model of a physical process or entity, this project adapts the concept to intervene directly in the publication pipeline. John treats the exhibition itself as a primary publication event, developing flexible, modular strategies that unfold compact book forms, including pages, scrolls, printouts, and bound volumes into room-size installations and live performances.

These spatial transformations are heavily mediated by digital technologies, incorporating photographic capture, digital drawing, video projection, live video mixing, and algorithmic page shuffling. In this way, the physical book form becomes inseparable from the digital superstructure that produces its displayed and published iterations.

In late November 2026, John will present an exhibition at the New Headington Hill Building at Oxford Brookes as part of his examinable research output. It will demonstrate how digital and algorithmic processes extend artist book forms and publication events, incorporating near-live elements that transform visitor interactions into daily changing exhibition content.

John treats the exhibition itself as a primary publication event, developing flexible, modular strategies that unfold compact book forms

How to contact us



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