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Editor's Welcome

HEFCE are to set up a panel to monitor equality and diversity in the upcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF). This was one of the measures outlined in guidance published on the 14 July 2011 to inform institutions about exactly what should be included in their submissions to the REF. But what is equality and diversity?

The equality and diversity panel will discuss anything that affects output and submission, such as support for researchers from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, maternity or child care gaps, declared physical disability, and illness or other missing periods in research career during the REF period.

All HEIs are required to develop a Code of Practice for the management of the above threats to research output and submit this by January 2013.

In this issue of MMU Research News you will find news and articles on such diverse topics as 'how young people engage in political activities'; 'exclusionary and oppressive practices associated with disability' and 'novel intervention to improve the safety of diabetes patients whilst walking'. It also celebrates successes such as the award of the ASAB Medal to Dr Mike Dockery; Jack Tait, the oldest student to receive MMU's newest doctoral award, and the 90th birthday of a revolutionary school and ideology.

Whilst MMU's research may address issues of equality and is certainly diverse, what about our researchers? How well does MMU's staff profile reflect that of the local population? How well will we do in the REF? I will leave you to ponder these questions while you read on.

Peter Goodwin
Editor

Guest Column: **Val Edwards-Jones**



It's been a busy few months and we have seen some notable successes. There have been forty research degree conferments (and I know of at least another ten that have just missed the deadline!) and we've had grant successes of over £700K.

I think this deserves a 'well done' to all involved. In addition, we have just conferred our first (and oldest) PhD by Practice. Many of you may not be aware of the routes to PhD that we offer at MMU that do not involve the traditional three years full-time study.

We will be raising the profile of these routes in the forthcoming academic year and hope that if you are possibly eligible for these qualifications you will contact the Research Office for further information and consider obtaining a PhD by publication. There are further details of all research degree programmes in the Code of Practice for Post Graduate Research Degrees available on line at www.red.mmu.ac.uk/documents/res_files/applications/CoP%20&%20Regs%20Sept%202009%20_final%20version_.pdf

You may be interested to know that we will be implementing an internal peer review scheme within the Research Institutes in the new academic year to help build grant application success rates, so please look out for future information and communications on the subject.

We hope to run a series of training sessions for grant applications to assist researchers in building their bid writing skills and will be doing the first series in September. These will be run again throughout the year and hopefully you will benefit from these. All staff workshops are available on line at www.red.mmu.ac.uk/documents/res_files/applications/CoP%20&%20Regs%20Sept%202009%20_final%20version_.pdf

Finally, there are a number of planned briefing sessions on the Research Excellence Framework 2014, to ensure all staff are kept informed of how we are proceeding with the necessary processes.

Val Edwards-Jones
Director of Research

Sociologist hits European jackpot

MMU Sociologist, Dr Gary Pollock (HSSR) is a partner with Professor Hilary Pilkington from Warwick University in an FP7 collaborative large-scale integrated project called MYPLACE.

It is funded under the 2010 Social Sciences and Humanities call 'Democracy and the shadows of totalitarianism and populism: the European experience'. The project runs from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2015 with a budget of nearly €8 million.



MYPLACE stands for Memory Youth Political Legacy And Civic Engagement. The project investigates the various ways in which young people engage in political activities. Of particular interest is the extent to which young people may be drawn into the kinds of populist forms of politics which are currently becoming more widespread throughout Europe. The role of history and memories of the past – war, totalitarianism, civic unrest etc - will be explored as a factor in these developments.

MYPLACE is interdisciplinary: it will bring together researchers in 14 countries and will include a large scale survey to measure young people's political and civic participation and attitudes. Interviews, ethnographies and focus groups will be used to understand the meanings young people attach to such participation and to explore how these meanings are transmitted across generations.

The project's findings will feed into regional, national and EU level policy-making centres as well as a range of youth activist, anti-racism/xenophobia networks. An important objective of the project is to inform policymakers about the range of political and civic activities in which young people are involved, rather than focusing on 'problems' in the youth sphere.

For more information go to www.fp7-myplace.eu or contact g.pollock@mmu.ac.uk



Medal for good behaviour

Dr Mike Dockery (HSRI) who retired in December has been awarded the 2010 Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) Medal. Dr Dockery has been an honorary associate lecturer at MMU for approximately 13 years, paid for by the ASAB, prior to which he studied for his Masters and Doctorate at MMU.

The ASAB Medal, specially designed by Jonathan Kingdon, a science author focusing on taxonomic illustration and evolution of the mammals of Africa, and struck in bronze, is awarded annually for contributions to the science of animal behaviour through teaching, writing, broadcasting, research, etc, or through fostering any of these activities or contributing to the affairs of the Association.

The ASAB Council intends the medal not only to provide an appropriate way of recognising distinction in the field, but also to contribute to raising the profile of the Association and the topic of animal behaviour in the wider scientific community.

For more information contact m.head@mmu.ac.uk



Critical Disability Studies

@ Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) ★★

www.cdsmmu.posterous.com

New disability website for research community

Researchers aim to understand and challenge exclusionary and oppressive practices associated with disablism and consider the ways these intersect with other forms of marginalisation including hetero/sexism, racism, poverty and imperialism. This research community is currently hosted and supported by RIHSC and the Department of Psychology at MMU.

Critical disability studies@MMU offers disability studies teaching and research at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the academic departments of Education, English, Law, Psychology, Social Change and Sociology. Research areas include Critical Policy Studies; Community Psychology; Place, Creativity and Activity; Literary and Cultural Disability Studies; Critical Disability Studies Theory; Child, Family and Disability; Self-advocacy and Disability Politics; and Global Disability Studies perspectives.

The community has been very busy this year organising a number of international conferences, seminars and events. It has also uploaded podcasts of presentations and videos to its new YouTube channel. Since the website was launched in January it has received over 13,000 visitors.

For more details go to www.cdsmmu.posterous.com
or contact d.goodley@mmu.ac.uk



Diabetes project is healthy

Dr Neil Reeves (IRM) has been successful in obtaining a European Clinical Research Grant for €222,000 from the European Foundation for the study of diabetes.

This grant will fund a three-year project to investigate biomechanical and neuromuscular factors that may compromise the safety of everyday gait tasks for people with diabetes and peripheral neuropathy. The project will also evaluate the influence of a novel intervention programme aimed at altering various aspects of gait to improve the safety of these everyday tasks for this clinical population.

Experimental techniques/measurements used will include a ten-camera motion analysis system and the assessment of muscle activity to characterise how people with diabetes walk and negotiate stairs. The project will be performed in collaboration with the University of Manchester and the Manchester Diabetes Centre.

This project forms part of a larger body of work investigating gait in people with diabetes for which Dr Reeves has recently gained funding from the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation. It is hoped that the work will provide effective interventions for improving the safety of gait tasks and contribute to enhancing quality of life for people with diabetes.

For more information contact n.reeves@mmu.ac.uk



Newest award for oldest student

Dr Jack Tait was the oldest student at MIRIAD and also the first to complete the new MMU degree of PhD by Professional Practice. This PhD is designed for candidates who are practising in a working research environment with the objective of producing outputs in a professional and/or studio context. Students submit a portfolio of work supplemented by an analytical commentary.

Dr Tait's analytical commentary was accompanied by an exhibition of his drawing machines and images made from them in the Righton Building in January 2010.

Previously, Jack was the founding Head of Photography at Manchester School of Art. Discussions are currently under way with the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum regarding the possible donation of his work. Throughout his doctoral studies Jack has enjoyed the support of the Computer Arts Society.

In seeking to celebrate the formal written confirmation of his degree on 26 May 2011 titled 'Programmable Analogue Drawing Machines,' Dr Tait took advantage of a ready-made social invitation. Dr Tait and his wife Rita were at a private dinner party as guests of the Archbishop of Canterbury where it was arranged that Dr Williams would include the text below in his after dinner speech.

"Jack's PhD award is wonderful news for all who want to pick up academic study later in life. MMU is taking the question of improved access to advanced study really seriously..."

For more information go to web.me.com/jacktait/Taitographs2

**Images: Jack Tait in the 70s with Tigress Amber.
Dr Jack Tait recently with Dr Rowan Williams.**



Rebels with a cause

On 23 June, ESRI held an interdisciplinary seminar on childhood, practices, research and policy. The audience was made up of practitioners, senior local authority personnel from children's and young people's services, academics and research students.

Summerhill teacher Michael Newman and four students came to contribute to a discussion about ways to create democratic spaces in education. The seminar was based on bringing research, policy and practice into dialogue with one another and the young people came to talk about the democratic and co-operative ethos of their school that helps to make creative spaces for 'doing things differently' within the UK education system.

Summerhill School was founded in 1921 by AS Neill, a Scottish writer and rebel. He created a community in which children could be free from adult authority. The school and his ideas became world-famous through Neill's writings and lectures and his books are still published worldwide.

In the late 60s Neill's success at Summerhill was finally recognised and he was awarded honorary degrees from the Universities of Newcastle, Exeter and Essex. He was also recognised amongst the top 12 men and women who have influenced British schooling during the last millennium by the Times Educational Supplement (31.12.1999).

To mark Summerhill's 90th birthday this year, Michael Newman brought a cake and birthday cards for people to sign. So far, they've had students from the IoE, London Students' Union signing, and Sir Ken Robinson, Mark Stephens (the Wikileaks solicitor) and Bill Nye (the actor).

For more information go to www.esri.mmu.ac.uk/news/childhoodsem1.pdf or contact r.holmes@mmu.ac.uk

Grant Successes

£560,290	The European Commission	Memory, youth, political legacy and civic engagement	Dr Gary Pollock
£52,000	ESRC	Exploring the potential for small community based groups to support the requirements of young people and community members as volunteers and active citizens within and on behalf of their localities.	Carrie Packham
£5,480	EPSRC	Reducing CO2 emissions from inland transport	Prof Simon Iwnicki
£20,000	Met Office	Met Office subcontract	Dr Sarah Raper
£6,564	British Academy	Writing, asking, advising: teens, young adults and advice columns	Dr Melanie Tebbutt
£2,000	ESRC	Time to end the bias towards inclusive education?	Prof Dan Goodley
£5,100	EPSRC	Arcoes: adaptation and resilience of coastal energy supply in the UK	Dr Michael Wood
£97,682	EU	D-Rail	Dr Paul Allen
£3,000	Japanese Language Local Project Support Programme	Voices from Fukushima	Dr Lynne Parmenter
£752,116	Total		

Conferments from 24th February to 18th July 2011

	Surname	Qualification	Thesis Title
Art and Design			
1	David Hirsh HALEY	PhD	Steps to an art of ecology an emergent practice
2	Jonathan Charles BAILEY	MA	Metamorphosis in Manhattan
3	Robyn WOOLSTON	MA	An exploration of autobiographical art-work that exemplifies a personal rite-of-passage concerning death
4	Jack TAIT	PhD by Practice	Programmable analogue drawing machines
Health, Psychology and Social Care			
1	Susan MAKEVIT COUPLAND	PhD	Reverence for the storyteller: the tidal model and stories of madness
2	Iain MCLEAN	PhD by Published Work	The social context of service responses to sexual assault
Hollings			
1	Koon Kau CHOY	PhD	Fashion brand creation in China
2	Gerard DUFF	MSc	Quality function deployment for a typical SME; the development of a customised QFD methodology for a headwear manufacturing company
Humanities, Law and Social Science			
1	Toby ARCHER	PhD	Between Kant and Hobbes: Finnish security policy after European integration - seeking security in the modern and post-modern world
2	Paul Jonathan BEECKMANS	PhD	The evolution of the Lisbon agenda
3	Benedicte Alexina Melanie BRAHIC	PhD	Negotiating transnational relationships - between opportunities and challenges: European bi-national couples in Manchester
4	Charles Stuart Jamison GREEN	PhD	Forces in motion: law, medicine, the media, and the religious right in Kantaras v Kantaras
5	James Ralph HORROX	PhD	The new Israeli socialism
6	Andrew Milton RUDD	PhD	Church of the imagination: constructing spiritualities in modern and contemporary poetry

7	Evgenia VASILAKAKI	PhD	Users' image seeking behaviour in multilingual environments: a grounded theoretical approach
8	Clair Elizabeth WILKINS	PhD	Facts, attitudes and strategic choice: explaining judicial decision making in United States supreme court civil rights and liberties cases 1953-2003
9	Susanne Helena LINDSTROM	MPhil	The European Union's response to non-military security threats in the post-cold war era: Sweden and the Mediterranean
10	Paula PORRONI	MA	Culture and affect: literature and turn-of-the millennium Argentina

Business School

1	Ming Sze Ranis CHENG	PhD	The desired-perceived identity gap of fast fashion retailers
2	Huiping XIAN	PhD	Career individualism and collectivism: a case of Chinese women's careers

Science and Engineering

1	Sami AL-BABA	PhD	Diagnosis and typing of pseudomonas aeruginosa from cystic fibrosis patients
2	Stephen David CARPENTER	PhD	The effect of tin dispersoids formed by a reactive magnetron sputtered deposition route on the reheat characteristics of polyethylene terephthalate
3	Irene DI GIULIO	PhD	Biomechanical and control mechanisms for sustaining the human postural attitude
4	Christopher FIELD	PhD	The effect of atmospheric nitrogen deposition on carbon sequestration in semi-natural ericaceous dominated ecosystems
5	Antonia GALANAKI	PhD	Modelling the breeding habitat of the lesser kestrel falco naumanni in an agricultural landscape in central Greece
6	Alkiviadis GESKOS	PhD	The behaviour, ecology and conservation of the agrimi capra sp. In the Samaria national forest park, Crete, Greece
7	Dimitrios KAMPOURIS	PhD	Designing novel sensors for sensing drugs of abuse
8	Abdel-Razzak NATSHEH	PhD	Neural network-based hybrid algorithm for automated diagnosis in ENT applications
9	James Dominic O'SHEA	PhD	A framework for applying short text semantic similarity in goal-orientated conversational agents
10	Judith Elizabeth SEDDON BARRETT	PhD	Contaminated urban sediments: geochemistry, minerology, solid-state speciation and the implications to environmental risk assessment

11	Megan Sian SUTHERLAND	PhD	The molecular basis of the quantitative disorders of von Willebrand factor
12	Ka Lun TO	PhD	The relationship between microstructure and macroscopic property changes in wood plastic composites
13	Sander Franciscus Theodorus VAN DER MEER	PhD	Role of myonuclei in adaptation of skeletal muscle during development and ageing
14	Jamil AHMAD	MPhil	Strategies for an elevator decision support system
15	Muhammad Ali SUBHANI	MPhil	The development of automated gearbox condition monitoring system based on wear debris analysis
16	Waheed Sami ABUSHANAB	MSc	Monitoring the condition of oil transmission pipelines using vibration analysis

Institute of Education

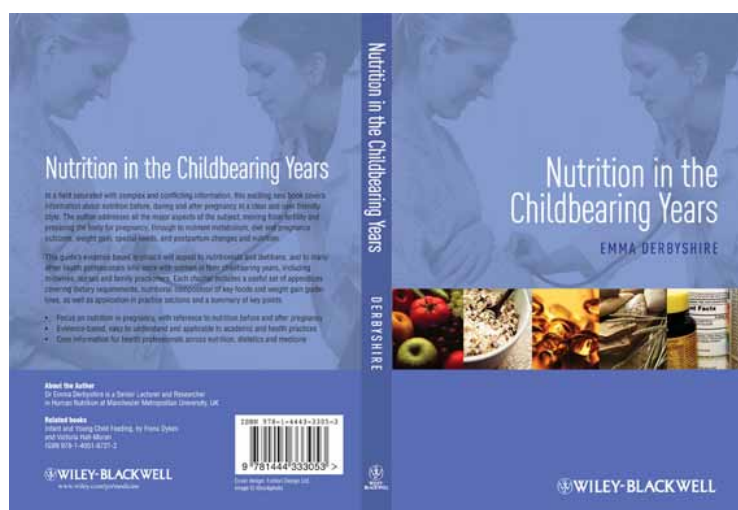
1	Mary GREAVES	EdD	Practitioner research: a journey in optimistic disappointment?
2	Islay Mary MCEWAN	EdD	'When do I get to run on with the magic sponge?' A Bourdiesian analysis of practitioner discourse and shifting emplotments in elite sports medicine in the United Kingdom
3	William George TAYLOR	EdD	Shifting sands and the rise of the technocrat: the professionalisation of sports coaching in the United Kingdom

Cheshire

1	Sandra Elizabeth LEWIS	PhD	The relationships between stature recovery, muscle activity and psychological factors in patients with chronic low back pain
2	Christopher LITTLE	PhD	A different youth culture? Chav culture in Britain 2003 - 2010
3	Declan PATRICK	PhD	Contesting the narratives: identity, representation and performance in Filipino folk dance
4	Jason WOOLLEY	PhD	Electroacoustic composition portfolio: energy, movement and direction in electroacoustic music

News In Brief

Invitation to present work on diet during pregnancy



Based on funding from RoFAR (ROCHE Foundation for Anaemia Research) and research/publications themed around iron deficiency at Hollings, Dr Emma Derbyshire (HSRI) was invited to a roundtable discussion meeting on 'Iron deficiency anaemia in pregnancy'. Dr Derbyshire presented *Dietary issues – problems and potential solutions*. Other speakers included researchers from the Medical Research Council, representatives from the British

Haematology Society and Consultant Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from around the UK.

Dr Derbyshire (HSRI) has a book coming out in September entitled *Nutrition in the Childbearing Years* published by Wiley-Blackwell. This book contains the latest information on how women of childbearing age can prepare for pregnancy from a nutrition perspective with a view to improving pregnancy outcomes and the health of the next generation. It is aimed at family practitioners, nurses/midwives, dieticians/nutritionists and students.

For more information contact e.derbyshire@mmu.ac.uk

Does Every Child Matter? They sure do!

What is life like for disabled children in England? A research team led by Professor Dan Goodley (RIHSC) has been finding out about the lives of disabled children and their families over the last two years as part of the project *Does Every Child Matter, post-Blair? The interconnections of disabled childhoods* funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. A related website includes a number of 'impact cards' which seek to represent key findings, reports and writings in punchy and accessible ways.

For more information go to www.post-blair.posterous.com

News In Brief

Carnival of Art

MIRIAD successfully organised and hosted the *PARCNorthWest Carnival* event on 6/7 July 2011 for research students and their supervisors in the creative arts and industries. PARCNorth West stands for Practice as Research Consortium North West, an organisation of some 12 departments from ten HEIs in the region. This AHRC funded event reaches out into the city and has been organised by the postgraduate researchers.

For more information contact m.horton@mmu.ac.uk or go to www.miriad.mmu.ac.uk/postgraduate/parcnorthwest

Royal Society of Chemistry Award

Reader in Electrochemical and Nanotechnology, Dr Craig Banks (DRI), has been awarded the *Harrison-Mendola Memorial Prize* by the Royal Society of Chemistry for his contributions to the understanding of carbon materials, in particular graphene and its application as an electrode material. Dr Banks has published over 190 papers with an h-index of 32 and has launched two spin-out companies to develop point-of-care breath analysis devices and drug driving sensors. He is the inventor of 11 patents and recently co-authored the book, *Understanding Voltammetry* with Richard Compton (Oxford University).

For more information contact c.banks@mmu.ac.uk

Chairing International Business

Heinz Tüselmann, Professor of International Business and Director of the Centre for International Business and Innovation (CIBI) in the Business School, has been elected as Chair of the *Academy of International Business*. Professor Tüselmann will represent the Academy at HEFCE, the Economic and Social Research Council and other research funding bodies. He will also spearhead the Academy's input into the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework and at the standing committees of the learned societies in management and business. The appointment highlights the contribution Heinz has made in the field of international business and signifies the external recognition and standing of the Centre which was commended in the 2008 RAE.

For more information contact h.tuselman@mmu.ac.uk

News In Brief

2011 Eminent Scientist of the Year

Mark Slevin, Professor of Cell Pathology, has been named *Eminent Scientist of the Year in Cardio-Pathology 2011* by the International Research Promotion Council (IRPC) which promotes academic and research programmes in science and medicine in developing and underdeveloped countries. The selection for the award, agreed jointly by the World Scientists Forum with the IRPC, relates to Prof Slevin's work and ongoing collaboration with the St Pau Hospital, Barcelona, where he was Professor in Vascular Biology during a sabbatical year. His research focused on the importance of angiogenesis (new blood vessel growth) in the development of atherosclerosis, the main cause of heart disease and stroke.

For more information contact m.a.slevin@mmu.ac.uk

A NICE Invitation



Dr Abebaw Yohannes, Reader in Physiotherapy, has been invited to be a member of the *National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)* Topic Expert Group on lung cancer which has been identified as an area for quality standards development. He has also been invited to become a Fellow of the *American College of Chest Physicians*. These invitations are in recognition of Dr Yohannes' research which focuses on palliative care in lung cancer, pulmonary and cardiac rehabilitation, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The Department of Health commissioned NICE to develop quality standards to act as markers of high-quality, cost-effective patient care in the treatment and prevention of diseases and conditions. NICE is also central to supporting the Government's vision for an NHS focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for patients through clinical effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

For more information contact a.yohannes@mmu.ac.uk

News In Brief

Research student success due to MMU

An American student who spent last summer working at MMU has received a prestigious *Barry M Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education award* which she attributes to her experience working alongside the Director of Research Professor Valerie Edwards-Jones. Ersilia Angel was one of 275 from across the USA who received the \$7,500 scholarship which goes to top university sophomores and juniors in the mathematics, science and engineering disciplines. During her time with Prof Edwards–Jones she trained in clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques at MMU’s microbiology laboratories and in diabetic clinics in Greater Manchester, contributing to two ongoing projects investigating infection control issues associated with wound debridement.

Printing out?

If you are considering printing out any of the pages in this newsletter, you may wish to go to the print dialogue box of your PDF reader and change the page scaling to ‘multiple pages per sheet’.

You will then be able to print out two easily readable pages of the newsletter on a single A4 sheet. And don’t forget to set your printer to print on both sides if you have the option.