



BIRKBECK INTERNATIONAL DIGEST 2019-2020



Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce this Birkbeck International Digest, which makes its debut on the Centenary of the College's joining of the University of London, and only three years away from our 200th Anniversary in 2023.

This International Digest, now to be published annually, aims to showcase Birkbeck's continuing impact on the world, by, *inter alia*, offering snapshots of the international achievements and activities of our staff, students and alumni, and the enviable learning experience offered to our many international students.

Birkbeck's outstanding reputation for teaching, research and global citizenship attracts students, staff and partners from across the globe, and it is pleasing to see the continuing reinforcement of our international standing in latest global rankings of higher educational institutions (HEIs). Notably, Birkbeck was ranked among the top third of over 1,000 HEIs assessed by the Times Higher Education (THE) and QS World University Rankings in 2020. The latter also placed Birkbeck at 64th worldwide for attracting international students and 121st in terms of number of international staff. Several subject areas were also ranked in the top 100 worldwide by both the THE and QS, reflecting excellence in teaching and research across a range of academic disciplines. Specifically, Psychology and Arts and Humanities (including Applied Linguistics, History and Philosophy) placed 89th and 92nd respectively in THE World Rankings. Philosophy similarly featured among the QS top 100 Departments worldwide. Communications and Media, and English, ranked in the top 150, while Arts and Humanities, History and Psychology placed within the top 200.

The work of our professional service teams also attracted international acclaim during the current year. Notably, a brand engagement campaign designed around Birkbeck's iconic "Owl" won the Grand Gold prize, one of the top awards of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, a global non-profit organisation. The College's winning entry, selected from among 2,752 submissions from 27 countries, was praised by the judges as "an exceptional submission that really stood out in strategy, outcome and creativity."

On a more sombre note, the 2019-20 academic year, specifically its latter half, will forever be remembered for the unimaginable disruption triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as various sections of this International Digest show, the Birkbeck community adjusted magnificently to the fluid situation, drawing upon our renowned 'always open' spirit of the WW2 Blitz period. Highlights of our response include transitioning seamlessly to online learning, introducing the Birkbeck Inspires series, setting up virtual 'One World Festival' activities for international students, signing a major new partnership agreement and developing others, sustaining



research activities and industry and policy engagements, offering tailored assistance to students and staff, and maintaining regular communications with all members of the Birkbeck community as well as prospective students, international partners and agents.

I heartily salute all Birkbeckians for contributing directly and indirectly to the foregoing achievements, and for the rich and varied accomplishments summarised in this inaugural Birkbeck International Digest.

I am also grateful to the College's International Committee for initiating and putting together this highly welcome Digest.

I hope you would enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Professor David Latchman, CBE

Master of Birkbeck

SYNOPSIS

This inaugural edition of the Birkbeck International Digest celebrates the College's pedigree as a world class research and teaching institution, by offering glimpses of the international activities and contributions of staff, students and alumni during the 2019-20 academic year. The Digest is organised in six sections, respectively focusing on international students and their learning experience; research contributions, accolades and dissemination; global citizenship activities; international collaborations; international events and visitors; and international alumni.

Section 1 briefly introduces Birkbeck's diverse international student body, presents words from a few international students and illustrates some of the academic innovations and extra-curricular activities offered during the 2019-20 year to enrich the study experience and intercultural competencies of international and home students. Highlights include international mobility opportunities, innovative academic partnerships and teaching and learning transformations, and the One World Festival programme expressing Birkbeck's internationalist worldview, through social, cultural, and networking events.

Section 2 paints a picture of the wealth of significant contributions made by Birkbeck researchers during the focal period. Achieving breakthroughs in the understanding of how malaria is transmitted and how infants learn and discover during their first year indicate the calibre of these research contributions, as are the flurry of prestigious accolades and fellowships, research grants, international appointments and invitations, and international scholarly presentations.

Section 3 illustrates Birkbeck's global citizenship profile, by highlighting some contributions of the College community to addressing major global challenges such as climate change, infectious diseases, human rights violations, and lack of higher education opportunities for forced migrants. The Birkbeck Inspires series introduced at the height of the COVID-19 crisis and the rich vein of support activities it catalysed also received some coverage.

Section 4 offers an indicative view of Birkbeck's international research and academic relationships with some of the world's leading universities, while Section 5 presents a sample of influential international events hosted by the College during 2019-20. These collaborative links and international events, sustained via virtual platforms during the COVID-19 crisis, and the international diversity of Birkbeck staff and students underscore the College's continuing top 50 ranking among the world's universities in terms of international outlook.

The final section of the Digest depicts some of the significant strides made at the international stage by Birkbeck's international alumni during 2019-20. Examples



include winning United Nations' awards, taking on the helm at the globally-influential British Academy, establishing path-breaking ventures, and publishing new, award-winning creative works.

Taken together, this inaugural International Digest strongly demonstrates the commitment of the College community to preserving Birkbeck's international heritage and advancing its international standing and culturally inclusive environment. It is heartening that these inclusive, internationalist values endured and thrived amidst the COVID-19 global crisis, notably through the virtual arm the College put around students and staff of all nationalities and its reach-out to alumni, international partners and others.

In concluding, I would like to thank all those whose stellar achievements are reflected in this Digest and their many enablers. Colleagues in the College's International Committee, Communications team and Alumni and Development are also warmly appreciated for their support and contributions.

I look forward to welcoming our new and returning international students to what is likely to be a uniquely different 2020-21 academic year. I do also look forward to sustaining the tradition represented by this inaugural International Digest.

Professor Kevin Ibeh

Pro Vice Master (International)

(on behalf of the International Committee)



International Committee, Birkbeck, 2019-20:

Naomi Adams (Assistant School Manager, Science)
Dr Alexandra Beauregard (Assistant Dean, International, BEI)
Ken Chow (Academic Standards and Quality Manager)
Professor Sanjib Bhakta (Assistant Dean, International, Science)
Professor Bill Bowring (Professor Law)
Garmon Ap Garth (Academic Services Manager)
Professor Adam Gearey (Assistant Dean, International and Recruitment, Law)
Ben Goodrum (Compliance and Operations Manager)
Lynn Grimes (Director of Marketing and External Relations)
Professor Kevin Ibeh (Pro Vice Master, International; Chair)
La Young Jackson (International Liaison Officer)
Fraser Keir (Academic Registrar)
Eoin Lally (Head of Marketing and Recruitment)
Professor Joanne Leal (Assistant Dean, Arts)
Professor Julia Lovell (Assistant Dean, International, SSHP)
Eleanor Seale (Committee Support, Registry)
Courtney Tangyuk (International Marketing and Recruitment Manager)
Alison Watson (Assistant School Manager, SSHP)
Clare Thomas (Assistant School Manager, Arts)
Andrea Williams (Assistant School Manager, International Partnerships, BEI)

1.0 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

1.1 Profile of international students

Birkbeck's reputation for research and teaching excellence and its intercultural learning environment attracted an increased number of international students during the 2019-20 academic year. A total of 2806 international, including EU, students enrolled into the College, accounting for 23% of the overall student population. These international students are split approximately half-way between undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, though new enrollees outstripped continuing students at a ratio of 56:46. Just over two in five (specifically 41%) of these international students are in the School of Business, Economics and Informatics, while the School of Arts, Sciences, Law and Social Sciences, History and Philosophy account for 17%, 13%, 7% and 20% of the international student body respectively.

Regarding the students' nationalities, European Union citizens constitute 65% of all overseas students enrolled at Birkbeck during the current year, while students from the rest of the world account for 35%. Among the top ten source countries for the focal year are Italy, USA, China, Spain, Germany, India, Greece, France, Romania, and Poland. Overall, these international students originate from over 110 countries, reflecting the impressive international diversity of Birkbeck's community.

1.2 New Chevening scholars

Among the new international students that joined Birkbeck at the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year were recipients of the prestigious Chevening Scholarships, selected based on their potential to develop into future leaders in their chosen field and support development in their home countries. Twenty-four countries are represented in the current year cohort of Chevening Scholars, specifically Albania, Azerbaijan, Botswana, PDR Congo, Cambodia, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Morocco, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Russia, Serbia, Somalia, Somaliland, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. These Scholars, enrolled into a range of Master's programmes, including screenwriting, business innovation, global politics and sport management, were treated to a formal reception event on 30 October, 2019 – see photo below.



New Chevening Scholars at their reception event on 30 October, 2019

1.3 International students in their own words

Box 1, below, showcases some international student voices at Birkbeck for the current academic year.

Box 1: International students in their own words

International students at Birkbeck typically reflect a diverse range of backgrounds, motivations and life experiences. Brief excerpts from interviews undertaken with international students from different countries studying at, or graduating from Birkbeck, during 2019-20 are reproduced below.

"I found my tribe here"



"I was intrigued by the MA Text and Performance course thanks to its mix of academic and practical disciplines with the bonus of being able to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). My course was international, so I've gained many



connections across the world over the year... participated in workshops and took on internships. London has been good to me... I found my tribe here". – Zhanna Chenenk, from Russia.

Multicultural community and evening courses are a huge draw



"I chose Birkbeck for its multicultural community and its evening courses." Francis Olie, MSc Information Systems and Management student who joined Birkbeck from Nigeria.

"The world opens up to you once you've had that experience."



"I chose Birkbeck because it was the only university that would allow me to continue working while studying in the evening. If you're in work, Birkbeck is the place to study to further your career. You can learn so much from other people's life experience on campus. Undertaking a work-based project gets your name out there



within your organisation ...There's nothing negative about further education; you learn how to analyse, research and make up your own mind. The world opens up to you once you've had that experience." - Jeremy Galea, from Australia, who studied the BSc Business and Management at Birkbeck to turbo-charge his career.

"Birkbeck gave me the platform to do what would not have been possible anywhere else."



"I ran a successful business in New York, but that all changed when I suffered a trauma and went into a coma...Birkbeck gave me the platform to do what would not have been possible anywhere else. Evening study meant I could continue to go to my countless hospital appointments for treatments, tests and therapies during the day. Lecturers and all other staff at Birkbeck were always incredibly supportive and willing to help wherever necessary, which proved invaluable!" - Odessa Hamilton, from the USA, BSc Business Psychology graduate.

"Birkbeck was the only place that offered the flexibility I needed."



"I had offers from other universities, but Birkbeck was the only place that offered the flexibility I needed. I wanted my mornings free to look after my child and undertake volunteering roles...The brilliant thing about Birkbeck is that everyone here is so



friendly. You can always ask the lecturers for advice... Achieving a first class honours is a bonus." - Grace Jaro, from the Philippines.

"If a Master's is going to happen, it will be at Birkbeck"



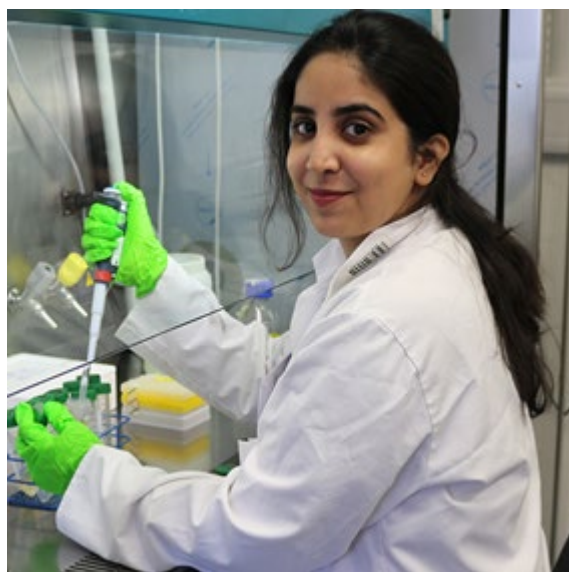
"I decided that Birkbeck was the one for me as it could allow me to work while studying... I remember doing a 9:00 to 5:30 shift at work and 6:00 to 9:00 at Birkbeck, an intense twelve-hour day. Every professor and lecturer was so passionate and inspiring that the tiredness of a day standing serving clients was easily forgotten. I was able to understand things that the next day I could apply to my job...I probably will need a few months off studying, but in my plan there is a Masters and, if it's going to happen, it will be at Birkbeck." - Valentina Introna, from Italy, moved from the shop floor to HR Business Partner role following her BSc Business and HRM programme.

A life changing opportunity



"Getting selected to study MRes Global Infectious Diseases at Birkbeck was a life-changing opportunity. The interdisciplinary research environment helped me specialize in Microbiology and Molecular Biology...[and] gave me the freedom to plan, design, and execute a research project under the guidance of experts. The knowledge and experience I have gained at Birkbeck will help me contribute to a healthier future." - Harshita Verma from India, MRes Global Infectious Diseases.

Utilizing skills and knowledge gained



"Knowing that 30% of the population in my home country, India, is infected with Tuberculosis bacteria, I can now utilize the skills and knowledge gained from my education at Birkbeck to help. Along with my studies, I also enjoyed free events for international students organised by Birkbeck's One World Festival programme which brought all international students to mingle and get to know each other's culture. I am fortunate that I met a lot of bright and brilliant students and professors here." - Parul Singh from India, MRes Global Infectious Diseases.

1.4 Continuing focus on innovations

Among the foremost benefits of Birkbeck's internationally excellent and diverse staff are the continually enhanced learning opportunities provided to students, including international students. The College's strategic focus on promoting innovative curricula and pedagogies and fostering continuing innovations appeared to be richly illustrated during the 2019-20 year.



For example, the College recently won a Prize for Breakthrough Course (Innovation in Design or Delivery) at the latest Independent Higher Education Annual Awards held on 26 November, 2019, for its collaborative BBA Culinary Industry Management and MSc Culinary Innovation Management programmes with the prestigious fine dining global brand, Le Cordon Bleu. These innovative collaborative offerings aim to equip students, including international students, with culinary skill sets and business capabilities pertinent to managing premium food service businesses, and the Prize mentioned above reflects the kind of response that Birkbeck attracts via its academic innovations.

Boxes 2 and 3, below, offer additional examples of innovative academic partnerships and teaching and learning transformations undertaken by Birkbeck during the 2019-20 academic year.

Box 2: New Birkbeck-UoL flexible courses to respond to heightened demand for reskilling and upskilling across the UK and internationally

Birkbeck and the University of London, on 1st July 2020, agreed a new partnership to offer fifteen postgraduate degree programmes and around fifty professional education short courses through online distance learning by 2025. The courses will combine academic insights into real world problems with vocational and professional learning in a range of areas from environment and sustainability to marketing and business-related subjects, which students can study at their own pace. The initial roll-out will see 13 short courses and 3 Master's programmes offered in 2021, in addition to the MSc Marketing which will open in autumn 2020.

The new partnership, led by Vice Master of Birkbeck, Professor Matt Innes, will offer students across the UK and abroad greater flexibility, by allowing them to study with Birkbeck without having to travel to London. Birkbeck and the UoL will also be enabled to move beyond their core markets to provide short courses online, thus responding to the current demand for reskilling and upskilling in the aftermath of Brexit and COVID-19.

The Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan, heartily welcomed the new partnership saying:

"As we emerge from the pandemic, it is vital that we have a workforce equipped with the skills the country needs and universities have an important part to play in delivering flexible and accessible higher education to make that happen. I am delighted to see graduates being offered new short online courses by Birkbeck to

further their skills and careers, and I look forward to seeing other providers continuing to take a similarly innovative approach to blended provision."

Box 3: Birkbeck's seamless transition to online delivery following COVID-19 pandemic

On 16 March, 2020, Birkbeck responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by transitioning to online delivery and remote assessments, with a priority focus on offering students every opportunity to progress or complete their studies.

Guided by relevant recommendations from the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and Office for Students, the Pro Vice Master (Education)-led COVID-19 Education Group introduced appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that students had sufficient information from the virtual learning platform as well as staff support to achieve specified module learning outcomes and protect quality standards. A 'no detriment policy' was put in place to encourage staff to flexibly consider individual students' circumstances and apply reasonable adjustments as necessary.

The COVID-19 Education Group sustained the above approach through the rest of the Spring term and the Summer term, and have, along with the Digital Education team, intensified preparations for the continuing delivery of student learning in Autumn term 2020-21. These preparations are underpinned by the idea that the Birkbeck classroom, whether virtual or physical, relies on the excellence of our staff and their impulse to support and bring students together into a learning community.

Diane Houston, Pro Vice-Master Education commented:

"I think we can all take pride in what has been achieved in such a short timescale as we also adapt to new living and working conditions... If there is one benefit we can take from this crisis, it is that it is enhancing our digital capabilities and encouraging us to embrace new creative approaches to teaching delivery and design."

Professor Martin Paul Eve, Birkbeck's Strategic Lead for Digital Education said:

"With the help of the Digital Education Team, we will continue to offer engaging and stimulating teaching, whatever the circumstances in the autumn."

1.5 International mobility experiences for students

Birkbeck's strategic focus on enhancing student learning experience and promoting curriculum internationalisation was further demonstrated through



offering outward and inward international mobility opportunities to students. During the past year, several students took advantage of these opportunities, including the Erasmus exchange and other travel fellowship programmes.

Box 4, below, provides illustrative accounts of some of the international mobility opportunities experienced by Birkbeck students.

Box 4: International mobility experiences of Birkbeck students

A memorable year in enchanting Venice

BA History of Art student Patricia Yaker Ekall spent 2019 as one of Birkbeck's British Council Fellows in Venice, 'The Floating City'.



Patricia, due to head back to Venice to take up one of the very competitive internships at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, enthused: *"My time as a research fellow at the Venice art Biennale was an incredible experience that will stay with me for many years...My chance to be part of the Biennale was thanks to a Birkbeck/British Council Venice Fellowship, which funded a month in Venice in September, where I worked as a steward in the exhibition's British Pavilion while pursuing my own research. The renowned event may have been in its 58th edition and 123rd year, but it was my first time attending...It seemed to me that every aspect of this tiny jewel, Venice, was up for passionate debate...I enjoyed these roiling debates cocooned in artistic excellence!"*

Summer school in Uganda

Sapphire Metcalf, BA Politics student, joined the Natural Resources and Development



Summer School of Kyambogo University, Uganda, after winning a competitive grant from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).



Sapphire commented: "From start to finish the summer school...managed to exceed my expectations. The classes were thoroughly engaging... We [also] often met with industry professionals such as the National Environment Management Authority and Bold Energy, a social enterprise...The summer school included a week long field trip of Murchison Falls National Park...we saw giraffes, herds of elephants, buffalo, antelope including the Ugandan cob, warthogs, baboons, blue tailed monkeys, and many types of bird in their stunning natural habitats. We [also] travelled by boat where we spotted spectacular views of kingfishers hunting, hippos, and crocodiles and of course the magnificent Murchison Falls... It truly was the most spectacular day of my life. I would once again like to thank Birkbeck and the ACU for this unique and inspiring experience..."

An inspiring glimpse of Pittsburgh

Emily Best, PhD student in the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, was sponsored by the Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image (BIMI) to present a paper in September 2019 at the University of Pittsburgh's annual Film and Media Studies Graduate Conference on the theme of *Limits of Cinema/Cinema Unlimited?*

Emily commented: "Everything about the Conference was brilliant, interesting, and eye-opening...One of the original attractions of the conference for me was the keynote by Jeffrey Sconce, whose book Haunted Media I read as an undergraduate...Sconce [spent] a glorious hour exploring some of the films we love to

hate, or just hate, and what a terrible film might look like in the age of democratised technology where anyone can be a filmmaker. My to-watch list had tripled in size by the end of the day. Of course, my wider experience of Pittsburgh was also incredible. The city is the birthplace of Andy Warhol and boasts the most amazing museum. I'd strongly recommend that anyone interested in film or film studies get involved with BIMl's partnership with the University of Pittsburgh. The trip was so inspiring and was my first experience of an American postgrad environment, but I learned more than I can ever imagine both at the conference and outside of it, and met some of the most interesting people ever..."

1.6 Experiencing the One World Festival Programme

For Birkbeck's international students, opportunities to further enrich their UK study experience during the 2019-20 year extended beyond the classroom and formal learning platforms to encompass the One World Festival programme, a year-long agenda of social, cultural and professional activities designed to celebrate the College's diverse international community and create memorable shared experiences for international students.

Professor Kevin Ibeh, Birkbeck's Pro Vice-Master (International), launched the 2019-20 One World Festival programme on 23 September 2019, with a welcome reception featuring an enjoyable interactive networking session – see photo below.



Brief accounts of other activities held as part of the 2019-20 One World Festival are presented in the paragraphs below. These include seasonal celebrations, culture shock sessions, film screenings, employability events, organised trips to historic venues and iconic sights, and cooking classes.



1.61 Seasonal celebrations

In the lead up to the Autumn term break, international students were given a taste of **Christmas at Birkbeck**, through the unveiling of the College's Christmas tree and a delightful Christmas Party.



A few weeks into 2020, the **Lunar New Year** was also marked with a fun-filled get-together. These events, organised by the International Student Administration, the International team at the School of Business, Economics and Informatics, and the Chinese Students Association, presented opportunities for staff and students to share memorable experiences.



Birkbeck students celebrating Year of the Art on 24 January 2020

1.62 Organised trips

The Autumn term 2019-20 also featured an excursion to **Bletchley Park**, the secretive base of the Alan Turing-led team of World War II Codebreakers. This offered Birkbeck's international students a glimpse into British war history and



the development of theoretical computer science, and illustrated the capacity of academic genius to change the course of events. There was also another trip to **the iconic London Eye**.



Trip to Bletchley Park, 16 Nov., 2019



Trip to London Eye

"I learned a lot from the [Bletchley Park] trip, both about the historical site and through the conversations I had with other students. I usually keep my eyes on Birkbeck's Facebook page to keep up with new activities and make friends."

Lydet Pidor, 2019-20 Chevening Scholar, MSc Business Innovation with Entrepreneurship.

1.63 Film screening

International students were treated to a screening of **19 Schaffarik Street**, a short movie by Serbian students including Birkbeck 2019-20 Chevening Scholar, Bojana Nikolic, on 19 December 2019. The event at the Birkbeck Cinema was organized by Bojana Nikolic in collaboration with our International Liaison Officer, Mrs La Young Jackson. *19 Schaffarik Street* premiered at the Belgrade Film Festival earlier in 2019, had been shown at several festivals since then and was making its UK premiere at the Birkbeck Cinema.



The audience at the screening of 19 Schaffarik Street

1.64 *Employability events*

A number of sessions aimed at fostering the employability prospects of international students were offered during 2019-20 by staff at Birkbeck Futures, a one-stop service amalgamating the resources of Careers Service, Enterprise Pathways and Birkbeck Talent. Themes covered included the UK employment landscape; entrepreneurship, planning, networking and entrepreneurial skills; new business ideas and bespoke support for starting a business; extracurricular routes to getting a foot in the door; and tips for beginning professional careers.



Employability session for international students

1.65 *Cooking classes*

International students at the School of Business, Economics and Informatics at Birkbeck were treated to a series of cooking classes with professional chefs at L'Atelier des Chefs. The kitchen sessions featured classical British recipes as well as global cuisine in a nod to the diversity of the College's international student body. Photos and comments from some international students can be seen below.



"One of the reasons I came to London was to catch a glimpse of its diverse cultures and traditions...The cooking classes for international students organised by William Richards have been such a wonderful opportunity to do exactly that. The atmosphere of the cooking class starts when we meet at the Malet Street building, the laughs, the walk to L'atelier des Chefs has really cemented friendships that go beyond the class." - Nomvelo Mlotshwa, MSc Sport Management

"This cooking class is my favourite event and I have not missed any Friday ...Our exceptional plate this week was to prepare Japanese noodles with fish...This meal was extremely delicious... I ate it all... while also, of course, enjoying the interesting company of fellow Birkbeck international students. I am truly learning new recipes and I am always trying to cook the same thing at home. Sometimes even adding my Tunisian touch." - Mariem Ben Maallem, MSc Business Innovation with International Technology Management

1.66 Virtual engagement events in the COVID-19 era



To maintain the unifying vision of the One World Festival during the COVID-19 pandemic, the College introduced a series of virtual social events and fun, interactive online activities, including pub quizzes, film screenings and game nights to enable international students, whatever their current location, to continue to share experiences and create memories.

The virtual pub quiz proved a hit, as did the screening of the Mexican film 'Roma' (2018), a guided virtual walk through of the City of London and weekly hangout sessions, demonstrating students' keen interest in sustaining connections with one another.

2.0 RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS, ACCOLADES AND DISSEMINATION

2.1 Major research contributions

During the 2019-20 year, Birkbeck researchers continued to make significant contributions to important global questions through their research. The paragraphs below offer a sample of these key research contributions, including a major breakthrough in understanding how malaria is transmitted; advancing knowledge of how infants learn and discover during their first year of life; discovering an earlier origin to the human language pathway in the brain; explicating the structure of a motor protein that powers one of the cell's vital transport systems underpinning human development; and discovering one of the largest cliff collapses on Comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko.

New research to help the eradication of malaria

Scientists from Birkbeck and other institutions – University of Nottingham, The Francis Crick Institute in London, Oxford Brookes University, University of California at Riverside, KAUST in Saudi Arabia and Berne in Switzerland - have collaborated to achieve a major breakthrough in understanding how malaria is transmitted. This new research could help stop the spread of malaria, a deadly disease responsible for almost half a million deaths a year, mainly in countries in Africa and other parts of the developing world.



This work funded by BBSRC, MRC, CRUK, Wellcome Trust, CRG-KAUST, NIH and NIAID was published in the scientific journal *PLOS Pathogens* and highlights the importance of the motor protein (kinesin) as a key component to parasite multiplication and transmission to humans. This is the first time scientists have studied the role of kinesin-8X, which has been discovered to be the driver of malaria parasite (*Plasmodium*) multiplication and the transmission of the disease.



Professor Carolyn Moores, Professor of Structural Biology at Birkbeck said:

"Malaria is a major killer worldwide, especially in developing countries. The power of our study comes from the combined collaborative expertise of several research groups, including the team at Birkbeck, using different techniques to shed light on how the malaria parasite multiplies and is transmitted. Such studies represent important first steps to developing strategies to block parasite growth and spread, and therefore reducing disease incidence."

Tackling neurodevelopmental disorders in toddlers

Birkbeck is leading the development of tools to measure brain development in toddlers with epilepsy and neurodevelopmental disorders. These tools include electroencephalography (EEG), which measures the naturally occurring electrical activity produced when brain cells communicate with one another, and eye tracking, which determines the direction of gaze so researchers know exactly where the participant is looking. Both methods are completely safe and noninvasive.



Professor Emily Jones, Professor in the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development at Birkbeck, said, *"This is a very important project for understanding early predictors of developmental trajectories in young children with developmental challenges. These technology developments will be enabled by the new world-leading facilities in Birkbeck's Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab, due to open later this year."*

Origins of human language pathway in the brain discovered

A research team involving scientists from Birkbeck/UCL Centre for Neuroimaging and their colleagues from Newcastle University, Max Planck Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences, University of Texas MD Anderson



Cancer Center and the University of Iowa has discovered an earlier origin to the human language pathway in the brain, pushing back its evolutionary origin by at least 20 million years.



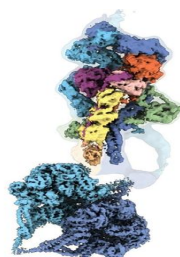
Previously, a precursor of the language pathway was thought by many scientists to have emerged more recently, about five million years ago. This finding, published in *Nature Neuroscience*, entailed the research team undertaking a brain imaging study and analysing auditory regions and brain pathways in humans, apes and monkeys.

Birkbeck-assisted documentary on 'Babies' launched globally

Birkbeck's late Professor Annette Karmiloff-Smith was involved in developing the 12-part documentary 'Babies', which was launched globally on Netflix on Friday 21 February 2020. Developed by the production company Nutopia, the series explores how infants learn and discover during their first year of life.

Birkbeck researchers determine the structure of a molecular motor

Work from Dr Anthony Robert's laboratory in the Birkbeck/UCL Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology (ISMB), in collaboration with Dr Andrew Carter's lab group at the MRC-LMB in Cambridge, has determined the structure of a motor protein that powers one of the cell's vital transport systems that is fundamental to human development.



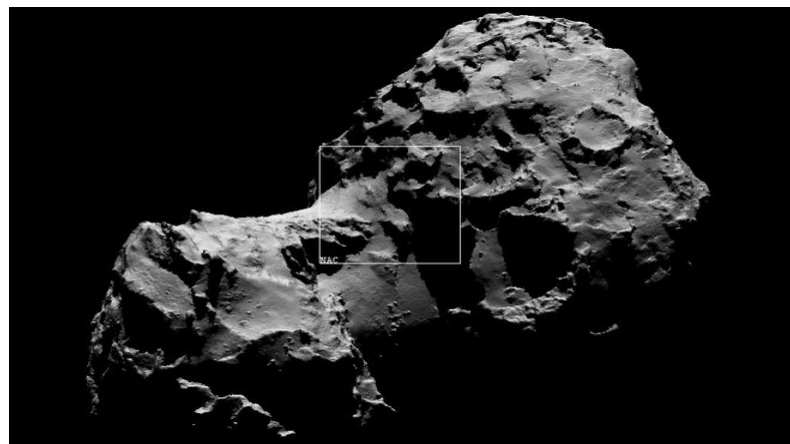
Dynein-2 model from Dr Anthony Roberts' lab



The results shed new light on how transport within cilia operates. They reveal that dynein-2's motor subunits are held together by an unusual number of extra proteins, which control the activity of the molecular motor and enable it to assemble with polymeric 'trains' that carry it to the tip of the cilium. Determining this structure is a step toward understanding the molecular basis of the diseases that arise from dynein-2 dysfunction, encompassing short-rib thoracic dysplasias with or without polydactyly, inherited disorders characterised by abnormal rib cage development with severe, often life-threatening, consequences.

Birkbeck scientists record major comet cliff collapse

Research by Birkbeck scientist [Dr Ramy El-Maarry](#) and undergraduate student Graham Driver has resulted in the discovery of what may be the largest cliff collapse on Comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko, which was investigated by the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission.



The 'bouncing boulder' on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko
Credit: European Space Agency

The 230-tonne boulder that was discovered gives new insight into the processes that drive change on a comet's surface. As Dr El-Maarry, who recently collaborated on [NASA's New Horizons flyby of the Kuiper Belt Object nicknamed Ultima Thule](#), explained, *"this seems to be one of the largest cliff collapses we've seen on the comet during Rosetta's lifetime, with an area of about 2000 square metres collapsing."*

2.2 Prestigious accolades and honours

The internationally excellent research contributions of Birkbeck staff were recognised by several prestigious accolades during 2019-20. These are presented below, but do not represent an exhaustive list.



A new book, “Maoism, a Global History”, by Professor Julia Lovell (History, Classics and Archaeology) overcame stiff international competition to win the Cundhill History Prize, the most important worldwide prize in International History. The critically acclaimed book, also shortlisted for the British Academy’s Al Rodhan Prize for Global Cultural Understanding and the Baillie Gifford Prize for excellence in non-fiction writing, is considered the first to explore both the global phenomenon of Maoism and the continued centrality of Mao and his ideas to the People’s Republic and the legitimacy of its Communist government.



Cover detail: ‘Maoism: A Global History’

Dr Alexey Pokrovskiy, Research Fellow in Economics, Mathematics and Statistics, received the prestigious biennial **European Prize in Combinatorics**, which recognises excellent contributions in Combinatorics, Discrete Mathematics and their Applications by young European researchers aged 35 or under. Alexey is joint winner of the prize with his research collaborator Richard Montgomery.

Professor Bonnie Wallace, Professor of Molecular Biophysics at Birkbeck, was named winner of the Royal Society of Chemistry’s **Khorana Prize**. Professor Wallace won the award for the pioneering development of biophysical methods and bioinformatics tools to enable the characterisation of ion channel-drug molecule complexes.

Dr Richard Cook, Reader in Psychology, was awarded The British Psychological Society **Spearman Medal** in recognition of his exceptional work to reveal the cognitive mechanisms that allow humans to perceive and imitate others. The medal awarded annually for outstanding published work is considered the most prestigious early career award in UK psychology. Dr Cook follows in the footsteps of other Birkbeck recipients, namely Dr Iroise Dumontheil (2015), Professor Angelica Ronald (2012) and Professor Mike Oaksford (1995).



Dr Richard Cook

Dr Giulia Zanetti of the Department of Biological Sciences received the 2021 **Colworth Medal** from The Biochemical Society in recognition of her outstanding research in cell biology and contributions to membrane trafficking. Created in 1963 by Unilever Research and Development's Colworth Laboratory, the award is made to a biochemist of any nationality who is within ten years of PhD completion and has carried out the majority of their work in the UK or Republic of Ireland.



Dr Giulia Zanetti

Professor Martin Eve from the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing received the prestigious **Leverhulme Trust Prize** in Languages and Literature. This Prize has been awarded annually since 2001 to recognise the achievements of outstanding researchers within their first post-PhD decade whose work has gained international recognition and whose future career prospects look promising. Professor Eve teaches Literature, Technology and Publishing, leads several digital humanities and computational projects at Birkbeck, and is well known for his work on open access and HE policy. His



work in the area of open-access also attracted the Coko Foundation Open Publishing Award in 2019.

Mara Polgovsky of the Department of History of Art won three of the weightiest prizes at the 2020 Visions du Réel Industry Awards for her film, “Malintzin 17”, at an event held virtually on 2 May 2020.

Furthermore, several Birkbeck staff members were conferred with **prestigious Academy Fellowships** during the 2019-20 year. Professor Zhu Hua (Applied Linguistics) and Professor John Kelly (Management) were appointed Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences, while Professors Susan James (Philosophy), Esther Leslie (English, Theatre and Creative Writing) and Julia Lovell (History, Classics and Archaeology) were elected British Academy Fellows. Professor Jonathan A. Smith (Psychological Sciences) was similarly elected Honorary Fellow of the British Psychological Society, and Professor Almuth McDowall (Organisational Psychology) Fellow of the International Society for Coaching Psychology.



Professor Jonathan A. Smith

Professor Sarah Hart from the Department of Mathematics was appointed **Gresham Professor of Geometry**, the first woman to hold the esteemed position in its 423-year history. Also Vice-President of the British Society for the History of Mathematics, Professor Hart will continue Gresham College’s tradition of delivering free public lectures within the City of London and beyond, and in 2020-21 will be lecturing on Mathematics in Music and Writing, part of a three-year exploration of Mathematics, Culture and Creativity.



Professor Sarah Hart

Professor Anthony Bale, Executive Dean of Arts and Professor of Medieval Studies, was elected **President of The New Chaucer Society**, which provides a forum for teachers and scholars of Geoffrey Chaucer and his contemporaries. Professor Bale, whose two-year tenure commenced in July 2020, will leverage his role to advocate for the teaching of medieval literature. The New Chaucer Society has its roots in the original Chaucer Society founded in 1868.

Birkbeck students similarly received international recognition for their work during 2019-20. Rosalind Euston, PhD student in the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, won a prize at the 2020 International Book and Pamphlet Competition for her poetry collection, *Black Mascara (Waterproof)*. Aaron Columbus, PhD student in History, received the Curriers Company History Prize for his essay on "Plague Endemic Exposure of a Suburban London District".

2.3 Funding from research councils, major charities and international sources

Reflecting the outstanding quality of Birkbeck research, several staff members were successful in securing significant research grants from highly competitive funding bodies during 2019-20.

Notably, academics in the School of Science sustained their record of attracting major research funding. Professor Gabriel Waksman and Dr Anthony Roberts, both of the Department of Biological Sciences, received major grants from the Wellcome Trust for their respective projects on "Molecular Dissection of conjugative transport in gram negative bacteria" and "Multi-scale mechanisms of microtubule-based transport within cilia and flagella". Dr Giulia Zanetti, also from Biological Sciences, received a major grant from the BBSRC for a project on "Understanding mechanics of coat assembly and membrane deformation."

Internationally, Professor Carolyn Moores and Dr Giulia Zanetti, both from Biological Sciences, received major European Union grants for their respective projects on "Arp complexity: Defining the role of Arp 2/3 complex diversity at multiple scales of Biology" and "Coat assembly and membrane remodelling: understanding regulation of protein secretion." Professor Sanjib Bhakta additionally secured funding via the ASEM DUO and Newton Bhabha Fellowship Programmes to host two academics and a research student from India as well as undertake a reciprocal research trip to India.



Professor Sanjib Bhakta

The Department of Psychological Sciences' Professor Emily Jones and Professor Denis Mareschal received major grants from the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust respectively. Professor Jones was supported for her research on Human Neurocognitive Development, while Professor Mareschal's grant was to equip Birkbeck's newly built ToddlerLab with CAVE Neuro-imaging Facilities. Professor Jones also received a major Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action European Training Network grant for her research on "Comorbid Analysis of Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Epilepsy (CANDY)".

Dr Katherine Hill of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology received a major Leverhulme Trust Research Leadership Award and grant for her research on "Global Faiths: Anabaptist Confessional Communities of Dispersion 1550-Present Day". Dr Esther Breithoff and Dr Sarah Marks of the same Department were similarly awarded prestigious UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Leadership Fellowships and grants for their respective projects on "History of Conflict, especially in the Global South" and "History of Mind and Mental Health". Dr Rebecca Darley, also from History, Classics and Archaeology, received a British Academy/Wolfson Fellowship and grant to

undertake the first ever study of the Western Indian Ocean in Late Antiquity. Her award, one of six designated for talented early career researchers, is part of a £10 million Wolfson Foundation-funded initiative to promote and support high quality research in the humanities and social sciences.

Elsewhere in the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, Dr Aideen Foley from the Department of Geography received the Natural Environment Research Council's Global Partnership Seed Corn Fund Award for her project on "Situated understanding of resilience in island societies and environments". Dr Harris (Geography) and Dr Volovici (History, Classics and Archaeology) were similarly successful in the competition for Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships, along with Dr Deutsch from the School of Arts.

The School of Arts' Dr Dorigen Caldwell, Dr Mara Polgovsky-Ezcurra and Dr Molly Flynn received Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowships to support their respective projects on "Piety, Patronage and Politics in Early Modern Rome", "The New Life: A Cultural History of Cybernetics in Latin America", and "Performing revolution: Ukrainian theatre after Euromaidan". Dr Patrizia Di Bello received a grant from the **Arts and Humanities Research Council** for her project on Women Photographing Architecture. Department of History of Art students Corinna Henderson and Patricia Yaker Ekall received grants from the British Council Fellowship Scheme aimed at facilitating research and mediation at an exhibition during *La Biennial de Venezia*. Professor Martin Eve's earlier mentioned Leverhulme Trust Prize also attracted a substantial grant.

Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships represented another significant funding success story for Birkbeck during the 2019-20 year. Entering for the first time as a full member of the Consortium of the Humanities and the Arts South-east England (CHASE) and AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), fourteen Birkbeck students received and accepted offers for CHASE Studentships, a quarter of the available CHASE Studentships across the Consortium. Relatedly, the Colombian Funding Agency, COLFUTURO, selected six Birkbeck applicants for their postgraduate funding, with two of these further receiving British Council scholarships for studying creative industries.

From the School of Business, Economics and Informatics, Professor Hélyette Geman of the Department of Economics, Maths and Statistics, with partners from European and Brazilian university and energy sectors, received an Erasmus Knowledge Alliances EU grant for a three-year project on 'Green Energy Finance'. Dr Konstantinos Chalkias of the Department of Management, is part of a research team led by Professor Paula Jarzabkowski of City

University of London, awarded UKRI grant for a project on mobilising insurance experience to combat the economic consequences of COVID-19. Dr Alexandra Beauregard of the Department of Organisational Psychology secured funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for a project entitled "Leveraging Data Science and Observed Internet Data to Understand the Role of Gender in the Work-Family Interface". Dr Paul Yoo of the Department of Computer Science and Informatics and Dr Fred Yamoah from the Department of Management both secured grants from the Global Challenge Research Fund with Indonesian and Ghanaian partners respectively.

Academics at the School of Law similarly attracted external funding during the 2019-20 period. These include two Leverhulme Trust grants to staff of the Department of Criminology and an award by the Dawes Trust to the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research to study Digital Forensics and Social Media.

2.4 Appointments to expert panels/boards

The professional expertise of Birkbeck academics was also recognised via appointments to important national and international panels during the 2019-20 academic year.

Box 5, below, presents a far from exhaustive list of such appointments.

Box 5: Sample appointments of Birkbeck staff to expert panels/boards, 2019-20.

Dr Alexandra Beauregard of the Department of Organisational Psychology was elected to the Executive Board of the Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN), a USA-based international membership organization of interdisciplinary work and family scholars.

Professor Kevin Ibeh of the Department of Management was appointed to the Editorial Review Board of the *Transnational Corporations Journal*, the official journal of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He was also appointed to senior appointment panels at several international universities.

Professor Les Moran of the School of Law was appointed to the Westminster Hate Crimes Committee.

Professor George Roussos of the Department of Computer Science and Informatics was appointed Co-Editor of IEEE Transactions on Technology and Society.



Dr Muthu De Silva of the Department of Management was appointed Panel Member of the Fundação Para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT), the Portuguese Public Funding Agency for Research & Development.

Professor Nikolaus Wachsmann of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology was appointed to the academic advisory board of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation to advise on the content of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

2.5 Vibrant international presence

Birkbeck staff continued their typically vibrant presence in international scholarly and related fora during 2019-20. These international activities take various forms, including conferences, invited keynotes or seminar presentations aimed at disseminating research findings, sharing insights, etc. Sample activities are outlined in Box 6, below.

Box 6: Sample international presentations by Birkbeck staff, 2019-20

Kristoffer Ahlstrom-Vij of the Department of Philosophy gave a talk on "Knowing Your True Political Preferences" at the Stockholm Region Workshop on Economics & Philosophy, Institute of Future Studies, Stockholm, September 2019.

Professor Daniele Archibugi of the Department of Management presented The Second Report on Research and Innovation in Italy at The National Research Council Headquarters in Rome. The event was attended by the Italian Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte and the Minister for Education, University and Research, Lorenzo Fioramonti.

Professor Anthony Bale, Executive Dean of the School of Arts, was part of a delegation of UK Universities which visited China in December 2019 to explore partnership opportunities in the Creative Arts area. Professor Bale also visited the Beijing Film Academy during this trip.



Professor Anthony Bale

Dr Alexandra Beauregard of the Department of Organisational Psychology represented the ABS-4 rated journal *Work, Employment and Society* at an international symposium on "Worlds of Work: Implications of Urbanisation, Technology and Sustainability", held at the University of Hong Kong in September 2019.

Dr Eddie Bruce-Jones of the School of Law contributed a blog piece on Black Lives and German Exceptionalism in *Verfassungsblog*, Centre for Global Constitutionalism, WZB, Berlin, Germany, 23 July, 2020.



Dr Eddie Bruce-Jones

Professor Annie Coombes, Professor of Material and Visual Culture, gave a lecture on "Decolonizing the Monument/Rethinking the Memorial" at the Department of Culture and Aesthetics, University of Stockholm. Her highly topical lecture looked at how the increased demand on many university campuses for institutions to address colonial amnesia and to actively decolonize the curriculum has focused on municipal statuary – with the call for iconoclastic removal ironically transforming them from neglected and banalized remnants of former colonial glory into hyper-visible symbols of colonial power.



Dr Sophia Connell of the Department of Philosophy delivered a talk on "Aristotle on Memory and Emotion in Humans and Other Animals" at an international conference at the University of Crete, Greece in December 2019.

Dr Dionyssi G. Dimitrakopoulos of the Department of Politics gave an invited talk at the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Athens, Greece in February 2020.

Professor Martin Eimer examined a PhD thesis on "Studying task relevance through the eye and brain" at the Free University Amsterdam, The Netherlands in November 2019.

Dr Stacie Friend of the Department of Philosophy gave an invited talk to the Korean Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference at Seoul National University, South Korea in October / November 2019.

Professor Catherine Grant, Interim Director of Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image, gave an invited talk on "The Poiesis of Cinematic Allusionism: Exploring Audiovisual Intertextuality in the Video Essay" at the University of Pittsburgh as part of its Film and Media Colloquium series in February 2020.

Professor Ulrike Hahn of the Department of Psychological Sciences presented the Hilgard Scholar Lecture at Stanford University, USA in October 2019.

Dr Catherine Heard of the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, School of Law, discussed the evidence concerning imprisonment and its consequences for rehabilitation, recidivism, deterrence and health at a live streamed event on The Science of Incarceration convened by *Science* magazine and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in December 2019.

Professor Kevin Ibeh of the Department of Management and Pro Vice Master (International) presented keynote remarks at International Seminars on Governance, Leadership and Autonomy in Higher Education Systems in New Delhi and Bangalore, India, in February 2020. The trip was Professor Ibeh's second in six months to India, as he had visited Delhi and Hyderabad earlier in September 2019 as part of the Universities UK International-led delegation of UK University leaders. Professor Ibeh also delivered a keynote at an International Workshop on African Business and Sustainable Development at University College in Dublin, Ireland in November 2019.



Professor Ibeh addressing leaders of Karnataka State HE Council and HEIs in Bangalore, India

Professor George Magoulas of the Department of Computer Science and Informatics and Co-Director of the Birkbeck Knowledge Lab gave keynote remarks on the capabilities and challenges of AI-supported educational systems at the 6th Conference on Information and Communication Technologies in Education of the Hellenic Scientific Association for Information and Communication Technologies in Education (ETPE), Greece in October 2019.

Dr Bosiljka Milosavljevic of the Department of Psychological Sciences presented her research on maternal-infant interactions, maternal mental health and infant development in rural Gambia at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development.

Professor Mike Oaksford from the Department of Psychological Sciences examined a PhD thesis on "How we reason about explanations: Philosophy and psychology of explanatory reasoning" at Sorbonne University, Paris.

Dr Clare Press of the Department of Psychological Sciences gave a presentation on the role of prediction in perception, attention and action to the Nvp Dutch Society for Brain and Cognition meeting in Egmond aan Zee in December 2019.

Professor Angelica Ronald of the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development within the Department of Psychological Sciences gave an invited talk on "Genetic Overlap Between Psychotic Experiences Across Age and with Psychiatric Disorders" at the World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics in Los Angeles in October 2019.



Dr Federica Rossi of the Department of Management attended an OECD event in Rome on the theme of Digital Innovation in Agriculture and Beyond and gave a presentation on how policy might adapt to knowledge co-creation in the Digital Age, drawing on evidence from Public Innovation Intermediaries in the UK and France.

Dr Alex Shepherd delivered an invited talk on visual processing differences in migraine, between attacks, and their links with environmental visual triggers at the opening of the New Migraine Centre, Vall d'Hebron Hospital and Institute of Research (VHIR) in Barcelona.

Professor Paul Watt spoke on "Social Housing Regeneration, Place and Inequality in London" at the Separated Spaces - Spatial Segregation International Conference in Tallinn, Estonia in November 2019.



3.0 OUTSTANDING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The 2019-20 period also witnessed the Birkbeck community's continuing strides to address real life global challenges, including climate change, infectious diseases, human rights violations, and lack of higher education opportunities for forced migrants. The recent COVID-19 pandemic also motivated the introduction of the *Birkbeck Inspires* series aimed at generating impactful insights and disseminating ideas. Each of these global citizenship activities is briefly described below.

Tackling climate change head on

Birkbeck continued to demonstrate its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint during 2019-20 through practical ameliorative measures. A recently organised 'climate learning week', for example, involved a vegetarian day and an opportunity for students and staff to bring in their bikes for an appointment with *Cycle Republic*.

Determined to offset the huge carbon footprint and emissions associated with his conference and other travels, our Professor of Structural Molecular Biology, Professor Gabriel Waksman, recently set up a charity called 'All Things Small and Green' dedicated to funding carbon mitigation projects that aim to restore native forest habitats.



He has also created a website, 'All Things Small and Green', where academics can compute their carbon emissions, convert them into trees (two-four trees per metric tonnes of carbon), and add these trees to groves jointly established

with Trees For Life, a tree-planting partner. Groves already created include Scientists' Grove, Academics' Grove, Friends' Grove, and Conference Grove.

Professor Waksman commented: *"I find the idea of a 'grove' extremely attractive. Any institutions can create their own grove and ask their members to contribute trees to it to offset their carbon emissions. I hope we can create a 'Birkbeck Grove' where everyone at Birkbeck will be able to contribute trees."*

Educating young people on tuberculosis

Reflecting the worsening prevalence of TB with the advent of antibiotic resistance and the urgent need to deal with the disease as both a public health and a social problem, Birkbeck is working on a charity project called 'JoiHok' (meaning 'Let victory be yours!' in English), which aims to educate children on TB.



The project, jointly led by Professor of Molecular Microbiology and Biochemistry at Birkbeck, Professor Sanjib Bhakta and the founding Director of 'Joi Hok', Miss Sreyashi Basu (India), concentrates on students from low socioeconomic backgrounds in greater Kolkata, India, whose families are disproportionately affected by tuberculosis (TB) due to factors like malnutrition and poor living conditions. Creative tools like local folk art and music are used to encourage children to engage with, learn about and discuss the antibiotic resistance challenge in the context of TB. It is hoped the children's knowledge will be transferred to household members which in turn could encourage patients to adhere to prescribed anti-TB medication.

Facilitating forced migrants' access to higher education

Birkbeck's Compass Project, which supports forced migrants to study whilst applying for refugee status, enrolled its third cohort of 20 students at the beginning of the 2019-20 year. The extensive package covers a first-year

scholarship and bursary support, alongside preparation for study, mentoring, wellbeing, counselling and career support. Supporting these forced migrants to commence their studies at Birkbeck and in addressing applicable barriers very much reflects the College's longstanding tradition of facilitating access to higher education to non-traditional learners. The Compass Project recently opened the application process for 20 new sanctuary scholarships places to be offered in the 2020-21 academic year.

Promoting diversity

Motivated by a commitment to address the relatively low representation of Black and Minority Ethnic students at doctoral level, and to help mark the 100th anniversary of Birkbeck joining the University of London, the College has funded five 'Diversity 100 PhD scholarships' for each of its five Schools. The scheme attracted over 120 high quality applications across all Schools from which the following awards were made: Kayombo Chingonyi (School of Arts); Margaret Ochieng (School of Business, Economics and Informatics); Nergis Azizi and Joseph Julius Ndawula (Law); Deborah Lewinson Roberts (School of Sciences); and Idroma Montgomery (School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy).

Highlighting over-use of pre-trial detention and remand imprisonment worldwide

The latest edition of the World Pre-trial/Remand Imprisonment List (WPTRIL) was published by the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research at Birkbeck in April 2020. The report showed, notably, that over three million people are held in pre-trial detention and other forms of remand imprisonment worldwide, with particularly. Other highlights include considerable differences between continents and individual countries in trends in pre-trial/remand levels since 2000; rapid increases of growth in the numbers of pre-trial prisoner numbers detainees in the Americas, Asia and Oceania; and over 30% growth in pre-trial/remand imprisonment worldwide since 2000. Another database compiled and hosted by the ICPR, the globally renowned World Prison Brief, which provides free access to the best prisons data available, was referred to by President Obama in a recent contribution to the Harvard Law Review.

Catherine Heard, Director of ICPR's World Prison Research Programme at the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, Birkbeck, commented:



"All over the world pre-trial detainees are being held for months or years in prison, waiting for their cases to reach trial or final sentence. The needless use of pre-trial imprisonment carries huge social and human costs, not least the public health risks presented by today's atrocious levels of prison overcrowding in much of the world. There are cheaper, less restrictive ways of ensuring that people turn up to court. Governments serious about safety and justice must now prioritize their use."

Since the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, ICPR's prisons researchers have been monitoring its impact in prisons and sharing information via a dedicated news and resources page on the World Prison Brief website. Working closely with NGOs and research partners internationally, ICPR's research is geared towards maximising the lessons learned in these challenging times about the social and health risks of over-incarceration, in developed and less developed countries alike.

Championing persecuted detainees internationally

Multiple award-winning author, journalist, and wrongly detained filmmaker Behrouz Boochani was appointed Visiting Professor in Birkbeck's School of Law during the 2019-20 academic year. An Iranian Kurd, Boochani left Iran in 2013 because he faced arrest and imprisonment for his writing. Travelling first to Indonesia, Boochani boarded a boat bound for Australia where he planned to seek asylum. The boat was intercepted by the Australian military, which forcefully transported him and his fellow passengers first to a processing centre on Christmas Island and from there to a detention centre on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea. Conditions for Manus detainees have been found by the UN to constitute torture, and have been the subject of ongoing protest by detainees and activists around the world.



Boochani's work has been published in *The Guardian*, *Huffington Post*, *The Financial Times* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. His book, *No Friend but the*

Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison (Picador 2018) and films have won numerous awards and accolades. His work on state violence and human survival and resistance, focusing in particular on immigration detention and Pacific Ocean geopolitics, is of direct relevance to much of the research being carried out in Birkbeck's Centre for Research on Race and Law and Centre on Law and the Humanities.

Advancing responsible management principles and practices

The School of Business, Economics and Informatics (BEI) at Birkbeck signed up in January 2020 to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), a United Nations-supported initiative to equip today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow.

Building upon a longstanding Responsible Business Centre, this voluntary initiative demonstrates the School's commitment to advancing values such as sustainability, responsibility and ethics in teaching and research. Signing up also positions BEI among other Business and Management Schools around the world dedicated to advancing core corporate social responsibility and sustainability values, while working to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Rising to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic

As symbolised by its famous 'always open' spirit during WW2, Birkbeck has always been a resilient organisation. Not surprisingly, therefore, the College responded robustly to the multi-faceted challenges necessitated by the globally devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

One particularly impactful initiative, the *Birkbeck Inspires* series offering free online events, activities and resources "to inspire learning, provoke thought, entertain and excite curious minds", was launched in May 2020. Led by Professor Julian Swann, Pro Vice Master for Research, the series covers three themes: 'Contemporary Perspectives', 'Resilience and Support', and 'Get Inspired'. The featured contributions have continued to reflect the founding aim of inspiring positivity amidst challenging times.

Sample videos include reflections by the College Orator, Professor Joanna Bourke, on Birkbeck's resilience during WW2 and the School of Arts' Professor Roger Luckhurst on lessons offered by the zombie film genre regarding pandemics and lockdowns; a conversation between Professor David Latchman (Master of Birkbeck) and Baroness Joan Bakewell (President of Birkbeck) on



coping with the COVID-19 lockdown and its impact on older people; the family learning series; and tips by Ana Da Cunha Lewin of the Department of Psychological Sciences on nurturing resilience, exercising for wellbeing and learning, and technology and mental health. There are also helpful contributions from Psychological Sciences' Dr Vanna Cotzia on coping with anxiety in difficult times, and Organisational Psychology's Dr Rachel Lewis and Dr Jo Yarker on taking care of mental and physical health and maintaining social connections while working remotely.



Other Birkbeck's experts have similarly contributed to addressing the COVID-19 challenge. For example, Professor Sanjib Bhakta of the Department of Biological Sciences joined the public education campaign on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and correct handwashing technique to break the chain of infectious disease transmission, Professor Emily Jones of the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development discussed ways to keep children entertained while self-isolating on BBC Woman's Hour, while organisational psychologists Professor Almuth McDowell and Dr Kevin Teoh shared tips on maintaining work-life balance, wellbeing and managing stress whilst remote working. Thoughts on related themes by Dr Caroline Kamau of the Department of Organisational Psychology were featured in a *BBC Worklife* article. Furthermore, the Centre for Educational Neurosciences at Birkbeck offers helpful support resources from a variety of partner organisations and experts to assist people in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis – see also Box 7.

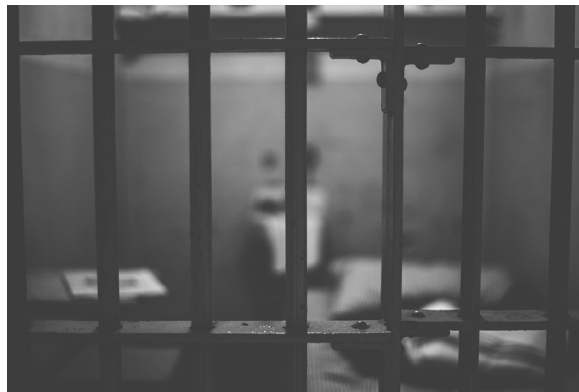
Cognisant of the differential adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on some members of the Birkbeck community, the College has instituted appropriate mitigation measures. These include providing financial support to UK and international students facing hardship or limited access to vital technology and equipment for remote study. Generous COVID-19 focused donations from partners, including Santander Universities, have facilitated this



initiative. A new Employee Assistance Programme was also introduced, to avail staff facing challenging personal circumstances of appropriate guidance and tailored support.

Box 7: Other responses of Birkbeck staff to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Dr Alexandra Beauregard (Organisational Psychology) discussed the implications of work and family care during the crisis for frontline workers and parents of children with disabilities in the British Sociological Association's *Everyday Society* blog. She also delivered a presentation at the University of Birmingham's Work Inclusivity Research Centre seminar on "Work Responsibilities and Care Commitments during the Covid-19 Pandemic – Towards a new division of labour?".
- Catherine Heard (ICPR, School of Law) contributed a Birkbeck blog, 'COVID-19 in prisons – a major public health risk', subsequently reprinted in the magazine, *The Barrister*.



- Professor Kevin Ibeh (Management) reflected on the impact of Covid-19 on Africa in a video interview with the International Business Club, University of Greenwich, London.
- Dr Caroline Kamau (Organisational Psychology) contributed articles to *Psychology Today* on 'Why You Need a Face Mask in the Coronavirus Pandemic', 'Can 21 Minutes of Aerobic Exercise Boost Your Mood?' and 'Is Nudge Theory the Right Approach to Coronavirus?' Dr Kamau's research was also quoted in the Daily Mail, the BBC and The Week.
- Dr Kevin Teoh (Organisational Psychology) contributed to a webinar entitled 'What can we do to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of clinicians on the frontline during COVID-19'.
- Dr Lewis (Organisational Psychology) contributed to a Huffington Post article entitled Working from Home Indefinitely? Here's How to Keep Some Work-Life



Balance and also participated in a webinar for International SOS on Maintaining Your Wellbeing at Home.

- Professor Almuth McDowall (Organisational Psychology) ran some sessions for Barclays Eagle Labs on how to recognise and cope with stress and wrote a Birkbeck Blog on managing our organisations and families out of the COVID-19 crisis. Professor McDowall and Dr Kevin Teoh also presented webinars through the NHS Practitioner Health Programme on managing stress, anxiety, and resilience.
- Professor Stephen Wright (Economics, Maths and Statistics) spoke for The CORE Project about 'The Economics behind COVID-19' in a video already viewed almost 3,000 times.
- Dr Jo Yarker and Dr Rachel Lewis (Organisational Psychology) contributed a post on 'Working Well from Home' for *We are the City*. Drs Yarker and Lewis were also part of the Expert Insights Q&A for Santander with HR professionals and business leaders working to manage the impact of the pandemic on their teams.



Dr Rachel Lewis (left) and Dr Jo Yarker (right)

4.0 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

Birkbeck continued to sustain and develop strategically important relationships with some of the world's leading universities during 2019-20, despite the constraining effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brief accounts of some relevant activities are presented below.

New York University (NYU), USA

Birkbeck's strategic relationship with the New York University (NYU) encompassing estate, research and teaching collaborations continued to flourish. Specifically, the Joint Research Collaboration Fund aimed at extending research interactions - new scholarly networks, joint publications, grant applications and conferences - funded a number of activities during the period.

Professor George Roussos, Professor of Pervasive Computing at Birkbeck, was in New York to initiate collaboration with counterparts at the NYU Centre for Data Science aimed at developing novel data science methods and techniques for improving the efficiency of metropolitan ambulance services when responding to high-priority emergencies, through incorporating traffic, weather, demographic and social media data. Dr Phil Hopley of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department and Dr Tim Reynolds from History, Classics and Archaeology also visited NYU to discuss overlapping research interests in studying humans and their environments in the geologic past, technological advancement in the Palaeolithic Period (Old Stone Age), and field-based research.

An annual workshop initiative led by Birkbeck Philosophy Department's Dr Alex Grzankowski for philosophers from both institutions, which is to be rotated between New York and London, has also been funded, as has a proposal by The Pears Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism to invite a speaker from NYU to present a paper at the Jews, Money, Myth International Workshop at Birkbeck.

Professor Julian Swann, Pro-Vice Master for Research and Professor of Early Modern History, commented: *"Our new partnership with NYU is proving hugely successful, and we have already seen a broad range of research related activities begin across all our schools. I am excited to see what the future holds for the partnership."*

South Western University of Finance and Economics, China

The long-established collaboration between Birkbeck and the South Western University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE), Chengdu, China, entailing a dual undergraduate degree offering and progression into postgraduate programmes in Business and Management, similarly thrived during the review period.

In addition to successful teaching trips to Chengdu by staff from the Department of Management at Birkbeck, the College hosted SWUFE students during their two-week study visit to Birkbeck's Bloomsbury campus in London. The visit featured a blend of academic and social programming, including sightseeing trips to iconic venues in London and Cambridge.



A red 1960's Routemaster bus gave the SWUFE students a whirlwind tour of London's sights.

University of Pittsburgh, USA

The close collaborative relationship between the Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image (BIMI) in the School of Arts and the University of Pittsburgh, USA, continued to thrive during 2019-20. Both partners co-organised the annual Pittsburgh Lecture and a biennial BIMI-Pitt Research Workshop, in addition to exchanging visiting postgraduate students and occasional faculty visitors.



The BIMl also continued to sustain international links with film archives in Europe, North-America, South-East Asia, and Latin America; film festivals such as the Korean Film Festival, Nordic Film Festival, and Irish Film Festival; and national cultural institutes such as the Goethe-Institute, French Institute, Finnish Institute, Austrian Cultural Forum, and Camões Institute.

Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona), Barcelona, Spain

The academic collaboration between Birkbeck's School of Business, Economics and Informatics and the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya that enables UIC Barcelona's undergraduate students of Economics and Marketing to gain Bachelor's degrees from both Universities upon successful completion of a bi-national five-year programme further developed during the 2019-20 year. The collaborative programme, championed by the BEI Internationalisation & Partnerships Manager, Andrea Williams, is expected to achieve significantly increased enrolment over the next academic sessions based on inquiries made by target students.

Sophia University, Japan

The international partnership between Birkbeck and Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, involving mainly student exchange visits and collaborative teaching of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability programmes, continued to develop during 2019-20. Both parties agreed to intensify efforts to establish arrangements to enable selected Sophia graduates to progress into particular Master's programmes at Birkbeck. Discussions about a teaching visit to Tokyo by a Birkbeck staff member had to be put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

The Department of Psychosocial Studies of the School of Social Sciences, History, and Philosophy, Birkbeck, sustained its partnership with the Department of Social Psychology and the Psychology Institute at the University of São Paulo, Brazil during 2019-20. The partnership, which is managed by Professor Stephen Frosh, includes staff and student exchanges.



American University, Washington DC, USA

The newly established links between the Kogod School of Business at American University in Washington DC, USA and the School of Business, Economics and Informatics at Birkbeck further developed during 2019-20. Following a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties in 2019, staff from the two Business Schools have continued to explore and pursue collaborative teaching and research opportunities.

Notably, the Kogod Business School's Dr Tomasz Mroczkowski visited Birkbeck in February 2020 to join a panel event hosted by the Centre for Innovation Management Research at Birkbeck on the theme of Innovation, The Management of Change and Economic Transition, topic areas which Dr Mroczkowski has researched and written about for most of his career. Ms Andrea Williams, International Partnerships Manager in Birkbeck's School of Business, Economics and Informatics had visited the American University in Washington DC earlier in November 2019.

The Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, Spain

The Centre for Iberian and Latin American Visual Studies (CILAVS) based within the School of Arts at Birkbeck initiated a new relationship with the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid for research exchange and collaboration. Two colleagues from this new partner university had planned to visit Birkbeck in June 2020 as part of an Erasmus + exchange, but have had to postpone their visits owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Georgetown University, USA

The Centre for Multilingual and Multicultural Research (CMMR) within the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy at Birkbeck is currently establishing a partnership with Georgetown University's Initiative for Multilingual Studies, a cross disciplinary research centre headed by Professor Lourdes Ortega. Formal sign-off by the respective Deans is awaited.

The above link, when formalised, would add to the CMMR's existing portfolio of research collaborations, which comprise partners from the University of Mannheim, Germany, University of Vienna, Austria, Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz, Austria, Cap Breton University, Canada, Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China, and Hainan Normal University, China. During 2019-20, the Centre also sustained existing links with the European Commission and



Swedish Research Council through its director Professor Dewaele's respective roles as consultant and advisory group member.

European Football Association and University of Limoges, France

The collaborative UEFA Executive Master's for International Players (UEFA MIP) programme involving Birkbeck Sports Business Centre within the Department of Management, the UEFA, Centre for Law & Sport (CDES), and University of Limoges took in its third cohort in November 2019. Supported by the world players' union for professional footballers (FIFPro) and the European Club Association (ECA), this programme aims to equip international players for a future in the administrative management of football.

The current academic year's participants, including ex-Premier League and international players Emile Heskey, Didier Drogba, and John O'Shea, spent the period discussing what makes a good manager, how elite players' skills can be transferred into organisations and what additional competencies are required to make a successful transition into sports administration. They also listened to a variety of guest speakers from a range of sporting and non-sporting organisations, including the French Football Federation, Paris St Germain F.C., the Paris 2024 Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, and Workplace at Facebook.



Sean Hamil, Lead co-ordinator for the UEFA MIP programme at Birkbeck was joined at the event by Dr Richard Tacon, Director of Postgraduate Programmes in the Department of Management, and Dr Geoff Walters, Executive Dean of the School of Business, Economics and Informatics. Sean commented: *"Now in its third cohort, the UEFA MIP represents the fruits of ten*

years of successful collaboration with our academic and industry partners CDES and UEFA and demonstrates how the core strength of Birkbeck as a provider of university education to working people can be successfully translated into the international context, in this case meeting the needs of high-level professional athletes as they seek to transition into their post-playing careers."

University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana

Set-up arrangements for a proposed international collaboration between Birkbeck and University of Professional Studies in Accra (UPSA), Ghana aimed at enabling suitably qualified UPSA academic staff to enrol into Birkbeck's PhD programmes on a distance learning basis are nearing completion. The Memorandum of Agreement, when signed by both parties, would cover doctoral programmes in Management, Law and Film and Screen Media.

Additional international research collaborations

The Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (CBCD) within the Department of Psychological Sciences is currently coordinating a cross-European study of infants at high familial risk for autism as part of the EU-AIMS project as well as co-chairing an EU-funded COST Working Group that aims to build capacity for studying high-risk infants in Europe. The Centre's ToddlerLab is also part of an international collaborative research team undertaking a European Commission-funded five-year project, investigating the underlying mechanisms of co-morbidities in neurodevelopmental diseases and epilepsy. The project, named CANDY (Comorbid Analysis Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Epilepsy), is coordinated by Radboud University in the Netherlands and will investigate the biological links between neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder and language disorders and co-occurring somatic illnesses such as epilepsy and motor problems. It will also look into how the treatment and monitoring of affected patients can be improved.





The Centre for Educational Neuroscience (CEN), also within the Department of Psychological Sciences, is currently collaborating with The World Bank on projects to assess the neuroscience of adult learning with respect to adult literacy programmes in the developing world, and on the cognitive neuroscience of poverty.

The Centre for Researching and Embedding Human Rights (CREHR) based in Birkbeck's School of Law is currently involved in collaborative projects with the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK, The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, Canada's Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, Economics, Philosophy and Political Science, and the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme. The projects are respectively entitled *States of Mind in Conflict* (SOMIC), *Denial and Acknowledgement in Modern Slavery and Human Rights*, and *Mental Health and Resistance – Palestine under Occupation*.

The School of Law also recently concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It also maintains research links with several other international institutions and organisations through adjunct or visiting roles held by staff members. These include the L'Universita' degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy and the University of Gothenburg (Professor Fiona MacMillan is Visiting Professor); Griffith School of Law, Queensland, Australia (Professor Maria Aristodemou is Adjunct Professor); Faculty of Law, Ljubljana, Slovenia (Professor Salecl is Senior Researcher); the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Professor Michelle Everson is Vice-Chair of the Academic Board for Social Sciences); and Johns Hopkins and Bologna University's Summer School in Montenegro (Professor Bill Bowring is Visiting Faculty). There are also professional ties with the European Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights (Professor Bill Bowring is President); Centre for Intersectional Justice, Berlin and the International Refugee Rights Initiative (Dr Bruce-Jones is Board Member and Resource Coordinator respectively).

The Birkbeck Centre for Applied Macroeconomics based within the Department of Economics continued to maintain active collaborations with leading macroeconomists and policy makers in Europe and the USA, including Professor Hashem Pesaran (University of Southern California), Professor Volker Wieland (German Council of Economic Advisors), Dr Piergiorgio Alessandri (Bank of Italy), Dr Henrique Basso (Bank of Spain), Dr Giovanni Melina (International Monetary Fund), and Dr Marian Vavra (Bank of Slovakia).

The Open Society University Network (OSUN)

Birkbeck recently joined The Open Society University Network (OSUN), a new global network anchored by Central European University and Bard College



and supported by the Open Society Foundations. Encompassing over 30 Universities and research and educational institutions from Europe, Americas, Africa and Middle East, and Central Asia, this network integrates learning and advances knowledge across geographic and demographic boundaries, promotes civic engagement, and expands access to higher education to underserved communities. It also promotes the development of engaged citizens by exposing students of partner institutions to globally integrated academic programmes on Open Society and Democracy, Sustainability and Climate, Inequalities, Human Rights, Transnationalism, and Arts and Society.

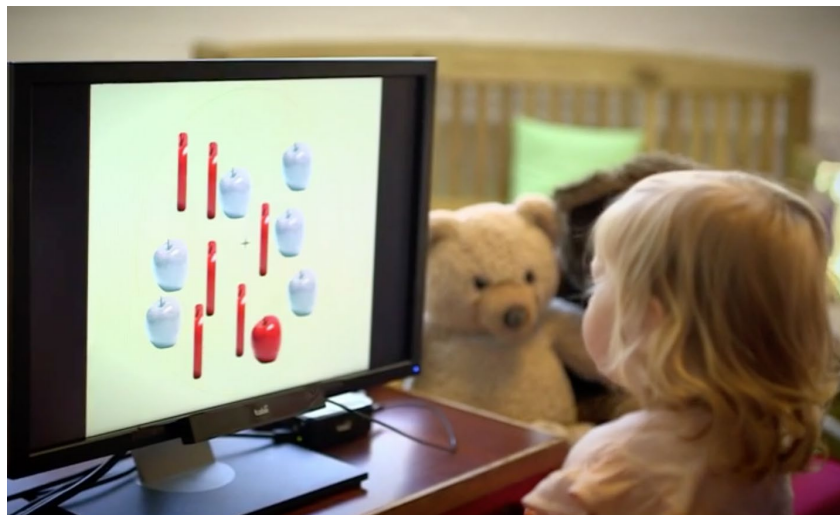
5.0 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND VISITORS

5.1 Hosting international events

The profile of Birkbeck, University of London, as a centre for world class research, scholarship and value-creating industry and policy collaborations continued to be reinforced during the 2019-20 period through its hosting of influential international events and visitors. The next set of paragraphs outline some of the international events held at Birkbeck in the focal period.

Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development celebrates 21 years

Birkbeck's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (CBCD) which has served over 15,000 babies and been at the forefront of developing techniques to understand the development of infants since its establishment in 1998 marked its 21st anniversary with a two-day event on 15 and 16 November 2019.



Organised by founding members Leslie Tucker, Mark Johnson, Denis Mareschal and Gergely Csibra, the event was attended by current and former staff based around the world. Major Centre milestones include moving to the purpose-built Henry Wellcome Building in 2006 and the opening of the BUCNI MRI imaging facility. The CBCD, recognised as one of the leading centres of its kind in the world, expects to open its new state-of-the-art ToddlerLab in 2020 to further advance research to understand emerging developmental disorders in toddlers.

The CBCD remains a highly visible world class centre involved in important international collaborations and major research grants, attracting international visitors and disseminating research findings nationally and internationally.

Celebrating Birkbeck's own First Lady of the DNA

The Genes Environment Lifespan (GEL) Laboratory at Birkbeck initiated a series of events to mark 100 years since the birth of Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958), a pioneer in the field of genetics who contributed to the discovery of the structure of DNA.



Rosalind Franklin

Two genetics workshops were held in January and February 2020 to enable more than one hundred Year 6 school children to explore the extraction of DNA and the genetic basis of taste. Professor Angelica Ronald, co-Director of the GEL Lab, also presented a virtual public lecture on Rosalind Franklin's legacy on 22 May 2020 as part of the Birkbeck Inspires series. Blog pieces exploring different aspects of Rosalind Franklin's work and their contemporary relevance have also been contributed by GEL Lab researchers, with a short video series on Birkbeck's early career researchers debuting in July, Rosalind's birth month. More activities are planned for the rest of the year.

Online world premiere of a documentary on Birkbeck's David Bohm, Einstein's "spiritual son"

The online world premiere of a new feature-length documentary on the life, ideas and work of the ground breaking Birkbeck scientist David Bohm, widely regarded as Einstein's "spiritual son", took place on Saturday 20th June and was watched by over 13,000 people from across the globe. The premiere of the documentary entitled "Infinite Potential: The Life and Ideas of David Bohm" was followed by a lively Q&A panel session involving Professor Basil Hiley, quantum physicist and longtime collaborator of Bohm and Dr Jan



Walleczek, Director of Phenoscience Laboratories (Berlin), among others. David Bohm's archive is held at the Birkbeck Library.

Centre for Law and the Humanities at Birkbeck hosts the screening of Brazilian Film, Bacurau

The Brazilian western movie, Bacurau (translated as Nighthawk), was screened at the Birkbeck Cinema on 31 January 2020. The screening was followed by a roundtable discussion on the intersection of political philosophy, aesthetics and normativity involving visiting Brazilian doctoral students and staff and their Birkbeck hosts. Featured speakers include Dr Başak Ertür, co-Director of the Centre for Law & the Humanities at Birkbeck School of Law; Bethania Assy, Professor of Philosophy of Law at both Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro and at Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro; Bruna Bataglia, PhD Law researcher visiting from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro; and Flávia do Amaral Vieira, PhD Law researcher visiting from Universidade Federal do Pará. Others include Letícia da Costa Paes, PhD researcher at Birkbeck's School of Law and Vinício Brígido, PhD researcher in Psychosocial Studies visiting from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

Birkbeck's Institute for the Moving Image holds International Doctoral Training event

The Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image held an international Practice-Research Doctoral Training Group event on 12 October 2019. Professor Patrick Keating of the Department of Communication, Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, USA presented a comparative video essay work on Dietrich Lighting and The Strange Streets of a Strange City: The Ambersons Montage. Kathleen Looch, postdoctoral researcher at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany and Chiara Grizzaffi, Adjunct Faculty at the International University of Languages and Media (IULM), Milan were panel discussants.

Birkbeck hosts international workshop on antibiotic resistance

The ISMB-Microbiology Research Unit within the Department of Biological Sciences recently hosted an international workshop on tackling antimicrobial resistance and accelerating new antibiotic discovery. Sponsored by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), the event was organised by Professor Sanjib Bhakta and featured a number of international speakers, including Prof Anindya S. Ghosh from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, Prof Franz Bucar from the University of Graz in Austria, and Prof Ester Boix from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Spain. The Commonwealth Scholarship

Commission, UK, also collaborated with Birkbeck on the event, which was also addressed by the Executive Dean of the School of Science, Professor Nick Keep.



International workshop on antibiotic resistance

Birkbeck Institute of Humanities hosts International Conference – Focus on the Funk: Fanon, Hope and the Day After

The Birkbeck Institute of Humanities, an interdisciplinary research centre encompassing colleagues from the School of Arts, Law and Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, in collaboration with the International Frantz Fanon Foundation hosted an international conference on the above theme on 6-7 December, 2019. This year's event, supported by Birkbeck Professor and Funk Collective member Oscar Guardiola-Rivera, focused on hope in politics and its innovative agenda examined themes from Amerindian timekeepers to contemporary physics, as well as the work of political and art practitioners like Decolonize this Place, Novara Media, South as a State of Mind, Colectiva Feminista en Construcción and La Colonie. Featured international speakers include Mireille Fanon Mendès-France, President of the Frantz Fanon Foundation; Marina Fokidis, Athens-based curator and writer; Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Sudanese-Australian media presenter; Kader Attia, founder La Colonie Paris; Dr Norman Ajari, Lecturer, Villanova University, USA; Manuel Correa, Colombian artist and filmmaker; Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Professor at Rutgers University, USA; Dr Lara Sheehi, Adjunct Professor at George Washington University, USA; and Ramón Grosfoguel, Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA.

International Conferences by the Aesthetics of Kinship and Community Researchers

The Birkbeck Research in Aesthetics of Kinship and Community (BRAKC) Centre based in the School of Arts hosted two international conferences in September 2019. The first, on “Conceptualising Community in Germany and France: Ferdinand Tönnies, Jean-Luc Nancy, W.G. Sebald”, featured guest speakers from France and Turkey. Another event on the theme of “Michaël Ferrier: Over Seas of Memory” featured Michaël Ferrier, the acclaimed French writer, who visited from his Tokyo base. This conference also featured other guest speakers from the USA.

Countersign debuts and continues the conversation

Professor of Law and Executive Dean of the School of Law at Birkbeck, Professor Stewart Motha, recently introduced a new podcast for extended discussion and interviews with leading international scholars and activists. Already featured in the series are Patricia Williams, an American legal scholar and a proponent of critical race theory; Renisa Mawani, Professor and expert on law, colonialism and legal geography at the University of British Columbia, Canada; Naeem Mohaiemen, writer and visual artist; and Nanna Bonde Thylstrup, Associate Professor of Communications and Digital Media at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

5.2 Hosting international visitors

Birkbeck witnessed a significant flow of international scholars, partners and other visitors at its London campuses and virtual spaces during the 2019-20 period – see Box 8.

Box 8: Sample international visitors at Birkbeck, 2019-20

Professor Vandana Baweja of the University of Florida, USA was a visiting speaker at the Centre for the Study of British Politics and Public Life in the School of Arts on 26 November 2019. Professor Baweja’s talk examined how German émigré and colonial state architect Otto Koenigsberger’s career can illuminate “global” as a paradigm in modernist historiography.

Professor Alison Booth of the University of Virginia presented on “George Eliot, Where She Lived: Illustration and Topo-Biography” to the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies, School of Arts on 5 February 2020.

Justice Edwin Cameron, retired Judge of the South African Supreme Court of Appeal continued his role as visiting Professor at the School of Law, Birkbeck.

Dr Peter Christensen, University of Rochester, Professor Anke Hagemann, Technical University Berlin, and Dr Claire Zimmerman, University of Michigan were featured speakers at a symposium hosted by the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities and the Architecture Space and Society Centre at the Keynes Library, Birkbeck on 31 October 2019.

Dr Thomas Drechsler of the University of Maryland, USA, gave a talk on The Brexit vote, productivity growth and macroeconomic adjustments in the United Kingdom, at the Birkbeck Centre for Applied Macroeconomics in November 2019.

Cordelia Fine, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne, Australia delivered the 2020 Professor J.D. Bernal Lecture entitled *Fifty Shades of Grey Matter*, at the *Department of Biological Sciences* on 4 February 2020.

Professor Brian Fitzgerald, Director of Lero, the Irish Software Research Centre and the Krehbiel Chair in Innovation in Business and Technology at the University of Limerick, gave a talk entitled "Crowdsourcing Software Development: Silver Bullet or Lead Balloon?" to the Birkbeck Institute for Data Analytics on 27 February 2020.

Charlene Heath of the Ryerson Image Centre in Toronto, Canada was hosted by the School of Arts on 9 December 2019. Her talk was entitled "To Circulate and Disperse: Jo Spence, Terry Dennett and a Still Moving Archive."

Professor Toni Lester of Babson College, USA gave a talk on "Intellectual Property Rights Human Rights?" at a seminar hosted by the Centre for Research on Race and Law in the School of Law.

Martin Lewton, Artistic Director of Theatre North and Barcelona Solo! Festival and author of *Scream Queer Murder!*, featured in the Panel Discussion hosted by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre in the School of Arts in November 2019.

Robyn Maynard, Montreal-based Black feminist author of "Black Lives: Resisting State Violence in Canada", was the guest speaker at an event hosted by the Centre for Research on Race and Law in the School of Law. Robyn's book won the 2017 Errol Morris Book Award and was designated as one of the "best 100 books of 2017" by the Hill Times.

Andrew McKinnon, Theatre Director and Director of Studies at the Institute of the Arts Barcelona, was part of a Panel Discussion on "gay" characters in Agatha Christie's work at the Scream Queer Murder! event organised by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre in the School of Arts in November 2019.

Dr Radhika Mongia of York University, Toronto, Canada delivered a talk on “Indian Migration and Empire: A Colonial Genealogy of the Modern State” at an event hosted by the Centre for Research on Race and Law in the School of Law on 18 October 2019.

Dr Anne-Françoise Morel of KU Leuven in Belgium was Visiting Scholar to the Architecture, Space and Society Research Centre (ASSC) in the School of Arts. She took on the Belgian Chair at the University of London.

Dr Trifonia Melibea Obono, Equatorial Guinean writer and activist, gave a talk entitled “I didn’t want to be a mother: the enforced lives of women who don’t follow society’s norms” at the School of Arts on 21 February 2020. The event was organised in collaboration with the Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR) and the Instituto Cervantes in London.

Professor Stephen Sheehi, Sultan Qaboos Eminent Professor of Middle East Studies and Founding Director of the Decolonizing Humanities Project at the College of William and Mary, USA gave a talk on “Palestine: The Settlers Town is a Strongly Built Town: Fanon in Palestine” to the Centre for Researching and Embedding Human Rights in the School of Law on 8 December 2019. The event was organised in collaboration with Political Mind and the UK-Palestine Mental Health Network.

Professor Abby Van Slyck of Connecticut College, USA delivered a talk entitled “Raising Royals: The Architecture of Childhood at Victoria and Albert’s Osborne House” as part of a mini-symposium on the **English country house** from the 18th century to the present. The event was organised by the Birkbeck Eighteenth-Century Research Group and the Architecture, Space and Society Research Centre (ASSC) at the School of Arts on 12 December 2019.

Dr Nanna Bonde Thylstrup of Copenhagen Business School gave a talk on “Brexit and the Limits of Constitutionalism” in a symposium hosted by the Birkbeck Centre for Law and the Humanities on 15 November 2019.

Christopher Wilmott, Quantitative Researcher at BlackRock, an American global investment management corporation, was hosted by the Birkbeck Institute for Data Analytics on 20 November 2019.

Andrés Mario Zervigón, Professor of the History of Photography at Rutgers University, gave a talk entitled “Fully Visible and Transparent: Zeiss Anastigmat.” The event was hosted by The History and Theory of Photography Research Centre in the School of Arts on 20 November 2019.

Želimir Žilnik, Yugoslav-Serbian filmmaker and a genuine legend of European cinema, visited the School of Arts for an event to mark the 21st Century Žilnik on 15 November 2019.

Dr Claire Zimmerman, Associate Professor of Architecture and History of Art at the University of Michigan and Birkbeck Institute of the Humanities Visiting Fellow, delivered a talk entitled “Anticipating images under construction in Buffalo, 1943-1906” at a one-day training Workshop on Photography, Space & Violence organised for post-graduate students by the History and Theory of Photography Research Centre in the School of Arts on 13 December 2019.

The Centre for Multilingual and Multicultural Research (CMMR) at Birkbeck welcomed several international visiting professors, post-doctoral fellows and PhD students during 2019-20. The visiting faculty include Professor Tim McNamara (University of Melbourne), Professor Lourdes Ortega (Georgetown University), Dr Alice Foucart (Universidad Nebrija, Madrid), Professor Yang Xiao-Desai (San Francisco State University), Professor Carmen Pena Diaz (University of Alcala), Professor Jiang Zhang (Beijing Institute of Technology), Professor Yang Xiao-Desai (San Francisco State University), and Professor Guiying Jiang (Xiamen University, China).

The post-doc visitors were Dr Eirini Mavrou (Universidad Nebrija, Madrid) and Dr Chengchen Li (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China), while the visiting PhD students include Ms Beatrice Venturin (University of Melbourne), Ms Xiaro Yu (University of Utrecht), Ms Chengchen Li (Xiamen University), Ms Elisa Garcia Perez (University of Salamanca), Ms Irina Rogogin (Abo Akademi, Turku, Finland), Ms Tone Stuler Myhre (North University, Norway), and Ms Elouise Botes (University of Luxembourg). Carli Ochs (University of Amsterdam) and Hao Zhang (University of Amsterdam), both MA students also visited.

Birkbeck additionally hosted visiting delegations from the Yunnan University of Finance and Economics (YUFE) in Kunming, China; the Government of Ekiti State, Nigeria; and Narzox University, Kazakhstan, respectively on 10 January 2020, 20 January 2020 and 21 October 2019.

6.0 INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

With thousands of alumni currently living in over 140 countries around the world, Birkbeck's international reach runs wide and deep. The College's international alumni continued to make significant strides in different walks of life during the 2019-20 period. The paragraphs below report on a few of these proud Birkbeckians.

A new Chief Executive at the British Academy



Hetan Shah

Birkbeck alumnus Hetan Shah has been appointed Chief Executive of The British Academy, the tenth person appointed to the Chief Executive role in the Academy's 117-year history to lead the development of its programmes for academics, policy-makers and the public. Hetan graduated from Birkbeck in 2002 with a Masters in Contemporary History and Politics and in 2003 obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Economics with Mathematical Economics, also from Birkbeck.

He enrolled at Birkbeck after finding himself "bored" working in a law firm. Upon graduating, Hetan changed his career path and worked in think tanks for several years, helping to bridge academic research and policy. He previously served as Executive Director of the Royal Statistical Society, where he led the transformation of the organisation's reputation and profile.

Hetan commented thus:

"I look back at my three years at Birkbeck with fondness. It was very stimulating to continue with some formal study after I'd begun my working life. Studying in the evening quite simply meant that I could work and earn a living during the day. I'd recommend it to anyone!"



Nic Katona, Director of Development and Alumni, commented:

"We are delighted to hear about Hetan's appointment as Chief Executive of the British Academy. Hetan's story is one of many great examples of the success of our alumni and the important role Birkbeck played in their lives. We are proud of the impact he is having in shaping society and we wish him continued success in his new role".

UN Awards for Birkbeck alumna

Regan Leahy, a 2018 graduate of MSc Development Studies, recently emerged as the UK winner of the UN Sustainable Development Goals' Pioneer award. She went on to win the global prize for advocacy and sustainable solutions, also awarded by the UN Global Compact Network.



Regan Leahy

These awards were in recognition of Regan's leadership of the volunteering programme, Barefoot Futures, run by her employers, international Law firm Hogan Lovells', to contribute towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals - a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and to ensure peace and prosperity for the year 2030.

A global skills-based volunteering programme, Barefoot Futures inspires young people to take SDG-related action in their local community. It involves workshops delivered by volunteers from Hogan Lovells to students in schools all over the world and seeks to raise awareness about the SDGs and innovative solutions. These students are introduced to the Barefoot solar mamas of Barefoot College, and to how they can use STEM solutions to achieve the SDGs. Over 195 volunteers have taught 1,400 students in 31 schools in 12



countries and 87% of students agreed they would like to develop new solutions to global problems in the future.

Regan's Law firm, Hogan Lovells, partners with Birkbeck to ensure prospective students are not deterred from studying law on account of their financial situation. Their generous scholarship programme supports two talented Law students at [Birkbeck](#).

New frontiers for Birkbeck alumnus

Claude Grunitzky who graduated in Financial Economics from Birkbeck in 1994 recently established TRUE Africa, a media platform championing young African voices. He also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the new publication, which aims to enhance the representation of African voices in the media as well as introduce talents, opinions and skills emerging from Africa to the world.



Claude Grunitzky

TRUE, an innovative content marketing company, is another recent venture created by Claude. Funded by Google and Innovate UK, TRUE have been working on an Artificial Intelligence project in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science at Birkbeck.

These new companies are the latest steps in Claude's impressive post-Birkbeck career, the subject of a Harvard Business School case study. He was previously publisher and founder of TRACE magazine, whose acclaimed influence on black culture, hip-hop, style and music saw stars such as Naomi Campbell, Rosario Dawson, Missy Elliott, Rihanna, and Lenny Kravitz gracing its cover.



Reflecting on his choice of Birkbeck those many years ago, Claude commented thus:

"I researched various places in London which would allow me to work as a journalist; at the time I was working as a freelancer for with French magazine Actuel. I was interested in economics and discovered Birkbeck...I also enjoyed the practical nature of Birkbeck's curriculum, which covers proper, real-world issues and case studies...I remember the Professors very much looked at industry insights and real corporations or institutions. It helped to hit the ground running when I graduated and understand industry issues."

Birkbeck-trained creative writers making waves

Abi Daré and Golnoosh Nour, both international alumni of Birkbeck's MA in Creative Writing programme, released impactful new books in 2020. Dare's "The Girl with the Louding Voice", which received the Bath Novel Award for unpublished manuscripts in 2018, was shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize and recommended by The New York Times among others. Golnoosh Nour's debut, "The Ministry of Guidance", published by Fairlight Books is also attracting deserved buzz. The two books are set in Nigeria and Iran respectively. Abi and Golnoosh are one half of the creative wonder women quartet featured in the Arts Week 2020 event organised by the School of Arts. This year's programme was held online owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Abi Daré

Birkbeck alumnus receives Best Debut Director Prize

Atri Banerjee, a recent graduate of the MFA in Theatre Directing programme offered by Birkbeck's School of Arts, received the best Debut Director Prize for his directing of the Play "Hobson's Choice" at the Royal Exchange Manchester, a theatre he joined during his course placement from the MFA.



Late alumna's legacy lives on

The Margery Boughton Studentship, funded by a generous legacy donation from its namesake, was awarded at the beginning of 2019-20 to Olivia Engle to support her PhD in Development Studies at Birkbeck. The Boughton Studentship provides a fee waiver and stipend for living costs throughout the scholar's doctoral studies.

Margery, a 1955 BA History graduate of Birkbeck, went on to become a senior academic. As a gift in her will, Margery chose to support future students in the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy to study and thrive.

Thanks Margery.

APPENDIX A

SOME INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS HOSTED BY BIRKBECK

19 is an open-access, refereed online journal established in 2005 to advance interdisciplinary study in the long nineteenth century. Supported by the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies at Birkbeck's Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, the journal publishes two themed issues annually as well as special forums advancing critical debate in the field.

Alluvium Journal is a leading journal of 21st-century writing critically acclaimed for its innovations in academic publishing. This open access journal launched in 2012 by The Centre for Contemporary Literatures at Birkbeck publishes bimonthly general and special issues that explore 21st-century texts and approaches to the literary canon.

Dandelion is a postgraduate arts journal and research network also hosted by the Centre for Contemporary Literatures at Birkbeck and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). It publishes two special issues per year, bringing together new articles from a wide variety of disciplinary approaches within the humanities.

Studies in the Maternal, now in its 12th volume, is an international peer-reviewed, scholarly online journal. Supported by the Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics network based at the Department of Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck, the journal aims to provide a forum for contemporary critical debates on the maternal understood as lived experience, social location, political and scientific practice, economic and ethical challenge, a theoretical question, and a structural dimension in human relations, politics and ethics.

The Centre for Educational Neuroscience combines the expertise of researchers in child development, neuroscience and education at Birkbeck's Department of Psychosocial Studies, UCL Institute of Education and University College London. The Centre's website, reflecting the Centre's reputation as a source of research-backed authority on the links between neuroscience, psychology, and education, hosted over 90,000 unique visitors from over 200 different countries via its website in the past year.

The Decolonizing Sexualities Network/DSN Blog, active since 2010, is managed by Silvia Posocco of the Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, along with Suhraiya Jivraj and Sandeep Bakshi of the University of



Kent and University of Paris respectively. The DSN Life Sense-ing Series brings into focus feelings and memories through glimpses of personal narratives that make people who they are.

The Open Library of Humanities (OLH) is an open access journal, publishing high-quality scholarly articles from across the humanities disciplines. It is hosted by the Centre for Contemporary Literatures at Birkbeck and supported by substantial funding from the Public Knowledge Project, Stanford University, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Layers of London (<https://www.layersoflondon.org>) is an online digital mapping project which is engaging thousands of people with the history and heritage of London, a truly global city. Led by Professor Matthew Davies, Executive Dean of the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, this public engagement initiative, promoted via social media, workshops and events, has so far attracted over 11,000 contributions.



APPENDIX B

SOME NEW BOOKS FROM BIRKBECK

Dimitrakopoulos, Dionyssi G. and Passas Argyris, *The Process of Depoliticization of Greece's Public Revenue Administration*, Springer, 2020.

Douzinis, Costas, *The Radical Philosophy of Rights*, Routledge, 2019.

El-Enany, Nadine (co-editor), *After Grenfell: Violence, Resistance and Response*, 2019.

Etienne, Jan, *Communities of Activism: Black Women, Higher Education and the Politics of Representation*, 2020.

Fracchia, Carmen, *"Black but Human". Slavery and Visual Arts in Hapsburg Spain, 1480-1700*, Published by the OUP, 2019.

Lawton-Smith, Helen, Henry, C., Etzkowitz, H & A. Poulouvasilis, *Gender, Science & Innovation: New Perspectives*. Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, 2020.

Reinisch, Jessica and David Brydan (editors), *Histories of Internationalism*, Bloomsbury's new book series hosted by the Centre for the Study of Internationalism at Birkbeck.

Thomas, Michael S.C., Mareschal, Denis and Dumontheil, Iroise (editors) *Educational Neuroscience: development across the life span*, Routledge, 2020.

APPENDIX C

SAMPLE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES DISRUPTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

International mobility activities

- School of Art's study trips to Vienna and Budapest scheduled for March and May 2020 respectively.
- Scheduled trips by two students (George Townsend and Foteini [Claire] Saramanti) of the School of Art selected as the British Council Venice Fellows for 2020, to be part of the team at the British Pavilion of the Venice Biennale or the Venice Architecture Biennale.
- The Spring schedule of School of Art PhD student Melissa Buron's major exhibition on the French-English painter James Tissot: 'Tissot: Fashion and Faith', in Musée d'Orsay, Paris. Melissa's exhibition opened successfully at the Legion of Honour Museum in San Francisco.
- Professor Sanjib Bhakta's reciprocal research visit to Indian Institute of Technology as part of the Newton Bhabha Fellowship Programme.

International events

- Some events planned by the Genes Environment Lifespan (GEL) Laboratory to mark 100 years since the birth of Rosalind Franklin.
- Birkbeck Institute of Humanities' Summer School.

International student experience activities

- Several of the Spring and Summer term schedule, including planned visits to the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Kensal Green cemetery London, the resting place of the College founder, George Birkbeck.



Sources:

Inside the Birkbeck Community

BBK Magazine

Birkbeck Matters

Birkbeck Comments

Birkbeck Blogs

Departmental websites/blogs

Research Centre reports/websites

Newsletters

Library Blog

Birkbeck Alumni Blog

Reporting Team

Katrinah Best

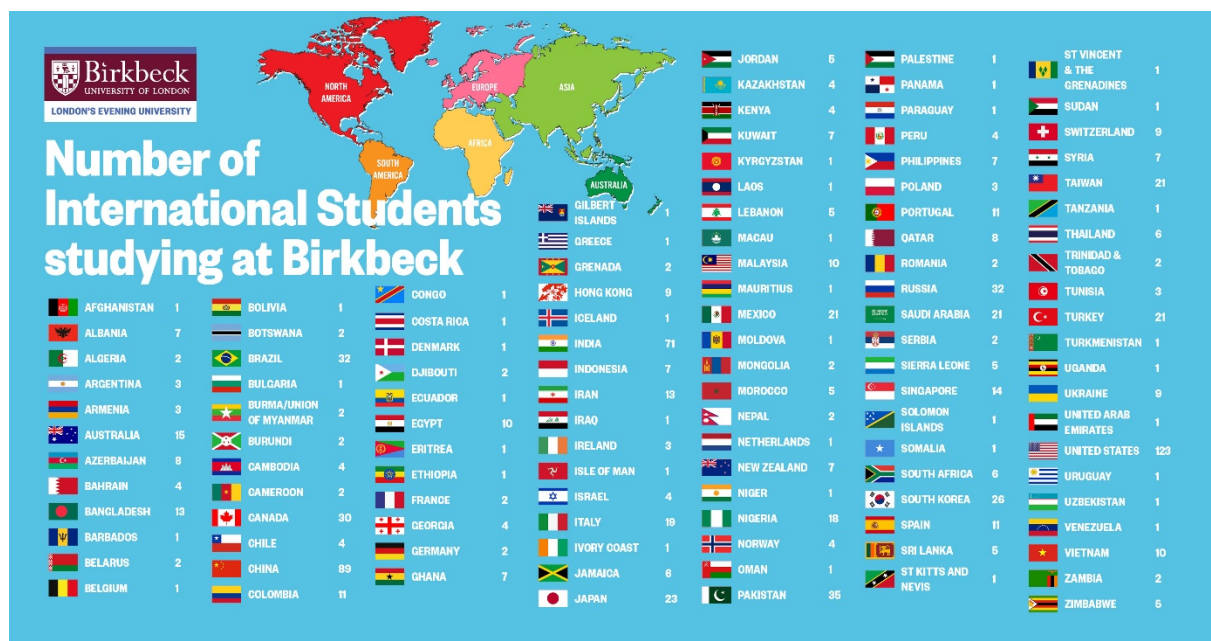
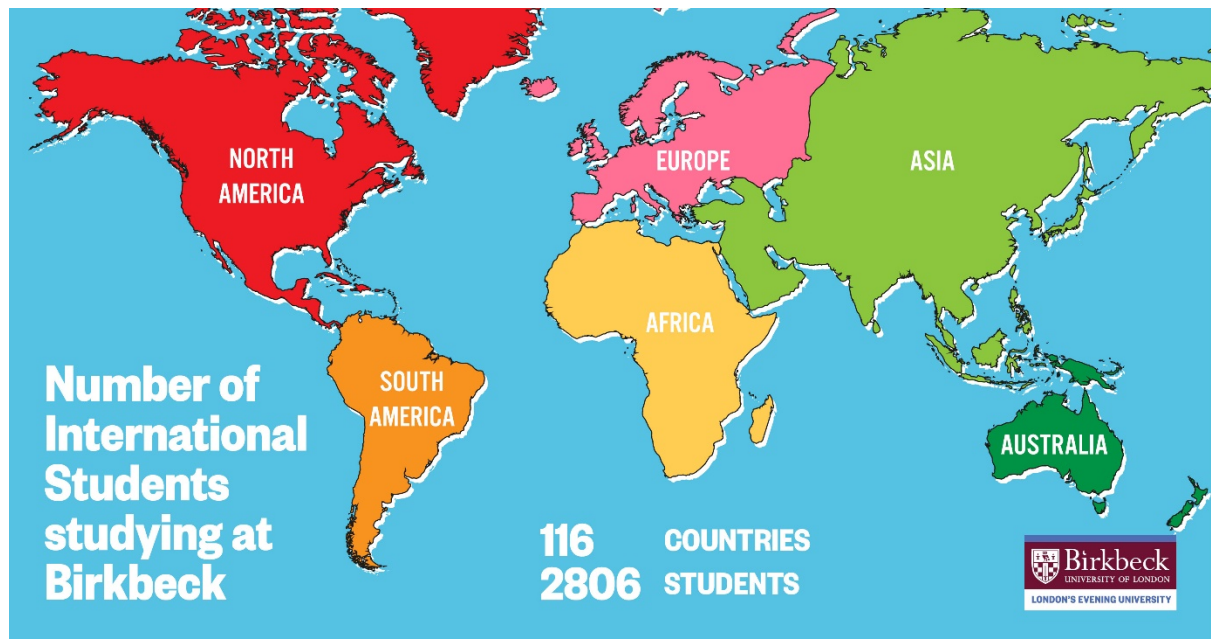
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