



bbk

BIRKBECK'S MAGAZINE ISSUE 27, SPRING 2010

Investing in the arts

Pain, politics and pantoums
in Birkbeck's Arts Week



Contents

Teaching & Research

- 1 **Birkbeck researcher rewarded**
Award for work into antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis
- 2 **Research rocks!**
Apollo 12 Moon samples won
- 3 **How insects smell**
New protein structure identified
- 4 **Arts Week 2010**
Pantom competition
- 5 **Badge of honour**
Investing in the arts
- 6 **Telling stories**
How British films pervade our common culture
- 7 **The new dynamics of ageing**
Old age and poverty in India

Master's report

- 8 **SDF grants indicate confidence in Birkbeck's plans**

College news

- 10 **Stratford Island University Centre**
Project comes a step closer
- 11 **Past caring**
Reviewing *Love in History* week
- 12 **Research round-up**
A selection of research news, awards and collaborations
- 14 **Obituary**
Andrew Booth, computer pioneer



Alumni news

- 15 **Science and progress**
Science City York boss Nicola Spence
- 16 **Business and pleasure**
Graduate David Waller
- 17 **Alumni news**
The most successful year yet for College fundraising

Features

- 18 **Mum power**
Rosie Campbell asks if mothers hold the key to 10 Downing Street
- 20 **Surgical spirit**
Joanna Bourke examines how people experienced pain before anaesthesia
- 22 **Picking up the pieces**
John Driffill on picking up the pieces of the world economy
- 24 **All God's children**
Secularism is at a demographic disadvantage, writes Eric Kaufmann
- 26 **Before the holocaust**
Nik Wachsmann explores the beginnings of concentration camps

Events & Books

- 28 **Forthcoming events & new courses**
Business Week
Law on Trial
- 29 **Diary dates and books**
Dates for your diary, and current publications



Every issue we are spoilt for choice about which academics' success to profile. Here a number of female researchers and academics steal the limelight. Dr Antima Gupta who won the Woman in Science award for her work to test new drugs to combat antibiotic resistant tuberculosis. On page 12 we feature Dr Mayada Elsabbagh who was presented with the ESRC Neville Butler Prize for her work directing the British Autism Study of Infant Siblings project. Also sharing the limelight are Professors Annette Karmiloff-Smith, Bonnie Ann Wallace, Diana Coole and Dr I Bruna Seu.

Academics at the College are well known for engaging in debates about important public topics and this issue of *BBK* features articles on the economic challenges ahead by Professor John Driffill (page 22); Dr Rosie Campbell writes about why politicians are wooing mothers (page 18); and on page 24 Professor Eric Kaufmann describes how we are on the cusp of unprecedented religious demographic revolution.

Science City York boss Nicola Spence (page 15) and business writer David Waller (page 16) write about how their Masters' degrees helped them rise to the top of their professions and how much they both enjoyed their time studying here.

This is my last edition of *BBK*; I have been editor since 2002 (producing 12 editions and two daughters along the way). I have seen a change in the breadth of the magazine's readership (currently 33,000), its scope and design. Thanks to all the contributors for making my editorship so interesting; I wish the College every success in the future.

Catherine Stevens, Editor

Birkbeck researcher rewarded

UNESCO honour for work into antibiotics

A Birkbeck researcher has been awarded a prestigious fellowship from the UNESCO-L'Oreal Women in Science Programme 2010. Dr Antima Gupta from the Department of Biological Sciences has been recognised for her research on the development of models for testing new drugs to combat antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis.

The award, presented on 3 March in Paris, is one of 15 International Fellowships granted to young doctoral and post-doctoral researchers in the Life Sciences. The UNESCO-L'Oreal (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) programme highlights scientific excellence and encourages young women to pursue scientific careers. Each year, Fellowships are awarded to budding scientists to encourage them to develop their talent. Over the past 12 years, nearly 1000 women have been recognised: 62 Laureates from 28 countries and 864 Fellows in 93 countries.

Speaking about her award, Antima said: "It was an honour to receive international recognition for my research, and to meet so many inspiring young women involved in science at the ceremony. I know first-hand the challenges that women can face in pursuing a career in science – many times they encounter social pressures to avoid higher education and focus more on family-orientated tasks from a young age."

Dr Sanjib Bhakta, Antima's academic supervisor, says: "Antima came to London in 2008 and I was impressed by her determination to continue her career in scientific research. She has already presented her work to a national TB meeting in the UK and published her research results in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*, a high-impact journal with an international reputation. Within a relatively short period of time, her hard-working nature and interpersonal skills became



Above: Dr Antima Gupta, speaking at the award ceremony (L'OREAL)

invaluable assets for my laboratory."

Over 1.7 million people die each year from tuberculosis worldwide, and half of these deaths are in Asia. Tuberculosis is caused by the bacterial pathogen *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which has developed resistance to all the most commonly used drugs. One of the main obstacles to drug discovery is that *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is highly dangerous and can only be studied under extremely rigorous conditions. This extends the duration and cost of research. To circumvent these obstacles, Dr Gupta is working with a closely related mycobacteria, *Mycobacterium aurum*. This offers several advantages; it is not a human pathogen; it has the same sensitivity to drugs and it has developed the same resistances. This makes it an excellent candidate for evaluating new treatments while reducing the

costs, time and risks of experiments.

Working in Dr Bhakta's mycobacteria research laboratory at Birkbeck, Antima's plan is to infect human macrophage cells with drug-resistant strains of *Mycobacterium aurum* in order to test a battery of natural and synthetic molecules to see if they kill the bacteria. Once the most effective molecules have been identified, she will analyse the bacterial cell walls to understand the precise target and mode of action of the new drug molecules.

Antima, who holds a PhD in molecular microbiology from the Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow, India, plans to use her expertise in these new techniques for the benefit of people in her country.

To find out more about the Department of Biological Sciences, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/biology

Research rocks!

Dr Ian Crawford awarded Moon rocks

US space agency NASA has awarded Birkbeck's Dr Ian Crawford and colleagues samples of Moon rock for a research project on lunar volcanism. The samples were brought back by the *Apollo 12* mission to the Moon in 1969, and consist of about 50 small fragments of lava found in the lunar soil at the landing site. Each fragment is about a millimetre across, and their total weight is about 1.5 grams. The team will investigate the volcanic history of the region to understand better the Moon's geological evolution through time.

Lunar samples have only been obtained from nine locations on the Moon, from six Apollo landing sites (1969–1972) and three Russian sites, from which samples were returned by robotic spacecraft in the 1970s. "Although collected over 40 years ago, improvements in the sensitivity of analytical equipment means that valuable knowledge about lunar

geology can still be obtained from studying these rare, and scientifically hugely important, samples," says Dr Crawford (Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences).

"This work is important because volcanism provides one of the few windows we have into the interiors of rocky planets, and the results will help determine the rate at which the lunar interior cooled down," he adds.

"Understanding the age and chemistry of these rocks allows us to work out how other rocky planets might form and evolve, helping us to learn about the Earth's own early geological history," adds Dr Joy (formerly at Birkbeck, and now at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston), who is working with Dr Crawford together with colleagues from UCL and the University of Manchester.

Apollo 12 was the most western of



the Apollo landing sites, landing in the eastern margins of Oceanus Procellarum (Ocean of Storms). One of the aims of the project is to seek examples of young lava fragments that may have been scattered by meteorite impacts further west, where some of the youngest lava flows on the Moon are thought to occur but which have never been sampled directly. If such fragments can be identified, and their ages and composition determined, they will significantly advance our knowledge of the history of lunar volcanism.

Having put forward their winning research proposal to NASA, Drs Crawford and Joy, plus PhD student Joshua Snape, visited the lunar sample curation facility at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston to select soil fragments best suited to their project. Each individual grain will be divided in two. One half will be sent to Dr Ray Burgess (University of Manchester), who will determine the ages of the samples, while the other half will remain at Birkbeck for geochemical and mineralogical analysis using electron microscopes and other equipment in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. The work will form a large part of the PhD thesis of Joshua Snape, under the supervision of UCL's Dr Adrian Jones.

Meanwhile, the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences has launched its BSc Planetary Science with Astronomy, designed to give students a broad introduction to the earth and planetary sciences within their wider astronomical context.

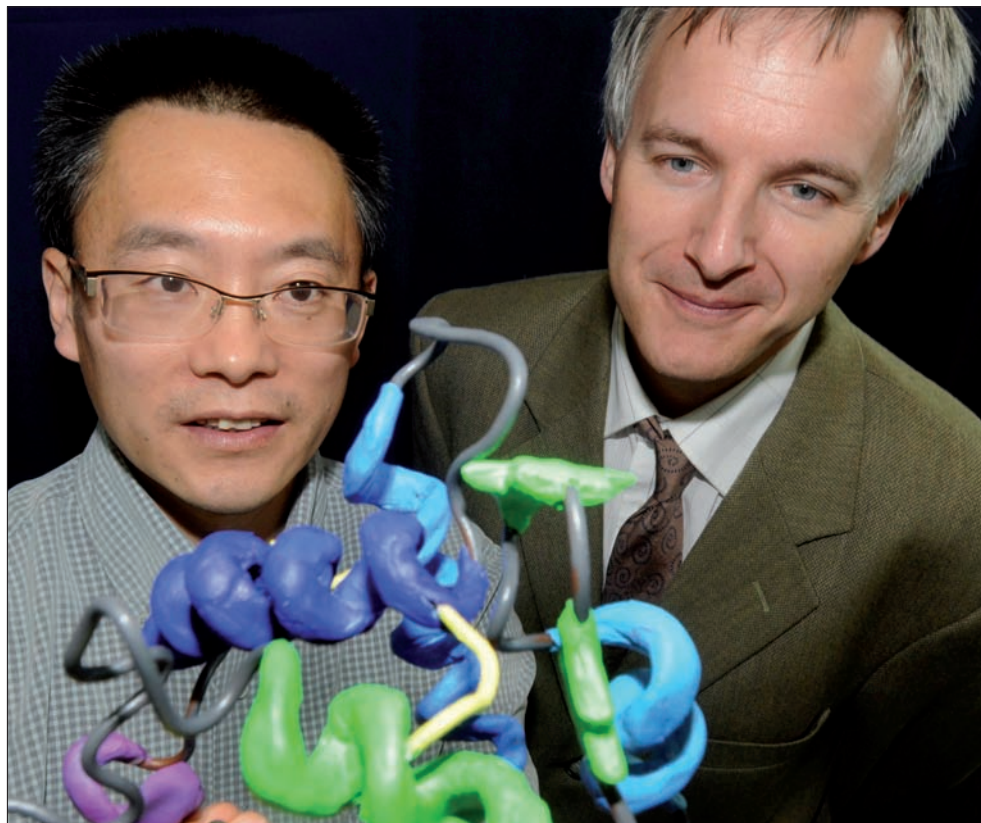
Below: Dr Ian Crawford (centre), with Joshua Snape (left) and Katie Joy (right) with a piece of the *Apollo 12* rock (Birkbeck Photo Unit)



For details about studying Earth Sciences, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective

How insects smell

Research sheds light on eco-friendly pest control



Researchers from Birkbeck have identified a new protein structure which sheds light on how insects smell and could help develop more eco-friendly methods of pest control.

Published in the *Journal of Molecular Biology*, the study was carried out by Dr Jing-Jiang Zhou and colleagues at Rothamsted Research, in collaboration with Professor Nick Keep's group from the Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology at Birkbeck. The protein was identified at the UK's national Synchrotron, Diamond Light Source.

Nick Keep, Professor of Biomolecular Science, said: "Insects can pick up a mate or a food plant at an amazing distance from just a few scent molecules. We can see from our work how these molecules bind to the first stage of the insect's detection system. This gives us insight into

Top: A silkworm moth
Above: Dr Jing-Jiang Zhou (left) and Professor Nick Keep, Executive Dean of the School of Science, look at a 3D model of their protein structure (Birkbeck Photo Unit)

how the system works and how it can be so specific. The world-beating Diamond X-ray facility was a crucial tool in this work."

The importance of understanding how insects 'smell' and how the chemical signals are recognised is useful for many things, especially for pest control in agriculture.

Plants use chemical signals to repel and attract insects and by harnessing a detailed understanding of the signals, farmers can plant companion species to create 'odours' that would make an area very unattractive or attractive to insects, according to what they require. This is more commonly known as the push-pull system.

Many insects depend on chemicals like pheromones to communicate with each other and to find a suitable mate. There are two

main sex pheromone components, bombykol and bombykal, in the silkworm moth, which was the subject of this study. Bombykol, the first insect pheromone discovered 50 years ago, is the only component involved in mating behaviour whereas bombykal is an antagonist.

Dr Jing-Jiang Zhou, senior research scientist in insect molecular biology at Rothamsted Research, adds: "So far, we know that odorant binding proteins [OBPs] within the organism pick up pheromones at pores on the outside of the antenna and carry them through a watery layer to the nerve endings. But it is not clear whether they simply transport and release molecules which bind to olfactory receptors or whether they form a specific OBP-pheromone complex which then activates the receptor. The structures we determined using the crystallography capabilities at Diamond give us a view of how these processes work."

Dr Zhou concludes: "It's not just the farming community which stands to benefit from this work. These new insights will be fed into the development and refinement of biosensors where detection sensitivity is paramount in areas like blood tests. One of our spin-off companies is also investigating how bees can detect some small quantities of explosives; it stands to benefit from any knowledge we generate."

Solving this protein structure also represents a significant achievement in the advance of structural biology in the UK. Almost £300 million has been invested in the Synchrotron and the facility represents the largest UK scientific investment for 40 years. It is a joint venture funded by the UK Government through the Science and Technology Facilities Council and the Wellcome Trust.

To find out more about studying the sciences at Birkbeck, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective

Arts Week 2010

An eclectic mix for the third annual event



The College's third Arts Week will run from Monday 17 May until Friday 21 May. This year's events are being co-ordinated by Professor Sue Wiseman and Dr Anthony Bale, both in the School of Arts. "Birkbeck is lucky to be able to attract some really fantastic speakers and this year is no exception," commented Professor Wiseman. "As in previous years, there will be an eclectic mix of panel discussions, lectures, course taster sessions and round tables".

MONDAY 17 MAY

Anthony Julius, lawyer and writer, introduces his new book, *Trials of the Diaspora: a History of Anti-Semitism in England*.
Venue: B20 Malet Street, 7.30pm–9pm

TUESDAY 18 MAY

Art and Sport: Panel discussion with Kerry Michael, Artistic Director, Theatre Royal Stratford East; Sarah Weir, Head of Arts and Cultural Strategy, Olympics; Lynda Nead, Birkbeck; Christopher Breward,

Victoria and Albert Museum.
Chair: Dr Karen Fricker (Royal Holloway, and theatre reviewer for *Variety* magazine). This panel discussion will engage with sport from the perspective of theatre, visual art, fashion and art history.
Venue: Room B01, Clore Management Centre, 6.30pm–8pm.

The History of the World through Archaeology Taster Course

Venue: Room 405, Malet Street, 6pm–9pm.

Pain and the Politics of Sympathy, 1798 to the Present: Lecture

Professor Joanna Bourke. Venue: Room B35, Malet Street, 7.30pm–9pm.

THURSDAY 20 MAY

Jonathan Coe (below), reading from his new novel *The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim*. Venue: Room 417, Malet Street, 6pm–7.30pm.

For full details visit www.bbk.ac.uk/artsweek

Pantoum Poetry Competition

To celebrate Arts Week, Birkbeck is holding a poetry competition using the pantoum form, with a top prize of £100 worth of books from the London Review Bookshop.

What is it?

The pantoum, based on a Malay verse form, first appeared in Western poetry at the start of the nineteenth century. It comprises four line stanzas, usually in abab, where the second and fourth line of each stanza are repeated as the first and third line of the next. In its strictest form, the first and third lines of the opening stanza also reappear as the second and fourth lines of the closing one, i.e. it starts and finishes with the same line. For our competition we're looking for pantoums of six stanzas in the strict form. The competition is open to anyone – Birkbeck affiliated or not – and children's entries are also welcome.

What's in it for you?

The three best pantoums, as chosen by our judging panel, will be read out on Friday 21 May, as part of our Friday night events for Arts Week. The winner will receive a £100 voucher to spend at the London Review Bookshop, plus tea for two in their pantry. Shortlisted entries will also appear in *Dandelion*, the new arts journal and research network for the arts at Birkbeck.

Enter by Friday 14 May

Send your pantoums to poetrycomp@bbk.ac.uk, with 'Pantoum Competition' in subject line, and your name, address, email address and telephone number. Please tell us whether you would like to attend the poetry reading and announcement event from 7.30pm–9pm on Friday 21 May.

Below: Jonathan Coe
(Getty Images)



Badge of honour

PhD students recognised by AHRC for innovative projects

James Emmott and Cathryn Setz have been awarded (Arts and Humanities Research Council) Student-Led Initiative Awards for their respective projects *Angles* and *Dandelion*. They are both based in the Department of English and Humanities.

Cathryn's *Dandelion* project consists of a postgraduate arts e-journal and research network. "I wanted to help foster a supportive network in which we could exchange ideas, showcase work and engage in discussion," she says. "Given the tough times ahead for doctoral candidates looking at the job market it is important we get the most out of our training. As well as a dedicated research project it's an apprenticeship into the contemporary world of working in higher education."

Last year James Emmott, along with fellow PhD students Rachel



Richardson and Thomas Turner, organised a one-day conference, *Angles*, to draw together postgraduate perspectives on cultural history from across the disciplinary spectrum. The focus was on unusual topics or unconventional approaches to otherwise familiar topics. The event was hugely successful, attended by over 80 postgraduates from across the UK, Ireland and continental Europe.

James' AHRC funding, along with a contribution from the College's central fund for research training, covers operational costs for another conference, on 19 June, and an online network for research students. "The AHRC funds only the highest-quality projects, its support is a real badge of honour," he says.

Visit www.bbk.ac.uk/angles for details

Investing in the Arts

The UK is a world leader in arts and culture. Thanks to 10 years of increased government funding and the introduction of the Lottery, the arts are thriving. We have visionary leaders, entrepreneurial business models, a global reputation for excellence and innovation, enhanced facilities and a growing creative economy.

As a nation we have invested in culture, and reaped the benefits. A key part of this success lies in the vital role of the Arts Council. Our investment is targeted at critical stages, from inspiring early arts experiences and youthful creativity, to the transition from education into work. We support the arts infrastructure that builds, nurtures and showcases British talent.

The investment we make in artists in the early stage of their career often offers a significant return. By investing in the arts we are investing



in tomorrow's talent, artistic excellence and wealth creators.

The impact of our investment goes beyond the success of the art itself. We have a cultural sector that gives Britain an international edge as an exciting and creative place to live, work and do business, that fuels the creative industries and generates future jobs in one of the fastest growing parts of the economy; it regenerates cities and contributes to communities.

One of the most distinctive aspects of this country's arts funding is the 'arms-length' principle, whereby the Arts Council fulfils the expert role of funding and developing the arts while remaining accountable to, but independent from, government. JM Keynes, the founding father of the Arts Council, drew up this principle in 1946, which has served us well ever since.

As Chair of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies, I recently took part in a discussion with

representatives from Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies from across the world. Colleagues agreed that the arms-length model was so essential that it should be a key part of our 10-year strategy to encourage other nations to uphold or implement this model of supporting the arts. This model enables artistic freedom to flourish, it allows us as funders to support artistic risk and stand by the artists that take those risks. It keeps the arts free from the interference of day-to-day politics. The arts thrive on risk and innovation, and they suffer if funding decisions are made on anything other than artistic grounds.

This country is experiencing a golden age of the arts. If we sustain government investment and uphold the independence of the Arts Council, we have every reason to be optimistic about an even greater role for arts and culture in our future.

Alan Davey, Chief Executive, Arts Council England and Birkbeck alumnus

Telling stories

Ian Christie says British films pervade our common culture

Try a simple test. Write down your 10 most memorable films. Then review the list and check how many are British. Maybe two or three at most, but potentially none? And how would you rate the impact of any British titles on your list? Do you remember characters, images or dialogue, or do you ever compare situations with a film – such as ‘it’s like an Ealing comedy’, or a Bond film, or like something out of *Chariots of Fire*?

This last reference is significant, because *Chariots* seems to be one of the films that’s lodged in the national consciousness, summing up British attitudes towards the Olympics, sportsmanship and maybe even ‘what it means to be British’. This appears to be true even for people who’ve never seen the film, but know vaguely what it’s about, or can hum Vangelis’s inspirational theme music. And it certainly has nothing to do with critical esteem, since *Chariots* has never been highly rated by critics, especially in Britain.

But *Chariots of Fire*, along with up to 50 other British films, is an excellent example of a film that has had undeniable ‘cultural impact’. This is one of the conclusions from a study that I co-researched with Bertrand Moullier and the Paris-based Media Consulting Group for the UK Film Council. The report, *Stories We Tell Each Other: the cultural impact of UK film, 1946–2006*, borrowed its main title from a phrase by the anthropologist Clifford Geertz, which was part of his attempt to define that most troublesome word ‘culture’. Raymond Williams, one of my mentors, called this one of the most complex words in the language; but Geertz’s approach seemed to me to point to something vital in how we relate to cinema. The films we remember are indeed the stories we are told, re-tell, and recommend, because they say something about who we think we are – and, of



course, who we’d like to be, or not.

Framing a study for the Film Council that would pass muster among hard-headed industry folk was a challenge. How to cope with the sheer range of British films? How to create a robust methodology? Part of the solution was to go back to film history and create something completely new: a searchable database of all British feature films from World War 2 to the near present, which was accomplished by employing some recent Birkbeck students who had film and database expertise. This outline compilation should become the core of a major

new research asset, to be taken forward by the British Film Institute.

But how we assess ‘impact’, and what methodology we use, has become a highly contentious topic in academia with the announcement that future university research funding will be based partly on public impact (Research Excellence Framework). We developed a spectrum of impact measurement that went from traditional indicators, such as box-office and festival awards, through measures that reflect films’ ‘long tail’. This now includes DVD release, restoration and forms of digital access on platforms such as YouTube, as well as indicators of how films affect other aspects of contemporary behaviour and culture.

The impact of Gurinder Chadha’s film *Bend it Like Beckham* can be found in the explosion of girl’s football in India as well as Britain, while *Four Weddings and a Funeral* dramatically boosted the popularity of WH Auden’s poetry, thanks to the scene in which John Hannah read his *Funeral Blues*.

Individually, many of these examples might be considered merely anecdotal. But we argue that they point to the deep and pervasive ways in which British films – which are rarely global blockbusters (apart from such franchises as Bond and *Harry Potter*) – form part of our common culture. Some films also address the UK’s regionally and ethnically diverse culture in ways that go beyond their apparently limited circulation – films from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and from the Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities. Happily, our study seems to have launched continuing debates, both about film’s legacy in the digital era and about the meaning of ‘cultural impact’.

Ian Christie is Professor of Film and Media History whose most recent book is *The Art of Film: John Box and Production Design*.

Above: Classic British film *Chariots of Fire* (bfi)

The new dynamics of ageing

Research into old age and poverty in India

Dr Penny Vera-Sanso, lecturer in Development Studies, is leading a major multidisciplinary, international research project on old age and poverty in the low-income settlements of Chennai, India, undertaken in collaboration with the Centre for Law, Policy and Human Rights Studies, Chennai, and the Universities of Oxford and Manchester. The study, now nearing completion, focuses on the capacity of the older urban poor to access support from their families and the State, or to be self-supporting in the context of limited social protection for the aged and where 90% of all workers are located in the insecure, low-paid informal economy.

India is the focus of this study as it has one of the largest and fastest growing ageing populations in the world; its population aged 60 plus is expected to increase from 81 million (2002) to 324 million in 2050. In this respect, India is representative of most developing countries which are growing old faster than developed countries did and are doing so before becoming wealthy. Today two-thirds of people aged 60 or more are living in developing countries and in 15 years this will increase to 75%. Chennai is the study site, as it is one of India's largest and most diversified centres of economic globalisation.

The emerging results indicate that in the pursuit of development, old age poverty is relegated to the margins of policy and planning, and the current and potential economic and social contribution of people in later life, and their needs, go largely unnoticed. In uncovering the contribution of older people to the economy, the research exposes the stylised nature of public discourse on the old age 'burden' and failing family support. Rather than being a burden, nearly a third of the urban poor aged over 60 continue to work in key sectors of the urban economy, including transport, construction, services and the distribution of agricultural



produce. While their direct role in manufacturing is more limited, they play a significant role by supporting families' domestic burden, facilitating younger women's employment in Chennai's industries.

Says Penny: "Older people work into late old age for a number of reasons; two key reasons being the poverty of their families and the insufficiency of what pension there is. In addition, many older people want paid work because of the sense of purpose and status within the family that it provides. Yet, despite older people's

clear contribution to the economy and their need and wish to work, policy-makers and planners are not interested in facilitating older people's participation in the workforce and have not recognised their importance in releasing younger women into employment."

This study is part of a UK-based programme, the *New Dynamics of Ageing*, which is working with older people in developed and developing economies with the aim of improving their quality of life.

Above: A beggar in New Delhi's main business district (Reuters)

David S Latchman

Strategic Development Fund grants indicate confidence in our success



In the last issue of *BBK*, I reported the award to the College of £5 million from the HEFCE Strategic Development Fund (SDF). This was intended to support our restructuring and the recruitment of additional student numbers in the aftermath of the withdrawal of HEFCE funding for students studying for equivalent or lower qualifications (ELO). In December 2009, I again appeared before the SDF Panel. This time, I was accompanied by colleagues from UEL and we were requesting further funding for our joint work in Stratford. The Chairman of the Panel and HEFCE Chief Executive, Sir Alan Langlands, jokingly remarked that I was the only person to appear at two successive meetings of the SDF Panel requesting funding for two completely different projects!

Despite this, we were awarded £4 million of additional funding to add to the £4 million capital funding previously awarded by HEFCE and £4 million from the Thames Gateway Urban Development Corporation. This allowed our Governors to give the go-ahead for the detailed planning and construction of a joint building to be occupied by Birkbeck and UEL and to be known as the Stratford Island University Centre. It is hoped that construction of the building will begin in 2011 with completion occurring in time for the 2013–2014 academic year.

Although the two recent SDF grants are indeed for different projects, both indicate the strong support

provided by HEFCE for our plans and its confidence in our success. Indeed, the Stratford project is already contributing to the 1284 FTEs of additional student numbers which we need to recruit over the next two years to replace the safety net funding provided to us after the ELO funding withdrawal which will end in 2011–2012.

Although this scale of recruitment is a considerable task, we made a good start, with recruitment for 2009–2010 being at record levels and considerably up on 2008–2009, which was itself a record year. The five new Schools have now all carried out an extensive portfolio review. This has identified potential new courses which can be introduced in 2010–2011, as well as indicating where action is necessary to make other courses more attractive in terms of recruitment. Importantly, several subjects, such as Law and Psychology, have now advertised three-year accelerated undergraduate courses which will enable individuals to study in our normal evening pattern but to complete within the same three-year period as a full-time student.

These developments are entirely in accord with the view of Government that universities should develop more flexible courses which are in tune with the needs of working adults. I mentioned in my last column in *BBK* the support for this expressed by Lord Mandelson during his visit to Birkbeck and this was reiterated in his grant letter to HEFCE. Unfortunately, as you will have read in the press, this also announced significant funding cuts which affect Birkbeck as well as all other universities. Clearly, the portfolio and restructuring changes introduced in the aftermath of the ELO funding withdrawal will assist us to weather this latest challenge. However, we need to ensure that we carry out all our activities in as efficient and flexible a manner as possible.

Of course, this needs to be accompanied by continuing our lobbying campaign on behalf of part-time students and the universities which teach them. This is particularly important at the present time. In the autumn, the Government announced the terms of reference of the



Left: Lord Browne visits Birkbeck
Right: An Open Evening, a key part of the recruitment process

“From the discussion I had with Lord Browne it was clear that he has taken support for part-time students on board.”



Review into the future of Higher Education Funding, which is chaired by Lord Browne. Although this review was initially announced in order to review the cap on full-time tuition fees, we were delighted to see that its remit included reviewing support for the part-time sector. The Review Panel issued a first call for evidence dealing with problems with the current system. Birkbeck, together with the Open University, submitted a joint paper describing the poor support for part-time students and the institutions which teach them. Subsequently, Lord Browne visited Birkbeck and from the discussion I had with him it was clear that he has taken these issues on board as a significant part of his enquiry. Indeed, the Committee's recently published second call for evidence, which requests potential solutions to HE funding, specifically indicates the inadequacy of support for the part-time sector as one of the problems which needs to be addressed in the future.

It is clear, therefore, that we have succeeded in focusing

“Recruitment for 2009–2010 is at record levels, and considerably up on 2008–2009, which was itself a record year.”

attention on part-time students and the institutions which teach them so that this is now regarded as a key part of the HE system which must be properly supported. It is unfortunate that this has only been achieved at a time when funding is being cut overall, thereby making it more difficult to obtain improved support for the part-time sector. Nonetheless, I am confident that the increased focus on part-time/flexible study, together with our own efforts to develop Birkbeck and its activities, will ensure that the College will continue to flourish.

Stratford Island University Centre

Project comes a step closer



As mentioned in the Master's Report on pages 8–9, Birkbeck, the University of East London (UEL) and Newham Sixth Form College (NewVIC) together secured £8 million funding for a major, new shared academic building in Stratford.

The funding was awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE), on top of £4.25 million previously awarded by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC) and £21 million raised by the partners themselves. The money will ensure that the major, new shared academic building, on land provided by the London Borough of Newham, is completed in August 2013. Currently known by its working title of the Stratford Island University Centre, the partners operating in the new academic building will offer opportunities to 3400 learners in a convenient location for people living and working in Newham and its environs, who want to study further and higher education (HE).

The centre will be 8400 square

metres and will house a student advice centre, teaching rooms, IT rooms, a learning centre, a bookshop, a café and a small library. The UEL Institute of the Performing Arts will be based there and Birkbeck will share a rehearsal space with the Theatre Royal Stratford, with which the College has close connections. Costing approximately £33m, the centre is being designed by the architectural practice Make.

Flexible learning provision will be offered with day and evening teaching available. The central Stratford site was chosen because it complements the existing regeneration of the area, being close to Stratford station, the new Stratford City development and Stratford Circus Arts Centre.

The partners have a long history of working together and Birkbeck has been collaborating with UEL by using the university's Stratford campus to deliver its part-time evening teaching provision, Birkbeck Stratford, since 2007.

Above: Architect's impression of the atrium in the new Centre

Carbon reduction boost

Last year the Governors approved a £16 million capital investment programme (utilising both HEFCE income and donor funding), which will improve the College estate. Birkbeck has been successful in gaining access to an interest-free loan through the HEFCE/Salix initiative for over £800,000 of environmental improvement works to be carried out this year. Enhanced environmental systems to the new data centre being created in the basement of the main building will be a major beneficiary.

This will include energy efficient lighting and controls, cooling and associated control systems. Electric storage heaters at 25–28 Russell Square will be changed to condensing gas-fired central heating with radiators incorporating modern heating controls, with associated loft insulation, draught-proofing and some secondary glazing. Insulation improvement works will also be carried out in Gordon Square. The Salix scheme enables institutions to access funds to carry out energy-saving works and to then pay back the loan after the first year, over a five-year period, with the savings in energy costs meeting the loan repayments.

The scheme is underwritten by the Carbon Trust and enables public sector bodies to improve energy efficiency, attain emissions targets, reduce energy bills and raise green credentials. It is estimated that the CO₂ reduction to the College's footprint amounts to 1050 tonnes of CO₂ per annum, with a total saving of 16000 tonnes over the lifetime of the equipment; this will save the College in the order of £200k a year in energy costs, based on 2010 energy consumption. All these works will be completed by December 2010.

Past caring

A week-long celebration of love in history

Birkbeck and partners took part in a week-long February love-in with the *Past Caring: a celebration of love in history* festival to encourage participants to engage in our past in imaginative ways. Events, timed to coincide with Valentine's Day, included lovers' walks around Bloomsbury; speed dating at the Transport Museum; explorations of love letters and Valentine's cards in the holdings of the London Metropolitan Archives; workshops at the Geffrye Museum; films, music and a range of talks at Keats House, the Wiener Library, the Freud Museum and Hampstead Museum.

The Raphael Samuel History Centre (a partnership between Birkbeck, the Bishopsgate Institute and the University of East London) worked with 11 museums and archives across London to deliver the festival.

The aim was to reach new audiences and raise awareness about courses and workshops offered by Birkbeck and other institutions in the new History and Heritage Adult Learning Network, convened by the Centre. The festival received a grant of £27,000 from the government's Transformation Fund and was one



of 213 projects selected out of 1400 to share its £20 million budget.

Project leader and co-director of the Raphael Samuel History Centre, Birkbeck's Dr Matt Cook, says: "With 600–700 participants, the festival successfully raised awareness about innovative adult learning work

undertaken at each institution, and gave participants the opportunity to find out how to progress into more formal learning."

Above: A vintage True Love Valentine's card (Getty Images)

For more information visit www.raphael-samuel.org.uk

Fellowship Scheme in collaboration with BPS

This initiative, supported by Birkbeck and the British Psychoanalytical Society (BPS), runs for at least four years and is organised by Daniel Pick from the Department of History, with Stephen Frosh and Lisa Baraitser, from the Department of Psychosocial Studies, thanks to awards from the College Development Fund and the BPS. Two distinguished psychoanalytic clinicians and writers, who are training analysts at the BPS, are now attached to Birkbeck as visiting professorial fellows: Ighes Sodre for 2009–2010 and Gregorio Kohon, from

2010–2011. Each will present at least one public lecture, (Ighes Sodre's, given on 23 March entitled *Mania and Projective Identification*, was attended by over 100 people) plus a series of workshops open to postgraduate students and staff, and some consultation times for those working on psychoanalytical topics who wish to discuss ongoing work with the visiting fellow.

The scheme, under the auspices of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities and the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, further enhances the already thriving and

diverse field of teaching and research on psychoanalysis at the College; it also paves the way for an ongoing relationship with the BPS, with its international reputation as one of the major centres of psychoanalytic thought, clinical practice and analytical training.

A new MA in Psychoanalysis, Culture and History is to be launched in 2011; an unusual feature is an optional 'pathway' in which students may attend and gain credits for the highly regarded Foundation Course in psychoanalysis at the BPS.

Research roundup

A selection of research news, awards and collaborations

Awards

Dr Dionyssis G Dimitrakopoulos, Senior Lecturer in Politics, will serve on the Peer Review College of the Economic and Social Research Council for two years from 1 July. The ESRC funds research and training in social and economic issues. Its planned expenditure for 2009–2010 is £204 million, which funds over 2500 researchers in academic institutions and policy research institutes throughout the UK. It also supports over 2000 postgraduate students.

Many congratulations to **Mayada Elsabbagh** who was announced as winner of the prestigious ESRC Neville Butler Memorial Prize at a ceremony at the House of Commons on 10 March. The Prize celebrates early career researchers whose work uses longitudinal research that has evident social value and public relevance. Mayada, one of only three shortlisted, is a post-doctoral research fellow and coordinator of the British Autism Study of Infant Siblings at



Birkbeck's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (Babylab). "I am particularly pleased that the prize will enable us to reach a wider public," she says.

"Owing to the fruitful integration of theories from different disciplines, innovative techniques, and a successful alliance of scientists, charities, babies and their families, we feel we are at the cusp of very exciting discoveries."

Also at the Babylab, **Professor Annette Karmiloff-Smith** was awarded the Doctorat Honoris Causa from the University of Amsterdam in January. This was in recognition of Annette's important contribution to cognitive development and developmental neuroscience, her inspiring training of Master's and doctoral students, including two from Amsterdam, and her scientific and personal stance as a role model for female students and young female colleagues.

Professor Bonnie Ann Wallace (Department of Biological Sciences in the School of Science) has been recognised with two major awards for her development of new techniques for studying membrane proteins, new methodologies for analyses

of protein structures, and for the demonstration of new applications of Synchrotron Radiation Circular Dichroism (SRCD) in structural molecular biology, including spectroscopic bioinformatics – leading to significant new advances in our understanding of the structure and function of proteins.

The awards are the 2009 Interdisciplinary Prize of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the 2010 AstraZeneca Award presented by the Biochemical Society. Professor Wallace has also received a special fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

The Leverhulme Trust has awarded significant research grants to two Birkbeck academics. **Dr I Bruna Seu** from the Department of Psychosocial Studies (with Dr Shani Orgad of LSE) was given up to £232,211 for their three-year study, *Meditated Humanitarian Communication; Audiences' Responses and Moral Actions*. The project addresses the gap between audiences knowing about distant suffering and action and inaction, and will seek to provide empirical evidence of how audiences make sense of everyday morality and humanitarian messages. "We will interview members of the public and collaborate with five humanitarian organisations through interviews, meetings and workshops," says Dr Seu.

Professor Diana Coole from the Department of Politics was awarded a major research fellowship of £139,653 from the Leverhulme Trust for her three-year project *Too Many Bodies? The Politics and Ethics of the World Population Question*. "This has recently returned to the public agenda yet it remains



mired in controversy. Touching on issues such as personal intimacy, gender relations, biopolitics, public policy, food security, immigration, postcolonial sensitivities, development and climate change, this calls for a multi-disciplinary approach sensitive to its complexity. India, Australia, the US and the UK will provide particular case studies of recent debates," explains Professor Coole. Both grants will become effective from 1 October 2010.

Professor Julia Goodfellow CBE was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science at the University of London Foundation Day on 25 November 2009. During her 20 years at Birkbeck she was responsible for an internationally recognised research group and her research interests included the use of computer simulation techniques to study the structure and function of large molecules.

Professor David Latchman gave her oration, saying: "So

Left: Professor Julia Goodfellow; Above: Dr I Bruna Seu (left) and Professor Diana Coole (right); Right: A dancer at the '50 Years of Butoh' Festival

effectively did she carry out the role of Head of the Department of Crystallography that in 1998 she became Vice-Master of the College. In leading the highly successful submission to the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, she demonstrated a sensitivity and appreciation of all the diverse areas of the College's research." Julia is currently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent, a post she took up in 2007 after leaving her role as the first female Chief Executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

Crick archives

The papers of Professor Sir Bernard Crick, Foundation Professor of Politics at Birkbeck 1971–1984, were donated to the College by his family after his death in December 2008. With financial support from the School of Politics, the Library, and the College Development Fund, the archive is being catalogued by a professional archivist, Sandra Marsh (Birkbeck Library).

The collection arrived in four metal filing cabinets, as well as a further 13 storage boxes and a large metal trunk, entitled 'Bernard Student Stuff'. It comprises both personal and professional correspondence, papers relating to conferences which he attended and spoke at, and the records of the Political Association of which Bernard was Chairman in the late 1960s.

There are drafts of major texts, research papers, interview transcripts in preparation for his biography of George Orwell, personal and academic ephemera, and much more.

Collaborations

Birkbeck's Centre for Media, Culture and Creative Practice took part in a Japanese dance festival called *50 Years of Butoh* in London last autumn by hosting the opening and closing events, film screenings, and workshops. This major event in the London dance and performance scene brought together people from across Europe and Japan and acted as one of the launch events of the Centre.

Artistic Director of the Festival, Fran Barbe, said: "Western dancers only think

they exist when they are moving, whereas Butoh challenges the dancer to be captivating and communicative even in stillness."

The Butoh festival helped to publicise two new Foundation Degrees: Arts Management and Performance: Dance. The dancers will be sharing modules with the arts managers; this collaboration is the first of its kind.

In May, Ashgate will publish *Printed Images in Early Modern Britain: Essays in Interpretation*, edited by Michael Hunter (Department of History, Classics and

Archaeology). This is a collaboratively authored book, lavishly illustrated with 122 plates, stemming from two conferences held under the auspices of the AHRC-funded, three-year British Printed Images to 1700 project (BPI1700), based at Birkbeck. The project involved the Department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, and the Department of Word and Image at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

On 25 and 26 February the Centre for Iberian and Latin American Studies at Birkbeck hosted the second international workshop of the AHRC-funded project on *Weaving communities of practice: textiles, culture and identity in the Andes*.

The workshop facilitated an exchange of ideas about the use of information technologies in the documentation and analysis of textiles, and attracted particular interest amongst curators of major textile collections in London.

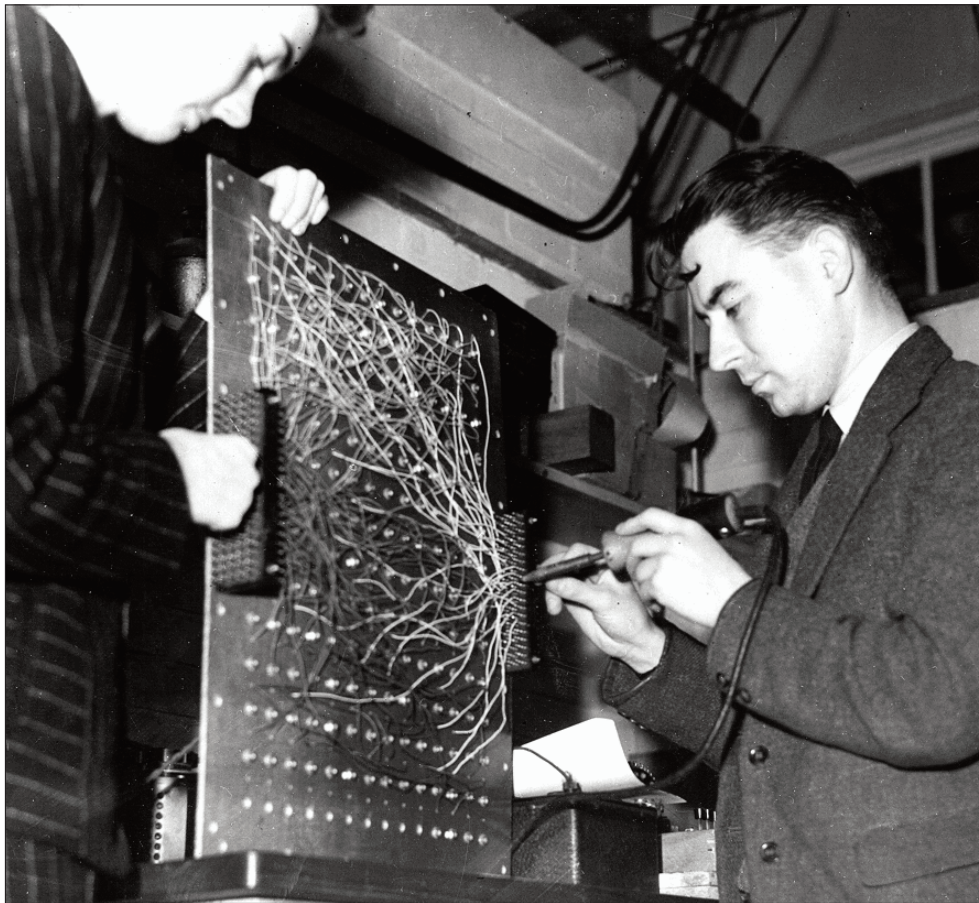
Dr Luciana Martins, Professor Denise Arnold and Julieta Elizaga from the Centre, together with Dr Sven Helmer (Birkbeck's School of Computer Science and Information Systems) and members of the Instituto de Lengua y Cultura Aymara (ILCA) team in La Paz, were joined by researchers and curators from the British Museum, including Jonathan King (Keeper of the Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas), Dr Colin McEwan (Head of the Americas Section), Helen Wolfe (Keeper of the textile collection), Helen Persson (Curator, Asian Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum), and Dr Penelope Dransart (University of Lampeter).



Obituary

Andrew Booth

1918–2009



Andrew Donald Booth was a distinguished pioneer in the development of computers in the UK. He died on 29 November 2009, aged 91, in Canada where he had lived for many years.

Booth received a PhD from the University of Birmingham during the Second World War on the crystallography of explosive materials. This work involved solving large sets of complex equations; tiring of the hours of work involved, he used his natural engineering abilities, probably inherited from his marine engineer father, to build devices to do the calculations. These early efforts at automation brought him to the attention of JD Bernal who was

seeking such skills for his research group at Birkbeck.

So in 1945 Andrew Booth began his academic career in JD Bernal's laboratory. "Bernal was the best boss that a young man could wish for," he said. "If you had ideas and worked hard, he gave support and let you develop in your own way."

Late the following year Andrew was building one of the first computers in the UK. He recognised the need for a compact storage device and developed the world's first rotating storage device in the form of a drum – now on display in the Science Museum. Later researchers adapted his technology to create the now familiar computer disk.

After completing a Rockefeller Fellowship at Princeton in 1947, Andrew returned to Birkbeck and built the prototype Simple Electronic Computer (SEC). This was followed in 1951 by his All Purpose Electronic Computer (APEC), which was among the first generation of electronic computers. The technology behind APEC was sold for commercial development and by the late 1950s was being used in the UK's best-selling range of computers.

Andrew's research on improving computer performance resulted in the 'Booth Multiplier' – still found inside Pentium® processors in PCs today. "Looking back," he said when he became a Fellow of Birkbeck in 2004, "it's interesting to find that the only features of the early computers that are still in use are the magnetic storage devices and the multiplication algorithm, which we pioneered at Birkbeck."

Birkbeck's Electronic Computation Research Laboratory, which in 1957 became the Department of Numerical Automation, was founded by Professor Booth. It was the first of its kind in the academic world, as no other university at that time had a department dedicated to the study and teaching of computing. The department was also one of the first to offer a degree course in computing – the MSc in Numerical Automation. Today it forms Birkbeck's Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Booth moved to Canada in 1962, where he occupied several high-level university posts including President of Lakehead University. In 1949 he married Dr Kathleen Britten who was then his research assistant. She was one of the first female computer pioneers and wrote an important early book on computer programming. Professor Booth is survived by his wife and their son and daughter.

Above:
Andrew Booth with
Kathleen Britten (later
to become his wife),
working on the relay
computer in 1946

Dr Roger Johnson, Birkbeck Fellow

Science and progress

Nicola Spence tells how an MSc Microbiology at Birkbeck has helped her career

Cycling down Gower Street two evenings a week in the best and worst of London weather to enter a world of microbes is one of Nicola Spence's lasting memories of her time as a Birkbeck master's student. "Intellectually it was a wonderful change from my day job, because I was working in real labs," says Professor Spence, who at the time was a tutor of O- and A-level biology, zoology and botany.

Nicola chose Birkbeck because she was interested in plant pathology and wanted a way to study and work at the same time. "I wasn't sure if I wanted a career in research and needed a low-risk option to find out. Studying at Birkbeck turned out to be the best decision I made at the start of my career." Nicola remembers that she was "amongst an interesting, diverse bunch of motivated people who all had a reason to be there. It felt like it was exactly the right place to be at that time. I had missed learning and studying."

"The most difficult challenge was when I was doing my project because I needed access to the lab for long periods. I was lucky that I could get Friday afternoons off work. My advice to those embarking on a Master's degree at Birkbeck is to make sure they can work as flexibly as possible in their jobs to give their studies the best chance of success."

"What I found most rewarding about Birkbeck was having a central London lab to work in, and being able to gain experience and qualifications in a timescale that suited my ambitions, lifestyle and budget." Nicola continues: "My MSc definitely got me my first job as a scientific officer in plant pathology at Horticulture Research International and provided me with research experience and contacts that I used in the early years." Her Master's degree also helped Nicola prepare for her PhD in plant virology at the University of Birmingham, which she completed in 1992. "It made me



Above: Professor Nicola Spence, Chief Executive of Science City York

realise that specialising was important and I was ready to take the next step towards a research career."

In 2009, Nicola took on the role of chief scientist at the Food and Environment Research Agency, responsible for directing its strategic science aims and objectives, providing scientific guidance and leadership, and maintaining and raising science quality.

In January this year she became Chief Executive of Science City York, a central supporter of York and North Yorkshire's economic regeneration, driving the creation and growth of business and employment opportunities within bioscience, IT and digital and creative industries.

She explains: "I have overall responsibility to the board for leading the Science City York team and the delivery of its programmes and outputs. This involves leading on engagement with businesses, further and higher education

establishments and public sector organisations, in developing strategy, projects and networks to support growth of the regional science and technology sector."

"One challenge of trying to bring the worlds of business and academia together is that they have different drivers and motivations, so the key is to engage both sectors together with a common purpose of using ideas and innovation to solve problems of scientific interest that have applications to business."

"The advantages of doing this are that it can generate some totally new thinking and some exciting outcomes from which everyone benefits. All businesses and academics want talented staff and partnerships can help provide skills and recognise talent for everyone."

For details about studying Microbiology at Birkbeck, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective

Business and pleasure

Graduate David Waller on Birkbeck and beyond

David Waller (MSc Victorian Studies) has had an eventful time of late as head of corporate communications for a global investment management company. And that was before he published an historical biography, to glowing reviews.

In his current job, David handles the media and helps to promote his company's corporate brand. "I've got to get my head round financial markets and the investment industry. It's all very complex and fast-moving," he says, "and I've got to read and listen a lot to keep up with it."

When the credit crunch hit and the global markets imploded, David was in a previous role at the sharp end, advising the London arm of Lehman Brothers on how to handle the media. What are his thoughts on who is to blame for the economic crisis? "All of us individuals who borrowed more than we can really afford; the banks who recklessly lent the money and the governments who failed to regulate all the excess," he says.

What should be done to prevent it happening again? "Clearer regulation, agreement on what banks are there for, and the resetting of the boundaries between government and the world of business." Is it fair that hedge funds are perceived to have caused the crisis? "Actually not at all. They didn't cause it and they didn't get bailed out when things got tough either."

Over the years David has held similar roles for large financial institutions, and was also an advisor to the UKFI (UK Financial Investments), the entity which owns the UK government's stakes in the banking industry. Before that he was a journalist on the *Financial Times* for the best part of 10 years and was deputy head of the Lex column.

Having graduated from Oxford in 1984, David enrolled on Birkbeck's MA Victorian Studies because: "I wanted to study a subject that was intellectually enriching and had no relevance to my day job. I

deliberately undertook a course that was not calculated to make me more employable. I have found, however, that colleagues and clients value a person in the round, so indirectly it has been good for my career."

"I can only recommend going back into formal education as a mature student. Embarking on structured learning as an adult can be very rewarding. It teaches you how to learn again and this is an enriching and positive experience. I found myself in the company of an interesting bunch of people from all walks of life who are all highly motivated. My fellow Birkbeck students were really diverse and an interesting crowd – from grandmothers to business people, a dinner lady, perpetual students,

writers, charity workers etc."

"I used to do most of the reading between 9pm and midnight. If I didn't watch TV, I found I had a lot more free time than I'd imagined. Writing the essays and dissertation took quite a lot of time out of weekends. I had to make clear to my wife and kids in advance when I was likely to be holed up in my study, and make amends afterwards. My tutors were in the main inspiring, committed and understanding of the special demands of adult students. My principal tutor was the late and much-missed Sally Ledger, who was an inspirational teacher and a lovely human being."

As a result of his knowledge of the nineteenth century David gained at Birkbeck, he got the chance to view the archive of materials on which his well-received historical biography of the unsurpassed London hostess, Gertrude Tennant, is based. *The Magnificent Mrs Tennant* (Yale University Press, 2009) became a *Daily Telegraph* Biography of the Year last year and was a runner-up in the Biographers' Club Prize.

"Friends invited me to have a look at some family papers that had been lying undisturbed in their attic for decades. There were two chests. We pulled out letters and diaries. The first bundle of letters was labelled: 'letters from distinguished persons, do not throw away'. They were from Gladstone, Disraeli, Oscar Wilde, Henry James, Rodin, Watts, Millais, Browning, Flaubert... a roll call of the great figures of 19th century culture and politics."

David has also published two business books. If he could only pursue business or Victorian literature, which would it be? "My ideal job would be to become a tutor at Birkbeck, of course, but I'm not sure there are any vacancies ..."



To find out more about the MA Victorian Studies, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective

Alumni news

The most successful year yet for College fundraising

Generous support

The generous support of alumni and friends has been vital in helping the Development and Alumni team raise sufficient funds to take full advantage of the Matched Funding Scheme, whereby every £1 raised attracts an additional 50p from government, which has resulted in £1.35 million of additional funding for the College.

The first two years of the scheme have been extraordinarily successful, as was acknowledged by the Director for Higher Education Strategy (Department of Business, Innovation and Skills), Martin Williams at an event in March at the Chelsea College of Art and Design, attended by Vice Chancellors from across the sector.

Benchmarking data from the Ross-CASE survey of philanthropic income in UK higher education institutions was analysed to examine which institutions have demonstrated consistent and relatively improved fundraising performance. Birkbeck was singled out for its exceptional performance.

"We are extremely honoured to be recognised for our improved and sustained fundraising performance during the first year of the Matched Funding Scheme. The recognition from HEFCE and BIS is testament to the efforts of the team, our loyal and committed alumni and, of course, the input of the Master and Birkbeck's senior management in placing increased importance on

Right: Adrian Punaks (left) with Professor Eric Thomas, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol at the Chelsea College event



private giving and philanthropy to Birkbeck's financial security," said Adrian Punaks, Head of Development and Alumni.

Volunteering

More alumni than ever have volunteered their time at Birkbeck Open Evenings, as well as at the inaugural, College-wide student orientation event in September 2009.

Almost 2000 students came along to this three-day event, which gave new students a chance to find out about College support services. Alumni volunteers offered advice to students who had just enrolled on their course, ran campus tours, gave talks about their experience of studying at Birkbeck and revealed top tips

on managing the coursework. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. One student stated: "I was very impressed with the former students' talk, which I enjoyed immensely. It was interesting to listen to another student's experiences and actually very reassuring to hear that studying in the evening can be done."

Legacy campaign

Interest in the College's legacy campaign has continued to grow. A dinner was held in November 2009 for those alumni interested in finding out more about how to remember Birkbeck through a legacy gift.

The Master spoke about the importance of unrestricted legacy gifts, which can be vital

to the College, and also the gifts which are directed towards student support and bursaries, ensuring the financial security of future generations of Birkbeck students. The evening was highly successful with a number of guests confirming their intentions to remember Birkbeck in their wills and with one very generous donor making a significant lifetime gift on the night!

Join the LIDC for free

Birkbeck alumni can now join the LIDC (London International Development Centre) for free.

The LIDC facilitates interdisciplinary research and training to tackle complex problems in international development by bringing together social and natural scientists from across the University of London's six Bloomsbury Colleges.

Calling all Westonbirthers

A Grand Westonbirt Reunion is planned for 23–25 August 2010 at the School in Gloucestershire. The University of London (and later Birkbeck) ran summer schools at Westonbirt from 1947 to 2002, and anyone who ever attended – students, tutors, staff – will be very welcome at the reunion.

Cost, inclusive of all meals, accommodation for two nights and a full programme of events, is not expected to exceed £90 per head. To attend, please contact Michael Symes on michaelsymes@btinternet.com or 020 8773 2908.

Mum power

In the run-up to the General Election, Rosie Campbell asks why the main parties are targeting mothers

The general election campaign is well under way, and all three parties are keen to woo those groups they believe to be most influential. In the 2010 election, do women voters, and particularly mothers, hold the key to 10 Downing Street?

On average men and women in Britain vote for the three main parties in roughly equal numbers. How then do we explain the recent flurry of news items on Mumsnet? The three main party leaders have all recently taken part in webchats on the Mumsnet website, which aims to 'make life easier by pooling knowledge, experience and support' through countless online forums on everything from finding childcare and special needs education to potty training and what middle name goes best with Olivia.

Is this just a whipped-up media story, or are there deeper trends to uncover about how women vote? What is the historical role of women in politics in Britain and how is this changing?

There is a sense that this group are going to be a key target of the election campaign (*The Times* 17.11.2009, *The Guardian* 09.2.2010, *BBC London News* 18.2.2010). Headlines like this one, written by Rachel Sylvester in *The Times*: 'This election will be won at the school gate' allude to the fact that 'Mum power' matters. Part of the explanation is that a focus on 'wooing' women makes good copy. However, there is more to understand about the focus on women, and mothers in particular.

There has been a global trend, identified by Pippa Norris (Harvard) and Ronald

Inglehart (Michigan), showing that as women have entered into education and employment, and become less religious, they have moved to the left of men on the political spectrum. In the United States, women have voted for the Democratic presidential candidate in greater numbers than men at every election since 1980. In Britain women were traditionally more likely to vote for the Conservative party than men, but 1997 saw this pattern reversed among younger men and women. Analysis of a British Social Attitudes survey revealed that the difference was greatest among middle- and high-income mothers. They are an obvious target for the parties because data shows that women tend to prioritise different issues from men. They are more likely than men to say that health and education are the most important issues facing Britain, while men usually opt for the economy and taxation.

It must be said that in the current climate both men and women are overwhelmingly most likely to say that the economy is the most pressing issue. Nevertheless, Labour's 1997 mantra 'Education, Education, Education' was probably more persuasive to women voters than men. The Labour party's 'all women short-list' strategy may also have indirectly helped the party among women voters; voters with a feminist orientation were more likely to vote Labour in 1997. However, this relationship was most pronounced among women under the age of 45.

On average women are less interested in partisan politics than men, and are

less likely to have a stable and long-term attachment to any particular party. Women, therefore, tend to decide who to vote for later in the campaign. According to the December British Election Study (CMS conducted by Yougov), 18% of women and 13% of men had not yet decided how to vote – this figure excludes those who are certain not to vote and women are no less likely to vote than men. Thus, if the parties are targeting undecided voters, they are likely to put special emphasis on targeting women.

This combination of factors explains the recent focus on women voters. David Cameron has made regaining the Conservatives' advantage among women voters a core election strategy. Shortly after he was elected leader he declared that it was the Conservatives' goal to make 'gender inequality history' by increasing the number of Conservative women MPs, tackling the gender pay gap and addressing childcare issues. All three main parties have used the Mumsnet site as a medium to reach women voters directly, and by doing so I believe that they recognise that the remaining gender inequalities in Britain today, mainly centred round the continued gender division of labour in the home, influence the way men and women view political issues.

Dr Rosie Campbell is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics. Visit www.bbk.ac.uk/polsoc for more details on studying Politics at Birkbeck

“David Cameron has made regaining the Conservatives’ advantage among women voters a core election strategy.”



Conservative leader David Cameron speaks at the launch of a poster campaign in January 2010 (Press Association)

Surgical spirit

In the days before anaesthetics, patients described in detail “the most torturing pain” involved in enduring an operation. Joanna Bourke examines how people experienced pain.

In 1812, eminent novelist Frances Burney lay down on a bed in her Parisian drawing room, spread a cambric handkerchief over her face, and underwent a mastectomy. She was not given any anaesthetic.

In a letter to her sister, she described enduring “the most torturing pain”. When “the dreadful steel was plunged into the breast – cutting through veins – arteries – flesh – nerves”, she wrote, “I needed no injunctions not to restrain my cries. I began a scream that lasted intermittently during the whole time of the incident – and I almost marvel that it rings not in my ears still! So excruciating was the agony”. As a ‘patron patient’ (in the early nineteenth century, wealthy patients still lorded it over their physicians), she also described the humiliation of being progressively stripped of her authority.

Burney’s expressions of agonising bodily pain remind us of the centrality of suffering in history. However, we still know remarkably little about how people actually experienced pain in the past. The alleviation of pain has been explored much more frequently than its expression. In the history of modern medicine, the prominence of phrases such as ‘the conquest of pain’ or ‘the fight against pain’ imply that the ‘battle’ has, essentially, been won. In fact, although the invention and proliferation of anaesthetics from the 1840s have resulted in dramatic shifts in the experience of pain, these shifts have not been universal (there are significant differences in provision, within local and global economies). Anaesthetics have encouraged physicians to undertake radical forms of intervention, many of which are inherently painful. More to the point, people continue to complain of debilitating



bodily pain. Ten per cent of adults live in moderate to severe chronic pain and, according to the European Pain Network, Europeans with chronic pain suffer on average for seven years.

Perhaps part of the reluctance of historians to focus on the history of pain is because it is such a subjective experience. After all, how can historians know what pain ‘really felt like’ in previous centuries? Elaine Scarry’s reflections in her monumental book, *The Body in Pain: The*

Above: Illustration of a pre-anaesthesia amputation scene (All images on this spread © The Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons)



Making and Unmaking of the World (1985) has undoubtedly exacerbated historians' reluctance. She argued that pain exists outside of language: it is essentially untransmissible and private.

While historians of medicine do acknowledge the profound sense of alienation often felt by people in pain, Scarry is insufficiently attuned to the fundamentally social aspects of pain and its ability to generate language, both in the past and today. Even when suffering,

people adhere to societal norms and rituals. They are often highly creative in expressing their suffering – sometimes in words, other times in images and art. The Wellcome Library for the History of Medicine (a 'must visit' for anyone interested in the history of medicine, science or the body), for instance, has literally thousands of first-person accounts of bodily suffering from ancient times to the present.

In fact, the eloquence of people when they seek to convey their afflictions to friends, family and physicians is striking. In the words of Virginia Woolf in her essay *On being ill*, a person in pain is "forced to coin words himself, and, taking his pain in one hand, and a lump of pure sound in the other (as perhaps the inhabitants of Babel did in the beginning), so to crush them together that a brand new word in the end drops out". Often, patients turn to metaphoric languages. Woolf described pain as rising "with rapid beats of the wings". Others observed that their pain tied them into knots, rendered their heads like glass, or seared them like a white-hot poker.

The ways people in the past have expressed pain are highly influenced by theories of the body that existed at the time in which they were writing. In eighteenth-century Britain and Europe, for example, humoral theory provided a language of pain that circled around words referring to hotness or coldness, sharpness or heaviness, moistness or dryness. This is in stark contrast to modern ways of talking about pain. Similarly, it makes a difference whether bodily suffering had been inflicted by an infuriated deity, was the means towards a greater goal such as childbirth, or was the result of stigmatised conditions such as alcohol poisoning. Pain was (and is) given meaning within culture: in this way, pain has a history.

Joanna Bourke is Professor of History in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology. She is the author of *Rape: A History from the 1860s to the Present* and is currently writing a book entitled *Are Women Animals?: Essays On What It Means to Be Human from 1789 to the Present*.



The History of Pain

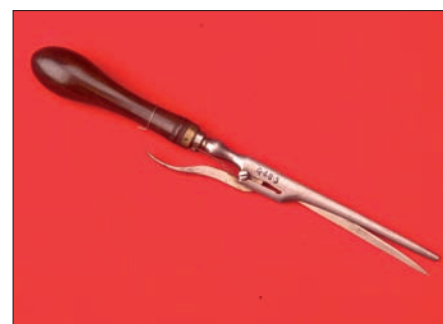
Some of the tools of the trade used in surgery prior to the advent of anaesthetic



An eighteenth-century trapanation set, used for drilling into the skull



A lithotrite for bladder stone removal, from circa 1834



A late eighteenth century bistoury caché, used for treating phymosis

Picking up the pieces

John Driffil reports on the
attempts of the financial
world to recover from
near meltdown



To mark the end of the ESRC World Economy and Finance Research Programme, we held a conference in London at the end of January, on the subject of *Picking up the Pieces: Challenges for Policy and Theory in the Years Ahead*. The papers addressed questions about macroeconomics, managing public finances, and financial regulation.

The present predicament of the UK economy, in common with many in Europe and North America, is partly a result of policy failures. Tighter regulations on banks, hedge funds, and the like, might have nipped the credit bubble in the bud and staved off financial collapse. The combination of the Basel capital adequacy requirements (which determine the size of the buffer between a bank's assets and its liabilities) on banks and the introduction of 'mark-to-market' accounting rules caused the markets to become more volatile than they were before.

'Mark-to-market' accounting rules required banks to value more of their assets at present market prices, instead of their historical cost. When markets rose, banks were able to claim that their portfolios had become less risky, and needed a smaller buffer to protect their creditors; and they were also able to revalue their assets, enabling them to buy more assets and take on more liabilities.

If European governments had followed the letter and spirit of the European Union's much derided Stability and Growth Pact – had the British Government followed its own 'Golden Rule' – they would have borrowed less in the boom years of the 1990s and early 2000s. They would then have been in a better position when the recession hit, with less debt outstanding, and more room to borrow and keep down unemployment, without facing a public debt crisis. George Alogoskoufis, Minister of Finance of Greece from 2004 to 2009, and until 1992 a Reader in Birkbeck's Economics Department, argued at the *Picking up the Pieces* conference that fiscal policy could play only a limited role under these circumstances; peripheral EU countries needed to offer credible plans for containing future public deficits; while core countries should allow automatic

“If the Government had followed its own ‘Golden Rule’, they would have been in a better position when the recession hit.”

stabilisers to work, not aiming for premature reduction in deficits.

There have also been policy successes. The prompt action by Central Banks and finance ministries to provide vast amounts of money (the total is now around \$7 trillion) to prop up the financial markets averted total meltdown, and has made the state of the economy much less bad than it might have been. The 1930s have not been repeated.

But the policies did not develop in a vacuum. The loosening of regulations on financial markets, to enable vigorous innovation, was supported by much evidence that economies with more highly developed financial industries grew more strongly, all else equal, than those without. Theoretical models were developed to rationalise these findings.

Central Banks focused on hitting their inflation targets. They paid no attention to highly elevated house prices or stock market indices unless these things helped them forecast inflation and make 'better' decisions about interest rates. It is generally believed that it is not possible to identify a bubble in the housing or stock markets with enough accuracy for a Central Bank to take useful action to prick it and bring prices down. Better to allow the bubble – if such it is – to collapse, and then clean up the mess afterwards, as the Central Banks, finance ministries, and regulators have been doing.

The currently predominant view of how

economies work – what determines inflation, unemployment, level of incomes; how public spending, taxation, and interest rates affect them – are summarised in a species of macroeconomic models, which, despite its many strengths, produces well-behaved economies incapable of the pathologies exposed recently: bubbles in house prices do not happen; the banking system cannot balloon then suddenly seize up; large-scale and persistent unemployment cannot erupt. Of course it is possible to find research which does allow these things to happen. There are researchers working on these problems. But they do not have a serious influence on the mainstream of economics at the moment.

It seems natural to conclude by saying that we need more research on these overlooked issues; and it is true: we do. But one has to either put up or shut up. Other economists will just say: if you think this work is so important, then do it yourself and convince us (if you can!) of its worth. For that reason Marcus Miller (University of Warwick) and I have been working to articulate the way a credit crunch, in an economy with seriously limited opportunities for lending and borrowings, brings down investment and causes unemployment. So far it has been presented at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the *Picking up the Pieces* conference, and many seminars. There will be sustained efforts to get it, and work like it, into the mainstream.

Professor John Driffill teaches International Macroeconomics on Birkbeck's MSc Economics programme. He is Programme Director of the World Economy and Finance Research Programme, bringing together 26 research projects at universities around the UK. It is one of the Economic and Social Research Council's major investments in macroeconomics and finance, and has received £6 million in funding between 2004 and 2010. For more information on studying Economics at Birkbeck, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective

See page 28 to find out more about Birkbeck Business Week.

Left: Broken piggy bank with band aids (Getty Images)

All God's children

While secularism continues to dominate high culture, its demographic disadvantage means it must run to stand still, argues Eric Kaufmann

Religious fundamentalism is on the rise in the modern world. This is not because of its intrinsic appeal to legions of mass converts: most people inherit their faith rather than select it. Instead, fundamentalists gain by having larger families than others, benefiting more than seculars from immigration, and enjoying higher membership retention than moderate religious groups. In the developing world, fundamentalists like the pentecostalists or Wahhabis are growing through conversion, but in developed societies, such groups have had little success.

But in the more jaded context of the West, those fundamentalists that focus on segregating themselves while growing and retaining their own are increasing their share of the population at unprecedented rates. In 1960, a minuscule proportion of Israeli Jewish first-graders studied in ultra-Orthodox primary schools. In 2012, a third will do so. By 2050, the ultra-Orthodox may form a majority of the British and American Jewish diaspora. Or consider the quiet, peaceful Amish. In 1900 there were only 5000 Amish in North America, but now there are almost a quarter of a million. It's a similar story for the Hutterites. Their growth is continuing at near-exponential levels while the general population has slowed its growth rate.

When infant mortality was high and most people had large families to work the land, these cultural differences in fertility made little difference. However, as modern medicine eliminated child mortality, most moved off the land and people embraced contraception, the majority transitioned to

families averaging fewer than two children. Against this background, the relative demographic advantage of self-segregating fundamentalist sects like the Amish or ultra-Orthodox Jews mushroomed. A similar, if less dramatic, story can be told for the Mormons – who have overtaken the Jews as the third largest American religion among those born after 1945. Another case is the Orthodox Calvinists of Holland, who are more devout and fertile than other Dutch Christians. Their weekly attendance now matches that of the mainstream Dutch Reformed Church from whom they split – as a one-seventh minority – in 1886.

Larger fundamentalist groups have a more modest fertility and retention advantage, but over generations, this compounds into a revolutionary change. The rise of Christianity shows how this can happen. In the year 30 AD there were 40 Christians. By the year 300 there were six million, and they soon became the established religion of the Roman Empire. Today in the United States, around a third of white Protestants born in 1900 were members of conservative denominations, but almost two-thirds of those born in 1975 are. Higher conservative fertility explains three-quarters of this shift, which helped give birth to the Christian Right in the late 1970s.

We are on the cusp of an era of unprecedented demographic revolution which benefits religion in two ways. First, populations are booming in poor countries, which are largely religious and supply most of the West's immigrants, while secular societies are aging and declining in population. Second, as societies modernise, values become more important in

determining family size: seculars spearhead the transition to below-replacement fertility while religious fundamentalists self-consciously resist. Almost everywhere in Europe and the United States, devout women have above-replacement fertility while their nonreligious sisters bear no more than two, and sometimes less than one, child. More fundamentalist churches like Independent Baptists average higher fertility than more liberal ones such as Episcopalians.

Meanwhile, immigrants in the West tend to be more religious than their hosts and their ethnic difference insulates them from secularism. As a result, detailed projections show that today's young nonreligious populations will begin to age, causing secularisation to go into reverse in the West around 2050. Major cities will experience this considerably sooner. For example, most London Christians are immigrants or their children. This is why church attendance in the city held steady between 1989 and 2005 while numbers plummeted 40% in the rest of the country. Add in the growth of non-Christian faiths and the capital – a hotbed of intellectual secularism – has actually experienced religious revival in the past two decades. Most of the immigrant faithful are moderate, but the fundamentalists among them have much larger families: in Europe, devout Muslim women are 40% more likely to have a third child than less observant Muslim women. In the large cities of the Muslim world, women most in favour of implementing shari'a law on a 5-point scale bear twice the number of children as those Muslim women least in favour.



“In the year 30^{AD} there were 40 Christians. By the year 300 there were six million, and they soon became the established religion of the Roman Empire”

Above: Family photograph of Ray Timpson and his family after Sunday school, a religious weekly family meeting. Timpson, a 56-year-old Mormon polygamist from Arizona, has six wives and 41 children (Getty Images)

This is the point: that secularism can dominate the high culture while slowly losing popular support. In effect, secularism must ‘run to stand still’ because of its demographic disadvantage. In urban areas like London, the power of demography is overwhelming secularism, a trend which will only accelerate as the relatively young secular population begins to age and decline. What are the wider implications of these trends? Could it be the case that religion, which gave our ancestors an evolutionary advantage over other species, will provide the faithful with protection from the world’s impending population decline? What does the demographic rise of fundamentalism mean for our ideas of progress, modernity, the Enlightenment and ‘the End of History’?

Could liberalism’s demographic contradictions lead to a conquest

of liberalism from within, with fundamentalists playing the role of the barbarians of yesteryear in reinvigorating aging civilisations? How should liberal societies respond to the fundamentalist threat – with force, toleration or withdrawal? I acknowledge the contradictions that liberalism faces. But I suggest that liberal societies will need to find a new secular creed or moderate religion and abandon demographic *laissez-faire* if they hope to safeguard their heritage of reason and liberty.

Eric Kaufmann is Reader in Politics and Sociology in the Department of Politics. His latest book, *Shall the Religious Inherit the Earth?: Demography and Politics in the Twenty-First Century* (Profile Books) is out now. For more information about Politics at Birkbeck, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/polsoc

Before the Holocaust

While the history of concentration camps is justifiably dominated by their end, what about their beginnings? asks Dr Nikolaus Wachsmann

Much has been written about the Nazi concentration camps during the Second World War, when prisoner numbers grew dramatically and the camps became the killing centres symbolising the horror of the Holocaust. But the camps were neither a product of the Second World War nor of the Holocaust; they were much older. By the time Auschwitz was set up in 1940, the Dachau camp, the first to be established by the SS, had operated for more than seven years. The first camps were set up just weeks after Hitler's appointment as Reich Chancellor on 30 January 1933. Yet while the history of the camps is justifiably dominated by their end, what about their beginnings?

Before the Holocaust, a major three-year research project with £270,000 of AHRC funding, which concluded last autumn, looked at the Nazi concentration camp system between 1933 and 1939, trying to uncover the foundations for wartime terror.

The team – Project Director, Dr Nikolaus Wachsmann, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Dr Christian Goeschel, and PhD students, Christopher Dillon, Julia Hörath, Paul Moore and Kim Wünschmann – examined the often neglected but crucial origins of the camp system in the pre-war years in Germany, exploring its remarkably swift establishment, its function and its operation. The pre-war system was quite unlike the wartime one, with far fewer camps, fewer prisoners and most notably few deaths, and yet these camps left a crucial legacy for the infernal camps of the Second World War.

The project explored the Nazi camps from three perspectives. First, it shed light on the camps from the regime's standpoint, analysing the changing function of the

camps within the Nazi dictatorship. Second, it studied the conditions within the camps, as well as the various inmate groups and their relationships to each other. Third, the project looked at the relationship between the camps and the German population, asking what ordinary people knew about the camps.

The researchers offer important new conclusions. For example, the project highlights the ferocity of political terror during the Nazi capture of power in 1933, when over 100,000 men and women were detained in early camps. Much of this terror was publicly visible – in the media and elsewhere – applauded by some Germans and abhorred by others. But the camps were not just about political terror. Almost from the start, social outsiders and German Jews, too, were brutally abused as part of the Nazi policy of exclusion. From early on, then, the camps stood at the vanguard of Nazi terror, escalating the dynamic of destruction which culminated in genocide during the war.

These aspects are explored further in the four PhD dissertations as well as a special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary History*, to be published later this year. They are also central for the compilation and edition of a primary source collection on the camps, 1933–1939, which will promote research and teaching on the neglected pre-war history of the concentration camps and encourage debate on the role of discipline, order and terror in modern dictatorships more generally.

The resulting book, *Before the Holocaust: Documents from the Nazi Camps, 1933–1939*, edited by Christian Goeschel and Nik Wachsmann (Nebraska University Press, 2011), will be a first as there is currently no



“The camps were neither a product of the Second World War nor the Holocaust.”

edition, in any language, of documents from the pre-war Nazi camps. The absence of accessible documentary material has contributed greatly to the widespread lack of knowledge about the pre-war Nazi concentration camps. Key documents are scattered across archives throughout the world, while most published survivors' memoirs have long been forgotten or gone out of print. The researchers have collected more than 300 such documents, and, where necessary, they have been translated into English for the book edition.

This project's website at www.camps.bbk.ac.uk brings together a selection of these documents (some in the original German). They have been divided into six sections, each focusing on a different aspect of the SS camps, from their emergence and later consolidation under a professional corps of SS men, to the conditions inside the camps for different inmate groups, as well as the public face of the camps. Among the documents are contemporary newspaper articles on the camps, confidential SS documents, speeches by Nazi leaders like Heinrich Himmler, and testimonies of former prisoners.

Before the Holocaust has also led to the organisation of several international conferences and public lectures on the subject, bringing together UK and German scholars and creating academic ties that will go far beyond this project.

Dr Nikolaus Wachsmann directed *Before the Holocaust*. Visit www.camps.bbk.ac.uk for more details. He has co-edited with Jane Caplan *Concentration Camps in Nazi Germany: the New Histories* (Routledge 2010) and teaches on the MA Contemporary History and Politics.

To find out more about studying history at Birkbeck, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective

Left: The gate of Buchenwald camp on which is written 'Jedem das seine' (To each his just desserts). The construction of the camp began in July 1937 (Getty Images)



News in brief

Forthcoming events and new courses

Business Week

Monday 28 June – Thursday 1 July 2010

The recent financial turmoil has demonstrated how global, interconnected and pervasive the world of business is. It has also demonstrated that the solutions need to be innovative, rapid and varied. There has probably never been a more difficult time to be managing an organisation, nor a time in which people's skills need to be updated more.

Birkbeck's Business Week showcases the exciting multi-disciplinary activities of the School of Business, Economics and Informatics, and illustrates how current and relevant its

courses are. Lectures will include Professor John Driffill's talk on boom and bust (Thursday 1 July); Professor Birgitte Anderson on (il)legal music downloading (Wednesday 30 June); and Professor Ron Smith on defence economics (Thursday 1 July).

The Alec Rodger Memorial Lecture (Tuesday 29 June), features Professor Dame Carol Black, who will talk about her work at Health Work Wellbeing, a joint initiative across government to improve the health and well-being of working age people. She is the National Director for Health and Work, Chairman of the Nuffield Trust, President of the British Lung Foundation, and Pro-

Chancellor at the University of Bristol.

For details and to register, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/bizweek

Law on Trial

Monday 28 June – Saturday 3 July 2010

Law on Trial offers a week of free public lectures, workshops, art and film showings aimed at bringing together academics from Birkbeck's School of Law with lawyers, activists, NGO staff and members of the public to explore issues around law and social justice.

Topics include health,

education, homelessness, democracy and the right to vote, labour and employment, refugees, rights as resistance, and art and poverty.

Each day will be devoted to one pressing aspect of the law and policy relating to state support and social rights, such as home buyers and public housing; the rights of refugees; education; minorities and children's rights; employment and labour rights; constitutional reform and human rights.

This first event – of an annual series – provides a platform on which academics, practitioners and activists can articulate the conditions under which social justice can be realised.

The events will be led by academics from the School but the floor will be open to invited experts and others outside academia.

If you are interested in and concerned about social rights, we invite you to join us.

For details, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/law/news/lawontrial

New courses starting this autumn

We have more than 90 new courses starting this autumn, including undergraduate and postgraduate courses in business and management; economics, mathematics and statistics; languages; law and legal studies; and media.

This is in addition to the 350 courses we already offer. So if you're still looking for your course, we're sure you'll find it at Birkbeck.

For details, visit www.bbk.ac.uk/newcourses



Law Week image (Getty Images)

Events and books

Dates for your diary, and some current books

Events

Friday 7 May, 12–1.15pm

Lecture: Faith-based community action and youth civic engagement

Speaker Professor John Annette
Venue Rm 532, Birkbeck, Malet St
Entry Free, booking required
Email s.collins@bbk.ac.uk

Thursday 13 May, 4–7.30pm

Birkbeck Open Evening

Venue Royal National Hotel,
Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG
Entry Free, book at
www.bbk.ac.uk/openeve
Email info@bbk.ac.uk

Friday 14 May, 9.30am–5pm

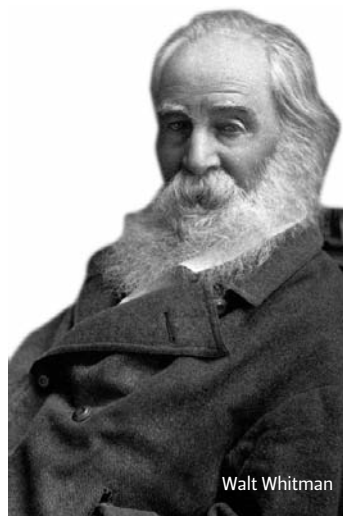
Annual Conference: Repositioning part-time study in higher education: Birkbeck Institute for Lifelong Learning

Speakers Professor Malcom Tight,
Dr Anne Jamieson, Geoff Manson,
Professor Claire Callender
Venue Rm B33, Birkbeck, Malet St
Entry Payment and booking
required at www.bbk.ac.uk/bill

Monday 17 May–Friday 21 May

Arts Week

See page 4 for details



Walt Whitman

Monday 17 May, 6–7.30pm

Seminar: the Truth Will be Known When the Last Witness is Dead: History Not Memory

Speaker Professor Peter Osborne,
Director of the Centre for Research
in Modern European Philosophy at
Middlesex University
Venue Rm B04, Birkbeck,
43 Gordon Square
Entry Free
Email l.martins@bbk.ac.uk

Monday 17 May, 6.30–8.30pm

Lecture: Walt Whitman's Solar Judgment

Speaker Jane Bennett, Professor
of Political Theory, Johns Hopkins
University
Venue Council Room,
Birkbeck, Malet St
Entry Free
Email j.eisner@bbk.ac.uk

Monday 24 May, 2–6pm

Discussion: Fascism and the Historians; Past, Present and Future

Speaker Geoff Eley
Venue Council Room,
Birkbeck, Malet St
Entry Free
Email j.eisner@bbk.ac.uk

Saturday 19 June, 10.30am–5.30pm

Birkbeck Medieval Seminar: Faith and Inwardness

Speakers Valerie Allen (John Jay
College, CUNY), Rob Lutton
(Nottingham), Sarah Salih (King's,
London), Beth Williamson (Bristol)
Venue Rm 403, Birkbeck, Malet St
Entry Free, booking required
Email i.davis@bbk.ac.uk

Monday 28 June–Friday 9 July London Critical Theory Summer School: Critical Theory and the Political

Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities
Web www.bbk.ac.uk/bih/lcts

For a full calendar of events,
visit www.bbk.ac.uk/events

Books

Contemporary Russia (Contemporary States and Societies Series)

Edwin Bacon
Palgrave Macmillan 2010

Art, History and the Senses: 1830 to the Present

Patrizia Di Bello and Gabriel
Kourreas (eds)
Ashgate 2010

The Rome of Pope Paschal I: Papal Power, Urban Renovation, Church Rebuilding and Relic Translation (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought: Fourth Series)

Caroline J Goodson
Cambridge University Press 2010

Globalization: Key Thinkers

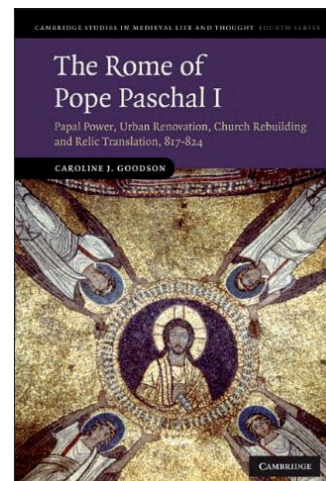
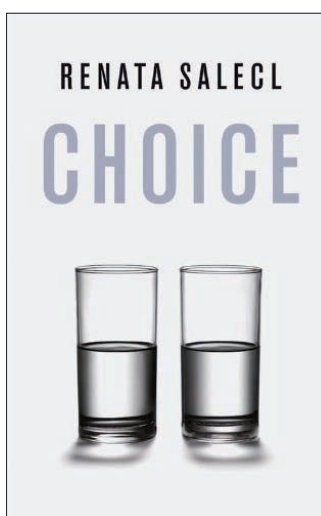
Andrew Jones
Polity 2010

Classic Geology in Europe 7: Cyprus

Karen Hudson-Edwards, co-author
Terra Publishing 2010

Printed Images in Early Modern Britain

Michael Hunter (ed)
Ashgate 2010



Workers in the Dawn

George Gissing,
Debbie Harrison (ed)
Victorian Secrets 2010

King Death

Toby Litt
Hamish Hamilton 2010

The Making of Human Concepts

Edited by Denis Mareschal,
Paul C Quinn and Stephen E G Lee
Oxford University Press 2010

Cognition and Conditionals:

Probability and Logic in
Human Thinking
Mike Oaksford and Nick Chater (eds)
Oxford University Press 2010

Choice

Renata Salecl
Profile Books 2010

Giorgio Agamben: Power, Law and the Uses of Criticism

Thanos Zartaloudis
Routledge 2010

Neurology and Modernity: A Cultural History of Nervous Systems, 1800–1950

Laura Salisbury (co-edited
with Andrew Shail
Palgrave Macmillan 2010

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