

# bbk

BIRKBECK'S MAGAZINE REVIEW 2013



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UNIVERSITY  
SQUARE  
STRATFORD

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED IN STRATFORD

Unique new campus  
hailed a success

BIRKBECK'S  
NEW PRESIDENT  
Joan Bakewell champions  
part-time study

# A year of new beginnings



2013 was a year of new beginnings at Birkbeck. University Square Stratford (pictured on the front cover) opened its doors to students and widespread acclaim in the autumn. The distinctive, state-of-the-art, £33m campus is now offering courses at all levels to meet the growing aspirations of the people of east London (pp6-7).

Its completion marks a watershed for Birkbeck, as it is the first time in the College's 190-year history that Birkbeck has had its own dedicated building outside central London. The campus is also an example of an innovative collaboration, as it is a partnership between Birkbeck and the University of East London.

Also in 2013, Baroness Joan Bakewell DBE became the President of Birkbeck. She has championed part-time study in her new role – from speaking in debates in the House of Lords to her appearances in the media.

These new beginnings, however, do not constitute a breach with the past, but demonstrate the continuation of the College's ideals and traditions. Birkbeck's initiatives to widen access to higher education – epitomised by the creation of University Square Stratford – chime with the founding mission of George Birkbeck: "Now is the time for the universal benefits of the blessings of knowledge". Baroness Bakewell inherits

her passion for part-time study from Professor Eric Hobsbawm – one of the greatest historians of his day, and her predecessor as President of Birkbeck.

As well as new beginnings, this issue of *BBK* celebrates the remarkable achievements of women associated with higher education at Birkbeck. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan CBE DSc – Birkbeck's first female professor, who became head of the botany department in 1909 – is one of the subjects in a feature about Birkbeck's historic paintings (pp18-19). Baroness Bakewell writes about her support for part-time study (p8), and alumna Luciana Berger MP, one of Labour's rising stars, also praises the opportunities offered by Birkbeck (p48).

Many of Birkbeck's female academics share their research in these pages, including Dr Kate McLoughlin on the work of women writers in the First World War (pp30-31), and Professor Sasha Roseneil on the impact of women protestors at Greenham Common (p29).

Students are at the heart of Birkbeck, and that is why it was pleasing to hear from so many alumni following the launch of the national 'Part-Time Matters' campaign (pp10-11). Alison Stamps (BA Film and Media, 2007) responded and summed up the experiences of many, when she wrote: "My degree gave me confidence and opened doors professionally, and I could wax lyrical about Birkbeck and what it did for me. It changed my outlook on life and gave me goals and ambition."

If you would like to share your story, please do get in touch.

Guy Collender, Editor

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# MASTER'S REPORT PROFESSOR DAVID LATCHMAN CBE



The academic year 2012–2013 was a year of major change for higher education in the UK, with government funding being withdrawn for the great majority of courses and a consequent need to greatly increase student fees. For institutions teaching part-time students, such as Birkbeck, the change was even greater with the availability, for the first time, of loans for part-time students.

As I said last year, there were significant problems with the introduction of these loans, leading to misunderstandings about their terms and availability.

Moreover, there was considerable reluctance among mature part-time students to take on additional debt. These factors led to a 40% downturn in enrolments for part-time courses across the sector, and Birkbeck was not immune from this, suffering a similar downturn in enrolments in our four-year part-time courses.

Fortunately, this was mitigated by an increase in enrolments in 2012–2013 on our intensive courses, in which undergraduate degrees can be completed in three years in the evening, allowing students to work during the day and finish in the same time as full-time students. This increase, together with increased numbers of international students and careful budget management, allowed the College to emerge from a difficult year with a surplus in excess of £6.5m, while successfully continuing its mission of providing flexible higher education.

For the 2013–2014 academic year, applications for our four-year

programmes continued to fall. However, we have paid considerably increased attention to the student journey from first application to final enrolment, assisting students along the way and following up, for example, when they do not respond to an offer of a place. This has resulted in actual enrolments stabilising at a level similar to that of last year.

Moreover, both applications and enrolments on our three-year programmes have continued to increase, and students on these programmes now constitute the majority of our new intake for 2013–2014. This is an amazing outcome, given that such courses were only introduced in the 2010–2011 academic year.

Once again, our initiative in Stratford, east London, has made a significant contribution to our student numbers. This is likely to increase further as we fully utilise our magnificent new building, which operates jointly with the University of East London and was opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, in November 2013.

Although we have successfully stabilised the numbers of our four-year part-time students, it is vital that we continue our campaign to improve financial support for part-time students and the institutions that teach them. This year, there has been considerable attention devoted to this issue. Universities UK, the Confederation of British Industry, and the Higher Education Policy Institute have all issued reports indicating the importance of part-time study and have

made recommendations that further attention should be devoted to this specific issue. It is now vital that we maintain the momentum and convert these positive reports into real policy changes that benefit part-time students.

In this regard, our new President, Baroness Joan Bakewell DBE, has initiated several debates in the House of Lords in which significant numbers of peers have spoken strongly in favour of improved support. Joan has already proved herself a worthy successor to our previous President, Professor Eric Hobsbawm, whose memory is being



**Images** (from left to right): Professor David Latchman, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Alison White (East London Business Alliance), John James (Newham Chamber of Commerce), Trevor Williams (Chief Economist for Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking), John Middleton (Birkbeck Fellow) at the opening of the Stratford campus; Eric Hobsbawm's daughter, Julia Hobsbawm (left) and widow Marlene Hobsbawm at his memorial in April 2013 (top); Baroness Joan Bakewell DBE (bottom)





**As we move towards our 200th anniversary in 2023, I believe the College is well-equipped to meet future challenges, by continuing the pattern of innovation combined with loyalty to our mission.**

perpetuated at Birkbeck via our ongoing appeal to support the Eric Hobsbawm Scholarships for Postgraduate History Students (p52).

Eric was the personification of Birkbeck’s commitment to flexible teaching combined with high-quality research, and this dual commitment is central to the mission of Birkbeck today. At the end of 2013, all universities in the UK, including Birkbeck, were required to make submissions to the Research Excellence Framework, which determines government funding for university

research. Following rigorous assessment, both internally and in many cases by external assessors, the College submitted over 80% of eligible staff (pp22–24). Although the final verdict on our submission will not be given by the assessment panels until the end of 2014, the fact that we can submit such a high proportion of eligible staff is a clear indication of the high quality of our research activity.

Overall, therefore, the College is in a good position in terms of its academic and financial sustainability. Obviously, significant challenges lie ahead, for

example the recruitment of Master’s students in 2015–2016, when new graduates will be burdened with considerably increased debt, and the development of novel e-learning platforms such as Massive Open Online Courses (known as ‘MOOCs’).

As we move towards our 200th anniversary in 2023, I believe the College is well equipped to meet future challenges, by continuing the pattern of innovation combined with loyalty to our mission, so that Birkbeck can continue to flourish and fulfil its unique role in higher education.



# A FANTASTIC NEW CAMPUS FOR BIRKBECK IN EAST LONDON

**Birkbeck's second home is attracting enthusiastic students as well as praise for creating new educational opportunities**

University Square Stratford – a state-of-the-art, £33m campus – opened its doors on time and on budget to students and staff in autumn 2013.

The completion of the distinctive building, with its gold and black panels and large windows, is the culmination of a seven-year project. As a result, a dilapidated car park in the heart of Stratford's Cultural Quarter has been transformed into a futuristic landmark designed to deliver higher education. The five-storey building is already succeeding, and approximately 1,600 full-time equivalent students are using its functional and stylish facilities.

The campus was officially opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, on 5 November 2013 at an event attended by more than 300 dignitaries, donors, academics and leading figures from local businesses, cultural organisations and councils.

University Square Stratford is a unique collaboration between Birkbeck and the University of East London (UEL). It is already helping both universities in their aims to widen access and encourage progression into higher education for non-traditional students. The campus offers an alternative model





of higher education with flexible part-time, full-time, day and evening study opportunities to meet the growing aspirations of the people of east London. Birkbeck provides its teaching in the evenings.

Birkbeck and UEL launched their joint project in March 2005 as a response to the low participation rates in higher education in east London, and a belief in Stratford's future. Others also saw Stratford's potential, and months later this part of the capital was chosen as the venue for the highly successful 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. From 2007 until the opening of University Square Stratford, Birkbeck staff taught at UEL's Stratford campus on Water Lane as part of the Birkbeck-UEL partnership.

Now Birkbeck students have their own joint campus, which they can call home. Courses are available at all levels at University Square Stratford, including Certificates of Higher Education, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Nearly 30 Birkbeck courses – from CertHE Legal Methods and CertHE Web Design Technologies to BSc Business and MA Creative Producing – are on offer.

Designed by award-winning international architectural practice Make and built by contractor VolkerFitzpatrick in association with AWW architects, the campus comprises 8,600 square metres of flexible teaching and performance space around a large, light-filled atrium.

The facilities include:

- a 300-seat lecture theatre
- an 80-seat, Harvard-style lecture theatre
- a performing arts rehearsal and theatre space
- the Weston Learning Centre – an area for quiet independent study



and small group work  
 ■ a mooted room.  
 Student support services at the campus include English language and academic learning support, specialist advice and guidance, disability support, and a helpdesk.

Birkbeck student Martine King, from Essex, is studying for a CertHE in Legal Methods at University Square Stratford. She said: "The facilities at the new campus are excellent and I am delighted to be among the first group of students to use them. Bringing education to Stratford and east London is so important. I would not have been able to study in central London, because it is too far from my home."

Stratford was chosen as the location for the new campus partly because of its excellent transport links. Major rail, underground and bus services are only a short walk from the campus. Its location in the heart of Stratford's Cultural Quarter also enables Birkbeck to foster further links with the cultural community, including Stratford Circus, the Theatre Royal Stratford East and the Stratford East Picturehouse cinema.

Local, regional and national supporters have been essential to the development. The London Borough of Newham has championed the project from the outset. University Square Stratford was financed by Birkbeck, UEL, £8m from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, £4m from the London Thames Gateway

Above: Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal officially opens University Square Stratford (USS)  
 Left: The central atrium at USS

Development Corporation, a significant donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and generous support from the Wolfson Foundation, alumni and other individual donors.

Philippa Charles, Director of the Garfield Weston Foundation, added: "The Foundation is delighted to support the building, which will provide access to high-quality learning and education – we hope all who study here are inspired by this new facility".

As well as offering higher education opportunities, the building is a prime example of the latest technology and sustainable building design.

Its features include more than 700 square metres of solar panels, rooftop habitats to increase biodiversity, three rooftop bat boxes and a garden at ground level.

The campus has been awarded an excellent rating – the second-highest category – by the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method.

Professor David Latchman, Master of Birkbeck, said: "University Square Stratford is an exciting development in Birkbeck's historic mission to extend the best higher education to all, and I am delighted to see our unique, evening taught provision established in east London".

The slogan uniting both universities neatly sums up the exciting reality of the new campus: 'Two outstanding universities, one fantastic place to study'.



For more information about our courses in Stratford, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/stratford](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/stratford)

# PRESIDENT BARONESS JOAN BAKEWELL DBE

This is the first time I have written for *BBK*, and I am delighted to have done so. I am enormously proud of my role at Birkbeck, which I took up in April 2013, and I have been doing my utmost to champion part-time study since then.

It is an appointment with very special meaning for me. I grew up in a modest suburb of Stockport, where one of the most impressive buildings on the high street was the Mechanics' Institute. I knew it as the place where aspiring people of all ages went to add to the knowledge they already had and to strike out along paths of new enquiry. It seemed to me as a child an impressive thing to do. So, when I learned that Birkbeck itself had begun as the London Mechanics' Institute in 1823, I immediately identified it as a place I already knew as important in transforming many lives.

As President, I follow in the steps of one of the most illustrious historians of our day. Professor Eric Hobsbawm (1917–2012) had a profound grasp of what history was about and how understanding it could bring insight and wisdom to the contemporary world. But on a personal level I am touched to be his successor.

In the 1950s, when I was a very eager, but naive, student at Cambridge, he was my history supervisor. This meant I visited his rooms once a week and had one-to-one tuition in nineteenth-century British history. Together we examined the social and political mood of those times, the changing industrial face of the country and its shifting power structures.

Eric Hobsbawm loved Birkbeck and had a 65-year-long association with it. Above all, he loved what it stood for.

And I share his outlook.

For all these reasons, I was delighted to spearhead the national 'Part-Time Matters' campaign to champion the benefits of part-time study, when it was launched in May 2013. I also spoke in the House of Lords in July 2013 about the importance of part-time study for the economy and social mobility.

There is an increasing groundswell of support for part-time education, and I am confident that it has a great future. As one of the world's most prestigious centres of part-time study, Birkbeck is ideally suited to meet the challenges of the future.



Listen to a podcast interview with Baroness Joan Bakewell at: [www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode8](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode8)



“  
**As one of the world's most prestigious centres of part-time study, Birkbeck is ideally suited to meet the challenges of the future.**  
”



# Unprecedented support for disadvantaged students

## Birkbeck's commitment to widening participation in higher education is opening doors for many non-traditional students

Innovative outreach activities and generous bursaries at Birkbeck are transforming lives. The support that Birkbeck offers is recognised as being among the best in the university sector.

In keeping with the founding principles of the College from 1823, Birkbeck continues to provide opportunities for busy people who would otherwise be unable to access higher education.

In 2012-2013, a total of 40% of Birkbeck's undergraduate students – from households earning less than £25,000 per year – were eligible for financial support from the College.

For 2014-2015, the College expects to provide a record-breaking total financial support package of £3.6m, including 1,300 cash bursaries of £1,000 and 600 fee waivers worth £3,000 each.

Students have praised Birkbeck for its clear explanation of the College's financial support, the straightforward bursary application process, and the benefits of this financial assistance. Bursary recipient and part-time History student Robin Snowdon said: "Receiving the bursary has been vital. I decided to come to Birkbeck because I wanted a practical education, wanted to be taught by the world's leading historians, and study with mature students. It has transformed my life."

The verdict on Birkbeck's activities, which include inspirational outreach activities, pre-entry support and retention projects, is also positive from the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) – the independent watchdog that helps to safeguard and promote fair access to higher education.

OFFA assesses and monitors the access agreements submitted by all English universities and colleges to describe their efforts to ensure fair access, support students and improve retention. An approved access agreement means that institutions can charge more than £6,000 per year in tuition fees.



Birkbeck's access agreement for 2014-2015, which was approved without amendments by OFFA, compared very favourably with those of other institutions. Birkbeck is projected to spend 53% of the higher fee income (above £6,000 per year) on improving access – above the 30% recommended by OFFA.

Birkbeck's spend, in percentage terms, places it second when compared with all universities in England, and first in London when compared with all higher education institutions in the capital.

Birkbeck's innovative outreach activities were also highlighted in the access agreement, including:

- Learning cafés: informal taster sessions in community settings, including Sure Start children's

centres and primary schools – more than 60% of attendees progressed to higher learning

- 'Get Talking': a scheme for prospective students to meet recent graduates to discuss their experiences of studying at Birkbeck – nearly 70% of the prospective students involved went on to enrol on courses.

Caroline McDonald, Head of Widening Access and Retention at Birkbeck, said: "We are delighted that more and more students are able to study at Birkbeck thanks to our unprecedented pre-entry activities and financial support. Our wide-ranging efforts to encourage non-traditional students to progress to higher education are working very effectively."

Above: Bursary recipients at the Scholars' Evening in July 2013



# Leading the campaign for part-time students

Part-time study often grabbed the headlines last year thanks to Birkbeck's community

In 2013, many of you supported the 'Part-Time Matters' campaign, launched by a coalition of organisations, including Birkbeck, to promote the benefits of part-time higher education.

Thanks to the letters that you sent to your MPs, an Early Day Motion was signed by 68 MPs from across the political spectrum, recognising the "vital role of adult learning" that part-time study plays, and its "transformative effect".

Many of you shared your own stories via the campaign website. Each of these adds weight to our arguments about the value and importance of the part-time sector.

## A renewed focus on part-time study

2013 saw unprecedented levels of attention being paid to part-time study.

David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, commissioned a review that brought together vice-chancellors from universities across the UK, senior figures from business and representatives of the National Union of Students, under the leadership of Sir Eric Thomas, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University and former President of Universities UK.

The resulting report, published in October 2013 and called *The Power of Part-time*, gave a strong and positive representation of the part-time sector's contribution to the economy, to society and to social mobility. It clearly outlined the areas that

government, universities and other sector organisations need to focus on, in order to protect and support part-time study.

In July 2013, the Confederation of British Industry published a report entitled *Tomorrow's Growth: New Routes to Higher Skills*, which called for more opportunities for students to earn while they learn, and which recognised the need for those already working to have opportunities to reskill and to upskill. This recognition of the economic importance of part-time study from the UK's top business lobbying organisation was strongly welcomed by the College. The report left no doubt that part-time study opportunities will be key to the future economic growth of the country.



## New policies

As a result of sustained calls for the Government to protect part-time study, we have seen two key commitments made by Mr Willetts.

The first was to address poor communication about part-time study and student loans, by extending the 'student finance tour' run by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to include information about part-time study options and to visit further education colleges as well as secondary schools. BIS also launched a national communications campaign in October 2013, which incorporated part-time messages and moved towards more inclusive language and messages to communicate the benefits of higher education to all prospective students.

In October 2013, Mr Willetts announced that the Government would be making student loans available to students studying part-time at university for the second time on engineering, technology and computer science courses. This is a welcome step in the right direction, as we know that part-time education is vital to students wishing to reskill or change career during their working lives. We are calling on the Government to extend this loan availability to second-time students studying a broader group of subjects.

Strong communication from the College and the Government, inspiring stories from our alumni community, and policies that provide opportunities for people to develop their skills are all vital to Birkbeck's ability to recruit students and provide the life-changing benefits of part-time study.

This year has seen encouraging support for, and recognition of, the importance of part-time study. We will continue our work to ensure that the part-time sector thrives.



## Hundreds of you shared your stories for the 'Part-Time Matters' campaign in 2013

### Monique Zahavi, BSc Psychology (left)

"I remember being hungry for knowledge, but suffered from a lack of direction in a school where further education at the local sixth form college was as far as it ever got for most. In January 2012, when in my forties, I turned up for an interview for Birkbeck. I began a BSc in Psychology two weeks later. I have never felt so utterly certain that this was the right move. Every time I attend a lecture, my mind is left spinning and humming with complete excitement. It took me 25 years, but here I am, a student, along with both of my children studying at other universities.

"Birkbeck is nothing short of superb and I make the most of this opportunity and grab every minute. Nothing has made my brain sing as much for a very long time."

### Simon Tilbrook, BA History

"I made a hash of my first degree, and ended up in series of dead-end jobs and feeling like I'd wasted my talents and could find no way out; I was the first member of my family ever to go to university, and I'd blown it.

"Then, I went to Birkbeck and did another degree, this time part-time, and it changed my life. Not only were they the most enjoyable four years of my life, but I also discovered a lifelong love of learning that I've taken into a successful teaching career I've had for more than 20 years now. Birkbeck changed my life: part-time education matters."

### Alison Stamps, BA Film and Media

"In my early thirties someone told me about Birkbeck, and the experience changed who I am. I took my BA Film and Media over a period of six years, going to class between two and three times a week after work. I worked full-time throughout the part-time degree and had to defer my second year to care for my sick mother. I passed my degree with first class honours, having never written an essay or taken lecture notes before my first class at Birkbeck.

"My degree gave me confidence and opened doors professionally, and I could wax lyrical about Birkbeck and what it did for me. It changed my outlook on life and gave me goals and ambition. To in any way diminish the part-time study opportunities for potential students within the UK would be potentially catastrophic to a body of students/future students that have so much to give our economy."

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

## The contribution and impact of Birkbeck academics have been recognised by major grants and by national and international academic institutions

### Awards

Researchers at the Centre for Multilingual and Multicultural Research, Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication, have been awarded an Arts and Humanities Research Council Large Grant. They will study multilingual interaction in Newham, a linguistically and culturally diverse borough of London, as part of an interdisciplinary research project looking at how people with different languages and cultures communicate.

The four-year, £1.9m Translating Cultures programme is a collaboration between four UK universities and will generate new knowledge about communication in changing urban communities. The Birkbeck team will be led by Zhu Hua, Professor of Applied Linguistics and Communication, and Li Wei, Professor of Applied Linguistics and Pro-Vice-Master for Postgraduate Studies.

A €1.5m European Research Council grant has been awarded to Dr Matthew Longo, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Sciences, to investigate how the brain constructs body image.

Dr Longo (right) said: "Several types of sensory signals provide information about the body, making the body the multisensory object par excellence.

Little is known, however, about how information from the central and peripheral nervous system and from vision is integrated to construct the rich body representations we all experience. This five-year project will provide fundamental insight into how we come to represent our body."

Other accolades for Dr Longo include the 2013 American Psychological



Association Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology in the area of perception and motor performance, and the 2014 Experimental Psychology Society Prize Lecture.

Dr Emily Jones, Research Fellow at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, has been awarded one of four 2013 L'Oréal-UNESCO UK and Ireland For Women in Science Fellowships in recognition of her work on the role of automatic control and social learning in the field of cognitive psychology. For Women in Science was founded to promote the greater participation of women in science, by offering awards to outstanding female postdoctoral researchers.

The Contemporary Poetics Research Centre and its partner the Text Festival in Bury have been awarded a Cultural Engagement Award by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to establish a National Text Archive. Since 2005 the Text Festival has had a leading position in the global practice of language in the arts, featuring exhibitions, public art commissions, publications and performances. The collaboration with the Contemporary Poetics Research Centre will archive and document the three Text Festivals so far.

A research team in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences has been awarded funding by the Science and Technology Facilities Council to investigate the source localities of lunar meteorites obtained from NASA.

Principal investigator Ian Crawford, Professor of Planetary Science and Astrobiology, said: "This project will enable us to build up the UK lunar science community, ensuring that we remain active in this expanding field, as well as providing an opportunity to add valuable knowledge to our



understanding of lunar geological evolution."

Dr Dominic Janes, Senior Lecturer in the Department of History of Art and Screen Media, has been awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship for a project on queer visibility at the end of the nineteenth century. The research explores the ways in which homosexuals were depicted – and visually presented themselves – before and after the trials of Oscar Wilde in 1895.

Susan James, Professor of Philosophy, has been awarded a Laurance Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellowship at the Center for Human Values, Princeton University, for 2013–2014. While she holds this fellowship, Professor James will be working on a new book, *Spinoza on Learning to Live Together*.

### Recognitions

Martin Eimer, Professor of Psychology, and Gabriel Waksman, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, have both been elected to the Leopoldina – the German National Academy of Science. Election to the Leopoldina, the world's oldest continuously existing academy of medicine and the natural sciences, is the highest academic honour awarded by an institution in Germany.





Images (clockwise from bottom left): Dr Matthew Longo; the Moon; covers from books by Professor Anthony Bale; Dr Julia Lovell; and Dr Richard Cooper with Professor Tim Shallice; Professor Joanna Bourke

Professor Eimer's election is in recognition of his work on perception, attention and the control of action in Birkbeck's Brain and Behaviour Lab. The recognition follows the award to Professor Eimer of the 2014 Experimental Psychology Society Mid-Career Award, which recognises an experimental psychologist who has a distinguished research record over a substantial period.

Professor Waksman's election is in recognition of his research into the structural and molecular biology of secretion systems in bacteria. The honour follows his earlier election as a Fellow of the Royal Society and major funding awards for his research, including a £2m Medical Research Council grant, and a five-year European Research Council Advanced Grant of just over £2m for the project 'Structural biology of Legionella's effectors and secretion system'.

Anthony Bale, Professor of Medieval Studies, has been awarded the 2012 Beatrice White Prize for his book *Feeling Persecuted: Christians, Jews and Images of Violence in the Middle Ages*. The prize is awarded for outstanding scholarly work in the field of English Literature before 1590.

The Jan Michalski Prize for Literature 2012 has been awarded to Dr Julia Lovell, Lecturer in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, for her book *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams and the Making of China*, which explores the contrast between Chinese and Western reactions to the Opium Wars of 1839-1842 and 1856-1860. Dr Lovell's book is the first non-fiction book to win the prize.

Dr des Eddie Bruce-Jones, Lecturer in the School of Law, has been appointed an academic fellow at the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. The appointment recognises early/mid-career researchers and aims to

strengthen ties between legal academia and the Bar.

Birkbeck Fellows Mrs Phyllis Somers and Mr Drummond Leslie have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Mrs Somers, who has donated over £46m to a range of medical research and social welfare charities, including the Somers Cancer Research Building at Southampton University and the Institute of Child Health at Great Ormond Street Hospital, was awarded a DBE for Charitable Services.

Mr Leslie was awarded an MBE for Services to Higher Education. He was Head of Administration at the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (now Universities UK), before becoming Secretary to the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary, University of London, and Company Secretary of the Higher Education Staff Development Agency. Mr Leslie served on the governing body of the University of London continuously for 27 years and held the elected post of Chairman of Convocation of the University. He was an independent Governor of Birkbeck from 2000 to 2011.

A prestigious National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy has been awarded to Sue Jackson, Pro-Vice-Master for Learning and Teaching and Professor of Lifelong Learning and Gender, in recognition of the positive impact that she has made on student experience.

Li Wei, Professor of Applied Linguistics and Pro-Vice-Master for Postgraduate Studies, and Director of the Birkbeck Graduate Research School, has been elected Chair of the University Council

of General and Applied Linguistics (UCGAL). UCGAL provides a unified voice on public policy matters for linguistics.

Birkbeck's work to promote and support women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine has been recognised with an Athena SWAN Bronze award. The awards, largely funded by the higher education sector's Equality Challenge Unit, were set up in 2005 to help improve the representation and career progression of women in science.

One of three inaugural British Academy Medals, which recognise landmark achievements that transform understanding of a particular subject or field of study, has been awarded to Dr Richard Cooper, Reader in Cognitive Science in the Department of Psychological Sciences.

The medal was awarded jointly to Dr Cooper and Professor Tim Shallice of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London and the International School for Advanced Studies, Trieste, Italy, for their ground-breaking book *The Organisation of Mind*.

Joanna Bourke, Professor of History (left), has been appointed College Orator at Birkbeck. Professor Bourke's recent research has included a cultural history of fear, the history of sexual violence since the 1860s, human-animal relations, and the history of pain.

Professor Bourke said: "I am thrilled to be able to take up this role, in part because it will allow me to participate to an even greater extent in events involving past and current students as well as the wider Birkbeck community."



# £3.7m facility to advance leading autism research

## Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab set to give researchers a better knowledge of autism

Breakthrough discoveries made at Birkbeck about the early development of autism and other behavioural conditions will be furthered at a new laboratory designed to study toddlers.

Research at the £3.7m Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab will increase the understanding of developmental disorders and will potentially generate a programme of interventions and life-changing prospects for future sufferers.

Work on the new building in Torrington Square, Bloomsbury, is expected to start next year, and the Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab is due to open in spring 2016.

To date, discoveries have been made with young infants in the BabyLab at Birkbeck's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (CBCD). Scientists at the CBCD have lowered the age at which differences in brain development can be detected to just six to eight months, and they were recognised as making the 'top autism discovery of 2012' by the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative.

In the BabyLab, researchers place passive sensors on babies' scalps to register brain activity, while babies engage in games and other everyday behaviours. However, the BabyLab's

facilities are not designed to study toddlers, who require more space as they carry out various daily activities, including walking and playing.

Using the latest wireless technologies, the Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab will enable the advanced scientific study of brain development for children from 18 months to three or four years in an environment simulating familiar surroundings for toddlers. Studying brain activity during sleep will also be possible, thereby providing valuable data about how sleep impacts on child development.

The research in the Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab will help to develop and assess the efficacy of early interventions, which have considerable scope for success compared to treating conditions when they emerge, by which time they are deeply embedded. According to research in the Netherlands, even expensive early intervention can save more than £860,000 per individual with autism during a lifetime.

Professor Mark Johnson, Founder and Head of the CBCD, is leading the development of the Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab. He said: "The more we understand the early signs of autism, and how they unfold into the full syndrome over the first years of life, the better we can target support services and help children and their families. The research conducted at the Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab promises to change the lives of future autism sufferers."

The Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab, which will adjoin the existing CBCD offices at 32 Torrington Square, is being made possible thanks to generous donations from the Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation and the Wolfson Foundation.



For more information, visit:  
[www.cbcd.bbk.ac.uk/babylab](http://www.cbcd.bbk.ac.uk/babylab)



# Kazuo Ishiguro enthralls students with literary insights

**The internationally acclaimed author described his influences and writing process at a major event**

Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro visited Birkbeck to discuss his most recent novel, *Never Let Me Go*, with more than 1,000 students and alumni.

The popular event was organised under the auspices of the Booker Prize Foundation's 'Universities Initiative', which facilitates visits by highly acclaimed authors to UK universities, in order to introduce students from all disciplines to high-quality contemporary literature. This was the second time that Birkbeck has hosted an author as part of the Universities Initiative, following a visit from award-winning novelist Sarah Waters, in 2011.

In front of a full-capacity audience, Ishiguro, who was born in Japan and lives in Britain, discussed his Man Booker Prize-shortlisted novel, *Never Let Me Go* (2005), as well as earlier works, including *The Remains of the Day*, which won the Booker Prize in 1989.

*Never Let Me Go*, set in a disturbingly skewed version of England in the late



Kazuo Ishiguro

1990s, is a story of love, friendship and memory, charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.

Prior to the event, which took place in November 2012, all first-year undergraduate students were offered a free copy of *Never Let Me Go*.

The discussion with Birkbeck's Professor of Creative Writing Russell Celyn Jones, a former Booker Prize judge, encompassed topics such as: how Ishiguro chooses his narrators and the way that their voices develop; attempts in his early writing to capture the Japan of his childhood; and how the relationships between characters are more important in his writing than individual characters in isolation.

Ishiguro then took questions from an enthusiastic audience and was asked about his writing processes as well as the science behind *Never Let Me Go*.

Professor Hilary Fraser, Executive Dean of Birkbeck's School of Arts, said: "We were delighted to welcome Kazuo Ishiguro to Birkbeck. Just as the Man Booker Prize opens up the finest contemporary literature to the widest possible audience, so Birkbeck is an elite research university whose mission is to give a broad and diverse spectrum of students the best higher education, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to work together as partners to co-sponsor the Man Booker at Birkbeck. It is wonderful for our students and alumni to have the chance to hear first-hand from distinguished authors such as Ishiguro."

“”

**It is wonderful for our students and alumni to have the chance to hear first-hand from distinguished authors such as Ishiguro.**

**Professor Hilary Fraser**

# Events on campus

From controversies surrounding DNA to the global struggle for freedom, major themes were addressed at lectures and conferences held at Birkbeck this year

## Eric Hobsbawm memorial

More than 400 guests attended the moving memorial to Professor Eric Hobsbawm (1917–2012), the late President of Birkbeck.

Leading figures from academia, left-wing politics and journalism attended the celebration of Professor Hobsbawm's life and paid tribute to the remarkable achievements of this influential Marxist historian, one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century. They shared their memories of his inspirational teaching, wit and friendship.

At the event, held at Senate House, University of London, in April 2013, Professor Roy Foster, Fellow of Birkbeck and Carroll Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford, said the memorial demonstrated "the extraordinary emotional and magnetic man that Eric was and the way the force field of his mind and personality endures".

Describing him as a "great enthusiast", Julia Hobsbawm spoke of her father's passion for many different interests, including his love for his family, nature, sweets, gossip and his students.

The Eric Hobsbawm Scholarships for Postgraduate History Students at Birkbeck (see p52) were launched at the memorial by Professor Frank Trentmann, Professor of History at Birkbeck. The scholarships are a fitting legacy to Professor Hobsbawm's profound belief in the importance of higher education for working people.

**From top down:** Professor Simon Schama, and Professor Roy Foster, both of whom spoke at the memorial to Professor Hobsbawm  
**Far right:** Dr Philip Hopley, of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, exhibited replica skulls of our ancestors and spoke about them during Science Week



## Be Birkbeck

Birkbeck's new membership scheme, called 'Be Birkbeck', welcomed 300 members in its first nine months. Its six-part lecture series focused on the theme of controversy. Members entered into lively discussions after all of the lectures. The first lecture, entitled 'The brave new world of DNA?', was given by Professor David Latchman, Master of Birkbeck.

'Be Birkbeck's 2014 lecture series, on the broad theme of 'War', will coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

## Political insights

Birkbeck's programme of challenging public lectures continued with a keynote speech delivered by David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, to the prestigious Triple Helix International Conference in July 2013, co-hosted by The Big Innovation Centre, Birkbeck and UCL Advances.

Willetts talked about the links between universities, industry and government, and said he recognised government's historic strategic role in backing "key, general-purpose technologies" as well as specific technologies where the UK had the research capacity, business opportunity and comparative advantage to develop these from the research community to the market.

## Law on trial

In June 2013, Birkbeck's School of Law held a week of lectures and workshops that offered a radical re-imagining of legal education. During Law on Trial week, novelists, journalists, political activists and academics explored the influence of legal education on the wider cultural and social landscape. Panels of experts considered whether legal academics should confront the challenges of widening participation by developing a culture of pro bono – offering legal education freely outside their universities and colleges.

In October 2013, Birkbeck’s Annual Law Lecture drew an audience of 800-plus to hear US scholar and political activist Angela Davis on the subject ‘Freedom is a constant struggle: closures and continuities’. Davis traced a global struggle from the emancipation proclamation of 150 years ago to the civil rights movement in mid-twentieth century America, current political issues and the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

### Social Sciences, History and Philosophy Week

A diverse selection of readings, discussions, lectures and film screenings made up the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy’s first-ever ‘SSHHP Week’ in June 2013.

The series of events, entitled ‘To seek, to find, to live’, examined the past and future of society and the environment. Highlights included a lecture on ‘Multilingual swearing’ by Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele, Professor of Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism. Professor Miriam Zukas, Executive Dean of SSHHP, said: “The week of events really demonstrated well the range of work being undertaken in the School”.



### Business Week

The final event of a highly successful Business Week 2013, held in June, saw Willie Walsh, CEO of International Airlines Group, deliver the first Lord Marshall Memorial Lecture to a capacity audience.

Walsh paid tribute to the late Lord Marshall, CEO and Chairman of British Airways, and Chairman of the Board of Governors at Birkbeck from 2003 to 2010. He spoke of the challenges facing the aviation industry, citing increasing fuel costs, CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and political “interference”.

### Science Week

Research into climate change, the fight against pathogens such as Chlamydia, a new hypothesis on the causes of autism, and how people live with the impact of genetic

information were showcased during Birkbeck’s Science Week in April 2013.

Professor Nicholas Keep, Executive Dean of the School of Science, said: “Colleagues gave six really fascinating lectures, demonstrating how their research at Birkbeck has an impact on matters that affect people’s health and well-being”.

### Arts Week

Can anyone make a film? This was the challenging question discussed by filmmaker Mark Lewis and students on Birkbeck’s MA Film, Television and Screen Media at a public screening of his work during Arts Week in May 2013.

The week’s lively series of events also included an exploration of the Victorian fascination with dolls, and a roundtable discussion on the intersection between science and creative writing.



For more blogs about our events, visit:  
[www.bbk.ac.uk/eventsblog](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/eventsblog)

To find out about Science Week, visit:  
[www.bbk.ac.uk/eventsblog/scienceweek](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/eventsblog/scienceweek)



Image used for Social Sciences, History and Philosophy Week (iStockphoto)



# BIRKBECK'S PAINTINGS

## Birkbeck's historic paintings have been added to the BBC's digital collection

A collection of 26 oil paintings owned by, or on loan to, Birkbeck, has been published on the BBC's *Your Paintings* web site as part of an initiative showcasing the UK's oil paintings.

Chris Terrey, Archivist at Birkbeck, said: "The paintings all add to the narrative of the College's history, whether it be

by depicting key events or individuals in the development of the College, or through the shared history of the buildings in which we now house our teaching and research. We are very pleased to be able to share them more widely via this important catalogue of publicly owned paintings."



↑ GEORGE BIRKBECK (1776–1841)  
by Samuel Lane, c.1830

In 1823, George Birkbeck founded The London Mechanics' Institute, which later became Birkbeck College, to make education available to working Londoners.

← H. GORDON JACKSON, MASTER OF BIRKBECK FROM 1943 TO 1950  
by Sam Morse-Brown, 1940s

H. Gordon Jackson carried out fire watch duties from the roof of the College during the Second World War.



# NTINGS ONLINE

⇒ **BARONESS BLACKSTONE,  
MASTER (1987–1997)**  
by Peter Douglas Edwards, 1997

During Baroness Blackstone's decade as Master, the College expanded, with the formation of departments of Law, Management and Business Studies.



⇐ **DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN CBE DSc**  
by Philip Alexius de László, c.1910

Birkbeck's first female professor, Dame Helen Charlotte Isabella Gwynne-Vaughan CBE DSc, was a prominent botanist and mycologist, as well as serving as Controller of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in France and Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force during the First World War.



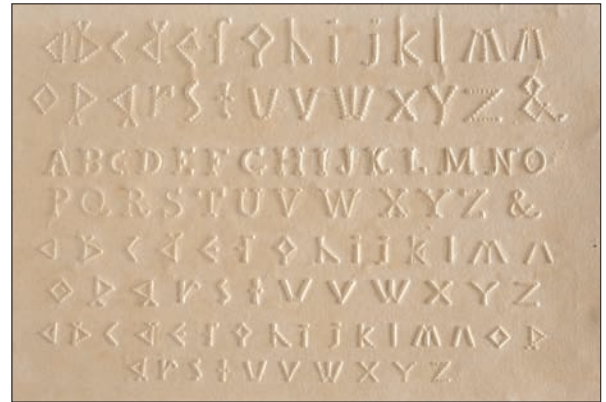
For more information about Birkbeck's paintings, visit:  
[www.bbk.ac.uk/news/birkbeck-paintings](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/news/birkbeck-paintings)

For more information about the BBC's *Your Paintings* web site, visit:  
[www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings)



# Peltz Gallery opens its doors

The first major exhibition explored embossed writing systems for blind people



The new Peltz Gallery was opened in Birkbeck's School of Arts in Gordon Square in 2013. Generously funded by Birkbeck alumnus Daniel Peltz (MA Renaissance Studies, 2009) and his wife Elizabeth, the venue will host digital and material displays, small-scale performances, lectures and meetings.

The first major – and free – exhibition, called *Touching the Book*, ran from July to October 2013, and explored the history of embossed literature for blind people in the nineteenth century. It was curated by Dr Heather Tilley, of Birkbeck's Department of English and Humanities, and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through its Sharing Heritage programme.

The exhibition contained many examples of nineteenth-century embossed books, writing devices,

journals, pamphlets and portraits, which tell the story of how various styles of embossed writing emerged and competed during the nineteenth century, before Braille emerged as the dominant embossed writing system.

Dr Tilley said: "The first embossed writing systems were developed largely by sighted people, often fuelled by their desire to make the Bible accessible to blind people. However, these early systems used the Roman alphabet in a raised form – a format which is much friendlier to the seeing eye than the touching finger.

"During the nineteenth century, a number of embossed systems were developed by blind creators and co-existed for a while, each with their own group of ardent supporters. The exhibition took visitors through the journey which culminated in the

Clockwise from left: Daniel Peltz in the new gallery; *The First Class Book for the Blind* (1840, Unknown), RNIB Collection Acc No: L1/9; W. Ridgway, after George Smith, *Light and Darkness*, engraving (1871) Wellcome Library

widespread adoption of Braille, and the near extinction of other embossed writing systems."

Professor Annie E Coombes, Acting Director of the Peltz Gallery, said: "The *Touching the Book* exhibition demonstrated the extraordinary potential of the Peltz Gallery as a gallery and exhibition space, which showcases the various intersections between research and the broader public that are possible not only within the School of Arts but in Birkbeck as a whole".

 For a digital version of *Touching the Book*, with regularly updated articles, visit: [www.bbk.ac.uk/touchingthebook](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/touchingthebook)

For current exhibition information, visit: [www.bbk.ac.uk/peltzgallery](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/peltzgallery)



# CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS HARVEY McGRATH



Part-time higher education continues to be buffeted by changes to the funding regime and the wider economy. It has seen sharp reductions in enrolments nationally, and has been the subject in recent months of several reports by organisations within our own sector, business and government.

There is widespread agreement that part-time higher education must be protected and supported. At Birkbeck, we will continue our active advocacy work to ensure that this rhetoric becomes a reality.

## College finances

Given Birkbeck's special offer and focus, we have weathered these conditions well. We have seen our three-year undergraduate courses go from strength to strength, with many younger learners keen to earn while they learn and gain the work experience that employers look for in today's graduates.

As a result of healthy growth in student numbers, a responsive offer, and robust control over expenses, the College has returned a surplus for the year of £6.7m (compared with a surplus of £6.5m in 2011–2012).

Total College income increased by £2.7m (2.8%) and total expenditure increased by £2.5m (2.9%). Income from academic fees and support grants continues to increase, reflecting the growth in our student numbers.

## Development and alumni relations

Over the last year, we have invested in the Development and Alumni team, and philanthropic income in 2012–2013 totalled £3.31m.

Gifts ranged from £5 to £1.3m, and projects included support for undergraduate student bursaries, support for capital projects and funding for PhD students.

People do not always immediately recognise universities as charitable causes, yet education is one of the most important gifts that a person can give

or be given. We are extremely lucky to have such a generous group of supporters, who recognise that no other institution provides what Birkbeck does, and who give back – to whatever extent they can afford.

Indeed, more alumni, friends and governors than ever before are supporting the College with gifts of £1,000 a year or more – there were 82 donors giving this amount in 2012–2013, up from 37 in 2010–2011.

These gifts are critical to allowing us to offer bursaries to students who otherwise may not be able to afford to study. We are grateful to all our donors for their generosity, and we will continue to demonstrate to you the impact of your support.

Alumni have supported the College in other ways too. As well as attending open evenings to talk about their experiences at Birkbeck, they now also support prospective and current students through one-to-one mentoring and employability schemes.

Our new international students are paired up with alumni who have had similar experiences, while a mentoring scheme for our business students aimed to help them find the right job on completion of their studies. A total of 121 students benefited from these schemes this year, and the initiatives have received positive feedback from both the students and alumni.

## The green agenda

Birkbeck was awarded 'Fairtrade University Status' in April 2013. This is due to an ongoing commitment over a number of years from the College, the Students' Union and the Catering team to increasing the volume and range of Fairtrade products, raising awareness of Fairtrade products, and setting up reporting structures to discuss Fairtrade issues.

The College moved 14 places up the People and Planet Green League table 2013, thanks to improvements in sustainable food policies and the Fairtrade accreditation. This is very positive news and shows that the College is on the right track with its environmental programme.

## Outlook

During the coming year, we will continue to work with government and the rest of the higher education sector to ensure that the attention that part-time higher education has received this year is translated into actions and policies that will strengthen it in years to come.

Overall, Birkbeck's strong leadership, effective management and good financial position, together with our ability to develop new and innovative courses and study structures, gives me every confidence that the College will continue to flourish despite the challenging environment.

“  
**More alumni, friends, and governors than ever before are supporting the College with gifts of £1,000 a year or more – there were 82 donors giving this amount in 2012–2013.**  
”

# Research IN THE LIMELIGHT

## Birkbeck's submission to the Research Excellence Framework included highlights from science to sport

Along with all other universities in the country, Birkbeck is participating in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) – an audit of the quality of all the research carried out in the UK higher education sector.

The results of the REF will determine the bulk of each university's research funding between 2015 and 2021 (as the results of the last such exercise have done over the past six years). They will

also have a significant impact on each university's (and each department's) reputation, and will have knock-on effects on the likelihood of getting grants and recruiting high-quality staff and research students.

Panels of academics chosen by the Higher Education Funding Councils will meet during 2014 to judge the quality and social impact of research, and the environment in which it takes place, for each discipline or 'Unit of Assessment' (UoA). The results will be announced in December 2014.

Birkbeck performed well in the REF's precursor, known as the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), in 2008, and is aiming to improve its performance this time. We are entering submissions in 14 different UoAs, two of them (Biological Sciences; and Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences) jointly with University College London. The other submissions are in: Art and Design, Business and Management, Computer Science, Economics, English, History, Law, Modern Languages and Linguistics, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, and Sociology.

The impact agenda has been a major enterprise in itself: included in the REF for the first time, it involves producing an overall account and a number of case studies that exemplify the effect that our research has had on the world outside the academy, ranging from banking to art exhibitions.

Birkbeck included as many staff as possible in the REF submission in November 2013 (more than 80% of eligible academics – over 350 people). We have learnt a lot and have also been encouraged and impressed by the range and high quality of the research that is produced in the College. Some examples of our research impact case studies are found on pp22–24, and on p33.

By Professor Stephen Frosh, Pro-Vice-Master for Research and Chair of the REF Working Party at Birkbeck.



## FIGHTING CANCER WITH GENETICS

Research by Professor David Latchman, Master of Birkbeck, has contributed to the origins of promising trials of a new therapy for melanoma, a deadly skin cancer, and has been submitted to the REF as an impact case study. Study of the Herpes Simplex virus at BioVex – a UCL spin-out company he co-founded in 1999 – has led to gene therapies. A vaccine for solid tumours was taken

into successful Phase II trials. In 2011 Biovex was bought out by pharmaceutical giant Amgen for \$1 billion. Amgen has now taken this virus into a Phase III trial.



Listen to a podcast interview with Professor David Latchman at: [www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode11](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode11)

Above: Illustration of blood cells (iStockphoto)



## HELPING PARENTS TO LOOK AFTER THEIR CHILDREN

Scientific advice about raising children is valued greatly, and the latest child development research is reaching millions of parents across the world.

Guidance from Annette Karmiloff-Smith, Professorial Research Fellow in the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development at Birkbeck, is included in parental information material (booklets, podcasts, web-based articles) produced with Procter & Gamble (P&G) on topics such as foetal development, sleep, mother/child interaction and sibling rivalry.

Most of these findings are available globally across Pampers.com web sites. For Western Europe alone, recent web site statistics indicate some 840,000 visitors per month.

In 2010, Professor Karmiloff-Smith developed a large-scale question and answer programme for P&G, sent out

by text message to parents in developing countries.

Professor Karmiloff-Smith's work with P&G demonstrates how collaboration with a multinational company can facilitate communication of scientific insights into child development to a wide international audience.

Claude Ehretsmann, a senior manager at P&G, said: "The millions of parents worldwide who proactively continue to subscribe to our parenting information are a tribute to the quality and relevance of the content developed by Professor Karmiloff-Smith".

Professor Karmiloff-Smith's consultancy work with P&G is informed by her research on genetic disorders and from studies by a European Infancy Research Consortium.



## CREATING NEW FORMS OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Singers have become poets, and poets have contributed to musical scores, as part of an innovative cross-arts collaboration called *Voiceworks*.

This original and transformative programme was established by Carol Watts, Professor of Literature and Poetics, and William Rowe, Anniversary Professor of Poetics – both directors of the Contemporary Poetics Research Centre at Birkbeck.

*Voiceworks* was created with colleagues from the composition and vocal departments of Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2006 after an approach from the Wigmore Hall, London's international venue for song.

The aim has been to transform the thinking and practice of cross-arts collaboration, creating a twenty-first-century song repertoire for a new generation of artists and audiences. Professor Watts and Professor Rowe opened up a range of poetic practice and research, including sound, and visual and digital forms of poetic material.

What makes *Voiceworks* unique is the experience of working closely with the voice of a singer from the outset. This encounter with voice is central to the reflective experiment of the collaborative process.

There are now over 130 alumni of the *Voiceworks* programme, many of whom have used it to launch or develop their creative careers. New work has appeared in venues across the UK and internationally, and is a strong part of the Wigmore Hall's showcasing of song, with the addition now of a *Voiceworks* alumni concert in May each year.

*Continued overleaf*





## IMPROVING THE GOVERNANCE OF SPORT ORGANISATIONS

Researchers at the Birkbeck Sport Business Centre have been investigating governance within the sport industry since 1999, and have been helping to shape policy debates ever since.

Their findings about the football industry have contributed to parliamentary inquiries, most recently to the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee's inquiry (2011) into the governance of English football.

Research on the broader sports sector has been used by the Sport and Recreation Alliance, the representative body for England's sport governing bodies, to improve governance practices across national governing bodies of sport. In particular, the research informed the development of the Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation Sector,

a best practice guide that has been adopted by more than 60 national governing bodies of sport in the UK.

The great success of the London 2012 Olympic Games has illustrated the enormous value that well-organised sports, and sporting events, can add to the life of a country – both economically and socially. The UK is a particularly relevant context in which to study the governance performance of sport organisations, as recent years have seen rapid commercial growth and a shift from amateur to professional structures across many sports.

Research at the Birkbeck Sport Business Centre will continue to analyse these factors and more, including the need for sport organisations to demonstrate their accountability, transparency and improved management performance.

## ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC TRUST IN JUSTICE

Research about public trust in the police and courts is having an impact on policing and is increasing the importance of police and judicial legitimacy.

Mike Hough, Professor of Criminal Policy, and Dr Mai Sato, Research Fellow, have investigated concepts of public trust in justice, public perceptions of the legitimacy of the police and the courts, and public compliance and co-operation with the law across Europe for their project in the Institute of Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck.

Their research shows that justice needs to be fair, and to be seen to be fair; fairness is not simply a desirable feature of justice systems, but a precondition for effective justice and institutional legitimacy.

Analysis of the results led to benchmarking of countries on dimensions of trust in justice and perceived legitimacy. These

league tables show the UK falling into the middle quartiles on most measures: better than most ex-Soviet bloc countries, but worse than Nordic countries and other European neighbours.

The research shows that trust in police fairness is a better predictor of police legitimacy than trust in police competence. The police can easily squander their legitimacy by high-handed, unfair or disrespectful treatment.

The findings have influenced the operational strategies of the Metropolitan Police, have been shared with senior staff from government departments, including the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, and have featured in the national media. This research has shifted police and judicial legitimacy to the centre of criminal policy preoccupations in the UK.



# A growing appetite for three-year undergraduate evening degrees

**From only three courses and 28 students in 2010 to 40 courses and 1,010 students today, Birkbeck's new degrees are expanding to meet demand**

The growth of Birkbeck's three-year evening degrees continues to be a resounding success.

In 2010, for the first time, Birkbeck offered undergraduate degrees taught in the evenings over three years – the same timescale as a traditional full-time degree. The undergraduate degrees on offer were BA Philosophy, LLB Law and BSc Psychology. Today, 40 courses are offered as three-year degrees, and from September 2014, 50 courses will be

offered as three-year degrees.

As with Birkbeck's traditional four-year, part-time programmes, many students on the three-year courses did not go to university at the age of 18. However, after starting careers or families, they felt it was the right moment for them to get a degree, to help them advance in their careers.

Increasing numbers of younger students are also signing up to the three-year courses: this year, 28%

of new students were aged 18–20.

Evening study enables students to work throughout their course and build up a bank of experience that will give them the edge when they graduate.

Jonah Duffin, Head of Marketing and Recruitment at Birkbeck, said: "Recruitment to three-year courses is soaring. Students of all ages and backgrounds realise the benefits that our flexible, evening teaching offers and use it to fit study around other commitments and priorities, whether that's raising a family or securing an internship. I'm pleased that Birkbeck is at the forefront of meeting the demand for more flexible learning, and I feel sure that it's something that we're going to see more of across the sector."



**Charity Mapfeka**  
LLB Law

Charity Mapfeka did not really consider university when she left college. Instead she went straight into work in administrative and secretarial roles.

Having her first baby at the age of 27 made Charity think again about getting a degree. She was working for a legal firm, and when she discussed studying with her boss he was very encouraging, so she decided to go for it.

She chose Birkbeck's LLB programme, which would enable her to continue working and to get a degree in three years.

Charity said: "I felt that it was now or never – I needed to throw myself into it, so I enrolled on the three-year programme at Birkbeck. It wasn't an easy ride; during my first year I was suffering severe headaches as a result of complications during the birth of my daughter, and then in my final year I fell pregnant again! The tutors supported and encouraged me throughout. When I had my second baby in April, just before my exams, and had to stay in hospital until mid-May, they arranged for me to sit my exams in September. I don't think that I could have managed the difficulties of combining work, family and university, if the tutors hadn't been so accommodating. They really understand that Birkbeck students are often juggling lots of things in their lives."

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# New professors

Seven members of Birkbeck staff were promoted to the post of Professor in 2012–2013



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**ADAM GEAREY**  
Professor of Law

Professor Gearey's research interests lie in political philosophy. His most recent publications are *Justice as Welfare*, a defence of the welfare 'state', and *The Politics of the Common Law* (with Wayne Morrison and Rob Jago). He has also worked with Marinos Diamantides on a collection of essays entitled *Islam, Law and Identity*, which focuses on recent debates about the nature of secular and sacred law. Other ongoing interests relate to critical legal studies and the legacies of the New Left.



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**ANDREW CARTER**  
Professor of Earth Sciences

Professor Carter develops and applies thermochronometry, a form of radiometric dating, to understand the mechanisms and feedbacks that affect the Earth's surface region, which is important to explain tectonic processes, and past climate and ecological change. Much of his research is directed at the Himalaya–Tibet mountain belt and surrounding areas affected by the India–Asia collision. Recent fieldwork has been in northern Vietnam, Tibet and western China.



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**GEORGE ROUSSOS**  
Professor of Pervasive Computing

Professor Roussos conducts experimental systems research in pervasive computing. He explores human dynamics as a core ingredient of urban and social pervasive computing systems, and is particularly interested in the implications of this new computing paradigm for society at large, for example in creating Smart Cities, in extending the museum experience and in retail. His team is currently involved in the development of a low-cost vaccine-tracking solution combining mobile phones, sensing and cloud computing for countries sponsored by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation. The aim is to reduce vaccine loss, which can be as high as 50% in some cases.

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**LINDA TRENBERTH**  
Professor of Management

Professor Trenberth's research and consulting interests include the management of the employee–employer relationship, women in management, work stress and well-being, career management and workplace bullying. She is particularly qualified and interested in working in the areas of training and development, career management, human resource management and stress management.







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### SARAH HART

Professor of Mathematics

Professor Hart is a group theorist, with particular interest in Coexeter groups. She has also published work on commuting graphs and sum-free sets. She currently holds a London Mathematical Society grant researching mathematics at the interface with computer science. She has been instrumental in introducing a single honours BSc and MSc in Mathematics at Birkbeck, and recently took part in a Newton Institute series of interviews with female mathematical scientists.



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### JOHN KRANIAUSKAS

Professor of Latin American Studies

Professor Kraniauskas specialises in Latin American literary and cultural studies, cultural theory and political philosophy, with particular interests in relations between state and cultural forms. He was a founding co-editor of the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*. His most recent publication is *Políticas literarias: acumulación y poder en la literatura y el cine latinoamericanos* (*The Politics of Literature: Power and Accumulation in Latin-American Literature and Film*). He is currently completing an English-language version of the book for Texas University Press as well as a companion volume. Professor Kraniauskas also continues to work and publish on the figure of Eva Perón in Argentine literature, film and thought, on contemporary Latin American literature and politics, as well as on cultural theory and political philosophy more generally.



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### COLIN TEEVAN

Professor of Playwriting and Screenwriting

Professor Teevan is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter, whose stage work includes *Kafka's Monkey*, *The Bee*, *The Lion of Kabul* and *How Many Miles to Basra?* (winner of Clarion Best Play 2007) as well as translations of *The Bacchae* for the National Theatre and an adaptation of *Peer Gynt* for National Theatre of Scotland and the Barbican. He has written original feature-length episodes for ITV's *Single Handed*, *Vera* and *Foyle's War* and BBC's *Silk*. His original mini-series *Charlie*, about notorious Irish political leader Charles J Haughey, starring *The Wire*'s Aidan Gillen, was shot in Dublin in autumn 2013 and will be broadcast on RTE in September 2014. He has also written many dramas for BBC Radio 3 and 4. He is currently developing two original series for BBC Television and new theatre projects for actress and theatre director Kathryn Hunter and The Young Vic Theatre.

# New intensive Law Master's courses judged a success

The innovative and flexible provision of higher education is all-important for busy professionals who are unable to study by attending university each week.

Recognising the importance of a postgraduate qualification, many high-flying employees are seeking ways to improve their career prospects and broaden their horizons while still working.

Birkbeck's School of Law responded to this desire for flexible learning opportunities by launching two intensively taught Master's degrees in 2012-2013. They were taught over four weeks (two weeks in April and two weeks in June/July) in Bloomsbury, thereby providing face-to-face teaching with minimal disruption to work and family life.

Reading and learning materials were provided months in advance, to enable students to prepare for the classes. A compulsory supervised dissertation also enabled students to develop their own interests, once the teaching was finished.

Fourteen students in the first cohort have now successfully completed their degrees and nearly all of them will graduate with at least a merit – outstanding results for this mode of study. They were enrolled on either the LLM/MA in Human Rights or the LLM in International Economic Law, Justice and Development.

There is a growing appetite for provision of learning and teaching that blends private study with face-to-face teaching. Around 25 students have already applied for the Master's courses for the coming year (2013-2014), and numbers are expected to grow. An additional new intensive Master's degree is also being offered – an LLM in Economic Law with a specialisation in International Finance. These Master's degrees build on the School of Law's unique interdisciplinary and critical approach to legal studies.

## A novel way of teaching postgraduate Law courses during concentrated periods of face-to-face teaching is proving popular at Birkbeck



Laura Barre (far left), a student from France, opted for the intensive LLM in Human Rights to help her pursue her ambition to become a human rights lecturer or to work for a non-governmental organisation.

She said: "The lecturers have been very supportive and have provided help throughout the course and even afterwards. The online services are of a very good quality and make a huge difference when working on an essay, when you are living in another country."

Dr Stewart Motha (left), Director of the Intensive Master's Programmes in Birkbeck's School of Law, was pleased with the enthusiasm and diversity of the first cohort of intensive students.

He said: "In addition to busy Londoners, we were delighted to welcome a diverse range of students who live, work or have close links in South Korea, the US, Latin America, and several European countries. They brought a combination of professional expertise and experience in law, banking, social welfare and business to share with fellow students.

"We are pleased to be pioneering this dynamic mode of intensive learning and teaching in the UK. Birkbeck is not only the best place for busy Londoners to study in the evenings; it is a university for busy professionals from anywhere in the world to combine careers and other responsibilities with further study."

Dr Motha, who has taught at Birkbeck for two years, established the intensive Master's degrees following the success of similar programmes at Melbourne University, where he has also taught.

For more information, visit:  
[www.bbk.ac.uk/law/intensives](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/law/intensives)



# Legacy of Greenham Common

The women-only campaign against nuclear weapons in the 1980s has influenced artists and social movements since, says Professor Sasha Roseneil

Thirty years have passed since the height of the Greenham Common protests, but the impact of the women activists, and interest in their campaign, endures.

Professor Sasha Roseneil's sociological research about the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp and the anti-nuclear politics of the late Cold War period continues to attract attention. Recently, she has been consulted about a number of cultural and creative works about Greenham, including *Down at Greenham* – a forthcoming BBC film – and *Love and Fall Out*, a novel by Kathryn Simmonds to be published in 2014. Professor Roseneil has also been involved in curating a major exhibition about social movement culture that toured the US, and she continues to give interviews to journalists from around the world about the legacies of Greenham and about social movements more widely.

Professor Roseneil's research has included an ethnographic study of the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, and a focus on the spatial practices, material cultures and cultural legacies of Greenham Common. She has collaborated with archaeologist Yvonne Marshall, among others, as The Common Research Group, to carry out archaeological investigations of the Greenham camp sites, and has contributed to policy debate about the conservation of Cold War heritage sites. She has also worked with artist Lucy Orta and architecture students from Bournemouth University to produce design ideas for a museum at the site of the former missile base.

The women-led protest began in 1981, when a group of campaigners set up camp outside the US Air Force base at Greenham Common in Berkshire to object to the British government's decision to allow NATO Cruise missiles to be sited there. However, the gender inequalities of mainstream politics were initially replicated within the camp, as the women were sidelined



(male protestors were approached for press interviews and their female counterparts were expected to carry out camp chores). This led, early on, to a decision to make the camp women-only.

Professor Roseneil said: "As part and parcel of this, a decentralised, non-hierarchical and feminist model of organising and making decisions developed. Over the years, many hundreds of thousands of women, from a variety of political and social backgrounds, made Greenham the focal point for anti-nuclear and feminist politics. Their activism had wide-ranging cultural and political consequences."

Most significantly, the immediate objectives of the women were realised: Cruise missiles, which arrived at the base in 1983, were removed following the agreement of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1987, the nuclear base was closed and the area was returned to the people as

common land in 2000.

Professor Roseneil added: "During this period, Greenham women were part of the changing zeitgeist across Europe, which increasingly rejected the polarisations of the Cold War and contributed thereby to its end. Since then, many social movements, from the anti-road protests of the 1990s to Occupy in the 2010s, have adopted the Greenham 'method' of taking up long-term residence in public space, and seeking to operate according to the principles of non-hierarchy and collectivism which were pursued at Greenham. And while mainstream politics remains male-dominated at every level, there is now, thanks to Greenham, far greater recognition on all sides of the political spectrum that women's voices matter and that women should have a say in global politics."

Above: Protestors demonstrating against US Cruise missiles outside Greenham Common air base. (Photofusion/UG via Getty Images)

Sasha Roseneil is Professor of Sociology and Social Theory at Birkbeck, and Director of the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research.





# BEYOND THE TRENCHES

Dr Kate McLoughlin reviews the First World War poetry inspired by the front line and highlights the works of lesser-known women writers

Above: Unloading the wounded, with writer Mary Borden centre. Courtesy Jane Borden from her book *Mary Borden: A Woman of Two Wars* (Munday Books)

**Borden's collection of stories and sketches is a graphic and phantasmagorical depiction of her experiences in military medicine.**

The First World War centenary anniversaries, which begin in 2014, are set to be a national exercise in commemoration. For many people, the literature most associated with the war is the poetry produced by soldiers serving in the trenches on the Western Front.

Trench poetry is the poetry of horror, anger, grief and despair. In Siegfried Sassoon's 'The Dug-Out' (1918), for example, an officer finds it unbearable to watch a young soldier sleeping:

*You are too young to fall asleep forever  
And when you sleep you remind me of  
the dead.*

And in Wilfred Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum Est' (1917), those supporting the war are given some graphic details:

*the blood ... gargling from the froth-  
corrupted lungs  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues.*

Birkbeck's own trench-poet was Isaac Rosenberg, who attended the institution's Art School in Chancery Lane in 1907 and 1908 and enlisted in the army in 1915. In his most famous poem, 'Break of Day in the Trenches' (1916), Rosenberg notices a 'queer sardonic rat' crossing No Man's Land. He makes the poignant point that this rat, with its 'cosmopolitan sympathies', has a better chance of survival than the young men who are fighting.

Sassoon's, Owen's and Rosenberg's are sobering, deeply felt poems by men who knew the Western Front first-hand: though Sassoon survived the war, never ceasing to write about its horror and futility, Owen and Rosenberg were both killed in 1918.

But the soldier-poets are not the only ones to have written about the Front. Some no less vivid

and compelling poems survive by women writers. As it happens, two are about the same subject: mud.

Born in Ealing in 1885, Helen Saunders was an avant-garde artist, trained at the Slade and at the Central School of Arts and Crafts. In 1915, she published a poem entitled 'A Vision of Mud'. The previous year, Rupert Brooke had written the famous sonnet in which he entreated:

*If I should die think only this of me  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is forever England.*

(Brooke died en route to Gallipoli and was buried in Skyros.) 'A Vision of Mud' is also about what happens to a body underground, but, in an act of imagination that is more immediately sensory than Brooke's, Saunders thinks about what it would feel like to drown in mud. Eyes, nose, mouth and ears fill with it; awareness is distorted. Mud pours into the body, making it swell and grow heavy. Then:

*I [discover] with what I think is disgust, that  
there are hundreds of other bodies  
bobbing about against me.  
They also tap me underneath.  
Every now and then one of these fellow-  
monstrosities bumps softly against me  
I should like to kill it.*

The muddy soup of bodies is overwhelming, inescapable, intolerable. Saunders may have lacked first-hand knowledge of the trenches, but she knew how to create a sticky, nightmarish vision that sucks the reader in.

Mary Borden, born in 1886, was an American heiress, who married an English brigadier and founded a field hospital, where she worked as a nurse close to the French Front. Borden's collection of stories and sketches, *The Forbidden Zone* (1929), is a graphic and phantasmagorical

depiction of her experiences in military medicine – experiences that led her to question her very nature:

*There are no men here, so why should I be  
a woman? There are heads and knees and  
mangled testicles. There are chests with  
holes as big as your fist, and pulpy thighs,  
shapeless; and stumps where legs once  
were fastened ... How could I be a woman  
and not die of it?*

In 1917, Borden wrote 'The Song of the Mud'. This poem records the 'invincible, inexhaustible' mud of the war zone, a mud that is as 'impertinent', 'intrusive', 'ubiquitous' and 'unwelcome' as any enemy. Like Saunders' mud, Borden's mud inexorably envelopes the living:

*This is the song of the mud, the obscene,  
the filthy, the putrid.  
The vast liquid grave of our Armies  
It has drowned our men  
Its monstrous distended belly reeks with the  
undigested dead.*

The mud might stand for the war itself – equally obscene and putrid – swallowing a generation. Engaging intensely with the physical environment of battle, Saunders and Borden thereby find a metaphor for it.

Saunders' and Borden's fine poems extend the traditional canon of trench poetry, and these are just two examples. There is an extraordinary wealth of First World War poetry – by combatants and conscientious objectors, by men and women, by writers from every corner of the globe. The centenary anniversaries are a marvellous opportunity to explore it.

Dr Kate McLoughlin is a Reader in Modern Literature at Birkbeck.





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**THE POVERTY  
AND WORKING  
LIVES OF OLDER  
PEOPLE IN INDIA**

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## Dr Penny Vera-Sanso's ground-breaking research and photography exhibition about older workers in southern India has reached an audience of thousands and influenced policy

Two research projects in Chennai, capital of the state of Tamil Nadu in India, have uncovered the major contribution made by older people to the Indian economy.

Between 2007 and 2013, Dr Vera-Sanso and her collaborators at the Centre for Law, Policy and Human Rights Studies in Chennai carried out research in five low-income settlements in the city. Their research showed that the assumed tradition of family support for older people does not exist in poorer families, as families, including older people themselves, prioritise education of the youngest generation.

Dr Vera-Sanso's findings demonstrated the need for a policy framework focusing on older people's rights and choices, including a new approach to pensions, and caught the attention of policy makers and activists. Social pensions in Tamil Nadu rose by 125% between 2010 and 2011. In 2012 a campaign network, the Pension Parishad, was set up, making pensions a key issue in Indian national politics, and between 2010 and 2012 a leading international non-governmental organisation, HelpAge International, developed a new agenda on livelihood security.

The projects were part of the UK New Dynamics of Ageing Programme, an eight-year, £21m initiative funded by five UK research councils. Professor Alan Walker, Director of the programme, said: "Penny Vera-Sanso's project on South India was the smallest in budget but, so far, has had the largest impact".

By examining the resource and labour flows within family networks, and older people's paid and unpaid work, Dr Vera-Sanso demonstrated that their labour helps families to bridge the gap between declining real incomes and inadequate government services. She found that older people's work plays a significant role in India's national economy, by expanding the workforce and keeping costs down. This is because older people take on the unpaid and low-paid work that younger people are no longer willing to do.

Older people provide low-cost inputs to industry and low-cost services to workers, and their paid and unpaid caring and domestic work



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**Older people's work plays a significant role in India's national economy, by expanding the workforce and keeping costs down.**  
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Left: At Parry's Flower Market, Chennai, a porter carries flowers to the rickshaw stand for flower vendors  
Above: The exhibition of photographs attracts an audience in Delhi during a five-day rally calling for a universal pension in India

underpins a chain of women that ends with women working for the global market in IT services, pharmaceuticals and others.

Further, as the final point in the distribution network of vegetables, fruit, flowers and milk, older vendors play a critical role in linking the agricultural economy to the urban economy.

From the start, Dr Vera-Sanso and her collaborators undertook innovative projects to extend the scope of their research beyond the 800 households studied in the five Chennai slums.

A photo survey of other Chennai workers resulted in a photo essay, 'We're Still Working!', which was exhibited in Chennai, Delhi, London and Dublin between 2009 and 2013 – and was widely reported in the Indian media.

This led to their two documentaries, *We're Still Working* and *The Forgotten Generation*, shot in rural Rajasthan, tribal Maharashtra and Chennai, and also to a national photo competition in the summer of 2013 on the working elderly undertaken with *The Hindu*, one of India's most widely read newspapers.

Dr Vera-Sanso said: "The photo competition turned into a people's project that produced a permanent online gallery of nearly 3,000 photographs of older people working across the length and breadth of India, and garnered over 34,000 public votes. Our innovative methods of research, engagement and dissemination played an important role in raising awareness, and spurred a national debate in India on the widespread nature of older people's work, their lack of rights as workers and the need for a meaningful pension."

Dr Penny Vera-Sanso is a Lecturer in Development Studies and Social Anthropology at Birkbeck. She was Principal Investigator for the research projects *Ageing, Poverty and Neoliberalism in Urban South India, 2007-10* and *Ageing and Poverty: The Working Lives of Older People in India, 2012-13*.

For more information about the photography competition in *The Hindu*, visit <http://bit.ly/16QqQrT>

# UNDERSTANDING HAPPINESS

Work, marriage, youth and old age are all keys to well-being, according to emerging research from a multi-country study

Economists like to quantify things. However, while measuring concepts like income and prices is relatively easy, measuring more subjective concepts – like happiness and well-being – is more challenging and is often sidelined.

A three-year project involving distinguished Birkbeck economist Professor Ron Smith is now helping to redress this imbalance, by assessing the relationship between the ‘capabilities approach’ (developed by Nobel prize-winning economist Professor Amartya Sen) and subjective well-being.

Professor Smith’s foray into such an important research area was born out of serendipity, proving the value of academics investigating new disciplines or interests outside their original specialism. He was the second supervisor for Dr Graham Hunter, a Birkbeck alumnus (MSc Economics, 2001), who completed his PhD on happiness and capabilities at the Open University with Professor Paul Anand.

Professor Smith advised on the econometrics required by Dr Hunter to analyse the British Household Panel Survey, which asked questions about both happiness and capabilities. This experience whetted Professor Smith’s appetite for more research and led to his involvement in the current project, called ‘Capabilities and Human Well-being’, which is led by Professor Anand and funded by £200,000 from the Leverhulme Trust.

Professor Smith emphasised the necessity of the research by highlighting the limitations of conventional thinking about happiness. He said: “Economists have traditionally assumed that individuals maximised their utility, and that the main source of utility was the pleasure they got from the goods and services they consumed. How much they could consume was largely determined by their income – the resources available to them. Thus many people tended to assume that utility, happiness or well-being could be equated with the resources available – namely income and wealth.”

Extending this traditional view to national-level data involves using Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – the main measure of the income of a country – and is problematic for many reasons.

Professor Smith added: “GDP is a very bad measure of well-being and has been subject to a lot of criticism, including from the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress established by former French President Nicholas Sarkozy and chaired by Professors Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussi. The problem with GDP is that it ignores a lot of things. It ignores the distribution of income, and distribution is very important for well-being. It ignores non-market activity, and environmental effects like pollution. If I’m stuck in traffic, for example, this is good for GDP as my car is consuming fuel, but bad for the environment, my well-being and that of others.”

The ‘utility approach’ was challenged by Professor Sen’s much more comprehensive ‘capabilities approach’, which emphasises the importance of capabilities, freedoms and rights – what people can do, rather than what they actually do, their activity or functioning. For instance, starving and fasting may look similar in terms of functioning – not eating – but they are quite different. The person fasting can eat but chooses not to for health or religious reasons; the person starving does not have that choice or capability. Therefore, a person who fasts is better off because they can eat, even if they choose not to eat.

The ‘capabilities approach’ led to the creation of the United Nations’ Human Development Index, which reflects average life expectancy, education and the income of a country.

Professor Smith is now involved in the final year of the three-year project to assess the value of the capabilities approach and how it relates to subjective well-being.

Approximately 3,800 people have been surveyed – including 1,000 each in the US, the

UK and Italy – as part of the research. They have been asked a range of questions, which cover all three aspects of the capabilities approach: what they can do, what they actually do and their reported well-being; as well as other socio-demographic and personality characteristics. The questions include ones like:

- Are you able to socialise?
- Does your health limit your activities?
- Are you able to have children?
- Are you free to practise your religious and political views?
- How safe do you feel going home at night?

Although the analysis has not been completed, some findings confirm earlier research: marriage, work and good relationships all increase happiness.

Professor Smith said: “The ability to interact with others is crucial to well-being. Also, being unemployed is one of the worst things that can happen.”

Some counter-intuitive results have been spotted as well: old people are happy; and being a parent makes you unhappy, because of the time and effort required to care for children.

Professor Smith said: “One well-known case where capabilities decrease and happiness tends to increase is with age. There is a lot of evidence that there is a U-shaped pattern in relation to happiness throughout a person’s life. The young and old are fairly happy, but the middle-aged are miserable.”

Above all, Professor Smith stressed the importance of context with regard to reported happiness. People of certain nationalities are known to be happier than others, and some people are naturally cheerful, while others tend to be miserable. Although there are exciting emerging findings, there is still a degree of mystery regarding what makes us happy and why.

Ron Smith is Professor of Applied Economics at Birkbeck. The ‘Capabilities and Human Well-being’ research project will be completed in 2015.

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There is a lot of evidence that there is a U-shaped pattern in relation to happiness throughout a person's life. The young and old are fairly happy, but the middle-aged are miserable.



# LONDON'S CHANGING POPULATION

**White Britons are now a minority in the capital and national identity is increasingly multifaceted, according to Professor Eric Kaufmann**

**D**emographic research rarely dominates the headlines, but the comparison of the last two censuses has proved to be an exception. From *The Daily Mail* to *The Huffington Post*, Professor Eric Kaufmann was quoted extensively when he released his findings about London's population.

Professor Kaufmann's analysis showed that the proportion of white Britons in London's population fell from 58% to 45% between 2001 and 2011. During the same period, the share of ethnic minorities reached 40%.

The media were fixated by the concept of 'white flight' to explain the fact that 600,000 white Britons left the capital in a decade. However, Professor Kaufmann is anxious to explain that the decline in the white British population – both in relative and absolute numbers – is not the result of a new phenomenon of 'white flight', but the consequence of long-term demographic trends. He describes how, ever since the late nineteenth century, more people have migrated out of London than in, as people have prospered. This pattern was offset by the surplus of births over deaths in the capital until the Second World War. London's population then declined from 1939 to the 1990s by more than a million. Since the 1990s, London's population has grown, largely

due to immigration.

Professor Kaufmann said: "I would not call it 'white flight', that is white British people being uncomfortable and therefore leaving London. The white British are migrating at historic rates and the ethnic minorities are not. Ethnic minorities and those that are not white British are considerably less inclined to leave London, and it is that gap that has driven a lot of ethnic change in the capital."

The ethnic composition of London is set to continue to change in future, especially because of the age profile of the population, with higher proportions of white British residents among older people and more people from ethnic minorities among younger age groups.

The effects of this unprecedented demographic change in London are profound, and have widespread implications for community cohesion and identity. National politics are affected as well, especially as experiences at local level in relation to immigration influence voting patterns. Consequently, there is significant interest in Professor Kaufmann's ongoing 18-month, £197,000 research project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

One of the opportunities to discuss this research was the 'Diversity and the White



**Above:** Commuters wait for London buses at Victoria Station (Getty Images)



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**In many cases, people from ethnic minorities have a stronger attachment to Britain than white British people, who tend to be orientated towards England or Wales, for example.**

Working Class’ conference, organised by Birkbeck and the think-tank Demos in April 2013. In addition to Professor Kaufmann, other speakers included Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, and Gavin Barwell, Conservative MP for Croydon Central.

Professor Kaufmann said: “There is a lot of public policy interest and interest from politicians for a whole series of reasons. Part of it is the whole crisis in the white working class – a traditional base for the Labour Party, but whose votes are increasingly going elsewhere. For the white working class in Britain there is a sense of alienation, and immigration in particular is a big issue. There is also a lot of interest in the question of national identity and integration.”

Interestingly, while there is a perception that white British culture is under threat, Professor Kaufmann says that people from ethnic

minority backgrounds are increasingly able to successfully combine their multiple identities with their ethnicity, nationality and locale. As a Canadian who has lived in Britain for more than 20 years, he also knows something about multiple identities.

Professor Kaufmann added: “In many cases, people from ethnic minorities have a stronger attachment to Britain than white British people, who tend to be orientated towards England or Wales, for example. A hyphenated British identity seems to work quite well. You can be Pakistani and British quite easily.”

Encouragingly, the white British population in ethnically diverse areas is more tolerant, because of increased contact with people from different backgrounds.

The policy recommendations from these insights are still being developed, but thoughts so far favour avoiding housing or schooling

decisions that accelerate white British departure from diverse neighbourhoods.

Professor Kaufmann is also against forcing or incentivising ethnic minorities to be dispersed across Britain, or into rural areas. He says that ethnic minorities initially opt for the support structures of their own communities in large cities, and that moving people of ethnic backgrounds into predominantly white British areas can be problematic for both sides.

Professor Kaufmann encourages a broad and personalised interpretation of what it means to be British. He added: “There should be flexibility. As long as there are certain things in common, everyone may see Britain through their own lenses and that provides a unity in itself. Not only can you have multiple identities, but you can have multiple versions of the national identity.”

Eric Kaufmann is Professor of Politics at Birkbeck. The final report based on the *Diversity and the White Working Class* research project will be launched in March 2014.

 Listen to a podcast interview with Eric Kaufmann at: [www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeck/voices/episode14](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeck/voices/episode14)



# Battling tuberculosis

A Birkbeck study reveals how existing drugs may be key to developing new tuberculosis treatments

Every year, over two million people worldwide still die from tuberculosis (TB).

TB is a serious public health threat worldwide, due to an alarming increase in the rates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains that are resistant to current drug treatments.

In May 2013, Dr Sanjib Bhakta published a study in the *British Medical Journal*, which looked at whether common medicines, such as ibuprofen, could play a role in the development of new anti-TB drug treatments.

The disease is difficult to treat, because patients need to follow at least a six-month daily course of chemotherapy, and in cases of multi-drug-resistant strains, effective treatment can take up to two years. Failure to complete the full course leads to increasingly drug-resistant strains of the disease developing.

There are now several strains that are multi-drug resistant – and a few defined as being totally drug resistant, meaning that treatment with current therapies is not possible. No new antibiotics have been developed since the 1960s, and TB treatments have focused on new combinations of the existing drugs.

Dr Bhakta said: “Efforts to develop new drug compounds have not yet been successful. As a result, there has recently been a renewed interest in re-purposing existing drugs for the treatment of infectious diseases. This also offers the advantage that we already have information about their pharmacological profiles and safety for use in humans, which can save time and resources in developing treatments which can safely be delivered to patients on a large scale.”

Dr Bhakta and his research group used an innovative screening technique known as the HT-SPOTi technique, which was developed by the Mycobacteria Research Laboratory, to assess whether ibuprofen and its chemical analogues

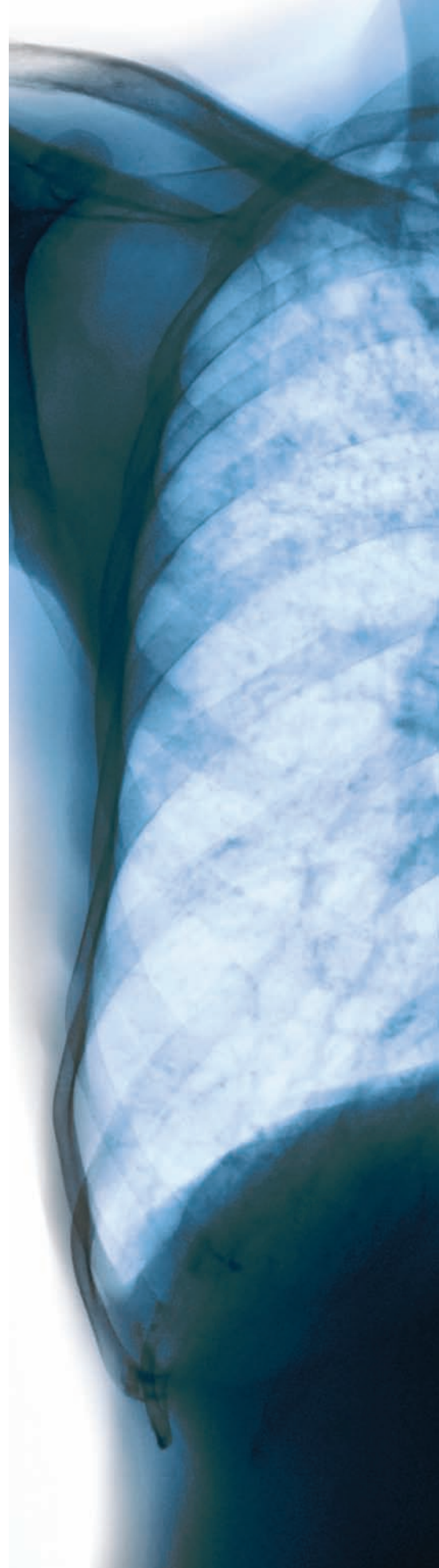
were effective at attacking the TB pathogen. They tested a number of over-the-counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including ibuprofen, carprofen (currently used in veterinary medicine) and a synthetic derivative of ibuprofen. Dr Bhakta has described this group of drugs as “one of the safest over-the-counter drugs available – including for children”.

The research team tested the ibuprofen and other compounds against replicating, non-replicating and drug-resistant forms of the TB-causing bacteria grown *in vitro*. *In vitro* testing provides the bacteria with optimum growth conditions, without the immune responses that would be provoked by a host cell infection. The results showed for the first time that ibuprofen, carprofen and the ibuprofen derivative were all effective at specifically killing the TB pathogen.

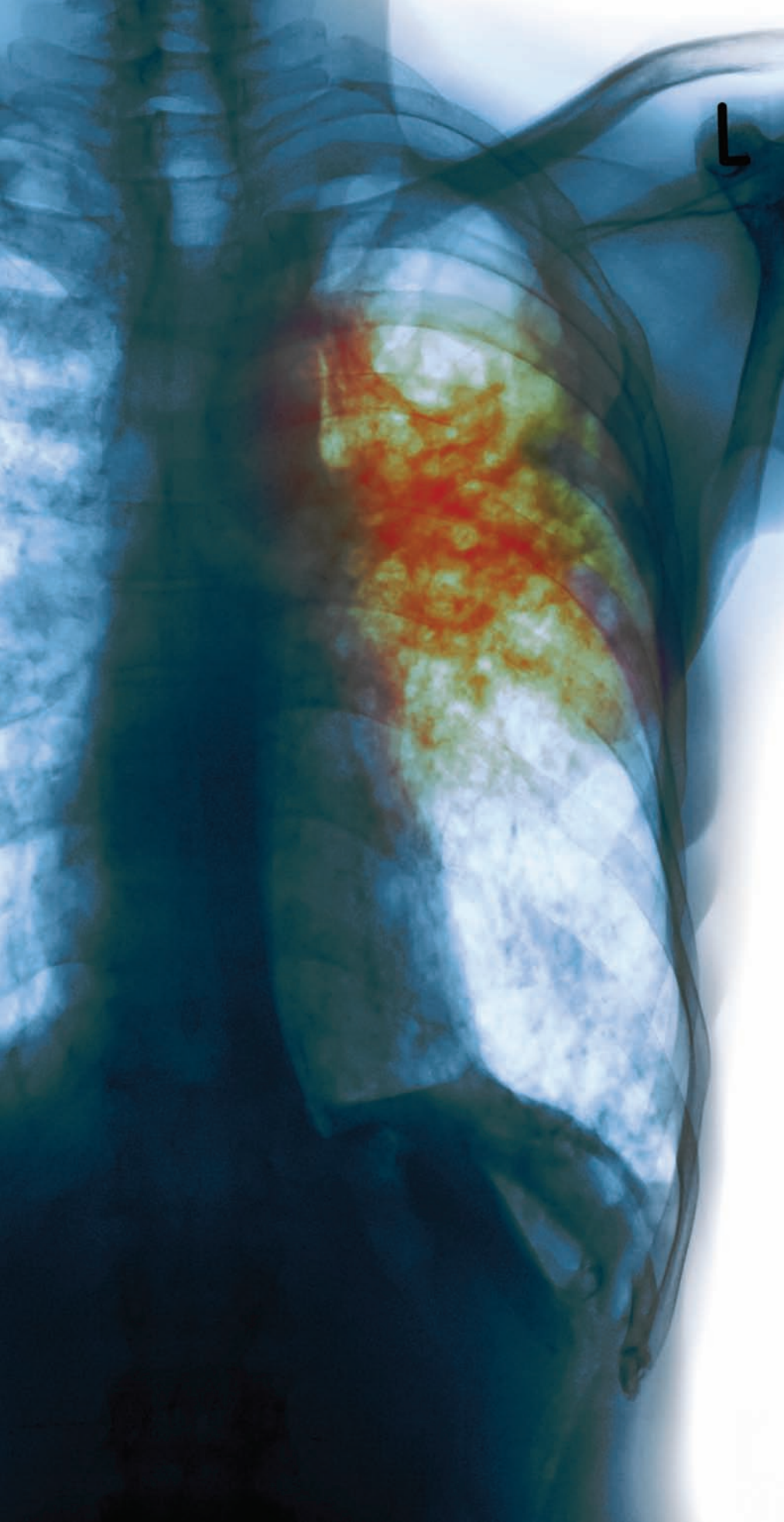
“Other research groups have shown that these compounds are also effective at treating TB in mice,” said Dr Bhakta. “However, *in vitro* testing enables us to focus on endogenous mechanisms of action of this group of over-the-counter medicines that exist within the TB pathogen.”

By targeting several types of bacterial pathogens, including TB, with the same compounds, the team was able to ascertain that the antibiotic properties displayed by ibuprofen and the other compounds are specifically anti-TB, rather than being effective against a broad spectrum of bacteria.

Using an interdisciplinary approach, the research team now hopes to identify the specific molecular target within the TB pathogen that the compounds interact with, and the biological process which it interrupts in order to inhibit the pathogen’s growth. In further tests, the team found that administering ibuprofen and its analogues in combination with existing antibiotics provoked an even higher death rate in







Left: Coloured X-ray of the chest of a male patient with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB). The affected areas of the lungs are red. (Science Photo Library)

the bacteria than if either of the drugs were used alone, opening up the possibility of new combination therapies for TB.

The team also found that ibuprofen and its analogues can successfully target both active and dormant TB cells. Dr Bhakta added: “When in the active state, TB bacteria are multiplying within the host and causing disease – and this is the state when treatment is normally initiated. In around 70% of all TB infection cases, the host cells spontaneously heal in response to initial invasion by the pathogen. In 90% of the remaining cases, a complex host immune response triggers the TB pathogen to enter a dormant state, in which cells do not multiply, but remain fully viable. Around one-third of the world’s population is believed to carry the dormant TB bacteria – and these can become active at any time. Therefore, developing treatments for dormant TB would eliminate the chances of regular reactivation cases reported worldwide and is an exciting area for further investigation.”

With TB cases in the UK now almost on a par with levels in the whole of the US, at around 9,000 new cases per year, controlling TB infections represents a pressing challenge for both the UK government and international health bodies such as the World Health Organization, which issues regular reports on global infections.

Dr Bhakta and his team’s work represents an important new avenue of research, which will further our understanding of this global killer, and might well lead to effective new treatments that could save millions of lives.

Dr Sanjib Bhakta is Senior Lecturer in Microbiology and Director of the Mycobacteria Research Laboratory in the Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology at Birkbeck and UCL.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand resting on the spine of an old, worn book. The book is bound in dark brown leather and has a thick, aged wooden cover. The hand is positioned with fingers slightly spread, resting on the top edge of the book. The background is softly blurred, showing a wooden surface and a person wearing a light-colored, striped shirt. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the textures of the book and the skin.

# INSIDE THE CROWN COURT

Researchers Dr Jessica Jacobson,  
Gillian Hunter and Amy Kirby discuss  
their recent work on the experiences  
of victims, witnesses and defendants  
at the Crown Court



**Defendants who had never been to court before articulated similar fears and concerns to those expressed by witnesses – with the additional anxiety about their likely sentence and, in some cases, about the possibility of press coverage of the trial and their identification in the media.**

We tend to think of the criminal court as a place where ‘what really happened’ is established. In fact, court proceedings are a highly ritualised process of managing conflict between alleged wrongdoers and those allegedly wronged, in which the ‘truth’ often remains unknown and unknowable.

The process itself entails a highly ritualised public performance, within which elaborate formality coincides with informality; matters of the utmost seriousness are dealt with alongside the most trivial and mundane issues; and an emphasis on objective ‘facts’ is subverted by a dependence on subjective interpretations.

Our study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, aimed to understand what it is like to appear in Crown Court as victim, witness or defendant, and what factors determine whether proceedings are seen as fair and legitimate by the participants.

Fieldwork, conducted in two Crown Courts, included in-depth interviews with 90 victims, defendants and witnesses, observations of trials and sentencing hearings, and 55 interviews with court staff, judges and barristers. By these means, we assessed victims’, defendants’ and witnesses’ comprehension of court proceedings, how fair they perceived the proceedings to be, how respectfully they felt they were treated by the courts, and the significance they accorded to proceedings and the trial outcome.

Court proceedings are often characterised by an intermingling of incongruous elements and a degree of chaos. And yet, the vast majority of witnesses, victims and defendants conform with the expectations and social rules of the process.

This ‘reluctant conformity’ seems to reflect an implicit belief in the legitimacy of proceedings. Verdicts or sentences thought to be unfair can undermine, but tend not to erase, the perceived legitimacy of the court process.

Our interviews with witnesses found that attending court can be terrifying, humiliating, upsetting or frustrating; and many aspects of the process can be difficult to understand.

Most witnesses were anxious about meeting the defendant or the possibility of reprisals for giving evidence. Despite this, they tended to go to court voluntarily, citing their motivation as being a sense of duty to protect others from victimisation or to secure justice for themselves and others. Chance encounters with defendants did occur, and were reported as being one of the most distressing aspects of the witness experience.

Defendants who had never been to court before articulated similar fears and concerns to those expressed by witnesses – with the additional anxiety about their likely sentence and, in some cases, about the possibility of press coverage of the trial and their identification in the media.

Those defendants who had been to court previously seemed to be much more resigned to the process – “You do the crime; you do the time.” Variants of this undoubtedly hackneyed phrase were uttered by some defendant respondents, and seemed to imply at least some belief that the courts are justified in punishing those who break society’s laws.

Waiting characterised the court experience for both witnesses and defendants. This included lengthy waits for the case to come to court, then while at court to give evidence and sometimes for sentencing. There was often little warning to attend court or, conversely, late notice that a trial had been postponed; and the reasons for delays were not always explained. Representation in court was also highlighted.

Some witnesses misunderstood the role of prosecution barrister, and thought that he or she was acting on their behalf. This, alongside limited or no contact with the prosecution barrister, heightened witnesses’ feelings of

marginalisation and a sense that the defendant was getting a better deal.

Defendants, for their part, exhibited a ‘passive acceptance’, and to some extent, apathy towards process and outcome.

While many defendants did not give evidence at trial, witnesses were most nervous about cross-examination; the formal language posed difficulties, and witnesses were appreciative of judges’ interventions to ensure that they understood a barrister’s questioning or to prevent aggressive questioning. There was also frustration about how testimony or ‘their story’ was inhibited by rules about admissibility of evidence.

Engagement in the process is crucial to build confidence in the criminal justice system and to create a sense of genuine access to justice. Overall, witnesses and defendants reported being treated respectfully at court; and it is clear that this helped to mitigate many of the difficulties and stresses associated with court attendance.

Witnesses clearly valued the support made available to them, such as: the provision of separate waiting areas, away from the defendant; court familiarisation visits; the Witness Service; and ‘special measures’ to help those who are vulnerable to give evidence.

However, there remains scope for this support to be enhanced; and for witnesses and defendants to be better informed about court processes.

Findings are presented in our report *Out of the Shadows*, published by the national charity Victim Support in 2013, and in our forthcoming book *Inside Crown Court: Personal Perspectives and Legitimacy* (Policy Press), which will be published in October 2014.

Dr Jessica Jacobson, Gillian Hunter and Amy Kirby are researchers at the Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck.



# BIRKBECK BOOKS

## 2012–2013

A selection of titles authored  
or edited by staff and students

### Story of a Death Foretold: The Coup against Salvador Allende, 11 September 1973

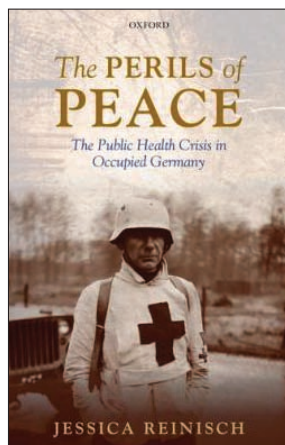
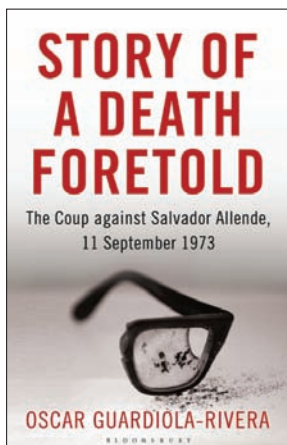
Oscar Guardiola-Rivera, Bloomsbury  
On 11 September 1973, President Salvador Allende of Chile, Latin America's first democratically elected Marxist president, was deposed in a violent *coup d'état*. Why Allende seemed such a threat in the political and economic context of the time and how the coup was engineered is the story told by Dr Guardiola-Rivera, Senior Lecturer in Law, who draws on sources including phone transcripts and documents released as recently as 2008. It is a radical retelling of a moment in history that shocked the world and continues to resonate today.

### Hauntings: Psychoanalysis and Ghostly Transmissions

Stephen Frosh, Palgrave Macmillan  
Stephen Frosh, Pro-Vice-Master for Research and Professor of Psychology, shows how the present is troubled by the past and by the future. He uses the idea of haunting to explore psychoanalytically how identities, beliefs, intimacies and hatreds are transmitted across generations and between people. He demonstrates how past oppressions return, demanding acknowledgement and reparation, and explores how recognition and forgiveness can arise from this.

### Student Financing of Higher Education: A Comparative Perspective

Donald Heller and Claire Callender (eds), Routledge  
The financing of higher education is undergoing great change around the world. Many countries are moving from a system where the costs of funding higher education are shouldered primarily by taxpayers, through government subsidies, to one where students pay a larger share of the costs. Political and macroeconomic factors are driving these trends,

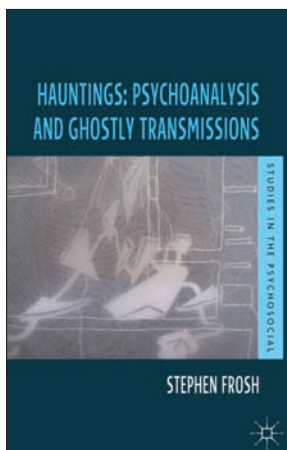


along with the push for massification of higher education. Co-edited by Claire Callender, Professor of Higher Education Policy, this volume provides a global picture of the rapidly changing situation, contributing to an understanding of how these trends occur and the impact they have on higher education institutions, students and society.

### Land Law Reform in Eastern Africa: Traditional or Transformative? A critical review of 50 years of land law reform in Eastern Africa 1961–2011

Patrick McAuslan, Routledge  
In a culmination of over 50 years of working in this area, Patrick McAuslan, Professor of Law, reviews development and changes in the statutory land laws of seven countries in Eastern Africa from 1961 to 2011.

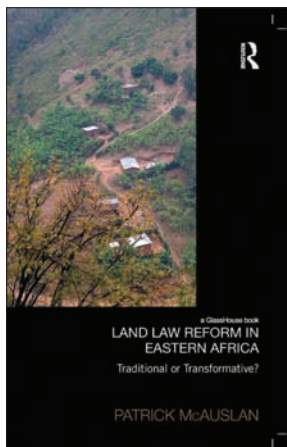
He provides an in-depth and critical survey of the reforms introduced into each country from 1990 onwards, and argues that the overall effect of reforms has been to maintain colonial approaches to land laws and land administration. The colonial policy was to move towards land markets, individualisation of land tenure and the demise of customary tenure.



### The Perils of Peace: The Public Health Crisis in Occupied Germany

Jessica Reinisch, Oxford University Press

In 1945, Germany was a country with no government, little functioning infrastructure, millions of refugees and homeless people, and huge foreign armies living largely off the land. Hospitals overflowed with patients, but were short of beds, medicines and medical personnel. Public health was recognised as an indispensable component of creating order and facilitating the reconstruction of German society. Dr Jessica Reinisch, Senior Lecturer in European History, considers how the four occupiers –



**My Lovecraft edition was spawned in unholy laboratories of my BA class on the Gothic and my MA class on modern Horror. Birkbeck students will take any fiction we throw at them and always generate amazing insights and splendid debate. It's the perfect fusion of teaching and research.**

**Professor Roger Luckhurst**

Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States – attempted to keep their own troops and the ex-enemy population alive. She uses the public health problem as a powerful lens through which to reflect on the post-war period.

**The Classic Horror Stories: HP Lovecraft**

Roger Luckhurst (ed), Oxford University Press  
In this new selection of Lovecraft's core 'classic' fiction, editor Roger Luckhurst, Professor of Modern Literature, brings together in one volume Lovecraft's most representative and influential tales. This is the first collection to provide a full contextual introduction, which explores the meaning of 'weird fiction' and offers a balanced assessment of the author's place in relation to the Gothic tradition and American fiction in the 1920s and 1930s. Lovecraft's influence extends from Jorge Luis Borges to Stephen King, the films of the *Alien* series and the fantasy cinema of Guillermo del Toro.

**Queer 1950s: Rethinking Sexuality in the Postwar Years**

Heike Bauer and Matt Cook (eds), Palgrave Macmillan  
This collection brings together scholars from across the humanities in a fresh examination of queer lives, cultures and thought in the first post-war decade. Through explorations of sexuality, literature, film, oral testimony, newspapers and court records, Dr Bauer, Senior Lecturer in English Literature and Gender Studies, and Dr Cook, Senior Lecturer in History and Gender Studies, nuance understandings of the period, and make a case for the particularity of queer lives in different national contexts, while

also marking the transnational movement of people and ideas.

**Philosophy and Resistance in the Crisis: Greece and the Future of Europe**

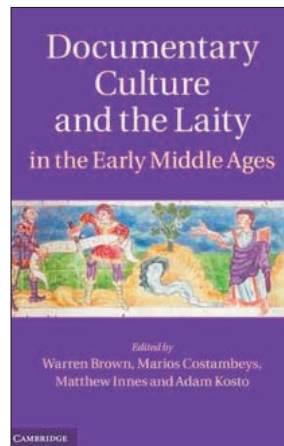
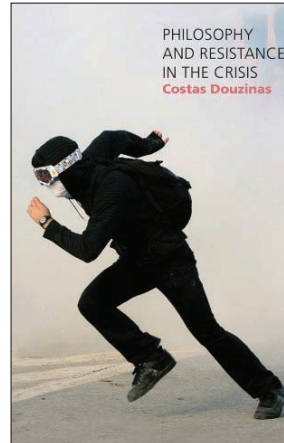
Costas Douzinas, Polity Press  
Professor of Law, Costas Douzinas, writes about the global crisis and the right to resistance, about neoliberal biopolitics and direct democracy, about the responsibility of intellectuals and the poetry of the multitude.

Using Greece as an example, he argues that the persistent sequence of protests, uprisings and revolutions has radically changed the political landscape. This new politics is the latest example of the drive to resist – a persevering characteristic of the human spirit. The EU and the IMF used Greece as a guinea pig to test the conditions of social reconstruction in times of crisis. But the manifold resistances turned the object of experimentation into a political subject and overturned the plans of elites.

**Documentary Culture and the Laity in the Early Middle Ages**

Matthew Innes, Warren Brown, Marios Costambeys and Adam Kosto (eds), Cambridge University Press  
Many more documents survive from the early Middle Ages than from the Roman Empire. Although ecclesiastical archives may account for the dramatic increase in the number of surviving documents, this new investigation, co-edited by Matthew Innes, Professor of History, reveals the scale and spread of documentary culture beyond the Church.

Throughout Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, people at all social levels – whether laity or



clergy, landowners or tenants, farmers or royal functionaries – needed, used and kept documents. The story of documentary culture in the early medieval world emerges not as one of its capture by the Church, but rather of a response adopted by those who needed documents, as they reacted to a changing legal, social and institutional landscape.

**The Mechanics' Institute Review**  
Birkbeck students, MA Creative Writing, Birkbeck

This literary anthology, produced, edited and published by students on Birkbeck's MA Creative Writing programme, celebrates its tenth anniversary, by showcasing the brightest emerging talent at Birkbeck alongside new work from award-winning authors Evie Wyld, Adam Marek, Colin Grant and Jackie Kay. The collection takes the reader around the globe: a quest across Cyprus, a mission to India, segregation in South Africa, adolescence in Australia. Each story offers a unique perspective on the world and our place in it.

**Investigations into Living Systems, Artificial Life and Real-World Solutions**

George Magoulas, Information Science Reference  
Research on living systems, human-level artificial systems, and machines that exhibit intelligent behavioural characteristics is fundamental to tackling complex and dynamic issues in nature and creating applicable solutions. George Magoulas, Professor of Computer Science, provides original research on the theoretical and applied aspects of artificial life, and addresses scientific, psychological and social issues.



# OUR COMMUNITY OUR STUDENTS

## Chris Corbin (right)

Certificate of Higher Education in History of Art/Restaurateur

“I found the gallery visits incredibly revealing, as standing in front of a picture with your fellow students and discussing it is a very good way to measure your connoisseurship. I was pleased to discover that I had become more discerning and a better judge of what art means, as a result of my studies.

“You begin to see things in everyday life which you respond to differently, because of what you’ve learned.

“I think that Birkbeck is terrific. It was originally set up as an institution offering adult education on a part-time basis, and that is exactly what it achieves to this day. If you enrol at Birkbeck to learn about a new subject or area, you will achieve what you’re looking for, as long as you’re prepared to put in the work.”

## Natalie Jackson (centre, right)

BSc Economics and Social Policy/  
Actuarial analyst, Bank of England

“I was studying alongside professionals who were already working in the City, had their own companies or worked for government. I found that really useful, as I got to network with these older people who had a lot more experience than me.

“It was actually one of my classmates who advised me that, with the skills I had, I would make a good actuary. When I was going to interviews, they would advise me. To have experienced people who can point you in the right direction is very helpful.



“While I was studying, a lot of the things that we were learning about at Birkbeck were really useful in my job. It helped me to understand how my role fitted into the broader picture and the context that I was working within. I definitely don’t think I could have done my job the way I do without studying at Birkbeck.”

## Jimmy Marlow (far right)

BA Spanish and Latin American Studies/Painter and decorator

“I found the course really hard going to begin with, as I had left school at 16 with few qualifications. With support from the tutors – and a little perseverance – I improved greatly and learnt to really enjoy the process.

“The course was a real eye-opener for me. Not only did I learn Spanish, I learnt how to look at everything in a different way. I enjoy films, books and art so much more after my course, and constantly find myself asking ‘why has the author, director or artist decided

“ ”  
**You begin to see things in everyday life which you respond to differently, because of what you’ve learned.**

**Chris Corbin**



For more student profiles, visit:  
[www.bbk.ac.uk/student-profiles](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-profiles)

“I’ve already recommended Birkbeck to friends and colleagues. I’m definitely a Birkbeck ambassador.

“If I had been studying during the day, then I wouldn’t have been able to do the internship during my final year of study. Having both a well-respected degree and the work experience as well meant that I stood out during the recruitment process for the graduate scheme.







“ ”  
**The support from the tutors and lecturers was really good. I would not be studying my PhD now if it was not for my studies at Birkbeck.**  
**Vicky Garfield**



“ ”  
**I've already recommended Birkbeck to friends and colleagues.**  
**Natalie Jackson**

to produce their work like this?  
 “The Library is also excellent. I spent a lot of time there. My friends and family were really proud when I finished my degree. My brother, who also left school at 16, is now applying to study at Birkbeck, inspired by my experience there. I feel very proud to have completed my degree and to be a Birkbeck graduate.”

**Merlyne Yolamu (below, left)**  
 MSc Public Policy and Management  
 “I broke my leg three months into the course and I required two operations. At one point, I didn't think that I would be able to complete the course, but I spoke to my tutor and she said that they would help me to continue. The level of support that they gave me was really overwhelming and beyond anything that I could have imagined. Also, the relationship that I built with the other students was marvellous.  
 “In Malawi, we have been transferring policies to our country from other countries, but we needed specialists who could analyse the policies before they were implemented. I am now able to understand why policies succeed or fail, and will be able to undertake feasibility studies and take into account the local environment, resources and other variables. This course has given me the confidence to know that I can really deliver in this area.  
 “My experience in London has been an eye-opener. I have enjoyed it and I don't have any regrets whatsoever. I'm really happy, but I owe it to Birkbeck – they made everything possible for me.”

**Vicky Garfield (above)**  
 BSc Psychology  
 “It was difficult combining work and study, but the benefits definitely outweighed the disadvantages. Your social life suffers, but being able to work and study at the same time is beneficial. The teaching style was very interactive and encouraged interesting discussions. The support from the



“ ”  
**With support from the tutors I improved greatly and learnt to really enjoy the process.**  
**Jimmy Marlow**

tutors and lecturers was really good. I would not be studying my PhD now, if it was not for my studies at Birkbeck.  
 “Many of the students were older than your traditional school leavers, and came from very different backgrounds. All of my friends who have studied at Birkbeck are now successful. I have stayed in touch with both friends and academics at Birkbeck.”

# OUR COMMUNITY NEW FELLOWS



Dr Paul Brickell (above) is Executive Director of Regeneration and Community Partnerships for the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC). He trained as a molecular biologist, and set up and led a research group at University College London (UCL), studying embryonic development and leukaemia. From 1995 to 2002 he was Professor of Molecular Hematology at the Institute of Child Health at Great Ormond Street Hospital, UCL, where he established a highly successful interdisciplinary childhood cancer research department.

Dr Brickell completed a career change in 2002 in order to contribute to the regeneration of his 'home town' of east London, first as Director of Regeneration and Chief Executive of the Bromley by Bow Centre and then as Chief Executive of Leaside Regeneration. In 2011, he joined the LLDC, whose task is to maximise the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games for east London.

He said: "I think what Birkbeck has done in Stratford with its new campus has been stunning. It is a tremendous

link to the hunger that George Birkbeck, the College founder, had for working people to have the chance to learn and further their careers. Having a university of the quality of Birkbeck on the doorstep in Stratford means people will cross the threshold – taking important steps to enable them to make new choices in their lives. Stratford has a sense of being pioneer country, and I also see Birkbeck like that; always adapting and experimenting and bringing new ideas. To be a part of that will be great."

John Middleton (below) is an independent management consultant. In his career he has delivered many large-scale and high-impact capital and revenue projects. In 2006 he joined the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation as the Head of Economic Development, having initially worked for them as a consultant. While there,

he became closely involved in the early discussions between Birkbeck and the University of East London about the possibility of developing a new campus in Stratford, east London.

More recently he was the Joint Chief Executive at The Legacy List, the mayoral charity for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, and from there became Principal Advisor to the London Legacy Development Corporation.

A one-time Vice-Principal of Newham Sixth Form College, Middleton has lived and worked in east London for 15 years. "I have been a strong advocate of the values and ethos of Birkbeck since I first became involved with the College," he said. "I left school with only one A-level, so to be invited to be a Fellow of Birkbeck 30 years later is an extraordinary, and very moving, thing to happen. As a Fellow, my strong wish is to continue to demonstrate the values of Birkbeck and



**Honorary Fellowships are awarded to individuals who have attained distinction in the arts, literature, science or public life; have rendered exceptional service, which may include philanthropic support, to Birkbeck; or who have, or have had, a close association with Birkbeck**



introduce these to my network and connections for many years to come.”

Professor Glaucius Oliva, President, Brazil National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, gained his PhD in Protein Crystallography from Birkbeck in 1988. See page 49 for a full profile of Professor Oliva.

Baroness Valentine of Putney (right) joined London First in 1997 as Managing Director, becoming its Chief Executive in 2003. The organisation’s aim is to make London the best city in the world in which to do business. It works closely with national and local government on the most pressing issues affecting the city’s economy.

Previously, Baroness Valentine worked in corporate finance and planning at Barings and at BOC Group. She established and ran The Blackburn Partnership, a public-private regeneration partnership, in 1988 and the Central London Partnership in 1995. She became a cross-bench peer in 2005 and was a National Lottery commissioner from 2000 to 2005. She

is a non-executive director of Peabody, and an Honorary Fellow of St Hugh’s College, Oxford.

She said: “For me, Birkbeck represents one of the great things about London, which is the opportunity the city offers to anyone who wants to improve their life through study. Obviously, for some, studying a particular subject is an essential stepping stone on their career path. But to my mind, one of the great benefits of the Birkbeck model of part-time studying while working is the chance for someone at any stage in their life to study simply for pleasure, or to satisfy their own intellectual curiosity.”

Sarah Weir OBE (above) is Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire’s Waddesdon Manor. Built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild as a private home and showcase for his extraordinary collection of decorative arts, the manor was gifted in 1957 to the National Trust, remaining under the stewardship of Lord Rothschild and his family. Leaving school at 16, Weir started her career in the Lloyd’s

insurance market, rising from office junior to become Lloyd’s first female managing director.

Following a move from business into the arts she worked at Purdy Hicks Gallery, Arts & Business and the Royal Academy of Arts. She was Executive Director of the Almeida Theatre, Executive Director of Arts Council England, Head of Arts and Cultural Strategy for the Olympic Delivery Authority and latterly Chief Executive of The Legacy List, the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park charity for arts, education and skills.

Weir has an OBE for services to the arts and a BA History of Art from Birkbeck. “The thing I am most proud of is having got my degree,” she said. “Birkbeck gave me confidence, it made me believe I had an intellectual ability I didn’t think I possessed and helped me gain a much broader way of learning. It taught me to think laterally, and I have used that ever since. Being invited to be a Fellow of Birkbeck is wonderful – I am just so honoured. In the current climate I think choosing to study for a degree is about adding more value to your life. Certainly for me, Birkbeck added more than having a degree – it changed my life.”



For profiles of all Birkbeck’s fellows, visit: [www.bbk.ac.uk/about-us/fellows](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/about-us/fellows)





# Labour's rising star

**Birkbeck alumna Luciana Berger MP is possibly only one election away from government office**

There seems to be no stopping Luciana Berger. Since being elected as an MP in 2010, she has swiftly risen through the ranks of the Labour Party.

Only five months after entering Parliament, Berger was appointed Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change. Three years later, in October 2013, she was promoted to the role of Shadow Minister for Public Health. Clearly, the next general election will be a key moment for the political career of the impressive, industrious and young MP.

Born in 1981, Berger grew up in Wembley, north-west London. Even as a child, she remembers Tory rule and has described it as a “nasty, spiteful, shameful period in our history”. Her motivation for her political work dates back to that era.

Berger was heavily involved in student politics and anti-racism campaigns at the National Union of Students when she was an undergraduate at the University of Birmingham, where she studied Commerce with Spanish.

However, without any formal political education, she felt the need for her political activism to be informed by the “theoretical backbone” of politics, and she decided to study an MSc in Government, Policy and Politics at Birkbeck. She completed the one-year, full-time postgraduate qualification in 2005. The course proved to be valuable for, and relevant to, her future political career, particularly the seminars about modern British politics, which covered the struggle for female representation in British democracy.

After completing her studies, Berger worked for the management

consultancy Accenture and the NHS Confederation, before becoming the Labour and Co-operative MP for Liverpool Wavertree in 2010 with a majority of 7,167. Since entering Parliament, Berger has worked hard and has campaigned on many issues, including against food poverty, on toughening up laws on dangerous dogs, and on the Green Deal energy efficiency scheme. According to the web site TheyWorkForYou.com, she has spoken in 80 debates in the past year – well above the average for MPs.

When asked about Birkbeck, Berger is overwhelmingly positive, praising the diversity of the student body, and the benefits of part-time study for the economy and individuals. She said: “Of all my academic experiences, Birkbeck was by far the best. I would definitely recommend Birkbeck to others. The opportunity it provides is unparalleled. At the end of the course, I was really wedded to the ‘at night we learn’ ethos that I perhaps didn’t really think about much before I applied.”



Listen to a podcast interview with Luciana Berger at: [www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode10](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode10)

# Eminent Brazilian scientist returns after three decades

Delivering the 2013 Bernal Lecture at the College, distinguished scientist Professor Glaucius Oliva declared that Birkbeck had changed his life.

It was a welcome return for Professor Oliva, who gained his PhD in protein crystallography in 1988 from Birkbeck, where he worked with the renowned scientist Sir Tom L Blundell, then Head of the Department of Crystallography (which has now been amalgamated into the Department of Biological Sciences).

Back at Birkbeck in May 2013, Professor Oliva outlined the work of his research group on major lethal global infectious diseases, including Chagas disease and schistosomiasis, during his lecture entitled 'From structural biology of neglected diseases to Brazilian science'.

He also spoke about: his memories of Birkbeck; enormous changes in Brazil, thanks to investments in science and technology; and his leadership of the prestigious Science without Borders programme, a £2bn Brazilian government initiative to enable young scientists to study abroad.

During his visit to Birkbeck, Professor Oliva said: "Birkbeck is where I started my scientific career. Many things have changed at Birkbeck since I arrived in 1984, but I received a very warm welcome, and when I say that Birkbeck changed my life, I wasn't aware that this is now a motto of the College!"

"The 1980s were a time when Brazil wanted to build up its science base, and to promote change in the country. Brazil sent many people abroad to pursue careers in science and we were here to learn everything we could."

Today, Professor Oliva is the President of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) Brazil and oversees the promotion and quality of science and technological research across Brazil. He leads a team of 80 researchers, including physicists, biologists and chemists. His main

## Studying at Birkbeck was a life-changing experience for Professor Glaucius Oliva. He is now helping other Brazilians study abroad through the Science without Borders programme

research interests are focused on the structure and function of biological macromolecules and their application to planning and development of new drugs, with particular emphasis on tropical and infectious diseases.

Since becoming President of CNPq in 2011, Professor Oliva has reinvigorated the country's programme of sending

students abroad.

Birkbeck's Department of Biological Sciences (as well as the former Department of Crystallography) has long-standing links with Brazil. In 2012 it was delighted to receive Dr Jose Luiz Lopes as one of three inaugural recipients of the Science without Borders fellowships in biochemistry/biophysics for postdoctoral research in the UK.



For more information about Science without Borders, visit: <http://sciencewithoutborders.international.ac.uk/>

Listen to a podcast recording of Professor Oliva at: [www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode9](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode9)





# Obituaries

## **Emeritus Professor John Cloudsley-Thompson (1921–2013)**

Emeritus Professor of Zoology

Born in 1921 at Murree in India (now in modern-day Pakistan), Dr Cloudsley-Thompson was stationed in North Africa in the Second World War. It was here that he began to develop a great interest in desert wildlife, and he adopted some of the native animals, including a baby fox – for which he had bartered with overripe bananas and some loose change.

He became a tank commander by the time he was 21 and went on to survive an ambush on his tank, in which all of his crew were injured or killed and which left him with a severe leg injury.

John came to Birkbeck in 1972 as Professor of Zoology. His motivation was simple: he was fascinated by animals and how they interacted with their environment. While at Birkbeck he was known to be not only a passionate teacher, but also a great listener, nurturing and engaging with his students, often sitting on a lab bench and chatting to students long after the lecture had finished. He would turn up to the College on his 70cc motorcycle, wearing a leather flying jacket, a helmet and goggles. On leaving Birkbeck in 1986, he became an Emeritus Professor.

Richard Griffiths, who was a PhD student under John's supervision from 1979 to 1983, remembers Professor Cloudsley-Thompson with great affection. He said: "He was an incredibly warm, kindly and modest man. He was a great inspiration to me and many others around the world. I know other students will also remember him with great affection."

"Through his studies of wildlife in the world's deserts, Cloudsley-Thompson did more than anyone to further our understanding of the extraordinary creatures that make their home in some of the harshest environments on





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# Biologist and raconteur John Attridge, inspirational teacher John Cloudsley-Thompson, and philosophy father-figure David Hamlyn are remembered by former colleagues

the planet. His main breakthrough was in understanding the process of desert erosion and in particular how fast the desert moves over the surrounding savannah grasslands.”

Paying tribute to “the Titan of the Sahara”, *The Guardian*’s obituary of Professor Cloudsley-Thompson called him “one of the last of the great adventurer-scientists of the mid-20th century – a man whose considerable exploits read like something out of a *Boys’ Own* adventure story.”

Professor Cloudsley-Thompson was a prolific writer, whose best-known works were *Zoology of Tropical Africa* (1969), *Insects and History* (1976) and *Tooth and Claw: Defensive Strategies in the Animal World* (1980). He was president of the British Arachnological Society, of the British Society for Chronobiology and of the British Herpetological Society. In 1993 he won the Peter Scott Memorial Award for outstanding services to our understanding of natural history.

## John Attridge (1930–2013)

First Head of Birkbeck’s  
Department of Biology

A much-loved former colleague and lecturer, John retired in 1987, having been a member of Birkbeck staff for more than 30 years. He was a Fulbright Scholar, coming to Birkbeck from St Andrews in 1956 as a senior lecturer in zoology and serving as the last Head of the Zoology Department and the first Head of the new Biology Department.

John Attridge was also: Chairman

of the Board of Examiners for the University of London External System’s BSc Degree in Zoology; President of the Senior Common Room; and President of the Tetrapods Club, a club for palaeontologists and anatomists that dates back to the era of nineteenth-century biologist Thomas Huxley.

Dr David Havill, a lecturer in biology at Birkbeck since 1974, was a close friend. He said: “John was a palaeontologist with a particular knack of finding new or important dinosaur fossils in various parts of the world. He was very tall, over 6’ 5”, with a personality to match. A spellbinding raconteur, he was also an inspired teacher in the lecture theatre, laboratory and in the field.”

Geoff Coast, another former colleague and friend, added: “There will be generations of students who will recall his lectures, and his contributions to numerous marine biology field courses”.

## Professor David Hamlyn (1924–2012)

Professor and Head of Philosophy at Birkbeck from 1964 until his retirement in 1988

Dorothy Edgington, Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck, wrote: “David joined the Department of Philosophy (which then had just two other members, following the death of Cyril Joad) as a lecturer in 1954.

“David read classics and philosophy at Oxford, interrupted by two years in the army during the war, and then took

another degree there in philosophy and psychology. This gave him a lasting interest in perception, the subject of his first book, *The Psychology of Perception* (1957), and his last, *Understanding Perception* (1996).

“But his interests and expertise were broad. Among his nine books are: *The Penguin History of Western Philosophy*; a translation (with introduction) of Aristotle’s *De Anima*; *Schopenhauer*; and a historical-sociological study of the role of philosophers, *Being a Philosopher*.”

“Permanent heads of department have gone out of fashion, but David was a model of the old kind. The Department was his. He did everything. He cared about, and was a father figure to, colleagues and students alike. He thought the world of Birkbeck students: he admired them for choosing to do philosophy, for lots of interestingly different reasons, in their spare time. He relished the fact that his students were so varied, with all sorts of background, expertise, tastes and interests.

“David was Vice-Master of Birkbeck from 1983 to 1988, and became a Fellow of the College in 1988. He is survived by his wife Eileen, his children Nicholas and Catherine, and his granddaughter Sarah. He is also survived by a still-flourishing Philosophy Department, largely of his making.”



For more obituaries, visit:  
[www.bbk.ac.uk/obituaries](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/obituaries)

# Why I give

## Leading psychoanalyst and writer Susie Orbach explains why she is supporting the Eric Hobsbawm Scholarships for Postgraduate History Students at Birkbeck

Education is magic. It explodes our minds and hearts, giving us ways to understand that we didn't even know were possible. It changes our relationship to ourselves and to our world.

My experiences of academia, including 10 years as a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science, have shown me how education inspires and changes lives. Like love and friendship, it is one of the great gifts of living.

Adult education is an even more special gift, and this is why I applaud Birkbeck's provision of evening education, enabling busy Londoners to combine work and study. When you consciously begin to know that you want to learn, it can be exhilarating, but it can also be difficult and scary. It means breaking out of the known and taking risks. It is an opening up of your own life and the lives of those around you to challenges that can be as perplexing as they are exciting.

In particular, studying history – the history of our culture, of political movements, of groups and individuals grappling with, and acting in, historical time – allows one to re-situate oneself both in one's own life and times and in historical time, recognising the significance of the particular moment as well as the trajectories that it is both a part of and a break from.

Being able to give a small bit of support to a postgraduate History student in the name of Professor Eric Hobsbawm is to acknowledge the



great contribution that he made throughout his 65-year association with Birkbeck.

Beginning in 1947, when he became a lecturer in History, Eric rose to the position of Birkbeck's President. He was involved in College life until his death in 2012. As one of history's greatest intellectuals, Eric helped to shape our thinking about history and touched many lives as a dedicated teacher.

The Eric Hobsbawm Scholarships have been created to encourage the next generation of talented historians. I'm sure they will inspire all adult learners to keep on learning and being curious, as did Eric for all of his life, discovering new interests and deepening accustomed ones.

I hope that any student who has the opportunity to become a postgraduate student in history at Birkbeck will feel immersed in the love of the subject that the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology holds. They will also be part of Birkbeck – a world-class research and teaching institution that I admire and respect.

Applications for the Eric Hobsbawm Scholarships for Postgraduate History Students are open for research degrees beginning in October 2014.



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To apply for the Eric Hobsbawm Scholarships, or to find out more,

visit: [www.bbk.ac.uk/hobsbawmscholarships](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/hobsbawmscholarships)

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**Education inspires and changes lives. Like love and friendship, it is one of the great gifts of living.**

# Student statistics

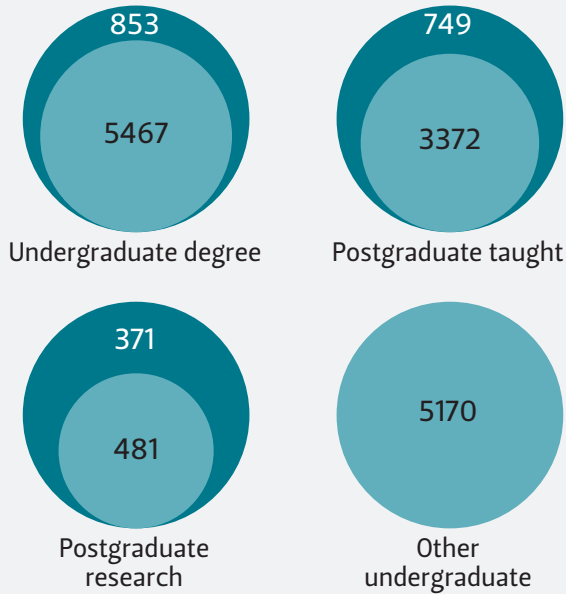
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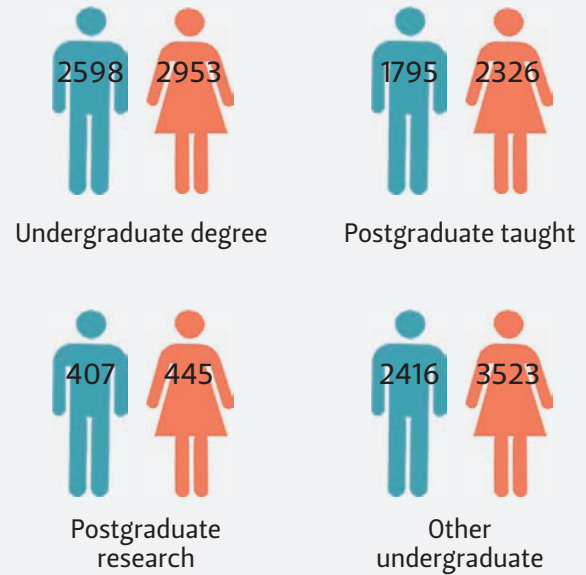
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## Students

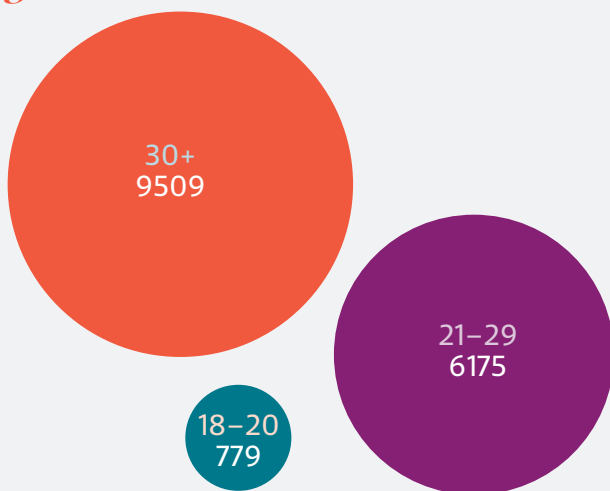
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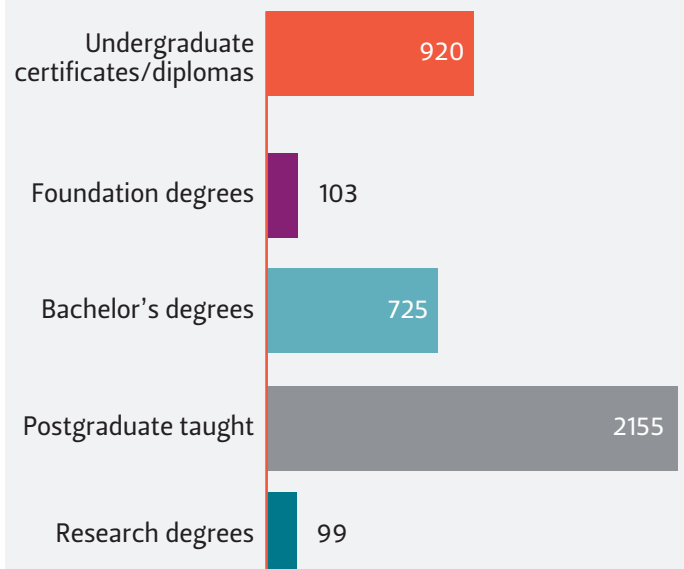
## Gender



## Age



## Qualifications awarded



Source: HESA Student Return 2012–2013



# LAST WORD

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED IN STRATFORD



### As he prepares to stand down as Vice-Master of Birkbeck in summer 2014, Professor Philip Dewe reflects on the magnificent new campus

Just over 190 years ago, George Birkbeck called a meeting at the Crown and Anchor tavern on the Strand in London, to discuss the idea of establishing a Mechanics' Institute to educate London's working population.

That Institute went on to become Birkbeck College, and George Birkbeck's rallying call that 'now is the time for the universal benefits of the blessings of knowledge' is as powerful and relevant today as it was nearly two centuries ago.

Our 190th anniversary – a significant milestone in our history – seemed like an auspicious moment to launch a major new initiative. Along with our partner, the University of East London, we formally opened University Square Stratford (USS) in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, on 5 November 2013.

This has been a long journey for Birkbeck. Beginning eight years ago, in 2005, even before the Olympics were announced, we identified Stratford as a place to take our research-led, part-time evening teaching model.

The success of this venture is a tribute to the whole College and all those who have contributed to our work in Stratford and east London. Together, we have worked hard to develop our own unique presence, by engaging with the community, tirelessly exploring opportunities for widening participation, developing programmes that capture the aspirations of those living in east London and which complement their ambitions and hopes, and teaching in ways – and in places – that allow people to study in

their own community, achieve their ambitions and become part of the wider Birkbeck community.

This has been accompanied by our desire to build relationships within the community, by establishing our presence in the heart of that community, adding to (and becoming part of) a regenerative process, and contributing to the change that continues to add to the vibrancy and diversity of Stratford today.

All this while we watched USS grow into the magnificent building that it is now. We worked in groups, established teams, developed partnerships, managed, administered and taught to ensure that we could now celebrate our part in this success.

This achievement is a tribute to the courage of our governors, the leadership of our Master and the work of all those across the College who simply believe in what Birkbeck stands for and the unique contribution that we make to higher education.

Birkbeck has constantly adapted and changed to face many challenges over the years, and I think that we can confidently say that we have stayed true to the founding mission. I am proud that we are a college that George Birkbeck would still recognise and that the new USS building breathes new life into our established traditions.

I am certain that this is not the last word on our important work in east London, even if these are the last words that I may write on a project that has been very close to my heart in my time as Vice-Master at Birkbeck.

Philip Dewe is Vice-Master of Birkbeck and Professor of Organizational Behaviour.





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In 2013 we were ranked among the top 1% of universities in the world. Our students consistently rank us number one in London for the quality of our teaching.



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