

BIRKBECK INTERNATIONAL DIGEST 2020/21

BIRKBECK



Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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FOREWORD



I am delighted to introduce the 2020-21 edition of our now annual Birkbeck International Digest, which richly showcases Birkbeck's continuing impact on the world. The Digest, *inter alia*, offers snapshots of the international achievements and activities of our staff, students and alumni, and the exemplary learning opportunities we offer to international students.

Birkbeck's outstanding reputation for teaching, research and global citizenship attracts students, staff and partners from across the globe, and it is pleasing to see this international standing reinforced by the latest global rankings of higher educational institutions (HEIs). Notably, Birkbeck retains its position in the top 30% of over 1,000 universities worldwide assessed by the Times Higher Education (THE) in 2021. The QS World University Rankings for 2021 also placed Birkbeck in the top 35% of world universities, 107th for attracting international students and 114th for research citations.

The College also attracted several other accolades during the 2020-21 period. These include prestigious recognition as a University of Sanctuary in appreciation of our award-winning Compass Project's support for students from a forced migrant background, and a top four placing in the recent social mobility ranking published by the Higher Education Institute. Our success in reducing digital inequality and enhancing accessibility across communication channels was also similarly recognised, an achievement reinforced by designation of the Birkbeck Open Library of Humanities (OLH) as the Small Digital Publisher of the Year by the International Association of Online Publishers. The work of the Birkbeck Futures Ability Programme and the Marketing and External Relations was also separately celebrated in prestigious shortlists. The latter was shortlisted in the Marketing Team of the Year

and Best Brand/Reputation Campaign categories of the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2020, which recognise excellence and innovation in education marketing.

As the various sections of this International Digest show, the Birkbeck community has drawn on its accustomed resilience to adapt to the extraordinary challenges of the persisting COVID-19 pandemic. Among the highlights of this admirable response are the continuing enhancement of our digital and blended learning provision; sustained research activities, including timely submission of our Research Excellence Framework (REF) documentation to Research England; continuing provision of tailored support to students and staff; and the significant enhancement of our estate footprint via the completion of the new Toddler Lab, the 373 Euston Road building and the acquisition of the 'Student Central' facilities that increases our estate footprint by 25%. Other milestones of the 2020-21 year include Birkbeck's successful hosting of the first-ever virtual Autumn and Spring graduation ceremonies; the launch of the #OurBirkbeck initiative; the continuing development of the College's 2026 Vision and Strategy; and our successful delivery of a well-received programme of in-person and online experience-enhancing activities for international students.

I heartily salute all Birkbeckians for the rich and varied accomplishments summarised in this International Digest, and for their direct and indirect contributions to our collective achievements.

The College's International Committee continues to have my abiding thanks for conceiving and putting together this highly welcome Digest.

I hope you would find it as enjoyable as I did.

Professor David Latchman, CBE

Vice-Chancellor, Birkbeck

EDITOR'S BRIEF



This 2020-21 edition of the Birkbeck International Digest celebrates the College's success in sustaining its internationalist tradition and world class profile despite the disruptive effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Digest offers glimpses of the international activities and contributions of staff, students and alumni during the focal period and is organised in six sections, respectively focusing on international students and their learning experience; research contributions, accolades and dissemination; global citizenship activities; international collaborations; international events and visitors; and international alumni.

Section 1 briefly introduces Birkbeck's diverse international student body and presents perspectives from a few international students and on some of the in-person and virtual extra-curricular activities organised to enrich the study experience of our students. The section also highlights some learning, teaching and curriculum innovations undertaken during the year.

Section 2 paints a picture of the wealth of significant contributions made by Birkbeck researchers during 2020-21. These include original insights on how infant brain activity predicts cognitive ability later in life, and how autistic behaviour or ADHD could be predicted by children's brain organisation, response to faces or repeated touch, or inherited 'genetic' load. There are also recording-breaking creative productions and pioneering museum mapping by Birkbeck playwrights and scholars. The section further presents a flurry of prestigious accolades and fellowships, research grants, international appointments and invitations, as well as international presentations by Birkbeck staff and students.

Section 3 illustrates Birkbeck's global citizenship profile, by identifying some contributions of the College community to major global challenges such as the

Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, mental health, advancing equality and inclusion, and promoting human rights and educational opportunities to forced migrants.

Section 4 offers an indicative view of Birkbeck's international research and academic relationships with several leading international universities, while Section 5 provides a sample of international events and visitors hosted by the College during 2020-21. These collaborative links and international events were essentially undertaken virtually owing to the persisting COVID-19 crisis.

The final section of the Digest depicts some of the significant strides made at the international stage during 2020-21 by Birkbeck's international alumni. The sample profiles include an alumna thriving as one of Egypt's foremost entrepreneurs and others variously leading a community-spirited global brand, reinventing to stay relevant amidst a pandemic, championing European democracy, forging careers in international development, catalysing corporate transformation, pioneering university career services in Germany, and attracting prestigious awards for creative excellence.

Taken together, this International Digest strongly demonstrates the continuing commitment of the College community to advancing Birkbeck's international standing and culturally inclusive environment. It is delightful that these inclusive, internationalist values have thrived despite the COVID-19 global crisis.

I would like to conclude by thanking all those whose stellar achievements are reflected in this Digest as well as their many enablers. Colleagues in the College's International Committee, External Relations and Alumni and Development teams are also warmly appreciated for their input.

Looking forward to welcoming new and returning international students and our entire community to a hopefully more predictable 2021-22 academic year.

Professor Kevin Ibeh

Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)

(on behalf of the International Committee)

International Committee, Birkbeck, 2020-21:

Naomi Adams (Assistant School Manager, Science)
Professor Alexandra Beauregard (Assistant Dean, International, BEI)
Professor Sanjib Bhakta (Assistant Dean, International, Science)
Professor Bill Bowring (Professor, Law)
Professor Rosie Cox (Deputy Dean, SSHP)
Ken Chow (Academic Standards and Quality Manager)
Julie Crofts (Director of Academic Standards and Quality)
Garmon Ap Garth (Academic Services Manager)
Professor Adam Gearey (Assistant Dean, International and Recruitment, Law)
Ben Goodrum (Compliance and Operations Manager)
Lynn Grimes (Director of Marketing and External Relations)
Professor Kevin Ibeh (Pro Vice-Chancellor, International; Chair)
La Young Jackson (Deputy Student Immigration Compliance & Advice Manager)
Fraser Keir (Academic Registrar)
Eoin Lally (Head of Marketing and Recruitment)
Professor Joanne Leal (Assistant Dean, Recruitment and International, Arts)
Ms Susan Quarrelle (Assistant School Manager, Law)
Eleanor Seale (Committee Support, Registry)
Maxine Long (International Marketing and Recruitment Manager)
Alison Watson (Assistant School Manager, SSHP)
Clare Thomas (Assistant School Manager, Arts)
Andrea Williams (Assistant School Manager, International Partnerships, BEI)



1.0 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE

1.1 Profile of international students

Birkbeck's reputation for research and teaching excellence and its intercultural learning environment attracted an increased number of international students during the 2020-21 academic year. A total of 2893 international, including EU, students enrolled into the College, accounting for 24% of the overall student population. These international students are split approximately half-way between undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, though new enrollees outstripped continuing students at a ratio of 55:45. Over 2 in 5 (specifically 44%) of these international students are in the School of Business, Economics and Informatics, while the School of Arts, School of Science, School of Law and School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy (SSHP) account for 17%, 12%, 7% and 20% of the international student body respectively.

Regarding the students' nationalities, EU citizens constitute 68% of all overseas students enrolled at Birkbeck during the current year, while students from the rest of the world account for 32%. Among the main source countries are China, Italy, USA, Germany, Spain, Greece, Romania, India, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Ireland, Canada, Pakistan, UAE, Japan, Sweden, Bulgaria, South Korea, Nigeria, Switzerland, Turkey, Portugal, Brazil, Russia and Hungary. Overall, international students for the current year originate from 140 countries, reflecting the impressive international diversity of the Birkbeck community.

1.2 New Chevening Scholars

Among the new international students that joined Birkbeck at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year were 30 recipients of the prestigious Chevening Scholarships, selected based on their leadership potential and academic profile. Twenty-seven countries and five continents are represented in the current year cohort. The countries include Albania, Algeria, Brazil, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, Palestine, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

These Scholars, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office and partner organisations, enrolled into a range of Master's programmes, including MA Gender, Sexuality and Culture, MSc Marketing Communications, MSc Climate



Change, MSc Human Resource Development and Consultancy, and MA Investigative Reporting. They were treated to a formal in-person reception, with appropriate COVID-19 safety protocols, on 22 October, 2020 – see photo below.











Some of the 2020-21 cohort of Chevening Scholars (in socially distanced pose)

The event was live-streamed for Chevening scholars that were unable to attend in-person and was hosted by Birkbeck staff, including Professor Kevin Ibeh, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Anthony Bale, Executive Dean of the School of Arts, and Catherine Charpentier and Veridiana Ribeiro, International Marketing and Recruitment Officers.





Professor Kevin Ibeh commented: “Congratulations to our new Chevening scholars for winning these competitive and prestigious scholarships...I’m delighted to welcome them into our Birkbeck family, particularly in the lead up to the College’s 200th anniversary in 2023. Birkbeck’s long and distinguished history is full of heroic accounts of innovations and triumphs over complex challenges, and I urge our new Chevening scholars to embrace this resilient spirit as they strive to benefit from the College’s outstanding educational and experiential offer despite a global pandemic....”

Professor Anthony Bale added: “It’s a great pleasure and privilege to welcome this year’s scholars to the College and to London; the greatest city on the planet in my opinion. It is wonderful to see that scholars have joined us from all over the world – a testament to Birkbeck, as a diverse and welcoming institution, and London, as a global city.”



 <p>Joan Santanasam (Malaysia), a business journalist with Malaysia's National News Agency, Bernama.</p> <p><i>MA Journalism</i></p>	 <p>Bongani Njalo (South Africa), a David Koloane Award winner (2014) & Mandela Washington Fellow (2017).</p> <p><i>MA Arts Policy & Mgt</i></p>	 <p>Mariam Camara (Guinea), HR Manager with the State Mining Co. & Mandela Washington Fellow (2017).</p> <p><i>MSc Public Policy & Mgt</i></p>	 <p>Zeina Ramadan (Palestine), Creative industry professional with filmmaking, animation, TV, audio & publishing experience.</p> <p><i>MSc Creative Industries</i></p>
 <p>Chiranthi Senanayake (Sri Lanka), UN Youth Delegate 2016, The Diana Award 2020, & Founder of youth empowerment incubator.</p> <p><i>LLM Intl. Econ. Law</i></p>	 <p>Sami Mehiaoui (Algeria), co-founded several innovative businesses & consulted for a UK-funded SME project.</p> <p><i>MSc Biz Innovation + Entrepreneurship</i></p>	 <p>Kristina Arakelova (Georgia), UN OHCHR Minority Fellowship program, international conflict mediator & NGO founder.</p> <p><i>MSc Nationalism & Ethnic Conflict</i></p>	 <p>Carolina Hernandez (Dominican Rep), an investigative reporter with her country's most influential newspaper; Won multiple awards for her work on orphans.</p> <p><i>MA Inv. Reporting</i></p>



			
<p>Nesrin Morad (Syria), member of the Red Crescent; led youth initiatives & campaigns for Syrians in Turkey.</p> <p><i>MSc Education, Power & Social Change</i></p>	<p>Presely Gitari (Kenya), conservation biologist with Kenyan government; worked to reintegrate ex-offenders into society.</p> <p><i>MSc Climate Change</i></p>	<p>Adriana Borja-Enriquez (Ecuador), writer and participant of the Iowa's Intl. Writing Programme. Worked with NGOs supporting survivors.</p> <p><i>MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture</i></p>	<p>Sarah Busingye (Rwanda), a digital consultant, experienced financial sector trainer and expert in performance management systems.</p> <p><i>MSc Biz Innovation + Entrepreneurship</i></p>

More of the 2020-21 Cohort of Chevening Scholars

1.3 International students in their own words

Box 1, below, showcases some voices from the Birkbeck's international student community during the 2020-21 academic year.

Box 1: International students in their own words

International students at Birkbeck reflect a diverse range of backgrounds, motivations and life experiences. Brief excerpts from insights shared by international students studying at, or graduating from Birkbeck, during 2020-21 are reflected as follows.

"I've grown to love the UK just as much as Barcelona"



...I loved my Formula One job and the travelling around the world that came with it but after a short time I decided I wanted to pursue my dream of becoming a student at a university in London...Soon after I applied, I was offered a place...I loved my time at Birkbeck so much I'm now enrolled onto a Master's degree...Also, Birkbeck is so diverse – you will meet such a range of people. I've definitely grown to love the UK just as much as Barcelona, if not more!

Alex Jimenez Mendoza, BSc Business Psychology, from Spain

"I fell in love with Birkbeck"



"I'm so happy to be celebrating my graduation! I feel so proud that I have managed to obtain a degree – something that I never thought was possible. I fell in love with Birkbeck as soon as I began studying at the university - I enjoyed the evening classes and I received excellent support for my English as it isn't my first language. For anyone thinking of studying at Birkbeck – don't doubt your skills or abilities - just go for it and apply!"

Dora Patricia Bonifaz Carrillo, BSc Business, from Colombia



"The course has been an amazing experience and really important for my future career"



"...I was browsing the Birkbeck website and saw a new course launching with Le Cordon Bleu, BBA Culinary Industry Management, it felt like a sign!...I decided to give myself this opportunity...I'm so glad I did, as the course has been an amazing experience and really important for my future career... we had the opportunity to do practical sessions at Le Cordon Bleu, which I found completely fascinating. At Birkbeck, I attended lectures and explored management in more depth through small group seminars...."

Francesca Calabrese, BBA Culinary Industry Management, from Italy

"It was the best time of my life!"



I loved having the lectures in the evening because my thoughts are a lot clearer at night. In the daytime, I read scripts and wrote my assignments. Occasionally I went to see a play in the West End and visited museums or galleries, or just enjoyed sightseeing around London. During my year at Birkbeck, I have seen over 100 films



and plays in London, travelled over 5 countries, and made so many friends. It has been only a year in Birkbeck, but I can say it is the best year I've ever experienced!

Xiayan Zeng, MA in Screenwriting, from China

"Flexibility and daytime freedom decided it for me"



"I started searching for an institution that would be flexible enough to let me work or volunteer while I studied. I found out about Birkbeck on the internet and the evening lectures tallied with the type of institution I was looking for, so I applied and was given admission into the School of Law..."

Oghenemine Djebah, LLM Law, from Nigeria

"I cannot stress enough the opportunities that opened to me after studying at Birkbeck"



"For me, Birkbeck will always be associated with professionalism and support...it always felt like being surrounded by a big and caring family...I cannot stress enough the opportunities that opened to me after studying there. It was one of the rare universities to offer classes on Neurolinguistics in the UK, and I am glad I



could use this rare chance. Currently I am carrying a neurolinguistic research, where I use the resources and benefits granted to me as a Birkbeck alumna and I must say, I am very lucky for this."

Sabina Sharifova, MA Applied Linguistics and Communication, from Azerbaijan

Amazing opportunities for networking and mentoring



"...studying Global Politics in London means you are exposed to many networking opportunities. Many of my classmates were mid and senior career level. We shared our own personal and professional experience beyond the usual academic aspects...greatly benefited from being mentored, particularly as an international student whose English is not even their second language."

Henry-Pacifique Mayala, MSc Global Politics, from the DRC

"The great environment at Birkbeck has made me who I am today"



"Learning about how the brain functions and how it changes in different mental disorders was really breathtaking and interesting...I met a lot of experts, amazing people and the great environment at Birkbeck has made me who I am today. Our



professors' approach to us was really impressive – they explained everything and were always willing to answer questions."

Aygun Badalova MSc Cognitive Neuroscience & Neuropsychology, from Azerbaijan

"I really enjoyed Birkbeck, I talk about it all the time"



"...I had to get over the initial shock of being on my own in another country but I loved it either way, it was hard at first but I still loved it...It was really intimate, so we all got to build off of each other and do different activities and those were my favourite classes...The course has helped me a lot with coming up with different modifications to lessons...I really enjoyed Birkbeck, I talk about it all the time...I loved my time in London."

Carolyn Stillman, MA Language Teaching/ TESOL, from the USA

1.4 Continuing focus on innovations

Birkbeck's internationally excellent and diverse faculty sustained their record of providing innovative curricula and continually enhanced learning experience to students during the 2020-21 academic year.

Boxes 2 and 3, below, present digital learning innovations and initiatives implemented and how these are perceived by international students. Box 4 offers some examples of new innovative programmes and recognitions by prestigious professional bodies.



Box 2: Birkbeck digital platforms continue to bridge the gap

Birkbeck's commitment to recreating its unique learning experience in a digital context intensified during the 2020-21 academic year. A new virtual Orientation module, 'Welcome to Birkbeck' online module, was introduced toward the beginning of the year to welcome new and returning students and help prepare them for the new session. This innovative approach to the College's Orientation week reflects the need to ensure the safety of staff and students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key information provided include how to approach learning online, access support tools and effective study skills, along with an introduction to the Birkbeck student community and Students Union's Welcome Week events, personal tutor system, student services, careers support and the Birkbeck Library. The online orientation module also contained videos, information and activities which can be accessed on a laptop, iPad or mobile phone and can be completed at each student's own pace.



Once the Autumn term got underway, the teaching transformation project initiated in Spring 2019-20 ensured that easily accessible high-quality virtual learning environment was available for all modules except practice-based ones, and that live interactive seminars were delivered by our world-class academics. The students were also availed of free access to over 150,000 digital e-books, including many core textbooks, superb virtual student support services, online study skills sessions by the learning and development team, and opportunities to meet, network and complete projects with fellow students online. Teaching staff were also superbly supported by



the Digital Education Team who continue to develop and provide best-in-class online resources in Moodle as well as a range of bite size training sessions and regular digital education drop-in sessions.

Professor Diane Houston, Pro Vice Chancellor (Education), summarised the College's compelling offer as follows: "We have invested considerable resources in developing an online university that mirrors the learning environment that students experience in our campus classrooms. We have also implemented COVID-19 secure measures on campus to ensure that those students who need to be on campus, can study those courses safely, while continuing to benefit from the unique Birkbeck learning experience. The early indications are that students welcome the flexibility that learning with us online provides, as well as, of course, the emphasis on maintaining their safety during the pandemic...We have also made sure that our virtual learning platform meets the highest accessibility standards."

Professor Matt Innes, Deputy Vice Chancellor noted: "The work we have done...to develop a virtual university alongside taking a cautious, 'safety-first' approach to reopening some of our in-person on-campus student facilities means that students will be able to continue to study with us, wherever they live in the world and whatever stage they are at with their studies..."

Box 3: Students' comments on their digital learning experience

Birkbeck's international students, like their counterparts in universities across the world, have had to study online from various geographical locations during the 2020-21 academic year. As the following quotes suggest, they appear to have taken the experience in their stride:

"This is actually my first time doing any course via virtual learning. It is quite challenging because I do not get to meet with other students and make good connections which is also part of the university life. However, the lectures have been going great, better than I expected because we are provided with pre-recorded videos for each lecture."

Student in the Department of Law



The platforms allow for students to efficiently interact and present material, as well as take polls. We also make use of Google Jam Boards which allow all students to put in their contributions without feeling left out. The broad array of options provided by these platforms are suitable for both extroverted and introverted personalities...The Library has set aside safe spaces to study and participate in lectures which one may access by reserving online, especially for students who may not have a conducive learning environment from home...My 2020 has been an opportunity to reflect and develop gratitude for many of life's pleasures which we take for granted.

Student in the Department of Geography

"The virtual teaching has worked for me (and was the tipping point to make me apply), it provides a lot more flexibility. Also, having the pre-videos before the lecture I think really is so beneficial. They take me a while to go through but I can go through them at my own pace, and then because I have taken the time to understand the content, it helps me follow during the lectures."

Student in the Department of Economics, Maths and Statistics

Although no one expected to be learning online, I think Birkbeck has ensured that the process has worked to the benefit of students and this I got to really appreciate when preparing for my exams. With the pre-recorded Panopto lecture sessions, one can pace themselves, pause and rewind to get a better understanding of each week's lessons. This way, you have focused questions for your lecturers which can be asked and addressed during the live sessions on the Moodle platform. If not, lecturers are available via email and tend to be very responsive. Moodle live sessions are recorded and saved, so even if the pre-recorded session and live lecture make no sense (yes, it happens), you can still go back to the platform and access material for revision and understanding. While you cannot see everyone during the live sessions, you do get to engage with the lecturer and the class with audio and video on and there are group break-away sessions for one-hour or so discussions where group representatives then provide feedback back to the whole class.

A Chevening Scholar in the Department of Management

"The quality of the materials has been high, they are available weeks in advance, and the organisation, clarity and administration of the lecturer is first class."



Student in the Department of Organizational Psychology

"I have really enjoyed the guest speakers and their insights/advice for being an entrepreneur. I also enjoyed the group discussion where we get split off into different groups as I feel it makes people feel more comfortable to speak virtually."

Student in the Department of Management

Box 4: New innovative offerings and accreditations

Master's in Environmental Law

Reflecting the heightened focus on environmental crises and the increasing individual and societal recourse to the law for solutions, the Department of Law has launched a new LLM in Environmental Law, Policy and Governance due to begin in October 2021. The innovative research-led degree, developed in collaboration with experts in environmental law, including legal practitioners in private practice, the public sector, policy practice and NGOs, will explore key contemporary themes around climate change, biodiversity loss, pressures on natural resources and the impact of business and trade, as well as a diverse range of legal, policy and governance responses to environmental issues. The new programme will offer students the theoretical and practical knowledge regarding how policy, law and governance structures respond to environmental problems and will complement the Department's other recently launched offerings, specifically Law and New Technologies and Law and Political Economy.

Interdisciplinary Master's programmes

Motivated by the significant and growing policy, business and scholarly attention on global cities, emerging and established, and Birkbeck's research strengths in this area, colleagues in the Department of Geography launched a new interdisciplinary MA/MSc Cities programme at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic session. The School of Business Economics and Informatics similarly launched an interdisciplinary [MSc Business Political Economy and Society](#) programme designed to give students an insight into the impact of political, social,



economic, technological and environmental issues on business decisions and strategies in an increasingly globalised world.

New Birkbeck-University of London MSc Marketing offering takes off and more to follow

The new MSc Marketing programme offered in collaboration with the University of London Worldwide via the latter's distance learning platform enrolled its first cohort of 40 students in October 2020. Three more programmes, MSc Computer Science, MSc Global Environment and Sustainability and MSc Management, are due to follow suit from the beginning of the 2021-22 session. These offerings are part of Birkbeck's expanded partnership with the University of London Worldwide, which is expected to extend the College's international reach and income streams.

BSc Biomedicine programme gains Royal Society accreditation

Birkbeck's BSc Biomedicine programme has been granted interim accreditation in recognition of its outstanding quality by The Royal Society of Biology (RSB), the leading professional body representing over 17,500 biologists from all areas of the life sciences. Full accreditation will be confirmed when the first enrolled cohort graduate in summer 2023. The accreditation process entails rigorous assessment of evidence that graduates meet learning outcomes, including subject knowledge, technical ability and transferable skills. The status opens up professional networking opportunities, access to grants, and enhanced professional recognition for graduates of the degree programme.

Birkbeck gets approval to award Occupational Psychologist titles

The MRes in Occupational Psychology programme recently attained registered status with The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). This followed a similar confirmation by the British Psychological Society (BPS) in summer 2020 that the Professional Doctorate in Occupational Psychology had achieved chartered status with the BPS. Students that complete the MRes and Professional Doctorate programmes will in future receive the title of Registered Occupational Psychologist and Chartered Occupational Psychologist respectively.

1.5 International mobility experiences for students

Although the Covid-19 crisis disrupted access to outward mobility opportunities normally available to Birkbeck students via international exchange arrangements, travel fellowships, fieldtrips, and research visits, several students, mainly those studying languages, still managed to undertake virtual study periods with Japanese universities during 2020-21. Master's students from the Department of Economics, Maths and Statistics at Birkbeck also took part in a 5-day Summer School on Greening Energy and Finance held in Katowice, Poland, in June 2021, as part of an EU funded collaborative project involving Birkbeck and some other European universities.

The recent news of the College's success in receiving funding for the new Turing international mobility scheme which was applied for in Spring 2021 suggests that such outward opportunities would continue to be available to Birkbeck students.

1.6 Experiencing the One World Festival programme

The One World Festival programme is a package of social, cultural, networking, skills-enhancing and employability events designed to reinforce Birkbeck's internationalist ethos and priority focus on students' enhanced experience, wellbeing, and sense of community. Cognisant of the limits imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic on the range of in-person activities that can be offered in the 2020-21 academic year, suitable virtual activities were incorporated into the Festival programme. This reflects the need to maintain the unifying vision of the Festival, by enabling international students, whatever their current location, to continue to share experiences and create memories. International students were thus availed of a rich suite of COVID-safe virtual and in-person extra-curricular activities that celebrate the College's cultural diversity.

To kick-off the programme, an in-person socially-distanced reception was held on 28 September 2020 to welcome international students and introduce them to the Festival programme and other extracurricular activities for 2020-21. A separate virtual reception was organised for international students that could not attend in person. These events, which also featured the launch of the Birkbeck International Digest 2020 and an interactive session on networking and employability, were addressed by Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Kevin Ibeh. He noted *inter alia*: "This inaugural event provides a more personal induction for our international students who are joining the College during a particularly unique and challenging period. We

recognise the courage it has taken for many students from around the world to persevere with their study plans despite the persisting global emergency and can assure them of Birkbeck’s strong commitment to supporting them throughout their studies, both during the pandemic and beyond.”

Brief accounts of selected events, notably seasonal celebrations, international culinary exchange, employability events, organised trips and other virtual engagement sessions, are now presented.

1.61 Seasonal celebrations

In the lead up to the Autumn term break, international students, including those studying from their respective home countries, were given a taste of **Christmas at Birkbeck**, through the unveiling of the College’s Christmas tree – see below.



The 2020 **Diwali festival** was also marked, with several members of the Birkbeck community lighting a symbolic lamp or ‘diya’ to ward away evil, or recreating “Ramayana” to celebrate the victory of good over evil and light over darkness. Diwali’s positive vibe seemed particularly relevant in 2020 given the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.



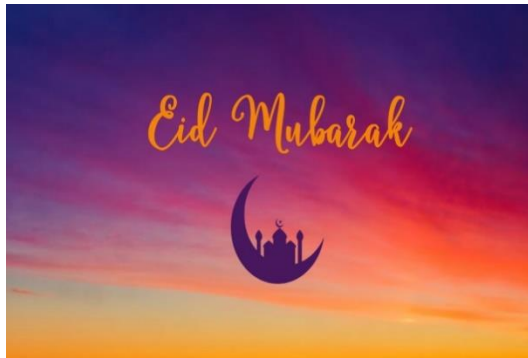
Mousumi Shyam, visiting Newton-Bhabha International Fellow, celebrated Diwali with the traditional 'Rangoli', a colourful design thought to bring good luck (left).

The Lunar New Year was also celebrated on 15 February, 2021, with a virtual gathering organised and hosted by Dr Jackie Lou-led Chinese Students and Scholars Association at Birkbeck University of London (BBK CSSA), in collaboration with the Birkbeck International Team and China Exchange, a non-profit organisation in Chinatown.



This online commemoration of the beginning of the year of the Ox was awash with good wishes by participants for a new COVID-19 free chapter for humanity and for a safe return to campus. The event also featured fun games and awards, and "Niuqi Chongtian", a very popular new year blessing for strong faith to conquer any difficulties and challenges, was liberally exchanged.

The month of May also saw Birkbeck marking the 2021 Eid al-Fitr, or Festival of Breaking Fast, by extending very warm Eid Mubarak greetings to all members of our community and their families. This year's celebration took place on 13 May following the end of the month-long Ramadan fasting observed by Muslims worldwide.



1.62 Organised tours and picnics

A number of Covid-safe picnics and tours were organised during the 2020-21 academic year to offer international students opportunities to interact socially and visit some iconic London and UK locations. These activities include summer picnics, walking tours of Bloomsbury, East London's Spitalfields Market, Greenwich observatory, Kensal Green cemetery as well as bus trips to Oxford and Cambridge.

Pictures from some of these events can be seen below:



A day trip to Oxford in July 2021



A visit to George Birkbeck's resting place at the Kensal Green cemetery



A visit to the famous Greenwich observatory



Students enjoying a summer picnic and a musical performance



A day trip to Cambridge in August 2021

1.63 International Culinary Exchange

Although the pandemic precluded the customary in-person sharing of culinary experiences and cuisines from different parts of the world, a virtual programme was



put in place to enable Birkbeck's diverse student and staff community to exchange favourite recipes. Sample offerings are shown below.

Bengali fusion salmon curry



This is a Bengali fusion dish influenced by the upbringing of Professor Sanjib Bhakta (Department of Biological Sciences) near the Bay of Bengal and around the river Ganges, which is generously supplied with sweet-water fish. It can be cooked and served in 30 minutes.

Chinese fake-fried tofu steak



This is a rookie-friendly, vegetarian version of a tofu dish by Meiyun Meng, MPhil student of Geography, Environment & Development Studies. This dish, inspired by a video on Bilibili (Chinese YouTube), can be a part of a main dish and can be ready in 35-40 minutes.

1.64 *Employability events*

Birkbeck Futures, a one-stop service combining the resources of Careers Service, Enterprise Pathways and Birkbeck Talent, offered a number of virtual sessions aimed at fostering the employability prospects of international students during 2020-21.

Notably, the Annual Careers Fair was held in November 2020 along with a Careers Week comprising a series of employer-led events. The Birkbeck Career platform and popular mentoring scheme were also placed at the disposal of international students. The employability consultant Jenna Davies also offered a session on Networking and

Personal Branding on 8 February, 2021, which addressed the importance of first impressions and honing one's personal brand.

As the quotes below suggest, international students appeared to have appreciated these employability-enhancing activities and mentoring support:

"The Birkbeck Careers platform is great and enables students not only to see available jobs and apply but also to help teach them how to prepare for interviews and tailor their CVs and cover letters to meet professional standards." LLM Law Student from Nigeria

"Applying for the mentorship programme has been one of my highlights in the first term. I am currently undergoing a career transition and my thoughts are everywhere. Through Birkbeck's mentorship programme, I have gained unexpected guidance and support from my mentor. I am now beginning to focus my goals and clarify my interests which keeps me grounded and reminds me why I set out to do my chosen course." MSc Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability Student from Eswatini

1.65 Other virtual engagement activities

Sustained engagement with international students during the 2020-21 year was also delivered by the Birkbeck's International Student Experience Enhancement team via a raft of other virtual extra-curricular activities. These include workout sessions, Pilates classes, academic English classes, talks on a variety of topics, online film screenings, pub quizzes and networking sessions. These sessions allowed students to socialise and unwind throughout a busy year and availed them of a virtual space to meet and build relationships.

A remark by one international student that "Birkbeck does a great job in its online student events and engagement" reflects the dominant perception of these virtual events among international students. Another puts it this way: "I expected that there would be no events for fitness and no party-related events, but Birkbeck has exceeded all of my expectations and it feels just like it would in real life."

Reflecting on the offerings for the academic year, Professor Kevin Ibeh, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), commented, "I am delighted that we have sustained our tradition of going beyond standard academic curricula to offer new experiences and learning opportunities to international students studying with us, despite the



pandemic. This focus on students' holistic learning experience and wellbeing is a fitting response to the resolve they have shown in forging ahead with their studies, despite the pandemic."

Andrea Williams, Internationalisation and Partnerships Manager, School of Business, Economics and Informatics said: "International students are really grateful that we organise these events - many have taken part in different activities each week. The events also help them to stay in touch with and learn from other students."

2.0 RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS, ACCOLADES AND DISSEMINATION

2.1 Major research contributions

During the 2020-21 year, Birkbeck researchers continued to make significant scholarly contributions to important global questions. The paragraphs below offer a sample of these major research contributions. These include insights on how infant brain activity predicts cognitive ability later in life; how autism could be predicted by children's brain organisation, their response to faces or repeated touch; how an individual's inherited 'genetic' load influences their risk of developing ADHD; how the level of touchscreen use influences toddlers' reaction speed and ability to resist distraction; and how a commonly used painkiller could be repurposed to treat drug resistant tuberculosis. The period also witnessed recording-breaking creative productions and a pioneering mapping of UK museums by Birkbeck playwrights and scholars.

Infant brain activity predicts cognitive ability later in life

Two large longitudinal studies led by Birkbeck's Professor Emily Jones, with an international team of collaborators at King's College London, the University of Cambridge, University of Gothenburg, Duke University and the University of Washington, show that measuring the brain activity of babies could help us predict cognitive development from toddlerhood to childhood. Concerns, if any, would enable interventions to be made earlier, leading to better outcomes in later life. The longitudinal studies, funded by grants from the Medical Research Council, the European Union Innovative Medicines Initiative, and the US National Institutes of Health, follow both typically developing infants and infants with older siblings with autism who have a higher likelihood of varied social and cognitive outcomes. The team combined data from these cohorts to assess whether brain activity at 12 months of age relates to cognitive skills in later childhood.

Professor Emily Jones of the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development at Birkbeck said, "Studying dynamic EEG changes in infancy could help us understand the neural mechanisms that underpin individual differences in childhood cognition. In the future, this might enable us to rapidly identify children at heightened risk for poor cognitive development and also help predict where early intervention may help children with learning difficulties so that they have better outcomes in later life. This

study is part of broader effort at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development to measure the early differences in brain development that predict meaningful outcomes for children with different challenges, and to use that knowledge to develop new ways to support children to reach their full potential.”

‘Reversed’ brain organisation tends to be linked to children with autism

New research from scientists at Birkbeck and City, University of London, has shown that many children with autism have their brain organisation “flipped” compared to those with typical development. The study involving 196 children aged 4 to 5 years old, including half with autism, showed that those developing typically were more likely to possess a ‘standard’ brain organisation for social and communication abilities while those with autism showed a significant rise in ‘reversed’ organisation, linked with decreased skills in these areas. The children were tested using a fine-motor task (testing the children’s pincer grip ability of both hands) to determine hand preference, and a cradling task (giving the children trials of holding a gender-neutral doll) to determine the visual side of space that they tended to use for processing people’s faces. Separately, teachers assessed each child’s social and communication abilities.

Lead researcher Dr Gillian Forrester of the Department of Psychological Sciences, said: “Brain and behavioural biases are key to understanding how brains develop. They can also help doctors spot children at risk of neurodevelopmental disorders, like autism, earlier than current diagnostic practices allow, enabling them to put in place support at a younger age to improve their outcomes. The reversal from the typical pattern may explain why children with autism have difficulties with their social and communication skills. Brain dominances develop early in life and can be detected via simple behavioural tests.”

Infants with more genetic markers of autism respond to faces differently

New research from Birkbeck has found that infants with more of the genetic differences related to autism respond to faces differently, even at a very young age, before signs of autism might be noticeable. This suggests that one way that genetics can lead to features of autism in infants is by altering brain responses to social information. Such genetic markers for autism are associated with changes in how quickly infant brains process social information – an important step toward earlier autism diagnosis. The study, published in the leading journal JAMA Paediatrics,



involved collecting DNA and using non-invasive sensors to measure the speed of brain responses to faces in six-to ten-month-old infants with and without a family history of autism.

Translating this research into earlier intervention is still some way off. As Dr Anna Gui who conducted the study explains: "...Our research is just a first step towards understanding whether differences in how we make sense of the social world is partly written in our DNA; more research and interaction with the autistic community are needed to see whether these findings could contribute to an improved quality of life for some children and their families...It will now be important for researchers to repeat these findings with more participants, including those of non-European ancestry."

How babies' brains respond to repeated touch predicts later autistic behaviour

New findings from research by Birkbeck, the University of East Anglia and the University of Cambridge academics, funded by the UK Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust, the Innovative Medicine Initiative and the MQ Charity and published in the Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders, show that the way babies' brains respond to repeated touch predicts later behavioural features of autism in toddlerhood. Given that children with autism or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) often show signs of sensory overload, particularly when experiencing touch, the researchers wanted to find out if the brain not dampening its response (decreased brain habituation) to repeated touch (tactile) stimuli predicts later behaviour characteristics of autism and ADHD, which may explain the frequent co-occurrence of these conditions. Results showed that the babies who later had more autism features in their behaviour, had reduced brain habituation to repeated touch when they were 10 months of age. Importantly, results from the study also indicated that those infants who explored their environment using touch despite their decreased habituation of brain responses developed fewer autistic traits at 24 months.

Elena Serena Piccardi, Research Fellow at Birkbeck, commented: "Sensory experiences in the first years of life are essential for infants to build a model of the world and themselves. Our research indicates not only that reduced habituation of brain responses in infancy predicts the extent of autism features in toddlerhood, but also



that the way infants explore their environment using touch (also known as “tactile sensory seeking”) may represent a potential target for early intervention.”

An individual’s inherited ‘genetic’ load influences their risk of developing ADHD

New research from Birkbeck has found that the genetic ‘load’ that an individual inherits influences their risk of developing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), a common condition that affects approximately one in 20 children and also many adults. This ‘load’, known as a polygenic score, works reliably: it consistently associates with likelihood of developing ADHD. The study led by Professor Angelica Ronald, Director of the Genes Environment, and published in the influential *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, involved a systematic review of over 40 high-quality studies on the ADHD polygenic score published in the last three years. The findings are highly consistent across ages, countries and samples, suggesting that the ADHD polygenic score can be relied upon. These findings are important because detecting ADHD early means individuals can then benefit from early interventions, such as tailored support before and during the school years. The polygenic score for ADHD may in the future be one of the characteristics that can be used in combination with other factors, such as family history, to identify individuals who are likely to develop ADHD.

The role of screen time on toddlers’ development

New research from Birkbeck, King’s College London and University of Bath suggests that toddlers with high daily touchscreen use are quicker to look at objects when they appear and are less able to resist distraction compared to toddlers with no or low touchscreen use. The project led by Professor Smith of the Birkbeck’s Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development recruited 12-month-old infants who had different levels of touchscreen usage. These infants were studied over the next 2.5 years, brought into the lab three times at 12 months, 18 months and 3.5 years, and involved in computer tasks with an eye-tracker to measure their attention during each visit. Objects appeared in different screen locations and how quickly toddlers looked at the objects and how well they could ignore distracting objects were measured. The research, funded by Leverhulme Trust, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), King’s College London and Wellcome Trust and published in the *Scientific Reports*, contributes to the growing debate around the role of screen time

on toddlers' development especially given the increased levels of screen time seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Infants, parents' height and natural rhythm tempo

New research from Birkbeck's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development has found that infants as young as five months old have a natural rhythm, with the height of their parents determining the tempo of that rhythm due to the differing pace they are carried at. The study showed that infants are able to produce a natural rhythm, with older infants drumming faster than younger infants. This is the reverse to the rest of the lifespan, where our natural rhythm slows with age. The ESRC-funded study involved analysing the drumming performance of 115 infants to understand the tempo that they drummed at. Families took part in the experiment in a field lab at the theatre, whilst attending the show 'Shake, Rattle & Roll', which was informed by the latest findings of developmental psychology.

Younger breast cancer patients with poorer cognitive function suffer increased levels of post-traumatic stress

A new study from The Centre for Building Resilience in Breast Cancer (BRiC) at Birkbeck has demonstrated that social support and good cognitive health can protect against depression in metastatic breast cancer, and that being of younger age (34-50 years) and having poorer cognitive function are linked with increased levels of post-traumatic stress. The study, conducted by Anna Dobretsova and published in the journal *Psycho-Oncology*, draws on a sample of 59 women and is the first to examine the link between cognitive function and symptoms of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress in metastatic breast cancer patients. Professor Nazanin Derakhshan, founder of the Centre for Building Resilience in Breast Cancer, said, "...Our research has shown that resilience-based interventions such as cognitive training, mindfulness and breathing exercises can help but it is the combined effects of social support and good cognitive health that can buffer against depression in metastatic breast cancer patients."

Repurposing painkiller as TB-killer

Findings from a seven-year, multi-centre research study suggest that a painkiller commonly used by vets for cats and dogs could be repurposed to treat drug resistant tuberculosis (TB). Carprofen, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug



(NSAID) broadly similar to ibuprofen and aspirin, was first found to kill the bacteria responsible for TB in research led by Professor Sanjib Bhakta of the Department of Biological sciences at Birkbeck in 2013. The new study involving scientists from five different research centres has revealed that the drug most likely works by inhibiting the 'efflux mechanisms' that protect bacteria from substances that harm them. The research further suggests that it is not possible to generate bacteria that are resistant to Carprofen and that *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* appears susceptible to elimination via multiple routes. In addition, it found that Carprofen can reverse antimicrobial drug resistance in TB. These important findings offer the promise that, when used in combination with other drugs, Carprofen may prove effective in the fight against TB and, significantly, drug-resistant TB.

ITV Drama, The Bay, breaking all sorts of records

An ITV drama, *The Bay*, written by award-winning writer and playwright Daragh Carville of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing has continued to achieve outstanding international success. The drama, now in its third series, was produced by Tall Story Pictures and distributed by ITV Studios and has now been "sold in over 100 territories across the world". The Series as a whole reportedly achieved an average of 8 million viewers on all devices over a 28-day period and have earned 25.4m programme streams on ITV Hub since debuting on 18th December 2020. Daragh Carville's other notable credits include *Being Human*, *The Smoke*, and *Cherrybomb*.

The 'Beginning' reaching new international audiences

A play by David Eldridge of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing entitled 'Beginning' has continued to be translated and performed around the world. Described by *The Telegraph* as 'one of the funniest, most touching, and at times most enthralling/excruciating seduction scenes you'll ever see', *Beginning* has been premiered in Greece, Poland, the Republic of Ireland, Chile, France, Slovenia, Norway, China, and Iceland, and it recently became the play to re-open the National Theatre after lockdown. New productions in translation are planned in Argentina, Mexico, Portugal, Brazil, and Hungary through 2021-22.

The most comprehensive database of museums published

Professor Fiona Candlin of the Department of History of Art and Professor Alex Poulouvassilis of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems have published the final version of the [Mapping Museums](https://mappingmuseums.org) database, containing data on over 4000 UK museums that have been in existence since 1960. This interdisciplinary project, freely accessible at mappingmuseums.org, involves researchers from museology, computer science, geographic information science, historical geography and political history and the number of museums accommodated is double the coverage in any previous survey. Supported by £1m AHRC funding, the Mapping Museum research project was an effective response to the absence of coherent data on the expansion of UK museums during the late 20th century. It recently attracted an additional £190,000 grant from the AHRC rapid response scheme for an investigation and analysis of the risk, closure, and resilience in the UK museum sector during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2.2 Prestigious accolades and honours

Birkbeck staff were recognised and honoured for their internationally excellent research contributions during 2020-21. Some of the prestigious accolades are presented below.

Professor Sir Roger Penrose OM FRS, a former Birkbeck scientist, was awarded **the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics** for work undertaken at Birkbeck in the 1960s which demonstrated that black holes were an inevitable consequence of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Appointed Reader of Applied Mathematics at Birkbeck in 1964 and Professor two years later, Professor Penrose is the fourth Birkbeck scientist to receive the Nobel Prize. As he narrated, the inspiration for solving the gravitational collapse problem came while he was walking into Birkbeck with a colleague: "We got to this crossroad and he stopped talking as we were watching out for traffic. We got to the other side and then he started talking again. When he left I had this strange feeling of elation and I couldn't quite work out why I was feeling like that. I realised that I had a certain idea... so I went back to my office and I sketched out a proof of the collapse theorem."

Professor David Latchman, Vice-Chancellor of Birkbeck said: "I am delighted to congratulate Professor Penrose on his outstanding achievement. Following his employment at Birkbeck, Professor Penrose was made a Fellow in 1996, and it is



superb to see him receive such recognition for his work. Birkbeck has a long tradition of contributing to the field of science, and I'm sure this will serve as a source of pride and inspiration for many in the science community."

Professor Sanjib Bhakta of the Department of Biological Sciences was awarded the **2020 Microbiology Outreach Prize**, along with 'Joi Hok!' founder Sreyashi Basu, by the Microbiology Society. This award recognised their effective bridging of the gap between laboratory science and public health research through their charity 'Joi Hok!' project, a community tuberculosis (TB) awareness and educational intervention programme. The prize is typically awarded for an outstanding outreach initiative that shows innovation, originality and a sustained impact over time.



Professor Ian Crawford, Professor of Planetary Science and Astrobiology, received **the Royal Astronomical Society's Service Award** for his outstanding services to geophysics and leading role in the promotion of lunar science and human space exploration both within the UK and internationally.



The Awards seek to highlight and honour individuals who have promoted, facilitated or encouraged the sciences of astronomy or geophysics both nationally and internationally. There were 20 medals and prizes awarded as part of the 2021 honours. Professor Crawford has had a long and illustrious career, championing deeper research into the Moon, developing science planning for space mission

designs, such as the UK MoonLITE, ESA MoonNext and the International Lunar Network proposals, and successfully advocating for the UK's participation in the International Space Station. In addition to his role in numerous national and international advisory panels, Professor Crawford was recently appointed to the UK Space Agency's Space Exploration Advisory Committee. Many of the 11 PhD students he supervised in lunar science and astrobiology have gone on to play leading roles in the science community.

Professor Rick Cooper received **the British Psychological Society Cognitive Psychology Section award** in November 2020 for 'outstanding published contributions to research in the area of Cognitive Psychology'. He was also made a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science the same month. Professor Cooper additionally received a Governing Board Distinguished Service Award from the Cognitive Science Society, for "dedicated services as Executive Editor of Cognitive Science from 2015 to 2020."

Professor Martin Eimer FBA from the Department of Psychological Sciences has been elected as the **Chair of the Psychology section of the British Academy**. His three-year tenure commenced on Thursday 22 July, 2021. Professor Eimer has been a fellow of the British Academy since 2016, and is also a fellow of the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina). At Birkbeck, he leads the Brain and Behaviour Lab where he and his team study cognitive and neural mechanisms involved in perception, attention, memory, and visual object and face recognition.

Professor Mike Hough, Emeritus Professor, School of Law, recently received the **2020 European Criminology Award** of the European Society of Criminology (ESC) for lifetime contribution to European criminology. Professor Mike Hough who retired from Birkbeck after more than 20 years as Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research had previously served as senior researcher in the Home Office.

Professor Avery Gordon, Visiting Professor with the School of Law, was awarded the 2020 American Studies Association **Carl Bode-Norman Holmes Pearson Prize**, which recognises 'the outstanding achievement of an individual who has dedicated a lifetime of work to the mission and values of American studies'. A Visiting Professor at Birkbeck since 2013 and author of influential books, including *Ghostly Matters* and *The Hawthorn Archives*, Professor Gordon was previously Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her work focuses on radical thought

and practice and on captivity, enslavement, war and other forms of dispossession and how to eliminate them.

Dr Kyle Jasmin, a research fellow in the AlphaLab at Birkbeck, was named as a **Rising Star** by the Association for Psychological Science in early 2021 for his outstanding contribution to the field. The award recognises members of the organisation who, at an early stage in their career, have demonstrated great potential through innovative research. The nominations are judged by a committee of academics from around the world. Dr Jasmin is currently studying how brain structures that evolved for spatial navigation can be used to understand sounds, how individuals with different perceptual and social abilities, such as autism, produce and perceive speech differently, and how those language-related differences are reflected in the brain. In the future, he plans to study how our societal shift toward communication mediated by Zoom may be systematically shaping how we communicate with and perceive one another. His work has previously won the Leverhulme Trust's prestigious Early Career Fellowship, two grants from the Society for Music, Psychology and Education Research and significant attention from media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal, Wired, The Atlantic and The Economist.

Professor Sarah Hart from the Department of Mathematics was elected **President of the British Society for the History of Mathematics**. She had previously been appointed Gresham Professor of Geometry, the first woman to hold the esteemed position in its 423-year history.



Dr Dionyssid Dimitrakopoulou of the Department of Politics won the prestigious **Jean Monnet Chair in Parliamentary Democracy and European Integration**, the first time Birkbeck has received the award named after the French diplomat Jean Monnet (1888-1979), a key figure in the founding of the European Union. The funding *by the EU's Erasmus+ programme* will cover teaching and research activities in the field of European integration for three academic years. A previous holder of fellowships at

Oxford University and London School of Economics, Dr Dimitrakopoulos research mainly focuses on the politics of European integration. He is currently researching the EU's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Kevin Ibeh, Professor of Marketing and International Business and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at Birkbeck, was appointed a **Commissioner of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission** during the first quarter of 2021. He thus joined 14 other commissioners of the CSC, an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and charged by its Secretary of State with governing the UK's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) and supporting outstanding talent and future leaders from across the Commonwealth. A former Commonwealth Scholar, Professor Ibeh brings to the CSC Commissioner role a substantial wealth of knowledge at the nexus of international HE, international enterprise and international development, including consulting and advisory experience with the UNCTAD, OECD, and World Bank among others. Professor Ibeh was subsequently confirmed as Lead Commissioner for Marketing, Communications and Branding.

Professor David Latchman, Vice-Chancellor of Birkbeck, was recently appointed to the **Lifelong Learning Education Commission** launched on 19 February, 2021. The Commission chaired by former Universities Minister, Chris Skidmore MP, and supported by the think tank, ResPublica, is charged with offering recommendations on how barriers to lifelong learning can be removed, the future investment needed to support this, and the regulatory change needed to ensure the maximum possible flexibility that will benefit learners.

Professor Lynn Nead, Pevsner Professor of History of Art at Birkbeck, was re-appointed for a second, four-year, term as a **Trustee of the Victoria & Albert Museum**, the world's leading museum of art, design and performance and a non-departmental public body of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Professor Nead's research on the history of British art and culture intersects closely with the work of the museum, and she chairs the Trustees' Research Committee and serves in the Collections Committee. A Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Historical Society, Professor Nead also currently serves on the Advisory Boards at the Museum of London, Tate, the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, the Foundling Museum among others.



Furthermore, several Birkbeck staff members received coveted **fellowships** and **book awards** during the 2020-21 year. Professor Catharine Edwards of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology was elected to the **Fellowship of the British Academy** in recognition of her contribution to the humanities and social sciences. She is one of only 52 UK Fellows elected to the Fellowship in 2021. Dr Sarah Thomas of the Department of History of Art won **the 2021 Historians of British Art Book Award** (post-1800 subject) for *her work entitled Witnessing Slavery: Art and Travel in the Age of Abolition*. Dr Silvia Posocco of the Department of Psychosocial Studies was awarded **the Ruth Benedict Prize 2020** for her work on *Queering Knowledge: Analytics, Devices and Investments after Marilyn Strathern*. The Prize is given annually by the American Anthropological Association. The **2021 British Association for Jewish Studies Book Prize** and **the Reginald Zelnik Book Prize 2020** were also won by Dr Brendan McGeever of the Department of Psychosocial Studies for his book on *Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution*.

Box 5, below, presents additional accolades received by Birkbeck staff during the 2020-21 year.

Box 5: Additional accolades for Birkbeck staff and students during 2020-21

Professor Martin Paul Eve of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing was shortlisted for the prestigious **Shaw Trust Power 100 list**, which celebrates disabled people working to break the stigma around disability and create a more accessible and inclusive world. Professor Eve, despite living with serious autoimmune conditions, is considered "one of the most brilliant scholars of his generation" and a foremost expert on open access research. He is a multiple award winner, adviser to government panels, and co-founder of The Open Library of Humanities. The print royalties of his main academic books all go to Versus Arthritis.

Dr Uracha Chatrakul Na Ayudhya and Professor Alexandra Beauregard of the Department of Organizational Psychology received the *European Management Review Best Paper Award* in December 2020 for their article, "The Impact of Global Economic Crisis and Austerity on Quality of Working Life and Work-Life Balance" co-authored with Dr Rea Prouska.



Dr Monish Bhatia of the Department of Criminology won the *best article award* offered by the Hate Crime Network of the British Society of Criminology for a paper entitled 'The Permission to be Cruel: Street Level Bureaucrats and Harms Against People Seeking Asylum', published in *Critical Criminology*.

Jean-Marc Dewaele of the Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication received the "*Excellent Research Paper*" award 2020 from the Renmin University of China, Beijing, China, for a paper co-authored with 姜艳 (Yan Jiang) entitled "How unique is the foreign language classroom enjoyment and anxiety of Chinese EFL learners?".

Touched Bodies, a book by Dr Mara Polgovsky Ezcurra of the Department of History of Arts was shortlisted for the ASAP 2020 Book Prize.

Latanya Gordon, Law LLB student, was one of only eight recipients of this year's *prestigious Neuberger Prize* set up by the Lincoln's Inn in 2015 to recognise exceptional students about to start the final year of their undergraduate law degrees.

Dr Yi Ling Lai of the Department of Organizational Psychology received the *Highly Commended Paper prize* at the Emerald Group Publishing Literati Awards in December 2020 for her article, "Psychology in executive coaching: An integrated literature review" in the *Journal of Work-Applied Management*.

Tomas McCabe was one of the top prize winners in the inaugural British Inter University Commercial Awareness Competition (BIUCAC) 2020, established to promote access to the top City law firms for students from a wider spread of Law schools.

Dr Rebecca Whiting of the Department of Organizational Psychology was nominated for the Sage 2021 Prize for Innovation and Excellence for the paper entitled 'Housekeeping: The Invisible Work of Flexibility' in *Work, Employment and Society* (with G. Symon).

2.3 Funding from research councils, major charities and international sources

Reflecting the outstanding quality of Birkbeck research, several staff members were successful in securing significant research grants from highly competitive funding bodies during 2020-21.

Notably, academics in the School of Science sustained their record of attracting major research funding. Dr Clare Press of the Department of Psychological Sciences was granted €2 million by the European Research Council for a study to resolve the 'Perceptual Prediction paradox' and inform how humans render our experiences as both accurate and informative. Professor Fred Dick and Adam Tierney secured £366,167 (with international colleagues at Carnegie Mellon, USA) from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) for a project examining the mechanisms underlying human adult listeners' ability to direct attention to specific dimensions of sound. Professor Dick also attracted \$186,554 (with collaborators from Carnegie Mellon and Rochester, USA, and Trinity College Dublin) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a project examining how the acquisition of new auditory categories interacts with the statistics of the auditory environment, and how those categories are used. Another ESRC funding of £679,467 came through Professor Martin Eimer for a project seeking to uncover mechanisms of attentional control by tracking preparatory states in real time, while Professor Ulrike Hahn (and a colleague from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) attracted AHRC and German Research Foundation funding for a research project on Reasoning and Argumentation.

Other colleagues in the Department of Psychological Sciences also attracted funding from prestigious sources. Specifically, Dr Marko Tesic received £245,065 grant from the Royal Academy of Engineering for a project on the role of explanation in (re)building trust in AI systems; Professor Angelica Ronald attracted £213,919 from Simon's Foundation for a study entitled "Discovery science to map the common genetic architecture of fine and gross infant motor development in the context of neurodevelopment and autism"; Professor Denis Mareschal secured £64360 from the EPSRC for a study entitled "Generating Explicit Explanations from Deep Reinforcement Learning Systems Using Complementary Learning Systems Theory; Dr Samara Banno received £42,212 from the MRC (Daphne Jackson fellowship) for a study on "Developing an Intelligent Diagnosis Model for Early Awareness of Brain Deterioration in Dementia"; and Professor Emily Jones won £13,800 from the MRC

for a study entitled “Scalable TRansdiagnostic Early Assessment of Mental Health (STREAM).”

In the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, Professor Karen Wells of the Department of Geography secured a Global Challenges Research Fund grant from the British Academy/Humanities and Social Sciences for research to test a translanguaging pedagogy in English medium schools in Amhara region of Ethiopia. The project is in collaboration with Professor Getnet Tadele at Addis Ababa University. Professor Wells had previously attracted a Swedish Research Council grant for another project on Migration, host-country language learning, and the influence of global English. Dr Ben Gidley of the Department of Psychosocial Studies received funding from the ANR-DFG-ESRC-SSHRC Open Research Area (ORA) for a project, ENCOUNTERS, which studies both real life connections and understandings of Jews and Muslims in urban Europe. The research is being carried out in France (Paris/Strasbourg), Germany (Berlin/Frankfurt) and the UK (London/Manchester).

The School of Arts’ Professor Leslie Topp was awarded Leverhulme International Fellowship for a 2021-22 Visiting Professorship at Queen’s University, Ontario. Professor Topp had previously held a visiting fellowship at Queen’s in 2018. Dr Sarah Thomas also secured two AHRC fully funded collaborative doctoral partnerships with the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery. Elsewhere in the School of Arts, The Open Library of Humanities (OLH), part of the Centre for Technology and Publishing, attracted £200,000 grant from Arcadia, a charitable fund of Dr Lisbet Rausing and Professor Peter Baldwin, to support the innovative research and work of the Open Library of Humanities. The OLH, a major open-access journal publisher in the humanities disciplines, hosts 28 fully gold open-access journals, pioneered the collective funding model and the Janeway publishing platform used internationally by University of Michigan Publishing, Iowa State University Press, the University of Arizona Libraries, the California Digital Library, and the Earth Sciences preprint platform, EarthArXiv, among others.

From the School of Business, Economics and Informatics, Dr Hubie Chen of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems has been awarded £594,000 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for a research project in query evaluation, or the process of identifying solutions to complex computational problems. Professor Alex Poulouvasilis of the same Department (with Professor Fiona Candlin of the School of Arts) obtained AHRC

grant for a project on “UK Museums during the COVID-19 crisis: Assessing risk, closure, and resilience.” Professor Emmanuel Mamatzakis of the Department of Management also attracted ESRC grant for a project entitled “Why do households repay their debt during COVID-19 crisis? Well-being and financial implications”. Another Management Department academic, Dr Fred Yamoah, additionally secured a grant from the Science and Technology Facilities Council Food Network+ to create a novel digital platform to connect Ghanaian fish farmers with customers. The project aims to address disruption to the aquaculture sector and threat to nutritious food supply and income caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as improve the resilience of the supply chain for the future.

Academics at the School of Law similarly attracted external funding during the 2020-21 period. These include the award of the 2020 Philip Leverhulme Prize to Dr El-Enany one, one of five Law winners in the latest UK awards. The prize, awarded annually since 2001, is for early career researchers whose work has had international impact and whose future research career is exceptionally promising, to use for any research purpose. Dr El-Enany’s project is entitled ‘I can’t breathe’: Law, Race and the Environment’ and it will consider how the health of racialised communities is disproportionately impacted by environmental harm. She had previously received a Leverhulme Research Fellowship in 2018 to research the experiences of families of racialised custodial death victims in their struggle for justice and accountability.

Furthermore, Birkbeck was awarded an additional £300,000 by Wellcome to refocus existing Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) schemes to deal with the differential effect of COVID-19 on researchers and support a pilot summer intern programme for promising eligible students from the BAME communities to gain the research experience that will make them more competitive for funded PhD places. This top-up award, matched by from Birkbeck, supplements the ISSF grant dating back to 2016 and covers the period until March 2023. Finally, The Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism (formerly Pears Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism) additionally secured £800,000 over three years. Founded in 2010 and known internationally for its innovative approach to research and teaching, the Institute focuses on research into, and educates students about, current and historic patterns of antisemitism and their connection to the wider study of racialization, as well as providing expertise to a wide range of organisations.



2.4 Appointments to expert panels/boards

The professional expertise of Birkbeck academics was also recognised through appointments to important national and international panels during the 2020-21 academic year.

Box 6, below, presents a far from exhaustive list of such appointments.

Box 6: Sample appointments of Birkbeck staff to expert panels/boards, 2020-21

Professor Daniele Archibugi of the Department of Management was recently appointed to the Academic Council of the Venice International University and to a Working Group of the Italian Labour Ministry examining how to increase women's employment in Italy.

Dr Jan Hidders of the Department of Computer Science and informatics joined the Board of the Linked Data Benchmark Council (LDBC), a leading international organisation with academic and industrial partners focusing on developing standards and benchmarks for graph-based data-management platforms and databases.

Dr Marcos Centeno of the Department of Cultures and Languages was appointed Panel Member of Experts in Asia, an International Observatory on Intangible Heritage, Sustainable Human Development and Inclusive Cultural Dialogue for Peace and Security, *Universitat de València*, Spain.

Professor Annie Coombes of the Department of History of Arts was appointed Expert Advisor on the 'Heritage Collection Advisory Workshops' for the Edo Museum of West African Art (EMOWAA), Benin City, Nigeria, by the Legacy Restoration Trust. This Trust is supported by The Oba, Ewuare 11 and the Benin Royal Court; the Edo State Government and the Nigerian National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM). Professor Coombes also currently serves as Expert Advisor to the 'African Union Human Rights Memorial Project' (AUHRMP) co-ordinated by the African Union and the NGO, Justice Africa in Addis Abba and Constitution Hill, Johannesburg.



Catherine Heard of the School of Law was appointed to the Advisory Board of 'Building Futures', a five-year programme led by the Prison Reform Trust to examine the impacts of long and indeterminate prison sentences.

Dr Suzanne Konzelmann of the Department of Management was appointed Council Member of the Progressive Economy Forum and has been involved in regular seminars with the Labour Party Shadow Cabinet on a wide range of current economic policy areas.

Professor Lynn Nead of the Department of History of Arts was re-appointed Trustee of the Victoria & Albert Museum and Assessor on Sub-Panel 32 of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.

Professor Klaus Nielsen of the Department of Management was appointed to the REF 2021 Sub-panel 17, Business and Management Studies, and Sub-panel 24, Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism.

Dr Simon Pooley of the Department of Geography was appointed member of the IUCN Task Force on Human-Wildlife Conflict, reflecting his research on human-crocodile interactions in Southern Africa and India

<http://www.iucncsg.org/pages/Human%252dCrocodile-Conflict.html>

Professor Helen Lawton Smith of the Department of Management was invited to the Advisory Board of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Inclusive Entrepreneurship's "Road to Wonder" Inquiry.

Professor Julian Swann of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology was re-appointed Member of the Sub-Panel 28 of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.

Dr Kevin Teoh of the Department of Organizational Psychology was appointed Executive Officer of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology.

Dr Sarah Thomas of the Department of History of Art was appointed Advisor to Oxford Online Bibliography in Atlantic History.



Dr Penny Vera-Sanso of the Department of Geography co-founded the British Society of Gerontology's Special Interest Group on Ageing in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Dr Fintan Walsh of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing was appointed Executive Committee member of the International Federation for Theatre Research.

Dr Jo Yarker and Dr Rachel Lewis of the Department of Organizational Psychology took up advisory positions for Amnesty International and Santander, and led an international team developing the Society of Occupational Medicine's "Return to Work following Long Covid" guidance. Dr Yarker and Dr Lewis also got joint appointments as Practice Chair for the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology, and to the International SOS Global Resilience Council and the Society of Occupational Medicine Academic Forum.



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

2.5 Vibrant international presence

Birkbeck staff sustained their typically vibrant presence in international scholarly and related fora, *albeit* virtually, during 2020-21. These international activities aimed at disseminating research findings, sharing insights and so on took various forms, including conferences, invited keynotes or seminar presentations. Sample activities are outlined in Box 7, below.

Box 7: Sample International Presentations by Birkbeck Staff, 2020-21

Daniele Archibugi of the Department of Management gave a webinar at the Centre for European Studies, Syracuse University, USA, on March 19 2021 and participated



in a roundtable organised by the RNI Forum Innovation 2021, France on June 2 2021.

Dr Luca Andriani of the Department of Management gave an invited talk on “Life satisfaction and corruption: Evidence from a transition survey” at the Economic Seminar of the IOS Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg, Germany (online), May 2021.

Professor Heike Bauer of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing gave a presentation entitled “Respondent, Doing Queer History” at a digital workshop co-organised by Virginia Commonwealth University, USA, and *Freie Universitaet* Berlin, Germany, 25-27 March 2021. She also gave an invited talk on “Radclyffe Hall, Una Troubridge and their Dogs” at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, 16 March 2021, and contributed an exhibition catalogue essay & a podcast to a major joint-exhibition held in May 2021 at the Bodleian Library Oxford and the *Literaturhaus* Berlin.

Dr Marcos Centeno of the Department of Cultures and Languages was convenor for the Visual Arts section of European Association for Japanese Studies 2021 Conference, Ghent, Belgium. He also presented an invited paper entitled “Media and Mediation in East Asia: Assemblages and Global Flows” at the Summer Institute for East Asian Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2-4 June, 2021.

The Layers of London project directed by Professor Matthew Davies, Executive Dean of the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, was recently featured by the *Washington Post* in an article, ‘In London, looking backward to move forward’, which highlights the way in which maps and archives can be used to reconstruct the changing physical and social landscapes of the city.

Professor Iroise Dumontheil of the Department of Psychological Sciences gave a presentation on the regulation of emotion and behaviour during adolescence at the online Cogni’Forum 2020, Association Apprendre et Former avec les Sciences Cognitives, October 2020.

Professor Caroline Edwards of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing has been invited to deliver the annual Distinguished Faber Lecture and Keynote on “Idyll and Utopia” to graduate students of the German Studies Department, Princeton University, in October 2021. Previous speakers include



Dominick LaCapra, Andreas Huyssen, Martin Jay, Sophie Rosenfeld and Paul Robinson.

Professor Martin Eimer FBA from the Department of Psychological Sciences examined a PhD thesis on "Electrophysiological measures of flexible attentional control and visual working memory maintenance", at Brock University, Canada, in December 2020.

Professor Martin Eve of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing has been invited to give a talk at The 48th Conference of the Austrian Association for American Studies being organised by the Justus Liebig University Giessen, Cornell University and Tromsø University.

Dr Gillian Forrester of the Department of Psychological Sciences recently featured in a short documentary and news article in New Scientist magazine, which highlighted how humans are not as unique generally thought. She also examined a PhD thesis at the *Université de Paris* in November 2020.

Professor Carmen Fracchia of the Department of Cultures and Languages recently gave a presentation on her book, 'Black but Human': Slavery and Visual Arts in Hapsburg Spain, 1480-1700', at the Medieval/Renaissance Forum and The Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, USA.

Professor Helyette Geman of the Department of Economics, Maths and Statistics gave a talk at the conference 'The Commodities Supercycle', organized by the Policy Center for the New South, Rabat, Morocco, on 24 May, 2021.

Professor Ulrike Hahn of the Department of Psychological Sciences gave a keynote presentation "Understanding the accuracy of beliefs formed across social networks" at the Lorentz Institute Workshop on modelling social complexity in argumentation, Leiden University, the Netherlands. She also delivered a talk on "Building an online information environment for policy relevant science" at the 2020 SciBeh Virtual Workshop in November 2020.

Professor James Hammond of the Department of Planetary Sciences and Director of the Mt. Paektu Research Centre contributed to the documentary, "A Peace of Science: Diplomacy with North Korea," which was screened by the American



Association for the Advancement of Science Center for Science Diplomacy on 21 July, 2021.

Professor Sarah Hart of the Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics was recently profiled by the *New York Times* as the first woman to hold the Gresham professorship of geometry.

Catherine Heard of Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research's (ICPR) presented comparative research on prisoner health and healthcare and the challenges of ensuring humane treatment of life-sentenced and death row prisoners at an event organised by Eleos Justice, Monash University Australia, March 2021.

Professor Kevin Ibeh of the Department of Management delivered a keynote, "Reflections on the post-pandemic global economy", at an online Conference on Reimagining Business Strategies in the Age of Disruption, Lovely Professional University, India, 19 December, 2020.

Dr Seda Ilter of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing was appointed advisor to the Digital Dramaturgy and Digital Technologies for Performance, a training programme for theatre-makers in Turkey funded by the EU Civil Society/Sivil Dusun programme, April-September, 2021. Dr Ilter is also part of The International Dramaturgy Lab (IDL) involving dramaturgical organizations and networks from the UK, USA, Canada, Mexico and others.

Dr Eddie Bruce Jones of the Department of Law was the William and Patricia Kleh Visiting Professor of International Law, Boston University, August – December 2020.

Dr Suzanne Konzelmann of the Department of Management gave a talk on "John Maynard Keynes, Adolf Berle & the Modern Debate about Corporate Purpose" at an online seminar in the University of Lisbon and University of Coimbra, Lisbon, Portugal, 13 May, 2021. Dr Konzelmann also presented a paper on "The United States of Europe': An Idea Whose Time Has Come – Or Gone?", at the 70th Anniversary of the Ventotene Manifesto International Conference, Turin, Italy (online), January 2021.



Professor Denis Mareschal of the Department of Psychological Sciences was invited to speak on Slovenian radio in a series which addresses questions about the brain. The show went live in October 2020. He spoke about developmental neuroscience to a public audience, answering questions around self-awareness and infant development. Professor Mareschal was also recently interviewed by Austrian Radio on a programme about the sense of touch and haptic learning.

Dr Zoe Opacic of the Department of History of Arts was a visiting fellow at the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt, during 2020 and 2021. She was part of a large international team working on the trans-national and cross-period project, Religion and Urbanity: Reciprocal Formations, generously supported by the German Research Fund (DFG). This builds on Dr Opacic's research on the development of cities in Central Europe in the late medieval period.

Professor Maura Paterson of the Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics gave an invited presentation on "Authentication codes with perfect secrecy and algebraic manipulation detection codes" at the Canadian Mathematical Society conference (CanaDAM) in May 2021.

Dr Janet McCabe of the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies delivered a keynote address in Rome for the Horizon 2020 project *Detecting Europe in contemporary crime narratives*, June 2021.

Professor George Magoulas of the Department of Computer Science and Informatics was an invited speaker at the virtual International Conference 'STE(A)M educators & education', supported by the Greek Ministry of Education, the Community for Science Education in Europe and the EU, 7-9 May 2021.

Dr Sorin Piperca and Dr Pam Yeow of the Department of Management presented a paper on "Stakeholder influences on emerging market Central Bank's decision-making processes in a financial crisis" at the European Academy of Management Conference, Dublin, Ireland (online), December 2020.

Professor Clare Press gave a series of invited talks (online) at the University of New South Wales, Australia (October 2020); Bar Ilan University, Israel (December 2020); Humboldt *Universität* Berlin (October 2020); University of Melbourne, Australia (March 2021); Marburg University, Germany (May 2021); and the Donders Institute,



Netherlands (March, 202). She also co-examined a PhD thesis at the Donders Institute with scholars from Yale, VU Amsterdam, UCL and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Professor Rob Singh of the Department of Politics commentated extensively for European and US media on the Trump-Biden transition during 2020-21.

Professor Helen Lawton Smith of the Department of Management gave a talk on 'Regional Geographies of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support: An EDI Approach', at Lund University, Sweden, 17 February, 2021.

Dr Kevin Teoh of the Department of Organizational Psychology gave an invited online talk on "Organisational interventions to support the mental and emotional well-being of clinicians on the frontline" at the University College Dublin Conference on Occupation Stress and Burnout among Health Care Workers held on 16 October, 2020. He also delivered a talk on "Understanding and managing doctor burnout" at the Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy & Surgical Society Conference in March 2021.

Professor Leslie Topp of the Department of History of Arts gave an invited lecture on "Steinhof: A Problematic Modernity" to the Central European University, Vienna, as part of their Presidential Lecture Series in May 2021. She also chaired a panel on "Social Control" at the Society of Architectural Historians annual conference in Pittsburgh, USA, and co-authored an essay, 'Fenced Off' (on the use of fencing for local quarantines during the current pandemic), for the U.S. forum PLATFORM, May 2021.



3.0 OUTSTANDING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The strong commitment of the Birkbeck community to addressing real life global challenges was also richly demonstrated during the 2020-21 year. Contributions span across a range of topical issues, including the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, human rights, mental health, and advancing equality, diversity and inclusion and higher educational opportunities for forced migrants. These global citizenship activities are briefly described below.

Rising to the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic

Birkbeck continued to respond robustly to the extraordinarily challenging COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 academic year. For example, Professor Ulrike Hahn of the Department of Psychology Sciences along with a team of over 50 scientific experts from around the world created The COVID-19 Vaccination Handbook to help fight misinformation and improve vaccine communication. The handbook had grown out of a wider initiative for pandemic crisis knowledge management, *SciBeh*, which Professor Hahn and her colleagues founded in March 2020. Researchers at the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research at Birkbeck also sustained their highly important work of monitoring and sharing information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on prisons, while The Birkbeck 'Community Leadership for Newham Residents' programme engaged actively with over 100 local residents both in-person and online, offering a series of experience and expertise-sharing videos on resilience and parenting, digital inclusion and COVID-19 recovery funds. Dr Aviah Day of the Department of Criminology had previously attracted BBC News coverage for her admirable work, earlier in the outbreak, on bringing together volunteers online to assist those in need.

Furthermore, the Birkbeck Inspires initiative launched soon after the first UK-wide lockdown sustained its influential role, with the Access and Engagement and Psychology for Education teams also joining forces to support parents, carers, and educators to access digital platforms, peer support and isolation-mitigating social interaction. Activities undertaken include a series of online lectures for parents and carers covering anxiety during lockdown, exercise for wellbeing, and nurturing resilience, and a five-week taster Psychology for Education programme focusing on children's learning, wellbeing and resilience. The Employee Assistance Programme, a virtual library of wellbeing information, designed to support staff through

professional and personal issues that can impact wellbeing, has also been crucial. Ditto the Research Innovation Fund (COVID Recovery Scheme) designed to support research staff whose ability to undertake research has been adversely impacted by the pandemic. See also Box 8 for additional examples of Birkbeck's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing the climate emergency

The commitment of the Birkbeck community to confronting the climate crisis continued to find practical expression during 2020-21, as indicated by the following examples. Professor Hélyette Geman's (Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics) is collaborating with colleagues from several European universities in the Knowledge Alliances Erasmus+ [Greening Energy Market and Finance project \(GrEnFin\)](#). This project, funded following a competitive process, aims to create a pipeline of professional sustainable energy experts with the skills and knowledge to develop sustainable energy solutions for tackling the global climate crisis, upholding the Paris Agreement and meeting the European Union's 2030 climate and energy targets. This aim is being facilitated through an innovative and interdisciplinary Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's programme featuring Summer Schools in green energy and finance involving scholars and students from across the consortium.

The Bloomsbury Greening initiative, a collaboration with other Bloomsbury Colleges, organised a series of sustainability activities, including a 'Go Green week' focused on the scourge of plastic pollution, while two other events by Dr Becky Briant of the Department of Geography and Dr Fred Yamoah of the Department of Management put the spotlight on future sea-level rise and climate change and carbon literacy respectively. Greenwashing was tackled by Dr Ellen Yu of the Department of Management in a policy piece for global business executives invited by The Conference Board, a US think-tank that aims to deliver trusted insights for the future. The Department of Law further marked the Earth Day 2021 with a video on the Paris Agreement and its environmental policies and how the LLM Environmental Law, Policy and Governance programme at Birkbeck responds to these.

Championing reforms in prisons around the world

The Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR) at Birkbeck sustained the publication of its influential World Prison Brief during 2020-21. Significantly, the Brief's data on unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

are now used by the UN as the indicator to measure progress against the access to justice target (16.3) relating to UN Sustainable Development Goal 16. Another recent report on *Sentencing burglary, drug importation and murder: evidence from ten countries* found vast disparities in these countries' approaches to criminal sentencing and highlighted some policy challenges raised by three hypothetical offences for sentencing law and practice. The report, led by Senior Research Fellow and Director of the World Prison Research Programme Catherine Heard, also offers ideas for reforms to curb the relentless rise in world's prisoner numbers. The latter report emanates from the [ICPR's ten-country prison project](#) which draws on analysis and interviews with 70 legal practitioners across the ten jurisdictions and five continents, specifically Kenya, South Africa, Brazil, the USA (New York State), India, Thailand, England and Wales, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Australia (New South Wales).

Addressing mental health challenges

Researchers at Birkbeck additionally sustained their focus on aspects of mental health challenges facing humanity during 2020-21. For example, Dr Rachel Lewis and Dr Jo Yarker of the Department of Organizational Psychology undertook research projects for the World Health Organisation and International SOS Foundation to inform the implementation of mental health interventions and explore the psychological implications of remote rotational work respectively. Dr Kevin Teoh, also of the same Department, co-authored a report for the Royal College of Nursing Foundation and the Society for Occupational Medicine on "The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Nurses and Midwives in the United Kingdom." Another study at the Affective and Cognitive Neuroscience lab suggests that 'stoicism', according to Professor of Experimental Psychopathology Nazanin Derakhshan, "offers a promising way forward in protecting and nurturing our emotional health" particularly in these uncertain and stressful times. The research led by Alexander MacLellan, and due to be published in the *Cognitive Therapy and Research* journal, found that cognitive training based on the principles of Stoic philosophy reduced emotional vulnerability in those at risk of anxiety and depression, two of the most prevalent mental health challenges.

Promoting greater understanding of neurodiversity

The Department of Organizational Psychology at Birkbeck, in partnership with Genius Within CIC, an award-winning social enterprise supporting neurominorities in their

careers, recently established *the Centre for Neurodiversity at Work*. Jointly led by Head of Department Professor Almuth McDowall and CEO of Genius Within CIC Dr Nancy Doyle, the Centre aims to develop clear, evidence-based guidance for organisations worldwide and promote genuinely inclusive work environments where diverse talents and skill sets are embraced, and neurodiverse individuals receive the diagnosis, coaching and support that they need to thrive in the workplace.

This Centre, which covers a broad range of neurodevelopmental differences, including autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, dyspraxia and related conditions such as Tourette Syndrome, complements the work of the Birkbeck Futures Ability Programme recently shortlisted for the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards, for Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Established in 2018-19, the Ability Programme offers networking and job advice to students with a disability, neurodiverse, mental health or long term health condition to help develop their confidence and skills to apply for paid placements. The programme also works directly with employers to design roles and make relevant adjustments for each placement, educating employers to support long term change.

Advancing opportunities, equality, diversity and inclusion

Birkbeck reinforced its commitment to advancing opportunities, equality, diversity and inclusion during 2020-21, a feature which attracted the Times Higher Education Awards' shortlist referred to above. Indications include active championing of equality and policies against discrimination based on any protected characteristics; promotion of equality initiatives (e.g. ATHENA SWAN, Disability Confident); and commemoration of international days (e.g. the International Women Day, International day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, Holocaust Memorial, World Refugee Day, Global Accessibility Awareness Day), or dedicated weeks/month (e.g. Pride Month, Refugee Week, Black History Month).

The period under review also witnessed positive steps toward creating a more inclusive and anti-racist community. These include the establishment of a Race Equality Charter Self-Assessment Team to lead effort toward applying for the Advance HE Race Equality Charter and promoting racial justice and the offer, for a second year, of Diversity 100 PhD scholarships aimed at redressing the relatively low representation of BAME doctoral students at Birkbeck. Part of the earlier-noted

Wellcome Trust's £300,000 supplement funding is also earmarked for experience-enhancing pilot summer internships for promising and eligible BAME students applying for competitive funded PhD places.

Assisted by philanthropic gifts from alumni, partners and supporters, Birkbeck significantly expanded financial support to students and offered more bursaries via the hardship funding and Access to Digital Learning fund routes. The Access to postgraduate study scholarships initially targeted at 15 students were boosted by resources from the Goldman Sachs & Birkbeck Diversity Fund and the Jongen Family Charitable Trust, founded by Birkbeck alumna and supporter Muriel Jongen, to support almost 300 additional postgraduate students from the BAME and other under-represented backgrounds. The Trust's gift is targeted at non-traditional students over three years. The Goldman Sachs Gives offers bursaries and emergency hardship funding to current and incoming BAME students, particularly those affected by COVID-19, and also supports outreach activities to address access barriers in London communities with low university participation rates. Birkbeck's partnership with Santander further allows students to benefit from the Santander Universities Black Inclusion programme 2021. The recently launched online programme offers professional development skills and thirty potential £1,500 Santander Scholarships to Black and Black mixed ethnicity university students and recent graduates.

The following remark by a Birkbeck student of MSc Data Analytics reflects the views of benefiting students: "It's a great effort by Birkbeck and donors to support students during these uncertain times. Knowing that the bursary wasn't just given to a select few but distributed across the board was just an extra way to show us that Birkbeck doesn't just talk the talk; it genuinely cares about the wellbeing & development of every single one of its students."

Facilitating forced migrants' access to higher education

Birkbeck's Compass Project, which has been supporting forced migrants into higher education since 2016, enrolled its fourth cohort of 20 students at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year, taking the total number of those supported to over 75. The package covers a first-year scholarship and bursary support, alongside preparation for study, mentoring, wellbeing, counselling and career advice. Supporting these forced migrants to commence their studies at Birkbeck with minimal barriers very much reflects the College's longstanding mission of facilitating



access to higher education to non-traditional learners. A programme of online and in-person orientation activities, featuring remarks and advice by Professor Stewart Motha, Executive Dean of the School of Law, Professor Leslie Topp, Head of the Compass Steering Committee, Ms Isabelle Habib, the Compass Coordinator, and current Compass students, was organised to integrate the new cohort into the Birkbeck community. The Covid-secure in-person event enabled the new students to meet with one another, be introduced to facilities at Birkbeck, and to undertake a walking tour of Bloomsbury. The following quote from a student supported by the Compass Project to start an LLB Law degree in 2020 is instructive: "...For me, the Compass Project hasn't just been an opportunity to study, it's been an opportunity to change my life."

Educating young viewers about the world of medicine and biology

The BabyLab at Birkbeck's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, one of the world's leading centres for studying the way in which babies and young children's brains develop, was recently featured in CBBC's 'Operation Ouch!', the award-winning children's television series which educates young viewers about the world of medicine and biology through conducting experiments and highlighting fascinating facts about the human body. The episode, aired 17 February 2021, showcased current cutting-edge research being undertaken into what happens in babies' brains during sleep. It followed on from the preceding year's "Ouch Baby" episodes and involved TV presenter and medic Dr Xand van Tulleken joining Birkbeck PhD researcher Louisa Gossé in the lab to discover more about the brain activity of babies when they sleep.

Box 8: Other examples of Birkbeck response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Mapping Museums research team led by Professor Fiona Candlin and Professor Alex Poulouvassilis continued their work on UK museums during the pandemic. This is reflected in a new project investigating and analysing risk, closure, and resilience in the UK museum sector during the pandemic. The team plans to keep track of museum closures, identify those that may be at risk during the pandemic and those that are more resilient with a view to learning from them.

Researchers from Birkbeck's ICPR continued their work with civil society penal reformers across five continents, practitioners and human rights advocates to



understand the impacts of 'double lockdowns' in prisons across the world. Their research included interviews in seven jurisdictions with people who have experienced custody during the pandemic, and laid bare the public health risks of over-incarceration. Health and social impacts of the pandemic and the measures taken to contain it were also found to be more severe in countries with overcrowded, under-resourced prisons. Senior Research Fellow Catherine Heard's journal contribution on "Assessing the global impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on prison populations" suggests reducing prison population as part of measures to control the spread of the virus. She further advised Rule of Law officials in the UN Department of Peace Operations on pandemic-related challenges facing African prisons.

Dr Susy Menis of the Department of Law investigated some of the "behind the scenes" Covid-19 related issues addressed by the English Courts and found that although they managed the spread of the virus sufficiently well in the first wave, "individuals granted bail from immigration detention to an approved premise had their rights mostly compromised during this period". She concludes the criminal justice system is facing a real struggle in balancing public interests against individual liberties - see <https://thebscblog.wordpress.com/2021/02/17/covid-and-the-penal-system/>.

Pioneering research from Birkbeck, Southwest University China, University of California, and Nottingham Trent University has found that video game use and addiction severity has increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for young adolescents. The researchers, including Dr Halley Pontes of the Department of Organizational Psychology, also found that pre-pandemic levels of depressive and anxiety symptoms predicted greater video game use and gaming addiction (also referred to as Internet Gaming Disorder [IGD]) severity during the pandemic period. The study involved 1,778 children and adolescents from eight Chinese schools in Southwest China and was funded by the Fundamental Research for the Central Universities, the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation and the Chongqing Special Postdoctoral Science Foundation.



4.0 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

Birkbeck continued to sustain and develop strategically important relationships with several international universities during 2020-21 despite the disruptive effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Brief accounts of some international links reporting recent activity are presented below.

South Western University of Finance and Economics, China

The long-established collaboration between Birkbeck and the South Western University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE), Chengdu, China, which involved a dual undergraduate degree offering and progression into postgraduate Business and Management programmes, deepened during the 2020-21 academic year. Although physical teaching trips to Chengdu by Birkbeck staff or study visits by SWUFE students to Birkbeck's Bloomsbury campus in London could not occur owing to the pandemic, the first cohort of the dual degree programme that enrolled at SWUFE in 2017-18 were able to virtually join other final year undergraduate students at Birkbeck for the 2020-21 academic year. Both institutions remain keen to sustain and enhance the collaboration as suggested by the July 2021 renewal of the agreement.

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

The academic collaboration between Birkbeck's School of Business, Economics and Informatics and the *Universitat Internacional de Catalunya*, which enables UIC Barcelona's undergraduate students of Economics and Marketing to gain Bachelor's degrees from both Universities upon successful completion of the prescribed curriculum developed further during the 2020-21 year. Discussions are currently underway to extend the collaborative arrangement to encompass postgraduate programmes.

Sophia, Hosei, ICU, Ochanomizu, Waseda and Kansai Universities, Japan

Birkbeck academic relationships with Japanese universities, specifically Sophia University, Hosei University, ICU, and Ochanomizu University all based in Tokyo, continued during 2020-21. Although the pandemic restricted student exchange activities to digital platforms during the academic year, two new such arrangements were developed with Waseda University, Tokyo and Kansai University, Osaka, further

reinforcing Birkbeck's commitment to sustaining its involvement with the Japanese higher education sector.

University of São Paulo, Brazil

The Department of Psychosocial Studies of the School of Social Sciences, History, and Philosophy maintained its longstanding formal link with the Department of Social Psychology and the Psychology Institute at the University of São Paulo, Brazil during the 2020-21 academic year. Understandably, staff and student exchanges could not take place during the period owing to the persisting pandemic.

University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana

Birkbeck and the University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA), Ghana, finalised a new collaboration agreement to enable eligible academic staff from UPSA to enrol into Birkbeck's PhD programmes to study largely on an online, distance learning basis, at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year. The agreement covers MPhil/PhD programmes in Management, Law and Film and Screen Media, which enrolled UPSA staff members can study remotely from their Accra base. The top quality research and relationships developed from these doctoral programmes are expected to stimulate wider research and academic collaboration between Birkbeck and UPSA.

University of Sharjah, UAE

Birkbeck and University of Sharjah are continuing discussions toward developing a dual degree collaborative offer involving the two universities' Department of Biological Sciences and Department of Medicine respectively. The dual degree provision, if agreed, would enable University of Sharjah's postgraduate students to gain Master's degrees from both Universities upon successful completion of prescribed curricula. A MoU was signed in 2021 and detailed curricula mapping is ongoing.

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB), Italy

Discussions between Birkbeck and the University of Bicocca aimed at establishing a dual degree collaboration agreement to enable eligible postgraduate students from the University of Bicocca to gain Master's degrees from both Universities upon successful completion of prescribed curricula have also reached advanced stage. If

agreed, Birkbeck will offer the MSc in Quantitative Risk Management with Machine Learning, while UNIMIB will award the *The Laurea Magistrale* in Economics and Finance.

The Open Society University Network (OSUN)

Birkbeck deepened its founding membership of The Open Society University Network (OSUN), a new global network anchored by Central European University and Bard College and supported by the Open Society Foundations, during the 2020-21 year. The College, for example, recently became one of 11 partner institutions participating in the Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (EHCN), an initiative providing funds for digitally enabled projects that promote innovative and socially engaged humanities research and teaching. Encompassing over 30 Universities and research and educational institutions from Europe, Americas, Africa and Middle East, and Central Asia, the OSUN network integrates learning and advances knowledge across geographic and demographic boundaries, promotes civic engagement, and expands access to higher education to underserved communities. It also promotes the development of engaged citizens by exposing students of partner institutions to globally integrated academic programmes on Open Society and Democracy, Sustainability and Climate, Inequalities, Human Rights, Transnationalism, and Arts and Society.

Additional international research collaborations

The Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (CBCD) within the Department of Psychological Sciences collaborates with several international partners, including The Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology, New York, MRC Gambia (for The Brain Imaging for Global Health, BRIGHT project), Swinburne University of Technology, Australia (for The British Autism Study of Infant Siblings [BASIS]) as well as former CBCD researchers in labs around the world.

The Centre for Researching and Embedding Human Rights (CREHR) based in the School of Law is currently involved in collaborative projects with the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK, The New York University School of Law's Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice, The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, Canada's Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, Economics, Philosophy and Political Science, and the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme. The projects are respectively entitled *States of Mind in Conflict* (SOMIC) launched in August 2020, *The*



Human Rights, Prevention, and Sustainable Peace Project, Denial and Acknowledgement in Modern Slavery and Human Rights, and Mental Health and Resistance – Palestine under Occupation.

The School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy sustained their extensive range of research ties with international universities during the 2020-21 period. Dr Becky Briant and Dr Stefan Engels of the Department of Geography, for example, collaborated with colleagues in Italy, Iraq and the UK on a project to establish the history of the Najaf Sea. Dr Stefan Engels also became a project partner in a Swiss National Science Foundation project looking at Novel Radiocarbon Applications in Biogeochemistry and Paleo Climate Studies, and will be developing new techniques to radiocarbon date individual pollen grains. Dr Aideen Foley, also of the same Department, is coordinating a team of researchers from the University of Malta, the University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Mauritius, and the University of the West Indies on a project entitled “Situating UNderstanding of Resilience in Island Societies and Environments (SUNRISE).” The Natural Environment Research Council-funded project is studying the impacts of climate change impacts, coping and adaptation in diverse island communities around the globe. Dr Joana Barros is similarly working with colleagues from the UK, Netherlands and China on the SIMETRI (Sustainable Mobility and Equality in mega-city Regions: patterns, mechanisms and governance) project.

Furthermore, Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele of the Department of Applied Linguistics and Communications continues to maintain active collaboration with international colleagues, including from the University of Mannheim, Germany, Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China, Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey, University of Science and Technology, China, University of Luxembourg, Nebrija University, Madrid, Spain, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Doshisha University, Japan, University of Vienna, Austria, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China, Cap Breton University, Canada, and Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz, Austria. Dr Lisa McEntee-Atalianis of the same Department similarly maintains links with her counterparts from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Scholars in the Department of Politics equally reported links with the Universität Graz, Austria, the Australia National University, Bilkent University, Turkey, the Université d’Aix-Marseille, France, the University of Illinois at Urbana, USA, and East China National University.

5.0 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND VISITORS

5.1 Hosting international events

Birkbeck's profile as a centre for world class research, scholarship and knowledge exchange continued to be reinforced during the 2020-21 year, through the hosting of influential international events and visitors. Relevant examples are presented in the next set of paragraphs.

Birkbeck annual festival of arts and culture held its 2021 edition

Birkbeck Art Week 2021, the festival of talks, readings, screenings and performances and showcase of creativity of research and teaching, took place virtually from 3-21 May, 2021. This is the second consecutive year of COVID-19 induced online staging, and the Week featured live events, including conversations (e.g. on the afterlives of colonial Caribbean visual culture), discussions on creative practice, the power of poetry and about the new book *Gay Bar: Why We Went Out* (2021), a workshop on using digital and immersive technologies to mediating difficult histories, a panel discussion about museums and new poetry performance. Featured guests include Jack Thorne of the Harry Potter fame, Artist Joscelyn Gardner (Barbados/Canada) and curator Temi Odumosu (Sweden), museum founder E-J Scott, poets Keith Jarrett, Nick Makoha, Miriam Nash and Laila Sumpton, and novelist Jeremy Atherton. There were also companion videos and a series of new writings from Birkbeck academics and guests about long-gone and more recently lost aspects of London. The Week additionally featured live streamed events from international partners, including a new solo performance piece, *Circles of Hell*, based on Salvador Dali's paintings of Dante's Inferno (from *Museus de Sitges*, Barcelona) and a new video work by Malik Nashad Sharpe (from the OSUN Centre for Human Rights at Bard College, New York).

The School of Art's in-house Peltz Gallery additionally offered an exciting immersive digital exhibition, 'Lessons from Lockdown: Learning from the Pandemic', which previously first showed from 15 September to 6 November, 2020. This online exhibition featured three specially commissioned artworks reflecting perspectives inspired by the Covid-19 pandemic. The first piece entitled 'And This Too Shall Pass: Decolonizing Film' by Cinema archivist Dr June Givanni and curator Jan Asante's short film sharing extracts and imagery from the *Black Film Bulletin*, a ground breaking Black British cinema magazine edited by Givanni in the 1990s. The second, a video artwork entitled 'Particulate Matters' by Artist and NHS worker Jennie Pedley



was inspired by the artist's medical training, COVID-19 microbes and the link between ill health and air pollution. The third, another video artwork 'I see you Vero. I see you Rosina: finding our common threads', by embroidery artists Veronica Betani and Rosina Maepa, used WhatsApp to create embroidery artworks showing experiences of Coronavirus lockdown from two different communities across South Africa.

Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image's annual Essay Film Festival held

Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image (BIMI), based in the School of Arts' Birkbeck Cinema, held its annual essay festival from 25 March to 3 April, 2021. The internationally recognised research-led festival has become a key reference in the film festival circuit and is supported by the CHASE Doctoral Training Partnership. This year's festival was devoted to exploring and exhibiting both contemporary and archival essayistic works in film and related media from around the globe and it offered an impressive selection of over 30 films, live virtual events to global audiences, artists and curators' talks, conversations with filmmakers, and discussions with critics and researchers. Highlights included a series of video essays on the uncertainties of the pandemic from ten contemporary Asian artists; and John Gianvito discussing his latest film, *Her Socialist Smile*, a historical essay about Helen Keller that foregrounds her radical politics and commitment to social justice. Earlier in September 2020, BIMI had also held a virtual event featuring discussion and lecture by the Argentinian filmmaker Leandro Listorti of his acclaimed found footage work, *The Endless Film (La película infinita)*.

The Department of Film, Media & Cultural Studies co-organises international symposium

The Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies' Dr Dorota Ostrowska co-organised a virtual international symposium entitled "Contours of Film Festival Research and Methodologies" with Prof Tamara Falicov of the University of Kansas, USA, in September 2020. The event featured academics from the UK, Canada, US, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Chile as well as film festival practitioners [curators & activists] from Canada, US, Colombia, and the UK. The virtual event reached a broad international audience, including in the Global South and the success has led to a bi-monthly online seminar series on film festivals featuring presenters from the US, Canada, Germany, Chile and Spain.

Centre for Museum Cultures hosts a major international symposium

Dr Sarah Thomas, Director of the Centre for Museum Cultures in the Department of History of Art, hosted *Ars Homo Erotica: Ten Years Later*, a major international symposium (online) in November 2020. The event featured speakers from the US and across Eastern Europe and was supported by Research Fellow of the Centre for Museum Cultures, Dr Kasia Murawska-Muthesius.

The Aesthetics of Kinship and Community Centre hosts international roundtable

The Birkbeck Research in Aesthetics of Kinship and Community (BRAKC) Centre based in the School of Arts hosted an international roundtable discussion on 17 December, 2020, with French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy about his latest book, *Un trop humain virus*, a collection of essays and interviews written during the first phase of the pandemic. The other international discussants were Irving Goh of the NUS, (Singapore) and Rémi Astruc of the *Université de Cergy-Pontoise*, France.

Cultural Democracy podcast hosts international guests

Dr Sophie Hope of the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies has been collaborating with Owen Kelly of Arcadia University, Helsinki, Finland, on the Podcast series on Cultural Democracy, entitled *Meanwhile in an Abandoned Warehouse*. The series now in its 51st episode, has featured guests from around the world.

Science Saturdays explore humans and the natural world

The School of Science offered a programme of free online talks to a global audience via Birkbeck YouTube channel during May 2021. Led by Dr Gillian Forrester of the Department of Psychological Sciences, the Science Saturdays continued the School's Science Week tradition but lasts beyond the usual week-long format and reaches out to a global audience. Challenging questions addressed in the month-long programme by academics from the Departments of Biological Sciences, Earth and Planetary Sciences and Psychological Sciences include: What makes you, you? How do humans evolve, and what impact does climate change have on evolution? How can we become resilient? How do antibodies combat viruses? Is there intelligent life on other planets in the universe? Sample themes addressed include Life on Earth and Beyond; It's getting hot in here! Human evolution and climate change; Antibodies

versus viruses; Nature and Nurture; pollutants in our air; Mind the mind; and making resilience work for you!

Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development hosts international conference

The Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (CBCD) at Birkbeck which has been at the forefront of developing techniques to understand the development of infants since its establishment in 1998 hosted the annual The British Autism Study of Infant Siblings (BASIS) Conference during the Autumn term 2020-21. The event also featured international speakers, including Professor Mayada Elsabbagh of McGill University, Montreal, Professor Terje Falck-Ytter of the Department of Psychology, Uppsala University, Sweden, and Professor Ilan Dinstein of the National Autism Research Centre, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

The annual 'Law On Trial' series of events held

The School of Law hosted its annual event series during the week, 14-18 June, 2021. The theme of the Week is 'Law On Trial: Law, Pandemic and Crisis' and scheduled talks and discussions addressed the persisting COVID-19 crisis and other topical issues, including racist policing, climate protests, insurrection in Colombia, pharmaceutical patents and technology. The Week convened by Professor Adam Gearey has been running since 2010 and past themes have included 'Religion', 'The European Union' and 'Punishments and Rights Violations.'

The School of Law had also organised an international online workshop on *Law, Theory, Virus* between December 2020 and March 2021, which brought together scholars working on global response to the COVID-19 crisis in Colombia, Brazil, the USA, the UK and Greater China. The workshop addressed questions, including: how do we think about the crisis that we are living through? What new horizons does thinking about the pandemic open up? Are the existing ways of framing 'the human being' adequate to our troubled times? The workshop also explored new vocabularies and ideas for understanding the changing terrains defined by the pandemic, thinking across jurisdictions and traditions and working between theory and practice.



The Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research continues to shine a light on world prisons

The Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, School of Law, and Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image, School of Art, hosted a free international screening of 'Prison for Profit', a documentary about human rights abuses at a privately run prison in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The post-screening discussion featured a former inmate from the prison, the investigative journalist whose work it features, and activists from Maverick Citizen (South Africa), We Own It (UK), the Brennan Center (New York University), and Leigh Day public law solicitors. The ICPR's World Prison Brief, a globally renowned database that provides free access to the best prisons data available, recently marked its 20th birthday with an interview between the founder, Roy Walmsley, and Senior Research Fellow, Catherine Heard, along with new historic data for over 30 countries showing prison trends pre-1950.

Centre for Law and the Humanities at Birkbeck hosts international speakers

The Centre for Law and the Humanities at Birkbeck held a number of virtual events during 2021, including a roundtable on "Becoming Utopian" held on 29 January 2021 that featured Professor Raffaella Baccolini of the Università di Bologna, Professor Tom Moylan of the University of Limerick, Republic of Ireland among others.

Countersign continues the conversation

Countersign, a podcast series founded by Professor of Law and Executive Dean of the School of Law at Birkbeck, Professor Stewart Motha, as a platform for extended discussion and interviews with leading international scholars and activists featured multiple international voices during 2020-21. These include Behrouz Boochani, Kurdish writer and film maker, reflecting on his new book and Australia's border mentality and Marc Nichanian, a Lisbon-based independent scholar, discussing 'Historiographic Pervasion' relating to of Armenians' 1915 extermination.

The School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy hosts a stream of international events

The Department of Geography co-hosted an online international conference on 'Researching resilience in islands', on 16-17 November 2020, as part of "Situating Understanding of Resilience in Island Societies and Environments (SUNRISE)" Project.

Dr Aideen Foley co-organised the event with colleagues from the University of Malta, the University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Mauritius, and the University of the West Indie. The Department of Psychosocial Studies' Professor Lisa Baraitser also co-hosted a large global conference, [Temporal Belongings: The Material Life of Time](#), on March 2021. The conference brought together scholars, researchers and practitioners interested in the socialities and materialities of time and in exploring how each is shaped by the other. The event is part of the Wellcome Trust-funded research project, [Waiting Times](#), focusing on multi-stranded research on the temporalities of healthcare. The Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication's Dr Jackie Lou equally co-organised an international conference on The Linguistic Landscape of Covid-19 Workshop in May 2021, with Dave Malinowski of San Jose State University and Amiena Peck of the University of the Western Cape. A journal special issue is also expected from this collaborative effort. The Department also hosted an online seminar by Dr Christopher Jenks, a discourse analyst based in Aalborg, Denmark, in 20 November, 2020. Additionally, The Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism (formerly Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism) hosted Professor Debórah Dwork from The City University of New York for a Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture on 2 February, 2021.

Birkbeck Institute of Humanities hosts series of international events

The Birkbeck Institute of Humanities held a series of events featuring international speakers during 2020-21. Notably, an international symposium in May 2021 by The Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters Project attracted speakers, including Dr Sameena Mulla, Marquette University, Wisconsin, USA; Associate Professor Patsie Frawley, Waikato University, New Zealand; Dr Amie O'Shea, Deakin University, Australia; Angélica Clayton, Yale University; Dr Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen, University of Newcastle, Australia; Gabrielle Everall, University of Melbourne, Australia; Dr Kate Davison, University of Melbourne, Australia; Dr Lisa Featherstone, University of Queensland, Australia; Associate Professor Louise Stone, Professor Kirsty Douglas, Professor Christine Phillips, Australian National University; and Dr Suzanne Egan, University of Sydney, Australia. A roundtable on Decolonising Archives on 24 June, 2021 also featured Thula Simpson of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and Pascale Ghazaleh, Mark Deets, and Olivier Schoutedden, all of the American University in Cairo, Egypt, while another event with the London Review of Books on "Dissent in Dark Times 2021" featured Hazel V. Carby of Yale and Behrouz Boochani, Kurdish writer and film maker. The Institute additionally held an online Masterclass, 16-17

November 2020, on “Arguments for Alienation” that featured Professor Slavoj Žižek 2020, Global Distinguished Professor of German at New York University, USA, and Global Eminent Scholar at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea.

Talking Europe

The Talking Europe vlog recently launched by Dr Dionyssi Dimitrakopoulos of the Department of Politics as part of his tenure as Jean Monnet Chair in Parliamentary Democracy and European Integration featured several international speakers during the 2020-21 year. For example, Emily O’Reilly, European Ombudsman, presented a talk entitled “Inaugural Jean Monnet Lecture: EU accountability: An Ombudsman perspective” on 23 February, 2021. These Jean Monnet chair is supported by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

The School of Business, Economics and Informatics also offers international events

The Centre for Innovation Management & Research based in the Department of Management hosted a number of international speakers at its Debates in Public Policy seminar series during the 2020-21 year. For example, Thanos Fragkandreas of the Goethe University of Frankfurt featured in an online debate held on 3 March, 2021, which addressed the question: “When innovation induces income inequality – is it skills, robots, bohemians or risks and rewards?” A new video series, ‘5-minutes’ launched in September 2020 by Dr Luca Andriani of the same Department also hosted international speakers from University of Gothenburg (Sweden), University of Georgia (USA), National Research Council (Italy), ESSCA School of Management, Bordeaux, France, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, IOS Leibniz Institute, Regensburg, Germany, among others. Furthermore, *the Birkbeck Centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies* co-organised an international workshop, “Four Fridays for Corruption”, in November 2020. The series sponsored by the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research attracted international speakers from the University Budapest, Copenhagen Business School, Southern Methodist University, and Center for Research and Teaching in Economics, Mexico.

5.2 Hosting international visitors

Birkbeck virtually hosted several international scholars and other visitors during the 2020-21 period. Some examples are presented in Box 9 below.



Box 9: Sample International Visitors at Birkbeck, 2020-21

The Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters (SHaME) project at the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology hosted Winnie M Li, award-winning author and activist, as a Writer-in-Residence from March to May 2021. A Harvard graduate, Winnie M Li founded Clear Lines, the UK's first-ever festival addressing sexual assault and consent through the arts and discussion. Her first novel *Dark Chapter*, a fictional retelling of her real-life rape from victim and perpetrator perspectives, published in 2017 won the *Guardian's* Not The Booker Prize, and was nominated for an Edgar Award and the Best First Novel Award and was translated into ten languages. Li holds an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland and her second novel *Complicit* is expected in April 2022. Winnie M Li is the first writer-in-residence of The SHaME project, which explores the role of medicine and psychiatry in sexual violence, aiming to address the global health crisis. The programme was launched on Wednesday 3 March 2021 with an 'In Conversation' discussion between Winnie M Li, Professor Joanna Bourke, Professor of History at Birkbeck and other colleagues.

Birkbeck's School of Law hosted the award-winning artist, filmmaker and researcher, Manu Luksch, as Artist-In-Residence during 2020-21 academic year. Manu Luksch's films and art explore how emerging technologies affect our daily lives, social relations, urban space and political structures. Her current work focuses on corporate-governmental relationships and the social effects of predictive analytics in the algorithmic city. Manu's work is included in the Collection de Centre Pompidou, the BFI National Archive and the Core Collection at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Among her many accolades are the Globale Perspektiven Award 2020, ZONTA Award – 65th Kurzfilmfest Oberhausen 2019, Open Media Award 2019, Best Feature – Moscow International Documentary Film Festival 2016, Elevate Artivism Award 2015, and the M. v. Willemer Prize by Ars Electronica Centre and City of Linz.





6.0 INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

With thousands of alumni currently living in 146 countries around the world, Birkbeck's international reach runs wide and deep. The top 10 home countries reflected in our international alumni database are the USA, Greece, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Canada, Republic of Ireland, Japan, China and Switzerland. The College's international alumni continued to make significant strides in different walks of life during the 2020-21 period, as reflected in the paragraphs and Box 10 below.

One of Egypt's foremost entrepreneurs

A book business co-founded in Cairo in 2002 by Birkbeck graduate and her sister has grown into Egypt's leading chain of bookstores. Nadia, who received her MA in Creative Writing from Birkbeck in 2017, is one of Egypt's foremost entrepreneurs and regularly appears in the Forbes list of the Most Powerful Women in the Middle East.



Prior to founding Diwan, Nadia worked for an NGO. "Like many people in their twenties, I was eager to change the world" she recalls. "When I realised that the world wasn't going to change on my timetable or in the way that I hoped, I refocused my dreams. Egypt was a country brimming with change and optimism. My sister and I both had post-graduate degrees in literature, and we were amazed that the modern style bookstore hadn't come to Egypt yet. So, we decided to create it". "We never thought of ourselves as businesswomen or booksellers, we were readers who had a passion for books and wanted to share that with others."

Her advice for Birkbeck students interested in entrepreneurship? "Do something that you are passionate about and that rings true to you. Block out everything else. Think about the money, but don't think too much about the money. And listen to Samuel Beckett; 'Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better'. I have and I continue to".

Nadia has recently finished writing her first novel. "After my MA in Creative Writing from Birkbeck, I found the confidence to start writing" she notes. The book both tells her personal story as an entrepreneur and is a social history of Cairo during the twenty-first century.

Leading a global brand driven by community spirit

Andrew Molson, Birkbeck alumnus and chairman of AVENIR GLOBAL and Molson Coors Beverage Company based in Montreal, Canada credits his MSc Corporate Governance and Ethics training at Birkbeck with priming his transition to the leadership of his family's near 250-year old global company.



Originally a corporate lawyer, Andrew moved into public relations in 1997. He had no intention of working in his family business until he discovered corporate governance, partly thanks to Birkbeck, and saw a critical role to play in taking forward his family foundation's long standing commitment to giving back to the community. Andrew's vision, on business and governance, continues to drive his leadership and activities.

Reinventing to stay relevant during a pandemic

For Julio Bruno, Birkbeck alumnus and award-winning CEO of the global media and entertainment company *Time Out Group*, with reach in over 300 cities and dozens of countries across the world, leading his global hospitality business through the Covid-19 global lockdown was a real edge-of-the-precipice experience. Thankfully, this Spanish-American graduate of Birkbeck *MSc International Business programme* and his team, realised very early that the Time Out message was out-of-kilter with the enforced shutdown necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. They pivoted speedily to reinvent, innovate and change their business into helping people make the most of their Time In, thus ensuring their continuing relevance. This led to the Group being named one of the Most Innovative Companies for 2020 and Best Brand of the Year

by Fast Company Campaign and Publishing Awards respectively. Congratulations Julio.



In the service of our common humanity

Zambia-born Dr Kasoka Kasoka, 2018 PhD Law graduate of Birkbeck, was recently appointed Associate Project Manager at the International AIDS Society Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland.



Since completing his PhD studies at Birkbeck, Kasoka has worked with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters, both in Geneva, as an intern. Funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, enabled him to undertake an intensive postgraduate international human rights course at the Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University. Kasoka remains focused on making important scholarly contributions in his areas of interest as well as improving the wellbeing of our common humanity.

Promoting European Democracy and Union of Europeans

Sean O'Curneen, who gained a Master's in European Politics from Birkbeck in 2002, currently serves as Secretary General of the Renew Europe Group for the European Committee of the Regions, a group committed to advancing the Union of Europeans, strengthening European democracy and promoting political liberalism.

Sean grew up in Spain before studying Astronomy at UCL in London. He went on work as a journalist in France before returning to London to work at the BBC and then in the Press Team at the Greater London Authority. He studied at Birkbeck alongside working for the Mayor of London. He subsequently moved into the world of European politics and to a role in Brussels. Sean and his team continue to support a group of 100 politicians and a wider network of thousands, including city mayors, regional presidents and ministers, and local and regional councillors, to make their voices and those of their citizens heard within the EU.

A pioneer of university careers services in Germany

Andreas Eimer, a 2009 graduate of Birkbeck's MSc Career Management and Counselling programme, is continuing to make significant contributions as Head of the Careers Service at the University of Münster, Germany. This former journalist's journey to Birkbeck began with a chance encounter during a student recruitment fair trip to Bangkok. He passed by the Birkbeck stand and was drawn to a course in MSc in Career Management and Counselling, which, as far as he's aware, didn't exist in Germany at the time. Keenly interested in building his knowledge of Career Education and Counselling and enhancing his management of the then newly-established Careers Service at Münster, Andreas made the important decision to enrol at Birkbeck.



The rest, as the cliché goes, is history. Andreas studied for his degree through a blended learning programme, a mixture of self-taught online and in-person study, which meant he could continue working in Germany with frequent visits to London. His course provided him with a solid basis in career counselling and organisational psychology, which critically facilitated the development of the Careers Service at the University of Münster and in increasing Andreas' self-confidence and passion for his work. Andreas thus played a significant role in setting up one of the first higher education Careers Services at one of the biggest Universities in Germany and his

work ensures that students can make the most of the opportunities university presents.

Forging a career in international development

Global Politics graduate Henry-Pacifique recently secured an appointment as Information Manager at International NGO Safety Organisation in the Sahel region in Africa. Prior to enrolling at Birkbeck, the Democratic Republic of Congo-born Henry-Pacifique had spent six years working for several international organisations, including UN agencies. Notably also, he was awarded the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders in 2017, studying at CASE Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in recognition of his potential for leadership and excellence.



Henry-Pacifique remains passionately committed to a career in the international development and soft diplomacy sector, working alongside international thinktanks or agencies and with provincial and national ministries of planning to address issues of development and make a positive difference. By dedicating his life to improving those of others, Henry-Pacifique hopes to have a deeper sense of fulfilment and purpose in his career.

Catalysing corporate transformation via coaching

Pierre-Yves Rahari, an alumnus of Birkbeck's Postgraduate Certificate in Coaching, is continuing to thrive in his role as Partner at AlgoMe *Consulting*, running a management consulting company that specialises in asset management. The company aims to influence strategic and sustainable change in the investment management industry by helping executive boards and boards of directors strategise and successfully implement transformational projects in their firms, while improving transparency, integrity, inclusion and engagement.



Pierre retains fond memories of his time at Birkbeck, noting: "As a French person, I also really enjoyed being on an Anglo-Saxon style campus, surrounded by other university campuses and with coffee and book stores all around. My experience at Birkbeck was very nurturing and I look back on my time there very fondly."

A venture supporting Portuguese and Spanish speaking communities

Determined to redress the significant language-related obstacles confronting Portuguese and Spanish speaking communities striving to realise their full potential in the UK, management graduate Fernanda Nauana, in 2018, founded WonderWorkS, a social enterprise dedicated to supporting these communities with career guidance, immigration support, small business assistance and other services.



WonderWorkS continues to serve a growing number of vulnerable families, women and children, whilst also working closely with local services and charities, by directing at-risk families and individuals facing complex and challenging situations to them.

Another new star from Birkbeck's Creative Writing star-maker

Abraham Adeyemi, who studied BA Creative Writing at Birkbeck between 2011 and 2015, has continued to advance his profile as award-winning screenwriter, director and playwright. Since winning the Best Narrative Short award at the Tribeca Film Festival 2020 with his short film 'No More Wings', Abraham has been in hot demand for projects, including developing original dramas for Channel 4 and ITV studios."



His production company, Creative Blue Balls formed a year after his graduation from Birkbeck, is thriving and Abraham envisions it becoming a big player, primarily in film and TV. Reflecting on his time at Birkbeck, Abraham comments that: "Birkbeck was perfect for me; during the day I was writing and starting to reach out to production companies and agents. The course helped develop my playwriting and it has contributed to the success I've had in theatre and screen."

He hopes, over the next 10-15 years, to "see a change in the number of Black artists in front of and behind the camera, making waves and changes in the industry."

Another prestigious award for emerging directors goes to Birkbeck alumna



Diane Page, a graduate of Birkbeck's BA Theatre Studies degree and the MFA Theatre Directing programme, won the James Menzies-Kitchin (JMK) Trust Award in May 2021, and will receive £25,000 to *showcase her production at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond London*. The JMK Award recognises the talent of young directors across the country who demonstrate promise, vision and inspiration. The runner up for the award was Rafaella Marcus, who also graduated from Birkbeck's Theatre Directing MFA in 2015.

Diane Page was awarded the prize to produce *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act* by Athol Fugard. The play, scheduled to run from 2 September until 2



October 2021, is a love story set in apartheid South Africa that follows two lovers, a black man and a white woman as they navigate the colour bar politics of the time. Since graduating in 2019, Diane has directed a number of shows including *Love and Loyalty*; *Kool Britannia*; and *Out West*, which will reopen at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre from 18 June. She is part of a cohort of Birkbeck's MFA Theatre Directing graduates who will be directing productions to open theatres across London. Olivier Award winner, Lyndsey Turner, will direct *Under Milk Wood* at the National Theatre; Atri Banerjee will direct *Harm at the Bush*; and Jonathan O'Boyle's production of *The Last Five Years* will open the Vaudeville Theatre in the West End.

Box 10: Yet more laurels for Birkbeck graduates

Chevening Scholar Azucena Garcia Gutierrez, from Mexico, who recently studied MA Applied Linguistics and Communication was awarded the Michel Blanc dissertation award for her dissertation entitled "The Construction of National Identity through the Issue of Immigration by Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO): A Discourse-Historical Approach."

Dr Pernelle Lorette who completed her PhD research in Applied Linguistics and Communications in 2020 has been nominated for the Best Dissertation in Affective Science Award by the Society for Affective Science (SAS) for her dissertation entitled: "Do you see/hear/understand how I feel? Cross-linguistic and cross-cultural perception of emotions expressed by a Chinese speaker". Dr Lorette is currently doing a 3-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Mannheim, Germany.

Katharina Kastening, a recent graduate of MA Text and Performance programme, directed a production of Camille Saint-Saens' *The Carnival of the Animals* for Oper Frankfurt, Germany. The event was livestreamed on 7 April, 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OdiJHHHeZY>

Dr Yutaka Okuhata who recently completed his PhD in the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing published his thesis, *Angela Carter's Critique of Her Contemporary World: Politics, History, and Mortality*, as a book in October 2020: <https://www.waterstones.com/book/angela-carters-critique-of-her-contemporary-world/yutaka-okuhata/9783631830376> His work was co-supervised by Professors Joe Brooker and Heike Bauer.



Dr Cathrin Bengesser, a recent PhD graduate of the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies, was recently appointed Associate Professor at Aarhus University in Denmark. Cathrin has also developed a new initiative on translating TV scholarship with Dr Janet McCabe of the same Department.

Dr Emily Thomas who recently completed her PhD in the Department of Psychological Sciences has started a postdoctoral position at New York University, USA, with Professor Biyu Jade He of the Department of Neuroscience and Physiology at NYU.

Birkbeck alumna Louise Hare's debut novel, *This Lovely City*, was chosen as part of the line-up for the BBC Two's new book club programme, *Between the Covers*, unveiled on 8 September 2020.

Lyndsey Turner, a 2007 graduate, directed Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* at the Olivier Theatre in the National Theatre from 16 June – 24 July 2021. Lyndsey was the first woman to win the Olivier award for Best Director and is an associate director of the National Theatre.

Atri Banerjee, who graduated in 2018 and won The Stage Debut award for Directing in 2019, directed a new production of *Harm* at the Bush Theatre from 17 May – 26 June 2021.

APPENDIX A

SOME INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS HOSTED BY BIRKBECK

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

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

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

Studies in the Maternal, now in its 13th volume, is an international peer-reviewed, scholarly online journal. Supported by the Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics network based at the Department of Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck, the journal aims to provide a forum for contemporary critical debates on the maternal understood as lived experience, social location, political and scientific practice, economic and ethical challenge, a theoretical question, and a structural dimension in human relations, politics and ethics.

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

The Decolonizing Sexualities Network/DSN Blog, active since 2010, is jointly managed by the Board of Co-ordination (BoC) comprising Dr Silvia Posocco of the



Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, Suhraiya Jivraj of the University of Kent, Paola Bacchetta of the University of California, Berkeley, US, and Sandeep Bakshi of the University of Paris, France. The DSN Life Sense-ing Series brings into focus feelings and memories through glimpses of personal narratives that make people who they are.

The Mechanics' Institute Review (MIR) is a contemporary magazine and forum for exciting new writing in short fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction. It consists of an online platform, a printed literary magazine and a series of creative writing events and career-developing opportunities designed to represent the quality and diversity of the UK literary scene. This site hosted by the Centre for Contemporary Literature is managed by Dr Julia Bell and maintained and edited by a rotating group of Birkbeck students, alumni and staff.

The Open Library of Humanities (OLH) is an academic-led, gold open-access publisher that offers free, permanent access to scholarly work in the humanities discipline, covering its costs via payments from an international library consortium. The OLH which recently received funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Arcadia, a charitable fund of Dr Lisbet Rausing and Professor Peter Baldwin, merged with Birkbeck in May 2021.



APPENDIX B

SOME NEW BOOKS FROM BIRKBECK

A new book by Dr Katherine Angel of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing, entitled *Tomorrow Sex Will Be Good Again: Women and Desire in the Age of Consent*, was published by Verso in the US and the UK in March 2021 to great acclaim.

The book, translated or being translated in Germany, Italy, Spain, Russia, and Ukraine, has generated significant attention, reviews, discussion, interviews and profiles in the UK (*The Guardian*, *Observer*, *The Spectator*, *The Irish Times*, *The TLS*, *The New Statesman*, *The Telegraph*, *Times Radio*, *Novara Media*, *Granta*, amongst others); the US (*The New Yorker*, *Bookforum*, *Slate*, *The Millions*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Aeon*); *Republic of Ireland* (*Newstalk*); *France* (*France 24*); *Norway* (*Morgenbladet*); *international podcasts* (*Sexology*, *New Humanist*, *Dear Sex*, *Literary Friction*, *Novara Media*); and events in the US (Community Bookstore, McNally Jackson, Red Ink Panel, Book People, Left Bank Books) and the UK. *A Guardian LongReads*, and audio podcast from the book garnered 770,000 views within a week of publication and a roundtable discussion with four scholarly discussants is due to appear in the journal *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.

Dr Katherine Angel's earlier book, *Daddy Issues*, was also published in Italy and Spain in 2021 and is forthcoming in 2022 in the USA. Reviews and interviews have also appeared in the media in Italy (*Rolling Stone*, *Corriere della Sera*, *Il Tascabile*) and Spain (*El Independiente*, *El Pais*, *El Diario*, *La Fronde*).

Dr Marcos Centeno of the Department of Cultures and Languages co-edited a new book, *Japan beyond its Borders: Transnational Approaches to Film and Media*, published by Seibunsha in Tokyo in 2020 (with Morita, Nori).

Professor Alejandro Colás (Politics) has published a new book, *Capitalism and the Sea: The Maritime Factor in the Making of the Modern World*, published by Verso in January 2021 (with Liam Campling).

Professor Rosie Cox of the Department of Geography authored a new book, *Home Improvement in Aotearoa New Zealand and the UK*, published by Routledge in May 2021.

Professor Ian Crawford of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences edited a new book entitled “Expanding Worldviews: Astrobiology, Big History and Cosmic perspectives.” The book was published by Springer in 2021.

Professor J-M Dewaele of the Department of Applied Linguistics and Communications co-edited *The Emotional Rollercoaster of Language Teaching* published in 2020 by Multilingual Matters, Bristol (with C. Gkonou and J. King).

Professor Martin Eve co-authored a new book, *Reading Peer Review PLOS ONE and Institutional Change in Academia* within the Elements in Publishing and Book Culture Series. The book funded by a grant from the US-based Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was published by Cambridge University Press in 2021 (with Cameron Neylon, Daniel Paul O'Donnell, Samuel Moore, Robert Gadie, Victoria Odeniyi and Shahina Parvin).

Dr Rungpaka Amy Hackley of the Department of Management co-authored a book, *Advertising and Promotion*, published by Sage in 2021 (with Chris Hackley).

Dr Ella Harris of the Department of Geography authored a new book, *Rebranding Precarity: Pop Up Culture as the Seductive New Normal*, published by Zed Books in October 2020.

Professor Jessica Jacobson and Penny Cooper of the Department of Criminology co-edited a book [*Participation in Courts and Tribunals Concepts, Realities and Aspirations*](#) published by Bristol University Press in September 2020.

Dr Suzanne J Konzelmann of the Department of Management co-edited *The Return of the State: Restructuring Britain for the Common Good*, published by Agenda Publishing in May 2021 (with Patrick Allen and Jan Toporowski).

Dr Maria Elena Placencia of the Department of Cultures and Languages co-edited a new book, *Complimenting Behavior and (Self-)Praise across Social Media: New Contexts and New Insights Amsterdam*, published by John Benjamins in December 2020 (with Z.R. Eslami).

Professor Fiona Macmillan of the Department of Law authored a new book *Intellectual and Cultural Property Between Market and Community*, published by Taylor and Francis in November 2020.



Professor Renata Salecl of the Department of Law authored a new book, "[A Passion for Ignorance: What We Choose Not to Know and Why](#)", published by Princeton University Press in September 2020.

Dr Olivia Sheringham of the Department of Geography co-authored a new book, *Religion, Migration and Business: Faith, Work and Entrepreneurialism in the UK*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in October 2020 (with Maria Villares- Varela).

Professor Michael S.C. Thomas and Professor Denis Mareschal co-edited a new book entitled "Taking Development Seriously - A Festschrift for Annette Karmiloff-Smith: Neuroconstructivism and the Multi-Disciplinary approach to understanding the emergence of mind." The book with Dr Victoria Knowland was published by Routledge in 2021.

Dr Rob Topinka of the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies authored a new book, *Racing the Street: Race, Rhetoric, and Technology in Metropolitan London, 1840-1900*, Published by the University of California Press in 2020.

APPENDIX C

SOME BIRKBECK STAFF EDITING INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS

Professor Alexandra Beauregard and Dr Uracha Chatrakul Na Ayudhya of the Department of Organizational Psychology are both Editors of the journal *Work, Employment and Society*.

Professor Joe Brooker of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing is on the editorial board of *Parish Review: Journal of Flann O'Brien Studies*, which is now part of the Open Library of Humanities (OLH) as a fully peer-reviewed OA journal: <https://parishreview.openlibhums.org/editorialteam/32/>

Dr Marcos Centeno of the Department of Cultures and Languages guest-edited a special issue on "Japanese Transnational Cinema" of the journal, *Arts*, in 2020 (with Nori Morita of Waseda University, Tokyo).

Professor Rosie Cox of the Department of Geography is co-editor of *Geo: Geography and Environment*, the Open Access journal of the Royal Geographical Society.

Dr Benedetta Crisafulli (MGMT) has been invited to co-edit a special issue of *Sustainability*, an open access journal, on 'Sustainable Business, Social Responsibility, Ethics and Consumer Behaviour Research'.

Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele of the Department of Applied Linguistics and Communications is the General Editor of the *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*.

Professor Clare Press of the Department of Psychological Sciences has been appointed an Associate Editor at *Cortex*, an international journal with over 142 volumes.

Dr Suzanne J Konzelmann of the Department of Management is co-executive Editor of the *Cambridge Journal of Economics* and an Editor of the *Annals of the Fondazione Luigi Einaudi: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Economics, History and Political Science*.

Dr Yi Ling Lai of the Department of Organizational Psychology is Editor of *International Coaching Psychology Review*.



Dr Sarah Lambie and Dr Tanya Serisier of the Department of Criminology guest edited a special issue on 'Queer theory and Criminology', of the leading international journal *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, in November 2020.

Professor Carlo Milana of the Department of Management is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Strategic Change: Briefings in Entrepreneurial Finance*, with Professor Helen Lawton Smith, also of the Department of Management as Associate Editor.

Dr Halley Pontes of the Department of Organizational Psychology is Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

Professor Julian Swann of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology has been the editor of the *European History Quarterly* since 2011.

Dr Sarah Thomas of the Department of History of Art and Dr Emily Senior of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing guest edited a special issue of *Atlantic Studies* in May 2021.

Dr Fintan Walsh of the Department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing was appointed Senior Editor of the International Federation for Theatre Research's journal *Theatre Research International*.



Sources:

Inside the Birkbeck Community

BBK Magazine

Birkbeck blogs

Departmental websites/blogs

Research Centre reports/websites

Newsletters

Birkbeck alumni blog



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