Welcome to the summer 2022 edition of the BEI newsletter. I want to say thank you to everyone involved in the School of Business, Economics and Informatics – to staff and to students - for all the hard work and effort that has been put into reaching the end of the academic year. This year has been a transitional year as we have moved to a new mode of delivery where we have offered modules in person once again, as well as continuing with online delivery across many. This has not been without its challenges and we have learnt a lot throughout the year that will stand us in good stead for the future, where we will continue to embrace flexibility in the delivery of our teaching. Our students require this, particularly those that face increasing flexibility in their work environments and are commuting into London less frequently.

In addition to our teaching, the summer period has provided us with the opportunity to come together in person for the first time in three years for our Memorial lectures. I was delighted to welcome Professor Marina Jirotka, Professor of Human Centred Computing at the University of Oxford to give the annual Booth Memorial Lecture. It was also a privilege to welcome back our former colleague, Professor Rob Briner from Queen Mary, University of London, to give the Alec Rodger Memorial Lecture. The excellent and thought-provoking Ronald Tress Memorial Lecture was given by Chris Giles, Economics Editor of the Financial Times, and was the first of a series of events that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Economics department. One of these events saw a number of PhD Alumni come to speak at a Research Conference to celebrate the anniversary.

On the topic of research, this summer period has seen the results of the REF, the culmination of seven years of extensive preparatory work across the College. We performed extremely well this year and improved significantly on the previous REF. A particular mention must go to Computer Science, who achieved a national ranking of 23rd in a very competitive discipline with over 80 submissions. Colleagues from Management and Organizational Psychology, who submitted to the Business and Management Unit of Assessment, also saw the most improved performance across all of the units that Birkbeck submitted to. Our performance in the REF is testament to our continued commitment to producing high quality research that has value both in academia and for the varied range of organisations that colleagues across the School engage with routinely through their research. Building on from this, BEI Week, which took place in July, provided the opportunity for colleagues to showcase...
their research, with a variety of online and in-person presentations and workshops that linked to the very relevant theme of ‘Resilience in an Uncertain World’.

I want to finish by reiterating my thanks for the commitment of everyone involved in the School of BEI throughout this academic year. It has been challenging, and the next few years in Higher Education will continue to be challenging, but I believe that our continued commitment to delivering a high quality educational offering and impactful research will ensure that we can not only survive, but that we will thrive.

I wish you all a healthy summer and hope that you get the chance to relax before the Autumn term.

Professor Geoff Walters
Executive Dean, BEI School

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

BEI ENGAGEMENT WEEK 2022: RESILIENCE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

From 11-15 July 2022, we welcomed over 280 students, staff and friends of the School to take part in BEI Engagement Week. Based on the theme ‘Resilience in an Uncertain World’, we tackled issues such as the climate crisis, the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and building personal and organisational resilience through a series of online and in-person talks and workshops. It was a fantastic way to round off an eventful term. Recordings of BEI Engagement Week talks are available on YouTube.

BEI MEMORIAL LECTURES 2022

In May and June, we were pleased to welcome distinguished speakers from industry and academia to deliver the BEI Memorial Lectures in person for the first time since 2019.

Chris Giles, Economics Editor of the Financial Times, gave the Ronald Tress Memorial Lecture on Wednesday 11 May. Giles, who completed his MSc Economics at Birkbeck in 1994, explored the communication of economics in the modern world, from the global financial crisis and subsequent
austerity measures to the economic impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday 29 June, the Department of Organizational Psychology welcomed students, alumni and friends to the annual Summer Seminar and Alec Rodger Memorial Lecture. Professor Alexandra Beauregard gave the Summer Seminar keynote address entitled ‘The Diversity of Work-Life Balance’. The Memorial Lecture, delivered by Professor Rob Briner, Queen Mary, University of London and Visiting Professor at Birkbeck, explored the controversies around evidence-based practice and provided actionable guidance on how to implement evidence-based methods in the workplace.

2022 was a particularly special year for the Andrew and Kathleen Booth Memorial Lecture as Professor Kathleen Booth celebrated her 100th birthday on 9 July. Professor Marina Jirotka, Professor of Human Centred Computing at the University of Oxford, gave the lecture on the theme of responsible robotics, which was followed by a recorded address from Professor Booth, who now lives in Canada.

We are delighted to announce that we will be offering The Kathleen Booth Anniversary PhD Studentship in Computer Science, made possible with support from Google. The scholarship will be awarded competitively to a woman wishing to pursue doctoral studies in any of the department’s areas of specialism. Details on how to apply for the scholarship will be shared on our website when available.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ECONOMICS AT BIRKBECK
The Birkbeck Centre for Applied Macroeconomics (BCAM) organised a full day PhD Economics Alumni Research Conference to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Economics. Keynote speakers were PhD alumni Paul Ekins (UCL) on the economics of climate change; Francis Green (IoE, UCL) on digital technologies and employment; and Stefan Syzmanski (Michigan) on football and labour contracts. Fifty of the department’s PhD alumni joined the conference from Austria, Australia, Canada, Portugal, South Korea, the UK and the US.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES CELEBRATE STUDENTS’ EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS
The long-awaited in-person graduation ceremonies returned to Birkbeck on 4 May 2022 and we were delighted to celebrate the achievements of our postgraduate students. Prizewinners were presented with their award by Professor Geoff Walters, Executive Dean of the School of Business, Economics and Informatics, and had the opportunity to catch up with staff at a drinks reception. View a list of our 2022 prizewinners.
We would also like to congratulate all our students on University of London Worldwide programmes who graduated in July. It was a pleasure to meet some of our distance learning students in person during the week.

**INCLUSIVE RESEARCH EXPLORED AT QUALITATIVE METHODS IN ACTION DAY 2022**

In May, the Department of Organizational Psychology’s Qualitative Research Group hosted a [Methods Day](#). This featured a mix of presentations and panel discussions by academic staff, recent PhD graduates and doctoral students from the department. Around a theme of ‘Inclusive Research’, the sessions examined what this means and entails from different perspectives and within a variety of occupational and organizational contexts.

The day also featured poster presentations from recent MSc graduates Laura Ball, America Harris, Nomita Nair, Jenny Rose, and Joanna Wiles based on their research projects.

**POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS TAKE PART IN GREENING ENERGY FINANCE (GRENFIN) SUMMER SCHOOL**

Professor Hélyette Geman (EMS) took four Masters students and one PhD student to the GrEnFIn Summer School taking place in the Castle of Bertorino, University of Bologna. The subject of the five-day immersive experience was ‘Energy Transition, Hydrogen and Carbon Trading’ and students had the opportunity to apply their learning to business case studies. The opportunity is part of the Erasmus grant awarded to Professor Geman, who taught one of the school’s four plenary sessions.

**BIRKBECK HOSTS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

From 31 March-1 April 2022, the Department of Management welcomed more than 170 delegates to a [hybrid conference](#) on the theme ‘Environmental Finance for the Common Good’. The conference was organised by Dr Ellen Yu and funded by the Money Macro Society and BEI. Speakers included representatives from international organisations and industry (the World Bank, Climate Policy Initiative, the US Conference Board, and the CFA Society of the UK), religious communities (the Vatican and the SGI UK), and academic peers from all over the world, who presented and shared ideas on environmental finance.

**BIRKBECK JOINS THE CITY OF LONDON FOR ROUNDTABLE SERIES ON CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Dr Karin Shields and Dr Ellen Yu (MGMT) joined colleagues from across the College to present on sustainable finance at a series of events hosted by Birkbeck and the City of London.

The next roundtable event is due to take place at Birkbeck in the autumn. [Sign up to our mailing list](#) to be kept up to date on upcoming events.
PHD CONFERENCE TACKLES KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION

BEI’s 2022 PhD conference brought together all four departments in the School for the first time. Keynote speakers Dr Paul Nulty (CSIS) and Dr Mehdi Bagherzadeh Niri (NEOMA Business School) addressed the theme of knowledge production and dissemination.

We would like to congratulate this year’s prizewinners:

- Best poster in Computer Science: Angelina McDonald
- Best poster in Management: Emma Palmer Foster
- Best poster in Organizational Psychology: Ben Morris
- Best Computer Science / EMS presentation: Joint winners - Tom Nealon and Jaybe Ammons
- Best Management presentation: Sana Shah
- Best Organizational Psychology presentation: Joint winners - Margaret Ochieng and Carolann Edwards

A big thank you to this year’s organisers: Merry Scott Jones, Evan Waggoner, Angelina McDonald, Joao De Sousa and Maryam Ghorbankhani.

COACHING STUDENTS AWARDED FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Two students on our coaching programmes have received recognition for the calibre of their research. Cordelia Wise (MSc Career Coaching 2021) has been awarded first prize in the Annual NICEC Bill Law Memorial Student Award for Career Research. Cordelia’s Masters project researched a cohort of semi-retired workers and the positives and pay-offs involved in this somewhat unexplored and emerging life phase. Meera Garratt, MSc in Coaching Psychology alum, published her work in The Coaching Psychologist: Garratt, M., Whiley, L. & McDowall, A. (2022) Reflections on video-mediated coaching and a research agenda for Coaching Psychology. The Coaching Psychologist 18 (1), ISSN 1748-1104.

CIMR SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME EXPLORES INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

The Centre for Innovation Management Research hosted a series of webinars and workshops bringing together international perspectives on sustainable innovation and diversity and inclusion:

- 27 April 2022: ‘Endless Possibilities: What roles will universities play in new hybrid ways of creating inclusive entrepreneurship?’.
- 19 May 2022: ‘Venture capital industry and entrepreneurial finance’.
- 1 June 2022: ‘How to succeed in global, sustainable innovation: academic and practitioner perspectives’.
- 15 June 2022: ‘Challenges and benefits of operating to quality standards’.

PROFESSOR DANIELE ARCHIBUGI CONVENES PHD ACADEMY

Professor Daniele Archibugi convened a PhD Academy devoted to ‘What is a People? Social, Political and Legal Controversies’ at Venice International University 28 March – 1 April 2022.
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS WELCOMES DELEGATE FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Professor Lowell Abrams (George Washington University) visited the Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics for three weeks in March-April funded by a London Mathematical Society grant. Together with Dr Steve Noble (EMS) and collaborators Iain Moffatt and Maya Thompson (Royal Holloway), they worked on topological graph theory, characterizing embedded graphs/delta-matroids with a self-duality/self-partial-duality.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Dr Luca Andriani (MGMT) interviewed Dr Richard Tacon (MGMT) on ‘Better Bowling Together than Alone: Social Capital and Sport Organisations’ as part of the 5-Minute video series.
- Professor Alexandra Beauregard (OP) co-presented ‘Managing through Covid: Insights from parents who are managers’ at the Working Families round table event for employers on 23 May 2022.
- A conference and workshop entitled ‘Improving organizational and societal resilience through cyber security education, training and research’, was held at Birkbeck and online on Saturday 11 June 2022. Those attending and presenting papers were invited participants from Korea, the UK and the US, representing government research departments, academia and industry. Dr Peter Trim (MGMT) presented a paper entitled: ‘Issues and challenges in cyber security management’ and chaired the morning session of the conference.

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Dr Luca Andriani (MGMT)

- Presented ‘Cultural Aspects of Tax Behaviour in Transition Economies’ at the Research Seminar of the Collegio Carlo Alberto, 13 May 2022, Turin, Italy.
- Presented ‘Institutional trust in Ghana between corruption experience-based and perception-based dimensions’ at the Joint Session ‘Measuring Corruption: State of the Art, Challenges, and Advancements’ of the ECPR Workshop, 19-22 April 2022, University of Edinburgh & Online.

Professor Daniele Archibugi (MGMT)

- Attended the Round Table organized by the Global Transformations and Governance Programme of the University of Leiden, The International Criminal Court at Twenty, The Hague, where he presented the critical views of his book Crime and Global Justice (Polity Press).
- Gave a public lecture on ‘Is a European recovery possible without high-tech public corporations?’ at the University of Venice on 31 March 2022.
- Participated in the Roundtable on The New Digital Opportunities for Consumers at the Festival of Economy, Trento, 4 June 2022.

Professor Alexandra Beauregard (OP)

- Invited speaker for the session ‘Conversations on collaborations between African and Global North work-family scholars’ hosted by the Work and Family Researchers Network’s Africa Regional Networking Community on 6 April 2022.
• Invited speaker for the session ‘How to get your work published’ at the Professional Development for Doctoral Students in the Work and Family Field workshop held in New York, NY on 22 June 2022.

• Invited speaker on a panel discussing the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion research and praxis at the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Student Initiative conference at the London School of Political Science on 25 March 2022.

Dr Uracha Chatrakul Na Ayudhya (OP) was invited to speak at the 2022 Royal Academy of Engineering Annual Diversity and Inclusion Conference on 15 March. The theme of this year’s conference was ‘What works in diversity and inclusion’. Uracha took part in a panel discussion on ‘How to measure diversity and inclusion success’, chaired by Professor Sarah Hainsworth OBE FREng, Chair of the Royal Academy of Engineering Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Watch a recording of the panel.

Dr Ken Hori (EMS) was the keynote speaker at the Graduation Ceremony at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC), Barcelona on Friday 27 May.

Dr Yi-Ling Lai (OP) was invited by the Division of Coaching Psychology (DoCP), British Psychological Society (BPS) to join a podcast discussion about the latest research evidence in coaching (episode 2).

Dr Kevin Teoh (OP) presented on ‘Organizational Psychology, Wellbeing, and Psychological Safety’ at the Sage: Lunch & Learn Session, Online Webinar, 24 March 2022.


Dr Pamela Yeow (MGMT) was a panel speaker at the Small Business Charter event ‘Grow Your Own Way: Unlocking the Growth Potential of UK Enterprise’.

### LATEST PHD GRADUATES FROM BEI

Congratulations to the following PhD candidates who have successfully defended their theses:

- **Yunwen Jiang (MGMT)**, *Emerging market multinational enterprises’ cross-border mergers and acquisitions: acquisition motives, deal accomplishment and acquisition performance.*

- **Zehra Serman (MGMT)**, *To believe it or no: Factors that affect the perception of bloggers’ credibility and blog readers’ trust.*
AWARDS, HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Dr Luca Andriani (MGMT) received an Erasmus Visiting Fellowship to spend at the Athens University of Economics and Business (Athens, Greece) for the period 19 July – 2 August 2022; a Visiting Research Fellowship from the Italian National Research Council (Rome, Italy) at the Institute of Studies on Federal Regional Systems and Autonomies for the period 30 May – 10 June 2022; and a Visiting Fellowship with Sponsor from the Collegio Carlo Alberto (Turin, Italy) for the period 11 April – 27 May 2022.

- Dr Benedetta Crisafulli (MGMT) has been awarded Birkbeck’s 2022 Ronald Tress Prize for Social Sciences. Feedback from the panel said: "Dr Crisafulli is an outstanding early career scholar and one of those rare academics who combine research excellence with effective teaching and committed citizenship."

- Dr Steve Noble (EMS) has been awarded an EPSRC Mathematics Small Grant entitled ‘The critical group of a topological graph: an approach through delta-matroid theory’. This was a joint application with Prof Iain Moffatt from Royal Holloway and is worth £31,231 to Birkbeck.

Three colleagues in BEI received awards at the 2022 Students’ Union Awards:
- Dr Uracha Chatrakul Na Ayudhya (OP) - Colleague of the Year
- Beverley Moles (EMS) - Best Non-Teaching Staff Member
- Dr Felix Reidl (CSIS) - Best Lecturer/Seminar Teacher

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS BIDS
FAREWELL TO LONG-SERVING COLLEAGUES

Professor Mark Levene and Dr Szabolcs Mikulas have retired after over twenty years’ service. Professor Alexandra Poulovassilis and Professor Peter Wood reflect on their contributions.

Professor Mark Levene

Professor Mark Levene has retired after over 20 years of distinguished service since being appointed Professor of Computer Science in 2001. Mark completed his PhD at Birkbeck during the 1980s, pursuing his doctoral research part-time while working in the software industry, preceded by a BSc in Computer Science from Auckland University. After his PhD, Mark joined the Computer Science department at University College London, where he served for over a decade before returning to Birkbeck.

Mark served as Head of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems from 2009-21, steering the department through a period of radical development and growth. He led the expansion of the department’s teaching portfolio into the field of Data Science, as well as the move into full-time undergraduate programmes and the department’s participation in the Institute of Coding. Mark also led the restructuring of the department’s core research groups and the recruitment of many talented early career researchers, leading to the department’s significantly improved performance in the latest REF.
Mark’s own research has ranged from database theory to web search engine technology and applied machine learning. He has produced seminal works in these fields, published in top international venues, and gaining over 6,000 citations. As well as being an intellectual powerhouse, Mark is also a natural collaborator and supervisor and his peers and PhD students have benefitted from working with him. Mark has also mentored many junior colleagues, helping them to progress in their research and academic careers.

As he now moves into the next phase, continuing as an Emeritus Professor in the department, we extend our massive gratitude to Mark on behalf of all our colleagues and we wish him every success in his future plans, both personal and professional.

Dr Szabolcs Mikulas

Dr Szabolcs Mikulas has retired after more than 20 years as a member of academic staff. He obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and Philosophy from Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, and a PhD in Mathematical Logic from the University of Amsterdam. He held Postdoctoral posts at King’s College London and Birkbeck before being appointed to a Lectureship at Birkbeck in 2000 and gaining promotion to Senior Lecturer in 2011.

Szabolcs served for many years as Director of the department’s flagship postgraduate programme, MSc Computer Science. In this capacity he was an unfailing champion of students’ interests, and a patient and excellent communicator of the principles of computation, as witnessed by the glowing feedback he received from students. Szabolcs successfully steered the evolution and expansion of the MSc in Computer Science during a period of considerable growth in student numbers and rapid changes in information technology and its applications.

Szabolcs’ research, into the algebraic and mathematical logics which underpin computation, was published in leading international journals and made significant contributions to the department’s successive REF submissions. He collaborated in this research with leading scholars from the UK and internationally, forging many academic links and contributing substantially to the department’s reputation and the vibrancy of its broader research environment.

Szabolcs’ colleagues will always remember his unfailing courtesy and patience, even under the most trying circumstances, and his calm way of identifying solutions and forging ways forwards. We wish him health and happiness in life’s continuing journey.
NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

A warm welcome to the following new staff members:

• Dr Abdulrahman Al-Surmi, Lecturer in Management. Abdul is working on the new MSc Business Analytics and is developing three new modules for the programme.
• Panagiotis Charampopoulos, Lecturer in Computer Science.
• Matt Trapp has been promoted to Administrator.

STAFF LEAVERS

We say goodbye to the following staff members and wish them all the best in the future.

• Cam Barrow
• Dr Manto Gotsi
• Dr Frederick Guy will retire in September after 25 years in the department
• Oli Harrison
• Jay Oliver-Kramer

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) is a confidential employee benefit designed to provide a complete support network covering a wide range of issues including:

• Life support: unlimited access to counselling.
• Legal information: including debt management, accountancy, lawsuits, consumer disputes, property or neighbour legalities.
• Bereavement support: experienced counsellors who can help with grief and related stress plus a team of legal advisors to help with legal issues.
• Medical information: qualified nurses are on hand to offer advice on a range of medical or health related issues.
• CBT online: a range of CBT self-help modules, informative fact sheets and invaluable advice videos from leading qualified counsellors.

Please visit the SharePoint portal for further information on how to access the service, including the My Healthy Advantage health and wellbeing app.

SAVE THE DATE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES FOR EARLY CAREER FACULTY AND RESEARCH STAFF

A new workshop series coordinated by Dr Olivier Sibai aims to support academic colleagues to integrate with their wider research community. The workshops are running online and in-person during the 2022-23 academic year and will welcome guest speakers to address topics such as the role of creativity in research, networking, professional branding, and leveraging research community integration systems.

The first workshop, Understanding Academic Isolation and How to Engage with It, is taking place on campus on 6 October and online on 7 October.

Find out more about the series.
LATEST PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Fletcher, L., & Beauregard, T. A.** (2022). *The psychology of diversity and its implications for workplace (in)equality: Looking back at the last decade and forward to the next*. Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology. [https://doi.org/10.1111/joop.12388](https://doi.org/10.1111/joop.12388)
Knotting and Reknotting Multiple Paradoxes in Interorganizational Systems. AMJ, 0, [https://doi.org/10.5465/amj.2019.0745].

- Dr Peter Trim is currently co-guest editor of a special issue of Big Data and Cognitive Computing entitled: ‘Managing Cybersecurity Threats and Increasing Organizational Resilience’, the aim of which is to bring together researchers from various fields of study.

**BOOKS, CHAPTERS, REPORTS**

Professor Daniele Archibugi has published the volume, in Italian, ‘L’apprendista stregone. Consigli, trucchi e sortilegi per aspiranti studiosi’, Luiss University Press, Roma, 2022, devoted to the development of soft academic skills. Daniele will lecture on this topic at the II Edition of the Sapienza Economics, PhD Summer Meeting, 12 - 13 September 2022.

**CONFERENCE OUTPUT**

- Dr Luca Andriani and Dr Nadia von Jacoby (University of Trento, Italy) are organising and will convene a panel on ‘Culture, Identity and Institutions’ within the context of the 2022 Annual WINIR Conference, 6-9 September 2022 (online).
- Dr Luca Andriani and Dr Asimina Christoforou are organising and will convene the Social Capital Panel on ‘Cooperation and Solidarity in Facing the Challenges of our Times: Great Recession, Climate Change, Pandemic,
Violence and War’ within the context of the 12th IIPPE Annual Conference, 7-9 September 2022, University of Bologna, Italy.


