

BEI DIGEST

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - ISSUE #6



EXECUTIVE DEAN'S FOREWORD

Welcome to the spring 2021 edition of the BEI newsletter. I don't think anyone could have predicted that twelve months on from the first lockdown period we would be in the situation we are currently in, with many of us not having been into Birkbeck buildings over the past year. However, decreasing numbers of virus cases, alongside the vaccination programme, do give us cause to be more optimistic that not only will we be able to return to some level of normality this summer, but that we will also be able to enter classrooms to teach our students in the autumn term. By this time, many of our students that were studying with us when we made the move online will have already graduated, while many that joined us on full-time postgraduate programmes in 2021 will have spent the entire academic year studying online and may never step foot in a Birkbeck building. I know I am speaking on behalf of my colleagues across BEI when I say that the prospect of being able to get back into the classroom and to see students and colleagues is one that we are all looking forward to. Our teaching will be different in the 2021-22 academic year, but it will combine the best elements of online learning with in-person teaching (where this is possible) and so offer an enhanced experience to all our students. This is what colleagues in BEI, and the wider College are working towards.

Teaching aside, this newsletter details many of the various activities that are currently taking place within BEI, including the launch of the Centre for Professional Development that will bring together many activities within the School to help to promote the various forms of knowledge exchange that we do. Alongside this

are many of the research-focused activities that colleagues have been engaged in, demonstrating the strength, and interdisciplinary nature, of research across BEI. In a year in which the move to online learning has had to take priority, it is pleasing to be able to highlight our continued commitment to research. With the College soon to submit our REF return, our commitment to research provides a platform with which to continue to deliver on our mission to produce high quality research that is theoretically informed, socially and practically relevant, and used to engage with key communities to generate academic, business and social value.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Professor Alexandra Poulouvassilis, a long-standing member of BEI, all the best when she retires in April after over twenty years in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. Professor Poulouvassilis has been an outstanding colleague, a key figure in the Department and in the School having been Deputy Dean for Research since BEI was created in 2009. She is one of the leading female scholars in Computer Science and has also made a significant contribution to gender equality in research careers, supporting the College's work on Athena Swan. I want to thank Professor Poulouvassilis for her contribution to the Department, the School, and to Birkbeck. However, it is not goodbye – I am pleased that she will continue to work with colleagues as an Emeritus Professor with a key project being the response and resilience of museums in the pandemic, in which she was recently awarded a grant from the UKRI AHRC (details below).

Dr Geoff Walters

Executive Dean, School of Business, Economics and Informatics

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SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

BEI LAUNCHES CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BEI's Centre for Professional Development brings together academics, researchers and practitioners who are committed to sharing their knowledge and experience to our local and wider community. Through the Centre, we aim to engage industry, government and the third sector with our research and to promote knowledge exchange.

As part of this activity, we are launching *BEI Talks*, a series of conversations with guest speakers who make an impact in our society. We are delighted to welcome Aran Jones, Founder of SaySomethingInWelsh, for the first of these conversations on Tuesday 11 May 2021. Aran will be speaking to Dr Neil Pyper, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Management about his career journey and how people, problem-solving and learning are the central challenges for any team.

We hope you will join us for this talk. [Book your place.](#)

RESEARCH TEAM RECEIVES AHRC GRANT FOR PROJECT "MUSEUMS IN THE PANDEMIC: RISK, CLOSURE AND RESILIENCE"

Alex Poulouvassilis (CSIS), Fiona Candlin (History of Art) and Andrea Ballatore (Geography) have been awarded £190,000 from the UKRI AHRC rapid response scheme to undertake research into the UK museum sector during the pandemic.

The project seeks to understand how museums are behaving and what constitutes risk or resilience across the sector. The team will be tracking the state of the UK museum sector over the next 18 months, using information extracted from museums' websites and social media posts and developing new text analytics capabilities for analysing this information.

This will enable them to see if museums are inactive, organising outdoor events or digital exhibitions, or planning for re-opening. The team will be able to analyse digital traffic according to the information on museums governance, size, subject matter and location that has already been gathered in the [Mapping Museums database](#).

PHD STUDENTS PRESENT AT LONDON MATHEMATICAL FINANCE GROUP

Three PhD students supervised by Professor Hélyette Geman (EMS) gave talks at the [London Graduate Programme in Mathematical Finance](#) in December. The students and their talks were:

- **Sofia Philippou** *The LNG Market and Valuation of the Re-Routing Option*
- **Carlo Piccari** *Predicting Crude Oil Prices after Positive and Negative Observations*
- **Ezio Lauro** *Aviation Finance*

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT MEETS THE EDITORS

While we are all missing face to face contact with colleagues across Birkbeck and beyond, it has to be said that lockdown has presented opportunities to be more creative and geographically ambitious with events in our School.

In February, the Department of Management welcomed Professor Vijay Pereira of NEOMA Business School, France to share his insight as Senior Associate Editor of the Journal of Business Research and Global Real Impact Editor of the Journal of Knowledge Management. This was the first of a series of online 'Meet the Editor' sessions where colleagues can hear from the editors of some of the top Management journals, including Research Policy, Psychology & Marketing and the British Journal of Management.

Dr Muthu De Silva, Director of Research, who chaired the first session, said: "These events are an opportunity to motivate and support our community of excellent scholars to thrive in research during this difficult time."

[Visit the Events blog](#) to catch up on the first session and sign up to future Meet the Editor events.



#OURBIRKBECK: CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY



BEI alumni have been sharing their stories through #OurBirkbeck, a new initiative which celebrates the incredible impact of the Birkbeck community. [MSc Career Coaching and Counselling alumnus Arvinder Mudhar](#) and [MSc Sport Management, Governance and Policy alumnus Stuart Haw](#) are among the BEI graduates who've shared their experience on the #OurBirkbeck podcast. Catch up with the series online or on Spotify.

RESEARCH SEMINARS: FROM PUBLIC TRUST TO QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY

As we mark a year of working and teaching from home, our calendar of virtual events disseminating research continues to grow. The Responsible Business Centre has hosted research seminars on public trust, the mobilization of non-cooperative spaces and the role of third-party monitors in shaping organizational learning, while Birkbeck's Sport Business Centre has opened a number of its seminars to a wider audience, welcoming public figures like sports writer David Goldblatt to discuss pressing issues in the sport industry.

The Centre for Innovation Management Research's popular Debates in Public Policy series has continued this term, with lively discussions on the future of entrepreneurship in quantum technology and how gaming can be used to facilitate learning in Gen Z women.

To see what's on and join an upcoming research seminar, visit the [Birkbeck Events page](#).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Professor Alexandra Beauregard (OP)** was quoted in an [article about work compensating for personal loss or trauma](#).
- **Professor Sarah Hart (EMS)** has delivered online lectures on ‘The Mathematics of Bell Ringing’, ‘Mathematical Journeys into Fictional Worlds’ and ‘Mathematical Structure in Fiction’ in her role as [Gresham Professor of Geometry](#). Professor Hart’s exploration of the intersection between music, literature and mathematics was also featured in [The New York Times](#).



- **Professor Kevin Ibeh (MGMT)**’s opinion piece, [Turing scheme should learn from Erasmus](#), was published in *The Research Professional* in February 2021.
- **Professor Almuth McDowall (OP)** was a keynote speaker at the Royal College of Emergency Medicine Training Day – From Burnout to Brilliance (February 2021) where she spoke about teamworking. **Dr Kevin Teoh (OP)** spoke about burnout and job crafting at the same event.
- **Dr Kevin Teoh (OP)** delivered a webinar on ‘The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Nurses and Midwives in the UK: Systematic Review and Recommendations’ at the Workforce, Organisation and Well-being Annual Seminar (December 2020).
- **Dr Rebecca Whiting (OP)** delivered the webinars ‘Collecting Qualitative Online Data’ for University of Ulster Business School; ‘Digital Strategizing & SAP Research’ for the USA Academy of

Management’s Strategizing Activities and Practices (SAP) Interest Group, hosted by the University of Innsbruck; and ‘Collecting Qualitative Data using Digital Methods’ for the Centre for Qualitative Research, University of Bath.

AWARDS, HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS

- **Professor Sarah Hart (EMS)** has been elected President of the [British Society for the History of Mathematics](#).
- **Professor Kevin Ibeh (MGMT)** has been [appointed Commissioner of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission](#). Professor Ibeh was also appointed Chair of the Emerging Economies Track for the 48th Academy of International Business UK & Ireland Chapter Conference (April 2021), University of Greenwich, London. The theme of the annual Conference is International Business: Mega Trends and the need for rethinking current terminologies.
- **Dr Yi Ling Lai (OP)** received the Highly Commended Paper prize at the Emerald Literati Awards, Emerald Group Publishing, December 2020 for the paper Lai, Y. L., & Palmer, S. (2019). ‘Psychology in executive coaching: an integrated literature review’. *Journal of Work-Applied Management*, 11(2), 143-164. Dr Lai was also appointed Editor of *International Coaching Psychology Review*, BPS.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS EXPLORE THE LONDON OF DICKENS, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND SHAKESPEARE - VIRTUALLY

William Richards, International Administrator, shares how the International Office have adapted to restrictions to offer an exciting student experience.



It's fair to say that 2021 hasn't been off to the most idyllic of starts. Nevertheless, in keeping with the School's student experience momentum, our students have enjoyed attending a new series of virtual tours led by Tim Kidd.

Tim is a member of the British Guild of Tour Guides and has worked to provide engaging virtual tours amidst the coronavirus pandemic. On the topic of literature, playwrights and popular culture, this new series of virtual tours sought to discuss the writers and stories that London has inspired.

Beginning on Wednesday 3 February, our first tour explored the life and tales of Charles Dickens. From his earlier life in Fitzrovia to his stints at The Marquis pub in Covent Garden, Tim gave students an insight into what London was like in the nineteenth century. Moving forward to 10 February, and back in time to the sixteenth century, our second virtual tour was

centred around William Shakespeare. By discussing London's historic South Bank and Shakespeare's illustrious Globe Theatre, Tim was able to bring Shakespeare's London life into the modern day. Of course, we are very keen to take our students to the rebuilt Globe Theatre for a performance one day soon!

Last - but not least - on 17 February Tim gave a virtual tour on the topic of Sherlock Holmes - one of London's most iconic fictional characters. Certainly a student favourite, this tour explored the area around Baker Street and its connection to the world-famous detective. Indeed, with his cultural impact visible all over London, it is easy to forget that Sherlock Holmes was merely imagined by the writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. From early interpretations to the modern-day Sherlock, Tim gave Birkbeck students a 'Sherlockian' masterclass.

As we head towards the spring and summer of 2021, we hope to be able to host more virtual tours alongside Tim Kidd and we are cautiously optimistic that face-to-face tours can take place this summer. Until then, our online student engagement will continue to push the boundaries that COVID-19 has inflicted upon us all.

LATEST PROGRAMME INNOVATIONS

- The [Graduate Certificate in Mathematics by Distance Learning](#) welcomed its first cohort in January 2021.
- The [Graduate Certificate in Statistical Data Science](#) is open for applications for the first time this year.



LATEST PHD GRADUATES FROM BEI

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

- **Laurence Borel (MGMT)**, *Me and my brands: drivers and outcomes of 'brand selfies'*
- **Edison Chiang (MGMT)**, *Understanding technology transfer: An extended resource-based view*
- **Helen Cooper (OP)**, *Taxi! A narrative study of low-skilled work from a career boundary perspective*
- **Sam Evans (OP)**, *Struggles for distinction: class and classed inequality in UK museum work*
- **Ian Hoare (OP)**, *Bonus pay, organisational justice and turnover intention: research into affective, social exchange relationship and social comparison processes*
- **Asif Kalam (MGMT)**, *Adaptability of the Grameen microfinance model in the UK and the USA*
- **Kirsty Lauder (OP)**, *A critical examination of the evidence for effective reasonable adjustments for adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in the workplace*
- **Chinedu Uwabuikie (OP)**, *Cultural Dimensions of West Africa Migrant Nurses Experiences in United Kingdom*
- **Asif Kalam (MGMT)**, *Adaptability of the Grameen microfinance model in the UK and the USA*
- **Xiaoqing Lu (MGMT)**, *How Much Do Political Connections Matter for Firm Internationalisation? A Meta-analytic Review*
- **Nastaran Norouzi (MGMT)**, *Challenges of Textile and Clothing Firms in the Mature Textile and Clothing Industry in the East Midlands Cluster in the United Kingdom*
- **Idika Uduma (MGMT)**, *Exploration of African MNEs' Internationalization Capability Building*

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following colleagues on their recent appointments:

Economics, Mathematics and Statistics

- **Dr Ken Hori** has been appointed Head of Department

Management

- **Ingrid Kroeber Sodre**, Administrative Assistant

BEI Centre

- **Orla Walsh**, Events & Communications Coordinator

COMING SOON

- BEI's Postgraduate Prizegiving Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 28 April after our graduation ceremonies. Prizewinners will be announced in the next BEI Digest.
- **Professor Sarah Hart (EMS)** will deliver her next Gresham College lecture, '[Where do Mathematical Symbols Come From?](#)' on Tuesday 27 April.
- For **Visiting Professor Andy Ross (EMS)**, lockdown has been a great opportunity to catch the luminaries of economics online in their rare spare moments. Professor Ross and economist Vicky Pryce have used the opportunity to interview some big names in practitioner economics, such as Dame Kate Barker, Diane Coyle CBE, Lord Gus O'Donnell, Larry Elliot, Andy Haldane, Lord Nick Stern and Doug McWilliams. The 'lockdown' interviews are for a new book 'How to be a Successful Economist' to be published this year by Oxford University Press.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

JESSICA HINDES, BEI IMPACT OFFICER



What's your #BBKStory?

I joined Birkbeck as Impact Officer in November 2018. Back then I was working in a professional services role at UCL that combined research support with events, communications, and PhD programme admin. I was interested in moving into impact and I had a nice impression of Birkbeck as my mum and a friend of mine were both studying there at the time. I thought this seems like a friendly university that's doing something a bit different, so when the opportunity came up I decided to apply.

I'm now also in my second year of a part-time MA in Creative Writing in the School of Arts. It finishes in September, but I've enjoyed it so much, I'd happily go on forever! My writing has really improved and I've met loads of great people, as a big part of the programme is discussing each other's work. One of my creative writing stories has just been published in on [online journal](#). I was able to do the course through the study assist scheme – it's pretty amazing to have that opportunity.

What are you currently working on?

Impact is about what the university's research does that benefits the world outside academia. There's an impact officer in each school at Birkbeck and we work quite closely together. Part of my job is facilitating recording the impact of the work that happens in BEI and at the moment that's focused on the Research

Excellence Framework (REF). The REF is important because it only takes place once every seven years and how you perform in that determines a big block of core funding. Impact case studies are becoming a bigger part of the process, so a lot of what I've been doing since I started is focused around those. I like it because you can be quite involved in the research and in BEI it tends to be quite applied. People have a specific goal in mind of what they want to achieve, for example in the Department of Management people want to change the way businesses are run.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Normally I like to swim, but I haven't been able to do much of that in the last year, although I did try a bit of open water swimming in the summer. At the moment I enjoy creative writing and doing the things that everyone's been doing during lockdown, like embroidery and homemade elderflower cordial!

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Research conducted by **Dr Shareen Jaijee** and supervised by **Dr Caroline Kamau-Mitchell (OP)** has revealed that 52% of female cardiologists have suffered sexism at work. The research was conducted by Shareen as part of an MSc in Medical Leadership and has recently been published in the prestigious cardiology journal *Heart*. [Jaijee, S. Kamau-Mitchell, C., Ghada, M. Hendry, C. (2021). [Sexism experienced by consultant cardiologists in the UK](#). *Heart*.]
- **Aksoy, Yunus & Zoega, Gylfi**, 2020. 'Fertility changes and replacement migration', *Economics Letters*, Elsevier, vol. 196(C).
- Hwang, S., & **Beauregard, T. A.** (2021). [Contextualising intersectionality: A qualitative study of East Asian female](#)

[migrant workers in the UK](#). Online First in Human Relations.

- **Beckert, W.** (2021) [Divided by choice? Private providers, patient choice and hospital sorting in the English National Health Service](#). *Health Economics*, ISSN 1099-1050. (In Press).
- **Levene, M. and Fenner, T.** (2021) [A stochastic differential equation approach to the analysis of the UK 2017 and 2019 general election polls](#). *International Journal of Forecasting*, ISSN 0169-2070. (In Press).
- Taha, K. and Davuluri, R. and **Yoo, P.** and Spencer, J. (2021) [Personizing the prediction of future susceptibility to a specific disease](#). *PLoS One*, ISSN 1932-6203.
- **Teoh, K.R.H.**, Hassard, J., & Cox, T. (2021). [Doctors' working conditions, wellbeing and hospital quality of care: A multilevel analysis](#). Safety Science, Online First Publication.
- **Voskeritsian, H.**, Kornelakis, A., Veliziotis, M., Kapotas, P. (2020) [United We Stand? Marketization, Institutional Change and Employers' Associations in Crisis](#). *Economic and Industrial Democracy* <https://doi.org/10.1177/0143831X20935511>

Books, Chapters and Reports

- Basile, K. A., & **Beauregard, T. A.** (2021). Boundary management: Getting the work-home balance right. In E. Russell & C. Grant (Eds.), *Agile working and well-being in the digital age* (pp. 35-46). Palgrave Macmillan.
- **Beauregard, T. A.**, Booth, J. E., & Whiley, L. A. (2021). Transgender employees: Workplace impacts on health and well-being. In J. Hassard & L. D. Torres (Eds.), *Aligning perspectives in gender mainstreaming: Gender, health, safety and wellbeing* (pp. 177-196). Springer.
- Hackley, C. and **Hackley, R. A.**, (2021) *Advertising and Promotion*. London: SAGE.

- **Horen Voskeritsian**, Panos Kapotas and Christina Niforou (eds) (2019) *Greek Employment Relations in Crisis: Problems, Challenges and Prospects*. London: Routledge.
- **Teoh, K., Kinman, G.**, & Hassard, J. (2021). The relationship between healthcare staff wellbeing and patient care: It's not that simple. In A. de Lange & Lovseth, L. (Eds.) *Healthy Healthcare* (pp 221-244). Springer.
- **Teoh, K.** & Hassard, J. (2021). Linking organisational demands and patient care: Does healthcare workers' well-being matter. In A. Montgomery, M. Leiter, & E. Panagopoulou (Eds.) *The Triple Challenge: Connecting Health care worker well-being, patient safety and organisational change* (pp. 41-57). Springer.

Conference Output

- **Professor Kevin Ibeh (MGMT)** delivered invited keynote remarks, 'Reflections on the post-pandemic global economy' at a Conference on Reimagining Business Strategies in the Age of Disruption, Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India, 19 December 2020.

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