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*OxRSS provides Oxford Research Staff
with a Voice and Networking Opportunities*

June 2018: Volume 5, Issue 2



THE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON RESEARCH AT OXFORD

By Jorge Varela Barreras

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OxRSS led by Dr Anjali Shah organised this one-day meeting on Friday 23 February 2018 at the Oxford Martin School, with sponsorship from the Vice-Chancellor, each Division, Oxentia and several colleges. In attendance were 60 senior academics and research staff from across the collegiate University. The presentations took stock of the current regime and of the impact Brexit is likely to have on each area under consideration. The recordings of the presentations are available at the OxRSS website: <https://www.oxrss.ac.uk>

The meeting started with a welcome from Professor Louise Richardson, Oxford's current Vice-Chancellor. Gill Wells, Oxford's Head of the European and International team, made it clear that there is a risk that the University's desired outcomes from the Brexit negotiations may not be possible and, therefore, we have "to hope for the best... and plan for the worst." Cont'd

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 10 July - OxRSS Annual General Meeting at 5pm at the Oxford Learning Institute. This will be followed by a social in St Aldate's Tavern from 6:30pm.

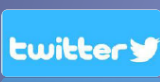
Thursday 19 July - OxRSS Summer Dinner at Cherwell Boathouse.

Saturday 21st July - OxRSS International Picnic in University Parks.

Thursday 26 July - OxRSS End of Month Social at University Club.

Saturday 28 July - Pizza and Prosecco event.

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THE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON RESEARCH AT OXFORD Cont'd



Professor Alastair Buchan, Oxford's Head of Brexit Strategy, talked about the pros and cons for UK research: on one hand, the risk of losing EU funding, staff, students and infrastructure; on the other hand the opportunity to gain higher overseas fee income, lower levels of regulation (e.g. for clinical trials) and getting extra R&D funding from Westminster. Currently 18% of Oxford's staff and 16% of its students are from continental Europe. In addition, Oxford, is one of the largest recipients of research funding in the EU receiving £74m (14% of its research funding) from the EU in 2015/16.

The University's Staff Immigration Team have resources to assist with immigration and recruitment issues, but Dr Mike Galsworthy, Director of Scientists for EU, reflected, Brexit "has already caused disruption to career plans, investments and roles in new consortia that are forming".

Anneliese Dodds, MP for Oxford East, brought her perspective from Westminster and Brussels. She expressed her concern about the lack of priority being given to higher education and research matters in the Brexit negotiations and, in particular, to the mobility of EU researchers and their families. Professor Will Hutton, Principal of Hertford and a well-known Breainer. In the case of a hard Brexit, he said, the impact on both the British and European countries' economy, culture and policies will be extremely serious. He promised to do everything he could to call for a new referendum and stop Brexit's "despicable presence" (sic) in the following months and exhorted the audience to do the same.

Finally, the event was closed in a panel discussion with most of the speakers. One day of long and intense discussions that could be summarised in one statement: "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed."

I believe that the EU has somehow played the role of protector and provider of research here in UK. If you think the same, now is the time for action. The OxRSS organised this event, and will consider a number of recommendations at the AGM on 10 July 2018





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News from Your Voice Representatives

The University's Research & Innovation Committee has approved the establishment and terms of reference of the Research Staff Development Forum, which is chaired by Professor David Gavaghan. The aim is to contribute to an overall strategy for the University on professional and career development of research staff. The forum will provide a single point within the University for internal and external communications on research staff issues, the place for sharing and developing policy and practice across the University and provide input to the REF environment requirements on researcher development issues. OxRSS voice representatives are actively working within this group on developing strategic themes for the forum.

At the most recent meeting of voice representatives, the following new objectives were discussed and agreed, which will be voted on at the OxRSS AGM on 10 July 2018:

- To lobby for an Academic Champion for Research Staff who will lead on policy and development work across the University.
- To lobby for the building of affordable housing for staff and their families by the University.
- To lobby for a substantial increase in the budget for counselling services available to staff. At present there are only funds for 45 members of staff to receive counselling per year.

Other issues discussed were the creation of a physical Researcher Development Centre, pensions, the John Fell Fund criteria for applications, the Careers Conference for Researchers, and the University's Strategic Plan.

Please take part in the second phase of the University's Strategic Plan consultation here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B7C89L2>

Updates were also received from voice representatives from the large and increasing number of committees on which we are members. To see the committees, working groups and named OxRSS representatives who are representing research staff on each group, please see the OxRSS 'University committees and working groups' website: www.oxrss.ox.ac.uk



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Featured Events

Fellowships and Interviews workshop - 10th April 2018 By Lorraine Mumtaz

We had a full house at the Careers Service Lounge for this workshop. The topics presented by Gill Wells and Rachel Bray were very well received, along with useful advice whatever stage you are at in your career. The practice session most agreed was very helpful, and we are planning on extending the time allocation for this the next time we run this event.

Sparkling Wine tasting with the Oxford Wine Cafe - 19th April 2018 By Lorraine Mumtaz



15 of us attended this much anticipated wine tasting. It was great to taste a few alternatives to champagne. With our informative host, Matthew, we sampled 6 wines from around the world in the newly acquired tasting cellar below their shop in Turl Street. We sampled 5 white, and one lightly sparkling red which was a surprise. All really enjoyed this event and will be attending these events again.

OxRSS New College Walking Tour - 28th April 2018 By Anna McNaughton

Despite the weather's best efforts to dampen our spirits, 20 enthusiastic OxRSS members and their family and friends gathered for what turned out to be a highly informative and fun afternoon finding more out about Oxford. With our experienced guide Daniele, we learnt about the history of Broad St, the Bodleian and had a walk around New College, taking in the impressive Chapel and peaceful college quads. The chapel features magnificent stained glass by designed by the 18th-century portraitist Sir Joshua Reynolds, as well as works by Sir Jacob Epstein and El Greco, is definitely worth visiting whilst in Oxford. After this, we headed towards Christ Church Meadows, learning about Dead Man's Walk and the history of the Botanical Gardens. Despite being a little cold and damp, everyone made it to the end of the walk and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Pitching for Global Challenges Research Fund partners - 1st June 2018 By Louise Bezuidenhout and Anna McNaughton

The GCRF is a £1.5 billion fund to support cutting-edge research that addresses the obstacles faced by developing countries, promoting challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research. Focusing an event on the theme, "Innovative approaches for equitable access to sustainable development" OxRSS organised an opportunity for interested researchers of all career stages to get together and find some possible partners to work with. Researchers from a wide array of disciplines including international development, physics, sociology, engineering, biomedical sciences and economics gave brief, fascinating presentations on their research and its applicability to the GCRF. After the talks, many attendees took the opportunity to network and there was lively discussion around many of the themes that emerged. The event was highly successful, with many researchers identifying people they would be interested in working with. OxRSS looks forward to hearing if any collaborative projects emerge from the evening! For more information on the GCRF <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/>



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Useful Resources

Career development, workshops, fairs and personal development

Careers Service

For one-on-one meetings with a Careers Adviser, and workshops and events specific for research staff.

Code of Practice for the Employment and Career Development of Research Staff

The University's commitment to supporting the careers of researchers .

Research staff groups by department

This website contains information on research staff groups in each department.

Oxford Learning Institute

Obtain support for personal and professional development via courses and seminars on management, teaching, and personal development.

Support for researchers

This website contains information on support available to research staff from across the University.

Vitae

The national researcher development organisation.

Other resources

Health and safety

For information on occupational health and welfare

IT services

For technological and computing assistance.

New research staff

This website provides information for research staff who recently joined Oxford.

Welcome Service

Welcome service for University members and their partners.

Social opportunities

Oxford University Newcomers' Club

For partners' of researchers, graduate students and staff to meet each other.

Oxford University Club

Members and staff of the University are welcome to this sports and social club.

Facebook

Like the [OxRSS page](#) for the latest news and events!

OxRSS Email List

To join, please visit www.oxrss.ox.ac.uk and click the link "Sign up to the Research Staff Mailing List"

THE OXRSS COMMITTEE



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