



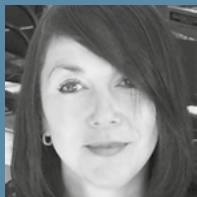
TRINITY TERM 2018

TOM ROCKS MATHS PAGES 18 AND 19



CONTRIBUTORS

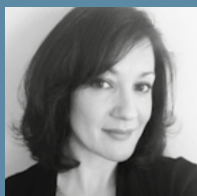
EDITORIAL TEAM



Annette Cunningham
Internal Communications Manager
Public Affairs Directorate



Shaunna Latchman
Communications Officer (secondment)
Public Affairs Directorate

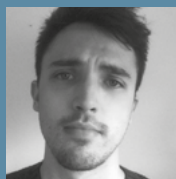


Laetitia Velia
Senior Graphic Designer
Public Affairs Directorate

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS



Gail Anderson
Head of Communications
and Marketing, Department
for Continuing Education



Liam Arnull
Ambitious Futures Graduate
Trainee (seconded from UAL)



John Kay
Internal Communications
Manager, Oxford
University Press



Chris Jarvis
Education Officer,
Oxford University Museum
of Natural History



Rebecca Hedges
Administrative Assistant,
Public Affairs Directorate



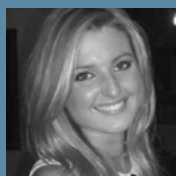
Stuart Gillespie
Head of Research, Impact &
Innovation Communications
Public Affairs Directorate



Meghan Lawson
HR Officer (Policy &
Communications),
Personnel Services



Harmanjit Sidhu
Ambitious Futures
Graduate Trainee
(seconded from SOAS)



Abby Swift
Communications Officer,
Academic Administration
Division

INSIDE

- 3** Introduction:
Research &
Innovation team
- 4** Day in the Life:
Dr Julia Viebach,
Faculty of Law
- 6** Solving the Plastic
Problem
- 8** News
- 11** My Oxford:
Hillier Wise
- 12** Teamwork:
Ashmolean Events
- 14** Lifeline for
Academics at Risk
- 15** Student Spotlight:
Finley Sheppard
- 16** Social Sciences:
Impact Conference
and Awards
- 18** COVER: Tom Rocks
Maths
- 20** CuriOXities
- 22** Continuing Education
- 24** Intermission
- 26** Open Days
- 28** What's On
- 34** Bookshelf
- 35** Swift Action

Cover photo: Dave Fleming

A NEW APPROACH

Stuart Gillespie, Head of the new Research & Innovation Communications team in the Public Affairs Directorate, explains how he and colleagues will be helping cement Oxford's reputation as a world-leading place of research and innovation

Can you tell us about the new structure in the Public Affairs Directorate?

Colleagues will be familiar with the News & Information Office within the Public Affairs Directorate (PAD) as the first point of contact for media and communications issues – from research stories to sensitive reputational matters.

There are now two teams handling media and communications, one of which has the remit of promoting research, impact and the innovation agenda. PAD has also recruited two new members of staff to manage campaigns as part of our new approach to how we communicate with the wider world – including our strength as a research institution and as a place of innovation.

What will the new approach to research communications involve?

The new approach is rooted in feedback about how the University is perceived by others. This suggested that, given its undoubted strength in research and innovation across the full range of academic disciplines, Oxford doesn't have the reputation it merits among external audiences. We want to help change that.

After reviewing how we communicate research, we've decided to move away from our traditional press release-led mainstream media-focused approach, towards a more targeted strategy.

We'll be running creative, digital-led campaigns on selected research themes – starting with one on artificial intelligence (AI) this summer – and we'll be targeting more specialist, engaged, influential audiences with whom we can create real impact. This will include specialist media, politicians and policymakers, and industry and funding bodies.

How will you choose the research themes?

We're looking for research themes that share a few characteristics: existing cross-disciplinary strength at Oxford, clear external interest, strong Oxford voices and demonstrable strategic benefit to the



University – as well as the international impact and benefit of the research.

Over the coming weeks and months we'll be consulting with colleagues across the University on what these themes should be. While this is happening, we'll continue preparing for our opening campaign on AI.

What will happen to research that isn't part of a themed campaign?

Our new approach is about making the best – and most impactful – use of our resources in PAD. But we realise Oxford's research is world-leading across the board, so divisions will continue to have a first point of contact within the team. We'll continue to help publicise research stories that might not fit into a campaign theme but are likely to generate significant interest and impact outside the University.

By putting resources into themed campaigns we may not, from now on, be able to say yes to every request for help with publicity. But we hope that colleagues will see the benefits of our new, more targeted approach, and that with the help of communications colleagues across the University, there will still be avenues for anyone who wants to promote their research.

Stuart Gillespie (*centre*) with team members Chris McIntyre and Lanisha Butterfield

For more information about this new approach please contact Stuart Gillespie, Head of Research & Innovation Communications at stuart.gillespie@admin.ox.ac.uk

DAY IN THE LIFE OF JULIA VIEBACH

Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow at the Faculty of Law

Dr Julia Viebach talks to Annette Cunningham about her role at the University and her photographic exhibition *Kwibuka Rwanda (Remembering Rwanda)* currently on display at the Pitt Rivers Museum – a translation of research into an art piece that introduces the world of Rwanda's genocide memorials to the public



“
Public
engagement and
engaging with
your work in
an artistic way
can make a real
difference
”

Since joining the University five years ago Julia has undertaken various roles. On arrival she was a postdoctoral research fellow as part of a knowledge exchange project. This was followed by a Career Development Lectureship and her current Leverhulme Fellowship role.

In September this year, she takes up a new post as Departmental Lecturer at the African Studies Centre to strengthen her regional expertise on Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region.

Like many people, Julia spends part of her working day responding to emails and dealing with administrative tasks. ‘I usually try to finish those by lunchtime, so that I have the afternoon to read, write and engage with my projects in a meaningful way,’ she explains.

‘I feel like I’ve had a particularly good day when I accomplish something, be it finishing a draft of an article or summarising field notes and thinking about conceptual frameworks.

In addition to teaching Transitional Justice on the MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice for the Centre for Criminology, where she is based, Julia is currently pursuing two major research avenues.

‘The first one lies within my Leverhulme project *Atrocity’s Archives: The Remnants of Transitional Justice in Rwanda*. I am particularly interested in the narratives that emerge in the archival material of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and those of Rwanda’s local Gacaca Courts, from a comparative perspective.

‘I explore how themes such as dignity, forgiveness and reconciliation are addressed in the archival texts and what different narratives emerge about the same crimes.’

Her second research avenue lies with her doctoral research regarding the commemoration of the 1994 Genocide from a survivors’ perspective.

‘I conducted numerous interviews with survivors working at memorial sites, learning about what memorials and commemoration mean to them,’ she explains. ‘And importantly, why they have pledged their lives to clean, preserve and take care of the remains and bodies of their loved ones.’



Nyange Genocide Memorial, Western Province, Rwanda

‘I have transformed this research into the *Kwibuka Rwanda* exhibition, which aims to raise further awareness of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and what we can learn from it.’

The photos displayed reveal the meaning of memorials for survivors, and shares their attempts to remake their world and be closer to their loved ones. ‘It’s an educational opportunity to learn about the pain of distant “others” in a time of heightened xenophobia and indifference to the suffering of “others”.’

Julia feels it is vital to work with non-academic partners and to reach out to the public and to those communities affected most by her research.

‘For the launch of the *Kwibuka Rwanda* exhibition and the commemoration event, I worked with the Ishami Foundation, the National Association of Rwandese Communities in UK and the Rwandese Community Association Oxford.

‘At the exhibition’s launch around 180 interested people stood with the Rwandan community to reflect on what happened. It was an absolutely fantastic experience to see people from the University, the general public and the Rwandan community engaging with the exhibition,’ continues Julia.

‘Many members of the Rwandan community, many of them survivors themselves, were deeply touched by the exhibition and felt a direct connection to their own lives and experiences during the Genocide.

‘This day made me realise that for us academics there is more than getting published in high-ranked international journals. Public engagement and engaging with your work in an artistic way can make a real difference.’

The *Kwibuka Rwanda (Remembering Rwanda)* exhibition is on display at the Pitt Rivers Museum until 28 September 2018 www.prm.ox.ac.uk/whatson



Dave Fleiming

Professor Peter Edwards with Dr Zhaoxi Zhang

SOLVING THE

Stuart Gillespie reports on how Oxford Sustainable Fuels, an Oxford University spin-out company, is working to develop technology that transforms plastic waste into valuable transport fuel



Shutterstock

It's a stark image. A sea turtle lies dead among plastic debris on a beach, seemingly a victim of our global pollution crisis.

If the pictures are stark, so are the figures relating to plastic:

- an estimated 10m tonnes ends up in the oceans each year
- almost 5bn tonnes has gone to landfill since the post-war boom in production
- it takes around 500 years for a plastic bottle to biodegrade
- less than 10% of plastic is recycled

The BBC's *Blue Planet II* series brought the issue to the attention of millions of TV viewers earlier this year. With marine life facing 'irreparable damage' according to the UN's oceans director, and recent research emphasising the impact of land-based plastic pollution, solutions are needed urgently.

In February 2018 one potential solution was turned into a company using Oxford research. Oxford Sustainable Fuels (OSF) is developing technology that can turn end-of-life plastic into high-quality transportation fuel based on advances in a technique known as pyrolysis.

Pyrolysis is the process of decomposing plastic at moderately high temperatures, in the absence of oxygen, to produce an oil-like substance known as pyrolysis oil. So far, pyrolysis oil has found few uses, in part

'Given the extraordinary scale and rate of expansion of plastic waste, we urgently need complementary strategies. Catalytic chemical recycling techniques such as ours offer substantial environmental and economic benefits.'

OSF was spun out with the help of Oxford University Innovation and has attracted £1m in seed funding, which will be used to develop and scale up the technology. The company hopes to have begun turning plastic waste into fuel within the next few years. Past and present chemistry DPhil students have played key roles in the research advances that have brought the science and the technology to this point – notably the company's chief technology officer, Dr Zhaoxi Zhang.

Co-founder Dr Tiancun Xiao, also

“
My generation of chemists have spent their careers focusing on making plastics more efficiently, with better properties. Now we must turn our attention to dealing with the legacy of plastic waste material
”

PLASTIC PROBLEM

because of its instability. But the academics behind OSF have developed efficient ways of purifying and upgrading this viscous, highly reactive substance to produce gasoline, diesel and jet fuels. Significantly, the process is able to handle mixed plastics, negating the need for sorting and separation.

It's a novel use for plastics that would otherwise have found their way into landfill, our oceans, or the atmosphere via incineration. And, as company co-founder Professor Peter Edwards notes, it's a quirk of science that Nobel Prize-winning research into the synthesis of polymers – the molecules that make up plastics – is essentially now being reversed.

'Proposed solutions to the plastic waste crisis, such as plastic-free aisles in supermarkets or the banning of all consumer-use, non-biodegradable plastics, are most laudable,' says Professor Edwards, from Oxford's Department of Inorganic Chemistry. 'However, it will take considerable time and effort to wean a global society off plastic.

of Oxford's Department of Inorganic Chemistry, says: 'Our aim is to become a key part of the circular economy by enabling the transformation of waste into valuable and needed products. To be a part of the solution in helping our global and local environment is a huge motivation for us. We believe our technology will be an important element in the fight against plastic waste ending up in the oceans.'

Professor Edwards adds: 'What's important about OSF is that it is founded on new ways of thinking about plastic waste as a global resource for responsible recycling. My generation of chemists have spent their careers focusing on making plastics more efficiently, with better properties. Now we must turn our attention to dealing with the legacy of plastic waste material.'

Visit <http://osfuels.com> to find out more about the innovative work of Oxford Sustainable Fuels

NEWS



New Health and Safety Plan

The University has recently adopted a new five-year Strategic Plan for Health and Safety. In promoting the plan, Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson said: 'This new strategic plan speaks to the University's commitment to ensuring that we meet the highest possible standards of health and safety performance. I would like to thank colleagues for their time, expertise and professionalism in preparing this document.'

The new plan will shortly be distributed across the University.

Blue Plaque unveiling

On Tuesday 29 May two new Blue Plaques will be unveiled in the city on University buildings to commemorate their relevance in the history of medicine. A plaque at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology will acknowledge its pioneering work on penicillin. The other plaque, at the former Radcliffe Infirmary, marks it as the site of the first clinical trials of the drug in 1941.

New support for carers

Caring responsibilities can affect us all – they may arise without warning, and can be temporary or permanent. You may have an elderly dependent, a child or partner with special needs, or be juggling multiple caring responsibilities.

To coincide with National Carers Week (11–17 June), the University is launching new initiatives to support staff with caring responsibilities, including new options for flexible working and buying additional leave. Watch out for news on the Staff Gateway (www.ox.ac.uk/staff) in June.

University Diversity Fund 2018/19

Applications to the Diversity Fund, which provides small grants to support projects that promote equality and diversity, are now open to all staff at the University. Visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/df to find out more. The closing date for applications is Monday 25 June.

Diversity Awards

Winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Awards were announced at a ceremony on 8 May at Worcester College. The biennial awards aim to recognise and celebrate the amazing projects taking place across the University that help to promote equality and diversity. Details of the winners and many of the nominated initiatives will feature in future issues of *Blueprint* and on the Staff Gateway.



Work travel insurance

If you travel abroad for work you need to be aware of a new online process for applying for travel insurance and registering your travel details. The new insurance application will be made available over June and July and will route all submitted applications with supporting documentation for departmental authorisation. It should also be used to register travel details. This will enable travellers to be contacted and provided with support by the University in the event of any crisis. The online application will be accessible from the University's travel insurance website. Check www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/insurance/travel for updates. Roadshows are scheduled to provide in-depth information for staff members responsible for processing and authorising travel insurance applications. For more information contact TIRS.Project@admin.ox.ac.uk

Inspiring Women at Oxford Saïd Business School

While businesses face pressure from investors and the government to raise female representation on their boards, Saïd Business School continues to equip women with the skills and confidence they need to reach the boardroom. The School regularly hosts insightful events open to students and the public. Follow the Inspiring Women at Oxford Saïd LinkedIn page (www.linkedin.com/showcase/inspiring-women-at-oxford-said/) for business news and relevant upcoming events.



NEWS



HOPE for the Future

Oxford University Museum of Natural History has received initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project titled HOPE for the Future – the Heritage, Outreach and Preservation of Entomology project. The project aims to rehouse and safeguard its nationally significant British insect collections and restore the museum's Westwood Room to its original 1860 condition. Additionally, it will support an extensive community outreach and public engagement programme centred on British animal wildlife.

Volunteer for Oxford Open Doors

Oxford Preservation Trust is seeking volunteers for Oxford Open Doors on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September. This annual event, delivered in partnership with the University, offers the public the opportunity to explore behind closed doors. If you're interested in helping for a few hours, please contact s.dawson@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Looking to promote an article you've written?

The Public Affairs team publishes a range of articles from contributors all across the University on their Medium Publication site. Any article published on the site, which has 21k+ followers, is also promoted on our social media channels. Visit <https://medium.com/oxford-university> to find out more. Contact digicomms@admin.ox.ac.uk if you'd like to submit an article for consideration.

Research news: Fossil finger reveals how humans spread out of Africa and beyond

Scientists have discovered a 90,000-year-old bone in Saudi Arabia, suggesting that humans travelled further than initially thought during the first reported migration into Eurasia. Lead author Dr Huw Groucutt, a British Academy postdoctoral fellow at Oxford, said: "The ability of these early people to widely colonise this region casts doubt on long-held views that early dispersals out of Africa were localised and unsuccessful."

Research news: Body temperature storage improves liver transplant success

Preserving livers at body temperature improves transplant success and can increase the number of viable donor livers available for transplant, which could lead to shorter waiting lists for patients and lower mortality rates.

Oxford researchers used a technique called normothermic machine perfusion in 220 liver transplant patients, using a device developed by OrganOx Ltd, a MedTech business spun out from the University of Oxford as a result of a collaboration between Professor Peter Friend (Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences) and Professor Constantin Coussios (Institute of Biomedical Engineering).



Research news: What do Uranus's cloud tops have in common with rotten eggs?

Even after decades of observation and a visit by the *Voyager 2* spacecraft, the planet Uranus has held on to one critical secret: the composition of its clouds. Now, one of the key components has finally been verified.

Professor Patrick Irwin from Oxford's Department of Physics worked with global collaborators and found that hydrogen sulphide – a gas that smells like rotten eggs – dominates the planet's cloud deck.

The team made the discovery by analysing infrared light from Uranus captured by the huge Gemini North telescope on Hawaii's Maunakea. The long-sought evidence has been published in the journal *Nature Astronomy*.

Research news: Penguin hotspot discovered in Antarctica

A hotspot of more than 1.5m penguins, discovered on the Danger Islands, East Antarctic Peninsula, suggests that the birds thrive best in environments undisturbed by humans. By comparison, penguin populations in the West Antarctic Peninsula – 100 miles away and widely used for fishing – are in decline, fuelling calls for a marine reserve in the region.

NEWS

Honorary Degrees 2018

Seven eminent figures will be awarded honorary degrees at Encaenia on 20 June 2018:



Professor Mary Beard is Professor of Classics and a Fellow of Newnham College at Cambridge University, as well as Classics Editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, and an exceptionally distinguished historian of Roman cultural history.



Sir Matthew Bourne is known and admired across the world for his remaking of old works – most famously for his all-male *Swan Lake*, which enjoys global success. He has also choreographed and directed the *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Edward Scissorhands*.



Lord (David) Neuberger was President of the Supreme Court of the UK until retiring last year. His legal career to the summit of the judiciary reflects his exceedingly high intellectual standards and analytical abilities. His first degree was in Chemistry from Oxford.



Professor Helga Nowotny is Professor emeritus of Social Studies of Science, ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) Zurich. She has authored and co-authored significant books and papers in the field of the science and policy relationship.



Professor Robert Putnam has taught at Harvard University for decades and was Dean of the John F Kennedy School, educating generations of social scientists and political leaders.



Martin Scorsese is an American film-maker whose career spans more than six decades. Scorsese's films include *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Raging Bull* (1980) and *GoodFellas* (1990). He is also a leading figure in film restoration.



Lord (Nicholas) Stern is IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics, Head of the India Observatory and Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. He has held previous posts at universities in the UK and abroad, including at Oxford.



20% staff discount offer

A new contemporary-look gift shop has recently opened at the Pitt Rivers Museum offering a vast selection of handcrafted, design-led products. Take your University card along to claim a 10% discount off goods. Visit between 21 and 31 May (inclusive) to claim a special staff discount rate of 20% (excluding books).

National Bike Week – 10 to 18 June

Watch out for events, offers and training being coordinated by the University's Environmental Sustainability team as part of this year's National Bike Week on [@oxfordenvsust](https://twitter.com/oxfordenvsust)

UniCycle winners

Oxford beat all other eight universities competing in the UniCycle staff challenge. Thank you to all our 191 participants who helped us scoop first prize by registering more than 11,000 cycling miles on their daily commute.

Staff Matrix

If you have something to sell, want to recommend a social group or rent out a room, you can now add a post to the Staff Matrix section on the Staff Gateway (www.ox.ac.uk/staff). The Matrix invites you to interact with others across the University – see what others are promoting or recycle your own unwanted goods. There's an option to add a related photo under the various categories listed.

Encaenia 2018

Tickets are still available for Oxford's honorary degree ceremony, Encaenia, on Wednesday 20 June. Visit www.ox.ac.uk/encaenia to register.

MY OXFORD

Hillier Wise is wellknown to everyone involved with Encaenia, the Oxford ceremony held in memory of founders and benefactors of the University. Annette Cunningham asks Hillier about his voluntary work, spanning more than 50 years, which has helped to ensure that this annual event runs smoothly

What's your connection to the city?

Following my graduation from the University of London, I first arrived at St Catherine's College in the 1950s to continue my research in modern history.

How did you first get involved with Encaenia?

I joined a merry band of already established Special Pro-Proctors in 1963, seven years after matriculation, who all helped out. It was a delightful way of keeping in touch with the University, especially when one went out into the world, and it's something I continued.

What roles have you carried out?

Originally titled Special Pro-Proctors – eventually renamed Ushers – we took it in turns to be on duty either inside the Sheldonian or outside. As now, we checked invitations, greeted the VIPs and helped get everyone seated. When outside we found ourselves obvious targets for photographers – and especially popular with American tourists. We also assisted at other ceremonies, such as the giving of degrees by diploma to the Prince of Wales, the US president and at the Installation of the Chancellor.

Has security always been thorough at Encaenia?

Yes, sometimes more than others. On the occasion when President Clinton received his degree, the American security team set up a special gateway for those officiating as well as for visitors. We were subjected to a security check on a par with an international flight. I was somewhat annoyed by having my mortar board very thoroughly examined by trying to bend its corners.

At the same event I reported a very smartly dressed woman to security staff for dashing past me clutching a small black case. She returned to apologise and explained she was carrying the President's drinking water.

You must have some great anecdotes from over the years ...

Yes, plenty. On an appallingly wet Encaenia when Harold Macmillan was Chancellor (he served from 1960 to 1986), his son arrived and turned his academic hood upside down and a torrent of water gushed out.

And I think it was at Harold Macmillan's last appearance as Chancellor, when he was then the first Earl of Stockton, that



Hillier being greeted by former Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Hamilton

he was persuaded to allow the recording, for posterity, of his rather unusual Latin pronunciation of the ceremony, which was how it was spoken at Eton over a hundred years ago.

Then there was the time that Ted Heath received his honorary degree and there was a noisy (and potentially unpleasant) demonstration outside. An Oxford Bulldog was concerned that I might have a good suit on under my gown. However, I'm pleased to report that my suit remained intact!

What's been your favourite moment whilst carrying out this great service to the University?

It is kind of you to say 'great service' but I think my old colleagues, and indeed I myself, would not put it in such a grand way. The music is a large part of the ceremony and one is lucky enough to be guaranteed an enjoyable organ recital, and the quality of the choir is always Oxford at its best.

A quite hilarious happening was when the president of Italy received the special degree by diploma from Chancellor Macmillan. Of course we all stood as the organ played the very cheerful Italian national anthem. But as we all went to sit after the chorus, the organist launched into the next verse, causing us all to stand up again very quickly, this happened several times. It was like a scene from a *Carry On* film, but of course no one dared to laugh. Paying our respects to the Chancellor later, he looked up at us and said in his inimitable way, 'The Italian national anthem ... just like Italian operetta.'

It's all been enjoyable really. And as for the Encaenia garden parties over the last 50 years or so – well, they are quite another story!



Above (left to right): Wendy Ball, Marie Giraud, Melissa Fanous, Francesca Sconfienza, Cai Marshall, Paul Jeffery, Bettina Zagoritis, Ginger Jansen and Stacey Puffer

“
It’s not just about hiring an empty venue. The galleries and spaces are stunning and you are surrounded by a wealth of treasures and knowledge. This is our unique selling point and it’s wonderful to see how people engage with it

”
Wendy Ball,
Head of Events

TEAMWORK NIGHTS AT

With opulent and captivating galleries, exhibition spaces, a vaulted café and rooftop restaurant, there is no shortage of venues to impress and inspire guests. Shaunna Latchman pays a visit to the Ashmolean’s Event team to find out how the museum is transformed to accommodate exclusive out-of-hours events for up to 900 guests.

So what does happen when the doors of the museum close at the end of the day? What goes on when members of the public are no longer browsing the exhibitions and exploring its 67 historic galleries?

When many of us may be thinking about turning the lights off and heading home, the team are often preparing to bring the museum back to life – transforming its stunning spaces into a venue for exceptional events.

The nine core members of the Events team cover the diverse range of corporate and commercial functions and social events, including the many University departmental events that are held before the museum opens and in the evenings.

‘The range of event enquiries are almost as diverse as the collections themselves! The core Event team liaise with clients, internal stakeholders and trusted partners to meticulously plan and co-ordinate events,’ explains Wendy Ball, Head of Events. ‘However, depending on its size, the wider team involved in the execution of an event can grow considerably.’

Seventeen dedicated evening event assistants help with the smooth operational running of out-of-hours events and, working together with the Security team, protect the collections and strive to

exceed guest service expectations. The museum’s exclusive catering partners, Benugo and Clerkenwell Green Events, develop considered menus that perfectly complement each event.

‘We all need to work collaboratively to ensure every event is a success,’ says Wendy. ‘It’s our job to be ultra-organised, communicative and flexible in order to bring all the different aspects together.’

Although the team have their own portfolio of clients and social events to plan and deliver, they are also available to support other public engagement functions such as new exhibitions, by arranging private and press views or acting as floor managers on the evening of a Live Friday.

‘The Live Friday events are always great. It’s when the museum is open to the public after hours and they are invited to take part in interactive events. Activities include theatrical performances, creative workshops, live music, talks and taking in the vast collections.’

Whether a couple choose the Greek and Roman Sculpture Gallery to exchange their vows, or a corporate member requires a curator to inspire colleagues with a lecture on leadership through art, the Events team are one of the many cogs working steadily behind the scenes to help bring a client’s vision to life.

THE MUSEUM

How can the team help you?

The Ashmolean is more than just a venue; dedicated event managers will assist you on your event journey, helping you to explore and enhance your guests’ experience.

A 20% venue hire discount will be applied to all qualifying University departments and registered societies, plus guests will enjoy a complimentary additional canapé for drinks reception bookings received in June, July and August.

How can you help the team?

Planning an event can be time-consuming and often a little daunting. Provide as much detail as possible when submitting your initial enquiry and then meet with a member of the team to help visualise your event. Contact the team by calling **01865 610 406** or emailing events@ashmolean.org or visit the website www.ashmolean.org/venue-hire.

LIFELINE FOR ACADEMICS AT RISK

Senior Personnel Officer Ruth Kinahan talks to Meghan Lawson about her role helping to appoint academics from all corners of the globe, including those seeking a safe haven.

Ruth is no stranger to the intricacies of international recruitment, including complex visa processes or relocating a scholar's family. However, another strand of Ruth's work, alongside Dr Rebecca Surender, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equality & Diversity), is assisting academics who face a very different kind of hurdle: the threat of persecution, imprisonment or violence in their home country.

Together with her team, Ruth is the central point of contact for academics coming to Oxford through the UK charity Cara, the Council for At-Risk Academics. Ruth works with colleagues across the collegiate University to find temporary homes for academics fleeing grave risks at home.

The first Cara scholar arrived in Oxford in 2014, and a further seven have been hosted here since then. 'Most of the academics we host come from Syria,' says Ruth. 'That's simply because there are so many Syrians approaching Cara right now, as the situation there is so horrendous.'

Working with Cara, the University funds accommodation, living allowances and research expenses to allow academics to continue their work, sometimes also supporting their family, for up to two years.

Another key facet of the scheme is mentorship. 'We provide an academic mentor who can help the person continue or restart their research, and also to plan for the future,' explains Ruth. 'This might involve securing an academic post in the UK or another country, or – eventually – returning home to help with the rebuilding process.'

The idea is not a new one, at least not at Oxford. In the 1930s several Oxford colleges opened their doors to academics escaping the Nazi regime in Germany. Cara itself was established in 1933 for the

same reason. Many leading intellectuals at the time were early patrons of the charity, including the economist Sir William Beveridge and several other Heads of House at Oxford.

In 2005 Cara established the UK Universities Network to promote greater cooperation between UK higher education institutions in their efforts to support at-risk academics and to promote academic freedom worldwide. Oxford signed up to the Network in 2008, which now comprises 117 higher education institutions.

At Oxford, the emphasis on academic freedom drives much of the collegiate University's support for Cara's work. 'Equally important,' explains Ruth, 'is the genuine humanitarian concern for colleagues who are suffering in dreadful circumstances and a strong desire to do something to help.'

Cara receives up to twenty enquiries from imperiled academics every week, the highest levels of need since the 1930s. Oxford is currently hosting four scholars from Syria, with two more academics and their families expected to arrive this summer from Turkey. 'It would be lovely to be able to support more people,' says Ruth, 'but the limitation is related to funding.' Additional funds have been secured through the University's Van Houten Fund, from the David and Elaine Potter Foundation and through an academic journal, but further support is needed.

While the numbers are modest, the chance to continue one's academic career away from the threat of violence or imprisonment is a true lifeline for many academics around the globe. For Ruth, the message is clear: 'I think we can be really proud to be a University that is working to provide a safe haven and a chance to restart a career for some people who are seriously at risk.'



Ruth Kinahan

“
We can be really proud to be a University that is working to provide a safe haven and a chance to re-start a career for some people who are seriously at risk
”

If you can support Oxford's efforts with Cara, please contact Ruth Kinahan at ruth.kinahan@admin.ox.ac.uk.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Finley Sheppard, a third-year undergraduate Geography student at Christ Church, talks to Abby Swift about life at Oxford and, as a transgender and non-binary* student, their thoughts on the University's recently updated Transgender Policy

What made you apply to study at Oxford?

I applied to Oxford because it was close (but not too close) to my home near Bristol. The prestige of Oxford and the opportunities it gives you after university were also huge points in its favour.

What do you enjoy about Oxford and what challenges have you encountered?

Oxford has given me the best friends I could have ever hoped for. They've been there for me throughout all the ups and downs of early adult life and showed me so many more different perspectives on life than I ever thought existed.

Throughout my degree I have found a number of challenges. There is a lot of work to do, which makes socialising difficult. Oxford also expects you to be comfortable with a lot of things, like formal dinners or subfusc. I'm only just getting used to it all now! I have, however, loved my second and third year as I've been able to work with topics that motivate me, such as climate change and the EU.

How would you describe your experience at Oxford as someone who identifies as transgender?

I'd recognised that I am non-binary before coming to Oxford, but university was the first place I came out to everyone as both bi and trans, which I did first to a group of close friends who were wonderfully accepting. To other people, however, things have moved a bit more slowly. Most people in college still act confused around me, most likely because they do not know how to refer to me. I have found the LGBTQ+ Society an incredible source of support.

How have you been involved with the University's LGBTQ+ community?

I initially became the JCR LGBTQ+ Welfare Officer at Christ Church, where I raised the profile of LGTBQ+ identities in college, sat on the Welfare Committee and drafted the college's Transgender Policy. For the last year I have been the LGBTQ+ Society's Trans Rep. This involves running regular welfare and sports events for trans people, providing a space for them to just be themselves without question or comment – I personally found this really valuable when I was coming out in first year. I've also responded to press requests for the Society and liaised with the committee to help improve Oxford's student life for all LGBTQ+ people.

The University has recently updated its Transgender Policy and guidance. What impact do you think this will have?

The new policy and guidance show the University's commitment to transgender staff and students, recognising the unique challenges they face. It explicitly references confidentiality, which is vital in any interaction a person may have with respect to being transgender, as is assurance that their details and experiences will be handled with the utmost sensitivity. The guidance will

provide a starting point in dealing with institutionalised transphobia in our society.

What are your plans for the future?

I've applied for a number of different jobs, including one in the charity sector and another in the Foreign Office. This summer I plan to go Interrailing for a month; it's certainly providing great motivation to get me through all my finals revision!

**Non-binary describes a person who is not exclusively a man or woman.*

They may choose a combination of female, male and gender-neutral terms to describe their personal gender expression.



Dave Fleming

Visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/transgender for the University's updated policy and guidance

Finley Sheppard

SOCIAL SCIENCES

MAKING AN IMPACT

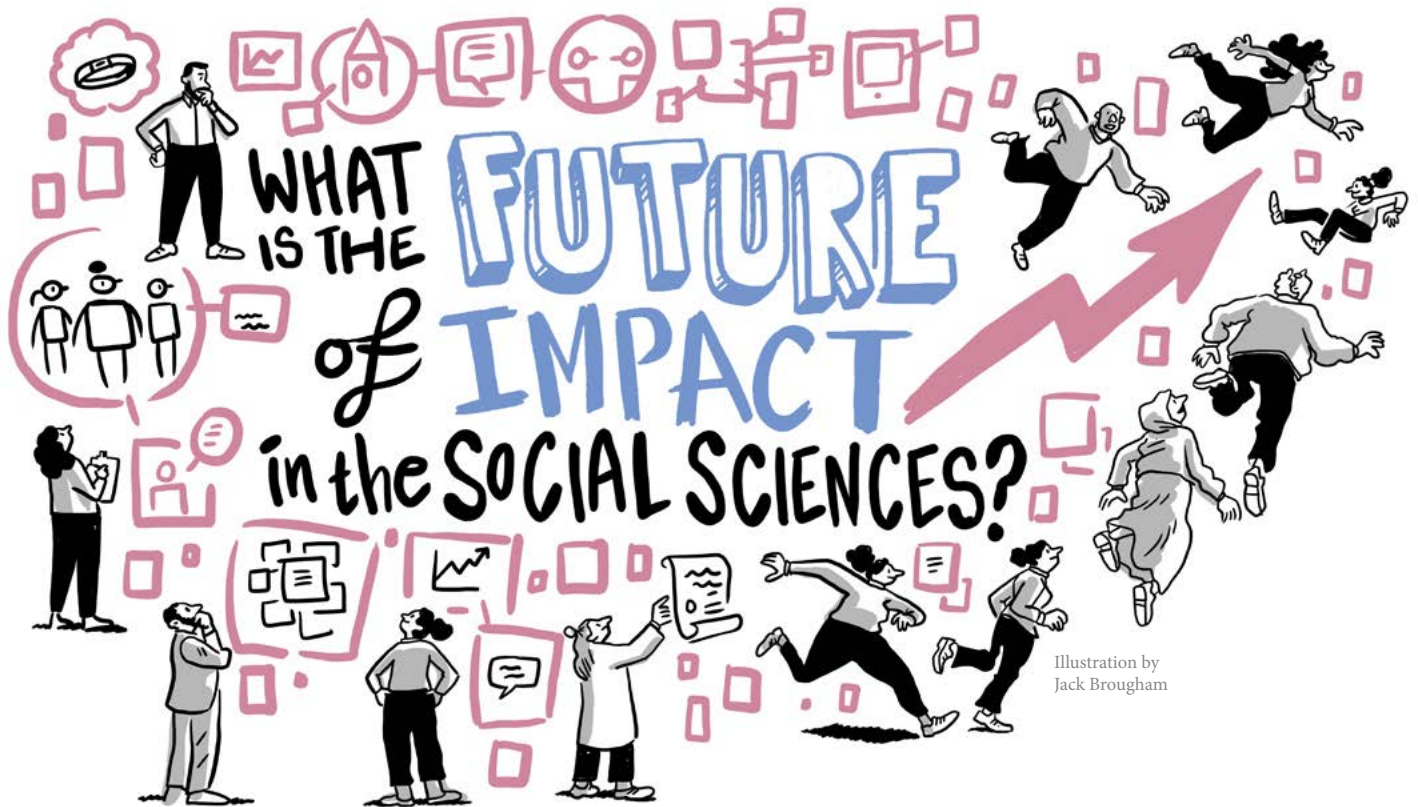


Illustration by
Jack Brougham

Social sciences can be defined as the study of society and how people and relationships influence the world around us. The field's diverse range of academic disciplines includes politics, economics, public health, archaeology, law and education

The data generated from social sciences research is a vital source for many organisations, including governments and policymakers, helping to make the decisions that shape the political agenda and everyday society. It helps to provide a global response to a diverse range of issues, ranging from the causes and effects of unemployment and educational disparity, to what makes people happy and how the internet has changed our lives.

To demonstrate the contribution that social sciences research makes to society and the economy, O²RB – a regional partnership between the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes, the University of Reading and the Open University – held

its first Impact Conference and Award Ceremony in April 2018 at Oxford.

Professor Sarah Whatmore, Head of Social Sciences explains: 'We're proud that the University is a world-leading centre for research across the social sciences. Oxford has the highest research income in these fields of any UK university and strives to bring broad benefit to society, the environment and the economy.'

'The O²RB collaboration creates unique opportunities and connections for people to share ideas. As a group, we aim to work together to highlight the impact of the engagement and research which is carried out within our universities on a day-to-day basis.'

Award-winning projects at Oxford

The winning projects below provided some inspiring examples of the difference social sciences research makes to individuals, communities and societies both in the UK and abroad:

Impact Champion

Dr Rachel Condry, Centre for Criminology – Forging Public Awareness and Developing Policy Responses to Adolescent to Parent Violence

Dr Condry created the first and only (to date) large-scale study of adolescent to parent violence (APV) in the UK, providing systematic evidence of the size and scale of the problem. Guidance created for the Home Office based on the research has been used by statutory and voluntary agencies across the UK, leading to changes in local practice.

Excellence in Impact Award Winners

Professor Abigail Adams and **Professor Jeremias Prassl**, Department of Economics and Faculty of Law – Access to Justice and the Economics of the Rule of Law

Research by professors Adams and Prassl was instrumental in the overturning of employment tribunal fees at the Supreme Court. Adams (an economist) and Prassl (a lawyer), explored whether adverse economic barriers could constitute a barrier to justice in UK and EU law. They collaborated directly with the senior barristers on the case, which was won in July 2017.

Professor Lucie Cluver and **the Young Carers team**, Department of Social Policy & Intervention – Making Impact Matter for Vulnerable Adolescents across Sub-Saharan Africa

Professor Cluver and her team have used their research to demonstrate that a combination of economics and social support ('Cash plus Care') in Sub-Saharan Africa has a strong impact on reducing adolescent HIV risk behaviours. Partners including UNICEF, USAID and governments are supporting the programme, benefitting two million adolescent girls.

Early Career Impact Champion

Dr Shona Minson, Centre for Criminology – Safeguarding Children when Sentencing Mothers

Dr Minson has brought significant attention to the need to consider children whose mothers are imprisoned; her research has shown how little they are considered at sentencing. Her films and briefing papers, which have been embedded across the justice system, have led to changes in sentencing processes.

(a) **Dr Rachel Condry** – award presented by Alun Edwards. (b) **Professor Abi Adams** – award presented by Professor Peter Kemp. (c) **Professor Lucie Cluver** – award presented by Dr Joy Todd, ESRC. (d) **Dr Shona Minson** – award presented by Dr David Mills



All photographs: John Cairns

Impact Conference and Awards

The conference and awards were set up to explore and highlight the breadth and depth of work being carried out in the four universities through case studies, workshops and shared learning openings.

The conference sessions were aimed at encouraging researchers to think up innovative ways to ensure their research continues to make an impact.

The standard of the award submissions was extremely high, with five winners and nine of the submitted projects being highly commended.



Professor Whatmore concludes, "These awards celebrate the time and effort spent by social scientists to make a difference in the world.

'The expertise of our academics is needed more than ever with global issues like environmental change, economic and political challenges and inequality demanding responses founded on excellent research. Oxford continues to provide both the evidence and inspiration for new policies to address these challenges.'

Find out more about the University's Social Sciences Division at www.socsci.ox.ac.uk



Dave Fleming

INTRODUCTION TO TOM ROCKS MATHS

Maths is often a subject that incites fear and apprehension, but this is far from true for St Hugh's Mathematics tutor (aka the Naked Mathematician), as Dr Tom Crawford tells Shauna Latchman

“
There is often
no relevance or
relatability in
the way maths
is taught, that’s
why people
struggle to
enjoy it
”

While some avoid arithmetic at all costs, Tom fully immerses himself daily teaching maths to the first and second year undergraduate students at St Hugh’s College. He also arranges activities for St John’s College as the Access and Outreach Associate for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) for the Inspire programme. Another activity is planning and filming content for his own outreach programme – *Tom Rocks Maths*.

‘It was the subject that felt most natural to me’, explains Tom, who first realised his love for numbers aged seven when his class had been set ten long multiplication questions. He raced through the whole book. However it wasn’t until he received ten A*s in his GCSEs that he began considering an Oxbridge education. ‘Academically there isn’t much of a difference [between Oxford and Cambridge]’ Tom comments, ‘but Oxford felt more like home.’

Later, after completing his PhD in Applied Maths at Cambridge, he was offered an internship with public engagement team, the Naked Scientists. The group strip back science to help make a complicated theory easy to digest. Weekly podcasts are broadcasted through BBC Radio 5 Live and ABC Australia, where audiences reach up to one million listeners a week.

Tom saw an opportunity to bring his appreciation for maths to the masses, but he wanted to do it with a twist. Eager to move away from the stereotypes of maths being a serious subject taught by older men in tweed jackets, he thought ‘what is the best way to make maths less serious? Doing it in my underwear!’ And so, the Naked Mathematician was born.

Since joining St Hugh’s, Tom continues to break down day-to-day activities on his YouTube channel to prove that maths is an integral part of everything we do.

His passion for engagement doesn’t end there. The Inspire programme, part of the Link Colleges initiative, is a series of events, visits, workshops and online contact for pupils in years 9 to 13. Tom works with the non-selective state schools in the London boroughs of Harrow and Ealing.

The Link Colleges programme simplifies communication between UK schools and the University. Every school in the country

is linked with an Oxford college, with the hope that this connection will encourage students to explore the possibility of attending university.

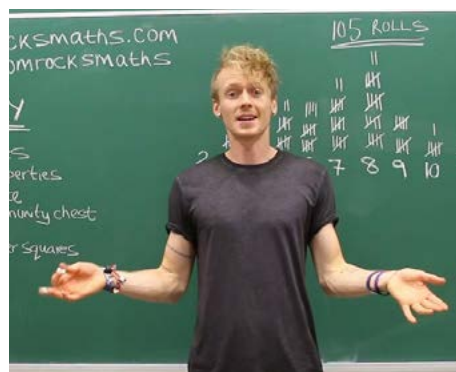
‘The aim is to have sustained contact with the same group of students over five years’, says Tom. ‘There are still students who haven’t thought about university, or maybe it’s not the norm in their family or area to attend university. So, we explain what it is, how it works and the positives and negatives. We want to inform and inspire them.’

Tom is responsible for arranging all STEM events across the year for 60 students in each year group. He calls on the expertise of his colleagues at Oxford as well as encouraging a partnership with the University of Cambridge and several universities in London. ‘The syllabus includes various topics such as the science of food and using maths to improve diet.’

During Tom’s famed Maths vs Sport talk, students are encouraged to participate in an on-stage penalty shootout – but only after learning about the mathematical makeup behind such a pivotal moment in a football game, of course.

Tom believes maths is made more accessible by relating it to the world around us. He encourages his students to question things, like why bees make hexagonal shapes in their hives and how many Pikachus it takes to light up a lightbulb.

Whether visiting schools up and down the country to deliver talks, recording the weekly dose of Funbers for BBC radio – fun facts about numbers that we didn’t realise we secretly wanted to know – or in front of his class of students, Tom is certainly making waves in the world of maths.



Find the answer to the lightbulb question on his website www.tomrocksmaths.com and his YouTube channel [@tomrocksmaths](https://www.youtube.com/@tomrocksmaths)



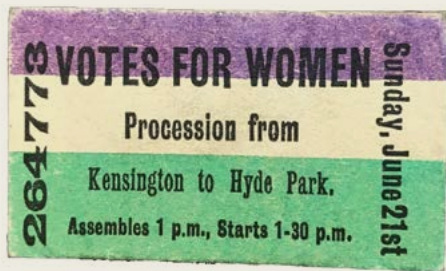
Margaret Cameron – portrait of girl

Julia Margaret Cameron (1815–79) was a photographic pioneer and one of the first to use soft light, making for artistically blurry and realistic portraits. Many examples of her work can be found in photo albums held at the Bodleian Library, including a compilation for the English dramatist and poet Sir Henry Taylor.

CURIOXITIES

Sappho to Suffrage: Women who dared, currently on show at the Weston Library, celebrates female scientists, authors, political activists, composers, pirates and photographers. Shauna Latchman and Rebecca Hedges highlight their favourite artefacts from this free exhibition which marks 100 years since the Representation of the People Act

Suffrage materials

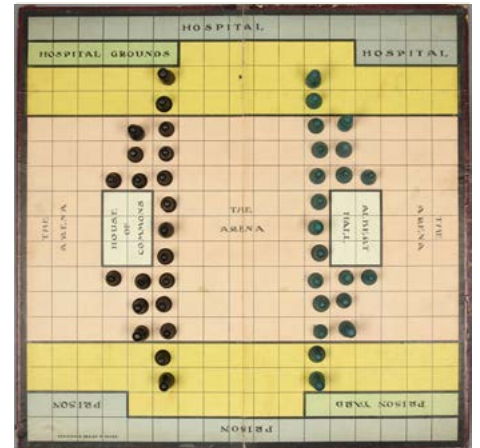


The exhibition includes photos, ephemera, posters, scrapbooks, postcards and games relating to the UK Women's suffrage movement and activities such as rallies, education and fundraising. They include this ticket for a rally as well as a banner for the Oxford Women's Students Society for Women's Suffrage.

Fragments of poems, Sappho



One of the earliest personal voices of world literature, Sappho celebrates love and beauty as greater than all the armies of Homer. Her poetry, all but lost for nearly two millennia, were brought to life again by fragments such as these from a papyrus roll dating to 2nd century AD, found in excavations of the rubbish dumps of Oxyrhynchus in Egypt from c1896.



Suffragette (22. 1910s)

This board game is the only known surviving copy and was donated to the Bodleian by games collector Richard Ballam in 2016. It was produced by the WSPU to raise money for the suffragette campaign.

Players, representing either the suffragettes or the police, aim to take control of the named buildings.

A public meeting

A photo postcard showing a prominent member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), Mrs Drummond, in a boat outside the House of Commons inviting MPs to attend the 1908 Hyde Park demonstration. This was the first grand-scale meeting to be organised by the WSPU and came to be known as 'Women's Sunday'.



MRS. DRUMMOND OPPOSITE THE TERRACE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ADDRESSING M.P.'S, INVITING THEM TO THE HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION.

The Imprisoned Suffragist Leaders

A postcard from 22 May 1912 raising awareness of 'The Imprisoned Suffragist Leaders', Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst and Emmeline and Frederick Pethick Lawrence.



The full exhibition, showcasing women's stories over the decades, is on display at the Weston Library until February 2019



An alfresco tutorial: tutor F W Cuthbertson with students of the 1911 summer meeting

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Gail Anderson, from the Department for Continuing Education, explains the department's origins, reveals some of its better known participants and describes its modern offer



Students taking a break from the creative writing masters course

Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education got its start 140 years ago, under the name Oxford Extension – an initiative aimed at spreading educational opportunity beyond the walls of the University.

The impulse sprang from the general educational reforms of the latter Victorian era and from that period's growing sense of social awareness. More and more citizens were being granted the vote and access to education was a national imperative.

The early days of the programme saw Oxford Dons jumping on trains to deliver weekly lectures at more than 150 Extension centres scattered from Lands End to Carlisle. For many, Oxford Extension was an intellectual lifeline that connected them to a wider world of ideas and higher education.

Today's Department for Continuing Education offers more than 1000 part-time programmes and courses each year. Topics range from International Human Rights Law to Archaeology, and from Literature to Nanotechnology. More than 14,000 students enrol annually – students as young as 18 to well into their 90s.

When it comes to reaching beyond the city of Oxford, the Internet has replaced the network the railway provided in the department's early days. The diverse range of courses attract online students from more than 120 countries worldwide. The courses taught in Oxford include summer schools, professional development, short courses and part-time Oxford award or degree programmes.

Harper Lee attended the International Graduates' Summer School in 1948. Lee's father wanted her to study law, but agreed that she could come to Oxford for a summer to indulge her love of literature, philosophy and history. The six-week programme was taught by some of the University's notable scholars, including Helen Gardner (later Dame Helen Gardner), the first woman to hold the post of Merton Professor of English Literature at Oxford, philosopher and political theorist Isaiah Berlin, and Professor C M Bowra, noted classicist and Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

Lee returned home from her Oxford summer, dropped out of law school, moved to New York – and began to write. She is best known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller *To Kill a Mockingbird* which was published in 1960.

After a long and distinguished career in neurology, and after serving as Master of Pembroke College, Sir Roger Bannister (who sadly passed away in March this year) embarked on part-time study in his retirement. He took numerous short courses in philosophy, history and international relations, and received his Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing in 2009. Bannister told fiction tutor Dennis Hamley that after breaking the four-minute mile, the medicine and the college mastership, gaining his creative writing diploma was the fourth great challenge of his life.



Roger Bannister collapsing after breaking the four-minute mile record, at the Iffley Road Sports Track, 1954

Did you know...?

In 1913 Vera Brittain attended a series of Extension lectures in her hometown of Buxton, given by historian J A R Marriott, who was then Secretary of the Extension Delegacy. Marriott recognised Brittain's talent and encouraged her to apply as an undergraduate to Oxford. She entered Somerville College in 1915 to read English. She later became an English Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse, writer, feminist and pacifist, best known for her 1933 memoir *Testament of Youth*.

At around the same time, a class of Extension students from Longton formed the North Staffordshire Miners Educational Association, allowing hundreds of miners in isolated communities to benefit from the University's outreach efforts for many decades.

“
**Today's
 Department
 for Continuing
 Education offers
 more than
 1000 part-time
 programmes
 and courses
 each year**
 ”

Inspired? Want to find out more?

Visit www.conted.ox.ac.uk to learn more about the department's notable alumni, and to discover the full range of programmes offered by the Department for Continuing Education

INTERMISSION

A glimpse into the lives of members of the University outside of work



Helen Morley, Communications Officer (part-time) at the School of Geography and the Environment

In my opinion Hogacre Common Eco Park is Oxford's best kept secret. Just a ten-minute walk from the Head of the River, this community-run space was once Corpus Christi College's sports field. However, for the last seven years it has been home to OxGrow, a community veg garden, forest school, meadow and orchard with beehives and – every summer – a café pops-up in the pavilion!

This is where I come in. Every Sunday from May to October I prepare, with a team of lovely helpers, a host of vegetarian and vegan treats. Sustainability and community are at the heart of Hogacre Common and the café, so we use locally farmed and organic veg wherever possible. It's wonderful to see people enjoying my food amid the beautiful and peaceful surroundings of Hogacre. I always hope that people leave inspired to eat more vegetarian food or to get digging and growing their own veg. Or, as it's Oxford's only wind-powered café, to build their own wind-turbine.

Find out more at cafeathogacre.com



Liz Green (far left) with her team

Liz Green, Events & Alumni Officer at the Faculty of Music

Although I had never played football before, I started up a team with a couple of other women – which we named Jackdaws FC. We had no experience and very little interest in the 'beautiful game' but we really wanted to find out what all the fuss was about.

Three years on and Jackdaws FC play every Thursday at 8pm at the astroturf pitch on Jackdaw Lane in East Oxford. The team has grown, picking up lots of new members of various professions, ages and backgrounds. Our training sessions are fun and generally just a great excuse to meet new people – and the fact that we do a little exercise at the same time is a bonus. We've entered a few tournaments now (our best score line has been a draw) but it's the taking part that counts, right? If you're interested in having a laugh, feel free to come along. I promise belly laughs aplenty!

Find out more at www.facebook.com/JackdawsFC



Lauren Pounds, Administrative Assistant, Public Affairs Directorate

Outside of work, and in between looking after my two children, I love to dabble in the art of the chocolatier. I adore chocolate. Eating it, of course, but also exploring its history, the science behind the tempering process and achieving delicate flavour balances to make the perfect chocolate bar.

After attending a course at the UK Callebaut Chocolate Academy, I caught the bug for making chocolate. I have since dedicated my spare time to producing delicious bars, buttons and lollies. I created my home-based chocolaterie, Cocoa Criollo, to channel my pastime into something slightly more commercial, producing chocolate for anything from food fairs to weddings. Being a chocolatier is a constant learning curve – there is always something new to learn – and this is where my true enjoyment lies.

Find out more at www.cocoacriollo.co.uk



Matt Smart, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Team, Research Services

Outside of work I'm an artist and sculptor. Using fibreglass, bioresin, molehills and cloths I create large, lightweight modern pieces which are robust enough to cope with enthusiastic audiences at music festivals and at public installations. My sculpture Growth (pictured) is an example made from dried molehills and polyester resin, on a metal and wood frame.

At the Oxfordshire Artweeks gallery competition *Change the World*, at Oxford Town Hall, two of my exhibited sculptures won three prizes, including the Grand Prize. Building on my works with garden arts trails and a solo exhibition, I've been pleasantly surprised to be included among the 400 artists of Europe's biggest Street Art festival this year, creating new engaging visions. A recent commission was to produce a wall piece of a record label's logo for their birthday extravaganza – the three-metre promotional sculpture will soon feature at the music distributor's flagship UK outlet in London. Another recently commissioned sculpture, celebrating earthly circularity, is currently on display in Australia. Onwards ...

Find out more at www.mattsmart.org/sculptures

If you'd like to share details of a pastime or project you're involved with in your spare time, please send your submissions to blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk



OXFORD **OPEN DAYS**

Open Days offer our potential students the opportunity to visit Oxford's colleges and subject departments, providing valuable insight into our degree courses and a taste of Oxford life. Harmanjit Sidhu asks the event volunteers about their experience of sharing their enthusiasm for the University with prospective applicants, their friends and families



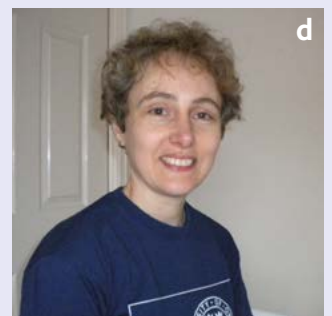
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“ Open Days are a great chance for students to find out more about courses, especially for those subjects that aren't on the school curriculum. From attending a sample lecture, to talking to the tutors and current students, it's a real opportunity to get to know an institution. Having had my own children go through the application process recently, I know how important Open Days were to my family. They allow prospective students to get a true feel for an institution. ”

Professor Peter Jeavons (a)

Deputy Head of Department,
Department of Computer Science
and Tutor at St Anne's College

“ My main duties normally include providing directions, answering questions and handing out brochures. It's great to do something different and move out of your comfort zone (I am usually desk-based). I feel proud to represent both the University and the wonderful city of Oxford. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues from across the University and improve your knowledge of Oxford and the numerous colleges and departments. ”

Jane English (b)

Team Administrator, Environmental
Sustainability, Estates Services

“ We always enjoy University Open Days, as it brings a different type of visitor to the Information Centre on Broad Street. Not only the prospective students looking for the colleges and departments, but also their families who we help to make the most of the day. It's not just about providing information about the University – we also get to help them discover what Oxford has to offer. ”

Kamil Paneque (c)

Customer Services Manager, Oxford
Visitor Information Centre

“ I have volunteered for several years now. I love the opportunity to meet so many visitors, however briefly, and to play a part in making their visit to Oxford a really positive experience. It's hard not to get swept up by the excitement and energy of the young people who visit and the Open Days always remind me how much the University has to offer. ”

Genieve Boon (d)

Financial Accountant

“ I particularly enjoy taking part because, having been through the process, it gives me a chance to dispel myths about the University and help to positively change the dialogue about Oxbridge. I still remember the impact that a warm, welcoming student helper had on me when I was thinking about applying. ”

Maninder Sachdeva (e)

Student Ambassador

“ Open Days give us the opportunity to welcome prospective students to a wonderful city. Most of the students come with a list of colleges they want to see but I always try to persuade them to look beyond the obvious choices and to visit some of the more modern colleges or those that are further afield, as well. ”

Jo Lateu (f)

Administrative Officer, AAD
Administration team

“ I have assisted with collecting and returning brochures, setting up banners and refreshments for Peartree Park & Ride and briefing volunteers as well as liaising with Open Days coordinators, Oxford Bus Company staff and the Oxford City Council. Volunteering for Open Days is a great way to get out of offices and labs and remind ourselves what the University is about: helping people realise their potential and dreams. ”

Virginia Ross (g)

Head of Finance and Administration
(retired), Undergraduate Admissions Office

“ It's always an exciting time in the city and the Oxford Bus Company is proud to be part of such a special part of the year. We provide a special welcome on our Park & Ride services that is fitting to welcome potential students to a world-class university. There is always a buzz on the buses and around the city during the Open Days and it is great to see so many young people visiting Oxford seeking to fulfil their hopes and dreams. ”

Phil Southall (h)

Oxford Bus Company Managing Director

OXFORD OPEN DAYS

Our 2018 Open Days take place on 27 and 28 June and 14 September.

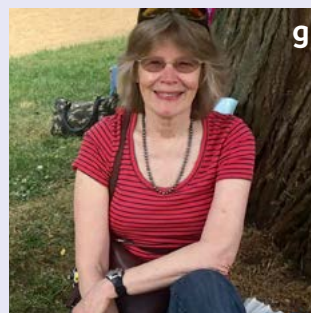
If you are interested in volunteering, which involves helping people find their way around the city (a full briefing is provided), please email the team at opendays@admin.ox.ac.uk after first checking with your line manager. All help is welcomed – everything from just a couple of hours to a full day.



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WHAT'S ON

Liam Arnall takes a look at some of the great events coming up across the city

CONCERTS

The City of Oxford Choir: Summer Songs

Merton College Chapel
Saturday 30 June, 7.30pm
£15, concessions available

Several members of University staff meet once a week to sing in a chamber choir of around 35 singers. Performing four concerts a year, under the musical direction of Duncan Aspden, they sing a range of classical repertoire ranging from Byrd to Britten. Voice coach William Purefoy works with the whole choir during some of the rehearsals as well as providing individual singing lessons.

Interested in finding out more? They'd love to hear from you at secretary@oxfordchoir.org.

<http://oxfordchoir.org>
www.facebook.com/CityOxfordChoir

Kreutzer Quartet with Lyndall Gordon: Music and Virginia Woolf

St Hilda's College, Cowley Place
Saturday 2 June, 6.45pm
£18+

Music inspired by the literary excellence of Virginia Woolf, the Kreutzer Quartet explores the classical influences to Woolf's work and includes a pre-concert talk.

<http://jdp.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk>

The Oxford Philharmonic's 2018 Piano Festival

Various locations and prices
28 July to 5 August

The city welcomes some of the world's most distinguished pianists and teachers for an inspirational series of concerts, masterclasses and lectures.

oxfordphil.com/oxford-philharmonic/piano-festival-2018

Oxford Proms

Various locations
10 to 23 August
£10+

Drift back in time with some of the most talented musicians of our generation in this celestial collection of works. Held over several days, these mesmerising concerts deliver something for everybody.

www.oxfordproms.co.uk

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Bate Collection Family Gamelan Concert

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street
Sunday 10 June, 3–4pm
Adults £5, children free, available on the door

www.music.ox.ac.uk

Wildlife Walk

University of Oxford Botanic Gardens,
High Street
Thursday 19 July, 6.30–7.30pm
£15

Walk amongst the curious habitats found at Oxford's Botanic Gardens to discover some of the world's most diverse plants and animals.

www.obga.ox.ac.uk/event/wildlife-walk

LECTURES AND TALKS

Walk & Talk on Marley Fen with Dr Curt Lamberth

Wytham Woods (meet in the car park)
Saturday 26 May, 10am
Free

An insight into this ecologically valuable wetland's 7,000-year history, with information about the rare plants and animals that live there.

www.ox.ac.uk/event/fen-ecology-and-history



A Lab of One's Own: Science and Suffrage in the First World War

The Weston Library
Wednesday 27 June, 5–6pm
Free

With 2018 marking the end of World War 1 and the right to vote for women in the UK, this event delves into the dramatically changed lives of women post-war.

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on

EXHIBITIONS

America's Cool Modernism

Ashmolean Museum
Ends 22 July
£12+

Step into the roaring 20s at the height of the Jazz Age with this impressive display of loaned work from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Terra Foundation for American Art, Chicago.

www.ashmolean.org/americascoolmodernism

Settlers

Museum of Natural History
Ends 16 September
Free

From early settlers to modern-day Brits, explore the dynamic story of our changing population as revealed by genetics, archaeology and demography.

www.ox.ac.uk/event/settlers

Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth

St Lee Gallery, Weston Library, Broad Street
1 June to 28 October
Entry is free but ticketed - tickets can be booked in advance online

An exhibition exploring Tolkien's amazing legacy from his genius as an artist, poet, linguist and author to his academic career and private life.

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on



Women in Science: Portraits, Archive Material, Trails and Talks

Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street
Ends December

Part of the museum's year-long celebration of women throughout history who have contributed to our knowledge of the universe.

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/exhibits

CITY EVENTS

Oxford Green Week

Various locations
16 to 24 June
Free

The University joins other partners, including event coordinator Oxford City Council, to celebrate all things good and green across the city. Sign up for a diverse range of events including walks to spot swifts soaring across the roof tops.

oxfordgreenweek.org/about-oxford-green-week

Oxford Summer Mela

Leys Pools and Leisure Centre, Blackbird Leys
Sunday 17 June

Join the Oxford Mela, a free family festival of dance, music and food which celebrates diversity in the city.

www.facebook.com/OxfordMela

Cowley Road Carnival

Cowley Road
Sunday 1 July
Free

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To enter the prize draw to win a pair of tickets, please email your contact details to blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk by Friday 8 June.

www.oxfordplayhouse.com/whats-on



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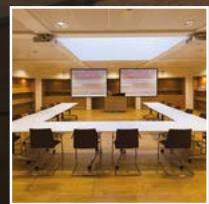
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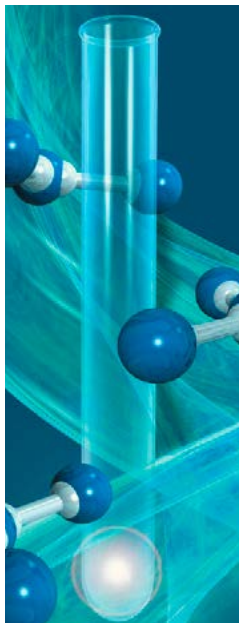
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Photo: KTBruce

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medieval chapel.

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**To register: download a form from the website or contact:
nancy-jane.rucker@new.ox.ac.uk / 01865 279108**

**Saturday 9 June at 4.30pm
in New College Chapel
for boys aged 2-6**

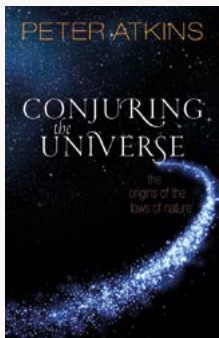


for more details see www.newcollegechoir.com

OUP BOOKSHELF

UNIVERSITY AUTHORS

One of the many benefits of the close relationship between the University and Oxford University Press (OUP) is the steady stream of books written by University Professors and Fellows that are published by OUP (and, of course, by many other publishers). John Kay, Internal Communications Manager at OUP, shares a small sample of the works published by the Academic division of the Press this year



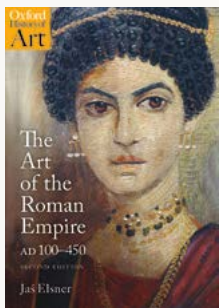
Peter Atkins

Fellow of Lincoln College. 2016 recipient of the American Chemical Society's Grady-Stack Award for science journalism

Conjuring the Universe

A reflection on the question of where the natural physical laws that govern our universe came from. Peter Atkins explores the origin of the conservation of energy, electromagnetism, classical and quantum mechanics and of thermodynamics. He sketches out how the laws of Nature can spring from very little. Or arguably from nothing at all.

Published March 2018



Jaś Elsner

Professor of Late Antique Art at the University of Oxford and Humfrey Payne Senior Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College

The Art of the Roman Empire – AD 100–450

In this revised edition, part of the *Oxford History of Art*, Professor Elsner discusses both Roman and early Christian art in relation to such issues as power, death, society and religion. It investigates the role of visual arts in the period, as well as the great diversity of paintings, statues, luxury arts and masonry being produced.

Published May 2018



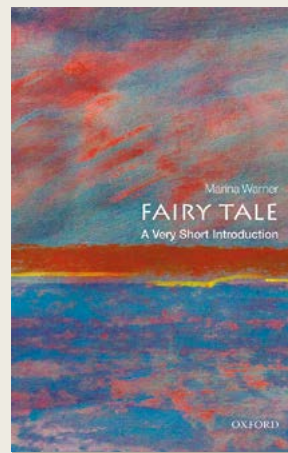
Ian Goldin

Senior Fellow, Oxford Martin School, and Professor of Globalisation and Development

Development: A Very Short Introduction

The Very Short Introduction series has sold more than nine million copies worldwide during its 21-year history, and OUP has published more than 500 separate titles. Here Ian Goldin considers the contributions that education, health, gender, equity and other dimensions of human wellbeing make to development. It discusses why it is also necessary to include the role of institutions and the rule of law as well as sustainability and environmental concerns.

Published March 2018



Marina Warner

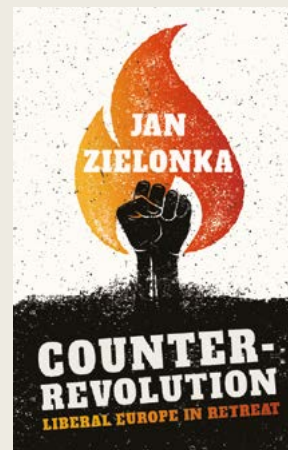
Fellow of All Souls College, Honorary Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the British Academy. Awarded a CBE for services to Literature in 2008

Fairy Tale: A Very Short Introduction

From wicked queens, beautiful princesses, monsters and goblins to glass slippers, magic keys, and mirrors, the characters and images of fairy tales have cast a spell over

readers and audiences, both adults and children, for centuries. But what is a fairy tale? Where do they come from and what do they mean? In this Very Short Introduction, Marina Warner digs into a rich hoard of fairy tales in order to define a genre and evaluate a literary form that keeps shifting through time and history.

Published February 2018



Jan Zielonka

Professor of European Politics and Ralf Dahrendorf Professorial Fellow at St Antony's College

Counter-Revolution; Liberal Europe in retreat

Can open society survive? Is Europe disintegrating? Will Europeans feel secure again? European models of democracy, capitalism and integration are not in sync with new complex networks of cities, bankers or migrants. Liberal values that made Europe thrive for many decades have been betrayed.

Counter-Revolution is a bold attempt to make sense of the extraordinary events taking place in Europe today.

Published April 2018

SWIFT ACTION



Chris Jarvis, Education Officer at the Museum of Natural History, explains why we are encouraging volunteers to report sightings of swifts in the city and how we are aiming to inspire the next generation of conservationists

It's May at last, which brings the welcome return of the swifts, our screaming summer visitors. Here at the museum we eagerly await the return of these long-distance migrants.

Not only because, to so many of us, they herald the start of summer, but also because the swifts that nest in our tower are part of the longest running continuous study of any bird species in the world. Their nesting in the museum tower's ventilation flues for more than 60 years has provided scientists with a rare opportunity to study these fascinating but elusive birds. Live webcam footage at www.oum.ox.ac.uk/swifts.htm is screened throughout the nesting season.

This year, as part of the Oxford Swift City project, we'll be finding out even more about Oxford's swifts. In 2016 the Heritage Lottery Fund granted £83,700 to the RSPB and its partners to work on the two-year Swift City project in Oxford. With the number of swifts in the UK falling by 47% since 1995, the project aims to help combat the decline of these iconic birds and learn more about the population that briefly stays here.

Swifts are truly Olympian birds; landing only to breed, they can fly at least 560 miles a day gathering food – sleeping, eating and even mating on the wing. They also rely on humans for their survival, nesting almost exclusively in urban areas. But, with the worrying decline in numbers, the swift faces an uncertain future.

One possible cause of the swifts' decline may be a lack of nesting sites. Demolishing old buildings, or renovations

which include replacing roof tiling and filling small gaps, result in a shortage of vital hollows and cavities for nesting.

Project volunteers will survey their local area for signs of swift screaming parties and nest sites. This will help give a greater understanding of where our summer visitors nest and the rough size of the city's population. We will share this information with our partners at Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, the City Council and the University's Estates Services Department. They will mitigate any possible disturbance to the sites identified and incorporate nest sites into any new builds in these areas.

In addition to identifying and conserving existing nest sites, a new swift tower full of nest boxes will be built later this year. This will be installed at University Parks in time for our 2019 visitors.

Another strand of the Lottery bid has enabled us here at the museum to develop and deliver free sessions to schools – inspiring the younger generation about swifts' natural environment and conservation. These sessions include their seasonality, migration habits and the changing nations and biomes that they fly over.

We hope this will encourage children to think about the importance of biodiversity, the ecosystems around them and the connections with ecosystems further afield. We also aim to highlight conservation as a global issue and that these are not just 'our' swifts. They also belong to and enrich the skies of every nation they pass over, from here to southern Africa, on their epic migration.

Visit www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/oxford-swift-city to find out more about the Oxford Swift city project – including how to volunteer to record where swifts are flying and nesting

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