



CONNECTIONS

OxRSS provides Oxford research staff with a voice and networking opportunities

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CONNECT WITH US

Receive up-to-date information on research staff events! Sign up to the mailing list by sending a blank email to our [mailing list](mailto:committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk) or follow us on social media.

✉ committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk



@ResStaffOxford



[OxRSS Connections](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oxrss-connections)

RESEARCH STAFF HUB LAUNCH



Help design our logo

The new Research Staff Hub will be officially launched by the Vice-Chancellor on 22 April 2021.

The Hub is an important milestone for all research staff – it signifies the University's commitment to you. The mission of the Research Staff Hub is to welcome, equip and empower researchers employed by the Collegiate University in ways that will maximise your success at Oxford and facilitate your chosen next career chapter.

The Hub team will work with colleagues around the University to improve policy and practice, including initiating ambitious activities to promote an inclusive, fair, positive and supportive environment for all.

The focus of Hub activities will be shaped by the research staff community. How would you like to engage with the Hub? Join the launch event to learn more and have your say. We'd love to hear from you!

In the meantime, if you'd like to know a bit more about what we have in our sights, [click here](#).

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT CONCORDAT

The Concordat for Researchers is big news! It is good news too. The Concordat is an agreement between employers of researchers and research funders on the expectations for the professional development and employment conditions of researchers in the UK.

The Vice-Chancellor will sign the Concordat on the behalf of the University at the Research Staff Hub Launch event. Link to the registration form [here](#).

More details on the Concordat can be found [here](#).

LOOKING FOR A CONFIDENCE BOOST AND CHANCE TO DIVERSIFY YOUR SKILL SET?

By Dr Rachel Bray, Research Staff Hub Lead and former Careers Adviser at Oxford

The Researcher Strategy Consultancy is back!

Some of the most transformative career and personal development I witnessed in five years as a Careers Adviser happened within, or resulted from, this programme. To my mind, the unique value of this programme is in enabling a small, diverse group of researchers to get together and apply their analytical brains to a strategic problem that is new to everyone.

Skill development comes in the teamwork needed to develop the short brief into a project proposal with the client, and meetings with the client to discuss preliminary findings and present recommendations. Research staff remark on how satisfying it is to develop a relationship with their clients and to deliver something practical in a short period. And many say it was excellent use of the professional development time available within contracted hours that is now supported by University policy.

Three myths to bust:

“The programme is only suitable for those wanting to be a consultant”

Reality: it is a highly effective way to develop and generate evidence of your initiative, creativity, teamwork, communication skills, and leadership and business awareness.

BLOG FOR THE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

The Public Affairs Directorate (PAD) would like to hear from research staff who would be interested in writing a blog for publication with the University Bulletin. This is a fabulous opportunity for research staff to give insight into their area from their perspective.

Several hundred staff read it every week and we'd particularly like to profile more research staff. Research stories are consistently among the most popular articles.

If you would like to be a Bulletin blogger, please get in touch with Rakiya Farah, PAD rakiya.farah@admin.ox.ac.uk

We've included [an example](#) as a taster of the informal tone and style.



“The clients are all businesses and I don't see myself adding value or progressing my career this way”

Reality: clients can be social enterprises and public sector or commercial organisations in and around Oxford, the UK and now internationally. The skills learnt apply to all sectors, including academia.

“Only researchers with quantitative or hard science backgrounds are welcome”

Reality: client questions need a strong mix of perspectives and research skills, specifically discourse analysis, interpretive approaches and other strengths found in Humanities and Social Sciences.

More details and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Applications are open for the Trinity Term round and will close on 12th April.

WELLBEING EVENT

By Caroline Korell, OxRSS Events Chair

Everyone has been feeling the negative effects on mental health from the pandemic, so in January and February 2021 OxRSS hosted two wellbeing and mindfulness workshop series presented by Roddy Bray. Heavily subsidised by the John Fell Fund and the new Research Staff Hub, OxRSS managed to reduce the fees for participants to a mere £5 for all 6 sessions.

'Being for Beginners' is workshop series of 6 sessions offering tools for greater self-awareness, understanding and practical change. Leader Roddy Bray is an experienced facilitator with a storytelling style.

The workshops explore the links between experience, thought, emotion and reaction; the connection of body, mind and feelings; and our human social and ecological needs. They also provide a framework for how to change habits, including repetitive patterns of thought and feeling. Various approaches to meditation are used throughout the course to facilitate awareness and reflection – these techniques are fully guided and no previous experience of meditation is required.

'Being for Beginners' covers several connected themes highly efficiently, providing immediate and life-long benefits. Those feeling emotionally vulnerable are encouraged to join the course – privacy is assured and there is no pressure to interact. Roddy is careful to warn in advance of any potentially



'triggering' experiences. The series is non-prescriptive and respects the individuality of participants. An accompanying signposting document lists various support resources and opportunities.

A 'catch-up' service provides audio and video materials. They are useful especially for those who can't make the workshops or wish to review the material.

Roddy brought an instant sense of calm to the Zoom sessions, which made the workshop feel like a safe space to get drawn into the sessions and ultimately into one's own mind. Feedback was positive from both courses, which in total had more than 100 participants.

OxRSS will be organising another Wellbeing series at the end of April/beginning of May.

If you have been thinking about organizing a wellbeing event for your research group, department or division, this might just be the one!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

With the UK roadmap out of lockdown in mind, the coming spring and summer months are eagerly anticipated by all. We look forward to finally meeting each other (again or for the first time) in person, travelling, and making new memories and experiences in the 'outside' world. The OxRSS Events Team is no different and we are keen to go back to the board game café, start up the pub socials again, and go on collective walks and trips. As tempting as it may be to make plans already, for now we have decided to await updates until the government announces that it is safe and legal to meet in bigger groups again. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with any events ideas you may have and want to see realised.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Social opportunities

[OxRSS Email List](#)

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

[Facebook](#)

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

[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.

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.

[People and Organisational Development](#)

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.

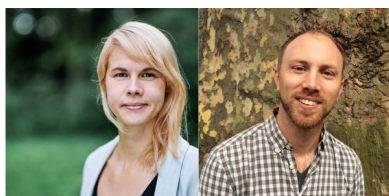
[IT services](#)

For technological and computing assistance.

[Welcome Service](#)

Welcome service for University members and their partners.

THE OXRSS COMMITTEE



Contact us: committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk

Editorial team:

Fabian Schranz, Anjali Shah

Written and photographic contributions:

Caroline Korell, Rachel Bray, Linda Andrews, Research Hub