

BBK

ALL ABOUT THE MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

How organised crime has evolved – and why it's such a challenge for the police



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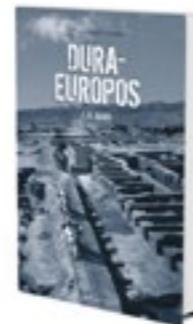
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MASTER'S WELCOME

This year, Birkbeck's strong international outlook was again recognised with a high ranking in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings, in part due to the record numbers of overseas students studying with us. As we head towards the major political event of the coming year – Brexit – this puts us in a strong position and we are committed to remaining a globally facing institution.

While news coverage continues to be dominated by Brexit, we have also engaged with political developments at national level, and contributed to the Augar Review of post-18 education. This review, which will report early in 2019, provides an excellent opportunity to get part-time funding right and hopefully to reverse the decline in part-time study that the sector has experienced over recent years.

Offering opportunities to those who might otherwise miss out on higher education is our core mission. In 2017, 19% of our part-time and 12% of our full-time undergraduates had entry qualifications no higher than GCSE level (the fourth highest proportion in England), and a further 20% of our full-time degree students had a vocational BTEC rather than the more traditional A-level qualification.

Of the students without A-levels who enrol with us, 95% graduate from Birkbeck with a second-class degree or higher, which is 20% above the sector average. This shows that we are enabling impressive academic development, that is not measured in league tables, which only look at UCAS tariff points at entry. This, along with other metrics which mean we are not accurately represented in UK league tables, has led Birkbeck governors to take the decision to withdraw from the tables.

We believe that students will increasingly use the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) as a hallmark of teaching quality, and are pleased to have achieved a Silver rating in the first assessment. We are one of only 20 UK universities both to hold at least a silver TEF award and to appear in the top 25% for Research Excellence Framework (REF) scores, validating our mission of combining our unique teaching model with international research excellence.

This year, our Chair of Governors, Sir Harvey McGrath, will reach the end of his term on our Board. I would like to thank Sir Harvey for his leadership and dedication over the last nine years. It has been a pleasure to work alongside him, and he leaves the College in a strong position to approach the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO REMAINING A GLOBALLY FACING INSTITUTION

Professor David Latchman CBE, Master, Birkbeck



AFTER GRENFELL: A LEGACY OF HOPE

Historian Dr Julia Laite is working with two community arts organisations in North Kensington, to create an archive of the local arts community's response to the Grenfell Tower fire

The North Kensington Archive and Heritage Project will centre around the outstandingly creative testimonies that have been carefully developed by the wider North Kensington community during a period of intense emotion and historical change.

“The preservation of our local heritage is a creative, educative and empowering response to the tragedy in our community that will document, preserve and exhibit our experience of the fire, while also celebrating our community in all its diversity, resilience, collaboration, colour and vibrancy,” says Birkbeck alumna Christina Sealy, founder of the Kensington Narrators, one of the arts organisations involved.

Sealy spent a year conducting community consultations, before working with Dr Laite (Lecturer in Modern History in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology) to develop the funding bid. The project responds to consistent calls from the community to create a long-lasting, community-led archive that can help to tell their story and make sure it is preserved. “Since Grenfell, our community’s young people have come to understand that the media cannot be the only voice telling our story,” Sealy says.

During the consultation period, it also became apparent that permanent physical storage, massive gigabyte storage and professional cataloguing facilities were not available to meet people’s immediate archiving needs. These needs have now become urgent, as people are running out of storage space, material is being destroyed and lost, and stories are being forgotten.

“The other important part of this project,” says Laite, “is that it will build capacity in the community to continue to document, preserve and interpret their culture, art and heritage for many generations to come.”

Alongside project partner FerArts (a local artist-led non-profit organisation), historians and archivists will run workshops providing the community with training and equipment to catalogue, preserve and interpret local history.

A series of workshops aimed at young people will show them how to use archives to learn about the history of their community. FerArts will work with them to create art, video and written projects inspired by this history. Community arts leaders will also be given the chance to record oral history testimonies for the archive, discussing their work in the community both before and after the tragedy. “We want to create a legacy of hope,” Sealy explains.

Laite continues: “It’s our hope that this project will prepare the community for longer-term projects to preserve the vibrant and important heritage of this unique part of London. This is exactly the kind of history that the Raphael Samuel History Centre looks to facilitate: creative, radical, timely public history. I’m so happy to see that Birkbeck is supporting this project, which fits so well with its own aims as an institution.”

The archive will be held at Bishopsgate Institute, a long-standing collaborator with the Raphael Samuel History Centre, and will be managed by a board of trustees made up of North Kensington residents with the necessary skills, experience and interest. “The Bishopsgate specialises in holding and facilitating community-led archives,” Laite explains. Community volunteers will catalogue the archive, and copies of this catalogue will be available online and in hard copy to any organisation that wants them, including local schools and libraries in North Kensington.

This project has been made possible by the generous funding of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the unfunded, voluntary work of local community arts organisers.

Dr Julia Laite is the Birkbeck Director of the Raphael Samuel History Centre (a partnership between Birkbeck and Queen Mary, University of London). Find out more:

- raphaelsamuelhistorycentre.com
- bishopsgate.org.uk
- ferarts.org





WORLD'S FIRST TODDLERLAB UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The new research facilities will build on the successful work of the BabyLab, by improving understanding of brain development in young children

Birkbeck will open the world's first 'ToddlerLab' this year, to investigate the cognitive processes and brain development of young children. This builds on more than two decades of research in the BabyLab, part of the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (CBCD) at Birkbeck, where scientists have uncovered major insights into child development.

In the BabyLab, researchers investigate babies' brain behaviour, by placing passive sensors on their scalps while the infants engage in games and everyday activities. However, these facilities are not designed for toddlers.

Professor Denis Mareschal, Director of the CBCD, explains: "Toddlers don't want to sit still and take part in our tasks. They want to play and explore. The Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab will let toddlers roam around, interact with peers and

behave as they would in the normal world, but all the while wearing specialist equipment that allows us to measure their brain activity."

Much of this equipment has been funded by the generosity of donors including Elizabeth and Daniel Peltz, Wellcome and Birkbeck's first crowdfunding campaign – which raised £37,871 from 260 donors. It will include wireless headsets, which can monitor toddlers' brain activity while they run around and play, and the 'CAVE' – an audio-visual, immersive, virtual reality environment, which can transport toddlers to different surroundings to see how they react to different scenarios and stimuli.

The scientists are currently looking for early markers for autism and other developmental disorders. These conditions are often not diagnosed until children start primary school or later.

ToddlerLab research will help to develop and assess the efficacy of different early interventions. Professor Mark Johnson said: "The more we understand the early signs of autism, and how they unfold into the full syndrome over the first years of life, the better we can target support services and help children and their families. The research conducted at the ToddlerLab promises to change the lives of people with autism."

Above:
Conducting an experiment in the Birkbeck BabyLab (Eleanor Bentall)

The ToddlerLab's construction has been made possible thanks to generous donations from the Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation.

CELEBRATING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Building on the College's mission to engage a wide range of people with its research, Birkbeck held its inaugural Public Engagement Awards in March 2018. Projects and initiatives that make research accessible to the public and to non-academic communities were celebrated

If one of Birkbeck's guiding principles is to make the results of research widely available to the public, then the College's first Public Engagement Awards demonstrated the extent to which this mission is taken seriously by its academic community. A total of 25 projects were put forward for the event, each representing one of the myriad ways in which Birkbeck contributes to life outside College walls.

Taking place at the historic Mary Ward House in Bloomsbury, the evening saw academics commended for their work in five areas: Communicating Research; Collaboration; Engaged Practice; Transforming Culture or Public Life; and PhD/Early Career.

"MY JOB IS TO KEEP TELLING THE STORY"

Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon from the Department of Psychological Sciences won the Transforming Culture or Public Life category.

Having worked extensively with the sex-work community, Dr Brooks-Gordon challenges ideologies and assumptions about moralities in the sex industry, to drive policy development to protect those who are most vulnerable.

"Policies were in place that looked good on the surface, but that failed to address the real social ills of the industry," she explains. By presenting her research to parliamentary select and scrutiny committees, Dr Brooks-Gordon has been able to influence policy, to ensure that resources go to where they're needed most.

Whereas research can take 18 months to publish in an academic journal, there's an immediacy to Dr Brooks-Gordon's work that influences policy in the present. She explains: "It's essential to keep up in your field. Through the public engagement work that I've done around my research, I've learned to write succinct briefing papers for politicians and become a better teacher for my students."

"It's not good enough to say that something is too complicated to share with the public. Whether it's a sex worker who hears me on the radio and feels a little less victimised, or the people who've thought twice about an assumption following a discussion we've had,

“IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO SAY THAT SOMETHING IS TOO COMPLICATED TO SHARE WITH THE PUBLIC

my job is to keep telling the story of people in this industry, to ensure their voices are heard.

"I'm grateful for the recognition from the Public Engagement Awards and it was fascinating to hear from other Birkbeck researchers – I left feeling buoyed up by the experience."

The evening's other winners were Dr Louisa Preston (Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences), Dr Jessica Reinisch (Department of History, Classics and Archaeology), Dr Luciana Martins (Department of Cultures and Languages) and Dr Mark Panton (Sport Business Centre, Department of Management). A further ten projects were highly commended.

Liz Frances, Head of the Research Office, said: "Birkbeck's inaugural Public Engagement Awards showed the exceptionally high calibre of public engagement activities which are undertaken by our researchers and the meaningful contributions Birkbeck continues to make to real issues in public life. I am delighted that the College will be running the awards again in the 2018–2019 academic year."

Below:
Dr Brooks-Gordon at the awards ceremony (Dominic Mifsud)





PIONEERING PEAKS

A new programme – Pioneer – is supporting students who want to excel as entrepreneurs. We hear from two Birkbeck entrepreneurs, one past student and one present, about how their studies enabled them to develop the knowledge and skills that have been crucial to their success

Students who want to set up their own business or develop their entrepreneurial skills are now able to start that journey at Birkbeck through Pioneer, an extra-curricular programme of workshops delivered by entrepreneurs and professionals, who offer their own rich insights into managing an enterprise.

The programme, originally launched as a pilot in November 2017, has received £85,000 of funding from bank Santander to launch as a full-scale programme, available to all Birkbeck students. It gives those interested in entrepreneurship the opportunity to build the knowledge and skills needed to excel in their careers. These include marketing, pitching, innovation and funding – all crucial to developing successful business ideas.

Mosh Aboobaker, Careers and Employability Manager at Birkbeck, praised this year's Pioneer cohort, saying: "The level of creativity and entrepreneurial spirit I have seen through our Pioneer programme has been inspiring; students are using the opportunity to think of innovative ways to disrupt markets they are interested in, as well as the careers they have. Pioneer has offered students the chance to think about entrepreneurship differently, and this is what we believe entrepreneurship should be about – open-mindedness, creativity and a willingness to make change."

At the culmination of the pilot programme last

summer, entrepreneurial students competed at a Pioneer Pitching and Awards evening, with prizes for the Best Business Idea and the Best Business Pitch. They presented their ideas to a panel of expert judges, with ventures that addressed wide-ranging global and market challenges including sustainability issues, the global fashion value chain, nutrition and advertising.

Permsakul Choomduang, who is studying for his MSc Business Innovation with Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management, won the Best Business Idea category for his idea, Gaming Masterclass. The business aims to provide face-to-face video gaming masterclasses to inexperienced gamers, who want to improve their skills and techniques, through courses designed by gamers for gamers.

The prize for Best Business Pitch went to Julia Doncheva, MSc Management student, and her business partner Sasha Conte, for their idea, SCFitness. Julia discusses her business venture and her experience of Pioneer on page 10.

Professor Philip Powell, Pro Vice-Master for Enterprise and Innovation, was on the judging panel. He said: "I was deeply encouraged by the quality of ideas and solutions provided by passionate, entrepreneurial Birkbeck students. Throughout the Pioneer workshops, our students have successfully gone from idea stage to take-off, and I look forward to hearing about their future success stories."

Right:
Julia Doncheva
(Dominic Mifsud)



THE FLEXIBILITY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING AN ENTREPRENEUR

BIRKBECK'S ENTREPRENEURS

Julia Doncheva, MSc Management student and co-founder of SCFitness, completed Birkbeck's Pioneer programme in 2018

Starting a business while you're studying is not easy, but it's an increasingly popular option for enterprising, ambitious people who are brimming with ideas and want flexibility in their careers – and there's reason to believe it might be one of the best times to take the plunge. You'll master important skills like time-keeping and prioritising competing tasks, and if you're at Birkbeck, you'll have some of the best facilities and support on your doorstep.

Julia Doncheva is one entrepreneur who launched a business, SCFitness, while also studying for an MSc Management and holding down a full-time job. Developed with business partner Sasha Conte, Julia's venture combines personal training and physiotherapy practices to carry out postural and movement assessments, to develop bespoke plans for their clients.

"The flexibility, freedom and independence to make your own decisions are undoubtedly the best thing about being an entrepreneur," Julia says, "but developing a business alongside our studies and respective jobs has been challenging."

Julia has made the most of the Pioneer programme (see page 8), to develop the knowledge and skills she needs to excel as an entrepreneur. She won the Best Business Pitch at the Pioneer Pitching and Awards evening last summer. "Taking part in Pioneer was the best choice I could have made," she says. "We touched on different topics, such as innovation, marketing and finance. The guest speakers were an inspiration and motivated us to continue with our business ideas and make them a reality. It was fantastic to win the prize for the best business pitch, and to have the skills we'd learnt throughout the programme recognised by the judges."

Currently, men are about twice as likely as women to set up their own businesses, but Julia thinks this could change soon. "Women all over the world are becoming more educated and more powerful, perhaps even more so than men," she says, "and with this there are increasing opportunities for numerous ideas to become viable."

"That said, my personal opinion is that women may be more cautious. Business requires you to



I REALLY HOPE THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS OUT THERE

be quick, willing to take risks when needed and adaptable to different circumstances – which is not everyone's cup of tea.

"However, I think the future looks quite bright and I really hope there will be more and more female entrepreneurs out there, attempting to disrupt existing businesses and serving as a leading example for many others!"

Claude Grunitzky, BSc Financial Economics (graduated in 1994), publisher and founder of TRACE magazine

'Transcultural style and ideas' are the focus of TRACE magazine, the biggest business venture of publishing mogul and Birkbeck alumnus Claude Grunitzky. TRACE is hailed as a major influence in the world of black culture, hip-hop, style and music. Over the years, it has seen stars such as Naomi Campbell, Rosario Dawson, Missy Elliott, the Notorious BIG, Rihanna, Lenny Kravitz and Snoop Dogg grace its covers.

Claude was born in Togo and raised in the United States and in France, before moving to London to study a BSc Financial Economics at Birkbeck. "As somebody who has grown up in various different cultures, it was really important for me to bring all of those cultural influences to my venture," he says. "Transculturalism is really about reaching across cultural boundaries."

"Unfortunately, now the forces of politics are working against transculturalism. The movement is losing steam in a lot of different ways, because of nationalism and all kinds of populisms that are emerging. What I'm seeing with Brexit, Trump in the US, Bolsonaro in Brazil, Orbán in Hungary, and nationalist movements all over Europe is really causing a lot of concern. I realise that a lot of people have reacted against this cosmopolitan global worldview that we're pushing through transculturalism, and that's why I say there's an even bigger sense of urgency now to rally around world culture."

Claude's studies at Birkbeck and the inspiration he found in London helped him on his path to successful entrepreneurship. "My experience at Birkbeck was really interesting," he says. "I was really happy to be right in the centre of London and have the full cultural experience that comes from living in a major metropolis. When I was studying, I was also a freelance writer and I just loved the idea of being able to work, and take classes, and also go to all these great gigs and exhibitions right in the heart of London. Birkbeck for me was all about giving you the freedom to do certain things in your own

time, to work if you needed to, but also having that academic rigour which really helped me as a young entrepreneur."

Claude learned the ropes of publishing and media as an intern in the offices of *Dazed and Confused*, under the mentorship of its founder Jefferson Hack. It was here that he started his first publication, *True*, but moved out of the *Dazed* offices a year later – still aged just 25 – to build TRACE, the venture that he would go on to run for 15 more years.

The average age of a first-time entrepreneur is thought to be 42, but Claude thinks starting young benefited him immensely. "I think being young comes with idealism and naivety. I was extremely lucky to be mentored by another young entrepreneur, because he was so fearless. Jefferson and [co-founder] Rankin started *Dazed* when they were barely 20 years old, and I was really inspired by their can-do spirit. I adopted some of their mantras – 'we'll make it work as we go, and we'll make mistakes but we'll learn from our mistakes' – and applied them to my own publications. I built a business empire around that value of fearlessness."

Claude cites mentorship as one of the fundamental drivers for his own career. He is now based in New York, where he is helping the next generation of cultural and media professionals as a mentor and coach at the Harvard Kennedy School's Social Innovation and Change Initiative, as well as being President of the Water Mill Foundation, which works with emerging artists to help them further their careers.

"Mentorship is really about paying it forward," he says. "Because I had been mentored by Jefferson in London, and when I moved to New York, I met people within the global hip-hop sphere and black culture sphere that really took me under their wing, including my most important mentor, Bethann Hardison and others such as Iman and Sylvia Rhone – these women really helped me to understand how New York works, how business actually works."

"I now, in turn, mentor other young professionals who are trying to get into the media world or the world of culture. They inspire me just as much as I inspire them, because mentorship is really a two-way street. You learn as much as you teach; and so, by transmitting some of your knowledge, you actually gain new knowledge. Several of my mentees are doing very well and that's one of the things that I'm most proud of."

For more details of the Pioneer programme, visit bbk.ac.uk/student-services/enterprise-pathways/pioneer



MENTORSHIP IS REALLY A TWO-WAY STREET. YOU LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU TEACH

Above:
Claude Grunitzky
(Georgia Kuhn)

IMAGINATION WITHOUT BORDERS

Author Mohsin Hamid discussed his novel *Exit West* at the Man Booker at Birkbeck event, writes Dr Ben Winyard

On 30 October 2018, in a stimulating, erudite and humane exchange, Mohsin Hamid spoke to an audience of over 200 Birkbeck staff and students about his Man Booker Prize-nominated novel, *Exit West* (2017). This was the eighth year of this hugely successful initiative between Birkbeck and the Man Booker Foundation.

Hamid's novel is set contemporaneously and is concerned with the challenges we collectively face in our globalised, interconnected world, including armed conflict, climate change, religious violence and the mass migration of peoples.

The novel tells the story of Nadia and Saeed, who meet unexpectedly in an unnamed city and feel drawn towards one another, despite their manifest differences. Saeed is religiously minded, straightforward and well behaved, while Nadia belies her outwardly conformist appearance by living alone, riding a motorbike, experimenting with psychedelic mushrooms and refusing to pray. Where Saeed is cautiously content, Nadia is instinctively interrogative and rebellious. However, their tentative, burgeoning relationship is beset by an armed conflict that sees their city seized by shadowy, sadistic militants. Forced to flee, the thrown-together couple find themselves bivouacked in a refugee camp on Mykonos, then squatting in an uninhabited, palatial mansion in London, before subsisting on a hillside just outside San Francisco.

Initially, *Exit West* is an apparently realistic novel that depicts Nadia and Saeed's relationship with wry empathy and the coming onslaught with clear-eyed horror. But the novel soon becomes something far stranger and less predictable, when the characters begin moving between countries via mysterious black doors. While omitting the great strain and trauma of life-threatening journeys across increasingly militarised borders, the novel still viscerally conveys the poverty, suffering and shock experienced by the uprooted everywhere.

If the novel begins to feel like a magical realist allegory about contemporary migration, it evades our expectations again, by imagining a not-too-distant future, in which the West – and London in particular – teeters on the edge of dystopia, as the inhabitants of nation-states struggle with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of migrants through the enchanted doors. Nadia and Saeed find themselves on a building site, helping with the expansion of London, as it grows to absorb the incomers. The nascent threats of racism, nativist violence and authoritarianism thus give way to a pragmatic humanitarianism.

While Nadia and Saeed's relationship does not survive the upheavals they face, they are able to separate amicably, and the novel's coda depicts an older, friendly re-encounter between them in the now-peaceful city of their birth.

Dr Anna Hartnell, Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Literature in Birkbeck's Department of English and Humanities, who led the discussion, asked Hamid about the large themes that provide a backdrop to Nadia and Saeed's relationship. "My life has always seemed to play out against a huge political backdrop," he wryly observed, including the rise of militarism and Islamism in Pakistan, the 9/11 attacks in the United States, and Brexit in the UK. In the face of these vast, overwhelming tumults, Hamid's focus is on the ordinary, everyday affability of Nadia and Saeed, who retain their humanity despite the most extreme provocations. "We have the most powerful people in the world who tell us that there is no truth and that nobody's decent," Hamid observed, "so, I tried to write a novel about people being decent."

For Hamid, the novel is both a mirror of "what it is like to be a human being on this planet" and a navigational tool that can orientate us in discombobulating times. The make-believe elements of *Exit West* are, for the author, a means of understanding and circumnavigating the real world. With his interest in children's literature,



“IT'S PREPOSTEROUS TO TELL PEOPLE THAT THE ACCIDENT OF WHERE THEY WERE BORN SHOULD DETERMINE THEIR LIFE, OR DEATH

Hamid also humorously acknowledged that the magical doors in *Exit West* "may owe something to Narnia".

For Hamid, contemporaneous challenges represent opportunities for a more just and equitable world: "It's preposterous to tell people that the accident of where they were born should determine their life, or death". He insisted that, in 200 years, people will marvel at our current obsession with nations and borders. He cited the great strides towards equality for people regardless of gender, ethnicity and sexuality as great causes of optimism. He also articulated the universal benefits of migration: "Better music, better food – and the average sex life will improve", he mused. "I don't have a prescription for the future, but it could be a lot better than this."

Hamid's novel thus invites the reader "to imagine the migrant within themselves".

Above:
Mohsin Hamid
(© Ed Kashi)

The passing of time makes us all migrants in our lives. He memorably described being an adult as being "a refugee from [your own] childhood". He observed that most people have an experience of feeling foreign or out of place in their own lives – you may be the only gay person in your family, or getting older may be disorientating you, for example – but this is a source of strength and insight that should be embraced.

For Hamid, a radical identification with migrants is enabled by the novel as the supremely empathetic art form. It allows us to refuse narrowness and prejudice – and the violence they breed. "I'm a mixed-up, weird thing," Hamid concluded, "but so is everybody else."

Dr Ben Winyard is Senior Content Editor at Birkbeck

NEWS IN BRIEF

From television to courtrooms, in research and teaching, Birkbeck has much to celebrate this year

BAY WATCH

ITV is to screen a new six-part drama, written by Birkbeck creative writing lecturer Daragh Carville.

The Bay is set in the coastal town of Morecambe, Lancashire, and stars Morven Christie – who has appeared in programmes such as *The A Word*, *The Replacement* and *Granchester* – in the lead role of family liaison officer Detective Sergeant Lisa Armstrong.

Daragh has amassed a number of TV credits, including BBC student drama *6 Degrees*, Sky One's *The Smoke* and the supernatural BBC3 series *Being Human*, which starred Russell Tovey and Aidan Turner.

His new series focuses on Armstrong, who is assigned to support a family during a missing person investigation, but goes on to discover that she has a personal connection with the frightened family, which could compromise the investigation.

Daragh, from the Department of English and Humanities, said: "I'm so proud of the amazing cast and crew that have come together to tell the story of *The Bay*. Thanks to all at Tall Story Pictures and ITV for making this possible."

Actress Christie said: "I loved Daragh's scripts, rooted in the families and community of this distinctive town".

Daragh has also scripted

the films *Cherrybomb* and *Middletown*, as well as a number of theatrical and radio productions. *The Bay* is due to be broadcast in the spring.

MOOT POINTS

Students from Birkbeck's School of Law triumphed in the final of a national mooting competition, which enables courtroom hopefuls to test their knowledge and advocacy skills.

Daniel Cullen and Santosh Carvalho won the Oxford University Press and Inns of Court College of Advocacy National Mooting Competition 2017–2018. Additionally, Lewis Aldous was instrumental in the team's path to the final, by competing in the earlier stages.

All three of Birkbeck's team members were studying for the intensive LLM Qualifying Law Degree and, like many Birkbeck students, were also working full-time.

It was the first time that Birkbeck had been a finalist in the contest, for which teams have to research a wide range of legal subjects – from contempt of court to contract law. For the final, staged at Inner Temple Inn of Court with Lady Justice Hallett, Vice-President of the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal, presiding, they were tackling tort and



economic loss.

The winners each won £750 and will spend a day shadowing His Honour Judge Anthony Leonard at the Old Bailey, to get an up-close insight into how judges handle cases.

Birkbeck has a long tradition of providing moot training – competitions which give students the chance to practise and hone their advocacy skills – for its law students. Students are given intensive weekend training sessions by barristers (and Birkbeck alumni) Philip King and Clare Dowse, who have been involved with the College's mooting programme for more than a decade.

GENERATION INNOVATION

Five Birkbeck researchers will help to shape the environment in which the next generation of life-changing discoveries will be made, thanks to their appointment to a new Peer Review College for the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) scheme.

UKRI was established in spring 2018, with a budget of more than £6 billion to dedicate to new ventures across the UK with a view to maintaining the UK's world-leading reputation for research. The FLF scheme marks the single largest investment in research for 40 years in the UK. Over the next 11

Left: Daragh Carville
Right: (L-r) Isabel Davis, Rosie Cox, Sarah Hart, Sappho Xenakis and Carolyn Moores
Below: Sir Harvey McGrath

years, the FLF will receive £900 million to develop an upcoming generation of UK innovators.

Birkbeck is delighted that, out of the thousands nominated to join the UKRI FLF Peer Review College, the following Birkbeck staff were appointed:

- Professor Rosie Cox (Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies);
- Dr Isabel Davis (Department of English and Humanities);
- Professor Sarah Hart (Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics);
- Professor Carolyn Moores (Department of Biological Sciences);
- Dr Sappho Xenakis (Department of Criminology).

The prestigious Peer Review College will provide expert insight into new proposals, contributing to decisions on how funding should be allocated.

Professor Sarah Hart said: "I'm honoured to have been invited to join the Peer Review College. It's the duty of all established researchers to contribute to the research community and, in particular, to support early career researchers where we can. Peer review is a vital component of this support."

Professor Julian Swann, Birkbeck's Pro-Vice Master



for Research, said: "The appointment of colleagues from all five Schools to the Peer Review College is a tribute to their research excellence and to that of Birkbeck as a whole".

CODED FOR SUCCESS

The School of Business, Economics and Informatics is part of a successful consortium to deliver a new government-led initiative to plug the digital skills gap.

In January 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May announced a new £40 million Institute of Coding (IoC), designed to boost the employability of computer scientists, plug the digital skills gap and bring more people from underrepresented groups into the tech sector, which is growing twice as fast as the rest of the economy. The IoC will deliver innovative education to learners in industry, higher education and hard-to-reach groups.

Birkbeck's School of

Business, Economics and Informatics is a partner in the consortium, and will contribute through its expertise in flexible study and enterprise partnerships. The School has experience in this area, offering degree-level apprenticeships and a range of courses – including postgraduate programmes in Computer Science, Data Science, and Information Technology – for graduates of subjects other than computing, seeking to enter these sectors.

Professor Philip Powell, Pro-Vice-Master for Enterprise and Innovation and Executive Dean of the School, said: "In the global digital economy, students and graduates will experience a variety of work types – as employee, as entrepreneur and as employer. They will have to manage their 'portfolio' careers in a different way and need a skill set that is entrepreneurial and

intrapreneurial. Birkbeck will use our expertise in preparing students for this challenge, having pioneered a portfolio education, to the benefit of the IoC."

SIR HARVEY MCGRATH, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

"This edition of *BBK* will be the last published during my tenure as Chair of Governors, which comes to an end, after nine years, in summer 2019. It has been an honour to serve the College during this time and to get to know the staff and students who make the College the incredibly special place that it is."



ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Professor Anthony Bale, Dean of Arts, presents some of the artistic and academic endeavours that have emerged from collaboration between researchers and artists- and writers-in-residence at Birkbeck – and explains why such partnerships are so rewarding

In the arts and humanities, we have seen a trend, over the last few years, from speculative or abstract thought to creating, ‘doing’ and making. This trend is reflected in several successful artists’ and writers’ residencies.

My own experience of working with an artist has been hugely rewarding and intellectually transformative. Over the last few years, I have collaborated with the animation artist Shay Hamias, bringing digital technology and animation into conversation with my own field of medieval manuscripts.

We were supported by a Leverhulme Trust Artist-in-Residence grant, and produced two short films and an exhibition, *Capsule: Inside the Medieval Manuscript*, in summer 2018, held at Birkbeck’s Peltz Gallery. Our first short film, *The Matter of Jerusalem*, animated a medieval pilgrim’s journey from Venice to Jerusalem, and was displayed in exhibitions in Oxford and Bristol. Our second film, *Time is Alive*, brought to life the ‘Birkbeck Hours’, a fifteenth-century illuminated manuscript owned by Birkbeck Library.

Working in a university setting gives artists a new context for their work and puts them in conversation with a wide range of academics and students. For academics, the creative process of working with an artist is very different from our usual research methods: it can be very liberating – and also challenging – to watch an artist do something different with the materials we regularly work with. Artists and researchers may vary in their processes and methodologies, but often there’s a convergence in the key questions that excite them.

INVENTIVE APPROACHES

Dr Seda Ilter, Lecturer in Theatre and Performance Studies, has worked with artist-in-residence Lily Hunter-Green for several years. Their collaboration came about as a result of their shared interest in the question of how art could respond to global warming and its consequences. Hunter-Green has been exploring this

question in relation to the declining population of bees – a significant environmental issue – through inventive approaches in performance and installation art. These have included the Bee Composed Live project, building a collective ‘hive mind’ through immersive art that imitates how the honeybees work as a ‘collective consciousness’ in the beehive.

Hunter-Green has formed a student ‘hive mind’ at Birkbeck, and, to date, Hunter-Green and Dr Ilter have devised various workshops and talks in collaboration with the student ‘hive mind’. This also included an interactive exhibition based on Bee Composed Live at a Creative Climate Symposium, organised by Dr Ilter in May 2018.

COMPLEMENTARY UNDERTAKINGS

Dr Fintan Walsh, Reader in Theatre and Performance, has been collaborating with the performer Dickie Beau since 2016. Together, they developed a piece of work to be presented as part of a 2017 conference organised by Walsh on theatre and contagion.

This developed into Beau’s production *Re-Member Me*, which opened at London’s Almeida Theatre and went on to tour internationally. In turn, this led to Dr Walsh writing an essay on Dickie Beau’s performance piece, which will be published in a volume called *Theatres of Contagion: Transmitting early modern to contemporary performance* (London: Bloomsbury, 2019).

These kinds of partnerships show how creativity and scholarly research are highly complementary undertakings, as one reflects and informs the other.

CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Birkbeck’s School of Law has, since 2010, run a successful artist- and writer-in-residence scheme. Dr Eddie Bruce-Jones, the School’s Deputy Dean, comments: “Our artist-in-residence programme underscores our commitment to interdisciplinary research. The programme aims to explore the potentials of artistic practice for research into law and criminology, and the exchange is invaluable for the intellectual life of our staff and students.”

Residencies for artists are a superb way not only of supporting individual artists, but also of igniting intellectual and creative projects, both in teaching and research. Artists urgently need financial support to do this kind of work, and universities benefit enormously from being part of the artistic and cultural ecology of a hugely creative city like London.

Professor Bale’s and Shay Hamias’s short films are available at: <https://vimeo.com/user9572368>

Right: In her graphic novel, *Undocumented: The Architecture of Migrant Detention* (2017), Tings Chak, artist-in-residence at the School of Law, explores the role of architecture in the control of migrant bodies. (Tings Chak)



ARTISTS AND RESEARCHERS MAY VARY IN THEIR PROCESSES AND METHODOLOGIES, BUT OFTEN THERE’S A CONVERGENCE IN THE KEY QUESTIONS THAT EXCITE THEM

EVENTS

Highlights of Birkbeck's public lectures, events and conferences in 2018

ARTS WEEK

'Landscape' was the broad theme running through Arts Week, when the College opened its doors to the public and offered them a chance to experience the creativity of research and teaching in the Arts here. The annual celebration of the Arts featured more than 50 events, exploring pertinent questions about the role of art and culture in the everyday, and considering themes as varied as the cultural history of wrestling and the feminism of Marilyn Monroe.

SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week saw a series of talks exploring the research taking place in Birkbeck's three science departments, and its practical impact on the world. This included: an in-depth look at what sharks' teeth can tell us about the evolution of ancient ecosystems; insights into the different ways we represent both our minds and bodies, and how this affects our interactions with others; and a curious look at science diplomacy when studying geographical sites of interest that cross borders.

The week also included the annual Rosalind Franklin Lecture, delivered

this year by Professor Eva Nogales (UC Berkeley) on her research into gene expression using cryo-electron microscopy.

LAW ON TRIAL

This year's Law on Trial focused on themes of punishments and rights violations, with a week-long programme of free public lectures and panel discussions debating the stark disjuncture between the justifications for, and the outcomes of, punishment in the criminal justice arena. One highlight was *Othello on Trial*, a dramatisation that put Shakespeare's famous anti-hero in a modern-day criminal court.

CELEBRATING ONE WORLD

The College's first One World Festival was designed to celebrate Birkbeck's positive contribution to local and global society, its exceptional international reach, and the rich and diverse cultures of students and staff. The attendees, who originated from more than 68 countries, joined over a dozen events, including: a potluck picnic, in which students were encouraged to bring a dish from their home country; musical and theatrical

performances; academic lectures; public awareness workshops and discussions; and a walking tour of historic Bloomsbury.

WIKITHON

Recent PhD graduates from the Department of English and Humanities ran a Wikipedia edit-a-thon – or 'Wikithon' – to highlight the contributions and stories of women connected to the Foundling Museum that have hitherto been overlooked. The Wikithon was part of a project called Editing the Long Nineteenth Century: Recovering Women in the Digital Age, which aims to increase the digital presence of notable women by setting up their Wikipedia pages.

THANKSGIVING

Donors, volunteers, students and staff gathered at An Evening of Thanks, to celebrate contributions to our community made possible by the generosity of benefactors. The evening enabled donors and volunteers from across the College community to hear at first hand about the impact that their support for Birkbeck students has in changing lives.

WALTER BENJAMIN EXHIBITION

A multimedia exhibition inspired by the life and landscapes of Walter Benjamin, 'Day for Night', was shown in the Peltz Gallery. Text, photography and film took the viewer on a journey from Benjamin's birthplace – Berlin – to Capri and Naples, where he spent formative periods. Documenting the lasting legacy of his work, the exhibition ended in Catalonia, northern Spain, where Benjamin died while fleeing the Nazis in 1940.

SCHOOL OF LAW'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The last academic year marked the 25th anniversary of the School of Law at Birkbeck. Founded in 1992 as a Department of Law with three members of academic staff, over the last 25 years it has become a School comprising the Departments of Law and Criminology, as well as the Institute for Criminal Policy Research. The School held a number



of events reflecting on its history and the opportunities and challenges facing critical legal and criminological teaching and scholarship in the twenty-first century. Past, Present, Future Critical Legal Postgraduate Research saw over 30 current and past doctoral students presenting their latest research; while the Birkbeck School of Law Archive was launched at a one-day symposium exploring the relationship between archives and the file in relation to law and institutions.

PUBLIC LECTURES

The **Eric Hobsbawm Memorial Lecture**, in memory of the Marxist historian and former President of the College, was delivered by Lyndal Roper, Regius Chair of History at Oriel College, Oxford. She spoke about Martin Luther, death, and anti-papalism and anti-monasticism in Lutheran art.

The Raphael Samuel History Centre convened the first **Aids Histories and Cultures Festival**, in conjunction with curator Ash Kotak. Over 20 workshops, film screenings, talks, parties, music events, poetry readings and performances saw the festival explore some of the histories and cultures of HIV/AIDS from the 1980s to the present day.

Below: Arts Week event in the Birkbeck Cinema examining the feminism of Marilyn Monroe (Dominic Mifsud)



Above: A visitor to the 'Day for Night' exhibition in the Peltz Gallery (Dominic Mifsud)

The Department of Organizational Psychology's **Alec Rodger Memorial Lecture** was delivered by Professor Eva Demerouti from Eindhoven University of Technology. She discussed her research on the processes enabling performance, including the effects of work characteristics, individual job strategies, occupational well-being, and work-life balance.

The **Ruth Thompson Commemorative Lecture** celebrated the life of the former governor of Birkbeck and education policy official in the Civil Service, with a conversation between Professor Claire Callender and Baroness Wolf of Dulwich about the future of higher education. They provided a fascinating insight into the policymaking process, and reflected on the enormous contribution that Dr Thompson made in her career.

Professor Dame Anne Glover gave the annual **JD Bernal Lecture** on why evidence can – and should – be an academic's best friend. She made a compelling case for academics to consider communicating the knowledge they produce as a priority, to ensure that citizens get the

maximum value from the investment they make in academia through taxation.

Dorothy Thompson CBE delivered the annual **Lord Marshall Memorial Lecture**, as one of just a handful of female chief executives to run a large UK-listed company. In conversation with Helen Barrett, work and careers editor of the *Financial Times*, Thompson spoke about her roles as chair designate of Tullow Oil and as non-executive director of the Court of the Bank of England and of Eaton Corporation. She emphasised the importance of being 'blind' to resistance.

RETURN OF THE 'THREE MINUTE THESIS' COMPETITION

The presentation skills of PhD students were put to the test in the College's second annual 'Three Minute Thesis' competition. Keith Jarrett (below), the overall winner, explains what it meant to take part: "With an interdisciplinary PhD, a large part of which is writing a novel, I dread the question 'So what do you do?'. Or worse, 'What do you write?'. I've always found it tricky to explain my research succinctly, so

the Three Minute Thesis competition appealed to me as a chance to practise condensing complex ideas into something more relatable.

"In training for the event, we learned how to use storytelling to engage our audience. We had to consider what was most important to emphasise from our research, as we were only allowed one slide to accompany our presentation. It was tough being disciplined about time – in rehearsals, I had it down to two minutes fifty seconds exactly, but I was always worrying about overrunning!" "Taking part in the event was great fun. It was interesting to hear people from lots of different disciplines, and there was a really supportive atmosphere in the room. We know how hard everyone works on their research, so we were all rooting for each other. Working on a PhD can be a solitary experience, so this was an opportunity to come together and celebrate our efforts.

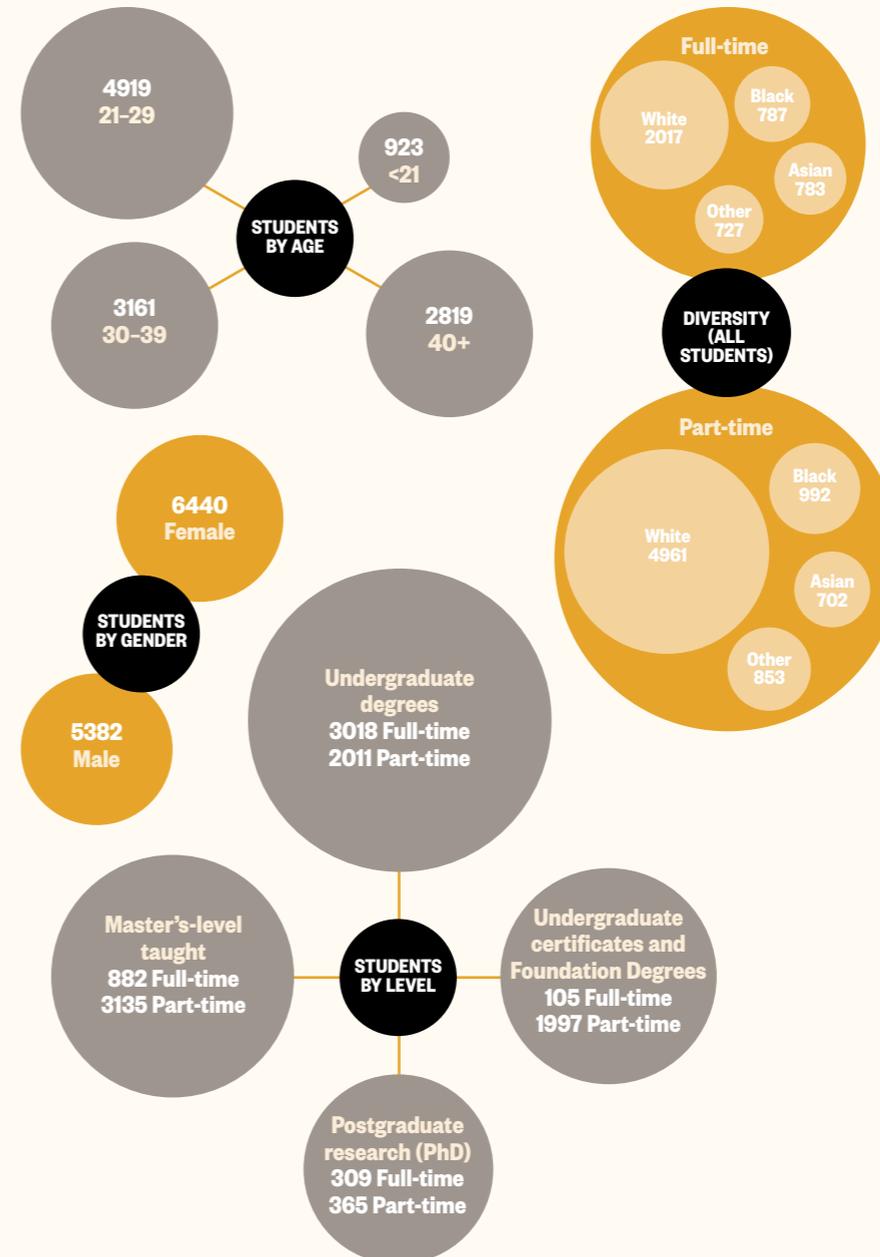
"What do I do in a nutshell? I'm exploring the migration of cultural religious identity from the Caribbean to London, to understand where the boundaries of identity fall. Simple, right?"



Keith Jarrett (Dominic Mifsud)

BIRKBECK IN NUMBERS 2017-2018

Whether full-time or part-time, and regardless of age or educational background, students can find plenty of choice and opportunity at Birkbeck



All student data from Higher Education Statistics Agency 2017-2018

THANK YOU!

800

donors gave a total of more than £2.4 million

£469,000

was the largest single gift we received

27%

of our donations were left to us in the wills of 10 former staff and students

391

donors gave to our telephone campaigns

3700

hours of expertise were given by our alumni and corporate partners across six programmes

260

donors raised more than £37,000 for the ToddlerLab in our crowdfunding campaign

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS

Professor Leslie Moran sat down with The Master of the Rolls, Sir Terence Etherton, to discuss his life and career as one of the most senior judges in England and Wales, and how the Court of Appeal is innovating for a new generation

The Right Honourable Sir Terence Etherton is no stranger to Birkbeck. He's given lectures to first-year law students on the law of contract, and every year he shares his knowledge of judgecraft and his insights into the art of writing judgments in the School of Law's Judicial Studies module. He has also been generous with his time, contributing to research in the areas of judicial diversity and judicial images, and in his support for students, who he has welcomed as visitors to his courtroom in the Royal Courts of Justice, and in acting as Patron of the student-led *Birkbeck Law Review*.

When we meet in late October 2018, he explains how proud he is to be associated with Birkbeck. "I am a great admirer of its ethos," he says. "Birkbeck is different from most other universities or university colleges because it caters, and has always catered, for people of all ages and backgrounds who are at different points in life's journey."

Sir Terence's engagement with Birkbeck students in seminars has been one of the great and enduring pleasures of his relationship with the College as a visiting professor. "What I try to do is not just limit what I share to the way one writes one's judgment. I also talk about the process by which judges decide whether we will write a judgment together or individually, about who our audience is, about diversity and how it affects the way we write our judgments, and so it gives rise to a very rich consideration of the judicial role. That does allow for quite a good engagement with students. I've found it all very, very rewarding."

His interaction with students doesn't stop at the classroom door, however. At a recent legal profession event, a graduate from the Birkbeck law programme, who had heard one of Sir Terence's contract law lectures, announced that he was now pursuing a career as a barrister.



“**I AM A GREAT ADMIRER OF BIRKBECK'S ETHOS**”

Left: The Master of the Rolls, Sir Terence Etherton (*The Court of Appeal*)

Sir Terence says, "I was very chuffed by that". In 2016, Sir Terence was promoted to the post of The Master of the Rolls, a role second only in seniority to the Chief Justice of England and Wales. He is responsible for running the Court of Appeal and is head of civil justice from a judicial perspective; he has pastoral responsibility for all 38 judges of the Court of Appeal and has operational responsibility for the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal; and he also chairs a number of committees, including the Civil Justice Council.

It is, as Sir Terence explains, a really big job. "Other than the Chief Justice's position, it is undoubtedly the busiest, the most pressured and most challenging role in the judiciary. Everyone works very, very hard in the judiciary, but in terms of the diversity of the work and responsibility I have, it is a very challenging post."

He is keen to remind me that his primary function in the Court of Appeal is to hear the most important civil cases of the day. This puts him in a unique position. "I am the only person in the whole of the judiciary, from the bottom to the top, that can choose every case they sit on." This is one of the features of the post that make it "the most rewarding in the whole of the judiciary".

Throughout his judicial career, Sir Terence has been noted for his innovations. I was keen to learn more about an exciting new initiative, developing a YouTube Channel for the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal. A number of high-profile cases drew his attention to the need for the court to widen access to its work. Such cases include: the widespread international interest in the Divisional Court's decision in the Brexit case, *Miller v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union*; the inquest appeal from the family of Mark Duggan into his killing; and those very difficult and tragic cases where there is dispute between the parents of children suffering from a life-threatening condition and the hospital treating them, over whether or not to discontinue treatment.

He explains the appeal of YouTube as a way "of showing the public the way we operate as judges in an objective way, trying to achieve the correct legal answer – as opposed to the idea that we are all trying to achieve our own individual political or personal objectives".

Sir Terence hopes that this will be an exciting new way of communicating directly with the public, educating and enlightening people about the way judges work. I was delighted to learn that Sir Terence is keen for as much feedback as possible on the initiative. I hope that, like me, you will make the most of that open invitation.

Professor Leslie J Moran is Professor of Law at Birkbeck



OPENING UP ART HISTORY: 50 YEARS AT BIRKBECK

Dr Leslie Topp, Reader in History of Architecture and Head of the Department of History of Art, looks back over five decades of her discipline at Birkbeck – and a year of anniversary celebrations

Birkbeck's Department of History of Art has just come to the end of a year of celebrations for our 50th anniversary. A half century ago, the department was founded by the Renaissance art and architecture scholar Peter Murray. Very popular art history lectures had already been offered for some time at Birkbeck by Nikolaus Pevsner, the renowned émigré art historian, who wrote the original *Buildings of England* series, among many other books, and who was also a well-known broadcaster. But it was not until 1967 that students could study here for a degree in History of Art.

Since its inception in the liberal atmosphere of 1960s London, the department has offered life-changing, eye-opening access to the study of a subject long considered an elitist enclave. The definition of what an art history student could be was transformed by Birkbeck's entry into the academic landscape. Where before, art history

students came from a narrow social stratum, Birkbeck's entry into the discipline opened it up to students from a much wider range of backgrounds, incomes, ages and life experiences.

Hence the decision to celebrate our anniversary under the banner 'Opening Up Art History'. This is an apt description of the originality and diversity of the research the department has produced – and continues to produce. We have built up a wide chronological range, from medieval to contemporary, and a global reach, with our academics doing new research on African and Latin American topics, as well as on areas of Europe formerly neglected by the discipline, particularly Eastern Europe.

Our work on British art and architecture is marked out by innovation, especially in the work being produced on photography, film and post-war architecture. The intersection between medicine and art is a strength, as is the study of museology, curation and heritage. We are a growing department, with two new professors of photography and architectural history joining us in 2016, and a new lecturer in global contemporary art starting in 2018. It is a good moment to celebrate.

LOOKING BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS

The anniversary celebrations consisted of a rich programme of events. We kicked off with the Murray Lecture (in honour of Peter Murray and generously funded by the Murray Bequest set up in his name) in November 2017. It was given by the director of the National Gallery, Gabriele Finaldi (whose own father, we learned, did a BA Italian at Birkbeck in the 1960s). He told us about the fascinating roots of the National Gallery in the democratic, access-building days of the early nineteenth century: the Gallery was founded in a house on Pall Mall just a year after Birkbeck's founding in 1823.

The year was bookended by our Anniversary Lecture in October 2018, where another leader of a major museum, Tristram Hunt, new Director of the V&A, looked forward to a revival of the museum's long-standing educational mission,

Above: The 'Cultural Sniper' exhibition at the Peltz Gallery (Dominic Mifsud)



BIRKBECK'S ENTRY INTO THE DISCIPLINE OPENED IT UP TO STUDENTS FROM A MUCH WIDER RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS, INCOMES, AGES AND LIFE EXPERIENCES

as it aims to drive forward innovation and opportunity for all in the twenty-first century.

In between, there was the invigorating exhibition in the Peltz Gallery, 'Jo Spence: Cultural Sniper', which explored the collaborative work by this highly significant British photographer from the 1970s and 80s, whose work playfully penetrated gender and class assumptions and injustices. The exhibition was curated by Dr Patrizia Di Bello, Senior Lecturer in the department, who has secured for the Department this major artist's archive, and who worked along with MA and PhD students and postdocs to put the exhibition together.

We were keen to look both backwards to our history and forwards as we marked our first half-century of existence. In the course of the year, we hosted the series 'Forward-Looking: Workshops on the Future of Art History and Museums', in which Birkbeck's academics were joined by experts from the worlds of museums, media and publishing to put our collective finger on the pulse of the discipline and of the museum world we all engage with as academics. In the various workshops – on why museums matter in a global context, museums in an age of austerity, the future of studying 'old' art, and futures for publishing art historical research – we explored areas of crisis and transformation, asking where we are now, what's next, and why.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to reconnect with hundreds of alumni and past members of the department throughout the year, especially at the student reunion at the end of June and a big garden party on a lovely summer evening in Gordon Square.

We were extremely grateful for the generous support of funders for all these events: to the Birkbeck Alumni Fund, to the London Art History Society (originally established by Birkbeck alumni) and to the Murray Bequest. Buoyed by this support from all the friends and well-wishers we've gathered over the last 50 years, we were able to celebrate in style, and to turn our faces with energy and optimism towards the future.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Birkbeck staff and the College itself have been awarded major grants and recognised by national and international bodies

The President of Birkbeck, **Baroness Joan Bakewell DBE**, was elected an honorary Fellow of the British Academy. Alongside her role as President of the College, she is known for her journalism, broadcasting, creative writing and humanitarianism. She is also a Labour peer.

Professor Lynda Nead, Department of History of Art, was elected a Fellow of the British Academy, in recognition of her work on the history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century visual culture.



Professor Laura Mulvey, Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies, received an honorary degree from Yale University, which described her as “one of the great figures in the history of film theory”.

A garden, which **Professor Marjorie Lorch**, Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication, helped to shape at the 2018 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, named ‘The Embroidered Minds Epilepsy Garden’, was awarded a Silver Gilt Medal. The garden was part of a project examining the effects that epilepsy may have had on the family of Victorian craftsman William Morris.

Dr Sue Brooks, Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies, has won the Geographical Association Award for Excellence in Leading Geography, which is given annually to the author of the article in each of the Association’s journals that is felt to have made the most significant contribution to geographical teaching and learning.

Birkbeck’s pioneering **Compass Project**, which gave a year’s fully funded study to 20 students, won the 2018 Guardian University Award in the Widening Access category

In the Department of Biological Sciences, **Professor Carolyn Moores** has been awarded a €3.4 million European Research Council Synergy Grant as part of the €10.7 million ArpComplexity project, looking at how the molecular machinery inside our cells contributes to cell shape and function, with a particular focus on muscle development, function and disease.

Dr Matthew Champion, Department of History,

Classics and Archaeology, was awarded the Royal History Society’s Gladstone Prize for his book *The Fullness of Time*, which judges described as a “dazzling tour de force”.

In recognition of his significant contributions to the field of global infectious diseases research, **Dr Sanjib Bhakta**, Department of Biological Sciences, received the inaugural Rishi Bankim Chandra Memorial Award from West Bengal State University.



Far left: Baroness Joan Bakewell
Left: From ‘The Embroidered Minds Epilepsy Garden’
Above: Birkbeck’s Widening Access team win the Guardian University Award for the Compass Project
Below: Dr Sanjib Bhakta



(see pages 28–29). It was chosen from a range of projects that have demonstrably helped to increase the number of disadvantaged or underrepresented students entering university.

Professor Martin Paul Eve, Department of English and Humanities, was awarded €30,000 from OpenAIRE, to expand the business model of the Open Library of the Humanities, the Gold Open Access publisher pioneered by Professor Eve and Dr Caroline Edwards (also from the School of Arts).

The 2018 Austrian Science Prize for the best book in the humanities, social sciences and cultural studies was awarded to **Professor Frank Trentmann**, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, for his title *Empire of Things*. He noted that the win was “a special honour”, because it was judged both by an expert panel and by the public.

Professor George Roussos, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, has been awarded more than £100,000 from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research to build a smartphone toolkit to enable analysis of data from people with Parkinson’s disease. It is hoped that the toolkit will help to develop clinical measures that could lead to early identification of problems, such as side effects from medication.

Professor Joanna Bourke, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, was appointed chair of the judging panel for the 2018 PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize, which recognises exceptional historical non-fiction published in Britain.

The Ian Beardwell Prize was awarded to **Professor Almuth McDowall**, Department of Organizational Psychology, for her research into the ‘always on’ culture permeating British

workplaces. The judges praised the research for its critical perspective on the changing use of technology in the world of work as a crucial employment issue.

Dr Sarah Lloyd-Fox, Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, received the Wiley Prize in Psychology from the British Academy in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the study of cognitive development in infants.

At the fourth International Colloquium on Corporate Branding, Identity, Image and Reputation, **Dr Benedetta Crisafulli**, Department of Management, won the best paper award for a research paper exploring the impact of social influencers’ presence in crisis responses on corporate reputation.

Professor Ulrike Hahn, Department of Psychological Sciences, won the Computational Modeling Prize in Applied Cognition from the Cognitive Science Society, for a paper entitled ‘How Communication Can Make Voters Choose Less Well’. The paper examines how the accuracy of political information is affected as it is shared through social media networks, and how this may result in people voting against their own interests.

COMPASS POINTS TO SUCCESS

Birkbeck's Compass Project, offering asylum seekers access to university-level study, is recognised with a national award, and its first students celebrate their success

In 2016, Birkbeck launched the Compass Project, a pioneering project to offer asylum seekers the opportunity to access fully funded higher education. The project's life-changing attributes were recognised with a major prize at the 2018 Guardian University Awards, where it took home the trophy in the Widening Access category. The award recognised institutions that have "demonstrably helped to increase the number of disadvantaged and underrepresented students entering university" and raised their aspirations.

The project was first spearheaded by Dr Leslie Topp from the Department of History of Art. She said: "The award is testament to what can happen when academic and professional staff from across the College work together for something we believe in. We take our inspiration from the courageous and determined people at the heart of this project: the students who have persevered in the face of hostile environments in their home countries and here in the UK to find their way into a university education."

Asylum seekers are not allowed to access student loans, are not allowed to work, and are not allowed access to the benefits system in the UK. Financially supporting themselves through higher education is almost impossible. For many asylum seekers, scholarship programmes are their only chance. The Compass Project is the only one operating on such a large scale in the UK, welcoming up to 20 students each year to take up places at Birkbeck.

Thanks to the kind support of organisations and supporters, including the AlixPartners Foundation, Allen & Overy, the Blanes Trust and alumnus Dr Harren Jhoti, Birkbeck has been able to welcome a further 17 students to the College this year through the Compass Project.



Image: Ishmael Hamoud
(Dominic Mifsud)

ISHMAEL'S STORY

Of the 20 students in the project's first cohort, the College is delighted that 11 are continuing with further study at Birkbeck, while a number have been accepted onto courses at other prestigious institutions, including King's College London and Royal Holloway.

Ishmael Hamoud completed his foundation year at Birkbeck as part of the first cohort of the Compass Project, and he is now enrolled in the second year of his BA Global Politics and International Relations at the College.

Ishmael left Syria in 2015 as a result of the civil war, spending almost a year and a half travelling through Europe trying to get to the UK, including 13 months in the Calais 'Jungle', which he describes as "one of the most difficult experiences of my life so far".

When he arrived in the UK, as one of the first children to arrive under the so-called 'Dubs Amendment', which allowed unaccompanied minors in the Calais 'Jungle' entry to the UK, Ishmael was fostered by a British family, who made him feel welcome immediately and helped him to feel like part of the community.

Asked how he felt when he found out that he was being offered a scholarship through the Compass Project Fund, he said it was a "tremendous feeling. It gave me the opportunity to continue my education just as I had planned before the war turned my life upside down."

Even before the war, however, Ishmael's plan was always to come to study in London. His family were – and are – all active politically, his father having been the leader of the opposition to the Syrian regime prior to the outbreak of the civil war.

"The UK was the only country in which I could feel safe – somewhere I could finish my education and be involved politically, without limit. I chose to study politics, so I could have the chance to develop my political understanding to make a change here in the UK and globally. Being recognised as the first Dubs child is quite a significant political and historical status. Since I have been in the UK, I have spent a lot of time in the House of Commons and House of Lords, working alongside Members of Parliament and Lords, and giving public speeches about my experience of Syria and of my journey."

And what does the future have in store? "I would like to successfully finish my degree," he said. "I then hope I will be able to start a career in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office."

Ishmael has settled well in London. "To become part of the community here has come naturally to me," he said. "I don't feel there is anything strange about British culture. The only issue is the weather, but I've learned to live with that."

EMPOWERING WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER

Professor Nazanin Derakhshan from the Department of Psychological Sciences explains the importance of her research centre, which helps women with breast cancer to build psychological and emotional resilience, and explores the science behind its approach



BRiC WAS FOUNDED WITH A MISSION TO CAPITALISE ON NEUROSCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTO RESILIENCE, TO SUPPORT WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER

Breast cancer is the biggest cause of malignancy in women worldwide. In the UK alone, every 10 minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. With medical advances, a significant proportion of women continue to survive, but the psychological and physical cost of diagnosis and treatment weighs heavy.

I launched BRiC: the Centre for Building Resilience in Breast Cancer with the aim of improving quality of life for women who are living with the psychological and physical consequences of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, through interventions that boost resilience and adaptability in the face of trauma.

Breast cancer treatment usually involves surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and endocrine therapy. Research shows that damage caused by treatment to the brain structures and functions implemented in cognitive control increases women's vulnerability to anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress symptoms, impairing self-esteem, self-confidence and quality of life in a large proportion of women. Difficulties in concentrating and following conversations, as well as lapses in memory and attention, continue to lower self-esteem and self-confidence.

Breast cancer has profound effects on a woman's 'womanhood'. It causes menopausal symptoms, impairments to one's self-image, impaired sexual health, as well as fatigue, which is a major longitudinal side effect of treatment. Fear of recurrence is a daily threat, which can interfere with everyday functioning. Research shows that around 30% of women with a primary diagnosis of breast cancer go on to develop secondary breast cancer (or metastatic breast cancer) – cancer that has spread to other organs and is thus incurable.

Unfortunately, psychological support is very scarce for women with breast cancer, as the expectations imply that once treatment is over, one is cured and ready to move on with the 'new' life post-cancer. However, it is at this time that vulnerability to emotional disorders such as depression and anxiety is greatest. The cancer may be toast but so are we, exhausted emotionally and physically, expected to take on the challenge of building our lives, when our cognitive reserves are at rock bottom.

There are alarming figures on breast cancer diagnosis in younger women – many who are mothers to younger children and have diverse societal responsibilities. Research shows that age at diagnosis is the biggest predictor of psychological distress, even years later. Many women find it hard to sustain productivity at work because of cognitive deficits. The impact of breast cancer for individuals and society is, therefore, significant.

EMBRACING OUR VULNERABILITY, EMPOWERING OURSELVES THROUGH RESILIENCE

How can we improve the lives of women who have undergone breast cancer diagnosis and treatment?

BRiC was founded with a mission to capitalise on neuroscientific research into resilience, to support women with breast cancer in everyday life as well as other challenging situations, where managing anxiety-related symptoms is necessary for successful outcomes.

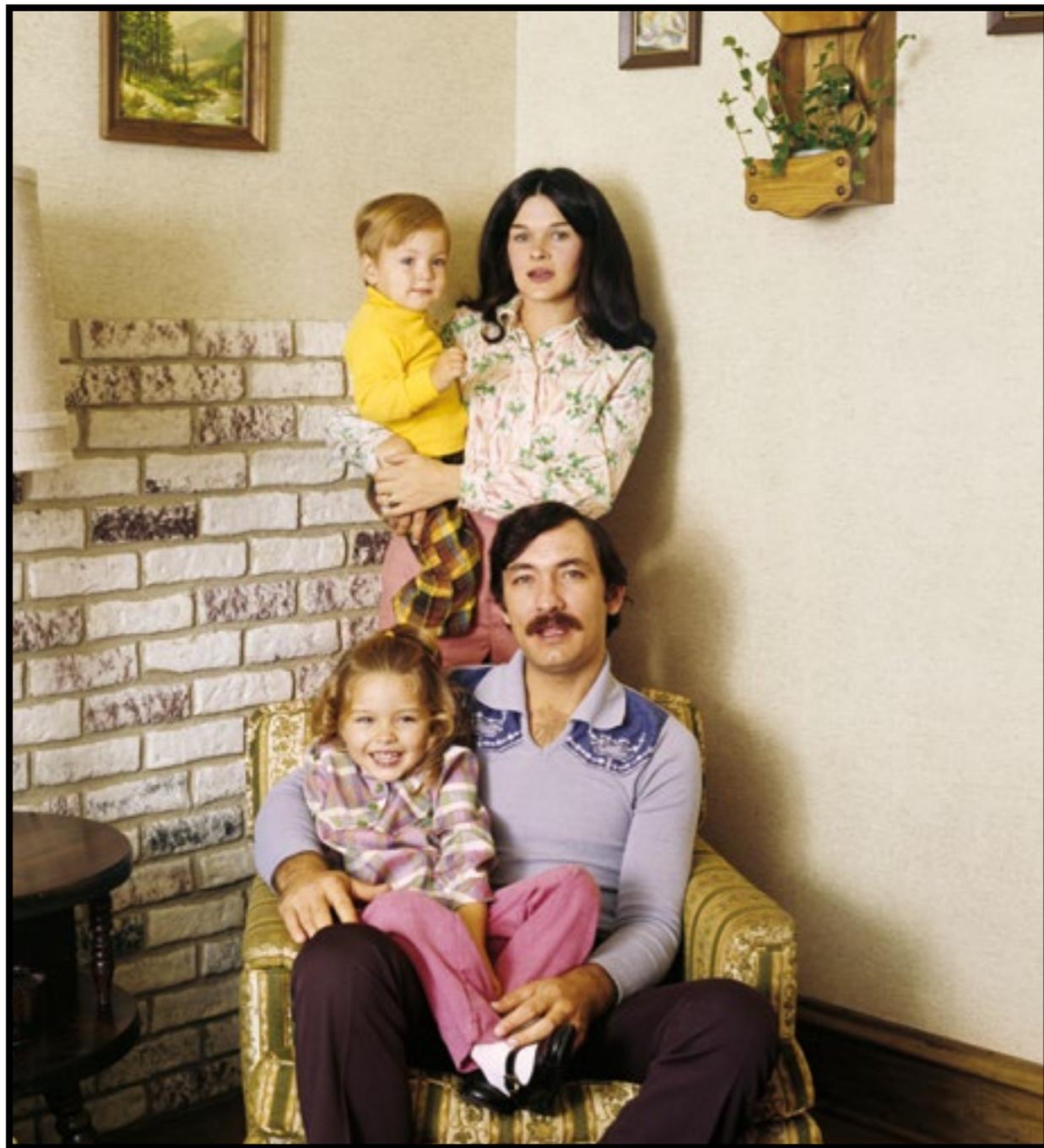
In a recent breakthrough, research from BRiC, published in the journal *Psycho-oncology*, showed that easy-to-use, online interventions tailored in our lab, which exercise cognitive efficiency, can reduce emotional vulnerability symptoms for up to 18 months post-intervention. The idea is based on ongoing research in our lab, replicated worldwide, that cognitive control functions of the brain are key determinants of vulnerability to emotional disorders and resilience. BRiC currently conducts a number of research projects on how our training interventions can aid in the efficacy of traditional therapies like cognitive behavioural therapy and mindfulness meditation, through empowering cognitive control.

BRiC's active network includes over 1,400 UK women with breast cancer, so far. We have two deputy heads, as well as four ambassadors, who oversee the running of the network. BRiC engages and educates its members through a number of activities:

- a guided Sunday evening discussion, which refers to research and theory, but centres around the sharing of emotions and experiences and leads to lively debate about issues relevant to the many challenges we face (we publish the summaries for a wider audience to read);
- 'Tuesday Tidings', our weekly feature for emotion regulation, where members share news from the previous week and how it relates to emotions we have experienced;
- our award-winning blog, 'Panning for Gold', which provides an inclusive platform representing the many voices of women with a breast cancer diagnosis.

We share, educate and integrate, in a number of unique ways. Our regular projects showcase the many voices and talents of our members, bringing to life the profound ways by which we learn about and practise resilience.

Find out more at: bricentre.bbk.ac.uk
Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/Resilienceinbreastcancer/](https://www.facebook.com/Resilienceinbreastcancer/)
Follow us on Twitter: [@BC_Resilience](https://twitter.com/BC_Resilience)
[@ProfNDerakhshan](https://twitter.com/ProfNDerakhshan)



PICTURING THE FAMILY

Dr Silke Arnold-de Simine and Professor Joanne Leal explore what we can learn from considering what is – and what is not – represented in our family albums and how digital technology is changing our creative and cultural approach to family photography

What makes a photograph a family photograph? We might think first of who is in the picture – family and friends, often caught on camera on memorable occasions. We might reflect on what we do with such photographs: sharing them with loved ones, talking over the memories they evoke, perhaps confirming familial bonds in the process.

But family photography can also be defined by its modes of production and its conventions: as a genre it encompasses a range of photographic practices – from professional studio portraiture to amateur snapshots. Whether they represent a highly stylized presentation of the subject or capture the spontaneity of the moment, in the course of the twentieth century, family photographs became central to the visual narrative of individual lives and to the process of constructing and performing subject positions and identities.

Family photographs and our responses to them equally reflect our desire to remember and to be remembered. They function as mnemonic devices, triggering recollection, or are drawn upon to perform in the rhetoric of social memory. This does not mean, of course, that they are transparent documents offering veracity. A snapshot's personal subject matter and unstudied aesthetics might seem to guarantee authenticity, but its conventionality can conspire with hegemonic forces to (re-)produce normative (familial) conventions. In their almost relentless picturing of happy moments, they can gloss over not just death and loss, but also unspeakable family secrets, alienation and pain, anger and bitterness.

Family photographs can skew our understanding of the past, but the forms of critical engagement suggested by the contributors to our book *Picturing the Family* call our attention to the very losses that they seemingly gloss over: the ephemerality of a memorable moment too elusive to be truly captured; the promise of happiness staged in a photograph but never truly experienced; the loss of a depicted person; the disappearance of the family context in which the photograph was produced and the stories that accompanied its viewing; and the vanishing of the cultural, social and historical context in which a specific photographic act made sense.

Such productive engagement is activated through what Annette Kuhn calls 'memory work', a critical interrogation of the past and the way it is remembered in and through photographic practice. This concept inspired our contributors to read family photographs critically and creatively as a reflexive medium, exploring our investment in the structures of

Left: 1970s family portrait (ClassicStock/Alamy Stock Photo)

looking and remembering which photographs, their contexts and our engagement with them provoke.

As material objects, photographs arouse emotion via an appeal to multiple senses. We feel their size and texture, read comments on their reverse, note signs of age. They indicate when they were taken, not only by who and what they depict, but also by their early-twentieth-century deckle edges and sepia tones or their 1970s orange Agfacolor hues.

Some of this has been resurrected in the digital age: media nostalgia has reactivated interest in Polaroid cameras, and retro photo apps mimic the look of analogue photographs. Digital technologies are changing critical and creative practices, with how they have made photographs more mobile, malleable and adaptable. They have wide-ranging repercussions for the production, circulation and consumption of family photographs, and encourage an interactive engagement that differs from the kinds of 'memory work' associated with the analogue era. The technology promises increased agency and access, propelling family images into cultural arenas where they are disseminated, adapted and appropriated for new purposes.

If the impact of analogue photography, as a form of carefully archived remembering envisaged for future audiences, could be conceived as temporally delayed, digital photography is instantaneous in its consumption and dissemination among photo-sharing communities with user-generated content such as Instagram, Snapchat or WhatsApp, which encourage not only sharing, but also responding, commenting, tagging and re-versioning of photographs. These images are less mementos and more a form of creating and performing intimacy across a spatial rather than temporal distance, promising a collective and yet intimate experience of 'now'.

The contributions to this volume allow us to develop our understanding of the mutually transformative relationship between the family, memory and photography, and to enhance our understanding of the role of contemporary artworks in this process – particularly the use of photographs within the context of other media. They also enable us to refine our grasp of the different perspectives through which photographs are read and the creative transformations to which they contribute.

**“
FAMILY
PHOTOS
AND OUR
RESPONSES
TO THEM
REFLECT OUR
DESIRE TO
REMEMBER
AND BE
REMEMBERED**

Picturing the Family: Media, Narrative, Memory, edited by Silke Arnold-de Simine and Joanne Leal, from Birkbeck's School of Arts, is published by Bloomsbury

'WHITESHIFT': POPULISM AND THE CRISIS OF WHITE IDENTITY

In his new book, Whiteshift, Professor Eric Kaufmann argues that we need to talk about white majority groups in the West

As the ethnic landscape shifts around them, conservative members of white majorities are responding with anti-immigration populism. In the longer term, white majorities are likely to assimilate many members of minority groups into the majority through intermarriage, reducing the structural drivers of populism and polarisation. This will transform white majorities into what American writer Michael Lind terms transracial 'beige' majorities, a process that will be largely complete by the middle of next century. In the first half of our century, however, western societies will become more ethnically diverse before they melt, and this will increase polarisation.

In 2014, three populist right parties, the UK Independence Party, the Danish People's Party and France's Front National, won close to 30 per cent of their national vote in the European elections, following rising immigration in all three countries. A year later, more than a million refugees, many from Syria, crossed from Turkey to Europe via the Greek islands. Support for nearly all populist right parties in Western Europe surged, notably in historically liberal Germany and Sweden, where inflows were proportionally greatest. Then, in 2016, immigration played the largest role in both the British Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump. Immigration and integration issues gained heightened prominence in elections in Italy, Sweden and Germany.

Is this a crisis of democracy and capitalism? Not really. A more systematic social science approach reveals that immigration, ethnic change

and identity hold the key to understanding right-wing populism and polarisation in the West.

Many observers are quick to read the populist movement as a revolt by the economically 'left behind' against dynamic cities. Populist parties cloak themselves in rhetoric about sovereignty, powerlessness and economic deprivation. But just because prosperous cities don't back populist right parties, while run-down towns do, doesn't mean that economics is driving this phenomenon. Cities like London, Chicago or Vienna have younger, better educated and more ethnically diverse populations. Focus only on white, middle-aged, working-class voters, though, and hey presto! Cities and rural areas back right-wing populists at similar rates.

Populism and polarisation ultimately stem from white majorities' insecurity about their ethnic group's demographic sway in their perceived 'homeland'. Studies drawing attention to the decline of white majorities tend to increase opposition to immigration and support for populism. Immigration and white decline are not experienced in a unitary way, however. White liberals tend to welcome diversity and change, while white conservatives resist it.

In addition, many white liberals, especially in America, consider those who resist ethnic change to be racist – in violation of a social taboo. White conservatives, by contrast, feel that defending their ethnic group's interests is just normal collective behaviour. In the US, the gap between white Clinton and Trump voters on this question runs to more than 60 points. Several studies show that when anti-Trump or anti-conservative statements include the word 'racist', an important minority of conservative voters responds by increasing support for Trump and the conservative statements. The more the American left stresses identity questions, the more this has solidified Trump's base behind him.

Expansion in the meaning of antiracism after the 1960s reshaped the left, injecting more of a focus on disadvantaged cultural minorities into left-wing thinking. This sensibility also encompassed the political centre in many countries – less so in Britain than in Scandinavia or America – removing questions of immigration from political contestation. As immigration rises, the importance of immigration (compared to other issues such as the economy) typically increases among those who want less immigration, which is typically a majority of the population. With mainstream parties like the Swedish Moderates or the German Social Democrats reluctant to address it due to the antiracist taboo, a market opportunity is created, which new entrants such as the Sweden Democrats or the AfD (Alternative for Germany) are able to exploit.

Below: Graffiti on the separation barrier in Palestine (EB Images/Alamy Stock Photo)

IMMIGRATION, ETHNIC CHANGE AND IDENTITY HOLD THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING RIGHT-WING POPULISM AND POLARISATION IN THE WEST

Once populist parties leverage immigration, mainstream ones tend to follow suit to prevent their voters from defecting. This erodes the taboos that once held sway around immigration. On the one hand, this permits mainstream parties like Austria's ÖVP (Austrian People's Party) to steal the populist right's clothes and to limit populist right gains. On the other hand, the erosion of taboos against reducing immigration and voting for the radical right can lower restraints that once limited their vote share.

On balance, I take the view that it is counterproductive to broaden the antiracism taboo to suppress debate over immigration, as this creates grievances, which can be used by populists as a force multiplier when taboos are eventually breached – as they have been in nearly all western countries.

Looking ahead, I argue that western societies should make space for an inclusive majority ethnicity, so long as this is about a

positive attachment to own-group rather than a racist fear of, or superiority to, outgroups. We shouldn't seek to silence the majority's ethnocultural desire to slow immigration, so long as this isn't motivated by antipathy to minorities or a desire for race purity. Rather, we should accept majority ethnic concerns as a legitimate input into a conversation with pro-immigration liberals, business and minority groups, to reach an accommodation. Each side in the debate will feel it has been listened to, allowing contending forces to more sympathetically consider each other's point of view. This should reduce the toxicity around the immigration issue, which is currently fuelling populism and polarisation.

Eric Kaufmann is Professor of Politics at Birkbeck. *Whiteshift: Populism, Immigration and the Future of White Majorities* is published by Penguin



#METOO: A HISTORY OF SPEAKING OUT AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Dr Tanya Serisier explores how the 'Me Too' movement and previous upsurges of women sharing their stories have succeeded in shifting public understanding of sexual violence. Yet this history also reveals a disturbing lack of legal or cultural change

On 15 October 2017, the actor Alyssa Milano tweeted a response to the growing public revelations of film producer Harvey Weinstein's sexually predatory behaviour. It read, in part: "If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem". The tweet inspired a viral hashtag and political uproar, with women across the world sharing their experiences of sexual violence, with at least some of these stories leading to the public downfall of powerful men.

'Me Too' has been called a 'movement of revelation' and even a 'revolution', inspiring countless debates about sexual violence and the ethics of public accusations. Many public discussions, particularly in the first few months,



shared the sense that this was both revolutionary and unprecedented. A year later, however, there are growing questions about the long-term legacy of 'Me Too'. Stories of sexual violence have become less prominent, and several men exposed by these stories have begun to resurrect their careers. It has begun to feel that this moment might be less revolutionary than had been hoped or feared.

Cultural power and the limitations of events like 'Me Too' become clearer when they are placed within a feminist history of telling personal stories of sexual violence to achieve political change. As slogans like 'Break the Silence, End the Violence' from the 1970s suggest, feminists have been using the power of personal narratives to shift cultural and legal

Above: #MeToo rally held outside Trump Tower in New York (Stephanie Keith/Stranger/Getty Images)

responses to sexual violence for over half a century.

My book traces this history from the first public speak-out against rape in 1971, held in a small church by the 'New York Radical Feminists' collective. At the time, even many feminists did not see sexual violence as a political issue, and so the speak-out's theme, that 'Rape is a Political Crime Against Women', marked a significant shift from a view of rape as simply the result of individual pathology. The speak-out attracted over 300 women, including journalists from *Vogue* and *New York* magazines. While ten women had planned to speak, the organisers were startled when thirty audience members joined them onstage to tell their own stories. These stories of personal experience inaugurated the

feminist movement against rape, with speak-outs spreading globally, including to London in 1972.

Women speaking of their experiences has challenged denial and myths surrounding sexual violence, shifting public understandings of sexual violence from a rare act committed by criminal strangers to a common form of violence frequently committed by respectable men, many of whom are friends, colleagues or even family members of the women that they assault. Women's personal stories have combatted stigma and challenged cultural and legal tendencies to ignore and excuse these acts, instead seeking to make them increasingly socially and legally unacceptable.

Far from being unprecedented, 'Me Too' is one of a series of moments of heightened public attention to women's narratives of sexual violence that have occurred from the early 1970s onwards. These moments are often marked by public optimism that, finally, the silence has been broken, and that profound change will inevitably follow – expectations that are frequently disappointed.

The late 1980s, for instance, saw significant public interest and concern in sexual violence, which was a common topic in both news and entertainment media, reaching its most prominent point with Jodie Foster's 'Best Actress' Academy Award for her portrayal of rape survivor Sarah Tobias in the film, *The Accused*. Importantly, the era also saw the birth of what I call 'public survivors', unknown women, such as Jill Saward in the UK, who achieved a public profile and campaigning platform on the basis of speaking about their experience of rape. Much contemporary media commentary referred to the era as a 'watershed', in terms not dissimilar to those used today.

In the following years, however, these expectations slowly waned. Elly Danica, a Canadian 'public survivor' from this time, commented in the mid-1990s: "I now see that I and numerous colleagues over the years have been breaking the silence over and over again, only to have it subsequently swallow us up again moments after we speak".

Ensuring that silence does not similarly swallow up the voices enabled by 'Me Too' requires learning from this history. Real cultural change depends on a wider cultural determination not to let women's voices fade away over time. This would make the 'Me Too' moment truly unprecedented.

Tanya Serisier is a lecturer in criminology. Her book, *Speaking Out: Feminism, Rape and Narrative Politics*, is published by Palgrave Macmillan

METEORITE DISCOVERED ON SKYE

Dr Simon Drake explains how his Birkbeck research team uncovered mineral forms never before found on Earth from a prehistoric meteorite impact

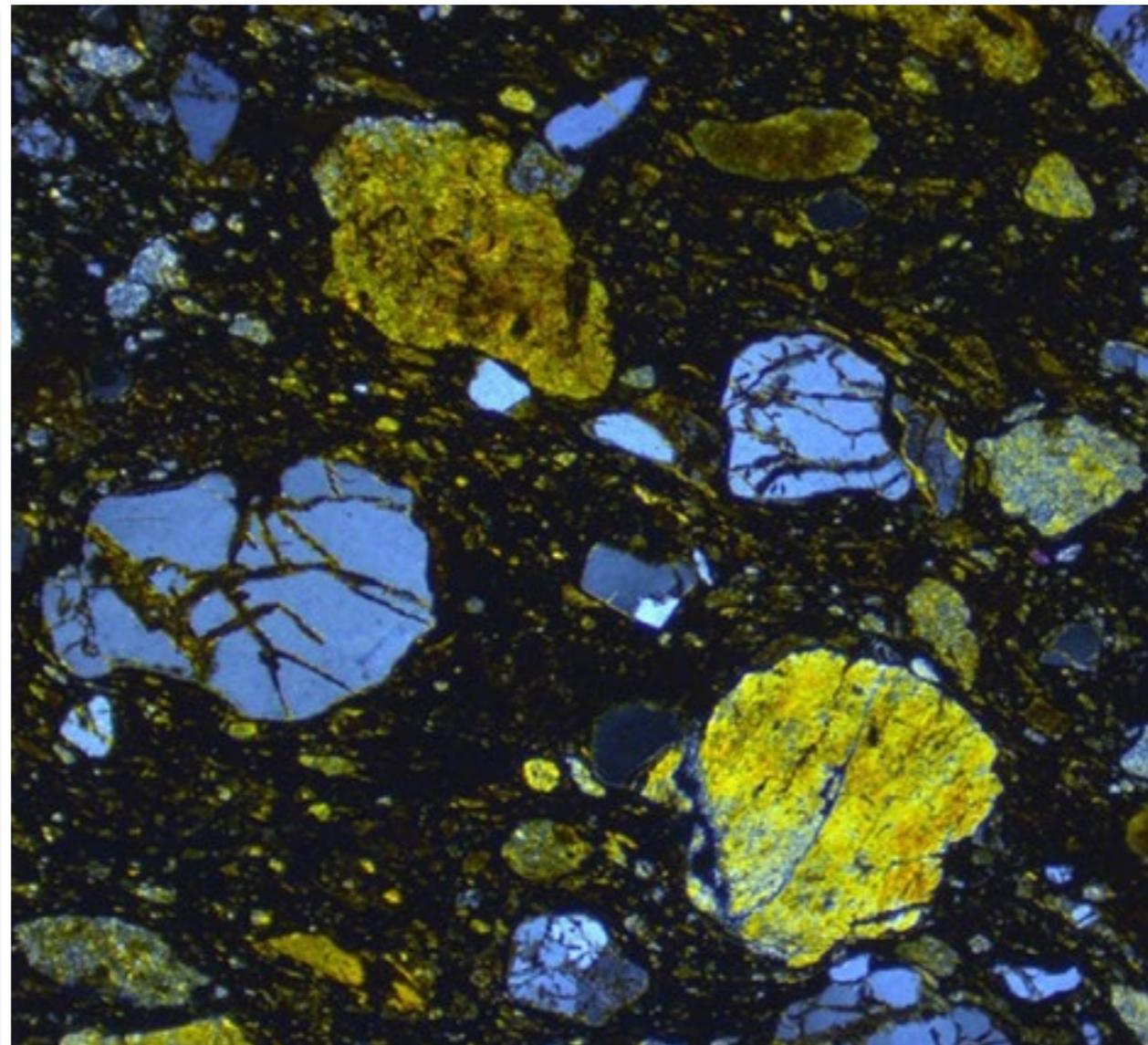
In September 2018, a rock appeared for sale on eBay, the like of which had never been sold before. In fact, until just a few years earlier, a mineral within that rock had never been found on Earth before.

The mineral was extraterrestrially derived vanadium-rich osbornite (TiNbN). Previously, the only reported existence had been in space dust collected during the 2006 NASA Stardust mission. I was part of the Birkbeck team that made the discovery of this substance during fieldwork on the Isle of Skye, uncovering a one-metre-thick layer at two separate sites.

How had this layer been deposited? One of the discoveries was just beneath the earliest Palaeocene basalts on the island, which prompted questions about whether there had been a meteorite impact before the first volcanic activity on Skye. Indeed, did the meteorite actually cause this volcanism, and where did this fit into the (relatively) short-lived volcanic episode on Skye – 60 million to 55 million years ago?

In 2011, during my PhD fieldwork to determine the nature and characteristics of explosive silicic eruptions and how their deposits fitted into Skye's volcanological evolution, I needed to examine the earliest volcanic rocks on the island. My colleague Dr Andy Beard and I targeted the lavas on the Strathaird Peninsula, near Torrinn, and found a rather odd-looking, metre-thick layer beneath these lavas – buff-coloured, with a streaky fabric.

Fieldwork continued the following year, and I found another interesting outcrop 7km away, near the Neolithic burial site known as Chambered Cairn. At this stage, we had no idea of the true nature of the rocks at either site, but we did know they were highly unusual and undocumented.



Left: Thin section view of meteorite ejecta deposit (Simon Drake)

Following a discussion with one of my PhD examiners about the potential of finding a new meteorite impact site, I decided to reinvestigate our samples in 2015. Over the coming months, we identified many exotic minerals from both sites, some of which were unknown on Earth. Our investigations used three methods:

- first, we took thin sections from both sites to look for any 'shock' features, using a polarising microscope and an electron microprobe;
- second, we analysed them to provide possible dates for any impact;
- finally, we ground down, sieved and exposed the substances to a strong Rare Earth Element magnet, to extract any metallic minerals

present. This is a laborious process, done by hand, but it reduces the chance of cross-contamination in a larger crusher.

Early results from the electron microprobe provided strong evidence that we were on the right track – it was increasingly likely that a meteorite had fallen on Skye. More evidence was needed to make our theory watertight. With the microprobe, we tried to find parts of the meteorite itself. 'Native iron' fragments (extremely rare on Earth) were present in samples from both sites and contained rare vanadium-rich osbornite (TiNbN). This mineral is believed to have been produced within the inner solar nebula, close to the proto-sun. In our



WE HAD NO IDEA OF THE TRUE NATURE OF THE ROCKS, BUT WE DID KNOW THEY WERE HIGHLY UNUSUAL AND UNDOCUMENTED

samples, we also found niobium-rich osbornite (TiNbN) – the first recorded example of this mineral. It was unusual because large meteorites usually vaporise upon impact with Earth, so only earth rocks show evidence of impact. Yet here we had a remnant of the meteorite. We discovered many more rare samples found only at impact sites.

So here was compelling mineralogical evidence for an impact – and a fragment of the meteorite itself – in a layer beneath the oldest volcanic rocks on Skye. But an impact did not fit into the picture and understanding that geologists had previously assembled for Skye. We needed to try to date the impact.

Further analysis showed that the impact must have taken place very early on in Skye's volcanic history. We found that the meteorite probably acted as a driver for volcanism on Skye up to 62 million years ago.

We now need to try to establish the extent of these impact deposits. We have located three new fruitful sites on Skye, including one adjacent to Loch Skavaig – a difficult site to reach, only accessible by boat – and we will further explore this impact deposit, ideally further afield in the wider North Atlantic Igneous Province. There are similarities between date clusters of the mineral zircon at the Skye sites and in Scandinavia, Greenland and Canada, within this province. At present, we don't know if a crater exists for the Skye impact event.

And finally, back to eBay. After our work attracted interest on Skye, within the scientific community and in the media, a rock hunter appears to have headed to the sites we located and chipped out chunks of these priceless minerals and tried to sell them for as little as £10 a sample. The good news is that, working with Scottish Natural Heritage, new controls are expected to be brought in to protect the area – and the seller has withdrawn the lots.

Dr Simon Drake completed his PhD in Birkbeck's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences; Dr Andy Beard is a lecturer in the Department



THE ART OF COMPENSATION: SLAVE-OWNERSHIP AND THE MUSEUM

Dr Sarah Thomas discusses the troubling impact of slave ownership on many major cultural institutions

It is increasingly recognised, although still not well understood, that colonial slavery profoundly shaped the history of modern Britain. Since the seventeenth century, Britain's sugar islands had generated unprecedented levels of capital, shaping the nation's economy, its cities and burgeoning industries. By the end of the eighteenth century, the spectacular swell of individual fortunes was accompanied by the rise of the private collector, the public museum and the art market.

Following emancipation in 1833, £20 million was paid by the British government to former slave-owners across the empire to compensate for their loss of income. Given such extraordinary wealth, it is perhaps not surprising that some slave-owners were also significant connoisseurs, art collectors, patrons and founders of what are today major public art museums across

Britain. The impact of slave-ownership on some of the country's major cultural institutions is only recently starting to be acknowledged, particularly since the recovery of a remarkable primary archive, which lists every slave-owner in the British Caribbean, Mauritius or the Cape at the moment of emancipation – a project led by historians Catherine Hall and Nicholas Draper at UCL.

Between the establishment of Britain's National Gallery in 1824 and its National Portrait Gallery in 1856, private holdings of material wealth and social capital were being transformed into national art collections. The influence of Britain's slave-owners on its burgeoning museums, and on British visual culture, aesthetics and taste more broadly, has until now been little explored.

It is clear that the politics of empire played a role in the emergence of art museums across the country, as a portion of the wealth generated by colonial slavery was directed towards the acquisition of Old Master and British paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures. The troubling legacies of slave-ownership continue to permeate art museums across Britain today.

A FORTUNE SPENT ON ART

William Young Ottley (1771–1836), for example, was a noted collector and connoisseur of Old Master paintings, prints and drawings. Living in Italy in the 1790s, he acquired an extraordinary collection of early Renaissance paintings, prints and drawings in the wake of Napoleon's invasion in 1796. The French War provided a superb opportunity for the astute collector, for many Italians were anxious to sell works quickly, rather than have their collections plundered or even destroyed by Napoleon's forces.

Passionate, and with an unrivalled connoisseur's eye for period detail, Ottley snatched the opportunity to buy paintings and drawings, often at ridiculously low cost, from the Borghese, Colonna and Corsini palaces, the Neapolitan Royal Family, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, among other sources, by artists including Michelangelo, Raphael, Correggio, Titian, Salvator Rosa, Claude and numerous others.

Above: Zoffany's *The Family of Sir William Young* (Wikimedia Commons)



THE POLITICS OF EMPIRE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE EMERGENCE OF ART MUSEUMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Many of Ottley's paintings would later be acquired by major museums, such as Botticelli's *Mystic Nativity*, which today hangs in London's National Gallery. Ottley would go on to serve as Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, in the year when Parliament finally abolished slavery in the British Caribbean – 1833.

Ottley's family had amassed a tremendous fortune from plantation labour in the West Indies since at least the mid-seventeenth century. His adult life spanned the rise of abolitionism in the final decade of the eighteenth century, and he died in 1836 in the immediate wake of the Slavery Abolition Act. His family wealth is amply materialised in Johann Zoffany's painting *The Family of Sir William Young*, 1767-68, which shows Ottley's Antiguan-born grandfather playing the cello, surrounded by his family. Ottley Senior had been described by an acquaintance as: that "roaring rich West Indian ... who talks of his money, and swaggers in his gait as if both his coat pockets were full of it. He buys pictures upon his own judgement, and declares it to be better than anybody's." Crucially, the painting holds a single clue to the source of the family's wealth: the black servant who steadies his master's young son on horseback to the left.

William Young Ottley would inherit some of his grandfather's wealth, despite towards the end of his life declaring an unambiguous antipathy towards slavery and its profits. Today, major works from Ottley's collection – luxury goods by any measure – are scattered across museums around the globe, not only in the National Gallery and the British Museum in London, but also across America and beyond. As one obituarist wrote: "Mr Ottley's whole life and fortune were devoted to the advancement of the fine arts".

Despite Ottley's misgivings about slavery, we must continue to ask what impact have the ghosts of slavery had on so many major art museums, and why has such impact remained invisible for so long?

Dr Sarah Thomas is Lecturer in Museum Studies and History of Art at Birkbeck



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ATTITUDES TOWARDS MALE
SEXUALITY BECAME CONFUSED
AND TRANSGRESSIVE

THE CROSS- DRESSING CAPTIVES OF WAR

Dr Clare Makepeace describes the unexpected ways in which prisoners of war created entertainment for each other during the Second World War, and what it reveals about how attitudes to male sexuality have changed

That's 'Pinky' Smith looking out at you. The star of the variety show *Up the Pole*. According to Corporal Jack White, who served in the Royal Army Service Corps during the Second World War, Pinky was "gorgeous". Wearing a Gainsborough hat, fishnet evening gloves, a neatly fitting bodice and a long flared skirt, I think that's a fair description. Others agreed. This photograph, taken in 1944, was reprinted thousands of times. Pinky was a Second World War pin-up.

There are just a couple of issues I should clarify. Pinky's off-stage name was Don Smith, and Corporal Jack White was reporting on Pinky's beauty from the confines of the prisoner-of-war (POW) camp Stalag 383 in Bavaria.

Stalag 383 was a camp for army senior non-commissioned Allied officers who refused to work for the Third Reich. It was one of the more comfortable camps in Germany. Barracks were prefabricated, prisoners slept in double-tier (rather than triple-tier) bunks, and the latrines were of the proper septic tank variety. But its inmates still had to contend with immense hardships that accompanied being a POW, including spending months or years in the same physical space, having to battle monotony and boredom on a daily basis, and living in a single-sex society. Such an existence made theatrical entertainments one of the most prized aspects of POW life. Those watching a play could drift into a far-off world; those on stage could pretend they were someone else. Female impersonators, who regularly appeared in these performances, gave everyone some respite from their all-male environment.

The diaries and letters written by POWs held in numerous camps across Europe attest to how effectively female impersonators provided them with a release. When Noël Coward's comic play *Blithe Spirit* took to the stage at one of the largest stalags in Germany, Warrant Officer Alexander East recorded that the "feminine parts" were executed "with great accomplishment ... at times we forgot that theirs was just impersonation".

So effective were these performances that some POWs thought the impersonators were better at being female than women were themselves! From an officers' camp in north-west Germany, Captain John Mansel wrote that Brian McIrvine was "staggering" as the star of *Citronella* and performed a dance at which "the average girl would make but a poor attempt".

On the one hand, female impersonators allowed POWs to uphold the traditional two-sex binary system, and even maintain its hierarchical nature. By praising impersonators for their femininity, POWs, albeit paradoxically, asserted their collective male superiority. But on the other

hand, digging a little deeper, we see a potentially more transgressive element in this history.

Men in drag might have recreated the illusion of a two-sex society but, ultimately, by admiring these 'women', POWs were admiring fellow male captives. Even more curious, this admiration went well beyond the temporary confines of the stage.

In May 1944, some 14,000 orders were placed by POWs for a copy of this photograph of 'Pinky'. This, and giving Don Smith the name of 'Pinky', indicates that he continued to have a female presence off-stage. Similarly, Mansel recorded in his diary that some POWs became highly bashful when McIrvine visited their room. One, in particular, could not "refuse giving him anything he-she- [sic] has come to ask for".

On such occasions, female impersonators appear to have blurred the boundaries between heterosexual and homoerotic desire. When POWs noted that this was happening, they expressed contradictory attitudes as to what constituted acceptable heterosexual behaviour and what resembled, in their view, the unacceptably homoerotic. For example, while Sergeant Major Andrew Hawarden ordered a photograph of 'Pinky', he responded negatively to one concert, held at a Stalag in Poland, where one of the lads was dressed as a waitress called Angela and would "offer herself to be kissed by the highest bidder". He considered this "a little unsavoury", although clearly others did not. The Welfare Fund benefited from it by 400 marks (approximately £26) – the equivalent of £1,000 today.

We could conclude that, in the isolated, all-male environment of a POW camp, attitudes towards male sexuality became confused and transgressive. But, I think, this behaviour reveals something more far-reaching. Gender historians have shown that during the first half of the twentieth century, there was a tolerance or ambivalence towards male same-sex desire, and that sex between men did not have the same implications for a man's identity as it does today. Life in the POW camp seems to reflect this.

The way in which POWs reacted to their single-sex society shows not what was unique about their world, but what was conventional. Somewhat surprisingly, what was conventional at the time of the Second World War was for ideas towards 'normal' male sexual behaviour to be far more fluid than they are today.

Dr Clare Makepeace is Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck. Her book, *Captives of War: British Prisoners of War in Europe in the Second World War*, is published by Cambridge University Press

Image: 'Pinky' Smith, the creation of a POW female impersonator (Unknown, image reproduced with permission from Sandra Hawarden-Lord)

FROM CRADLE TO BRAIN : WHY BEHAVIOURAL BIASES ARE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Dr Gillian Forrester explains how studying whether children choose to cradle baby dolls on their left or their right side could help early diagnosis of cognitive development issues

The two sides of the brain may look symmetrical on the surface, but they are in charge of vastly different processes that control behaviours on the opposite side of the body. This special brain organisation allows the body to conduct important parallel tasks, and decreases the chance of both hemispheres competing – possibly incompatibly – to control a response.

The dominance of one hemisphere over the other for some behaviours is a characteristic stretching back at least 500 million years. Research across a wide range of vertebrates suggests that the right hemisphere evolved its dominance for responding to threats in the environment, such as detecting predators, with the left visual field; while the left developed its supremacy for well-learned, structured motor-action sequences, like feeding and catching prey with a preference for the right eye. In its most basic form, hemisphere dominance has created a basic survival mechanism, allowing animals to eat without being eaten.

This hemisphere specialisation has endured throughout evolution and is still present in modern humans. Some evolutionary-developmental psychologists, like me, theorise that these dominances prepared a foundation for all modern human behaviour. For example, the left-side dominance for controlling motor-action sequences underpins speech and object manipulation required for tool use – something the majority of the population does more

Right: Four- and five-year-old children demonstrated a preference to hold a baby doll and a proto-face pillow on the left side, regardless of handedness, age, sex or experience of holding babies (*Eric Drass*)



precisely with the right hand. Additionally, the right hemisphere's specialisation for recognising predators made us good at identifying individual faces and their emotional expressions – something we do faster and more accurately with the left visual field.

For many animals, including humans, our most precise social-monitoring abilities are employed during offspring rearing. Between 70% and 90% of human mothers prefer to cradle babies on the left side of their bodies, regardless of the mother's handedness or culture. Placing a baby directly within the left field of sight creates a direct path to the right hemisphere, providing an advantage for recognising the well-being of the infant. This cradling orientation is also exhibited by great apes and in face-to-face nurturing of species as disparate as flying foxes and walrus.

The division of labour between the hemispheres occurs early in a child's life, so examining these well-defined areas of responsibility can be a marker of healthy brain development and can predict typical cognitive progress.

Just as with mothers, left-cradling bias has been reported in children, when dolls are used as social stimuli. Both girls and boys tend to cradle on the left, a preference seemingly not influenced by age, gender or experience of baby holding. Since previous research has demonstrated associations between brain organisation, behavioural biases (handedness) and cognitive ability (language), my research focused on whether social cognitive ability is associated with a hemispheric bias, indicated by that visual field preference for viewing faces.

Our study, published in the journal *Cortex*, replicated previous findings in this field, by once again demonstrating a left-cradling bias for holding an infant baby doll, whereas a plain pillow, used as a control, was held with equal frequency on left and right by 102 typically-developing four- and five-year-old children.

The study also went on to query what aspect of the baby leads to that bias. Evolutionary theory suggests that faces are so special to humans



THOSE WITH A PREDISPOSITION TO CRADLE ON THE LEFT (ENGAGING THE LEFT VISUAL FIELD AND THE RIGHT HEMISPHERE) BENEFIT FROM ENHANCED SOCIAL ABILITIES

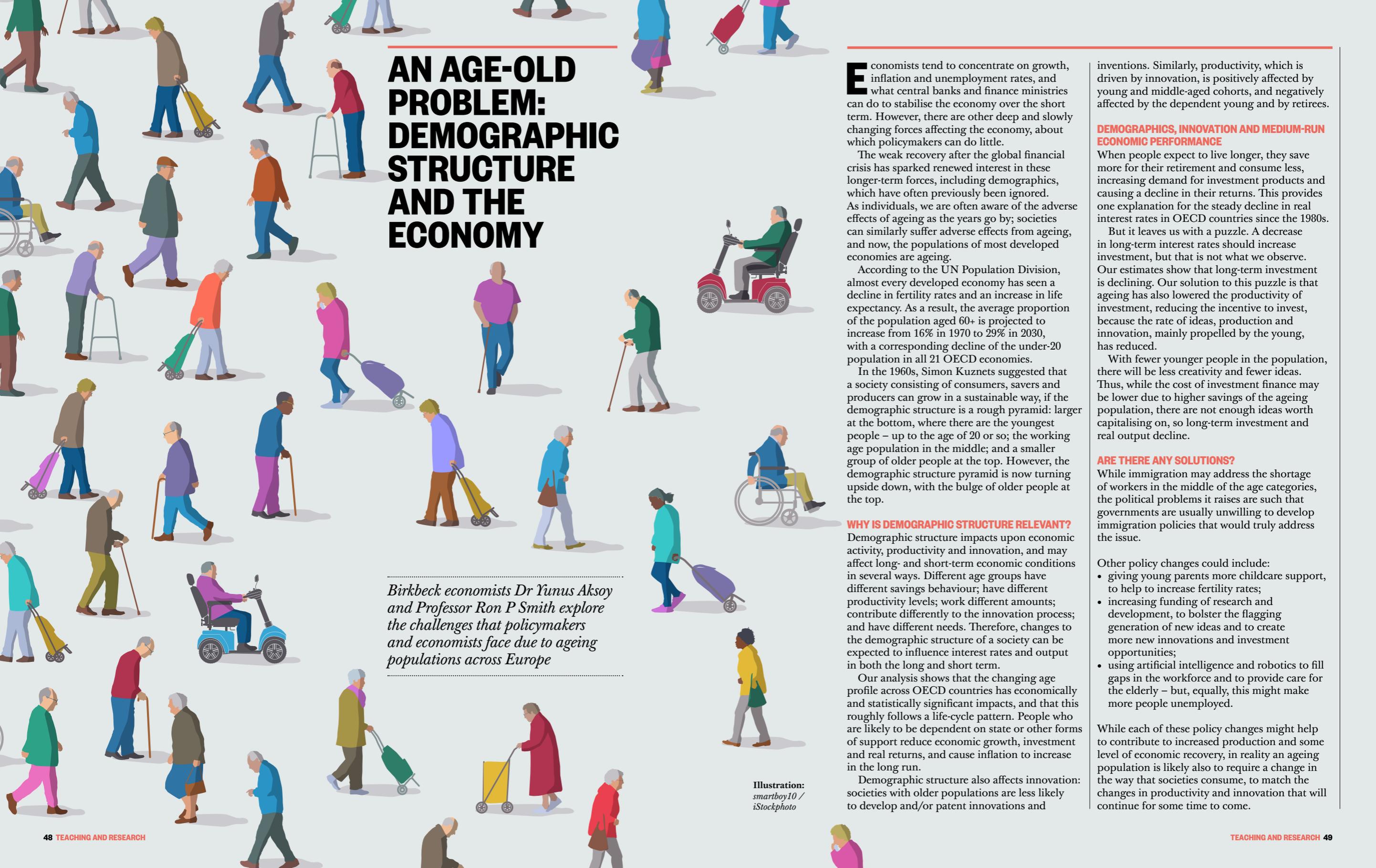
that just the impression of a face – in this case, three dots and a round boundary – is enough to change behaviour. This 'proto-face' drawn onto a pillow triggered the left-cradling bias, replicating the significance of left-cradling bias observed with the dolls (and also seen when mothers hold real babies).

Without them being made aware of the purpose of our investigation, we asked key teachers for each child participant to complete a survey, based on social-developmental milestones for five-year-olds. Our findings indicated that children who held the doll in their left arm scored higher on social ability tests, compared with right-side holders. The results suggest that those with a predisposition to cradle on the left (engaging the left visual field and the right hemisphere) benefit from enhanced social abilities, compared to their right-cradling counterparts. We are currently following up with a population of more than 100 children with autism, in order to understand the variance of behavioural biases across typical and atypical populations.

The findings might sound rather trivial with respect to child development, but there are far-reaching implications for understanding how behavioural biases can act as markers of social and communication development in children. Currently, diagnosing children with neurodevelopmental disorders occurs relatively late – primarily based on social and communication deficits after the age of two.

The next stages of my research will map the development of motor behaviours and cognitive ability during infancy, to reveal how behavioural biases support healthy development and when a weakened – or absence of – bias (as found in autism) might be a 'marker of risk' for atypical development. Identifying these markers informs the development of earlier diagnostic tests to improve the quality of life for the affected individuals and their families.

Dr Gillian Forrester is a senior lecturer in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Birkbeck



AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM: DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE AND THE ECONOMY

Birkbeck economists Dr Yunus Aksoy and Professor Ron P Smith explore the challenges that policymakers and economists face due to ageing populations across Europe

Economists tend to concentrate on growth, inflation and unemployment rates, and what central banks and finance ministries can do to stabilise the economy over the short term. However, there are other deep and slowly changing forces affecting the economy, about which policymakers can do little.

The weak recovery after the global financial crisis has sparked renewed interest in these longer-term forces, including demographics, which have often previously been ignored. As individuals, we are often aware of the adverse effects of ageing as the years go by; societies can similarly suffer adverse effects from ageing, and now, the populations of most developed economies are ageing.

According to the UN Population Division, almost every developed economy has seen a decline in fertility rates and an increase in life expectancy. As a result, the average proportion of the population aged 60+ is projected to increase from 16% in 1970 to 29% in 2030, with a corresponding decline of the under-20 population in all 21 OECD economies.

In the 1960s, Simon Kuznets suggested that a society consisting of consumers, savers and producers can grow in a sustainable way, if the demographic structure is a rough pyramid: larger at the bottom, where there are the youngest people – up to the age of 20 or so; the working age population in the middle; and a smaller group of older people at the top. However, the demographic structure pyramid is now turning upside down, with the bulge of older people at the top.

WHY IS DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE RELEVANT?

Demographic structure impacts upon economic activity, productivity and innovation, and may affect long- and short-term economic conditions in several ways. Different age groups have different savings behaviour; have different productivity levels; work different amounts; contribute differently to the innovation process; and have different needs. Therefore, changes to the demographic structure of a society can be expected to influence interest rates and output in both the long and short term.

Our analysis shows that the changing age profile across OECD countries has economically and statistically significant impacts, and that this roughly follows a life-cycle pattern. People who are likely to be dependent on state or other forms of support reduce economic growth, investment and real returns, and cause inflation to increase in the long run.

Demographic structure also affects innovation: societies with older populations are less likely to develop and/or patent innovations and

inventions. Similarly, productivity, which is driven by innovation, is positively affected by young and middle-aged cohorts, and negatively affected by the dependent young and by retirees.

DEMOGRAPHICS, INNOVATION AND MEDIUM-RUN ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

When people expect to live longer, they save more for their retirement and consume less, increasing demand for investment products and causing a decline in their returns. This provides one explanation for the steady decline in real interest rates in OECD countries since the 1980s.

But it leaves us with a puzzle. A decrease in long-term interest rates should increase investment, but that is not what we observe. Our estimates show that long-term investment is declining. Our solution to this puzzle is that ageing has also lowered the productivity of investment, reducing the incentive to invest, because the rate of ideas, production and innovation, mainly propelled by the young, has reduced.

With fewer younger people in the population, there will be less creativity and fewer ideas. Thus, while the cost of investment finance may be lower due to higher savings of the ageing population, there are not enough ideas worth capitalising on, so long-term investment and real output decline.

ARE THERE ANY SOLUTIONS?

While immigration may address the shortage of workers in the middle of the age categories, the political problems it raises are such that governments are usually unwilling to develop immigration policies that would truly address the issue.

Other policy changes could include:

- giving young parents more childcare support, to help to increase fertility rates;
- increasing funding of research and development, to bolster the flagging generation of new ideas and to create more new innovations and investment opportunities;
- using artificial intelligence and robotics to fill gaps in the workforce and to provide care for the elderly – but, equally, this might make more people unemployed.

While each of these policy changes might help to contribute to increased production and some level of economic recovery, in reality an ageing population is likely also to require a change in the way that societies consume, to match the changes in productivity and innovation that will continue for some time to come.

Illustration:
smartboy10 /
iStockphoto



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY: ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS AND FRAUD

Tiggey May and Dr Bina Bhardwa describe how organised crime has evolved – and why it is such a challenge for the police



I JUST WANTED MONEY. EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS MINTED. I SAW OTHERS WITH FLASHY CARS, YOU SEE EVERYONE AT IT AND YOU JUST WANT IT.

Image:
Westend61/
Getty Images

Over the last 25 years, the nature of organised crime and the types of criminality associated with it have evolved. As a result, the way we view, understand and respond to organised crime in the UK and across the globe has changed. While fraud is not a new crime, the scale and sophistication of its commission by organised criminals has made it “the characteristic crime of the twenty-first century”, as described by Dr Jay S Albanese (Virginia Commonwealth University). Fraud is now considered one of the most lucrative activities for criminal organisations.

To gain a better understanding of organised fraudsters, we undertook a two-year study to establish whether organised crime groups (OCGs) involved in fraud were becoming more structured, more organised and more versatile in their criminal activity. To this end, we examined the routes into, and experiences of, organised fraud from the perspectives of both convicted organised fraudsters and the enforcement professionals who endeavour to stop it. We also analysed the OCG Mapping Data held by the National Crime Agency.

ROUTES INTO ORGANISED CRIME

Interviews with 31 convicted organised fraudsters reveal that while there are criminals who were unintentionally drawn in by OCGs, the majority made an intentional and conscious choice to become involved in organised crime and fraud, and were driven by financial gain. One interviewee explained: “I just wanted money. Everyone around me was minted. I saw others with flashy cars, you see everyone at it and you just want it.”

Some committed fraud by exploiting loopholes within legitimate occupations and by building it into business plans and actively seeking out fraud as a way of making money; others were either involved politically or had political connections and used these positions and networks to facilitate their route into organised economic crime. For the remainder, the route into organised fraud was through either ‘targeted’ or ‘serendipitous’ recruitment by existing OCGs.

Professional enablers – solicitors, accountants, financial advisers, bank managers and mortgage brokers – all assisted in the criminal activity of our interviewees, as did bank clerks, staff at retail outlets, postal workers, firemen, doormen and casino staff. Enablers were viewed as essential business assets by nearly all of our interviewees. Bank clerks and middle managers sold credit details to OCGs, solicitors sidestepped due diligence procedures to facilitate the approval of fraudulent mortgage applications, and

firemen provided universal locking keys to exclusive mansion blocks. Some enablers earned thousands of pounds enabling the fraudulent activity of OCGs.

POLICING ORGANISED FRAUDSTERS

Interviews with 44 enforcement professionals made clear that policing organised fraud is viewed as time-consuming, complex and challenging. Investigations tend to take years rather than months to reach a conclusion, are incredibly complex and often involve work across jurisdictions. Offenders, by contrast, describe the ease with which money and offending cross borders.

The police spoke of technological and resourcing constraints as everyday difficulties. One police interviewee said: “There’s no quick jobs in this area of work, people don’t understand, particularly the public. One job took me 18 months, involved £11m and had seven defendants. You just don’t know what you’re going to find [when you begin the investigation].”

None of the offenders interviewed viewed either enforcement or the risk of incarceration as problematic. Many were able to move and devalue their assets prior to conviction, and none were particularly perturbed by the prospect of a prison sentence. Sentences for our 31 interviewees ranged from 18 months for money laundering to 17 years for (organised) Customs and Revenue fraud. For many, their prison sentence was spent with their co-defendants, with one even sharing a cell with his co-defendant.

WHERE NEXT?

There are many routes into organised fraud, and a diverse range of individuals engage in this type of criminality, with differing organisational structures supporting those involved. Preventing individuals from becoming victims, deterring professionals from enabling organised fraud and pursuing organised criminals demands a coordinated and properly resourced partnership approach by the full range of enforcement agencies.

With OCGs continually evolving their structures and tactics, organised fraud is likely to remain an attractive prospect to many individuals, while enforcement agencies find themselves stymied in their efforts by lack of resource and the increasing complexity and sophistication of the structure of OCGs.

Organised Crime Groups Involved in Fraud by Tiggey May and Bina Bhardwa, from Birkbeck’s Institute of Policy Research, is published by Palgrave Macmillan

THE INSECURITY CYCLE

What prompts major shifts in social and economic policy? Dr Sue Konzelmann says the relationship between labour, finance and social welfare must be reframed, if we are not to get stuck in a destructive cycle of insecurity

Following the most serious financial and economic crises since the Great Depression, the question of why policy doesn't always change when it looks as though it ought to, has been a regular topic of debate. This is especially true of Britain, where the combination of the lack of a fixed, written constitution and the nature of its political and institutional system – in theory at least – makes it more prone to change than much of the rest of Europe.

Examination of the major shifts in policy since the dawn of industrial capitalism reveals an 'insecurity cycle' at work. This policy cycle is driven by opposing interest groups – working classes on the one side and capitalists on the other – applying pressure on policymakers, to support their own position and interests.

Following periods of market liberalisation, in response to the insecurity associated with rising unemployment, poverty and inequality, those who have been negatively affected put pressure on policymakers for social intervention and protection. However, this inevitably triggers a counter-response by capital and by those with a comparatively higher income and wealth, who pressurise policymakers to scale back social protections and to liberalise markets. The perceived 'zero-sum' nature of this ongoing contest usually means that a gain for one side is seen as a loss by the other – inevitably resulting in push-back and the continuation of the cycle.

READY FOR CHANGE?

The significant asymmetry of power between the forces of free market capitalism and the social welfare state has meant that movement towards social interventionism has typically been long and drawn out, while shifts towards market liberalisation have been relatively abrupt. Examination of major policy shifts from the Industrial Revolution to the present suggests that four main factors produce the conditions for change.

First, a crisis tends to be a driving force for policy shift – usually a crisis of considerable duration, but such a 'chronic' crisis may be

exacerbated by shorter, acute crises.

Second is democratic pressure – usually at its peak during elections, but it can also be highly influential in between elections. Over the years, this has taken different forms: trade unions, the expansion of the vote and, more recently, socially based movements (such as Momentum) on the social welfare side of the insecurity cycle.

But not all democratic pressure is on this side of the cycle. The 1978–1979 'Winter of Discontent' produced a tide that swept Margaret Thatcher into office, illustrating the two remaining factors: new – or at least different – policy ideas; and credible political backing. Both of these were present in 1979: major change was produced by a combination of new ideas and a credible political leader, emerging



IT IS A POLICY CYCLE NOT PRIMARILY DRIVEN BY NUMBERS AND DATA, BUT RATHER BY FEELINGS OF UNFAIRNESS, HOPELESSNESS AND, IN SOME CASES, ANGER AND FEAR

after several years of the chronic crisis of the 1970s and finally triggered by the acute crisis of the Winter of Discontent – which came shortly before the next general election.

Change was therefore almost as inevitable in 1979 (albeit in the opposite direction) as it had been in 1945, with the combination of the chronic crisis of the interwar years, the acute crisis of World War Two, the new ideas of John Maynard Keynes and the Labour Party, and an 'electable socialist' in the form of Clement Attlee.

The policy changes implemented after the elections of Attlee and Thatcher represent the two complete turns of the insecurity cycle so far, with the move to the left taking over 150 years, and the move back to the right a scant 35 years. There have, however, been many smaller shifts that could just about be accommodated within the existing policy paradigm.

HOPE AND FEAR VERSUS NUMBERS AND DATA

The insecurity cycle is also a useful way of helping to make sense of current events both in Europe and on the other side of the Atlantic. It is a policy cycle not primarily driven by numbers and data, but rather by feelings of unfairness, hopelessness and, in some cases, anger and fear.

As the Brexit campaign revealed, such feelings are difficult to dissipate by politicians citing indicators such as GDP or 'happiness' coefficients in defence of the status quo, rather than implementing substantive changes in policy. From this perspective, the sharp polarisation between support for the UK's continued membership of the European Union and those who feel it is damaging, begins to make considerably more sense. Similarly, in the US, there is a schism between Hillary Clinton's supporters and those who voted for Trump, because they feel that they've lost out as a result of globalisation.

Is the insecurity cycle an inevitable part of policymaking? Perhaps – and if both sides continue to see it as a zero-sum game, then almost certainly.

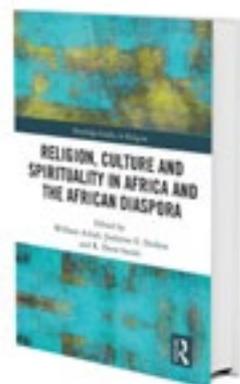
However, what if the relationship between labour, finance and the social welfare state could be fundamentally changed? Continued technological change, as well as expanding populations – both in a context of finite resources – suggest an uncomfortable intensification of the insecurity cycle, if this is not at least attempted.

Sue Konzelmann is a Reader in Management at Birkbeck. *Labour, Finance and Inequality: The Insecurity Cycle in British Public Policy*, by Suzanne Konzelmann et al, is published by Routledge

Image:
Jdmsd8yea/
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BIRKBECK BOOKS

A selection of books authored or edited by our academics



Religion, Culture and Spirituality in Africa and the African Diaspora

William Ackah, co-ed.,
Routledge

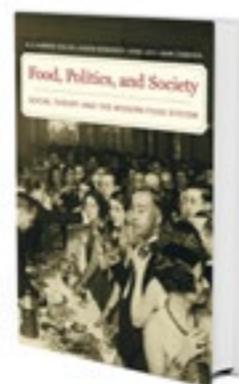
Lecturer in Community and Voluntary Sector Studies Dr William Ackah explores the ways in which religious ideas and beliefs continue to play a crucial role in the lives of people of African descent; and how they develop and engage with spiritual rituals, organisations and practices to make sense of their lives, challenge injustices and creatively express their spiritual imaginings.



Dura-Europos

Jennifer Baird, Bloomsbury

Evidence from inscriptions, parchment and graffiti excavated from Dura-Europos, one of Syria's most important archaeological sites, shows it to be one of impressive religious and linguistic diversity. This book draws its material from the work of Dr Jennifer Baird, Reader in Archaeology, in excavating the site as well as extensive archival research. It provides an overview of the site and its history, and traces the story of its investigation – from archaeological discovery to contemporary destruction.



Food, Politics, and Society: Social Theory and the Modern Food System

Alex Colas, Jason Edwards, Sami Zubaida et al.,
University of California Press

Food and drink has been a focal point of modern social theory since the inception of agrarian capitalism and the Industrial Revolution. From Adam Smith to Mary Douglas, major thinkers have used key concepts such as identity, exchange, culture and class to explain the modern food system. In this book, academics from the Department of Politics offer a historical and sociological survey of how these various ideas and practices have shaped our understanding and organisation of production, processing, preparation and consumption of food and drink.



The Transformation of EU Treaty Making: The Rise of Parliaments, Referendums and Courts since 1950

Dermot Hodson and Imelda Maher, Cambridge University Press

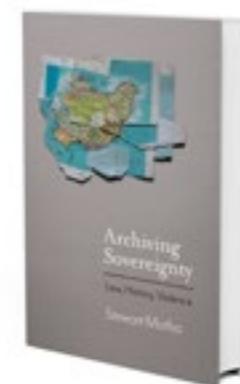
Treaty making is a site of struggle between those who claim the authority to speak and act on the international stage. The EU is an important test case in this respect, because the manner in which the European Union and its member states make treaties has shifted significantly over the last six decades. Dr Dermot Hodson, Reader in Political Economy, and his co-author draw on insights from EU law, comparative constitutionalism and international relations to show how treaty making has transformed in the EU and its member states, and why parliaments, the people and courts have entered a domain once dominated by governments.



Contemporary Trotskyism: Parties, Sects and Social Movements in Britain

John Kelly, Routledge

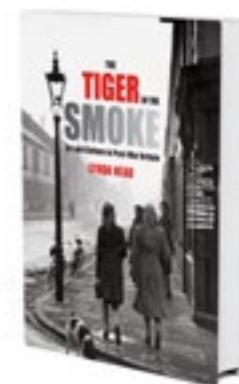
No Trotskyist group has ever led a revolution or built an enduring mass political party, yet Trotskyist organisations remain in 57 countries almost 80 years after Leon Trotsky founded the Fourth International. In this book, Professor of Industrial Relations John Kelly looks at the influence, resilience and weaknesses of the British Trotskyist movement from the 1970s to today.



Archiving Sovereignty: Law, History, Violence

Stewart Motha,
University of Michigan Press

Professor Stewart Motha, Dean of Law, provides an account of how courts use fiction in their treatment of sovereign violence. Law's complicity with neocolonial practices can be seen when courts inscribe the fabulous tales that provide an alibi for archaic sovereign acts that persist in the present. The United Kingdom's depopulation of islands in the Indian Ocean to serve the neo-imperial interests of the United States, Australia's exile and abandonment of refugees on remote islands, and the memorial work of the South African Constitution after apartheid are among the fictions considered in this book.



The Tiger in the Smoke: Art and Culture in Post-war Britain

Lynda Nead,
Yale University Press

Taking an interdisciplinary approach that looks at film, television and advertisements, as well as more traditional media such as painting, Professor Lynda Nead from the Department of History of Art provides an unprecedented analysis of the art and culture of post-war Britain. Tracing the parallel ways that different media developed new methods of creating images that hark back to Victorian ideals, this book gives a complete picture of how the visual culture of post-war Britain expressed the concerns of a society that was struggling to forge a new identity.



Histories of Bioinvasions in the Mediterranean

Ana Isabel Quieroz and Simon Pooley, eds., Springer

Bioinvasion is a current top research subject for natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and a major concern for conservationists, land managers and planners. In the last decades, new perspectives have revealed the challenges of dealing with invasive species that harm ecosystems, economy and human welfare. Dr Simon Pooley, Lambert Lecturer in Environment, and his co-editor bring together environmental historians and natural scientists to share their insight into the human dimensions of biological invasions from the ancient past to the present.

NEW PROFESSORS

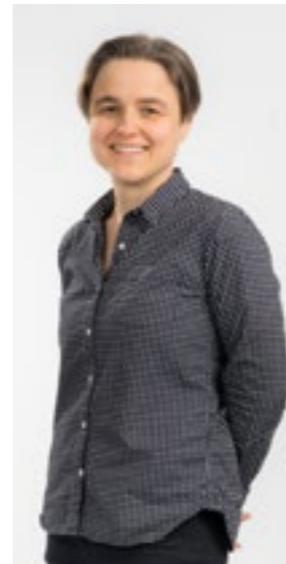
A selection of professorial appointments and promotions at Birkbeck



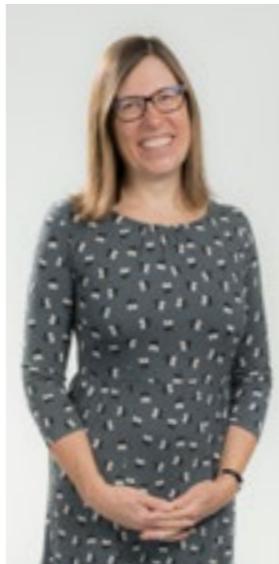
Maria Aristodemou, Professor of Law, is also Assistant Dean (Head of Law) in the School of Law. Her research pioneered the interdisciplinary study of Law and Literature in UK law schools in the early 1990s, and is now at the forefront of interdisciplinary studies in legal and psychoanalytic theory, particularly in its Lacanian manifestations.



Lisa Baraitser, Professor of Psychosocial Theory, researches the relation between time and care, and currently leads a large Wellcome project, 'Waiting Times', on the temporalities of healthcare. She has published extensively on motherhood, gender and sexuality, and psychoanalytic theory, and is the author of the award-winning monograph *Maternal Encounters: The Ethics of Interruption* (Routledge, 2009) and of *Enduring Time* (Bloomsbury, 2017).



Heike Bauer, Professor of Modern Literature and Cultural History, has published widely on literature and the modern history of sexuality. Her most recent book is *The Hirschfeld Archives: Violence, Death, and Modern Queer Culture* (Temple University Press, 2017). She is the founding director of Birkbeck Interdisciplinary Gender and Sexuality Studies (BiGS) and sits on the editorial boards of the journals *History of Human Sciences* and *Australian Feminist Studies*.



Joanne Leal, Professor of German Studies, researches twentieth- and twenty-first-century German literature and film. She is particularly interested in social issues, such as migration, social exclusion, Islamophobia, gender and sexuality. She has produced two books, the most recent of which was *Picturing the Family* with Silke Arnold-de Simine in 2018 (see page 32).



Julia Lovell, Professor of Modern Chinese History and Literature, joined Birkbeck in 2007. Her research focuses on the relationship between culture and modern Chinese nation-building, and she is currently working on a global history of Maoism. She is the author of four books, and has translated numerous others.



Luciana Martins, Professor of Latin American Visual Cultures, specialises in visual and material culture, historical geography and digital humanities. She was the Director of the Centre for Iberian and Latin American Visual Studies from 2007 to 2016. She is currently a Visiting Researcher at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, co-directing research on biocultural collections from Amazonia.



Almuth McDowall, Professor of Organizational Psychology, has a strong commitment to research with relevance to practice in the field of organisational and occupational psychology, such as work-life balance, workplace coaching, and professional development and performance. She has won several awards for her research and commitment to furthering the practice of psychology in the UK workplace.



Maura Paterson, Professor of Mathematics, obtained a PhD in Mathematics from Royal Holloway, University of London, where she went on to postdoctoral research on projects relating to algebraic cryptanalysis and to key management in sensor networks, before joining Birkbeck in 2009. Her research interests are combinatorial mathematics and information security.



Kate Retford, Professor of History of Art, researches eighteenth-century British art. Since joining Birkbeck in 2003, she has published articles and several books on the portraiture of the period, the country house art collection, and issues around gender.



Irene Bruna Seu, Professor of Psychosocial Studies, joined Birkbeck in 2000, having worked as a psychotherapist for over a decade prior to that. Her research focuses on human rights and humanitarianism, social responsibility and helping behaviour. She is the author of four books.



Paul Watt, Professor of Urban Studies, has published widely on social housing, urban regeneration, the London housing crisis, homelessness, gentrification, and the London 2012 Olympics. His most recent books are *Social Housing and Urban Renewal: A Cross-national Perspective* (Emerald, 2017), and *London 2012 and the Post-Olympics City: A Hollow Legacy?* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). He co-chairs the Haringey Fairness Commission.



Karen Wells, Professor of Human Geography, is the Programme Director of Birkbeck's MSc Children, Youth and International Development. Her research interests include the impact of international politics, law and economy on children, visual cultures of childhood and visual research methods. She is the author of *Childhood in a Global Perspective* (Polity, 2014, 2nd edn) and *Childhood Studies: Making Young Subjects* (Polity, 2017).

WORKING WITH THE DEAD

Carla Valentine explains what drew her to her unusual career, working first as a mortician and then as curator of Barts Pathology Museum – and how Birkbeck's MA Museum Cultures complements her day-to-day work

work with the dead, and people find that unusual. Whether it was during my years carrying out autopsies or my current job conserving Victorian human remains, I'm always asked the same question: "What made you want to do that?!" It's difficult to answer, because I've wanted to work with the dead for as long as I can remember. I loved biology from the moment I started school. I considered it a calling, like those experienced by people entering the priesthood; something that I just needed to do. But I could have worked in any biological field, so why pathology specifically? I think I was shaped by witnessing my grandfather's death.

My granddad, Frederick, gratefully took the weight off his legs and sat back into his favourite chair with a gravelly sigh, which metamorphosed into a smoker's cough.

Just after he sank back into his chair that day, he began to convulse. From my vantage point at his slippered feet, I looked up at him, but found myself staring into the face of death itself. My granddad's eyes rolled back into his head, one lone droplet of blood trickled from the corner of his lips and painted a delicate crimson trail across his crêpey cheek. Then, like an exclamation point, his dentures comically shot out of his mouth and landed on the carpet with a thud. I don't remember who it was who wrenched me away from the scene, but the implication was clear: this was something a child shouldn't see.

My granddad had suffered a massive stroke. He didn't technically die in that chair, but he never recovered once he reached the hospital. My brief encounter with death may have just frightened lesser children, but I was also

Right: Carla Valentine
(Adam Gerrard)



“
**I WAS LIKE
A TINY DR
FRANKENSTEIN
WITH PIGTAILS
AND KNEE
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ANSWERS TO
PROLONGING
LIFE - OR
AT LEAST
PREDICTING
DEATH**”

fascinated and saw this enigmatic and insolent Grim Reaper as a challenge. An inquisitive, precocious and determined child, I went about the task of demystifying death, so I could have power over it and free myself from future fear.

I'd been fascinated by the body and how it worked before I associated the miracle of life with inevitable death: a lesson I had learned at my dying grandfather's feet. After that fateful day, I wanted to know what had happened to his body, to snuff out his life so quickly, like a clockwork toy shuddering to a stop just before the key stops turning. I was like a tiny Dr Frankenstein with pigtails and knee socks, searching for answers to prolonging life – or at least predicting death.

The more you know about something, the more you can control it. In the case of tragedy, demystifying it helps to regain control of the emotions, and I did that with death.

Over the years, I gained experience of embalming, forensics, post-mortems of adults and the young, decomposed and freshly deceased, radioactive decedents and those with highly infectious diseases.

After nearly a decade of working alongside pathologists, I became more aware of the variety of ways in which we may encounter the deceased today: in the post-mortem sector, at medical schools and on public display.

Fascinated by the concept of our interaction with the dead in the public arena, I sidestepped from dealing with the recently deceased to becoming the curator of Barts Pathology Museum. Although my work now involves human remains around a century old, the basic method is very similar: it's my job to 'read' these human remains in order to find out about how they died, then decide why this is relevant for a public audience.

I was therefore thrilled when I discovered the MA Museum Cultures at Birkbeck, which gave me the option to study Exhibiting the Body as a module and then carry out an independent research project and a dissertation of my own choosing. Now I work with human remains and research their display at Master's level, with my day-to-day work supplementing my studies and vice versa – it's ideal!

Carla's book *Past Mortems: Life and Death Behind Mortuary Doors* is published by Sphere.

Barts Pathology Museum houses over 5,000 medical specimens, representing a wide range of medical conditions through the ages. Based in St Bartholomew's Hospital, the collection explores a range of issues across medicine and medical humanities through a programme of public events and guided tours.

FROM LIMA TO LONDON

A new way of studying opened the doors to a successful finance career for Peruvian MSc Economics alumnus Carlos Anderson

In 1987, Carlos Anderson was in the final year of his undergraduate degree in Lima, Peru, when he was selected via a competitive process to work as a journalist for the BBC World Service in London. After five years already spent working towards a qualification, it was a difficult decision to move away without completing the degree, but Carlos felt that this was an opportunity that he couldn't turn down.

Once settled in London, Carlos began looking for a way to finish his studies. He recalls a front-page article in the *Financial Times*, which favourably compared Birkbeck's economics department with those of Oxford and Cambridge. Of course, Birkbeck also enabled him to complete his studies while continuing to work during the daytime at the BBC World Service. As he hadn't quite completed his undergraduate programme, Carlos began by studying a Graduate Diploma in Economics and, after studying hard and achieving good results, enrolled on the Master's programme.

Carlos says: "Birkbeck provided me with the most wonderful education I could imagine. I remember one lecturer coming to class with a copy of the day's *Financial Times* and beginning the lecture based on that day's news. Economics became something real, not just something to read about in books, which was the way I had experienced it in Peru."

Shortly after graduating from Birkbeck, Carlos saw an advertisement for a senior economist role at The Economist Intelligence Unit. He says: "Without the degree from Birkbeck, I couldn't even have considered a position like that". From The Economist Intelligence Unit, Carlos moved into the banking sector, holding roles including Chief Latin America economist at UBS, and Senior Vice President of the global Mergers and Acquisitions team at Lehman Brothers, and he spent the next 15 years based in New York and London.

In 2006, Carlos decided to move back to his native Peru, where he worked as a political, financial and economic commentator in newspapers, radio and television. In 2006, he established Europa Partners, a boutique investment bank, with former colleagues in London. In 2012, he was asked to join the Peruvian government as Director of Foresight at the National Centre for Strategic Planning, later becoming its President.

Carlos is clear that things he learned at Birkbeck have been useful throughout his career but, more than just knowledge and skills, he credits Birkbeck with giving him a new attitude to learning and self-development. It is that which he now tries to impart to his own students, as he lectures at several prestigious Peruvian universities.

He says: "Education is not just accumulating pieces of knowledge; it's also about becoming a better person – and Birkbeck facilitates that. I was lucky to study with unforgettable lecturers, and I try to emulate the attitudes that I saw in them when approaching my own teaching: to be open and affable. One of the most important things that I learned at Birkbeck was to think critically about issues. This is very different to the way students learn in Peru, where there is always a 'right' or 'wrong' answer to a question. At Birkbeck, I learned that the process of reaching an answer can actually teach you more than the answer itself."

Carlos also credits his fellow students

Image: Carlos Anderson
(Institute of the Future)



with enriching his education. He recalls: "I arrived to classes tired after a day's work, but the conversations I had with classmates re-energised me and I became totally absorbed in class discussions. I always tried to arrive half an hour early to lectures, in order to have time in conversation with my classmates. In some ways, it seemed a bit unfair – I was still learning the 'ABCs' of corporate finance, but I had the opportunity to discuss big ideas with colleagues far more experienced than me, and they raised the level of the conversations I was having."

As well as trying to recreate the learning environment that he experienced at Birkbeck for his Peruvian students, Carlos has also transmitted his enthusiasm for the College to his own children, and his daughter is currently studying an MBA on Birkbeck's joint programme with Central St Martins. Carlos says: "As a fashion designer, my daughter worried about some of the more business-focused aspects of her course, but she now is able to talk confidently about business issues in a way that just a year ago she couldn't have".

Musing on what aspect of UK life he would most like to see adopted in Peru, Carlos is clear that it is the teaching of independent critical analysis to students. And his advice for Brits on what they could learn from Peruvians? "To enjoy life! Latin culture is famed for its parties and dancing. This might seem unimportant to successful business, but socialising and sports are great ways to build relationships too."



AT BIRKBECK, I LEARNED THAT THE PROCESS OF REACHING AN ANSWER CAN ACTUALLY TEACH YOU MORE THAN THE ANSWER ITSELF

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

Peter Stannett, who has athetoid cerebral palsy, feared that others' perceptions of his abilities would hold him back. Now a psychology graduate, with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Disease from Birkbeck, Peter looks back on the challenges he overcame to get here

Having always nurtured an interest in the health sciences, Peter Stannett's decision to study a Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Disease at Birkbeck seems a natural choice. In reality, though, it represents a struggle that began when he first thought about applying to university elsewhere for his undergraduate degree.

Originally seeking a highly practical scientific course, Peter was persuaded back then to opt for psychology at undergraduate level, as a careers advisor sought to accommodate what they thought would be limitations to undertaking practical laboratory work.

Frustrated, Peter explains: "My undergraduate psychology degree was not what I really wanted and, after graduating, I'd discovered discrimination towards disability within the profession.

"I then started looking at different postgraduate courses that were closer to my key area of interest, noting the practical content. I'd seen adverts for Birkbeck on the Underground and I was attracted to the idea of evening study, as I would be able to carry on working while getting a degree. I also liked the fact that Birkbeck is part of the University of London, meaning I would have access to high-quality teaching and facilities."

While combining work and study presents a significant challenge to any Birkbeck student, Peter faced a host of additional obstacles. Everyday activities, such as note-taking during a lecture, were more difficult, as were practical classes.

As Peter recalls: "Lack of dexterity and steadiness meant that measuring accurate volumes of liquid with a pipette or using Petri dishes to grow bacteria was very difficult. I received support from an assistant during practical classes, but the most useful support was



Above:
Peter Stannett
(Dominic Mifsud)

from other students – group activities meant that someone else could help with the work which needed a steady hand."

Citing the friendships he made as a highlight of his time at Birkbeck, Peter says: "My fellow students were very helpful. I enjoy the company of people who are keen to learn and understand." He says he benefited from making time for the networks available to him at Birkbeck, even with working and studying placing other demands on his time.

Peter's year at Birkbeck is just the tip of the iceberg: he already had three postgraduate qualifications before he started his postgraduate certificate here, and he has since gained another, allowing him to pursue study covering the breadth of his interests. Now, he encourages others to move past the barriers that stand in their way, by sharing his experience at Birkbeck's Open Evenings.

Peter concludes: "In my experience, universities provide outstanding support for their disabled students. However, there is some way to go before employers in general provide the same opportunities and support for disabled employees. I knew that gaining my university degrees would present challenges, but, despite all the barriers, I still wanted to increase my knowledge in the health sciences."

I ENJOY THE COMPANY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE KEEN TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND

NEW FELLOWS

Honorary Fellowships recognise outstanding service to the College or distinction in their fields



Kemi Badenoch MP won her seat for the Saffron Walden constituency at the 2017 General Election. She sits on the Justice Select Committee and the 1922 Executive Committee. She was previously a Conservative member of the London Assembly and worked in the financial services sector. Kemi graduated with a law degree from Birkbeck in 2009.



David Lammy MP has been the Labour Member of Parliament for his home constituency of Tottenham since 2000, re-elected for a sixth time at the 2017 General Election. He has been a long-time campaigner for lifelong learning and adult education. He was instrumental in establishing Birkbeck's outreach programme in Haringey.



Juliet Davenport OBE is founder and CEO of Good Energy, a renewable electricity supplier and generator. She is a member of the Natural Environment Research Council and the joint Advisory Board on Climate Change and Environmental Research at Imperial College London and the LSE. She graduated from Birkbeck with an MSc Economics in 1994.



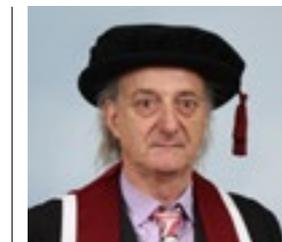
James Middleton is a Director of Ede & Ravenscroft, London's oldest tailor and robe maker. The company supports a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Birkbeck and has also provided support for an archivist, for PhD students and for student prizes. This College Fellowship recognises Ede & Ravenscroft's long-standing commitment to Birkbeck.



Professor Marianne Elliott OBE is Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool. She has played an important role in promoting Northern Ireland peace efforts. She lectured in history at Birkbeck for two years, before returning to Liverpool in 1993 as Professor of Modern History.



Sir Michael Wilshaw was the chief inspector of schools in England in his role as Head of Ofsted from 2012 to 2016. He studied part-time for a degree in History and Politics at Birkbeck, graduating in 1972. Throughout his career, he displayed a flair for turning around the fortunes of failing schools. He was also Director of Education at ARK Schools, a large multi-academy trust.



Professor Peter Goodrich was founding Dean of Birkbeck's School of Law, when it was re-established in the early 1990s. He has been director of the Program in Law and Humanities at Cardozo School of Law, New York, since 2000. As well as a prolific author of scholarly texts, he is also a film-maker and a published chef.



Professor the Baroness Wolf of Dulwich CBE is the Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management at King's College London and a cross-bench peer. She is currently on the expert panel for the government's Review of Post-18 Education and Funding. She has advised many governments and agencies on policy issues and has authored numerous publications.

NEW HUMANITARIAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Rebecca Dykes Chevening Scholarship will continue the work of the late Birkbeck alumna

Former MSc International Security and Global Governance student Rebecca Dykes was determined to contribute something positive to the world. She undertook pioneering work to help to stabilise some of the world's most fragile countries, including Libya, Iraq and Lebanon. She was tragically killed in Lebanon, while working for the British Embassy in 2017.

Rebecca's legacy will be a lasting one of hope and compassion. A foundation set up by her family will continue her work by supporting refugees, with a particular focus on empowering and preventing violence against women. The establishment of the Rebecca Dykes Chevening Scholarship will enable a Lebanese or Palestinian woman to pursue a Master's degree at Birkbeck each year, in areas related to the fields in which Rebecca worked.

CONTINUING REBECCA'S WORK

Joelle Badran, a youth development worker at UNICEF, is the first recipient of this scholarship. She joined Birkbeck from Lebanon in 2018 to study for an MSc Children, Youth and International Development.

Joelle says: "My work with UNICEF Lebanon required me to respond to the needs of the most marginalised children and young people affected by the Syrian crisis. Children and young people in Lebanon are highly affected by the impact of the devastating political and economic situations, and increasingly exposed to violation and violence at home, in the community and at school. This can result in long-term physical, psychological and emotional trauma.

"It is our responsibility as humanitarians to provide them with a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. My interest in the development sector has increased through



my enriching experience with UNICEF, and I wanted to return to the academic world for further growth. I selected this course with the aim of enhancing my professional capacities and skills in the field of international development with a focus on children and youth studies in particular.

"I hope in the future I will be able to respond to the huge need for development projects in my country, building community service projects for children, adolescents and youth, in order to promote the spirit of social responsibility.

"Being the first recipient of the Rebecca Dykes Chevening Scholarship is a deep honour for me. I highly admire how her family, friends and colleagues have turned the tragedy of her death to a positive initiative and a foundation that aims to continue the magnificent work that Rebecca cared about so deeply."

Rebecca is remembered by her tutors for her enthusiasm, her ambition and her energy.



REBECCA'S LEGACY WILL BE A LASTING ONE OF HOPE AND COMPASSION

Above: Joelle Badran, first recipient of the Rebecca Dykes Chevening Scholarship (Dominic Mifsud)



WHY I GIVE

Andy Lennard studied BSc International Relations and Global Politics at Birkbeck. He is chairman of the Texel Group, which he founded in 1997, and a trustee of the Texel Foundation, which supports Birkbeck

A number of years ago, I was stretchered off a plane at Heathrow in extreme pain with acute pancreatitis. For a few days, it really was touch and go whether I would pull through. But having faced my mortality and won, I created a list of activities I wanted to complete before I did eventually depart this earth.

Getting a degree was one of them. Prior to Birkbeck, I had achieved five O-levels (the forerunner of GCSEs) and one A-level. I was fortunate to go far without attending university. After 17 years working for the largest international trading companies as Treasurer, Global Head of Structured Finance and a trader in oil and metals, based in Madrid and Amsterdam, I decided to start on my own, creating one of the largest independent political and credit-risk insurance brokers in the world.

The Texel Group is widely respected for its innovation and service levels, in what is an increasingly complex geopolitical and credit environment, with offices in London, Singapore, the US and Costa Rica. The lack of any formal degree never hindered my advancement in business, nor my appreciation of what this world has to offer, but I always felt that I was missing something.

I applied to Birkbeck because the international

relations and global politics degree was so complementary to my career, and also because it gave me the opportunity to continue working at Texel. I planned long-haul flights specifically and took on board huge amounts of reading material. Weekends were spent poring over documents or going to the Birkbeck Library.

During my four years at the College, I met many people from all walks of life: Birkbeck is a glorious, wondrous melting pot of energy that produces creative, hard-working talents with independence of mind and spirit. Some of those students, due to their circumstances, face enormous daily challenges to achieve their goals.

Of course, Birkbeck doesn't stop once you graduate. As an alumnus, I am pleased to be able to continue my involvement, by providing financial support to students in need, through the Texel Foundation. Social mobility is critical for a vibrant democracy, and education at Birkbeck is at the forefront of this.

The College needs funding to fulfil its ambitions, whether through state or private sources, and I believe that those who are in a position to do so have a duty and responsibility to share their wealth. I'm proud that the Foundation provides ongoing support for the life-changing work that goes on at Birkbeck.



BIRKBECK IS A GLORIOUS, WONDROUS MELTING POT OF ENERGY THAT PRODUCES CREATIVE, HARD-WORKING TALENTS WITH INDEPENDENCE OF MIND AND SPIRIT

Above: Andy Lennard (© Philippa Gedge Photography)

OBITUARIES

The College pays tribute to former colleagues Sir Aaron Klug, Andrew Colin, Roderick Swanston, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood and Professor Geoff Whitty

Sir Aaron Klug OM FRS (1926–2018)

Birkbeck Fellow and Nobel Prize Winner

The Nobel Prize winner Sir Aaron Klug, who was a Fellow of Birkbeck and carried out ground-breaking research at the College, died on 20 November 2018, aged 92.

Klug was born in Lithuania to Jewish, Yiddish-speaking parents, and moved to South Africa at the age of two, where relatives of his mother lived. He undertook undergraduate and postgraduate study in South Africa – first enrolling to study medicine at the University of Witwatersrand, before his shifting interests led him to a degree in pure science. He then moved to the University of Cape Town to pursue a master's in physics, followed by a PhD at Cambridge.

After he was refused a visa to the United States in 1952, Klug returned to Britain to continue his research. He came to Birkbeck in 1954, where a chance meeting with Rosalind Franklin led to a collaboration that set the direction of Klug's subsequent career. Franklin shared with Klug her X-ray crystallography images of viruses, which Klug found fascinating. Franklin's experimental skills and Klug's strong theoretical mind proved the ideal combination for driving forward progress in unravelling virus assemblies, including greatly advancing knowledge of the structure of the Tobacco Mosaic Virus. The two continued to collaborate at Birkbeck, until Franklin's premature death from ovarian cancer in 1958.

In 1962, Klug returned to Cambridge, taking up a post at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB), of which he became director in 1986. Combining 2D electron microscope images taken from different angles, Klug developed techniques that could reveal the complete atomic structure of a molecule or biological complex. He used this technique to uncover the complexes of protein and nucleic acid in viruses and, in 1982, was the sole recipient of the Nobel Prize in chemistry for this work. His work in this area paved the way for recent major developments in electron microscopy as a central tool in structural biology.



Above:
Sir Aaron Klug

During his tenure as Director of the LMB, Klug was well-known for supporting female scientists. He also championed highly ambitious, large-scale projects, notably the genome sequencing of the nematode worm. He also had a key role in establishing the Wellcome Sanger Institute, which carried out around one third of the sequencing in the Human Genome Project.

Klug was knighted in 1988, and appointed to the Order of Merit in 1995, the same year that he became President of the Royal Society. During the five years of his leadership there, the Royal Society steered the scientific community through several controversial issues, including the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and its transmission to humans; the Human Genome Project; and debates around genetically modified food. Klug recognised the importance of the scientific community engaging with the public and did much to advance the Royal Society's work in this area.

Sir Aaron Klug was elected a Fellow of Birkbeck in 1994. He is survived by his wife Liebe and son David. Another son, Adam, died in 2000.

“**KLUG CHAMPIONED HIGHLY AMBITIOUS, LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS, NOTABLY THE GENOME SEQUENCING OF THE NEMATODE WORM**”

Andrew Colin (1936–2018)

Former Lecturer in Computer Science

A distinguished career in computer science education saw Andrew Colin, who was educated at Gordonstoun School and Oxford University, lecture at several UK universities, before setting up his own educational software company.

Andrew was an engaging and supportive lecturer at Birkbeck from 1957 to 1960. He later held the post of director of the computer laboratory at Lancaster University, and was the first lecturer in computer science at the University of Strathclyde.

Involved in university life beyond his retirement, Andrew will also be remembered for his love of hillwalking and singing.

He is survived by his wife Veronica, three children and five grandchildren.

Lord Sutherland of Houndwood (1941–2018)

Former Birkbeck Governor

Lord Sutherland's service on Birkbeck's Board of Governors (1988–1991) formed part of a lifelong commitment to education. Born and educated in Aberdeen, Stewart Sutherland's career in academia progressed swiftly, beginning as assistant lecturer at the University College of North Wales. Later he took on the roles of Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in England.

His dedication to public life continued in his appointment as a life peer, a role that he fulfilled actively until his death in January 2018.



Roderick Swanston (1948–2018)

Former Lecturer and Academic Adviser in Music

Roderick Swanston, former lecturer and academic adviser in music at Birkbeck, stalwart of the Birkbeck Summer School at Westonbirt, and President of the Birkbeck College Music Society, died unexpectedly in April. His lecturing and broadcasting took him all over the world. In his own words, “I am a jack of all trades, and Master of Arts”.

A man for whom the word ‘ebullient’ could have been invented, generations of students found him illuminating on his subject and also hugely entertaining. His interests were seemingly limitless, from art and film to detective fiction, and he was a generous and supportive colleague.

Professor Geoff Whitty CBE (1946–2018)

Former Birkbeck Governor

From his first position as a temporary teacher in Chiswick, Professor Geoff Whitty dived into an impressive career in education and academia, marked by a commitment to ending inequality in education.

In 1968, Geoff commenced teacher training at the (now UCL) Institute of Education, beginning a 50-year relationship with the institution, where he would later serve as Director (2000–2010) and Emeritus Director.

Geoff's extensive teaching career and commitment to tackling inequality made him a valuable member of Birkbeck's Board of Governors, of which he was a member from 2000–2008. He passed away peacefully in July 2018.

This page, from left to right: Andrew Colin, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, Roderick Swanston and Professor Geoff Whitty. For a full list of College obituaries, visit: bbk.ac.uk/about-us/obituaries/tributes-obituary-notice

THE LAST WORD



David Lammy MP, Member of Parliament for Tottenham, who was made a Fellow of Birkbeck in April 2018, reflects on the importance of flexible and accessible adult education for individuals, society and the economy

“ BIRKBECK IS A SHINING BEACON IN A FUTURE OF MIST AND FOG

When my mother arrived in London from Guyana, she was unskilled and unsure of her future. What she did have, however, was a relentless work ethic and a dedication to make a better life for herself. She spent two evenings a week at the local college. Without a doubt, it was this part-time education that enabled her to work her way up from a lowly secretary to a manager at Haringey council, while raising three children by herself.

All adults should have access to flexible and affordable education that furnishes them with the skills required by the modern job market, while accommodating their commitments as parents, caregivers and employees. Expanding the prospects for those who missed out as teenagers, adult education is hugely beneficial for the wider economy and society, increasing employability, while reducing mental illness and social isolation.

Birkbeck has served an invaluable role in improving access to education, vastly expanding employment opportunities and social mobility in this country. Birkbeck's impact will be intergenerational; by bestowing parents with the opportunity to gain a quality education, they are more equipped to help their own children navigate the increasingly complex education system and come out the other side with real and exciting prospects.

In April 2018, I was honoured to be awarded a College Fellowship by Birkbeck – an institution that embodies a commitment to lifelong learning. This really motivated me to continue campaigning for the protection of part-time learning in the face of a decline in the provision of flexible adult education. Night schools are slowly fading into darkness; a brutal blend of budget cuts and political neglect has decimated the availability of education for the working population.

The result of this is that British firms must increasingly seek skilled workers from beyond the British Isles, while British people are forced to work dead-end jobs. Feeding the dangerous rhetoric that “immigrants are taking our jobs”, this hides the truth that other countries have simply invested in adult education more than Britain has. This situation will not be helped if we leave the Single Market, which would make it harder for businesses to recruit from the European Union to fill the widening skills gap that is holding back our economy.

Birkbeck is a shining beacon in a future of mist and fog. We need to renew our culture of adult education and inspire a generation of night schools. I still have my mother's City & Guilds certificate. It represents what can be achieved when people are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Above:
David Lammy
MP receiving his
Fellowship from
Birkbeck
(*Ede & Ravenscroft*)

BBK

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