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RESEARCH FORUM

The magazine for Oxford Brookes research | Autumn 2016



Double trouble

The terrorists' alter ego

PLUS Exploring vernacular architecture | Demands on military service Reservists



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Contributions are welcome from all sections of the University and should be sent to researchforum@brookes.ac.uk

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“Our lead story is on the hard-hitting research into understanding the mindset of a terrorist and how this could help with spotting the early signs of radicalisation.”

Hello and welcome...

...to the Autumn 2016 edition of *Research Forum*, the magazine showcasing research excellence at Oxford Brookes University.

In this edition we focus on our Research Excellence Awards, launched in July they are part of our commitment to supporting research-active academics.

The standard of applications we received for this scheme were excellent and reflect the strength of research at the University. You can read more about the awards on pages 8-9.

There were 23 recipients of the inaugural awards from across all our faculties, and in this issue of *Research Forum* we take a look at four of them, their current research and how the funding will enhance this further.

Our lead story is on the hard-hitting research into understanding the mindset of a terrorist and how this could help with spotting the early signs of radicalisation.

We explore the importance of supporting late career development, particularly in an increasingly age diverse workforce, and also get to grips with a global research project aiming to enhance the study of vernacular architecture.

Our final feature reveals new research into the unexplored demands of military service on UK Reservists and their families.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our Research Excellence Awards, and we will be featuring more of these in the next edition.

As always we welcome your comments and suggestions, so please get in touch via researchforum@brookes.ac.uk

Professor Linda King

Pro Vice Chancellor,

Research and Global Partnerships

Research news

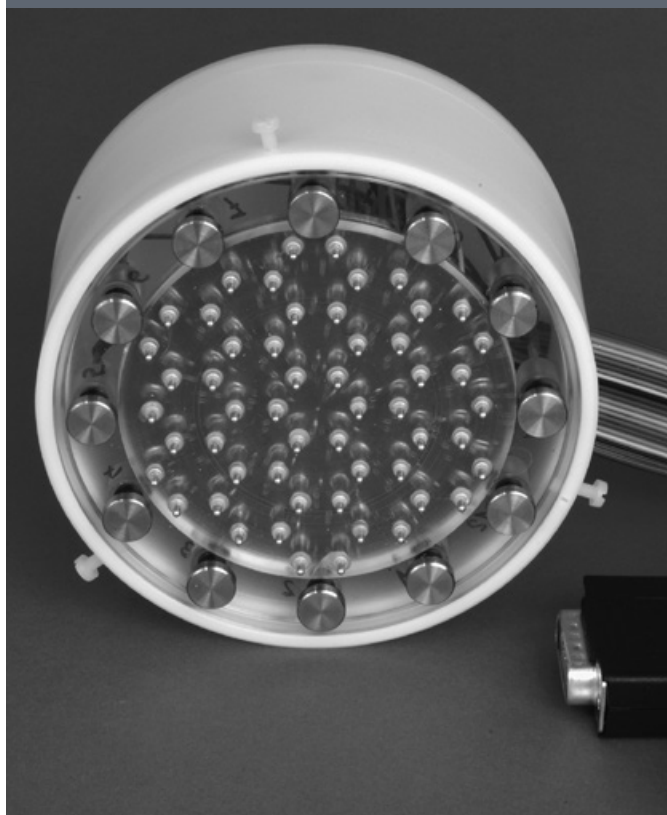
Researchers aim to improve breast cancer detection

Oxford Brookes has been collaborating with the University of Mainz in Germany to develop an alternative breast cancer detection technique.

Professor Khaled Hayatleh and former Brookes researcher Professor Christiana Sebu, now at the University of Malta, worked with researchers from the Institute of Physics at the University of Mainz on a concept which uses electrical impedance imaging, known as Electrical Impedance Mammography (EIM).

EIM could improve the specificity of the diagnosis in detecting breast cancer. Its use would also offer a number of advantages over traditional X-ray mammography including portability, lower costs, little or zero patient discomfort and no known patient risk or side effects.

In addition, the investigation can be performed by medical practitioners without special training, meaning that in underdeveloped medical facilities, EIM could provide a provisional replacement for a biopsy.



How food outlets can better cater to families

Researchers from the Oxford School of Hospitality Management at Oxford Brookes have worked with colleagues at the University of Queensland, Australia on a study tapping into the hospitality sector to shed light on the best ways to ensure an exceptional experience for families at food outlets.

Interviews were carried out in both the UK and Australia and addressed the knowledge gap by answering two questions: first, how is parenting and childcare provision performed within restaurants, cafes and pubs; and second, how do different aspects of hospitality provision, including the design and facilities, products and services as well as staff and customers, influence their experiences.

Following the study, the researchers put together top tips for hospitality operators to keep parents, carers and children coming back. The study was published in the April issue of the prestigious *International Journal of Hospitality Management*.

PhD student wins prestigious Royal Archives Fellowship

Daniel Reed, a PhD student studying History at Oxford Brookes University, is one of the first winners of the highly prestigious Royal Archives Fellowships.

The Fellowship, awarded jointly by the Royal Archives and King's College, London, will enable him to undertake his research at Windsor Castle which focusses on the 18th century ecclesiastical records of the royal household. This is part of Daniel's wider doctoral study of the Church and patronage during the 18th century under the supervision of Professors William Gibson and Joanne Begiato.



Hotter, drier summers have serious implications for the UK's ageing population

A new research study, Care provision fit for a future climate, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has found that summertime overheating in care facilities is both a current and future risk, yet there is little awareness or preparation to prevent the health risks posed to the UK's ageing population.

The study, led by Professor Rajat Gupta from the Low Carbon Building Group at Oxford Brookes University, found that due to a perception that older people 'feel the cold', it wasn't recognised that heat can also present a significant health risk. As a result, the design, commissioning and management of care schemes have focussed on providing warmth.

In all four cases studied, the heating was left on 24 hours a day even during summer months. The report suggests there is a need to raise awareness of heat risks in the care sector.

Fantasy play helps creative thinking in children

A study presented by Dr Louise Bunce to the annual conference of the British Psychological Society's Developmental Psychology Section, has found that engaging in fantasy play could benefit creative thinking in children

Dr Bunce and her team interviewed 70 children aged 4-8 years old to assess the extent that their fantasy play involved either real-life pretending e.g. having a tea party or pretending to be a teacher, improbable scenarios e.g. fighting a lion or going to school in a helicopter or impossible events e.g. going to wizarding school or playing with an elf. The children also completed three creativity tasks.

Analysis revealed that children who reported higher levels of fantastical play also received higher creativity scores across all three tasks and provided evidence for parents and teachers who could consider encouraging children to engage in fantasy play as one way to develop their creative thinking skills.



It's hard work being a smart girl

In a new book *Girlhood, Schools, and Media: Popular Discourses of the Achieving Girl*, published by Routledge, Senior Lecturer in Media, Culture and Education Michele Paule has explored how girls respond and relate to stories, both experienced and fictional, about 'smart' girls.

One of the findings of the research was how far back ideas about brilliant, erratic boys and dull, conscientious girls reach—right back to ancient Greece—and also how little scientific evidence there is underlying these ideas, even in an age of popularised neuroscience.

Yet girls, and those who work with them, still form the impression that their success is due to diligence rather than intelligence, that girls' hard work somehow skews exam results, defrauding boys of their rightful place at the top.

93 per-cent of people in local region willing to take part in clinical research

A survey led by Professor Janine Dermody and Dr Robert van der Veen from the Department of Marketing at Oxford Brookes, has found that 93 per-cent of people in the Thames Valley region feel they could make a positive contribution to public health by taking part in clinical research.

The study surveyed 506 local residents across Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes and was commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network Thames Valley and South Midlands, the local research delivery arm of the NHS. Questions were developed to identify local resident's awareness of clinical research and their attitudes towards it and getting involved.

Brookes hosts first University-wide student research conference

Undergraduate and postgraduate-taught Oxford Brookes students presented their diverse work at the Get Published! Student Research Conference held at the University earlier this year. This was the first time Brookes has held a University-wide conference of this type and it was one of the first in the country. Research ranging from the use of lasers to visualise plant responses to pests, the representation of food in 17th century Dutch paintings and cult mindsets linked to the radicalisations of terrorists were exhibited.



Better supporting secondary school children with hemiplegia

A leading, clinical expert in child movement disorders at Oxford Brookes has collaborated with charity HemiHelp to produce guidelines for teachers to support secondary school students with hemiplegia.

Dr Dido Green in the Department of Sport and Health Sciences invited a mixture of young students with hemiplegia to contribute to the pack. Other contributors included members of the charity, education experts and teachers, parents and psychologists.

Hemiplegia is a lifelong impairment caused by injury to the brain. It affects movement on one side of the body to a varying degree, and can also cause other less visible effects such as epilepsy, specific learning difficulties, anxiety or challenging behaviour.

Lecturer wins nursing award for cancer research

Research conducted by the Bone Cancer Research Trust Perceptions of Patients and Professionals about Participation in Clinical Trials (BCRT PoPP) study team won the Excellence in Cancer Research Award at the Royal College of Nursing's RCNi Nurse Awards 2016.

The study explored the perception and experiences of teenagers and young adults with bone cancer, and their health professionals, about participation in clinical trials, and was nurse-developed and led.

Verna Lavender, lead author and Senior Lecturer in Cancer Care was presented with the award on behalf of the team by Anne Croudass, Lead Research Nurse at Cancer Research UK and comedienne Lucy Porter, at the glittering awards ceremony held in London at the Plaza Park Hotel, Westminster in May.

It's better together

A recently published study has suggested that being part of a group gives choral singers and team sport players a higher sense of wellbeing than pursuing an activity alone.

Researchers from Oxford Brookes University carried out an online study, titled *It's better together: The psychological benefits of singing in a choir*, with 375 participants across three areas of leisure activity; singing in choirs, playing in team sports such as cricket and football, and solo singing.

The findings suggested that choral singers regard their choir group as more psychologically meaningful than sports men and women. This sense of cohesion could be explained being part of a group who are performing in synchrony rather than individuals who have their own role within a sports team.



Working-class mothers were not brutal nor negligent but saviours of infant life

A new book by an Oxford Brookes academic has challenged historians who cast 19th century working-class women as the villains of infant life.

In her book, *Infant Mortality and Working-Class Child Care, 1850-1899*, Melanie Reynolds unlocks the hidden history of northern working-class child care and disputes the entrenched assumption that working mothers were to blame for the high infant mortality rate (IMR) where up to 249/1000 infants died per year in the northern industrial districts during the latter half of the 19th century.

The book uses research from a new and wide range of source material, which includes medical and poor law history to show how working-class mothers saved infant life.

Brookes hosts world's first Social Robotics and AI summit

Oxford Brookes University hosted the first Social Robotics and AI conference in September.

The conference's busy schedule of discussions, demonstrations, debates and presentations investigated how artificial intelligence can improve UK business competitiveness by boosting productivity, powering innovation and augmenting the capabilities of the human workforce.

Amongst the high-profile list of guest speakers was chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov, who famously battled IBM's super-computer Deep Blue in 1996-97, and brought chess and artificial intelligence into the global mainstream. Vice-Chancellor Professor Alistair Fitt opened the conference and Head of Computing and Communication Technologies Professor Nigel Crook spoke about the future of human-robot collaboration in the workplace.

INTRODUCING THE *Research Excellence Awards*



As part of Oxford Brookes' commitment to supporting research-active academics, the University has introduced the Research Excellence Awards for 2016/17. **Professor Linda King**, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Global Partnerships, explains all in this issue of *Research Forum*.

Through the Research Excellence Awards, we are investing in researchers aiming at being submitted to the next Research Excellence Framework (expected in 2020) with world-leading 4* outputs or impact case studies.

We also hope that they will promote collaboration – particularly on a global scale – as well as underpinning studies which lead to high quality proposals for significant external grant income.

The standard of applications for this scheme was excellent and reflects the strength of research at Oxford Brookes.

Researchers were able to apply for one of two levels of award worth either £10,000 or £20,000 which would contribute towards research leave or employment of a research assistant in supporting a project. The scheme is funded through the University's Central Research Fund and is intended to provide enhanced support for research excellence.

It complements Quality-Related Funding at Faculty and Department levels which supports research and knowledge exchange more broadly. The intention is to continue the scheme annually as part of Oxford Brookes' investment in research excellence and in supporting the aims of our new Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy 2016-2020, which is available to read on our website at www.brookes.ac.uk/research

Over the coming year the University will be showcasing each of the 23 recipients of the Research Excellence Awards, looking at the outcomes and outputs that their work brings. Keep a check on our news pages at www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/news/ for further information.

Recipients of the inaugural Research Excellence Awards 2016/17

FACULTY OF BUSINESS

Dr Ulrike Fasbender
*Lecturer in Human Resources
Management (Equality &
Diversity)*

Dr Juliette Koning
*Reader in Organisation
Studies and Asian Business*

Dr Dimitrios Asteriou
*Programme Lead in
Economics*

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Professor Graham Butt
Professor in Education

Dr Simon White
*Reader in Romantic and
19th Century Literature*

Dr Dinah Roe
*Senior Lecturer in 19th
Century Literature*

Professor Roger Griffin
Professor in Modern History

Professor Anne-Marie Kilday
Professor of Criminal History

Dr Simon Cooper
Reader in Property Law

Professor Tina Miller
Professor of Sociology

Professor Anna Nekaris
*Professor in Anthropology
and Primate Conservation*

FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES

Dr Casper Breuker
Senior Lecturer in Biology

Dr Dianne Newbury
*Senior Lecturer in Medical
Genomics and Genetics*

Professor Jane Appleton
*Professor in Primary
and Community Care*

Professor Vincent Connelly
Professor in Psychology

Dr Miriam Clegg
Senior Lecturer in Nutrition

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT

Dr Fabrizio Bonatesta
*Senior Lecturer in
Thermofluids*

Dr James Broughton
*Reader in Mechanical
Engineering*

Dr Matthias Rolf
Senior Lecturer in Robotics

Dr Lindsay Steenberg
*Senior Lecturer in
Film Studies*

Dr Alexandra Wilson
Reader in Musicology

Dr Christos Vidalakis
*Senior Lecturer in
Construction Management*

Dr Marcel Vellinga
*Reader in Anthropology
of Architecture*

Supporting late career development

Dr Ulrike Fasbender, Senior Lecturer in Human Resources Management and Co-Director of Oxford Brookes' Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice (CDPRP) is another recipient of the Research Excellence Awards. She discusses how this will support her new project into the late career development of older workers.

In times of global population ageing, the need for research on work and ageing has become one of the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) priority areas related to economic performance and sustainable growth. As such, tackling demographic changes has been defined as the challenge of the 21st century. Based on the European agenda of 'Extending Working Lives', I am 'translating' the political intentions into individual and organisational practice.

In particular, I am conducting research on career management over the life-span referring to individual career planning and

development on the one hand and organisational practices that facilitate individual career development on the other hand.

The removal of the Default Retirement Age in 2011 has opened new ways of late career and retirement planning because people have more choice about when to stop working. This increased flexibility goes along with the need for individuals and the organisations they are working for to plan their retirement. Against this background, the CDPRP is planning new research to investigate older workers' late career development.

Based on previous research and

on late career intentions (eg *Fasbender, Deller, Wang, & Wiernik, 2014; Fasbender, Wang, Voltmer, & Deller, 2016; Wöhrmann, Fasbender, & Deller, 2016*), we shed light on older workers' life and career goals in understanding their transitions to retirement. In particular, we are interested in older workers' individual ageing experience, the meaning work holds for them, and their late career aspirations and desire to retire in relation to organisational support and hindrance factors.

To address the complexity in which older workers' late career development takes place, we are planning to set up a mixed-method

design consisting of a cross-lagged study and focus groups leading to a broader scope of coaching interventions. Based on the study findings, we contribute to the improvement of individual and organisational career and retirement management strategies by identifying potential ways of facilitating older workers' life and career goals.

Established in 2004, CDPRP brings together academic and management expertise from the University's Faculty of Business, the School of Law and the Directorate of Human Resources to undertake policy-oriented research in the area of equality

and diversity with a focus on the workplace.

With regard to the research project on late career development, we collaborate with researchers from the University of Florida and Leuphana University of Lüneburg in conducting high-quality research that systematically contributes to academic excellence in the area of equality and diversity.

More information about the CDPRP and its research can be found on the website www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/cdprp/





Double trouble

The terrorists' alter ego

In this issue of Research Forum we are highlighting some of the recipients of the University's Research Excellence Awards (pages 8-9). **Professor Roger Griffin**, internationally recognised as a major authority on terrorism, explains how he'll be using the funding to further his research into understanding the terrorist mindset and spotting the early signs of radicalisation.

Now I have a shiny new Research Excellence Award, what am I going to do with it?

Well, once again I am going to write a rather leftfield, disciplinary-borders-busting book which is bound to be generally ignored by most professional academics as 'not history', but may be hailed by a scattering of my academic groupies as a valuable contribution to the historical understanding of fanatical extremism and ideologically motivated violence.

This one goes into considerable depth about a significant theme I first became aware of while writing *Terrorist's Creed* (Palgrave, 2007). I found that time after time those who had committed acts of fanatical violence had undergone a process which I termed 'heroic doubling'.

Someone who had previously led a broadly 'normal' existence, from a family background not significantly more dysfunctional than millions of others, and in no way outwardly fanatical about an ideology or religion, or routinely callous or violent, had produced, either under considerable external pressures or apparently spontaneously from within, a secondary personality.

The 'second self' or alter ego, comparable to a videogame avatar, was prepared to kill and die, or certainly abandon any prospect of a fulfilling existence within society, and do so with no compunction or fear, in the name of what had gradually or suddenly become a 'higher cause'.



Realising that I was onto something relatively original, I decided to sketch a book proposal for my publisher Palgrave which would explore the avatar phenomenon from three historical perspectives. It is entitled *Double Trouble: The Destructive Role of the Alter Ego in Totalitarianism and Terrorism*.

The first part, the ubiquity of human doubling, focuses on the tendency of human beings to imagine doubles and avatars as demonstrated through their recurrence as a tradition of folklore, myth, and literature as well as in ritual, rites of passage and religion. It will then consider the universal notion of a mystic higher self or supreme self, which is latent in all of us, but requires special physical discipline and ritual practical processes to be accessed in a stable way, linking this to the Nietzschean idea of the Superior Self (popularly known as 'the Superman').

Finally, it considers the

(self-)destructive, nihilistic alter ego which is the psychological driver of the many varieties of addiction, the global problem of domestic and sexual violence, but also self-destructive states such as anorexia. The section destroys the myth of the individual as a psychologically coherent, 'indivisible' agent, but rather confirms the idea of a 'plural' or 'protean' self which is posited by some social psychologists.

The second part, the state manufacture of heroic doubles, concentrates the way a feature of totalitarian states, or 'gardening states', is to attempt to exploit the malleability of human nature and the potential to develop a 'higher self' to carry out an anthropological revolution. The intended result of this social engineering, the new man and new women, is the use of propaganda, education and all the tools of socialisation to create a population that is eugenically fitter, has enhanced reproductive capacity, and demonstrates heroic levels of willing obedience,

self-sacrifice and courage in the workplace and on the battlefield.

Totalitarian states and fascist movements thus can be seen as attempting to induce mass heroic doubling in which the old selves of the decadent era are reshaped and transcended and a new race (nationalist, racial, socialist, religious) is born, an experiment bound to fail for profound anthropological reasons.

In the third section, the terrorist double locates the idea of the terrorist avatar which I explored in *Terrorist Creed* in the context of the propensity for human beings to create imaginary, virtual or real doubles and for totalitarian movements to mass produce them.

This section should feed straight into the latest radicalisation theory. Radicalisation is the process by which an individual develops under external and internal pressures a terrorist avatar, a hero in a cosmic drama that the fanatic believes only a small elite can see unfolding and prepared to kill and die for the cause. Within the terrorist mission to destroy enemies identified from within a dualistic, Manichaeian mindset, the terrorist discovers his or her 'immortality project', a source of transcendence more important than physical existence.

I intend this analysis of the terrorist double to make a direct contribution not just to understanding radicalisation, but devising strategies to enable family and friends to see early signs of it taking place, for they, not the police or politicians, or even teachers are on the front line.

Double Trouble should be demanding but exciting to write (and hopefully to read), if I only I can get my compulsive workaholic double to take over my procrastinating, displacing self.

Roger works in the Department of History, Philosophy and Religion. Visit history.brookes.ac.uk for more information.



Researching Reservists and their families

Professor Vincent Connelly has undertaken ground-breaking research investigating the military in recent years. With significant changes being introduced over the coming years, his work is playing a key role in understanding previously unexplored demands of military service on Reservists and their families.



In line with many other publicly funded organisations the Armed Forces are facing challenges to their traditional working practices.

For example, the UK Armed Forces are moving towards a 'whole force' structure to better integrate regular and reserve personnel.

In the UK Reservists are typically members of society who volunteer to train with the military on a part time basis but are willing to be called up for full time military deployments in times of need. They can be individuals with no previous military experience but can also be those who have left full time service but who still wish to be part of the Armed Forces.

By 2020 Reservists will make up at least one in four of the UK Armed Forces military personnel. This will require both Regular and Reserve personnel to achieve new ways of working together. More flexible working practices designed to be compatible with a more diverse and family friendly

workforce will also be introduced to the UK Armed Forces, where individuals can vary the amount of time commitment given to the organisation.

This means the current fixed boundaries between full time and part time employees will become more blurred. These changes will have an impact on the traditional relationships between the Armed Forces, their employees and their families and, in the case of Reservists, their civilian employers.

I have been involved with examining how these recent policy changes in Defence are impacting on the lives and families of Reservists with colleagues from universities across the UK. Our previous work has demonstrated that Reservists are often operating on the margins of the military establishment, their family life and their employment, and so there is a need to better understand these factors and how they intersect. In particular, the families of UK Reservists have not been studied as extensively as those

of full-time personnel.

Therefore, little is still known about how families negotiate the demands of Reservist service or access effective support and resources when required. The demands of military service are thought to affect Reservists and their families in ways different to the demands placed on Regulars and research has demonstrated some counter-intuitive findings.

For example, despite evidence of very little actual access to support and welfare from their families, Reservists rate the support provided by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to their family during deployment higher than their Regular counterparts (MoD, 2015). This could be due to different attitudes to family in civilian life, but could also arise because of a lack of awareness of the support available to Reservist families when required. Reservists perceptions of marginal status in the Armed Forces also leads Reservists, often more than Regulars, to keep their

service and family life separate – further compounding a lack of awareness of support available amongst their family members.

Separateness also means that Reservist family members are less likely to see themselves as members of the wider service community and may feel less entitled to ask for help. As the Reservist family is often not near any large military base with on-site support provision this separation is both physical and psychological.

This means that when the Reservist is deployed on military operations that families may not be as well prepared as they should be and that there is little knowledge of the support available to help them cope with being away for up to six months. Lack of awareness is a key barrier to accessing support and also impacts negatively on perceptions of the support available. In turn, family perceptions of the support available to them are often predictive of family coping during deployment.

Therefore, there is a clear need to understand the needs of Reservist families to raise awareness and provide access to support when and if required. Research on Reservists can enlighten us about the demands of juggling multiple jobs and balancing

family life, a not uncommon situation for many modern families. The pressures of an unexpected work deployment abroad and the reintegration required into family life afterwards also mirror the growing demands of many professions in an increasingly globalised workforce. Lessons from other professions could, of course, also benefit the families of Reservists and military families in turn.

My research in this area has been supported by Economic and Social Research Council and MoD funded research projects. The projects are multidisciplinary in nature and are with colleagues from Kings College London, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Cranfield universities. They have already had an impact on policy and practice. Data collection has just started on the most recent of these projects and if you have a family member who is a UK Armed Forces Reservist we would like to hear from you and offer you the chance to take part in a survey or a focus group - more information is available at www.frame-sw.org.uk

The Research Excellence Award is very timely and will allow me to write up high impact articles from this recent work, complete some additional data analysis and work

towards making the work more impactful on the international stage.

For example, I have recently organised a seminar on "Reserves today and tomorrow: an international perspective" with colleagues from the UK and US at the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society in Ottawa, Canada in 2016.

This seminar has already caught the interest of members of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC and I will be visiting them to talk further about my research. I will also be meeting with occupational psychologists who are studying family life in the Canadian Armed Forces while I am in Ottawa.

Other visits and collaborations are planned with colleagues in Europe in early 2017 which is increasingly necessary given the challenges that will be faced by the Armed Forces over the coming years.

Vincent works in the Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health. Visit www.psychology.brookes.ac.uk for more information.





Riparian settlement, Kampuchea, Cambodia, 2007



House and totem poles,
Haida, British Columbia, Canada, 1979



Sami camp, central Norway, probably 1992

Building the world's understanding of vernacular architecture

Dr Marcel Vellinga, Reader in Anthropology of Architecture, is embarking on an ambitious project with a truly global scale. His work will involve the input of hundreds of scholars from dozens of countries and help provide increased knowledge of vernacular architecture to greater numbers of scholars and students around the world.

Photographs by Paul Oliver

Back in 1997, the *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World (EVAW)* was published by Cambridge University Press. Edited by Paul Oliver of Oxford Brookes University, *EVAW* was the first major reference work to document the world's traditional, indigenous or vernacular architectural traditions and to provide a detailed overview of the diversity of disciplinary approaches related to its study.

Bringing together the work of more than 750 scholars from over 80 countries, *EVAW* was well received and was awarded the prestigious Sir Bannister Fletcher Award for Art and Architecture in 1998.

Its publication was an important milestone that helped to define and validate vernacular architecture as an accepted field of academic

study; it also cemented the reputation of Oxford Brookes as the main centre of excellence in the world for its study.

Nearly twenty years on, *EVAW* is still the unrivalled reference work in the field. However, it has also long been out of print and, because of the initial small print run and high price, it is not accessible to all scholars and students; especially those in the so-called developing world.

At the same time, a lot of new research has taken place, both in terms of documentation and theorisation. Altogether this new research, much of which was inspired by the publication of *EVAW*, has resulted in a more diverse, active and dynamic field of study, interdisciplinary and international in focus, which

continues to enrich our knowledge and understanding of the diversity of the world's vernacular architecture.

In order for *EVAW* to remain a relevant standard reference work, it was always obvious that this new work would have to be incorporated.

When Bloomsbury Publishing approached Paul to produce a second, revised and updated version of *EVAW* (quickly dubbed '*EVAW2*'), and I was asked to take on the role of Editor-in-Chief, the chance to realise this important update finally arrived.

Due to be published in print and online, *EVAW2* will not only bring the contents of the work up-to-date; as an online resource it will allow the work to be accessible to scholars and students around the world and to be updated more regularly in the future. It will enable easier linking between the different volumes and individual entries, and will also provide the opportunity to incorporate more audio, video and visual content.

EVAW comprised three volumes; 2,452 pages and approximately 1.6 million words. *EVAW2* will comprise of six

volumes; some 3,000 individual entries; and about 2.1 million words. To help me to edit the work, an editorial board comprising 14 internationally recognised experts has been established, each with the responsibility for one or more sections of the work.

In addition, an International Advisory Board comprising a further 12 leading scholars is on hand to provide advice. As Editor-in-Chief, I am responsible for four sections and some 400 individual entries, as well as for the overall quality and consistency of the work. In total, we anticipate to work with around 900-1,000 contributors, and to have the project finished by the end of 2018.

EVAW2 is an exciting, ambitious as well as daunting task. The support provided by Oxford Brookes in the form of a Research Excellence Award is invaluable, as it gives me the precious time needed to structure the work, communicate with the editors and contributors, and read and edit all 3,000 entries.

Time is of the essence not just for me, however, but also for the subject. Population growth, urbanisation, globalisation,

climate change, migration, natural disasters, conflicts and the internationalisation of architectural practice have exerted increasing pressure on vernacular architecture in many parts of the world.

EVAW2 will capture the impact of those processes and document the distinctive and unique vernacular architecture of the world before it is lost. But it will also document the conscious attempts to conserve, safeguard or revive existing traditions, or to invent new ones, and to explore their application and appropriation in contemporary architectural practice.

As such *EVAW2* is hoped to take the place of *EVAW* as the unrivalled reference work on the subject.

What is vernacular architecture?

Vernacular architecture comprises the culturally distinctive, traditional, common and everyday forms of building made by ordinary people in response to local needs and environments.

For more information about Brookes research visit our website at
www.brookes.ac.uk/research



To enquire about alternative formats please contact
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