

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community



On the ball

Celebrating your achievements



2022. Carol Forde-Johnston and *British Journal of Nursing* 31, 12: 632-638.

2022. Carol Forde-Johnston,*Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 1-20.

2022. Francesca Tabacchi, *Future Healthcare Journal* 9, 3:1-3.

2022. Sara Matthews, *Psycho-Oncology* 1-11.

2022. Claire Cardinal, Mandy Strubel and Aimee Oxley. *International Journal of Primatology*.

2022. Lucy King, Sara Matthews, *Psycho-Oncology* 31:671-675.

2022. Mueller, D., Raith, K.,*Quaternary Research* 1-17.

NEWS

A Creative Practice Exploration of Unidentified

Dead. Katie Taylor

artist and PhD student at Brookes was invited to talk about her research at the Pitts Rivers Museum on 19 October 2022. Her

work explores how we consider the lives lived by unidentified human remains, through a consideration of the belongings found with them. Katie's approach aims at raising questions on how we consider, think about and remember the lives that were lived. She utilises unexpected materials in her work that act as a metaphor to reference the body.



Festival of Social Science Pitt Rivers Museum

PhD student Chris Blythe from HLS working at the Edible Streets project took part in the ESRC Festival of Social Science at the Pitt Rivers Museum. Researchers from across the city and beyond delivered activities designed to engage communities. There were projects such as a Butterfly Trail and caterpillar dance, coastal ecosystems, and an activity which connected people with green spaces, risk and crime.

The aim at Edible Streets was to engage and encourage communities to grow foods in their local area. Children and families loved the opportunity to create a garden collage using both edible and non-edible plants. Love for flowers was evident, with children creating pretty and inspiring flower collages. Identifying fruits and vegetables and thinking about if they can be grown in the UK, there were some great conversations about sustainability, transport, climate change and where our food comes from.



Venom systems have several advantages

- Complex phenotype made up of a proteinaceous cocktail of toxins.
- High genetic tractability.
- Evolves largely through changes in gene expression.
- Variations in abundance of toxins influence venom efficacy and thus overall ecology of the animal.
- Large amount of next-generation transcriptomic data is available for many species.

Venom has evolved several times in different animals.

Creativity during Covid Oxford Brookes University has always prided itself with an eclectic mix of staff, students, alumni, and friends, therefore the Health and Life Sciences Department hosts an annual Biological and Medical Science seminar series. From 2021-2022 PhD students **Grace Blakeley** and **Jay Hands**, along with Priya Samuel (Lecturer/researcher), ran an online-only seminar series.

Though initially restricted by Covid-19, we adapted and ran weekly Zoom sessions for 60 min with invited guests, students, and staff within the department. These sessions included time for the invited speakers to talk along with some time for questions after. Till now all seminars were done face-to-face, however thanks to video-calling/meeting software, our reach of guests spread further than ever before! However, it was unanimously agreed that people preferred to meet each other in person.

Our guests included speakers from across the globe such as India, Australia, and America, and backgrounds ranging from conservation activists, pharmaceutical scientists, and even a Nobel-Prize winner- not to mention the ever talented home-grown postgraduates and departmental staff. Working on such a diverse seminar series meant that we were never short on jobs to do, such as advertising, hosting, planning dates and reaching out to speakers- however at the end, this was an interesting opportunity to meet some remarkable minds, and add a unique experience to our CV.

Whole Cell FIB-SEM

XZ Ortho-slice YZ Ortho-slice

Whole cell EM volume with 4 nm, isotropic resolution

HLS cell
48 µm x 6.4 µm x 25 µm volume (7800 µm³)
12000 x 1600 x 6250 slices

4 nm x 4 nm x 4 nm voxels

Balancing Work and Research

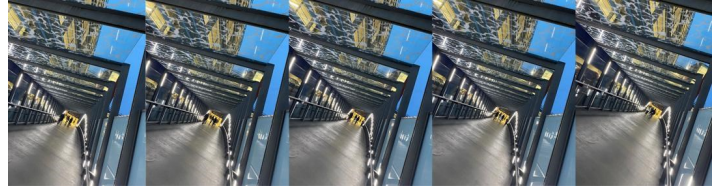


Suriya Kirkpatrick PhD student at HLS and Senior Haematology Research Nurse at Southmead Hospital was instrumental in the award received by her team. The haematology team was presented with the Myeloma UK Clinical Service Excellence Programme Award on 13 October 2022 in recognition for its outstanding care to patients with myeloma. Suriya gave an oral presentation at the ESMO conference in Paris held last September and in November she presented a poster at the UK Oncological Nurse Society Conference in Belfast .



Visual Art and Experimental Music

Catherine Ross, a PhD by Fine Art researcher, performed a new composition by Tim Parkinson at the Audiograft Festival on 2 December 2022 at Modern Art Oxford. Catherine's research explores if the boundary between art and liminality can alter perception.



'Bridge Series III', 2020 by Catherine Ross

She investigates liminal, transformative threshold states/places, marginalisation and ambiguity through digital photography, printmaking, social media, sound and walking. In November she gave a guest lecture, including a sound walk to BA/MA Music and MFA students at Brookes about Listening in Liminal Locations.

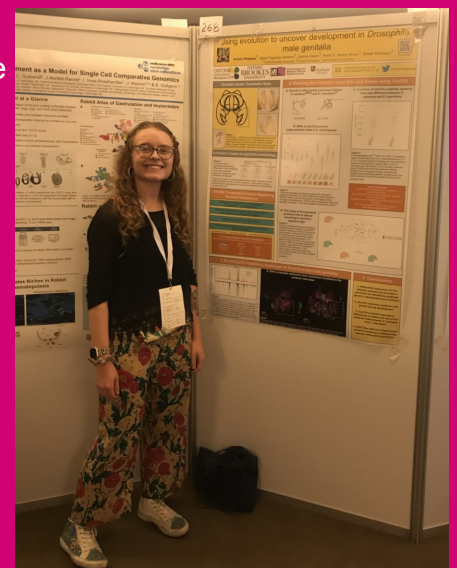


'Subway Series I', 2020 by Catherine Ross

You can learn and listen about Catherine's research at [Echoes in time](#).

Runner up - student poster prize competition

Amber Ridgway PhD student at HLS presented her research at the International Society of Developmental Biology Conference in Algarve, Portugal and was awarded the runner up prize for her poster. Amber's research is exploring how fly male genitalia has developed and evolved between closely related species. There are many different structures within the adult male that are part of the periphallallic machinery (not directly involved with sperm transfer). This poster focused on the posterior lobe and aimed to identify genes encoding transcription factors, proteins that regulate gene expression, required for normal development of the lobe. Interestingly, a gene called Sox21b was found, required to repress growth in the lobe. By using a genetic method to study evolution of this gene, it was shown that depending on the gene's species origin, it affected the size and shape of the lobe in adult males. This illustrated that as well as Sox21b being required for posterior lobe growth, it has also evolved, leading to the differences in lobe shape and size between species. Amber is now looking at what specific part of this gene has evolved to really understand it's implementation on the lobe's structure.



NEWS

New Students Networking Event After a very informative and well attended general induction held at Headington Campus on the 4 October, students proceeded to celebrate at Headington Hill Hall with a buffet meal and drinks. There was plenty of networking and nice nibbles, everybody was

grateful to gather in person. Several supervisors also joined the celebration making this event even more special to all.

Autumn Mystery Trail

Due to the success of our summer mystery walk, we repeated this event in October especially for our new postgraduate students. The weather was perfect and ten of us wandered into small alleyways in town searching and following clues. After solving the mystery in the normal time, we finished the afternoon at the Slug and Lettuce for cocktails and some nibbles.



Guided tour at the Oxford Mini Plant As expected this was a very exciting event in November. We visited two production buildings. The first showing the



'body in white' which is the skeleton frame of a Mini where the different interior components are assembled by

around 1200 robots. Then, we visited the final production line, observing all the variations to each Mini's according to client's specification. It was amazing to see a Mini being finished every three minutes. A worthwhile visit, to be repeated in 2023. Keep an eye on our [graduate college events page](#).



Headington Hill Park Walk

Dr Andrew Lack gave us, as always, a great guided tour of Headington Hill Park on the 1 November 2022. Unfortunately, due to bad weather early in the day, only a few students came and were rewarded with plenty of sunshine and first row attention from Dr Lack. The park, just a few minutes walk from Headington campus is a little gem, a free access arboretum covering 20 acres of exotic and rare tree species from all over the world. Dr Lack has kindly offered to repeat this event in the spring. Please visit [graduate college events page](#) for more details.

Enjoying public speaking!

Julie Bennett, a PhD student from Health and Life Sciences, attended in November the latest regional meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC) at the University of Portsmouth. She presented some preliminary findings from her PhD entitled 'Nostalgia and wellbeing in autistic and non-autistic adults' to a group of applied memory researchers. ***This was the first time that I had presented my research findings at any event/conference so I found the run up to it quite nerve wracking. However, once I arrived and met people researching similar topics and I began chatting to people, I found that I relaxed***. The ethos behind the regional meeting is to provide opportunities to present and discuss research findings and/or ideas in a relaxed setting that is more flexible and less restricted than at a typical formal conference, so it is a great place to present your research and ideas for the first time. It is an encouraging event for all PhD students.

Government Commission PhD student Angela Buckley from the Department of History, Philosophy and Culture was invited to share her expertise on Victorian and Edwardian policing with a Home Office group. She delivered a paper to the Public Safety Group who are responsible for the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme. Angela's presentation, *Fire! Fire! The History of Emergency Communications and Data Collection*, covered the history of how the emergency services developed their communication channels and information management from the beginning of professional policing in the 1830s and 1840s to the early twentieth century. She explained how the police were responsible for the fire and ambulance services during the period and that initially the only methods of communication were wooden rattles and handwritten messages on paper. These were later replaced by the telegraph and the telephone. Angela also outlined the data collection practices, which included mugshots, physical measurements and fingerprints. However, as she explained, the technological advances were not always embraced by regional police forces and individual beat officers. The paper, which included two iconic murder cases to demonstrate the use of communications technology as well as some conclusions relevant to today's practices, was well received by the group and led to an interesting discussion.



Work together, create impact

Under this theme was convened the first Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (RIKE) All Network Event in September 2022. This one day, in person event aimed to showcase seven networks at Brookes working to encourage collaboration and impact in areas of healthy ageing, children and young people, sustainability, creative industries, AI, equality, inclusion, diversity, migration and refugees. Highlights of the event included an insightful Opening Address by Prof Simonetta Manfredi, Director of the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Directorate; a lively presentation by our partner at Innovate UK about Brookes Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and the impressive Keynote Address by Oxford University's Prof Theresa Lambe and her collaborative work in vaccine development. The much anticipated 'nutshell' presentations saw lightning speed talks by each of the seven networks where audiences learnt more about who they were and what they do. The event closed with a look at how Brookes is making an impact across the networks, led by impact champion, Prof Tina Miller. All PhD students are warmly invited to become a network member. Members receive a regular newsletter packed with useful information, plus you will be invited to join network sessions on current research at Brookes and to discuss various methodological approaches. If you would like to join please go to www.brookes.ac.uk/research



brookes.ac.uk/research
#FutureThinkers

FUTURE-THINKERS
OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Watch out, microbes!



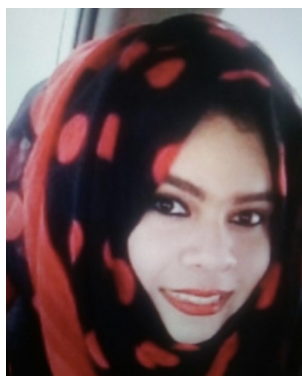
Pareena Verma PhD student at HLS presented her research at the 2022 International Study Group for Systems Biology (ISGSB) at the University of

Innsbruck, Austria. ISGSB is a loose collective of international researchers interested in exploring the interplay between theory and experimental data. The topic of her presentation was "Antimicrobial Target Identification by Genome Scale Metabolic Modelling" part of the Innovative Training Network called INNOTARGETS which aims at addressing antimicrobial resistance by focussing on metabolic targets. Pareena's research aims at understanding through model analysis, how pathogenic bacteria modulate their metabolism in response to antibiotics.

EQUALITY Amber Ridgway, a final year BMS PhD Research Student, has been working with HLS Athena Swan, an established nationwide framework that aims to support and transform gender equality and intersectionality in academic facilities. Currently, the university holds a Bronze award, and the HLS faculty holds a Silver award. If you go to the [Athena Swan's website](https://www.athenaswan.ac.uk/) you'll find a great video giving a brief introduction to what they do, as well as the work going on to further diversify HLS. There is always need for more students to get involved, and if this is something that interests you, please contact us by [email](mailto:am.ri@brookes.ac.uk).



RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



Samira Issa

Oxford Brookes
Business School

Thesis Title: Stakeholder engagement and the UK Corporate Governance Code.

My research investigates whether the stakeholder engagement provisions of the UK Corporate Governance code are fit for purpose and how reform could be made if the provisions are not fit for purpose, to improve compliance and encourage companies to engage with wider stakeholders.

The role of corporate governance and stakeholder engagement is essential to the long-term success of businesses, yet the corporate governance code has been heavily criticised for being unfit for purpose.

This project aims to understand corporate governance from a corporate perspective, including the challenges, issues and problems experienced in practice, with a view to creating a stakeholder engagement handbook.

The literature review has shown that there is a gap, current research does not explore in depth all of the challenges which corporate governance officials face in complying with each of the stakeholder engagement provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code.

My study uses multiple mixed methods, i.e. quantitative content analysis of the FTSE 100, FTSE 250 and FTSE SmallCap company reports, surveys and interviews with corporate governance officials to investigate stakeholder engagement and corporate governance in more depth.

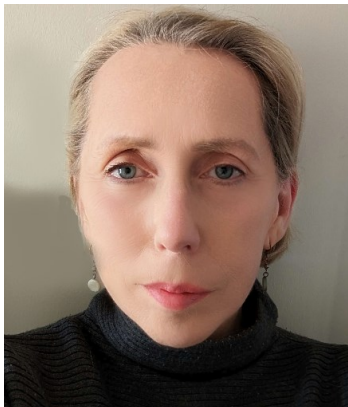
It is important to examine the challenges which corporate governance officials face, because corporate governance scandals can lead to massive consequences such as insolvency, loss of employment, loss of economic trade in the supply chain, loss of pension fund returns and financial loss of investors. Furthermore, it is important to examine whether the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code work in practice and have the ability to prevent future corporate governance failures.

After completing my degree, postgraduate diploma and masters, I realised that learning has no end. Every day offers an opportunity to grow and improve. My time as a postgraduate student opened my eyes to the excitement and wider benefit of business and that has inspired me to develop my knowledge further and take up the challenge of a PhD.

Being a research student gave me the opportunity to research the topic that interests me and to develop a deeper understanding. I enjoy the training sessions at Oxford Brookes University because I always learn something new from each session. I also enjoy the opportunity to meet and engage with my fellow PhD students and learn about their research topics.

The broad range of research training sessions offered at Oxford Brookes University has been fantastic and extremely useful in preparing students to become competent and independent researchers. The teachers are wonderful and are always willing to assist and answer questions.

**After completing my degree, postgraduate diploma and masters,
I realised that learning has no end. Every day offers an
opportunity to grow and improve**



Joanna Ridley

School of Education

Thesis title: Aspirations and expectations: investigating the development of ‘possible selves’ on the part of young people in UK secondary education, from a critical realist perspective. My research is an enquiry into the links between perceived class status and the mechanisms and processes influencing the development of ‘possible selves’ within young people from contrasting socio-economic backgrounds, adopting a critical realist conceptual framing and q-methodology as an approach.

The personal, societal and economic benefits of participation in higher education have been widely documented. However, recent Department for Education figures indicate that there continues to be a wide disparity between participation by young people from low income households compared to those from mid to high income households. If higher education (HE) does bring such personal and societal benefits, unequal access to it, according to socio-economic status should be a cause for concern.

Much current theory relating to widening participation in HE within the UK focuses upon the relative low aspirations of young people from low income communities, and there exists an assumption that if we raise aspirations this will have a positive impact upon school attainment, the single most important determinant of progression to HE. However, contrary to the focus upon aspiration raising, there is growing evidence that aspiration levels across socio-economic groups are quite similar but that ‘expectations’ of achieving those aspirations are far lower for disadvantaged young people.

My study aims to increase our understanding of how young people within the UK envisage their future identities, the psychosocial and structural influences upon these future identities, and how these may differ across socioeconomic groups. I am exploring the concept of ‘possible selves’, first developed by Markus and Nurius⁵. Possible selves equate to the potential future identities we develop for ourselves, both those that are desirable and those that are feared. These identities are framed by factors within and beyond our control, reflecting the interrelationship between structure and agency. I am using a critical realist theoretical framework, which offers the opportunity to theorise causality qualitatively. Critical realism contends that we can never fully experience the events, mechanisms and processes taking place at reality’s deeper levels (the ‘actual’ and the ‘real’) but need to take these into account when we are trying to understand the empirical level.

I am using Q methodology as the primary research approach which provides a basis for studying subjectivity. Research participants are asked their point of view on a topic and their responses are subjected to factor analysis, which indicates ‘segments of subjectivity’ that exist about that topic. Q methodology is concerned with identifying the existence of viewpoints within the population, not with generalising the existence of viewpoints to the general population. The focus is upon the nature of the ‘segments’ and how they relate to each other, and so the issue of having large numbers of respondents is not important. I have worked with Year 9 students with a total research population of 60. Each participating student was asked to sort statements relating to future ‘possible selves’ into categories of ‘most like me’, ‘least like me’ and ‘neutral or undecided’. They placed the statements in a Q-sort grid. Alongside the Q-sort activity, I have used a tool that measures ‘subjective’ socio-economic status. How a young person actually feels about their position in society can be a more powerful influence on the development of possible selves, than for instance, how much their parents earn or whether their parents went to university. I have the aim of identifying patterns of similar views according to a range of variables, which alongside subjective socio-economic status include age, gender, and ethnicity. With the application of Q methodology within a critical realist theoretical framework I am aiming to offer a new approach to research in this field.

Sharing challenges along the way can be really helpful, even if it’s just for mutual support.

STAY CONNECTED



Graduate College Annual Research Student Exhibition

All research students are invited to showcase their work at the 2023 Graduate College Research Student Exhibition

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to share your research with fellow students, staff members and external visitors. You can present your research using posters, journal articles, audio-visual performances, PowerPoint presentations, book chapters and many more mediums. You will also compete with your fellow research students for a chance to win a range of cash prizes.

Date: Wednesday 19 April 2023 at The Forum, John Henry Brookes Building, 10am—5.30pm

Deadlines: Complete your submission form on **1 February 2023**. Send us your event submission on **29 March 2023** to asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk

Prize giving will take place during the networking lunch that will be provided for all those attending the event. For more information on how to participate please go to the [graduate college events page](#)

Three Minute Thesis Competition

Tuesday 27 June 2023 at Headington Hill Hall, 1pm to 3pm



Present your thesis in three minutes using only a single static PowerPoint slide, no props, sound, moving images, poems or songs. There will be cash prizes for first place, runner up and for the people's choice winner.

The winner of this competition will be entered into the UK 3MT® online competition to be held in July/August. Deadline for video submissions will be on **Tuesday 6 June 2023**. Find out what to do and register for this event or for the celebration on the [Graduate college events page](#)

COMING UP



Crossing borders in academic writing.

17 January 2023, 1:00 to 2:00 pm at CLC G.21, Clerici Building, Headington.

Join the Writing HUB for this in-person session which shares ways of supporting the transition into academic writing as a second culture for all. Professor Jane Spiro will be looking at four tools for recognising the hidden cultures of academic texts, showing how these features can guide writers as well as readers. The talk will be illustrated with examples of how students actually developed through these tools, and the dilemmas and choices involved in traversing writing cultures and disciplines.



AI Festival of Research

17 -25 February 2023 at Gipsy Lane Headington campus. Organised by the Artificial Intelligence and Data Analysis Network. Watch the [website](#) for more details.

3rd International Creative Industries Festival: Joyful Resistance in the Creative Industries



Organised by the Creative Industries Research and Innovation network.

The festival is taking place between the **8 and 16 May 2023!**

Emerging from the precarity and uncertainty of this moment in time, we celebrate creativity and resilience under the theme of Joyful Resistance in the Creative Industries. Watch the [website](#) for details.



Bridge 2023. The BRIDGE (Building Researchers Innovation and Developing Goals with Enterprise) programme is run by Brookes Enterprise Support, to promote enterprise, entrepreneurship, and innovation as part of the researchers' broader development. It is aimed at research students and also research related staff from any discipline with little or no business experience. This programme will provide opportunity for all researchers, to develop an enterprising mindset by gaining entrepreneurial skills and exploring ways of using their research to develop a career outside of traditional academic pathways. The programme will be delivered through workshops and panel sessions every Tuesday, starting on 31 January. Most sessions will run 12-2pm unless otherwise stated. The sessions are designed as individual workshops. They will be facilitated by a mix of Oxford Brookes and industry experts. The last session will provide the opportunity to researchers to pitch their ideas and will take place on 7 March. Mentoring for pitching will be provided to those interested in presenting their work and winners will be offered a space in IceCube, further business mentoring from experts and also being shortlisted in our Spark and Fuel programmes with the potential to win funding. For more information please visit [Brookes Enterprise Support page](#).

We are always looking for contributions for future editions of the newsletter and they are welcome from all sections of the University. If you would like to get involved please email:

asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

CONGRATULATIONS

Latest student's publications

2022. Carol Forde-Johnston and Florian Stoermer. Giving nurses a voice through 'listening to staff' conversations to inform nurse retention and reduce turnover. *British Journal of Nursing* 31, 12: 632-638.

2022. Carol Forde-Johnston, Dan Butcher and Helen Aveyard. An integrative review exploring the impact of Electronic Health Records (EHR) on the quality of nurse–patient interactions and Communication. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 1-20.

2022. Francesca Tabacchi, Vasiliki Latridi, Jonathan Tammam, Eila Watson and Shelly Coe. Under-identification of cancer outpatients at risk of malnutrition: are we making the most of anthropometric data? *Future Healthcare Journal* 9, 3:1-3.

2022. Sara Matthews, Jo Brett, Pras Ramluggun and Eila Watson. The psychosocial experiences of human papillomavirus (HPV) positive oropharyngeal cancer patients following (chemo) radiotherapy: A systematic review and meta-ethnography. *Psycho-Oncology* 1-11.

2022. Claire Cardinal, Miranda Strubel and **Aimee Oxley**. Working from the Inside Out: Fostering Intrinsic Motivation and Expanding Our Criteria for Conservation Success. *International Journal of Primatology*.

2022. Wampole, E.M. et al. (**Claire Cardinal** co-author). Madagascar Terrestrial Camera Survey Database 2021: A collation of protected forest camera surveys from 2007–2021. *Ecology* volume 103, Issue 6.

2022. Lucy King, **Sara Matthews**, Claire Foster, Rachel Starkings, Patricia Holch, Kate Absolom, Stephanie Archer. 'A fascinating time to be involved with research' exploring the impact of COVID-19 on postgraduate psycho-oncology Researchers. *Psycho-Oncology* 31:671-675.

2022. Mueller, D.*; **Raith, K.***; Bretzke, K.; Fülling, A.; Parker, A. G.; Parton, A.; Preston, G. W.; Jasim, S.; Yousif, E. and Preusser, F. Luminescence chronology of fluvial and aeolian deposits from the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE. *Quaternary Research* 1–17.

Let us know about your publications at asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

The Graduate College

The Graduate College organise and support a variety of events for research students, including training and social get-togethers.

Please visit: [The graduate college events page](#)

Research Degrees Team

You can contact us on:

rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk

Follow us on Twitter for all the latest research student news and events



[@BrookesGC](https://twitter.com/BrookesGC)

Dialogue in Migration and Refugee Studies



During the second semester of 2022/23, the Migration and Refugees network will convene a series of cutting-edge public lectures.

Sign up details to be announced soon:

- Weeks 1&2: Criminology, by [Dr Alice Gerlach](#)
- Weeks 3&4: History by [Professor Andrew Spicer](#) and [Dr Michal Palacz](#)
- Weeks 5&6: English Literature by [Dr Andrea Macrae](#)
- Weeks 7&8: NGO, by Dr Hari Reed, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at Asylum Welcome
- Weeks 9&10: Sociology, by [Dr Tamsin Barber](#)

Contact: mnrcontact@brookes.ac.uk

GRADUATE COLLEGE TRAINING

Research Student Training Programme - Semester 2 - 2023

- Integrating public engagement into your research
- Publishing your research data: with particular focus on Oxford Brookes' institutional repository RADAR
- Evaluating your public engagement activities
- Commercialising an idea, start-ups & spin-outs
- How to get the most out of conferences
- Keeping up to date with your research
- Managing your supervisor and building a good relationship with your supervisory team
- A step by step guide to publishing your research findings
- Endnote training - managing information overload
- Embedding impact in your research
- Managing your research records and your data management plan
- Copyright for research students: RADAR and submitting the electronic version of your thesis
- Strategies for successful networking
- Research degrees - strategies for successful part-time study
- Introduction to publishing journal articles
- Research integrity at Brookes - a brief guide to general principles

Book your place at the [Graduate College Research Student Training Page](#)

Supervisor Training Programme - Semester 2 - 2023

- Research and Research Management Training - Session 1
- Research and Research Management Training - Session 2
- Supporting your research student to build an effective professional network
- Keeping up to date with your research
- Incorporating mentoring principles into your supervisory practice
- The oral examination, the role of the internal examiner
- Supporting your research students to manage their research records and make a data management plan
- Experienced supervisors' update
- Research and Research Management Training - Session 1 (repeat)
- Research and Research Management Training - Session 2 (repeat)

Book your place at the [Graduate College Research Staff Training Page](#)