

THE NEWSLETTER FOR OUR RESEARCH COMMUNITY

RESEARCH FORUM

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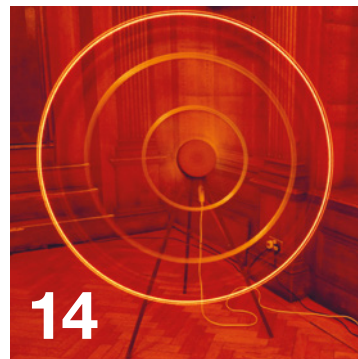
What turns someone into a terrorist?

Understanding the motivation

PLUS REF 2014 | SOUND MACHINES | LOST AUDIENCES

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This issue and back copies of Research Forum are available at www.brookes.ac.uk/about/publications/research

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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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Co-ordinated by Louise Wood, Research and Business Development Office.

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Hello and welcome...



...to June 2013's edition of Research Forum, the University's magazine that showcases our research.

Research Forum is a biannual digest of Brookes' research activity, with articles from our academics and researchers. In this issue, we lead with terrorism and the recent devastating acts committed both here and in America as Professor of Modern History, Roger Griffin, explores the people and the motivations behind such atrocities (p10).

Ray Lee from our Sonic Art Research Unit, recently won an award from the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors and he discusses his work in sound art (p14). We also hear from another award winning Brookes researcher, Anne Osterrieder, who received a prestigious President's Medal from the Society for Experimental Biology. In her article she discusses some key considerations when communicating research (p12).

We're also pleased to report on a new research centre that has opened at Brookes this year. Directed by Barrie Axford, the Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society will investigate the pressing issues at the heart of several societies across the globe today (p16).

And finally as we enter the final stages of our preparation for the REF submission, we catch up with Emily Brown, our REF Impact Officer, who discusses approaches to maximising impacts from research (p9).

I hope you find this issue an informative and interesting read, and do please email us with your feedback for ideas and content to researchforum@brookes.ac.uk

Alistair Fitt,
Pro Vice-Chancellor,
Research and Knowledge Transfer



Care report highlights need for new centre

A new centre was launched by Brookes' Institute of Public Care (IPC) in 2012 called the Market Analysis Centre (MAC). It provides specialist intelligence, analysis and research into care markets for providers and commissioners to inform the development and delivery of cost effective care.

'Where the heart is... A review of the older people's care market in England' is a report released to coincide with the launch and highlights the need for the centre. Setting out the key challenges facing care for older people, it warns that if the existing

model of fragmented services provided by a wide range of organisations continues, in the face of an increasingly ageing population, the system risks collapse. The report proposes a shift in expectations and the need for a radically different delivery model.

With a budget in excess of £125 billion, and 3.5 million employees, public care is one of Britain's largest business markets.

The centre will examine a wide range of issues, including the influence of government policies, the range of delivery models on offer, demand

and supply, cost effectiveness and consumer behaviour.

Current projects include an analysis of the cost of care for independent sector providers in two local authority areas in England, and a review of strategic direction and investment requirements for sheltered housing for a major social housing provider.

For further information, please visit <http://ipc.brookes.ac.uk/services/mac.html> or email ipc@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford academic health consortium launched

Brookes is a founding member of the Oxford Academic Health Consortium (OAHC), a new collaborative partnership of Oxford-based health and social care organisations launched in autumn 2012.

The consortium aims to develop strategies to strengthen academic and clinical partnerships to bring about improvements in healthcare through effective research, education and teaching.

Other founding members include:

- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire Learning Disabilities NHS Trust
- University of Oxford.

One of its first projects has been to support the application for the creation of a network to help drive research-led healthcare innovation for the Thames Valley area.

For further information, please visit www.oxfordahsn.org



Going global

A new inter-disciplinary research centre – the Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society – has been established at Brookes to encourage investigation and reflection on the global social transformations that are affecting the world today.

A workshop held in January to mark the launch entitled 'The Borders of Global Theory: views from within and without' examined the current state of global theory.

The centre will be sponsoring a varied programme of events including workshops, symposia, conferences and talks from visiting academics.

Find out more on pages 16 and 17

ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Punjab government post for Brookes academic

Dr Pritam Singh, Reader in Economics in the Faculty of Business, has been appointed as an advisor to the government of the Punjab on federalism and de-centralisation.

The appointment is thanks in part to the impact of Pritam's book, *Federalism, Nationalism and Development: India and the Punjab Economy*, on Punjabi government policy makers. The work has been described by Economic and Political Weekly as '...one of those rare academic publications which have the potential to make history'.

Brookes' microscopy researchers out in force

Eight researchers from the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences presented at the European Microscopy Congress in September 2012, a conference of international importance in the field. The Brookes' contribution included:

- symposiums on the biology of the nucleus
- presentations on the structure of the sleeping sickness parasite and on the plant nuclear envelope
- a talk by Dr John Runions and Dr Chris Hawes about their research on movement of proteins in plant membranes and of plant organelles
- workshop sessions on using social networking to engage the public in science.

Reach for the stars

Plant biologist, Dr John Runions, also hosted BBC Two's Stargazing Live event at Newbury racecourse in January. One of a number of regional events across the country, it was designed to encourage everyone - from beginners to enthusiastic amateurs - to make the most of the night sky.

John is passionate about taking science out of the lab and to the wider public. The Newbury event was a sell-out, offering some 2,000 visitors the chance to try hands-on activities, meet experts and find out more about astronomy.

IN BRIEF

Brookes recognised for tackling gender inequality

Brookes has received an award from the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) for its work in helping to reduce gender bias.

The Athena SWAN Awards, which are led by the ECU, recognise success in developing employment practices to further and support the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine departments in higher education.

Brookes was announced as a Bronze Award winner, with the accolade identifying that the University has a solid foundation for eliminating gender bias and developing an inclusive culture that values all staff.

Biotech partnership with India in search for sustainable fuels

Brookes has joined forces with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, to develop cheap and sustainable biofuels. The project is funded by an Indian Partnering Award from the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

The project follows a successful four-year collaboration between Professor David Fell, from the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences at Brookes, and Dr Sudip Kundu, from the Department of Biophysics, Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics at the University of Calcutta, focusing on the metabolic properties of rice.

Textbook wins top CMI award

Dr Simonetta Manfredi has won the Chartered Management Institute's Management and Leadership Textbook of the Year Award 2013. Reader at Brookes and Director of the Centre for Diversity Policy Research, she co-authored *Managing Diversity and Equality: Theory and Practice* with Dr Savita Kumra, formerly of Brookes' Business School and now a senior lecturer at Brunel Business School.

Mick Gillick MBE, of the judging panel, commented, "[this book] is suitable for anyone who wants to know more about how to create an inclusive culture in the workplace and it is essential reading for senior management."



Sea water: an answer to fuel demands?

Brookes is a partner in new international, EU funded research seeking to make biofuels out of microscopic algae found in the world's oceans. The AccliPhot project is led by the University of Aberdeen, backed by four million euros of funding and involves twelve partners from across the continent.

Sea water makes up two-thirds of the planet's surface and could help solve society's fuel crisis. Microalgae absorb nothing but carbon dioxide, light and some minerals. Cells of microalgae can be grown in vast numbers in giant 10,000 litre water tanks called photo-bioreactors. So if they can be successfully cultivated to make biofuels they could contribute hugely to the planet's energy resources. Cultivating algae in water that can't be used for irrigation, such as salt water, could harness a vast supply that is not needed for other uses.

The team will examine how plants and microalgae respond to changes in light and other conditions in order to make new products. Whilst the main focus is on biofuels the study could also yield breakthroughs in other areas such as antibiotics and nutritional supplements.

Dr Mark Poolman, Senior Research Fellow and principle investigator of the Brookes component, said, "a particular feature of this work will be the training of early career scientists. As well as addressing biofuel production, we expect the techniques developed to be applicable to many other areas of applied biochemistry, and by the end of the project have a core of young scientists fully trained to use them."

Sea water makes up 2/3 of the planet's surface and could help solve society's fuel crisis.

European funding: a new Brookes resource

A new online resource from Brookes' Research and Business Development Office (RBDO) brings together all the major, relevant European Union (EU) funding opportunities, as well as key funding news and information. Details, on a series of web pages, include:

- forthcoming EU funding programmes
- sources of information on EU funding opportunities
- help within Brookes and guidance on submitting an application.

Visit the web pages at www2.brookes.ac.uk/research-support/eu_funding

To join a mailing list for funding alerts contact Lorraine Williams on ldwilliams@brookes.ac.uk

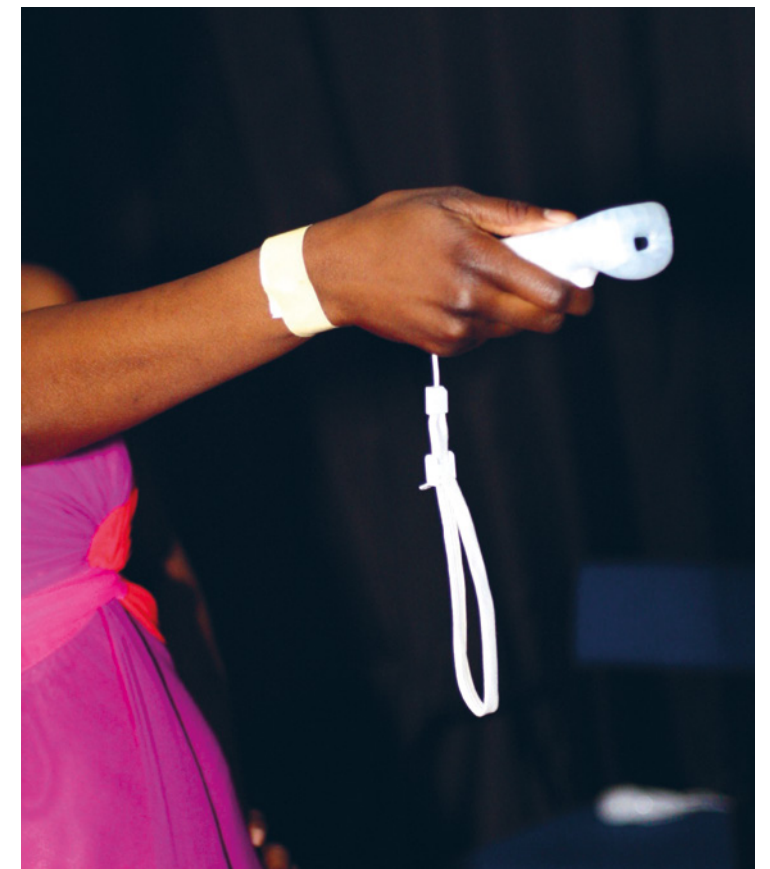


Brookes academics selected as BBC Expert Women

Two Brookes academics, Professor of Sociology, Tina Miller, and Senior Lecturer in Architecture, Harriet Harriss, have been selected from thousands of applicants nationally to be among just 60 women in the BBC Expert Women scheme.

The BBC Academy initiative aims to increase the number of female experts appearing as presenters and specialists in the media and includes an opportunity to meet leading industry professionals and receive hands-on training.

Wii Fit could help children with movement difficulties



Use of the Nintendo Wii Fit could help improve the development of children with movement difficulties, according to findings of a pilot collaboration between Sussex Community NHS Trust, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust and academics at Goldsmiths, University of London and Brookes.

The pilot study, co-led by Dr Dido Green from Oxford Brookes, suggested that regular use of balance games on the Wii Fit could have a positive impact on the motor skills, and related social and emotional behaviour, of children with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD).

The pilot studied two groups of children with movement difficulties or DCD over a month. One group used the Wii Fit during their lunch break, while the other group took part in their regular Jump Ahead programme – a programme aimed at helping children develop motor skills. The results found significant gains in motor proficiency, the child's perception of their motor ability and reported emotional well-being for more of the children in the group using the Wii Fit.

The study provides preliminary evidence to support the use of the Wii Fit, which could be used at home with minimal supervision within therapeutic programmes for children with movement difficulties.

POSTGRADUATE PINPOINT

Inspiring work by our postgraduates

From Navy cadet to PhD student exploring human-robotic interaction



Steve Barker, from the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment describes his unconventional route into higher education

My ambition is to pioneer a robot that accurately mimics the way a person moves. It involves making a robotic head and neck based on a human skeleton.

My route into academia was somewhat unconventional. Before starting my research I had been an associate lecturer at Brookes Business School for ten years, having done an MBA with them. Prior to that I'd been in IT – and that was preceded by a very formative time in the Navy.

I joined the Navy straight from school at the age of 16. It was the Navy that taught me that, with a bit of work, anybody can do anything. Placed on a gruelling and demanding five-year electronics course, it was designed to cream off the best recruits and we were supposed to be the elite.

I completed seven years' service on the Polaris nuclear submarines. It was the height of the Cold War and a very exciting time. We played very convincing and, at times, scary war games. It was a game of cat and mouse with the Soviet submarines. There were some very hairy moments – but you just got on with it. It's when the training kicked in.

After leaving the military, I moved into research and development before going into IT and climbing the career ladder. I had a business career and fancy job but I wasn't happy. I approached Brookes about doing a PhD, despite not having

a degree in computing or robotics. My military training, my experience working on electronics on nuclear submarines and my subsequent career in research and development were enough to get me in.

The plan is for the research to contribute towards the study of human-robotic interaction, because in the future robots are likely to become more commonplace. We want people to engage and interact with them, and feel relaxed doing so – just as if they were talking to a human being. That's the ultimate aim. It'll take years to achieve, but I want Brookes to be the first.

I'm starting with a framework of a plastic replica human skeleton and overlaying that with artificial muscles. It's horrendously complex and never been done before. The aim is for the robot to move and walk by itself using artificial intelligence. The project involves computer vision, machine learning and human anatomy as well as artificial intelligence – so it's very complex. I've started working on the head and neck as that is the framework for everything else.

I have been building robots all my life – I still have robots I built aged 14. I'm living my dream.

For more information contact Steve on stevebarker@brookes.ac.uk and see a video of the Computer Vision Group at <http://tinyurl.com/q3cz5ez>

“I'm starting with a framework of a plastic replica human skeleton and overlaying that with artificial muscles.”

REF 2014

What happened next? Evidencing impact from research

As part of our REF2014 preparations and its requirement to demonstrate why publicly funded research matters to the UK's wider economic, societal and cultural development through our impact case studies, we have to undertake a process of evidence gathering to support the benefits that we claim. The process of evidence gathering to support the impacts from research can be placed into three broad categories:

1. Making an effort to track and record information that will otherwise be unknown or will be known informally, and thus be left implicit.
2. Capturing in a permanent form information that is explicitly known, but only in a temporary way, usually in ways that will otherwise be lost in the normal way of things.
3. Encouraging external audiences to express their appreciation of contacts with the University's research base in a more explicit form than they normally would.

Unfortunately, one of the negative consequences of preparing our impact case studies for REF2014 is that we largely have to evidence our impacts retrospectively; this we just have to 'deal with' the best we can but this in itself presents a dilemma – are our efforts now best spent evidencing our retrospective or prospective impacts for future research assessment exercises? Arguably the process for both is the same, but is dependent on the quality of the data obtained at the time the impact occurred. Our recommendation would be to try and track everything you can when you can. Embed this from the start of the research cycle and it will make it easier in years' time, when we might need to do it all again.

In 2012 the University piloted a JISC-funded study in the School of Law to develop a methodology or 'toolkit' for the tracking and identification of impact – an outcome from which is the Brookes Impact Analysis System (www.brookes.ac.uk/research/impact-analysis-system/). By maintaining the toolkit, researchers are able to track the impact of their work through a number of routes which may lead to impact with non-academic users and may assist researchers to plan to develop the impact of their work.

But where should we start looking for evidence of the impacts from our research? There might be clear demonstrable routes (eg a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with an SME or consultancy with an NGO). You may also try:

- Electronic or other records of the research being discussed in general and specialist media (such as trade press, industry journals or magazines, newsletters or publications of professions, NGOs, think tanks, trade unions).
- Funded linkages such as consultancies, joint ventures and payments from training sessions. Much of the activity here will create an auditable financial trail and financial data is an indicator of the scale of interest outside the University.
- Time commitments by external actors to attend University events or seminars, talk to researchers and consult on issues. Time is money, so the more time that these external actors give, and the more senior these people are, the greater the implied external value of the resources the University provides.
- Appreciations of contacts or work done are rarely explicit. You cannot distil goodwill or favourable impressions unless you ask the participants to record it in some

way. Get feedback on events in a form that is very easy to fill-in and let respondents log free-text comments. If researchers are asked to give an interview, seminar or provide consultancy, it is a great idea to write to them and ask them to briefly record their appreciation in an email pointing out that this can be helpful for the University (researcher, research group, department or faculty) in securing future funding support.

- Following up on causal influences to trace extended effects is important. Colleagues that believe an important effect was achieved on outputs or outcomes should make an effort to get that recorded in some way by the external organisation. DO NOT rest easy with rumours of influence and vague indications of what followed. Instead, commit a little time or effort making more concrete what you know about the extended impact of an intervention or contact.

Finally, we would like to thank all colleagues who have been developing our REF2014 impact case studies and those who have helped to review them. We know that addressing the impact agenda, and in particular its inclusion as part of the assessment for REF2014 has been challenging over the past two years and we appreciate everyone's effort and support.

Dr Emily Brown
REF Impact Officer, Research and Business Development Office

Some of the ideas behind this article have been taken from LSE's *Maximising the Impacts from Research Handbook*.

What turns someone into a terrorist?

Roger Griffin, Professor of Modern History, is coming to be recognised internationally as a major expert on terrorism. Following the recent Boston and Woolwich attacks, Roger writes for *Research Forum* on what motivates people into enacting such atrocities.



A week after the Boston bombing, an Associated Press editorial commented 'as authorities try to piece together the information, they are touching on a question asked after so many terrorist plots: What turns someone into a terrorist?'

There has inevitably been much press speculation about the radicalisation process undergone by Tamerlan Tsarnaev and his brother Dzhokhar which converted them from secularised Muslims to the militant upholders of a terroristic, Islamist variant of Islam. Why should two outwardly well integrated immigrants who had taken US nationality turn against their host country by killing fun-runners and their supporters? And, anyway, why should Chechen fanatics attack a US marathon rather than a Russian target?

The answer to the second question poses few problems. For the two centuries in which the Russians attempted to subjugate Chechens in their mountainous homeland, the resistance fighters were defending a culture whose native religion was a largely Sufist form of Islam blended with elements of 'pagan' tradition.

However, by the mid-1990s

Chechen separatism underwent an extensive process of Islamisation, partly as the direct influence of Mujahedeen from Afghanistan. As a result Chechen ultranationalists now see their conflict with Russia in the Caucasus as a local front of an international jihad against the West which will lead eventually to the creation of a global Caliphate. This war involves selecting targets calculated to cause the maximum collective panic, outrage and publicity. The Bali bombings, 7/7 London transport attacks and Madrid train explosions — not to mention the many foiled plots to blow up airplanes — are consistent with that tactic.

What could be more spectacular for would-be terrorists living in Boston than a lethal attack staged at the finishing line of the internationally famous Boston Marathon? Curiously, few media pundits have picked up on the fact that the 2010 film *Four Lions*, a satirical study of diaspora Islamist terrorists this time based in Sheffield, culminates in a botched attack on the London Marathon.

The first question is obviously far more tricky. It should be remembered that another diaspora Muslim, 7/7 bomber Mohammed Khan, was also

well integrated into British society on the surface with no obvious reasons in his life to make him carry a rucksack of explosives onto a Circle Line tube train at King's Cross with the determination to detonate them. The elaboration of a plausible model of the social psychological process involved in such 'conversions' to fanatical violence is the subject of my book *Terrorist's Creed* (2012).

It suggests that individuals who suffer from underlying feelings of personal anomie and futility in their lives combined with a growing sense of outrage, impotence, or oppression directed at a particular feature of society — foreign occupation, abhorrent moral practices, corrupt institutions — may undergo a process of 'heroic doubling'. As a result the world is split into 'good' and 'bad' to produce a 'Manichean' world-view.

At this point they produce a double of themselves, a syndrome brilliantly dramatised in the films *Fight Club*, *Taxi Driver* and *Avatar*, who undertakes a 'sacred' mission to carry out a violent act of retribution, purification, or redemption against the now fully demonised 'enemy'. It is a psycho-

dynamic process that weakens their reality principle to the point where they convince themselves that a single act of cathartic violence will somehow further their holy cause (even secular ideologies can generate holy causes), and so change the course of history.

Their new heroic avatar has broken the taboos and moral inhibitions about killing and dying of 'normal' life and has spontaneously entered the state of mind which military training of all states tries to induce in raw army recruits on the eve of battle: a spirit of 'sacrifice' in which even the enemy dies for a 'good' cause. The countless names on war memorials all over Europe and the eulogies of 'our' soldiers who die in Afghanistan should give us pause before we dismiss terrorists as 'evil psychos'.

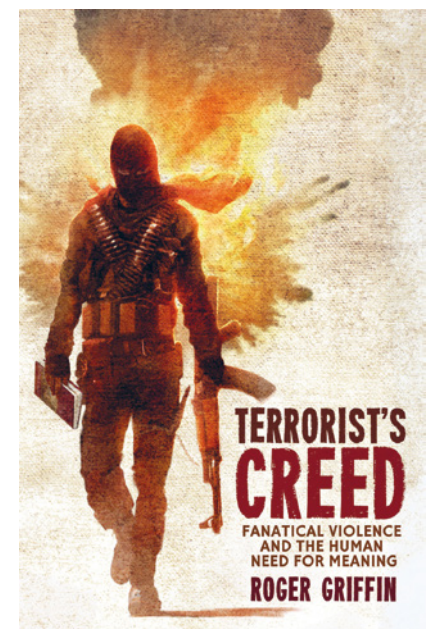
At some point at least one of two diaspora Chechens, living in Boston and suffering from acute anomie and identity 'issues', became susceptible to the fanatical ranting, in person or in virtual reality, of Islamist fundamentalists. Their simplified narrative about the sacred duty to carry out the holy mission ('jihad') to fight for a sacred spiritual homeland ('nomos'), a Chechen identity

which had now become a global Islamist identity, and which was under attack from inner and outer enemies (Western imperialism, secularisation, consumer driven licentiousness, the US) brought order and purpose to otherwise chaotic and meaningless lives.

Adolf Hitler did something similar for millions of 'ordinary' Germans at the height of Weimar's collapse in 1930 and the NSDAP vote soared from 2.4 per cent to 37.4 per cent in three years. Perhaps self-styled counter-terrorist experts and politicians should 'get out more' and take greater account of a continuous stream of books, films, and documentaries which portray the plight of ethnic communities under siege and diaspora members who have not found a spiritual home in their host countries, however materially secure their lives.

Many are spiritually drowning in what the sociologist Zygmunt Bauman calls the 'liquefaction' of reality, and a few may in their desperation cling onto a life-line which allows them to be reeled inexorably into the net of a terrorist creed.

For further information, please email rdgriffin@brookes.ac.uk





Finding something unexpected which brings your work to life is something I recommend when communicating your own research.

Of fridges and sea spiders

What to talk about in our research

In addition to her research role within the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, **Dr Anne Osterrieder** is an award winning communicator of science. Anne discusses some of the key considerations for research outreach.

While many researchers understand why we should be making our work available to a wider audience, an important consideration should be what we are communicating.

A key lesson I have learnt through my outreach role is that what seems obvious to you, might well surprise others.

A good example of this came from a plant science project I undertook last summer with pupils from Didcot Girls' School. The first question the school children asked me when they walked into the lab was 'why do you have fridges in your lab?'

I was completely thrown by the question as it seemed so obvious to me. We of course need fridges to store our perishable chemicals, enzymes, bacterial cultures, DNA we are working on and so on.

Explaining this to a non-biologist got straight to the heart of communicating how molecular biology works and was a great introduction to my area of research.

It is important to remember that it is not the case that every published piece of research is a ground-breaking leap forward. Similarly, each new

scientific discovery will not be deemed as important or attention-grabbing enough to be picked up by the media.

However, I strongly believe we should acknowledge and communicate the small puzzle pieces which help to form the bigger picture.

So what does engage a wider audience? Grabbing their attention with information which is surprising and unexpected is key. Make people think and question their established views and perceptions. Thus the first step is to identify what parts of our work have the potential to do this.

Another good example of this came from my work in recent months with Dr Niall Munro who is a lecturer in English and associate of Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre. We have been putting together an interdisciplinary training programme for postgraduate students and early career researchers.

One of our invited speakers was the poet John Wedgwood Clarke, Leverhulme Artist in Residence at the Centre for Environmental and Marine Sciences at the University of Hull.

When we looked at one of his poems, 'Sea Swim', I asked Niall what makes a good poem. He felt

that a good poem contains something unexpected and pointed out the image of an auburn-legged spider as an example.

I immediately replied that this was not unexpected at all since this was how sea spiders often look. A horizon like a tuning fork on the other hand seemed very unusual to me, but was not surprising to Niall at all.

Finding something unexpected which brings your work to life is something I recommend when communicating your own research.

Of course the big insights matter. But I feel that we also should pay attention to the small aspects which we encounter every day, but which still might seem unusual to others. Therefore, next time you are in your usual research surroundings, pay close attention and ask yourself, what is the 'fridge' in your discipline?

Follow Anne on Twitter
@AnneOsterrieder



Ray Lee

A Theatre of Sound Machines

Ray Lee, who recently won a prestigious award from the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors, discusses the issue of how his research is classified.

I'll start with a problem of definition. I was recently awarded the British Composer of the Year Award 2012 for Sonic Art. The problem is that I don't consider myself to be a sonic artist and I'm not exactly a conventional composer either.

My research at Brookes is located within the cross disciplinary Sonic Arts Research Unit (SARU) which straddles the two discrete units of assessment for Art and Design, and Music, Drama Dance and Performing Arts as categorised by HEFCE for REF2014. Typically art departments have sound art, while music departments have sonic art which highlights the issue I face on definition.

Sonic art has its roots in the Western classical music tradition and refers to compositional practices which have emerged out of experimental electro-acoustic music recording technologies. Composer Pierre Schaeffer developed the theoretical basis of the form we know as *Musique Concrete* in the 1940's, using early to mid-20th century recording technology to enable the recordings of sound to be used as material for composition.

Conversely, sound art is a form that has developed since the late 1950's and describes a range of

artistic practices where sound is used as the principle material or carrier of meaning. This practice tends to include a physical presence in addition to the sonic material and works can take the form of installations and exhibitions as well as performances. Sound artists often come from visual and fine art traditions, as well as experimental music backgrounds.

So what do I do, and what do I call it?

To be prosaic about it, I make machines which make sound. Many of these machines move while generating the sound. I create theatrical, compositional structures that use duration and site-specific locations to build an immersive experience for the audience. These kinetic, sculptural works have been seen, heard and experienced by many thousands of people all over the world.

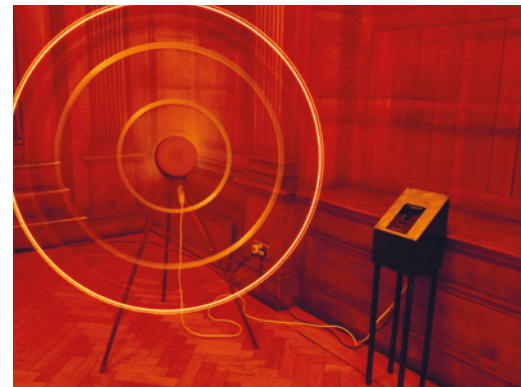
As a practice-based researcher I look to see what insights can be gained through the practice that could not have been gained through other means. The research that comes out of the SARU is outward looking and public facing. Sound and sonic artists from Brookes conduct research which

is accessible to members of the public as well as contributing to the field. My large scale sound performance installation 'Siren' has toured to 17 countries across three continents. The annual Audiograft festival in February is another great example of this public engagement with our research.

The territories of sonic and sound art are porous, the lines between them fuzzy. One of the real values of the SARU, which makes it distinct among other higher education institutions, is its remarkable examples of cross disciplinary collaboration. It accurately reflects the split root of these sound and sonic practices coming as they do from the fertile soil of both fine art and music.

So whether you call it sound art, sonic art or both, is perhaps an academic question. The SARU is actively engaged in exploring that question, developing an ostensive definition of sound and sonic art that is at the forefront of research in the field internationally.

For further information, please email ray.lee@brookes.ac.uk or visit www.sonicartresearch.co.uk



A new world view

A new inter-disciplinary Centre at Brookes is aiming to encourage investigation and reflection into important global social issues. Its director, **Barrie Axford**, Professor of Politics, explains how the Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society (GPES) will open up new discussion and collaboration around some of the key issues that impact upon the world today.

We are providing a forum for scholars to collaborate and explore global changes through theory construction and empirical investigation. Its commitment to inter-disciplinarity offers members and affiliates excellent opportunities to network and its thematic and inclusive goals encourage intellectual interests that are not always accommodated in single disciplines to find a platform.

The Centre is committed to the dissemination of high quality research to a wide audience, which includes the British Academy, policy makers, business and civil society. It enjoyed a successful launch in January this year with a workshop entitled *The Borders of Global Theory: Views from Within and Without*. Keynote speakers included Professors Roland Robertson (Aberdeen), Jan-Aart Scholte (Warwick), Heather Widdows (Birmingham), Gillian Youngs (Brighton), and Grahame Thompson (Open University and Copenhagen Business School).

There will be a lively intellectual environment for our members to engage in and we sponsor a varied programme of events including workshops, symposia, conferences and talks from visiting academics.

Ongoing activities for the Centre include collaboration with Brunel University on the theme of networks and society. Three workshops will be held between 24 May and 10 September on the internet and politics, on networks and governance and on networks of surveillance. A similar collaboration is in train with the University of Hong Kong on the politics of energy, for which funding is being sought from the British Academy. The Centre is exploring further cross-national ties with the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies at Kolkata. The theme of this endeavour is Anglo-Indian perspectives on globalisation.

In January we introduced what we hope will become an established Visiting Fellow programme, welcoming Dr Mikael Nygård from Åbo Akademi University in Finland to Oxford. Dr Nygård works on comparative welfare systems and is collaborating with Dr Mikko Kuisma and myself. Each week we hold a research seminar, co-sponsored by the Doctoral Training Programme in Global Politics, Economy and Society. We welcome staff and students from across the university to these events.

In the coming months the Centre will publish its programme for next year and begin an ambitious round of funding bids. We want to make our activities as open as possible to members of the University and beyond.

To find out more, please visit: www.social-sciences.brookes.ac.uk/research/centres/gpes





The Lost Audiences

A Brookes project focusing on the gap in knowledge about the Italian cinema-going public of the 1940s and 1950s, for whom cinema was by far the most popular pastime, has received prestigious Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funding.

Dr Daniela Trevari Gennari, Programme Lead for Film Studies, will head up the £654,000 Lost Audiences research project. "I'm putting together memories of Italian cinema-goers in the 1950s with an analysis of the programming at the time as well as the topographical mapping of the cinema theatres and the popular press. There's very little information about where the cinemas were and they are one of the things that people remember most."

Cinemas are really significant and the audience forget about the titles of films, the stories, the narrative but they will tell you exactly how to get to the cinema from their house. And the topographical memories are amazingly vivid and there's no research on the actual location of the cinema and how they really created a space."

Daniela started working on audiences in 2008, her PhD research was about the influence of the Catholic Church on Italian cinema and its relationship with America, "I combined my interest of historical Italian studies



and film, and I was fascinated by the 1950's; it was an era I really wanted to investigate."

We managed to get some funding from Brookes to work on a very small pilot project and we did a series of interviews with two colleagues from Bristol and Exeter that are my partners in this project."

Originally, the project was intended as a country-wide study but this proved difficult for Daniela and her team, "We scaled it down to Rome only and we proposed it to the British Academy who funded a mid-career fellowship. This year I've been working specifically in the city which for me is very important, being at home and looking at the history of my city."

Over the next year, Daniela's project will start to see some strong outputs that will reinforce her project, "It is a three year project and having the chance to resubmit really gave us the opportunity to get a proper list of important outputs, both for the academic community and for

the general public. We will deliver two books, several conference presentations, organisation of two conferences, articles, and special issues in academic journals. However, we'll publically engage with external beneficiaries in a way we'd not looked at very carefully before and I think that's really important, especially for a project of this kind."

The research has the potential to create a massive impact, adding values to the memories of people who have been neglected, "A few years ago I came across an organisation in Italy called Memoro that videoed people in their 70's and 80's about their memories."

We got them on board for the project because we really like the values behind what they were doing, giving all the people the possibilities of telling their stories and really rewrite history, which has been so far written from the scholars, a history that will be defined from below rather than from the top."

Daniela's achievement resulted in

one of the largest AHRC funds to be awarded to the University but it wasn't an easy ride, "It took a long time, over three years to build the first application but this was turned down because we didn't have enough experience. So we took that on board and we did a small case study to gain that experience, which really worked. It was very, very useful. It is a very long process that can really put you off from persevering."

From the IT experts for the major software I'm using, through to those in the institution who are looking after the nuts and bolts of the research, such as the ethics committee, it's great that I've received support from across the University to be able to do this project."

For more information on The Lost Audiences project, please contact Daniela at dtreveri-gennari@brookes.ac.uk

Research training events 2013/14

Research Induction and Networking Event

Wednesday 2 October 2013

1pm-3.30pm

Applying for research funding - Why is this important?

Wednesday 12 February 2014

1pm-3.30pm

“I’ve won my award! Hurrah! What do I do next?”

Wednesday 26 March 2014

1pm-3.30pm

Re-run of the Research Induction and Networking Event

Wednesday 11 June 2014

1pm-3.30pm

All events will take place at Headington Campus,
Gipsy Lane, room details to be confirmed.

To book a place please contact

louise.wood@brookes.ac.uk

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