

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues and Friends of ICS,

I hope you all had glorious Summers and are returning to work energised and relaxed. These newsletters list internal and external interdisciplinary workshops, projects, funding opportunities, and events. Let us know if you'd like us to include something.

Sad news

I'm sure many of you are aware that Professor Rebecca Lingwood, Brunel's Provost, is moving on. Rebecca has been visionary and instrumental in setting up the ICS. I've worked closely with her and will miss her input and support greatly, as will many others across the University. We wish Rebecca the very best up to infinity, as my daughter used to say.

What to do if you find a dead marsupial

During my annual leave I visited family and friends in Australia. One night my brother and I found a dead wallaby on a road adjoining a wildlife reserve in Koroit, a small town in Victoria. She had been hit by a car, probably a speeding 4WD, and was still warm. There was a wriggling and lively but immature joey in her pouch: most Australians know to check for joeys in roadkill, and btw did you know that wallabies' pouches are furry inside? We removed the joey (always pull gently by the buttocks, never the limbs) and wrapped it in a beanie before driving to a rescue centre. The joey will probably not live more than a few months because of poor brain development. A volunteer at the centre told us that killings of koalas, wallabies and emus in that spot have hugely increased since the road was resurfaced a few months ago, and she was currently caring for an emu with two broken legs! It was a heartbreaking night that made me think about interdisciplinarity and ways that this complex problem could be addressed. A research team would have to look at human/non-human interactions for a start, and could, for example, include rural planners (roads, speed humps, speed limits, signage), Dhauwurd Wurrung people (the traditional owners of the land), sociologists (automobile and 4WD macho cultures), rangers, marsupial biologists, environmentalists, etc. This is just an example, but so many complex problems can really *only* be addressed through interdisciplinary lenses—as you know, the ICS is dedicated to such endeavours. Do be in touch, and please join us in our activities in the year to come—we welcome all humans and non-humans.

Best wishes,



Professor Meredith Jones

‘DIGITAL LIVING’ BRIL’

The Brunel Research Interdisciplinary Labs ([BRILs](#)) convene interdisciplinary groups across Brunel to develop high-quality interdisciplinary funding proposals. Applications are now open for ‘Digital Living’, a very broad topic designed to encourage participation across STEM, Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts disciplines. This BRIL focuses on the human, social, technological and application challenges of digital living, with particular attention given to the health, cultural and social dimensions of new digital adoptions and transformations. [Applications close on Monday 12th September 2022](#). If you would like more information, contact [Professor Abdul Sadka](#). For details about the application process, contact RSDO-IDR@brunel.ac.uk.

INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORKS

[Progressive Connections: Interdisciplinary Life](#) is an Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences network focused on [inter and transdisciplinary projects](#), [conferences](#), etc.

The [International Cultural Relations Research Alliance \(ICRRA\)](#) is a global network co-convened by the British Council with the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA) in Germany. ICRRA builds bridges between practical cultural work, scholarly reflection, policy advice, and the media. The goals of the network are the transfer of research-based knowledge in politics and society, and the promotion of international knowledge exchange and cooperation in cultural relations. The theme for this year’s (26-7 September, online) conference is [Culture in Security](#).

INTER, CROSS, AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY FUNDING / RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Global South development issues—using secondary data

One of the aims of [this call](#) is to co-produce substantive and innovative data research through equitable partnerships with investigators based in the Global South. All social science disciplines are eligible but interdisciplinary proposals that include disciplines where social science approaches form the dominant part of the proposal are encouraged.

APEX Awards (opens 7 September)

[This scheme](#) offers established researchers, with a strong track record in their respective area, an exciting opportunity to pursue genuine interdisciplinary and curiosity-driven research to benefit wider society. Applicants will be expected to collaborate with a research partner from a different discipline from their own or a different university in the UK. One of the objectives is to support outstanding interdisciplinary research which is unlikely to be supported through conventional funding programmes.

UKRI AHRC pre-announcement: collaborate with German partners on arts and humanities research (opens 6 October)

In [this scheme](#) both single-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary applications will be considered.

UKRI Net Zero Digital Research Infrastructure Scoping Project

Different digital research infrastructure (DRI) stakeholders need help to understand and plan for meeting net zero challenges. Many of the skills and knowledges needed to solve net zero challenges are already in the community – but we lack the mechanisms for sharing them and enabling behaviour change. This project will lead a series of participatory workshops which will be undertaken with the aim to connect and enthuse the DRI community in order to meet the net zero challenge. There will be three workshops designed to empower all stakeholders to take ownership of the path to net zero.

Workshop 1: Where does the energy consumption come from and how can it be made more efficient?

Workshop 2: What to do with the fossil fuel left over/how to limit unavoids emissions and what behaviour change solutions exist to meet climate targets?

Workshop 3: What are key actions (by 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040) to meet net zero targets?

[Register here](#). Contact: Danae.Manika@brunel.ac.uk