

# LeadingEdge

Research at Brunel University

## Sustainable Bio-Refinery Project comes to Brunel



In Spring 2011, Professor Ashok Bhattacharya and his research group moved from the University of Oxford (Department of Engineering Science) to Brunel University (Wolfson) to set up a new Centre on Resource Engineering, Management and Policy. Prof. Bhattacharya is an internationally recognised scientist in the areas of catalysis, process technology, advanced materials and nanomaterials science, with a special interest in distributed energy systems and distributed processing. Along with his expertise, Prof. Bhattacharya brings a €20 million innovative, sustainable bio-refinery research project funded by the European Union 7th Framework Programme (FP7). This project, SUPRABIO (Sustainable products from economic processing of biomass in highly integrated Biorefineries) is spearheaded by Prof. Bhattacharya and involves a consortium that includes leading European organisations in the areas of biomass, biofuels, biocatalysis, biotechnology and sustainability from nine European countries: three industrial companies, eight small and medium enterprises, three research institutes and three universities.

The four year research project which began in February 2010 undertakes research with the aim of developing sustainable and competitive bio-refinery processing schemes for a range of geographical and social conditions. Declining petroleum resources, increased demand for petroleum by emerging economies, and political and environmental concerns about fossil fuels are driving our society to search for new sources of liquid fuels and commodity chemicals. The only current sustainable source of organic carbon is plant biomass. Large amounts of biomass are present throughout the world and the European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA) has estimated that Europe could produce 8.900 PJoule of biomass per year. Biofuels, produced in biorefineries, give out significantly less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than fossil fuels and can even be greenhouse gas neutral if efficient methods for production

are developed. The research will use bio-resources (renewable raw materials) such as straw, seed oil, algae and waste water. The bio-resources will be improved and converted (through microbial, fungal, enzymatic and chemical processes) to make products for consumers and industry e.g. healthcare products, cosmetics, pharmaceutical intermediates, bio-fuels, and materials such as polymers.

Professor Bhattacharya commented:

*“The crux of this project is to address the problems of declining fossil fuels and global warming. To resolve these we need to bring in renewable materials to produce fuels and chemicals. This project will use biomass to achieve this goal. However, in order that the processes for the manufacture of fuels and chemicals from biomass are competitive and sustainable we will need to develop some critical technologies such as efficient fractionation of lignocellulose, enhanced and selective microbial and fungal conversions, and economic distributed chemical processing using integrated highly intensified modular reactors.”*

The results from the project's on-going research will lead to five demonstration units being built in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and the UK. Finance to build these units will come from the project's corporate partners.

The SUPRABIO project is part of a major biorefinery research initiative of the European Commission. Within this initiative, research and industry organisations are developing new ways to convert biological feedstock into energy and valuable material using biorefinery technology. The research programme is carried out through four complementary projects, commonly referred to as the “biorefinery sister projects”. The sister projects – SUPRABIO, EuroBioRef, BIOCORE and Star-Colibri – are committed to closely co-operate in order to harmonise their approach to biomass feedstocks characterisation and to assessing the sustainability of their products. In addition, the sister projects aim to organise common dissemination events where the progress of these major biorefinery initiatives will be presented.

Further project details can be found at: <http://www.suprabio.eu/>

LeadingEdge Issue 22  
Autumn 2011

**Brunel**  
UNIVERSITY  
L O N D O N



**Open Access to  
Research Outputs**  
Pages 3



**Brunel Social and  
Political Thought  
Research Group** Page 5



**Funding Success -  
EPSRC First Grant**  
Page 7

## Contents

SupraBio	1
Editorial	2
Opening Up Access	3
Research News	4-7
Chios Theory	
TeloMarker	
Brunel Social Political Theory Research Group	
EPSRC First Grant Success	
Research Profiles	8-9
Professor William J. Spurlin	
Professor Dorje C. Brody	
Professor Clare Williams	
Dr Dominique P. Béhague	
Research Contracts	10-11
Research Round-Up	12
New RSDO Blog	
Research Professional	

**LeadingEdge** focuses on research at Brunel University.

Copy date for the next issue of **LeadingEdge** is 6 Feb 2012

For details on how to submit articles please contact Vic Gill in the Research Support and Development Office on ext 67398 or email [vic.gill@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:vic.gill@brunel.ac.uk)

### Editor: Content and Production

Vic Gill, RSDO

### University Photographer:

Sally Trussler, Media Services

### Printed by:

Brunel University Press

### Recycle

When you have finished with this newsletter please recycle it

# Leading *Editorial*

## Welcome to Leading Edge



### Welcome to the latest edition of Leading Edge

In the last issue I mentioned that a number of our funding bodies had produced new policies regarding research data management. This is a relatively new agenda for the sector, with the funding bodies urging us to be more explicit about our procedures for the publication, storage, preservation and re-use of data produced by research, irrespective of the format. As an institution we view effective research data management as an essential ingredient of high quality research and therefore seek to promote its importance to all our researchers in order to better support them. For this reason, over the next few months we will be developing an action plan to take this agenda forward, which will in the first instance involve the provision of information and training for researchers to promote good practice in research data management. This should, with time, assure that we improve the profile of Brunel's research by making our data available, whilst having the opportunity of using the data made available by other researchers in our own research. A win-win situation!

Since 2009 we have been encouraging researchers to publish in highly reputable journals, on the basis that these normally have the highest quality peer review. Thus papers published in them are more likely to be improved by the peer review process, a kind of free mentoring service! In a recent analysis we looked at 1,672 of our papers published since 2008 and found that 25% of these papers were in the best 5% of journals in the ERA ranking, and 57% in the best 20% of the journals. This is very encouraging indeed, and suggests that the message has been taken on board, and that we are targeting good outlets for our best research.

One more piece of good news - Brunel has been awarded the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research accreditation for its commitment to providing high quality training and career development for researchers. The award acknowledges the University's alignment with a number of UK and EU codes of practice for the support of researchers in higher education, relating to recruitment processes, degree provision, and career progression frameworks. Brunel is one of only 38 UK institutions to hold the award.

This edition of Leading Edge contains numerous examples of the success we are generating as our research culture continues to improve, and we receive further external recognition of our progress.

With best wishes to you all

**Professor Geoff Rodgers**

**PVC (Research)**

## Opening Up Access to Research Outputs

Open Access (OA) has been in the news again this summer with more research funders (and Cabinet Ministers!) adding their voices to the call to free up access to the publications that result from publicly funded research. With a well established OA repository (BURA) and an OA Publishing Fund in place, Brunel is well placed to respond to these developments.

### RCUK and HEFCE commitment to OA

In May, David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, announced a joint Research Councils UK (RCUK) and HEFCE commitment to OA in a speech to the Association of British Science Writers. A joint statement was released which noted: "HEFCE and the Research Councils will work together and with other interested bodies to support a managed transition to open access over the medium term..."

This was followed in June by the publication of an updated policy on "Access to Research Outputs" by the EPSRC which has been introduced with immediate effect. The policy states:

---

*"EPSRC Council has agreed to mandate open access publication....This mandate is now being implemented: EPSRC requires authors to comply with this mandate and ensure that all published research articles arising from EPSRC-sponsored research, and which are submitted for publication on or after 1st September 2011, must become available on an Open Access basis through any appropriate route."*

---

All Research Councils now require that published articles arising from their funded projects are made available on an open access basis.

### So what are the "appropriate routes" to OA publishing?

There are two main routes to achieve OA publishing:

- Gold** authors pay an article processing charge (APC) to publish in an OA or hybrid journal (i.e. a journal in which access to most content is limited to subscribers but authors have the option to pay an APC to make their article OA); the article is then made freely available from the date of publication
- Green** a copy of the peer-reviewed article is deposited in an online repository, e.g. BURA; this can only be done with the permission of the publisher of the final version of the article

### Support for OA at Brunel

Many funders now allow OA publication costs to be included as "directly incurred costs" in research grant applications. However, where this is not possible or where publication doesn't happen until after the end date of the funded project, support is available from Brunel's OA Publishing Fund. The Fund, set up by the PVC (Research) in 2009 and one of only a handful in UK universities, recently received its 97th application. To date, the fund has enabled 61 articles to be made freely available upon publication (and via BURA). The Fund has also enabled Brunel to become an institutional member of BioMed Central, Public Library of Science and Hindawi Publishing, allowing Brunel researchers to publish in the journals from these publishers at a reduced rate.

Summer 2011 saw the addition of the 5,000th item to BURA (<http://bura.brunel.ac.uk>), Brunel's OA repository and, as of the 27th September, that number has now reached 5,130. Unlike many other institutional repositories, BURA only contains items where the full-text (as opposed to just the bibliographic information and / or abstract) can be made freely available and, as a result, usage of BURA continues to grow with more than 5 million downloads to date.

### OA and You

You can add copies of your full-text publication to BURA via BRAD (<http://intranet.brunel.ac.uk/researchdatabase>). You will also find useful information about which version of the article you can upload. If you have any questions about how to do this, contact Carolyn Bailey, the Research Publications Manager in the Library [bura-manager@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:bura-manager@brunel.ac.uk) ext. 66017. To find out more about OA publishing visit the Library website:

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/services/library/research/open-access-publishing>

For further information contact: [lorna.mitchell@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.mitchell@brunel.ac.uk)

## Measuring Cultural Value

Dr Claire Donovan (HERG) has begun a six-month Public Sector Placement Fellowship based at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), to contribute to research on 'Measuring Cultural Value'. She will write a report for government, and seek to build consensus with a variety of cultural sector stakeholders, DCMS, and the Treasury, to produce a toolkit for measuring cultural value. A novel 'cynical-sentimental' approach will fuse standard Treasury economic valuation techniques with qualitative measures of supposedly 'intangible' public value. The Placement Fellowship is jointly-funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, and DCMS.

## Sportesse Prize

Dr Costas Karageorghis, Reader in Sport Psychology (School of Sport and Education), has won the Sportesse Prize for the best oral presentation on exercise science at the 2011 British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences Annual Conference, University of Essex. The title of his presentation was: Antecedents, Intermediaries and Consequences of Music Use in Exercise: Towards a New Theoretical Model. The prize included a certificate, an engraved clock and a cheque for £500.

## Brunel University Funds Innovative Community Project in South Africa

Hadithi ya Afrika (meaning 'Stories from Africa' in kiSwahili) is a collaborative project between Brunel Creative Writing lecturer Sarah Penny and consultant dramatherapist Paula Kingwill. Funded by the Brunel University BRIEF award scheme (£8,163), the project took place at St Francis Adult Education Centre in Langa, Cape Town, in March 2011. Using a fusion of dramatherapy, creative writing workshop practice, and final co-writing consultation, Hadithi ya Afrika enables autobiographical story writing by participants who have had little or no previous access to formal training skills in writing. Hadithi ya Afrika aims to work with communities who have undergone a shared transitional moment which has had a strong positive impact on the community. Through the Hadithi ya Afrika workshop process, personal stories of the transition can be created, recorded and disseminated to other communities facing similar challenges.

## Chios Theory: Studying Displacement and Identity in a 19th Century Greek Diaspora



Remains of the victims of the massacre of 1822 kept in the monastery of Aghios Minas, Chios [photo Nicolas Argenti]

Dr. Nicolas Argenti, from the department of Social Anthropology, has been awarded an ESRC Mid-Career Development Fellowship for a research project on collective memories of political violence. The £234,000 project, "Remembering Absence: Catastrophe, Displacement and Identity Among Chiots and the Chiot Diaspora" provides him with two years of research leave during which he will travel to the Aegean island of Chios to conduct research on cultural memories of a massacre that took place there in the 19th century.

In the spring of 1822, at the start of the Greek war of Independence, the Ottoman Navy sailed to the Aegean island of Chios to put down an uprising. The punitive expedition that ensued lasted for six months and resulted in the massacre or sale into slavery of nine tenths of the island's population. This project will provide a comparative analysis of social memories of these events in two distinct communities: members of the diaspora descended from survivors of the massacre who settled in Europe and America, and contemporary inhabitants of the island of Chios. In both cases, despite the passage of nearly two centuries, the massacres of Chios remain core aspects of the collective memory of the local and diaspora communities. The research will explore how memories of a distant event have come to be such important aspects of social and political life for these two communities in the present.

Based on archival research and on participant observation and interviews, the project looks on the one hand at how memories of political violence and the loss of a homeland have forged a sense of identity for a diaspora community. On the other hand it will examine the role that memories of the same events play in Chios today, where they remain emotionally and politically charged issues. Nicolas Argenti has previously worked on collective memories of slavery and colonial violence in Cameroon, publishing *The Intestines of the State with the University of Chicago Press* in 2007. This project extends his critical research in the fields of trauma and history, specifically examining the possibility that social memories of political violence have the potential to transform our understanding of historical time, making of the commemorations of 1822 a means of addressing much more recent experiences and social formations.

For more information contact: [nicolas.argenti@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:nicolas.argenti@brunel.ac.uk)

## Brunel passes 10-year milestone coordinating EU-wide research into telomerase and cancer

With the completion earlier this year of their EU Framework 7 Collaborative Project 'TeloMarker', scientists working in Brunel's Institute of Cancer Genetics and Pharmacogenomics (BICGP) have led for more than a decade the development and coordination of multinational European Union-supported research into the role of the cell immortality enzyme telomerase and the biology of telomeres in human cancer. Professor Rob Newbold, the programme's Scientific Coordinator who devised the research and set up the consortia for all three of the EC Framework projects involved, said: 'Since we originated the first telomerase and cancer project ('TACIT') in late 1999 we have brought together combinations of the very best research teams throughout the EU to generate and exploit new knowledge in this important area for the direct benefit of cancer patients'. Seventeen of Europe's world-renowned cancer research institutions from eight different EU countries participated in the projects, which generated €11 million in EC funding.

Telomeres are complex structures at the ends of our chromosomes that protect against genetic instability, and are maintained by the biologically unique enzyme telomerase during embryonic development. After birth, telomerase is completely switched off in most of our 'body' cells to protect us against cancer, and it does this by limiting the number of times our cells can divide. In nearly all cancers telomerase has been reactivated, this being a critical step in the development of most forms of the disease. The new improved understanding of how telomerase regulation and telomere biology is disrupted during cancer development is now leading to improved cancer drug targets and diagnostic procedures that promise to

change the way cancer is managed and treated in the next decade. The Brunel research team contributed to the project by identifying several genes that regulate telomerase, and are damaged in breast, prostate and other human cancers. These new developments were presented by Professor Newbold as part of Brunel's 2011 Public Lecture series.

Three key projects have been funded since 2000: 'TACIT' (2000-2004), 'MOL CANCER MED' (2004-2008) and 'TeloMarker' (2008-2011) together with two additional closely linked 8-partner projects (2000-2003) also coordinated by Professor Newbold at Brunel. More than 300 peer-reviewed publications in the most highly regarded international scientific journals have resulted from the main project work, many in journals of the very highest impact (eg Nature, Science, Cell, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA). As a direct result of the research, clinical trials have already been completed or are underway to evaluate novel telomere-related diagnostic procedures in patients, and a wealth of new anti-cancer drug targets and drug leads that were identified by the consortia are currently undergoing detailed pre-clinical validation.

With his sights focused firmly on the future, Professor Newbold added: 'We are currently in the advanced stages of putting together a new enlarged consortium for the next FP7 Health Call in 2012 that will be focused on realizing the clinical potential of promising new telomerase-based and telomere-related cancer drug targets. A particular emphasis will be on the application of the latest in vitro human epithelial cell culture models (some of which can now actually mimic the behaviour of human organs rather than just individual cells) in target evaluation and drug screening. These are exciting times for our research, and we have now reached the point where its true clinical value will be realized'.

For more information contact: [robert.newbold@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:robert.newbold@brunel.ac.uk)

## Brunel Social and Political Thought Research Group

The Brunel Social and Political Thought (SPT) Research Group brings together leading scholars in the fields of social and political theory, the history of political thought and political philosophy. It seeks to develop an innovative approach to political thought that emphasises the historical and political context of classic works and authors, while also intervening in contemporary debates.

### Background

The Brunel SPT Research Group was founded in 2010. Based in the Department of Politics and History (School of Social Sciences), the research group emerged from the overlapping research interests of Professor Mark Neocleous and two new colleagues who joined the Department in 2010 – Dr Filippo Del Lucchese and Dr Peter Thomas.

In its first year, the Research Group organised a seminar series on “Violence and Revolution in Modern Political Thought”. Speakers included noted international political theorists such as Massimiliano Tomba (University of Padua), Pangiotis Sotiris (University of the Aegean), Alberto Toscano (Goldsmiths, University of London), Claudia Aradau (Open University), and Peter Hallward (Kingston University).

The research group’s inaugural year witnessed intense work on the development of a new MA programme in modern political thought.

The Group also submitted an FP7 bid for significant funding for a project on xenophobia and populism in collaboration with partners at the Universities of Urbino, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Tampere and the TIC Migrations, Maison des Sciences de l’Homme in France.

### Objectives

- To carry out research in social and political thought of an international standard.
- To liaise with scholars nationally and internationally in order to raise the profile of Brunel.
- To develop a reputation as a significant centre for research in political thought.
- To attract research students and funding.

### Main research areas

The group’s research explores different traditions and currents in critical social and political thought. Individual and collective work covers the full range of modern social and political thought, from the Renaissance

through to the twentieth century. SPT have a focus on the European context and tradition.

Particular research strengths include early modern political thought, the critique of political economy, the history of Marxism and theories of war and conflict. SPT are also engaged in debates in contemporary political theory and European philosophy, including state theory, the critique of security, critical IPE, concepts of the political and notions of monstrosity. As a group SPT have specialist knowledge of a diverse range of political theorists, including Machiavelli, Spinoza, Hobbes, Burke, Hegel, Marx, Gramsci, Schmitt, Althusser, Polanyi, Foucault and Negri. The Group is particularly keen to welcome research students working in these and related fields.

### Team

Key members of the research group in the School of Social Sciences include:

Dr Gareth Dale, author of *Karl Polanyi: The Limits of the Market* (Polity Press, 2010)

Dr Filippo Del Lucchese, author of *Conflict, Power and Multitude in Machiavelli and Spinoza* (Continuum Press, 2009)

Prof Mark Neocleous, author of *Critique of Security* (Edinburgh University Press, 2008); *The Monstrous and the Dead: Burke, Marx, Fascism* (University of Wales Press, 2005)

Dr John Roberts, author of *The Competent Public Sphere: Global Political Economy, Dialogue and the Contemporary Workplace* (Palgrave, 2009)

Dr Peter D. Thomas author of *The Gramscian Moment. Philosophy, Hegemony and Marxism* (Brill Academic Press, 2009)

### Affiliated researchers and doctoral students include:

Mr Andrea Bardin, Mr Nathaniel Boyd, Ms Aude de Caunes, Mr Adam Fabry, Dr. Sara R. Farris, Ms Lucia Pradella, Mr Ayshwarya Rajah.

Research group members are involved in the editorial boards of the journals *Debate: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe* (London), *Décalages* (Los Angeles), *Historical Materialism* (London), *International Socialism* (London), *Marxist Interventions* (Sydney), and *Radical Philosophy* (London).

### Case Study (MA in Modern Political Thought: Violence and Revolution)

In 2011/12, members of the Brunel SPT Research Group will offer a new MA programme in Modern Political Thought:

Violence and Revolution. This MA programme introduces students to a range of theoretical perspectives on the concepts of violence and revolution in modern political thought, from the crisis of the Renaissance, through the long seventeenth century and the Enlightenment, to the critique of political economy and theories of revolution and counter-revolution in the twentieth century. The programme focuses in particular on the importance of historical context for understanding the transformation and reformulation of classic themes in modern political thought. Students will complete four modules in addition to a research dissertation. An innovative feature of the course consists in the close reading of classic texts in modern political thought in small-group sessions. Course Director, Professor Mark Neocleous commented:

---

*“The launch of this exciting new MA course, the only of its kind in the UK, consolidates Brunel’s growing reputation as an international centre of excellence in the history of political thought.”*

---

### Future plans and events

In the coming academic year, the Brunel SPT Research Group will organise a number of public events:

- A year-long Seminar Series: “Crisis, Transition, Transformation: Revolutionary Thought Today”.
- International Conference on the “Right to Resistance” in February 2012
- March 2012 – The Arab Spring: Origins, Results, Prospects
- A year-long Series of Film Screenings: “R24. Revolution : 24 frames per second”

Members of the research group will also contribute to the organisation of the annual conferences of the journals *Radical Philosophy* and *Historical Materialism*, and the “London Seminar on Contemporary Marxist Theory”.

### Further Details

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/sss/politics/research-groups-and-centres/social-and-political-thought>

[www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/modern-political-thought-violence-and-revolution-ma](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/modern-political-thought-violence-and-revolution-ma)

Contact: [peterd.thomas@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:peterd.thomas@brunel.ac.uk)

## The Moody's Foundation funds an educational intervention

Professor Valsa Koshy and her research team in the School of Sport and Education have secured a research grant of £170,000 from the Moody's Foundation (New York, USA) to consolidate their work of the Urban Scholars Programme and to develop an educational intervention model for students, aged 12-18, from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The specific focus of the project is on social mobility and the promotion of social justice. The members of the research team are delighted to receive this funding which will enable them to produce a robust theoretical framework for the work they have been conducting over the past eight years with nine London Local Authorities. The aim is to maximise the impact of the knowledge they have generated for the wider benefit of society, highlighting the role of education as an instrument for social justice.

The Urban Scholars Programme is offered based on the belief that education is at the core of an enlightened and fulfilling life. The Urban Scholars are selected by their schools for their potential for high achievement. They attend a multi-faceted intervention programme held on the University campus, one Saturday a month. The programme has five distinct and interacting aims: enhanced engagement with learning, higher academic achievement, increased aspirations, increased orientation to Higher Education and an increased understanding of self and life-world.

For more information contact: [valsa.koshy@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:valsa.koshy@brunel.ac.uk)

## PepsiCo Grant on Brain and Muscle Circulation in Athletes

José González-Alonso, Professor of Exercise and Cardiovascular Physiology in the School of Sport and Education and Director of the Centre for Sports Medicine and Human Performance, has been awarded a £129,369 grant from PepsiCo to investigate the "Impact of dehydration on brain and muscle blood flow during fatiguing exercise in humans". Dehydration, the loss of body water through sweating, is associated with significant cardiovascular strain, deterioration of physiological and cognitive function and impaired physical performance when people exercise in hot environments. An unknown question, however, is whether a reduced delivery of blood flow and essential oxygen to the brain is an important factor explaining why people slow down or stop. A reduced brain blood flow and oxygen delivery might impair cerebral aerobic metabolism, which in turn could lead to a depression in central neural activation to the exercising muscles and a resulting decrease in muscle power generation. The aim of this study is to examine this hypothesis to further our understanding of the influence of brain circulation on fatigue when people exercise in hot environments.

For more information contact: [j.gonzalez-alonso@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:j.gonzalez-alonso@brunel.ac.uk)

## Girls Allowed! Why women should study Physics

Dr Joanne Cole, a lecturer in the School of Engineering and Design and Dr Dawn Leslie, a senior lecturer in Sport and Education have been awarded a £3,000 grant from the Science and Technology Facilities Council's (STFC) Science in Society scheme. The grant will be used to develop a one-day event to be held at Brunel University aimed at encouraging young women to continue studying Physics at A-level and beyond. The event will take place in spring 2012 and will be based around research carried out by members of the Centre for

Sensors and Instrumentation at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.

Encouraging more young people, and in particular young women, to continue studying physics at A-level and beyond is crucial for the economic well-being of the country. This is, however, set against the backdrop of a recent survey that showed that 88% of 18-24 year olds were unable to name a famous female scientist. The same poll showed that only 18% of parents who responded thought that science was a good career for their daughter to pursue. The aim of this event is to show GCSE and A-level students that women have made, and will continue to make, an important contribution in science and to show them that Physics can be as exciting and rewarding for women as it is for men.

For more information contact:

[joanne.cole@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.cole@brunel.ac.uk) or [dawn.leslie@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:dawn.leslie@brunel.ac.uk)

## British Academy Funding Success for Dr Astrid Swenson

Dr Astrid Swenson, Lecturer in History in the School of Social Sciences, has been awarded a £4,814 grant from the British Academy (Small Research Grants scheme) on "Crusader Heritages and Imperial Preservation", starting in April 2012. While most research links the rise of heritage in the 19th and 20th century to the rise of the nation state, the project studies how the importance of the international and imperial context. It focuses on how buildings left by medieval crusaders across the Mediterranean were reclaimed and restored by the British, French, Italians and Germans between the French Revolution and the 1930s. As all major imperial powers intervened in the preservation of these sites, regardless of whether they ruled the territories, the material will help to write the first systematic comparison of different, yet interacting, national imperial preservation policies, so as to understand how overlapping national, European, and universal claims shaped the modern idea of heritage.

For more information contact: [astrid.swenson@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:astrid.swenson@brunel.ac.uk)

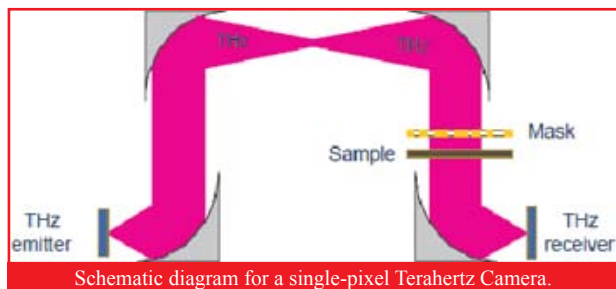
## Women's History, Brunel's Present

The fourth annual 'History of Women in the Americas' conference was held at Brunel University on Wednesday 6th July, hosted by the Centre for American, Trans-Atlantic and Caribbean History and the School of Social Sciences. This year's conference included speakers from North, South and Central America as well as from Britain and across Europe. The papers given covered the breadth of the Americas, from Alaska to Brazil. This diversity was also evident in the range of topics discussed, including beauty, fashion, slavery, literature, politics, microstudies, South American rural women's activism and the Civil Rights Movement. From the outset, the level of enthusiasm and engagement amongst delegates was palpable. Each of the seven panel sessions were interesting and intellectually stimulating, with transnational and interdisciplinary dialogues opening up. Professors Catherine Clinton (Queen's University Belfast) and Steven Reschly (Truman State University) provided inspiring and entertaining keynote addresses on C19th women writers and C20th Amish women respectively, while the wine reception allowed new friendships and discussion of future professional collaborations to flourish. This productive and enjoyable day provides a solid foundation for the continued growth and development of the Society for History of Women in the Americas (ex-British Historians of Women in the Americas), the organization behind the event.

For more information contact: [rachel.ritchie@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.ritchie@brunel.ac.uk)

## EPSRC First Grant Success

Dr. Lu Gan from the School of Engineering and Design has been successful in securing a £96k Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) First Grant. The one year project, titled "Structured sampling operators for compressive Terahertz imaging" is expected to start this December. Terahertz (THz) imaging holds tremendous potential for a wide variety of applications such as medical imaging, non-destructive inspection, quality control, homeland security, etc. However, conventional THz cameras suffer from low imaging speed and relatively high implementation cost. For example, it takes about 10 minutes for a state-of-the-art THz pulsed imaging system to get a 400x400 image.



The project aims to provide solutions for cost effective and fast THz imaging cameras by exploiting the state of the art compressed sensing theory. The main objective is to propose hardware-friendly sampling algorithms and investigate their theoretical performance limits. Moreover, software package and proof-of-concept hardware implementation will be demonstrated. The results of this project may open up new opportunities for the development of fast, relatively inexpensive and even portable THz imaging cameras. The expected outcomes include two conferences and one journal paper publication along with Terahertz imaging reconstruction software. Dr. Gan's collaborator, Dr. Yao-Chun Shen's group from the University of Liverpool will also develop a hardware prototype for compressive Terahertz imaging camera.

For more information contact: [lu.gan@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:lu.gan@brunel.ac.uk)

## AHRC/ESRC funded project explores Youth on Religion



Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Mary O'Connor with Professor Nicola Madge

Eighty secondary school students and their teachers from different parts of the country joined academics, faith leaders, policy makers and other community representatives at a multi-faith event at Hillingdon Civic Centre on 6 July. The event was organised by the Youth On Religion

research team at Brunel and provided an opportunity for teenagers of different faiths from Newham, Hillingdon and Bradford to come together to share their experiences, discuss religion and learn from each other. Students also brought artwork, photography, sculptures and DVDs on religion produced in their multi-faith areas, and played music and sang songs at the event. The event included a global food buffet, a 'big brother' style video diary recording room, and café conversations.

## Bangladesh > UK, The Stories of Food, Ageing and Migration

Dr Vanja Garaj' (School of Engineering and Design) upcoming photo exhibition is an outcome of his Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project titled "Project MINA: Migration, Nutrition and Ageing across the Lifecourse in Bangladeshi Families: A Transnational Perspective." The three-year (2008 - 2011) research project was funded by the ESRC under the New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) research programme. The project aims to aid the development of culturally sensitive interventions to improve the health of the UK's growing Bangladeshi population.

Using a visual ethnography approach, the photographs in this exhibition explore the complicated interplay between migration, nutrition and ageing in a cross-section of Bengali women in the UK and in Bangladesh. Taken mostly in Cardiff, London and Sylhet – the region in north-east Bangladesh where the majority of the UK's Bangladeshi community originates – some are observational portraits exploring the lives and situations of the women who took part, while others touch upon wider cultural issues, such as the position of women in society.

The exhibition is divided between two venues, with several photographs on display in the Senedd, the National Assembly for Wales (15 - 22 November 2011), and the majority in the Cardiff Story, the new museum of Cardiff's history (15 November 2011 - 22 December 2011). The voices of Bengali women – both in their motherland and in their adopted home – often go unheard. These photographs tell their stories.

The photos will also be viewable on-line at [www.projectmina.org](http://www.projectmina.org) from the 15th of November 2011.

Dr Vanja Garaj is a Lecturer in Digital Media Design, School of Engineering and Design and a member of the Brunel Institute for Ageing Studies (BIAS).

For more information contact: [vanja.garaj@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:vanja.garaj@brunel.ac.uk)

The Youth On Religion project, funded by a large grant from the AHRC/ESRC Religion & Society programme, involved an online survey of more than 10,000 teenagers from the London Boroughs of Hillingdon and Newham, and Bradford in West Yorkshire, as well as interviews, e-journal postings and discussion groups with around 160 of these young people. The research sites were chosen to reflect religious and cultural diversity.

Professor Nicola Madge (School of Health Sciences and Social Care), Principal Investigator for the study and from the Centre for Child and Youth Research at Brunel University, presented a few early findings from the research on the importance of religion in young people's lives, personal meanings of religion, views on religion in society, knowledge of different religions, and friendships within and across faith divides. She suggested that "while there are differences between the study areas, the prevailing discourse everywhere emphasises respect for different faith and non-faith positions. While the reality may not always be quite so straightforward, we feel this is a very positive message for the future of our communities. We hope that all those in contact with young people will take it to heart and work with it."

The half-day event at the Civic Centre was addressed by the new Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Mary O'Connor MBE.

For more information contact: [nicola.madge@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.madge@brunel.ac.uk)

## Professor William J. Spurlin | School of Arts



Professor William J Spurlin joined Brunel University in 2011 as Professor of English in the School of Arts. Before coming to Brunel, Professor Spurlin was Professor of English at the University of Sussex, where he directed the Centre for the Study of Sexual Dissidence and Cultural Change for five years. Prior to his appointment at Sussex, he

taught at Cardiff University, Columbia University, and Illinois State University.

Situated at the nexus of queer studies, postcolonial studies, and critical and cultural theory, Professor Spurlin's interdisciplinary research encompasses the analysis of a broad range of literary, cultural, and critical texts spanning from the fin de siècle through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Trained in comparative literature and critical theory, the texts with which he works cross national, geographic, and linguistic boundaries and include not only British and American texts, but those located within francophone and Germanic cultures, southern Africa, and the wider African diaspora. His work is best known for its contribution to the formulation of new theoretical thinking at the conjunction of postcolonial and queer enquiry.

Professor Spurlin is working on a new book that analyses new

'queer' writing emerging in French from the Maghreb. According to Professor Spurlin, this emergent corpus of writing has created spaces specifically for the negotiation of new forms of dissident sexuality whilst simultaneously blurring received cultural distinctions between gender-defined performances of homosexuality (active/passive) and struggles for a sexual identity as a discursive position (hetero/homo) not merely reducible to its manifestations in the West. The francophone texts he analyses, by such writers as Rachid O, Eyet-Chékib Djaziri, Abdellah Taïa, and others, are important because they gesture in a very timely way toward the political struggles for social transformation currently happening in the Maghreb and in other parts of the Arab Muslim world, and imply a radical (re)balancing act between social condemnations of homosexuality as a western decadence and the lived experience of erotic autonomy as a viable praxis of decolonisation and democratic struggle in the region.

Professor Spurlin hopes to contribute to the University's strategic development of the importance of the humanities by linking into the excellent work already being done in English studies at Brunel, especially in the areas of contemporary literature and critical theory, and to build on these areas through his own expertise in queer theory, gender studies, and postcolonial studies. He chose Brunel because of the rich cultural diversity of both its students and its faculty, and for the emphasis the University places on the value of cultural difference(s) in a transnational world within the frame of a University education.

For more information contact: [william.spurlin@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:william.spurlin@brunel.ac.uk)

## Professor Dorje C. Brody | School of Information Systems, Computing and Mathematics



Professor Dorje C. Brody was appointed as Chair in Mathematics in the School of Information Systems, Computing and Mathematics at Brunel University. He was born in Hong Kong, and later lived in Japan for a number of years where he obtained his BSc in physics at the University of Niigata. He received his MSc degree in Quantum Fields and Fundamental Forces, and PhD degree in Theoretical Physics,

both from Imperial College. His PhD thesis is titled "Geometrical and Statistical Methods used in Physics," in which a novel geometrical approach is employed to obtain, for the first time, higher-order corrections to the Heisenberg uncertainty relations in quantum mechanics. Subsequently he held a research appointment in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics in Cambridge University, which he held in conjunction with a Research Fellowship at Churchill College. In 2004 he was selected as an Outstanding Young Researcher to meet the Emperor of Japan. He returned to Imperial as a Royal Society University Research Fellow, followed by an appointment as Reader in Mathematics. He moved to Brunel in April 2011.

His research interest covers a wide range of topics in theoretical physics and applied mathematics including in particular financial mathematics. In the area of physics, with various collaborators he has introduced and developed an alternative approach to the

unification of quantum physics at small scales with space-time physics at large scales, called "hypertwistor theory". Since moving to Brunel he has demonstrated the possibility of probing extra dimensions at low energies, thus providing hope to test much contested superstring theory. His collaborative work on non-Hermitian quantum physics has attracted some attention from experimentalists; theoretical predictions made in his papers are confirmed by experiments published in prestigious journals such as Nature Physics.

He has authored/co-authored some 100 research papers, and he is the author of "Modern Mathematical Theory of Finance" and "Financial Engineering for Businessman," both published in Tokyo. In the area of financial mathematics, in particular, he has co-authored papers on interest rate theory, credit derivatives, stochastic volatility, weather derivatives pricing, equity option pricing, asset allocation, statistical arbitrage, modelling of crude oil price, reinsurance pricing, and financial bubbles. With his collaborators he has developed the information-based framework for general asset pricing; this is an exciting new way forward to significantly enhance general risk management in the financial sector. Currently he is working closely with a large internet search engine to understand the impact of the flow of information on society.

At Brunel he hopes to establish a strong research group in the area of financial mathematics, and develop a high quality MSc programme in this area. On taking up his new appointment, Professor Brody said: "I am very much looking forward to enhancing high quality research taking place at Brunel so that we will be recognised as a key place for research in financial mathematics."

For more information contact: [dorje.brody@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:dorje.brody@brunel.ac.uk)

## Professor Clare Williams | School of Social Sciences



Clare Williams, Professor of Medical Sociology, joined the Department of Sociology & Communications (School of Social Sciences) at Brunel in June 2011. Prior to that she worked at King's College London for ten years, and was awarded a Personal Chair there in 2006. Before gaining her PhD in 1998, she worked as a nurse and health visitor for 20 years. Clare moved to Brunel along

with King's colleagues Professors Steve Wainwright and Barbara Prainsack. In 2007 they established the Centre for Biomedicine and Society (CBAS), which has also transferred to Brunel with them. Clare has directed CBAS since its inception, during which time it developed from a group of three to thirty people, with a successful PhD and Masters Programme. Along with colleagues, she is planning to restart the MSc in 'Medicine, Science and Society' at Brunel in 2012.

Although her interests are diverse, Clare's research focuses primarily on four inter-related areas: the sociology of biomedical ethics; gendered experiences of chronic illness; the sociology of medical/scientific professions; and the development of new medical technologies. Her current research explores the social, medical, scientific, and ethical aspects of innovations in biomedicine, particularly the interface between the laboratory and the clinic in the fields of pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, stem cell research,

embryo donation, and experimental neuroscience.

Since 1999, she has secured ten Research Council and Wellcome Trust grants worth £2.5 million for her multidisciplinary social science research programme which focuses on the clinical, ethical and social issues associated with innovative medical technologies. During that time she has published over eighty papers, almost all in leading international peer reviewed journals. She is currently Principal Investigator and Director of the Wellcome Trust London and Brighton Translational Ethics Centre (LABTEC), funded by a five year Strategic Award Programme Grant (2009-14). This grant funds four PhD students and three postdoctoral researchers working in the broad area of innovative neuroscience, on issues including experimental treatments for people with Parkinson's disease and Motor Neurone Disease; Deep Brain Stimulation for children with dystonia; the experiences of scientists engaging with the media during the contested UK interspecies embryo debate; and the interface between scientists and clinicians involved in programmes of translational research. At Brunel, Clare is keen to develop collaborations with colleagues involved in innovative scientific and/or medical technologies.

In terms of other professional activities, Clare is one of the four editors of *Sociology of Health and Illness*, the leading sociology journal; Panel member for the Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics Grants Scheme; Panel Member of the Department of Health National Institute for Health Research Personal Awards Scheme for Career Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellowships; and Visiting Professor, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, Australia. For more information please contact: [clare.williams@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:clare.williams@brunel.ac.uk)

## Dr Dominique P. Béhague | School of Social Sciences



Dominique Béhague began her appointment as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology in January of 2011. Dominique is a trained social anthropologist with over 10 years of professional experience in medical anthropology and public health. Prior to coming

to Brunel, Béhague lectured at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) for eight years.

Dominique's research on the anthropology of medicine, science and psychiatry in Brazil and the global health arena, has been funded by agencies such as the UK-Economic and Social Research Council and The Wellcome Trust and has resulted in book chapters and over 20 publications in prestigious international journals. In 2009 Béhague undertook a MSc in Epidemiology at the LSHTM funded by a Wellcome Trust postdoctoral fellowship to support both her long-standing engagement with interdisciplinary research and her growing interest in the anthropology of statistical forms of reasoning in global health.

A core question that has underscored much of Dominique's research relates to the way that medicalization in Brazil provides experts, patients and the population at large with a platform through which to enact class struggles and debate the perils of inequity. In her doctoral research, she developed a specific interest in biosocial transformation by investigating the distinct typologies of adolescent

psychopathology that emerged in the context of Brazil's recent psychiatric deinstitutionalization movement. She has since continued this research and is currently engaged in collaborative project with the Federal University of Pelotas and the LSHTM that looks specifically at the differential class-based application of adolescent psychopathological theory and therapeutic technologies. Following the lives of a core group of 90 young people from the time these youth were 15 years of age up until their 25th birthday (1997-2007), this study explores how the psychiatric medicalization of adolescence is altering young people's trajectory into adulthood.

In the past few years, she has developed a second line of research that she hopes to continue together with colleagues whilst at Brunel. This project, conducted in collaboration with an ex-doctoral student of hers, Katerini Storeng, explores the formation and institutionalization of 'global health advocacy coalitions,' and focuses specifically on how experts use an evidence-based medicine platform to garner authority in key political and financial negotiations. She is currently developing a related proposal that uses the global mental health movement as a case study for investigating the contemporary dominance of experimental epistemologies and the ways in which this dominance that has eclipsed much-needed attention to the social determinants of disease.

From January 2012, she will become co-Director of the Centre for Research in International Medical Anthropology through which she will organize an international workshop entitled "The rise of child and adolescent biopsychiatry"

For more information please contact: [dominique.behague@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:dominique.behague@brunel.ac.uk)

## Contracts Awarded Quarter 4 (1st May - 31st July 2011) Total: £5,837,313

### BCAST

Prof Zhongyun FAN (PI) Dr Brian MCKAY (Co-I): London & Scandinavian Metallurgical Co Limited - Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Liquid Metal Engineering (LiME) - INDUSTRIAL SPONSORSHIP - Research Fellowship: London & Scandinavian Metallurgical Co Limited, £130,000

Dr Yan HUANG: EPSRC - Continuous Twin Screw Rheo-Extrusion of Light Alloys, £100,452

Prof Zhongyun FAN (PI) Professor Geoff SCAMANS (Co-I) Dr Ian STONE (Co-I): EPSRC TARP-LCV - Towards Affordable, closed-loop Recyclable Future Low Carbon Vehicle structures, £1,021,358

Dr Ian STONE (PI) Prof Zhongyun FAN (Co-I): Technology Strategy Board (TSB) - Hi-TINAL: Advanced high-tin aluminium plain bearing alloys produced by intensive melt shearing technology, £191,224

### Brunel Business School

Dr Jill COLLIS: The Scottish Accountancy Trust for Education and Research (SATER) - The Value of Small Company abbreviated Accounts (transfer-in), £1,960

Dr Kristina POTOČNIK (PI) Prof Neil ANDERSON (Co-I): British Academy - Selecting for innovation: Individual characteristics and innovation in the workplace, £7,214

Dr Natasha SLUTSKAYA (PI) Dr Ruth SIMPSON (Co-I): British Academy - White working class men doing 'dirty work': choices, experiences, identities, £6,720

Dr Jill COLLIS: ACCA - Association of Chartered Certified Accountants - Value of the financial statements of small entities to lenders and creditors, £35,000

### BIB

Mrs Eleanor VAN DEN HEUVEL: Université de Montréal (Additional Funds): - Improving continence across continents - TACT3 linked research workshops in the United Kingdom, £5,000

### Brunel Law School

Dr Maurizio BORGHI (PI) Dr Peter PETKOFF (Co-I) Dr Stavroula KARAPAPA (Co-I): European Commission - SEARCH - Sharing knowledge Assets: interRegionally Cohesive neighbourhoods, £84,086

### HERG

Prof Stephen HANNEY (PI) Prof Martin BUXTON (Co-I) Dr Timothy MILEWA (Co-I): RAND Europe - NIHR/RAND phase 2 - Narrowing the second translation gap: evaluating CLAHRCs' potential, strategies and contributions, £27,141

Prof Stephen HANNEY (PI) Dr Claire DONOVAN (Co-I): National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) - Engagement in Research: Does it improve performance at a clinician, team, service and organisational level in healthcare organisations?, £59,999

### Institute for the Environment

Dr Mark SCRIMSHAW: UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR) (Additional Funds) - Chemical Investigations Programme (CIP) - DEHP laboratory studies, £33,473

Dr Susan JOBLING: Chem Trust - Chemicals compromising immune system function in frogs?, £8,000

Prof John SUMPTER: Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) - Accuracy of methods for sex steroid determination (sub-contract), £14,000

### Pro-Vice Chancellor

Prof Geoff RODGERS: EPSRC - Vacation Bursaries 2011, £15,000

### School of Engineering and Design

Prof Luiz WROBEL: Various EngD sponsors (Additional Funds) - EngD Industrial contributions for 2010/11, £56,600

Dr Youngok CHOI (PI) Dr Busayawan LAM (Co-I) Mr Paul TURNOCK (Co-I): Samsung Electronics Co Ltd - Strategic Model and Future Concepts for Convergence and Cross Mobile IT, £18,351

Dr Gareth TAYLOR: EPSRC - myTrustedCloud: Towards a virtual private cloud, £1,870

Prof Maria KOLOKOTRONI: European Commission - e-BITS: Energy BITS - Young people and media for a low energy footprint, £91,011

Dr Lu GAN: EPSRC - Structured Sampling Operators for Compressive Terahertz Imaging, £96,088

Dr Alasdair CAIRNS: EPSRC - The Effects of Multiple Spark Discharges and Future Fuels during Hybrid SI-CAI Combustion, £99,643

Dr Efstathios VELENIS: EPSRC - Active Limit Handling for Enhanced Passenger Vehicle Safety, £99,820

Dr Jinsheng KANG: Ergokinetic Concepts - Ergokinetic Chair Study, £24,500

Dr Joanne COLE (PI) Dr Dawn LESLIE (Co-I): Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC, now ssc.rcuk) - Girls Allowed! Why should women study physics?, £3,000

Prof Wamadeva BALACHANDRAN (PI) Dr Maysam ABBOD (Co-I): European Commission - DEECON - innovative after-treatment system for marine Diesel Engine Emission Control, £677,848

Professor Tat-Hean GAN: European Commission - DIRAGREEN - enhancing the competitiveness of European Powder Metallurgy SMEs by an improved quality assurance tool based on latest digital radiographic achievements, £155,116

Dr Xiangming ZHOU (PI) Dr. Mizi Fan (Co-I) Professor Luiz Wrobel (Co-I): European Commission - "FIBCEM - Nanotechnology Enhanced Extruded Fibre Reinforced Foam Cement Based Environmentally Friendly Sandwich Material for Building Applications", £320,214

Dr Maozhen LI: The Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) - Distinguished Visiting Fellowship award - Professor Junyong Liu, Sichuan University, China, £3,500

Dr Shengfeng QIN: The Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) - Distinguished Visiting Fellowship award - Professor Guofu Ding, Southwest Jiatong University, China, £4,000

Prof Luiz WROBEL: EPSRC - Doctoral Training Grants 2011/12 Allocation, £203,168

Prof Peter HOBSON: Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC, now ssc.rcuk) - Doctoral Training Grants 2011/12 Allocation, £80,287

Prof Hua ZHAO: Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Co. Ltd (Additional Funds) - Joint research on advanced diesel engine combustion and regenerative high efficiency diesel engine, £60,000

Prof Hua ZHAO: SAIC Motor UK Technical Centre Ltd - Extreme downsizing of gasoline engines (industrial studentship), £20,000

Dr Gareth TAYLOR: National Grid - Developing emerging standards for power system data exchange to enable interoperable and scalable operational modelling and analysis (industrial sponsored studentship), £56,000

Prof Tassos KARAYIANNIS (PI) Dr Edwin

ROUTLEDGE (Co-I): Waterwise Technology Ltd - Industrial sponsored studentship - a novel device to eliminate Legionella and other pathogenic bacteria, £80,268

Dr Ray KIRBY: Technology Strategy Board (TSB) - KTP project with AAF Ltd, £127,628

## Health Sciences and Social Care

Prof Judith HARWIN: Nuffield Foundation (Additional Funds) - FDAC Evaluation Project: 24 months second stage evaluation, £295,393

Dr Joanna BRIDGER: The Malacological Society of London - Presence and function of nuclear structures in molluscs, £1,000

Dr David TREE: Wellcome Trust - Wellcome Trust Biomedical Vacation Scholarship, £1,440

Dr Chris PARRIS: Wellcome Trust - Wellcome Trust Biomedical Vacation Scholarship, £1,080

Prof Rob NEWBOLD: Breast Cancer Hope - Investigating telomerase and tumour cell immortality during development of breast cancer (studentship), £93,168

## SISCM

Dr Simon TAYLOR: European Commission - EDGI - European Desktop Grid Initiative (subcontract), £16,260

Prof David GILBERT: EPSRC - Petri nets for multiscale Systems Biology, £54,755

Dr Pamela ABBOTT: CIGREF Fondation - GLOBVAL - Globally distributed innovation and co-creation of value: Cases of UK-China Collaborations, £49,079

Prof Terry YOUNG (PI) Prof Tony RAWLINS (Co-I) Prof Xiaohui LIU (Co-I): EPSRC - Doctoral Training Grants 2011/12 Allocation, £295,659

Prof Julius KAPLUNOV: Amsted Rail - Analysis of dynamic behaviours of freight cars using accelerometers, £75,000

Dr Mark PERRY: Microsoft Research Limited - Industrial sponsored part of Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Scholarship - AutoMedia: family life, interaction and media use in the car, £45,000

## School of Social Sciences

Dr Philip DAVIES (PI) Dr Steve MARRIN (Co-I) Dr Kristian GUSTAFSON (Co-I): European Commission - CITEC - Competitive Intelligence in Trade and Export, £30,820

Dr Charlotte RUSSELL (PI) Dr Adrian WILLIAMS (Co-I): FUNDAÇÃO Bial - Memory for Personal Experience and the Parietal Cortex, £18,644

Dr Nicolas ARGENTI: ESRC - Remembering Absence: Catastrophe, displacement & identity among chiots and chiot diaspora, £187,555

Dr Astrid SWENSON: British Academy - Crusader Heritages and Imperial Preservation, £4,814

Dr Varun UBEROI: British Academy - Nation-Building through Policies of Multiculturalism, 4,080

Dr Eric HIRSCH: Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) - RAI Fellowship Programme - 2 x Fellowships, £53,644

Dr Noam SAGIV (PI) Dr Adrian WILLIAMS (Co-I): Mind Science Foundation - Conscious and unconscious olfactory processing in response to visual stimuli, £9,375

Dr Barbara PRAINSACK: Nuffield Foundation - Travel/Conference grant - emerging issues in international forensic bioinformation exchange, £3,000

## School of Sport and Education

Dr Terri KIM (PI) Prof Rachel BROOKS (Co-I): Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) - Internationalisation, mobile academics and knowledge creation in universities: A comparative analysis, £6,600

Dr Harriet DISMORE: West London Lifelong Learning Network - Progression of advanced apprentices to higher education: information, advice and guidance, £5,000

Prof Valsa KOSHY: Moody's Foundation - Urban Scholars project: an intervention, £170,000

## Wolfson

Prof Paul SERMON: Royal Society - Smart Injectable Nanoparticles, £29,849

Dr Karnik TARVERDI (PI) Prof Jack SILVER (Co-I) Prof Robert WITHNALL (Co-I) Dr Peter ALLAN (Co-I): European Commission - "FIBCEM - Nanotechnology Enhanced Extruded Fibre Reinforced Foam Cement Based Environmentally Friendly Sandwich Material for Building Applications", £366,558

## Fellowship Award for Professor of Journalism

Professor of Journalism Sarah Niblock (School of Arts) was recently made a Fellow of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, a project of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. The centre is dedicated to informed, innovative and ethical news reporting on violence, conflict and tragedy. It provides journalists around the world with the resources necessary to meet this challenge, drawing on a global, interdisciplinary network of news professionals, mental health experts, educators and researchers. Professor Niblock, who has a PhD in psychoanalysis as well as being an experienced practitioner, took part in a full programme of research and training at Columbia University in June. She has now been awarded funding to develop outputs on local journalists reporting traumatic events, inspired by her own experience of covering the Hillsborough Disaster for the Liverpool Echo.

## Brunel joins

### eGovPoliNet initiative

eGovPoliNet is a €500,000, three year initiative, supported by the European Commission, that aims to establish an International Policy Community which deals with ICT solutions for Governance and Policy Modelling. 18 partners from 16 countries, both within and outside of the EU, are working together to share ideas, experiences and practices in the field.

eGovPoliNet, which began in August 2011, focuses on generating interaction amongst experts from various scientific disciplines and practitioner groups in order to provide evidence and insight into the development of new methods of Governance and Policy Modelling for those involved in the policymaking process.

Professor Tony Elliman and Dr Laurence Brooks (SISCM) and colleagues (Dr Natasha Papazafeiropoulou, Dr Vishanth Weerakkody, Dr Jeremy Millard and Professor Justin Fisher) are leading work package 1, on Strategy Development. This element focuses on the strategic direction for the project and development strategy for enlarging the community. More information about the project can be found at its website, which is at [www.policy-community.eu](http://www.policy-community.eu).

# Research Round-Up

## Subscribe to the new RSDO Blog

RSDO are delighted to announce the launch of a new blog. The new RSDO blog will be used to keep the research community at Brunel up to date with the latest research news. Posts will include: Latest funding opportunities; research related events, funder intelligence; general funders' news and RSDO news.

To make it easy for users, RSDO have also included an RSS news feed facility. This allows individuals to install a link in your browser toolbar to see new blog posts. Or alternatively, users can follow the RSDO Blog by subscribing via email. This way newly published contents will be delivered directly by email.

The RSDO Blog can be accessed via the RSDO Intranet site at:

<http://intranet.brunel.ac.uk/research/rsdo/home.shtml>



## Research Professional Upgrade

Brunel University has recently upgraded its subscription with Research Professional. The benefits of the new Networked Account allow users to:

- Access a new directory which lists pre-created searches relevant to your school and research area.
- Search and setup email alerts based on all subject areas at Brunel.
- Use new community tools which allow users to share findings.
- Save funding deadlines to your calendar.



### Access Research Professional without an account

To access Research Professional without a registered account, visit the following link and click 'Campus Access': <http://www.researchprofessional.com/>

### Sign up for a free account

To begin making use of the full features and receiving personalised funding alerts, sign up for a free Research Professional account. Visit the following link and click 'Self Registration'.

<http://www.researchprofessional.com/>

### Need further help?

If you would like further help, why not register for the RSDO Masterclass: An Introduction to Research Professional. Visit the following link for more information. <http://intranet.brunel.ac.uk/research/rsdo/events/#7> or contact [vic.gill@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:vic.gill@brunel.ac.uk)

## High-Octane Counter-Piracy Research

Dr Anja Shortland (School of Social Sciences) spent a most interesting 24 hours "at Sea" on the Royal Navy's flagship HMS Bulwark on 24/25 October. Anja was invited to the Royal Navy's VIP Sea day in recognition and support of her research on the economics of piracy and the effectiveness of different types of counter-piracy strategies. After a splendid Trafalgar Day dinner on the first evening, the Navy demonstrated the capabilities of its counter-piracy teams the next morning. A heavily armed team of six fast-roped from a helicopter onto the ship, snipers fired from another helicopter at close range and a joint team of a frigate, two speed-boats and a helicopter stopped and boarded a "hijacked" ship in the Solent.

During her research, Anja has been impressed by the relative non-violence of Somali piracy. Merchant ships' crews rarely resist pirate attacks and pirates back off or - if caught red-handed - do not resist arrest by Western naval forces. This "code of conduct" makes a lot of commercial sense in the "hijack and ransom" business model, where ransoms are paid for the release of the crew, cargo and ship. However, the formidable displays of the Royal Navy's speed, skill, fire-power and their gracious hospitality explain why Somali pirates - if they have any sense - choose to comply with the Royal Navy!

For more information contact: [anja.shortland@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:anja.shortland@brunel.ac.uk)

## RSDO Contacts

### RSDO General Enquiries

Michael Sterling Building, Office 259  
Tel: 01895 266 200  
Fax: 01895 269 748  
Email: [rsdo@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:rsdo@brunel.ac.uk)  
Intranet: <http://intranet.brunel.ac.uk/research/rsdo>  
Internet: <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/business/rsdo>  
RSDO Blog: <http://rsdo.wordpress.com/>

### Director of RSDO, Teresa Waller

[teresa.waller@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:teresa.waller@brunel.ac.uk)  
Ext 66206

### PA to Director, Jean Grimshaw

[jean.grimshaw@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:jean.grimshaw@brunel.ac.uk)  
Ext 66200

## Research Development Section

[alicen.nickson@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:alicen.nickson@brunel.ac.uk)  
Deputy Director, RSDO | Ext 66390

[yulia.matskevich@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:yulia.matskevich@brunel.ac.uk)  
Research Development Manager (EU)  
Ext 66129

[lynnegreenstreet@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:lynnegreenstreet@brunel.ac.uk)  
Business Projects Manager | Ext 66199

[hugh.cunning@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:hugh.cunning@brunel.ac.uk)  
Research Support Officer | Ext 67792

[vic.gill@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:vic.gill@brunel.ac.uk)  
Communications and Systems Officer |  
Ext 67398

[deana.thomas@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:deana.thomas@brunel.ac.uk)  
Research Support Officer, EU (p/t) | Ext  
66897

## Contracts and IP Section

[philip.cull@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:philip.cull@brunel.ac.uk)  
Manager, Contracts and IP Section | Ext  
66196

[roxy.deane@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:roxy.deane@brunel.ac.uk)  
Contracts and IP Officer | Ext 67846

[jeremy.wilkinson@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:jeremy.wilkinson@brunel.ac.uk)  
Research Administrator | Ext 65238

[waisin.li@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:waisin.li@brunel.ac.uk)  
Consultancy Administrator (p/t) | Ext  
66201

## Business Development Section

[ronnie.galloway@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:ronnie.galloway@brunel.ac.uk)  
Business Development Manager | Ext  
66482