Welcome back from the Head of Department

Dear all

A sincere Autumnal Greeting to our returning students and colleagues, and a particularly warm welcome to all new students joining us this year.

This year I am delighted to welcome three new staff members to the Department – from Estonia, Switzerland/Finland and Switzerland/UK. More about these new colleagues later in the newsletter. At the same time I am sad to report the retirement, at Christmas, of Martin Skinner. Martin will be a hard act to replace! We will also be without Claudie Fox this year – who will be busy away giving birth to twins – and I thank colleagues from both within and outside the Department (particularly practitioners from Clinical Psychology) who will making sure her important areas of expertise are still well covered.

Later this term we are bringing in a new exciting piece of ‘kit’ – a Driving Simulator courtesy of Jaguar Land Rover, which will be housed in H147. This will help us develop another important area of our Departmental research, on the psychology of driving behaviours. Watch out for a ‘flying car’ as we try to manoeuvre this through the windows of the Humanities Building!

This year we continue with our popular Staff-Student events, such as the staff-student football, the many excellent enterprises organised by our Psychology Society, as well of course as the Cumberland Lodge weekend. Please do get involved. Alongside this we welcome all to our internal and external seminars. One new feature of these are the “Impact seminars”, where we invite guests from beyond mainstream academia to talk about the psychological aspect of their work (and the opportunities for collaborative research). In term one these include guests from Goolemind, the UK charity Kidscape, and the Sandhurst military academy. Do come along and learn about the impact of psychology on the wider world.

Have a wonderful term!

Robin

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Open days!!

In June we had two very busy Open Day’s, big Thank you to all that helped out. There are two more Open Day’s to come 26th September and 24th October, if you are interested in being part of these enjoyable days (free cake involved) then please email Jody Roche, J.Roche@warwick.ac.uk
Induction Week in Psychology

Freshers week is one of the most exciting times for the University as we welcome back familiar faces and introduce our new students to life at Warwick. And to make sure you don’t miss a thing, here’s a list of all the fantastic events that are going to be happening in the Psychology department and across the University. We hope you have a great first few weeks!

- **Monday 5th October, 10am**: Welcome breakfast in H148. Friendly Psychology student faces will be around to welcome our new 1st year students.
- **Monday 5th October, 12.00 noon**: Welcome lecture in H0.52.
- **Friday 9th October**: Psyc-soc meeting for all socials and sports events, Terrace Bar. SU.
- **Monday 12th October, 5pm**: Welcome drinks in the Terrace Bar, SU.

Psychology student, Lakhita Uppal is participating in the Mental Health Placement in Sri Lanka this year. Previous volunteers Anna Fitzgibbon, Harriet Henderson and Jessica Cox who joined us from Warwick earlier last year proved to be real assets to our team and we are looking forward to working with Lakhita this summer. If you're unaware of our work, we run a Mental Health Placement in Sri Lanka; which consists of running therapeutic sessions in both clinical settings as well as in the community. Our placement is run in partnership with Samutthana, Kings College London Centre for Trauma, Displacement and Mental Health.

At SLV, one of our main aims is to continually make a positive impact on the local communities where we work. Here is the link to our 2014-2015 Annual Review listing our achievements over the past year.

We are currently looking for volunteers for January - April 2016. If you contact us, we will be happy to provide more information.

We really value students and graduates that study Psychology, as they have a wealth of valuable knowledge and skills that they can share through their work here.

Recruiting volunteers for a Mental Health placement in Sri Lanka.

I’m always available by email at lucy@slvolunteers.com and I’d be happy to have a chat with you about our placements. Please see the links below for more information.

- www.slvolunteers.com
- www.facebook.com/slvolunteersorganisation
Warwick University Psychology Society

Welcome to the newest members of the Warwick PsychSoc Family, and of course welcome back to all our returning members and our staff! We (your exec) are excited for the year ahead and all the exciting things we have coming up! Kicking it all off, we’re at the SU Societies Fair on the 7th and 8th of October, and our first PsychSoc Social is Friday the 9th at Terrace Bar! There’ll be loads of fun things to get involved in with PsychSoc so please do come along on Wednesday and Thursday and become members!

Warwick PsychSoc is a society centred around making our students’ (and non-students’ alike, everyone is welcome!) academic experiences whatever they want it to be. Through mentoring schemes, our annual trip to Cumberland Lodge and regular mixers, our society is really interactive. There are plenty of opportunities to learn more about what the department does; research for example, as well as working with the University to reduce stigma attached to mental illness.
So, what are you waiting for? Get involved with:

*Our First Social, Friday the 9th of October
*Psychology Textbook Sale - Early on in Term 1
*Cumberland Lodge (below) - 29th - 31st January

Psychology Society’s President, Luca, at our Psychology and Philosophy Ball last year! The ball takes place every year towards the end of second term, and is always a lot of fun! It’s a great chance to meet new people and get to know members of staff much better too!

Get in Touch!
Like us: www.fb.com/warwickpsychsoc
Follow us: @warwickpsychsoc
Email us: su540@warwick.ac.uk

Wa.R.Ks lab space now open!

Did you know that within the department we have two labs that study children’s language and communication development, as part of the Warwick Research with Kids (Wa.R.Ks) group of developmental psychology researchers? The Communication Development Lab researches how children from birth up to the age of 16 acquire the skills to communicate across their lifetime focusing on how children communicate using gesture and language. The Language Development Lab researches how children's ability to understand and speak develops, focusing on how and when children start to put words together and rapidly build ever more complex and fascinating sentences.

We’ve been welcoming families to the labs for six months now – we’ve had lots of visitors, ranging in age from 12 months old to 6 years old, coming in to take part in studies on word learning and sentence comprehension. Everyone has taken home a book to enjoy and a certificate to mark their participation. Our lab space, which opened last summer, has been updated over the last year: we now have a family-friendly reception area with lots of pictures, toys, books and a colouring station for our little visitors to enjoy.

We hope to be running a variety of studies over the coming year, all are made possible by the generous participation of parents and children, and a team of enthusiastic researchers. If you or someone you know might like to get involved with our research, you can:

Sign up to our family database for child participants:

via our website: www.warwick.ac.uk/cdlab/research/signup
email us at either cdlab@warwick.ac.uk or ldlab@warwick.ac.uk

Get more information about volunteer research assistant opportunities or undertaking a URSS project in one of our labs by contacting us at either cdlab@warwick.ac.uk or ldlab@warwick.ac.uk
Kimberley Wade was involved in a programme with BBC radio 4 recently. At Warwick University, Prof Kimberley Wade has implanted false memories of childhood experiences such as taking a hot air balloon ride. Martin follows an experiment in which participants form vivid memories of activities they have not actually experienced.

There is a link to the podcast:

Fiona MacCallum was on BBC Midlands Today a couple of weeks ago – talking about teenage girls requesting cosmetic surgery/procedures. No link available though.

Fiona MacCallum article in the Coventry Telegraph.

Helping your child cope with starting school: Top tips for parents and children
http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/helping-your-childcope-starting-10004376

Dieter Wolke’s research has been picked up in the media and several of his papers have been picked up worldwide. Three recent ones are listed below with a selection of links for you to choose.

**Personality of adults who were born very preterm**
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/research_links_premature/

Dieter did a radio BBC Radio 4 interview on Woman’s Hour on this paper. Link to iPlayer (first 10 minutes) http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0639wwy.

http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jul/27/very-premature-or-underweight-babies-risk-becoming-neurotic-adults-study
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11765769/Premature-babies-more-likely-to-be-anxious-adults.html

**Preterm Birth and Adult Wealth: Mathematics Skills Count**
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/maths_skills_count/

http://www.medicaldaily.com/premature-babies-may-grow-have-poorer-math-skills-lower-income-350970

**Preterm Children’s Stability of Cognitive Function into Adulthood: A Prospective Cohort Study**
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/adult_iq_of/
The 5-minute Quiz...with Dr Friederike Schlaghecken

What are the most enjoyable/worst parts of your job?

Best Part: Analyzing data. (weird'? What do you mean, that's 'weird'?) Teaching's fun, too.

Worst Part: Admin, admin, admin and admin...!!!

How would you describe the Psychology department in three words?

Home from home. (No, really I kid you not)

What’s your area of expertise in Psychology?

Behavioural neuroscience of cognitive control. Or in other words: how our brains manage to Get Stuff Done.

What would you recommend our new students do in their first week/first year at Warwick?

Get to know the Library it’s amazing!

Also: get to know your tutors and lecturers. They’re maybe not that amazing, but they’re real people. With a real interest in Psychology. And a real desire for you to get the most from your time here!

If you would like to find out more about the Psychology members of staff and their work, go to http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/psych/people/

A very Big Well done to Melissa Colloff for being awarded best poster in the faculty and best poster university-wide at the Warwick Postgraduate Research Showcase in June 2015.

Melissa missed the wine reception (a first for her) and didn’t even know she had won.

Also a very well done to Sophie Nightingale who came runner-up university-wide as well as in the science faculty. We were told that Sophie’s scores on the poster judging were only just behind Melissa’s scores!

Congratulations to our PhD student, Fatanah Ramlee, whose poster has been awarded "Best Clinical Science Poster" at the 9th Congress of the European Pain Federation. She is one of only 3 winners from 1280 posters this year. Very well done indeed!

Who are you inspired by?

Mr Spock, science officer of the USS Enterprise. Obviously.

And of course, no interview would be complete without a dessert island question...if you were stranded on a desert island, what would you bring?

Water.
“The clinical interview” intensive workshops in February 2016

With Daniela Kramer-Moore, Visiting Academic

‘It has changed the way I listen to what people are saying to me – the way I think and how I reflect on personal experiences. Thank you very much! Such an inspiring experience!’ Level 6 workshop participant, Feb 645

‘Extremely beneficial. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Daniela was amazing!’ Level 5 workshop participant, Feb 645

The Department of Psychology is once more offering workshops aimed at developing and understanding basic clinical skills, for those who might be interested in furthering their careers as helpers, counsellors, clinical psychologists and educational psychologists. As a counselling psychologist and a family therapist, I facilitated nine such workshops during the last two years in this department, while being here as a visiting faculty and am very much looking forward to meeting the next group of generation of clinical psychologists.

Level 1 workshop for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students – “Introduction to Clinical Interviewing”, is a hands-on intensive workshop in basic clinical interviewing skills. Its aims include:

* to gain insight into some aspects of the client-therapist interaction
* to develop and gain hands-on experience in some basic interviewing skills
* to explore one’s suitability for furthering a career in either counselling, clinical psychology or psychotherapy

Topics:
The helping Interview; client therapist agreement; client-therapist-observer roles; starting, developing and ending a session; basic clinical skills, empathy and listening with the “third ear”; negotiating realistic expectations; transference and counter-transference; individual therapeutic styles; Reading between the lines, supporting and facilitating coping strategies, effective humanistic interviewing techniques.

In order to benefit from these workshop one must come with an open mind and a willingness to be an active participant.

Duration: 8 meetings (twice a week), 2 hours each, in February

Dates and times: Mondays and Wednesdays (1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th) between 17.00 and 19.00

‘This was everything but a theoretical workshop, we all got the chance to directly put ourselves into both the therapist and client role and see for ourselves what therapy really is about.’ Level 5 workshop participant, Feb 645

Level 2 “The advanced clinical interviewing” workshop for 2nd and 3rd year students who have participated in level 1 workshop is a hands-on intensive workshop in advanced clinical interviewing skills, and will take place on condition that at least 15 students register for it.

Topics:
Healthy and pathogenic communication patterns; the client as a product of his/her family; the Genogram as an evaluation and therapeutic instrument in working with a client about family dynamics: Family relations, family structure, family roles, family communication patterns and their underlying agendas; helping clients make changes in order to achieve more congruent and meaningful relationships.

Duration: 8 meetings (twice a week), 2 hours each, In February

Dates and times: Tuesdays and Thursdays (2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th) between 17.00 and 19.00

The fee for all workshops is £65, to be paid by cheque (payable to the University of Warwick) or cash. Cheques or cash should be handed to Jody Roche or Kim Adams in the Psychology general office (H141) in an envelope with your name, level and contact information, to ensure a place (on a “first come first accepted” basis). Students can cancel their registrations up to the 8th January, so others on the waiting list can still register. If the demand for level 1 workshop is high, we might add an additional level 1 workshop.
A very warm welcome to all our students this Autumn. For some of you this year will mark the start of your journey here at Warwick and for others this may mark the final leg. To all of you, well done on your achievements so far!

Hopefully the summer weather won’t disappear too quickly at the start of term but even as the days get shorter it’s good to have students back on campus again. That breathing space which summer affords will soon give way to a ferocious autumn term time table. This tends to be when most deadlines and employer activities are.

The autumn term is the time to start engaging with careers which ever year you are in. First years may want to use this time to explore opportunities and options. Second years may want to begin thinking about work experience for the following summer (there are often early deadlines for formal vacation schemes). Final years might want to start applying for graduate programmes as many close before Christmas!

There will be a huge variety of event, talks and workshops going on throughout the autumn term and you can keep up with the latest ones here http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/scs/whatson/ You might also want to check out the resources on our wider website as there are some fantastic resources there including a library of example CVs which might come in handy if you need to apply for work experience or a part time job. There are also resources created for psychology on the Careers Psychology Moodle page.

One good way to gain experience and explore your options is through volunteering. There are some brilliant opportunities available through Warwick Volunteers http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/community/volunteers/

In the department we have will be again running Meet the Psychologist events starting Monday Week 2 12:00pm till 1:00pm. This is a really good opportunity to explore careers you are considering and explore those you haven’t! Find out more about how psychology is applied in a variety of settings and what skills are actually used in their work.

This will certainly be another very busy year for all of us and taking some time at the beginning to plan how to get the most out of it will put you ahead of the game and remove some of that nagging uncertainty about what happens post university.

I look forward to working with you and don’t forget I am available for one to one appointments in the department so don’t feel that you have to navigate all this alone! Good luck and I hope you all have a very successful year.

David Molyneux

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**Student Prize Winners 2015**

We are very happy to announce the Student Prize winners of 2015 Huge congratulations to these Psychology graduates for all their hard work and contributions.

**Winner of the Second year project prize**—Hannah Stewart

**Winner of the Examiner’s & BPS Prize**—Amy Isham

**Winners of the Simon Heywood Prize Third year Project (shared)** Abigail Crowhurst, Amy Isham & Emma Darling, Alice Ryding
External seminars at the Department of Psychology

From October 2015 the department of Psychology will once again be hosting an exciting new visiting speaker programme. Thursdays H1.48 @ 4.00pm, Open to all staff and students, and followed by complimentary drinks in the Psychology common room, here’s a list of what’s coming up in the next academic year:

**Term 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th October</td>
<td>Kim Plunkett, Oxford University</td>
<td>How infants build a semantic system</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th November</td>
<td>Itesh Sachdev, SOAS, University of London</td>
<td>Title to be confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th November</td>
<td>Ben Voyer, London School of Economics</td>
<td>Self-construal theory and beyond: Theoretical &amp; Empirical Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th November</td>
<td>Daniel Gurney, University of Hertfordshire</td>
<td>Nonverbal factors in forensic interviews.</td>
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**Term 2**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th January</td>
<td>Adam Sanborn/ Elliot Ludvig</td>
<td>Hierarchical reinforcement learning and human behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st January</td>
<td>Jill Mack, ASSIST Trauma Care</td>
<td>Working with those bereaved by homicide: Implications for clinical practice and research development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th January</td>
<td>Agnieszka Niedwienska, Jagiellonian University, Krakow</td>
<td>Mild Cognitive Impairment: Contrasting different aspects of memory functioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th February</td>
<td>Emma Hayiou-Thomas, University of York</td>
<td>Title to be confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd March</td>
<td>Harriet Over, University of York</td>
<td>Title to be confirmed</td>
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**Term 3**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th May</td>
<td>Jeff Bowers, University of Bristol</td>
<td>Why do neurons in cortex respond so selectively to words, objects, and faces?</td>
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The Psychology common room is always available for our students and staff to use at their convenience but there will also be regular events in the common room from the beginning of term. There will also be a regular drinks reception and meet-and-greet in the common room on Thursdays after the department’s external seminars (see page 9).

All Psychology Staff & Students are welcome to free Tea & Coffee, but do please tidy up after yourselves!!

End of year BBQ (rained off) so pizza’s in the common room was a nice end to Academic year.
Kidscape (Registered Charity No.326864)

Kidscape challenges bullying in all its forms

As CEO of this charitable organisation, Claude Knights is leading Kidscape to embrace numerous challenges including the further development of highly effective interventions aimed at supporting children and young people affected by bullying and emotional and physical abuse.

Dr Michael Rennie discusses how being a “jack of all trades” psychologist has led to specialisation in bringing together research and theory to develop practical models and tools for military and civilian users over a wide range of purposes, with a focus on work at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Afghanistan and some of the projects with civilian and “blue light” organisations.

Research on action selection has long emphasized its hierarchical structure, according to which tasks are comprised of subtask sequences, which are themselves built of simple actions. The hierarchical structure of behavior has also been of enduring interest within neuroscience, where it has been widely considered to reflect prefrontal cortical functions. In recent work, we have been re-examining behavioral hierarchy and its neural substrates from the point of view of contemporary developments in computational reinforcement learning.

Dr Michael Rennie

Senior Lecturer with Special Responsibilities

Department of Communication & Applied Behavioural Science

The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Explorer or Adventurer?

21st January 2016, 4pm in H148

Jill Mack

Trauma Therapist

ASSIST Trauma Care

Working with those bereaved by homicide: Implications for clinical practice and research development
**Dates for your diary...**

- **Monday 5th October** — Induction week begins (see page 2 for details)
- **Wednesday 7th October** — Enrolment for Clinical Interview workshops begins (remember it’s first-come first serve and there are very limited places, see page 6)
- **Thursday 8th October** — Start of the department visiting speaker programme (see page 9)
- **Friday 16th October** — Module registration deadline
- **Saturday 26th October** — University open day, all student volunteers welcome!
- **Day & Time TBC** — Staff vs Student football match
- **Friday 11th December** — Last day of Autumn term

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**IN THE NEXT ISSUE...**

- We’ll be sharing all the latest news and developments from the Psychology department’s Autumn term.
- We’ll be welcoming the holidays and revealing what to look forward to in the new year.
- Another member of staff will fall under the 5-minute quiz spotlight.
- We’ll have all the latest from Psych Soc as we get ready for the Cumberland Lodge residential.

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**STAFF VS STUDENTS FOOTBALL**

The Department of Psychology

Term 1

Details TBC

The match will be followed by a trophy presentation, pizza and refreshments in the Common Room.

contact details if you would like to be involved.

Staff: Jody Roche ([J.Roche@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:J.Roche@warwick.ac.uk))
Student: Tom Mason & Keira Royds ([T.Mason.1@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:T.Mason.1@warwick.ac.uk) [K.Royds@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:K.Royds@warwick.ac.uk))

Follow updates and results on Facebook (Psychology at warwick) and Twitter

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**Contact Us.**

Department of Psychology

University of Warwick

Coventry, CV4 7AL

United Kingdom

Email: Psychology@warwick.ac.uk

Join the conversation @warwickpsych
The Festival of the Imagination will take place on 16-17 October 2015 and will be the centrepiece of our 50th anniversary celebrations, showcasing the work we do at Warwick through a diverse programme of events all focused around the central theme 'Imagining the Future'. All details on the link below.

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/warwick50/events/imagination/

Our Transformed Campus

The new Bus Interchange, Plaza and re-developed section of University Road are now open and fully operational - a huge milestone in our project to transform and enhance central campus. With the vast majority of the redeveloped area now open for you to use and enjoy, our work is almost complete.

Beautiful Campus walks