

# CONNECT

IATL Newsletter: Spring 2018

## A Year of Change

Dr Nicholas Monk, Director, IATL

Since my appointment as Director of IATL in January 2014, the landscape of HE has shifted dramatically: TEF, the changes to REF, increased student fees, and Brexit are merely the headline examples. Locally, there is a new VC and senior management team overseeing a flourishing academic and capital programme at Warwick and, looking ahead, Coventry's successful City of Culture bid will provide challenges and opportunities.

It has been an exciting time to be part of a unit whose responsibility it is to innovate, experiment, and strategize in learning and teaching in HE, and we have sought to meet the challenge via our focus on student research and engagement, the pedagogy of learning spaces, interdisciplinarity, and internationalisation. IATL is proud to say that its efforts were featured in significant ways in



the narrative element of the recent TEF submission, and the University has made use of our expertise in space and pedagogy in the design of The Oculus.

Other highlights this year have included an honourable mention for the International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR) at the 2017

Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education, and the development of a suite of 5 interdisciplinary postgraduate modules to accompany the 16 undergraduate modules running in the academic year 17/18. Over 420 students have enrolled in IATL modules this year, a 20 per cent increase on last year. IATL's teaching fellows are all now Senior Fellows of the HEA, three members of the team have become WIHEA Fellows, and an associate member of the team won a WATE PGR for the second time.

We continue to fund innovations in the pedagogy of individual disciplines, whilst seeking to help establish new interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary programmes: the new MSc in Humanitarian Engineering is the most recent example.

On a personal note, as I prepare to step down as Director later in the year, I would like to thank the University for allowing me the privilege of leading IATL. I want to take this opportunity to publicly express my heartfelt appreciation of the IATL team for their boundless enthusiasm and sheer persistence, and I extend IATL's gratitude to every member of staff and each one of the students who have interacted with us over the years.

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## WARWICK

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED  
TEACHING AND LEARNING

# ICUR 2017

Over **300** students  
presented from **15** different universities

Employed  
4 student directors and over

**50** volunteers



L to R, Student directors  
Ben Hayday, Davina Nandhra,  
Imogen Fitt, Finn Halligan

## International Visiting Teaching Fellows

During late October and early November last year, IATL organised a series of events on teaching and learning in digital spaces delivered by Visiting International Teaching Fellows Jesse Stommel and Sean Michael Morris. Funded by WIHEA, the events attracted a dedicated audience and promise to have a sustained impact on the way the University of Warwick engages with digital technologies in teaching and learning. Some reflections from attendees:

*'It is tempting to assume that technology could efficiently tailor for individual needs and the ownership of learning, therefore, promoting student agency... but technology in education isn't a guarantee of success if we don't reflect on its possible implications on a constant basis.'*  
I-Chen Hsieh, PhD candidate

*'One of the topics that interested me most was the consideration of the difference between today's learning systems characterised by rigid evaluation systems with pre-established learning outcomes and assessment rubrics, and the proposal of teacher/student collaborative methods of assessment with room for emerging learning, wonder, and experimentation. A system potentially more in tune with today's developments and challenges in a highly mobile, digital and integrated society.'*  
Ernesto Gil, PhD candidate

For more information or to access resources from the sessions visit:

[warwick.ac.uk/iatl/international-visiting-teaching-fellows](http://warwick.ac.uk/iatl/international-visiting-teaching-fellows)



## Student Research Pages

Colleagues from IATL, Careers and Skills, and Law recently received WIHEA funding to create a student research hub covering what research is, the benefits of getting involved, and the opportunities available. It will also soon be linked to opportunities within departments. Visit the new pages at [warwick.ac.uk/students/opportunities/student-research/](http://warwick.ac.uk/students/opportunities/student-research/)

## Council Lunch

IATL were delighted to host the University Council members for lunch in October. It gave members of IATL and Council an opportunity to share and discuss the work of IATL. It was an enjoyable event for all and the Council members are welcome back at any time.

# New MSc in Humanitarian Engineering

What started as a funding bid to IATL in 2015 has grown into an exciting new programme launching in 2018 which will prepare students to play a pivotal role in the solution of global humanitarian challenges.

The Humanitarian Engineering programme began as an IATL Strategic Project grant in December 2015. Dr Georgia Kremmyda and Dr Volkan Degirmenci (both from the School of Engineering), wanted to develop interdisciplinary initiatives in the field of Humanitarian Engineering.

One year later IATL, the School of Engineering and WIHEA put in a successful joint bid for a HEFCE Catalyst Fund grant to develop an innovative educational model exploring partnership in interdisciplinary learning and teaching. They used this grant to develop modules with 10 other departments across Warwick and create the new Humanitarian Engineering MSc hosted by IATL.

Some of the modules developed include:

- ▶ **Humanitarian Engineering: Ethics, Theory, Practice** - a module considering the topic from an ethical, cultural, and practical perspective.
- ▶ **Water and Environmental Management** - presenting this global topic in all its complexity and highlighting the great potentialities of an interdisciplinary approach to the subject.
- ▶ **Sustainable Cities and Infrastructure for Emergencies** - exploring the planning requirements and conceptual design of sustainable cities, and infrastructure needs before, during and after emergencies.
- ▶ **Humanitarian Law** - considering the increasingly complex inter-relationship between law and humanitarianism.
- ▶ **Sustainable Operations and Humanitarian Supply Management** - exploring the purpose and value of humanitarian organizations and supply chains.
- ▶ **One Humanity; Shared Responsibility** - considers the interlocking of social, economic and political factors to examine the shared responsibility of humanity towards humanitarian challenges.

The programme aims to attract students from a wide range of backgrounds - it is definitely not 'just for Engineers' and we are looking forward to welcoming our first cohort in 2018-19.

If you are interested in the Humanitarian Engineering MSc or wish to apply to be part of the first cohort please contact **Hannah Copeland** by phone (02476 5 22933), email ([hum.eng@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:hum.eng@warwick.ac.uk)) or visit the website ([warwick.ac.uk/humeng](http://warwick.ac.uk/humeng)).

## 2017 Welcome Week

IATL participated in Welcome Week 2017, launching five new postgraduate interdisciplinary modules, available to taught students for credit and research students as auditors. IATL ran three information sessions, attended by over 50 postgraduate students, which resulted in a total of 78 students enrolling in the first five modules.

The modules are designed to help learners grasp abstract and complex ideas from a range of subjects, to synthesise these into a rounded intellectual and creative response, to understand the symbiotic potential of traditionally distinct disciplines, and to stimulate collaboration through group work and embodied learning. Early indications suggest that the interdisciplinary learning and boundary-crossing nature of these modules greatly enhance the student experience at graduate level.

For more information on the modules IATL will be running in 2018/19, come to the IATL Module Fair in the Atrium of the Students' Union building on Wednesday, 25 April 2018, 12-2pm or visit the IATL website.



## IATL Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Modules



Increase from **1** module in 2016-17 to **5** modules in 2017-18



**78** students enrolled in 2017-18 representing **13** different departments

## UNDERGRADUATES

# Experiment with Student Devised Assessment



Students from School of Life Sciences, Economics, and Film and TV Studies

In its first year, the 'Genetics: Science and Society' module experimented with student devised assessment. The module focuses on the latest human genetic technologies and the interactions between science, society, politics, and culture. Students are involved in interdisciplinary team-based learning activities and, in a peer-informed and collaborative manner, they undertake a variety of tasks that span from role-play activities to open-space learning sessions that embody the different inquisitive approaches of both the scientific and humanities disciplines.

As part of the assessment for the module, and as the pinnacle of their student-centred learning experience, students are required to devise their own assessment, setting for themselves a research question and delivering their findings and critical reflection in a medium of their choosing. Mediums could be anything from a story, poem, film or essay to a website, workshop, blog, learning resource or performance. The self-devised assessments from the 2016-17 cohort were showcased in the 'Genetics: Science and Society module exhibition' (Library Foyer, 12-15 of June 2017) and are available to view on the IATL website.

Student devised assessment is an approach that has proved popular with students:

*'It was my most favourite module in third year, and I would definitely recommend it to other students. You learn to see things from different perspectives, learn to work together with different disciplines and are given the opportunity to explore various learning methods.'*

**Thoqueer Hussain,**  
School of Life Sciences

*'I hope that people enjoyed my pieces of assessed work as much as me when I made them.'*

**Halia Nguyen,**  
Warwick Business School

*The prospect of a Student Devised Assessment (SDA) was at first very daunting..., [but] as the process of constructing my SDA progressed I found myself enjoying the assessment more and more, as I became immersed in a topic I found really interesting and I was allowed to present this in a far more creative and interactive way than an essay would allow.*

**Molly Inglis,**  
Sociology

## 2017 PGR WATE winner

*'Phil Gaydon, based in Philosophy and IATL is an exceptional teacher and has the particular distinction of becoming the only person to win WATE PGR twice.'* Chris Hughes, PVC (Education)

The Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence for Postgraduates who Teach (WATE PGR) is awarded to postgraduates who have enhanced the student learning experience by motivating, inspiring and engaging students and creating a supportive learning environment that recognises diverse student needs.

Phil won his first WATE PGR in 2014 for leading group sessions for the Learning Grid and working with IATL to develop an open-space learning workshop. He was also a core part of the Philosophy department's initiative to encourage research students to engage primary and secondary school children with philosophy.

In 2017, Phil won a second WATE PGR for his teaching on three IATL modules - Applied Imagination; Sport, Philosophy and Practice; and Ethical Beings. He is the first person to ever win two WATE PGRs.

## IATL Interdisciplinary Undergraduate modules



**421** students enrolled in **15** modules from **24** different departments in 2017-18

**OVER 30** module convenors and lecturers employed from **16** different departments

# CELEBRATION

IATL funding and support saw the emergence of another successful student theatre company in 2017.



In 2016, two second-year students from the University of Warwick decided to make a show about joy, and applied for funding from IATL. They were awarded an IATL Student as Producer (Performance) grant to develop and perform their show on campus. The development of the show was based around the concept of play, involving long sessions of spontaneous improvisation and play-making alternating with sessions for reading, research and discussion. Unsurprisingly the result was unusual, innovative and refreshing.

After performing the show twice on campus to enthusiastic audiences, their show 'CELEBRATION' was selected for the National Student Drama Festival (NSDF) in April 2017. Once again the team applied for and received assistance from IATL in the form of a Performance Festival Bursary. The show did very well at

NSDF, receiving two standing ovations and winning the Sunday Times Playwriting Award, NSDF Festgoers' Award and the Freckle Productions Family Show Award.

*In no small part thanks to IATL enabling us to go to NSDF, we have formed a theatre company named Emergency Chorus and intend to continue creating work together.*  
**Emily Davis, Producer, CELEBRATION**

In June they were invited to perform at New Diorama Theatre's Incoming Festival. After selling out the theatre, they were invited back for a three-night run in September. In August they performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in October were part of the Emerge Festival at Warwick

Arts Centre, an annual festival run in collaboration with IATL.

This is not the first time IATL has supported a successful and award-winning student performance group from development to national dissemination of their work. In 2013, Barrel Organ toured their IATL-supported show 'NOTHING' nationally and in 2015 Breach Theatre took their IATL-supported show 'The Beanfield' to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where they won the Total Theatre Award for Emerging Artist or Company.

Applications for the next IATL Student as Producer (Performance) and Performance Festival Bursaries close on Wednesday, 14 March 2018.

## IATL Funding



In 2017 IATL awarded over  
**£60,000**  
in staff funding to 18 projects  
from 13 different departments



In 2017 IATL awarded over  
**£13,000**  
to 27 student-led projects  
from 10 different departments

## 2017 Publications

Chatzistefani, Nefeli, and Heron, Jonathan, *A Pedagogy of Movement: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human Motion*, Exchanges: the Warwick Research Journal, 5(1), p98-105, Oct. 2017.

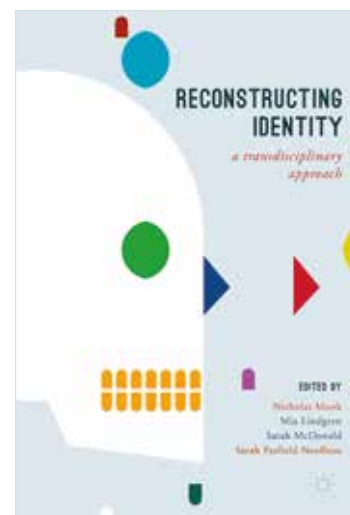
Heron, Jonathan and Kershaw, Baz, *'On PaR' in Performance as Research: Knowledge, Methods, Impact*, Routledge, 2017.

Heron, Jonathan and Johnson, Nicholas, *Critical Pedagogies and the Theatre Laboratory*, Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance, Taylor & Francis, 2017.

Monk, Nicholas, McDonald, Sarah, and Ochoa, Gabriel, *Embedding Cultural Literacy in Higher Education: A New Approach*, Intercultural Education, 2017.

Monk, Nicholas, et al, eds. *Identity: A Transdisciplinary Approach*, London: Palgrave-MacMillan, 2017.

Riva, Elena, Tosin, Manuela, et al, *Novel chemical probes for the investigation of nonribosomal peptide assembly*, ChemComm 2017, 53, p7088-7091, 2017.



## 2017 Awards and Achievements

Elena Riva and Naomi de la Tour were nominated for the Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence (WATE)

International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR) received an honourable mention at the 2017 Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education

Phil Gaydon won the Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence for Postgraduates who Teach (WATE-PGR) for the second time

Jonathan Heron and Elena Riva were made Senior Teaching Fellows of the Higher Education Academy

Jo Wale and Caroline Gibson were made WIHEA Fellows for 2017-20

## 2018 Upcoming IATL Deadlines

Deadline	Activity	Relevant to
14 March 2018	Funding applications for Student as Producer (Performance) grants and Performance Festival Bursaries close	Students
April 2018	Registrations for IATL undergraduate modules open	Students
4 May 2018	Funding applications for Academic Fellowships, Pedagogic Interventions, and Strategic Projects close	Staff
25 May 2018	Submission of abstracts for ICUR 2018 close. Visit: icurportal.com	Students
27 June 2018	Applications for IATL Student Funding close	Students
1 July 2018	Call for papers for <i>Reinvention: an international journal of undergraduate research</i> closes	Students

## Forthcoming Events

14 February 2018

**Teaching across thresholds: radical virtue epistemology in secondary and higher education**

14 March 2018

**WIHEA Masterclass: Mental wellbeing in higher education - the challenges for academic staff**

12-13 April 2018

**British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR)**

25 April 2018

**IATL Undergraduate Module Fair**

IATL, University of Warwick, Senate House, Coventry, CV4 7AL

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