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## 2015 Women of Achievement winners

This year's Women of Achievement event celebrated some of the University's many talented female academics and support colleagues

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## Enter the Impact Awards

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## Public art for all!

The University's new Public Art Project Officer, Professor Ann Sumner, talks about her role and the imminent launch of our Public Art Strategy

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## The South Bank Show Archive comes to the University

A major archive featuring interviews with many of the world's leading artistic figures has been established at the University

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## Leader column

# A remarkable archive to be cherished and explored

Described as ‘TED Talks meets Hay Fest’, the fifth annual undergraduate research experience (UGRE 2015) – a student-led event within the Faculty of Arts celebrating exceptional research – provided a timely reminder of the inspirational work of our students and the importance of the Brotherton Library and its Special Collections.



University Librarian Stella Butler with the new archive

In February, I had the privilege of attending UGRE 2015 with its snappy five-minute presentations on subjects as diverse as mapping religions, Anglo-Japanese relations, and the bombardment of Hartlepool in 1914; and some fascinating and interactive research stalls, including insights into Old Bailey trial proceedings, asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds, and medicine in the First World War. All of the students I spoke to talked of the wealth of information, support and resources available to them from the Brotherton Library, including its Special Collections.

We must never take for granted the importance of the Brotherton as one of the UK's most important research libraries, attracting students and scholars from around the world to its rich and extensive print, online and manuscript collections. Alongside the Brotherton Library, the provision in the Edward Boyle, Health Sciences and the St James' University Hospital libraries includes more than 2.8 million print and 500,000 online books and more than 37,000 print and online journals, with two million visitors borrowing three million items every year.

The completion of the Laidlaw Library in a few months time and the complete refurbishment of the Edward Boyle Library – approved by Council in January – over the next two years will enhance the current provision even further. The total cost of these works is £52.2m; sobering when you consider that Lord Brotherton's donation of £100,000 in 1927 paid for the building of a new library in his name.

The Special Collections, housed predominantly in the Brotherton, have some of the finest collections of rare books and manuscripts in the world. Ours is the only library to have five of its Special Collections<sup>1</sup> awarded Designated Status by the Arts Council. This is a mark of distinction, authenticity and quality, and recognises the creative aspirations of the team working under the leadership of University Librarian, Stella Butler.

The library is a dynamic place, constantly adding to its collections and the services it provides for students, teachers and researchers. In this spirit the University announced a major cultural coup in February with the news that, with the support of our Chancellor Melvyn Bragg and ITV, *The South Bank Show Archive*<sup>2</sup> will be entrusted to the University.

From 1978 for some 32 years, mainly on Sunday evenings, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Variations* based on theme of Paganini's '24th Caprice' and Michelangelo's hand of God giving life to Adam through a lightning bolt signalled the start of *The South Bank Show*. Conceived and edited by Melvyn Bragg, the show's unique blend of high art and popular culture provided an enjoyable and uplifting close to the weekend for a mass audience.

Now carefully stored in climate-controlled conditions in the University, almost 8,500 tapes and reels of film contain up to 700 hours of footage of interviews with leading cultural figures of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, providing a rich resource for scholars of music, film, theatre, fine art, literature and more. We have been granted an exclusive licence to use the material for educational purposes so, as well as using the archive for research and teaching, we plan to digitise parts of it so that the public can view some of the materials too.

This remarkable archive will be cherished and explored by students, teachers and researchers from around the world, but it's particularly appropriate that it has found a good home in Leeds. More than half the University's students study the arts, humanities and social sciences; and the City of Leeds has a vibrant arts

culture with renowned art galleries and important institutions such as Opera North and the Henry Moore Institute. Against this background, the Archive will be a welcome addition to the new Special



Melvyn Bragg and Vice-Chancellor Alan Langlands





Collections Treasures Gallery funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Jack Brotherton-Ratcliffe family, which is due to open in November 2015.

The great success of the University's Library and Special Collections owes much to the Brotherton family, the inspirational leadership of Stella Butler and her predecessors, and the energy and commitment of generations of staff. In 2014, this success was tinged with great sadness at the loss of Chris Sheppard, who joined the Brotherton in 1979 and was the Head of Special Collections from 1993 until 2012, and Gallery Advisor and Brotherton Fellow from 2012 until 2014.

The University's obituary<sup>3</sup> for Chris described him as "the consummate 'scholar librarian', [with] the gift of being able to express to

others the joy and satisfaction to be gained from literature and, simply, from books." That same joy and satisfaction was evident at UGRE 2015, and perhaps this is the greatest compliment that the University can pay to its library. A memorial service for Chris Sheppard will be held on 6 March 2015.

Alan Langlands

<sup>1</sup> The Arts Council Designated Collections are: the English Literature Collection; the Leeds Russian Archive; the Liddle Collection; the Cookery Collection; and the Romany Collection.

<sup>2</sup> More details can be found at <http://goo.gl/zpPSTa>

<sup>3</sup> An obituary for Chris Sheppard BA, BPhil, MA, can be found at <http://goo.gl/M39vxb>



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## About the Reporter

The Reporter is the University of Leeds' staff magazine, produced eight times a year. More than 7,600 copies are distributed to our staff and stakeholders. The Reporter is produced by the Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story, want to write a letter, comment on this edition or would like to voice your opinion about University matters, please get in touch:

Email: [the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk)

Tel: (0113) 343 6699

Web: [www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/forstaff/reporter)

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the magazine, please email [internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:internalcomms@leeds.ac.uk) quoting your staff number or, if you are external to the University, your name, postcode and preferred email address.

The front cover shows Melvyn Bragg speaking at the launch of the archive.

## News

# 2015 Women of Achievement winners

**Timed to coincide with International Women's Day, this year's Women of Achievement event celebrated some of the University's many talented female academics, support colleagues and students.**

Over 40 nominations were received – more than double the previous number – for women who

have achieved outstanding success, such as an external prize for research, teaching, scholarship or technical or professional work, since January 2012. Specially commissioned photographs of the 13 women are now on display on Level 13 of the Ziff Building, a visual reminder of the University's commitment to encouraging and recognising the achievements of its female employees.

The judges\* were extremely impressed with the quality of the entries and, as a result, a Roll of Honour of all entrants will also go on display.

\*Dean of the School of Mathematics and Physical Sciences Professor Steve Scott; Acting Director of HR, Linda Mortimer Pine; Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation Professor David Hogg; Head of Catering and Conferencing Beverley Kenny.



Professor Janet Watson

Jan Bilton

Jillian Johnson

Cassandra Moseley

Dr Andrea Jackson

Katherine Watson and Molly Cormican

Professor Jenny Jones

## Women of Achievement

**Dr Andrea Jackson, Pro-Dean for Student Education, School of Earth and Environment:** *National Teaching Fellowship, Higher Education Academy, 2013*

**Professor Anna Lawson, Chair in Law, (School of Law):** *recognised for being the first blind woman to be appointed to a Chair in Law in the UK and for her recent appointment to the statutory Disability Committee of the EHRC*

**Anne Clarke, Postgraduate student, Institute for Transport Studies:** *MVA Transport Prize for best dissertation in Transport Planning and Sustainability (2013) and STAR conference prize, 2014*

**Cassandra Moseley, Student, BSc (Hons) Nursing (Mental Health), School of Healthcare:** *Inspirational Student Nurse of the Year award, 2014*

**Jan Bilton, Research Technician, School of Medicine:** *EPAA 3Rs Laboratory Technician Prize, 2013*

**Professor Janet Watson, Leadership Chair, Language@Leeds, School of Modern Languages and Cultures:** *Fellow of the British Academy, 2013*

**Professor Jenny Jones, Professor in Sustainable Energy, (School of Chemical and Process Engineering):** *won bid to become Director of the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Bioenergy*

**Jillian Johnson, Artistic Director, Leeds University Concert Series, Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications, School of Music:** *MBE for services to music and higher education in Leeds, 2013*

**Professor Julia Newton Bishop, Professor of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine and Health, Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology:** *Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, 2014*

**Katherine Watson and Molly Cormican, Textile Design students, Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications, School of Design:** *won Campaign for Wool's national competition*

**Professor Lindsay Stringer, Professor in Environment and Development, Faculty of Environment, School of Earth and Environment:** *Phillip Leverhulme Prize, 2013*

**Dr Lorna Dougan, Associate Professor, Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, School of Physics and Astronomy:** *Royal Society of Chemistry Macro Group UK Young Researcher Medal, 2013*



## Infrastructure and sustainability

# Leeds University Union – the Big Reveal

**A £17m project to transform Leeds University Union (LUU) has been unveiled.**

The upgrade will include: the reinstatement of The Raven, an ‘in the round’ theatre at the back of the Union, complete with foyer and bar; a brand new retail area on the lower level, with more space for exhibitions and lounge seating; a large glass roof in the foyer to improve the visual links between floors; and expansion of the Old Bar and maintenance work on the toilets.

The south entrance, next to the Hidden Café, will improve access to the common room, Refectory and shops, with disabled access to all floors of the Union.

Equality and Diversity Officer Gemma Turner says: “The build will ensure that the Union is more accessible, not just for disabled students who require ramps or lifts but also with more

space and easier access in busier parts of the Union to ensure all students feel relaxed and safe.”

The Riley Smith Hall will undergo a number of changes to update the theatre into a multifunctional performance space. Alongside retracting seats, the floor, stage and balcony will be renovated. Acoustic panels will be installed to enhance the audience experience during performances and events.

Performance Rep Ellie Pead says: “We want as many students as possible to be involved in the upgrade. For example, in the Riley Smith, we have a range of societies advising us on lighting choices and stage designs to make the change a true reflection of what students want.”

Building works are set to begin in winter 2015.

Details of the changes can be found at [www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/unionupgrade](http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/unionupgrade)



How the refurbished Riley Smith Hall might look

## News in brief

### Leeds helps students capitalise on graduate jobs market

The University has once again been placed in the top ten UK universities most targeted by Britain’s top employers. *The Graduate Market in 2015* – a study of graduate vacancies and starting salaries at the UK’s 100 leading employers – also shows that graduate salaries are expected to rise for the second year in a row.

The report, conducted by High Fliers Research in December, found that the UK’s top employers planned to increase their graduate recruitment this year by creating 8.1% more entry-level positions than last year – the highest number of graduate opportunities than at any point during the past decade.

### New website for Staff and Departmental Development Unit

The new SDDU website has been launched. Based on the University template, it features clearer, more structured information about SDDU’s provision and course booking options. The website is available at the same address as before – [www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.sddu.leeds.ac.uk)

Any existing links to specific pages or resources will link to the SDDU archived website and you will therefore need to update your links to the relevant information on the new website.

Please address queries about the new site to James Little (35877) or [j.little@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.little@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

### Say hello to Front Desk Network

A new network which discusses ideas for improvement to our front desk services has been formed. The Front Desk Network currently comprises staff who work in counter services, front desk or reception capacity.

As a direct first point of contact for many staff and students, these employees can make a substantial impact on people’s impressions of the University. Meeting three times a year, the Network aims to share good practice and engage with other people in the field to create a consistent, achievable level of service. Sheila McFarlane (Faculty of Biological Science) says: “We have a real opportunity to make a great success of this Network, and we would like as many people from as many services as possible to join us.”

Staff interested in joining the Front Desk Network can contact Sheila at [s.m.mcfarlane@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.m.mcfarlane@leeds.ac.uk)

## Opportunities for students

# New collection highlights Tolkien's time at Leeds



Dr Alaric Hall and Dr Catherine Batt, medieval specialists from the School of English

### An exciting new acquisition of manuscript letters, poems and prose sheds new light on J R R Tolkien's time at the University.

The collection comprising six letters, 11 manuscripts and two books was acquired by the University's Special Collections, and provides unique insight into the close friendship formed at the University between Eric Valentine Gordon and Tolkien.

Tolkien began his academic career at the University in 1920, aged 28, and was promoted to Professor within a few years. By the time he left in 1925, he had established the University as a UK leader in Old Icelandic language and literature. Gordon joined Tolkien at Leeds in 1922 and they began working together almost immediately.

"In Gordon, Tolkien found a kindred spirit as well as a colleague, who shared his delight in the study of medieval languages," explains Dr Alaric Hall (School of English). "At Leeds they created the Viking Club, whose meetings were characterised by members singing drinking songs in Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse, penned by Gordon and Tolkien. Gordon maintained the group after Tolkien left for Oxford. Tolkien

continued to supply songs and poems, and copies of these are included in the collection. The Old Norse Reading Group, a descendant of the Viking Club, continues similar activities to this day."

The letters in the collection are principally addressed to Gordon's widow, Ida, following his premature death in 1939. In them, Tolkien speaks of his own grief over his friend's death, and shares his experience of the loss of his father.

Katy Thornton, Head of Special Collections says: "The acquisition is an important collection of works relating to Tolkien's earlier academic career at Leeds. They reveal a playful but erudite creativity, and the letters are striking for their emotional candour."

The acquisition was made possible by generous support of the Brotherton Family, Friends of the National Libraries and the V&A Purchase Fund.

The collection has been catalogued – MS 1952 <http://goo.gl/pLqTIA> – and is available in Special Collections Reading Room. A digital copy of one manuscript, The Root of the Boot, can be seen online at <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections-tolkien-root-of-the-boot>

## Posters in Parliament

Undergraduates Lucinda McGregor (Meteorology and Climate Science) and Emma Simpson (International Relations) presented their research posters in the Houses of Parliament, among 44 other submissions, at the third Posters in Parliament competition.

Lucinda was awarded third prize by the Chair of the National Environment Research Council, Sir Anthony Cleaver, for her poster entitled 'The reliability of cloud representation in climate models', which compared cloud cover within climate models to satellite observations to determine the accuracy of modelled cloud representation.

Emma's poster explored the title 'Trafficking the exotic: damaging representations of women of colour in the sex industry' which addressed the stereotype of the 'exotic' or 'animalistic' sexual behaviour of women of colour, which increases their vulnerability to sex trafficking.

Posters in Parliament is sponsored by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Higher Education Academy, the British Conference of Undergraduate Research and the University of Central Lancashire.



Lucinda accepting her award from Sir Anthony Cleaver

## Students get in the zone

A Social Enterprise Zone, where students are given the opportunity to work with local not-for-profit businesses on consultancy-based projects, has been launched by Leeds University Union.

The Zone provides a matching service, linking a student's subject matter and expertise with projects that local not-for-profit organisations would like to complete but may not have the time, money or resources to do so.

Volunteering for six weeks with local businesses gives students the opportunity to get involved in real-life projects, support a cause in the community, improve their project management skills and enhance their CV with a reference from the enterprise.

Sarah Hooker, Head of Fundraising at Leeds Mencap, says: "We were so excited to hear about the volunteering scheme at the Social Enterprise Zone as we have some great volunteer roles that would be perfect for the scheme. As a small local charity, we support over 300 families every week with learning disabilities and we need to do more. Volunteers are vital to ensuring we can do everything we need."

For details, visit <http://goo.gl/zThOCn>

## Research and innovation

# Young researchers putting Leeds at forefront of cancer care



Tony and Francesca Bramall with, from left, Sebastian Trainor, Matthew Holmes and Michelle Wantoch

Pioneering treatments for cancer are the focus of three young researchers whose work is being funded by a £500,000 gift from a Yorkshire charitable trust.

The gift supports work at the University to investigate new treatments for kidney cancer and the use of viruses to fight tumours.

Clinical Research Fellow Dr Sebastian Trainor has joined a team working to find new ways to treat kidney cancers by identifying changes in key proteins that make the cancer 'tick'. The hope is that drugs designed to target these proteins could be developed.

Some cancers are very hard to treat – even with surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy. PhD Scholars Michelle Wantoch and Matthew Holmes are contributing to groundbreaking work on the use of viruses to kill these hard-to-beat tumours. A trial using a virus to treat skin cancer has already reported positive results, and the researchers

believe similar treatments could be used with other types of cancer.

The close working relationship between the research teams and clinicians at St James's University Hospital provides direct contact with patients, access to cell and blood samples for testing, and ensures that treatments are guided by the latest in cancer research.

Dr Naveen Vasudev, Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology, says: "We are so grateful to the Tony Bramall Charitable Trust for this generous gift, which is funding vital research and investing in talent. These three young people will be working on new approaches to combating cancer over the next three years, and will go on making important contributions to cancer research and treatment throughout their careers as researchers and clinicians."

This donation supports the University's £60m Making a World of Difference Campaign, taking the total raised to more than £55m.

## Enter the Impact Awards

The University is signalling its commitment to research impact by establishing the Vice-Chancellor's Impact Awards, to reward individuals or research teams whose work has brought about change in society, the economy, culture, public policy or services, healthcare, the environment, or quality of life.

Launching the Awards, Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said: "The positive contribution we make outside academia is crucial to the long-term sustainability of our University. The Awards will celebrate this contribution by recognising some of our most successful innovators from all faculties. I very much look forward to seeing new examples of impact that will shape the future and reinforce the University's

high standing as a place where innovation happens."

Prizes of £2,500 each will be awarded in four categories (which correspond with the main research boards): Medicine and Biological Sciences; Engineering and Physical Sciences and Environmental Sciences; Social Sciences; and Arts and Humanities.

Winners must use the money to help increase the impact of their research even further.

Download details and a nomination form from <http://goo.gl/kc8VuZ> Nominations remain open until noon on Monday 16 March.

Find a selection of Leeds case studies from our REF2014 submission at <http://goo.gl/vwOXFq>

## Getting a head-start for REF 2020

A new requirement instigated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) means that, to be eligible for submission to the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2020, all journal articles and conference papers accepted for publication must be made open access (OA).

As a result of this significant change, the University has reviewed and revised its Publications Policy. From 1 April 2015 the full text of all new research papers must be submitted to the University Publications Database within three months of acceptance.

"To make sure we're fully prepared for, and compliant with, the new HEFCE requirements ahead of the official 2016 implementation date, from April this year we're asking all academic staff to ensure they upload papers to the University's repository as soon as they have been accepted for publication," explains University Librarian Stella Butler. "The Library is here to provide support for academics but it will be the responsibility of individuals to ensure that their research outputs are uploaded by the HEFCE deadline. Once this has been done, Library staff will manage all embargo requirements."

As well as increasing the accessibility and reach of research outputs and the speed with which they are brought to a broader audience, OA can result in more citations and greater impact. Authors retain control over the integrity and re-use of their work, and the visibility of authors, funders and the institutions involved is increased.

Research papers can be made OA by uploading them to the University's Publications Database at <https://publications.leeds.ac.uk>

The Library programme of OA training and staff awareness will continue and the Library support team is on hand to advise on issues such as copyright, licensing and exceptions to the HEFCE policy.

Find out more at <http://library.leeds.ac.uk/university-publications> or contact [research@library.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:research@library.leeds.ac.uk)

## Research and innovation

# Celebration events at two new Centres for Doctoral Training

Two new Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) – both funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) – will hold events in April to celebrate their official launches in the academic year 2014/15.



Using a woodburning stove

The first event celebrates the initial intake of 12 PhD students to the **EPSRC CDT in Bioenergy**. This will feature presentations summarising the work of the Centre (both current and planned), talks by industrial partners and students, and a workshop on the theme of 'Bioenergy Whole Systems – next steps for research'. The intention is to identify strengths and weaknesses of bioenergy research at Leeds, and recommend strategies for the CDT that will drive future research and student training.

Bioenergy is a great example of a complex area of energy and sustainability and it is hoped that this event will attract a range of academics not currently involved in the Bioenergy CDT.

Academic staff wishing to attend the event on Tuesday 14 April can contact Centre Manager James McKay at [j.mckay@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.mckay@leeds.ac.uk)

[www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk/bioenergy](http://www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk/bioenergy)



Students in the lab at the CDT in Fluid Dynamics

The **EPSRC CDT in Fluid Dynamics at Leeds**, which trains students to tackle fundamental and applied problems in fluid dynamics, is holding a one-day conference, with speakers reflecting the broad range and multidisciplinary nature of the research it conducts, including:

- Dr Philippe Cardin (ISTerre, France)
- Professor Marie Farge (Ecole Normale Supérieure, France)
- Professor Geoff Vallis (University of Exeter)
- Professor Christos Vassilicos (Imperial College London)

The conference will be held on Thursday 16 April, 10.45am-16.15pm at the University of Leeds, and will also include a CDT student poster presentation session. Academic staff wishing to attend should contact Centre Manager Claire Savy at [c.savy@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.savy@leeds.ac.uk)

[www.fluid-dynamics.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.fluid-dynamics.leeds.ac.uk)

## Helping you to write Pathways to Impact

**A new online toolkit offering additional support for academic staff who are writing impact-related text for funding applications has been developed by the University's Staff and Departmental Development Unit.**

From 1 April, Research Councils UK will require Impact Summaries and Pathways to Impact to be complete and in place before the start of any grant. The toolkit will help applicants meet the relevant criteria.

The toolkit encourages people to think through what evidence would demonstrate the potential impact of their Research – likely to be increasingly important in future research Excellent Framework (REF) exercises. It offers a freely accessible place where people are prompted to develop their research and impact ideas, creating projects that can be worked on at any time and shared with colleagues. When the ideas are ready to be included in a funding application, the text can be exported to provide draft Impact Summaries and Pathways to Impact.

The toolkit was developed from an established evaluation methodology and was piloted with a focus group of academic staff from across the University.

The toolkit is available at [www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/impact-toolkit](http://www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/impact-toolkit)

On Thursday 12 March, 2–3pm a one-hour session will outline how the toolkit can be used; book online at <http://goo.gl/WY5j3w>

If individual schools or faculties would like bespoke sessions, they can contact Dr Tony Bromley at [t.p.bromley@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:t.p.bromley@adm.leeds.ac.uk) or Dr Ged Hall at [g.hall@adm.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.hall@adm.leeds.ac.uk)

*"I found it a really useful tool to help me think about the impact of my project right from the start, and to keep this in mind when writing the scientific case rather than leaving it until the end. So far, I have used this approach for my European Research Council fellowship application and a Medical Research Council Public Health Intervention Development Scheme proposal."*

**Dr Donna Lloyd**, Associate Professor, School of Psychology

## International/community engagement

# Public art for all!

**“Public art has always fascinated me, so I’m especially enthusiastic about joining the University at this exciting time, with the imminent launch of our Public Art Strategy,” says the University’s new Public Art Project Officer, Professor Ann Sumner, who is attached to The Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery.**

“The University already has some stunning public art on display and a major new commission by Simon Fujiwara will be unveiled this summer situated in front of the new Laidlaw Library,” continues Professor Sumner. “The Leeds campus itself is unique, incorporating as it does so many diverse architectural buildings, as well as churches, a cemetery and a school, creating the potential for more rich artistic responses. We aim to launch a new campus art map and app later this year. I’m also exploring partnerships, funding and research topics which will culminate in workshops and a conference. I’m looking forward to collaborating with colleagues across campus, and I’m particularly excited about scoping a new Research Institute of Public Art at Leeds.”

Professor Sumner aims to raise the profile of the University’s public art and has introduced

an initiative to highlight the sculptural treasures which await discovery on the University campus. Each month a member of staff will be asked to select a favourite art work. The first of these was chosen by Professor David Cooper, Dean of the School of Performance, Visual Arts and Communication, who selected *Man Made Fibres* by Mitzi Solomon Cunliffe, an American sculptor who designed the world-renowned BAFTA mask trophies. The sculpture can be found on the Clothworkers Building South, with more details in *A Spotlight on Public Art* at <http://blog.library.leeds.ac.uk/blog/art-gallery>. There are also plans for an autumn poll of staff and students to find the most cherished public art work on campus in 2015.

Professor Sumner has wide experience of working in museums and galleries, including the University of Bath’s Holburne Museum and

the University of Manchester’s Whitworth Art Gallery. She was Director of the Barber Institute of Fine Art at the University of Birmingham for five years, Barber Professor of Fine Art and Curatorial Practice, and previously Head of Fine Art at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Most recently, she was Executive Director of the Brontë Society and remains Visiting Professor at the University of Birmingham.

Her current research interests include the art of Wales, 19th century *plein air* landscape painting, representations of tennis in art, art historical regional curatorship, and public art in Yorkshire.

More details about the Public Art Strategy will be announced later this academic year.



Professor Ann Sumner in front of Quentin Bell's *The Dreamer* in Clothworkers' Court.

## Valuing our people

# Making a splash at the Health and Safety awards

**Improved poolside safety instructions and fire evacuation saw Gemma Smales, Assistant Duty Manager at The Edge, win the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety as well as the Driving Health and Safety Change award.**

The awards honour staff and students who have shown innovation, dedication and the power to inspire others through their exceptional health and safety practice.

Presenting the awards, the Vice-Chancellor said: "Health and safety is important in its own right but also has a vital part to play enabling us to provide top-class education, research and knowledge exchange. At Leeds, it has strong foundations, built on teamwork and partnerships – particularly with the trade unions, our students and Leeds University Union. My personal commitment to health and safety is unconditional, and there is a top-level

commitment to providing a safe, secure, supportive environment to enable our staff and students to flourish.

"Ours is a large, technically challenging campus that requires high standards, vigilance and effective mechanisms to achieve continuing improvements and sustainability. These awards celebrate the energy and determination of the people whose creativity and leadership are making a real, enduring difference to health and safety at the University."

Winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Health and Safety, Gemma Smales



## Words from our winner – an interview with Gemma

### How did winning the award feel?

I was surprised; I didn't expect to win. It was just nice to be nominated, so to win two awards was overwhelming and a real honour.

### What ideas did you bring to improve health and safety?

Our lifeguards must train for two hours every month to maintain competency and keep their qualification valid. The previous programme was efficient but people weren't enjoying it, would stop turning up, and subsequently couldn't work. I really enjoy staff training, so I took over with the aim of making it more entertaining. Now we have fewer absences and the training has received some really good feedback. We also ran scenario training when we were closed, using the fire, emergency and poolside alarms to re-enact real-life situations. We did this so that, if an incident were to happen, all our staff could deal with it and be well versed in procedures.

### What's the main difference you have seen?

The biggest change I've seen is in the competency of the staff. I think if you ask any of them, they'd say they feel more confident

now with what they're doing because they get to practise more. If there's an accident where someone requires CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), they won't just deal with the casualty; they will deal with the people around and the aftercare. People have become more confident, happier, and more comfortable with their job.

### What advice would you give to other members of the University to make a difference to health and safety?

I'd say, if you think you can change something, have a go. Sometimes you need to ask for approval but if you think you can improve something, just give it a try. Another change I brought in was to fire cards. Previously, the cards had bullet points telling staff where to go, but in a panic they wouldn't read them properly. I created pictorial cards which showed clear, schematic drawings of the rooms they needed to evacuate. I created a draft and ran it past the Operations Manager who approved. So I'd say, if you think you can change something, have a go. Sometimes you need to ask for approval but if you think you can improve something, just give it a try.

### WINNERS

**Unsung hero:** Ailsa Rose (Faculty of Medicine and Health)

**Team which has made a health and safety change:** Jonathan Matthews and Colin Richardson, Estates, Grounds and Gardens (Facilities Directorate)

**Supporting health and safety:** St Mark's Residences Site Team (Facilities Directorate)

**Beacons of good practice:** St Mark's Residences Site Team (Facilities Directorate); Dom Emery and Rebecca Sellers (Faculty of Environment); Faculty of Engineering Employability Team

**Certificates of commendation:** David Banks (Faculty of Environment); stage@leeds/PCI technical team (Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications)

## Valuing our people

# Team talk – Committee for the Leeds Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WiSET) Network

The team is a group of volunteer women from across the STEM faculties and beyond, who represent a diverse range of roles and experiences. The current committee comprises: Professor Catherine Noakes (Civil Engineering); Dr Heather Sears and Patricia Gray (Staff and Departmental Development Unit); Holly Rowlands, Cecilia De Ita Velez and Samantha Haynes (Earth and Environment); Dr Jane Cahill (Healthcare); Dr Jenny Spear and Oluwatoyin Jegede (Chemical and Process Engineering); Maria Georgoula (Performance, Visual Arts and Communications); Maria Pervaiz, Sabiha Patel and Zarina Sutton (Equality Policy Unit); Michelle Nettleton and Nicola Smith (HR); Dr Reem El-Gendy and Dr Sarah Myers (Dentistry); Sara Dona (Civil Engineering); Suhaila Sanip and Dr Sumia Bageghni.



Professor Catherine Noakes - current Chair of the committee

### How long has the team been together?

WiSET was formed in 2010 as a way of providing career and personal support to women through a peer network, as well as a way of picking up issues that affect women at the University and feeding them back to those who make decisions. Experience in the current committee ranges from those who have been involved since the early days to others who joined the committee in the current academic year. Having this mix of experience allows us to have a good level of continuity, but also to regularly bring fresh ideas and experience to the group.

### What do your roles involve?

We have to be both strategic in terms of planning how we want the network to develop

and down-to-earth practical. The main activity of WiSET is the '1st Wednesday Club' meetings where we cover a different topic every month. This requires a lot of practical planning in terms of booking rooms, arranging catering and taking bookings for the event, as well as finding speakers and preparing content. We try to have a range of different activities so we're not always calling on the same people. From a strategic side of things, we provide a voice back into the University through the Athena Swan activities as well as through the Equality and Inclusion committee.

### What's the latest news from the team?

We have just run our first ever women's conference to coincide with the Women of Achievement Awards. This was a half-day meeting and the biggest event we have run

to date, with a keynote speaker and parallel sessions looking at practical and policy-related issues. We are also going to be looking into expanding the network to include all faculties at Leeds. In 2016 we are hoping to run a bigger event that will be open to delegates outside the University, too.

### What are your strengths?

The input to the network from a wide range of people is a huge strength. Everyone on the committee brings different practical skills and different experiences from their own personal and professional development.

### What challenges does the team face in the next few months?

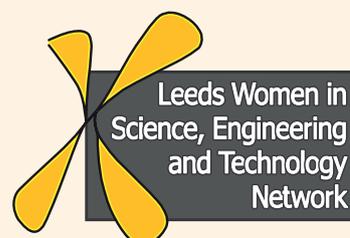
Our biggest challenge is being a victim of our own success! We often have to turn people away because our 1st Wednesday Club meetings book out so quickly. We are trying to work on this by securing bigger rooms to offer more places, as well as looking into whether we can repeat some popular sessions.

### What are the benefits of being in the team?

It is a great way of meeting people at all different career stages, right across the University. This can be especially beneficial for committee members who are PhD students or postdoctoral researchers. It can be a great way of gaining experience of organising and running events and getting an insight into how the University functions.



Promoting WiSET (l-r): Holly Rowlands, Dr Jane Cahill, Zarina Sutton, Dr Sumia Bageghni, Dr Heather Sears, Samantha Haynes, Dr Reem El-Gendy and Sara Dona



## In the news



© Scott Henderson

Professor John Turner, Emeritus Professor in the University's School of Biology, has found that the **gold swift moth** (*Phymatopus hecta*) has one of the most complex sex lives in the insect world. The research, published in *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, received media coverage in the *Sunday Times (Scotland)*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Cult Noise* and *National Geographic*.

Professor Quentin Fisher (School of Earth and Environment) criticised the Government's Environmental Audit Committee after it called for **fracking** to be put on hold to due to uncertainties about impacts on public health, air and water. Professor Fisher said it was disappointing to see the committee "putting the ill-informed views of anti-fracking groups ahead of evidence-based scientific studies". His comments were published by the *Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and BBC News online.

Research by Dr Laura King (School of History) looked at **fatherhood** in the 20th century and found that the 'hands-on' dad is not a new phenomenon. The story was covered in the media by the *Mail Online*, *Yorkshire Post* and *Manchester Evening News*. Dr King was interviewed about her new book on fatherhood, *Family Men*, by BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* and BBC London 94.9.

Professor Stephen Coleman (School of Media and Communication) was interviewed by BBC Radio Wales and BBC News online about proposals for a seven-leader **TV debate** in the lead up to the General Election.

Dr Salman Sayyid (School of Sociology and Social Policy) was part of a panel discussing the term **fundamentalism** on BBC Radio 4's *Beyond Belief* programme after the Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris.

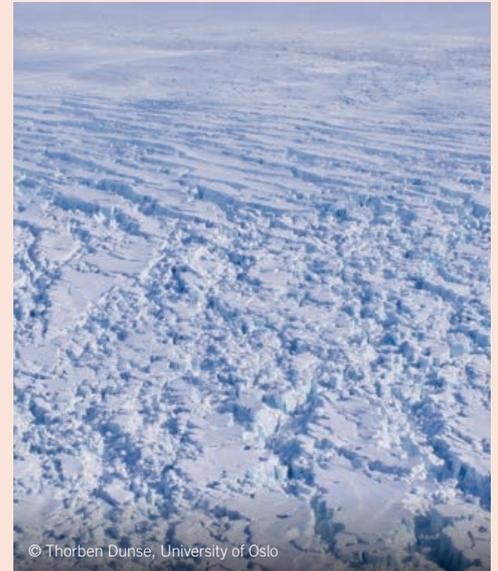
The *Yorkshire Post* ran a series of **business** masterclass articles in partnership with Leeds University Business School and East Coast Mainline. Articles in the series focused on research by academics in the Business School, including work by Professor David Spencer, John Vaughan, Dr Gail Clarkson, Dr Mark Robinson and Kasia Cichomska.

Researchers at the Universities of Leeds and York published a study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Early Edition* showing how they had cracked a code that governs infections by a major group of **viruses**, including the common cold and polio. The study was widely featured, including in the *Telegraph*, *Washington Post*, *Independent*, *Mail Online* and *Metro*.



At the beginning of February, comments by Professor Clive Walker (School of Law) on the effectiveness of UK **anti-terrorism laws** were included in an article in the *Toronto Star*.

Dr Victoria Honeyman (School of Politics and International Studies) was interviewed live on BBC One's *Look North* sofa after the Government's intervention in **Rotherham Council** following a damning report on its handling of child sexual exploitation.



© Thorben Dunse, University of Oslo

A team of researchers led by scientists from the Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling (CPOM) at the University of Leeds studied satellite images of a remote **Arctic ice cap**. They found that it has thinned by more than 50 metres since 2012 – about one sixth of its original thickness – and that it is now flowing 25 times faster. The story was picked up by the *Washington Post*, *International Business Times*, *Nature World News*, *Yorkshire Post* and *Yorkshire Evening Post*.

A study led by Professor Philip Conaghan (School of Medicine) found that people who experienced pain in their knees while using the stairs may be experiencing early symptoms of **osteoarthritis**. The study, published in *Arthritis Care and Research*, was picked up by the *Mail Online* and the *Yorkshire Post*.

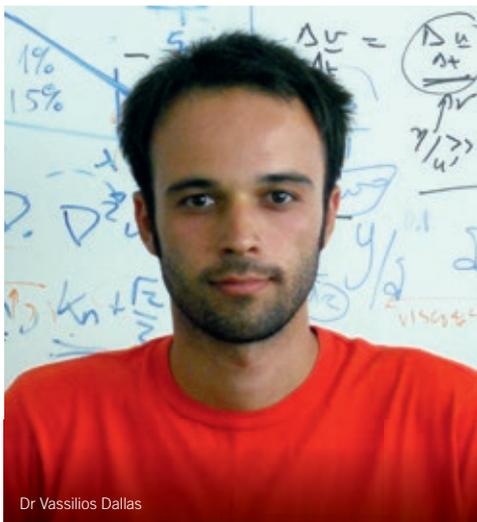


## Our people/honours

A book co-authored by **Professor Graeme Gooday** (School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science) has been named as the best scholarly book on the history of science in 2014.

*Patently Contestable*, written by Professor Gooday with Stathis Arapostathis from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, has been awarded the 2014 Pickstone Prize by the British Society for the History of Science. The book examines how Britain's patent laws and associated cultures changed from the 1870s to the 1920s, and considers how patent disputes led to the development of the idea of the lone, heroic inventor.

Associate Professor of Biogeochemistry **Caroline Peacock** (Earth Surface Science Institute, School of Earth and Environment) has been awarded the European Association of Geochemistry 2015 Houtermans Award. This award is bestowed annually to a scientist of no more than 35 years of age or within six years of their PhD 'for a single exceptional contribution to geochemistry, published as a single paper or a series of papers on a single topic'. Caroline has been recognised for papers that investigate the biogeochemical reactivity and cycling of trace-metals in terrestrial and marine environments.



Dr Vassilios Dallas

**Dr Vassilios Dallas** (School of Mathematics) has been awarded a Newton International Fellowship jointly by the British Academy and the Royal Society. He will conduct research on 'Rotating turbulence and dynamos: from geophysical to astrophysical phenomena' at the University for two years.

<https://royalsociety.org/news/2013/newton-international-fellowships>

PhD student **Erin Dawkins** (School of Earth and Environment) won the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy Young Scientist Award for 2015. Erin was nominated for her research on upper atmosphere metal layers.

The University has been awarded a **first-class ranking** in the People and Planet's 2015 University League table. The table is the UK's only comprehensive and independent green ranking of universities and assesses the environmental and ethical performance of all universities, awarding first-class 'degrees' to the greenest and failing those doing the least to address their environmental and social impacts.

The University achieved a first-class place this year, up from a 2:1 in the last table. It scored full marks for its environmental policy and also scored highly for its carbon reduction achievements, waste reduction and management, green energy sourcing, environmental education, and sustainable food practices. A record of the University's ranking is at <http://peopleandplanet.org/university-league>

A stage play written as a University postgraduate research project has been shortlisted for major international playwriting award. **Zodwa Nyoni** has been selected as a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for her play *Boi Boi is Dead*, which was written as part of her MA in the School of Performance and Cultural Industries.

Zodwa – born in Zimbabwe and brought up in Leeds – developed *Boi Boi is Dead* while studying at the University in 2013, under the supervision of Programme Director Garry Lyons. Set in Zimbabwe, it tells the story of a family crisis following the death of a famous jazz trumpeter. The play received its world premiere at West Yorkshire Playhouse in February.

**Professor Peter Buckley** and **Dr Surender Munjal** have delivered a seminar 'Benefiting from the Commonwealth' at the Commonwealth Exchange, a Westminster-based think tank. It was attended by Lord Flight, Lord Howell, and Lord Davies of Oldham, and by representatives from the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, the High Commission and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The seminar was based on a research project carried by the James E. Lynch India and South Asia Business Centre on the effects the Commonwealth has on the internationalisation of Indian multinational businesses. This research looked at the costs arising from the cultural, geographical and economic barriers faced by Indian multinational businesses when doing trade in other countries.



Taking a FRESH approach  
(l-r): Joseph Hicks, Tiffany Aslam and Nigel Taylor

A team of University postgraduates won the Environment YES competition, part of the Young Entrepreneurs Scheme. Environment YES provides training designed to develop business awareness and an understanding of entrepreneurship in UK environmental postgraduate and postdoctoral students. It is co-organised by the University of Nottingham's Haydn Green Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Natural Environment Research Council.

School of Biology students **Tiffany Aslam**, **Joseph Hicks**, **Nigel Taylor** and **Pete Steward** were asked to think of an idea with a clear environmental benefit and, create a business plan to put to a panel of investors, before delivering a one-minute 'elevator pitch', summarising the business and the investment opportunity.

The team created FruitFULL Ltd and developed a range of natural, multifunctional, edible fruit coatings, consisting of a cellulose base, essential oils with antimicrobial activity, and a patented extract called StayFRESH. The coatings inhibit the ripening process and give better quality fruit that lasts longer, reducing domestic food waste.

The winners received £2,500, places on an Indigo Business Solutions training programme, and the opportunity to present at the Rice Business Plan competition in the United States.

Lecturer **Carl Fox** (Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied Centre) was awarded the 2014 Robert Papazian Essay Prize by the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*. The theme for the competition was 'Authority' and the winning essay was 'Political authority, practical identity and binding citizens'.

## News

# Nikhil fashions a new business



Meaning business: SPARK's Brian Baillie (l) and Tim Rhodes, International Student Advisor (Immigration) (r) with entrepreneurial student Nikhil Hedge (centre)

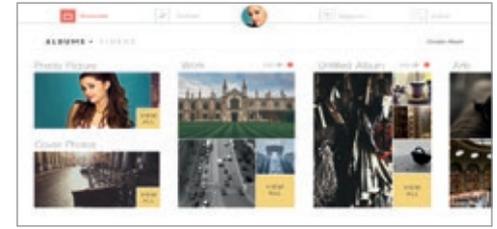
**Business School graduate Nikhil Hegde is set to establish a new, online platform for fashion professionals after becoming the first University of Leeds graduate to be granted a Tier 1 – Graduate Entrepreneur visa by UK Visas and Immigration.**

The scheme allows international graduates to establish their business in the UK if they have been officially endorsed by a higher education institution as having a genuine and credible business idea. Introduced at the University in 2014, the scheme has steadily gained interest amongst international students, and Nikhil is the first successful applicant.

Nikhil can now launch his start-up company 6Degree Networks Limited – <http://6degree.co> – in the UK. He describes 6Degree as a niche and innovative fashion community platform that allows fashion and creative professionals to connect through a single global platform to

make the right connections, manage workflow tasks and grow business opportunities.

Nikhil, who won the 2014 MBA Student of the Year Award, was delighted with the support he received, saying: “The SPARK team has been one of the strongest sources of support that I have received for my business. From validating the business plan, advice on legal or accounting matters and even providing me with financial assistance at times when the business needed to be showcased internationally. SPARK has also incubated this business and has provided me with a rent-free working space at the University.



“International students need a T1 GE visa to carry on working on their start-ups in the UK. It was at this crucial moment, when SPARK had my business plan validated by a panel and consequently allowed me to be endorsed for a visa.

“The International Student Office provided me with an endorsement letter and it was a matter of pride that I was the first in the University to have received such an endorsement. They also guided me through the entire application process and were always available to help anytime I needed some clarity with the process.”

Specialist support for would-be entrepreneurs is available from SPARK's Brian Baillie, who guides students through the process of creating a business plan, while the International Student Office's Tim Rhodes advises on the visa process and requirements.

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## Events

### Leeds Festival of Science is 10 years old! – 13-27 March

The Festival celebrates its 10th birthday with an exciting programme, including several public events run at evenings and weekends. The wide range of topics covers many areas of science, maths, engineering, geology, geography, sports science and careers. Full details can be found at <http://goo.gl/G0imkh> – the following are just a few highlights.

#### Science Ceilidh + comedy show and spoken word

**Thursday 19 March, 8-10.30pm, Stylus, Leeds University Union**

The Science Ceilidh is an award-winning project using dances to illustrate how parts of body and brain function. Lewis Hou is bringing his band down from Edinburgh to guide people through the steps. In between dances will be special guests Sam Gregson, science comedian and founder of CERN's first comedy show, and Sam Illingworth, who brings together the arts and sciences with his spoken word.

Suitable for ages 14+. Tickets are £7 from [www.LeedsTickets.com](http://www.LeedsTickets.com)

#### Engineering Experience

**Saturday 21 March, 10am-4pm, Parkinson Building**

The Engineering Experience is a free event designed to demonstrate the importance of Engineering disciplines. Take part in interactive, hands-on activities and see demonstrations from the various Engineering disciplines. Special guests MathsWorld UK will explore some of the fascinating applications of mathematics. No booking required.

#### All Aboard the Cloud Lab: Crossing America in an Airship

**Monday 23 March, 11am-12noon, Chemistry Lecture Theatre A, University of Leeds**

The BBC series *Operation Cloud Lab: Secrets of the Skies* brought together a team of scientists who travelled across the US in the world's largest airship. Along the way they discovered that bacteria are great at making clouds, pollution affects hurricane strength and they even weighed a cloud! Cloud Lab scientist Jim McQuaid will explain the science behind the stories from the

#### Mental Health, Objects and Therapies on the Home Front

**Saturday 21 March, 1.30-4pm, Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery**

Dr Mike Finn, Director of the Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, will encourage visitors to explore items from the University's art and science collections and their relationship to ideas about mental health in the early 20th century.

Suitable for ages 12+. This free workshop has limited places, so book online <http://goo.gl/7UE9Kq>

#### The Simpsons and their Mathematical Secrets (WP Milne Lecture)

**Wednesday 25 March, 2.30-3.30pm, Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre**

Everyone knows that *The Simpsons* is the most successful show in television history, but few know that its gang of mathematically gifted writers have used the show to explore everything from calculus to geometry, pi to game theory, and infinitesimals to infinity. Simon Singh, author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*, discusses his latest book and explores the mathematical ideas smuggled into *The Simpsons*.

To book, email [a.slomson@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.slomson@leeds.ac.uk)



series, and show some amazing things that never made it to the screen.

Suitable for ages 11+. For group bookings email [festivalofscience@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:festivalofscience@leeds.ac.uk)



#### Healthy Week

**16-22 March, a wide range of campus venues**

This year's Healthy Week is all about acting now to improve your health and wellbeing. Being more active more often, reducing your sugar and salt intake, and taking time for yourself are just some of the small changes you can make.

The programme is packed with activities and events, including indoor climbing, relaxation workshops, a range of £1 active classes, gardening sessions – plus you can take advantage of a week's membership at The Edge for only £7.

Find out more at [www.leeds.ac.uk/healthyweek](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/healthyweek)

#### On Your Marks networking series

**Listen to the Brand: Why does brand matter and, once built, how do you protect and grow yours?**

**Friday 13 March, 12-2pm, Yorkshire Bank Lecture Theatre, Leeds University Business School.**

Guest speaker Heather MacRae, Head of Brand and Retail team at M&S, will explore how one of the high street's best-loved brands has evolved, and how, from trademarks to domain names, licensing to celebrity endorsement, M&S continues to protect and invest in its brand today.

Martin Holmes, the University's Marketing Director, will host the event and will give an overview of the evolving role of branding in higher education, and the challenges for universities as they seek to adapt and respond to an increasingly dynamic marketplace in student education and research.

Admission is free\* but places are limited; register your attendance by emailing [onyourmarks@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:onyourmarks@leeds.ac.uk)

\*Cancellations within 48 hours and non-attendance will incur a £25 charge per delegate. You may nominate an alternative delegate to attend. All substitute delegates should be confirmed in writing.

### Staff Benefits Fair – Thursday 26 March, 10am-2pm, Parkinson Court

The Fair is a great opportunity to find out about the wide range of benefits and discounts available to University staff. For example:

- Paying for childcare? Join our Kiddivouchers Scheme before Autumn 2015 to make some great savings

- Get a 15% discount on bus and train travel in the West Yorkshire area
- Attend IT training courses for free
- Get affordable loans and a range of savings plans from Leeds City Credit Union

- Cycle to Work and save tax and national insurance contributions on the cost of your bike and equipment.

Meet benefit providers, see what's on offer, take part in prize draws and enjoy a complimentary tea or coffee.

## FAQs

# Dr Laura King Arts Engaged Research Fellow

### What did you do before you arrived at the University?

Before starting my current role at Leeds in 2012, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Warwick Centre for the History of Medicine – a job which involved doing lots of fascinating public engagement activities. I moved there from Sheffield, where I'd done a BA, MA and PhD in History.

### What is a typical day in your role?

It's a cliché, but no day is the same! My role is split: half my time is dedicated to my own research, and half my time is working on the Arts Engaged project. Some days I'll be working at home buried in lots of books or at an archive, while others will be full of meetings with academics across the Faculty of Arts and with partners outside the University.

### You've just published a book, *Family Men: Fatherhood and Masculinity in Britain, 1914-1960*. Tell us more about it.

This is my first book, so I'm nervous and excited at the same time! It is based on the research I did during my PhD, and explores how fathers were represented in popular culture in 20th century Britain, alongside the attitudes and behaviours of men and their families. It highlights that plenty of fathers in the past were much more engaged with their children than our stereotypes of 'the 1950s father' suggest.

### What interested you about your research topic?

I've always been fascinated by the history of family life – I think it's because I'm a little bit nosy! I enjoy researching and writing about the personal aspects of people's lives. And it's something we can all relate to – everyone has a family, for better or worse. When starting out, I quickly realised that very little had been written on fathers in the 20th century, and so I was



keen to add this story to the wider picture of changing family life and gender roles in modern Britain.

### What are the biggest challenges in your research?

Knowing when to stop. Because my research is about almost all men in Britain over nearly 50 years, and I also investigate how fathers are represented in newspapers, advice literature, books and films, the sources available are almost endless.

### Tell us about your work with Arts Engaged.

The aim of Arts Engaged is to support academics to collaborate in some way with organisations or individuals beyond the campus. I'm part of a team of five Arts Engaged Fellows, and we're here to help colleagues across the Arts to think about who might be interested in their research and how they might work with them. We run training events, provide one-to-one advice and can give feedback on funding applications. It's been really interesting, as I've been able to learn about lots of different research projects across the faculty and beyond.

### What do you get up to when you're not at work?

I enjoy running. I was out in Hong Kong for work last March and spent a lot of my free time running up 'The Peak' – it's as steep as it sounds, and usually pretty humid, but worth it for the breathtaking views at the top. I'm also a big fan of yoga, and like going to gigs and the theatre, although, at this time of year, nights in with a good box set or sitting with a pint of good ale in a cosy pub are also appealing!

### What's your most frequently asked question?

'Do you get on with your dad?' Lots of people are interested in this because of my research. I'm very close to him! The dads I interview also always ask if I have kids.

### If you could invite any three guests to a dinner party, who would they be and why?

Jane Austen (I've always loved her satirical take on life); Marie Stopes (the amazing birth control pioneer who had an interesting background and some very controversial views); and Bill Bailey (his comedy and music make me laugh every time).



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